

BIG HOUSEKEEPING.

TAKING CARE OF UNCLE SAM'S PROPERTY IN WASHINGTON.

How the White House, Capitol and Departments Are Maintained—A Small Army of Watchmen.

Formerly the Marshal of the District of Columbia was always ex-officio master of ceremonies at the Executive Mansion, introducing the guests at receptions and attending to other social matters. When Frederick Douglass was chosen for that office his duties were made part of the functions of the Superintendent of Public Grounds, appointed from the engineer corps of the army. Under Mr. Harrison's administration a naval attaché—Lieutenant Parker, U. S. N.—was assigned to assist Colonel Ernst. Whenever the President goes one of these gentlemen accompanies him, to look after his comfort and safety. His official family includes, beside his private secretary, who signs his business letters and oversees things generally, an assistant Secretary, Mr. Prudden, who keeps the records of appointments and bills and carries all messages to Congress, and two "executive clerks."

One of these clerks acts as disbursing agent, paying Mr. Halford and all the other Government employees at the White House, except only the President. On or about the 20th day of every month Mr. Harrison receives a check for \$4,166.66 from the Treasurer of the United States. Sometimes it comes by messenger and sometimes by mail. If it should be forgotten any time he would be apt to send over to the Treasury and inquire about it. The other executive clerk opens all the letters that come addressed to the President, except such as are obviously private. Many people write "personal" on envelopes, enclosing missives they desire to meet Mr. Harrison's own eye, but these are treated just the same as any others; the least important of the epistles that reach the President are as a rule, labelled, "private and confidential."

Of the four other clerks employed at the White House, one is a young lady who typewrites letters from Mr. Halford's dictation. Probably she receives more offers of marriage every year, usually accompanied by photographs of the applicants, than any other woman in the United States. Two of the others are telegraph operators. Messages about all sorts of business matters are continually flowing into the Executive Mansion from all over the country. Not a few come from cranks. Among the demands they make are for money when they are hard up. No other man is appealed to by so many beggars of all sorts as the President. On one occasion a visitor came to him with a request for a sufficient sum in cash to build himself "a modest home." Strangers in Washington sometimes ask for railroad tickets, and now and then an individual turns up with a check that he wants Mr. Harrison to indorse, so that he can get it cashed at the Treasury. Six guards are on duty at the White House, largely for the purpose of protecting the president from dangerous visitors. Although he presides over the wages of his own private servants, including his coachman, the Government takes care of the White House, renews and repairs the furniture, lights and heats the building, supplies tableware and linen, and hires a housekeeper and steward to keep the establishment in order.

But Uncle Sam's biggest job in the housekeeping line is the care of the Capitol. It costs \$65,000 annually to run the building and keep it in repair. Architect Clark has charge of it. Under him, besides two clerks and a draughtsman, are seven carpenters, who have plenty of work to occupy them the year round. There are acres upon acres of painted surface inside and out, requiring the constant attention of six painters, while four plumbers do nothing but mend and renew the arrangements for water and gas. Six gardeners, aided by twenty assistants keep the surrounding grounds and walks looking pretty and neat, and twenty-five laborers do chores, scrubbing the corridors every morning early, washing the steps, carrying freight, etc. There is a cooper also, who attends to the copper roof and makes sure that it doesn't leak.

All of this has nothing to do with the affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives. They keep house for themselves in their respective wings of the Capitol. Each wing of the Capitol has a chief engineer, three assistant engineers and five firemen, to look after the vast and complicated system of engines and machinery required for heating, lighting, ventilation, pumping of water through the building, etc. Sixteen great revolving fans, the biggest of them 15 feet in diameter and somewhat resembling the paddle-wheel of a steamboat, supply the great structure with fresh air, which they suck through subterranean passages from stone towers 600 feet away that are open to the sky and drink in the pure atmosphere from far aloft. Standing in one of these tunnels through which an artificial breeze rushes continually at the rate of 26 miles an hour, one feels unpleasantly chilled during the hottest hours of a summer day. When the galleries are crowded, every member and spectator in the House is provided with 60 cubic feet of fresh air every minute.

The next most important building owned by Uncle Sam is the one occupied by the Departments of War, State and Navy. According to a law passed in 1883 it is managed by a commission composed of the secretaries in charge of these three branches of the Government service. They choose an executive officer from the engineer corps of the Army or Navy, who is appointed by the President on their recommendation. That position is held at present by Chief Engineer Thomas Williamson. Congress appropriates about \$160,000 a year for the management and maintenance of the building, which is kept somewhat like a huge apartment house. The scale on which the housekeeping is done may be conceived from the fact that eighty charwomen are employed to do nothing but scrub the floors of the corridors. They work from four to six p. m., each week, and get twenty dollars per month. There are eight assistant engineers, twenty-four firemen, ten elevator conductors, and twenty laborers who wash

the windows and steps, clean the pavements, etc.

The three departments are split up into bureaus and divisions, each of which has its messenger, who takes care of the corridors, while the executive officer keeps the building properly heated, lighted, repaired, ventilated and guarded. For this last purpose he employs fifty-eight watchmen, a captain of the watch and two lieutenants. Every part of the structure must be patrolled every two hours of the day and night, and to ensure the performance of this duty each man is required to touch a series of electric buttons along his line of inspection, which record on a pasteboard dial in the office on the first floor the exact minutes when they were pressed. Between 5 and 7 o'clock each evening they go into every room and draw all the window shades down exactly half way, so that they will look nice from the street, at the same time closing all connecting doors as a precaution against the spread of possible fire.

Each department in the building repairs and renews its own furniture from a contingent fund provided for the purpose, including all carpets, but the latter are taken up every Spring, sent to be cleaned, and put down in the Autumn by Captain Williamson. He has the cleaning done by contract, at 2½ cents a yard. The buildings of the Interior, Treasury and Postoffice Departments are run in just about the same way. About 55,000 tons of coal are required for lighting, heating and ventilating the structures maintained and occupied by the government at Washington.

The lights at the White House are run by the dynamo in the War, State and Navy building. They cost about \$2,000 a year—perhaps one-third as much as gas—and every three months a bill for them is sent by Captain Williamson to Colonel Ernst, who returns a check on his account as Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds. [R. B. in Philadelphia Press.

Honey-Bearing Trees.

From one of the highest branches of the tree on the corner a little green object was seen to detach itself, descending to the ground not after the fashion of an ordinary leaf, but in the manner of a whirligig, twirling rapidly teetotum-wise until it alighted on the pavement.

"Isn't that curious?" said the scientific young man who had by pointing with his stick called the attention of the pretty girl by his side to the thing. Then, picking it up, he added: "You see, it is a little bunch of seed pods, with a leaf attached in such a way as to cause it to twirl around as it descends. It is a sort of aerial top. All along Massachusetts avenue at this season of the year you can observe these seed vessels falling and circling as they descend. I suppose that it is an ingenious provision of nature for scattering the seeds as widely as possible."

"These are linden trees, are they not?" asked his companion.

"Yes. A few days ago, when they were in blossom, you may have noticed that there were great numbers of bees flying in and out among the branches. They were seeking honey. Bees are much addicted to the flowers of the linden, and many orchards of the trees have been planted for no other purpose than to supply the insects with nectar for filling their hives. In the early summer you can see them buzzing about busily on Massachusetts avenue and in the grounds of the Smithsonian Institution, where the blossoms they are so fond of are blooming."

"What a curious idea, to plant trees for honey!"

"Not at all. The notion of growing plants for honey is quite an old one, and even now experiments in that direction are being tried under the direction of the Department of Agriculture. Trials have been made with sweet clover, buckwheat, catnip, sunflower and Rocky Mountain bee plant, all of which are great nectar producers. But the fact seems to be that it doesn't pay to grow any kind of vegetable product for honey alone. The best that can be done is to get crops that will be valuable incidentally for the sweets which the bees collect. Of course, the beekeeper is particularly fortunate if his neighbors grow honey-making crops, inasmuch as his bees can poach at will upon all the flowering fields and orchards within a mile or two." [Washington Star.

Prehensile Feet of East Indians.

The traveler who walks in the native quarters of the cities of India can easily study there all industries. In the beginnings, as they were probably practiced in Europe in the middle ages, the shops are usually open, and the workmen can be seen inside; text le industries, pottery, shoemaking, joinery, armoring, jewelry, confectioners—all can be observed in a single street like Chitpore Street, Calcutta. If we take pains to examine attentively the methods of working, we shall be struck by the enormous function played by the lower limb. Whatever the industries, the Indian, squatting or sitting on the ground, works with his feet as well as with his hands; and it might be said that all four of his limbs are in constant exercise. The joiner, for example, has no assistant to hold his plank, but makes his great toe serve that purpose. The shoemaker does not employ a fixed clamp for the shoe on which he is sewing, but holds it in his feet, which change position to suit his convenience, while his nimble hands do the sewing. The metal-worker holds the joint of his shears on his feet in cutting copper.

In the making of wooden combs I have seen the comb held straight up by the feet, while the workmen marked the teeth with one hand and with the other directed the instrument that cut them. The wood-turner directs the hand-rest with his great toes; so, generally, do Egyptian and Arabian turners. In smoothing twine or sewing a bridle the Indians hold the article between the first and second toes. When the butcher cuts his meat into small pieces, he holds his knife between the first and second toes, takes the meat in both hands, and pulls it up across the knife. I have seen a child climb a tree and hold a branch between his toes. These are enough de-

tails concerning the constant, universal use of the foot.—[Popular Science Monthly.

AROUND THE HOUSE.

For pianos at the seashore, where the dampness is apt to affect the instrument, it is a good idea to have a wadded keyboard cover to remain on the board when the piano is either open or shut. It is made the exact size of the keyboard, and may be either of plush or silk.

CARE OF SEWAGE.—Special care of the sewage must be taken during warm weather and some disinfectant should be poured down the cesspools and sinks as often as once a week. For outdoor drains nothing is better than coppers. Five cents' worth dissolved in boiling water is a powerful purifier and deodorizer.

Potash, or common washing soda, dissolved in boiling water, is one of the best articles to use in the kitchen sink. It is wise also to keep a little chloride of lime standing about in places of doubtful atmospheric purity, but it should be kept in some high place out of the reach of children.

Meat that has become slightly tainted may be restored by cutting away the carcase parts and washing the surface with a teaspoonful of borax dissolved in half a cup of water.

A large piece of charcoal laid in the refrigerator will help to keep the atmosphere sweet. It needs to be renewed once a week.

TWO WAYS OF PREVENTING MOTHS.—Moths are a pest of New York and Brooklyn houses; eternal vigilance is the price of safety from them, and sometimes that is not enough. Two women, recently discussing moth preventives, or protectors, found safety in different methods. One packed her winter clothing after thoroughly airing and looking over, in clean barrels, whose crevices, if any, she carefully pasted over with newspaper; when the barrel was full a newspaper was carefully pasted over the top, and the parcel was moth-proof.

The second used old trunks with any broken places carefully protected with newspapers, and sprinkled naphtha over each garment as it was laid in, finishing with a layer of newspaper at the top well doused with the naphtha. Each had "never had a thing eaten by moths." The naphtha advocate urged caution in its use. No match or light must be brought near while the sprinkling process is going on, nor until the place has been well aired.

Modern Artificial Limbs.

One of the greatest improvements of modern times is the construction of artificial limbs that are far ahead of the old-fashioned stump of a wooden limb. Years ago amputation was not performed as freely as to-day, the benefit of the doubt being given to the patient that the limb might be saved. When a limb shows signs of mortification, amputation is done at once to save the stump of the limb. By so doing the patient can have cork limbs fitted in place that will be almost as good as the original one. They are light and easy of movement, and, in the case of cork legs, it is almost impossible to tell them when one is walking. By means of cork, springs, hinges, and rubber, perfect legs and feet are formed so that the joints are capable of the same movement as the original one. The instep of the foot bands and gives, the toes spread apart and come back into position when the foot is taken from the ground, and in short a good imitation of nature is observed all the way through. Under such improvements it is better to have a crushed foot amputated at once than to run the risk of having mortification ruin the whole leg, and probably cause endless misery and finally death.—[Yankee Blade.

Sterilized Milk.

Dr. Freeman, in the Medical Record, insists very strongly on the absolute necessity of using sterilized milk with children suffering with disorders incident to the heat of the weather. Milk is usually sterilized by boiling, but boiled milk, he points out, does not fulfill the conditions of perfect nutrition. He says that boiling is unnecessary, and at a temperature not exceeding 176 degrees Fahrenheit the most dangerous germs which milk contains are destroyed without interfering with its nutritive qualities. "By simply immersing it in a proper portion of boiling water, the source of heat having been removed, and leaving it so immersed for half an hour," it is in good condition for use and at the same time it is freed from almost every poisonous or infectious microbe. This suggestion is of great value to those who have the care of delicate infants during the hot season.

Harmless Snake Poison.

Nature seems to have provided that no poison which acts externally shall have any effect internally, and vice versa. Thus the most deadly snake venom can be swallowed with impunity, the juice of the stomach presumably decomposing it and rendering it harmless. Many experiments have been made to prove this. On one occasion, recorded by Humboldt, one person swallowed the whole of the poison that could be obtained from four Italian vipers without suffering any bad consequences. In the same way the poison found in the venomous arrows of South American Indians can be swallowed with safety, provided only that there is no wound on the lips or inside of the mouth.—[New York Journal.

Facts About China.

The empire of China, according to the Ostasiatischer Lloyd, covering an area of 4,000,000 square kilometers, now has a population of 350,000,000, or about eighty-eight to the square kilometer. Ho-Nan, it declares, is the most thickly populated province of the country, having about 310 persons to the square kilometre. Shan-Tung follows Ho-Nan, with 142 to the square kilometre. The boundary territory of Tibet numbers the least people of any district of the empire, there being only three persons to the square kilometre.

FOR THE LADIES.

THE REAL RUSSIAN BLOUSE.

The blouse which is really worn in Russia is of thick muslin, covered with bands of embroidery in blue, red, gold and black. It is drawn into a band at the neck, from which the sleeves start, or they are sometimes gathered in full at the shoulders, and are finished by a deep frill falling over the hand and only shaped by a gusset under the arm. The front has a bag-like effect falling over the skirt.—[Detroit Free Press.

BEAUTY BY MUTILATION.

In New Holland the women cut themselves with shells, and, keeping the wounds open a long time, form deep scars in the flesh, which they deem highly ornamental. Another singular mutilation is made among them, for, when in infancy, they take off the little finger of the left hand at the second joint. In ancient Persia an aquiline nose was thought worthy of the crown, but the Sumatran mother carefully flattens the nose of her daughter.—[St. Louis Republic.

A NOVEL COLOR COMBINATION.

A novel color combination is of dark blue and emerald green. For instance, dark blue foulard or crepon, with trimmings of rich green velvet. At a recent fashionable garden party a fashionable leader wore a frock of dark blue merveaux satin shot and narrowly striped with emerald green. About the hem ran a narrow bouillotte of emerald velvet. The draped corslet, upper sleeves and high collar were of velvet to match. A bib of fine black guipure, spangled with dark green, and a bonnet to match, completed a most fascinating and original costume.—[New York World.

SHE COASTED DOWN PIKE'S PEAK.

Mrs. C. C. Candy, accompanied by her husband, made the descent of Pike's Peak on a bicycle the other day. The feat has been accomplished by men before, but Mrs. Candy is the first woman who has ever attempted it. The only accident they had was when Mrs. Candy was thrown off her wheel when on the side of a hill, down which she rolled 190 feet. A boulder stopped her from going any farther and very likely saved her life. When they reached the timber line a heavy rain set in and the trip was made in the midst of a severe storm. Mrs. Candy is from Philadelphia and is rather a small woman. On the trip she wore a man's cycling suit, it being impossible to wear skirts on such an expedition.—[Washington Star.

SILK IN THE HIGHEST FAVOR.

Cloth tweed, homespun, and rough-surfaced materials have had their day, and though they will still be worn they are not so smart as silk. In the park these evenings, now that the park is a social and a dress occasion and not a mere waste of natural beauty, there are among the smartest women three silken gowns for two woolen ones. Many of the best gowns were black silk, and those striped and brocaded. In one or two instances the black was shot and striped with color. Also we observed that dark blue was much favored by the fair and apparently much admired by the brave. One lady wore dark blue foulard printed with white, the bodice plain dark blue, the sleeves, basque, and shoulder frill as well as the skirt printed with pines in white.—[Chicago Herald.

WOMEN GLOVES.

Thousands of American women support themselves by making gloves, and a great center of this business is in New York, near the Adirondacks. As so often happens, this business sprang from a very small beginning. The deer skins which the early settlers took in exchange for their goods were difficult to dispose of, until one of the women of the settlement made them into gloves and mittens which sold with unexpected readiness. Now a number of small shops give employment to girls and women who are noted for their lady-like manners. The ordinary machine workers make \$1.50 a day. Those who put the silk stitching on the wrist and backs make \$2.00 a day, while those who sew the parts together with the overstitch seam make \$3.00 in the same time. The workers must, however, furnish their own machines, keep them in repair and pay their own needle bills. A few women are kept busy sorting into pairs and mending. The work connected with glove-making is easy and light, remunerative, and done under pleasant circumstances.—[Public Opinion.

THE WOMAN STAGE-DRIVER.

A peculiarly nervous little woman, with dark Auburn hair and flashing black eyes, is often registered at the Grand Hotel. She is Mrs. H. J. Langdon of Lassen County, the woman stage-driver of the Sierras. But she is more than a driver of stages; she is an owner. Her stage lines extend for several hundred miles throughout the mountains, and she owns scores of horses and vehicles, and carries the United States mail, as well as hundreds of passengers. Her husband died a few years ago and she took hold and managed and extended the business aforesaid. Mrs. Langdon has taken many mail contracts from the Government, and is well known at Washington, D. C., which city she often has occasion to visit in connection with her mail contract. Recently she had some correspondence with Postmaster-General Wauwauaker in regard to his method of awarding contracts, in which she expressed herself in a manner to attract the attention of the entire country.

Mrs. Langdon is reported to be as good a judge of stock as any man in the stage business. She knows also the opportune moment when to grease a wagon, oil harness, and generally to keep in touch with the stage business, so as to make it successful.

Her stage lines extend over some of the roughest routes in the Sierras and again across plains, like those about Susanville. Pumas county has several of Mrs. Langdon's lines. She delivers mails and passengers promptly, and by

reason of her skill in taking contracts and her ability in executing them has become noted for her pluck and enterprise. She holds to the belief that there is nothing incompatible with a woman entering upon a career of this kind, and nothing to prevent her succeeding at it, even though experienced men might regard it at first as an exceedingly difficult field.

She is said to be an excellent whip and to be able to manipulate the lines of four or more horses about as easily as the famous Hank Monk used to do on the old Geiger grade. Mrs. Langdon has other kinds of business to manage besides her stage lines, and take them all together she leads a very active life, but she prefers it to pursuing the usual career of the everyday woman.—[San Francisco Examiner.

A STUDY OF WIVES.

A man who has traveled much in many countries, and has devoted himself largely to dining, now collates the observations of over thirty years at the dining-table to beauty as he has found it attached to the different professions. Soldiers' wives, he says, are at once the prettiest and ugliest of women. These results depend on the chances of a soldier's life. The soldier's uniform, every man grants, gives him the pick of the prettiest girls where they abound. On the other hand, he is often confined to areas where women are scarce, when he takes those to hand. Doctors' wives are usually healthy and handsome; and this well-fed but cynical gentleman attributes this to the fact that such a wife is a doctor's best advertisement. Allowing for the doctrine of chance in matrimony, the lawyer chooses his wife according to his fortune in "meeting up," in clients. The worldly aspects of matrimony are early thrust upon the lawyer, and, if he escapes the first mating period, the daughter of a judge or a substantial client has reflected attractions, or, perhaps, propinquity settles the case for the client, who may be a woman. In such cases beauty does not so easily fall into lines as with those of either the doctor or the soldier. As for the wives of preachers, a certain dove-like beauty is apt to be theirs, or that grace of face which comes from the chastening exercise of self-restraint. A commanding aspect, however, sometimes attaches to bishops' wives.—[San Francisco Argonaut.

FASHION NOTES.

Earrings promise to be revived, and those shown now by leading jewelers are long pendants.

White pique and Marseilles vests are particularly effective with the black suits, and will be used with them even more.

Evening shoes are shown in great variety, and should match the gown, while black shoes are worn with white dresses.

Violet and yellow note and letter papers are about equal in demand with fashionable feminine correspondents, and red sealing wax is used upon them.

There are elaborate wraps with silk bodices beneath the lace, and others having fanciful bodices of silk or passementerie, making a legitimate part of the wrap.

Waists made of a distinct color from the skirt and of an entirely different material are considered good taste even for rich costumes, a hint which will be welcome to the home dressmaker.

The combining of several contrasting colors in one costume is a mode that has a growing popularity. For instance, an elegant dress has a pink bodice, a blue skirt and is trimmed in mauve.

Watteau bows are stylishly applied on sleeveless tunics that have plain backs. A recently designed tunic shows graceful plaits at the centre of the back that would not be improved by the addition of garniture.

Alpaca is having quite a revival this season in black and neutral colors for street and traveling gowns, and in white and light shades for evening wear, while it is also used for some handsome imported gowns.

It is quite a fad to have corsages in directoire jacket shape to wear with plain skirts of a solid color. These little bodices reach only to the waist, and usually have deep revers and a chemisette and lace cravat.

The Recamer corsage made by French dressmakers has a seamless back, a bias front exquisitely draped, and is quite long-waisted, but this effect is changed by a soft wide silk sash that is wound around the waist, falling in long ends in front.

Pink, buff and mauve batiste and linen lawns are chosen for night gowns by women who have wearied of white. The sleeves in such a colored robe may be white, and may be decorated with feather-stitching the color of the gown fabric.

Pearl-glove gloves, white glace kid and cream-colored suede are the popular promenade gloves. With traveling dresses an ugly blood-red glove is worn; with carriage or visiting gowns of rich materials pale yellow suede are the favorite choice.

Lace wraps are in many designs, from the \$60 circular of escurial lace to the shoulder cape of varying length and price. The full cape gathered to a collar or yoke, and falling far enough below the waist for grace, is the prettiest style for general use.

Yokes, and trimmings to imitate yokes, are the favorites for cloth and silk costumes. The style that has been generally adopted shows the top part of the waist, jabots, inserted bands, yokes, frills, bretelles, bertha and sleeve caps of greater or less depths.

Rosettes of plaited ribbon in two colors, loops of silk or velvet ribbon in drooping rows, one above the other, braids of silks formed of lined silk folds braided in and out like strands of hair, and puffs of silk between bands of velvet, are all used to finish the bottoms of skirts.

PENNSYLVANIA ITEMS.

Epitome of News Gleaned from Various Parts of the State.

The Pittsburgh iron and steel manufacturers, through their committee, signed the Amalgamated scale after some concessions had been made on both sides. This leaves the Carnegie Mills the only ones in the district keeping up the contest.

WILKES-BARRE, Plymouth and Scranton were visited by a severe rain and thunder storm. Two people were killed by lightning and much property was damaged.

ALDERMAN McMASTERS, of Pittsburg, has received a letter which declares a party of men will start from New York for the purpose of killing Mr. Frick and the Alderman.

At the Malinekot Convent thirty-two young women took the white veil and eighteen took their final vows.

The annual regimental and brigade matches of the militia for this year will be sat upon the State range at Mt. Gettysburg during the week beginning August 29.

ALL but sixty of the Duquesne sympathy strikers returned to work and are now engaged in their old labors. No disorder occurred. It is thought the Carnegie Company will be greatly aided by this occurrence in the struggle at Homestead.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL STREATOR, whose term had expired, was re-elected to his old position in the Tenth Regiment.

CHARLES COOK was drowned near Williamsport while crossing the river in a boat.

TIMOTHY SHANNON, a patient at the Williamsport Hospital, attempted to kill himself with a razor.

ANTHONY DUFFY, of Archibald, and Miss Conroy and Duffy's child had a narrow escape from being killed by the explosion of a dynamite cartridge which some one put in Duffy's pocket.

The typhoid fever has broken out at Cresona again.

The drought in the Schuylkill Valley continues, and the streams are drying up.

MISS AMANDA SOLIDAY, of Allentown, started the Lutheran congregation by interrupting the service with a recital of her woes.

PRESIDENT SAMUEL GOMPERS, of the American Federation of Labor, visited Homestead on a secret mission. The members of the Federation will be asked to contribute to the support of the strikers. Hugh O'Donnell addressed a meeting in Boston.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, near Hamburg, was dedicated.

DANIEL DETWILER, while crossing the railroad track near Poistown in a carriage, was killed by a train.

THOMAS TREMAN, of Altoona, was struck by a train and beheaded.

At a colored camp meeting near Washington, a negro named Blair fatally shot another colored man named Dougherty, who was riding with Blair's wife.

DENNIS SABLEY, a Williamsport young man, crazed by cigarettes, took a dose of laudanum. He will recover.

The Chester County Republican Convention passed resolutions denouncing the vote of Senator Cameron on the elections bill and on free coinage bill.

The Democratic conferrees of Erie and Crawford Counties have indorsed Mr. Sibley, the People's party candidate for Congress.

The Democrats of Center County nominated a county ticket and indorsed the State administration.

Origin of Our Weeds.

Most of our weeds, like much of vermin, have come to us from beyond the sea. Just how they emigrate in every case will never be known; some came as legitimate freight, but many were "stowaways." Some entered from border lands upon the wings of the wind, on river bosoms, in the stomachs of migrating birds, clinging to hairs of passing animals, and a hundred other ways besides by man himself. Into the New England soil and that south along the Atlantic seaboard the weed seeds first took root. Also the native plants, with a strong weedy nature, developed into pests of the farm and garden. Many of the native weeds are shy and harmless in comparison with the persistent and pugnacious ones that have, like vagabonds, emigrated to our shores. Why should it be that plants of another country not only find their way here, but after arriving assert themselves with a vigor far surpassing our native herbs? Dr. Gray, in writing upon this point, says: "As the district here in which the weeds of the old world prevail was naturally forest clad, there were few of its native herbs which, if they could bear the exposure at all, were capable of competition in the cleared land with emigrants from the old world." The European weeds had through long ages adapted themselves to the change from forest to cleared land, and were therefore prepared to flourish here in the rich forest soil that was suddenly exposed to the sun and subjected to other new conditions by the felling of the trees.—[Popular Science Monthly.

Foolish Sheep.

A Colorado stockman says that sheep raising is unprofitable for the reason that no animal that walks on four legs is as big a fool as a sheep. Most animals can be relied on to heed the owner in saving their lives, but sheep seem to set deliberately to work to kill themselves. If caught in a storm on the plains they will drift before the wind, and die of cold and exposure rather than go a hundred yards to windward to obtain shelter in their corral. To drive sheep against the wind is absolutely impossible.

Once lost over one thousand head because I could not drive them to a corral not a hundred feet away. In the corral they are still more foolish. If a storm comes up they all move "down wind" until they are stopped by the fence. Then they will stop over each other's backs until they are heaped up ten feet high. Of course all those at the bottom are smothered. Not one has sense enough to seek shelter under the lee of the fence, as a horse or dog would do.