FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

The Man who Didn't Know When to Stop.

A very fair singer was Mynheer Schwop,
Except that he never knew when to stop;
He would sing, and sing, and sing away,
And sing half the night and all of the day—
This "pretty bit" and that "sweet air,"
This "little thing from Tootovere."

Ah! it was fearful the number he knew,
And fearful his way of singing them through.
At first, the people would kindly say:
"Ah, sing it again, Mynheer, we pray"—
["This "pretty bit," and that "sweet air,"
This "little thing from Tootovere."]

They listened a while, but wearied soon,
And, like the professor, they changed their tune.
Vainly they coughed and a-hemmed and stirred;
Only the harder he trilled and slurred,
Until, in despair, and rather than grieve
The willing professor, they took their leave,
And left him singing this "sweet air,"
And that "pretty bit from Tootovere;"
And then the hostess, in sorry plight,
While yet he sang with all his might,
Let down the blinds, put out the light,
With "thanks Mynheer! good-night! good-night!"

My moral, dear singers, lies plainly a-top;
Be always obliging, and willing—to stop.
The same will apply, my dear children, to you;
Whenever you've any performing to do,
Your friends to divert (which is quite proper, too,)
Do the best that you can—*and stop when you're through.*
—*Mary Mapes Dodge, in St. Nicholas.*

The Lay of the Grasshopper

There was a grasshopper lived in a palm tree,
Silver voiced as a frog in June;
Was not pleased with his situation—
Thought he'd like to go to the moon.
Oh! Heigh-ho! How shall I get there? oh!
A hop and a skip, and a flop and a flip,
And over the clouds I'll go.

Up he went like a streak of lightning,
Lit on the moon like a thunderbolt.
Nought could he find but a man with a lantern,
Riding about on a pea-green colt.
Oh! Heigh-ho! Why did I come here? oh!
A fling and a swing, and a flap of my wing,
And back to the earth I'll go.

Off he shot like a blazing rocket;
Down he came like a falling star.
What should he meet but a gay little goshawk,
Flying up from the earth so far.
Oh! Heigh-ho! Poor little grasshopper, oh!
A snap and a squeak in the bonny bird's beak,
And there was an end of him, oh!

The Plaything of an Empress.

More than a hundred years ago the great country east of Germany, known as Russia, was ruled by the Empress Anne. It is a very cold country and the winter is very long. The capital is St. Petersburg, and through it the river Neva runs. This river freezes in winter, and the ice is frequently so solid that it will bear an army of several thousand men with all their heavy guns and mortars, and these be discharged without so much as cracking the ice.

At the close of the year 1739, during an extremely cold winter, the empress ordered one of her architects to build an ice palace. The great square in front of the royal palace was chosen for its site. Blocks of the clearest ice were selected, carefully measured, and even ornamented with architectural designs. They were raised with cranes and carefully placed in position, and were cemented together by the pouring of water over them. The water soon froze and made the blocks one solid wall of ice. The palace was fifty-six feet long, seventeen and one-half feet wide, and twenty-one feet high. Can you imagine anything more beautiful than such a building made of transparent ice and sparkling in the sun?

It was surrounded by a balustrade, behind which were placed six ice cannon on carriages. These cannon were exactly like real metal ones, and were so hard and solid that powder could be fired in them. The charge used was a quarter of a pound of powder and a ball of oakum. At the first trial of the cannon an iron ball was used. The empress with all her court was present, and the ball was fired. It pierced a plank two inches thick at a distance of sixty feet.

Besides these six cannon in front of the palace, there were two mortars which carried iron balls weighing eighty pounds with a charge of one-quarter of a pound of powder. Then, too, there were two ice dolphins, from whose mouths a flame of burning naptha was thrown at night with most beautiful effect. Between the cannon and dolphins, in front of the palace, there was a balustrade of ice ornamented with square pillars. Along the top of the palace there was a gallery and a balustrade which was ornamented with round balls. In the center of this stood four beautiful ice statues.

The frames of the doors and windows were painted green to imitate marble. There were two entrances to the palace, on opposite sides, leading into a square vestibule which had four windows. All the windows were made of perfectly transparent ice, and at night they were hung with linen shades on which grotesque figures were painted, and illuminated by a great number of candles.

Before entering the palace one naturally stopped to admire the pots of flowers on the balustrade, and the orange trees on whose branches birds were perching. Think of the labor and patience required to make such perfect imitations of nature in ice!

Standing in the vestibule, facing one entrance and having another behind, one could see a door on either hand. Let us imagine ourselves in the room on the left. It is a sleeping-room apparently, but if you stop to think that every article in it is made of ice you will hardly care to spend a night there; and yet it is said that two persons actually slept on the bed there for an entire night. On one side is a toilet-table. Over it hangs a mirror, on each side of which are candelabra with ice candles. Sometimes at night these candles were lit by being dipped in naptha. On the table is a watch-pocket, and a variety of vases, boxes, and ornaments of curious and beautiful design. At the other side of the room we see the bed hung with curtains, furnished with sheets and a coverlid and two pillows, on which are placed two night-caps. By the side of the bed on a foot-stool are two pairs of slippers. Opposite the bed is the fireplace which is beautifully carved and ornamented. In the grate lie sticks of wood also made of ice, which are sometimes lighted like the candles by having naptha poured over them.

The opposite room is a dining-room. In the center stands a table on which is a clock of most wonderful workmanship. The ice used is so transparent that all the wheels and works are visible. On each side of this table two beautifully carved sofas are placed, and in the corners of the room there are statues. On one sides we see a sideboard covered with a variety of ornaments. We open the doors and find inside a tea-set, glasses and plates which contain a variety of fruits and vegetables, all made of ice but painted in imitation of nature.

Let us now go through the opposite door and notice the other curious things outside the palace. At each end of the balustrade we see a pyramid with an opening in each side like the dial of a clock. These pyramids are hollow, and at night a man stands inside of them and exhibits illuminated pictures at the grand openings.

Perhaps the greatest curiosity of all is the life-like elephant at the right of the palace. On his back sits a Persian holding a battle-axe, and by his side stand two men as large as life. The elephant, too, is hollow, and is so constructed that in the daytime a stream of water is thrown from his trunk to a height of twenty-four feet, and at night a flame of burning naptha. In addition to this, the wonderful animal is so arranged that from time to time he utters the most unnatural cries. This is done by means of pipes into which air is forced.

On the left of the palace stands a small house, built of round blocks of ice resembling logs, interlaced one with another. This is the bath-house, without which no Russian establishment is complete. This bath-house was actually heated and used on several occasions.

When this wonderful ice-palace was completed it was thrown open to the public, and such crowds came to see it that sentinels were stationed in the house to prevent disorder.

This beautiful palace stood from the beginning of January until the end of March. Then, as the weather became warmer, it began to melt on the south side; but even after it lost its beauty and symmetry as a palace it did not become entirely useless, for the largest blocks of ice were transferred to the ice houses of the imperial palace, and thus afforded graceful refreshment during the summer, as well as a pleasant reminder of "The Plaything of an Empress."—*Wide Awake.*

How a Man Gave a Bear a Ride

Once there was a man whose life had been spent in "going West." His father and mother moved from New England to Michigan when he was a baby, and settled six miles from any neighbor. But before the farm was all cleared, other settlers came, and the family moved on.

"Don't want to be crowded," the old man said. "I heard a rifle and an ax that wasn't mine, yesterday."

And he went further and further West every year, till by the time the boy I'm telling you of was a grown-up man they had got clear to the west part of Oregon, and the Pacific coast. And as the old man couldn't move West any further without getting into the ocean, and neighbors had moved within two miles of him, he gave it up, went to bed sick, and died.

"Tain't no use," he said, "they're bound to crowd an old man out under the world. I can't a-bear to tech elbows with folks, no how."

And so he died, with his nearest neighbor two miles away.

But I was going to tell you of his son's scrape with a bear. They built their first log house at the foot of a hill; but it was so low and damp that James—for that was his name—started to build a bigger one higher up, half a mile off, near a mountain brook, with grand old trees around the spot, and a fine view of the country. He took off the two front wheels of the old immigrant wagon that they had crossed the great plains in, and made him a good strong two-wheeled cart, with a box on it. And in this he drew back and fourth his carpenter tools and his dinner and chips for the fire, over a rough road that he had cut through the woods.

He used to take a little nap after his noonday meal, and one day while he was sleeping on a splendid bed of evergreen boughs that he had fixed near the timbers he was at work on, he was wakened by a loud rattling of the tin dishes in his cart. He looked around quickly, and what do you suppose he saw? A big black bear pawing over the luncheon he had left, and smacking his chops over a piece of wild honey and some corn-cakes that James hadn't eaten up.

"This is a pretty fix," said James to himself, quick as a flash. "My rifle and ax are both in the cart, and that ugly beast would claw me to pieces before I could get 'em out."

He was afraid the bear would chase him if he ran, and corner him if he stayed, and so he set his wits to work to find a way out of the scrape. Good bright wits are too much for a bear, or a hard lesson, or a tough job of any sort, if they are only kept at work with no "I can't," or, "I don't want to," or "O, dear!" to hinder them. It didn't take James' wits so long as I have been telling it to you to make a plan for him.

He jumped to his feet quick as a flash, grabbed the tongue of the cart before the bear could say Jack Robinson—if he had known how—and started on a keen run down hill, drawing the cart and the bear in it after him.

"Well, I s'pose there never was a bear so astonished since the pair saved from the flood stepped out from Noah's ark and found the world drowned. He had never had a ride before, and didn't want one now; but the cart was going so fast that he daren't jump out, and so he just clung on, and looked out from one side to the other, and fairly howled as the cart bumped over the roots and stones. James had been to the city once and seen the street cars, and when he found he had the bear caught, the fun of the thing made him laugh.

When the bear roared once, he hallooed back, "All full inside—take the next car!" And when the bear gave a terrific howl, he said, "Move up to the front, please—anddon't grumble. This is a through car—git up there!" and he ran just the way the car drivers make the horses do when they are late, and pretend they don't see a little boy crossing his fingers for 'em to stop on the crossing. The tin dishes in the bottom part of the cart rattled like a peddler's wagon on the pavement; the ax and gun bounced on the bear's toes, and he looked as if he didn't know which was the worst—his mad or his scare.

Down the steep hill James ran, straight for the corner of his log-house. He had his plans all made, and as he turned the corner, he ran the cart against a log and tipped it right over, with Master Bear on the under side. His other rifle hung over the door, in the house, and he grabbed it down in a hurry, and as the bear struck his head from under the cart, he shot him between the eyes, saying: "There, that settles the question."

"What question?" asked his wife, who came running out to see what the noise meant.

"Why, the question whether I had caught a bear or he had cauhtg me."

"Mercy sakes!" she said, as she saw the dead bear. Then he told her the story, and she kissed him, and laughed and cried at the same time. And he had an overcoat made of the skin, to remember the time when he "gave a bear a free ride."

Sagacity of the Deer.

A friend of mine who has been in the habit of hunting deer in the Adirondack mountains, is of the opinion that the deer is often more than a match for the dog in sagacity. The deer seems to be well aware that the dog is guided by his faculty of scent in tracking him; and all the deer's efforts are directed to baffling and thwarting this keen and wonderful sense with which the dog is gifted.

With this purpose, the deer will often make enormous leaps, or run around in a circle so as to confuse and puzzle his pursuers. He will mount a stone wall, and run along it for some distance, well aware that the dog cannot scent him so well on the rock as on the grass. If he can find a pond or stream of water, the deer will plunge in and swim a long distance, so that the dogs may loose his trail.

It is a joyful sound to the poor, hunted deer when the dogs send up that sad, dismal howl, which they give utterance to when they have lost all scent of the deer, and despair of finding it. He is then a happy deer. He hides quietly n some covert among the bushes, and he will take care to place himself where the wind will carry all odors of his body away from the direction where he supposes the dogs to be.

So you see the deer is by no means a stupid animal. He knows better than many a little boy how to take care of himself and get out of the way of danger.

From a correspondent in Sprisgfield, Mo., I have a letter, in which the writer says: "I suppose the Boston boys don't have deers for pets. I have a young one named Billy, and he eats corn out of my pocket. When I come home from school he always runs to meet me. Although he can jump over fences, he never tries to run away. He wears a collar with a bell on it; so we can hear him when he is down in the orchard eating apples, of which he seems to be very fond.—*Uncle Charles, in Nursery.*

A SHOWER OF PINE BARK.—The Raleigh (N. C.) *News* of a late issue says: "We are informed by eye-witnesses of the occurrence, that on Tuesday last, in the afternoon, about two o'clock a great quantity of pieces of pine bark fell in and around a yard in this city. The fragments of bark appeared to have been violently torn from the trees. Many of them were of the size of one's hand. The pieces of falling bark might be seen at a great height in the air—as much as 200 or 300 feet. The puzzled viewers of this curious shower could give no explanation of the cause of the occurrence."

A Living Death.

In the various works describing savage life, and the barbarities attending it, which it has been our fortune to read in the course of the last few years, we have met with nothing more truly horrible than the following account of the fetish-like cruelties practiced by the Kaffirs towards their own race and kindred. The details are given by Capt. King, of the British army, who took a prominent part in the late Kaffir war. After giving several instances of butchery towards such of the soldiers as were unfortunate enough to fall into their hands, Capt. King says: "When a chief or a great man of a tribe is seized with sickness, the 'witch-doctor,' with forms and incantations, dooms some poor wretch to death, on pretence of his having bewitched the ailing man. His flocks and herds are forfeited to the chief, and his children left beggars and fatherless. One instance may suffice to give an idea of their savage ferocity, and spare the repetition of outrages on the poor settlers, or those unhappy enough to fall into their hands. The son of a chief named Macomo having fallen sick, a 'witch-doctor' was, according to custom, consulted, to ascertain the individual under whose evil influence he was suffering; and, as usual, a man of property was selected and condemned to forfeit his life for his alleged crime. To prevent his being told of his fate by his friends, a party of men left Macomo's kraal early in the morning to secure the recovery of the sick young chief by murdering one of his father's subjects. The day selected for the sacrifice appeared to have been a sort of gala day with the unconscious victim; he was in his kraal, had just slaughtered one of his cattle, and was merrily contemplating the convivialities of the day before him, over which he was about to preside. The arrival of a party of men from the 'great place' gave him no other concern than as to what part of the animal he should offer them as his guests. In a moment, however, the ruthless party seized him in his kraal. When he found himself secured with a rheim around his neck, he calmly said, 'It is my misfortune to be caught unarmed, or it should not be thus.' He was then ordered to produce the matter with which he had bewitched the son of his chief. He replied, 'I have no bewitching matter; but destroy me quickly if my chief has consented to my death.' His executioners said they must torture him until he produced it; to which he replied, 'Save yourselves the trouble, for torture as you will I cannot produce what I have not.' He was then held down on the ground, and several men proceeded to pierce his body all over with Kaffir needles. The miserable victim bore this with extraordinary resolution—his tormentors finally tiring, and complaining of the pain it gave their hands, and of the needles or skewers bending. During this time a fire had been kindled, in which large flat stones were placed to heat. The man was then directed to rise, and they pounted out to him the fire, telling him it was for his future torture, unless he produced the bewitching matter. He answered, 'I told you the truth, when I told you to save yourself the trouble. As for the hot stones, I can bear them, for I am innocent. I would pray to be strangled at once, but that you would say I fear your torture.' Here his wife, who had also been seized, was cruelly beaten and ill-treated before his eyes. The victim was then led to the fire, where he was thrown on his back, stretched out with his arms and legs tied to strong pegs driven into the ground, and the stones, now red hot, were taken out of the fire and placed on his naked body—on the groin, stomach and chest, supported by others on each side of him, also heated and pressed against his body. It is impossible to describe the awful effect of this barbarous process, the heated stones slipping off the scorched and broiling flesh, and being only kept in their places by the sticks of the fiendish executioners. Through all this the heroic fellow still remained perfectly sensible, and when asked if he wished to be released to discover his hidden charm, said, 'Release me.' They did so, fully expecting they had vanquished his resolution, when, to the astonishment of all, he stood up a ghastly spectacle, broiled alive! his smoking flesh hanging in pieces from his body! and composedly asked his tormentors, 'What do you wish me to do now?' They repeated their demand, but he resolutely asserted his innocence, and begged them to put him out of his misery; and as they were now tired of their labor, they made a running noose on the rheim around his neck, jerked him to the ground, and savagely dragged him about on the sharp stones; then placing their feet on the back of his neck, they drew the noose tight and strangled him. His mangled corpse was taken into his own hut, which was set on fire and burnt to ashes. His sufferings commenced at ten A. M. and ended only at sunset!"

Things to be Avoided.

There are many ways in which we can annoy our friends without intending to do so. A few of these are easily stated. Never call upon people out of season—in business hours. Idle persons are apt to have too little consideration for those who are busy. Call upon business people on business in business hours, but not for a long friendly chat on matters and things in general. Call upon your neighbors in their homes at such hours as they will be prepared to receive you, and not before they are down stairs in the morning, or while they are at dinner, or just as they are going to bed. Never stop people upon the street, if they appear to be in a hurry, and buttonhole them for ten or twenty minutes. Neither is it good taste, when you see two persons engaged in earnest talk, to step in and enter upon miscellaneous conversation. A man's ordinary instincts ought to know at once when his company is desired and when it is a nuisance. It is also a great impertinence to strike in with something entirely foreign to the subject when one is in the midst of a story or a statement, or an argument, and to persist in talking about "this, that and everything" to one who is trying to read the morning paper, or a book or anything else. Whenever a man is so absorbed that he does not care to reply to what you say, it is time to stop talking. There are a legion of other annoyances, equally trying: Carelessness in keeping appointments; keeping other people waiting your own convenience; coming in late to church, or the concert, or the lecture, and always in creaking boots; delay in answering important letters; borrowing new books from the owner before he has had time to read them, and returning the same at a late date, perhaps never; scribbling foolish comments on the margin; always depending upon a neighbor for a sight of the daily or weekly paper when you are as well able to pay for it as he is; learning to play on musical instruments in the full hearing of sensitive and nervous people. But we may as well stop here. From your own experience you can complete thelist.

Something About Heads.

The *Scientific American* is authority for what follows: Complete roundness is most nearly attained by a skull from Tartary, of which 97.7 is the index of breadth. With this Huxley contrasts a head from New Zealand of 62.9 as the narrowest of all known skulls. Bernard Davis has obtained, however, a so-called Celtic skull which has an index of fifty-eight, so that these indices for extremes fluctuate between fifty-eight and ninety-eight, but the average is only between sixty-seven and about eighty-five. King Kalakaua seems to have a head curiously protuberant along the entire left side, and in marked contrast with that of Mr. Manton Marble, whose conform shows protuberance on the rear, and almost indentation forward on the same side. It will also be observed that in almost every example here given—and the same holds true in the great majority of all instances—the left side is most protuberant. It may be surmised between this circumstance and the fact pointed out by Brown-Sequard, that the left lobe of the brain comes into greater use, in its control of the right side of the body, than the right lobe, which governs the left side.

ADULTERATED CONFECTIONERY.

Something About the Dangerous Substances Often Used in the Making of Candies.

In raising adulteration to the dignity of a science, the manufacturers of confectionery have done their part. Properly, there are only three component parts in pure confectionery—the sugar, or body of the matter; the extract, or flavoring quality of the same, and the coloring property. To such a degree of ingenuity have candy-makers arrived, that some kinds of their wares are put up for the market with only a very slight proportion of the first, and with the coloring and flavoring of so cheap a quality that their manufactured articles can be bought at the same price per pound as the plain sugar itself.

It is not to be supposed that there is no pure confectionery. Those who purchase at our best and old-established places are morally sure of getting a genuine article. But children do not always go to these places. They strike for the nearest shop or store and where they can get the most for their pennies. The cheaper candies, of which hundreds of tons are sold every year, contain some of the most deadly poisons known, among them red lead, gamboge, vermilion, chromate of lead, Prussian blue, verditer or carbonate of copper, arsenite of copper, Brunswick green, the various oxides of iron, white lead, etc. *Terra alba*, or white or clay earth is very largely used, in some qualities it forming from fifty to sixty per cent. of the manufactured article.

The argument that the substances named are used in quantities so small that poisoning cannot result from their use is founded upon ignorance. Some of the poisons named are known as cumulative, from the fact that they accumulate in the system, and that, no matter how small the quantity taken in at each time, each addition remains, the constantly-growing mass working slowly and silently, producing even more deadly effects than large doses accidentally taken, whose results may be neutralized or affected by antidotes. A distinguished physician lately made a deliberate statement at an annual meeting of the society of which he was a member, that there was no question but hundreds of children were slain every year by cheap confectionery, without the real cause of their death being known.

As we have just stated, the article which is most used by dishonest confectioners is what is known to the trade as *terra alba*. It is principally brought from Ireland, and was brought into use fifteen or twenty years ago. Its first extensive use was during the war, when cream of tartar, bicarbonate of soda, pepper, ground rice and other articles of domestic use rose to double their ordinary prices. *Terra alba* was then worth about ten or fifteen dollars per ton. The demand has brought it up to about double those figures. This compound is nothing more nor less than actual dirt. In color it resembles dark flour or ground chalk, and is just as injurious as so much clay or dirt. It enters mostly into the composition of "mixed" candies, though this does not imply that all candies of this sort are adulterated with it, for some of the choicest candies in reliable confectioners' stores are called "mixed," and are the most expensive.

Many readers who have bought the common fruit or nut-candy will remember that in letting the round pieces containing the fruit melt in their mouth the result was a thick, tasteless paste without sweetness or flavor. This was the "white earth," which was only frosted on the outside. The cheaper chocolate creams, of which children are so fond, are made of *terra alba* and glycerine mixed together, the glycerine keeping the earth soft and pasty, making it adhere so it will not fall apart, and then the balls are rolled in tallow, with sufficient grease to allow one pound of chocolate to go as far as five or six pounds would if properly made.

The worst effects of the use of *terra alba* are, that the terrible diseases of stone and gravel are caused by the introduction of earth into the system, and the large increase of patients suffering from these attributed by high medical authorities to the introduction of this terrible ingredient into the confectionery and similar articles consumed in this country.

Glucose, or "grape sugar," is the name of another dangerous article extensively used in the adulteration of candies. It is not, as its name would imply, made from grapes, but from potatoes, and its effect is to produce paralysis of various portions of the system, especially the kidneys, where the effect is not only to paralyze them, but to turn them into a sugary substance; in other words, to produce Bright's disease, a malady for which physicians have found as yet no remedy.

The reason for the use of glucose is the same that is given for the use of every other adulteration—cheapness. Gum arabic, for which it is used as a substitute, is worth fifty cents a pound, while glucose sells for five or six. Most of the cheap gum-drops are made from this compound.

More disgusting than any of the articles named, though perhaps not so hurtful, are what confectioners term the scrapings. When a sugar ship comes into port and is emptied of her cargo, a good deal of syrup has adhered to the sides of the vessel and run down into the bilge water. The first is scraped off and the second pumped out, mixed together, and boiled, and of this compound candy is made.

The coloring of cheap candies, although it would hardly come under the head of adulteration, is yet a fraud, and oftentimes a dangerous one. Instead of the cochineal fly which the best confectioners use for the red in their wares, the unprincipled manufacturers use aniline, a powerful and poisonous color. For yellows chromium is used, one of the elements of which is arsenic. We have already mentioned some of the other preparations of lead and copper used for this purpose. The yellow in the best candies is produced by the use of saffron.

Most candies flavored with pear, apple, banana and other fruits are unwholesome, these extracts in many instances being made from fusil-oil, taken from the refuse of liquor-stills.—*Boston Commercial Bulletin.*

Chinamen's Bones.

According to a San Francisco correspondent, whenever a Chinaman is sick and beyond recovery, he is placed in some out-of-the-way place and left to die. None of his countrymen ever go near him, and he is left to "paddle his own canoe" across the Styx in his exit from this mundane sphere. When the deceased is buried, however, offerings will be made at the grave, and in time his bones will be sent back to China, in accordance with the contract made with the six companies which brought him here or from subscriptions by Chinese merchants. Every year there are tons of bones of defunct Chinamen sent to China to be buried. The business of exhuming and packing these bones is an extensive one, and, very naturally, it is pursued by Mongols. Many of these bones are polished. When disinterments are in progress the graveyards of the Chinese present the appearance of a Golgotha. Very small wooden coffins are used, just large enough to contain the bones of the deceased. It is proposed to impose a tax of ten dollars on every dead body disinterred, and to require the bones to be placed in a metallic case, the price of which is some fifty dollars. The object of which is to prevent spread of infectious diseases by careless exhuming.

A White Robin.

A snow-white robin may be seen at No. 1208 Broadway, near Thirtieth street. It is a real Albino, and its dark eyes are surrounded by a narrow rim of pink. Last summer a German, of this city, while walking in Whitestone, Long Island, saw a robin's nest in an apple tree; on looking into it he saw four young birds nearly fledged, one of which was white. He took them home and reared them all. Three differ in no respect from ordinary robins; the fourth differs only in color. Bird fanciers say that Albino robins are very rare; more so than white blackbirds.—*New York Tribune.*

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Eastern and Middle States.

An oil train and a freight train on the Lehigh Valley railroad, at Slatington, Pa., collided, and the shock caused an explosion of the engine attached to the oil train. Several cars of oil were set on fire and an oil tank suddenly exploded, scattering a large volume of burning oil over a number of spectators, one of whom was killed and about fifteen more or less dangerously wounded. A frightful spectacle was presented, as the oil-covered men ran wildly in all directions, wrapped about in flames which shot up several feet above their heads. Only one man had presence of mind to run to the river, while another ran into a house and the inmates smothered the flames with carpets. Some of the oil-soaked men passed friends who were helpless to aid and could only look on in impotent horror. The pecuniary loss is estimated at $200,000.

At a variety performance in the Pawtucket (R. I.) Opera house, Mlle. Volante supported an apple upon her head, and Mrs. Jennie Fowler, whose stage name is Franklin, was to shoot the apple while standing with her back to the mark, taking aim by the reflection in a mirror. The rifle was discharged and Mlle Volante fell dead on the stage, the bullet having pierced her forehead. Mrs. Franklin's arrest followed.

Governor McClellan has appointed John P. Goss, John S. Lee and Edward T. Bell commissioners to the Paris exposition from New Jersey.

The New Jersey Legislature has adjourned for the session.

A fifty-horse power boiler in the engine-room of the Boston stamping manufactory of Leavey & Co., Cambridge, Mass., exploded, and three men were killed, another was fatally injured, and six others more or less severely wounded. The boiler was hurled through the brick walls of the engine-room and the wooden walls of the building inclosing it 130 feet across the canal. Michael Moirland, the engineer, was found crushed between the boiler and the granite walls of the canal. James Anglin and Nathan Burgess, at work in the riveting-room in a line with the course of the boiler, were taken from the canal dead and mangled, having been swept along by the boiler in its terrific flight. George Gerrity was taken from the ruins of the engine-room fatally injured. The two-story building containing the engine was completely demolished, and the five-story main building, in which one hundred persons were at work, was considerably shattered.

Seven persons injured by the shower of burning oil at Slatington, Pa., have died.

About twenty thousand persons witnessed the launch of the new steamship City of Paris, belonging to the Brazilian line, at Chester, Pa. Among those present were President Hayes, Secretaries Schurz, McCreary and Thompson, a quorum from both houses of Congress, Governor Hartranft, the mayors of New York and Philadelphia and other prominent persons from those cities.

The insane asylum connected with the Steuben County (N. Y.) poorhouse, situated two miles north of Bath, was set on fire by one of the inmates who was subject to fits but was considered harmless. The building contained between sixty and seventy inmates at the time the flames broke out, and of these fifteen were burned to death while the rest were rescued with much difficulty. The building was of brick with iron-grated doors and windows, which made it impossible for the unfortunate persons inside to get out without assistance, and the scenes presented as the fire-surrounded prisoners endeavored to get away were horrifying in the extreme. Ten of those burned to death were females and five males.

Ex-Governor Moses, of South Carolina, was arrested in New York upon a requisition of Governor Hampton, charged with having forged a note for $316.

Seman Klotz, a New York dealers in hatters' materials, has failed for $400,000.

The New York Produce Exchange has begun thirty-nine suits in sums aggregating $60,000, against the Pennsylvania railroad company for losses incurred during the labor troubles last July.

Charles Pardee, aged about seventy-five, a wealthy banker of Skaneateles, N. Y., committed suicide by cutting his throat.

Secretary Sherman has had another conference in New York with leading bankers, regarding the resumption of specie payments. He expressed a belief that resumption would be practicable at the time fixed by law, but desired the active co-operation of the banks. The secretary proposed that the banks should take $100,000,000 four per cent. bonds at par—one fourth of one per cent. commission to be allowed—to be paid for in gold before January 1, 1879. Some of the bank presidents did not oppose the proposition with much favor, while others approved it, but no conclusion was reached.

S. Angier Chace, treasurer of the Union Mills, Fall River, Mass., confessed that he had embezzled from the company about $500,000. The defalcation has been going on for a number of years, but was unsuspected, as Mr. Chace was a man of high social position in Fall River, where he has lived since 1822. He was an ex-member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and State Senate and besides being treasurer of the Union Mills he was also president of the Second National Bank and of the Five Cent Savings Bank, both of Fall River. The defalcation is represented by over-issue of the company's notes, and the discovery that something was wrong was first made when one of the corporation's notes had come to protest. The Union Mills Company was one of the largest of the great corporations in Fall River. On the morning after the defalcation became known the mill property was attached by a Providence banker.

An unusually atrocious murder was committed in New York by Michael Fogarty, who killed his wife and then cut his own throat. At one time Fogarty owned a grocery store and was prosperous; but after a while disasters came and then he ran away to Canada, leaving his debts unpaid. Returning secretly he found that his wife had opened a grocery store on her own account and was earning a livelihood for herself and children. Fogarty demanded an interest in his wife's business. She refused, and thenceforward the quarrels between them were frequent and acrimonious. Fogarty had brought a civil suit against his wife, which was pending; and on the day previous to the murder Mrs. Fogarty caused her husband's arrest in a police court because he had locked up her store, taking away the keys. The justice compelled him to return the keys, and he went off muttering. That night Fogarty obtained admission to his wife's room while she was asleep and poured nitric acid into her eye. The pain awoke her, when he seems to have completed his fiendish crime by pouring the remainder of the acid into her ear and stabbing her with a knife in the back of the neck. Then he terminated his own existence by drawing the knife across his throat. The Fogartys had three fine children, the oldest of whom—a bright boy of thirteen, named William—was aroused by his mother's screams and ran out for a policeman. The father left a note saying that he meant to disfigure his wife and son, and blaming the police justice and another man for the crime he was about to commit.

Five hundred convicts in the Clinton (N. Y.) State prison are to be set at work making hats, the State receiving $745 a week for this convict labor.

Western and Southern States.

The Oregon Greenbackers held a convention at Portland and nominated a State ticket, headed by M. Wilkins for governor.

Ex-Governors J. Madison Wells and P. B. S. Pinchback, both of Louisiana, have had interviews with the President recently.

Gardner K. Clark, a prominent grain broker of Detroit, Mich., fled to Canada with his wife and child after having victimized nearly all the large grain dealers of the city in small sums aggregating over $12,000.

Henry Crouch, a farmer living near Augusta, Mich., his wife and two children, were drowned while fishing in a small pond.

John S. Wilcox, of Elgin, Ill., a speculator, has filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy. His secured debts are $526,000, and unsecured $23,000. He also is responsible on discounted paper for $600,000 and has no assets.

A strike of the employees of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad company at Topeka, Kansas, has taken place, and freight and passenger traffic has been greatly delayed.

While a party of workmen were gathered about a derrick on the Tuscarawas railroad in Harrison County, Ohio, the supports suddenly gave way and the derrick fell upon the men, instantly killing two and fatally injuring a third.

The steamboat Colonel A. B. Koons struck a snag on the Red river, in Louisiana, and sunk. Three deck hands were drowned.

Isaiah Gabbert, who was shot in the public square at Harrodsburg, Ky., by Henry Noel, died of his wounds. The combat, which took place in the presence of many citizens, had its origin in an election row. The men met and advancing toward one another emptied every chamber of their respective revolvers, then clinched and fought it out, using their pistols as clubs. When they were separated it was ascertained that Gabbart had been mortally wounded. Dying he exonerated Noel.

The boilers of the Sandy Fashion, a small steamer running from Cutlettsburg, Ky., up the Sandy river, exploded at the mouth of the river, and the vessel sank in three minutes in nine feet of water. Joseph Newberg, a merchant, A. Osborn, and two others were killed. The engineer, clerk and another man were wounded.

The Iowa Greenback party met in Des Moines and nominated a State ticket headed by M. Farnsworth for secretary of State. The platform adopted demands the unconditional repeal of the resumption act, the remonetization of silver, making it a full legal tender; that the coinage of silver be placed on the same footing with gold, and that Congress shall not authorize the issuance of interest-bearing bonds of any kind.

The Illinois Democratic State convention met in Springfield and nominated a ticket with E. L. Cronkhite for State treasurer at the head.

A small boat containing six young men, on the Ohio river at Martin's Ferry Ohio, was swamped, and three of those in the boat were drowned, the rest reaching shore with difficulty.

From Washington.

The House appropriation committee has agreed to the post-office appropriation bill as it was reported back by the sub-committee. The bill appropriates in the aggregate $33,190,375, which is $3,257,398 below the estimate sent in by the post-office department, and about $869,000 less than the amount appropriated for the present year. The bill reduces the compensation of the railroads five per cent., and changes the method of paying the postmasters of the fourth class back to the old system; that is, to pay them a commission on the stamps they cancel instead of on those they sell, as the present law provides.

The House elections committee has agreed, by a unanimous vote, to dismiss the South Carolina contested election case of O'Connor (Democrat) against Cain (Republican), the sitting member.

The President has nominated Justin E. Colburn, of Vermont, to be consul-general at the City of Mexico.

The total receipts for the nine months of the present fiscal year were $194,056,490, which is $7,516,280 below the corresponding nine months of the preceding fiscal year and of this deficit $5,304,093 occurred in internal revenue receipts, $1,939,141 in miscellaneous, and $273,046 in customs. The total expenditures for the same period were $99,910,926, which is $12,850,216 less than the corresponding nine months of the preceding fiscal year.

Secretary Thompson has issued an order directing the commanders of United States men-of-war in South Pacific waters to seize all American vessels engaged in the coolie trade and bring them to a United States port for trial.

The Republicans of both houses of Congress held a caucus and appointed a Congressional committee to act on behalf of the party. A resolution was presented by Senator Sargent that the President be urged to "rescind the order forbidding the attendance of officials in the executive branch of the civil service at preliminary meetings, caucuses, and conventions of a political character, and their services upon political committees." After debate the resolution was referred to the committee.

The Senate has confirmed the nomination of John W. Hoyt, of Wisconsin, to be governor of Wyoming Territory.

The House committee on ways and means, in its discussion of the bill revising the internal revenue laws has reached those sections providing for the reimposition of the income tax, and the committee rejected a motion to strike them out by a vote of 10 in the affirmative to six in the negative. Those who voted nay were Mr. Tucker, of Virginia; Mr. Sayler, of Ohio; Mr. Robbins, of North Carolina; Mr. Harris, of Georgia; Mr. Burchard, of Illinois, and Mr. Gibson, of Louisiana. The affirmative votes were by Mr. Wood, of New York, Mr. Garfield, of Ohio; Mr. Banks, of Massachusetts; Mr. Kelley, of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Phelps, of Connecticut.

A meeting has been held in Washington between a number of Congressmen and M. Chotteau, delegate from the Paris committee to secure the attendance of American delegates at the Franco-American congress in Paris. The object of the proposed congress is to discuss commercial relations between this country and France, and to secure, if possible, the formation of a commercial treaty between the two countries.

The secretary of the treasury and the members of the last syndicate have entered into an agreement for the sale, for resumption purposes, of $50,000,000 United States four and one-half per cent. fifteen year bonds at par and accrued interest, and one and one-half per cent. premium in gold coin, $10,000,000 to be taken immediately and $5,000,000 per month during the balance of the year.

Foreign News.

Prince Orloff, the Russian ambassador at Paris, has complained to the French government in regard to the tone of prominent Parisian newspapers. M. Waddington, French minister of foreign affairs, in reply to the prince's complaint, said that the government has no control over the papers in question, but the press have been invited to be less aggressive. Prince Orloff was much dissatisfied with the reply.

Cardinal Giuseppe Berardi's death in Rome is announced, aged sixty-eight.

Trouble with the Caffres in South Africa has again broken out, and in one action the British troops were compelled to retreat.

Prince Gortschakoff's answer to the British circular dispatch has been made public. The Russian minister's reply if temperate in tone. He denies that Russia is seeking her own greatandisement and calls upon England to state precisely how she would act under the circumstances in regard to the Eastern question.

The famine in Northern China is increasing.

A postal commission from the United States, consisting of thirty-five persons, have arrived in Havana.

Four thousand houses were destroyed by a recent fire in Tokin, Japan. The damage is estimated at $200,000.

At the funeral of the murdered Lord Leitrim in Dublin a mob assaulted the mourners and attempted to capture the hearse. Several of the mourners were roughly handled, and all were forced to pass out of the churchyard by an unfrequented way in order to escape violence.

CONGRESSIONAL SUMMARY.

Senate.

The Naval appropriation bill, as amended by the Senate committee, was passed....The discussion of the Pacific railroad funding bill was continued until adjournment.

The Senate had before it the Senate the credentials of George H. Pendleton as a Senator from Ohio, from March 4, 1879....The bill removing restrictions against the enlistment of colored soldiers was discussed without action....Debate on the Pacific railroad sinking fund bill was resumed, after which an executive session was held, followed by adjournment.

Mr. Morrill reported from the finance committee a bill to repair and put in operation the mints at New Orleans....Mr. Blaine, from the committee on appropriations, reported the general deficiency appropriation bill....The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of the Pacific railroad sinking fund bill. After a long debate Mr. Morton to adjourn was rejected by 29 to 36, and Mr. Thurman closed the discussion. The amendments were then voted down and the bill passed by 40 to 19....The House bill to place the name of Gen. Shields on the retired list of the army was presented, but Mr. Edmunds objected to present action on the bill.... The bill to repeal the bankrupt act was taken up, but the Senate adjourned without action.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill to repeal the bankrupt act, and Mr. Matthews offered a substitute, establishing a uniform law on the subject of bankruptcy. Adjour