Chinese Law

A correspondent of the New York *Evangelist* thus describes his visit to a court in Canton, China: The court-room was very plain. A couple of judges sat behind tables, before whom a number of prisoners were brought in. The mode of proceeding was very foreign to American or European ideas. There was neither jury nor witnesses. This simplified matters exceedingly. There is no trial by jury in China. While we haggle and boggle about impaneling juries and getting testimony, and thus trials drag on for weeks, in China no such obstacle is allowed to impede the rapid course of justice, and, what is more, there are no lawyers to perplex the court with their arguments, but the judge has it all his own way. He is simply confronted with the accused, and they have it all between them.

While we stood here a number of prisoners were brought in; some were carried in baskets (as they are borne to execution), and dumped on the stone pavement like so many bushels of potatoes; others were led in with chains around their necks. As each one's name was called he came forward and fell on his knees before the judge and lifted up his hands to beg for mercy. He was then told of the crime of which he was accused, and given opportunity if he had anything to say in his own defense. There was no apparent harshness or cruelty toward him, except that he was presumed to be guilty, unless he could prove his innocence; contrary to the English maxim of law, that a man is to be presumed innocent until he is proved guilty. In this, however, the Chinese practice is not very different from that which exists at this day in so enlightened a country as France.

In one case two men were accused of robbery with violence—a capital offense—but by the Chinese law no man can be punished with death unless he confesses his crime; hence every means is employed to lead a criminal to acknowledge his guilt. Of course in a case of life and death he will deny it as long as he can. But if he will not confess, the court proceeds to take stringent measures to make him confess, for which purpose these two men were now put to the torture. The mode of torture was this: There were two round pillars in the hall. Each man was on his knees, with his feet chained behind him, so that he could not stir. He was then placed with his back to one of these columns, and cords were fastened around his thumbs and great toes, and drawn back tightly to the pillow behind. This soon produces intense suffering. Their breasts heaved, the veins on their foreheads stood out like whipcords, and every feature betrayed the most excruciating agony. Every few minutes an officer of the court asked if you were ready to confess, and as often they answered, "No; never would they confess that they had committed such a crime." They were told if they did not confess, they would be subjected to still greater torture. But still they held out, though every moment seemed an hour of pain.

While these poor wretches were thus writhing in agony, I turned to the judge to see how he bore the spectacle of such suffering. He sat at his table quite unmoved; yet he did not seem like a brutal man, but like a man of education, such as one might see on the bench in England and America. He seemed to look upon it as the ordinary course of proceedings, and a necessary step in the conviction of a criminal. He used no bravado, and offered no taunt or insult. But the cries of the sufferers did not move him, nor prevent his taking his accustomed ease. He sat fanning himself and smoking his pipe, as if he said he could stand it as long as they could. The sight was too painful to witness more than a few moments, and I rushed away, leaving the men still hanging to the pillars of torture. I confess I felt a relief when I went back the next day, to hear that they had not yielded, but held out unflinchingly to the last.

How a Boy Goes on an Errand.

There are so many bright spots in the life of a farm-boy that I sometimes think I should like to live life over again; I should almost be willing to be a girl if it were not for the chores. There is great comfort to a boy in the amount of work he can get rid of doing. It is something astonishing how slow he can go on an errand—he who leads the school a race. The world is new and interesting to him, and there is so much to take his attention off when he is sent to do anything. Perhaps he could not explain himself, why, when he is sent to a neighbor's after yeast, he stops to stone the frogs; he is not exactly cruel; but he wants to see if he can hit 'em. No other living thing can go so slow as a boy sent on an errand. His legs seems to be lead, unless he happens to espy a woodchuck in a adjoining lot, when he gives chase to it like a deer; and it is a curious fact about boys, that two will be a great deal slower about doing anything than one, and the more you have to help you on a piece of work the less is accomplished. Boys have a great power of helping each other to do nothing; and they are so innocent about it, and unconscious. "I went as quick as ever I could," says the boy. His father asks him why he didn't stay all night, when he has been absent three hours on a ten-minute errand. The sarcasm has no effect on the boy.

Going after cows was a serious thing in my day. I had to climb a hill which was covered with wild strawberries in the season. Could any boy pass by those ripe berries? And then, in the fragrant hill pasture there were beds of wintergreen with red berries, tufts of columbine, roots of sassafras to be dug, and dozens of things good to eat or to smell, that I could not resist. It sometimes even lay in my way to climb a tree to look for a crow's nest, or to swing in the top, and to try if I could see the steeple of the village church. It became very important sometimes for me to see that steeple, and in the midst of my investigations the tin horn would blow a great blast from the farm-house, which would send a cold chill down my back in the hottest days. I knew what it meant. It had a frightfully impatient quaver in it, not at all like the sweet note that called us to dinner from the hay field. It said: "Why on earth doesn't that boy come home, it is almost dark, and the cows ain't milked?" And that was the time the cows had to start into a brisk pace and make up for lost time. I wonder if any boy ever drove the cows home late who did not say that the cows were at the further end of the pasture, and that "Old Brindle" was hidden in the woods and he couldn't find her for ever so long! The brindle cow is the boy's scape-goat, many a time.—*Charles Dudley Warner, in "Being a Boy."*

An Old Bullfighter's Struggle.

The London *Times'* Madrid correspondent gives this incident of the bullfights which made a part of the festivities following the marriage of the King of Spain: Casas, commonly called Salamanchino, is a veteran *matador*, seventy years of age, who, having figured in Queen Isabella's marriage festivities, wished, although he had long retired from the field, to appear in Friday's and Saturday's bullfights. He appeared dressed in blue, embroidered with silver; his gray hair was gathered into a knot behind; and over his pure white shirt waved a long, red cravet. On the fourth bull being let loose he advanced toward the royal box to request permision to encounter it. All the *toreros* clustered round him to protect him. The bull is attracted toward Salamanchino, who holds his scarlet mantle in one hand and his sword in the other.

The struggle commences, but Casas is old, he is not firm on his legs, his muscles are not supple, his arm is not sure. Twice the bull throws him down. He is thought to be dead, but he is up again and returns to the fight. There is a cry of "*Fuera!*" and pocket-handkerchiefs are waved to stop him; but the obstinate *matador* wishes to win a last laurel. Fortune however, is unpropitious; seven times he attacks the bull, seven times he misses it. According to custom, after seven unsuccessful attacks, the bull's life is safe, and, shaking its streamers, may re-enter the "Corral" amid the applause of the spectators; while, on the other hand its unfortunate combatant is hissed.

A Chinese Tea Plantation.

We take the following account of a visit to a Chinese tea plantation from an article in *St. Nicholas Magazine:* Breakfast over, we jumped ashore again, and, desiring to conduct our sight-seeing systematically, started for the fields. First we walked to the foot of a hill a little distance off, where some men in short cotton trousers and jackets were laying out a new plantation. The ground was accurately marked off, and in one place the little plants, only an inch or two in height, were just showing above the ground. In another, the seeds—little round balls they looked like—were being planted in the rows. Passing another field, where some men were at work with their hoes in true Chinese style, stopping every few moments to smoke their pipes, we came at last to where the plants had attained some size and the actual picking was going on. The plants themselves were from two to six feet high, according to age, and from repeated cuttings down had grown into dense masses of small twigs. Many of them were covered with little white flowers, somewhat similar to the jasmine, and seeds inclosed in a casing not unlike that of the hazelnut, but thinner and full of oil. Charley thought they looked like little laurel bushes; to me, those that had been well picked were not unlike huckleberry bushes, only the leaves were, of course, a much darker green. The first picking, usually in April, is when the leaves are very young and tender, commanding a much higher price than those subsequently plucked. The second is a month later, when they have attained maturity; and as unpropitious weather would be likely to ruin them, great expedition is used in getting in the crop the entire population turning out to assist. A third, and even a fourth, follows; but the quality rapidly deteriorates, and but a small proportion of these last pickings is prepared for export.

The plantations were filled with a merry crowd, composed principally of women and children, all engaged in stripping the bushes as rapidly as possible, yet with great care and dexterity, so as not to bruise the leaves. They looked up from their work and screamed to each other in their harsh guttural tones, casting glances of astonishment at the barbarians. Following some of the coolies, who with filled bags were trudging off to the curing-house, we saw the most interesting operation of all. Here, at least thirty young girls were engaged in assorting the leaves, picking out all the dead and yellow ones, and preparing them for the hands of the rollers and firers. Our entrance excited quite a commotion among the damsels, as we were probably the first barbarians they had seen, and we had the reputation of living entirely on fat babies. A word from Akong, who had joined us, re-assured them, and in a few minutes Charley was airing his little stock of Chinese, more, I thought, to their amusement than their edification. Leaving this room we went into another where the curing was in progress. On one side extended a long furnace built of bricks, with large iron pans placed at equal distances, and heated by charcoal fires below. into these pans leaves by the basketful were poured, stirred rapidly for a few minutes, and then removed to large bamboo frames, where they were rolled and kneaded until all the green juice was freed. They were then scattered loosely in large, flat baskets, and placed in the sun to dry. Subsequently, the leaves were again carried to the furnaces and exposed to a gentle heat, until they curled and twisted themselves into the shapes so familiar to you all. Some of the finer kinds often prepared for exportation are rolled over by hand before being fired. The great object appears to be to prevent the leaf from breaking; hence, in the commoner kinds and those intended for home consumption, which do not receive the same care, the leaves are found to be very much broken. In fact, the preparation of this latter sort is very simple: a mere drying in the sun, after which it presents a dry, broken appearance, like autumn leaves.

Music at the Paris Exposition.

Gen. Torben, United States consul general at Paris, has transmitted to Governor McCormick, commissioner-general of the United States to the Paris exposition, full details of the proposed international musical festival, which is to take place in connection with the exposition. The invitation to participate in these entertainments has already been accepted by England, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Prussia and other European nations. All lists of authors, and, so far as possible, the names of the pieces of music to be performed, must be sent in as early as the 1st of May. The French commissioner-general, however, reserves the right to revise the lists if he shall find it necessary for the purpose of excluding anything calculated to provoke political manifestations or to wound national sensibilities. Changes in the programmes or additions to them may also be made after the 1st of May by permission of the commissioner-general. No applications will be received by the French authorities from individuals or associations, unless presented through their respective commissioners-general. No question will be raised as to the nationality of the performers. They will be regarded as representing the country under whose flag they are presented.

The Grande Salle du Trocadero, which will accommodate nearly five thousand people, as well as a smaller concert room in the same building, will be placed at the disposal of the performers free of charge. The receipts of each concert will belong to the nation by which it is given; but from these receipts must be paid all the incidental expenses, except those pertaining to the police arrangements, which will be assumed by the French government.

Each country must provide for its own wants with respect to orchestral or other accompaniments.

The music of living composers can be presented only by the nations to which they respectively belong, but out of regard to the exigencies of those countries which have been relatively unproductive of music, the works of dead composers may be selected at will by any nation.

Applications will be made for a reduction of the rates of transportation for persons and material from the French ports to Paris, and the suspension of the rights of authors and editors will also be requested by the French commissioner-general.

The main objects sought in giving this festival are variety of musical composition, excellence of execution and the expression of character and sentiment as translated in music. The French authorities are earnest in the desire that the United States may be represented with an ample programme.—*New York Herald.*

Would Vouch for Him.

A hilarious sort of a man who does business on Griswold street, says the *Detroit Free Press*, entered the office of an acquaintance the other day, and asked for the loan of twenty-five dollars. The gentleman hated to refuse, but yet forced himself to say:

"I have the money, but if I let you have it my family will want for food before Saturday night.

"Shoo! I guess not! You let me have the money, and if you get out of provisions I'll take you to a grocery where they'll trust you for thirty days on my vouching for your integrity, and I'll do the vouching, though it's a thing I seldom do for anybody, owing to the risk."

"But—but," stammered the other.

"And I've got a barrel of carrots in my barn," continued the other, "and if worst comes to worst, I'll be hanged if I don't give you the pile! I wont see a man starve after he's done me a favor!"

It was like pulling teeth, but he got the money.

"Ten dimes make one dollar," said the schoolmaster. "Now go on, sir. Ten dollars make one—what?" "They make one mighty glad, these times," replied the boy, and the teacher, who hadn't got his last month's salary yet, concluded the boy was about right.

Too Much Pressure.

Governor Tom Young tells a good story of how "J. N.," the long-haired nomad of theorizing propensities, recently "assumed the pressure" and then crawled out from under it.

The day before the hanging of Bergin the governor was sitting in his office, very busy with some papers pertaining to the case, when a loud, vigorous knock shook the door, and, before an invitation to enter could be given, in came the philosopher, and marched boldly up to the executive, whom he addressed by his Christian name in a familiar manner. He threw himself into a chair, and said:

"Tom, I've come up here to martyr."

"How so?" inquired the governor.

"I assume the entire pressure," returned "J. N." "Throw it all onto me. Let Bergin go, and have me shot in his place. That'll fetch 'em—they can't hold out—must come right square down and accept the truth. It's just the opportunity I've been searching for all these years, and I can't let her slip. Bergin is a common man—I ain't—let him go, and take my blood for atonement. I want to martyr—you catch the idea—that's enough. Here I am."

"Nothing would give me more pleasure," said the governor; "but are you in earnest? Do you really mean it?"

"Do I mean it? You know me well enough, Tom Young, to know that I'm always in earnest. Call in your menials and have me bound at once. Bring on your chains, and send word to the reporters. Pile the pressure all onto me—every bit of it—I assume it all."

"All right," said the governor, with an impressive voice, "you shall be accommodated. Get ready to die to-morrow at twelve o'clock."

A messenger was sent out to bring in the judge to prepare the necessary papers for making the desired change in the proceedings. In a few minutes a justice of the peace, who had been posted, was brought in and introduced as the "judge." He expostulated with "J. N.," and endeavored, with well simulated emotion, to persuade him from his rash purpose. The "immortal" wouldn't budge a peg from his firm resolve. He had come to martyr, and he'd do it if it killed him; that's the kind of a philosopher he was. So, with groans and sighs and watery eyes, the "judge" went ahead and filled out the documents. Everything was now ready, and the formalities all completed except the signature of "J. N." to the paper. By this time the old fellow was pretty thoroughly convinced that the proceedings meant business in earnest, and he became visibly nervous and ill at ease.

"Sign your name," said the officer, sternly, "and then you can go at once to your quarters in the dungeon, and a clergyman will be sent to you."

"I want it distinctly understood," remarked the martyr, rising, "I don't want to be hung—I want to be shot."

"You shall be," said the governor, "to-morrow, at noon."

"Hold on, now, governor," said the now thoroughly frightened philosopher, with blanched cheek, "that's hurrying the cattle a little too much—I didn't think you'd be that brash. Before I sign that paper I want a respite for thirty days, to wash up and get ready."

"You can't get it. The time set for the obsequies can not be postponed," said the governor.

"Then I'll be blamed if I'll martyr at all, and Bergin can fill his own appointment. I won't be snapped off in that way, without any time to get my last words ready, and write out a few interviews for the press. That wouldn't do the cause a particle of good, and I'm working for the good of the cause. I didn't expect to make a cent out of this thing myself, and so I throw up and back down. You can tear them papers up—I won't sign 'em at all," and the philosopher bolted from the room, and left the city with more precipitation than he had ever done before.—(*Cincinnati Breakfast Table.*

Old Faithful.

Argus was an old watch-dog, and belonged to a farmer's family in Albany, N. H. Having long outlived his usefulness (as it was presumed), his owners had determined to put him out of the way, and had several times disposed of him, they thought, but he had always returned to them alive and well.

Finally a neighbor called one day, with his rifle in his hand. He had been out after a fox. One of the boys laid in with him to take Argus out in the woods and shoot him. The old dog was always crazy to follow a gun. He lay in the shed and heard the conversation, and when, finally the rifleman called to him, he got up and followed him out,—followed him around to the rear of the barn, and there disappeared.

It would seem that he understood exactly the meaning of the compact which had been framed against his life. At all events, he disappeared, and for six days we saw him not, though two or three times we fancied we could detect his tracks, where he had been at the swill-tub during the night.

The seventh night of the dog's absence was the night of Saturday. During the day soap had been made and boiled down, and a heavy baking done in the old oven. Somewhere past midnight all hands were aroused by the barking and howling, and whining and scratching of old Argus. We knew the voice, but we were determined not to let him in. He redoubled his cries and his scratching upon the door.

At length the head of the family, in his wrath, took down a loaded musket,—loaded for a hawk,—threw up a window of the sitting-room. No sooner was the sash raised than the old dog came in with a bound, and without stopping to see what his reception was to be, he leaped through the door opening from the great kitchen out into the washroom and wood-shed, where he howled and scratched like one possessed.

John and I knew that something must be wrong outside, so we unfastened the door, and as we opened it the dog bounded out to the shed, where there was a great wooden box half filled with ashes.

But we had to go no further to learn what was the matter. The shed was filled with smoke, and a sharp crackling broke upon our ears. The ash-box was on fire, from coals which had been carelessly thrown in during the afternoon before, and the fire had taken to the dry pine partition between the shed and wash-room, and had made its way almost to the roof.

A smart wind was blowing, and in ten minutes more the fire would have been beyond our control, and those ten minutes would have been given to the enemy but for the dog. As it was, having water handy, we put out the fire with only the loss of an ash-box and a part of the partition; but the experience gained was worth more than that.

Grand old dog! He had crept to the house to satisfy his hunger from the poor swill-bucket fearing death if he were discovered; but when he found danger to the family,—a danger which he must have comprepended, instantly, and completely,—he thought no more of self; to save those whom he had loved became his sole object, and how he did it we have seen. Be sure there was no more thoughts of killing that dog, nor of giving him away.

A Change of Climate.

Yesterday morning a forlorn cricket that had been tempted out of doors by the warm weather of the preceding days was shivering along the streets looking at a cheap second-hand ulster and wishing that he were home, when he met a wasp that had been locked out during the fall house-cleaning.

"I am almost frozen," said the cricket, "my hands are fairly numb with cold."

"Put them in my coat-tail pockets," replied the wasp, cheerfully, "and warm 'em."

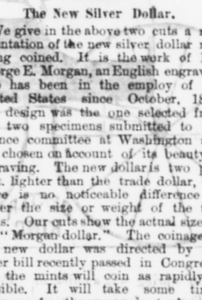
The cricket did so, and the wasp immediately warmed him with the improved heating machinery located in the after part of his system. The cricket merely paused to remark that there appeared to be a cayenne pepper manufactory in the neighborhood, crawled under the plank walk to die, while the wasp, who was fond of his little joke, went away singing merrily, "Come, come away to the try-sting place."—*Burlington Hawkeye.*

A Congressional Bear Hunter.

Mr. Pacheco, of California, whose claim to a seat in the House of Representatives at Washington was decided in favor of Wigginton, is an expert with the lasso and a wonderful rider. In giving an account of some of his experiences recently he said:

"Once I was out with three of the boys trailing a bear. He passed up a ravine. Three went at the head of it to drive him out. I waited at the foot. I did not have to wait long. A horse knows when a grizzly is coming. My horse planted himself, and I could hear his heart go pound! pound! as the bushes cracked, and a huge bear emerged and charged. I was ready. I lass'ed him, and caught his fore foot, and then dashed off to the right, but my lasso trailed around a tree. I saw in a second that an instant would bring the grizzly and me together. I dropped the lasso like a shot, and my horse sprang away as if the devil was at his heels. The bear jumped down in a gully where there was a small creek and wallowed there. He had my rope upon him still, and I hated to lose it. The grizzly was about ten feet down. The boys came up, and we rode along the edge of the gully watching for a chance to lass' him. I rode up right over him, feeling perfectly secure at that height. The bear glanced once at me sideways. Bears never look straight at you. Then, in a second, before I could breathe after the look, he sprang from the bed of the creek to the haunch of my horse. I went on to the horse's neck in a second. I was never so scared in my life. But the boys was as quick as he. Scarcely had he struck my horse than two lassos reached him and dragged him off. Then we soon despatched him. But it was a close call.

"The only time I was ever whipped out and out by a bear occurred in 1840. A dead whale had drifted ashore near our place, and the odor of it extended inland many miles. It brought out many bears, as they are very fond of eating this kind of carrion. There was a tremendous bear that was spotted coming down one evening. Bears, you know, do not move until dusk and after. A party of us, fifteen in all, went out to the bluff overhanging the sea, and there resolved to wait for the bear's return. The path leading down was all greasy and slippery with whale's blubber. It was a beautiful moonlight night, clear and soft. We grouped about the head of the path and waited. It was not long. He was below, and scenting us, came up at once for attack. I saw his head above the bluff when we least expected him, and sang 'Here he is, boys!' as I sent my lasso whistling for him. Then began one of the most remarkable fights I ever encountered. The bear was powerful, and so greasy that our lassos slipped off when he did not snap them with his powerful jaws. He charged us and fought out of every entanglement for one hour and a half, until we, dripping with perspiration, our horses blown and lassos destroyed, were glad to retire and escape without loss of life. But such a defeat is unusual. It is a rare phenomenon to find a bear that has the strength to go through such a fight and not become cowed. In general, after the first struggle, a bear loses his courage."



The New Silver Dollar.

We give in the above two cuts a representation of the new silver dollar now being coined. It is the work of Mr. George E. Morgan, an English engraver, who has been in the employ of the United States since October, 1876. His design was the one selected from the two specimens submitted to the finance committee at Washington and was chosen on account of its beauty of engraving. The new dollar is two per cent. lighter than the trade dollar, but there is no noticeable difference in either the size or weight of the two coins. Our cuts show the actual size of the "Morgan dollar." The coinage of the new dollar was directed by the silver bill recently passed in Congress, and the mints will coin as rapidly as possible. It will take some time, however, for the new coin to become circulated all over the country.

Facts and Figures About New York.

New York city's population is about 1,200,000. The number of families living in the city is 185,789; dwelling houses, 67,200; houses containing three or more families are classed as tenements and number 20,000, with a population of 500,000. Of this number 523,198 were born in the United States, while forty different nationalities supply a foreign population of 419,094. During the past year there were 50,000 marriages, 35,000 births, and 30,769 deaths. The total value of property within the city limits is set down as $1,101,092,093, paying taxes to the amount of $32,000,000.

There are 489 places of religious worship—one church for every 2,045 of the population. There are 418 Sabbath schools with an attendance of 115,826 pupils. 122,997 children are instructed in the public schools at an expense of nearly $4,000,000. A careful estimate gives ten thousand children living in the streets uncared for.

Of drinking saloons, licensed and otherwise, there are 7,874, absorbing about $60,000,000 a year, while the total cost of supporting the 489 churches is less than $5,000,000 per annum. This would give each boy and girl in the city a capital of $300 to start life with. To these saloons is chargeable seventy-five per cent, of the pauperism and crime of the city. The city authorities—the commissioners of public charities and correction—require $500,000 annually to maintain the public institutions—the almshouses, hospitals, and prisons.

There were 92,830 arrests by the police during the past year. Of the 47,569 persons committed to the city prison, 35,676 were of intemperate habits.

The police stations lodged 185,124 persons; 22,782 out-door poor were relieved.—*New York Sun.*

Brains and Skulls.

The average weight of the brain of a fish, compared with the weight of its body, is as 1 to 5,668; that of a reptile, 1 to 1,321; a bird, 1 to 212; a monkey, 1 to 20; a horse, 1 to 768. The average weight of the brain of a man, compared with that of his body, is ordinarily as 1 to 50. Cuvier, the celebrated French naturalist, had the heaviest brain on record; it weighed sixty-four and one-third ounces. The next heaviest was that of Daniel Webster, which weighed sixty-three and three-quarter ounces; and the next was the brain of Rulloff, the Binghampton (N. Y.) murderer, which turned the scales at fifty-nine ounces. After the death of Mr. Webster it was discovered that his brain was diseased. The cavity of his skull contained one hundred and twenty-two cubic inches, while the cavity of Rulloff's cranium measured one hundred and twenty cubic inches. This latter fact is an argument in favor of the theory that, however much the brain may be the organ of intelligence, we cannot judge a man's morality from the weight of his brain or the size of his skull.—*Professor William Hammond.*

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Eastern and Middle States.

The railroad bridge over the Raritan river at New Brunswick, N. J.—a wooden structure 2500 feet long—caught fire near the draw and was almost totally destroyed.

The pergle ship Alabama, lying in the harbor of South Bristol, Me., was destroyed by fire, causing a loss of $50,000.

The large commission and packing house of Ashael Troth & Co., Philadelphia, has suspended.

The Home Savings Bank, of Boston, has suspended. It is believed the depositors will be paid in full, but a long time will be required to wind up its affairs.

A fire in Jersey City, N. J., destroyed five dwellings and made over one hundred families destitute. Loss on buildings and to occupants, about $25,000.

Robert McAdam and Charles Patton, boys aged about twelve years, quarreled in Philadelphia over the possession of a stick of candy. Patton drew a pistol and shot McAdam through the head, instantly killing him.

The election in New Hampshire resulted in a victory for the Republicans. Governor Prescott was re-elected, and a Republican legislature and council were also chosen.

Three buildings of the American Powder Company, at South Acton, Mass., were completely demolished by an explosion, and two men, named Foster and Turpenty, were instantly killed. So heavy was the shock of the explosion that it was heard for a distance of twenty-five miles.

Jehial Reed & Co., wholesale hat dealers, and Joseph H. Marks, commission merchant, of New York city, have suspended, the former owing $200,000 and the latter $110,000.

Benjamin Noyes, who was indicted in New Jersey more than a year ago for his acts as president of the National Capital Life Insurance Company, in connection with the transfer of assets of the New Jersey Mutual Life Insurance Company, and whose bail at that time was declared forfeited because he did not appear when wanted, was rearrested in Washington and taken to Newark, N. J.

The Pennsylvania Senate has passed a bill creating a banking department, whose duty it shall be to annually examine into the soundness and stability of the State's incorporated banks.

Students of the Princeton (N. J.) Theological Seminary were attacked by Princeton College students and two of them severely beaten. Six of the college boys were arrested.

Mrs. Ann Eliza Leggett, a wealthy widow residing in Tuckahoe, N. Y., was shot and instantly killed in the presence of her daughter by a neighbor named Theron Merritt, who then hurried to his own house and shot himself through the heart. The parties to the tragedy were related by marriage, and Merritt had been drinking at the time of the shooting, but the cause of the double crime remains a mystery. The verdict of the coroner's jury was that Merritt was suffering from temporary aberration of mind.

The Newburyport (Mass.) Five-Cent Savings Bank has been enjoined by the State bank commissioner from doing further business.

Western and Southern States.

In Harrison, Ohio, at a town hall meeting, a new gasoline machine was being tested by persons unskilled in its operation, when it exploded, killing F. Rapp, member of the town council, and a little girl, Ada Probst and F. Fisher, were dangerously injured and many others slightly hurt.

A severe snow storm in Nebraska began on the 10th and continued for three days. The Union Pacific railroad was blockaded by snow and all traffic ceased. Great loss of cattle is reported.

Eleven buildings were destroyed by fire at Hulbardston, Mich., and a loss incurred of $11,000.

The Farmers' and Traders' Bank, of Lexington, Ky., has suspended payments. Its deposits aggregate $80,000.

The recent heavy snow storm in Nebraska and Wyoming Territory was one of unprecedented severity, and numerous persons—ranchmen, sheep herders and others—lost their lives, while the loss of live stock is very large.

The State Bank of Arkansas, at Hot Springs, has gone into liquidation, in consequence of losses during the recent fire.

A heavy storm of hail and rain in Jefferson county, W. Va., destroyed thousands of acres of wheat and other grains, unroofed and blew down houses and killed cattle. The loss will reach over $150,000.

The new Virginia funding bill has passed in the State Senate—ayes, 19; nays, 5. The preamble opposes increase of taxation, recognizes the necessity of preserving and insuring the continued existence of the institutions of the State, including the public school system, and expresses willingness and anxiety to restore the former equality of the public creditors by distributing ratably among them the entire excess of public revenues derived from the present rate of taxation, after a most economical administration of the State government.

A party of men who were lynching a colored man, at Pensacola, Fla., for assaulting a little girl, were fired upon by a sheriff's posse; one man was killed and five were dangerously wounded.

It is reported that Sitting Bull is preparing for another Indian war.

From Washington.

Many petitions from printers and publishers in all parts of the country, asking for the abolition of the duty on type, have been received recently by Congress. Type-founders from all parts of the country have presented petitions also against a reduction of the duty.

A large delegation of workmen from the different navy yards of the country held an interview with the secretary of the treasury in regard to the enforcement of the eight-hour law.

The President has nominated John V. Hoyt, of Wisconsin, to be governor of Wyoming Territory.

The act amending the laws granting pensions to the soldiers and sailors of the war of 1812 and their widows has been approved by the President.

The director of the mint has inform the House committee on coinage that the capacity of the mints would be doubled by the erection of two new mints and the reopening of the old mint at New Orleans.

Senator Morrill, of Vermont, recently called up in the Senate the bill to provide for a commission on the subject of the alcoholic liquor traffic. It authorizes the President to appoint, by and with the advice of the Senate, a commission of five persons, who shall be selected solely with reference to personal fitness and capacity for an honest, impartial and thorough investigation into the alcoholic liquor traffic, primarily, in its relations to revenue, and also to taxation, and its general economic and scientific respects in connection with the public and general welfare of the people. The commissioners are to serve without salary, but the bill appropriates $10,000 for the necessary and incidental expenses of the commission. The bill was adopted.

At a recent meeting of the cabinet the principal subject of consideration was the draft of a letter prepared by Secretary Evarts, and to be sent to the governments of all the Latin union countries. This letter is in accordance with the section of the silver bill, providing for an international conference to determine the relative values of the bi-metallic standards.

The house committee on post-offices and post roads has under consideration a new scheme for the classification of mail matter.

The state department has received official intelligence, from Constantinople, of the discontinuance of the blockade on the Black sea.

The House committee on education and labor has instructed Mr. Goode, the chairman, to report a bill providing that the net proceeds of sales of public lands shall forever be consecrated and set apart for the education of the people. The act is not to have any effect to repeal, impair or suspend any law authorizing the pre-emption of public lands or the entry of public lands for homesteads, nor as limiting in any manner the power of Congress to alter or extend the right of homestead upon such lands, nor shall it be held to limit or abridge the power of Congress over the public domain or interfere with granting bounty lands.

The President has nominated William S. Choate to be United States judge for the Southern district of New York.

Foreign News.

A dispatch from Trieste says the Austrian steamer Sphinx, from Cavallo, with 2,500 Circassians on board, caught fire and went ashore near Cape Elia. Five hundred lives were lost.

The Kaffirs at Cape Town, Africa, were defeated by the British in a severe engagement and had many killed.

John Tammore, foreman of Riordan's pulp mills, Merrifon, Ontario, was instantly killed and two others seriously injured by an explosion of dynamite.

A London dispatch says: Trustworthy private advices from India state that the Mohammedans are greatly excited in consequence of the overthrow of Turkey. Serious trouble is even apprehended unless the government takes some anti-Russian action shortly. It is believed that 200,000 Moslem volunteers to serve against Russia could be raised without difficulty.

The surrender of insurgent Cubans continues.

About forty miners were killed by an explosion in a colliery near Bolton, England.

The king of Greece was entertained by General Grant, at luncheon, on board the United States steamer Vandalia, at Athens.

Cassagnac, the well known French editor of fighting proclivities, has fought another duel with a Republican deputy, at Paris.

The storerooms in course of erection at the Woolwich dockyard, London, covering an acre of ground, suddenly collapsed while the laborers were buried in the debris. All were quickly rescued, but many of them were seriously injured.

The first batch of new silver dollars—ten thousand in number—was received at the treasury department, and three thousand of them were paid out in exchange for gold. Secretary Sherman, by whose order silver is only to be sold for gold, takes the ground that to sell it for greenbacks would make the latter payable for customs duties, which, he states, is contrary to law.

Thirty-six persons who were attending a fair at Brest, France, were drowned by the capsizing of a barge.

Subscriptions for a new issue of 50,000,000 roubles were opened at St. Petersburg, and the amount is said to have been immediatly subscribed.

CONGRESSIONAL SUMMARY.

Senate.

A large number of petitions remonstrating against the transfer of the control of the life-saving service from the treasury to the navy department, protesting against the passage of any bill to impose a tax on incomes, and urging the appointment of a commission to inquire into the alcoholic liquor traffic were presented. ...The House bill making appropriations for the West Point military academy was reported. ....Mr. Conkling, from the committee on commerce, reported a bill in aid of a Polar expedition designed by James Gordon Bennett.... Mr. Blaine addressed the Senate in regard to the Halifax fishery award of $5,500,000 against the United States, urging that the award was excessive and should not be paid. A bill providing for a commission on the alcoholic liquor question was passed by a vote of 29 to 19. Adjourned.

Mr. Thurman, from the committee on the judiciary, reported a bill prohibiting members of Congress from becoming sureties for government contractors. ..Mr. Conkling called up the Senate bill in aid of a Polar expedition, designed by James Gordon Bennett, and reported from the committee on commerce on the previous day, and it was passed unanimously without debate. It authorizes the secretary of the treasury to issue an American register to the vessel purchased by James Gorden Bennett, under the name of Jeannette, and also authorizes the President of the United States to detail, with their own consent, commissioned officers, warrant, and petty officers of the navy, not to exceed ten in number to act as officers of said vessel during her first voyage to the Arctic seas; provided, however, that such detail shall be made of such officers only as the President is satisfied can be absent from their regular duties without detriment to the public service.... The bill creating in the United States treasury a sinking fund to pay the debts of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroad companies was debated. After executive session the Senate adjourned.

The House bill making appropriations for fortifications and other works of defense was reported.... Mr. Kellogg introduced a bill to establish a mint at New Orleans.... A bill appropriating $150,000 for damage done to the property of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, during the war was reported favorably. .....A letter from the secretary of the interior in regard to the timber depredations was read, and Mr. Blaine made a speech criticising the course of Secretary Schurz in collecting one dollar per cord, stumpage, in Montana.... The West Point appropriation bill was passed with some amendments. Adjourned.

Mr. Voorhees, of Indiana, introduced a bill providing for the payment of all customs duties and all other debts due the United States in legal tender notes at par, except in cases where it is expressly stipulated otherwise on the face of the obligation or contract. Referred to the committee on finance....After further discussion of the Pacific railroad sinking fund bill the Senate adjourned.

House.

Mr. Ewing, of Ohio, offered a joint resolution proposing to amend the constitution so as to authorize the issuing of an indefinite amount of treasury notes to be used to retire United States notes not bearing interest, and to pay the interest bearing bonds of the United States in legal tender except where existing contracts call for coin.... The diplomatic appropriations bill was considered in committee of the whole, when Mr. Hewitt, of New York attacked the report of the conference award, and assailed the policy of President Hayes.... A joint resolution fixing the time for paying whisky taxes was reported from the committee on ways and means.... The naval appropriations bill was reported. It appropriates $14,048,684.... A resolution inviting the President to recognize the Diaz government, in Mexico, was offered, but objected to and laid over. An evening session for general debate was held and the House adjourned at 9.50 P. M.

The consular and diplomatic appropriation bill came up for discussion. An amendment restoring the pay of first-class missions to the original amount was rejected.. Mr. Reagan, of Texas, made an explanation in regard to the subject of proposed payment of mail route contractors in the South for services rendered previous to the war. He stated that he had written about the legislation in the Confederate Legislature regarding the matter, and hoped the House would not consider he had been dealing unfairly with it. Mr. Conger, of Michigan, disclaimed any intention to reflect upon Mr. Reagan in the matter....The bill granting an American register to the Pandora for the Bennett Arctic exploring expedition was passed. Adjourned.

The bill to extend the time for paying the tax on distilled spirits in bonded warehouses was discussed and amended so as to require that the tax paid shall be the same as when put in bond. Adjourned.

"Radix," in one of his recent New York letters, makes a good point apropos of life insurance investigations and troubles generally, by calling attention to the fallacy of judging of the reliability of companies according to their bulk. Many such institutions seek to dazzle the public eye by printing their large gross assets in the heaviest type, and by laying great stress upon the nominal millions under their control to win confidence and prevent any close analysis of the whole statement. He points out the plain, but often forgotten fact, that even conceding the equally good quality of the assets of two companies, it is not necessarily the one with the most millions which is safest for the policy holder, but the one whose net surplus bears the largest ratio to its whole property. Judged from this sound and searching principal, "Radix" finds the Ætna Life Insurance Company, of Hartford, to be one of the strongest, if not the very strongest, institutions of the kind in the country. With a little over twenty-four millions of assets, it has about four and a quarter millions of clear surplus. The special commission appointed by the Legislature of Connecticut a year ago to investigate all the life insurance companies of that State, say of the Ætna that it is "not only solvent, but financially sound, and under the management of officers and directors of large experience, sound judgment, and unblemished character, and entitled to the entire confidence of policy holders, and the public." Taking the above facts and this official indorsement together, it is evident that the writer's estimate of the Ætna is one that can be everywhere safely indorsed.

Words of Wisdom.

There is no hair so little that it casts no shade.

The dust never rises so fiercely as when it is just about to be crushed into total quiescence by a tempest.

Fortune knocks once at least at every man's door.

Flattery sits in the parlor, while plain dealing is knocked out of doors.

As riches and favor forsake a man, we discover him to be a fool; but nobody could find it out in his prosperity.

Trust him little who smilingly praises all alike, him less who sneeringly censures all alike, him least who is coldly indifferent to all alike.

W should learn, by reflection on the misfortunes which have attended others, that there is nothing singular in those which befall ourselves.

A more glorious victory can not be gained over another man than this, that when the injury begins on his part, the kindness should begin on ours.

Pride is as loud a beggar as want, and a great deal more saucy. When you have bought one fine thing you must buy ten more, that your appearance may be all of a piece; but it is easier to suppress the first desire than to satisfy all that follow it.

It is the great privilege of poverty to be happy unenvied, to be healthy without physic, secure without a guard, and to obtain from the bounty of nature what the great and wealthy are compelled to procure by the help of art.

The human heart is like a millstone in a mill; when you put wheat under it, it turns and grinds and bruises the wheat into flour; if you put no wheat in it still grinds on, but then it is itself it grinds and slowly wears away.

If thou art rich then show the greatness of thy fortune, or what is better, the greatness of thy soul, in the meekness of thy conversation; condescend to men of low estate, support the distressed and patronize the neglected.

An Excellent