

RAIN, HAIL AND SNOW.

ONE WOMAN KILLED AND TWO BADLY INJURED BY LIGHTNING.

A BLIZZARD IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY.

BRAZIL, Ind., Feb. 20.—A fearful hail and lightning storm prevailed for several hours here and adjoining counties yesterday. John Decker's frame residence, near this town, was struck by lightning about noon. The current first passed down the stove-pipe, completely shattering the stove and then crossing the door, on which Mrs. Decker and Miss Florence Ball were standing, it tore the floor under their feet, paralyzing their legs. Their feet have since blackened and burst and are badly lacerated. The girl is seriously injured. The house is badly wrecked.

TAMALGO, Ill., Feb. 20.—Mrs. Ezell, wife of Milt Ezell, was killed here yesterday by a stroke of lightning.

LONG BRANCH, N. J., Feb. 20.—The bluff fronting Ocean avenue was badly damaged by last night's storm, and the foot of Chelsea avenue the sea made a big cut into the bluff. The artificial stone walk on the old mansion property was demolished. Several large cuts have been made into the bluff between Ocean Pier and Simpson avenue. The pavilions at Cooper's old surf house, at the foot of Broadway, are undermined.

BABYLON, L. I., Feb. 20.—It is reported from Fire Island that during last night's storm the surf ran so high that the life saving station at Short Beach was badly damaged, a portion of it being carried away and the remainder undamaged.

FONDA, N. Y., Feb. 20.—The blizzard which struck the Mohawk valley last night still rages. It is the worst storm of the season. The snow which fell last night is drifting badly and railroad traffic is interrupted.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 20.—Reports from points on the Central Pacific overland lines from Colfax to Truckee show that at other points storm prevailed in the Sierra Nevada mountains on Tuesday night. The train due here at 9.45 A. M. Tuesday, and that due at 10.45 P. M., came in about midnight, having been consolidated in the mountains. The morning train due yesterday was at Truckee at noon. Yesterday's East bound 3.30 P. M. and 8 P. M. trains were consolidated at Sacramento. This practice will be followed hereafter until the storm abates. Yesterday's overland mails were despatched over the Santa Fe route and West bound mails have been ordered sent to California over that road until the storm ceases.

QUEBEC, Feb. 20.—A terrible snow storm rages in this city. The roads are entirely blocked and traffic is suffering.

MONTREAL, Que., Feb. 20.—One of the worst storms of the season is now in progress here, with a falling temperature. Snow fell heavily last night, and about ten o'clock this morning a heavy wind set in with thick snow. Local trains are only slightly delayed, but it is believed that the full force of the storm has not yet become apparent.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Kate Daver, aged 16 years, employed in the stocking works at Manheim, Pa., had her hair caught in the shafting on the 17th, and was fatally injured.

The house of F. J. Fregle, near Crestline, Ohio, was visited on the evening of the 16th, by two robbers, who drew pistols and commanded silence under pain of death. One of them grabbed Fregle, and when his wife tried to assist him, she was caught by the other. In the struggle Fregle and his wife were thrown to the floor. Fregle managed to get his revolver from his pocket, but, being unable to use it on the man who held him down, he leveled it at the one who held Mrs. Fregle and shot him through the heart. The fellow reeled out of the house and fell dead, and the one who held Fregle ran away. The dead man was about 35 years of age and well dressed. On his body was found a registered letter receipt dated February 13th, and the name of Mrs. Anna M. Davy, Beaver Falls, Penna. Fregle was in the habit of keeping considerable money in the house, and at the time of the attempted burglary had about \$2000 in his possession.

A telegram from San Antonio, Texas, says that late reports from the small-pox districts along the Rio Grande show an appalling mortality list on a ranch in Daval county, where 147 out of 150 employees were stricken with the disease and 65 of the number died. There is a scarcity of physicians and nurses.

The engine and baggage car of a passenger train plunged through a bridge over Chisholm Creek, near Wichita, Kansas, on the morning of the 17th. The passenger coaches were left on the brink. Road Master Peters was killed, and a number of others were injured. The support of the bridge had been burned away during the night, supposed by tramps.

John Campbell, of Newtown, Connecticut, was taken from his bed by four masked men on the evening of the 16th, tied to a telegraph pole and whipped with rawhides until he was unconscious. Campbell has been in the habit of beating his wife, and has been confined in prison for thrashing her. On the afternoon of the 16th he hit her on the head with some blunt instrument, making a dangerous scalp wound.

In Charleston, South Carolina, on the evening of the 17th, Napoleon Lavelle called at the store of B. Feldeman & Co. and asked to see his wife, who had been separated from him for some time. When she came out Lavelle shot her, and then, entering the store, shot Feldeman. Both are believed to be mortally wounded. Mrs. Lavelle was Feldeman's niece, and had been living with his family for some time.

A freight train jumped the track at Pounding Mill, Tazewell county, Virginia, on the 17th. The engine and five cars were wrecked, killing Captain R. D. Peck, agent of the Hull Coke and Coal Company, engineer Sam Clowers and a brakeman, name unknown.

Marcus Marx, a member of a wholesale clothing firm in Chicago, was fatally injured on the evening of the 17th, by falling 75 feet down the elevator shaft of their building.

At the municipal election in Philadelphia on the 18th, a short vote was polled, the total being 151,132. Charles F. Warwick was elected City Solicitor by a plurality of 36,199, and Captain John Taylor, Receiver of Taxes, by a plurality of 34,155. The fourteen Republican candidates for Magistrate were elected by votes ranging from 86,284 for Kochersperger to 91,727 for Durham. The seven regular Democratic nominees were elected by votes ranging from 58,264 for Lader to 48,953 for McCarthy. The Independent Democrats received from 39,989 for Campbell to 33,528 for Eagan. Reburn was elected to Congress from the Fourth District by a plurality of 8384.

Thomas B. Evans, Democrat, was on the 18th, elected mayor in Norristown. Thomas P. Merritt, Democrat, was elected Mayor of Reading, Pa., on the 18th, by about 550 majority over Mayor Kenny, Republican. Robert Clark, Democrat, was on the 18th, elected Mayor of Lancaster, Pa., by 215 majority. The Democrats carried the election in Altoona, securing the eighteen precincts in Chester, Pa., give Coates, Republican, 593 majority for Mayor. In Williamsport, on the 18th, F. H. Keller, Republican, was elected Mayor.

The pension payments, so far this month, amount to nearly \$3,000,000, and it is expected that \$10,000,000 more will be paid out before the month closes. This large disbursement will prevent any very excited increase of the surplus during the month of February, and will also affect the usual monthly decrease of the public debt.

The Territory of Idaho, which it is proposed to bring into the Union of the States, has an area of 89,294 square miles, or 55,228,160 acres, of which it is estimated that 16,000,000 are agricultural, 10,000,000 forest and 30,000,000 grazing and mineral. The assessed value of property in the Territory, not including mining property, is about \$25,000,000, the actual valuation being estimated at \$85,000,000. The population is estimated at a little over 117,000.

During a prayer meeting in a house, near Lebanon, Indiana, on the evening of the 17th, an unknown assassin fired a shot through the window, and fatally wounded Mrs. Randall. No motive is known for the crime. Near Compton, Ky., on the 18th, a 16-year-old youth, named Booth, waylaid a minister, Rev. M. Whisman, and fatally cut him with a knife. Whisman lived two hours after receiving his wounds and made a statement about the attack. Booth was accompanied by a man named Sparks. Whisman had once punished Booth while the latter was a schoolboy, and Booth had threatened then to be revenged, and never forgot his fancied wrongs.

George Bailey, Norman Schorfie, and Frank Fairchild, boys, were drowned in Silver Lake, at Port Dover, Ontario, on the 19th, by the ice breaking while they were skating.

Grant L. Davis, a commercial traveler, was drowned in the Owasco outlet, near Auburn, New York, on the evening of the 19th. The Lehigh Valley train stopped on the bridge over the New York Central crossing, to allow a train to pass. Davis, thinking the train was at the station, stepped off the platform and fell 20 feet into the water.

A portion of the ceiling in a school building in Reading, Pa., fell on the 19th. A number of children received bruises. A panic existed for a time.

An explosion of dynamite cartriges occurred at William Taylor's home, at Phillipsburg, New Jersey, on the 19th. The house was wrecked, the furniture destroyed and Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and their two children seriously injured. A boarder had placed the cartridge in the stove to dry and Mrs. Taylor, not knowing they were there, shut the oven door, the jar causing the explosion. The boarder fled. A large vat used for boiling cotton in the dye house of the Palmer mill at Tarrytown, Massachusetts, exploded on the afternoon of the 19th. Three men were severely scalded.

Mrs. Giles Collins and daughter were arrested in McKeesport, Pa., on the 19th, for shoplifting. A search of their home disclosed at least \$5000 worth of goods taken from various McKeesport stores. Mrs. Collins is the wife of a leading politician of McKeesport, and is well known. W. T. Case, of the firm of U. G. Case & Sons, general storekeepers at Marcellus, New York, was arrested on the 19th, charged with forgery, by D. McCarthy & Sons, of Syracuse. It is said the forgeries will reach \$12,000.

The heaviest fall of snow this winter occurred on the evening of the 18th throughout the Adirondacks. The lumbermen are in high spirits, as it will enable them to get their logs to water.

Thomas A. Brashears, owner of a tobacco warehouse near Maysville, Kentucky, was beaten to death by Gus Sullivan and his son Samuel on the 18th. They used a shovel and a club. They were neighbors and had a grudge against Brashears because he had been instrumental in building a turnpike which took a portion of their property. Thomas Lipp, a colored farm hand, in Bladenburg, Maryland, on the 19th, cut his wife's throat and then committed suicide. The woman had separated from him because of his violence while in liquor.

Rev. John M. Lance was murdered in Union county, Georgia, on the evening of the 15th, it is believed by Moonshiners fearful of exposure.

The dwelling of John Liston, in Klugston, Ontario, was burned on the morning of the 20th. Four of his children were found dead in bed, having been suffocated by smoke. Mrs. Liston, after vain efforts to arouse her children, jumped from a second story window with a babe in her arms. Her leg was broken by the fall, but the baby was uninjured. Mr. Liston made heroic efforts to save the children, and only left the building after he had been so severely burned that he will probably die. The family numbered seven children in all, three of whom were rescued after being more or less burned. Martin and Hugh Braner, brothers, were killed on the morning of the 20th, by the fall of a scaffold in the Molite Gibson Mine at Aspen, Colorado.

Burglars entered the postoffice in Rahway, New Jersey, on the evening of the 19th. They drilled several holes in the safe and used dynamite to blow open the doors. The safe resisted their efforts, but was badly damaged, and a large quantity of postage stamps was destroyed by the flames. The burglars were driven off by daylight.

During a fight in Gregory, Michigan, on the evening of the 18th, Stanley Marsh stabbed and fatally wounded Milton Bailey. They are both boys not over 12 years of age. Warren Bloom and Warren Adkins, each 12 years old, quarrelled over a game of cards in Hope, Indiana, on the 19th. Bloom drew a pistol and shot Adkins in the head, causing a fatal wound.

51st CONGRESS.—First Session.

SENATE.

In the U. S. Senate on the 17th, Mr. Fry, from the Select Committee on Pacific Railroads, reported back adversely the Pacific Railroad Funding bill referred to it, and in lieu thereof reported an original bill on the subject, with two reports, one touching the indebtedness of the Union Pacific, the other that of the Central Pacific. The Educational bill came up as unlabeled business, and Mr. Blair spoke for three hours in support of the measure, but did not finish his argument. A conference was ordered on the House amendment to the bill to include in the next census the statistics of mortgage indebtedness. Adjourned.

In the United States Senate, on the 18th bills were reported appropriating \$6,200,000 for the construction of a deep water harbor at Galveston (not more than a million to be expended yearly), and providing for the admission of Idaho to the Union. After an executive session, Mr. Blair spoke for an hour and a half in support of his Educational bill. A conference report on the bill to include in the census an ascertainment of farm mortgage indebtedness was agreed to. After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

In the United States Senate, on the 19th, the bill to remunerate navy yard employes for time lost in consequence of injuries received at the yards was reported adversely and indefinitely postponed. The bill to prohibit the importation of adulterated food and drink, and the exportation of diseased meat, was reported favorably and placed on the calendar. On motion of Mr. Cullom, the Inter-State Commerce Committee was instructed to inquire into the excessive freight rates on the railroads east of the Rocky Mountains, and reported a remedy. Mr. Blair resumed, but did not finish, his speech on his Educational bill. After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

In the U. S. Senate, on the 20th, the Senate bill for the allotment of lands in severity to the Quapaw Indians, in the Indian Territory, was reported and placed on the calendar. Mr. Chandler's resolution calling on the Attorney General for information as to the assassination at Quincy, Florida, of W. B. Saunders, U. S. Deputy Marshal, was taken up. After debate by Messrs. Fasco, of Florida; Hawley, of Connecticut; Call, of Florida, and Chandler, an amendment offered by Mr. Fasco was tabled and the original resolution was agreed to. The Educational bill was taken up, and Mr. Blair finished his speech. Mr. Faulkner then obtained the floor, whereupon the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

In the House on the 17th, a conference was ordered on the Senate bill to increase the pension of soldiers and sailors totally incapacitated by disease incurred in the service. Mr. Banks, of Massachusetts, called up a bill for the appointment of 30 additional medical examiners in the Pension Office. When the vote was taken the yeas were 149, the nays 19. No quorum, so the House adjourned.

In the House on the 18th, on motion of Mr. O'Neill, of Pennsylvania, Saturday, March 15, was set apart for the delivery of eulogies on the late Representative Kelley. The Senate bill for the appointment of an Assistant Secretary of War, and the Oklahoma bill were respectively debated in committee of the whole. The conference report on the bill to collect farm mortgage statistics for the census was agreed to and the House adjourned.

In the House on the 19th, the bill for the appointment of representatives of the United States to the International Industrial Conference at Madrid was reported favorably, but Mr. Rogers, of Arkansas, objected to its consideration. The Senate bill authorizing the President to confer brevet rank on any officers for gallant services in Indian campaigns since 1867 was passed. The Senate bill authorizing the appointment of an Assistant Secretary of War was reported from the Committee of the Whole. The Oklahoma bill was considered, pending which the House adjourned.

In the House, on the 20th, a conference report on the Senate bill to increase the pensions of helpless soldiers was agreed to. Mr. Morrill said the bill involved an expenditure of \$400,000 or \$450,000 for this year. Adjourned.

The great mistake of the American life is that we discount everything—all our happiness, all our desires, all our expectations.

ABOUT PUBLIC OPINION.

It Usually Follows Leaders Who Triumph in the Battle of Reason.

It is sometimes necessary to have regard to public opinion, and to rule one's conduct by the whims, prejudices or superstition of the majority, but it is neither necessary nor right to always accept what passes for public opinion as being an infallible guide. It should be questioned at times both as to its authority and its reason, and resisted or changed on occasion. Public opinion does not, as some people suppose, represent a consensus of the opinions of all the people learned and unlearned, virtuous and vicious. If it did it would be a compromise between extremes, something inferior to the best opinion. Whereas it is in fact in nearly all cases the opinion of the wisest leaders. The reason for this is that public opinion is generally guided or controlled by the strongest of men, though they may not always be the best. For one who thinks or reasons out things for himself there are tens of thousands who accept ready-made judgments and adopt them as their own, thus forming public opinion upon the judgment of their leaders. It is for this reason that public opinion may generally, in the absence of doubt, be accepted as correct or better than the individual judgment of inferior men. It is for this same reason that it should be questioned and resisted by thinking and conscientious people when they believe it to be wrong, for in that way it may be changed and made right. Considering public opinion in this light as the opinion of leaders of thought adopted and followed by the masses, it is obvious that on some subject—namely literature, the drama, and the fine arts—it must be to some extent fickle and changeable, following first one set of leaders and then another, but in a general way directed aright. This quality of public opinion, being misinterpreted, has led some writers to treat it with less respect than it deserves. William Hazlitt rails at the public in one of his essays, as he says himself, "in good set terms." He says the public "is so in awe of its own opinion that it never dares to form any, but catches up the first idle rumor, lest it should be behind-hand in its judgment, and echoes it till it is deafened with the sound of its own voice. The idea of what the public will think prevents the public from ever thinking at all, and acts as a spell on the exercise of private judgment, so that in short the public ear is at the mercy of the first impudent pretender who chooses to fill it with noisy assertions of false promises of secret whispers." It is true that the public does not think, but it is a mistake to assume that the leaders of public opinion are necessarily "impudent pretenders." The contrary is in fact the case. There are enough of independent thinkers to assist the pretenders who occasionally get the public ear, and it is these who generally guide the public. Hazlitt continues: "So far then, is public opinion from resting on a broad and solid basis as the aggregate of thought and feeling in a community, that it is slight and shallow and variable to the last degree—the bubble of the moment, so that we may safely say the public is the dupe of public opinion, not its parent. The public is pusillanimous and cowardly, because it is weak. It knows itself to be a great dupe, and that it has no opinions but upon suggestion. Yet it is unwilling to appear in leading strings, and would have it thought that its decision are as wise as they are weighty." The mistake of this whole thought lies in its failure to appreciate the fact that as the public has "no opinion but upon suggestions," it must get suggestion and opinions from thinkers who are constantly contending with each other for supremacy in the control of public thought. No guide can lead the public very far wrong, for there are other guides present to correct his errors. Public opinion follows the leaders who triumph in a battle of reason. It is fickle and erratic only as to indeterminate or undetermined questions of taste and judgment, and while the debate is going on. It is not and cannot be a fixed and unalterable decree as to questions that have been in dispute since man entered the world. It is obvious from this view of public opinion that thinking people should not reject it in a spirit of Hazlitt, nor should they accept it without question, but should take part in correcting it whenever they conceive it to be wrong.

Edison as a Newsboy.

"At the beginning of the civil war," said Mr. Edison, "I was slaving late and early selling papers, but, to tell the truth, I was not making a fortune. I worked on so small a margin that I had to be mighty careful not to overload myself with papers that I couldn't sell. On the other hand, I could not afford to carry so few that I should find myself sold out long before the end of the trip. To enable myself to hit the happy mean, I formed a plan which turned out admirably. I made a friend of one of the compositors in the *Free Press* office, and persuaded him to show me every day a 'galley proof' of the most important news articles. From a study of its head lines I soon learned to gauge

the value of the day's news and its selling capacity, so that I could form a tolerably correct estimate of the number of papers I should need. As a rule, I could dispose of about 200, but if there was any special news from the seat of war, the sale ran up to 300 or over. Well, one day my compositor brought me a proofslip of which nearly the whole was taken up with a gigantic display head. It was the first report of the battle of Pittsburg Landing—afterwards called Shiloh, you know—and it gave the number of killed and wounded as 60,000 men!

"I grasped the situation at once. Here was a chance for enormous sales, if only the people along the line could know what had happened; if only they could see the proof slip I was then reading! Suddenly an idea occurred to me. I rushed off to the telegraph operator and gravely made a proposition to him, which he received just as gravely. He, on his part, was to wire to each of the principal stations on our route, asking the station master to chalk up on the black bulletin board—used for announcing the times of arrival and departure of trains—the news of the great battle, with its accompanying slaughter. This was to do at once; while I agreed in return, to supply him 'free, gratis, for nothing,' a *Harper's Weekly*, 'Harper's Monthly' and a daily evening paper during the next six months from that date.

"This bargain struck, I began to bethink me how I was to get enough papers to make the grand coup I intended. I had very little cash, and I feared, still less credit. I went to the superintendent of the delivery department and proffered a modest request for 1,000 copies of the *Free Press* on trust. But I was not much surprised when my request was curtly and gruffly refused. In those days, though, I was a pretty cheeky boy, and I felt desperate, for I saw a small fortune in prospect if my telegraph operator had kept his word—a point on which I was still a trifle doubtful. Nerving myself for a great stroke, I marched up stairs into the office of Wilbur F. Storey himself, and asked to see him. A few minutes later I was shown in to him. I told him who I was, and that I wanted fifteen hundred copies of the paper on credit. The tall, thin, dark-eyed, ascetic-looking man stared at me for a moment, and then scratched a few words on a slip of paper. 'Take that down stairs,' said he, 'and you will get what you want.' And so I did. Then I felt happier than I have ever felt since.

"I took my fifteen hundred papers, got three boys to help me fold them, and mounted the train, all agog to find out whether the telegraph operator had kept his word. At the town where our first stop was made I usually sold two papers. As the train swung into that station I looked ahead, and thought there would be a riot going on. A big crowd filled the platform, and as the train drew up I began to realize that they wanted my papers. Before we left I had sold a hundred or two at five cents apiece. At the next station the place was fairly black with people. I raised the ante, and sold 300 papers at 10 cents each. So it went on until Port Huron was reached. Then I transferred my remaining stock to the wagon which always waited for me there, hired a small boy to sit on the pile of papers in the back of the wagon, so as to discount any pilfering, and sold out every paper I had at a quarter of a dollar or more per copy. I remember I passed a church full of worshippers, and stopped to yell out my news. In ten seconds there was not a soul left in meeting. All of them, including the Parson, were clustered around me, bidding against each other for copies of the precious paper.

"You can understand why it struck me then that the telegraph must be about the best thing going, for it was the telegraphic notices on the bulletin boards that had done the trick. I determined at once to become a telegraph operator. But if it hadn't been for Wilbur F. Storey I should never have fully appreciated the wonders of electrical science."—*Harper's Magazine*.

A Steer in the House.

A drove of Texas cattle were being driven across the railroad tracks near the Martell House. One of the drove, a large steer, became separated from the others and ran down the tracks into the Vandallia yards. Being close pressed by William Little, the driver, the steer mounted the outside stairs of a two-story tenement house situated close to the round house, and entered the kitchen and took possession. Mrs. A. O. Hennessy, with her baby in her arms, had just time to escape by a back stairway and save the life of herself and child. The infuriated steer upset the kitchen table, smashed the dishes, broke the chairs and other furniture, and overturned the stove. The driver mounted the stairs, and, after some difficulty, managed to get a ring in the animal's nose, but it broke and was useless. The animal, after having completely wrecked the room, leisurely descended the stairs and was captured.

There is always a best way of doing everything, if it be to boil an egg. Manners are the happy way of doing things each one a stroke of genius or of love—now repeated and hardened into usage. If the peacock could see his feet he would never brag of his tail.

A WOMAN'S FOOT, What Its Dimensions Should be, and How It Should be Used.

A woman's foot should be in length a little less than one-seventh of her height; it should be arched on the top so that the line is that of one-half of Cupid's bow, and underneath so that if it is wet and set on the floor it will leave in the middle only a slender watermark, broadest across the ball; the toes, of which the second should be the longest, should spread flat upon the ground at every step. The heel should be rosy and descend almost in a straight line from behind, the ankle delicately rounded. The soft and cushion-like instep should be marked by faint blue veins.

The foot, says the *New York Journal*, denotes character, as well as the face.

Ladies of Spanish descent have the smallest feet. For a long time Spanish etiquette forbade a woman's foot to be seen. Hence the old adage that "to know the length of a woman's foot was to enjoy a great degree of favor."

Women should walk from the hip, the waist being still, except from that gentle willowy motion which accompanies the most graceful figures.

One of the best modes of attaining this walk from the hip is to practice walking with something poised on the head. The graceful Hindoo girl can carry a pitcher on her head unsupported by her hand, because she moves from the hip, not from the waist or shoulder.

Most American women walk badly. A peculiar fact about many New York women with very small feet is that they walk with a heavy, thumping step, as if they were club-footed. This may be due to the fact of tight shoes, for it is almost an invariable weakness of ladies with naturally small feet to pinch those members unmercifully.

Did the Square Thing.

The train was just pulling out of Weston, Mo., for St. Joe, when one of the passengers in the smoker put his head so far out of the window that a man near him felt it his duty to utter a note of warning.

"Yes, it is a little risky," replied the man as he pulled in his head and sat down, "but I was looking for a grave in that field. Reckon it has been ploughed under and forgotten."

"How did they happen to bury him there?"

"It's a sad story, gentlemen—very sad. It was just 10 years this month, and I was living here then. A stranger came in from the West with three horses to sell, and he acted so queerly that we clapped him in jail. He never denied that he stole 'em, and one night the boys turned out and hung him to a tree over there. That used to be our way of discouraging the business, and I believe it is still practiced farther West. We buried him near the tree, and it was his grave I was looking for."

"Never denied it, eh?" queried one of the listeners.

"Never did, although we gave him every chance. Just a week from the time he was hung we found out that he was an honest, honorable farmer, living about 40 miles below us. While he hadn't stolen the horses, he had killed a man, and he no doubt believed that we were hanging him for that. We felt mean enough when we discovered that he was no horse-thief, and that all he had done was to top a man over, and a Kansas man at that, and he must have been sadly puzzled over our conduct. We made such reparation as we could, however."

"In what way?"

"Oh, we rounded up the grave, passed resolutions of sympathy for the wife, sent the horses on home, and a few months later I went up and married the widow. She's in the next car behind."—*Helen (Mont.) Herald*.

A Hungry Rat.

This story of the loss of a diamond comes from Cincinnati. The stone, valued at \$50, belonged to a pawnbroker, and was missing from the window. He was positive he had seen it there late Saturday night, and calling his son the two searched the shop high and low but could not find the diamond. Afterwards a neighbor, talking to the pawnbroker, incidentally remarked: "Had quite a time last night watching a rat in your show-window."

"Rat in my window! What's that?"

The neighbor then explained: "A number of us were sitting in front of the St. James Hotel about 8 o'clock. The electric light was burning brightly in the window, when along came a woman who, stopping a moment, looked in and shrieked, 'A rat!' We all rushed over, and sure enough there was a big gray fellow, at least a foot long, skipping around among the diamonds and breast-pins, smelling the silver spoons and listening to the ticks of the clocks." This information gave the pawnbroker an idea, and, quickly returning to his store, he went on watch for the rodent. The latter came out on a foraging expedition, and being caught killed, was cut open and the missing diamond found in its stomach.