

# SIXTY LIVES LOST.

EXPLOSIONS IN A MISSOURI COAL MINE.—FORTY DEAD BODIES TAKEN OUT AT LAST ACCOUNTS.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 29.—The following despatch has just been received from Rich Hill: About 4 o'clock this afternoon there was a rumbling sound in Mine No. 8, at this place, and a moment afterward a fearful explosion, that entirely wrecked the mine and buried in the debris over a hundred miners, who were cut off from all means of escape.

Up to the hour of sending this despatch 40 bodies have been taken out and at least 15 more are expected to have met a similar fate. The superintendent of the mine was taken out badly injured, but will survive. In the terrible excitement and confusion it is impossible to give a list of names or even an estimate as to the extent of the disaster, but it is now thought that over 50 men were killed.

Later.—The mine is situated eight miles distant from the town. There were two explosions and it is said the total loss of life will reach sixty men. Rich Hill is located in Bates county 100 miles south of Kansas City, on the Missouri Pacific Railroad. It is in the center of a coal mining district.

Before dark 40 bodies had been taken from the ruins. The fire explosion occurred at 12:10 P. M., killing 20 or 30 men. Superintendent Sweeney and his assistants immediately began the work of rescuing the imprisoned miners, and up to 4:30 had succeeded in saving 15 men, when a second explosion occurred, involving Superintendent Sweeney and his aids. The fire was terrific, shooting out from the top of a 270-foot shaft like a great furnace.

Further effort to save miners was hopeless, and as hundreds of men, women and children crowded about the burning shaft, the scene became heartrending to the extreme.

At 9 o'clock to-night another explosion was momentarily expected, as the flames were almost within reach of a magazine containing 300 or 400 kegs of powder. The mines belonged to the Keith & Perry Coal Company, and were inspected about two months ago.

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The funeral services over the remains of Chief Justice Waite were held on the 28th in the Capitol in Washington in presence of a distinguished assemblage, including the President and Cabinet, both Houses of Congress, the Judiciary, Diplomatic Corps and army and navy officers. Bishop Paret read the Episcopal burial service. After the ceremony the body was taken to the railroad depot and sent to Toledo, Ohio, on a special train, accompanied by the committee of Congress and members of the family of deceased.

The heavy rain storm which prevailed in Kansas City, Missouri, on the 24th and 25th caused a land-slide on the bluff facing the Union Depot. For 1500 feet the entire bluff appears to have been pushed forward by some irresistible agency, hundreds of tons of rock and earth sliding down the steep hillside. Along the face of the bluff, about half way from the base to the top, is a ledge about 30 feet in width, on which are a number of shanties occupied by families of colored people. This ledge is now sealed with immense fissures, which extend its whole length, and houses are tilted in every direction. The residents were compelled to flee for their lives. As this big body of rock and earth now overhangs the tracks in the Union Pacific yards, the whole face of the bluff may at any moment be precipitated down Bluff street, and cover all the tracks leading East and North from the city, effectually stopping railway traffic in those directions, also blocking Bluff street, which is the main road from the Union Depot to the main portion of the city.

Word has been received in Kansas City, Missouri, of the destruction of the little town of Ninnescah, Kansas, on the evening of the 24th, by a tornado. It struck the town from the southwest and left only three houses standing. Two churches, five stores and 15 dwellings were torn to pieces, and the flying timbers killed three persons and maimed 17 others. The victims are: Mrs. J. O. Williams, with her infant, killed; George S. Hardesty, killed; James Williams, both legs broken and severely bruised, will probably die; Charles Gordon, injured in the back, supposed to be fatally. The others injured have only minor hurts.

There was a storm of unusual severity throughout Nebraska, on the 26th. The fruit trees and young timber were all heavily loaded with ice and sleet. Winter grains are thought to be injured, and the outlook for fruit in the State is poor. A severe sleet storm prevailed on the 25th in Northern Illinois and Iowa, covering everything with ice. At Chicago the storm changed on the morning of the 26th to a heavy rain. Great damage to the wheat and fruit crops is feared. A wind and hail storm swept over Bolivar county, Mississippi, on the evening of the 25th, doing much damage to the planting interests. Trees were uprooted and many fences destroyed.

The United States Treasurer has adopted a new seal for use on U. S. notes and certificates. It is similar in design to the large one used on the old \$20 note, with the addition of a small face border, with many points, in geometric lattice work. It is light pink in color, circular in form and nearly two inches in diameter. Heretofore a separate seal was used on notes and gold and silver certificates, varying in size and design, according to the character and denomination of the note. Hereafter the new seal will be used exclusively on all paper issued. The change in the size and design is said to be in the nature of an additional safeguard against counterfeiting.

In Houston, Texas, on the 26th, Sheriff Ellis was notified that five children had been poisoned at the house of

Mrs. John Sessum. Doctors were summoned and soon had four of them out of danger. Mrs. Sessum said she had not been living with her husband for a year; that on the morning of the 26th he came to the house, and, going to the kitchen, dropped something into the coffee, which the children subsequently drank. Sessum and his wife were both arrested.

During a fight at Eagle Point, Texas, on the evening of the 26th, Davis Green, colored, shot and badly wounded Arthur McDow, a prominent white man. Other parties then drew revolvers and shot Green dead. During the fusillade Dennis Winslow, a respectable colored man, was accidentally shot and killed.

Bertha Wise, a cook in a restaurant in Pittsburg, was killed on the 27th by Frank Liddell, employed at the same place. Liddell was shooting rats with a parlor gun, when the woman, who was just coming in the room, was struck by a ball which entered her heart. The shooting was accidental.

The house occupied by Thomas Bull, storekeeper and postmaster in Orilla, Ontario, was burned on the evening of the 26th. His three children, aged 1, 3 and 5, perished in the flames. The house of Mrs. Peter Bertine, in Bathurst, New Brunswick, was burned on the morning of the 25th during the absence of the mother, and two girls, aged 13 and 11, were burned to death. Harry Worthen and Lewis Morrill, aged respectively 7 and 6 years, were drowned on the 27th by breaking through the ice on the Merrimac river, at Salisbury Point, Massachusetts. The boiler of Luce's saw mill, at Cookeville, Tennessee, burst on the 27th, killing three men and injuring several others. George Schwartz, of Cincinnati, was struck and killed by a train on the Union Pacific Railroad, in Omaha, Nebraska, on the 27th. Some persons said he threw himself on the track. Hiram Van Fossen, aged 67 years, was run over and killed on the 27th on the Pennsylvania Schuylkill Valley Railroad, at Manayunk. Michael Di Nanni had both his hands blown off on the 27th by a premature explosion of a blast in a quarry at General Wayne, Penna.

An explosion occurred at Stickney's powder factory near Ashford, New York, on the 27th. Two workmen were blown to atoms. At the spot where the mills stood there is now a hole big enough to bury a house in.

The total rainfall at Montgomery, Alabama, since the evening of the 25th, has been 7.77 inches, the heaviest on record there for the same period of time. The Alabama river has been rising at the rate of a foot per hour for 30 hours. Trains on the Western and the Montgomery and Eufaula railroads have been abandoned, and there is much interruption of travel on other roads.

A despatch from Aberdeen, Dakota, received on the 27th, stated that it had been snowing there incessantly for 36 hours. There are two feet of snow on a level. All railway travel is suspended. The storm is said to have been general in Central Dakota. Word has been received in St. Paul, Minnesota, that the little town of Reville, in Grant county Dakota, is completely blocked in, and that in some cases the people are breaking up their furniture for fuel. Northern Wisconsin and Minnesota have been visited by another severe storm. Over a foot and a half of snow fell and drifted badly. The St. Paul and Duluth is the only railroad that has managed to get trains through on time.

A telegram from Mackinaw City, Michigan, reports an "easterly blizzard," with the snow badly drifting, and a probability that trains will be delayed. From present indications the Straits of Mackinaw will not be open before the first of May. "The smooth ice is from two to three feet thick, and the piled ice, which covers nearly the whole strait, is from 5 to 20 feet high."

The boiler of a locomotive attached to a train on the New York and New England Railroad exploded early on the morning of the 28th at North Manchester, Connecticut. Engineer Kelso and Fireman Bogie were killed. The engine had been condemned, and on the 28th was the last day it was to run. Peter Maguire and Wm. Brendinger were run over and killed by a passenger train at Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania, on the evening of the 28th. They were walking on the track. A Toledo, Wabash and Western freight train ran into the rear sleeper of an express train on the Michigan Central Railroad at a crossing near Burnside on the evening of the 27th. The sleeper was derailed and smashed up, and several cars of the freight train were demolished. Six persons were taken from the wreck of the sleeper, five of whom were injured, though not dangerously. A premature explosion of powder took place on the 28th at James Findlay's mine, at Rittenhouse Gap, 25 miles from Reading, Penna. A number of men were injured, Louis Roeder, Patrick Reilly and James Hensinger severely.

Gen. Wm. H. Noble, a lawyer and pension agent, was arrested at Bridgeport, Connecticut, on the 28th, on the charge of forwarding to Washington fraudulent affidavits to secure a pension for Mrs. Annie Smith, of Hempstead, Long Island. George Smith, son of the alleged pensioner, was also arrested for being a party to the fraud. More than two years ago C. S. Eaton, of Auburn, Maine, disappeared, after having raised about \$2000 by forged endorsements. He returned on the 27th to attend his father's funeral, and was lodged in jail. Richard F. Carew, aged 25 years, clerk in the wholesale dry goods house of Burnham, Steepel & Co., in Detroit, was arrested on the 28th for stealing goods from the firm. He admits having taken \$200 worth, but thefts to the amount of over \$1000 have been discovered, and the total is expected to exceed \$3000. He had been employed by the firm about a year.

Patrick Daly, aged 23 years, was shot dead by H. W. Thorman in a drunken quarrel in Chicago on the morning of the 28th. The "Bald Knobbers," J. Matthews, Wm. Walker and Wiley Matthews, who were con-

vinced at Ozark, Missouri, of the murder of Charles Green and William Edens, have been sentenced to be hanged on May 18th. The trial of the Christian county "Bald Knobbers" for the Edensgreen murder was resumed on the 28th. William Stantey, one of the indicted men, was taken into court and withdrew his plea of not guilty and entered a plea of guilty of murder in the second degree.

Frederick Markley, a farmer, near Coshocton, Ohio, committed suicide on the 26th. He had a life interest in the farm on which he lived, and at his death the property was to go to his heirs. He had met with financial reverses and when the Sheriff went on the 26th to levy on the property, Markley killed himself to save the property for his children.

Mrs. Nicholas Fagan, residing in a tenement on East Forty-ninth street, New York, went out for a short time on the morning of the 29th, leaving her two children, Annie, aged three years, and Maggie, aged 1 year; alone in the house. During her absence the place caught fire and Maggie was burned to death, while Annie was so badly injured that her recovery is doubtful. It is supposed that the little one got hold of some matches.

It is reported in Chicago that Thomas E. Clark, for several years superintendent of telegraph construction for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, has been arrested for embezzling the company's funds. He would pocket money, it is said, and returned false receipts, showing that it had been spent in construction work. About \$5000 are missing, and it is feared that his thefts will reach a much larger sum.

The Governor of New Jersey on the 26th granted a respite for four weeks to George Unham convicted of murder at Woodbury.

William D. Poole, ex-Chief Deputy U. S. Marshall at Boston, was on the 29th, indicted on a charge of embezzlement and rendering false accounts. The amount embezzled is reported at about \$35,000. The Grand Jury exonerated Marshall Snow and Deputies Galloupe and Snow. A man who registered as N. J. Wilson, of Orleans, Indiana, took a room in a hotel in Louisville, Kentucky, on the 25th. He was very ill and died on the 26th. It is believed he was Newton J. Wilson, who was Treasurer of Scott county, Indiana, for many years. One day in 1883 he disappeared, and an investigation showed that he had stolen from the county \$100,000. He was never heard from after leaving Scott county.

A telegram from Birmingham, Alabama, says the great rain storm continues, bridges have been washed away, and travel on the railroads suspended. A despatch from Augusta, Georgia, says the heavy rains continue in that section, and the upper Carolina tributaries of the Savannah river are out of their banks. The lower part of Augusta is flooded and the river is still rising. The rapid rise in the Mississippi river threatens East St. Louis with a flood. For this season of the year the river is unusually high. An engine and several cars on the Taylor, Bastrop and Houston Railroad broke through a bridge near Houston, Texas, on the 28th. W. S. Taylor, a brakeman, was killed and six others injured, two dangerously.

The British steamer Canobury, which went ashore at Nantucket, has sunk, and will probably be a total loss, with her cargo. One of her rescued men died from exposure on the evening of the 28th. The Canobury had a cargo of sugar, consigned to the Standard Refinery, of Boston, and insured in that city. The steamer Saale, from New York for Bremen, which grounded in the lower bay at New York on the 28th, was floated on the morning of the 29th. The steamer De Ruyter, from Antwerp via Boston, grounded on Long Beach, on the 29th, but was floated without damage. A despatch from Detroit, Michigan, says the steamer City of Cleveland opened navigation there on the 29th by making a trip to Cleveland. She arrived at the latter city without having met much ice.

The floods in Dakota are increasing. The flat near Jackson is overflowed to a depth of several feet, and some stock has been lost. Near Jefferson the settlers have been driven from the lowlands. A great gorge is forming near Yankton, and serious trouble is feared when the weather grows warmer. The people living opposite the mouth of the Big Sioux river, above Sioux City, Iowa, are leaving their homes because of a flood. A great gorge at Cottonwood Hill caused the trouble. A tremendous rainfall and heavy floods are reported throughout Alabama. The Coosa, Warrior and Tennessee rivers are especially high, and the overflow of the last-named river has caused \$100,000 damage to the Mussel Shoals Canal near Florence. A train, which left Montgomery for New Orleans, on the evening of the 27th, was compelled to return. The only railroad open from Montgomery was the Louisville and Nashville, northward. A despatch from Atlanta, Georgia, says reports from all parts of the State show that the enormous rainfall of the past week has resulted in great damage to railroads and farming interests. At Anniston, Alabama, on the 28th, all the railroads had abandoned their trains, and traffic was entirely stopped. Many bridges had been washed away, and two children were drowned a short distance from the city. The rain is still falling in torrents. A despatch from Tiffin, Ohio, says continuous rains for 48 hours have caused the Sandusky river and its tributaries to overflow their banks and thousands of acres are submerged. Mechanicsburg, a portion of Tiffin, is flooded, and the people are using boats for communicating with the other portions.

At Trenton, Missouri, on the evening of the 29th, J. W. Hill, "playfully pointed" a shot gun at Miss Sarah Bowd, and the weapon went off, the lead tearing through her right hand and entering her side. She died in a short time.

Harry Painter, of Monocacy, Berks county, and Charles Wilkinson, of Sullivan, Maine, were found dead in bed in a room at the Keystone Hotel at Reading, Penna., on the morning of the 30th, they having blown out the gas. They were about 30 years of age, and Wilkinson had been working at Monocacy for some time in a granite quarry operated by Painter. The bodies of two men, supposed to be victims of the recent blizzard, were reported washed ashore on the 30th on the river bank at Wilmington, Delaware. Three little children perished by the burning of a house near Macon, Missouri, on the 30th, during the temporary absence of their parents. Harry Lovett, a Philadelphia, was killed at Lynn, Massachusetts, on the 30th, by an electric shock, while experimenting in the works of an electric company there. Mrs. Maria Boshock, aged 45 years, was killed by a railroad train at Kingston, Penna., on the morning of the 30th, while on her way to church. John C. Gray, a butcher at the abattoir in Boston, accidentally shot and killed a butcher named John O'Harra, on the 30th, the ball glancing from the head of a steer which Gray shot and striking O'Harra in the head.

While drunk on the morning of the 30th, Christian Klordan, a butcher, shot and probably fatally wounded Mrs. Downey, his mother-in-law, in New York. His wife had taken refuge with her mother on account of his neglect and cruelty. A south bound freight train on the Delaware Railroad on the morning of the 30th ran off the main track at Woodside, fifty-two miles below Wilmington, and crashed into a car loaded with pig iron, which stood on a siding. The engine and four cars were wrecked, but no person was injured. An examination showed that the switch lock had been broken and the signal light extinguished, the apparent intention being to wreck the south bound Norfolk Express. A man giving the name of Sydney Roach, of Crisfield, was arrested and confessed that he was guilty.

At Chicago on the 30th August Hetzke, recently sentenced to be hanged for having whipped his son to death with a strap, was granted a new trial on condition that he plead guilty. A plea of guilty was entered, and Hetzke was at once sentenced to imprisonment for life.

Workmen, in remodeling an old stone dwelling at Piqua, Ohio, on the 30th, discovered the bones of four children, evidently from 9 to 12 years of age at the time of death. "It is a murder mystery, and tradition says the children, who were heirs to a considerable fortune, disappeared from that house and all trace was lost of them many years ago."

The latest reports of the mine explosion at Rich Hill, Missouri, show that not more than 40 men were in the mine at the time. Of these, 15, were taken out alive, 14 being severely injured. Twenty-one deaths are reported, and nine of the injured are not expected to recover.

A well-dressed woman, of thirty, who gave her name as Miss Fell, also Miss Brill, committed suicide at Armand's Hotel, in New York, on the evening of the 29th, by turning on the gas. She left a letter addressed to Mrs. Moreland, 31 Monroe street, Mobile, Alabama.

Calden Robinson, colored, aged 30 years, on the morning of the 30th, murdered his wife Sarah and attempted to murder her youngest sister Lizzie, in New York. Lizzie escaped with a flesh wound and Robinson was arrested. A report from Chillicothe, Missouri, says that J. V. Gillespie and wife locked themselves in a room after dinner on the 30th and had a violent quarrel, with probably fatal results, Gillespie being shot three times and his wife having her throat cut almost from ear to ear.

The Comptroller of the Currency on the 30th authorized the National Bank of Commerce, of Hutchinson, Kansas, to begin business with a capital of \$100,000. The Northwestern Railroad, of Minneapolis, estimates the loss to the railroad companies through the Western rate war just ended, at \$15,000,000.

The sudden melting of the snow and heavy rains during the past week have caused floods in the country around Detroit, Michigan. About 700 acres of land have been overflowed, and sixty bridges washed away. The flood in the Sioux river, Iowa, caused by the great ice gorge at its mouth, continues, and the submergence of the lowlands is increasing. The Missouri river has fallen about a foot. The lower portions of Columbus, Mississippi, are flooded by the rise in the Tombigbee river, and have been abandoned by the inhabitants. The floods in Alabama are subsiding and it is thought all the railroads will be in full running order by the 1st. The Atlantic and the Great Southern road was the only railroad at Birmingham not blocked on the 29th. A loss of four lives in different parts of the State is reported.

## 50th CONGRESS.—First Session.

### SENATE.

In the U. S. Senate on the 26th, bills were reported to perfect the quarantine system of the United States, and for the admission of Montana into the Union. Mr. Callon from the Committee on Territories, reported (unanimously) resolutions declaring it the sense of the Senate that the Territory of Utah ought not to be admitted into the Union as a State until the practice of polygamy has been entirely abandoned by its inhabitants, and until it is likewise certain that the civil affairs of that Territory are not controlled by the priesthood of the Mormon Church. The resolutions were ordered to be printed and laid over. The House bill for the purchase of United States bonds by the Secretary of Treasury was discussed. An amendment offered by Mr. Plumb, requiring the Secretary of the Treasury, whenever national bank circulation is surrendered, to issue Treasury notes to an equal amount, was adopted—yeas 28, nays

21. Mr. Stewart offered an amendment allowing deposits of gold or silver bullion and the issuing of coin certificates therefor. Pending action the Senate went into executive session and when the doors were reopened adjourned.

In the U. S. Senate on the 27th, a bill was reported to aid State homes for soldiers. The Bond Purchase bill came up as unfinished business, pending question being on Mr. Stewart's amendment authorizing the deposit of gold or silver bullion and the issue of coin certificates therefor. Notices of further amendments were given by Messrs. Reagan and Beck, and the bill went over. It was agreed that for the remainder of the week bills on the calendar should be considered. After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

In the U. S. Senate on the 29th, Mr. Daves introduced a bill, which was referred to establish courts for the Indians on the various reservations. A number of bills were taken from the calendar and passed, among them the bill in aid of the Centennial Association of Valley Forge. Adjourned.

### HOUSE.

In the House on the 26th a bill from the Senate was passed appropriating \$5000 for the funeral expenses of the late Chief Justice Waite. A number of bills were introduced and referred under the call of States. A bill was reported for the organization of the Territory of Alaska, and referred to the Committee of the Whole. Pending consideration of District of Columbia business, the House adjourned.

In the House, on the 27th, the report of the Election Committee in the case of Worthington vs. Post, from the Tenth Illinois District, was adopted. It confirms Post's right to his seat. The bill to prevent the dumping of rubbish in New York harbor and adjacent waters was reported and placed on the calendar. Bills were also reported for an additional life-saving station on Nantucket Island; to provide for ascertaining the propriety and feasibility of a gulf and lake water way, for a public building at York, Penna.; to adjust the war claims of States; for the election of U. S. Senators by popular vote, and to amend the Civil Service act. The Union Pacific Railroad Funding bill was discussed. The Military Academy Appropriation bill was passed. The General Public Land bill was considered, pending which the House adjourned.

In the House on the 29th, Mr. Enloe, of Tennessee, reported adversely the resolution calling upon the Postmaster General for information in regard to his recent order relating to the mailing of American bulbs and seeds in Canada. After a long discussion the resolution was tabled by a vote of 125 to 122. The District of Columbia Appropriation bill was reported and referred to the Committee of the Whole. The Indian Appropriation bill was considered in the Committee of the Whole, and Mr. Nelson, of Minnesota, spoke in favor of a reduction of the tariff. When he had finished, the Committee rose and the House adjourned.

In the U. S. House of Representatives on the 30th, the Senate amendments to the bill authorizing the President to arrange a conference for the purpose of encouraging reciprocal commercial relations between the United States and the Republic of Mexico, Central and South America and the Empire of Brazil, were non-concurred in, and a conference was ordered. A resolution was reported and passed appropriating \$25,000 to enable the United States to participate in the International Exhibition at Barcelona, Spain, in April. The House bill granting a pension of \$2000 per annum to the widow of General Logan, and the Senate bill increasing to \$3000 per annum the pension of the widow of General Francis P. Blair were passed—the former by a vote 154 to 95; the latter by a vote of 149 to 91. An evening session was held for the consideration of private pension bills. Adjourned.

## GINSENG.

### A Worthless Root That is a Chinese Cure-All.

One of the mysteries in the world of commerce is ginseng. If you speak to an ordinary man about ginseng, he will ask you what you mean. If you tell him ginseng is an article of commerce in which a traffic of about a million dollars a year is done by Americans, he will stare at you. If you tell him that it has been in certain places of the world worth its weight in gold, he will probably stare harder. If you add to this you tell him that it is a vast humber, and that it is a very ordinary root of an American shrub, almost without a particle of any but imaginary value, he will concede that it is a strange article for traffic. Finally, when he learns that the populace of a vast nation, high and low, consider it a cure-all, and that it enters into every medicine for every ailment in that nation, he will only understand the matter when he learns that it is the eccentric Chinese to whom this reality unimportant root is valuable. In China, if a man has a headache, ginseng is the prescription. If his trouble is toothache, ginseng is the same remedy again. For all ills, from depression of spirits to a sore toe, ginseng is the universal remedy.

Physicians and authorities of the civilized world give the assurance that in medicinal properties the root is almost inert—at the most, contains to a very mild extent tonic properties. None but the singular and rice-eating Celestial can feel any effects from the use of it; but among the Chinamen of this country there is almost no consumption. The root is brought here by resident Chinamen for home export, and they do not use it themselves, how- ever, and inquiry from these Celestial worthies has seldom brought out any satisfactory statements as to what ginseng is good for.

The belief among the home Chinese is mostly superstition. It is a sort of fetish, its powers are supposed to be occult, of the nature of magic. In China the belief is still implicit,

and besides the vast amount grown in that country, it receives all that America can supply, which is on the average 425,000 pounds a year.

The American wholesale price is now \$2.25 a pound. The article is sent mostly in a crude state, but carefully cleaned. A process of heat clarifies it to a hard substance, with a pitly-like, petrified jelly. It is used there as a table delicacy by the rich.

Ginseng in China is a Government monopoly, and Professor Lockhart, of London, is the authority for the statement that it is sold to privileged dealers by the Imperial Government of China, at its weight in gold. This is denied by some American dealers. But the value is still high. The root is very light and the \$2.25 a pound, its wholesale price here, is enormous.

There are certain single roots, especially of certain shapes, very rare, which bring from \$25 to \$400, and are only possessed by the wealthy class—mandarins and others.

And yet the wholesale price here is slowly but always steadily rising, and the ridiculous fact is before us that the price of this futile drug, used by nobody in this country, will in time become greater than that of opium itself, as the gradual but sure process of its extermination in America continues. The amount is limited by the fact that it can not be cultivated—only the wild kind is of commercial use, and this is becoming scarcer every year.

What, then, is ginseng? Ginseng is the root of a shrub which has flourished for ages in China. It is called in botany, aralia quinquefolium, quinquefolium meaning five-leaved, and its five-leaved twigs branch off, to the number of three, from a smooth, round stem about a foot high.

It happened that in 1709 a priest, one Father F. Fastoux, was diligently employed in making a map of Tartary. During this labor he saw a plant growing in this mystic land, four leagues away from the kingdom of Corea, in the spot where a Tartar village lay.

The Tartars were full of the praise of the fabulous ginseng and its wonderful powers. Father Fastoux becoming an enthusiast also. He had missionary friends on the other side of the world, in Canada. To these the priest sent some of the root and an extolment of its properties as a cure for all human ills. Back in due time came the reply that the same root was well known to the Canada priests and the full use by the Indians. The American ginseng perhaps differs slightly from the Chinese, for there are five or six varieties of the root, but it possesses all the external attributes of the celestial variety. The ginseng was sent at that time to Europe, and was then first introduced to the civilized world. Even at that date, in the last century, European savans rudely shattered the illusion as to the root, and pronounced it almost inert as a drug.

It grows about the wild lands and farms of the Northwest and Northeast. As cultivation ruins its flavor, it can not be made a regular industry, either in growth or collection. In 1890 its price was about 25 cents per pound. In 1865 it had risen to 60 cents a pound. Its export now is 375,000 pounds. The biggest yield of all was in 1851, when the export almost doubled; 1869 had seen a ginseng-collecting craze, like a gold fever, in the lake States, where the people left their homes, camped for weeks in the hills, raised the export of ginseng 633,000 pounds, the highest export ever made, and rooted out the plant so that it has been scarce ever since. At present the best regions for it are New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, the prime article coming from New York, the poorest from Minnesota, North and South Carolina. In where the sugar maple grows were originally its habitat. The root, the only valuable part of the ginseng, is four or five inches long and forked. The Indian name for it, "garden ogen," means less apart. "Ginseng" means about the same. Its flavor is bitter and slight, and neither pleasant nor delectable.

Ginseng grows along the great wall in Chinese Tartary and Corea. The American is the only other supply, except Japanese. The Chinese think this poor, and will not receive it.

The Chinese ginseng mountains are fenced in by Government, and patrolled by guards.

### How Alligators Eat.

It is a southern writer who compares an alligator's throat to an animated sewer. Everything, says this correspondent, which lodges in the open mouth goes down. He is a laxy dog, and instead of hunting for something to eat he lets his victims hunt for him. That is, he lies with his great mouth open, apparently dead, like the "possum." Soon a beetle crawls in it, then a fly, then several gnats and a colony of mosquitoes. The alligator doesn't close his mouth yet. He is waiting for a whole drove of things. He does his eating by wholesale. A little later a lizard will cool himself under the shade of the upper jaw. Then a few frogs will hop up to catch the mosquitoes. Then more mosquitoes and gnats will alight on the frogs. Finally a whole village of insects and reptiles settle down for an afternoon picnic. Then all at once there is an earthquake. The jaw falls; the alligator blinks one eye, gulps down the entire menagerie, and opens his great front door again for more visitors.

### Pharaoh's Tomb.

When the tomb of the Rameses II., the "Pharaoh" of the Bible, was discovered and its contents made known to the world, among the many curious and valuable articles it contained were found some images of porcelain, called shubti. For more than 3,000 years these images had remained where those hands had placed them, which were mouldered into dust centuries ago. It was a custom of that time for the friends at the funeral ceremonies to place little images of porcelain, representing servants, in the tomb of the deceased, in order that at the great awakening he should not want for help.