Everything Old.

Why talk so much of the "old" in art?
There's nothing new in the land:
The same old earth, the same old sea,
And the same bright yellow sand!
There's no other way than to dig, and dig,
For the silver and the gold;
And the new but seemeth, to him who dreameth,
For the new is but the old.

For centuries, green, immortal green,
Has mantled the mountain sides;
While ships go out and ships come in,
With the oldest of old tides.
There's no other love but the old, old love,
With its bitter-sweet unrest;
The same in form, through calm and storm,
That stirred old Adam's breast.

The same old moon, with its shining face,
Repeated o'er and o,er;
The same old stars that sang for joy
When chaos was no more.
There's no other way to live and learn,
But the way of eye and ear—
As the prophets learned, when the spirit burned
In their hearts while dwelling here.

The fire we but upon our hearths—
It is only new in name;
Though it leaps and leaps in a youth'ful way,
'Tis part of an ancient flame,
There's no other way to get one's bread
But to plant in the dusky mold;
So the new but seemeth, to him who dreameth—
Aye, the new is but the old!

—*Mrs. M. A. Kidder.*

"THE KING'S BUSINESS."

Slowly and aimlessly out of the village wandered poor, half-witted Nat that pleasant summer afternoon. He had no particular destination, "only goin' somewhere"—his reply always to any question in regard to his movements. During the morning he had been parading the village street, his hat trimmed luxuriantly with feathers, while he sounded forth his own praise through the medium of a tin horn. Of course he had attracted attention. A small array of urchins had surrounded him, front and rear, and he had taken their shouts and teasing remarks for applause and admiration. But now his grandeur was gone. One by one his followers had forsaken him, until at last he was "left alone in his glory," and with poor Nat, like the rest of us, what does glory amount to when there are none to witness?

And so he moved onward in his drifting, uncertain way across the creek at the edge of the village, up the hill, until his stalwart form stood out against the sky—for Nat was strong in body though weak in mind; then he passed down on the other side to where the road entered a forest which stretched for miles away. It was here quiet and lonely, but Nat fancied this. He occasionally liked to escape from human voices and human habitations, to get away by himself and talk with the birds, the trees and the flowers. Here he threw off the vail which was area of his brain found full play. Here no one disputed his claims to greatness, no one denied his being a noted general, a gifted orator or musician, when the fancy seized him to be such. In fact Nat always had "greatness thrust upon him;" he was never an ordinary man in his own estimation, and he was not now.

But on this occasion a new fancy had taken possession of him—he was on business for the King. What King, or what was the particular business he did not precisely know, but he had derived his idea from various sermons he had heard at the village church and Sunday-school, which he attended with scrupulous punctuality through all weathers, and although he understood but little of the proceedings, yet chance sentences had fastened themselves on his sluggish brain.

"I'm on business for the King," he muttered, reaching up his great strong hand and wrenching a huge overhanging branch from its place and speedily converting it into a walking stick. "Yes, I'm on business for the King, the King of all around here, the birds, the trees, the flowers and the bumble-bees. He sent me, He did. Parson said so t'other Sunday. He said the King sent out his messengers to do his work. He sent out twelve on 'em once't, an' they wasn't to take no money in their purse nor nothin' to eat. He sent me, 'cause I hain't got no money an' hain't had nothin' to eat all day."

He strode onward, murmuring his thoughts as he went, until after a time he came upon a public road which ran through the wood. A placard fastened to a tree by the roadside attracted his attention, and he paused to consider it. He could not read, but as his eyes were fixed upon the printed characters the tinkle of a cow-bell was heard down the road, and presently a cow came into view, followed by the short, sturdy figure and round, freckled face of Tommy Brock. Tommy was flourishing a large stick and shouting at the cow in his efforts to keep her in a proper homeward direction. As he came up he exclaimed:

"Hello, Nat! What are you doin' here?"

"I'm on business for the King," replied Nat, with dignity.

"On business for—who?" asked Tommy, in surprise.

"For the King. He sent me," said Nat, again. "That's his orders there, I take it," pointing to the placard. "What is it, Tommy?"

"That? Why that's only an advertisement," answered Tommy, his eyes opening wider in his astonishment. "It says, 'Go to Tracey's Half-Way house for a square meal.'"

"Yes, I know'd it! I know'd it!" exclaimed Nat, exultingly. "The King said take no money nor nothin' to eat, an' He'd take keer of me. He says 'Go,' an' I'll obey orders," and instantly his tall figure was moving swiftly down the road.

Tommy gazed after him a minute in bewildered silence, and then exclaimed emphatically as he turned away:

"My! he ain't he cracked!"

With rapid steps Nat hurried forward, swinging his huge stick and talking to himself. He had taken the phrase as a veritable command to go to Tracey's, and thitherward he directed his steps. It was not the first time he had been there. On previous occasions when he passed that way he had been kindly treated by Mrs. Tracey, and perhaps that had something to do with the alacrity of his movement, and he hastened down the road till it brought him to a small stream, on the bank of which stood a sawmill. Mr. Tracey, the owner of the Half-way house, was engaged at work here, and he turned aside to speak to him.

"I'm on business for the King, and I'm going to your house," he announced with the dignified gravity that belonged to his royal commission.

"On business for the King, and goin' to my house, eh?" answered the person addressed, a good-natured smile crossing his kindly face. "Well, I reckon that's a high honor to me. You've got a tramp afore you, though, Nat—a good seven miles."

"I must obey orders," replied Nat, simply.

"That's right—obey orders. Well, if you do go tell Mrs. Tracey I'll be home to-morrow night. Tell her, too, not to be uneasy about that money bein' in the house, 'cause I'll see to it when I come."

"What money's that?" asked a fellow workman as Nat turned away.

"My pension. My claim was allowed last week, and I got my money—five hundred dollars—yesterday. I was foolish not to put it in the bank right off, but I didn't, and as I didn't have time to go to town yesterday I had to leave it at home. I reckon it's safe enough, till to-morrow night, and then—"

"Hist!" interrupted his companion, suddenly. "What's that?"

Tracey paused to listen.

"I didn't hear anything," he said.

"I thought I heard some one over there," pursued the other, pointing to a large, high pile of boards a few feet distant—the boards being piled in form of a square, with a large cavity in the center. "Most likely it was rats, though."

"More likely to be rats than anything else, there's so many about here," answered Tracey. Then he added, jocularly: "Maybe, though, it's them burglars that's been playin mischief 'round these parts for the last week or so—maybe they're stowed away in that pile of lumber. My! if I really believed that I'd be uneasy myself, for the chaps would have heard all I said about my pension."

"What burglars is that?" inquired the other.

"What burglars? Why, man, don't you read the papers? Why, only yesterday the sheriff and his deputies rode by my house on the hunt for 'em. Last Saturday night they broke into Lawyer Barker's house in the village and carried off about a hundred dollars, and then on Sunday night they got into the railroad station, broke open the safe, and made off with about three hundred more. That's the biggest of their hauls, though they've entered several other places."

The conversation was continued on this topic for a few minutes, and then dropped. Neither of the men thought it worth while to investigate the cause of the noise, and they pursued their work for a short time and were then called over to the other side of the mill. Just as they disappeared a face peered over the top of the board pile from the inside, another followed a moment later, and presently two rough, villainous-looking men came into view, and seeing they were unobserved, sprang quickly to the ground and hastened into the forest.

"Close shave that, as bein' as we was hid there all last night and all day till now," said one, as he pushed through the underbrush.

"Yes; I thought as once them mill chaps was a comin' to look," responded the other. "Good for 'em as they didn't, an' took us for rats; 'cause the p'lice be on the lookout now an' we don't want to use no shootin' irons an' make things too hot. We must move out lively from 'ere, Bill."

"Not till we get that 'ere pension," answered Bill, significantly. "That lay-out were as good as pitched at us, an' it'd be a pity not to take it. 'Sides, the gov'ment owes me a pension for all the time I've lost in jails and prisons, an' this ere's a good chance to get it. I know where the crib is, 'cause we stopped there last week for somethin' to eat, don't you mind? This fellow that owns it was there at the time. There is nobody but a woman an' two little uns, an' they're easy fixed, an' there ain't no other house nigh."

"But there's that 'ere other chap as said as he was gom' there?"

"H:m? He's crazy, an' if he goes there at all he'll only stop a bit an' move on. A tap on the head 'll settle him, anyway, if he's there—but then he won't be there."

During this time Nat was not idle. His tall form, with long and steady stride, was hastening forward "on business for the King." It did not occur to him what he should do when he reached Tracey's and had been supplied with food. At present he was "obeying orders"—and beyond that his thought did not go. It was indeed a long walk he had undertaken, and it was just at dusk that he reached his destination. The Half-way house was a lonely hostelry, situated at the intersection of two roads, with no other house in sight, and was a common stopping-place for persons passing to and from the city. Nat stepped boldly upon the broad piazza in front, and with full consciousness of his right walked unhesitatingly into the pleasant sitting room. Mrs. Tracey came forward to meet him.

"Why, Nat, is that you?"

"Yes'm," he answered gravely. "I was told to come here an' get a square meal. The King sent me."

"The King sent you? Well I guess I'll have to give you a supper then," said she. "And by the way, Nat, did you see my husband on your way here?"

"Yes'm; and he said for me to tell you he'd be home to-morrer night, an' for you not to be uneasy 'bout that money."

"Oh, dear! I did so hope he'd come this evening," she sighed.

She was indeed uneasy on account of the money in the house. She had slept but little the preceding night for thinking of it, and had worried about it all through the day, and now another lonely night was before her. As she was preparing supper for her guest another thought came to her. Could she not induce Nat to stop there for the night? His notion of wandering made it an uncertain request, and even if he remained, with his beclouded intellect, he could not be depended on in case of trouble. Still he would be company, and perhaps he might aid her—she prayed for that—if she needed help.

"Nat," she said, as she poured out a glass of milk for him, "won't you stay here to-night?"

"I don't know whether it be orders," he answered, uncertainly. "Parson said the King sent out His messengers, an' they wasn't to take no money nor nothin' to eat, an' I don't know if it be right to stop."

"Oh, yes, it is," replied Mrs. Tracey, catching at once an idea of his thoughts. "I heard what the parson said, too. When the King's messenger entered a house he was to abide there—that is to stop. Don't you remember?"

Nat considered the proposition.

"Yes'm, that's His orders. I'll stop," he said.

"And, Nat," pursued the lady, rendered eager by her success, "there's another thing the King said—you heard it at Sunday-school. He said, 'Suffer little children to come unto me'—that is such little children as mine there," pointing to them as they stood at her side. "And the King said, too, 'Whosoever shall offend one of these little ones it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.' The King doesn't wish any harm to come to His little ones, in any way—you remember that?"

"Yes'm," replied Nat, absently.

"Well, then," continued Mrs. Tracey, driving the concluding nail into her argument, "if any bad, wicked men should come here to-night and try to hurt me or these little ones that belong to the King, you would help us, wouldn't you?"

She waited anxiously for the reply. Nat looked at her vaguely for a moment, and then his eyes wandered aimlessly about the room, and then back to her. Finally he said, quietly:

"The King sent me. I'll obey orders."

How far he understood she did not know, and all her effort could draw out no more definite reply, and with that she was obliged to be content. As the evening grew late she provided her guest with a sleeping place, in an adjoining room, by throwing a few quilts on the floor—for Nat would sleep nowhere else—and then she lay down, without undressing, on a bed beside her children. But it was a long time before slumber visited her troubled spirit.

As for Nat, no thought of worry or anxiety for the future was on his mind, and he "slept the sleep of the just" and his dreams were peaceful. But after a time those dreams became disturbed and discordant—a voice seemed to be calling him from his King, and presently he awakened with a start.

"Nat! help! Nat, the King wants you!" came in smothered tones from the other room.

In an instant he sprang lightly to his feet, and grasping his stick he strode forward and opened the door. A fearful struggle met his view as he entered. Two rough, evil-looking men were there—one holding Mrs. Tracey, the other the children—and the villains were evidently trying to bind and gag their victims. As Nat witnessed the scene his tall form seemed to tower yet higher, and a strange, fierce light gleamed from his eyes.

"I belong to the King!" he thundered. "How dare you offend His little ones?"

At this unexpected intrusion one of the burglars released his hold of Mrs. Tracey, and sprang forward with an oath to meet him. But it was in vain. The great stick was whirled in the air, and then came down with fearful force on the head of the villain, and he sank senseless to the floor. The remaining burglar hastened to his comrade's assistance, but he was like a child in the hands of a giant, and in a moment he, too, was helpless and motionless. Nat stooped and drew the two insensible forms toward him.

"Now bring them ropes, and I'll hang a"—he paused, and left the sentence unfinished. "But there ain't no millstones 'bout here to hang 'round their necks!" he added, looking up bewildered. "Do you b'lieve a big rock would do? I must obey orders."

"No, I don't believe a rock would do," replied Mrs. Tracey, smiling in spite of her alarm. "But they will be coming to presently; I would just tie their hands and feet and leave them until morning."

"Yes'm, so I will. The King said tie 'em hand and foot—that his orders. They won't offend His little ones any more," and in a few minutes Nat had them safely secured.

I need not tell of the night that followed, of how Nat kept sleepless guard over his captives, and of how, when morning came and help came with it, the burglars were safely lodged in the county jail. All that is easily surmised. But at last Nat was a hero—not only in his own eyes but in the eyes of all others. He bore his honors meekly and with dignity, as a right belonging to a servant of the King. He accepted the numerous congratulations and handshakings, wondering, perhaps, what it all meant, and replying to the questions heaped upon him with the simple statement: "I just obeyed orders." Nothing, however, could induce him to accept any reward for his services. The royal command was to take no bread, no money in his purse, and he would not.

But Nat did not lack for friends after that. He still continued his wandering, and, as the story spread, homes and hearts were open to him everywhere. But it was at Tracey's that he was more especially welcomed, and as the years came and went it was noticed that his visits became more frequent and his stays more prolonged. Indeed, as Tracey expresses it:

"He'll get his orders to come here and die yet, I reckon; an' he's welcome to all the care we can give him. An' I just believe that away up in that other world we read about he'll be as clear-headed as anybody, and in genaine earnest will be forever 'on business for the King.'"—*Erskine M. Hamilton, in Our Continent.*

A Fearful Swim for Life.

A correspondent, writing from El Dorado Canon, Nev., says: Another of our old-timers has been swallowed up by the treacherous Colorado. Barney Coleman and Benjamin Gooch, accompanied by two Indians, started up the river one morning recently in a skiff for the purpose of catching drift-wood. After reaching a point between twelve and fifteen miles up the river the boat, becoming unmanageable, was drawn into an eddy and disappeared in an instant. The skiff at the time was near a steep cliff of rocks, whose walls were two hundred feet in height, and the Indians, observing that the eddy was about swallowing the boat and crew, jumped out and clung to the rocks and Gooch endeavored to do the same thing after them. He secured a slight hold to the perpendicular sides of the cliff, clung to it only for a moment, then fell into the water and was seen no more. Coleman sprang from the stern of the skiff out into the river and got beyond the eddy, where he watched for the appearance of the boat. He had not long to wait, but it seemed to him ages, when he caught sight of it, bottom upward, a few yards down the river, when he swam after it, overtaking and clinging to it.

In this condition, for three miles, he went shooting past rocks, plowing through breakers and whirling about in eddies, when he came face to face with one of those roaring rapids and treacherous eddies so numerous and so dreadful in the Colorado. There was no time to lose. Another chance between life and death, and that chance perhaps not the only one in a thousand. The resolution was formed one moment and executed the next. The skiff was in the midst of the rapids, standing on end; another breaker and over it went. This was an indescribable moment to Coleman, whose sole reliance had deserted him, as he felt a prisoner in the hands of death, and though he had scarcely known his strength before here was a desperate opportunity for its test, and he says that he felt that he was a mere straw at the mercy of a wave one second and an eddy the next.

Here was waged a fierce and protracted struggle for life between a powerful man and skillful swimmer, weighing 225 pounds, and first a whirlpool and then a rapid, whose force and size and danger can never be realized except by the man whose life was trembling in the balance, but courage and human strength at last prevailed, and the brave man swam on over rapids and through whirlpools for the distance of three of as perilous miles as was probably ever won by man. Who can imagine his feelings as he reached in safety and crawled upon the river bank, where he lay for some time completely exhausted? As soon as he had regained sufficient strength, Coleman set out for the canon, and, shoeless and naked, after a tramp of six miles over the barren, rocky mountains and through deep canons of burning sand in the heat of a broiling sun, he arrived, his feet bleeding and fearfully lacerated by the sharp rocks.

Superstitions of the Hand.

The hand has been honored with a very extended folk lore, and the following extract from an old writer shows that nearly every peculiarity of the hand has been emblematic of some personal trait of character. Thus, we are told: A great thick hand signifies one not only strong, but stout; a little slender hand, one not only weak, but timorous; a long hand and long fingers betoken a man not only apt for mechanical artifice but liberally ingenious. Those short, on the contrary, denote a fool and fit for nothing; a hard, brawny hand signifies one dull and rude; a soft hand, one witty, but effeminate; a hairy hand, one luxurious. Long joints signify generosity; yet, if they be thick withal, one not so ingenious. The often clapping and folding of the hands note covetousness, and their much moving in speech, loquacity. Short and fat fingers mark a man out as intemperate and silly; but long and lean as witty. If his fingers crook upward, that shows him liberal; if downward niggar ly. Long nails and crooked signify one to be brutish, ravenous and unchaste; very short nails, pale and sharp, show him subtle and beguiling." Among other omens, we are told that the itching of the right hand signifies that it will shortly receive money, whereas if the left hand be the one to itch, it is a sign that money will before very many days have to be paid away.

The nails also have their folk fore, the little specks which are seen on them being regarded as ominous. Many have their particular days for cutting the nails. Of the numerous rhymes on the subject we may quote the following as a specimen, from which it will be seen that every day has its peculiar virtue:

"Cut them on Monday, you cut them for health;
Cut them on Tuesday, you cut them for wealth;
Cut them on Wednesday, you cut them for news;
Cut them on Thursday, a pair of new shoes;
Cut them on Friday, you cut them for sorrow;
Cut them on Saturday, see your true love to-morrow;
Cut them on Sunday, the devil will be with you all the week."

This old rhyming saw differs in various localities, although in the main points it is the same; as by general consent both Friday and Sunday are regarded as most inauspicious days for cutting both the nails and hair.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Eastern and Middle States.

THE Delaware Republicans at their State convention in Dover nominated Albert Curry for governor.

GEORGE ALLEN, an old and well-known miner, with a comrade, John Lewis, were instantly killed by the falling of the roof at the Mount Pleasant mines in the Scranton (Pa.) region.

ON the day that the thermometer jumped up to ninety-nine in the shade in New York city, 194 deaths occurred in the metropolis from the excessive heat.

MRS. ELIZABETH HUNTER, thirty-two years old, the wife of a well-known Philadelphia politician, reached for a pistol which she had concealed in bed and shot herself through the temple, inflicting a fatal wound. Mr. Hunter was sleeping at her side when she committed the deed.

JAMES E. MAINE, aged seventy years, hanged himself in his cottage at Asbury Park, N. J. Loss of money, it is thought, had affected his reason.

CASHIER J. N. CRAFT, of the Franklin (Pa.) Exchange bank, looked upon as a most exemplary young man, was discovered to be a defaulter in the sum of about $70,000. He had used the money in speculation.

THREE young men while asleep on the railroad track near Jamestown, N. Y., were struck by a train, and two of them—John Awnwender and G. Leucher—were killed and the third was badly injured.

A FIRE in New York destroyed Hocker's immense flour mills—a building nine stories high—three tenement houses and a stable, doing an estimated damage of $700,000.

MRS. OGDEN, a wealthy and charitable lady of Philadelphia, was burned to death by the explosion of a kerosene lamp that she was carrying.

South and West.

MARTIN BECKET, committed to jail at Hampton Court House, S. C., for assaulting a white girl twelve years old, was taken from confinement by a crowd and lynched.

DR. D. F. COLLINS, of Minneapolis, Minn., brother of Jerome J. Collins, the journalist, who lost his life with Lieutenant De Long, commander of the Jeannette, wishes Congress to make an investigation. Dr. Collins charges that after the Melville-Danenhower party reached a place of safety, Danenhower asked permission to search for DeLong and his party, but that Melville refused, and ordered Danenhower south, saying he would make the search himself; that Melville soon afterward went south himself without making a thorough search, and remained south until he received instructions from Washington to return North; and Dr. Collins alleges that all the circumstances since developed show that had Melville made an energetic search at the beginning, or permitted Danenhower to do so, De Long and his party would have been saved. Dr. Collins also alleges that the jealousy which existed among the officers of the expedition was such as to make failure a certainty from the start; that entering the ice pack was an inexcusable blunder; that in the retreat inferior boats and instruments were taken and better ones left on board. He also alleges that the provisions with which the Jeannette was fitted out were inferior in quality and insufficient in quantity. Dr. Collins concludes: "Danenhower is anxious for an investigation and will have strong evidence to present. He expressed to me a willingness to tell the whole story to an investigating board, but will otherwise keep a close mouth. Dr. Newcomb is also ready for it. In my opinion, if an investigation is made, it will demonstrate beyond doubt that De Long's party might have been saved."

TWO freight trains collided four miles from McGregor, Iowa, on the Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad. Fireman Myron Hibbard and two tramps were killed and several persons were injured.

THE Missouri Democratic State convention at Jefferson City nominated a full ticket and adopted a platform in conformity with the principles of the party.

A SECRET organization has been formed in Arizona and New Mexico to wipe out the marauding Apaches, who are killing the whites and carrying off their property whenever they get a chance.

IN a heavy thunder-storm at Smyrna, Tenn., five negroes were struck by lightning, one of them receiving fatal injuries.

A FIRE at New Orleans destroyed four business houses, causing a total estimated loss of $150,000.

THE governor of Iowa has issued a proclamation declaring the result of the election on the adoption of the prohibition amendment to be 155,436 votes for adoption and 125,677 against, being a majority for adoption of 29,759. He commands all persons to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

HENRY CALDWELL, a colored man, in jail at Ironton, Mo., on the charge of having assaulted a white woman over sixty years old, was taken from prison by a crowd of masked men and hanged to a bridge.

AT Steubenville, Ohio, John Harter, of the St. Charles hotel, becoming enraged at Dr. Johnson, a boarder in the hotel, sought to attack him in his rooms. Harter's father endeavored to pacify him, whereupon John drew a revolver on his father. A younger brother named Ed, a jeweler, ran to his father's assistance and rushed between them just in time to receive in the left breast, near the heart, a bullet fired at his father, killing him instantly. John, who was under indictment for killing another man some months ago, was lodged in jail.

SEVERAL deaths from yellow fever having occurred at Brownsville and at Matamoras, both Texas towns, a quarantine against them was established by surrounding points.

A WATERSPOUT in the vicinity of Millersburg, Ohio, swept away a number of bridges and houses and drowned live stock.

ADAM A. HARMESS, a colored man, alleged to be 120 years old, died the other day in McKinney, Texas.

NEARLY every State was represented by exhibits at the opening of the National Mining exhibition in Denver, Col. The opening address was made by Hon. William D. Kelley, of Pennsylvania. The object of the exhibition is to show the extent and richness of the mining resources of the West.

SIXTY freight cars were wrecked by a collision and then burned near South Bend, Ind. Several tramps are supposed to have perished, and the pecuniary loss is estimated at $150,000.

AT the South Carolina Democratic State convention held in Columbia Colonel Hugh S. Thompson, State superintendent of education, was nominated for governor, and John C. Sheppard, speaker of the house, for lieutenant-governor.

A SUDDEN rise in the Licking river (Ky.), which flows into the Ohio river, opposite Cincinnati, caused considerable destruction of property at the latter city and elsewhere. The aggregate damage done exceeds $60,000.

From Washington

DURING the past fiscal year the entire collections of internal revenue taxes amounted to $146,520,273.71. The expenses of collecting that amount will not exceed $5,108,300.

THE Senate, in executive session, confirmed the following nominations: Merritt L. Joslyn, of Illinois, to be assistant secretary of the interior; Lewis Richmond, of Rhode Island, to be secretary of legation and consul general of the United States at Rome; George M. Sabin, to be United States district judge of Nevada.

FOR river and harbor improvements the bill passed by both houses appropriates $18,743,875.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL BREWSTER has given an opinion that the law just passed by Congress providing for the retirement of army officers at the age of sixty-four does not repeal the law of 1878, which fixes the number of officers on the retired list at 400. When the retired officers reach that number, therefore, more retirements will not be valid.

THE President has approved the act appropriating $50,000 for Mrs. Lucretia Garfield, less any amount paid James A. Garfield on account of his salary as President of the United States.

FOLLOWING are further nominations confirmed by the Senate: James Riley Weaver of West Virginia, to be secretary of legation and consul general of the United States at Vienna; John T. Robeson, of Tennessee, to be consul of the United States at Beirut; James C. Tolman to be surveyor general at Oregon.

THE Senate in executive session, without any further debate, reconsidered the vote by which the nomination of Mr. Daniel Lanning to be postmaster at Penn Yan, N. Y., was defeated a week previous, and Mr. Lanning was confirmed.

THE House committee on foreign affairs has made a report embodying the results of its inquiry into the fate of certain papers missing from the files of the state department and the conduct of certain ministers plenipotentiary of the United States in reference to questions growing out of the war between Chili and Peru. The report says that the committee are of opinion that the missing papers from the files of the state department were not of such character or importance as to furnish a motive for purloining them from the files or for destroying them, but that their loss suggests the propriety of greater caution in the future on the part of those having such papers in charge. After going over the evidence submitted to it the committee in conclusion says that "the missing papers, with one exception, have been replaced by correct copies of the same," and that "no minister plenipotentiary of the United States was either personally interested or improperly connected with transactions in which the intervention of this government was requested or expected in the affairs of Chili and Peru in such manner as to call for action on the part of the House of Representatives."

DURING July the national debt was reduced $13,860,027.52, leaving the principal at $1,675,054,433.20, and cash in the treasury, $241,098,031.52.

THE total coinage at the various United States mints during July was 2,722,350 pieces, worth $3,152,850.

LAST month the total receipts from customs were $37,822,667, and the expenditures were less than $20,000,000.

Foreign News.

EMIGRATION from Germany to America thus far this year has decreased by 10,000 as compared with the same period of 1881.

JOHN BRIGHT a few days since received twenty-five American dry goods clerks at his residence in London. The lord mayor subsequently entertained the party at lunch.

PORTIONS of Japan have been visited by very disastrous fires and floods.

BY a railroad collision in Canada thirteen cars and two locomotives were totally wrecked. The engine driver, Ed. Barns, aged sixty-seven, of Brockville, was killed and a number of passengers were injured.

IN the French chamber of deputies M. de Freycinet proposed the vote of credit for Egyptian expenses, declaring that it was a question of confidence in the cabinet. The chamber at once rejected the credit by a vote of 450 to 76. All the ministers thereupon tendered their resignations.

THE Mexican revenue for the last fiscal year was $27,500,000, an increase of $4,500,000 over the previous year.

FIFTY houses and a wooden bridge have been burned on the Krestovsky island, in the Neva, one of the islands on which St. Petersburg is built.

England and the Egyptians.

Arabi Pasha has written to the sultan: "I trust it is false that, as the enemies of Islam assert, Ottoman troops are coming to Egypt, as I should have to oppose them by force."

The Cairo *Official Gazette* publishes a letter from Arabi Pasha which declares that any person found in possession of the proclamation dismissing Arabi Pasha from the ministry circulated by the khedive's emissaries, will be court martialed. The army will do its duty and defend the country to the last extremity. It is commercial and political interests of the powers do not induce them to stop the British invasion, a terrible struggle must ensue. Some Italians, Swiss, Germans and French remain in the public administration, and continue to receive marks of confidence, notwithstanding British intrigues to depopulate Egypt.

Admiral Seymour, commander of the British naval forces, has addressed the following letter to the khedive: "Regarding the false statements circulated by Arabi Pasha and those acting under his orders, I think it right to repeat that Great Britain has no intention of conquering Egypt for herself, or of interfering in anyway with the religion or liberties of the Egyptians. Her only object is to protect the khedive and Egyptians against the rebels. Great Britain is determined to suppress the rebellion and restore order. I beg you will warn the soldiers not to obey the rebel commanders. The British government advises the Egyptians to regard Arabi Pasha and his accomplices as traitors to their sovereign and enemies to themselves and their country."

An official telegram from the government of Arabi Bey, dated Cairo, says: "The khedive having issued a decree dismissing Arabi Pacha from the ministry for neglecting to defend Alexandria, and having published a proclamation declaring that England is the friend of Egypt, Arabi Pacha has called on the country, of which he is the submissive servant, to pronounce its will in the matter. At a great meeting called for Saturday, comprising Ulmas, Cadis, the Coptic patriarch, heads of the Armenian, Greek and Maronite communities, various high functionaries, mudirs, notables, and leading merchants, in all 364 persons, moving speeches were delivered, especially by Ali Bey, under secretary to the khedive, who recounted outrageous assaults of English sailors upon Alexandrian women. The meeting, with only three dissentients, decided to maintain Arabi so that he might defend the country until the conclusion of a satisfactory peace or the total extermination of his forces. All decrees to the contrary were declared annulled, as the khedive was beyond the pale of Mussulman law. It was resolved that the decision of the meeting be submitted to the Porte. Cousins of the khedive, who were present at the meeting, declared that Tewfik would be khedive if he sided with the country and the army, but that under the present circumstances he is either a prisoner or a puppet of the British, and his authority might be repudiated. Immense numbers of people paraded the streets last evening, shouting: 'Victory to friends of Egypt against aggressors.'"

The departure of the Scots guards, 750 strong, for Egypt, caused much excitement in London. There was a great crowd of people outside the barracks and the troops took their departure amid tremendous enthusiasm. The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, the Duke of Cambridge, commander-in-chief of the forces, and the Right Honorable Hugh C. Childers, secretary of state for war, went on a special steamer to meet the Orient as she left the dock. The crowd at the barracks was so dense that the leading files of the guards were lifted off their feet.

An Alexandria dispatch says: Midshipman De Chair, of the ironclad Alexandra, who was sent to Ramleh on Saturday morning on horseback with important dispatches containing Admiral Seymour's directions regarding the proposed reduction of the Aboukir forts, all indorsed by the khedive, has been captured by Arabi and is now held as a prisoner. De Chair was provided by the khedive with a guard of natives as an escort. The natives had all along been secretly loyal to Arabi, and when they left De Chair beyond the British outposts they overpowered him, made him prisoner and conducted him into Arabi's camp at Kafr-el-Dwar. There he was searched, his dispatches seized and he was placed under guard as a prisoner of war. Subsequently, word was sent to the British of what had been done. The natives are becoming very insolent toward the British, and whenever they meet small bodies of British troops they taunt them to fight. Arabi is still parleying with the khedive. The sultan has intimated that no terms will be made except unconditional surrender. A traveler who has just arrived here from Sinai reports that Arabi Pasha has issued a manifesto declaring that the Khedive Tewfik has sold Egypt to the British and had retired to England. Arabi therefore ordered the people to obey him until the Prophet has enlightened him to find a worthier khedive. Six Mudirs of Upper Egypt have been ordered to supply five hundred horses and six hundred and fifty camels to the forces of Arabi. The governor of the town of Minieh, 136 miles southwest of Cairo, endeavored to resist the attempt of Arabi to interrupt railway communication, but was sent to Cairo and imprisoned in the citadel. The railway trains in Egypt are searched and Christians are murdered.

FORTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

Senate.

The revenue bill was discussed....A bill to appropriate $25,000 for the removal of the bodies of Lieutenant De Long and his eleven companions from their present place of burial in Siberia to the United States was reported....The naval appropriation bill was considered.

The motion of Mr. Cameron, of Pennsylvania, to recommit the naval bill, with instructions to eliminate all general legislation changing existing laws in regard to the navy, was defeated by a vote of 29 to 34.

The House bill increasing the pay of letter-carriers in cities of over 75,000 inhabitants to $1,000, $800 and $600 was passed without amendment....The Senate bill providing for the publication of the tenth census was passed. It provides for the printing of additional copies of the reports on population, agriculture, manufactures and mechanics, fish and fisheries, history of the National loan and the compendium of the census, and appropriates for this purpose $678,000. It also provides for the distribution of complete sets of these reports to libraries and other public institutions throughout the country, their allotment to congressmen (to be distributed by the secretary of the interior), each senator to be entitled to order fifteen and each representative ten sets.

The sundry civil appropriation bill was reported back with amendments and placed on the calendar....The bills to regulate the carriage of passengers by sea and to regulate emigration were passed....The naval appropriation bill was further considered, and several amendments were adopted.

The naval appropriation bill was further amended and passed....The sundry civil appropriation bill was taken up and considered....A motion to reconsider the vote on the House head-money emigration bill was lost.... The Senate bill to prevent and punish the counterfeiting within the United States of notes, bonds and other securities of foreign governments was passed.

Consideration of the sundry civil appropriation bill was resumed and rapid progress was made....Mr. Bayard from the conference on the Japanese indemnity bill reported a disagreement....A House bill was passed authorizing a public building at Williamsport, Pa., to cost $100,000;....The House joint resolution authorizing the issue of two per cent. bonds was reported adversely.

House.

The conference report on the river and harbor bill was agreed to.....The Senate joint resolutions were passed granting to the widows of Stephen A. Hurlbut, Judson Kilpatrick, and Henry H. Garnet, late minister to Liberia, the salaries of their husbands for one year.

The Senate bill granting the right of way through the land of the Choctaw Nation of Indians was passed.

The Senate bill to place General Grant on the retired list was referred to the committee on military affairs....The bill to place Lieutenant S. C. Barney on the retired list of the navy was passed....The joint resolution was reported back instructing the secretary of the navy to convene a court of inquiry relative to the loss of the Jeannette.

Mr. Williams, from the committee on foreign affairs, submitted a report upon the Chili-Peru investigation....Senate bill appropriating $678,624 for printing and binding the Tenth census was passed.

Veto of the River and Harbor Bill.

Following is the full text of the President's message vetoing the river and harbor appropriation bill:

To the House of Representatives:

Having watched with much interest the progress of House bill No. 6,242, entitled "An Act making appropriations for the construction, repair and preservation of certain works on rivers and harbors and for other purposes," and having since it was received carefully examined it, after mature consideration I am constrained to return it herewith to the House of Representatives, in which it originated, without my signature and with my objections to its passage.

Many of the appropriations in the bill are clearly for the general welfare and most beneficial in their character. Two of the objects for which provision is made were by me considered so important that I felt it my duty to direct them to the attention of Congress. In my annual message in December last I urged the vital importance of legislation for the reclamation of the marshes and for the establishment of the levee lines along the Potomac front. In April last, by special message, I recommended an appropriation for the improvement of the Mississippi river. It is not necessary that I say that when my signature would make the bill appropriating for those and other valuable national objects a law, it is with great reluctance and only under a sense of duty that I withhold it. My principal objection to the bill is that it contains appropriations for purposes not for the common defense or general welfare, and which do not promote commerce among the States. These provisions on the contrary are entirely for the benefit of the particular localities in which it is proposed to make the improvements. I regard such appropriation of the public money as beyond the powers given by the Constitution to Congress and the President. I feel the more bound to withhold my signature from the bill because of the peculiar evils which manifestly result from this infraction of the Constitution. Appropriations of this nature to be devoted purely to local objects tend to increase in number and in amount. As the citizens of one State find that money—to raise which they in common with the whole country are taxed—is to be expended for local improvements in another State, they demand similar benefits for themselves, and it is not unnatural that they should seek to indemnify themselves for such use of the public funds by securing appropriations for similar improvements in their own neighborhood. Thus, as the bill becomes more objectionable it secures more support. This result is invariable and necessarily follows a neglect to observe the constitutional limitations imposed upon the law-making power.

The appropriations for river and harbor improvements have, under the influences of which I have alluded, increased year by year out of proportion to the progress of the country, great as that has been. In 1870 the aggregate appropriations were $3,975,000; in 1875, $6,648,517.50; in 1880, $8,976,500, and in 1881, $11,451,300; while by the present act there is appropriated $18,743,875.

While feeling every disposition to leave to the legislative branch of the responsibility of determining what amount should be appropriated for the purposes of the bill so long as the appropriations are confined to objects indicated by the grant of power, I cannot escape the conclusion that as a part of the law-making power of the government the duty devolves upon me to withhold my signature from the bill containing appropriations which in my opinion greatly exceed in amount the needs of the country for the present fiscal year. It being the usage to provide money for these purposes by annual appropriation bills, the President is in effect directed to expend so large an amount of money within a brief a period that the expenditure cannot be made economically and advantageously.

The extravagant expenditure of public money is an evil not to be measured by the value of that money to the people who are taxed for it. They sustain a greater injury in the demoralizing effect produced upon those who are intrusted with official duty through all the ramifications of government. These objections should be removed and every constitutional purpose readily obtained should Congress enact that one-half only of the aggregate amount provided for in the bill be appropriated for expenditure during the fiscal year, and that the sum so appropriated be expended only for such objects named in the bill as the secretary of war under the direction of the President shall determine, provided that in no case shall the expenditure for any one purpose exceed the estimated amount specified for that purpose. I feel authorized to make this suggestion because of the duty imposed upon the President by the Constitution to recommend to the consideration of Congress such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient, and because it is my earnest desire that the public works which are in progress shall suffer no injury. Congress will also convene again in four months, when this whole subject will be open for full consideration.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

Executive Mansion, August 1, 1882.

Life's Brightest Hour.

"I will tell you when was the happiest hour of my life," said a man of great wealth the other day. "At the age of one and twenty I had saved up eight hundred dollars; I was earning five hundred dollars a year, and my father did not take it from me, only requiring that I should pay my board. At the age of twenty-one I had secured a pretty cottage just outside the city. I was to pay two-thirds of the money down, and also to furnish it respectably. I was married on Sunday, a Sunday in June, at my father's house. My wife had come to me poor in purse, but rich in wealth of womanhood. The Sabbath and the Sabbath night we passed beneath my father's roof, and on Monday morning I went to my work, leaving my mother and sister to help in preparing my home. On Monday evening, when the labors of the day were done, I went not to the parental shelter, as in the days past, but to my own home. The holy atmosphere of the hour seems to surround me even now, in memory. I opened the door of the cottage and entered. I laid my hat upon the little stand in the h