

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

—Mrs. Sarah Hicks, a school teacher in Brooklyn, committed suicide on the 13th.

—Ewell Lauter was fatally shot while resisting arrest, by a deputy marshal named Cunningham, in Williams town, Kentucky, on the afternoon of the 12th. Edward Hoag, of Denver, Colorado, was shot at Owensburg, Kentucky, two months ago to marry Miss Ella Brown. Two days before the ceremony Hoag disappeared mysteriously. On the 13th his remains were found four miles from the town. He had over \$300 in his possession when last seen, and it is thought he was murdered for his money. In a saloon in Wallace, Kansas, on the evening of the 12th, an itinerant sewing machine mender attempted to make "Tom" Dunn, a local tough, dance. Dunn refused to dance, when the sewing machine man commenced airing his revolver. Dunn then shot him dead. Dunn was arrested, but allowed the liberty of streets pending the coroner's inquest. Herman Hochkuch was murdered at the Yank Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, early on the morning of the 13th. He was a railway laborer and arrived there on the 12th, having about \$100. Robbery is supposed to have been the motive of the crime. A despatch from Corona, Colorado, says Vorce, the desperado, was not wounded, and after killing Hollingsworth mounted his horse and escaped.

—The municipal election in Boston was held on the 13th and brought out 51,487 votes, the largest number in any local election since 1855. O'Brien, Democrat, defeated Mayor, he receiving 26,621 votes to 24,395 for Hart, Republican and Independent. "The Labor vote failed to materialize." The Republicans gained two Aldermen, the Board standing eight Republicans to four Democrats. Common Council stands 43 Democrats to 29 Republicans, the same as last year. License was carried by a majority of 8483. Local elections were also held in Lowell, Salem, Lynn, Worcester and Waterbury. All were carried by the Republicans, and all voted for license. The local election in Charleston, South Carolina, on the 13th, resulted in the success of the Democratic ticket. The official returns of the vote of Dakota on division show that in North Dakota the majority against division is exactly ten thousand; in South Dakota the majority for division is 13,938.

—A despatch from Brooklyn says that as an engine and six dirt cars were crossing the trestlework over Gowanus Bay, between Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth streets, on the morning of the 12th, the structure gave way, and the cars, upon which were a number of workmen, were thrown into the water. Four of the men were badly bruised, but all escaped alive.

—A fire occurred in the new four-story flat house at 8th avenue and 128th street, New York, on the afternoon of the 12th, and practically ruined the building and the furniture of the eleven families occupying it. The loss to the tenants is placed at about \$35,000. There were many narrow escapes from suffocation.

—Henry S. Ives, of the defunct banking firm of H. S. Ives & Co., was arrested in New York, on the 13th, on a warrant, which was issued on a charge of grand larceny made by Julius Dexter, President of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railroad. He was held in \$25,000 bail for examination. Ives said he was not guilty.

—Henry Fawcett and his wife, living near Point Pleasant, West Virginia, went to church on the 11th, leaving their two children, the eldest being but five years old, locked up at home. When the parents returned they found the house in ashes and the children burned to death.

—While hauling a supposed unloaded gun, on the 13th, William Young, of Matineus Island, Maine, shot and fatally wounded his brother-in-law, George G. Hunt. Samuel Shoe maker was crushed to death by a fall of earth at the East Harrisburg Brick Works, in Harrisburg, Pa., on the 13th. The canning and packing mills of the Leffin Powder Works, a few miles from Wilkesbarre, were blown up on the afternoon of the 13th. Louis Leach, an old employee, was fatally injured. About a ton of powder was blown up. The mud drum of the battery of boilers in Swift's Iron and Steel Works in Newport, Kentucky, exploded early on the morning of the 13th, wrecking the building. John Smith, the only employe present, had a leg broken. The works will close for repairs, throwing 300 men out of employment.

—The Senate Finance Committee on the 13th, held its first meeting and ordered a favorable report on the Morrill bill to refund to the States, the direct taxes imposed by the act of 1861. The aggregate is about \$15,000,000. It is the bill passed by the Senate last session.

—By a collision between two carriages in Wichita, Kansas, on the evening of the 12th, a man named Johnson was killed and three women were dangerously if not fatally injured.

—A freight train on the Mine Hill branch of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad broke loose at Thomaston, Penna., on the 13th, owing to the failure of the brakes and dashed down the steep grade. At Minersville it collided with a coal train. Engineer Major in jumping was buried under an embankment and badly injured. August Christ, a telegraph operator, who was on the engine, jumped and landed on a bridge where he hung suspended by his right hand until a passing engine crushed it, when he dropped into the bed of a shallow stream beneath, breaking his leg and sustaining internal injuries.

—A boiler in the saw mill of Jostah Lindsay, at Mount Sterling, Kentucky, exploded on the morning of the 13th, killing W. D. Stevenson and dangerously injuring Benjamin Lindsay, the 13-year-old son of the proprietor.

—Frank Laybourne, a grocer, left Springfield, Ohio, on the 10th, and a despatch says it has since been learned that he forged a number of notes

upon which he secured money. The amount known reaches about \$1200. It is thought he has forged notes of farmers to a considerable extent. A despatch from Toronto, Canada, says the post-office in the village was robbed, early on the morning of the 10th, of \$11,000 in cash, \$500 in stamps and over \$10,000 in notes and securities. The registered letters were also taken. Six hundred dollars' worth of Botetourt county bonds were stolen from the safe of the County Treasurer, in Fincastle, Virginia, on the evening of the 12th.

—Mr. Crain, of Texas, intends to introduce a bill in the House to make the term of Congress begin on the 1st of January and terminate on the 31st of December two years afterward, and to have Congress meet two months after the election of Representatives, instead of waiting thirteen months, as at present.

—On the evening of the 14th three boys jumped on a cable car in Cincinnati to steal a ride. The conductor chased them off, but one in getting off fell under the wheels and was killed.

—Sands W. Hopkins, 28 years old, died on the morning of the 14th in Kansas City, Missouri, from the effects of laudanum swallowed the night before. He inherited a large fortune some years ago, but spent it riotously. In 1882, while handling a shotgun, it went off accidentally, killing his wife. This increased his tendency to dissipation. He had been drinking heavily for several days before he committed suicide. A stranger who registered in Ruffer's Hotel, at Louisville, on the 8th, as "T. A. Burcham, St. Louis," committed suicide on the evening of the 13th. While at the hotel he received two letters from St. Louis, one of them reading: "Theo. Burcham; Come at once. Ma is sick. Settled at M. W. Do all I can for you. Endie." Oliver P. Cardwell, a deserter from the U. S. Army, fell dead in one of the streets of Indianapolis, on the 13th, from the effects of a dose of strychnine taken with suicidal intent. He believed officers were in pursuit.

—The boiler of a sawmill owned and operated by Harlow Brothers, near Seymour, Indiana, exploded on the 13th, killing William and Henry Harlow. The boiler was worn out. The boiler in the sawmill of Joseph Lindsay, in Mount Sterling, Kentucky, exploded on the 14th, killing W. D. Stevenson and severely injuring Benjamin Lindsay. The boiler, weighing about 8000 pounds, was thrown a distance of 125 yards. The cause of the explosion was low water in the boiler.

—T. R. Renfro shot and killed S. W. Begley, in Pineville, Kentucky, on the 13th. Renfro's son had snapped a toy pistol in Begley's face, and he then pushed off the sidewalk. The boy then struck Begley with a rock, and was pushed or slapped again. The boy then told his father. The latter hunted up Begley and a quarrel resulted. A prize fight was to have taken place in the saloon of Peter Reich, in Hesseville, Indiana, on the evening of the 13th, but when everything was in readiness Claude Kimball, a cowboy just from the West, with a revolver in each hand, ran amuck through the crowd. Reich was mortally wounded. Kimball died to the woods. He had been drunk and obstreperous early in the evening and was put out of the saloon. Thomas Powell keeps a general store in the village of Eastern Kentucky Junction, near Kilgore, Kentucky. On the evening of the 13th, robbers entered his place, strangled his sister to death, bound and gagged the brother and carried off with several hundred dollars in money and a quantity of goods. The remains of Charles Fry were found hanging from a tree at Natrona, Penna., on the morning of the 14th. Foul play is suspected and the coroner is making an investigation.

—While crossing the Missouri river twenty miles below Bismarck, Dakota, on the evening of the 13th, Charles Whalen and his wife and daughter were drowned. They lost the road and the team passed so near a large air hole that the ice broke and the animal and people were lost.

—While Victor Simis, aged 16 years, was carrying a keg of powder from an excavation in Cincinnati, where workmen had just finished preparing a blast, to a shed near by, an explosion occurred. The boy was terribly burned. He can give no reason for the explosion, and declares that he was not smoking at the time.

—Luella North 4 years old, was burned to death in Cincinnati, on the 14th. Her clothes caught fire from a stove.

—A train of empty coal cars were wrecked near Ashley, Penna., on the 14th. John Morrissy, brakeman, was fatally injured. An express train on the New Jersey Central Railroad jumped the track near White Haven, Penna., on the 14th. The passengers were badly shaken up, but none of them were injured.

—The steamer Atlas, at New York, on the 15th from the West Indies, brings news of a terrible hurricane which swept over Savanilla during the first three days of November, destroying a great amount of property.

—Five children named Newell, whose ages ranged from 5 to 12 years, died of diphtheria within five days at the home of their parents in Rockland County, New York. The funerals were held on five consecutive days.

—Annie Burke, 22 years old, daughter of William Burke, a gardener, in Toronto, has confessed to poisoning her mother, who died on the 13th. She recently attempted to stab her father. It is thought she is insane. Anton Sommer, a Bohemian, who has been separated from his wife for about two years, met her at the door of her house in Chicago, on the 16th, and shot her in the head, inflicting a dangerous wound. He then shot and killed himself. W. C. McKee and J. Dinnie, "whiskey detectives," were challenged to come out of the railway station waiting room in Myrtle, Ontario, on the evening of the 14th, by a party of hotel keepers. They came out and

George Brown, a bartender, drew a revolver. After exchanging several shots with Dinnie, Brown was fatally wounded. Dinnie escaped injury and disappeared. The remains of George Dougherty, a farmer, were found in the woods near Ogden's Landing, Kentucky, on the 15th. He had been at work on a railroad, and, after being paid off and selling a wagon and team, had \$500 in his possession. In Macon, Georgia, on the 15th, Woolfolk was found guilty of murder by a jury. He was sentenced to be hanged on February 10th. In his statement before sentence he asserted his innocence and said the witnesses had sworn falsely.

—A heavy wind prevailed at Crescent, a new town ten miles north of Los Angeles, California, on the 14th, and a hotel, in which were sixteen inmates, was blown down. Mrs. Clementine Arnold and her ten-year-old daughter were killed. All the others were badly hurt.

—James Rankin, a young farmer, living near Broken Bow, Nebraska, started out for a hunt on December 10th, in a sleigh. When he reached the woods his double-barreled shot gun slipped off the seat, and in attempting to draw it towards him the hammer caught and both loads were discharged into his heart. The remains were discovered on the 14th. "His right hand still held the reins firmly, and the horses were standing at the edge of a deep ravine. They had been without food since the accident occurred, and had gnawed the sleigh-tongue nearly through."

—Advices just received from Jamana, in the southern part of the State of Tamaulipas, Mexico, state that there was a riot during the elections on the 11th. One of the parties opened the polls, when the other began the fight. At each of the polls there was a pitched battle, and the ballot boxes were destroyed. Eight men were killed and over forty wounded. The result is that the old Mayor will hold over for another term.

—An old unsatisfied mortgage, dated 1840, has been found, which, it is stated, effects the title to about one-sixth of the real estate in Shamokin, Penna. The amount of the mortgage was originally \$12,000. The Sheriff has officially notified the landholders that he will sell the property December 30.

—The stage running between Little Rock and Carrington, Arkansas, was robbed on its outward trip, near the half way station, on the 14th, by three men, who appeared suddenly from a thicket wood. Six hundred dollars and two gold watches were taken from the four occupants.

—A despatch from El Dorado, Kansas, says that "from certain gentlemen who are well posted," it is learned that there is being secretly organized a scheme to make a raid on Oklahoma in the early spring. The movement extends over two or three States. They say that 100,000 men will go into the territory at a given date, and that the Government has not enough troops to keep them out.

—Frank Johnson, colored, was placed in jail in New Castle, Delaware, on the 16th, on the charge of carrying the death of George Williams, also colored. The met had a fight, and it is said Johnson hit Williams with a club. The body of George Green was found suspended from the limb of a tree several miles from Flemington, Dakota, on the 12th. "Green was a notorious cattle thief for years, but by his keenness had escaped the meshes of the law. Every one knew he was guilty, but could not convict him legally." He was in custody at the time, but was captured by unknown men and lynched. At Canton, Ohio, on the morning of the 16th, Charles Thomas stabbed to death his niece, Miss Briggs, and severely cut his sister-in-law, Mrs. Briggs. The affair grew out of a family quarrel.

—Thurston Lee was hanged at Bakersfield, California, on the 16th, for the murder of John Smith, in 1883. Chester Bellows was hanged at Charles City, Iowa, on the 16th. He declared his innocence on the scaffold.

—Mrs. Marie Kather was burned to death in Topeka, Kansas, on the evening of the 13th, while attempting to refill an oil lamp.

—It is stated that there has been an engagement between the Mexican troops, under General Soltero, and several of Bernal's band of outlaws, in which a number were wounded on both sides, and one of the band was made prisoner. The prisoner refused to tell the hiding-place of Bernal, and was tied to a tree and shot. A young Mexican woman, who had been carried off by Bernal after sacking the town of Otaez, was rescued. A telegram from Nogales, Arizona, says it has been learned that a scouting party sent to Cenja in search of the Bernal bandits, found three men, supposed to belong to that band, near Chacala, and shot them.

—The electric light station at West Chester, Chester County, Penna., was demolished on the afternoon of the 16th by the explosion of a boiler. Five persons were killed, among them T. Walter Embree, superintendent of the works, and a girl who was struck by a flying plank while passing by. D. O. Taylor, Court Clerk, who was seen in the building shortly before the explosion, is missing. Five men were injured, two, named William Allison and Edward Schofield, perhaps fatally. The cause of the explosion is unknown. The loss on property is estimated at \$25,000.

—A collision occurred on the evening of the 16th between the Old Dominion Steamship Breakwater and the Erie Railway ferry boat Pavana, on the Hudson River, at New York. The ferry boat was badly damaged. Frank Moriarty, ex-Assemblyman David Henry and Richard Coughlin, passengers on the ferry boat, were badly crushed and bruised and had arms or legs broken. It is feared their injuries are fatal. There were several minor casualties.

—Two freight trains collided near Clinton, Iowa, on the 16th, wrecking an engine and eight cars. Eugene Kelly, brakeman, was killed, and an engineer was injured.

50th CONGRESS.—First Session.

SENATE.

In the U. S. Senate on the 12th the standing and select committees were constituted. No fewer than 694 bills and resolutions were introduced; the largest number ever offered in one day in that body. Among them were bills by Mr. Edmunds for the establishment of a postal telegraph, by Mr. Cameron, to subsidize our merchant marine; by Mr. Dolph to provide for sea coast defenses; by Mr. Beck, to issue coin certificates in lieu of legal tender; and national bank notes of small denominations; by Mr. Aldrich, to apply the Treasury surplus to the purchase of United States bonds, or payment of interest on the public debt; Mr. Farwell to perpetuate the national banking system; by Messrs. Mitchell and Merrill, to regulate emigration, and by Mr. Manderson, granting a pension to every incapacitated soldier and sailor and to dependent relatives of deceased soldiers and sailors. After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

In the U. S. Senate, on the 13th, bills were introduced by Mr. Ingalls, to remove the limitation in the payment of arrears of pensions; by Mr. Callom, to amend the inter-State Commerce Act, establish a postal telegraph, and extend the pension law to steamboat men and others acting under U. S. officers; by Mr. Frye, "to promote the political progress and commercial prosperity of the American nation;" by Mr. Reagan, to allow the purchase and registry of foreign built ships by American citizens. Mr. Sawyer moved to reconsider the adoption on Monday of a resolution creating a special committee on Postal Telegraphy. He desired to have the subject left to the Post-office Committee, which had reported bills in the Forty-eighth and Forty-ninth Congresses. The motion was laid over for the present. Mr. Platt offered a resolution, which was referred, providing that hereafter the Senate shall consider and act upon treaties and Executive nominations in open session, unless otherwise ordered. Mr. Dolph called up his bill to provide for fortifications and other sea coast defenses. He said that it appropriated \$120,000,000 to be available as recommended by the Board of Fortifications—\$21,500,000 for the first two years and \$9,000,000 for each of the eleven years thereafter—until the whole amount was expended. "This was the only course by which a speedy construction of sea coast fortifications could be secured on any general and suitable plan." On his motion the bill was referred to the Committee on Coast Line Defences, and the Senate adjourned.

In the U. S. Senate, on the 14th, Mr. Hoar presented the unanimous report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections in the West Virginia case, declaring Charles J. Faulkner duly elected and entitled to the seat. The report was agreed to, and Mr. Faulkner sworn in. Mr. George introduced a bill to protect innocent purchasers of patented articles, and Mr. Platt moved its reference to the Committee on Patents, not the Judiciary Committee, as proposed by its author. Mr. Platt's motion was agreed to—40 to 25. The bill to regulate immigration introduced by Mr. Morrill, was taken up, and that gentleman spoke in advocacy of the measure. It was then referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

In the United States Senate on the 15th Mr. Dolph, from the Commerce Committee, reported a bill to amend the act of 1880 in regard to the immediate transportation of dutiable goods. Bills were introduced by Mr. Call to prohibit United States Courts from authorizing the borrowing of money by receivers beyond the amount of their net annual income; also to prohibit the appointment of such receivers without evidence of the financial condition of the company. Mr. Stewart spoke in advocacy of his bill to provide for the issue of coin certificates for circulation as money. When he had finished the bill was referred to the Committee on Finance. After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

In the U. S. House of Representatives on the 19th a concurrent resolution was adopted providing for a holiday recess from December 22 to January 4th. Mr. Townsend, of Illinois, offered a resolution providing that the introduction and reference of bills and resolutions. After debate it was over, at Mr. Randall's suggestion, until Monday, when, he understood, the Committee on Rules would be announced. A resolution was adopted expressing the regret of the House at the death of Representative-elect Robertson, of Louisiana. The House then adjourned.

In the House on the 12th, Mr. Springer presented the petition of Owen G. Chase, who claims to be elected Delegate from the "Territory of Cimarron," commonly known as the "Public Land Strip," and also as "No Man's Land." Mr. Springer also offered a resolution referring the petition to the Committee on Elections, when appointed, and meantime Mr. Chase the privilege of the floor. The petition and resolution were laid on the table. The Speaker vacated the chair and requested the House to appoint the Committee on Elections. Adjourned.

In the House, on the 13th, Speaker Carlisle called Mr. Mills, of Texas, to the chair. Mr. Cannon, of Illinois, then offered a resolution, which was unanimously adopted, declaring the Committee on Elections constituted as follows: Messrs. Crisp (chairman), O'Ferrall, Outwater, Barry, Mathis, Heard, Johnson, of North Carolina, O'Neal, of Indiana, Moore, Rowell, Houk, Cooper, Lyman, Johnson, of Indiana, and Lodge. The Speaker having resumed the chair directed all papers in the various contested election cases to be referred to the committee just elected. The House then adjourned.

How the Sea Birds Help Sailors Forecast the Weather.

On a dark, stormy day the cry of the sea-gull as it flies about over the angry waves enhances the grandeur and wildness of the scene. Few can mistake the movements of the bold, daring bird; and considering its knowing and clever nature, it is a matter of surprise that the word "gull" should have been employed so long to express stupidity.

The sea-gull has from time immemorial been regarded as furnishing an indication of the weather, and an old piece of weather lore informs us that rain and high winds from the south-southwest follow the appearance of sea-gulls. In Scotland there is a popular notion that the appearance of this bird "in the fields means a southeast storm; when it is over they go back to the beach." And, according to a well-known Scotch rhyme:

Sea-gull, sea-gull, sit on the sand,
It's never good weather when you're on the land.

For many miles, writes Mr. Wood, this bird will "follow boats so closely that the very sparkle of its eyes is plainly visible as it twists its wide-looking head from side to side while watching the voyagers.

On many of our coasts may be seen the cormorant, a black-feathered bird with green eyes. As far back as the time of Virgil this bird was looked upon as a weather prophet:

When crying cormorants forsake the sea,
And stretching to the coast bend their way
When watchful herons leave their watery stand.

Provet weather may be expected. The proverbial voracity of this bird gave rise to a number of large appetites being likened to it, a sense in which Shakespeare uses the word as in "Shakespeare's Labor Lost" (i. 1). Cormorant devouring time." Formerly the cormorant was much employed in this country for catching fish; a practice still kept up in China. James L. it may be remembered, made fishing with cormorants a fashionable amusement. Then there is the common tern, or sea swallow, with its rapid, darting flight. It was supposed by our northern fishermen to be the welcome harbinger of good luck, and hence its appearance was similarly appreciated by the crews of the Norse Vikings:

Now let the steed of ocean bound
For the North sea, with dashing sound:
Let the nimble tern and screaming gull
Fly round and round our net is full.

Pennant speaks of the auk "a bird observed by seamen never to wander beyond soundings, and according to its appearance they direct their measures, being assured that land is not very remote." But foremost among the birds that warned the sailor of the near approach of danger was the petrel, the belief in their ominous appearance having probably originated in their being seen when perhaps as much as a thousand miles from land, apparently untired and seldom resting or eating.

Fishermen in the English channel dislike the curlew, for they say that the east wind is caused by the flight of these birds. Thus Buckland, in his "Curiosities of Natural History," tells us how an old fisherman one day said to him: "I think no good of them. There's always an accident when they come. I heard 'em once one dark night last winter. They came o'er our heads all of a sudden, singing, 'ewe, ewe,' and the men in the boat wished to go back. It came on to rain and blow and was an awful night, and sure enough, before morning a boat was upset and seven poor fellows drowned. I knew what made the noise, sir, it's them long-billed curlews, but I never like to hear them." Smyth, in his "Sailor's Word Book," says that a sea-bird called the lavy was thought to indicate the weather by its motions, and was consequently carefully watched by Hebridean Islanders.

A bird which has from time immemorial been regarded by the seafaring community with superstitious reverence and fondness is the albatross. It is remarkable for the extent of its migration and indeed, writes Mr. Jones in his "Credulities Past and Present," "It may also be said to pass, from pole to pole, and is seen at a greater distance from land than any other bird." Hence, it has generally been regarded as a favorable omen, and Coleridge, in his "Ancient Mariner," thus alludes to it:

At length did cross an albatross,
Through the fog it came,
As if it had been a Christian soul,
We hailed it in God's name.

A good south wind sprang up behind:
The albatross did follow,
Few sailors, therefore, will allow an albatross to be killed for fear of ill-luck. Again, the Osprey, which frequents in such numbers the North American shores, is always hailed by the fishermen with delight, as being the harbinger of success. Wilson, the great American ornithologist, refers to this bird in his well-known "Fisherman's Hymn":

The osprey 's'n above the ground,
The gulls are gone, the gulls are flying,
The herring shoals swarm thick around,
The nets are launched, the boats are plying:
Ye, ye, my hearts! Let's seek the deep,
Raise high the song, and cheerily wish her,
Still as the bending net we sweep,
God bless the fish-hawk and the fisher!

It was also popularly nicknamed the sea-eagle, and, in addition to having a destructive power of devouring fish, was supposed formerly to have a fascinating influence, both of which qualities are probably referred to by Shakespeare in "Coriolanus." "I think he'll be to Rome as is the osprey to the fish, who takes it by sovereignty of nature."

Among other birds associated with the sea may be mentioned the kingfisher, it having been a popular belief that during the days this bird was engaged in hatching her eggs the sea remained so calm that the sailor might venture upon it without running the risk of storm or tempest. Hence this period was known as the "halcyon days," a belief to which Dryden thus refers:

Amidst our arms as quiet you shall be:
As halcyons brooding on a winter's sea.

Curious to say, swallows, which are lucky on shore, are said by sailors to be unlucky at sea. Mr. Bassett, in his "Legends of the Sea," quotes how Marcius, a Roman consul, presaged defeat from one of these alighting on the antenna of this galley and a similar omen sent southsayers to predict the speedy death of Mark Antony. Shakespeare probably had this superstition in his

mind when he represented Scarus as saying, in "Antony and Cleopatra":

Swallows have built
In Cleopatra's mill their nests; the augurs
Say they know not—they cannot tell—look
grimly,
And dare not speak their knowledge.

Similarly, the raven is disliked by sailors, as is also the crow, and many stories are related of their ominous character. Occasionally they are proplated, and in China, when crows perch on the mast, crumbs of bread are thrown to them in order to secure favorable winds. Such are some of the birds associated with the sea; from most of which omens for good or evil have been derived. Beliefs of this kind remind us of similar ones credited by Greek mariners more than two thousand years ago, for Aristophanes has left on record how—

From birds in sailmen instructions take,
Now lie in port, now sail and profit make.

Thetes at Sunrise.

One of the incidents of the tour is a visit to Thebes at sunrise. The vocal Memnon will not be heard unless a small Arab is hidden, in advance, in a break in the back of the Colossus, and instructed to pound with a bit of Theban debris upon a sonorous stone incorporated between the giant shoulders. But assuredly a sunrise visit to Thebes is well worth an effort. It is four miles from the File to the Ramesseum. The ride is across the plain, through dew-covered fields to the colossi, and then a turn is made northward. The sounds of the morning startle one as though never heard before. Something seems to be impending. How black and chill the colossi look. Everything, even the donkey-boy, is now quiet. The Ramesseum is reached, and you stand in the great hall of columns, frightened at their stately dignity, scarcely able to make out the careful chiseling on the shoulders and crown of the fallen statue. The inner temples are almost as dark as night, and you shrink from the thought of climbing alone up one of the great stairways which spring from them, to say nothing of going down to the "holy of holies," where the king was accustomed to consult the deities in closest secrecy. No light enters except from the broken roof and the loopholes in the walls. Suddenly a ray pierces the gloom. The giant columns in unison cast their long shadows toward the necropolis, upon one another and upon the neighboring walls. New the morning light pervades the place, and the stolid profiles of the Osiride columns, stationed there as if to guard to fallen monolith, are lighted with a rosy fire which accentuates the placid expression of their faces—each one "a likeness" of King Rameses II, the great "Pharaoh of the bible." The sun grows stronger and the coloring is gone. But the contrasts of light and shade continue as they have done for the long ages past, and will for ages to come.

A Loyal Woman's Tact.

A well-known poet of Spain, deservedly famous for his work, was at the same time a man of most advanced radical opinions, and waged such bitter and open war against the regency that he was at last arrested, tried and exiled. He was but scantily endowed with this world's goods, and the wife and children he left behind soon fell into absolute poverty. The poet petitioned Queen Christina for pardon in their behalf, and was at once permitted by her to return to Spain and to his family. He obtained an audience and went in person to tender his thanks to the sovereign and offer the expression of his gratitude and homage. He was graciously treated, less as the enemy that was than the future friend.

Suddenly the queen said: "You are not rich, and you have a large family, have you not?"

"I have six children, your majesty."

"Six," continued the queen; "then there are three for you and three for me."

From that day the poet's three daughters were cared for and educated at the queen's expense, who considers them as her special and personal charge.

A Shrewd Advertiser.

"My stars!" exclaimed a man, showing some one who stood near him, "you have trod on my corn."

The fellow snatched out a box of ointment, and replied: "I can relieve you, sir, in a few minutes. Only ten cents. Endorsed by the medical fraternity everywhere. There is no use in suffering. One box? Thank you," he added, as he put the money in his pocket.

"It was an accident you found him," some one remarked to the salve dealer.

"Oh, no, it wasn't. If you ask a man if he's got corns he don't want to talk to you, but when you find out that he's got 'em the chances of selling him medicine are good. I advise my medicine by going into crowds and slyly feeling for corns. Yonder stands a fat fellow. When the crowd gets thicker I'll go over and tap his hoof. Oh, yes, it may be painful, but, my dear sir, the business of this country must be carried on, regardless of sentiment."

—Twelve or fifteen persons were poisoned by eating cake at a party in Miss Wilson's residence, in Waynesburg, Penna., on the evening of the 16th. All were made very sick, and some are still in a critical condition. The symptoms indicated arsenical poisoning.

There is a gulch near Virginia City, Nev., whose waters cover all polished iron steel with a coating of pure metallic copper, as bright as the burnished metal. Pick and shovels used there soon become copper-plated. One day in '87 a horse was permitted to stand in the moist sand some fifteen minutes, and when led out his shoes had a bright copper coating. The sands in this gulch are full of beautiful crystals of metallic copper. Sometimes solid masses of crystallized copper weighing three and four ounces are found.