SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

Queer, Comic and Blundering Signs.

Something to attract attention, anything to make people stop, is the grand desideratum of storekeepers. That man knew what he was about who swung out a sign in Washington reading thus:

"Walk in, Gents, and read the News,
While I blacken your Boots and Shoes."

A good sign as an appetizer is one found at a hotel at Culebra, on the Isthmus of Panama:

THIS WAY, GENTLEMEN, FOR WARM MEALS.
I AM GOING TO OLD JOE PRINCE'S.

In Salt lake City signs like the following were common not long ago:

HOLINESS TO THE LORD.
ZION'S CO-OPERATIVE MERCANTILE ASSOCIATION.

Passing along Lombard street, in Philadelphia, some time ago, I saw:

"A. LEG, BOOTMAKER."

But this will have to yield the palm to the Washington sign:

"A. PLUG, TOBACCONIST."

A New York sign reads:

"This gate hangs high,
And hinders none;
Refresh and pay,
And then pass on."

Here is one from New Hampshire, which sounds well until you come to the last line:

"Call and eat and drink with me,
And very welcome you shall be—
For the money, though, mind ye."

Mr. Jones would advertise his ale, So he had painted on the grave-yard fence:

"USE JONES' BOTTLED ALE IF YOU WOULD KEEP OUT OF HERE."

"Sinclair Lithgow, horse-shoeing smith,
Warks up this close wi' a' his pith;
He does his wark baith weel and soon,
But jikes the siller when 'tis done."

Sinclair's sign is a very different in length from that of the economical cobler who hung out this sign:

SHO
E
P

A wigmaker in Edinburg put over his door a picture of Absalom hanging to a tree, with these words underneath:

O, ABSALOM! UNHAPPY PRIG!
THOU SHOULDST HAVE WORN A PERIWIG.

A blacksmith in Essex, England, has on his sign:

NO HORSES SHOD ON SUNDAY,
Except Sickness and Death.

The traveler in Honolulu is invited by a Chinese firm in the following words:

"Good people all walk in and buy
Of San and Mon, good cake and pie,
Bread, hard or soft, for land or sea,
Celestial made, come buy of we."

A Michigan sign is more promising than even this. It is:

Baltimore boasts of a blacksmith shop with the first verse of "This is the house that Jack built" over the door. But one of the same trade in New York city puts this entirely in the shade. It is over the entrance to an alley way, and reads thus:

"This is Uncle Dan Thomases,
Who always keeps his promises,
His victuals and beer
And other good cheer
Can't be beat about here."

Down South their is a comprehensive sign which reads thus:

BIBLES, BLACKBALL, BUTTER,
TESTAMENTS, TAR, TREACLE,
GODLY BOOKS AND GIMLETS,
FOR SALE HERE.

In a little village near Leeds, England, may be seen the following:

A day School kept at—— Plaise, Trems 2 pens and 3 pens per week for reeding and knitting and righting and sowing.

We once saw an old wagon with these words written with chalk upon one side:

"THIS WAGIN TO SAIL."

The story is told of an Acton man who had a cart on which was painted:

"AMOS TODD, ACTON; A STAGE CART."

But it was so painted that it read thus: "A most odd act on a stage cart."

It is said that in olden times, when barbers were also surgeons, the stripes upon their poles were intended to convey the idea of bandages, and the basin, which sometimds accompanied the pole, to represent the utensil for catching the blood during operations. This is what the poet tells us:

"Twas ordered that a huge long pole
With basin decked, should grace the hole,
To guide the wounded.
But when they ended all their wars,
And men grew out of love with scars,
Their trade decaying—to keep swimming
They joined the other trade of trimming;
And to their poles, to publish either,
Thus twisted both their trades together."

"Cow in Boots," "Queen's Head and Artichoke," "Pig and Whistle," "Royal Bed," "Q in the Corner," "Shoulder of Mutton and Cat," "Cow and Snuffers," and many other curious signs might be mentioned; but one has only to use his eyes to see as odd and as strange signs in every town as any spoken of here.

He Preferred to Walk.

"She's pretty hot, ain't she?" said a backwoods passenger, addressing the engineer of a Mississippi steamer that was racing with another boat.

"So-so," responded the engineer, as he hung an additional wrench on the safety-valve cord to stop the steam from escaping.

"I reckon we'll overtake that craft soon," pursued the passenger.

"That's about it," returned the engineer, giving the cords another twitch and hallooing through the trumpet to the fireman to "shove her up."

"One hundred and ninety-five," hummed the passenger, looking first at the gange and then at the boilers.

"That's about where she's rusticating," put in the engineer.

Then the passenger ran his fingers through his hair nervously, and walked about the decks for a few minutes, when he came back to the engineer and observed:

"Hadn't you better leave that boat go?"

"Can't do it. Must pass her."

"But s'posin' we should blow up?"

"Well," said the engineer, as he peeped over the guard to see how fast he was gaining, "if it's the will of Providence for this boat to blow up, we'll have to stand it." Then he hallooed to the fireman to roll up another cask of bacon and to mix plenty of resin with the coal, and give her a little more turpentine an oil.

The next moment there was a splash in the river; but before the yawl could be lowered the man had succeeded in reaching the shore, and hallooed out:

"Go on with the race, I guess I'll walk!"

Tin and Where its Ores are Found.

Tin is one of the earlist metals known, which is contrary to what, not many years ago, was the general opinion of scientific men. The researches, however, which within the last twenty years, have been instituted with regard to the earliest races inhabiting Europe, have conclusively shown that weapons and implements of bronze (an alloy of tin and copper) were probably the metallic articles earliest in use, after those composed of copper alone, and before the introduction of iron.

In the curious "lake dwelling," discovered in Switzerland, not only bronze implements, but bars of pure tin have been discovered. The proportion of tin varies from four to twenty per cent., about ten per cent. being the most common.

The principal present sources of tin are, first, Cornwall, where it is now almost exclusively procured from mines, instead of washing or "steam works;" second, Saxony or Bohemia, in small quantities, and exclusively from mines; third, Banca and other islands of the Malay Archipelago, the Malay Peninsula as well as parts of Hindostan and Burmah; all the productions from these (now furnishing the greater part of tin commerce), known generally as "Straits tin," being derived from steam works fourth, New South Wales, Queensland and other parts of Australia, together with Tasmania, Spain, Bolivar and Mexico also furnish (or have lately done so) some portion of the tin of commerce. Greenland, Japan, Finland, Siberia, Iceland and Madagascar, and some other localities, have also yielded tin in greater or less quantities.—*Mining Record.*

Earthquakes and Eruptions in 1877.

In the whole of 1877 there occurred, according to the compilations of Professor Fuchs, 109 recorded earthquakes, though from our own observations we believe the number to have been somewhat larger. In the three months of June, July and August there were only eleven earthquakes; while thirty-four occurred in September, October, and November, and the rest in the previous six months back to December 1, 1876. As usual, the most violent of these phenomena were those occurring in South America. The damage done to Iquique, Valparaiso, Lima, and other cities by the outbreak of May 9, 1877, was enormous, the vibrations recurring with startling rapidity, and lasting over several days. A few days later a submarine volcanic eruption occurred off the coast of Peru, which also did great damage to shipping. The effects of these disturbances were felt in all parts of the Pacific. During the year, several minor earthquakes, though of unusual intensity for the part of the world in which they were felt, occurred in Europe. Those of April 4, May 2, and October 8 in Switzerland, and of November 1 and 4 and December 22 at Lisbon, were the most alarming. Fortunately, little or no serious damage was done.

The volcanoes of Europe were unusually inactive during the year, but in South America, in Japan, and in the Pacific generally, the year was marked by several very violent volcanic explosions. The frequency with which outbreaks of this nature were observed in the open sea was a peculiarity of the year. Thus in February a very remarkable eruption occurred in the seas surrounding the Sandwich Islands, ten days after a violent outburst of the crater of Mauna Loa, on the mainland of the group, and a few weeks before another most remarkable outflow of lava from the celebrated lava lake of Kilauea. Here vast jets of liquid lava were ejected to a great height through the hard crust of the solidifying lava of the lake, which had lain undisturbed for many years. Much more serious was the eruption of Mount Cotopaxi in June, accompanied by terrible showers of ashes, dust, and mud, which were carried by the wind far and wide over the country, devastating the tilled lands and destroying hundreds of lives. The insular volcano of Ooshima, in Japan, broke out in flames and burning lava on January 4, and continued in violent action till the first week in February, causing, in combination with the earthquakes which accompanied it, a disastrous loss of life.

Among the more noteworthy events of the year was the eruption of a new volcano in a district hitherto supposed to be free from volcanic disturbance—namely, on June 11, in a new crater near the Colorado river, California. About the same time an earthquake was felt in Canada. The submergence of several islands in the great archipelago lying between the Malay Peninsula and Australia, the upheaval of new lands in the same district, and the observance of the effects of volcanic phenomena in the deep waters of the South Atlantic, and where the sea is some 20,000 feet deep, would have been sufficient of themselves to mark the past year as an uncommon period of strange volcanic phenomena. We believe, however, that the current twelve months will, unless a sudden cessation of activity occurs, prove to be even more prolific of such events than any of its recent predecessors.—*London Times.*

The Last Sea Serpent.

Captain J. H. Merritt gives this description of it to the Greenwich (Conn.) *Observer*: "While off Rocky Point, in a sail boat, we observed an unusual commotion in the water fifty or sixty yards from us; but thinking it might be caused by a whale, which, though scarce, are not altogether unknown in the Sound, we proceeded on our way, at the same time keeping a lookout to the lee'ard. What was our amazement, however, when we beheld, shortly after, the dareded looking specimen of a fish we ever saw or heard tell of, floating on the water right abreast of us. I tell you, sir, it almost made my hair stand on end, and the other fellows were in a worse fix than me. I've sailed in most every ocean and sea, lake and river, dared death in all its shapes, passed through storms and scenes of danger of the greatest magnitude unscared; but, sir, I never felt I was so near going to kingdom come as I did last Tuesday. I should say the sea serpent (for such I believe it to have been) was between seventy and eighty feet long, of a dark, dull, green color on the back, gradually getting lighter towards the belly, which was perfectly yellow; the head of the monster, I should judge, was about three feet long, and two feet broad, with a diameter of probably one foot through the flat side, and resembled the head of a frog, with the exception that it had fierce, fiery eyes that seemed to electrify one; the neck was long and round, a shade lighter in color than the body, and had the appearance of that of a snake—in shape, I mean; but, heavens, how much larger! The thickest part of the body was all of nine feet in circumference, and terminated in a tail the length and breadth of which I could not tell you, for it kept lashing the water until it became a seething, boiling mass for a number of yards around it. It makes me shudder to think of it now. The head was poised in the air as the monster sailed or rather wriggled along on the surface of the water, which it did for a considerable distance, and then disappeared from our view, and we were not sorry for it, either. The object remained above water only a few minutes, consequently I won't swear to the accuracy of my description, but I give it as correctly as my brief observation of the monster will permit of. I tell you, sir, there's a sea serpent in the Sound if there ever was one anywhere. Some folks may and some may not believe it; but, believe it or not, it's true as sure as my name is John Merritt. I have no object in telling a lie, and would not do so were I to be benefitted thereby."

The Bamboo and Its Uses.

Common as it is, there is no more graceful or beautiful object in nature than the bamboo in its native luxuriance, and nowhere is it seen to greater perfection than by the rivers and creeks of Burmah. As you round each bend of a Burmese river cluster after cluster of bamboo waves a graceful salute with its spray like foliage, and I could tell of country roads flanked by a bamboo avenue like nothing so much as a living Gothic aisle; the smooth, pillar-like stems, jointed together with perfect regularity, and rising on either side of the road almost perpendicularly, so gracefully is the arc described, meeting close overhead at a lofty height, and forming beneath a stillness which completes the parallel to the cathedral aisle. And when you turn to consider the uses fulfilled by this fairy-like plant, the wonder is scarcely less. Whether in his house, or land, or the boat, in which half the Burman's life is passed, the bamboo is present everywhere in an infinite variety of forms. The main supports of the house are commonly of timber, but it is from the bamboo that the beams and rafters of floor and roof are made, the partition walls, the matting on the floor, the very string which lashes rafter and beam together, and in many cases the mat-thatch which completes the house; while within the house so built hardly a vessel but is made from or at least indebted to, the same. On board the boat the bamboo is no less important; it floats the fisherman's net, it is shelter from the weather, and affords the rough bedding on which he lies; it is the stake to which his boat is moored, the pole which thrusts it from the shore, and even the anchor which holds it in the stream. Under more elaborate process it forms the substance of the multiform vessels of lacquer-work, which in Burmah take so largely the place of earthenware in other countries. It is the scaffolding of the builder, the laborer's basket, the child's toys, and from its branches are woven the fantastic structures so dear to the Burmese, where the *pooay* or drama is held, and it forms the fanciful canopy which covers the coffin in the funeral procession.—*Fraser's Magazine.*

RELICS OF WASHINGTON.

List of the Articles Purchased by the Government of the Lewis Family, of Virginia.

The relics of George Washington, which have been purchased of the Lewis family, of Clark county, Va., at an expense of $12,000, were received in Washington, and, at the request of Secretary Sherman, have been taken into the custody of the department of the interior, being placed under the especial charge of the commissioner of patents. The list of the different articles is given as follows:

One large mirror; two small mirrors; one dozen handsome parlor chairs; two arm-chairs; one large easy-chair, in which the general sat a few minutes before his death; one double brass candlestick, by which the Farewell Address was written; two silver-plated candlesticks; one large and two small plated waiters; one field-glass, used in the Revolution; one spy-glass, also used in the war; one ledger, kept mostly by the general; knives and forks; one plated cake basket; one large mahogany box, in which silver plate was kept; two mahogany footstools and three carpet-covered foot-stools; a portrait of Washington; the robe in which he was christened; three silver-plated lamps; half a dozen silver-plated salt cellars; thirty-six pieces of china-ware; one bedstead, presented to Mr. Lawrence Washington by his friend, Admiral Kernan, and by Lawrence left to his brother the general; several surveys made by the general himself; one marble-top table, four feet in length by three feet in breadth; one guitar, presented by Gen. Washington to Miss Nellie Curtis; miniature portraits of Gen. and Mrs. Washington on wood, painted by Trumbull; one shaving-glass, in frame with drawer; an engraving of the Countess of Huntington, presented by her to Gen. Washington; several souvenirs of Washington, consisting of ornamental works and household articles.

Previous to their purchase, Commissioner Spear went to Virginia and carefully examined the several articles. In his report to the secretary he said: "All these relics have been continuously in the possession of the Lewis family since the death of Gen. Washington. They were received by Mrs. Lewis, who was the adopted daughter of Gen. Washington, and the wife of Major Lawrence Lewis, his nephew, and were in her possession until her death, in 1852, when they passed into the hands of the family now having them in charge. They are all in an excellent state of preservation, and of the genuineness of every article there can be no doubt whatever. Some of the relics are of especial interest. The half-length portrait of Gen. Washington is of life-size, is perfectly clear and well preserved. It is a matter of tradition in the family, preserved especially by Mrs. Lewis, and also by others, that this portrait was always considered the best likeness of Washington ever painted. The miniature portraits were considered excellent likenesses, and are now in good condition. Of more interest, even, than this is a ledger which contains the record of all Washington's private business transactions for more than twenty-one years. The record is exceedingly minute, and a large part of it is in his own handwriting. Every item of receipts and expenditures, including even his losses and gains at cards, is set down with the most scrupulous exactness. In addition to these are many miscellaneous papers in Gen. Washington's handwriting, including chiefly records of surveys made by himself. The articles of household use are all in their original condition, and illustrate the style of living of the first President of the United States. The whole collection is far superior to that now in the possession of the government. Many of the articles of domestic use are parts of sets now in the custody of the interior department. The family were reluctant to part with these relics, but were compelled by the consideration that inevitably in a few years, with the separation of the family, the articles would be scattered, and, perhaps, a large number of them in the course of time lost or destroyed. They felt, also, that every citizen of the country who shared with them an interest in Washington, would be glad to have these relics made public property, and placed where they would be accessible to all."

"Old Sam Houston."

One of the most eccentric characters of the old United States Senate was Gen. Sam. Houston, of Texas. His character harmonized with his life, which had been one of strange adventure.

He had served as a soldier in the war of 1812, of governor of Tennessee, as an Indian chief while an exile among the Cherokees, and as commander-in-chief of the Texan army. He was victor on the field of San Jacinto, and became the first president of the republic of Texas. In the streets of Washington, his tall figure—he was six feet and a half in height—and singular dress attracted attention. On his head he wore a Mexican *sombrero*, while a bright-colored blanket was thrown negligently over his shoulder. His coat and pants, of the richest black broadcloth, set off a unique vest made of tiger skin.

In the Senate chamber he would sit all day whittling, with a pile of soft wood and a basket to hold the shavings by his side. Young ladies and children were quite anxious to secure the hearts, darts, crosses, and other devices, which the senatorial whittler made. Around his bedroom at the hotel hung several printed cards, on which were inscribed, "My bedtime is nine o'clock."

As a stump speaker, the backwoodsmen, who called him "Old Sam," thought he had no equal. He had a melodious voice, excelled as a teller of anecdotes, and was fond—though he spoke pure English—of dropping into the *patois* of his frontier audiences. In 1857, the Legislature of Texas refused to re-elect him Senator because he had voted against the Kansas-Nebraska bill. He ran for governor. In one of his speeches during the excited canvass, he said: "But, fellow-citizens, you whopped me; you whopped me good. Now, ef I donne wrong, you have had your satisfaction; and ef you donne wrong, God knows I forgive you."

The backwoodsmen cheered the man who could talk to them in their own *lingo*, and Houston was re-elected by an overwhelming majority.

While Houston was a clerk in a country store in Tennessee, the war of 1812 broke out, and he at once enlisted. The style in which he did so was characteristic. A drummer and a fifer paraded the streets of the town, headed by a sergeant. Silver dollars were placed on the head of a drum, and a volunteer stepped up, took a dollar, which was his bounty, and the sign of his enlistment. Houston took his dollar, and was at once marched, with other recruits against the Creek Indians.

His friends had sufficient influence to procure him an ensign's commission. At the battle of the "Horse-Shoe," he mounted the Indian fort, colors in hand. A barbed arrow pierced his thigh. Houston ordered a soldier to pull it out. The man tried and failed.

"If you don't pull it out," exclaimed Houston, drawing his pistol, "I'll shoot you!"

The man gave a strong pull, and out came the arrow, leaving a lacerated wound. As soon as it was dressed, he rushed again into the fight, whence he was carried out with two balls in his right shoulder.

Presidential Summer Resorts.

A Washington letter says: Presidents John Quincy Adams, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe used to go to their respective rural homes for an "outing" during the heated term. Andrew Jackson went down the Potomac to the "rip-raps," a fort on the edge of the ocean, or rather in it, which was begun in his day and has never yet been finished. Polk, Fillmore and Pierce hired summer residences on Georgetown heights. Buchanan occupied as a summer residence a house at the Soldiers' Home, and his example has been followed in turn by Lincoln, Johnson, Grant and Hayes.

The exceedingly good time made by the man who is pushing a wheelbarrow across the continent is explained by the fact that he is frequently chased by cattle.

A NEW PLANET.

The Solar Eclipse Results in the Discovery of Another Planet—Its Size and Situation—A Hot Place.

The most interesting thing in the eclipse observations, made by the numerous astronomers stationed along the central line of the moon's shadow, is Professor Watson's confirmation of the theory that our solar system has another planet. This hitherto theoretical member of the family, though its very existence was a matter of controversy, had already been named Vulcan, after the mythological blacksmith-god who presided at the forge and anvil, since its supposed orbit was still nearer the sun than that of swiftly flying Mercury. A total solar eclipse, by shading the light of the sun, affords to the astronomers an opportunity to search for any such unknown intra-Mercurial plants; and, while in Texas a careful and unsuccessful search was made by Professor Todd, and while other observers, stationed at different points, were also unsuccessful in their hunt, the conjectural planet is asserted to have been actually discovered by the Ann Arbor astronomer.

It would appear that the newly discovered planet does not greatly differ, in size, from Mercury, hitherto regarded as the smallest (aside from the asteroids), and the one nearest the sun, of the recognized members of the planetary family. It is known that Mercury—a planet considerably larger than the moon revolves in an orbit of which the mean distance from the sun is only about 36,000,000 miles; or 32,000,000 miles nearer to the great light-giver than is the mean distance of the orbit of its next outer neighbor, Venus. It has recently been argued by Proctor that the intensity of the solar heat falling upon Mercury, after making every reasonable allowance for possible modifying atmospheric conditions, must considerable exceed that of boiling water. This state of things, if it does exist on Mercury, would of course render that planet uninhabitable by beings bearing any resemblance to human kind; the dwellers there, if any, must be a race of veritably salamanders. In fact, Mercury, with its tremendous share of the sun's light and heat, its enormous fluctuations, in different parts of its swift orbit, from hot to hotter, and its asserted high mountains (Schroter makes them thirty miles high!) is altogether a queer and interesting world to study;—only, unluckily, its proximity to the sun renders it a difficult subject of observation except in its transits, and in solar eclipses. But if Mercury is a hot world, what must be the condition of its newly-found neighbor, Vulcan! It has been argued that this mysterious and dubious planet—now found to be a reality—must move in an orbit separated by a distance of but eighteen or twenty million miles from the sun. If that is the case, and unless it is protected by an incredibly dense atmosphere—which, again, would of itself tend to give the planet an unbearably warm climate—the direct rays of the sun, pouring upon Vulcan at that near distance, must give to this newly found member of our system a temperature not much cooler than that of red-hot iron.—*Hartford Times.*

A Colony of Camels.

A correspondent writing from Verde Valley, Texas, gives the following history of the colony of camels brought to Texas by the government in 1857: The camels were purchased under the direction of our diplomatic countryman, Mr. Marsh, in Asia Minor. The government paid for forty animals, and the pasha of the district from which they were shipped presented ten camels to the people of the United States. This novel cargo, with its attendant Greeks and Arabs, reached the port of Indianola, western Texas, in May, 1857. Gen. J. E. Johnston, commanding the department of Texas, was surveying the route to El Paso, and the camels were used by Lieut. Beal for transporting stores over the arid plains of northwestern Texas. Their home was at Camp Verde, and in 1861 the original lot of fifty had increased by births to one hundred and twenty. These animals proved very serviceable on the deserts and when traveling over the grassy country of Texas, but in crossing the mountainous divides and stony regions their feet suffered from stone wounds. In the year 1861 all the camels were at Verde camp, which was under the command of Capt. Brackett. The Confederates forced the officers to turn over the post to them; but Capt. Brackett first got from the first men of the country a bond, in which the parties were bound to make good any loss occasioned by the transaction. The Confederates went into cotton speculation; and the camels carried two bales each to Mexico. On the plains they would carry a burden of about one thousand pounds; but over the mountains from seven hundred to nine hundred pounds was considered a good load. After the war the United States government again took possession of the camel camp, and the animals were sold in three lots. Mr. Copeland, of the El Paso stage line, purchased the largest number, and commenced breeding them for market on a ranch west of San Antonio. He afterwards sold the lot to California speculators, and I was informed that the animals are now in southern California, where they are sheared for their hair for commercial purposes. The second lot of camels are near Austin, Tex.; the third lot went southward toward the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. The Texas market price for camels is from $250 to $300. Showmen find them a costly curiosity for exhibitions, as they are voracious feeders.

Rules of Health.

Dr. Van Oven points out the good that may be accomplished by a proper regimen faithfully followed. This consists in certain general rules, which we give in his own words:

"1. Do not take food except when the appetite demands it; that is, do not recruit the system but when the system has become exhausted.

"2. Let the quantity of restorative nourishment be proportioned to the degree of exhaustion which previous labors have induced.

"3. Select such food and drink as your own experience and the general usages of society point out as best suited to your habits and easiest of digestion.

"4. Let the food and drink be varied and mixed; and when in health do not torment yourself by too close an attention to any dietetic rules.

"5. Take vegetable infusions, as tea and coffee, in moderation; but avoid distilled spirits altogether, except under the guidance of the physician.

"6. Avoid active exertion or study immediately after taking food.

"7. Let prudence govern the passion."

To which may be added, that it is essential to the health and strength of all persons to have from six to eight hours of sound sleep. A steady observance of these simple laws will assure the highest health it is possible to attain.

The First Chinaman.

The first Chinaman who came to America, according to the San Francisco *Chronicle*, was Chum Ming, in 1847. He was a native merchant of Nai Sang, a province of Canton, intelligent and enterprising. He went into the mountains, and, finding gold, wrote to a friend, Cheong Yum, in 1848, about the new country. Cheong Yum immediately came to the Pacific slope, but, before doing so, told a number of his countrymen of the discovery of gold in America. It was then that the Chinamen began to flock to the Pacific coast. There were at that time no steamers to bring them, so they came in sailing vessels. In 1849 the Argonauts began to arrive from the East, and at that time the Chinese influx was a mere drop in the bucket. Within the next four years the arrivals of Mongolians became more frequent and in larger proportions, so that in 1852 there were 4,000 on the coast, 2,000 of whom lived in San Francisco. As soon as the tide of Chinese emigration had set in toward California, the Yeoung Wo and the Kong Chow, the first two of the present Six Companies, began the business of aiding the shipments.

Habits of the Eskimos.

Let us examine the more immediate environment of the Eskimo—their house. It is composed of a hillock of turfed earth, of square form, recalling somewhat our military fortifications. It is entered by a low door giving access to a narrow and very low passage, in which the Greenlander himself, notwithstanding his small size, is forced to bend down. The single apartment to which this passage gives access, and the floor of which is lower than the surrounding ground, is ventilated by an orifice in the upper part. It is lighted by two openings on each side of the door and hermetically closed by strips sewn together of a sort of goldbeater's skin made of the intestines of the seal. This kind of immovable glazing sifts into the apartment a sufficient light, but appears from without altogether opaque. The furniture consists of a sort of camp-bed which occupies the entire half of the apartment, provided with sealskins, and on which the entire family pass the night, after having taken off their day costume, and put on another more ample dress. On the ground a stone basin, said to be of serpentine, the form of which resembles that of a fish, is filled with seal oil, in which are steeped several wicks. The flame which rises from this vessel gives a sufficient light, and maintains the confined space at a high temperature. The cotton wicks come from Denmark, as also the chemical matches which the Greenlanders constantly use to light their briar-root pipes, which, with their tobacco, their alcohol, and their coffee, are sent them each year by the Danes.

Their costume is made almost entirely of sealskin. It consists, in the case of the men, of a shirt (Danish), above which is placed a woolen vest. The pantaloons are of hairy sealskin; the boots, under the pantaloons, of sealskin leather. Gloves of fur, armed, when necessary, with bear's claws, blue spectacles—against the wind and the reflection from the snow—complete the accoutrement. The costume of the women is not wanting in elegance. The hair is raised *a la Chinoise* on the top of the head, and bound into a sort of vertical chignon, tied by a colored knot. A well-fitting blouse of European material, trimmed with fur, is provided with a hood, in which the mother carries, when necessary, her latest born, as the opossum does her young. The women wear very tight breeches of sealskin and high boots reaching above the knees; red, embroidered with yellow, after marriage; white, embroidered with green, among unmarried girls.

Their arms consist of bows with which they shoot arrows pointed with bone or iron and similarly made harpoons, which they throw from the hand. When the harpoon is to be thrown into the water it is attached to a cord provided at the other end with an inflated seal-bladder which acts as a buoy and prevents the loss of the wounded animal, which would run away into deep water with their harpoon. Their other apparatus are iron fish-hooks, wooden baits representing fish, colored, and very well imitated. To these we may add cases of skin which they put on the paws of the dogs when the cold is very intense; leathern muzzles to put over the snou of the dogs, smoothing-rons of stone, knives identical with those which irontanners use to dress skins, and intended for the same purpose. This will give an idea of all that the Greenlanders have to help them to struggle against the inclemency of their native climate.

Before concluding what relates to the surroundings, one word about the alimentation. The word Eskimo is not the name which they give to themselves. They call themselves Innuit (the men); so true is it that under all climates human vanity prevails. The name Eskimo (eater of raw fish) is a nickname given them by their American neighbors. It is not, however, so well merited now as it was last century, at the time when Crantz observed them. They continue, nevertheless, to eat the lard sent them from Denmark and also the lines of the seal. The rest is eaten cooked.—*Nature.*

He Tastes of Minnesota Air.

There is a sign-board put up at the State line to tell unwary travelers which State they are in. We all watched for it with great eagerness, and when we passed it we knew we were in Minnesota. The clear atmosphere, the bracing, invigorating air, the billowy fields of verdant meadow and golden stubble and the low wooded hills all proclaimed Minnesota. But avove all, the air. Ah! How the excursionists thrust their heads out of the car windows, and craned out their necks, and sucked it in by the bucketful, oxygen, coal smoke, cinders, gnats and all, and said it was good. And it was, too. You can't put enough impurity in it to spoil it, and there isn't a speck of dust in it, anywhere in the State, after you get away twenty inches from a car window. One passenger, who mistook a slow board for the State line, had been breathing himself hoarse for twenty-two miles on common Iowa air, declaring all the time how delicious it was. He was greatly mortified when he learned his mistake, and would not breathe at all again until we reached Minneapolis. This is the place. I don't think any of the party want to come back again. You can sit at your window and watch the town grow. And while you are looking in one direction a man will build a brick block in another. It is the busiest place I have seen this summer. It makes a lazy man's back ache to come here and see everybody work so much to do and doing it so briskly.—*Burdette in Burlington Hawkeye.*

A Mathematical Prodigy.

Gilbert Miller, a lad nine years old, living at Keokuk, Iowa, has recently exhibited most remarkable powers in mathematics, being able to give answers to difficult problems with scarcely any hesitation. He is a strong hearty boy, not overly fond of school, and differs only in this one respect from other children of his age. His parents are averse to any display of precocity and will not allow him to be questioned. But enough has already been elicited to show his wonderful faculty. He probably inherits this gift from his father, Prof. Miller, of the Keokuk Mercantile College, who has long made a specialty of rapid commercial calculations.

We here present a few examples given recently to the lad as a test. The answers were forthcoming at once, without any apparent effort:

Cube 74. Answer—405,228.

Multiply 9,876 by 7,117. Answer—70,287,492.

Divide 678,632 by 323. Answer—2,069.

How many times will a clock tick in a year of 365¼ days? Answer—31,557,600.

Find the fifteenth term of a geometrical progression—first term five, ratio three. Answer—23,914,845.

These results were found to be exactly correct. Other questions involving difficult fractions were also given and answered, but we cannot represent them in type.—*Birmingham (Iowa) Enterprise.*

Ways of Washing the Face.

There are several wrong ways of washing the face and but one right. Towel, flannel, sponge are all out of place where the face is concerned. The hands only should be used. Doctor Wilson's directions are: "Fill your basin about two-thirds full with fresh water; dip your face in the water, and then your hands, wash the hands well, and pass the soaped hands with gentle friction over the whole face. Having performed this part of the operation thoroughly, dip the face in the water a second time, and rinse it completely; you may add very much to the luxury of the latter part of the operation by having a second basin ready with fresh water to perform a final rinse." But the care of the complexion requires that not only the face, but the whole body shall be daily subjected to the bath. The sponge bath is, perhaps, the best, and the temperature of the water must be regulated by the sensations of the bather, and by the season of the year. No one can deny the charm of clear, soft color in the cheeks and lips, and it must be an incorrigible complexion, indeed, that will not yield to the measures that I have recommended.—*Cassell's Magazine.*

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Eastern and Middle States.

The Neshannock Iron Works, of Sharon, Pa., has filed a petition in bankruptcy, with a schedule of liabilities amounting to nearly $2,000,000.

Timothy McCarty and Dennis Sullivan, middle-aged men, were suffocated in a well which they were deepening at Jenksville, Mass., by the fumes from a blast of nitroglycerine that had been fired.

John E. Leet, the New Orleans reporter who had been testifying before the House Presidential election investigation in New York, was arrested at the Astor House for acting in a manner that betokened insanity. He rang the bell of his room violently and when hotel employees responded Leet fired several shots through the door, all the time cursing violently and declaring that somebody was following him and that he wanted protection. When policemen arrived Leet surrendered himself.

During a violent thunderstorm the powder magazine of Weldy & Co., on the outskirts of Pottsville, Pa., was struck by lightning, and a terrible explosion followed. 1,100 kegs of powder having been fired and spreading death and devastation around. By the force of the explosion a gap fifty feet wide was made in adjoining woods where a picnic party was gathered. Three persons were killed—one boy being beheaded by a flying stone—several were severely injured and many cattle were killed. A number of houses were demolished, and the explosion was heard plainly eleven miles distant and caused great excitement in the town.

Senator Blaine and family, while out driving near Mt. Vernon, Me., were overtaken by a thunder storm, during which the horses became unmanageable and dashed the carriage against a tree, throwing out the occupants and wrecking the vehicle. All escaped injury save Senator Blaine, who received painful bruises.

In answer to appeals from yellow fever stricken cities of the South, contributions for the relief of the suffering people have been raised and forwarded from New York city. The mayor of Memphis sent the following dispatch to the mayor of New York "We are sadly afflicted. Our people are in great distress, and we are unable to meet their wants. Can New York help us?" A similar dispatch was sent to the mayor of Boston, and measures to aid the afflicted city were at once taken in both places.

At a meeting of leading lawyers from all parts of the country in Saratoga, N. Y., a National Bar Association was formed, with Benjamin H. Bristow, of Kentucky, for president.

The Congressional committee examining the causes of business depression, resumed its sessions in New York after a recess of several weeks.

The New York Democratic State Committee has issued a call for a convention at Syracuse, September 25.

The Vermont Greenbackers met in convention at St. Albans, nominated a ticket and adopted a platform in conformity with the principles of the party.

Western and Southern States.

The Tennessee Democratic convention at Nashville nominated a State ticket and adopted a platform which charges the Republican party with being the cause of all the ills from which the country suffers, demands the repeal of the resumption act and the payment of government bonds in silver.

On the sixteenth 108 new cases of yellow fever were reported at New Orleans; at Memphis there were sixty-four cases and nearly all the inhabitants had left the city. The population at Grenada, Miss., was described as appalling. Only the physicians and nurses and the families of those stricken with the fever were left; the rest of the population had fled in terror The panic extended to all the towns in Mississippi on the Memphis and Jackson railroads, and the trains were crowded with refugees. All the trains that passed through Grenada refused to stop after the disease became prevalent, and many who desired to leave were left at the depot, making vain signals to express their desire to be taken from the scenes of horror. At all the places liable to the ravages of the disease vigorous quarantine regulations were imposed against the fever-stricken towns. Money packages sent from New Orleans to Washington were thoroughly disinfected before being placed in the hands of clerks to be counted.

One of the boldest robberies ever perpetrated in Chicago was committed there the other day. While a traveler for a New York jewelry firm was at dinner at the Palmer House, thieves entered his room by way of the transom window and stole samples from his baggage valued at $15,000.

The Bank of Millersburg, at Millersburg, Ohio, has failed.

Eureka and Austin, Nev., have been visited by freshets which carried away every thing movable and damaged property to a heavy extent.

Charles W. Angell, secretary of the Pullman Palace Car Company at Chicago, has proved a defaulter in the sum of $120,000. Angell had been the company's employ for a long time and was implicitly trusted. Recently he fell into disreputable associations and suddenly disappeared. When his accounts were examined it was found they were short the amount named.

Einstein Brothers, boot and shoe manufacturers of San Francisco, have failed for about $800,000.

Joseph R. Colcord, at one time a prominent lawyer of St. Louis and an ex-member of the Legislature, shot and killed his mistress at a hotel and then blew his brains out. Jealousy and drink are thought to have caused the act.

On the nineteenth only seventy-five white persons remained in Grenada, Miss., the rest of the population having fled in terror from the yellow fever scourge, which was raging with unabated virulence. The situation there was described as frightful in the extreme. No one could be seen in the streets except undertakers, physicians and nurses, going about on their ghastly errands. In almost every house lay one or more bodies, awaiting burial. Whole families were swept off in a day. The mayor of the city, who had faced the pestilence, succumbed at last to its violence. Six of the small force of nurses in the town were also taken down and died; and the colored people, who had therefore enjoyed immunity from the disease and had been useful in attending the sick and burying the dead, began to leave the place when they heard that one of their number had been prostrated. Thus the condition of affairs was appalling, and it seemed as though the few remaining whites were given up to destruction. In all the neighboring towns and villages the one subject of conversation was the fever, and anxiety prevailed everywhere. In New Orleans there were 129 new cases and forty-two deaths.

While seven young Swedes were sailing on the river five miles above Davenport, Ia., the boat capsized and four of the occupants were drowned.

The Quincy Savings Bank, and the First National Bank, both of Quincy, Ill., have closed their doors in order to be able to pay up their creditors in full. This action was caused by the insolvency of a large manufacturing house of the city.

E. B. Martindale, of the Indianapolis *Journal*, has filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy. His liabilities aggregate $315,000.

The bodies of John Tynane and William Doran, both of them day-laborers in a stone quarry, were found near Pacific Junction, Ia., literally riddled with shot. Doran was known to have $100 on his person when he quitted work. John McCreary, another workman at the quarry, was arrested on suspicion.

Four men were killed by an explosion in the powder mills near Negaunee, Mich.

The Masonic Savings and Loan Bank, of San Francisco has closed its doors to depositors.

From Washington.

The acting secretary of the treasury is overrun with applications from all parts of the country, asking for financial statistics, such as the volume of the currency, date of finance laws, etc.

The number of entries made upon the public lands, under the homestead and timber culture acts, since 1862, aggregates 384,848.

Colonel John S. Mosby has been appointed United States consul to Canton, China.

Foreign News.

In the award of prizes at the Paris Exposition, the United States agricultural exhibit has received a diploma of honor, and the United States educational exhibit a gold medal. Of the eleven objects of art offered by the Agricultural Society of France for exceptional merit in agricultural machinery in the recent field trials, eight have been awarded American inventions.

Emil Hoedel, "the tinsmith from Leipzig," who attempted the assassination of the Emperor William on May 11, in the Avenue Unter den Linden, as the emperor was returning from a drive with his daughter, the Grand Duchess of Baden, was beheaded at an early hour, in the courtyard of the new prison. Hoedel was about twenty-one years old. On the trial he protested that he had not intended to take the life of the emperor, but sought to sacrifice his own life in a public manner to create sympathy for the suffering people. But many witnesses testified that Hoedel levelled his weapon direct at the emperor. Hoedel,