The Centre Reporter.

FRED KUHTZ ..... EDITOR.

CENTRE HALL, PA., Jan. 5, 1882.

The REPORTER, with this issue, enters its 15th Volume under the most flattering auspices, and as the next oldest journal in this county—following the *Watchman* in age. We have labored incessantly, fifteen years, to make the REPORTER a good paper, and to give our patrons the full worth of their money, and when we look back it is gratifying to observe that our work seems to have been appreciated, indicated by a steady increase of our patrons. It is impossible for a newspaper as for an individual to please everybody. We have not done it, nor tried to do it—but did try to do what we thought right and duty required. No paper can be conducted upon any other principle and gain the respect of decent men. The journalist who follows this course can not avoid souring the low, sordid and unreasonable minority of humanity which it falls to ones lot once in a while to come in contact with. The REPORTER in the future, will follow its old path, with such improvements as the time may demand. May we ask a continuance of the patronage which in the past we had endeavored to merit? It will be a pleasure to us to have our friends aid in increasing the circulation of the REPORTER. Any service in this direction will not only be highly appreciated but duly rewarded if brought to our attention. A happy New Year to all our patrons.

The republican party has shown that it is only a spoils party. It elected Garfield, and when he turned anti-stalwart, the spoils made halfbreeds of 'em all. When Guiteau's shot made Arthur, stalwart, President, all became stalwarts for the sake of the spoils. Should Guiteau go unhung and shoot Arthur, Mr. Davis, independent, would become President—the spoils would make independents of 'em all. It is any thing for office and plunder with these republicans.

Another graveyard insurance company has been choked out of existence. The case of the Lochiel Mut. Aid Association was brought into court at Harrisburg, the other day, and the company agreed to a dissolution.

Guiteau declared in court, last Friday, that he intended submitting his name to the next republican convention for President. Why not? he is the greatest republican boss, he made Arthur President and brought the stalwarts on top.

The fact that the laws of Virginia disqualify from office all persons who may have engaged in dueling either as principals or assistants, has stirred up the Republico-Repudiation hive in that State. Among the Republicans and Readjusters affected by the law are Mr. Riddleberger, nominated for the Senate; Congressman John D. Wise and United States Attorney L. L. Lewis, now mentioned in connection with a place in the State Supreme Court, who fought last August. In order to squirm out of the difficulty in which the laws of the State have placed them, these pretty reformers, assisted by the Readjuster Legislature, will have a bill passed to remove their disqualifycations. So the repeal of the penalties on dueling marks one of the forward steps of the New South, as propelled by Arthur and Mahone. Repudiation and the duel are living planks.

In Washington it is believed by a good many people that leading Stalwarts are furnishing money to carry on the defense of the assassin Guiteau. They got this impression probably form the fact that the murderer has not made good his threat to furnish the names of those who were reaping the benefit of his crime without corresponding gratitude. They refer to the appearance of Senator John H. Logan on the stand and his testimony that Guiteau was crazy. They speak of the circumstances that Logan and wife and Reed all dined with Colonel Jones, of Chicago, when he was here as a witness for the defense, and that there appeared to be an understanding all along the line. They cite the fact that Charley Reed, Logan's go between, one of the 306 at Chicago, and the only man who signed Guiteau's application for the Paris Consulship, testified on behalf of the defense, sat for weeks by Scoville assisting him all the while, and finally took the case formally as counsel for the assassin. There are frequent croppings out of the opinion among Stalwarts here that Guiteau ought not to be hanged, and they generally advance the theory that he is insane.

TAX REFORM.

There is now in session in Philadelphia a large state commission, of legislators, to reform the tax-laws, in order to reduce taxation.

On 29 ult., the Committee on Manufacturing Companies and Limited Partnerships reported in favor of exempting such corporations, provided that where the capital stock of such companies and partnerships is exempted from State tax the real and other property, whether heretofore represented by the stock of said companies or not, shall be subjected to taxes for local purposes as property of like character is now taxed in the hands of individuals.

The report of committee recommending the exemption of building and loan associations from taxation was adopted.

The committee to ascertain what corporations are texed on capital stock, and whether any should be discharged, recomending that corporations created for educational and benevolent purposes be relieved from taxes on capital stock, and that no change be made in the laws affecting corporations created for the purpose of trade, manufacturing and commerce. This includes corporations which erect, purchase, or lease buildings for use of trade associations, chambers of commerce, boards of trade, and mercantile and manufacturing exchanges. The committee, in conclusion, recommended the relieving from taxation of all corporations that may engage in business or transacting commerce with foreign nations with vessels built in the United States.

—As in old 1881, so in new 1882, is the famous Philad. Branch bound to keep ahead in low prices of ready-made clothing. Lewins has determined, and he'll carry it out too, that none shall come down to his prices. He can do this because all his suits are manufactured by the Philad. Branch themselves. You get better quality of goods, and latest styles and neatest fits too.

A woman caused a commotion at Waseca, Minn., by wildly chasing a big bull, crying: "Stop him! he has swallowed a twenty dollar bill!" An obliging farmer promptly caught the beast, killed him and recovered the money.

The greatest secret of Pertna is that it always coincided with the vis medicatrix naturæ. (Nature.)

THE NEXT GOVERNOR.

The possible candidates for the next gubernatorial race are being brought to notice in some of the public prints. The republican bosses seem to have decided that their party *must* nominate General Beaver, with liability to change their minds if a more stalwart machine horse can have prospect of election. If we must have a republican governor it may as well be Beaver. But let us have a democrat, which would be far better than Beaver or any one else the bosses can select. The bosses, we think, will find themselves disappointed in the thing that makes them take to Beaver, namly, his local strength or popularity in the central part of the state. That is all a myth.

The democrats are moving with less haste in the matter, and are looking around for a good and strong man. In a recent issue of the Philadelphia *Record*, independent, among other good and able democrats, is mentioned the name of John H. Orvis, of this county. The *Record* mentions the names of half dozen democrats, men of ability, good record, and who would make an aggressive campaign, and with the courage to face the foe and to deal him staggering blows from the stump during the campaign. The *Record* very properly places the name of Judge Orvis in this list—he lacks none of the qualities needed to face any standard bearer the radicals can present. Judge Orvis would be a match for all the speakers the bosses can trot out in this state—when he talks every man can understand what he says, and he always talks by the record, carrying conviction to the mind of the hearer as he goes along. He is thoroughly conversant with the state affairs. His record can not be assailed. When a member of the lower house, at Harrisburg, he was a terror to plunderers, lobbyists and the fellows who had bills with little or big snakes in them. His clearheadedness and keen perceptions were death to many legislative serpents. He worked hard there for the people and did a great deal of good. Upon the bench Judge Orvis has proved himself one of the soundest jurists in the state. We do not know that Judge Orvis would accept the nomination for governor, but men like Orvis, Wallace, Monaghan, and others, are the ones to nominate, nolens volens, if we want standard bearers who it will make a democrat feel proud to follow for their excellency and fitness.

THE OUTS AND INS.

With the close of 1881, expired the terms of our county officers—and all go out receiving the verdict of the people, "of good and faithful servants." The only one who goes out, and goes in again, is J. C. Harper, the popular Prothonotary. He discharged the duties of his responsible and important position with fidelity in the last few years, for which he was rewarded by being re-elected by an increased majority. The Treasurer, Mr. Adam Yerick, goes out with every cent of the people's monies accounted for, and no official misdeed can be named to his discredit. The Sheriff, Mr. Spangler, goes out of his office, with credit for his activity as well as ability displayed in the discharge of his duty. When it was in his power, Sheriff Spangler acted with leniency to those who were in financial embarrassment and sought to save such as far as possible and consistent with a proper discharge of his often unpleasant duties. Register Burchfield was a faithful officer, and rewarded for his efficiency with two terms, and no doubt could have had a third, if asked, so satisfactory was his work with all who had business in the Register's office. He was among the most faithful officia's in the county. The commissioners, Messrs. Swab, Dunkle and Gregg, go out with clean hands, and with the affairs of the county faithfully managed, and few, if any, who cast their votes for these have cause to regret it, in so far as pertains to their official acts. Recorder Tobias goes out leaving behind him that great requisite of his office clean, well kept books, and up to time with his work. We congratulate the democracy upon the efficiency of the outgoing county officers, elected by them, and that they proved true and faithful to their trusts, thus giving the citizens of our county renewed confidence in our party.

Judges Frank and Diven retire with dignity, and were about as fitting Associates as the county has had for many years, they have earned the respect of all men.

The ins are now in the places vacated by the outs. We feel confident that just as soon as they have had a little experience with the machine, they will understand to run it as successfully and satisfactorily, as their honored predecessors. We think the democrats have elected a good set of county officers—honest, capable, and worthy, all of them. Dunkle, as Sheriff; Keller, as Treasurer; Wolfe and Greist, as commissioners, and we take in Campbell too, as a fair republican; M'Clain, as Register; Judges Runkle and Larimer are gentlemen of intelligence, the people respect them, and we bespeak for them an honorable career aside of Judges Mayer and Orvis; Bible, as Recorder—all start in as good men, and we feel confident will go out as such. So mote it be. Success to the ins and outs.

ADVERTISEMENTS IN PAPERS.

It is almost a daly occurrence that subscribers to country papers complain of the large space in them that is occupied by advertisements. Yet these are clearly indicative of the business of the country and the importance of localities, and are also of the largest interest to the reader. Some complain of the large type and display, but this is the condition of the insertion of many of them. Printers would crowd them into the least possible space if they could have their way.

Another feature is that if it were not for the advertisements few country papers could exist at all, or would have to be reduced to half their present size or less, and the subscription price would have to be raised to five or six dollars per year and paid with the utmost promptness, if not in advance. The readers of our country papers, therefore, are in the aggregate benefitted much more by the edvertisements in newspapers than their publishers are. Complaining people should consider the matter, says the *Clinton Democrat*.

SLAVERY IN THE WEST.

The St. Paul, Minn., *Pioneer* has the following:

Paul Boyton, in his trip down the Missouri river, has run across a curious matrimonial custom that the government should look into. One night he was entertained by a rancher named George Mince. A comely squaw presided over his household, and three pretty half-breed children called him father. To his guest he confessed that he had bought his woman at Standing Rock agency for a horse. He purchased her as a substitute for his Indian wife whom he had bought several years ago, married, overworked, and maltreated until she ran away. The squaw is kept hard at work and the husband of master does not allow her to sit at the same table with him, and beats her whenever he pleases. What Mince has done is a common thing among his neighbors. "This system of female slavery," says Boyton, "is much more extensive than the public generally supposes. Scores of white men are accumulating wealth from the physical labor of those poor women and their children." Boyton says that a few years ago a white woodcutter bought a 12-year-old Indian girl for $150 at the Berthold agency, and it was regarded there as an ordinary business transaction. As all the half-breed children are entitled to rations and clothing from the Indian agencies, the importance of this immoral slavery, as to mere matter of governmentel economy, is self evident. This is a phase of the Indian question which is kept in the background, but it is a fruitful source of evil and misery which demands immediate attention.

Were this infamous practice told under a democratic administration, it would be with the heaviest radical imprecation. But since the poor indian women are thus enslaved right under the eye of our indian agents, there has not yet been heard the faintest "abolition" howl.

—The Centre *Democrat* names C. T. Alexander and Adam Hoy as being fit men, as Gen. Beaver, for governor. Yes, indeed, and far better—they are democrats and would make old-fashioned, Frank Shunk sort of governors. The republicans have been dealing too much in fancy stock for candidates on their state and national tickets, and that is why there is such terrible wickedness and stealing going on under their administrations.

THE CONDITION OF THE STATE FINANCES FOR THE PAST YEAR.

The annual report of State Treasurer, Samuel Buttler, has just been issued by the printer. The state treasurer thus speaks of the operations of the treasury department:

"Balance in treasury first December, 1880, $1,815,046.90; total receipt from ordinary sources for the year ending thirtieth November, 1881, $7,001,782.43; total, $8,816,829.33.

The total payments for the year ending November 30, 1881, were $6,926,810.20; balance in the treasury, $1,890,019.13. Of this balance $551,128.05 is applicable to the sinking fund reserve, and $911,037,-02 to the general fund.

The public debt of the commonwealth December 1, 1880, was $21,561,989.65, of which $421,801.60 was redeemed, leaving a total debt December 1, 1880 of $21,140,-188.05. Of this latter sum $164,388.05 is non-interest bearing.

The state treasurer goes on to say that "the increase of revenue over the estimates made at the commencement of the fiscal year just closed has entirely relieved the treasury from the heavy floating indebtedness existing at that time, and at the same time has enabled the department to meet promptly every obligation falling due during the year. Such is the improved financial condition of the commonwealth that it is an important question whether the time has not arrived when our important industries should be relieved from some of their heavy burdens of taxation. The most careful estimate warrants the belief, that a less amount of revenue than the present laws produce will be sufficient to meet all the necessary requirements of the government in the future."

OPEN THE DOORS.

The Senate committe which is conducting the investigation into the alleged Treasury irregularities is still sitting with closed doors. All the witnesses are all placed under injunctions of secrecy, and the public is kept completely in the dark regarding the evidence. The object is, it is said, to save the feelings of Mr. Sherman, the late Secretary. This is not fair to Mr. Sherman and it is not candid dealing with the country. The public moneys, it is charged, have been squandered in the most scandalous manner. The country has a right to hear the evidence presented to sustain or to refute these allegations. There is no good reason why inquiries of this character should be conducted in secret, and when they are so managed the suspicion they excite is in nearly every case more detrimental than otherwise to the person or persons whom it is sought to shield. Mr. Sherman's friends should insist on an open investigation.

So says the *Herald*, independent, and the REPORTER says amen to it, and so will every honest man say, be he a republican or not, and this should be, and would be, the desire of John Sherman, if he had a clear conscience. John Sherman himself sought to have this investigation into his acts as Secretary of the Treasury, done in secret. This is good ground for belief that the charges of rascality made against him are true. True or false, the people have a right to know the evidence; it is an outrage and insult to the people of the United States, to say that they, the masters, shall not have the right to know what their servant has been doing. The people want no white-washing. Let the doors be opened.

It is stated on good authority that the following remuneration is to be made to the physicians and nurses of President Garfield:—Congress will be asked to retire Surgeon General Barnes with the rank and pay of a major general instead of a brigadier as he now is. Dr. Woodward, now holding the rank of a major in the Medical Corps, is to be advanced by act of Congress to the special rank of colonel, to be created for him in recognition of his services to the wounded President. Under the act to pay all the expenses incident to and incurred by President Garfield's illness and death, bills to the amount of $110,000 or even $125,000 will come in. Of this appropriation Drs. Bliss, Agnew and Hamilton are to receive two-thirds, which would give to each about $24,000 or $27,000. The physicians say that under no circumstances will they present bills either to Mrs. Garfield or against the estate of her deceased husband. They desire aquiet and amicable settlement and for this purpose will urge an appointment of a joint committee of the Senate and House to determine what amount they should receive. They will also suggest the propriety of authorizing the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Treasury to draw the vouchers. The four nurses are to receive $2,500 each. Dr. Lamb, of the Surgeon General's Office, is to receive $100 for the autopsy which he made. Dr. Reyburn, who was Dr. Bliss' assistant, will also receive a reasonable sum for his constant attendance. It is not known what charge the railroad companies will make for the use of the special trains or for the construction of the new tracks laid in Washington and at Long Branch.

HOW THE RADICALS WILL RECRUIT THEIR MAJORITY

The Washington special of the Pittsburg *Post* says, Mr. Calkins, Chairman of Speaker Keifer's outrageously partizan Committe on Elections, is diligently performing the work he has been appointed to do. He is so zealous that he denies himself the usual holiday vacation taken by members of Congress, and is devoting himself unremittingly to his partizan purpose of unseating about twenty democrats at the earliest possible moment. The Radicals charged Springer's committee at the last session with being a partizan body, but it contained six Republicans, while their own in this Congress has but four Democrats. In the case of Boynton vs. Loring, Curtin vs. Yocum and Donnelly vs. Washburn the Republicans who had the *prima facie* right, were allowed to retain their seats, although in the two latter cases there were gross frauds, and in the case of Curtin vs. Yocum it was proved to a demonstration that Curtin was entitled to the seat. In the case of Bisbee vs. Hull, in the Second Florida district, the committee reported in favor of the Republican. A Democratic House sustained their report; Hull was ousted and Bisbee seated. In no case was a Republican turned out to give place to a Democrat. In the face of all this a radical row was kept up against the committee for what it was imagined they might do, but the indecent haste of Mr. Calkins to strengthen the Republican side is all right with the civil service, free ballot and fair count Republicans. About twenty Democratic members, mostly from the South, have ben marked for the slaughter, and they will not be allowed to stand on the order of their going but will be commanded to go at once. The Radical design to outrge justice and to gain a mean partizan advantage is well understood among Democrats. When General Wheele of Alabama, (whose seat is contested by that Radical Greenbacker Lowe) saw a good seat in the House he gave it to Randall and subsequently retired again in favor of Cox, saying, "I will give you talking men a chance for they will throw me out anyway." And so they all. Every trumped up case of all such chronic contestants as Mackey, of South Carolina, and others, without a shadow of right will be decided in favor of the Republicans, and such contests as Anderson, Democrat, vs. Reed, Republican, in the first Maine district will be dismissed as utterly unworthy of notice. Nothing is to be done by halves, and Democrats need expect no more favor at the Electn Committee than they got from Keifein the Committees.

DON CAMERON AS GRANT'S NEGRO OVERSEER.

Washingh, December 8.—An amusing story is told of one of the Pennsylvania Congressmen who reluctantly obeyed the orders of Don Cameron to change from Hiscock to Kifer for Speaker. Being somewhat enlarged he declared that Don Cameron had been willing to have them vote for Hiscock until he got orders from his boss, Grant and Conkling, in New York, the contrary. After which the good man added reflectively, after taking another drink: "It's bad enough to be under an kind of a boss, but it is horrible and grading to obey a boss who takes orders in another boss. For myself, I feel like a slave in the old times when he was hipped by a negro overseer. It was infinitely worse than to be thrashed by a white overseer." The picture of Don Cameron as Grant's negro overseer will become historical.

NEW DETOUR OF THE PENN'A RAIL ROAD.

The Johnstown *Tribune* of recent date says:

The laying of a track for the detour which is to bende from a line of the Pennsylvania railroad, at a point a short distance east of Creason, near Adam's Mill, has been commenced, and the bed of what is known as the New Portage Railroad, is being followed. Workmen are busily engaged cleaning out the tunnel, a few miles from the diverging place, and the earth and rock which fell in at intervals since the abandonment of the thoroughfare will soon be removed. It is stated that the roadbed on the eastern slope, as far as Hollidaysburg, will be put in substantial condition within a brief space of time, and as the grade is not so heavy as the main line between Galitzin and Altoona the advantage to be gained by using this improvement will be manifest. From Hollidaysburg the route of the present branch road to Williamsburg, Blair county, will be followed, and from there the grading and track-laying will continued to the vicinity of Petersburg, Huntingdon county, some six miles east of Huntingdon, where connection with the main stem will be made.

It is further stated that some thirteen miles in distance will be cut off by the opening of this day, which is equivalent to a saving of an hour in making the run between Altoona and Petersburg, while there are other advantages to be derived in the way of requiring less motive power to move trains, etc. One of the main features of the new route lies in the fact that case any accident should happen to Galitzin tunnel this line will afford an the east and west for all trains. If it should happen that a considerable quantity of roofing of the said tunnel should fall in just at this juncture traffic on the P. R. R. would be practically ended for happs a definite period. This tunnel the New Portage is shorter, and with the necessary repairs can be made sathan the former. We are not informed whether the detour will be used for the ming of freight, or fast through passenger trains, or for both, but all this will be sloped in due course of time. The new line will give Altoona and Tyrone the by, but this will not make much difference to these places, as the bulk of travel both passengers and freight will continue to pass over the main stem.

THE ZOAR AND HPERIL.

The Capture of a Fenian Conspirator in the Emperor's Bedroom.

[St. Petersburg Cable special.]

The trial of the men accused of having neglected to take necessary scautin in the matter of the Little Saga min has been going on for the last three days. The only important revelation is at of Jobjenski, the magistrate who took up the statement of the case for Mravielff the public prosecutor. He stated that it had become necessary to revy the sentence of a fourth assassin who od on the quary of the Catharine Canal the 8th of March, when the Emperor was killed. There were four, not three, whatoodfifteen paces from each other along the garden wall, each having a bot concealed on his person This fourth assassin has not been tried yet, for State reasons. His name is Emilianoff. Emilianoff states that on the 13th of March they walk into the quay of the canal without sighting a single policeman. When the second bomb burst under the Emperor's feet, and he fell bleeding profusely, a man of the people rushed up, looked him in the face and asked the dying Sovereign in his right mind, and held him until other help came.

This man was Emilianoff. Under his left arm he had all the time a bonnet similar to that used by the assassin. The prosecutor asked, "And had he the bomb in his hand then?" "Yes," said Emilianoff in his written testimony, "it was I who wished to assist the Emperor in getting to his sledge. None of your police hound arrived to come near him until I took him in my arms. When we had seen the Emperor driven off and expiring we returned to our lodging, congratulating ourselves on the day's work." Although the trial was held with strictly closed doors this revelation caused intense excitement. Mouravieff spoke last night for seven hours without a halt. The accused appeared very depressed. Fourself, formerly chief of the secret police, is the most heavily charged next to him comes General Mravinkin. The Public Prosecutor declared the three who had done their duty on the morning of the 12th and 13th of March. Tragedy would never have taken place. At the hour the three officers were found guilty and were immediately sentenced to be hanged in Archangel for three years.

The Emperor has found out who placed the threatening letters and proclamation in his prayer-book and pocket handkerchiefs. During the last three weeks he has set a watch in his room and caught a woman who had been in the service of the Empress for the last eight years. She was in the act of placing a letter in his prayer book. This letter reminded the Emperor that he had only a few weeks of life before him. The woman wept and declared that she had done this out of gratitude and with the conviction that she was averting a catastrophe to the sovereign she loved so well. But Nevertheless she refused to give the name of the man who supplied her with the letters and proclamations.

CRIME.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 28.—Yesterday at Debray, Upton county, a fight occurred in which Doc Wilson killed Jo. Johnson, his half-brother, and Brad Garland killed A. B. Harris. The fight was with knives.

Macon, Ga., Dec. 28.—Information has just been received from Roundout, Jones county, that a young farmer named Jack William Gray, interfered with a negro named Vance, on Monday night, and was fatally stabbed by three negro brothers, Bob, Henry and Alz Jackson. Gray fired into the three brothers, killing all three.

Bellefonte, Ala., Dec. 28.—A terrible tragedy occurred here this morning resulting in probably the fatal shooting of C. M. Farnnell, N. D. Martin and his son John. They are merchants in this place and a dispute originated in jealousy.

Peacock, Ala., Dec. 28.—Last evening Mary May, colored, aged eighteen, shot and killed Catherine Bozg, aged thirteen.

Altoona, December 27.—On Saturday night Michael Murphy, who keeps a boarders' shanty at Bell's Mills, returned home and found his wife and boarders drunk. Murphy was very abusive to his wife, and a scuffle between them was heard. The next morning she was found dead in bed, and the room was bespattered with blood. Murphy made no attempt to escape, and refused to make any statement.

"LIES! BIG LIES!"

Not so fast, my friend; for if you would see the strong, healthy, blooming men, women and children that have been raised from beds of sickness, suffering and almost death, by the use of Hop Bitters, you would say, "Truth, glorious truth." See "Truths" in another column.

As an inducement to subscribers to the REPORTER to adobt the system of advance payment, we make the following offer: Any subscriber sending us $2.00 *in advance*, will receive credit for $2.25. tf

ATROCITIES IN ASHANTEE.

Reports in England of the Slaughter of Two Hundred Girls.

[From the London Standard.]

The last mail from West Africa brings us a horrible story of Ashantee cruelty, which, however, awaits confirmation. The present sovereign of that country is the brother of King Koffee Kakkalli, with whom in former days we had some unpleasant words and Sir Garnet Wolseley some hard blows. But still his majesty, only a few months ago, began to develop his family tendency to raid on the Fanti territories, and even to threaten Cape Coast Castle, so little had the affairs of Ashantee land troubled the other world that it came almost as a surprise to learn that Koffee had been deposed, and that his brother reigned in his stead. However, the astute monarch, when he heard of the reinforcements from Sierra Leone, hastened to assure the British government that the whole affair was a mistake, and that, so far from ever dreaming of molesting his good friends the white man, he was encouraging the missionaries in every way. In brief, he was quite a reformed character, and in proof thereof dispatched his golden axe to keep company in Windsor with his brother's umbrella and the war club of Ketchwayo of Fiji. Nevertheless, if the woman who has occupied the Ashantee capitol is not telling traveller's tales, his majesty's manners will decidedly bear improvement. Only recently—so runs the story—some "wish" was required for the repair of one of the royal buildings in Coomassie. Now, the "wish" used in ordinary houses is simply red earth worked up with water until it thus acquires a certain degree of tenacity. But this vulgar mortar was not sufficient for the king's purposes. Accordingly, he directed 200 young girls to be murdered in order that blood might be used to moisten the clay out of which the palace walls were to be constructed. This ferocious mandate was duly executed, the only one of the victims who escaped being the refugee who has carried the tale to Cape Coast Castle.

For the sake of human nature one would fain believe this atrocious story to be an invention, though, unfortunately, it is so thoroughly in keeping with what we know of Ashantee customs, and so much on a par with similar superstitions elsewhere, that we fear there is a large element of truth in it, even should it prove to be exaggerated in a few minor particulars. The Ashantees, like their neighbors, the Efons, of Dahomey, revel in human blood. The king's ochras, or buffons are slaughtered when he dies, and the "king's stool," on which is sprinkled a few drops of the blood of each person executed, when last seen was a horrible spectacle. The executioners are men of high rank. The most trifling offence is punished by decapitation, and so familiar is this scene to the residents in Coomassie that when the son of one of the German missionaries—who were freed by King Koffee on the approach of our troops—was angry with any one he would exclaim: "Your head will fall to-morrow!" The town resembles a charnel house. The piles of skulls and bones heaped up at intervals testify to the long continuance of these inhuman practices, and even when the army of Sir Garnet Wolseley entered the place the putrefying bodies, still unburied, filled the air with a dreadful stench.

The story which the Ashantee girl has brought from Comassie is a terrible example of one of those fearful "survivals" which the ethnologist is daily unearthing. If the king makes his palace "wish" with the blood of 200 virgins, he is only a nineteenth century representative of the twelve masons who, when the walls of Copenhagen sank as fast as they were built, vaulted into them an innocent girl at play, and thus allayed the wrath of the northern "nisser." The Bridge of Arta fell again and again, until the workmen wailed in their master's wife, and we are told that, in accordance with her dying curse, it trembles to this very day. There is scarcely a church in Germany or Denmark to which some such legend does not attach, and in Polynesia temples are pointed out, the foundations of which were imbedded in human bodies. Two years ago the native quarters of Madras were wildly excited over a rumor that the government was about to sacrifice several victims in order to insure the safety of the new harbor works, and a few weeks earlier the same idea so generally prevailed in Calcutta, when the Hooghly bridge was being constructed, that for a time the people dreaded to go abroad after dark lest they should be kidnapped. In Galam, in Africa, a boy and girl used to be burned alive before the chief gate of the city as a fetich to make it impassable to an enemy, and in Bamburra, Great Bassam and Yariba the same custom prevailed or still prevails. In Borneo, in Japan, in Burmah, and, in addition to many other regions, in the Punjaub, like ideas of the efficacy of human victims to insure the safety of buildings hold their ground or were universal within very recent times. Into each post hole of the gates of Tavoy, a criminal was placed; human victims were buried under the gates of Mandelay and under the fortress of Thaungo a queen is said to have been drowned in a Burmese reservoir to make the dyke safe, and the wife of a widow's son was taken by the Rajah of Sialkot to insure the stability of one of the bastions of his fort.

It is, therefore, more than probable that the latest story from Ashantee is substantially true. Human life is always at a discount in these thickly populated African kingdoms. Could the African potentates be taught to cultivate the soil, or to mine the minerals in it, they would, with their natural shrewdness, speedily discover a more profitable employment for their subjects and captives than killing them. Sixty years ago the king of Ashantee told M. Dupuis that since the king of England had prevented him from selling his slaves he had to murder them, lest they should grow strong and murder him. Africa is, indeed, never likely to be the Eldorado of traders, as for a time it was thought to be. Mr. Joseph Thompson, in the course of his recent journey, saw nothing worthy of the attention of European capitalists, and in spite of the inflated accounts of Mr. Stanley, Dr. Gouldsbury, administrator of the Gambia, in the report of his exploration into the interior of that colony, just issued, affirms most positively that "any hope based on that fiction of the future, to which the event of Africa becoming England's market for manufactured goods," is certain to end in disappointment

—About a thousand men and boys visited Lewins, of the Philad. Branch, a Happy New Year. All had bought suits from him and were so much pleased that they thought a happy New Year's greeting was due him. He was so pleased that that heat once commenced putting down the price of ready-made clothing to still lower figures, in order to make another regiment of men and boys happy good.

When babies are fretful they disturb everybody, and mothers should know that soothing Parker's Ginger Tonic takes away half their anxiety, stops babies' pains, and is always safe and pleasant to use.—*Home Journal.*

A daughter's Paralysis ataxis disappeared from the use of Peruna. B. C. Ely, Pittsburg, Pa.

SIX GIRLS AT A BIRTH.

San Francisco, Dec. 30.—A Los Angeles dispatch says that Mrs. Cruiz, living near Soboba, Los Angeles county, gave birth to six perfectly formed female children.

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