

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Mississippi Legislature has adopted a memorial to Congress in favor of the Eads Ship Railway scheme.

Work was begun on the 23d in Roach's ship yard at Chester on an iron steamship line. It is the first vessel started there for more than a year.

Another cold wave, more severe than its recent predecessor, has appeared in the Northwest, accompanied by a snow blizzard.

The State Agricultural Society in session at Harrisburg on the 20th elected the following officers: President A. Wilhelm; Vice President, William M. Singler; Secretaries, D. W. Seales and Elbridge McConkey; Treasurer, J. B. Rutherford.

The County Poorhouse at Jackson, Michigan, was burned about 1 o'clock, the 24th. Five of the inmates, whose ages ranged from 60 to 92 years, perished in the flames—three of them were insane, one deaf and one blind.

Dorman B. Eaton on the 23d sent to the President a letter offering his resignation as Civil Service Commissioner, to take effect on the 9th of March.

James T. Farley, ex-U. S. Senator from California, died on the 21st, aged 55 years. He was a native of Virginia, but removed with his parents to California, where he adopted the profession of the law.

It is reported from Monterey that General Trevino has been appointed Mexican Minister to Spain, and ex-President Gonzalez Mexican Minister to France.

Joseph Rankin, Representative in Congress from the Fifth District of Wisconsin, died on the 24th in Washington.

The annual election for directors of the Baltimore Corn and Flour Exchange, held on the 25th, resulted in the choice of the following: Edson M. Schriver, Henry A. Parr, Robert S. Fowler, George T. Kenly, Samuel F. George, Hiram G. Dudley, George W. Titlow, Charles D. Reid, Joseph B. Foad, Edwin Reese, A. Henry Nelker, Edward C. Heald, Alexander J. Godby, George Frame, John H. Girvin.

The international billiard match for 3000 points and a stake of \$5000 between Schaeffer and Vignaux, in New York, was begun on the 26th. The first of the series of five games was won by Schaeffer, 600 to 274.

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The total collections of interna revenue during the first six months of the fiscal year were \$58,549,611, an increase of \$2,020,464, compared with the collections during the same period of the last fiscal year. There was an increase of \$676,573 on spirits, an increase of \$959,565 on tobacco, and an increase of \$437,801 on fermented liquors, and a decrease of \$74,475 on miscellaneous items. The receipts during December, 1885, were \$558,241 greater than the receipts during December, 1884.

Dr. Weber, Inspector of Diseased Cattle in York County, Penna., on the 25th visited the herd of Samuel G. Hoke, of Spring Grove and found 19 head of cattle suffering from pleuropneumonia. The herd from which the cattle were bought came from Baltimore, and the remainder were sold in Adams County.

The Deputy Attorney General at Harrisburg on the 25th submitted to Judge Simenton a form of decree of the Court's judgment in the Beech Creek and South Pennsylvania Railroad cases, with the exception of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. The matter is in the hands of the Court, and it is impossible to speculate on its conclusions.

Governor Lloyd, of Maryland, was installed on the 21st in presence of both Houses of the Legislature. He said in his address that he "believed in the appointment of men of capacity and of the same political views as the administration under which they serve."

The Senate on the 21st confirmed Lambert Tree to be Minister to Belgium; Charles D. Jacob, Minister to Columbia, and Edward H. Strobel, Secretary of Legation at Madrid.

The commission to provide for the establishment of a Soldier's Home at Erie, Penna., met on the 26th in Harrisburg and appointed Major W. W. Tyson, of Pittsburg, as commander of the home; Captain Tunnicliff, of Corry was made quartermaster, and W. W. Thomas engineer. A committee consisting of the governor, General Beath, Secretary Stewart, Colonel Vanderclice and General Louis Wagner was appointed to superintend the opening of the home on Feb. 22d.

One of the severest storms ever known on the Pacific coast began on the 17th, and reached its height on the 20th. There was an almost continuous fall of rain and snow, the storm crossing the country from the northern boundary of Washington Territory to the southern boundary of California, and from the ocean to the Rocky mountains. The wind at San Francisco reached a maximum velocity of eighty-two miles per hour. Fences, trees, awnings, sheds, signs, smoke stacks and church steeples were blown down and houses were unroofed. Some buildings were partly demolished, and two women were dangerously, perhaps fatally, injured by the fall of a dwelling. Telegraphic communication was interrupted, and there were washouts on the Southern Pacific Railroad.

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The State Fruit Growers' Association, in session at Reading, Pa., on the 21st, elected the following officers: President, Calvin Cooper, of Bird in Hand, Lancaster County; Vice Presidents, Josiah Hoopes, of West Chester; H. M. Engle, of Marietta; Edwin Stewart, of Jenkintown; Recording Secretary, E. B. Engle, of Waynesboro; Corresponding Secretary, W. P. Brinton, of Christiana; Treasurer, George B. Thomas, of West Chester.

Judge Harry White was arrested on the 21st in Indiana, Penna., on the charge of forgery preferred by his brother, who is contesting his mother's will, of which the Judge is executor and principal beneficiary. Judge White served two terms in Congress, was a member of the Pennsylvania State Constitution.

At Youngstown, Ohio on the 21st an explosion of melted metal in the mills of Brown, Bonnell & Co. scattered debris in every direction and hurled iron through the roof. John Wallace a blacksmith, was badly burned and will probably die. Two other men were slightly burned.

Nine cowboys visited Burlington, Texas, on the 20th, got drunk and amused themselves by "firing into windows and acting like savages." Finally, a deputy sheriff, with a posse, drove the ruffians from the town after killing four of them, named Jackson, Wims, Trimble, and Hartley.

The Supreme Court of Missouri on the 26th, rendered a decision which prohibits the Circuit Court in St. Louis from trying the contested Mayoralty election case there. The decision confirms Mr. Francis in the office of Mayor for four years from last April, and settles the case of seven Republicans who were contesting the election of seven Democrats to city offices—two Democrats who were contesting the election of two Republicans, and six Republicans, who claimed seats in the upper House of the Municipal Assembly. The decision also practically decides that there is no Court in Missouri competent to try a St. Louis contested election case, owing to the lack of provision in the city's charter for the trial of such cases.

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At a Democratic caucus in Annapolis, Maryland, on the 27th, Stevenson Archer, of Harford county, was nominated for State Treasurer to succeed John S. Gittings.

The suit to contest Carter Harrison's election as Mayor of Chicago was dismissed on the 27th, on motion of counsel for the petitioner.

Forty-Ninth Congress.

In the Senate on the 25th the credentials of F. C. Walthall, elected Senator from Mississippi to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Lamar, were presented, and Mr. Walthall was sworn in. Mr. Hoar, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a bill to provide for the settlement of the debt of the Pacific Railroads.

Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, submitted an amendment which was ordered to be printed and referred, providing that whenever it may be necessary for the protection and security of the interests of the United States in respect of its land, mortgage or otherwise on the property of any of the companies affected by the bill, the President may order the Secretary of the Treasury to clear off prior paramount liens or mortgages by paying the same, and that all such payment the United States shall become subrogated to the rights thereof or pertaining to such paramount liens or mortgages.

In the Senate on the 26th Mr. Voorhees called up his resolutions expressing the Senate's deep sense of the public loss in the death of Vice President Hendricks. After eulogies of the deceased by Messrs. Voorhees, Hampton, Sherman, Everts, Spooner, Vest, Sausbury, Hanson and Harrison, the resolutions were adopted and the Senate adjourned.

In the U. S. Senate on the 27th the National University bill was taken from the table and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor. A resolution was adopted directing the Committee on Expenditures of Public Money to make investigations into the charges made by the new Commissioner of Pensions as to the former administration of that office.

In the House, on the 25th it was ordered that after the reading of the journal on Tuesday, the States should be called for bills and resolutions. The death of Mr. Rankin, of Wisconsin, was announced, and, after the customary action in such cases, the House adjourned.

In the House, on the 25th, the Widows' Pension bill was discussed during nearly the entire session. Pending its consideration the House adjourned.

In the House on the 26th a number of bills and resolutions were introduced. Mr. Morrison from the Ways and Means Committee, reported a bill, which was referred to the Committee of the Whole, providing that the fractional parts of a gallon of spirits shall be taxed pro rata. Bills were also reported to enable national banks to increase their capital stock and change their location and name; to pension the survivors of the Mexican war, and to abolish certain fees for official services to American vessels. Pending consideration of the bill authorizing the voluntary retirement of certain officers of the navy the House adjourned.

In the House on the 27th Mr. Viele, of New York, from the Military Committee, reported a bill to aid in the erection of a monument to General Grant in New York city. Mr. Peck, of Arkansas, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported a bill granting the right of way through Choctaw and Chickasaw lands to the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad. The bill for the voluntary retirement of certain naval officers was discussed. A motion to lay the bill on the table was defeated; pending a motion to recommit it went over. A bill was passed forfeiting certain lands granted to the States of Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana, to aid in the construction of railroads. Adjourned.

A little four-year old girl was put to bed in the third story of her house and left, as usual in the dark. A terrific thunder storm came up and her mother thinking the child would be frightened at the lightning went to her. On entering the child called out with delight: "Mamma, the wind blew the sun up just now; did you see it?" Fear had no entrance there.

And so Mr. Featherly will lead your daughter to the altar next month, Mrs. Hendricks?" said the minister, who was making his weekly call.

"Ah yes!" replied Mrs. Hendricks with a sigh; "I don't know what I shall do without Clara."

"Will Mr. Featherly lead Clara to the altar the same as Aunt Jane says that ma leads pa?" inquired Bobby.

"How is that, Bobby?" asked the minister, pleasantly.

"By the nose."

Distance. On softening days, when a storm was near, At the farm-house door I have stood in the gray, And caught in the distance, faint but clear, The sound of a train passing far away. The warning bell when the start was made, The engine's puffing of smoke unseen, With the heavy rumble as wheels obeyed— Across the miles between.

And so sometimes on a moonless night When the stars shine soft and the wind is low; To my listening soul, in the pallid light, Come the trembling voices of long ago. The tuneful echoes when hope was young, The tender song of love serene, And the throbbing rhythm of passion's tongue— Across the years between.

"THOU ART THE MAN."

"It's the last straw that breaks the camel's back," said Lucy, bursting into tears. The present June sunbeams came peeping into the cool, stone-paved dairy, where pans of milk and cream were ranged in orderly array; great stone pots stood under the shelves, and a blue painted churn was already placed on the table for service.

Mr. Bellenden was justly proud of his dairy. Not a chance guest came to the house but was invited down to see it; not a housekeeper in the neighborhood but secretly envied its many conveniences and exquisite neatness.

"And it isn't the dairy alone," triumphantly remarked Seth Bellenden. "And you may go through the house from garret to cellar, and you'll never find a speck of dust. There never was such a housekeeper as my wife."

Mrs. Bellenden was young, too—scarcely three and twenty. She had been the daughter of a retired army officer, delicately reared and quite ignorant of all the machinery of domestic life until she married Seth Bellenden.

"It's very strange," Lucy had written to her father. "The farm is beautiful. You never saw such monstrous old buttonball trees, nor such superb roses, and the meadows are full of red clover, and the strawberries shine like jewels on the sunny hillsides. But nobody sketches, or reads. I don't think there is a copy of Tennyson in the whole neighborhood, and no one ever heard of Dore or Millais. All they do is how many dozen eggs they lay, and how many cheeses they can make in a year. And the woman who has a new recipe for waffles, or a new pattern for a horrible thing they call 'crazy quilts,' is the leader in society."

But presently young Mrs. Bellenden herself caught the fever, and became a model housewife. Example is all-powerful, and Lucy began to believe that the whole end and aim of life was domestic thrift, money-saving and the treadmill of work.

"My dear," said Seth, "if you thought you could get along without Hepsy, the maid, I might be able to afford that new reaper before the oat crop comes in."

"I'll try," said Lucy. After that she rose before day break, and worked later into the night than ever.

"What is the matter with your hands, Lucy?" Seth asked one day. "They are not so white and beautiful as they used to be." Lucy colored as she glanced down at the members in question.

"I suppose it is from making fires," said she. And then she took to wearing old kid gloves at her sweeping and dusting and digging out of the ashes.

"My coat is getting shabby," Seth one day remarked.

"Why don't you buy another one?" asked his wife. Seth laughed a short laugh.

"What do you think Mrs. Higginbotham has done?" said he. "She has ripped up her husband's old suit and out a pattern by it and made a new one, and entirely saved him ten dollars."

"I could do that!" said Lucy, with sparkling eyes. "I'll try it."

"You could do anything, my dear," said Mr. Bellenden, admiringly.

And Lucy felt that she had her rich reward. Company began to come as soon as the bright weather set in.

All the affectionate relations of Mr. Bellenden soon discovered that the farm-house was cool and shady, that Lucy's cooking was excellent, and that the bed-rooms were neatness itself.

Some of them were even good enough to invite their relations as well; and so the house was full from April to December.

All the clergymen made it their home at Brother Bellenden's when they came to Sylvan Bridge for ecclesiastical conventions; all the agents for unheard of articles discovered that they knew somebody who was acquainted with the Bellendens, and brought their carpets and valises with that faith in human hospitality which is one of life's best gifts.

partments of all the agricultural fairs, and the adjoining house-wives took no trouble to make things that they could borrow of Mrs. Bellenden, "just as well as not."

And one day, when poor Lucy, under the blighting influence of a horrible sick headache, was endeavoring to strain three or four gallons of milk into the shining pans, the news arrived that Uncle Paul was coming to the farm.

"Another guest!" said Lucy, despairingly. And then she uttered the proverb that heads our sketch.

"Oh, it's only Uncle Paul!" said Mr. Bellenden. "Don't fret, Lottie! He's the most peaceable old gentleman in the world. He'll make no more trouble than a cricket. John's wife thought she couldn't have him because she had no hired girl just now—"

"Neither have I!" said Lucy, rebelliously. "And Sarah Eliza don't like company."

"And I am supposed to be fond of it!" observed Lucy, bitterly. "And Reuben's girls don't want old folks staying there. It's too much trouble, they say," added Seth.

Lucy bit her lip to keep back the words she might have said, instead: "Where is he to sleep? The Bellendens have the front room, and your Cousin Susan occupies the back, and the four Miss Pattersons sleep in the two hall chambers, and the hired men have the garret room."

She might have added that she and her husband and the little baby, had slept in a hot little den opening from the kitchen for four weeks, vainly expecting Mr. and Mrs. Beford to depart; and that she had never yet had a chance to invite her father to the farm in pleasant weather.

But she was magnanimous and held her peace. "Oh, you can find some place for him!" said her husband, lightly.

"There's that little room at the end of the hall where the spinning wheel is."

"But it isn't furnished!" pleaded Lucy.

"You can easily sew a carpet together out of those old pieces from the Bellendens' room; and it's no trouble to put up a muslin curtain to the window and lift in a cot bed. There are a plenty of good sweet husks in the corn house, and you can just tack a mattress together, and whitewash the ceiling, and—"

"What's that, Beniah? The cows in the eye lo! Dear me! Everything goes wrong if I step into the house a moment. And really, Lottie, those things are your business and not mine?" he added, irritably.

Lucy could not help laughing all by herself, as her husband ran up the steps. But it was a very sad little laugh, and soon changed into a sigh.

"I wonder," said she, in a whisper, "if my poor, tired-out ghost would haunt these stone pavements, and scrub shelves, if I were to die! I never heard of a ghost in a dairy before, but I should think that it might easily be."

But this little bed-room was fitted up, for all that, as fresh as a rose, and Uncle Paul arrived, a dried-up, yellow complexioned old man, with an old-fashioned cravat tied in many folds around his neck, and a suit of navy blue, with brass buttons.

He had the polite way of half a century ago, and Lucy thought she should like him very much, if she only had time to get acquainted with him. But she was churning ten pounds of butter a day, and there was the baby, and the company, and the young chickens, and the baking to do for the sewing society, which was to meet at her house that week.

She was almost too busy to sleep. But Uncle Paul was watching her quietly all the time.

He came out one day to the barn where his nephew was putting a new handle on a sickle-blade.

"Pretty busy times—eh, Uncle Paul?" asked the farmer, scarcely taking the leisure to look up.

"Aye," absently answered the old man. "Did I tell you, Nephew Seth, about the reason I left your Cousin Eliab's?"

"Not that I remember," said Seth, breathing on the blade and polishing it with his silk handkerchief.

"Dorothy died—his wife?"

"Oh, yes," said Seth. "Malarial fever, wasn't it?"

"No!" bluntly answered Uncle Paul. "It was hard work. That woman, Nephew Seth, did the house-work for eight persons. Eliab didn't even let her have a woman to help her with the washing and ironing."

"Must have been a regular going brute," said Seth, tightening the handle a little.

"All the sewing, too," added Uncle Paul—"the mending and making. Never went anywhere except to church. Eliab didn't believe in women gadding about."

"The old savage," said Seth. "She was fond of reading, but she never got any time for it," said Uncle Paul. "She rose before sun-up, and never lay down until 11 o'clock. It was hard work that killed that woman, and Eliab coolly declared that it was sheer laziness when she could not drag herself around any longer. And when she died he rolled up his eyes and called it a visitation of Providence."

"Why didn't the neighbors lynch him?" cried Seth, fairly aroused to indignation at last.

Uncle Paul took off his glasses, wiped them vigorously, and looked his nephew hard in the face.

"Why don't the neighbors lynch you?" said he.

Seth dropped the sickle and stared. "Nephew Seth," said Uncle Paul, impressively, "thou art the man! Are you not doing the same thing?"

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"Your wife is doing the work of a household of sixteen people," said Uncle Paul. "She is drudging. She is rising early and lying down late; she is offering up her life on the shrine of your farm and its requirements. I have seen her grow thin and pale even during the few days I have been here. I have carried water and split wood for her, because there was no one to do it. I have seen her carry up Mrs. Beford's breakfast daily to her room, because Mrs. Beford preferred to lie in bed; and cooking dainty dishes for Helen Patterson, because Helen wouldn't eat what the rest liked. No galley slave ever worked as she does. And you, with your hired men—whose board you only adds to her cares—and your labor-saving machinery, stand coolly by and see her commit slow suicide. Yes, Nephew Seth, I think it is a case for lynching!"

Seth had grown pale.

"I— I never thought of this," said he. "Why didn't some one tell me?"

"Where were your own eyes?" asked Uncle Paul.

Seth Bellenden rolled down his shirt sleeves, put on his coat, and went into the house.

He told the Bellendens and Pattersons that it was inconvenient to keep them any longer. He gave Cousin Susan to understand that her room was needed. He made arrangements to board the hired men at the vacant farm house, and engaged a stout dairyman and a house servant to wait on Lucy. And he telegraphed to her father to come to Sylvan Bridge at once.

"She deserves a treat," he said. "He shall spend the summer with us."

And then he went to tell Lucy. She had fainted among the butter-cups, picking strawberries for tea.

Poor little Lucy! The machinery had utterly refused to revolve any longer.

His heart grew cold within him. "She will die!" he thought, "and I shall have murdered her!"

But she did not die. She recovered her strength by degrees.

"It is better than medicine," she said, "to know that Seth is thinking of me and for me."

And Uncle Paul—"the last straw" as she had called him—had proven her salvation.

"I didn't want her to go as Eliab's wife did," said Uncle Paul.

A Miserly Patient.

The following true story is told of a Montreal physician: He was called late at night to attend a very miserly old man, whom we will call Hardpay. He found the latter in a very anxious frame of mind, and unable to articulate a single word, his jaw having been dislocated. The affected member having been reduced, Hardpay asked the doctor how much he charged.

"My fee, sir," was the reply, "is \$5."

"Five dollars," said Hardpay, affecting astonishment; "I'll give you \$1; not a cent more."

A bright idea struck the doctor; and he pretended to waive the question, as if disinclined to bandy words about so trifling a matter.

"By the way," he said, taking a seat, "did you ever hear that story about recovering umbrellas?" and he proceeded to rake from the ashes of the past this ancient story and all the other chestnuts he could think of.

Mr. Hardpay stood it for awhile, without being visibly affected, but at last yawned and threw his jaw out of place. This was what the doctor anticipated.

"Good evening, Mr. Hardpay," he said, pleasantly, rising as if to take his leave.

Mr. Hardpay vouchsafed no reply, but gesticulated wildly, pointing to his mouth.

The doctor pretended for a time to misunderstand his signals of distress and continued to retreat; but finally relented (?) and signalled the old man that he would reset his jaw for \$10 cash.

The old man looked at first as if resolved to allow the jaw to remain where it was, but soon saw that the doctor was firm and counted out the required amount. The jaw was then once more put in place, and the doctor took his departure, chucking at the success of his stratagem.

Carrier Pigeons.

Carrier pigeons in France are henceforth, like horses and mules, to be registered, so as to be subject to military requisitions when necessary. A decree issued recently orders owners or breeders to make an annual return to the Mayor of the number of their pigeons and the journeys to which they have been trained.

Ensilage is good food for old cows, being as succulent and as easily digested as grass.