

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Early on the morning of the 2d fire broke out in the toy warehouse of E. A. Prior & Co., on South Sharp street, Baltimore. An explosion of fireworks soon afterwards wrecked the building and spread the fire to the drug house of J. H. Winkelman & Co. and the hat house of M. S. Levy & Co. Scarcely had the firemen entered the drug house when another terrific explosion caused that building to collapse and spread the flames throughout the entire block running from Lombard to Pratt street. Eight men are known to have been buried in the ruins of the drug store and of those only one escaped alive. The total loss is estimated at \$1,000,000; it is nearly or quite covered by insurance.

William A. Stewart, L. H. Johnston and Elijah Beckler, respectively President, teller and solicitor of the saving bank at Roseland, Illinois, are missing, together with all the funds of the bank, amounting to about \$50,000. The village is a suburb of Chicago and has a population of 2000, nearly all Hollanders. Swart was one of the "young Napoleons of finance," a street car line projector, etc., and offered high interest for the use of his neighbor's money. David Niblack and seven others, one of them a woman, were arrested in Pittsburgh on the morning of the 1st for robbing wholesale grocery stores. The robberies had been carried on for nearly a year, and it is estimated that nearly \$10,000 worth of goods were stolen. The plan was for one of the thieves to secure employment as a watchman in a store and after dark the goods would be carried off and sold to their customers.

James H. Miller, a brewer, of Rawlin, North Carolina, was robbed of a wallet containing \$7000 in the Coleman House, in New York, on the 31st ult. He caused the arrest of Patrick Kelly, a night porter, and Mary York, a chambermaid. Arthur White, aged 19 years, who recently absconded from Denver, Colorado, with \$10,000 belonging to the banking house of Kittredge & Co., has been apprehended in Victoria, British Columbia, and \$3500 of the money recovered.

Thomas Charrm, a colored burglar, was shot dead by a policeman named Oldham, while trying to escape arrest, in Birmingham, Alabama, on the morning of the 2d. William Schrader, 38 years of age, attempted suicide by swallowing carbolic acid and cutting the arteries of his wrist, in New York, on the 2d. He is not expected to recover.

A heavy storm visited Hot Springs, Arkansas, on the evening of the 30th ult. Several buildings were swept away, and Mrs. Mattie Fletcher and her four children, were drowned, and a woman named Harrison was killed by the collapse of a building. Several others, whose names were not learned, were lost. The victims were poor people living in small cottages, which could not stand against the storm. A waterspout burst on the 31st ult. along the line of the Cincinnati and Southern Railroad in Kentucky between Flemingsburg and Hillsboro, washing out trestling and bridges and causing the discontinuance of trains. The tobacco planters along the track suffered great loss.

A twenty-five-thousand-barrel oil-tank in Cuyahoga, Ohio, exploded on the 1st, and the oil was scattered in all directions. Bert Weinecke, who was holding a lantern when the tank burst, was burned to death.

Heavy rains throughout Mexico have greatly damaged the crops. Washouts on the Mexican International Railroad interfere with the regular running of trains.

An explosion of gas in Packer Colliery, No. 3, near Shenandoah, Penna., on the 3d, badly burned Anthony Shaw John and Martin Burns, Joseph Bosenis and George Schlack. Thomas McKenney was dangerously injured on the 3d by falling out of a third-story window of the Hotel Windsor in Youngstown, Ohio, while intoxicated.

Henry Tanner, John Tanner and Alonzo Smith, all colored, were taken from the jail in Oxford, North Carolina, on the 2d, by a mob of masked men and hanged. The Tanners were charged with murder and Smith with burglary and arson, a capital crime in North Carolina. Charles Rise shot and mortally wounded Mrs. Elizabeth Funk at Middletown, Ohio, on the morning of the 2d. Both were of bad reputation. Richard Gordon was shot and fatally wounded in John Lovell's saloon in Chattanooga on the morning of the 3d. Three men saw the shooter refused to say who did it. Mrs. Maggie Collins was shot and killed by some unknown person at her home, near Circleville, Ohio, on the evening of the 2d. The woman was eating her supper, and the shot was fired through an open window. General Lopez Mendosa was on the 3d, shot by a young lawyer on a train at Vera Cruz, Mexico. Capt. J. S. Lewis and L. Johnson became involved in a quarrel in Woodville, Mississippi, on the 3d, which resulted in the fatal shooting of Johnson.

John Schaffer, President of the Jewett County National Bank at Agenda, Kansas, has disappeared, and the bank has been closed by the Sheriff and Schaffer's property attached. It is alleged that he issued a quantity of forged paper. Receiving Teller Audy, of the Bank Nationale, in Quebec, has been missing since the 1st. His accounts are \$12,000 short. Four men and three women, members of a gang of thieves in Toronto, have been arrested in Rochester, New York. The gang has recently been operating in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Utica. On the 1st, Mr. Chester, son of a prominent citizen of Antwerp, Ohio, went to Fort Wayne, Indiana, and drew \$1500 in cash from a bank. While returning home he was waylaid and robbed. The robbers knocked him senseless, bound him, filled his mouth with sand, and laid him on the railroad track. Fortunately he was discovered before a train approached. Adam Miller was killed by falling under a grip car which he was trying to board, in Chicago, on the evening of the 2d.

The accident on the Missouri Pacific Railway near Booneville, Missouri, was not so bad as first reported. Three, instead of six persons were killed. They were Charles Hall, Frank McKinney and Frank McGonagle. Two men were severely injured.

Twenty-four new cases of yellow fever and two deaths were reported in Jacksonville on the 3d. Total cases to date, 258; deaths, 24.

It is reported that on the evening of the 1st frost was disastrous to the wheat crop at various points in the Red River valley, Minnesota. A despatch from Whitehall, Michigan, says a severe frost has badly injured the corn and entirely ruined the buckwheat. A telegram from Montgomery, Alabama, says rains during the past week have done much damage to open cotton. Some corn is also ruined. It is still threatening rain. Heavy rains have caused serious damage to the crops in the Chattahoochee valley, Georgia. The Chattahoochee river is now 17 feet above low water mark, and many large plantations are inundated. The Eagle and Phoenix mills in Columbus have been compelled to shut down.

Labor Day was generally observed on the 3d, in New York City, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Albany, Boston, Chicago, Baltimore, Detroit, Peoria, and other places. In each place there was a procession, followed by a picnic, speeches and games. In Chicago the United Order of Bricklayers and Stone Masons laid the corner-stone of their new hall. The paraders in Cleveland, Ohio, adjourned to a garden in the evening, when a few Anarchists appeared and displayed a red flag. They were attacked by a number of workmen, and roughly handled and the red flag was trampled under foot. Five of the Anarchists were arrested on the charge of riot. The others escaped.

There were indications at Havana on the 3d, of the approach of a cyclone, moving across the island in the direction of Florida. The edge of the storm reached Key West on the 4th, with frequent rain squalls and a north wind, having a velocity of 55 miles an hour.

The east-bound Chicago and Atlantic fast freight train struck and killed three laborers, near State Line, Illinois, on the evening of the 3d. John Mikus was one, but the other two were not identified. A freight train on the Chicago and Alton Railroad ran over and killed two unknown men, near Jacksonville, Illinois, on the morning of the 4th. On the 4th, while a gang of men were at work on a new highway at Monroe, Vermont, an embankment fell, killing Henry Bedell, William McKay and William Vane. Several others were injured.

William Miller, a private officer of Allegheny City, Penna., was shot and killed by John Deamey, a negro, early on the morning of the 4th. Deamey was on his way home from the ball and claims that Miller assaulted him with a blackjack and that he shot him in self-defense. Sterling P. Taylor, aged 27, shot and fatally wounded his step-father, Eli Dickinson, aged 38 years, in Wilmington, Delaware, on the 4th. Taylor charged that Dickinson was criminally intimate with his step-daughter, Florence Taylor, and this caused the shooting. John Willis, Samuel Hare and three others engaged in a fight near the mouth of Worthington creek, West Virginia, on the evening of the 2d. One of the party fell into the creek and Hare and Willis were killed. The trouble occurred while the participants were on their way home from church, and politics seems to have been at the bottom of it. Samuel Scanlan, an ex-freeman, shot his wife three times and then shot himself, in Louisville. It is thought both will die. He had been on an almost continuous spree since his brother was killed in St. Paul, a month ago. The body of William Lewis, colored, was found hanging to a tree, near Durant, Mississippi, on the morning of the 4th. The lynchers are unknown.

B. Frank Baker, aged 19 years was killed in Norristown, Penna., on the morning of the 4th, while sleeping. He climbed out of a window of a four-story hotel and walked along the gutter, a distance of 60 feet, when he fell to an awning below, a distance of 25 feet.

While a freight train was crossing a bridge at Halifax, on the 4th, a brakeman named Cummings accidentally ran against another named Christie, and both fell into the trestle work and were killed.

James Shaw, 73 years of age, a well-known citizen of Paterson, New Jersey, committed suicide on the evening of the 3d by taking laudanum. J. C. Payne, of Covington, New York, committed suicide on the 3d by shooting himself in the head. He was a member of the Assembly from Wyoming county several years ago. He had suffered from mental troubles for three years past. The body of Maggie Rice, aged 23 years, was found in the river near Harrisburg, Penna., on the 4th. It is supposed she committed suicide.

It has been discovered that Jules List, Secretary of the Duckworth Building Association in Cincinnati, has stolen \$20,000 of the money of members. List used the money in fast living, and is now in hiding.

It has been learned that S. O. Dupree, Cashier of the Lyons Bank, in Lyons, Kansas, who is missing, and whose accounts are \$10,000 short, stopped at a hotel in Montreal, Quebec, recently, and then went West. His brother, who believes he is insane, has gone in pursuit.

There has been another mail robbery between New York and Chicago. On the 31st ult. Blake Bros. & Co., of New York, mailed to their agents, in Chicago, three notes for \$5000 each. The letters did not reach their destination. A railway mail clerk is reported as saying that a valuable mail pouch was missing along the line between Albany and Chicago.

In Chicago on the morning of the 5th Louis Larsen crawled into an iron cylinder used for the piston of a hydraulic elevator, for the purpose of cleaning it. He took with him a lighted candle and a bucketful of benzine. In

a short time the cylinder was filled with inflammable gas, an explosion followed and the man was enveloped in flames, which filled the entire cylinder. His fellow-workmen were unable to get at him to help him, and enough water could not be secured to quench the flames, so his companions could only stand helplessly by and listen to his cries until they were stilled in death.

The expected cyclone struck the island of Cuba, near Sagua, and reached Havana about midnight on the 4th. Several vessels foundered off the coast and two sailors were drowned. Many persons were injured. Walls, trees, fences and street lamps were blown down and much damage was done to the wharves at Havana. A telegram from Key West, Florida, says a hurricane passed to the westward of that place on the evening of the 4th.

Forty-three cases of yellow fever were reported in Jacksonville on the 4th. Fifty new cases were reported on the 5th, with five deaths.

A premature explosion occurred in Collins Brothers' stone quarry, in Bellefonte, Penna., on the 5th. Patrick Dillon was struck in the face by a stone, and it is feared that his sight has been destroyed. Another man was injured, though not severely.

In Clinton, Iowa, on the afternoon of the 5th, while James M. Ordway, an elderly old man, was standing in one of the principal streets, four toughs came along, and one of them, without provocation, struck the old man a blow under the chin, which caused instant death. The murderer, who has disappeared, is supposed to be a youth named Golden.

Anthony Maher, a carpenter, in Newport, Rhode Island, shot himself and his wife in a fit of jealousy on the morning of the 6th. At last accounts they were still alive, but in a critical condition. They have four children. A despatch from Forest City, Arkansas, says that at Millbrook, on election day, the negroes attempted to steal the ballot-box, but finding the whites on guard, fired a volley and fled. John McMath was fatally and Joseph Walker, colored, of Marietta, Penna., died on the evening of the 5th from the effects of a blow on the head inflicted by his brother Wallace. James Grant, a farmer near Norfolk, Virginia, was killed by a negro named Coleman, on the 6th. Coleman then induced Mr. Grant's housekeeper, Mrs. Reed, to go into the yard, and stabbed her two or three times in the back. He then ransacked the house and made his escape.

Fire in Baker City, Oregon, on the 5th, destroyed an entire business block. Loss \$260,000, partially insured. Almost the entire business section of Jennings, Louisiana, was burned on the 6th. A great mine fire is raging in the Lattimer colliery, operated by Barlow Brothers, five miles north of Hazleton, Penna. Part of the workings, known as the counter shaft, abandoned over a year ago, became ignited on the 5th. As it was impossible to get close to the fire it was decided to turn Black creek into the mine and drown it out. The water running from the fire at a distance of half a mile inside the slope is at the boiling point. Should the fire get beyond control it will spread to adjoining workings which honeycomb the entire district. The colliery employed 350 men and boys who are now idle.

A despatch from Elmira, New York, says there was a heavy frost throughout that section on the night of the 5th. The tobacco crop is about three-quarters in and the remainder was somewhat injured, as also the buckwheat. There was severe frost in the northern and eastern parts of Rensselaer county, New York, on the night of the 5th. Farmers report melon vines badly damaged. There was a killing frost at St. Johnsbury, Vermont, on the morning of the 6th, and owing to the immature condition of the crops the damage will be heavy.

In the town of Bayard, Florida, a small settlement near St. Augustine, the bodies of a woman and her five children have been found. They had evidently been dead several days. The house in which they were found was supposed to be vacant. It is thought the unfortunates were refugees from Jacksonville.

Near Madison, Indiana, on the 6th, a vicious horse bit off the top of the head of a three-year-old son of Albert Bant, causing instant death. By a gas explosion in the Reading Coal Company's Monitor colliery, at Mount Carmel, on the 6th, a boy named Bryan was fatally injured, and Superintendent Charles Brecker and a miner named O'Neil suffered dangerous injuries. Much damage was done to the colliery. James Ford, a farmer, living near Columbus, Indiana, while suffering from delirium, caused by fever on the evening of the 5th, killed his ten-year-old son and baby and fatally injured his wife.

Hog cholera is reported by a United Press despatch to be alarmingly prevalent in Cumberland county Penna. It is said that about 2000 hogs have already died.

A telegram from Havana says the cyclone of the 4th was terribly destructive to life and property in Cuba. The gunboat Leantid foundered at Botabano, and her captain and nine of her crew were drowned. At Sagua 50 persons lost their lives, and the neighboring village of Pueblo was "literally wiped out." The telegraph wires being broken, no news from other parts of the island has been received.

The danger of further floods at Leon and Villa Lerdo, Mexico, is over, the waters having begun to subside.

Two freight trains collided near St. Joseph, Missouri, on the Kansas City, St. Jo and Council Bluffs Railroad on the 5th. The trains were both loaded with merchandise, and nearly the entire lot is a total loss. The damage to cars and freight is estimated at \$100,000. The train hands jumped and escaped injury. The boiler of a steam threshing machine exploded at Seymour, Indiana, on the 6th. William Bennett was killed, and Henry Kearns and Wesley Alexander fatally

injured. Five other employees were injured, but not severely. The boiler was old and worn out. The boiler of Goulette & Letson's threshing outfit at Ellendale, Dakota, exploded on the afternoon of the 5th. An old man named McLean was killed and several others were injured, four fatally.

Seventy-seven new cases of yellow fever and eight deaths were reported on the 7th in Jacksonville.

Isaac Wooley, one of the proprietors of the Curryville Coal Company, at Shelbyville, Indiana, died suddenly on the 6th. A few hours afterward his wife suddenly expired, although she had been apparently well. One of the children is now at death's door from the same mysterious disease. The wife of Rev. F. W. Anderson, of Uhrichville, Ohio, was struck and killed by a train at Bloomfield on the evening of the 6th, as she attempted to cross the track. Nellie Donovan, 22 years old, died in New York on the 7th, from the effects of carbolic acid, which her friends say she swallowed in mistake for cholera mixture. John Bath, plumber, was caught in the elevator in the Park Avenue Hotel in New York, on the 7th, and crushed to death. He was 24 years old. Frederick Taylor, a miner, was killed on the 7th, by a fall of coal in Hillman Vein Colliery, Wilkesbarre, Penna.

Miss Ada Flynn was murdered on the 6th, at the home of her grandfather, Alexander Traxell, near Glasgow, Penna., by robbers. The murder was committed in daylight, during the absence of the family. Deputy Sheriff Priley, of New York, who allowed a prisoner named King, charged with forgery, to escape from his custody on the 5th, was arrested on the 7th, on a charge of malfeasance in office, and was placed under bail for trial. Henry Adams has been remanded for trial in New York on the charge of stealing diamonds from jewelry stores in John street and Maiden Lane. It is said that he has served a term in prison in Philadelphia for theft. A telegram from Corydon, Indiana, says the county Commissioners have made an investigation of the accounts of Ex-Treasurer John C. Graves, and report that he is a defaulter to the amount of \$14,000. Mr. Graves retired from office a year ago, and made a full settlement with his successor.

During the last two nights unprecedented frosts have prevailed in New Hampshire and Maine, doing great damage to vegetation, particularly corn and potatoes. In Sullivan county, New Hampshire, the havoc is greater than was ever before known from an early frost. At Winthrop, Maine, on the morning of the 7th, the frost was so heavy that the landscape looked as if covered with snow. The cranberry crop at Sharon, Massachusetts, has been injured by frost, except in the meadows protected by water. The frost on the evening of the 6th will have a serious effect on the canning establishments in the vicinity of Medway, Massachusetts. Reports from all points back from the Connecticut river show hard frosts on the evening of the 6th, and a large loss to corn and potatoes. The thermometer marked 24 degrees in various places. Ice formed the thickness of window glass. There was a killing frost in Rensselaer and Washington counties, New York, on the morning of the 7th. Ice formed, and great damage was done to corn, potatoes, buckwheat and melons. The frost was especially disastrous near Saratoga. The counties of Middlesex, Norfolk and Worcester, in Massachusetts, were visited by frost on the night of the 6th, and farmers lost such crops as cucumbers, tomatoes, squash and corn. In some places the grape crop is injured. Reports of damage by frost have also been received from points in northern New England. Frost on the nights of the 5th and 6th killed vines of every description in the vicinity of Wolfboro, New Hampshire. Ice has formed in many places. A heavy frost on the night of the 5th damaged potatoes, corn and tomatoes in the vicinity of East Tawas, Michigan. A cold wave passed over New Brunswick on the night of the 6th, doing much damage to the crops, particularly buckwheat.

The City of Mexico was visited on the evening of the 6th at 8.44 o'clock, by a slight earthquake. The oscillations were from northeast to southwest and lasted 24 seconds. At Orizaba the oscillation lasted 9 seconds. No damage was done in either place. Shocks lasting 15 seconds, with oscillations from west to east, are reported in the State of Guano.

Reports from west of Aberdeen, Dakota, state that prairie fires are doing great damage in Edmunds and McPherson counties. A large number of farmers have lost their crops and buildings.

The post-office at Newton, New Jersey, was robbed on the evening of the 6th of \$1200 in postage stamps and money. The post-office at Cutler, Indiana, was blown up with dynamite on the evening of the 6th. This is the fourth occurrence of this kind in that town. On the morning of the 6th a quantity of dynamite was found under the hotel, with matches half burned.

A despatch from Charleston, West Virginia, says that a flood in New river on the 6th carried away the big iron bridge of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad at Grand View, involving a loss of \$50,000. A great deal of damage in other quarters was also reported. Additional particulars of the cyclone in Cuba on the 4th, show that three persons were killed at Matanzas. Much damage was done in Cardenas and Calbarien.

A boiler in Adam Keyser's brickyard near Dodgeville, in Herkimer county, New York, blew up on the afternoon of the 7th, killing Keyser's son and Arthur Leavitt. Another son of Keyser was slightly injured, and Keyser himself had both legs broken. Two horses were killed. The explosion was caused by Leavitt thoughtlessly placing a weight on the safety valve to prevent the escaping steam from frightening the horses.

Put kerosene oil on the plows and other implements as a protection against dampness and rust before storing them away for the winter.

OUR CONGRESS.—FIFTH SESSION

SENATE.

In the U. S. Senate on the 3d, Mr. Vest offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Civil Service Reform to inquire whether an employe of the Senate has been preparing campaign partisan literature, "with his official character printed thereon," and what legislation is necessary to prevent and punish such conduct. After a discussion, in which the subject of political assessments and contributions was ventilated, the resolution went over. The bill for the admission of the State of Washington was considered. A message was received from the House with the Scott bill for the absolute exclusion of Chinese immigration. The latter was immediately taken up and Mr. George moved its reference to the Committee on Foreign Relations. Mr. Sherman stated the course of the Committee on Foreign Relations in regard to the Chinese Treaty, and advocated the passage of the bill on the ground that any nation had the right to provide for its own preservation, even in contravention of existing treaties. After further debate the Senate, without acting on the bill, adjourned.

In the United States Senate on the 4th, Mr. Cullom introduced a bill, which was referred, declaring trusts unlawful and providing for their suppression. The House bill to prohibit Chinese immigration was taken up, and Mr. Teller spoke in support of the bill. When he had finished the bill went over without action. After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

In the United States Senate on the 5th, Mr. Sherman offered a resolution, which was adopted, requesting the President to inform the Senate whether the recent treaty with China and the amendments adopted by the Senate have been ratified by the Chinese Emperor. A conference report was presented on the Army Appropriation bill, showing a concurrence in all the amendments, except those relating to fortifications. The report was agreed to and a new conference was ordered. The Chandler resolution in reference to the recent election in Louisiana was taken up and Mr. Pasco spoke upon the subject. At the close of his remarks, the consideration of the Chinese Restriction bill was resumed. After some discussion, the vote was taken, and stood: yeas, 32; nays, 0. As there was no quorum present and no probability of getting one within a reasonable time the Senate adjourned, leaving the bill undisposed of.

In the U. S. Senate, on the 6th, the Chinese Exclusion bill was again discussed and a vote on its passage was again taken. The vote was unanimous, 37 to 0, but no quorum voted. It was agreed, by unanimous consent, that the vote should be taken to-day, and the Senate then adjourned. Messrs. Sherman and Hoar refrained from voting because they thought the Senate, before acting on the bill, should ascertain "whether the facts on which it rested really existed."

In the U. S. Senate on the 7th, the Chinese Exclusion bill was again taken up. A message was received from the President enclosing a despatch from the American Minister at Peking, dated the 6th, saying: "Treaty postponed for further deliberation." Mr. Gorman moved to refer the Chinese bill and the President's message to the Committee on Foreign Relations. The vote resulted, yeas 17, nays 19—no quorum. A call of the Senate showed 48 Senators present, a quorum being 39. The second vote on Mr. Gorman's motion to recommit stood yeas 19, nays 20, so the motion was lost. The bill was then passed—yeas, 37; nays, 3. After several roll calls, there being no quorum, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

In the House on the 3d Mr. Scott of Pennsylvania, asked consent to introduce for present consideration a bill for the absolute exclusion of Chinese immigration. There was no objection, and the bill, after a brief discussion, was passed without a division. The rules were suspended and the Senate bill relative to the detail of army and navy officers to educational institutions was passed. Attempts were made by various members, to procure suspension of the rules in order to call up a free coinage bagging bill, to have a day appointed for the consideration of the Oklahoma bill, and to secure some labor legislation, but they failed for want of a quorum, and the House adjourned.

In the House on the 4th, the conference report on the Army Appropriation bill was submitted, and a new conference was ordered on the disagreeing amendments. The Retaliation bill was discussed by Messrs. Belmont, McCrea, Hitt and Chipman. Adjourned.

In the House on the 5th, conference was ordered on the Fortification bill. Mr. Stahlnecker, of New York, made a personal explanation in connection with the proposed investigation of the new library building business. He denounced the charges against him as false in every particular. Mr. Oates, of Alabama, introduced a concurrent resolution for the final adjournment of Congress on the 30th inst. It was referred to the Ways and Means committee. A bill was reported and referred to the Committee of the Whole, appropriating \$200,000 to suppress infection in the inter-State commerce of the United States. A bill was passed for the exchange of worn or mutilated subsidiary coin, at coinage value, for new and unworn coin. The consideration of the Retaliation bill was resumed. After speeches by Messrs. Phelps, Belmont, Scott and others, pending action the House adjourned.

In the House on the 6th the bill to increase the efficiency of the Medical Division of the Pension Bureau and the Establation bill were discussed. Mr. Scott, of Pennsylvania, concludes his speech in support of the latter bill. At the conclusion of Mr. Scott's remarks the House adjourned.

In the House on the 7th, the debate on the Retaliation bill was continued, and it was agreed that the vote should be taken this afternoon. An evening session was held for the consideration of pension bills.

THE CUCKOO.

An Interesting and Instructive Article About this Wonderful Bird.

"Cuckoo! Cuckoo! Oh, welcome, welcome!" Fields, woods and waves rejoice In that recovered voice, As on the wind its buoyant music floats. "Have you heard the cuckoo?" How often have we asked this question in spring! We can hardly believe that dull, dark, dreary winter has really gone until we are assured of it by the familiar notes of the "plain-song cuckoo gray," as Shakespeare calls him. His song is certainly monotonous, very like the echo of something else. In some districts the country people believe that it is a voice from the spirit-land, and emigrants tell us that there are few sounds they miss so much. Like other birds, it is the male cuckoo that is the songster. When he first makes his appearance his note is full and clear; but as June progresses his voice begins to crack, becoming worse in July, and dwindling down to a hoarse croak in August, by which time he thinks it expedient to carry his "cuck-cuck-cuck!" to other regions. Most of you are doubtless acquainted with the old rhyme:

"In April the cuckoo shows his bill; In May he sings both night and day; In June he altereth his tune; In July he prepares to fly; Come August, go he must."

According to some accounts the cuckoo sets off on his journey southward earlier than this, for the Lancashire folk say:

"The first cock of hay Frights the cuckoo away."

And the Bretons give as a reason, that when the cuckoo first came to Brittany he built a nest, like other birds, and was mightily proud of it, too; but a wagon of hay happened to pass over him while he was hopping about the field, so that he was badly crushed. A burnt child dreads the fire, and for a similar reason no cuckoo can henceforth endure the sights of hay.

The Swiss have an odd notion that the cuckoo can not sing until he has eaten a bird's egg; I have heard of one which killed itself by attempting to swallow a yellow-hammer's egg, which would neither go up nor down, but stuck fast in his throat and choked him.

What most people would have set down as sheer greediness was perhaps only a laudable desire to cultivate his voice; and no doubt the song is right which tells us that—

"The cuckoo's a fine bird; She sings as she flies; She brings us good tidings, She tells us no lies; She sucks little birds' eggs; To make her voice clear; And when she sings 'Cuckoo!' The summer is near."

The only mistake about this is that the female cuckoo does not sing at all. Perhaps she is too much taken up with wondering where she shall lay her eggs; for, you know, a cuckoo mother never dreams of building a house and bringing up her children respectively—oh, dear, no!

She avoids all this trouble by simply dropping an egg by stealth into the nest of some small bird—a hedge-sparrow, a water wagtail, a titlark, or a yellow-hammer, she is not particular which—and, having accomplished this, she cheerfully leaves it to be hatched and taken care of by the rightful owner of the establishment she has selected. Nor is this by any means the worst of the story.

No sooner is the young cuckoo out of the shell than he sets to work to jerk and toss out of the nest any little birds or eggs that may happen to be there.

In a very short space of time the interloper is completely "king of the castle," and as his appetite is insatiable, his little foster-mother has enough to do to keep him supplied with food.

The Germans have a proverb, "ungrateful as a cuckoo;" and, gladly as we welcome the herald of spring, we can not help feeling that there are points in his character the reverse of commendable.

The country folks in Sussex say that all the cuckoos are taken care of by an old woman, who, when the winter is over, fills her apron with them. If she is in good temper she lets a large number of them loose on the 14th of April; but if she happens to be cross only two or three are allowed to fly away.

So if you do not hear the brown bird's cry as soon as you expected you will know that something must have occurred to ruffle the feelings of the old dame in Sussex!

The French say that the cuckoo is such a vain bird that he will never repeat any thing but his own name; and the German children have a piece of poetry which relates how a cuckoo stopped a starling who had just come from town, and asked her what people thought of the nightingale.

"The whole town is loud in her praises," said the starling.

"And what about the lark?"

"Half the city is talking of her."

"And the blackbird?"

"A few people say they admire him."

"Well, what do they say about me?"

"Nothing at all."

"Oh, then," said the cuckoo, "I must praise myself. Cuckoo!"

Another reason for the bird's monotonous cry is given by Rev. Charles Swainson, who tells us the old Bohemian legend: "In early times the cuckoo had a crown, but the hoopoe has deprived her of it. It happened in this wise: When the birds were about to celebrate a wedding, the hoopoe—being selected to give away the bride, and therefore anxious to add to the dignity of his appearance—asked the cuckoo to lend him his crown. The latter kindly consented, but when the hoopoe discovered how well it suited him, he kept it and never returned it to its owner!"

"And ever since the cuckoo has been calling 'Kluku! Kluku!' (i. e. 'You knave! you knave!'); while the hoopoe answers: 'Jdu! Jdu!' (i. e. 'I'm coming! I'm coming!')."

A MONSTROUS NOTION.—Brown—Is it true, Danley, that you dislike me bitterly, that you feel for me nothing but vindictiveness and malignant hatred?

Dumley—Great heavens, old man, what put that monstrous notion into your head?

"This (puff) cigar you've just given me."