Gorgeous Gluttony.

One of the oddest calculations ever made was that of Soyer, with regard to the amount of food an epicure consumes in his lifetime. In the first place, he estimated, on the basis of so many ounces, or rather pounds a day, secured by careful observation and computation that a healthy man with the appetite of a bon vivant consumes in sixty years indulgence thirty-three and three quarters tons of meat, vegetables and the rest. Dividing these up into the various characters of aliment his experience taught him men preferred in their proper proportions, he secured this odd result:

Thirty oxen, 200 sheep, 100 calves, 200 lambs, and 50 pigs constituted the herds slaughtered for his benefit; 1,200 fowls, 300 turkeys, 150 geese, 400 ducks, 363 pigeons, 1,300 partridges, 600 woodcocks and snipes, 600 wild ducks, 450 plovers, 120 guinea fowls, 10 peacocks, 360 large wild, and 300 quail and other small birds, native and foreign, were spitted at his command. The game consisted of 500 hares and rabbits, and 40 deer. In the way of fish figure 120 turbot, 140 salmon, 120 cod, 260 trout, 400 mackerel, 300 whiting, 800 soles, 400 flounders, 400 red mullet, 200 eels, 150 haddocks, 400 herrings, 5,000 smelts, and some hundred thousand or so of whitebait, not to mention a few hundred species of fresh-water fish. The shell fish consisted of 30 turtles, 30 000 oysters, 1 500 lobsters or crabs, and 300,000 prawns, shrimps, sardines and anchovies. In the way of fruit occur about 500 pounds of grapes, 360 pounds of pine-apples, 600 peaches, 1,400 apricots, 240 melons, and some 100 000 plums and other fruits, together with some millions of cherries, strawberries, and the like. The vegetables he estimated at 5,475 pounds, the butter at 4,434, and the cheese at 681; 2 000 eggs of chickens and 100 of plover, 4½ tons of bread, half a ton of salt and pepper, and 2½ tons of sugar furnish the "fixings."

These gorges, according to the mathematical cleverer, are washed down with sufficient liquids, some 11 673¾ gallons (Soyer is very particular about fractions) in all, to float a ship freighted with them. A portion of the components of this fluid gluttony is forty-nine hogsheads of wine, 1,368¾ gallons of beer, 584 of spirits, 343 of liquors, and only 2,730 of water.

A proper pendant to Soyer's calculation is the description given in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of the bowl of punch served by Captain-General Russell, Charles the second's commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean in 1694. A fountain in the noble commander's headquarters garden was emptied and swabbed out; a canopy was spread over it to keep the rain off if there was any; then four hogsheads of brandy, twenty gallons of lime juice and a pipe of Malaga were dumped into the basin, along with 25,000 lemons, 1,300 pounds of sugar, five pounds grated nutmegs and 300 toasted biscuits. One of the ship's boys, in a little boat built for the purpose, rowed around the fountain filling the cups of the 6,000 guests who sat down to the collation in the grand n. The fumes of the colossal punch made him giddy, and he fell into the basin, but was luckily fished out before he was literally "drowned in drink."

Portrait of Uncle Sam.

In personal appearance, Uncle Sam is a tall, bony, healthy-looking man, apparently of 45; for, though born in 1776, he bears his age well, and seems to be getting younger every day. He loves to brag of his establishment, and puts himself on such an equality with the people that a train of hangers on are always at his elbow. There are always at his table a number of gray-headed old fellows, who were his companions in youth, and of whose service he continually speaks. He loves to boast how Tom Such-a-one saved his life at Bunker Hill, and how Dick Somebody whipped a fellow that assaulted him at Eutaw. He often, too, wipes his eyes when he looks at the picture of a tall general, hanging up in his parlor, who, he says, whipped a fellow named Pakenham, who once tried to take away one of his girls and a cotton bale. On these occasions Uncle Sam will become greatly excited, and, taking off his cocked hat—which, he says, was the gift of his old friend George Washington—will swear he has the best land in the world, and can out-run, out jump, and whip any man on the hill. In truth, these are but eccentricities of a character which is so mixed up with generous virtues as to be excusable. Though inclined to peace, he can sometimes play the braggart, and is one of those who, while he will give his life in the way of friendship, in the matter of bargains will slick close on the ninth part of a hair. At any attempt upon him of this character, he will shoulder his cane and act out as many maneuvers as a half-pay lieutenant of infantry. On the whole, he is one of those who will cudgel his best friend in a cause in which he is engaged, and embrace his bitterest enemy in whose conduct is observable the smallest principle of magnanimity and honor.—*Southern Literary Gazette.*

A Diver's Training.

Before a man becomes an expert diver he must undergo a course of severe physical training. The atmospheric pressure on the surface is fifteen pounds for every square inch of the body, and on the average man is something like fifteen tons, but the outside and inside pressure being equal, this immense weight is unnoticed. At every thirty-four feet of descent under water this pressure is increased one atmosphere, or the additional pressure of fifteen pounds to the square inch, and as it is absolutely necessary to have the equilibrium in armor fully equal to that of the water, some idea can be had of what the diver must withstand, even at the moderate depth of thirty-four feet, although the inhaling of this compressed air in a measure relieves the unpleasant sensation. When the distance is increased to a hundred or a hundred and fifty feet the sensation becomes almost unendurable—the blood starts from the pores of the skin, and on returning to the surface extreme exhaustion is the result. Some men are so constituted physically that they cannot remain under water at all. The greatest depth that is ever attained is one hundred and fifty feet, and then the most experienced diver can remain at this point but five or six minutes without serious injury. Divers go to this depth only to secure articles of great value, remaining long enough to attach a chain or rope. At a hundred feet an old diver can remain about an hour, and at fifty feet from four to six hours, according to the strength of the diver.

Asiatic Cavalry Tactics.

A correspondent at Bucharest reports the introduction into Europe of a mode of fighting which has hitherto been confined to Asia. A squadron of Roumanian cavalry showed the prince at least something not yet tried even in Germany. A body of cavalry gallops toward the enemy, and then, instead of charging, halts suddenly, and lies down, horses and men together, the bodies of the animals forming a breastwork, from behind which the men open fire. Though the particular action on the occasion of the prince's inspection would be of little use, for horses are far too expensive for a breastwork, it is clear that animals trained to lie down by word of command would suffer on the average much less from the enemy's fire than cavalry does now. The most conspicuous loss, both of cavalry and artillery, is always in horses; yet some of the gunners who fought in Afghanistan were trained to work the guns in a kneeling position. To halve the height of a target is to decrease very greatly the chance of its being hit; and, besides, the usual fences and walls in any country are enough concealment for animals lying down, but not for the same animal if standing. It is to be hoped that the difficulty of making the horses rise again, otherwise, their previous docility might lead their riders into a hot corner without much hope of getting out of it.

Short of Women.

The first official returns of the new census of Iowa, embracing about half the counties in the State, show that this is a good State for Massachusetts to send her surplus women to. In every county of the portion of the State reported the male population exceeds the female. So that this is still a State with splendid inducements for good-looking and good women to emigrate to. According to the last returns we are short at least fifty thousand women in Iowa, to make it an even thing all round. If New England and New York had that number of women, of the best kind, to spare, they will please send them along to Iowa. Here they will find the very best homes in the world, and in time, and not a very long time either, the best of husbands.—*Red Oak (Ia.) Record.*

RELIGIOUS NEWS AND NOTES.

The Protestant Episcopal church is asked to contribute $158,000 to foreign missions this year.

Extracts from Mr. Moody's sermons, translated into Arabic, are read in Syria at the Sunday evening meetings.

The parish church of Fetching, England, which dates from the thirteenth century, has just been restored at a cost of $30,000.

There is said to be church accommodation in London for only one-fourth of the population, yet there are many vacant pews every Sunday.

The Shaw university at Raleigh, N. C., one of the Northern Baptist schools for freedmen, has sent out more than 1,000 teachers among the colored people. It has now 275 pupils.

The Baptist mission in Germany reports 134 churches, 26 656 members, 1,497 stations, and 11,813 Sunday-school scholars. The churches raised $65,000 last year for church purposes.

The religious necrology of the year, 1880 includes the names of Bishop Gilbert Haven, George Ripley, Dr. Samuel Osgood, Dr. Henry A. Boardman, Dr. William Adams, Lucretia Mott, Dr. E. H. Chapin.

Nebraska has 123 Congregationa churches, with 3,596 members and eighty-one ministers. The total benevolences of the past year were $2,996 45. The Sabbath-school numbers 5,546 pupils. The net gain in membership for the year was 414 members.

The St. Paul *Pioneer Press* says that in Minneapolis the membership of all the Protestant churches—sixteen different denominations—is but 5,791, while the members of the Roman Catholic church number 7,561. The value of the property owned by all the churches is $486,570.

The Baptists of the Maritime Provinces of Canada report an increase in members and amount raised during the past year; and hope to raise $7,000 for home mission work. They have between fifty and sixty stations which are not self-sustaining, and require assistance from the mission board.

The Rev. E. P. Hammond, the evangelist, has been holding revival meetings in Manitoba for seven weeks. He has preached at Winnipeg, Emerson, and three other places, often in the open air, with the thermometer twenty five degrees below zero, and it is estimated that there have been not less than 1,000 conversions.

Saved by His Deerhound.

Herman Hutter and Charles Whitman, of Missouri, Montana Territory, armed with rifles and accompanied by a deerhound, went up the Rattlesnake river in quest of game. They climbed the mountains to the left of the stream and separated, taking opposite sides of the ridge, in the hopes of bagging a deer. Whitman came down the Rattlesnake side, and, soon after separating from his companion, he slipped and fell, sliding some 200 feet down the mountain side.

He vainly endeavored to stop himself by digging into the snow with hands and feet and clutching at brush and saplings, till just as he was about to be precipitated over the cliff into the Rattlesnake, some forty feet below, he fortunately clasped a strong sapling with one hand, and was left dangling in the air over a precipice. By a strong effort he managed to clasp the sapling with his arm in the elbow, and grasping his wrist with the disengaged hand, awaited his inevitable fall with desperation. The hound, seeing his master fall, followed him to the edge of the cliff, and whined piteously at the predicament of his human friend. Suddenly he dashed off over the hill like a deer, and disappeared. When nearly exhausted, Whitman heard his companion, Hutter, above him, coming to his assistance. He gathered renewed courage, and held on desperately till Hutter came down with a rope saved from his fall from his perilous position. Hutter says he had gone but a short distance, when the dog came upon him and seized hold of his clothing, whining. He turned upon him and the dog ran off. Regarding the strange maneuver, Hutter suspected something wrong, and followed the dog to Whitman's rescue.

A Justice Who Is Kept Busy Marrying People.

In the town of West Alexander, Penn., twelve miles from the Ohio and two miles from the West Virginia line, lives a magi-trate who is reputed to have married 1,800 couples within two years, and to have built a fine house with his wedding fees. His popularity arises from the fact that the laws of Pennsylvania do not require a marriage license, while those of the two neighboring States do. He will marry a couple without their leaving their carriage, or he will allow them to remain all night and take breakfast with him, charging judiciously for board and lodging. His regular charge for marrying a couple is $3. He sometimes has from three to five couples at a time waiting to be made one, and all in a hurry, from fear lest those who pursue will catch up in time to forbid the banns. Sometimes an enraged father or terrible big brother of the bride arrives after the ceremony is over and proceeds to vent his rage on the winds and make dire threatenings, and even offer violence. In an emergency such as this the magistrate's son, who is his father's constable, lays the serious charge of disorderly conduct against them. At one time a relative, in pursuit of a bride, was so violent that it became impossible for the constable to arrest him, when the whole town rose en masse and helped to put the offender in jail. The place is popularly known as "Hardscrabble," and when John T. Norris, a detective of Springfield, O., from whom the Cincinnati *Gazette* gets the facts, inquired the reason, he was told by an inhabitant it was "because it was such a hard scrabble for runaway couples to get there before the parents caught up."

The Man-Slayer.

A man who had committed a dreadful murder fled, and was pursued by the officers of the law and the relatives of the murdered victim. On reaching the river Nile he saw a lion on the bank, and, being dreadfully afraid, climbed up a tree. He, however, discovered a serpent in the upper branches of the tree, and, being greatly alarmed, threw himself into the river, where he was carried off and eaten by a crocodile. Thus the earth, the air and the water, alike refused shelter to a murderer. The foregoing fable was written two thousand years ago, and teaches us how it is that times change, and we change with them; also, that not every change is for the better. If the murder referred to had been committed now, instead of two thousand years ago, the murderer—unless he were a poverty-stricken, friendless wretch, a mere superfluous human quantity—instead of fleeing from the sheriff, would have hunted him up and given bail, in order to be better able to assist his attorney in procuring continuances from term to term and tampering with the State's witnesses, stealing or squashing the original indictment, procuring changes of venue, appeals, reversals, remandments, and otherwise securing his complete vindication when, in the course of time or eternity, his trial came off, if it ever did. This fable teaches us that there was once a period when the murderer was regarded with such abhorrence that even the wild beasts and the elements refused him protection. It is comforting to know that there was such a period.—*Galveston News.*

The Advance in Christian Work.

The grand advance in Christian work since the beginning of the present century is not only remarkable, but full of good cheer. The following figures will not only be read with interest, but deserves to be carefully studied:

	1800.	1880.
Number of translations of Bibles	50	250
Missionary societies	7	70
Missionaries	170	2,500
Contributions	$250,000	$6,500,000
Bibles distributed	5,000,000	150 000,000
Converts	50,000	1,500,000
Schools	70	12,000

These are grand and inspiriting figures, and ought to stimulate to increased diligence and energy. Looking backward at what has been done from a starting point of such small beginnings, who shall limit the possibilities of the future?—*Christian at Work.*

A narrow gauge railroad is to be built from Chattanooga, Tenn., to the top of Lookout mountain, and a hotel to accommodate 1,000 guests will be built on the mountain.

NEWS EPITOME.

Eastern and Middle States

AT a fire in Kingston, N. Y., two men were killed by falling walls and damage amounting to about $28,000 was done.

THE gross debt of Boston is $26 658,456, which is a reduction of $4,581,831 during the past year.

THE New York legislature organized by electing as speaker George H. Sharpe, who received eighty Republican votes to forty-one Democratic votes cast for Erastus Brooks. In the senate Lieutenant-Governor Hoskins made the opening address.

MASSACHUSETTS furnishes more veal to the market than any other State.

GOVERNOR CORNELL, in his annual message to the New York legislature, says that the State debt is $6,936,879.83, and that during the past year it has been reduced $8,000. The receipts for the year were $16,353 927.34, and the payments were $12,905 711.96—leaving a balance in the treasury of $3,448,215.38. The State tax has been increased from 2 86-1000 mills to 3¼ mills. The revenues of the canals were $1,200,134 63, and the expenses $889,015.84. The number of schoolhouses in this State is 11 899, of teachers 30,730, and of pupils 1,031,593. The average number of prisoners in the three prisons—Clinton, Auburn and Sing Sing—was 2,970. From the reports of 128 savings banks it appears that the number of depositors last year was 912,883, an increase of 85,011; and that the amount on deposit was $335,461,570, an increase of $30 769,230. Of fire insurance companies 167 are now doing business in the State. For charitable institutions the total expenditures during the year reached about $8,000,000. The total number of insane persons in the various asylums during the year was 9,543.

THE Dixon Crucible company, of Jersey City, N. J., the oldest and largest establishment in the graphite trade in this country, has failed for about $1 000,000. The company's failure was brought about by the suspension of Fowler, Crampton & Co., New York importers of chemicals, who owe about $500,000, and who hold a large quantity of the Dixon Crucible company's paper, which that concern will be unable to meet at maturity. The company's assets will about equal its liabilities.

GOVERNOR-ELECT A. G. PORTER, of Indiana, was married a few days ago in New York to Miss Cornelia Stone.

THE handsome Hodge opera house building and the Gargling oil building, adjoining, in Lockport, N. Y., together with a number of stores and offices, have been destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of about $150,000.

MRS. MEIERHOEFFER, convicted, with Frank Lammens, of the murder of her husband, John Meierhoeffer, at West Orange, N. J., on October 18, 1879, was hanged at the county court house in Newark, N. J., in the presence of about thirty people. She was very pale and deeply affected, but walked to the gallows without assistance, and met her fate without confessing or uttering a word. She died in about nine minutes, her neck being apparently unbroken. The execution of Lammens followed that of Mrs. Meierhoeffer. He asked to see the jury that convicted him, but they were not present. He declared his innocence and was led trembling to the gallows. At 11:27 the drop fell and in fourteen minutes his pulse stopped and he was pronounced dead. John Meierhoeffer, the victim, cultivated a small farm, and had quarreled for years with his wife. Lammens came to the house about five weeks before the tragedy as a tramp, and was hired to work on the farm.

On the same day that Mrs. Meierhoeffer and Lammens were hanged at Newark two men suffered death at the hands of the law in Philadelphia—Patrick Hayes for the murder of his wife from whom he had separated three weeks before the commission of the crime, and Daniel F Sullivan for the murder of his mistress, Josephine S. Irwin.

FIVE men were varnishing a vat in a New York brewery when a can of varnish caught fire and enveloped the men in flames. Four of the men were fatally and the fifth seriously burned.

AT the annual dinner of the New York Press club responses to toasts were made by Generals Grant and Sherman, Henry Ward Beecher and others.

GOVERNOR LONG's message to the Massachusetts legislature shows that the aggregate State debt on January 1 was $32,799,464. During the year the savings bank deposits were increased by $11,669 212.84, and the depositors by 30,840. There are 5,570 public schools in the State, with 306 770 pupils, taught by 8,595 teachers, at a cost of $4,519 413.05. The governor suggests a law recognizing the custom of permanence in appointive officers during good behavior; indorses the proposal to give property-holding women the right of suffrage, and proposes a change in the law of capital punishment, giving juries the right practically to elect whether a murderer shall be hanged or imprisoned for life.

A DISPATCH from Dover, N. H., gives particulars of a fatal fire at the Stratford county poorhouse. The building contained 169 persons, and when the fire was discovered it had made considerable headway and many of the rooms were filled with smoke. Many of the inmates were locked in their rooms, and there was no one to let them all out. Twelve or thirteen persons—four of them women—lost their lives. The loss is estimated at $75,000.

ABOUT nine o'clock at night a boiler thirty feet long and three feet in diameter, in the big puddle mill of the Allentown rolling mill, at Allentown, Pa., exploded with great force, shattering the works in the immediate vicinity, instantly killing one man and wounding about fifteen others, eight of whom died on the following day.

A MAIL train was thrown from the track near Newport, Vt., by a broken rail, and Mrs. Cushing, an old lady, was instantly killed and about twenty other persons were injured.

AN explosion in the smelting works of E. Balbach & Son, in Newark, N. J., cost four workmen their lives and resulted in severe injuries to four others. The building was ruined, while the ground and houses directly to the front of the works after the explosion looked as if a terrible hurricane had passed over them. A brick was hurled through a window of the younger Mr. Balbach's residence near by and struck his niece, Miss Williams, who was asleep at the time of the explosion, on the head, producing concussion of the brain.

MANY marine disasters occurred along the Atlantic coast during the recent heavy gales. Several vessels went ashore on the Long Island coast.

ON the second day after the boiler explosion at Allentown, Pa., four more of the injured men died, increasing the list of deaths to thirteen, while two others were reported in a dying condition.

Western and Southern States.

OTTO DRESSEL, one of the most prominent Germans of Ohio, a leading lawyer at Columbus and a man of wealth, has committed suicide by shooting himself through the head.

THE Republican members of the Michigan legislature, in caucus, nominated Congressman O. D. Conger as their candidate for United States Senator. The Republicans being in the majority in both branches of the legislature, Mr. Conger's nomination was equivalent to an election.

ARTHUR MURPHY was hanged at Pendleton, Oregon, for the murder of F. D. French last June.

GENERAL NATHAN GOFF, of West Virginia, succeeds Mr. Thompson as secretary of the navy. His nomination was unanimously confirmed by the Senate.

THE British ship Lupata struck on a rock off the coast of Oregon and went down with all on board.

GOVERNOR MURRAY, of Utah, has refused to give the certificate of election to Congress to George Q. Cannon, the Mormon candidate, and has given it to A. G. Campbell, his Gentile opponent, on the ground that Cannon, being foreign-born and never naturalized, is not a citizen.

A MAIL train ran into a rock-slide near Lexington, N. C., wrecking the engine and postal car and killing the engineer and colored fireman.

MRS. C. G. GALLEY and MRS. E. O. ELLIS, wives of prominent citizens of Havana, Ohio, were out sleighing when their sleigh was struck by a train and both women were instantly killed.

From Washington.

DURING December the reduction in the public debt was $5 699,431, and for the past six months, $42,990,559.39. On January 1, 1881, the total debt, less cash in the treasury, was $1,899,181,735.99; cash in the treasury, $222,299,739.41.

THE increase in the public revenues for 1880 over 1879 is shown in the following table:

	1880.	1879.
Customs	$250,139,133	$153,448,844
Internal revenue	131 240 466	116,617,597
Miscellaneous	28,117,141	23,487,490
Total	$359,496,740	$293,553,931

CONGRESSMAN P. B. THOMPSON, of Kentucky, a member of the House committee on the census, estimates that in the next congressional apportionment the States to gain Congressmen will be: Arkansas, 1; California, 1; Georgia, 1; Iowa, 1; Kansas, 3; Michigan, 1; Minnesota, 2; Mississippi 1; Nebraska, 2; North Carolina, 1; South Carolina, 1; Texas, 4, and West Virginia, 1. The States losing representation will be Florida, 1; Maine, 1; New Hampshire, 1; Vermont, 1; New York, 2; Pennsylvania, 1. The representation from the other States will remain as now.

DURING December the mints distributed standard silver dollars amounting to $1,807,481.

THE following is a statement of the coinage executed at the mints during the calendar year 1880:

Denomination.	No. of Pieces.	Value.
Double eagles	887 456	$17,749,120 00
Eagles	2 169 016	21 690,160 00
Half-eagles	4,566 53	22,831,765 00
Three dollars	1 036	3 108 00
Quarter-eagles	2 996	7,490 00
Dollars	1,636	1,636 00
Total gold	7,628,493	$62,283,279 00
Dollars	27,397 355	27,397,355 00
Half-dollars	9 755	4,877 50
Quarter-dollars	14 955	3,738 75
Dimes	37,355	3,735 50
Total silver	27,459,420	$27,409,706 75
Five cents	19 955	997 75
Three cents	24 955	748 65
Cents	38,964 955	389 649 55
Total	39 009 865	$391 395 95
Grand total	74 097 778	90,084 381 70

IT has been ascertained that the Indian wars between 1865 and 1879 cost something near $3,000,000, and that forty officers, 526 privates and thirteen citizens with the army were killed.

GENERAL WALKER, superintendent of the census, wants an additional $500,000 to complete the census work and publish the results. This would raise the cost to $3,500,000.

A WASHINGTON dispatch says there is a movement on foot to secure the appointment of a colored man—Senator Bruce, of Mississippi—to General Garfield's cabinet.

Foreign News.

WAR between Greece and Turkey is now regarded as almost certain, Greece having rejected all offers of mediation and insisted on the execution of the treaty of Berlin.

THE British government intends to crush the rebellion of the Boers in the Transvaal, South Africa, and then lay before parliament the question of restoring the territory to the Dutch settlers and recognizing their republic.

THE famine is spreading through Russia, and it is said that of the 7,000 German colonists on the Volga, one of the best agricultural districts in the country, not more than six families are wholly able to support themselves, the remainder being compelled to beg for food.

THE Berlin correspondent of a London daily paper telegraphs as follows: "Reports received here of a demonstration in the United States with the object of protesting against the anti-Jewish agitation here are producing a very unfavorable impression, the feeling being that Germany can tolerate no intervention in home affairs by a foreign state." The other day a large crowd, mostly composed of students, smashed in the windows of a Berlin restaurant much frequented by Jews and mobbed all the Jews they met. Large and stormy meetings against the Jews continue to be held, and the crusade seems to be gaining force, the fist now being substituted for the tongue.

IN the province of Saratoff, Russia, 750,000 peasants are starving, and in the province of Samara upward of a million persons are reported to be in absolute want.

GENERAL MORIONES, one of the ablest officers in the civil wars of Spain, is dead.

A DISPATCH from Paris announces the death of Hector-Martin-Leluel, a celebrated French architect, at the age of seventy years.

THE Russian troops under General Skobeleff have been badly defeated by the Turcomans.

A NEW play by Tennyson—"The Cup"—has met with great success in London.

AT Claremorris, Ireland, a process-server, guarded by constables, was on his way to serve a writ when the party was halted by a ditch dug across the road and assaulted with a shower of stones thrown by a crowd of peasants. The police charged upon the crowd, killing one man, fatally wounding three others and injuring several more.

THERE has been another violent shock of earthquake at Agram, Austria.

THE queen's speech, read at the opening of the British parliament, is devoted largely to Irish affairs. Reforms land reforms in Ireland, but intimates that coercive measures will be promptly put into effect.

THE British ship Indian Chief was wrecked at the mouth of the Thames, and eighteen men out of twenty-nine persons on board were drowned.

A BRITISH and a Spanish steamer collided off the coast of Portugal and both were sunk. Forty-five persons are reported lost.

A LONDON dispatch reports fearful disasters at sea during a recent storm. The ships Cape Sable and Wild Rose have both foundered at sea, with their crews, numbering eighty-five men, and a large steamer was seen to go down, with all hands, on the Goodwin Sands.

AT a fire in Havana a large cigar manufactory was destroyed, seven persons were burned to death and damage amounting to $150,000 was caused.

DURING a debate in the British parliament on Irish affairs Mr. Forster, chief secretary for Ireland, stated that 153 persons were under police protection in Ireland and there had been 2,573 agrarian outrages during last year.

THE failure of the Kulcja treaty has given rise to the belief that hostilities may break out any moment on the Chinese border between China and Russia. China has made extensive preparations for war, but will suffer greatly through lack of discipline and want of organization.

A JAPANESE judge has been assassinated in the streets of Tokio in revenge for the death of the assassin's father fifteen years ago.

A SERIOUS split has occurred in the ranks of the Carlists, a large section of whom have abandoned the cause of Don Carlos, the claimant to the throne of Spain.

A RUSSIAN imperial decree declares the Princess Dolgoruki, whom the emperor married shortly after the death of the empress, to be a "Serene Highness."

AN American bark has been sunk in the strait of Dover and six men on board have been drowned.

CONGRESSIONAL SUMMARY.

Senate.

Upon the opening of the Senate after the holiday recess a number of documents from various departments were submitted by the Vice-President.... To a question of Mr. Burnside Mr. Eaton, chairman of the committee on foreign affairs, replied that no action had yet been taken by the committee on Mr. Burnside's joint resolution deprecating the construction of an interoceanic canal by European powers, but that early action would be taken in the matter.... Among the bills introduced were: One by Mr. Kernan regulating the coinage of the standard silver dollar; one by Mr. Wright for the purchase of Washington's sword, now in the possession of the heirs of George Lewis, to whom it was bequeathed in Washington's will, and one by Mr. Butler directing the secretary of the interior to furnish information touching the alleged frauds in the enumeration of South Carolina.... A communication from General Garfield, declining to accept and renouncing his appointment as United States Senator from Ohio, was read and ordered to be placed on the files.

The consular and diplomatic appropriation bill was reported and placed on the calendar.... The army appropriation bill was referred to the committee on appropriations.... Mr. Conkling introduced by request a bill to amend section 4,718 of the revised statutes, in relation to the payment of accrued pension money due at the time of the death of the pensioner or a person having a claim pending therefor.

Senator Ferry introduced a bill to authorize thirty-five additional life-saving stations on the coasts between Maine and Massachusetts, along the coasts of New Jersey and Delaware and in North Carolina Florida and Texas. The bill authorizes the payment of one month's extra pay to members of crews for gallant services, and provides for pensioning the widows of those who may lose their lives in the performance of duty.... The consular and diplomatic appropriation bill was passed.

House

The House began business after the holiday recess by the making of reports by committees, after which the bill authorizing a change for morning or refining action when at or above the standard was reported and passed.... The army appropriation bill, which appropriates $26,199,800, was passed.... Mr. Springer introduced a bill for the apportionment of representatives in Congress among the several States. Referred to the census committee.

The Wood funding bill was discussed, the speakers in opposition to it being Messrs. Kelley, Weaver, McLane, Lounsbery, Mills and Springer, and Mr. Chittenden speaking in its favor.

Mr. Springer offered a resolution calling on the secretary of state for all information in the state department, not heretofore communicated, in reference to the Halifax fishery award of $5,500,000 paid by this government to Great Britain, and especially that relating to the alleged fictitious statistics and perjured testimony imposed on the arbitrators, and on which evidence the award was made; also whether the government has taken any steps to secure a verification of the recently published statements of Professor Goode Hind on the subject. Referred to the committee on foreign affairs.

TENEMENT HOUSE HORROR.

A few minutes before eight o'clock in the morning a fire broke out in a New York tenement house—a five-story brick building on Madison street—and ten persons—two women and eight children—were either suffocated by the smoke or burned to death. Several other inmates of the building were also injured by jumping from the windows or roof. The cause of the fire was the explosion of a gasoline machine on the first floor, which two plumbers were using to thaw out some frozen water pipes. They were working directly under the stairway, and in some way the gasoline in the machine caught fire and the burning liquid was scattered in every direction. The house is an old one, and the wood was very dry and rotten. The flames rushed up the narrow, steep stairway, and as the iron ladder of the fire-escape was placed directly in front of the windows opening on the hallway every avenue of escape was cut off. The flames spread very rapidly, and the first intimation many of the occupants had of any danger was when the thick volumes of smoke and flames poured in at the doorway of their rooms.

The scene was a terrible one at the time of the arrival of the firemen, who were on the spot eight minutes after the alarm sounded. At Madison and James streets was collected an eager crowd, who could only see the smoke rising above the buildings. The window casings were on fire, and from the windows leaped hungrily curling tongues of flames. The floors and partitions were in a blaze. At first it seemed to be an ordinary fire. But suddenly the faces of the lookers-on grew pale. Agonizing shrieks and screams rang out from the upper stories, and a thrill of horror ran through the spectators at the thought of the Cassidys on the fourth and the Sheridans on the fifth floor.

Mary Sheridan, discovering the fire, had called to her mother and sisters, and running to the scuttle had pushed it open and had sprung to the roof of No. 37 Madison street. The fire followed her, cutting off the escape of the others. A column of flame and smoke ten feet in height shot up through the scuttle. Policemen Haly and Davis, of the Oak street station, climbed to the roof from James street and saved some of the inmates. But the shrieks that rose above the roar of the flames, the crackle of shivering glass and shouts of the crowd told of many human beings suffering a horrible death. The little court into which the house opened was so intensely hot from the fire that the firemen could not enter it to raise their ladders. At last, getting upon adjoining buildings, they poured torrents of water upon the fire. The moans within grew fainter. Those of the victims who escaped death by inhaling flame were smothered by the black hot smoke.

In half an hour the house was gutted and the flames were practically extinguished. Half reluctantly firemen and policemen began the search for the dead. There was an exclamation of horror as the first man who crept up the blackened stairs reached the fourth floor. In the kitchen in the rear lay the body of Mrs. Bridget Cassidy, burned almost to a crisp, while near her were her three children—aged respectively six, eight and one years—evidently smothered by the smoke. On the other side of the hall were the bodies of Ellen Egan, aged two years, and John Walsh, a boy of thirteen years. The little girl, almost a baby, had quickly succumbed to the noxious fumes and was found dead under the bed. On the fifth floor were the bodies of Mrs. Sheridan and three children, aged respectively fourteen, five and three years. John Egan, four years old, Annie Egan seven years old, and Minnie Egan, aged nine, were injured, but not seriously.

William G. Patton, the plumber engaged in thawing out the frozen pipes, and Timothy Harrington, an assistant, were arrested, the former being put on $10,000 bail while the latter, who received some slight burns, was sent to the hospital as a prisoner.

Fans.

The fan is of very ancient origin. Tracing its history, the *Journal d'Hygiene* states that the papyrus was one of the first plants used in making fans. In ancient Greece the first fans were made of branches of mystic acacia and palm tree. It was not until the fifth century, B. C., that the peacock was known in Greece, and from this epoch date the use among Greek ladies of the peacock's tail as a new and elegant kind of fan. As the fan maker's art extended, the use of feathers alone came to be discarded, as they were found too pliable, and the idea was conceived of placing between each pair of feathers a thin strip of wood. Fans are often mentioned in Latin authors. Pliny the elder refers to the flabelliferæ or female slaves, who carried parasols and fans to shade and drive away flies from their mistresses. Fans of peacock's feathers remained in fashion through the middle ages up to the seventeenth century, not only in Italy, but in England and France. Fans of ostrich feathers came into favor gradually, excluding those of peacock feathers, and such fans appear in Titian's pictures. Leaves of palm trees, reeds and odoriferous woods are among the substance of which fans are now made in foreign countries.

A. T. Stewart's Remains.

The New York correspondent of a Western paper states positively, from information gained from intimate friends of Judge Hilton, that the late A. T. Stewart's body has never been recovered. The thieves who stole it relied on a woman's weakness to redeem the bones at a costly price. But Mrs. Stewart's friends represented to her that if she purchased those poor bones no man would lie safe in his grave; that they were not necessary to the repose of her husband's soul, and that if he could appear to her in spirit he would tell her never to give one cent to keep alive such an example. Hence the grave robbers had their work and subsequent expense and long waiting on a reward for nothing. Judge Hilton has said to the correspondent: "I would probably tell you if I had anything to say, but the newspaper discussion of the subject is mainly designed to assist the thieves and extort money from Mrs. Stewart. When the subject dies out, and the wounds of the hour are healed, it may be time to talk upon that question."

Little Things.

Springs are little things, but they are sources of large streams; a helm is a little thing, but it governs the course of a ship; a bridle bit is a little thing, but we know its use and power; nails and pegs are little things, but they hold the parts of a large building together; a word, a look, a smile, a frown, are little things, but powerful for good or evil. Think of this, and mind the little things. Pay that little debt; if it is a promise redeem it. You know not what important events may hang upon it. Keep your word sacred; keep it to the children—they will mark it sooner than any one else, and the effect will probably be as lasting as life. Mind little things.

A WOMAN'S EXECUTION.

Mrs. Meierhoeffer and Frank Lammens Hanged at Newark, N. J.

The execution at Newark, New Jersey, of Mrs. Meierhoeffer and Frank Lammens, a tramp who had been employed by the victim of the tragedy—the woman's husband—to work on his farm is described as follows by the New York papers: During the morning a marked change was observable in the conduct of Lammens. He had been theretofore almost uncontrollably violent. It was not enough for him to make protestations of innocence quietly. He had made them always with the desperation of a man resolved, if he could, to escape the penalty of his crime, at whatever sacrifice of manhood. He had passed much of his time during the last week in stamping up and down the corridor, which was the limit of his freedom, in yelling like a madman, and making grimaces through the iron-barred windows at imaginary foes. Soon after midnight he became more subdued, and in the morning was quiet and rational. He would not sleep at all during the night, but paced up and down the corridor. There were no signs of excitement in his demeanor, save when the watchers made reference to the murder. Even on this point he finally consented to talk, but only to reassert his innocence. He smoked his pipe most of the time. In the morning he was visited by the Rev. Father Zelliob. Theretofore he had resented all overtures on the part of the priest. At breakfast hour he was given a porterhouse steak, some coffee and rolls, and mince pie. He ate the food, but without apparent relish. Soon afterward he was visited by Mr. Charles Borcheling, his counsel. To this gentleman he made anew his declaration of innocence. He said that on one occasion, in his presence, Mrs. Meierhoeffer had attempted to poison her husband, but had been somehow prevented. He threatened to make an hour's speech on the gallows.

Mrs. Meierhoeffer's conduct had all along been in marked contrast with that of her fellow murderer. She warmly protested her innocence, and there are persons who were disposed to accept her story. Shortly after midnight she fell asleep, and continued to sleep well till about half-past four o'clock, when she arose and car fully prepared herself for the final scene. She had passed some days in mending and preparing the underclothing which she was to wear on the gallows. She wore a black dress which she said was a mark of mourning for her murdered husband. Father Gi ard and a Sister of Charity visited her soon after she had arisen, and she received the last rites of the Roman Catholic church.

It was thought that one or the other of the accused might make a confession of guilt and exculpate the other. Some question was raised, because of this suspicion, as to which of them should first be led to the gallows. Arrangements had been made so that if either confessed guilt, the execution of the other should be stayed. Colonel Abeel, the district attorney, sat in Colonel Johnson's office in the jail as witness, through a window opening into the adjoining corridor, of the hanging. He had in his pocket a reprieve bearing the great seal of the State and Governor McClellan's signature for each of the condemned. In the event of the confession of either exculpative of the other the reprieve for the one yet unhanged was to be presented. At ten o'clock Sheriff Van Renselaer decided to hang Mrs. Meierhoeffer first.

Mrs. Meierhoeffer was pinioned at her cell door, the black cap was adjusted on her head, and the procession took up the march to the gallows at exactly half-past ten o'clock. As they passed through the sheriff's office in full view of the reporters, through the iron-barred door admitting to the corridor, she was deathly pale, but walked firmly. Her suit of black made her face the whiter by contrast. Her lips moved as though she was muttering a prayer. Sheriff Van Renselaer led the procession. Following him was Under-Sheriff Davis. Next came the Rev. Father Walter, priest of the Medicine order, in citizen's dress. Father Girard, wearing his vestments, and the doomed woman came next. The rear was closed by two deputy sheriffs. She was led at once under the gallows. The black cap was drawn down, the rope around her neck fastened to the hook above, and a minute later the drop fell. The body sprang into the air. The neck had been broken by the fall of the weight. There was one convulsive movement of the body and all was over. The body was allowed to hang for nearly half an hour, the priests meanwhile kneeling and praying. Drs. Dougherty and Korneman felt her pulse occasionally and reported its beatings from time to time. At eleven o'clock the body was lowered and removed out of sight into an apartment north of the corridor, and preparations were made for the execution of Lammens.

It had been feared all along that Lammens would give way to his fear