TIMELY TOPICS.

The inquiries of Professor Cohn, of Breslau, indicate that short-sightedness is rarely or never born with those subject to it, and that it is almost always the result of strains sustained by the eye during study in early youth.

Ten pounds of tobacco out of every eleven that is used in this country is grown here. We grow about 391,000,000 pounds, import about 7,000,000, export about 321,000,000, leaving 77,000,000 for consumption. It is estimated that there are about 7,000,000 smokers in the United States; thus the yearly average per smoker is eleven pounds.

A number of English coal mines are being worked under the ocean. In Northumberland the net available quantity of coal under the sea is estimated at 403,000,000 tons, and on the Durham coast under the sea, including a breadth of three and a half miles, with an area of seventy-one square miles, 734,500,000 tons. The latter mine is in a vein of an average thickness of thirty feet, distributed in six seams. Engineers are considering how it can be worked successfully in the future.

It is some consolation to know that the prophets of disaster to our steady-going old planet do not agree among themselves. Two of them have deduced from the Bible the conclusion that things will go on as they are till 1887. Then people must look out for a tremendous cataclysm; the Star of Bethlehem will reappear, and moral, physical and mundane convulsions will follow. Others, however, equally entitled to credence also, have set the date of the event as November 12, 1881.

It gives one a vivid idea of the incalculable loss to the country in material wealth from the wanton or accidental destruction of our forests that the damage from forest fires in but three States, New York, Michigan and Wisconsin, and in but a single year, 1871, is estimated at the enormous sum of $215,000,000. As a consequence of similar destruction settlers in Minnesota have been compelled this winter to burn their furniture, farm implements, outhouses and even the doors of their dwellings to keep from freezing. Others have paid from $17 to $20 a cord for firewood. No wonder the Minnesota Foresters' association is pressing so energetically the need of renewing their woodlands.

"Murder," according to the San Bernardino *Times*, "still stalks red-handed through the Pacific coast." The record of violent deaths for a single week is given as a sample: At Cucamonga "a man undertook to shoot another; his hand was struck up, the pistol discharged, and a young man entirely innocent of the row now lies at the point of death; at El Monte, Hunt, who is known to have murdered one or more men in Utah and others in Arizona, and was allowed to elude the law, butchered one of the best citizens of Los Angeles, and came within a hair's breadth of killing a citizen of the Monte at the same time; in Reno, on the seventeenth, a man shot another over a game of cards; at Bodie the people arose in their indignation and lynched a murderer who had been arrested and allowed to escape; at San Diego, a day or two since, a saloon keeper shot two men in self-defense, and they are now in a dying condition." The *Times* says this record is repeated week after week, and thinks it about time that jurors should begin to convict murderers, and that a severe penalty should be imposed upon carrying a deadly weapon of any kind.

A Japanese Railroad Station.

A correspondent of the New York *Herald*, writing from Yokohama, Japan, thus describes the scene at a railroad station: Ye gods! what a motley crowd! Japanese of all classes, from the government official with his foreign uniform, to the coolie with his very scanty clothing despite the cold weather, awaiting for the start of the train. Native swells of the shopkeeping order, with their wadded Japanese kimonos as coats, tight-fitting foreign drawers as trousers and the toy bag, about six inches long and three inches high, that the Japanese consider the very height of the fashion, they have done their best to copy from the foreign residents of their country.

Then there are the young girls, carrying their own as well as their lovers' luggage, it they are in hopes of soon enjoying the happy state of matrimony, or taking the burden of their worldly goods, made heavier by the sad thought that they are still likely to remain in a state of "single blessedness." The married women hobble along loaded down with bags and parcels, and with a squalling brat strapped to each one's back, willing to bear any of revenge pulls its mother's hair in the excess of its discomfort. In many cases under the eyes of their husband (more terrible in Japan than those of the law) the poor women bear with an outward good grace the indignities heaped upon them. The Japs are all perched on high wooden shoes, and the author of the "Clanging of the Wooden Shoon" would certainly have changed his mind about the music made by them could he have heard five hundred Japanese walking over the stone floor of the railway station at Yokohama. The train leaves every hour and a quarter, and when the gates are thrown open to admit passengers an official (for the railway is government property), stands in a foreign clothes and with a pair of foreign station master's pincers, as at home, snips a piece out of each one's ticket as he passes through. The train itself is a miniature affair (as indeed is everything in Japan), and is divided into first, second and third classes. The carriages of the first remind one very much of the street cars in New York, except that they are in compartments, each section being large enough to seat eight people. The second class differs in no respect from the first, except in the absence of the divisions, and in that they are, perhaps, not quite so comfortable, though in summer, owing to their being so very much cooler, foreigners invariably prefer to ride in them. The third-class carriages are such as no European would deign to be seen in. They are as near being prison cells on wheels—except that they are ineffably dirtier—as it is possible to imagine any structure that is not actually a prison. The windows are barred with iron, and seats are conspicuous by their absence. As soon as the natives get in (and they are crowded together like a flock of sheep in a cattle train) the doors are locked, only to be reopened when the train stops at some way station. The engineers are nearly all foreigners, with assistant native firemen.

Bound to Have It.

Elder Traverse was once the most noted man in Eastern New York as a camp meeting leader. He had a powerful voice, was a fluent speaker, and in the prime of life could get away with any man who ever sought to disturb his meetings.

The elder was once holding a camp-meeting near Yonkers, and word reached him that a notorious rough, known as "Chicago Bob," intended to be on hand on Sunday for a row. He made no reply and took no precautions, and when Bob appeared on the grounds with a cigar in his mouth and a slung-shot in his sleeve, the elder didn't grow pale for a cent. Bob had come out there to run things, and he took a forward seat. When the people started to sing he began crowing, and thus created confusion.

"Robert, you had better sit down," observed the elder, as he came forward.

"Chicago Bob sits down for no man," was the reply.

"Sit down, Robert," continued the elder, as he put his hand on the loafer's arm.

"Here goes to clean out the crowd!" crowed Bob, as he peeled off his coat.

Next instant the elder hit him under the ear, and, as he fell over a bench, he was followed up and hit again and again, and while in a semi-unconscious state he was carried off by his friends.

Next day he was the first one to forward for prayers. The elder put his hand on his head and asked:

"Robert, are you in earnest?"

"I am."

"Are you really seeking after faith?"

"You bet I am! If faith helps a man to get in his work as quick as you did yesterday I'm bound to have it if I have to sell my hat!"

He didn't get it very strong, but did no more crowing while the meeting lasted.—*Wall Street Daily News.*

An Iowa clergyman regulates his marriage fees by weight, the rate being four cents a pound for the groom and two for the bride.

FOR THE FAIR SEX.

Spring and Summer Goods.

The first importations of spring goods are not the light woolen fabrics that will be worn in the earliest spring days, but rather the wash goods that are made into house and street dresses to be worn in the warmest weather. Two features are noticed in the new fabrics—first that figured goods in artistic and, indeed, decorative designs are most used, and are usually accompanied by a plain fabric for combining with them; and secondly, the absence of all dressing in the fine cottons, which should give laundresses to understand that all starch must be omitted when doing them up.

The cotton satteens are first shown and rank highest in price of these new fabrics, as they are marked fifty cents a yard. These have closely-twilled surfaces with a luster like satin; the grounds are dark, either plum, brown, blue or the deepest garnet, and these are strewn with rather large figures of some graceful flower, such as fleur-de-lis, luchsias or lilies, with pale-green foliage; to go with this figured fabric, which now makes the over dress, or at least the jacket waist, is plain satteen of the color of the ground. The batistes show great improvement over those of previous seasons; they are as soft as mull-muslin, and almost as transparent, yet they are beautifully marked with Japanese designs and quaint colorings on the palest cream, lavender, and pink grounds. They are usually supplied with a wide border of larger figures than those in the body of the fabric, and this border may be stitched on plainly for trimming down box plaits and around the foot of the skirts, basque and sleeves, or else it may edge wide flounces, or of itself form narrow ruffles for trimming the whole dress. Carnation pinks, chrysanthemums, dwarfed peonies, and other flowers clear to the Japanese are repeated in their intense colors on the most delicate grounds of these sheer soft batistes; the price is forty cents a yard; the border is near one selvedge only instead of on both sides, like those of last year.

Scotch ginghams have come to be staple goods for summer dresses, as experience has shown that they are far better for washing and wearing than any other ginghams, either French or American, and are worth the difference in the price. They are now sold for forty cents a yard in exquisitely fine qualities, and colors that are warranted not to fade by washing, though some of the dark shades are changed by perspiration. The newest patterns in these have wide stripes made up of many smaller stripes, and also large plaids, or else perfectly plain colors. The favorite combination of colors seems to be pink with blue, and there are three times as many blue and white ginghams as of any other color; besides these are stripes in new contrasts of color, such as olive, red, black, and buff lines forming an inch-wide stripe beside a pale blue stripe two inches broad, shading off into white; another pattern has a series of alternating pink and pale blue and a broad white line; a third is made up of dark red, blue and orange-yellow. These colors are also shown in the large plaids which are to take the place of the handkerchief dresses of last year. Though made in Scotland, these are altogether what merchants call fancy plaids, the clan tartans having disappeared for the present. The solid-colored Scotch zephyr ginghams, especially in pink and blue—the latter either dark or light—will make charming summer dresses, trimmed with the white cotton embroideries that are imported in larger quantities than at any previous season. The furnishing houses are already making these dresses with a short skirt and very simple overskirt, accompanied by the belted shooting-jacket, with wide box-plaits in front and back, or else with a yoke and full basque, either shirred at the waist in front and behind, with the belt on the sides only, or it may be with the belt passing all around the waist; the wide round collar, like those worn by children, is edged with embroidery, or may be made entirely of the French machine embroidery on cambric that is now imported in half and three quarter-yard widths; there are also square cuffs of this embroidery worn outside the sleeves.

Old China patterns are shown in percales, especially in the blue and white patterns of old Nankin. The merchants have shown their faith in these colors and designs by importing them in great quantities; these goods are said to wash well, especially in these clear blue shades. Plain grounds with a border in contrasting color are also liked in this soft-finished percale, and dark grounds promise to be particularly useful, such as dark solid green with pale blue arabesques for the border, seal brown with French gray border, or dark blue or garnet with gray or cream-color for the trimming. These are thirty cents a yard.

The new patterns of Valenciennes lace with plain meshes and heavily wrought points are imported for trimming batiste and lawn dresses. There are also new Hamburg embroideries that copy the designs of the braid trimmings that ladies have been crocheting of late for cotton dresses.—*Harper's Bazar.*

Married After a Ducking.

Oppo-ite Maysville, Ky., is a little Ohio village where marriages are executed with such extraordinary neatness and dispatch that the place is called the Gretna Green of America. The other afternoon a couple might have been seen making their way into Maysville from the wilds of Lewis county. Annie F. Stamper, aged sixteen, a very pretty blonde, was the lady, and Leander F. Scraggs, aged eighteen, six feet three in his slippers, was the gentleman. They had eloped; they were pursued by Mr. Stamper, and they had ridden all day to get to the river. Now the river was filled with ice, and to cross to Gretan Green seemed impossible. Two hardy boatmen, however, volunteered to row them to the haven of matrimonial bliss, and just as the boat was midway in the river the elder Stamper appeared upon the shore and shouted to his daughter to come back. The irrepressible Scraggs determined to be chivalric and salute Mr. Stamper. Standing up in the skiff to do it, he gave one wave of his hat and away he went overboard. Mr. Stamper pointed out Scraggs' legs and roared and screamed with laughter at his dilemma. The crowd that had been cheering the lovers now laughed at them, too. Scraggs was fished out with a boat-hook, and, with chattering teeth and trembling knees, and very muddy clothes, started off with Miss Stamper for the nearest local minister, who made the twain one flesh before old Stamper recovered from the fit of laughter into which Scraggs' dilemma had plunged him.

A Strange Case.

A letter from Dayton, Ohio, gives the following particulars of a little girl's strange malady: One of the strangest cases known in medical history is presented by a young girl, thirteen years of age, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Anderson, a respectable and well-to-do family living on Springfield street, in our city. The child, to all appearance, is in a comparatively healthy condition, yet there is no one, I dare say, so complete a human wreck as she. She is completely senseless, has no strength and at times is unable to swallow. Generally she can hear and taste, but her parents are confident that she occasionally cannot do either. Yet in spite of all these misfortunes, she is a beautiful child to look at, and no one to see her could notice anything to indicate that she was as unfortunate as she is. She was born in Montevideo, S. A., and at the age of two years (according to her parents) she was as smart a child of her age as could be found in a day's travel. They say that her troubles began when they crossed the equator with her. She fell in a fit, which lasted alternately for three days, when it was discovered that she had lost her mind. From that time to this she has grown continually worse. One peculiar feature of her malady is that upon the same day each year that they supposed they crossed the equator she is bereft of some power. This year she lost the power of speech. All the ablest physicians of this place and Baltimore, Md., where the family lived before they came to Dayton, have tried to understand the child's case, and have failed. Some have gone so far as to make it a special study, but all to no avail.

Even so inflammable a thing as cotton can now be used for the construction of fireproof buildings. It is converted into a paste—by chemical treatment—which becomes as hard as stone. It is molded into large slabs, and designated as architectural cotton.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Grape Culture.

The grape ought to be as widely disseminated as the apple, and there is no good reason why it should not be. The large vineyards can supply our city population, but to supply the agricultural districts, grapes must be grown at home. This can be done at so small cost that no man who owns a home with a half-acre of land has any apology for depriving his family of grapes. An eighth of an acre in vines will supply a family and leave a surplus to sell. Any well-drained land that will produce sixty bushels of corn to the acre may be expected to produce good grapes. Well-prepared borders, with a good supply of bones, are desirable, but by no means essential. A dressing of wood ashes is an excellent fertilizer, but any manure good for corn will be good for the vines. The varieties which do well under the greatest variety of circumstances, and bear neglect best, are such as the Concord, the Hartford Prolific and the Ives Seedling. These are grapes of much better quality than these, but they are good enough to suit the popular taste, and are hardy. They can be relied upon to bear fruit every season in generous quantity. The Ives has a thick skin, and is particularly desirable to pack in boxes for winter use. They have been for years before the public, are thoroughly tested and can be furnished very cheaply by any nurseryman. A cheap trellis of chestnut posts and wire will be all the support they need. A four months' supply of grapes will promote health in the family, save doctors' bills and prove an important part of the food supply.—*American Agriculturist.*

About Horses.

The stomach of a horse has a capacity of about sixteen quarts, while that of the ox has 250. In the intestines this proportion is reduced, the horse having a capacity of 190 quarts against 100 of the ox. The ox, and nearly all other animals, have a gall-bladder for the retention of a part of the bile, secreted during digestion. The horse has none, and the bile flows directly into the intestines as fast as secreted. This construction of the digestive apparatus indicates that the horse was formed to eat slowly, and digest continually bulky and innutritious food; when fed on hay, it passes very rapidly through the stomach into the intestines. The horse can eat but five pounds of hay in an hour, during mastication, with four times its weight of saliva. Now, the stomach, to digest it well, will contain but about ten quarts; and when the animal eats one-third of his daily rations, or seven pounds, in one and one-half hours, he has swallowed at least two stomachfuls of hay and saliva, one of these having passed to the intestines. Observation has shown that the food is passed to the intestines by the stomach in the order in which it is received. If we feed a horse with six quarts of oats, he will just fill his stomach; and if, as soon as he finishes this, we feed him the above ration of seven pounds of hay, he will eat sufficient in three-quarters of an hour to have forced the oats entirely out of his stomach into the intestines. As it is the office of the stomach to digest the nitrogenous parts of the feed, and as a stomachful of oats contains four or five times as much of these as the same amount of hay, it is certain that either the stomach must secrete the gastric juice five times as fast, or it must retain this food five times as long. By feeding the oats first, it can only be retained long enough for the proper digestion of the hay; consequently it seems logical, when feeding a concentrated food like oats with a bulky one like hay, to feed the latter first, giving the grain the whole time between the repasts to be digested. The digestion of the horse is governed by the same laws as that of man; and we know it is not best for a man to go at hard work the moment a hearty meal is eaten, so we should remember that a horse ought to have a little rest after his meal, while the stomach is most active in the processes of digestion.—*Planter and Farmer.*

Recipes.

LEMON CAKE.—One cup of butter, two cups of sugar, three and a half cups of flour, one scant cup of milk, two whole eggs and yolks of two, two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar, one teaspoonful of soda, grated rind of two large lemons. Bake in layer cakes. Icing for the cakes—whites of three eggs beaten to a stiff froth, one pound of powdered sugar, juice of two lemons.

FOURCHETTE.—Bits of nice salt pork, about one-third of an inch thick, two or three inches square; bits of calf's liver of the same size. Put these alternately on a long skewer, beginning and ending with pork; lay it in the oven across a dripping-pan, and roast as you would a bird, basting occasionally. When done slide the pieces from the skewer, and serve on a hot plate.

TO KEEP TOMATOES WHOLE.—Fill a large stone jar with ripe tomatoes, then add a few whole cloves and a little sugar; cover them well with one-half cold vinegar and half water; place a piece of flannel over the jar, well down in the vinegar; then tie down with paper. In this way tomatoes can be kept a year. Should mildew collect on the flannel it will not hurt them in the least.

STUFFED EGG PLANT.—Cut them in half, lengthwise, and parboil them in salted water; scoop out most of the inside, and pound this to a paste in the mortar, with a little fat bacon and some mushrooms, previously chopped up, a little onion, also chopped, pepper and salt to taste, and a little crumb of bread soaked in stock. Fill each half with this mixture, lay them in a well-buttered tin, and bake for about a quarter of an hour.

At the Water Office.

He stalked in early yesterday morning. One could see that he had something on his mind and that he intended to have justice if it broke his neck. Walking up to one of the windows in the long railing he loudly demanded:

"I want to know of some of you folks in here if the river dried up last night?"

It was a long time before any one replied. Then one of the clerks said that while it was barely possible that such an event had taken place, he had received no information to that effect.

"Oh, you haven't! Then, perhaps, your old pumping works have been blown up?"

"May be so; but it seems as if they would have telephoned down?"

"Well, then, if the river didn't dry up and the pumping works are all right, how happened it that I couldn't get any water at nine o'clock last evening?"

"Cold or hot?"

"Cold, of course! Who said anything about hot water?"

"Then you couldn't get any?"

"Didn't I say I couldn't? I pay my water tax, and as a ratepayer, a taxpayer and a citizen I demand my rights. Now, sir, why couldn't I get any water at my house last evening?"

"It wouldn't run, eh?"

"Wouldn't run! Why, blame your ears! Haven't I been telling you that it wouldn't run? Suppose there had been a fire in my house?"

"In what part of your house?" absently queried the clerk.

"In any part, sir, from cellar to garret! Suppose I had wanted a pail of water to drown an incipient conflagration?"

"You couldn't have got it."

"No, I couldn't; and I want to tell you right here and right now that I figure my damages at $100!"

"One hundred," replied the clerk, as he marked the figures in pencil on the desk.

"Yes, sir; and I won't pay my next quarter's tax!"

"Won't pay next quarter's tax," wrote the clerk.

"And you take notice that if this thing happens again this winter I'll make this water board sweat!"

"Perspire," suggested the clerk.

"Well, perspire, then, and don't you forget it."

"No, sir."

"If it wasn't winter I'd sink a well."

"Yes, sir."

"And be independent of this monopoly."

"Yes, sir."

"And I want it understood"—he was going on, when the door opened and in walked a citizen, who began:

"What the dickens ails your old pumping-works?"

And the clerk with the far-away look in his eyes had to leave his ledger and come forward and explain that the pumping-works were all right, the river was all right and the board was all right, and that if the water wouldn't run it was, perhaps, because it had got tired.—*Detroit Free Press.*

Counting of the Electoral Vote.

A few minutes past twelve o'clock the doorkeeper of the House announced the arrival of the Vice-President and the Senate of the United States, who then filed into the chamber. Vice-President Wheeler took a seat at the right hand of Speaker Randall, and the Senators were accommodated with chairs in the front row of desks. The Vice-President called the assembly to order, and said: "The two houses, being assembled, in pursuance of the Constitution, that the votes may be counted and declared for President and Vice-President on the fourth day of March, 1881, it becomes my duty under the Constitution as president of the Senate to open the certificates of election of the several States of the Union in the presence of the two houses, and I now proceed to discharge that duty." The tellers, Messrs. Thurman and Hamlin, on the part of the Senate, and Messrs. House and Crowley, on the part of the House, having taken their places at the clerk's desk, the Vice-President said: "I open the package purporting to contain the certificates of election of the State of Alabama, and hand the certificate to be reported."

The certificate having been read very slowly by Senator Hamlin, and having shown that the electors of the State of Alabama had cast the ten votes of that State for Winfield S. Hancock for President, and ten votes for William H. English for Vice-President, the Vice-President said:

"The vote of the State of Alabama having been recorded by the tellers, I open and hand to them the certificate of election of the State of Arkansas."

The six votes of the State of Arkansas having been recorded for W. S. Hancock for President, and W. H. English for Vice-President, on motion of Mr. Reagan (Dem., Texas), the reading of the merely formal portions of the certificates was dispensed with.

The certificate from California showed that 5 of the 6 votes of that State had been cast for Hancock and English and 1 for Garfield and Arthur.

The 3 votes of Colorado were recorded for Garfield and Arthur.

The 3 votes of Delaware, and the 4 votes of Florida were recorded for Hancock and English.

The next certificate handed to the tellers was that from the State of Georgia, and it was read by Mr. Crowley, the reading in full being demanded by Mr. Springler. The certificate shows that on December 8, 1880, the 11 votes of Georgia were cast for Hancock and English.

The Vice-President then said: "It appearing from the certificate just read that the vote of the State of Georgia was cast on a day other than that fixed for casting such vote by act of Congress, in pursuance of the Constitution of the United States, the result of this certificate will not be received until, in the language of the concurrent resolution under which this count proceeds, it will appear whether the counting or omitting to count such votes will change the result of the election."

The 21 votes of Illinois, the 15 votes of Indiana, the 11 votes of Iowa, and the 5 votes of Kansas were recorded for Garfield and Arthur.

The 12 votes of Kentucky and the 8 votes of Louisiana were recorded for Hancock and English.

The 7 votes of Maine were recorded for Garfield and Arthur.

The 8 votes of Maryland were recorded for Hancock and English.

The 13 votes of Massachusetts, the 11 votes of Michigan and the 5 votes of Minnesota were recorded for Garfield and Arthur.

The 8 votes of Mississippi and the 15 votes of Missouri were recorded for Hancock and English.

The 3 votes of Nebraska were recorded for Garfield and Arthur.

The 3 votes of Nevada were recorded for Hancock and English.

The 5 votes of New Hampshire were recorded for Garfield and Arthur.

The 9 votes of New Jersey were recorded for Hancock and English.

The 35 votes of New York were recorded for Garfield and Arthur.

The 10 votes of North Carolina were recorded for Hancock and English.

The 22 votes of Ohio, the 3 votes of Oregon, the 29 votes of Pennsylvania and the 4 votes of Rhode Island were recorded for Garfield and Arthur.

The 7 votes of South Carolina, the 12 votes of Tennessee and the 8 votes of Texas were recorded for Hancock and English.

The 5 votes of Vermont were recorded for Garfield and Arthur.

The 11 votes of Virginia and the 5 votes of West Virginia were recorded for Hancock and English.

The 10 votes of Wisconsin were recorded for Garfield and Arthur.

The Vice-President then announced that the certificate of the State of Wisconsin was the last of the certificates.

The tellers proceeded to foot up the votes cast for President and Vice-President.

Senator Thurman then said: "The tellers report that the whole number of electors appointed to vote for President of the United States was 369, of which a majority is 185. Were the votes of the electors for the State of Georgia cast on the second Wednesday of December, 1880, being the eighth day of the said month to be counted, the result would be: For James A. Garfield, of the State of Ohio, for President of the United States, 214 votes; and for Winfield S. Hancock, of the State of Pennsylvania, for President of the United States, 155 votes. If not counted the result would be: For James A. Garfield, for President of the United States, 214 votes, and for Winfield S. Hancock, for President of the United States, 144 votes. In either event James A. Garfield has received a majority of the votes of the whole number of electors appointed."

Senator Thurman made a similar statement relative to the vote for Vice-President.

"Wherefore," said the Vice-President, "I do declare that James A. Garfield, of the State of Ohio, having received a majority of the votes of the whole number of electors appointed, is duly elected President of the United States for the four years commencing on the fourth day of March, 1881.

"And I do further declare that Chester A. Arthur, of the State of New York, having received a majority of the votes of the whole number of electors appointed, is duly elected Vice-President of the United States for four years commencing on the fourth day of March, 1881."

The announcement was received with loud applause from the Republican side, and Senator Conkling, who sat in the area in front of the clerk's desk, uttered an emphatic "Good!"

The Vice-President then said the business for which the two houses had met in joint assembly having been completed, the Senate would return to its chamber. The Senators then left the House.

A Determined Office-Seeker.

Last spring a bright-eyed, pretty girl of sixteen made her way into the presence of Secretary Sherman and said:

"Mr. Sherman, I have come here to get a place." "There are none vacant," was the reply. "I know you can give me a place if you want to, and I think I am as much entitled to it as anybody. My father spent his life in the United States army, and when he died he left nothing. The responsibility of the family is on me, and I think I've got as good a claim as any one else on the government." "What kind of a place do you want?" "I don't care what it is, but I must have work at once." Mr. Sherman assured her that there were ten applicants for every one place, and there was very little chance. She very deliberately told him that such an answer would not do, and declared that if he would allow her she would come up every day and black his shoes, if he couldn't do better for her. The secretary was struck at her determination and charmed by her bright face and her sprightly manner. He told her to come back. In less than a week she had a good place in the treasury, which she still holds. Every morning she walks to the department with the step of a business little woman who is proud that her delicate hands can be the support of others. She receives $100 a month and supports in comfort her mother and sister. This brave, bright young woman is Miss May Macauley, formerly of Atlanta.—*Washington Letter.*

At the Castle of Simonetta, about wenty miles from Milan, a surprising echo is produced between the two wings of the building. The report of a pistol is repeated by this echo sixty times; and Addison, who visited the place on a somewhat foggy day, when the air was unfavorable to the experiment, counted fifty-six repetitions. It is stated that the sound of one musical instrument in this place resembles a great number playing in concert.

Mississippi is the only State which did not build a mile of railroad in 1880.

NEWS EPITOME.

Eastern and Middle States.

THE marriage of Flora Grace, a child less than twelve years old, who by force and fraud was married at Erie, Pa., to Louis Grace, a man old enough to be her father, has been dissolved.

IT is announced that General George B. McClellan has been elected president of the Central Underground Railroad company, of New York city, and that he is to go to Europe to place the bonds on the market.

IDA LEWIS, who has become famous for having saved a number of persons from drowning, and has gained the name of the "Grace Darling" of America, has again come to the front as a life-saver. Two musicians belonging to the band stationed at Fort Adams in Newport harbor were walking on the ice to Newport, to fill an engagement, and fell into a large hole which had been cut by men who had been spearing for eels. They were going down for the third time when they were rescued by Miss Lewis, who, having heard their cries for help from Lime Rock lighthouse, hastened to their assistance.

A FEW mornings ago the arched roof of the old New York Central railroad depot, in Buffalo, N. Y., overweighted with the accumulated snow and weakened by the removal of the offices which formerly contributed greatly to its support, fell crashing to the earth, burying a number of persons and several railway cars beneath a tangled mass of iron, wood, glass, snow and brick. When the debris was cleared away the dead bodies of four men—three of them clerks in the railroad company's employ—were found.

THE last two members of a family were burned to death in Dorchester, Mass., one day recently. Their brother was killed before Vicksburg; their father was drowned, and their only sister was burned to death some months ago.

THREE serious railroad accidents in one day are reported. Nine persons were burned or otherwise injured in a car that was upset and set fire to by the stove near Communipaw, N. J. A fireman was killed and four passengers were injured by a freight train's running into a passenger train at Walpole, Mass. Two men were killed, four others fatally and six severely injured by passenger trains colliding with a freight train near Allentown, Pa.

COAL property valued at nearly $100,000 was swept away by a flood in the vicinity of Pittsburg, Pa.

PETER COOPER has just celebrated his ninetieth birthday in New York.

THE English pedestrians, Rowell and Vaughan, have arrived in New York, and have gone into training for their match with O'Leary and another.

THE recent heavy thaw caused the waters of the Hudson, Delaware, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Raritan and other rivers to rise rapidly; the ice broke up at many points, and gorges were feared at a number of places.

THE large brick building in Waterbury, Conn., known as the button shop of the Scoville manufacturing company, has been totally destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at from $175,000 to $200,000, with an insurance of $125,000.

GENERAL HERMAN UHL, a prominent New York citizen, was examining a revolver, when the weapon was discharged, the bullet piercing his body and causing death in half an hour. General Uhl was a leading member of the New York national guard and a member of the Brooklyn bridge commission.

Western and Southern States.

A FIRE at Omro, Wis., destroyed one-half the business part of the town. The loss is not less than $200,000.

THE engine of a train on the Texas Central railroad fell through a bridge, throwing an express, two baggage and two passenger cars down a fifteen-foot embankment. Eighteen persons were injured.

THE worst storm that has taken place in years is reported from the Northwest. Railroad travel in Minnesota, Iowa and at other points was quite generally impeded, telegraphic communication was in many instances cut off, and much suffering to man and beast was caused.

IN Oregon during a heavy gale a large schoolhouse containing 100 pupils and teachers was carried eighty yards, and several children were badly hurt, though none were killed.

THE greater part of the town of Monroeville, Ind., has been destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of about $100,000. The large pork house of J. C. Ferguson & Co., at Indianapolis, Ind., was also burned on the same night, causing a loss of $500,000.

PORTIONS of New Orleans have been inundated by floods caused by heavy rains and breaks in the canal levees, and a great amount of damage has been done.

AN explosion in a linseed-oil mill at St. Paul, Minn., killed the superintendent and a laborer and destroyed the building.

THE distress is so great among the Ural Khirgiz tribes in Russia that they are selling their male children for grain and leaving the girls to perish by cold and hunger.

THOMAS CARLYLE was buried in the family burying-ground in St. Fechan's churchyard, at Ecclefechan, Scotland.

THE Basutos have been defeated by the British in South Africa with heavy loss.

MR. DILLON, home rule member of parliament for Tipperary, speaking in Manchester, England, a few days ago, said if Englishmen did not quickly change their temper toward the Irish, they (the Irish) would indeed be dogs and slaves if they did not long for the day when they could join the United States. Mr. Parnell, he said, within a month would stand in the Congress at Washington an honored and welcomed spokesman of their wrongs.

SEVEN thousand miners are on strike in Yorkshire, England.

THE recently reported defeat of the insurgent Boers in South Africa, by the British forces under General Colley, turns out in reality to have been a victory for the Boers. General Colley was obliged to retreat and to leave all his wounded on the field.

IN Sweden and Norway, in snowy weather, trusses of hay and straw are tied to the lamp-posts for the birds.

THE most notable matrimonial event that has taken place in England in some time is the marriage of the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, the wealthiest woman in Great Britain, to William Ashmead Bartlett, her private secretary. The bride is sixty-seven years old, and has became famous for her philanthropy. The bridegroom is a handsome young American, thirty years of age. He was educated in England, and some years ago became his wife's private secretary and confidential adviser. Much opposition to the marriage was developed among the relatives of the baroness, and the contemplated ceremony has been a subject of discussion in English upper circles for many months. Previous to the marriage Mr. Bartlett assumed the name of Burdett-Coutts before his own surname.

CONGRESSIONAL SUMMARY.

Senate.

Mr. Conkling introduced a resolution of inquiry, which was adopted, concerning appointments in the New York custom house....Mr. Blair introduced a joint resolution, which was referred, proposing an amendment to the Constitution, which was read. It prohibits after the year 1900 the manufacture and sale anywhere within the United States and Territories of distilled alcoholic and intoxicating liquors, or any intoxicating liquors mixed or adulterated with ardent spirits or with any poison whatever except for medicinal, mechanical, chemical and scientific purposes. It also prohibits the exportation and importation of such liquors, and their transportation through any part of the United States except for medicinal and scientific uses, etc....Eulogies in memory of Evarts W. Farr, late a member of the House from New Hampshire, were delivered by Messrs. Rollins and Blair.

At twelve o'clock the Vice-President announced that the time appointed for the counting of the electoral vote had arrived. The Senate, with the Vice-President at its head, then proceeded to the hall of the House of Representatives. Upon its return (at 1:40 o'clock) the Senate received from Mr. Hamlin the report of the tellers of the two houses, accompanied by a preamble reciting the result, with a resolution that the two houses are of the opinion that the Constitution and laws have been duly executed, and that no further declaration of the facts is necessary. Adopted....The pension appropriation bill was taken up and passed.

The bill appropriating $200,000 for the erection in Washington of a fireproof building, to be used as a hall of records, was passed.... Messrs. Pendleton, Anthony and Bayard were constituted a committee to make arrangements for the inauguration of President-elect Garfield....The postoffice appropriation bill was considered and an amendment was offered appropriating $1,000,000 for subsidies to American mail steamship lines, but the Senate adjourned without taking action upon it.

The following islands in the British West Indies have been admitted to the Universal Postal Union: St. Lucia, Grenada, Tobago, and Turk's Island. The postage on letters to these countries is, by their admission into the postal union, reduced from thirteen cents to five cents.

The following general order has been issued at the postoffice department: "The orders of July 13, 1880, and September 24, 1880, excluding from the mails all card matter except postal cards furnished by the department, are hereby so modified as to permit the sending by mail of printed cards at third-class rates; but all cards other than postal cards furnished by this department, containing any writing except the address, shall be charged with letter postage. This order will take effect immediately upon its receipt by postmasters."

THE President has nominated Abbott L. Dorr to be United States consul at Alipee, India.

THE Senate has confirmed the nomination of John F. Hartranft, collector of customs at Philadelphia, and Charles H. Burns, United States attorney for New Hampshire.

THE Senate committee on Territories has agreed to report favorably the bill creating the Territory of Pembina, to consist of the northern part of Dakota.

THE chief of the bureau of statistics reports that the total value of the exports of petroleum and petroleum products for 1880 was $34,505,645, and during the same period in 1879 $37,235,467.

ACCORDING to the census bureau the bonded indebtedness of the cities and towns of the United States, containing 7,500 inhabitants and upward, is as follows:

States.	No. cities	Population.	Total bonded debt.	Per capita.
Eastern.	75	1,819,791	$113,163,183	$62 18
Middle.	72	4,933,022	377,468,232	76 51
Southern.	38	1,072,456	66,964,171	62 46
Western.	115	5,623,891	113,751,327	32 22

THE breaking of the ice in the upper Potomac at Harper's Ferry, Va., a few days ago, was followed by the rushing of an increased body of water over the frozen river at Georgetown, D. C., and Washington. This heavy body of water soon broke up the ice into thousands of huge cakes, that sped tumultuously down the river. Then the released waters rose rapidly and in a short time the southern section of Washington was completely submerged. The water came as far north as Pennsylvania avenue, the principal thoroughfare, causing great inconvenience and damage to property. The ridge upon which stands the Smithsonian institution, the agricultural department and the bureau of engraving and printing was turned into an island, the space between them and the main portion of the city being several feet under water. Horse-car travel in many instances had to be stopped, the water coming up to the seats of the cars and compelling the drivers to make their escape on the backs of their horses, while the passengers were taken to high ground in rowboats. In one large hotel the guests were taken away on the backs of stalwart colored porters. About 200 feet of the long bridge were swept away. In the evening the water subsided, but not before damage estimated at more than $200,000 had been done.

Foreign News.

ENGLAND has another war on its hands in South Africa, King Koffee, ruler of the Ashantees, having assumed the aggressive and announced his attention to begin hostilities against the British.

DR. CARVER, the American marksman, has defeated Mr. Scott, a noted English pigeon shot, in a match at Hendon, England, for $1,000 a side and the championship. Each man shot at 100 pigeons, and Carver killed 66 to Scott's 62.

THE British steamer Bohemian was wrecked off Dunlough bay on the Irish coast, and thirty-two persons on board were drowned. Twenty-one of the crew were saved. On the same day the ship Bremen was reported to have been wrecked near Lerwick, Shetland islands, with a loss of thirteen of the crew.

AN explosion in a colliery in North Staffordshire, England, resulted in the loss of about seventeen lives.

THE Spanish ministry has resigned and a new one has been appointed because the king refused his assent to a bill for a large governmental and financial transaction.

JOHN N. THIBAULT was hanged in Nova Scotia for the murder of Charlotte Hill in September last. The execution was intended to be private, but a mob of about 1,000 persons, many of whom were drunk, tore down the fence which inclosed the scaffold and despite the efforts of the law became witnesses of the hanging.

HERR BENNIGSEN, the National Liberal leader in the Prussian diet, challenged Herr Von Ludwig, a member of the independent party, to fight a duel, in consequence of the latter having charged him with a breach of his oath to the king of Hanover. Herr Von Ludwig refused to accept the challenge, but repeated the insults.

A FIRE in the Victoria Docks, London, resulted in a loss of $2,200,000.

A DEAD body was found at Montreal, Canada, in a barrel marked "poultry." It is believed to be the work of resurrectionist students.

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