

# A TERRIBLE CALAMITY.

## SECRETARY TRACY'S RESIDENCE DESTROYED BY FIRE.

MRS. TRACY, HER DAUGHTER MARY AND MAID LOSE THEIR LIVES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—A fearful calamity visited the household of Secretary Tracy this morning whereby three persons lost their lives and three others were badly injured. The house is a three story and basement brick, situated on I street, between Connecticut avenue and Seventeenth street, and has recently undergone extensive improvements. Persons passing the house at 7 o'clock this morning saw smoke issuing from the front windows, and at once raised an alarm of fire. The fire and Police Departments responded promptly. The premises were almost concealed by a dense smoke, which was thickened by a heavy fog, which was just lifting.

It was soon discovered that the house was all ablaze inside and that the main stairway was burnt, thus cutting off communication with the sleeping apartment on the second and third floors. Several streams of water were played on the flames, and every effort was made to check the fire and to rescue the inmates. A scene of the wildest confusion ensued when it was known that all the members of the family were in the house. The firemen behaved like heroes in the emergency and went through fire and smoke in searching for them in the different apartments. Mrs. Wilmerding the Secretary's daughter, and Miss Wilmerding forced their way through the blinding smoke and jumped from the second-story window front. Ladders were raised for them, but in their excitement they failed to see them. Mrs. Wilmerding broke her left wrist and was severely bruised. Her daughter was badly injured about the lower limbs, but broke no bones. They both suffered severely from the shock. They were taken at once to the residence of Dr. Baxter, near by, and restoratives applied.

While this sad scene was being enacted in front of the house firemen were engaged in the sad task of removing other members of the family from the rear.

Mrs. Tracy endeavored to escape the raging element by dropping herself from her bedroom window, and, in her effort to decrease the distance to the ground, she grasped the narrow stone window sill and lowered herself as far as she was able. Those who saw her in her perilous position shouted to her to hold on, but either she did not hear or her strength failed her, for, after thus hanging a moment between life and death, she fell 40 feet into an arroyo before anything could be done towards rescuing her or breaking her fall.

She was immediately taken to the residence of a neighbor, Dr. Rheem, and placed upon a lounge in the sitting room. She was perfectly conscious, and did not seem to suffer pain. Occasionally she complained of an oppression in the neighborhood of her heart, and found a difficulty in breathing. She talked awhile, coughed slightly, and then became silent. The physicians looked at each other significantly. Mrs. Tracy was dead. The immediate cause of her death was supposed to be from injury to the heart, sustained in her fall from the window, which flooded her lungs with blood.

Almost at the same time two bodies were taken from the burning building—one was the Secretary's daughter, Miss Mary, a young lady, and the other was the French maid, Josephine. That of the former was found by Chief Paris lying on the floor in the second floor hallway, at the head of the stairs. The body was not greatly disfigured by fire; she had evidently died from suffocation. The Chief lifted the lifeless body in his arms, and, although the staircase was ablaze, he brought it safely out into the street. It is said that Miss Tracy could have saved herself if her strength had held out a few minutes longer. She fell in the hallway of the second story, a few yards from the bath room, which, if she had reached and closed the door, would have insured her against the fire and smoke until assistance could have reached her. Of the French maid little is known, save that her dead body was found in her room on the top floor of the house, burned beyond recognition. Both the bodies of Miss Tracy and her maid were taken to an undertaker's establishment in the vicinity.

Secretary Tracy himself had a most wonderful escape, and is now lying in a somewhat precarious condition at the residence of Hon. J. C. Bancroft Davis, on H street, near Eighth street. Like all others he was overcome in his sleep by the smoke which filled the house, and rendered completely helpless. He was discovered in this condition, and, with considerable difficulty, was removed to a place near one of the windows. Cries for a ladder were quickly answered, and many willing hands were raised to assist him to the ground. He was at once removed to a neighbor's house, and was soon surrounded by physicians, including Dr. Wileland and Ruth. He was suffering from asphyxia. The doctors applied artificial means to induce respiration, and succeeded after an hour's work in restoring him to semi-consciousness. It was then thought safe to remove him to Judge Davis's house. He improved slowly from that time on and soon regained consciousness, recognizing the friends who called to inquire in regard to his condition. Among the first of these were the President, the Vice President and several members of the Cabinet. His first inquiry upon recovering consciousness was in regard to the safety of his family. His friends are very sanguine of his complete recovery.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Shortly before 3 o'clock the President ordered his carriage to be sent to Judge Davis's house for the purpose of bringing Secretary Tracy over to the White House as his guest.

He stepped out of the carriage, and

walked across the vestibule alone into the corridor, and took the elevator for the President's private apartments. The President and Mrs. Harrison awaited him there, and did the best they could to cheer him up and make him feel at home.

Later in the afternoon, in accordance with his request, he was taken into the East room and shown the casket containing the remains of his wife and daughter. They were covered with beautiful flowers (the tributes of loving friends) and branches of the sago palm were laid across the top and along the sides of each casket. Standing at the head between them both was a large palm tree, arranged so that the delicate leaves drooped gracefully over the dead.

Mrs. Tracy's casket was marked by a large floral anchor, and her daughter's by a large wreath of white flowers, Camellias, hyacinths, roses, lilies of the valley and violets were entwined in smilax, tastefully arranged over both caskets. The Secretary was very much affected by the sight, and sobbed as though his heart would break.

The casket containing Mrs. Tracy's body was opened, and he was allowed to look upon her face for the last time. The other body was in no condition for inspection, and the casket was not opened at all.

The physicians attending Mrs. and Miss Wilmerding said this morning that their patients passed quite a fair night, and are better to-day. Mrs. Wilmerding suffers a great deal from bruises, and at times this morning was hysterical, as she began to realize the extent of her terrible loss.

At 10 o'clock the doctors succeeded in quieting her nerves, and she then fell into a quiet slumber. She is necessarily much exhausted, and suffers more from nervous shock than from her arm, but the doctors say that with absolute repose she will soon rally. Miss Wilmerding is decidedly better, having passed a restful night.

Mr. Frank B. Tracy called this morning, but was advised by the physicians not to see his sister, for fear the meeting might excite her. No one save the nurse and physicians are allowed to enter the sick room.

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

—As a freight train on the Ohio, Indiana and Western Railroad was crossing the Illinois river at Peoria, on the evening of the 3d, the first span of the bridge gave way, precipitating the engine, tender and three cars into the river. Engineer William Newell, Fireman C. O'Brien and Brakeman B. M. Lewis were killed.

—During a gale which prevailed in Elmira, New York, on the morning of the 5th, Kate Sullivan, a domestic, was fatally crushed by an outbuilding which was blown over on her.

—A still at the Standard Solar Refinery, in Lima, Ohio, exploded on the 5th, killing Patrick Ryan and injuring Frank Kane, Patrick Kane, M. E. Hochins, A. Delaney, W. Donahue, John Ryan, Richard O'Brien, John Thomas, Arthur Evans and Cornelius Carz were badly burned by an explosion of gas in the Pettibone shaft, operated by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Coal Company, at Kingston, Pa., on the 5th. While John Loskowski attempted to board the carriage at the bottom of a shaft at Glen Lynn, near Wilkesbarre, on the afternoon of the 5th, the carriage started before he had gained a footing, and he was squeezed to death between it and the wall of the shaft.

—A newsboy named Thornton was blown from a train on the Grand Trunk Railroad near Brampton, Ontario, on the 5th, as he was passing from one car to another with an armload of books. An engine was sent back for the corpse, and overtook Thornton making quick time towards the nearest station. His only injury was a severe scratch on the face. The train from which he was blown was running at great speed on a down grade.

—An appeal has been received in Richmond, Virginia, signed by 350 citizens of Granville county, which says that the farmers are suffering from the necessities of life, owing to the failure of the crops.

—The Mansion Hotel and an adjoining building in Glen's Falls, New York, were burned on the morning of the 6th. The inmates narrowly escaped in their night clothes. Several persons were injured by jumping from windows or were scorched by the flames. A slight fire occurred at the Tremont & Suffolk Company's mills, in Lowell, Massachusetts, on the 6th. Sarah Rice and Amelia Valenciourt, it is feared, were fatally burned.

—The influenza is increasing in the City of Mexico, and it is said so many deaths are occurring that there is not a sufficient number of hearse to carry the bodies to the cemeteries.

## A Curiosity.

A one-armed printer is as much of a curiosity as the armless man who dexterously handles a knife and fork with his toes. There came to Cincinnati recently such a wonder, and he is now working as a "sub" in the Enquirer office. His name is Harry Penrod; he is 27 years old and hails from Washington, where he learned the trade. Six years ago he went out West and there lost his left arm in a railroad accident. Only a short stump extending but a few inches from the shoulder, remains. Nothing disheartened by a misfortune that would have rendered most men helpless, Penrod set to work to manage the intricacies of his craft with one hand and he succeeded so well that he now sets as big a "string" as the best printer, and he justifies his own matter and does it well. In "setting" type, Penrod places the "stick" on the case in front of him and then nimbly shoots the type into place, working very rapidly, and apparently with as much ease as a man with two hands.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

LITTLE JOE was taken sick for the first time, and the doctor, with much ceremony, made him swallow a powder. "Papa," said Joe a minute later, "ain't it time I was taking the shot now?"

# FLOODS FOLLOW THE SNOW.

## RAILROAD TRAFFIC AGAIN INTERRUPTED.

WASHOUTS AND SNOWSLIDES.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 5.—A despatch from Jacksonville, Oregon, says: A phenomenal rain storm has prevailed in Southern Oregon since last Friday, which, in connection with the melting snows in the mountains, has caused the greatest flood known since that country was settled. The damage to Southern Oregon cannot be estimated as yet, for postal communication is so uncertain and limited that only surmises can be made of the ravages of the water. On the line of the numerous tributaries of the Rogue river many ranches have been damaged, if not ruined, and miles of fencing have been swept away.

Much of the finest soil in the lower valley has been washed down to gravel and bed rock and the spectacle of fields flooded, roads washed out and bridges and culverts demolished is common. The fertile Bear Creek region has not escaped the visitation. A part of the valley has presented the appearance of a turbid sea for days and communication between its towns has been almost suspended by the swollen foothill streams. Bear creek itself has fenced out a great deal of wreckage, fences, outbuildings, and even barns and houses, and wrought much destruction in undermining and sluicing off the deep alluvia deposits that composes its banks. In the Applegate region there are few bridges left. Many people were obliged to leave their homes for safety.

The Oregon and California Railroad track in Southern Oregon has been washed away for miles, and the road bed is seriously damaged along the whole line. There has not been a mail from either the north or south for several weeks. Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property has been lost from Portland, Oregon, says the situation there is undoubtedly due to the rapid rise of the Willamette river. It flows into the Columbia just above Portland.

For nearly a month past the hills and mountains of Oregon, through which this river flows, have been piled with continually falling snow. The drifts, in some places, were 15 and 20 feet high. During the past few days the winter winds have melted this snow, and the Willamette river has become a torrent. On the Northern Pacific, between Noxon and Trout creek, there have been several avalanches since last Saturday, and the telegraph lines there are also interrupted.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb. 5.—It is reported that Portland will suffer considerably from the floods, but that the city is not wholly under water appears from the reports of the train despatcher of the Northern Pacific Railroad, at St. Paul, since the passenger train, due at Portland to-day on that line, arrived but four hours and 25 minutes late, although the distance from St. Paul to Portland is a trifle over 200 miles, and this train is a through one.

SPOKANE FALLS, Wash., Feb. 5.—The town of Burke, Idaho, in the Couer d'Alene meadow district, has been nearly destroyed by avalanches. Half of the business houses are in ruins. Three men were killed, and the terror-stricken inhabitants have fled to the towns of Gem and Wallace, fearing a repetition of the disaster. Particulars are meagre, as wires to all points have gone down, leaving no means of communication.

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 6.—Water apparently is at a standstill this afternoon, but is still up to the waist in front of the Pacific Postal Telegraph Office.

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 6.—The river is falling slowly, and fear of local damage from the flood is past. The water reached the highest point, 28 feet 4 inches, at 6 o'clock this morning. This is the highest water in the history of the city. The goods in stores on the lower streets were all removed beyond the reach of damage.

Reports from points on the Willamette river indicate that the river is falling rapidly. The most serious loss will be from the destruction of bridges. The largest towns in the valley are well above continues, but the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company has established steamer service to the Cascade locks, above which trains are running. Between Cascade locks and here there is a succession of landslides, entirely obliterating the track in some places.

The Southern Pacific sent out a train on the branch line west of there, but got no further than McMinnville, 85 miles from here. No trains have been sent out on the main line. The Northern Pacific is running to Tacoma, and is carrying the mails. The Eastern mails accumulated at Cascade Locks is expected to reach here by steamer tonight. It is expected that the railroad blockade to Cascade Locks will continue some days, and that between here and San Francisco for weeks, as track and roadway have been entirely destroyed for a considerable distance.

The Union Pacific is blockaded by heavy slides between the city and Dalles, and no trains are expected to be running for several days. The Northern Pacific is still running. At Salem 60 houses have been swept away and many persons were driven from their homes, though as far as known no lives have been lost. Along the river bottoms live stock has been drowned and quantities of grain and hay destroyed. The Columbia river at Vancouver, Washington, is falling.

At Eugene, Ore., a large iron bridge was washed away, causing a loss of \$20,000. A few buildings and large amounts of cord wood, fencing and other material were washed away and the aggregate losses will count up to many thousands of dollars. At Roseburg, Oregon, no trains have arrived since Friday, and a shortage of provisions is feared unless communication is restored. The bridge across Dear Creek has gone, and the woolen mills

have been totally destroyed by the flood.

TACOMA, Wash., Feb. 6.—The Willamette river is higher than for 20 years past. Many bridges are threatened, and there has been great damage done in the entire valley.

The revenue cutter Richard Rush, with the northern mail from San Francisco, was unable to cross the Columbia River Bar, came back to Tacoma, and has taken the mails back to San Francisco.

SPOKANE FALLS, Washington, Feb. 6.—Later reports from Burke indicate that no lives have been lost. Mr. and Mrs. Wise, Jack Walt and wife were buried in the snow slide, but all were rescued with slight injury. At Custer Mine, however, the disaster was worse than at first reported. Six men were killed outright. Among these were Jack Galbraith, foreman of the mine, Mike Flynn, cook, and Tom Mahoney, a miner. Forty men are employed at the mine in two shifts. One shift was below and the other was eating dinner at the time the avalanche rushed upon the boarding house. Many other avalanches have occurred in the Couer d'Alene districts. Canyons are full of snow, rocks and great trees. The people of that whole section are terror-stricken, and did not sleep last night.

CHICAGO, Feb. 6.—General Manager W. S. Mellen, of the Northern Pacific Railroad, telegraphs the Associated Press as follows from Tacoma, Washington.

"The report that the Northern Pacific is in trouble is absolutely untrue. We were temporarily blockaded Sunday and Monday by a snow slide in the Cascade mountains, but all delayed trains were gotten through, and to-day we are moving both freight and passenger trains close to schedule time. Sunday's and Monday's blockade was the first the Northern Pacific has had this winter. Colder weather in the mountains has checked the snow for two days. We have had no trouble whatever with high water, and the only trouble I know of with water on the road is confined locally to Portland, and has not in any way or manner interfered with Northern Pacific trains. The Northern Pacific Road, including all branches, is open, and all trains are moving. You can rely upon this, as it is from personal observation on the ground."

## 51st CONGRESS.—First Session.

### SENATE.

In the United States Senate, on the 5th, the bill to regulate commerce carried on by telegraph was reported and placed on the calendar. The bill to Oklahoma was taken up. Before the Clerk had finished reading the bill of 2 o'clock arrived, and the hour educational bill came up as unfinished business, and Mr. Blair spoke in support of his measure. After speaking a while he yielded temporarily to allow Mr. Sherman, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, to report a joint resolution congratulating the people of Brazil on their assumption of self-government. The resolution was placed on the calendar. Mr. Blair then continued his speech. He yielded to a motion to go into executive session, which was carried. When the doors were re-opened the Senate adjourned.

In the United States Senate on the 6th, the bill to provide a temporary government for Oklahoma was discussed, and went over. The Educational bill was taken up and Mr. Blair continued his speech in its support. After two hours he yielded to a motion for an executive session. When the doors were re-opened the Senate adjourned.

### HOUSE.

In the House on the 4th, the usual filibustering was resumed by the Democrats, but the Journal was approved by a constitutional quorum, and a motion to adjourn was defeated. The Speaker then laid before the House various bills for reference, among them the bill "to relieve the Treasurer of the United States from the amount now charged to him and deposited with the several States." This bill the Speaker referred, under the rules, to the Committee on Ways and Means. Mr. Bland moved his reference to the Committee on Appropriations. The Speaker declined to entertain the motion, and a parliamentary struggle began, which, after the usual dilatory motions, counting of quorums by the Speaker, etc., the bill was referred to the Ways and Means Committee. The House then adjourned.

In the House on the 5th, there having been a tacit understanding between the Republicans and Democrats that no effort would be made to transact business, owing to the attendance of many members at the funeral of Mrs. and Miss Tracy, the Journal in its abridged form. The Democrats, not wishing to go on record as approving the Journal, demanded the yeas and nays, whereupon the Speaker, as usual, counted a quorum. The House then adjourned.

In the House, on the 6th, the Democrats continued their policy of silent protest against the rulings of the Speaker by declining to vote upon the question of approving the Journal. It was approved, however, by a vote of 153 to 0, the Speaker counting a quorum. Mr. Cannon, from the Committee on Rules, reported the new code of rules, and it was ordered printed and re-committed. Mr. Morrill, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, reported the certain bill to increase the pensions of certain soldiers and sailors, with a substitute. The substitute was agreed to, and the bill, as amended, passed. The bill for the relief of the sufferers by the wreck of our naval vessels at Samoa, and the bill for the issue of an American register to the steamer Bernard, of Philadelphia, were also passed. Adjourned.

—The Dwyer Brother's crack 2 year old for 1890 has not yet been discovered.

## SECRET OF A SHOCK.

### Terrible Nightmare in a Strange Hotel.

"There are strange things in this world," said an old newspaper man whose hair was gray twenty years ago, to a reporter of the Denver News. "I'm not much of a believer in supernatural occurrences, but when a plain fact comes into my experience I am willing to admit it. What I am going to tell you I know and am satisfied about. You may or may not be, just as suits you."

"You remember," he began, "the time President Cleveland visited Minneapolis and what a crowd was there? The State Fair and one or two other things attracted people enough, but the President's presence drew every one in the State, it seemed to me. I was on a Chicago paper at the time and got an assignment to go up and take in the combined show."

"When I stepped up to the counter of the leading hotel to register I noticed that the man in front of me, who had just laid down the pen, was also a newspaper man from Chicago. There wasn't anything special about his appearance except that he was unusually tall and thin and didn't look very well. Naturally when I had put down my name I turned to him and introduced myself. We shook hands and began to chat. While we were doing this the old man who was proprietor of the hotel was inspecting his room rack. Turning to us he said that there was only one empty room in the house and that we were welcome to it if we would double up. That suited me all right, but the tall man objected vigorously. 'I was a little huffed over it, and said that he could have the room if he was so selfish over it. I could sleep in a chair or walk the streets all night. I had often done so before.'

"Oh, no," said the tall man, 'it isn't that, I snore so badly that no one else could sleep in the room. I was thinking of you.'

"I laughed at the idea and assured him that I would sleep as soon as I struck the bed. Finally he gave in and we agreed to take the room together. It was a little bit of a cubbyhole at the top of the house, and the only furniture in it was a common bed and two wooden chairs. Another Chicago newspaper man who heard we were there came up to see us, and the three of us sat there and talked until I supposed it was 2 o'clock in the morning. Neither myself nor the visitor could recollect anything unusual about the behavior of the tall man when we compared notes afterward. At last we said 'good-night' and went to bed."

"I don't know how long I slept, and, in fact, I have never been able to bring up a perfectly clear recollection of what happened in that room. It seemed to me that I woke up in about five minutes, but it must have been longer. My first feeling was one of dread. There was not a sound from the man at my side. A huge lump of ice seemed to be on my chest and press me down. I was suffocating. I tried to shout, but could not emit a syllable. It was only after a long struggle, that brought sweat pouring out all over me, that I could raise my hand to the inert freezing mass on my chest."

"It was a pulseless hand, the hand of a corpse, that I clasped. I dropped it in horror and climbed nervously out of bed. The moonbeams came in through the little dust-covered window and played across the pale face sunk in the pillows. The feeling of the hand was still on my chest. I could not overcome the frightful sensation of helplessness. I lit the gas and proceeded to call for help. Then it was, in the better light, that I saw he was not dead. I went to his side to look at his hand, but some movement of mine awoke him, and he softly pulled it under the counterpane. I could not go to bed, and remained up all night."

"In the morning, when I spoke of the affair the tall man laughed and said I must have been dreaming, as did the landlord; so did my newspaper friend. I could not answer them, but I felt that some strange mystery was hidden that night in the little room."

"Shortly afterward the news came over the wires that my companion of that night had committed suicide under circumstances of almost inconceivable horror. A few days afterward a letter came to me from him. He had written it and left it on his table the night he took his life. It solved the mystery."

"The Christmas night before I met him in Minneapolis he was drinking in a saloon in Chicago with several friends. He made the remark, 'I suppose we have to again celebrate the birth of a lump.' One of his companions asked him not to speak that way, upon the ground that it would be a personal favor. This led to argument. The blasphemer said, 'Prove to me that there is a God.' His friend said, 'Prove to me that there is not a God.'

"The tall man drew himself erect and raised his arm on high. 'I will call upon God, if He is a God,' said he, 'to strike me dead right here where I stand.'

"Those around drew back, but no miracle followed. The tall man laughed at his young friend. They parted for the night, perhaps a little solemnly, but not much was thought of the matter. "One week later a strange pain

veloped in that arm and in no less than a month it was useless. In his letter to me he said: 'You are the only man who ever suspected my secret. I am asleep.'

## Ages of European Sovereigns.

The new issue of the *Almanach de Gotha* gives an interesting table, showing the ages of the reigning sovereigns of Europe and the duration of their reign: "Omitting the small German States, the oldest reigning prince is Leo XIII, who is 79½ years old, and has reigned nearly 12 years; next comes William III, King of the Netherlands, 72½ year old, having reigned 40 years; next, Christian IX, King of Denmark, 71½ years old, with 26 years of reign; then Queen Victoria, 70½ years old, with 52 years of reign; Karl I of Wurtemberg, 69½ years old, with 25 years of reign; Frederick, Grand Duke of Baden, 63 years old, with 38 years of reign; Albert, King of Saxony, 61½ years old, with 16 years of reign; Oscar II, King of Sweden, 60½ years old, with 17 years of reign; Francis Joseph of Austria, 59 years old, having reigned 41 years; Leopold II, King of the Belgians, 54½ years old, having reigned 24 years; Louis, Grand Duke of Hesse, 52 years old, with 12 years of reign; Charles, King of Roumania, 50½ years old, with a reign of 23½ years since the beginning of his government; Nicholas, Prince of Montenegro, 45 years old, with a reign of 29 years; Abdul Hamid, the Sultan, 47 years old, with 13 years of reign; Humbert I, King of Italy, 45½ years old, with a reign of nearly 12 years; Alexander III, Russia, 44½ years old, with a reign of 8½ years; George, King of Greece, 44 years old, with a reign of 26½ years; Otto, King of Bavaria, 41½ years old; William II, German Emperor, nearly 31 years old, with 15 years of reign; Carlos I, of Portugal, 29 years old, two months of reign; Alexander I, of Servia, 13½ years old, nine months of reign; Alfonso XIII, of Spain, 3½ years old, with 3½ years of reign."

## Mild Winters.

The continued mildness of the winter has already produced one crop of the most natural character—that is to say, of precedents. A continental collector goes back so far as the year 1424, when the orchards blossomed in the month of March and the vineyards in April; to 1538, when the flower gardens were full of bloom in January; and to 1585, when the corn was in the ear at Easter. In the next century we have 1669, without frost or snow anywhere; and in 1692 a German winter, during which the stoves remained unlighted. Following these, 1707 carries us on in the chronicles of especial mildness till we come into living memory with 1832 and 1866, as the dates of years without winters. Whether the record is likely to be of any use to Zadkiel or Old Moore in the department of political meteorology is questionable, though the three last named years were certainly critical in their way, as denoting respectively the union of England and Scotland, the Reform bill, and the birth of the Prussian supremacy. But it is noticeable that several of the years in the list were closely connected in date with winters of exceptional severity. The mildness of 1424 was compensated by the historic frost of the next winter but one; and persons who saw the gardens gay in January had to cut their wine with hatchets before they were much older. The stoveless winter of 1692 immediately followed that of 1691, when the wolves, driven by the cold, invaded the streets of Vienna in search of food; and 1707 was followed two years later by a frost of three months long. Of course, but little regularity is observable about the comparison, and long intervals have frequently passed between the compensation of one extreme by the other.

## In Reference to the "Ess."

A language may be rich by the use of terminations which indicate the sex of the employed. Yet rich terms are often not agreeable. Pastry, preserves, and some millionaires are perpetual proof of this.

The adoption of a termination that would make such words as typewriters, preachers, teachers, and the like, would make riches a burden—especially when they come to the plural. How will the ear that is fastidious become reconciled to the sibilants in typewriters, preachers, teachers, and decessions, and say nothing of the clumsiness of "contributresses." We might be able to overcome the tendency to associate a poetess with the stilted style and sickly sentimentalism of a sort of poetry we have all groaned over. But the "esses" on the end of a long word would forever hiss at a mistaken yearning for wealth of language.

## A Young Monarch.

One of the youngest monarchs in the world is King Tanat, potentate of Annam. He is nine years of age, very precocious, and fully conscious of the importance of his position. He is solemn and thoughtful, disdains childish sports, and spends all his time in the seclusion of his palace, studying, conversing with aged counselors and pouring over books and manuscripts. He is learning Chinese and French, and shows remarkable aptitude in the acquisition of foreign tongues. He is very arbitrary and exacting, and his teachers stand in great awe of him.