

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

-Olsten Omsted and two of his children were killed by lightning, near Lanesboro, Minnesota, at 2 o'clock on the morning of the 6th. A storm in Central Missouri on the morning of the 6th greatly damaged the crops and entailed heavy losses on town property. In Glasgow and vicinity it is estimated that crops are damaged 50 per cent., while the losses on dwellings and business houses will exceed \$50,000. The Catholic Church at New Hamburg was wrecked, and one side of the railroad depot at Coney was blown out. At Marshall the storm was accompanied by hail, and the damage was severe. At Slater the Baptist Church and two business houses were demolished. In Saline county the damage will reach \$300,000. There was general wreckage at Staaberry. In Pettis county cornfields suffer most, the growing grain being laid flat. The loss at Norborne and vicinity reaches \$100,000. In Shelby county crops were badly damaged.

-John W. Thomas, a carpenter at No. 1 shaft of the Susquehanna Coal Company, at Nanticoke, was at work in the mine on the 4th, but was not seen to leave the works in the evening. On the 6th his body was found at the bottom of the shaft, 900 feet below, horribly crushed.

-The President on the 6th directed that Major General Schofield, commanding the Division of the Atlantic, with headquarters at New York, be ordered to Washington, to assume command of the army, as General Sheridan's successor.

-According to a despatch from Yankton, Dakota, a severe storm of wind, rain and hail passed down the Missouri River Valley, east from Charles, Mix county, and across several other counties, on the evening of the 5th, doing extensive damage to corn and small grain standing in the fields. Small buildings were demolished and large ones unroofed. The wind was a straight gale, and blew at the rate of about forty miles per hour. The damage to corn will be light, but small grain in many localities will be a total loss. A rain storm, accompanied by a high wind and lightning, visited Duquoin, Ill., on the 7th. The Catholic church was unroofed, trees were damaged and one building was struck by lightning. Some stock is reported killed. The crops, especially corn, suffered.

-Troops sent out by Governor Martin, of Kansas, to restore order in Stevens county, reached Hagenot on the evening of the 5th. The soldiers were ordered to disarm the inhabitants, but were not very successful, as few arms could be found. The same measures were taken by the troops on the 6th, at Woodsdale, with about the same results. On the evening of the 5th, a United States marshal arrested Sam Robinson, City Marshal of Hugoton; J. B. Chamberlain, Chairman of the Stevens County Commissioners, and six others. It is expected that the prisoners will be taken to Topeka for trial. The warrant charges them with conspiring on Kansas soil to take the lives and property of other citizens. The Court has no jurisdiction over the territory of "No Man's Land," hence the murderers cannot be tried for murder, but it is thought the fact of conspiracy can be established against them under the United States law, the penalty for which is imprisonment in the penitentiary for a term not exceeding 10 years.

-James O'Neil, an employe of the Hoboken Electric Light Company, was preparing a lamp in the City Hall, New York, on the evening of the 7th, when the current was turned on, and he was instantly killed. There was a long red mark on his right side, and the flesh was broken at the waist.

-An east-bound passenger train on the Santa Fe Road left the track near Lawrence, Kansas, on the afternoon of the 6th, while running 40 miles an hour. Several cars were demolished. Engineer Martin Meyers was killed, and John Harf, the fireman, was badly scalded. A broken rail caused the accident. Two coal trains couched on the Hooking Valley Railroad, at Millville, Ohio, on the morning of the 7th. Both engines were damaged, ten cars were derailed, and William Francis and John Brady, train men, were severely injured.

-A number of freight cars were being shifted at the Vandervender bridge, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, near Mapleton, on the 7th, when a misplaced switch caused several of the cars to leave the track and fall over an embankment. Over fifty carpenters and masons were at work on the new bridge structure, and six of them were injured by the falling cars, two of them fatally. The names of the latter are Edward Connors and A. Mullen. The injured men were taken to the Altoona Hospital. John Costello, aged 29 years, of Philadelphia, had his left arm broken, face cut and was otherwise injured.

-Adam Whitesky was killed on the 7th in the West End Coal Company's mine, at Moconagua, by a mass of rocks and coal falling on him.

-Rev. J. W. Hanford, Indian teacher and missionary at St. Stephen's Mission, Dakota, who married Chaska and Miss Fellows, was thrown from a mowing machine on the 6th and died of death before assistance could be procured. William Brown, aged 33 years, who was unable to swim, was drowned on the 6th while bathing, near Quinton, New Jersey.

-Thomas Lilly, a hostler employed by Singley Bros., confectioners, of Wilmington, Delaware, died on the morning of the 8th from poisoning, attributed to dried beef, of which he and three others of the Singley household partook on the evening of the 6th. The others were made very sick, but are expected to recover. The beef was of Western curing and wrapped.

-At the Bookwood Pottery, in Cincinnati, on the 8th, William Auckland, of Dayton, Kentucky, who had been acting strangely and is supposed to be of unsound mind, without any apparent motive shot Superintendent Joseph

Bailey, Sr., Engineer Albert Freyer, and then himself. Auckland, it is thought, will die.

-S. M. Rackett, a wealthy Cumberland county farmer, lost \$2000 at the "three card monte game" which he played with confidence men who pretended they wanted to buy his farm.

-An inquest at Wilmington, Del., in the case of Thomas Lilly, who, it was thought, was poisoned by eating dried beef, shows that death was caused by arsenical poisoning, the arsenic presumably getting into the meat after it left the grocery store. George Sheldon, one of the beef eaters, has been taken alarmingly ill, but the other two, Mrs. Hannah W. Singley and J. Markley Singley, seem to be recovering.

-The big lumber raft arrived in good condition on the morning of the 8th, at Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts, after a seven days' passage from Joggins, and later in the day returned its voyage. Constructor Robinson, who accompanies it, reports an ordinary good passage. It has been detained by a thick fog on the Nantucket Shoals and stopped at Vineyard Haven for coal and water for the tug. Mr. Robinson is confident that had the other raft taken the inside route through Vineyard Sound, it would have reached New York safely.

-The heaviest wind and rain storm of the season at Washington passed over that city on the afternoon of the 8th. Limbs were broken from trees, signs blown down, and a number of small buildings were unroofed. The day had been the warmest of the season, the temperature reaching 93 in the shade, and five cases of sunstroke, one fatal, were reported. A terrific wind and hail storm visited Springfield, Ohio, early on the evening of the 7th. Trees were uprooted, and a large number of buildings were unroofed. The high chimney of the Arcade building was blown down, bricks going through the entire building to the floor. One brick crushed through the roof of a cigar store filled with people. A scramble was made for the door, in front of which broken glass two inches high was piled. In the rush people fell pell mell on their hands, cutting them badly. A boy named Drumm was struck by glass and stunned by lightning in the Arcade building, but is not thought to be fatally hurt. A sharp flash of lightning, followed by a terrific peal of thunder, startled the crowd in the Cincinnati Exposition building on the evening of the 7th. Instantly all the arc lights in the buildings went out, and the Government exhibit and machinery were left in total darkness. The incandescent lights were not affected. It seems that the electric current struck the dynamo and extinguished the lights. The lightning produced a counteracting current and stopped the machinery instantly. When the current had passed the dynamo was started up all right, and where there was darkness again was light. The rainfall following the thunder and lightning was so heavy that the noise produced drowned rumbling of the machinery in Power Hall.

-A mixed train on the Cincinnati, Indianapolis, St. Louis and Chicago Railroad was thrown from the track near Morgantown, Indiana, on the morning of the 8th, by a broken rail. The baggage car and single passenger coach rolled down a forty-foot embankment. Eighteen persons were severely and two, Jacob Eckert and Charles Eckert, of Indianapolis, perhaps fatally injured. Three cars on a north-bound Harlem freight train jumped the track at One-hundred-and-sixty-second street, and Fourth avenue, New York, on the 8th, wrecking the train and delaying other trains two and one-half hours.

-Mrs. Mary A. Scott, widow of the Confederate General, Thomas A. Scott, committed suicide by taking chloroform, in Memphis, on the morning of the 8th. It is supposed that poverty was the cause.

-Henry Turner, a tailor, of Boston, has disappeared, after disposing of a large quantity of goods obtained from dry goods firms. He also leaves between 20 and 30 girls, whom he employed, unpaid.

-A bold mail robbery was committed on the Missouri Pacific Railroad, between Jefferson City and St. Louis, on the 3d, in which over \$17,000 was stolen, of which \$5000 was from the State Treasury. The discovery of the crime was accidental. Two farmers near Washington, Missouri, were approaching a suspicious looking man on the highway when he became frightened, and, in attempting to flee, dropped a large package. The farmers secured it and at once discovered that it was plunder from a mail robbery. They turned it over to the postmaster, who notified the postal authorities, and a Secret Service agent is now endeavoring to trace the robbers.

-Train wreckers ransomed pieces of timbers to the track of the Texas Central Railroad, six miles from Waco, on the morning of the 8th, and the night expressed was derailed, the locomotive demolished, and several cars badly damaged. Engineer J. R. Norris was killed, his fireman badly scalded, and half a dozen passengers were injured. A sheriff's posse is searching for the criminals, and the railroad company offers \$1000 reward each for their capture.

-While Frederick Schulte and Michael Baumer were fixing the cornice of a six-story tenement in New York on the 9th, the cornice gave way and both men fell to the street. Schulte was killed and Baumer dangerously injured. As Joseph Richards, 14 years old, was driving a mule in the Murray shaft at Wilkesbarre, on the 9th, a train of five loaded cars ran away and went down the plane. The cars struck the boy with such force as to drive his head into the mule's abdomen. The united strength of two men was necessary to extricate the boy's

head. Young Richards was taken home as dead, but revived somewhat. His skull is fractured and he will probably die. The mule was killed by the collision. Mrs. Hannah Spellisey, of Baltimore, who gave birth to twins on the 5th, was so frightened by thunder and lightning on the evening of the 8th, that she died on the 9th. Cressie Coombs, seven years old, of Evansville, Ohio, took a revolver from his father's desk, while alone in the house on the 8th, and accidentally shot himself in the abdomen. On his mother's return the boy admitted that he discharged the revolver, said nothing about his wound, and was chastised. The boy changed his clothing, part of which was covered with clotted blood, and his mother, discovering the stain, surmised the truth, which her son admitted. This was three hours after the accident. At last accounts the boy was sinking.

-A Columbus and Eastern passenger train ran into the rear end of a Cincinnati and Muskingum Valley freight at Darlington, Ohio, on the 9th. The Columbus and Eastern locomotive was badly damaged and several cars of the freight train were broken. Nobody was hurt.

-John and Thomas Watkins, brothers, aged respectively 8 and 10 years, were drowned while bathing in the river at Wilkesbarre on the afternoon of the 9th.

-During a wind storm on the evening of the 8th, the sloop Flora B., of Pennsville, New Jersey, was capsized in the Delaware River, above New Castle, and five persons were drowned. The names of the drowned are: Anna, wife of Captain Wheaton, aged about 55 years; Sadie Wheaton, wife of the captain's son, aged 30; Dora, daughter of Mrs. Sadie Wheaton, aged 8; Mrs. Mary Fineman, aged 29, and Mrs. Mary Turner, aged 42. The three men on board—Captain Elijah Wheaton, Jonathan J. Turner and Clayton Patton—were saved.

-Officer F. J. Polemore was shot and fatally wounded at Springfield, Missouri, by a man named Boarder, whom he was attempting to arrest. Boarder was also shot, but escaped. Pursuit is being made. Shelby F. Parker shot and killed Dr. H. H. Peyton at Perryville, Indiana, on the 8th. Jealousy was the cause.

-A Wilkesbarre despatch says it has lately become known to the police that a regularly organized band of dynamiters exists in that city. They hold regular meetings, and are possessed of considerable strength, and a genuine sensation was caused on the 9th, when it was noised abroad that a bomb had been found under Williams Brothers' wholesale grocery house. It was seen by a number of citizens at police headquarters, and resembles a small tin can with screw top and soldered bottom. The finding of the bomb is more significant, since Mr. Williams, under whose store it was concealed, is a member of City Council and Chairman of the Police Committee. Detectives are at work and hope to unearth the mystery, though as yet there is no clue. A small dynamite cartridge was found on the 9th secreted in a Wagner sleeping car on the Michigan Central Railroad at Chicago. It was about the size of an ordinary gun cartridge, and a common parlor match in the centre of it appeared to have been placed there for the purpose of exploding it.

-Amos Miller, colored, charged with having feloniously assaulted a white woman, was taken from the courtroom at Franklin, Tennessee, on the 10th, by fifty armed men, and lynched. Reardon, a colored man, who shot and fatally wounded Policeman Palmer, at Springfield, Missouri, on the 9th, was captured on the 10th after having been wounded by his captors, it is thought, fatally. At last accounts the jail was surrounded by a mob of several hundred men, who threatened to lynch Reardon. Maggie Jones, colored, 18 years old, who lived alone in the upper story of a house at Rocky Hill, near Creedmoor, Long Island, was found murdered in her room on the morning of the 10th. A blood-stained axe was discovered near the body. The crime is supposed to have been committed by Emma J. Fletcher, white, aged 50 years, who had applied for lodging on the evening of the 9th. The murdered girl offered the woman her own bed, which was accepted. The Fletcher woman was arrested on the 10th, and her clothing was found to be covered with blood.

-Lewis Phinney and William Sanford, while track-laying on the Fitchburg Railroad, at Concord, Massachusetts, on the 10th, were struck and killed by an express train. Joseph Goulet and John Spearling, lumbermen, were drowned by the breaking up of a raft of logs at Skowhegan, Maine, on the morning of the 10th. Charles Carroll, of Baltimore, aged 23 years, a descendant of the signer of the Declaration of Independence whose name he bore, was drowned while bathing on the 10th at New London, Connecticut.

-James Fulton Slade, assistant manager of the Tiffany Glass Company and proprietor of a jewelry store in New York, was found dead in bed on the morning of the 10th, with his throat cut. It is supposed he committed suicide in a fit of depression. His wife and child were at Hampshire, Long Island.

-Mr. James G. Blaine landed in New York on the 10th. He was transferred from the steamship City of New York to a steamer and enthusiastically greeted by his friends. In response to an address of welcome he made a speech touching on the political issues of the day. In the evening Mr. Blaine spoke at greater length before a great and enthusiastic audience in Madison Square Garden.

-In Wilkesbarre, on the 10th, the police made an examination of the bomb found under Williams & Brothers' building on the 9th. The bomb was taken into an open field and it exploded with terrific force. It was powerful enough to blow up several blocks of buildings. It is believed that the bomb was placed under the building by an enemy of the Williams Brothers.

-Burglars entered the residence of F. L. Smith, at Willoughby, near Centerville, Maryland, on the evening of the 9th, chloroformed Mr. and Mrs. Smith, and secured \$100 in money, \$1000 worth of negotiable paper and a valuable watch.

-A terrific wind and hail storm swept across Madison county, Indiana, on the evening of the 9th. A strip of land a mile wide was laid in waste. Trees were snapped off, fences levelled and the corn crop was ruined. Many pigs, calves and sheep were killed. Near Gilman a double log house, belonging to Mrs. Jane Hupp, was demolished. Mrs. Hupp and her son were rescued with difficulty. The son was fatally injured. A stroke of lightning during the storm killed seven valuable horses belonging to John Shoemaker.

50th CONGRESS.—First Session

SENATE. In the U. S. senate on the 6th, Mr. Edmunds offered appropriate resolutions in reference to the death of General Sheridan, which were adopted. Subsequently a bill was introduced by Mr. Farwell and referred granting a pension of \$5000 a year to Mrs. Sheridan. Mr. Blair offered a resolution, which was referred, requesting the President to open negotiations with the British Government and the Dominion of Canada with a view to the settlement of all differences between Great Britain and the United States, and for the arrangement of terms for a political union between the United States and Canada, or any of the Canadian provinces. The Fisheries treaty was considered in open session, and Mr. Vance, of North Carolina, spoke in favor of its ratification. A message was received from the President announcing the death of General Sheridan.

In the U. S. Senate on the 7th, the following bills were passed: Senate joint resolution granting permission to officers and enlisted men of the army, who are members of the Society of Cincinnati, the Aztec Society, the national association of veterans of the American war, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion and the Grand Army of the Republic, to wear the badges of those orders on all occasions of ceremony; House bill to place William F. (Baldy) Smith on the retired list as colonel of the Army, with an amendment changing the grade of colonel to that of major of engineers, the rank which he held when he left the army. A message was received from the President vetoing a bill to grant 635 acres of a military reservation to the city of Tacoma, Washington Territory, for a park, was read and referred to the Committee on Public Lands. The grounds of the President's disapproval are that the Army engineers report against the grant because the land may be needed for military purposes. The Senate then resumed the consideration of the bill reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations to prohibit the coming of Chinese laborers to the United States. Pending debate the Senate adjourned.

In the United States Senate on the 8th, on motion of Mr. Stewart, the Chinese Prohibition bill was taken up by a vote of 40 to 3, and then passed without a division. The Fisheries Treaty was taken up and Mr. Everts spoke in opposition to its ratification. After a short executive session the Senate adjourned.

In the U. S. Senate on the 9th, Mr. Mitchell offered a resolution, which was agreed to, calling on the Secretary of the Interior for information concerning his recent decision in the Guilford Miller Land case, affecting a title to the Northern Pacific lands. The Fisheries Treaty was taken up, and Mr. Everts continued his speech, and after some remarks by Messrs. Morgan, Hale and Blair, the senate adjourned.

In the United States Senate on the 10th, it was agreed that the time for closing the morning business should be in two hours after the time of meeting. The Fisheries Treaty came up in open session, but Mr. Call, who was to speak, not being present to do so, the treaty went over. The bill to regulate commerce carried on by telegraph, being the bill introduced by Mr. Spooner on the 26th of January, 1888, and reported back from the Committee on Inter-State Commerce (with amendments) on the 18th of July, was taken from the calendar and passed. A conference report on the bill to aid State soldiers' homes was agreed to. Senate bill appropriating \$25,000 to improve and encourage the manufacture of flax and hemp, under direction of the Commissioner of Agriculture, was passed. After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

In the House on the 10th, the conference report on the bill to aid State homes for disabled volunteers was agreed to. Private bills were considered, and an evening session was held for the consideration of pension bills. The House then adjourned.

HOUSE. In the House, on the 6th, several bills and resolutions were introduced under the call of States, among them one by Mr. White, of Indiana, "to fix an inter-State minimum rate of wages." A message was received from the President announcing General Sheridan's death. Mr. Hooker, of Mississippi, offered resolutions of respect for the memory of the deceased, and sympathy for his widow, and for the appointment of a committee of seven to attend the funeral. After tributes to the worth of the dead soldier by several members the resolutions were adopted and the House adjourned.

In the House on the 7th the Senate bill to enable the executive departments to participate in the Centennial Exposition at Columbus, Ohio, in September and October was considered. Several amendments were adopted, but no quorum voted on the third reading of the bill and the House adjourned.

In the House on the 8th, a resolution appropriating \$5000 for the expenses of the investigation by the Committee on Manufactures gave rise to a discussion on the subject of trusts, and Mr.

Springer asked for the immediate consideration of his bill on the subject of trusts, but the regular order was demanded by Mr. Long, of Massachusetts. The Deficiency bill was considered in Committee of the Whole. Pending debate the committee rose and the House adjourned.

In the House on the 9th, Mr. Morrow, of California, asked unanimous consent for the consideration of the Chinese Prohibition bill passed by the Senate. Mr. Springer objected, and the bill was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, with leave to report back at any time. The Deficiency bill was considered. Pending debate the House adjourned.

KNOWN BY THEIR CLOTHES.

An Experienced Tailor Tells How One Class of Men is Known From Another.

A tall, well dressed gentleman went into an uptown tailoring establishment the other day, and after a few words with the proprietor passed out.

"What church is he the pastor of?" inquired an inquisitive reporter, who had been discussing the new styles in spring wear with the tailor.

"He is not a clergyman," "No? Lawyer, then?" "Wrong again. You ought to know without asking."

"How so?" "By his clothes. You did have some idea, but you didn't observe him closely enough. He is a physician. If he had been a clergyman he would not have been so precise in his dress, and if he had been a lawyer he would have been more careless still. A careful observer can tell a man by his dress as easily as a footman is known by his livery. As a rule, physicians carry themselves with marked dignity. They dress in fine diagonals, with rich, black Kersey top coats in winter. Sometimes they wear a fancy cashmere vest. In hats, gloves and boots they are unexceptionable and extravagant. Their neck scarfs are the richest and linen and cambric the finest. Lawyers, especially famous ones, are the worst dressers in the world. They generally affect something first goods that come to hand. They seldom order a new suit until the old one grows shabby. Hats—shocking! Some of the worst titles are seen on the heads of our most eminent lawyers. You can hardly get them to come and try on a suit. It must be sent to them at once, whether it fits or not. They don't care how it looks if it goes on easily."

"Prosperous business men are generally carefully dressed. Their wardrobe is unusually large and fashionable. The true man of fashion is no dude. He is never pronounced. One can always recognize the sporting man. The racing man dresses differently from the yachting man. The dog fancier does not resemble the horseman, and the gambler has a style of his own. They differ in little things—trinkets, linen, etc. They are all fond of high colors and unique patterns. Their abundant jewelry is apt to be in the form of pugs' heads or racing insignia. They have a weakness for bell covered hats, yellow stitched gloves and pointed shoes. Their cases remind you of the head and neck of a stork, with the long bill on top. They are a knowing crowd, mostly, but about dress they are as innocent as babies."

"Closely allied to sporting men are actors, from a tailor's point of view. But there is really a wide difference between them. The sporting man wants to dazzle you and the actor to overpower you. The sporting man will distribute his magnificence all over his person, while the actor relies on some certain peculiarity, such as a seakink coat or a low cut shirt collar and a wide brimmed hat, to produce his effect. He wants his clothes cut, not to fit him, but to drape him. Actors are liberal customers when they have the money. They want everything slick and shiny, spick and span and brand new. They're the best tailors' blocks, too, and afford more pleasure to a true artist's eye than the merely elegant fellow who attracts attention from his clothes to himself."

A Dinner on Mott Street. A dinner with Mo Kee, a leading importer and banker, or with Fuong Hong Long, both of New York, is an event which will bear comparison with a banquet at Delmonico's or the Hoffman House. The wife will take a dozen eggs, pierce them at either end, blow out the contents, refill them with varicolored and vari-flavored custards and jellies, seal the apertures, and then when cooked paint the shells until they are a nightmare of dragons, flying griffins and impossible trees that look like men, and men that look like trees. She will open and steam a fish until the skin can be removed without losing a scale and the bones without breaking the fish. It is stuffed with an aromatic and pungent mass of meats and spices. Then the skin is put back and the eyes and head touched up so as to be half natural and grotesque. Most of her culinary genius is expended on stews and made dishes. Here she uses every article known to the Parisian chef and President Blackford, of the Ictheophagous Club, and a host of food substances, spices, and condiments for which there are no names in any of the European languages. Her skill in weaving and embroidering silk is equally great. With a needle no finer than that which her occasional sister uses she will construct a dragon an inch long and a half inch high, of which not only the teeth, eyes and claws are perfect, but even the pupil, iris and cornea and the difference between the incisors and canines are clearly and naturally defined. An altar cloth of dragons in the joss house on Chatham Square, and a moving screen of peacocks at Mo Kee's, on Mott Street, are good illustrations of this marvelous workmanship and probably could not be duplicated anywhere in Christendom.

The first idea of electricity was given by the friction of two globes of quicksilver in the year 1647.

FARM NOTES. VILO AT BUENA VISTA. A Small Place in Size, but Great in History.

Buena Vista is a small place, scarcely larger than a good sized hacienda, but it has proved a fruitful source of conversation between the little woman and myself. I want to take horses for the remainder of our trip until we reach railroads again, where this one has to leave off, but she feels sure that we would be waylaid by Indians, scalped, tortured and massacred, and she is in favor of the diligence, and I always get a headache when riding in one. How it will end I don't know yet, but she usually has her way. We may possibly get a private conveyance, with driver, outriders and all, for they do that sort of thing here very much. It is customary, too, and I find she is beginning to realize that you must follow the law here.

We made an excursion out to the battle ground that made this sleepy little spot celebrated, and found nothing that could recall the bloody scenes which must have passed here. The whole face of nature is as placid and smooth as if cannon balls had not plowed up the soil. The town (what there is of it) is laid out regularly with low adobe huts, almost all of them presenting a perfectly solid wall to the street, many of them having no opening whatever except doors to the rooms which open off the little porches. The place we are now stopping at is kept by a Frenchman, but it is very much worse than any other place we have seen, with the exception that they cook in French fashion, which is rather a pleasant change.

Here we made a critical examination of the maquey plant which is as useful as the Arab's camel, as it supplies food, drink, needles thread and fiber for ropes and coarse bags. It resembles what we call the century plant, and the little woman got a good smell at the flowers and declared unhesitatingly that she knew it must be the same, for the flowers smell certainly a century old, and with a lingering look of admiration for their beauty, and a look of disgust at the ancient odor, she threw them away. The Mexicans make a very pleasant preserve out of the thick part of the plant, and a drink called pulque from the stem, which they pierce and insert a tube in. The juice will flow by the aid of a Mexican on the other end of the tube. As soon as he has got a good mouthful he spits it into a bottle held for the purpose, and keeps on until he has absorbed all the sap. This then is placed in large tubs with more gathered in the same way and left to ferment, when it is fit for drink. It is said to be pungent, like acrid buttermilk or vinegar, but neither the disgusted little American nor myself seemed to hanker after it. The needle and thread is made by taking the thorns and stripping them up, when a strong piece of fiber remains attached to the thorn, and it affords means of sewing all ordinary material. The fiber of the plant, after the pulp has been dried out or absorbed, is used like flax, and is very strong and flexible. The whole country above a certain belt is covered by this plant and mesquite. There is another plant which is very valuable to the natives of this country, and this grows on the low plains and the table lands, and is called vulgarly soap root. The root is bulbous and in layers like an onion. It is white and about six inches long and has a white flower upon a long stalk, with only one or two spike shaped leaves at the bottom. This root is gathered and used like ordinary soap, making a fine lather and washing clothes beautifully white. The Mexican women sit flat on the ground beside their tubs to wash their linen, and use only cold water, never boiling it. The little woman is quite adrift about this, for her eyes prove that these women wash their clothes as white as the texture can be made, and yet she always was brought up to believe that to make them white required the regular "soaking, two warm sudses, a boiling and then another washing rinsing and bleuing." And these women have no washboards, either, doing all their washing between the hands.

The little woman asked me to insert here that the Mexican women are the most industrious people she ever saw, for they were always working at their interminable needle work, their washing or ironing or making tortillas. It is only because they sit down to their work that makes them appear idle, and she wants to add that she thinks them very gentle and considerate and hospitable to strangers.

While on this place I met a gentleman who showed me some native coffee, which was grown just over on the other side of the mountains, in a tract of land well watered and among groves of bananas. The berries were of several sizes and appearance, which, he said, were all off one tree, or bush, the small round ones from the tips of the branches and the larger, coarser ones from nearest the main body of the tree. He had specimens in all stages of ripeness and preparation for the market, and asserted, doubtless with truth, that Mexico could supply this whole country with excellent coffee if there was any spirit of enterprise among the people. They grow cotton also, though the fibre is not so delicate and long as our own, and sugar cane is one of the natural products of the country, though it is cheaper to buy imported sugar than to make their own, which they have not yet learned how to refine.

At this juncture the little woman came flying in, looking wonderfully pretty in her excitement, which fact I hope will excuse my weakness of will, to say—

"Oh, Edward, do come out and hold this beautiful little burro until I sketch him. I have him tied to a post, but every time I go near he puts his ears back and stands on his front feet and kicks the others so fast that I am afraid of them. I can't get within six yards of him, and he looks so mischievous. The owner is fast asleep, so I couldn't go and wake him, and you know that artists all like these pretty little creatures, and besides, he looks like a cunning little mouse; and, oh, come." And I go.