CENTRE REPORTER.

EDITOR and PROP'R FRED. KURTZ, CENTRE HALL, PA. THURS, FEB. 9, 1888.

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Advertisements 20 cents per line for 8 inse tions, and 5 cents for each subsequent insertion.

Let the taxes on whisky and tobacco stand but take them off the poor man's walker, who has always shown great stay-necessaries off his food and clothing ing powers. He is in excellent condition. He stands five feet eleven inches. That's the doctrine, that is what President Cleveland urges Congress to do in his message. He stands by the poor payers have to pay the war rates on the necessaries of life at this date-twentythree years after the war-is simply outrageous and the voters ought to say by their ballots that they will stand it no longer.

BOY THIEVES IN CHICAGO.

A large number of recent petty robberies in the vicinity of Wentworth Avenue and Twenty ninth Street was explained on Monday night by the discovery of the headquarters of a gang of boy thieves, located under a sidewalk, by two officers who, going to investigate a mysterious light under the sidewalk, found a the first hour stood as follows: small entrance to a cave in the ground, and on pursuing the search came to a Albert and Hegelman, 8 miles, 6 laps each; spacious room guarded by a 13 year-old Hart and Strokel, Smiles, 2 laps; Connors Jack Sheppard named Nimmie Rynes. "Who goes there?" followed by the sharp click of a revolver, greeted the officers as they were about to enter the cavern, and their quickness probably saved their lives, for on getting inside they found young Rynes with a revolver in hand and ready to uphold the dignity of the gang of which he was an officer.

Inside a curious spectacle was presenthuge musket, which glistened brightly in one corner. The walls were picturesquely decorated with sensational prints, and notice signed in red ink related the fact that "Tough Jimmie" was captain of the crowd, and that "B-lly the Kid" officiated as lieutenant. To the threats of Justin D. Fulton to secure a hall in which summary vengeance to traitors wassigned the hair-raising names of "Lightning Eddie," "Peanuts," "Jumbo," "Oysters," "Chumpy" and "Dyng Do." The youthful cave dweller in charge told the officer he was awaiting the arrival of some of his comrades, but they failed to put and a number of Baptist ministers were in an appearance. At the station the boy to be seen amoug the large audience presin an appearance. At the station the boy finally confessed to a complicity in sev-eral robberies perpetrated by the gang of announced to locture on Monday and Tues-day evenings. which he was a member.

OFF FOR A SIX DAYS' WALK. Start at Midnight of the Walking Match in

Madison Square Garden. NEW YORK, Feb. 6 .- The six days' walkng match, for which preparations have

been going forward for some time, began at midnight in the Madison Square Garden with forty-eight starters. The utmost interest was manifested by

the 6,000 spectators. The pens in which the contestants will rest during their weary tramp were the objective points of all at first and the bosths afterward.

Considerable betting was going on, the favorites being Cartwright, Connors, Sinclair, Hart and Hughes, in the order named. A good many, however, pinned their faith on Ranhofer of New York, an ex-champion

As the contestants came out to take their positions the immense audience cheered. Campana, otherwise "old sport," was the man every time. The idea that the tax- first to come to the starting point at 11.55. Hart followed immediately and then came the others in a bunch. The start, a good one, was made exactly at midnight.

The first away was Field, followed by Cox, and then came Hughes, Cartwright, Albert, Panchot, Herty, Guerrero, Brodie's unknown, Hart, Sinclair, Elson, Hales, Heggleman, Strokel, Curran, Dillon, Cam-pana, Tilly, Callahan, Ranhofer, McLaugh-lin, Solin, Paul, Dufrane, Keeslon, Call, Moree Here: Lower Hereday Namuert Moran, Hoag, Johnson, Hoagland, Nawdart, Day, Burrell, Pettilla, Delrica, Lurkey, Swenk, R hards, Taylor, Munson, Stolpp. Thomas, Stout, Vint, Sullivan, Bird and Connors, who brought up in the rear, making forty-eight all told

The leaders at the end of the first mile were Albert, Sinclair, Cartwright and Hart, who passed the scoring point in exactly five minutes. The score at the end of Cartwright, 8 miles, 6 laps; Guerrerreo, 8 miles, 6 laps; Golden, 8 miles, 6 laps;

and Herty, 8 miles; Sinclair, 7 miles, 5 laps; Hughes, 6 miles, 7 laps.

Unable to Reach an Agreement.

Boston, Feb. 5 .- The cigar manufacturers and their employes have as yet come to no satisfactory terms of settlement. A committee from Union 97 met a similar committee from the manufacturers, for the purpose of arriving if possible at some conclusion agreeable to both parties. The manufacturers, although feeling it necesed. Revolvers in great profusion hung posed to make a reduction in pay, were disabout the papered walls, backed up by a to prevent a strike. The men were evidently inclined not to concede anything. huge musket, which glistened brightly in the light from an old salamander stove to bring the matter before their Union. Although there are rumors that a strike may result, no action to that effect has yet been taken.

A Church Opened to Dr. Fulton.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 6 .- The failure of Dr. to deliver his lectures against Romanism in this city was the cause of considerable discussion among the Baptist ministers, who indignantly declared that it was an attempt to throttle free speech. They therefore arranged to have him lecture in Emanuel Church, and gave him a public welcome, The Rev. Dr. Williams presided

Pullman's New Industry. Cuicago, Feb. 4 .- There are rumors that

WONDERFUL LUCK.

How George Prather and His Brothers Made a Royal Fortune.

There died on a farm near Bear Lake, Crawford County, a few days ago, a horse that in January, 1865, figured prominently in one of the most important operations in the history of oil development in Venango County-an operation by which the owner of the horse and his two brothers, without a dollar of capital, made, according to a Bradford (Pa.) correspondent of the New York Sun, a million dollars apiece. The horse was known as "the Prather horse," and was formerly the property of the late George Prather, of Meadville. It was

nearly twenty-eight years old. George Prather was one of three brothers-John, George and Abraham-who started a country store in the village of Plumer, Venango County, in 1864. John Prather was married to the daughter of an old farmer named Holmden, lived on Pithole creek, seven who miles beyond petroleum developments in 1864. In the fall of that year representatives of a new corporation, known as the United States Oil Company, leased a part of old man Holmden's farm and began putting down a well upon it. The era of bogus oil companies, which subsequently swindled the public out of millions of dollars in a few months' time, was then beginning. No one in the neighborhood of Holmden's had any faith in the existence of oil thereabouts, but the Prather brothers thought that on the strength of the United States Company's having begun actual operations on the farm, they might utilize the fact in a little speculation of their own. They had no money, but John Prather, the son-in-law of the owner of the farm, made the latter an offer of \$25,-000 for the refusal of the remainder of his farm for sixty days. As \$25,000 was more than ten times the value of his pr operty, Holmden took the chances of the boys being able to raise the money, and readily

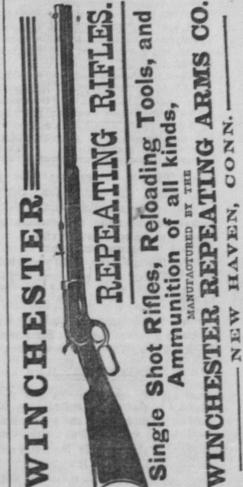
signed the papers. By the middle of November the drill on the United States lease had reached third sand, the sand in which oil had invaribly been found along Oil creek, but no oil was found. The drill was continued, however, to delay the day of failure and to give op. portunity for the placing of more of the company's stock with credulous specu-lators. Cold weather came on and compeled operations to cease for the time, just as the drill reached a fourth sand, something until then unknown.

The Prather boys had not done any thing with the Holmdon farm as late as Janpary, 1865. Then they concluded to push it in the market, as they believed a few weeks more would see the failure of the United States Company's scheme. George Prather was sent East to find a customer for the farm. At Pittsburgh he interested C. B. Duncan, of the firm of Duncan & Kent, in the matter, and the two went on to Philadelphia to dispose of the property. Toward the middle of January the weather grew mild, and there came a break up. The superintendent of the United States Company paid a visit to the well, with the intention of drawing the tools and abandoning the work. His curiosity prevailed upon him to see what the character of the fourth sand was, and he fired up and started the drill. It had taken but a few turns when it dropped eight feet in the rock and tapped the oil vein. The well was tubed, and it suddenly began flowing, spouting oil at a three-hundred-barrel rate.

That was before the days of oil-well "mysteries," and the news of the strike on the Holmden farm soon spread through the region. The farm at once jumped among the millions in value. John and



Reduced rates to \$2.00 per day. The traveling public will still find at this Hotel the same liberal provision for their comfort. It is located in the immediate centres of business and places of amuse-ment and different railroad depots, as well as all parts of the city, are saily accessible by Street Cars constantly passing the doors. It offers special inducements to those visiting thecity for business or



Send for 76-Page

WHAT A BLIZZARD IS.

In Centre county we have snow storms, but the following description of a Dakota blizzard, tells the difference: A blizzard is simply a strong, cold wind

moving unchecked over leagues of light, unpacked snow. It sweeps up that which has previously fallen, carries it away in the color of a vast shaken fleece. distributes it so that each atmospheric atom has its little particle, and drives along with a steady fury. Whether fresh snow is falling can seldom be determined by people out in a real blizzard. As far as the eye can see upward, and that is but a little space, the hurry of minute pellets hurling through ether across an unrevealed sky prevails, and the hurry ing sameness on every side is varied only by occasional tail and blending wraiths where the wind whirls in shift ing column. A confusion of the senses, comparable to none produced otherwise appa's one submitted to the enormous and blinding force of such a snow-filled fight with. There were four clean knock wind and scarcely a distinct thought re-mains except that the awful cold forbids badly punished. Both were pretty mains except that the awful cold forbids crouching for rest and shelter. To our personal knowledge one in such a storm keeps with difficulty upon a railway track lifted three feet above the surrounding prairie, and may be lost by five steps the wrong way after stumbling down from the embankment, which, being white, becomes instant y invisible. It is recorded on good anthority that teamsters halting with their horses have been snowed over thirty feetdeep by blizzards and have survived by heating out breath ing chambers till the cessation of the storm enabled them to dig themselves to upper air The formation of a drift a letter of sympathy. about a halted man, or horse, or sleigh, is sometimes wonderfully speedy; and the drift, once established, grows by virtue of its obstructiveness. In some wellauthenticated cases lost persons have dug out alive; in others the spring has revealed corpses still unthawed among the last white relics of winter. In blizzards people have often been unable to see across the street of a Northwestern town, and sometimes men lose their di-

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the Pullman Palace Car Company will in a few weeks begin the construction of an immense plant for the manufacture of locomotives. It is intimated that giant locomotives will now be constructed, capable of hauling from 75 to 100 loaded cars. No details are given beyond the confirmation from the officers of the company of the statement that they will certainly add the construction of locomotives to their present business.

Army Orders.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 .- Major William A. Marye, Orduance Department, has been ordered to inspect certain hospital and meeical property at the National Armory, Springfield, Mass., for which Acting As-sistant Surgeon S. W. Bowles is responsible. Leave of absence for six months has been granted Captain Michael Leahy, Eighteenth infantry.

One-Armed Sluggers Meet.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Feb. 5 .- Otto Johnson and John Geiger, two one-armed sluggers, fought three rattling rounds with small gloves in Opera House Hall carly yesterday morning. Johnson was knocked out. The men had only their left arms to

Paralyzed at the Organ,

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Feb. 6.-While playing the "To Doum" at the morning service n St. Andrews' Church, in Meriden, Sunday, Prof. Henry A. Foster, the organist, was stricken with paralysis. He was carried home, and his recovery is doubtful. His entire left side is paralyzed. He is one of the best known musicians in the State.

Mrs. Cleveland Not Present.

Boston, Feb. 6.-A service of prayer was held yesterday over the body of Homer F. Harmon which was taken to Houlton, Me., last night for interment. Mrs. Folsom was present. Mrs. Cleveland decided at the last ent not leave Washington. She sent

Arming Postal Clerks,

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.-The Post Office Department has resolved to arm, at the ex-pense of the department, all postal clerks west of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. been found by the drifts over them and This action is taken because of the frequent "holding up" of mail trains by robbers in that section.

Murder at a Soldiers' Home.

BATH, N. Y., Feb. 4.-Thomas Larny and William Lavery, inmates of the Soldiers' Home, came to blows and fought savagely. rection in trying to reach the opposite slde of a well-built way. that charge.

Government Vessels in Collision.

Tramps in Winter Quarters. HARRISBURG, Pa., Feb. 6.—There are now 255 tram.ps confined in the Cumberland county prison.

Four Feet of Snow on a Level.

Kunne, N. H., Bob. 6.-Snew is four fort

Abraham Prather were wild. Their brother George was in the East trying to sell the farm, and, ignorant of the oil strike, might even then have disposed of it for a song. Telegrams were sent to him at Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, but he could not be found. There was as yet no railroad communication between Oil City and Pittsburgh. George Prather owned a very fleet and strong young horse, and John mounted that horse and started for Pittsburgh. He did not leave the saddle until he had made the entire distance, nearly one hundred miles, over the crooked and hilly roads along the Allegheny river. At Pittsburgh he took the cars for Philadelphia. If the train had been one minute late the Prather boys would have lost \$2,000,000, for John met his brother George and Duncan on the Girard House steps, as they were on their way to close out the sale of the farm for \$100,000. The three took the next train for Pittsburgh, and reached the Holmden farm the day before the sixty days' refusal expired. Pithole creek was then overrun with ex-

cited oil speculators, and almost any price was offered for land. The rise of Pithole City had begun. Mrs. Holmden, the old farmer's wife, refused to sign the deed to the farm unless the price was put at \$125,000 and a present of \$5,000 in gold was given her. The \$125,000 was quickly raised by selling a very small interest in the farm, but the whole property came near being forfeited in the search of the \$5,000 in gold. It was obtained through the banker Culver of Rouseville just in time to save the property. The Prather boys and Duncan made \$4,000,000 on the property, and all left Pithole before the bottom dropped out. All three of the boys lost their fortunes afterward in speculation. George died in Meadville. The horse that had carried his brother to Pittsburgh on that eventful January day with the news of the oil strike at Pithole was used by him for several years, and after his death was sold to the farmer who owned it until its death.

Long before the crash came at Pithole it was known that the capital of the United States Oil Company was fictitious, and that its venture on the Holmden farm was entirely of the wildcat order, made for the purpose of selling its stock. That it be-came suddenly one of the wealthiest companies ever organized in the oil regions and was enabled to pay enormous dividends, was to none so much of a surprise as to its projectors themselves. It made the forture of every one connected with it, and is referred to still as the most success ful wild-cat venture in the history of any speculation.

Lowly-Born Cardinals.

The death is announced in Upper Aus The death is announced in Upper Aus-tria of Frederick Ganglebauer, only brother of Cardinal Ganglebauer, Arch-bishop of Vienna and Primate of the Em-pire. Frederick Ganglebauer was but an ordinary peasant, and fell dead of an aneurism of the heart while engaged in plowing his fields. Cardinal Simor, the Primate of the Kingdom of Hungary is Primate of the Kingdom of Hungary, is the son of a village cobbler, and has his old mother residing with him in his splendid palace.

Italian Versatility. A sign in front of a store in the city of Bari, on the Adriatic Sea, in Italy, recom-mends to the public the goods and services to be had from the proprietor: "Leoches, bread sold in alices or loaves, and tuition in mathematics."

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