...RS.

...en Plan
... Break

...t to re-
... always
...ts in the
...N. Y. Con-
...pen the wits of
... only have they
... successful plans
...ent most ingenious
...chinery. Every morn-
...ctor drives in through
...e, and receiving his load
... four barrels at the kitchen
...e out again. A convict several
...ars ago thought he saw in the swill-barrel a means of escape, and he proceeded to put his idea into operation. He enveloped his head in cloths and got into a barrel of liquid swill. The gatekeeper is provided with a long iron rod, and is required to probe or examine every load, no matter what it may be that leaves the prison. When the wagon reached the gate the keeper ran the rod into the barrel in which the convict was concealed. It struck an obstruction, and he plunged it again with considerable force. He was amazed to see a filthy object emerge from the swill and utter a muffled cry of pain. It did not take the keeper long, however, to determine that it was a convict attempting to escape. The clever plot of the prisoner created a good deal of comment at the time. A prisoner once disappeared and no trace of him could be found. The officers searched for a week without avail. Finally, after all efforts had been given up, the keeper of the tailor shop one day instructed his men to remove the pieces of cloth, of which there was a great quantity, from beneath the cutting-bench. The bench was entirely closed, with the exception of a small aperture into which the odds and ends were thrown, and while the pieces were being taken out the missing convict was unearthed. The man had been waiting for an opportunity to get outside the walls, but he waited one day too many it proved. He had been fed regularly by other convicts, who brought him food in their pockets from the mess-room.

Three or four years ago, when the prison was crowded with 1,500 convicts, a great many slept in a large room in the top of the main building, known as the "old hospital." These men imagined that liberty was within their reach, and they made an attempt to effect their escape. They cut their way through the woodwork to the roof, and only the tin covering remained to be removed. The night was appointed for the delivery, but when the men put their heads up through the opening they were confronted with a row of revolvers in the hands of officers. Some one had revealed the scheme, and the authorities had been forewarned. Had this plan been successful the population of the prison would have been decreased some two hundred. Five years ago a convict employed in the toolshop, which is no longer operated, made a bold venture. The tools were packed in boxes some three and a half feet long, two feet wide and twenty inches deep. The man attached cleats and a button to one of the boards comprising the cover in such a way that he could shut himself in. To conceal the deception he drove heads of nails into the board so that it looked as if it was nailed down. The contractors had another shop in what is known as "Hackney," in the northwestern part of the city, whither all tools were taken before being shipped. The convict ensconced himself in his narrow quarters, and the box was loaded on a wagon with a number of others. He waited until he thought the prison had been left behind, and then raised the cover to survey his surroundings. He was observed by the driver, a young man, who gave a frightened yell and jumped from the wagon. A guard happened to be in a grocery store in front of which the convict made his appearance, and he caught a glimpse of the head in the box. The escaping prisoner recognized him, and, leaping from the wagon, ran as fast as his legs would carry him. The guard followed, and, as the fugitive would not stop in response to repeated commands, fired a ball into his leg, which put an end to the chase.

Citizens are employed in the prison shops in large numbers, and they pass in and out without any questions being asked. A convict once embraced the opportunity that this practice affords. He secured a pair of overalls and a blouse, and shouldering a vise walked past the guards. When he reached the street he threw down the vise and made for the country. Slipping out of the ranks is one of the practices of convicts as the preliminary step to an escape. One cold winter morning, while it was still dark, two convicts left their places in line. They had previously obtained a long piece of wire, and attaching a hook to one end they tore up their bedclothing and wound it tightly about it. This made a stiff rope; and reaching it up they caught the hook on the bars of the window in the story above. They climbed up from window to window until they reached the roof, from which they expected to descend to a low side wall and drop to the ground. Their absence had been discovered, however, and just as they were descending they were detected by the officers who were looking for them. The escape of "By" Day was well planned. He feigned sickness, and was left in his cell. When the keeper shook the cell-door at night Day did not respond. Instead of compelling the man to answer, as he should have done, he looked through the grated door and saw a form lying in bed with a newspaper over the head. He thought Day was sleeping, and supposed the paper was to prevent his being disturbed by flies. The next morning a dummy stuffed with straw was found in Day's cot, but "By" had disappeared. He had released himself from his cell with a false key, and, getting upon the roof, had gone down to the ground. He was afterward recaptured.

If all the tools and appliances used by prisoners in attempting or accomplishing escape had been saved a museum might be established. How the convicts obtain these tools is a question easily answered. They make them. Instruments weighing as much as fifty pounds have been made under the very eyes of the officers, and they were none the wiser for it. If a man is employed about iron-working machinery, he will find time to manufacture jacks, jimmies, levers, bars, keys, and other implements. Very often these tools are the finest specimens of workmanship, and any artisan might be proud to own them as his handiwork. Complete burglars' kits have been manufactured in the prison and smuggled outside to do service in "cracking" banks.

One generous-hearted convict proposed to liberate half the prisoners in the institution. He procured a piece of gas pipe and made from it a key to fit the locks of the cell doors. He had planned to spring the lever of his cell with a jimmy, thus releasing himself, and to unlock as many doors as he could with the key before he was discovered. Then he anticipated leading the men against the guards and fighting his way to liberty. The key was found in the possession of the sanguine prisoner before he had an opportunity to use it. In the office of the agent and warden are two jimmies remarkable for their fine construction. The handles, which can be detached, are turned in fanciful shape, and to any burglar the tools would be a rare prize. Desperate means are not infrequently resorted to in attempting escape. Several times fire has broken out in the prison, and has been found to be the work of convicts. There is a fire brigade composed of picked men, who are supposed to be trustworthy, but it has been shown that they cannot be relied upon. At nearly every fire inside the walls the prisoners have cut the hose and done everything in their power to advance the flames, in the vain hope that the whole institution would burn down.

The most despised creature in the prison is a "squealer," as the convicts term a prisoner who learns of plans to escape and reveals them. If he is known to be a tale-bearer he is not only ostracised by the others, but life is made as miserable for him as possible.

Magician's Artful Ways.

"The magical business is not so good as it once was. Tricks cost less, secrets are few, and there is less interest in sleight of hand," Professor W. S. Judd, the manufacturer of magicians' supplies, said to a New York reporter. "But there is great activity in ventriloquism and Punch and Judy. I never saw such a demand for ventriloquists' figures." "Has any novelty been introduced that has caused this popularity?" "No new figures have been brought out, but the old colored man and the Irishman are still the most popular, and an old man or an old woman come next. The Chinaman, it was thought, would do well, but he doesn't take very well, somehow." The old style of figures had a detached jaw that worked into a cleft to represent talking.

Figures are now made with kid jaws over the wooden jaw bone, so that the motion of the mouth resembles human action. There are a great many regular magicians traveling about, and many of them make a great deal of money. The Troy opera house is owned by a magician who made all his money out of nine tricks. The tricks now are mostly mechanical, as the finer sleight of hand tricks which demand the greatest skill are not shown. The prices are low in comparison to what they have been. The time has been when as much as $500 would be charged to teach the Indian box trick, and now the price is only $5. Mechanical tricks are generally variations of a few pieces of mechanism.

The professor showed a small wooden box, of a size to hold in the hand. To all appearance it was an ordinary box, closing with a lock. One way in which it is often used is for the magician to borrow a watch, have one person put the watch in the box and lock it, taking the key. The magician hands it to another person to hold. "Do you hear the watch ticking?" the magician will ask, and the person holding the box will hear it distinctly by putting his ear to the lid. Finally the watch appears around a pigeon's neck, or hanging to a chair back, after a pistol has been fired, or one of many ways, according to the fancy of the magician. One end of the little box swings out on pivots when released from its catch by a sharp pressure at one end of the bottom. It can readily be manipulated with one hand, so that in the interval between the depositing of the watch and the handing of the box to some one to hold the watch slips out into the magician's hand, and a watch movement hidden in the lid of the box keeps up a deceptive ticking. Such a box sells for $12.

The Indian box trick, which is a favorite, is just as simple. In this a big rough box is brought on the stage, and several gentlemen are invited to examine it. They find an empty box, as roughly made as a packing case. The nails seem to run through the corners, the ends clinched into the wood. The magician's assistant is put in a bag. The end is tied up and sealed. The box is tied round and round with rope, as well as locked. The bagged-up man is laid on the tied-up box, and a screen is drawn in front for a short time. When the screen is drawn back the empty bag is seen with unbroken seal lying on the box, which, when its cords are untied and the lock is opened, is found to contain the man. The only difficulty is the bag part. There must be two bags, one within another. The junction of their mouths is concealed by the magician, who with great show of zeal ties the mouths with his handkerchief at that portion, and then invites the committee to tie the protruding ends of a bag which is really alongside of his assistant inside another bag confined simply by the handkerchief. The nails of the box are shams at one end, being simply heads and points which do not meet. The end swings in like a trap door when properly manipulated, the assistant lays the sealed-up bag on top of the box, creeps in the end, easily pushing past the rope, and then returns the end to its place. Thus the lid of the box on which the committee expended their exertions remains undisturbed.

Spiritual tricks are taking well this season. They are worked by means of mechanical padlocks, and require very little skill. They seem to be like ordinary padlocks, but in some a touch on a particular rivet throws them open, and others have clockwork in such a manner that they open in a fixed time. Bound by such padlocks, it is easy for anyone to throw spirit hands or faces through the hole of a cabinet as soon as its doors are closed, and be found sitting in the same position as securely bound when the doors are opened.

A Novel Torpedo Boat.

A successful trial of Captain Ericsson's torpedo boat Destroyer took place at the Brooklyn navy yard recently. The strong tide off the ordnance dock compelled a change of plan, and the target, a square frame covered with wire netting, was successfully placed in the cove. The Destroyer was made fast to the old Constitution. The target was submerged 300 yards away. Everything being in readiness, Mr. Farrce, the representative of the builders of the Destroyer, notified Captain Selfridge and Commanders Phythian and Crowninshield, the board appointed to examine the tests. At 3 o'clock the signal was given and the gun was fired. There was but a slight report, and all that could be noticed from the outside was a trifling disturbance of the waters under the bow of the vessel. Almost instantly the portion of the target which was above the water was seen to vibrate, and a second later the projectile, a wooden log fifteen feet long, leaned from the water some three hundred yards beyond the target, with a motion exactly similar to that of a porpoise playing under the bow of a ship at sea. From this point it ricocheted along the surface of the water for some two hundred yards further before it lost its momentum. The target having been raised it was found that the netting had been pierced almost exactly in the center and about five feet under water. The officers pronounced this trial eminently successful and ordered another for this morning at 9 o'clock. The Destroyer is an iron boat with hull almost entirely submerged. Upon this hull, placed well aft, is a deck-house of sheet iron. The hull is 130 feet long, twelve feet wide and eleven feet deep. She is a double-ender and is propelled by an engine of 1,000 horse-power. The steering apparatus and the torpedo gun—in fact all of her effective appointments—are below the water level. The armament consists of a single gun placed just above the keelson in the forward part of the boat, its muzzle opening directly into the water, which is excluded from it by a permanent valve hung by an elbow joint to the stem and opened or closed by a piston operated at the breech of the gun. When the gun is to be fired the valve is raised out of the path of the projectile and its place is taken by a temporary valve of wood and rubber cloth, which fits the muzzle tightly and is placed in the gun after it is loaded. This is shattered when the gun is fired. As the projectile leaves the muzzle the permanent valve again comes in position, the little water that rushes in runs through the breech to the bilge and is pumped out by a steam siphon. The torpedo which it is proposed to use in actual warfare is a chamber of iron or copper, large enough to contain 340 pounds of dynamite, and it is claimed that against this little vessel the most powerful ironclads will be helpless, as the submerged gun will penetrate them beneath their armor, and her great speed and facility of maneuvering would enable her to get in her work among a fleet of big ships almost at will and with entire safety.

There are in Persia about 40,000 Jews.

DIVING FOR PEARLS.

How the Jeweled Oyster is Sought for in Indian Seas—A Profitable Business Which Sharks Render Decidedly Dangerous.

A letter dated Columbo, Ceylon, describes pearl fishing in that distant part of the world. The pearl banks, the writer says, are generally inspected once a year, in November, and when the examination indicates that the oysters contain sufficiently large pearls to pay for fishing, notice is published in the Ceylon and Indian newspapers that a fishing will be allowed the next year—generally in March—say from the 1st of March to the end of April, fifty or sixty days. The notice being given, a general rush then takes place of many thousand people to Salivaturia, and in the few days marking the close of the month of February such a transformation scene occurs in that dreary locality as no one without witnessing it can realize, for the solitary, uninhabited waste is suddenly peopled by a motley throng, representing almost every Asiatic nationality and sect—Chinamen from the far East and Afghans from the furthest Northwest, besides people from Europe and Africa, though seldom from America. Two or three hundred boats of ten to twenty tons burden, each laden with passengers, goods, chattels and light building materials, moor along the shore, and forthwith, like magic, a large and well appointed town springs up in what was but yesterday the home of desolation, and is taken possession of by a cosmopolitan multitude, largely composed of thieves, vagabonds and jugglers, who do not forget to begin immediately to ply their several vocations. Over this impromptu settlement the government agent of the Northern Province, Mr. Tynean, assisted by a police and small military force, holds despotic sway; and it would be hard to find a better man for such a trying position.

The boats that engage in the fishery are manned by twenty-one men each—say one pilot, ten oarsmen and ten divers. A government peon also generally goes in each boat to prevent tampering with the oysters and robbing the pearls. The remuneration to the fishers is one-third of the catch of oysters, the government taking the other two-thirds. The boats generally are divided into divisions of one hundred each, and given distinguishing colors—say red and blue. Each boat has one mast and an immense goosewing sail. They are roughly built, but sometimes gaudily painted, especially those from Colombo, of which, however, there are but few, as they mostly come from the Coromandel coast of India and the northern ports of Ceylon.

Preliminary to all fishing operations the sharks must be charmed, and this mummery is performed by professed "shark charmers," who, a day or two prior to the commencement of fishing, indulge in certain diabolical enchantments, and afterward, say every day when the boats are out, they stand on the shore, muttering prayers, contorting their faces and assuming bodily attitudes the most grotesque imaginable, besides going through other senseless ceremonies too numerous and foolish to mention, all the while abstaining from food. Strange to say, without this nonsense not a diver would go into the water, whereas with it they are as brave as heroes, and should a shark attack them they would, as they have frequently done, courageously assault and slay him with their knives.

The arrangements for fishing commence at midnight by the firing of a gun, about which hour a gentle breeze begins to blow off the land. Then all the boats belonging to that day's division spread their broad, white sails and silently, like huge specter birds, skim away into the darkness. Their course is toward the banks, some fifteen miles distant, lying in twelve fathoms of water. The part of the bank for the day's fishing has been previously marked off with buoys. Shortly after sunrise the diving begins from two temporary scaffoldings, one on each side of the boat, formed from the oars. The divers are assisted in their descent by an oblong stone weighing from thirty-eight to forty pounds, attached to a rope. The stone is hauled up by the men in the boat immediately after reaching the bottom, as is also at a given signal the basket containing the oysters. These are gathered by the diver during about one minute's immersion. So far as my experience goes thousands have heard of, without seeing it, a man who could stay down si minutes.

The diving proceeds with great perseverance and vigor until the sea breeze sets in, or until the sun crosses the meridian; after which it is very difficult to induce the men to go down, they claiming that it makes them ill. So, after noon, the boats start on the return, and come bounding on before a fair wind under a pressure of sail which, without their ballast of oysters, they couldn't begin to carry safely. Of course the return from the banks is the most exciting in the pearl-fisher's calling; for each boat races hard to be first. There is the alluring prospect of, immediately on arrival, having the oysters shared, each man receiving a recompense for his late toil. To the mere spectator, also, the sight of an hundred boats laden with precious bivalves and full of dusky forms, flying over a sparkling summer sea, is an animating spectacle, which once seen can never be forgotten.

Arrived on shore, the oysters are landed and divided, the boatmen either selling their one-third share on the spot or hawking them in the bazaar, and the government storing its two thirds share in pens, protected by strong palisades. At 4 P. M. the government agent, assisted by native factotums, begins his sales—a kind of auction conducted in Tamil, the language of Southern India and mostly spoken by the buyers—a thousand oysters being offered at a time, the purchaser of that thousand to say on the spot how many more he will take at the same price. This operation is repeated until all the oysters are sold, after which delivery is given from the pens. The bivalves are piled in heaps by the purchasers, and left to rot until the stench arising from their putrescence is most abominable. To endure this is the one great trial of the pearl speculator, who must be ever present when this decomposing mass is being washed for pearls, as otherwise his laborers would undoubtedly steal the best of them, a feat they sometimes accomplish, notwithstanding the greatest watchfulness.

One day's experience at the pearl banks is like that of every other day. I need only close this article by saying that a successful fishery, such as is poorly described in the above, yields to the government, which monopolizes it, about $250,000, at least $200,000 of which would probably be net profit, as the cost of supervision is not great. The actual value of the pearls, however, would not be over $500,000, as most of the speculators generally make large profits, and there are besides the boatmen's and divers' shares, worth $100,000, to be counted in.

The Postoffice in America.

The postoffice existed in America from its earliest settlement. At the beginning it was merely a receptacle in the coffee house. There letters that arrived from abroad were deposited, and then taken by those to whom they were addressed, or delivered by neighbors. In the records of the general court of Massachusetts for 1639, we find that notice "be given that Richard Fairbanks, his house in Boston, is the place appointed for all letters which are brought beyond the seas, or are to be sent thither, to be left with him; and he is to take care that they are to be delivered or sent according to the directions; and he is allowed for every letter a penny, and must answer all miscarriages through his own neglect in this kind."

Fifty-eight million dollars is the estimate value of finger rings of this country actually worn, and still there are people mean enough to go hacking and coughing because they do not want to invest 25 cents for a bottle of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Eastern and Middle States.

MRS. MARION L. DOW, Philadelphia's only female stock broker, has been arrested on the charge of obtaining money from some of her confiding feminine customers on false representations.

A GREAT blast, which has been in preparation for nearly a year, was fired the other day at a limestone quarry near Easton, Pa., and 40,000 tons of rock were dislodged. To accomplish this four tunnels, each fifty feet long, were run into the hillside and ten tons of powder were used.

THE investigation into the financial condition of Newark showed a surprising state of affairs. City Treasurer Winans, who acknowledged that he accommodated Auditor Palmer with loans of thousands of dollars "in anticipation of warrants," was suspended pending an investigation of his books. William A. Hall, the chief clerk in the controller's office, was found to have disappeared. The resignation of Auditor Palmer was accepted at a meeting of the common council.

THERE are now four colored policemen on the Philadelphia force.

RED BANK, N. J., was visited by a fire which swept through the business portion of the town and destroyed a large amount of property. The total loss is estimated at nearly $100,000.

FREDERICK LAUER, a Reading (Pa.) brewer, chairman of the agitation committee of the brewers' congress of the United States, has failed. His liabilities are placed at $300,000 and his assets at about $250,000.

THE Rev. Leonard W. Bacon, D. D., LL. D., of Yale college, died the other day in New Haven, aged seventy-nine years.

Two large fires raged at about the same time the other night in New York—one in a large double warehouse on South street, filled with tea, coffee, tobacco and other merchandise, and the other in a building on Broadway occupied by dry goods and other firms. The loss by the South street fire is estimated at $2,500,000, and by the Broadway fire at $230,000.

DURING an affray in New York four Italians were stabbed, one of them dying almost instantly, his brother and a third man receiving mortal wounds, and the fourth man getting off with a stab in the arm. All the wounds were inflicted by one man, who escaped at the time.

THE graveyard insurance companies of Pennsylvania, under the sharp attacks of the State's attorney-general, are rapidly collapsing.

THE total number of emigrants who arrived at the port of New York in 1881 is about 440,000. This is the largest number in a great many years, and is an increase of about 115,000 over the arrivals for 1880.

South and West.

SMALLPOX is reported to be spreading rapidly in all directions throughout Illinois.

A FIRE at Fort Valley, Ga., destroyed a block of buildings, among them the Byington hotel, causing an aggregate estimated loss of $60,000.

MR. AND MRS. J. W. GIBBONS, who reside near Ashland, Ky., went visiting the other night, leaving at home their son Robert, a daughter fourteen years old and Miss Emma Thomas, aged seventeen years. During the night some men came to the house and assaulted and murdered both of the girls. They also killed young Gibbons, who it is supposed had attempted to give an alarm. The heads of all three were split open with a hatchet. The fiends then saturated the girls' clothing with oil and set fire to the house, which was burned to the ground. A reward of $1,000 was offered for the capture of the perpetrators of the crime.

ABOUT twenty-five buildings were destroyed by fire at Sullivan, Ind.

FORGERIES amounting to about $9,000 have been discovered in the accounts of F. W. Newburgher, assistant secretary of the Ohio State board of public works.

KNOWLES, CLOVES & Co., wholesale grocers, of Chicago, have failed for $350,000.

DR. PATTERSON, a physician of St. Paul, Minn., killed himself at the graves of his son and daughter.

DURAND, a small village in Wisconsin, has been swept away by the flames. The place had twenty-four buildings, and all but three were destroyed.

AN explosion which occurred at West Point, Va., on board the steamer West Point, plying between that place and Baltimore, resulted in the total destruction of the boat and the loss of twenty lives. The hands were engaged in discharging the cargo, and after they had been employed nearly two hours unloading, a terrific, yet unexplained explosion, occurred near the forward hatch of the steamer, and almost instantly the forward part of the vessel was enveloped in flames. There were sixteen colored men in the forward hold at the time, all of whom were either killed by the explosion or burned to death. Five other men were at stowing cotton. These jumped overboard, and four of them were drowned. When it was found that there was no hope of saving the steamer she was cut loose from the wharf and the tide carried her two miles up the Pamunkey river, where she continued to burn until everything combustible was destroyed, and her iron hull was broken in two amidships. The steamer was built at Baltimore at a cost of $70,000, and this was her second trip.

From Washington.

FURTHER confirmations by the Senate: Alonzo J. Edgerton, Chief Justice of Dakota; Pierre C. Van Wyck, superintendent of the assay office, New York; J. B. Eckfeldt, assayer at the Philadelphia mint.

THE chairmen of the leading committees of the House, as appointed by Speaker Keifer, are: Ways and Means—Mr. Kelley, of Pennsylvania; Banking and Currency—Mr. Crapo, of Massachusetts; Appropriations—Mr. Hiscock, of New York; Elections—Mr. Calkins, of Indiana; Judiciary—Mr. Reed, of Maine; Agriculture—Mr. Valentine, of Nebraska; Foreign Affairs—Mr. Williams, of Wisconsin; Public Lands—Mr. Pound, of Wisconsin; Commerce—Mr. Page, of California.

CHAIRMAN CALKINS, of the House committee on elections, has divided the full committee into three sub-committees, and has arranged the following assignment of cases to them: Lowe vs. Wheeler, of Alabama; Bisbee vs. Finley, of Florida; Anderson vs. Reed, of Maine; Cook vs. Cutts, of Iowa; Gillette vs. Herndon, of Alabama; Strobach vs. Herbert, of Alabama, and Smith vs. Shelley, of Alabama, to a sub-committee consisting of Representatives Hazelton, Thompson, Ranney, Paul and Boltzhoover. Mackey vs. O'Conor, of South Carolina; Lanier vs. King, of Louisiana; Sessenhaus vs. Frost, of Missouri; Lee vs. Richardson, of South Carolina; Small vs. Tillman, of South Carolina; Bailey vs. Barbour, of Virginia, and Smith vs. Robertson, of Louisiana, to a sub-committee consisting of Representatives Watt, Ritchie, Miller, Davis and Moulton. McDowell vs. George, of Oregon; Mabson vs. Oats, of Alabama; Lynch vs. Chambers, of Mississippi; Buchanan vs. Manning, of Mississippi; Stolbrand vs. Aiken, of South Carolina; Cannon vs. Campbell, of Utah, and Stovall vs. Cabell, of Virginia, to Chairman Calkins, Representatives Pettibone, Jacobs, Atherton and Jones.

A LARGE number of vacancies in the United States legations abroad remain to be filled by President Arthur.

THE last weekly issue of the patent office aggregated 340 patents, nineteen designs and twenty-four trademarks. Of the patents twenty-five were to Thomas A. Edison alone. This is the largest number of patents ever issued at one time by any government to one person.

GUITEAU issued another document, in which he tells the familiar story of the murder and his "inspiration," pays a high compliment to Judge Cox, praises President Arthur and warns the jury against "judicially murdering" him, as he is "a divine agent."

Foreign News

GENERAL ANOUTCHIN, governor of Eastern Siberia, expresses the opinion that the remainder of the crew of the lost Arctic exploring steamer Jeannette have been fallen in with by natives and hospitably treated.

ESPOSITO, an Italian who was arrested in New Orleans some time ago and extradited by the Italian government on the charge of having committed murder and brigandage in Italy, was tried at Palermo and found guilty, but in consequence of extenuating circumstances he has been sentenced to life servitude.

THE eruption of Mount Vesuvius has assumed large proportions.

A CORRECTED list of the victims by the Vienna theater fire gives the total number of lives lost as 449.

SOME of the insurgent troops in Morocco have proclaimed a holy war against the French.

A BERLIN dispatch says that emigration from Germany promises to be even more colossal in 1882 than in 1881.

ANOTHER plot to assassinate the czar of Russia has been discovered in St. Petersburg and the conspirators arrested.

A PICKPOCKET who was about to be arrested in a crowded church in Warsaw, Russia, shouted "Fire!" In the panic which ensued forty persons were crushed to death and sixty more injured.

THE steamer Catalonia collided with the bark Helenslee near Queenstown, Ireland. The latter vessel sank and nine of the crew were drowned.

AN American schooner has been fired upon and three of her Japanese crew killed by Alaska Fur company employes at the Aleutian islands.

A SPECIAL cable dispatch says that in Ireland there are now 350 prominent Irishmen in jail and 50,000 armed men—constabulary and military—in the country.

IT is asserted in a cable dispatch that the news of the safety of the Jeannette's survivors was not forwarded for ten weeks by the president of the administration of Eastern Siberia because the explorers were without funds to pay for the dispatch.

TRIAL OF GUITEAU.

After the two days' recess proceedings on the twenty-ninth day of the trial were begun by the continuation of the testimony of Dr. Allan McLane Hamilton, of New York. The witness was examined by Mr. Scoville, and in answer to questions he said a man may be insane from a medical point of view, and yet be able to distinguish perfectly between right and wrong. Dr. Worcester, of Boston, who had been called two or three weeks ago as an expert for the defense, and who was abruptly dismissed by Mr. Scoville, appeared next as an expert for the prosecution. He had examined Guiteau in jail, and watched him and listened to his utterances in court for several weeks, and he thought the prisoner was sane. The prisoner sneered at this and asked the doctor how much he would be paid for that opinion. The district attorney asked two long hypothetical questions, embracing the prosecution's view of the case, and the doctor said that, assuming the propositions to be true, he thought Guiteau was sane when he shot the President. Guiteau interrupted the reading of these questions with denials and corrections. He insisted that he was inspired, alleged that District Attorney Corkhill obtained from him, on July 3, through a deception, an interview on the subject, and complained that Corkhill destroyed his notes of this interview, in which the inspiration theory was stated, and then declared in court that Guiteau had never thought of inspiration until weeks after the assassination. On the cross-examination of Dr. Worcester it appeared that he had at first regarded Guiteau as insane, and had written to Mr. Scoville asking whether he could be of use to the prisoner. Guiteau was in a bad temper, and he abused his counsel for the way he conducted the cross-examination until Mr. Scoville's emotion became painfully apparent. Then Guiteau relented for the moment, and afterward he again called his counsel "a consummate idiot," and quarreled with his sister, ending up with the declaration that it would had been well for him had all his relatives died twenty years ago. He said: "If I were indicted for manslaughter and Scoville defended me I would be hanged for murder," and "I expect that the Almighty, notwithstanding Scoville's asinine character, will see that I am protected." The day's proceedings ended with a brief examination of Mrs. Dunmire, Guiteau's divorced wife, who identified two photographs of him, taken some years ago, and detailed having said to Mrs. Scoville anything about the prisoner being insane.

Dr. Theodore Dimon, of Auburn, N. Y., who was brought to Washington as an expert by the defense, but, like Dr. Worcester, changed his views after an examination and observation, was put on the stand by the prosecution on the thirtieth day, and testified that in his opinion the prisoner was sane. To Colonel Corkhill's hypothetical questions also his answers were, "Sane." He thought Guiteau's conduct in the court-room not assumed, but the natural outcome of his character. The prisoner's actions in court were consistent with his nature under the circumstances. Guiteau asked the witness whether if the Lord could inspire a man two thousand years ago He could not do it to-day, and the witness replied in the affirmative. D. McLean Shaw, the witness who testified that Guiteau told him eight or nine years ago that he would imitate Wilkes Booth, was recalled by Mr. Scoville, who asked him if he had not been indicted in New Jersey for perjury. The witness said yes, but the jury acquitted him. Guiteau again denounced this witness violently, declaring his story false. Guiteau was inclined to be quarrelsome during the day, and made another attack on his counsel, saying: "You ask foolish questions; you have no sense at all." He wanted to read some of his letters in court, and said he had one from Dr. Sdizuka, who wrote that he had received over 200 letters of congratulation and commendation for his testimony, and only two anonymous threats and two letters from lunatics.

No sooner had the prisoner been brought in, on the thirty-first day, than he said: "It is said that I have been abusing Mr. Scoville. Now, the fact of the matter is, I want to make a speech about that. Scoville is doing very well in this case, considering his theory, but he is not a criminal lawyer. He is a fine examiner of titles. He can tell you all about your abstracts of titles. He is a good fellow and a first-class examiner of titles, but I cannot have my life Scoville here compromising my case. There is no lawyer in this court-room but knows that he has asked questions for the defense which have been a positive injury to the defense. I cannot sit here when my life is at stake and have him compromise my case in this way. My friend, Charles H. Reed, who was for twelve years district attorney at Chicago and a first-class lawyer, has very kindly consented to assume the charge of this case, and I introduce him to your honor, the jury, and the American people. He is a good fellow; Scoville is a good fellow, too, and I want him to continue in the case and help in every way." With the consent of the prosecuting counsel Charles H. Reed, of Chicago, who had appeared as a witness for the defense, then formally entered the case as counsel for Guiteau. William A. Edwards, formerly a clerk for Shaw, the lawyer who testified that in 1872 Guiteau said he would imitate Wilkes Booth, said he overheard that conversation, but it didn't make any impression upon him at the time, because Guiteau said so many queer things. The next witness was Dr. S. H. Talcott, medical superintendent of the Northern Illinois hospital for the insane at Middletown, N. Y., who had examined the prisoner and heard him testify. Witness thought even on Guiteau's own showing that he was sane. Dr. J. Edward Stearns, superintendent of the Hartford Retreat for the Insane, next testified; thought Guiteau was sane. The prisoner evidently felt the force of the testimony against him, and he insulted the witnesses and interjected remarks about his free agency being destroyed on July 2. He didn't claim to be insane now. He wanted to know whether any sane man would have shot the President, surrounded by his cabinet and personal friends, as he did, when he was liable to be torn to pieces the next moment. In his present state of mind, Guiteau said he wouldn't do it for a million dollars.

The cross-examination of Dr. Henry P. Stearns was resumed by Mr. Scoville at the opening of the trial on the thirty-second day. A sharp tilt soon took place between Mr. Scoville and Judge Porter, with angry interpolations by Guiteau. Judge Porter referred to the prisoner as "the criminal," to which Guiteau retorted, excitedly: "I am no criminal. I am no more of a criminal than you, Mr. Porter. I am more thought of on the outside than you are. The English papers are saying that I am a bigger man than old Porter, and it is true." Judge Cox again intimated that he would order Guiteau into the dock if he did not desist with his interruptions; a warning that the prisoner received with derision. Dr. Strong, of Cleveland, who had treated 2,000 insane patients, next testified that in his opinion Guiteau was sane on the 24 of July and was sane still sane. Supposing the facts in the hypothetical question put by the defense to be true, witness would pronounce the man insane. The fact that an overt act was committed by a person supposing he was doing God's will would indicate delusion, said the witness, but not an insane delusion. Dr. Orpheus Evarts, of College Hill, Ohio, testified that he had treated 4,000 insane patients. From his examination and observation of the prisoner he had formed a clear opinion that he was sane on the 24 of July. Mrs. Scoville was recalled and asked a few unimportant questions, and the trial was then adjourned, the prisoner shouting out, as he was led away, that he was happy, and wished the court, the jury and the American people a happy Christmas.

The thirty-third day and seventh week of the trial opened with the usual large attendance in spite of the stormy weather. The only witness called to the stand during the day was Dr. A. E. Macdonald, superintendent of the New York City Insane asylum on Ward's Island, whose testimony was of the greatest importance and was exceedingly damaging to the defense. Dr. Macdonald said that he did not believe in the existence of hereditary insanity or of moral insanity. This last, he said, was merely another name invented for wickedness or craft. He did not hesitate to pronounce the assassin sane, and to say that he has been playing a part in the court-room. He entered into an argumentative summing up of the prisoner's conduct, to which Mr. Scoville objected, but Judge Cox didn't see how it could be helped, since the witness was giving his grounds for thinking the prisoner was feigning. The witness said Guiteau told him in jail that he expected to be pronounced insane and sent to an asylum, but he did not mean to stay there, for, upon looking up the law, he found he could apply for a commission to pass upon his sanity, and such a commission would of course find him sane, and he would be discharged. Guiteau, later in the day, made a partial contradiction of this testimony. The witness went extensively into the subject of insanity, but Guiteau wanted to cut him short, and said there were two kinds of insanity—crank insanity and the kind Abraham was afflicted with, and he belonged to the latter school. Dr. Macdonald was cross-examined by Colonel Reed. Insane persons, he admitted, in some cases deliberated and planned their acts and provided for their escape afterward. The fact that a man previously harmless should without provocation raise an ax against his sister would be no evidence of sanity or insanity.

FORTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

Senate.

Resolutions were adopted directing the secretary of the treasury to furnish to that body the present rates of duties imposed on American manufactured goods by France, Germany and Mexico, and the rates of wages paid operatives in those countries.... Mr. Mitchell introduced a bill relating to the compensation and expenses of pension agents. It fixes the compensation of agents at $4,000, allows fifteen cents for each voucher prepared and paid, and makes provision for actual expenses of rent and fuel.... Mr. Call spoke in explanation of his bill for the protection of homestead settlers. It provides that where a section of public land under an act of Congress granting land to corporations or others has been made prior to a homestead entry, but has not been approved by the government, until after such entry, the homestead entry shall hold good and a patent for the same be issued to the settler upon the completion of the period of settlement required by law. Where the homestead settler has been dispossessed his title is to be defended by and at the expense of the United States and the patents issued in violation of law to be canceled. The bill was referred to the committee on public lands.... The Garfield memorial resolutions were concurred in, and the Senate then adjourned over the holidays.

House.

Mr. McKinley, from the Garfield memorial committee, reported the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The melancholy event of the violent and tragic death of James A. Garfield, late President of the United States, having occurred during the recess of Congress, and the two houses of Congress sharing in the general grief and desiring to manifest their sensibility on the occasion of the public bereavement;

Resolved, That the two houses will assemble in the hall of the House of Representatives on a day and hour to be fixed and announced by the joint committee, and that in the presence of the two houses there assembled, an address on the life and character of James A. Garfield, late President of the United States, be pronounced by the Hon. James G. Blaine; and that the president of the Senate pro tem. and the speaker of the House of Representatives be requested to invite the judges of the supreme court of the United States, the heads of the several departments, the judges of the supreme court, the representatives of foreign governments, the governors of the several States, the general of the army, the admiral of the navy, and such officers as have received the thanks of Congress.

Resolved, further, That the President of the United States be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to Mrs. Lucretia Garfield, and to assure her that the profound sympathy of the two houses of Congress for her deep personal affliction, and their sincere condolence for the late national bereavement.

The speaker announced the standing committees of the House. Mr. Robinson, of New York, offered a resolution, which was referred, calling on the President for the names of all persons claiming to be American citizens who within the past year have been arrested and imprisoned in Great Britain. The House then adjourned over the holidays.

The Department of Agriculture.

In his annual report Mr. Loring, the commissioner of agriculture, says that upon entering upon the discharge of his duties on July 1 last he found an elaborate plan of operations for the year already laid out by his predecessor. Such of the investigations as he thought worthy he has pushed forward with an earnest desire to bring them to legitimate conclusions. The commissioner says: "Provision had been made for investigating the agricultural condition of the Pacific coast; for continuing the work on the artesian well in Colorado; for proceeding with the experiment in the cultivation of the tea-plant; for concluding the investigation into the manufacture of sugar from sorghum; for observations on the existence of pleuro-pneumonia and other contagious diseases of animals, both in this country and in those English ports to which American cattle are exported; for continued examinations into the production of infected hides and into the history; for tests of textile fibers, both animal and vegetable; for a scientific investigation of the habits of insects injurious to vegetation and of the best methods of destroying them, and for the usual work of the various divisions of the department for which appropriations had been made by Congress." All of these subjects have been given the most careful attention both by the commissioner and by experienced experts in the various branches, and the report contains many valuable conclusions arrived at by the department. The expenses of the attempt to cultivate the tea-plant in South Carolina have been somewhat curtailed without detriment to the experiment. One of the experts, Mr. Saunder—who has visited the tea farm established in Summerville, S. C., reports that "the 200 acres of land selected for the experiment are most of them covered with a heavy forest growth, the soil being 'poor, thin, sandy sand' of a character 'to support only the scantiest kind of vegetation.' Of this about fifteen acres had been cleared, and was under a primitive cultivation. On these acres operations were begun in January last. A space was prepared for sowing the tea-seed, and preparation was made for covering the plants, which, when young, suffer severely on being exposed to the sun. The plants were growing well and contributed very materially to the shade." Mr. Saunders reported that with regard to the future prospects of the enterprise, if continued in the line of the present scheme and under the present system, it may be said that there is not much room for encouragement. The property of the soil and the character of the climate, in which frosts sometimes occur, seem to be unfavorable to the production of strong, highly flavored tea, as had already been proved by an experiment in McIntosh, Ga.

The investigation of contagious diseases among domesticated animals has been continued with good results. The results of some of these inquiries, such as the discovery of infected hides on ocean steamers, are already known. The fact has also been established that pleuro-pneumonia exists in several of the Eastern States, although in most cases in a very mild form. Prominence is given to the report of the veterinary surgeons sent to Great Brit