"THE BLACK DEATH."

Appalling Ravages of the Plague in the Fourteenth Century—The World Desolated—75,000,000 Deaths!

The plague in Russia this year has come, as before, from Turkey; but the Russian authorities seem most active and energetic in measures to prevent its spread. Still, so dreadful is the pest, so inconceivable are its horrors to those who have not witnessed them, that it is not strange Austria, Germany, and other countries of Europe should be alarmed. While it is unlikely to make much advance toward the West, too great precaution cannot be exercised; and, whatever may happen, we have the comfort of knowing that in the latter half of the nineteenth century the best part of Europe and America is free from peril of panic and superstition, and can meet any danger and death in any form with calmness and reason, science and philosophy.

In later times the plague first appeared during the fourteenth century, when it actually desolated the world. One of the names it then bore was the Black Death, from the black spots denoting putrid decomposition which, at one of its stages, marked the sufferer. The accounts then furnished are incomplete and inexact, as they necessarily would be at such an epoch of semi-civilization; but they are sufficient to show a state of horrors and agony hard to exceed. The course and symptoms of the dreadful malady varied at different times and in different countries, and greatly changed toward the close (1348-51) of its ravages in Europe. Among the concomitants of the pestilence were noticed palsy of the tongue, which became black, as if suffused with blood; putrid inflammation of the lungs; fetid, pestiferous breath, and expectoration of blood. When it spread to Europe, fever, evacuation of blood, and pulmonary carbuncles proved mortal before other symptoms had been declared. In well-nigh all instances death ensued in two or three days after attack. Spots and tumors were the seals of doom which medical skill had no power to avert and many sufferers anticipated by suicide.

The rise and progress of the plague in the fourteenth century have not been clearly or consistently related; but there seems to be no doubt that it originated in China. There is also concurrent testimony that the co-operating causes existed and acted at least fifteen years before any outbreak in Europe, and are to be sought as far back as 1333, in a series of mighty convulsions of nature, which continued for twenty-six years to affect and derange the normal conditions of animal and vegetable life. The precise date of the beginning of the plague in China is unknown; but from 1333 to 1349 that country suffered fearfully from droughts, famine, floods, swarms of locusts and earthquakes that overthrew cities and leveled mountains, and these catastrophes were followed by the scourge. At the same time the order of things seemed to be reversed in Europe. Thunder-storms occurred in midwinter, ice formed in summer, tornadoes swept regions that had never felt them before, volcanoes, long thought extinct, blazed with fury, and waterspouts rose in placid seas.

The mortality was hideous in the East and West, and it is believed that the great activity of the globe, accompanied by decomposition of vast organic masses, myriads of locusts, bodies of brutes and men, produced some change in the atmosphere hostile to life. It is said that, in the progress of the plague westward, the impure and poisoned air was traceable as it moved on laden with pestilence and death. A writer of the time remarks: "A dense, awful fog was seen in the heavens rising in the east, and descending upon Italy."

The mortality, though no proper estimate can be made in the absence of statistics, was prodigious—supremely terrifying. In China alone 13,000,000 persons are asserted to have died, and in other parts of the East nearly 24,000,000 more. In Europe details were more exact. In London 100,000 souls perished, and in fifteen continental cities about 300,000. Germany lost, it is calculated, 1,244,434, and Italy one-half of her whole population. It is within bounds to say that in all Europe not less than 25,000,000 people were slain by the scourge. Africa suffered terribly likewise, and it is believed that the globe was deprived during that century of fully from 70,000,000 to 75,000,000 human beings from ravages of the plague. The mere facts are appalling to the imagination; the scenes of suffering are scarcely credible. Death was everywhere; it seemed to have usurped the place of life. All animal life was menaced; birds, beasts, men, women and children, hosts of members of every nationality, savages, scholars, peasants, priests, princes, kings, of every creed, clime and race, were swept from the face of the earth. Rivers were consecrated to receive corpses for which none dared to perform the rites of burial; bodies were cast by thousands into huge pits dug for the purpose. Death stalked over sea as well as over land. The entire crews of vessels were killed by the poison breath that infested the globe. Ships freighted with putrefying bodies drifted aimlessly and hideously on the Mediterranean, Black and North seas—not a human creature alive anywhere—and spread contagion on the shores whither the winds or tides had driven them. Hope, peace, content, law, order, affection, naturalness, humanity, seemed never to have been. Ancient custom and the need of companionship were for the time obliterated; all was death, agony and despair, and by these the infected world appeared to be exclusively and shudderingly possessed.

The moral effects of the plague were not less dreadful than its physical destruction. Thousands perished from fear, which dissolved among the living all ties of kindred, all bonds of fellowship, all links of sympathy. Children fled from the polluted parents; mothers deserted their helpless infants; husbands and lovers left their wives and mistresses to die howling and alone. Terror generated superstition; the virtuous and vicious alike made distracting and distracted appeals to a God who, they imagined, had sent the pestilence to punish them for manifold sins. Crowds rushed to sacrifice their worldly goods to the church; fanaticism swelled on every hand; women screamed to heaven for mercy; men tore out their hair and scourged themselves until they had fainted from loss of blood that they might propitiate a deity whom they actually believed they had enraged. The world was mad with fright, suffering and superstition, and thousands who had tried to stay the pestilence with prayer, declared that God was dead and hell had begun on earth.

The horrors of the time were further heightened by cruel persecutions against the Jews, who had been accused of poisoning the public wells, this being in popular relief the cause of the pestilence. The people rose in mad fury to exterminate the unfortunate Hebrew race, and slaughtered them by tens of thousands. In the inconsiderable city of Mentz (Germany) alone, near 15,000 fell victims to the public wrath. They were killed with steel and club, hanged, drowned, burned, and often barbarously put to death by every kind of torture. In numberless instances they took their own lives in masses to avoid cruelties of the mob, and in many communities every man, woman and child was sacrificed to insensate rage. To exaggerate the scourge, the panic about poison caused the wells to be closed. The people were afraid to touch water, and those who escaped the plague perished of thirst and terror. Society, rude at best in that day, was totally disorganized, and such means as might have been adopted to prevent or mitigate the stupendous evil were either neglected or unthought of, in the derangement and frenzy that possessed everybody, from the highest to the lowest. The influence of the plague and its desolation were so overwhelming that it frequently destroyed all honesty and principle among the survivors. Many were rendered callous, and many took advantage of the universal horror to indulge their worst passions, to plunder, murder, and perpetrate the most revolting crimes.

There are, it is said, upward of seventy ways of making lightning rods. There are more than a million ways of lying about them.

FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS.

The Origin of the Jumping-Jack.

Something like twenty years ago, a miserable brick house in a back alley was the home of Archibald Ramsey, a Scotch carpenter. He worked down-town in a shop, making cornices, moldings, mantels, and a variety of the more elaborate parts employed in finishing houses. Every evening he took home pocketfuls, and often handfuls also, of bits and ends from the shop.

These oddly shaped fragments of soft, sweet-smelling pine furnished amusement for poor little Alec, Mr. Ramsey's hunchback boy; and when they had served this purpose, they were used as kindlings in the kitchen stove.

There was a houseful of little Ramseys, of whom Alec was the oldest, and when he was amused, so were the others, thus giving the overworked mother time for other duties.

Alec was sixteen years old, and not taller than an average boy of ten. He was very much deformed, and had he lived in an age and country of kings seeking dwarfs and human oddities for "court fools" or "jesters," he would have been a prize to some iron-handed tyrant. His shoulders were almost as high as his head, his arms hung out loose and dangling, and the rest of his body was shrunken and slender to a most pitiable degree. But whoever, with a tender heart, looked into his great, questioning eyes and noted his broad, fair forehead and his clean, delicate hands, would soon forget the sad shape in the nobility of the face.

I need not linger to speak of his studies, which, all unaided, he pushed along with success; nor of his constancy in the Sunday school, where he was a universal favorite. It is about his play with the bits of pine from the shop I wish to tell you.

Many a droll pile he built on the kitchen floor; many a funny thing he whittled out to amuse the little ones; many a comical toy he made and gave away to neighboring children. Often he said, and oftener thought, "What can I whittle that will sell?" For only money seemed likely to bring him the changed life for which he longed. Once, when he sold for a few pennies a queer little pine trinket, his father stroked his silken hair and said:

"Ah, me puir bairnie, I dinna ken but ye may mak' your fortoon wi' your knife."

How that little piece of encouragement rang in his ears and stimulated him to think and whittle, whittle and think!

One genial afternoon in May, Alec crept out to enjoy the balmy air, and, by the noise of a crowd of urchins on a vacant lot at a little distance, was drawn in that direction. Here he saw a colored boy, named Jack, attempting, for the amusement of the party, all sorts of pranks in imitations of circus performers. Bareheaded and clothed in striped red and yellow garments of coarse quality, the negro lad almost seemed made of India rubber.

Alec watched his capers in amazemint. Never before had he seen such antics, or even thought them possible. It was no wonder that the frail, stiff-jointed little hunchback dreamed it all over again, as he did that night.

The next morning his whittling genius took shape from this event, and before noon he had produced a rude pine image of the negro—head, arms and legs loosely hung with bits of broom-wire, and the whole curiously arranged, so that by working a string, it would jump, nod, turn somersaults, and go through quite a series of contortions. With colored pencils, of which he had some cheap specimens, he blackened its head, neck, hands and feet, reddened its lips, whiteened its eyes, and rudely striped in yellow and red the body, all in imitation of the little negro gymnast. Before it it was completed, his younger brother, who had been with him the day before, named it "Jumping-Jack." And in the afternoon when he went to the vacant lot and exhibited it to the youngsters there, it was not only universally but boisterously hailed by the same name. When he returned home, he brought, instead of the Jumping-Jack, a silver half-dollar, for which he had sold the the toy to an eager, well-dressed lad of his own age. And not only this, but he had orders from the boys for half a dozen more; to be made as soon as possible.

Oh, what a proud, glad heart beat within that deformed little body of Alec's! How his temples throbbed! How elastic his step! What flashing eyes! What a skein of wild and hopeful talk he unwound to his mother! So much money for his whittling, and a chance for more and more! Castles, sky-high and star-bright!

But I have not told you all.

That evening he whittled, and the next day he whittled, and before night had added to his capital three more shining half-dollars. The next day he doubled his money. The demand for jumping-jacks increased. Boys came to the door, silver in hand, to get what he had no time to make.

His grave Scotch parents began to hold serious counsel over the matter. If Alec could find such sale for these pine images in that neighborhood, why, the whole city would require thousands; and what would sell elsewhere also. If they could supply the market, a fortune might readily be made.

Scotch blood, once aroused and challenged, is sanguine and venturesome.

But it would be uninteresting to repeat all the details; so the rest of my story shall be brief.

Alec's Sunday school teacher, who was a lawyer, procured for him a patent on jumping-jacks of every description; a rich old uncle of Alec's mother built him a factory and started him in business; and, within a year from the afternoon when the poor lad wondered at the pranks of the colored boy, jumping-jacks from the Ramsey factory were selling in great numbers all over America.

Truly Alec did "mak' a fortoon wi' his knife."

To school he went; into a better house, all their own, the family moved; easier circumstances, better health, less weariness, and ample means for doing good, came to the Ramseys.

But the best point in my story is that a fine asylum and school for hunchbacks, free to the poor, is one of the noble enterprises to which Alec has been chief contributor.—*I. L. Beman, St. Nicholas.*

A Sad Case.

As the overland train was passing Cheyenne, the attention of the passengers were attracted by the lamentation of a poor Irish emigrant, whose berth had been robbed during the night, and every penny of his scanty savings stolen, and whose family would therefore arrive beggars in a strange land. The charitable passengers at once began a subscription which finally amounted to something over $250. When the money had been handed to the sufferer, a pious, plausible-looking man, dressed in black and adorned with a white cravat, drew him aside at one of the stopping-places and said:

"My poor man, I am truly sorry for you. Your sad fate touches me deeply. I am myself well provided with this world's goods, however, and so will give you $250 more. Here is a $500 gold note. Give me the $250 you have and keep the rest. May heaven bless you!"

The poor Irishman did as requested with many blessings on the generous stranger, who insisted that the gift should not be made known. When the passengers reached this side of the bay the pious-looking philanthropist was nowhere to be found, he having evidently gotten off at Oakland, for reasons of his own.

The next morning the emigrant repaired to a bank to get his note changed. The teller picked up the bill and began narrowly examining it.

"There—there is nothing wrong with the bill, is there?" gasped the poor fellow.

[Now, the clever reader has seen all along what was going to happen. He has read lots of just such incidents as this. It's the old—old story. Well—we'll see about that.]

"Nothing in the world is the matter with it," said the teller, quietly, and he handed the man fifty tens. That ended it.—*San Francisco News Letter.*

CAPTAIN BOYTON'S TRIP.

A Voyage in His Rubber Suit on the Allegheny River, from Oil City to Pittsburgh.

Captain Boyton, the celebrated swimmer, swam from Oil City, Pa., to Pittsburgh, starting on a Thursday morning and reaching his destination the following Sunday. He had expected to make the trip of 132 miles with only one stop, but the weather was so severe that he had to stop several times. He was in the water altogether about forty-one hours, and the trip from Freeport to Pittsburgh—the last of his journey—is described by the New York *Herald* in a Pittsburgh dispatch as follows:

At ten minutes past five Boyton took his paddle, and, with a wave of his hand, plunged into the water, which was seething with the ice. He was followed by cheers that went ringing down the river and were echoed back by the ravines. The lonely swimmer made rapid time, although surrounded by ice, and reached Tarentum, about six miles distant, at twenty-five minutes past seven o'clock. Here it was found that the water had congealed over him in the chill early morning and he was frozen almost solid. The sun rose soon afterward, and though its glare was unpleasant to the navigator's eyes, it thawed the ice considerably and gave Boyton a chance for life. Packetty was passed at twenty minutes past nine, and the "Buckwheats" ran along the water's edge and roared out their welcomes in tones that carried conviction of their earnestness. The people are now beginning to appreciate the sufferings that their "water hero" is undergoing, and instead of the "Have su'thin', cap'in?" it is now, "God bless you, cap'in; I'd like to die for you." No pen can describe the intensity of feeling as it exists here; and old residents affirm that Pennsylvania has not been so much excited since the war.

At Hulton Boyton was sighted at half-past eleven, making two miles in over two hours. When the swimmer came opposite the village a perfect fleet of small boats came out to meet him, as he was observed to be painfully struggling to make a landing. When he reached the shore a reporter of the Oil City *Derrick* discovered that the captain's forehead was frozen white, and thereupon rubbed it with ice until circulation was restored. Boyton then said he was almost famished. A short distance below Packetty he struck into a dead water, known as Logan's Eddy, where the river was frozen from shore to shore. In order to continue his voyage he was compelled to break through about two miles of young ice with his paddles; while a terrific mountain wind drove the spray into his eyes in blinding showers, where it froze fast. Added to this it began to snow, and the agony endured by the brave *voyageur* is only known to himself. Just before he paddled from shore again a dispatch was handed to him in the river signed by Mme. Anderson, who invited the half-dead man to go at once to the place she is walking in upon his landing. Boyton's answer to this cool request was more forcible than elegant. At twenty minutes past twelve Montrose was reached, and an ovation was given in honor of the floating man as he passed by rapidly in order to reach Pittsburgh early in the afternoon. But the village was soon left behind, and the ceaseless paddles carried Paul Boyton on through the ice to Sharpsburg, which was reached at two o'clock. The American flag was here placed in the brass socket on his foot, and then began a reception that lasted for four and a half miles to Pittsburgh. The firing of cannons and ringing of whistles made the air hideous with sound, and soon the voyager came in sight of Pittsburgh. There are three bridges over the Allegheny at Pittsburgh, and these were packed to suffocation, while the roar of murmurs coming from the vast assemblage on either shore sounded like an ocean in the distance. Hundreds of small boats surrounded the captain, and for a time nothing could be seen but the swaying silken flag.

Finally, the steamtug Caldwell swung out beside the captain to take him on board. It was seen that to land among the multitude would likely cause a catastrophe and a loss of life. Boyton refused to get on board until he had reached Duquesne point, where the Allegheny river ends. Here he got on board at twenty minutes to four and was taken to the ferry landing at South Pittsburgh under a full head of steam. A carriage was in waiting, surrounded by the police, and Boyton was ferried across in the Manchester ferryboat to the Allegheny side, from which he crossed the bridge to the Robinson house in a close carriage. The police were compelled to handle the crowds very roughly in order to clear a passage from the carriage to the hotel door for the feeble and exhausted man, who walked up the stairs to his room glittering with ice. In a few minutes Boyton was stripped and laid upon the bed, where he reclined at full length, but little life left in him. His fingers were found to be frozen and his face was badly frostbitten. Besides this, his feet and wrists were very painful.

Found at Last.

As a Mississippi river steamboat came to a river landing, a tall, ungainly rakish looking fellow leaning against the woodpile attracted the attention of the passengers, one of whom, a talkative and conspicuous person, remarked to his friends that he was going to have some fun out of that fellow. So he stepped ashore when the boat landed, and with a great show of fierceness approached the fellow. Drawing a savage-looking bowie knife he said:

"So, old fellow, I've found you at last. You're the man that stole a dog of mine and I've sworn to get square with you. I've been looking for you for a year."

The gawky lazily opened his eyes in wondering amazement at first as though he didn't understand it. Then catching sight of the laughing passengers looking on from the deck he took in the situation. By the time "Smarty" had finished telling him how long he had been looking for him, he had taken out of his pocket a fist like a sledge hammer on the end of the arm of a windmill. He swung it once and knocked the man who had been looking for him plump into the river. Then resuming his place against the woodpile he raised his eyes to the deck and with a very lazy drawl inquired:

"Is there anybody else on this boat looking for me?"

The Story of a Cow-Bell.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette* sends the following story of a law case from Floyd county, Ind.: "Mayfield and Featheringill were well-to-do farmers. One of Mayfield's cows dropped a bell from her neck, in the woods, that cost fifty cents, and was half worn, and was supposed to be worth twenty-five cents when lost. One of Featheringill's boys, in passing through the woods one day, found a cow-bell. Mayfield claimed that it was his bell, and demanded it. Featheringill refused to give it up. Mayfield then replevined it, and then commenced a lawsuit that absorbed the farms and personal estate of the contestants. Not being able to pay lawyers' fees any longer, the lawyers refused to serve in the case, and the litigants were compelled to compromise, which they did by each agreeing to pay his own costs, which amounted to over $1,500 a side or an aggregate of over $3,000.

Words of Wisdom.

Absence destroys trifling intimacies, but it invigorates strong ones.

For him who does everything in its proper time, one day is worth three.

The truths that we least wish to hear are those which it is most to our advantage to know.

Despise no one, for every one knows something which thou knowest not.

He who finds pleasure in vice, and pain in virtue, is a novice both in the one and the other.

To know a man, observe how he wins his object rather than how he loses it; for when we fail, our pride supports us—when we succeed it betrays us.

What is the difference between hope and desire? Desire is a tree in leaf, hope is a tree in flower, and enjoyment is a tree in fruit.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD

Household Hints.

An oven holder should be made of heavy cloth, two thicknesses, and fully half a yard square; an old grain sack makes them. This will save you many a burn and keep you from using your dish-towel or apron.

When sweeping, dip your broom occasionally in water, hot is best, and keep the dust from flying over everything. Coarse salt sprinkled over the floor occasionally is said to keep the moths out of the carpet.

It is a good idea to keep a supply of ironing holders made up; take old cloths, fold as many thicknesses and cover with a new piece of heavy cloth, tacking in the center; then you can have a clean holder when necessary without having to stop and make one.

When your dish-towels begin to wear out, fold them together, the best outside, as small or large as you like, and run together around and across through the center with coarse thread, then when you require a new dishcloth you will not take "any old rag."

Lime pulverized, sifted through coarse muslin, and stirred up tolerably thick in white of eggs, makes a strong cement for glass and china. Plaster of Paris is still better, particularly for mending broken images of the same material. It should be stirred up by the spoonful, as it is wanted.

To make lemon sirup take a pound of Havana sugar, boil it in water down to a quart, drop in the white of an egg to clarify it, add one-quarter of an ounce of tartaric or citric acid. If you do not find it sour enough after it has stood two or three days, add more of the acid. A few drops of oil of lemon improves it.

Keep your stove blacking, brush and plate handy, and after dinner each day brush off your stove, and you will find it much nicer than washing it off; besides, with an occasional brushing your stove will always look nicely, and if your stove is not kept looking clean the whole kitchen looks untidy.

Value of Poultry and Eggs.

The *Town and Country* remarks:

Almost fabulous are the estimates given in various quarters, of the intrinsic value of American poultry to the people of this country. At the same time, a large majority of those who read and consider themselves well posted as to details of the natural wealth of this land either conceive this item of poultry to be a very insignificant matter, at the best, or else they know nothing of it at all.

Yet our farmers, the suburban residents of cities, and thousands of men and women all over the United States, are at the present time engaged, in greater or less degree, in the cultivation of and traffic in good fowls, and in the sale of dead poultry and eggs.

Millions of dollars are invested in this business—in one way or another. And estimates are made by competent authority in recent years, based upon computation, that the total annual value of poultry in this country and the eggs produced by our yearly aggregate of domestic fowls, reaches an approximate value to that of either cotton, grain or slaughtered beef.

As an isolated sample of the large consumption of eggs in one city, we quote from the Boston *Herald*: "The traffic in eggs carried on by Boston commission houses, and the immense quantity annually consumed in this State, assumes a magnitude which, at the first glance, may seem improbable if not impossible. The approximate receipts of eggs in this market for the year 1878, have been as follows: 107,627 cases, containing 49 dozen each, 43,000 cases, containing 100 dozen each, and 17,783 barrels, containing 70 dozen each. These figures, give as a result, 168,410 packages, containing 6,513,653 dozen eggs, or 78,187,836 single eggs. It is estimated that fully 95 per cent. of all receipts are consumed in Massachusetts, and that about 80 per cent. are consumed in and near Boston. In nearly all small towns and villages enough eggs are raised to supply the local demand. The number of eggs consumed in this State, when computed, is found to be at an average of 52 eggs per year to every inhabitant, or one egg per week. When the immense quantity of eggs used for cooking purposes is considered, the figures appear quite reasonable. Only a small proportion of the receipts in this market are 'limed' or pickled for future sale—say 2¼ per cent. All these eggs come to Boston from various sections in about the following proportions: Eastern eggs (mostly from Maine by boat and rail, at all seasons of the year,) 24 per cent. of total receipts; northern eggs (from northern New York and Canada), 37 per cent.; P. E. I. eggs (from Prince Edward Island, between months of April and November), 17 per cent.; Western eggs, 19 per cent.; and Southern eggs (from Virginia during a few weeks in the spring) 3 per cent. Of the Northern eggs, the greater part comes from Canada, and this trade is constantly increasing."

She Sewed on his Buttons.

Everybody who knows old Blummer knows a pretty tight-fisted man. Several days ago he said to his wife: "Maria, I want you to look over that broadcloth vest of mine and put new buttons on it, 'cause I'm going to a card party to-night, and it 'll pay me to look a little sprucer than common."

"But, Ely," answered Mrs. B., "I haven't any buttons to match that vest; and"—

"Blame it!" broke in Blummer, "the idea of a woman keeping house as long as you have, an' pretendin' to be out of buttons. By George! I b'lieve you'll ask me for money to buy 'em with next." And then old Blummer shook his head threateningly and departed down town, leaving Mrs. B. looking after him with a peculiar expression in her eyes.

That evening Blummer hurried through his supper and began arraying himself for the card party. Presently he called for the broadcloth vest, and Mrs. B., with marvelous promptitude, handed it to him. He took it, hastily unfolded it, and then, as his eye took in its complete appearance, he stood as one transfixed. It was a six-button vest, and there were six buttons on it, and the dazed optic of Blummer observed that the first, or top one, was a tiny pearl shirt-button, and that the next one was a brass army overcoat button, with U. S. gleaming upon it, and that number three was an oxydized silver affair, and that number four was a horn button, evidently from the back of one of the Puritan fathers' coats, and then came a suspender button, and there, as the dazzled eyes of old Blummer reached the bottom button—a poker chip (found in Blummer's pocket) with two holes punched through it—he gave a snort that made the chandelier jingle. There is, after all, a fine sense of humor about Blummer, and he laughed till he cried. And there won't be any button money grudged in that household hereafter.

"That Old Bore Jorkins."

Little Nellie was looking at "Woolf's Wild Animals" when Mr. Jorkins called, and appealed to that gentleman to explain one of the pictures.

"That is a wild boar," said he, and the little lady looked at it thoughtfully and replied:

"It don't look like you, does it Mr. Jorkins?"

"I hope not," responded the guest. "Why?"

"Because," said the artless infant, "Mamma said when your card was sent up, 'There is that old bore Jorkins again.'"

And it was a full minute before mamma's frozen lips thawed sufficiently to inform the nurse it was Nellie's bed-time.

Dr. E. B. Foote's *Health Monthly* says one of the most frequent causes of baldness is the practice of wearing the hat when it is not needed. "This practice heats the scalp, brings on scalp diseases, and as a result the hair falls." To prevent baldness the *Monthly* advises persons to keep the head agreeably cool, avoid head-coverings except when going into the cold, and to live hygienically.

NEWS SUMMARY.

Eastern and Middle States.

James H. McLaughlin defeated William Miller in a championship wrestling match at Boston.

While Ephraim Hysler and his wife were away from their home, at Somerville, Me., the building caught fire, and their three children—aged respectively four and two years and eight months—were burned to death.

When the trial of Mrs. Smith and "Cove" Bennett for the murder of the former's husband, Policeman Smith, in Jersey City, N. J., had been in progress several days, the discovery was made that one of the jurors was insane, and the case was postponed for a fortnight.

William Lenon, a boy only eight years old, was picked up in the streets of New York, drunk.

Eight prisoners made their escape from the workhouse on Blackwell's island, New York, the other day, by coolly walking to a passenger boat and rowing across the river to the city.

Rumors are thick in Wall street, New York, that Jay Gould has been compelled to sell out the bulk of his shares in Union Pacific railroad stock—thus losing control of that company—and that he is about to retire from further active financial operations.

The following resolution in regard to the bill restricting Chinese emigrants was unanimously passed by the Connecticut house of representatives upon motion of Hon. Henry C. Robinson, of Hartford: Resolved, that the proposed law pending in the Congress of the United States restricting Chinese emigration is in flagrant violation of sacred and honorable treaty, and is wholly inconsistent with the principles and traditions of our republic, and with the broad principle of human freedom; and it is our earnest hope that its provisions may never disgrace our national statutes.

The New York police have captured the daring thief who attacked Mrs. De Barry on Fifth avenue while the street was crowded with pedestrians and robbed her of a valuable diamond earring. The thief, and one of two accomplices, who was also arrested, confessed their guilt.

President McMillen, at the twenty-fourth annual convention of New York school commissioners and city superintendents, at Syracuse, said that there were 11,821 schoolhouses in the State, valued, with their sites, at $30,147,589; and 1,032,052 pupils. President White, of Cornell university, in a speech, compared America's school system with Europe's, and awarded the palm to America.

The Citizens' savings bank, of Woonsocket, R. I., has been declared insolvent by commissioners appointed to look into its affairs.

An interesting ceremony at Greene, N. Y., was the marriage of three sisters at one time. Two of the bridegrooms were clergymen.

At the convention of the International Baseball association in Buffalo, N. Y., the name was changed to the National Baseball association, and the championship penant was given to the Buffalo club.

An interesting case concerning an eccentric old New York merchant's ability to take care of his large property has recently been decided before eighteen jurymen in Brooklyn. Distant relatives of Jonathan T. Wells, who for many years sold straw hats in New York and accumulated a fortune, claimed that his actions betokened insanity, and sued to have the control of his affairs taken away from him. The old man resisted the charge; the case was tried, and the jury, after hearing a number of witnesses on both sides, voted twelve to six that Wells was sane, and capable of taking care of his property.

Western and Southern States.

The officers of the Lucas bank, of St. Louis, decided upon winding up its affairs, on account of lack of business.

One of the buildings belonging to the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, near Xenia, Ohio, was destroyed by fire, causing a loss of about $75,000. Several members of the Ohio legislature, who were visiting the institution, narrowly escaped with their lives.

Mat Pollock, described as "the tallest printer in the United States, and a fine compositor," was brutally murdered at Bellefontaine, Ohio, by one Barr, with whom he had been drinking, and who shot him without cause.

The L. C. McCormick, a small steamboat running between Marietta and Zanesville, on the Muskigum river, exploded her boiler when near Beverly, Ohio, killing Mike Havemeyer and seriously scalding Capt. Martin, two of the crew and three passengers. The boat sunk a few moments after the explosion.

The San Francisco *Stock Report*, the oldest financial paper on the Pacific coast, in an article urging that a monster mass meeting be held in San Francisco to demand of President Hayes that he sign the Chinese emigration bill, used some extraordinary language. It broadly discussed the possibility of secession from the Union in case the President refuses to sign the bill, and said further: "The East has utterly failed to understand our situation, and to extend the aid and sympathy we have the right to expect from the sisterhood of States. Leading men say that we have pleaded, have exhausted arguments, have cried aloud for relief, but our most earnest appeals have been treated with indignity, and our sufferings been made a mockery. As a last resort we will take advantage of the geographical lines that surround us, the vast extent of soil within our boundaries, the exhaustless resources of wealth that are ours, and will set up an occidental republic, which, if it cannot rival the old republic in its glory of the past, will at least be a magnificent empire of white freemen, whose heritage shall be preserved to their children and their children's children forever."

The northern-bound passenger train on the Selma, Rome and Dalton railroad, fell through Duncan's bridge, over Mulberry creek, thirteen miles north of Selma, Ala., and was a total wreck, with the exception of the engine. George Evans, of Selma, and two colored men were killed. M. Stanton, superintendent of the road, Conductor W. R. White, and Mail Agent Hunter were fatally injured, and about twenty other persons were seriously hurt. Upon investigation the bridge through which the train fell proved to be thoroughly rotten. The scene after the disaster was one of horror and confusion. The struggles of the wounded passengers endeavoring to crawl from beneath the cars were fearful, many being pinned between the broken pieces, unable to extricate themselves without aid. The escape of the passengers from the sleeping-car that hung on the brink of the chasm was perilous, but was executed without loss of life.

The Michigan legislature elected Zachariah Chandler to the United States Senate, the Republican majority in both houses voting unanimously for him.

All is fish that comes to the net of the Western highwayman, and he has no more respect for the armed soldier than for the peaceful citizen. Brevet-Col. Rice and Lieut. Fred. Sibley, of Gen. Miles' regiment, and Morris Cahn, of Evansville, Ind., with an escort of seven men, were surprised by four black-masked road agents on the Yellowstone. Five of the party were in an ambulance and five were on horseback, leisurely following at some distance in the rear. The five in the ambulance were suddenly covered with the rifles of the robbers and told to throw up their hands, which they prudently did. Then, while the captain of the robbers kept "the drop" on the captives, the other three disciples of Claude Duval relieved the officers of $200 and Cahn of $2,500; refusing to take the gold watches of the military men. When the five cavalrymen rode up they were also quickly covered by the robbers' rifles, disarmed and robbed. The thieves then made the military stack their guns and leave unarmed. A military detachment which was sent in pursuit of the road agents captured one of them.

The Ohio Prohibitionists are first in the political field with a ticket headed by Gideon T. Stewart for governor. The platform adopted favors giving the laborer for corporations the first lien for wages; favors reserving public lands for homesteads; the suppression of gambling in stocks; the prohibition of labor of children under fourteen years of age in mines and factories; universal suffrage; the issue of small interest-bearing bonds; compulsory education; the reduction of official salaries, and local options.

From Washington.

One day during the recent discussion in the Senate on the bill regulating Chinese emigration, Mr. Bruce, of Mississippi, occupied the chair. This was the first time that a colored member ever presided in the Senate.

The House bill restricting Chinese emigration, as passed by the Senate, says that not more than fifteen Chinese passengers shall be allowed to enter the United States on any vessel, under penalty of $100 fine and six months imprisonment; but that these restrictions shall not apply to Chinamen rescued from shipwreck or Chinese youths seeking to be educated in this country.

Some political statistician has counted noses in the legislatures of the whole country and finds that the Democrats have 2,830 members, the Republicans 2,235 members, and the Greenbackers 278 members.

The nominations of ex-Governor Hartranft as postmaster of Philadelphia, and A. Lowden Snowden as superintendent of the mint at that place, have been confirmed by the Senate.

After a week's rest, the Potter committee resumed the investigation of the cipher dispatches in Washington. John F. Coyle testified that he was in Florida after the election in 1876, and that he had received propositions from one Thain to sell the State to Tilden for $200,000; that he had been warned by Pelton not to trust Thain. Witness knew nothing connecting Tilden with the attempt to buy the State. Mr. J. C. Dunn, now of Boston, but in 1876 a member of the South Carolina returning board, described the attempts of one Hardy Solomon to induce him to give the State to Tilden. Dunn testified that he refused to accept Solomon's propositions, and reported them to Governor Chamberlain.

The cabinet, at a recent meeting, expressed decided views with relation to the necessity for some legislation which will prevent discrimination against the American export cattle trade, either on the part of England or by any other nation, and it was intimated that for this purpose a congressional enactment to prevent the shipment of diseased cattle would be necessary. As the matter now stands, collectors of customs are directed to inspect cargoes of cattle and give certificates of "no contagious disease," when its non-existence is shown to be a fact, and to report all cases of such diseases when discovered. They cannot, however, prevent the shipment of diseased cattle.

Another woman has scored another big feat in pedestrianism. The woman—Miss May Marshall; the place—the national capital; the feat—walking 2,796 consecutive quarter miles in 2,796 consecutive quarter hours, which is 96 more quarter miles than was accomplished recently by Madam Anderson in Brooklyn.

General Barlow, of New York, and William E. Chandler have appeared before the Potter committee. The principal point on which testimony was taken was whether General Barlow was counsel for the Republicans in Florida in November, 1876; it having been charged that, while acting in that capacity, he acknowledged the State had given a majority for Tilden. On this point the two witnesses took directly opposite views, General Barlow claiming that he had not gone to Florida as Republican counsel, and Mr. Chandler alleging that Barlow had been sent there in that capacity.

The Senate committee on railroads agreed unanimously to report back Senator Jones' telegraph bill, with a recommendation that the whole matter be referred to a commission consisting of two Senators, three members of the House, and four persons to be appointed by the President. This commission is instructed to examine into the question of the alleged discrimination by the Western Union Telegraph company; the relations and rights of the Associated Press and National Associated Press, and the subject of a postal telegraph. The commission is to give the whole subject a thorough and exhaustive examination.

Foreign News.

A St. Petersburg dispatch says an imperial manifesto has been issued announcing that the czar has ratified the definitive treaty of peace with Turkey, and that orders have consequently been given the troops to return home. The manifesto closes with thanks to God for Russia's glorious victories. The city was illuminated in honor of the event.

Elliott defeated Higgins in the championship boatrace, at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Pleuro pneumonia is spreading among the cattle in North and East Yorkshire, England.

The British troops fighting against the Zulus in South Africa, are to be reinforced by a brigade from India.

Some 400 disbanded officers created a riot in Cairo, Egypt, because they had not received their back pay. They surrounded some of the government residences and threatened violence to the inmates. The khedive was insulted, but when his body-guard arrived the rioters were fired upon and dispersed.

The grand duke Nicholas, of Russia, son of the grand duke Constantine, has been exiled to Orenburg for writing a pamphlet obnoxious to the government.

Prince Bismarck has suffered a defeat in the German parliament, which voted overwhelmingly against the government's interpretation of the socialist law, and refused to sanction the proposed arrests of members.

A report from Mandalay asserts that the king of Burmah has murdered all the royal princes and their families, and removed the new ministers and replaced them by the ministers who were formerly in office, thus restoring the former despotic government.

Late advices from Cape Town, Africa, state that the British have repulsed numerous attacks of the Zulus.

Reports from Hayti state there is a revolution in that place, and that it has been invaded by fillibusters from Jamaica. A night attack was repulsed by the government troops, who lost thirty-five in killed and ninety odd wounded and missing. There are three pretenders to the presidency of the island.

CONGRESSIONAL SUMMARY.

Senate.

The discussion of the bill limiting Chinese emigration was resumed, Mr. Hamlin opposing the pending bill. Mr. Conkling's substitute, requesting the President of the United States to give notice to the emperor of China that the articles of the treaty permitting Chinese migration are unsatisfactory to the government of the United States, and to propose such modifications of said treaty as will correct the evils complained of, was defeated by thirty-three to thirty-one. The bill was then passed by the following vote: Yeas—Messrs. Allison, Bailey, Bayard, Beck, Blaine, Booth, Cameron, Coke, Dennis, Dorsey, Eaton, Eustis, Garland, Gordon, Grover, Hereford, Jones (Nev.), Kirkwood, Lamar, McDonald, McPherson, Maxey, Mitchell, Morgan, Oglesby, Paddock, Patterson, Plumb, Ransom, Sargent, Saunders, Sharon, Shields, Spencer, Teller, Thurman, Voorhees, Wallace and Windom—39. Nays—Messrs. Anthony, Bruce, Burnside, Butler, Cameron, Conkling, Conover, Davis (Ill.), Davis (W. Va.), Dawes, Edmunds, Ferry, Hamlin, Hill, Hoar, Howe, Ingalls, Jones (Fla.), Kellogg, Kernan, McCreery, McMillan, Matthews, Merrimon, Morrill, Randolph and Withers—27. Messrs. Barnum and Chaffee, who would have voted in the affirmative, were paired with Messrs. Rollins and Wadleigh, who would have voted in the negative.

Mr. Eustis presented resolutions of the Louisiana legislature declaring that the sections of the revised statutes in regard to the protection of voters are unconstitutional.... The vote on the bill for the conversion of gold bonds was reconsidered, and, after several errors had been corrected, the bill was repassed.... The consideration of the internal revenue bill was resumed, and, after discussion, the tax on all manufactured tobacco was left at 16 cents a pound, as proposed by the House bill. The amendment, striking out the clause repealing the tax on lucifer or friction matches, was agreed to. Adjourned.

In committee of the whole on the internal revenue bill, the amendments imposing a tax on tea and coffee were rejected. The time when the bill shall go into effect was fixed as May 1, instead of April 1, and the section repealing the tax on matches was stricken out. Some minor amendments were adopted, after which the bill was passed—yeas, forty-five; nays, twenty-one.... The postoffice appropriation bill was then taken up, and informally laid aside. The remainder of the session was devoted to memorial services in honor of the late Representatives Schleicher and Quinn.

The bill to fix the pay of letter-carriers, which passed the House last June, was passed without amendment. The bill authorizes the postmaster-general to establish two classes of letter-carriers in all cities containing a population of 75,000 and upward. The salary of carriers of the first class, who have been in service one year, is fixed at $1,000 per annum, and of the second class at $800. In cities containing less than 75,000 inhabitants, one class of carriers is established at an annual salary of $850. The postmaster-general is authorized to establish a third grade of carriers, to be known as auxiliaries, at an annual salary of $400. Adjourned, after an executive session.

The army appropriation bill was reported to the Senate with amendments. Subsequently, when the Burnside reorganization bill was reached on the calendar, objection was made to its consideration and it was laid aside.... Mr. Shields addressed the Senate in favor of placing the names of survivors of the Mexican war on the pension rolls, after which the consideration of the postoffice appropriation bill was resumed. Several amendments to the Brazilian subsidy clause were offered and rejected, the only one of importance which was adopted providing that the contract shall not be considered in force if the service on either line is abandoned or discontinued. Shortly before midnight, after a protracted debate, the subsidy amendment was adopted by a vote of 23 to 17. After discussing several other amendments the bill was finally passed, and, at one o'clock, the Senate adjourned.

House.

W. B. Fleming was sworn in as a member, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Julian Hartridge, of Georgia.... Mr. Hale submitted a resolution, entitled a resolution to protect the treasury from the payment of war claims. During the debate the morning hour expired, and Mr. Sparks reported a bill making an appropriation for the payment of arrears of pensions and amending the act of January 25. The bill appropriates for the payment of arrears of pensions $26,852,200, as follows: For pensions due, on claims on which the pensions were allowed prior to January 25, 1879, $25,000,000; for pensions to army and navy invalids, widows, minors and dependent children for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1879, $1,800,000; for additional temporary clerks in the pension office, etc., $52,200. Pensions granted by special acts of Congress are classed with other pensions. Mr. Rice, of Ohio, submitted an amendment providing that section one of the act of January 25, 1879, shall be construed to extend to and include pensions granted by special act of Congress, unless such special act fixes the duration and extent of the pension, and also to pensions on account of soldiers who enlisted in the war, but who died on account of disabilities incurred after the cessation of hostilities. Mr. Sparks accepted the amendment, and it was incorporated in the bill. The bill was then passed by 178 to 67.... The river and harbor and the deficiency appropriation bills were passed.... At an evening session memorial services in honor of the late Representative Schleicher, of Texas, were held.

Mr. Cox, of New York, explained the provisions of the bill ordering a national census in 1880. A debate occurred on the provision authorizing the governors of States to appoint the enumerators. Several amendments changing this were voted down. Without final action, the House took a recess till 7.30 P. M.... At the evening session the consideration of the legislative appropriation bill was resumed. Adjourned.

In committee of the whole the amendment to the legislative appropriation bill fixing the pay of jurors, regulating the method of drawing them, and repealing the statutes in regard to the jurors' test oath, was agreed to by 127 to 85.... An exciting debate then ensued upon Mr. Southard's amendment repealing the section which authorizes the appointment of supervisors of election, but without taking action the House adjourned.

The Florida contested election case of Finley against Bisbee was called up, and the majority report in favor of Finley was adopted by 131 to 122, and Mr. Finley was sworn in.... In the evening memorial services in honor of the late Representatives Welsh and Williams were held. Adjourned.

Young ladies sometimes elope with stage drivers, but it is not every one, so doing, who can claim that a president's cousin made himself a hermit on that account. Alvin Harrison, an eccentric character, and cousin of ex-President Harrison, has just died near Oswego, Kansas, at the age of seventy-three. He was once a "promising" young lawyer of Ohio, and when old Tippecanoe ran for the presidency young Alvin went on the stump in his interest. Afterward he studied medicine and became engaged to a lass who, before the appointed wedding-day, eloped with a stage driver. Harrison then built him a cabin in the Neosho bottoms, where, alone and neighborless, sleeping on a bed of straw and subsisting on spoilt bacon, he lived the life a morose hermit till the day of his death.

Antiquity of the Plague.

The plague is one of the oldest things under the sun. According to Petavius it ravaged the whole known world in 767 B. C. In 534 B. C. it made terrible havoc in Carthage, and the people, deploring the anger of the gods, offered up their children as sacrifices. Thucydides has left a graphic description of the plague which raged in Athens in 430 B. C., and which extended over Egypt and Ethiopia. In the eighteenth year of the Christian era Rome was depopulated at the rate of 10,000 daily. Three centuries and a half later the plague appeared in Britain, where the living were not able to bury the dead. There is little reason to doubt the statement that 200 persons perished daily in London during an epidemic which raged in 1348, and which prevailed throughout Europe. In 1478 more persons perished in England of pestilence than had died in fifteen years of continued war. At various periods of its history London has suffered terribly from plague. More than 20,000 persons perished in 1603-4, and more than 35,000 in 1625. But it was not until 1665 that the city learned what a scourge the plague might become. A moderate estimate says that 68,596 persons perished, while other authorities state the number at 100,000. Since that period England has been tolerably free from the plague, but it has carried off 80,000 persons in Persia, 800,000 in Egypt, and 60,000 at Marseilles at one visitation.

Wanted An Indorser.

A Vallejo (Cal.) butcher was over in the mountain wilds of Contra Costa the other day, buying meat on the hoof. He found an old Missourian with a thousand cattle on a hill, living in all the simplicity of primitive life as it is generally discovered a thousand miles from the outposts of civilization. In appearance he looked something like the picture one sees of Robinson Crusoe in the books, after the latter had worn out all his good clothes. But the cattle were fat, and the Vallejoan bought what he wanted. When it came to settling for them, he handed the Contra Costa Crusoe some greenbacks as part of the payment. The man did not seem to know what to make of such a kind of circulating medium, and it was found necessary to explain to him that they were government notes for the sum indicated. "Waall," said he, after much hesitation, "ef yer'll agree to indorse them ar, I'll take 'em." But the Vallejo man, not being in the business of indorsing Uncle Sam's paper, refused, and he had to pay him in gold.

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Restless nerves, at least those that are constantly so, are weak ones as well. The true way to tranquilize them thoroughly is to strengthen them. It may be, nay, it very often is necessary to have recourse to a sedative or even an opiate, in dangerous cases of nervous inquietude; but the continued use of such unnatural palliatives is greatly to be deprecated. Though not, in a restricted sense, a specific for nervousness, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is eminently calculated to allay and eventually overcome it; a fact which the recorded experience of many goes to substantiate. This inestimable tonic, by promoting digestion, assimilation and secretion, touches the three key notes upon which the harmony of all the bodily organs depends, and the result is that fresh stores of vitality are diffused through the system, of which the nerves receive their due apportionment, and grow tranquil as they gather strength.

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As in a fire the loss greatly depends upon the time required for efficient aid to arrive, so the result of catarrh greatly depends upon the speedy use of efficient remedies. For over a quarter of a century Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy has been the standard remedy. The positive cures it has effected are numbered by thousands. Each year has witnessed an increased sale. Its reputation is the result of superior merit. If the disease has extended to the throat or lungs, Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery should be used with the Catarrh Remedy. These two medicines will speedily cure the most stubborn case of catarrh. See the People's Common Sense Medical Adviser, a work of over 900 pages. Price, $1.50. Address the author, R. V. Pierce, M. D., Buffalo, N. Y.

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Milch Cows	30 00	@	45 00
Hogs—Live	03¾	@	03¾
Dressed	04¾	@	06¾
Sheep	04¼	@	05¾
Lambs	06	@	06½
Cotton—Middling Uplands	08¾	@	09¾
Flour—Western—Good to Choice	4 10	@	6 25
State—Choice to Fancy	3 90	@	5 25
Wheat—No. 1 Red	1 13	@	1 13
White State	1 13¾	@	1 13¾
Rye—State	62	@	62½
Barley—State	70	@	75
Barley Malt	1 00	@	1 00
Oats—Mixed Western	31	@	32
Corn—Mixed Western Ungraded	46¾	@	47
Hay, per cwt	55	@	60
Straw, per cwt Long Rye	45	@	60
Hops—Good to Prime New Crop	07	@	16
Pork—Extra Family Mess	8 12½	@	8 50
Lard—City Steam	06.75	@	6.75
Fish—Mackerel, No. 1, Bay	14 50	@	15 00
" No. 2, Prince Edw'd	20 00	@	30 00
Dry Cod, per cwt	4 25	@	4 50
Herring, Scaled, per box	14	@	28
Petroleum—Crude 07¾ @ 08¾	Refined		09¾
Wool—California Spring	20	@	25
Texas "	20	@	31
Butter—State Creamery	17	@	28
Dairy	12	@	18
Western Creamery	14	@	26
Factory	07	@	09
Cheese—State Factory	08	@	09¾
State Skimmed	03	@	04
Western	02	@	08
Eggs—State and Pennsylvania	20	@	20
PHILADELPHIA.			
Flour—Pennsylvania Extra No. 2	4 75	@	4 75
Wheat—Red Pennsylvania	1 06¾	@	1 06
Rye	54	@	55
Corn—Yellow	44	@	44½
Sail Mixed	44	@	44¾
Oats—Mixed	28	@	29
Petroleum—Crude [illegible]	Refined,		09¾
Wool—Colorado	20	@	28
Texas	18	@	30
California	20	@	25
BUFFALO.			
Flour	5 00	@	5 55
Wheat—Red Winter	96	@	96
Corn—Mixed	40	@	41
Oats	30	@	31
Rye	53	@	54
Barley	95	@	95
Barley Malt	1 10	@	1 20
BOSTON.			
Beef Cattle	04¾	@	05
Sheep	04	@	04¾
Hogs	03	@	04¾
Flour—Wisconsin and Minnesota	5 50	@	8 00
Corn—Mixed	48	@	50
Oats—"	31	@	38
Wool—Ohio and Pennsylvania XX	34	@	36
California	14	@	35
BRIGHTON, MASS.			
Beef Cattle	04¾	@	05
Sheep	04½	@	05
Lambs	04	@	06
Hogs	04½	@	05
WATERTOWN, MASS.			
Beef Cattle—Poor to Choice	04¾	@	04¾
Sheep	04	@	04¾
Lambs	04¾	@	04¾

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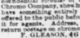

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