

NEWS OF THE WEEK

An accommodation train on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad ran into an open switch, just after leaving the station at Pittsburg, on the afternoon of the 24th, and was thrown down a twelve-foot embankment. The engine, combination baggage and smoking car and one passenger car were wrecked, and eight persons, including the engineer and fireman, were injured. The engineer, J. J. Moore, was terribly scalded and is not expected to recover. All the passengers injured were six, who jumped from the train when it left the tracks. Only two of them are dangerously injured. A young girl named Kate Gilhooly was rendered unconscious and, it is feared, sustained a concussion of the spine. Her sister Maggie broke a leg, and, it is feared, was injured internally. It is believed the switch was opened by some malicious scoundrel. Moore, the engineer, died at midnight.

The fire in St. Paul, Minneapolis, on the evening of the 23d, was confined to Burbank's wholesale clothing house. The Minnesota Spice Company's stock was heavily damaged by smoke. Burbank's loss is \$90,000, that of the spice company, \$50,000, and on the building \$50,000. All the losses are covered by insurance. St. Matthew's German Lutheran Church, in Chicago, was burned on the 23d. Loss, \$35,000. The Fosterville Bolt and Nut Company's work near Rochester, New York, was burned on the 23d. Loss, \$30,000.

Anthony Broski, George Phillips and Edward Lorber were fatally burned by an explosion of fire damp in slope No. 1 of the Susquehanna Coal Company, at Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, on the morning of the 25th. Broski died in about an hour after being taken to his home, and the others were not expected to recover. Four of the Lorber's brothers perished in the disaster in the same mine in December, 1885, and among the twenty-six entombed in the fatal chamber which has never been reached. The men injured used safety lamps, and the gas was fired by the explosion of a blast. The Warren Powder Mill, near Thomaston, Maine, blew up on the morning of the 25th. George Sheppard, aged 30 years, was killed. While workmen were grinding bark in the Lowell Tannery, at Lowell, Massachusetts, on the afternoon of the 25th, a lantern fell and caused an explosion among the chemicals. Herbert T. Berland and Daniel O'Hearn were terribly burned, and O'Hearn is not expected to recover.

A passenger train was wrecked by an open switch near Hudson, Wisconsin, on the 25th. John Deoboe, engineer, and the fireman, named Webster, were killed, and another train hand was injured.

Frederick K. Dorne, 18 years of age, was arrested in Chicago, on the 24th, for a robbery committed at Saratoga, New York. It appears that Dorne was one of the attendants who drew water from the Congress spring, and that a young widow sojourning at Saratoga took a fancy to him. On the 28th of June, while they were walking in a secluded spot, Dorne chloroformed the woman, and robbed her of jewelry and cash aggregating \$1,000, and then fled. The safe of the Colby mine, at Bessemer, Michigan, was robbed of \$400 on the evening of the 23d. John Deoboe, engineer, and the fireman, named Webster, were killed, and another train hand was injured.

Manuela Velasco, a Mexican girl, 16 years of age, was shot dead by Cavillo Gutierrez at Nogales, Arizona, on the morning of the 25th. He says that "in taking the gun from a rack the hammer caught on something and the weapon was accidentally discharged."

A telegram from Utica, New York, says Giles Smith, of Deerfield, lost three cows on the 20th by bloody murder. He had them buried near a running stream, which infected the water. Three cows belonging to William Budlong, Jr., a neighbor, died of the disease. Endings and John Haymen, while looking for the cause, were stung by mosquitoes, and are now seriously ill, having been inoculated with the murrain virus.

While Governor Seay, of Alabama, and his private secretary were riding down the main street in Montgomery, on the afternoon of the 25th, one of the guy wires which supported the overhead cable of the electric street railway broke and fell to the ground, striking the Governor's horse. The wire was heavily charged with electricity and the horse becoming entangled was shocked and burned to death in a few minutes. A second later the wire would have struck the Governor and his secretary instead of the horse.

Oscar D. Brett, a builder and contractor of Malden, Massachusetts, left that city suddenly, a week ago, and, it is alleged, he took away \$3100 in cash, and left debts to the amount of \$10,000. Richard H. Payne, clerk under Paymaster Putnam at the navy yard at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, was arrested on the evening of the 25th, on the charge of embezzling \$3000 of the paymaster's funds. Payne is about 45 years old and had been paymaster's clerk for twenty years. The embezzlements are said to have occurred within the last six months and to have been caused by false entries. Payne went into business about two years ago, and is supposed to have stolen to cover his losses.

A fire in the "Chinatown" portion of Los Angeles, California, on the morning of the 24th, destroyed 25 buildings, causing a loss estimated at \$100,000. The burned buildings had been inhabited by about a thousand Chinamen. Fleischman & Co.'s stable and Vienna bakery, on West Thirtieth street, New York, were destroyed by fire on the morning of the 25th, with a number of horses. The loss is estimated at \$40,000. The light-house on West Laseras Island, Mahon Bay, Nova Scotia, has been destroyed by fire.

Charles Richardson, three years old, was scalded to death at Hunting-

don, Penna., on the evening of the 24th, by falling into a tub of hot water.

A storm on the afternoon of the 26th did much damage near Shamrock, on the East Pennsylvania branch of the Reading Railroad. Several bad washouts occurred on the railroad, which it will take several days to repair. Many dwellings were flooded, and the barns of Joel Reichert and James B. Stauffer, near Boyertown, were destroyed by lightning. Several horses perished in Reichert's barn. A washout several hundred feet long is reported at Macungie, on the railroad. The Methodist church at Litz was badly damaged by lightning. Thirty families were flooded out of their houses in the lower part of Reading by the breaking of a culvert. During a thunder storm at Lock Haven, Penna., on the 26th, lightning struck the railroad track leading into the fire-clay mine at Farrandville. All the men in the mine were stunned and two of them were severely injured. A telegram from Susquehanna, Penna., says the rainstorm there "was the most destructive ever experienced."

The track of the Erie Road for one thousand feet was washed into the Susquehanna river at Red Rock, four miles west, impeding traffic. The Jefferson branch is abandoned on account of landslides. Bridges have been washed away and highways and roads destroyed. Several houses were carried down the creeks. The loss in the immediate vicinity of Susquehanna is \$10,000. Travel west on the Erie was resumed on the afternoon of the 26th.

Mrs. Joseph Bennett, a wealthy lady of Wichita, Kansas, was stabbed, and, it is believed, mortally wounded, by her step-daughter, Mary Bennett, on the evening of the 25th. Mary, who is Bennett's daughter by his first wife, went to Wichita from Hot Springs, Arkansas, and was refused admission to her step-mother's house. On the evening of the 25th, accompanied by a young man, the girl drove to the house, and, upon Mrs. Bennett coming to the door, drew a knife and stabbed her twenty times in the breast, face and arms. Crawford Benson, colored, aged 18 years, was taken from the jail at Kaufman, Texas, and lynched, on the evening of the 25th. He had assaulted a nine-year-old girl. At Lebanon, Tennessee, on the morning of the 26th, N. B. Lester shot and killed J. T. Lane, a lawyer and a prominent citizen. The murder was a cold-blooded and cold-blooded. Lester was very jealous of Lane, and had frequently threatened to kill his own wife on that account.

A renewal of heavy rains at the City of Mexico, which the sewers are unable to carry off, causes fear for the safety of the city in case Lake Tezucaco should overflow its borders. It was reported on the 26th that the lake had risen to the level of the city.

The Warner Block in Minneapolis was damaged by fire on the morning of the 26th, to the extent of \$30,000. Several firemen were injured. Oliver A. Burns is believed to have been fatally injured by a falling chimney. The Commercial Hotel and several stores in Kankana, Wisconsin, were burned on the 25th. Loss, \$25,000. The fire was started by small boys in a barn.

John Thomas, Clinton Thomas and Walter Hobbie were drowned by getting into a whirlpool while bathing at Smith's Ferry, near Galena, Illinois, on the afternoon of the 25th.

At Wilkesbarre on the 26th Charles May, a workman on the scaffolding of the new bridge, fell into the river and was drowned. While C. H. Carey, a photographer, was boating with two ladies, the boat struck the same scaffolding and was upset, and Carey was drowned.

Joseph Gaback and Henry Doyle were killed near Leadville, Colorado, on the morning of the 26th, by the premature explosion of a blast.

Edward D. Fox, private secretary to Governor Greene, of New Jersey, was drowned in a barroom at Newark, on the evening of the 25th, and robbed of a valuable gold watch which had been presented to him by six ex-Governors of the State.

Some unknown persons, on the evening of the 25th, entered the weaver room of the Manville Company's cotton mill, at Manville, Rhode Island, and, by running a knife along the tops of the rolls, ruined five thousand yards of fancy goods on the looms. The mill was recently the scene of a weavers' strike.

At Grand Rapids, Michigan, on the morning of the 27th, Charles J. Weiner, of Paterson, New Jersey, quarreled with Mrs. Susan Boufay about an unpaid board bill. He drew a revolver and shot the woman dead, then committed suicide. George Evans and Bud Harris, both colored, fought a duel with double-barreled shotguns, only two paces apart, near Greenwood, Mississippi, on the evening of the 25th. Evans fell dead and Harris was mortally wounded. A wedding among the miners at Carbon, Indiana, on the evening of the 24th, was attended by a dance and a drunken carouse, which resulted finally in a general fight. John Ross, after being terribly beaten, was shot dead, and four others were wounded. At daybreak on the morning of the 26th, Dr. J. E. Nutt was found on the street with his skull crushed by a coupling-pin. He is not expected to recover. Joseph Neave, a farmer near Falmouth, Kentucky, on the 27th, went to his farm, of which his son John is living, to get his share of the wheat crop, and was shot dead by the son. The latter barricaded himself in the house, and "defied arrest." A mob was being organized to lynch him. Reuben Johnson, colored, was lynched on the 27th at Redan, Georgia, for having assaulted a white woman. Reuben Cole, colored, arrested for an assault upon a white woman in Surrey county, Virginia, was taken from jail by a mob and lynched on the evening of the 26th.

Great damage was done by a violent thunderstorm at Fargo, Dakota, on the evening of the 25th. The wind reached a velocity of 80 miles an hour. Outside the city, Mrs. Eckelson Thomp-

son, who took refuge in a "cyclone cellar," was killed by lightning. A tornado at Moland blew down four dwellings and several barns. Five persons were injured, one, Mrs. S. O. Lee, mortally. The latest accounts of the storm at Reading, Penna., on the evening of the 26th, indicate that it was the severest ever known in that vicinity. The damage to railroad and private property within a radius of twenty-five miles of Reading is estimated at \$150,000, of which \$45,000 falls on the railroad company. The storm did great damage in the northern part of Lancaster county. The barns of Rev. Christman, near Clay, and Richard Hockett, near Lexington, were destroyed by lightning. The losses respectively are \$4000 and \$3000.

The coroner's jury at Pittsburg, investigating the death of Engineer Moore, who was killed on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad on the 24th, by the train running through an open switch and being thrown down an embankment, have finished their work. They found that the disaster was caused by the "gross criminal negligence" of Conductor August Bushman. They also censured the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company for neglecting to repair the signal target at the switch, which was damaged by a recent fire. Bushman has been twenty-one years in the company's employ.

At Harper's rolling mill, in Newport, Kentucky, on the 26th, the roof, on which men were working putting up a smoke-stack, was broken down by the falling of the stack, and five men were injured—two of them, John Becker and John Moore—dangerously.

An express train on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which left Chicago for Philadelphia on the evening of the 26th, ran into a freight train on a siding, at York, Indiana, owing to the misplacement of a switch. C. Cramer, engineer, and Edward Kooker, of the express train, were injured. It was found, after the collision, that the switch lock had been broken open with a heavy oaken club. A section of a Louisville and Nashville freight train was derailed on the 26th, near Wabash Station, Illinois. A fireman named Yearwood was killed, and two other train men severely injured.

A severe cyclone is raging in the Gulf, with unusually heavy rains at several points along the coast. Mariners at Mobile say they "never witnessed heavier north winds, even in the winter."

Twelve men have died from injuries received by the collision of a freight train and a construction train on the Chicago and Alton Railroad at Bloomington, Illinois, on the 27th. Thirty were injured, but few of them severely. An express train on the Pennsylvania Railroad from Reading for Philadelphia on the morning of the 28th ran into a wagon containing a pleasure party and killed four of them, at Ridgewood Station, two miles from Reading. John Wunemacher, 13 years old, of Reading, was driving, and the wagon being covered, he did not see the approaching train. The killed were Miss Amanda Fritz, aged 35, daughter of Elias Fritz, Sr., a wealthy farmer of Cumru township, Berks county; Hettie Fritz, aged 32, wife of Elias Fritz, Jr.; her two children, Charles, aged 3 months, and Mervine, aged 18 months. The boy Wunemacher was dangerously, if not fatally, injured. While a mixed freight train, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, was passing over the Mount Savage bridge, near Cumberland, Maryland, on the morning of the 28th, the bridge gave way, and the engine and several cars fell into the torrent below. William Driscoll, engineer, and William Payne, fireman, were killed, and a brakeman was severely injured. Dr. G. W. Eppley, a physician of Marysville, Perry county, Penna., was struck and killed by a railroad train at that place on the evening of the 27th.

G. W. Phenny, M. R. Sinclair and Cain Saxton were killed at Bertram, Texas, on the evening of the 27th, by a flash of lightning from a cloudless sky.

Nearly all the houses in Haskell, Texas, were destroyed by a tornado on the 27th. Several persons were injured, but no one is reported killed.

In consequence of the recent storm the Lehigh river on the morning of the 28th, overflowed its banks, and the water poured into a large number of iron mines in Long Swamp township, Berks county. Some of the shafts are 150 feet deep. All are filled with water, and 15 acres of ground occupied by the mines is covered by a lake. Two hundred men are thrown out of employment, perhaps for several months.

At Chicago, on the 28th, Anton C. J. Rudolph, bookkeeper of the Continental National Bank, who forged a check and collected \$3000, was sentenced to three years' hard labor in the penitentiary.

A telegram has been received in Harrisburg from the City Marshal of Windsor, Ohio, saying that he had arrested a man who is believed to be McCabe, the escaped Wayne county murderer. A description of McCabe has been forwarded.

D. R. Anthony, brother of Susan B. Anthony, and editor of the Times newspaper of Leavenworth, Kansas, was cowhided on the street in that city on the 27th by a Councilman named Bond for the publication of alleged scurrilous articles.

The Comptroller of the Currency on the 28th authorized the following banks to begin business: The First National Bank of Greenville, Mississippi, capital \$100,000; the Pineda National Bank of Plano, Texas, capital \$50,000; and the First National Bank of Renovo, Pennsylvania, capital \$50,000.

D. D. Bell, a colored boy of eight years, has confessed that he set fire to a number of buildings recently burned in Lexington, Kentucky. "He says he knows he cannot be punished for it by law, on account of his age, and plays the incendiary for his own amusement. He is in custody and the authorities, being afraid to turn him loose, are puzzled to know what to do with him."

A freshet is feared in the Susquehanna river at Wilkesbarre. The trestle work of the bridge there was washed away during the night of the 26th.

Polly Giles, a seven-year-old white girl, died in a New York tenement house on the 28th, from the effects of a beating inflicted by two colored boys. They attempted to assault her, and when she screamed kicked and beat her so savagely as to cause the injuries which resulted in her death.

An express train on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, due in Pittsburg at half-past six o'clock on the morning of the 29th ult., dashed into a section of a west bound freight train standing on the main track at West Newton, 32 miles east of Pittsburg. The fireman, Orbin, of the freight train, was killed, and engineer Gilland was fatally injured. The engine connected with the freight had broken down, and both the engineer and the fireman were under the engine when the collision occurred. The engineer and fireman of the passenger train jumped and escaped serious injury, but a number of the passengers were injured by the concussion. It is said that the engineer of the passenger train was flagged in time to stop, but the air-brakes refused to work, and the attempt to apply the old hand-brake was not successful. A Lehigh Valley passenger train and a New Jersey Central freight train, on the 29th ult., at Pond Creek Junction, near Hasleton. Both engines were wrecked. Harvey Kerper, a brakeman, the only person seriously injured, had both legs broken. Telegraph operator Shooz, who is alleged to have been responsible for the collision in failing to stop the passenger train, died after the accident.

It is stated at the Treasury Department that the revenue for the month of July amounts to over \$32,000,000, an average of more than \$1,000,000 a day. The expenditures during the same time, including \$11,500,000 paid for pensions, amount to about \$25,500,000, leaving an excess of receipts of \$6,500,000. The excess so far this month has been less than was anticipated, by reason of the failure of the Navy Department to make certain expected requisitions. At the same time the receipts were greater than was estimated July 1st. Treasurer Hyatt reported the surplus on the 29th as \$43,100,000, an increase of nearly \$6,000,000 since the same date of last month. Treasury officials believe, however, that heavy payments to be made next month will again reduce the surplus to about \$37,000,000 by the first of September.

After three weeks of hot weather unprecedented in New Hampshire, violent thunder storms occurred on the evening of the 28th ult. At Franklin Falls, the storm raged for ten hours, washing out the highways and doing great damage to the crops.

Intense heat prevailed in Central Illinois on the 28th ult. At Peoria the temperature reached 100 in the shade, and at Lincoln and Carthage 102. A number of sunstrokes were reported, several of them fatal. The temperature at Kansas City, Missouri, on the 29th ult., marked 102 in the shade for three hours. At Louisville a similar temperature was reached. At Nebraska City, Nebraska, 110 degrees was reached at two o'clock in the afternoon, "with scorching hot winds from the South." A number of persons were sunstruck, but none fatally.

A wagon containing Joseph Rich, aged 33 years, his wife, his mother-in-law and his baby was caught by a railroad train near Richmond, Indiana, on the 29th ult, and all the occupants were killed except Rich's wife, who was dangerously injured.

A tornado passed over David City, Nebraska, on the evening of the 29th ult., demolishing half the buildings in the place, including the Union Pacific and Burlington and Missouri depots, a brick school-house, two churches, several stores and many dwellings. One man was killed. The loss on property destroyed at David City, Nebraska, is estimated at \$200,000. Harvey Fletcher's house, in Lowell, Vermont, was struck by lightning on the evening of the 29th ult. Mrs. Fletcher was killed and her husband paralyzed. A violent storm passed over Paterson, New Jersey, on the evening of the 29th ult. Much damage was done by lightning in the surrounding country. A heavy wind storm swept over the country around Mason City, Iowa, on the afternoon of the 29th ult., unroofing dwellings and blowing down barns.

Kate Callaghan, Delia Welch, Mattie Keating and Maggie Toomey, whose ages ranged from 12 to 14 years, were drowned while bathing in the Concord river at North Billerica, Massachusetts, on the afternoon of the 29th ult. While the tug Keyser was on the way from Tampa to Mobile, her captain, William Collins, was washed overboard and lost on the evening of the 27th ult.

THE MARKETS. PROVISIONS— Beef city family 100 00 100 00 Hams 100 00 100 00 Pork Mess 16 00 16 00 Prime Mess, new 15 00 15 00 Sides smoked 23 00 23 00 Shoulders smoked 23 00 23 00 Lard in salt 6 00 6 00 Smoked lard 6 15 6 15 Lard Western 6 15 6 15 Lard loose 6 25 6 25 FLOUR— West and Pa. sup. 2 50 2 50 Pa. Family 2 75 2 75 Min. Clear 4 00 4 00 Pa. Wht. Wht. 4 60 4 60 Rye Flour 2 60 2 60 GRAIN— Wheat No. 1 red 54 00 54 00 Rye 45 00 45 00 No. 2 White 45 00 45 00 No. 3 45 00 45 00 Oat, No. 1 White 45 00 45 00 No. 2 45 00 45 00 No. 3 Mixed 35 00 35 00 FISH— Mackerel, large Is. 10 00 10 00 No. 2 Shore 10 00 10 00 Herring, Lab. 50 00 50 00 SUGAR— Powdered 6 15 6 15 Cane 5 00 5 00 HAY AND STRAW— Mixed 15 00 15 00 Cut Hay 13 00 13 00 No. 1 13 00 13 00 Wheat Straw 10 00 10 00 WOOL— Ohio, Penna., and Va. Floor XX and above 34 00 34 00 Common 31 00 31 00 Unwashed medium 31 00 31 00

RUSSIAN COURTSHIP.

How the Beautiful Slavonic Girls are Wooed and Won.

I will tell you a story of love-making in Russia, of which I will endeavor to draw a picture and show my American readers that the young men and maidens of my country are in no wise different from those of other and more favored climes. They are, perhaps, a little more demonstrative, less given to concealing the feelings of the heart, and less inclined to regard money as a necessary consideration in the settlement of heart affairs. When a Russian girl loves, it is with her whole heart; her love surmounts all obstacles. I speak from experience.

It is the custom of the Russian young folks to meet together by appointment in the long, stormy winter evenings, selecting the house of each one in turn. Boys and girls come gayly dressed in holiday attire, the latter carrying their bonnets and linen thread, which they are supposed to convert into the much-prized linen. These pretty young misses pass the hours in idle gossip until the time approaches for the arrival of the sterner sex, when each one hies to her room and begins to work most earnestly, by which means they seek to impress on the minds of their lovers their capabilities for becoming good wives and housekeepers; but this feigned industry does not last long, for when the male members have entered the work is suspended, and pleasure begins by the young men inviting their fair friends to join them in forming a circle. This done, they all join in singing, after which one of the girls selects her young gentleman (mol miloi) my love, as she calls him, and leads him in the middle of the circle, then walks back and forth chanting a love song, in which the rest of the guests join. In the song usually selected she tells of the beauty of the lover she has chosen, how much she loves him, how she would leave home and parents, brothers, sisters and friends, and follow him the wide world over. As the song runs she would follow him across the seven oceans, or over seven high mountains, and rest under their shadow, where she could enjoy her happiness undisturbed.

So in turn each girl selects mol miloi and leads him into the circle, when the same love chanting is repeated until all the girls have made their choice. Next in turn come the young men, who each select a partner and go through the same performance, the whole affair terminating with dancing.

At the conclusion of this dance each young peasant escorts the object of his choice to her home. At these gatherings they are as free as birds of the air, and take for their mate whomsoever they will, without any regard to a third party. When the time arrives when a formal declaration is made, the youth, accompanied by some member or members of his family, who are supposed to aid materially in obtaining the parents' consent, proceeds to the home of his lady love and there makes known his wishes to the father and daughter.

The mother, not at all surprised, usually reads the young man a long lecture on the duties and burdens of married life, bewailing all the ills and speaking of few of the blessings, and ends by declaring her daughter too young to marry yet, too young to be given over to the cruel tyranny of an exacting husband. She prefers to see her as free and happy as the birds of her native woods. All this is but a custom which must be observed, so fearful are they that the young man might suppose his bride too easily won. The suitor, further to conciliate the mother, now begins to lavish all kinds of presents on her, according to his means, at the same time telling her how much he loves her daughter and how happy he will make her darling. A glowing description of how bright he will make her future life follows. To his vivid imagination everything is rainbow-hued, and in a language so poetical as the Russian it is grand and impressive to hear this suitor for the daughter's hand pour forth his torrent of eloquent words.

The mother listens attentively to the burning, soul-stirring language, apparently weighing in deep thought all the presents, looking occasionally at the presents presented to her, which, it is much feared, are the key which unlock the door of her heart. She finally gives a rather unwilling assent, with the proviso if the father is willing. This is a needless precaution on her part, for, as a rule, the father is only too willing to ease himself of the burden of a daughter's support.

But you will naturally ask where the poor victim is all this time. Why, in the next room of course, where every word uttered on her lover falls like a hammer on her ears. She understands her mother's tactics, and yet it must be with trembling heart that she awaits the sealing of her fate. All preliminaries arranged between mother and lover, the daughter is called into the room to receive the parental blessing, instead of which she kneels to her mother, praying not to be taken from her. She describes the beauties of her virgin life and declares she has no wish to change it, prefers her freedom to all else, and begs that her mother will not make for her the hated red petticoat, which constitutes the principal portion of the wardrobe of every peasant bride. The daughter pleads, the mother caresses and seeks to persuade her to accept the lover to whom but a short time before she refused to give her. The mother, while gently stroking the glossy hair of her child, tries to persuade her that after all a virgin life is not the most desirable; that God has placed her in this world with a mission which she must seek to fulfill; that she cannot always remain at her mother's side; she must go out on the parental roof and make a home for herself. All these things and many more are said in vindication of the life apparently forced upon her. The mother concludes by repeating to the daughter all the lover has told her of his bright hopes for the future, and the sacrifices he is willing to make for her happiness. The daughter finally yields under such persuasive words, and who would not unless it were a heart of adamant?

The young people then kneel to re-

ceive the parental blessing, which is given with a great deal of ceremony. Then the priest is called upon to bestow his blessing, which is very beautiful and impressive. At its conclusion he places a ring on the hand of each. This ceremony is called obsecchini and is considered even more sacred than marriage itself. The parents of the engaged girl arrange long tables, on which they place the samovar and summon the neighbors to share in their rejoicing. The girl prepares tea, the first cup of which she hands to her accepted lover, then to her father and mother, and lastly to each of the guests. This duty performed, she appears to lose all bashfulness, and she who but a short time before bewailed her fate so loudly now accepts and even glories in the choice she has made.

To the world she is oblivious and thinks of none but her lover, upon whom she lavishes all the love of her young heart, showing by every endearing term and caress how great is her worship for her hero. This change in the girl's manner is not noticed by parents or guests, who continue their tea drinking and gossiping. These engagement ceremonies are possessed of a weird and impressive grandeur, which no pen can describe in their realistic beauty. The pretty bit of hypocrisy practiced both by mother and daughter—the one unwilling to give up her child, the other to leave her home—is a custom handed down from generation to generation, and though insincere, is full of beauty and pathos. The custom is purely Slavonic and is accepted only by merchants and peasants. The customs of the nobility are entirely different from those adopted by the middle and lower classes. Now that the engagement has been entered into we will follow our young people through its devious windings. They are now free to make their own arrangements in regard to the marriage, when and where it shall take place and who will be the guests. They visit and receive friends and are considered almost the same as married.

FAMOUS SONGS.

Who Their Authors Were, And What They Received For Them.

Foster got fifteen thousand dollars for writing "Old Folks at Home." Charles Dibdin netted several weeks' board for writing "Poor Jack," while his publishers made twenty-five thousand dollars out of it.

Robert Treat Payne wrote "Ye Sons of Columbia" early in 1890, under the title of "Adams and Liberty," and was paid seven hundred and fifty dollars for it.

"America" was written by the Rev. Samuel Francis Smith in 1832, and it was first sung in Boston on the Fourth of July in that year.

"Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean," was written by Thomas a'Becket, an English actor who in 1879 was a teacher of music at Philadelphia.

The tune of "John Brown's Body" is of Methodist camp-meeting origin. It was adapted to its present use by an organist in Harvard Church in 1861.

Crouch, the writer of "Kathleen Mavourneen," received twenty-five dollars for the production, and afterward became a begging tramp, while his publisher could have built a brownstone front out of its sales.

"The Star-Spangled Banner" was written by Francis Scott Key while watching the bombardment of Fort M'Henry in 1814. The song was printed eight days after the battle under the title of "The Defence of Fort M'Henry."

George P. Morris wrote "Woodman, Spare that Tree," because the purchaser of a friend's estate wanted to cut down a tree which his grandfather had planted. His friend paid the purchaser ten dollars to spare it. Morris was so touched by the story that he wrote the song.

John Howard Payne's "Home, Sweet Home" was written for an opera. It was first sung in the Covent Garden Theatre, at London, and made a big hit. One hundred thousand copies were sold the first year, and by the end of the second his publishers had cleared ten thousand dollars from it.

The author of "Maryland, My Maryland," lives at Washington. His name is James R. Randall, and he is a modest-looking, dark-complexioned man of forty. He was very young when he wrote that beautiful poem. His ideas are broader now.

"Hail, Columbia" was written by Jos. Hopkinson in the summer of 1778, and was first called the "President's March." It was always sung when Washington came into the theatre, and one of the objects of its writing was the cultivation of a patriotic spirit among the people of the new republic.

An Expensive Luxury.

A German, now visiting in this country, writes in his home paper as follows concerning our colleges: "In America, in this land of the free, it is the sad fact that university culture is a prize which is only accessible to the sons of rich men." His inquiries were very exact. "Among the 140 students who had completed their studies at Yale College this year (1886) I obtained answers from 100. According to their reports the average cost for four years' course amounted to \$960. There were great differences in individual cases; one had succeeded in 'getting through' at the cost of \$150 a year; another needed no less than \$3,500 annually. I know a German porter in the States whose eldest son passed a brilliant examination at Princeton; but father and son agreed that it was impossible to pursue his studies there on account of the frightful costliness. Study at an American university is a most expensive luxury."

—James McTigue and James Dalton, of Binghamton, New York, drove into a creek nine miles from that city on the evening of the 28th ult. The bed of the creek is fifteen feet below the road. McTigue was killed and Dalton dangerously injured. The bridge spanning the stream had been washed away, and the men did not know it.

Honors come by diligence; riches spring from economy.