

# CONGRESS BEGINS.

## Imposing Scenes in and Around the Capital.

### DINGLEY BILL CAME UP.

It Took Precedence in Appearance in the Senate, But was Instantly Dismissed to Make Way for the Message.

The reassembling of Congress Tuesday for the closing session of the Fifty-fourth Congress was an occasion of unusual brilliancy and interest.

The opening day is always a gala affair, marking, as it does, the inauguration of the social as well as the political season in Washington, but it was all the more interesting because of the long and hard-fought political battle that had been waged during the recess.

The weather was perfect. A serene, blue sky shone over all; the air was mild but bracing, and the warm sun glistened and glittered from the facades and marble walls of the public buildings, on Capitol Hill, the acropolis of Washington, to which the broad sweeping avenues converged, the massive marble structure with its classic outlines and huge white dome, surmounted by the great bronze statue of Liberty gleamed like alabaster, while just beyond, across the wide plaza, the golden dome of the new Library Building flared and flamed.

The throngs who streamed up the hill to witness the opening ceremonies formed an unorganized civic phalanx. Gay equipages, with a rattle of chains, drawn by prancing steeds, conveyed the diplomats, the fashionables and the more prominent in official life.

These elegant turnouts moved side by side with one-horse ramsacks and other nondescript two-wheelers, conveying legislators and visitors who cared nothing for outward show. The unnumbered thousands moved up Pennsylvania avenue on foot or in street cars.

Then came the throngs in the corridors, the gay greetings, the pushing of the public for admission to the galleries, the animated scenes on the floor of the House and Senate, the demonstrations for conspicuously prominent statesmen, the buzz and bustle which marked the entrance of social lights in the reserved galleries, and at last the drop of the gavel and the regular ceremonies attending the opening session and the reception of the President's annual communication to Congress.

#### In the House.

The House presented a very animated scene for an hour before Speaker Reed appeared. The galleries to which the public were admitted without cards were crowded to the doors before 11 o'clock, while the halls were jammed with those unable to gain entrance.

As the hands of the clock pointed to 12 Speaker Reed quietly entered the hall and ascended the rostrum. The silver mace, the emblem of the authority of House, was lifted to its place on the green malachite pedestal to the right of the rostrum, and with a sharp crack of the gavel the speaker called the House to order. The hum of conversation instantly ceased and the galleries became quiet. Rev. Mr. Cowden, of Michigan, the blind chaplain of the House, offered the invocation.

The roll call showed the presence of 271 members. As soon as the Speaker announced the presence of a quorum and that the House was ready to proceed to business a dozen members demanded recognition, but the Speaker first received the usual message from the Senate, stating that the Senate had a quorum present and was ready to proceed to business.

J. William Stokes then came forward and was sworn in as a member from the Seventh Congressional district of South Carolina. The credentials of Charles J. Boatner from the Fifth district of Louisiana were read also.

The usual formal resolutions for the appointment of a committee to join a similar committee of the Senate and inform the President that the House was ready to proceed to business, and another directing the clerk to inform the Senate that the House was prepared to proceed.

The Speaker appointed Mr. Cannon, of Illinois; Mr. Payne, of New York; and Mr. Turner, of Georgia, to constitute the committee.

At 1:30 P. M. the committee not having returned from the White House, the House took a further recess until 2 o'clock.

At 2 o'clock the committee appeared and Mr. Cannon, the chairman, announced that the committee had waited upon the President and had been informed by him that he would immediately communicate in writing. Immediately afterward Mr. Pruden, the President's executive clerk, presented the message, which was read by the direction of the Speaker.

Mr. Grow (Rep. Pa.) showed a disposition to debate the message, but yielded until a later time.

Mr. Turner (Dem. Ga.) then informally announced the "untimely death" of his late colleague, Ex-Speaker Crisp, and stated that some future day he would ask the House to fix a day for paying tribute to "his distinguished character and eminent public services."

A resolution presented by him reciting that the House had heard, with profound regret, the announcement of Mr. Crisp's death was adopted, after which, at 3:45 P. M., as a further mark of respect the House immediately adjourned until to-morrow.

#### In the Senate.

The Senate chamber was a centre of interest long before the hour of assembling had arrived, and by 11 o'clock the public galleries were filled and crowds were at the entrance unable to gain admission. Sir Julian Pauncefote, accompanied by members of his staff, and several members of the diplomatic corps were in the gallery reserved for foreign representatives, and with them were several ladies bearing cards from Secretary Olney.

Exactly at 12 o'clock the Vice-President entered the chamber, and going to the desk

of the presiding officer gave a tap, which brought the Senate to order, while the blind chaplain, Rev. Dr. Milburn, delivered an impressive invocation.

The roll call showed 70 Senators present. Mr. Callion was the first to receive recognition, and his resolution that the House of Representatives be notified that the Senate was in session and ready to proceed with business was agreed to without comment. Mr. Hale followed with a resolution that the daily hour for meeting be 12 o'clock meridian, which was agreed to.

Mr. Sherman made the customary motion for a committee of Senators and members to wait upon the President, and upon its adoption the presiding officer named Mr. Sherman and Mr. Smith (Dem., N. J.) as the Senators of the committee.

Mr. Morrill (Rep., Vt.) was the first to suggest anything in the nature of legislative business, by presenting several petitions asking for the passage of the Dingley bill. He yielded, however, to Mr. Hoar's suggestion that all business be deferred, as a matter of courtesy, until the President and House of Representatives had been communicated with, and thereupon, at 12:15 P. M. the Senate took a recess until 1 o'clock.

At 1 o'clock there was a further recess for 30 minutes.

At 1:30 the Senators who had waited on the President had not returned, and there was another recess until 1:45 P. M.

Senators Sherman and Smith walked down the middle aisle of the Senate when the session was resumed, and the Ohio Senator briefly reported that the President had been waited upon and would communicate his views in writing. Secretary Pruden, of the White House staff, immediately stepped forward, message in hand, and made the formal announcement of a communication from the President.

The reading of the message closed at 3:25 P. M., having taken just one hour and fifty minutes. The President's closing reference to trusts and monopolies was carefully followed by Mr. Sherman, author of the anti-trust law, to which the President referred. After the usual formality of laying the message on the table, the Senate, on motion of Mr. Hale (Rep., Me.) adjourned.

### WASHINGTON NOTES.

The sanitary inspector of the Marine Hospital Service at Yokohama, Japan, under date of November 6, calls attention to the increasing prevalence and great mortality of small-pox in Hogo Kea.

The Postmaster-General has issued a raid order against the purported firm of "Lee, Clarke & Co.," of Buffalo, N. Y., a name for an alleged bogus insurance brokerage business alleged to be run by H. S. McFall.

Senator Shoup, of Idaho, presented a bill to the Senate prohibiting the formation of trusts in protected imported articles by providing for the placing of such articles on the free list, and also a bill to suspend the further issuance of paper currency of less denomination than \$10.

The House committee on banking and currency adopted resolutions requesting commercial organizations with definite plans for currency reforms to submit them to the committee, and requesting Comptroller Eckels to present his views to the committee.

The President nominated Frank Dyer Chester, of Massachusetts, to be consul of the United States at Budapest, Hungary. The President also sent to the Senate a number of nominations, which have heretofore been announced, and were made prior to the assembling of Congress.

Lieutenant-Commander C. H. Arnold has been detached from the Massachusetts, and ordered to the Bancroft. Lieutenant-Commander C. Belknap, from the Bancroft home on waiting orders; Lieutenant-Commander S. Schroeder, from the inspection board to the Massachusetts. The resignation of Assistant-Surgeon H. F. Parrish has been accepted.

### ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE.

Stephen Crane's "Red Badge of Courage" has been translated into French.

Mr. Anthony Hope has almost finished the sequel to "The Prisoner of Zenda." It is not likely to be out until next year.

Miss Victorine Thomas Artz, of Chicago, has made a gift of \$10,000 to the Boston Public Library as a Longfellow memorial.

The health of the Carrivich has so far improved that his physicians have decided that he may spend the winter in Central France.

The Secretary for Scotland has appointed a committee to inquire into the alleged prevalence of sheep-stealing in certain parts of Scotland.

Rev. J. Cummings Smith, pastor of the Trinity Presbyterian Church, San Francisco, has accepted a call to the Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis.

Hans Richter, the great Viennese orchestral conductor, will give an orchestral concert in Paris in April. It will be the first time he has appeared publicly in that city.

General Booth has announced that the Salvation Army is to extend its operations over the whole of the Malay archipelago. The movement will be directed from the army's headquarters in Australia.

The Bryon revival is getting along famously in England. The long period of neglect to which his poetry has been subjected will be more than made up if the present renewed interest in the great poet continues.

The Schiller prize, awarded every three years for the best play acted on the German stage, has just been presented to Herr Ernst von Wildenbruch for his tragedy, "Henry and his House," and the decision of the jury has been confirmed by the Emperor, in whose hands there is power to veto.

### FIVE TRAINMEN KILLED.

A Terrible Collision Results from a Southern Pacific Freight Car Going to Sleep.

A collision between through freight trains on the Southern Pacific Road near Waelder, Texas, resulted in the killing of two engineers, two firemen and a brakeman.

The crew of the eastbound freight went to sleep while waiting on a siding. After they awoke they thought the second section of the through westbound freight was the third section, and so they put their train on the main line. The weather was foggy and the eastbound freight and the third section of the westbound train came together a few miles from the siding.

# NOT ONE SAVED.

## Loss of the North German Lloyd Steamer Salier.

### NEARLY 200 PERISHED.

#### The Accident Occurred on the Corrobo Rocks, off the Desolate Spanish Coast—Four in the Recent Heavy Gales.

The steamship Salier, owned by the North German Lloyd Company, is believed to have been totally lost off the Spanish coast. She left Corunna on December 7 for Villagarcia, Spain, and is believed to have foundered in the heavy gale which recently prevailed off the Spanish coast.

No details of the disaster have been obtained. A steamship has gone in search of the missing vessel.

Vigo, Spain.—The statement that there were no passengers on board the Salier is incorrect. There were 210 passengers on board. Her crew was composed of 65 men. All on board, passengers and crew, perished.

The Salier's passengers consisted of 113 Russians, 35 Galicians, 6 Spaniards and one German.

The Salier was bound from Bremen to Buenos Ayres, via Corunna and Villagarcia. The passengers were mostly in the steerage. The Corrobo rocks, on which it is believed the Salier was lost, are situated off the southwest coast of Corunna and should have been given a wide berth before the steamer headed eastward, and then in an easterly direction for the bay leading up to Villagarcia.

#### Was On The Baltimore Line.

The Salier was a well-known vessel at Baltimore. She ran for many years between Baltimore and Bremen, carrying passengers and freight, and was rated A1 at Lloyd's.

The steamship was regarded as a staunch one, and met with no disaster while on the line. During the great fall she was transferred to the Australian Line of the Lloyds Company, on which she was running at the time of the awful disaster reported above.

The news of the sinking caused considerable comment in shipping circles. The place where she went down is well remembered as the one where the ill-fated British man-of-war Lord Howe met destruction some years ago.

When running to Baltimore the Salier was commanded by Captain Wempe. She left Baltimore on September 9 for Bremen, where she arrived on September 23. She is believed to have been loaded with coal when she was lost. She was a big-rigged, screw steamer, built at Hull, England, in 1875, and is believed to have been carrying a crew of about 60 to 70 men. She was of 3,000 gross tons register, 351 feet long, 39.5 feet beam and 32.5 feet deep.

### FIFTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

#### Senate.

On Dec. 7.—The notice of the opening of a Cuban session was about the only feature of interest developed at the brief session of the Senate, which lasted only 25 minutes. Senator Cullom gave notice of a speech on Cuba next Thursday. The Senators had expected to start the session with a resolution relative to the death of ex-Speaker Crisp led to the customary adjournment as a mark of respect. A large number of bureau reports were received, including that of the government directors of the Pacific railways.

On Dec. 8.—The Senate, by the decisive vote of 35 to 21, adopted a motion to take up the Dingley tariff-silver bill, immediately following it, Mr. Aldrich, of Rhode Island, one of the republican members of the Finance committee, moved to recommit the bill to that committee, and this motion was pending when the morning hour expired, and the entire matter lapsed as though no vote had been taken. The whole was of actual business, and personal. Three sets of vigorous resolutions for Cuban independence furnished an interesting feature. They came from Mr. Cameron, of Pennsylvania; Mr. Mills, of Texas, and Mr. Call, of Florida.

#### House.

On Dec. 7.—The House proceeded to business and before the session closed had passed three bills of considerable importance and the first of the regular supply bills—that for pensions. Three of the bills related to postal matters. One provided for the use of private mailing cards of the same general size and character as the present postal cards when one-cent stamps are affixed; another for a limited indemnity of \$10 for the loss of registered mail matter, and the third for the University of Utah shall occupy lands granted to it; to authorize the use of the abandoned Fort Bidwell military reservation in California as a training school for Indians; to confirm certain cash entries for public lands in Arkansas made under the graduation act of 1854; to provide for the location and purchase of public lands for reservoir sites in Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming.

On Dec. 8.—The House held a three-hour session, and passed a dozen bills of minor importance. Among them the following: To extend for five years the time in which the University of Utah shall occupy lands granted to it; to authorize the use of the abandoned Fort Bidwell military reservation in California as a training school for Indians; to confirm certain cash entries for public lands in Arkansas made under the graduation act of 1854; to provide for the location and purchase of public lands for reservoir sites in Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming.

### AWFUL CRUELTY OF A FATHER.

#### His Brutal Treatment Caused the Death of His Daughter.

After a long preliminary examination, Rudolf Brockman, a wealthy farmer, living in Osage township, Kan., has been held in the sum of \$10,000 to answer for the murder of his 17-year-old daughter, Mary.

Four weeks ago Brockman gave the girl a terrible beating because she did not work to suit him in his cornfield. He then tied a rope around one of her ankles, fastened the other end of the rope to the rear axle of his wagon, and drove to his farm, a quarter of a mile off, dragging the girl behind.

Arriving there he locked her up in the barn without sufficient clothing and without food. The girl was found by her uncle and another neighbor, who carried her away, but her injuries were so serious that she died on November 22.

### CABLE SPARKS.

Fire in Ottawa, Ont., destroyed business property valued at \$350,000.

It is reported that the King of Korea is acting entirely under the influence of three Americans.

Max Alivery, the tenor singer, who was reported ill in Germany, has been cured by a surgical operation.

The dock strike at Bremen, Germany, is over. The Hamburg dockers resolved to declare a general strike.

It is officially announced that a small band of insurgents attacked Guanabacoa, near Havana, and burned a house, but were repulsed.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies adopted a vote of confidence in the government in connection with the government's colonial policy.

France and Italy have agreed upon a convention respecting Tunis which is said to aim at the ultimate exclusion of England from Egypt.

The trial of four journalists charged with libeling high German officials was begun at Berlin. Revelations concerning a court clique are expected.

A slight fire occurred in Blenheim Castle, England, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough. The Duchess was formerly Miss Consuelo Vanderbilt.

The insurgent attack on Guanabacoa, on the outskirts of Havana, was more serious than at first reported. The garrison of the fort was ambuscaded and all killed by the insurgents.

Dr. Leander S. Jameson was released from Holloway jail, in London, where he was confined under a sentence of fifteen months for his part in the Transvaal raid. His release was ordered on medical grounds.

The Court of Appeals at Alexandria has decided that the Egyptian government must repay \$2,500,000 advanced by the commission of the Egyptian debt to meet the expenses of the British-Egyptian expedition to Dongola.

### DIBASTERS AND CASUALTIES.

The Jacques Auditorium, in Waterbury, Connecticut, was burned. Loss, \$25,000.

A Pierre, South Dakota, dispatch says that at least two thousand sheep on the ranges perished during the recent blizzard.

Joseph Smith and Joseph Jarowski, laborers, were killed by the fall of a bucket in the wheel pit extension of the power tunnel at Niagara Falls.

Luther Greenman, his wife and three children were burned to death in Perry, New York. The house was set on fire by a defective stove pipe.

Two thousand pounds of dynamite have been used on the ice gorge at Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, with but little effect. The people are panic-stricken.

The East Clayton Brickmaking Company's plant at Nelsonville, Ohio, was destroyed by fire. Loss, \$100,000. One hundred men were thrown out of work.

Two 15-year-old twin daughters of Riley Laft were killed and Jesse Croel was fatally injured by being struck by a train at a grade crossing near Lyons, Mich.

A powder explosion took place in the mine of the Hooking Valley Coal Company, in Nelsonville, Ohio. Two men, named Malone and Sheldon, were fatally injured.

While crossing the tracks of the Nickel Plate Road near Palmsville, Ohio, Charles De Baugh and Walter Hathaway were struck by a fast mail train and instantly killed.

At Everett, Mass., a fire engine was struck by a locomotive on the Boston and Maine Railroad, and Boardman Bennett, engineer of the steamer, was killed, and Walter Stevens, the driver, was fatally injured.

Two snow ploughs on the Northern Pacific collided near Fargo, N. D. Hans Hanson, of Mapleton, was instantly killed and two firemen and two section men seriously, if not fatally injured.

### GOLD MINE IN MAON.

#### To Be Operated in the City Limits by the Ocmulgee Land Improvement Company.

Macon, Ga., is soon to have a gold mine in full operation within the corporate limits of the city. A North Carolina expert has made thorough tests and inspections of the soils and deposits, and is willing to back his judgment to the amount of \$10,000.

The gold mine that is to be opened up is on the property of the Ocmulgee Land Improvement Company, which is incorporated in the city. For the past two years the mining expert alluded to has been paying visits to the property, and after making the most careful study has notified the company that he is ready to begin a contract to invest ten thousand dollars in the venture. In his opinion the richest vein of gold now to be found in the hills of Ocmulgee Park, and he thinks he will not have to go down more than 200 feet to get at it in the greatest abundance.

Years ago considerable gold was obtained in the branches and ditches on the same lands now occupied by the Ocmulgee Land Improvement Company, and an old gentleman accumulated a comfortable fortune by washing the gold from the sand in the branch that now flows through the property.

### ANOTHER CRONIN VICTIM.

#### Harry Owen O'Connor, a Witness in the Noted Trial, Commits Suicide.

Harry Owen O'Connor, one of the principal witnesses for the prosecution in the famous Cronin murder case, committed suicide by shooting himself at his home in Chicago.

O'Connor was a friend of Dr. Cronin and his evidence in the trial was confined to remarks he had heard made in Camp 20 of the Clan-Na-Gael by some of the defendants against Dr. Cronin. O'Connor appeared at the first trial, but would not testify when summoned to the rehearing in behalf of Dan Coughlin.

He was in New York at the time and would not listen to any persuasion to make a trip to Chicago. His death recalls the mysterious fatality which has pursued persons connected with that great case.

Just before he shot himself O'Connor drew up a will disposing of his property and called in neighbors to witness it. This document was made the basis of a farewell letter to his wife, in which O'Connor said illness prompted him to do away with himself.

### SWORDFISH AGAINST WHALE.

#### A FIERCE BATTLE BETWEEN TWO MONSTERS OF THE DEEP.

#### The Whale Whipped by Its Fiery Antagonist—Something About the Swordfish of the Pacific Ocean.

The passengers on the little steamer that makes daily trips between San Pedro Harbor, near Los Angeles, Cal., and Santa Catalina Island, some thirty miles out in the Pacific Ocean, were excited the other day by a terrible battle between two sea monsters. A N. Y. Times correspondent says that the spectacle from the deck of the steamer, about a mile away from the scene of the combat, was a small mountain of mist tossing in the air, at the base of which a huge black tail churned the water like the blades of a screw propeller. The monster, a very large-sized whale, turned this way and that, all the time lashing its black tail with fury and beating the water so that the sound came like claps of thunder to every one on board the Catalina Island steamer. The whale suddenly turned and spouting a powerful stream of water and blood some twenty feet in the air, lashed the water with several powerful flops of the tail, and sank beneath the surface of the ocean.

The little steamer made for the scene of the battle with all speed, and every one of the passengers was terribly excited at the scene, but when the boat reached the spot where the great whale was last seen nothing but foaming water, reddened with blood, marked the locality. There were several odd-time sailors on board the steamer, and they all agreed that a battle unto death between a swordfish and a female whale had been fought before their eyes. The swordfish had the advantage of the great sea mammal, and was thrusting its only weapon of attack and defense—the long, sharp and pointed sword—into the vulnerable sides of the unwieldy whale. The great mammal could but thrash its tail about in impotent rage, until at last a vital spot was reached by the attacking swordfish, and the whale was vanquished.

A dozen or more old men who sit about the docks and the Custom Houses at San Pedro, after a long career in the whaling fields of the Pacific Ocean, say that the battle between the whale and the swordfish was not uncommon. Several of the old tars say they have witnessed just as good fights between similar combatants, and besides, that in nearly every case the swordfish is the attacking party. Many men who have been on whaling voyages have found wounds in the carcasses of whales that were undoubtedly left there by an angry swordfish. It is seldom, however, that a swordfish is able to stab the whale to death.

The swordfish is utterly without fear, and will, like a buffalo or rhinoceros, charge anything that offends it, often doing an amount of execution hardly to be believed did not the evidence exist. Combats between swordfish are most interesting, and may be compared to a duel between two expert swordsmen. Such a contest was observed off the long pier that extends out into the ocean at Santa Monica, near Los Angeles. Some fishermen noticed two big fish leaping out of the water and dashing along the surface. Soon it was seen that they were swordfish. The season was when the fish were usually ferocious. They had made several rushes, and when observed were at close quarters, striking each other with powerful side blows like cavalrymen. This was unsatisfactory, and finally they separated and darted at each other like arrows, the water hissing as their sharp dorsal fins cut through it. They evidently struck head on, one missing, while the sword of the other struck just below the eye and plowed a deep furrow in the fish, partly disabling it so that it turned and attempted to escape. But its adversary also turned, and with a rush drove its sword completely through the body of its foe and held it fast, only wrenching its weapon loose when its enemy stopped swimming.

This one lunge finished the battle, and the victor left the field. The vanquished, floating on the surface, was picked up by the fishermen. The wounds in the dead fish were examined by several hundred people in Los Angeles and Santa Monica. They gave ample evidence of the extraordinary ferocity of a thrust by a swordfish. The force with which a swordfish strikes has been variously estimated, but that it is equal to that which drives a twenty-four pound shot from a howitzer will be believed easily after viewing the result.

In the waters of California three kinds of swordfish can be seen—Xiphias gladius, Tetrapurus albidus, and Histiogobius. The fish engaged in the battle described were of the kind first named. It is the ordinary swordfish, found on both sides of the Atlantic, in appearance trim and shipshape—a veritable privateer. It is a piratical corsair of the mackerel.

The striking feature is the sword, which is a continuation of the upper jaw into a sharp bony sword. The jaws are toothless, the lower one being hard or bony. The eyes are large and prominent, the tall sickle-shaped and powerful, and the whole appearance of the fish denotes speed and activity. It attains a length of from five to nine feet, and when working at full speed can pierce a wooded hull sheathed with copper. One of the most remarkable cases on record is that of the ship Dreadnaught. One day at sea the crew felt a sudden shock, and soon after that the ship sprang a leak and was obliged to put into port. It was found when she was dry-docked that a large swordfish had struck her. The sword had penetrated the copper, then the

thick oak hull, passing through the thick pine sheathing, and finally entering the head of a barrel. The sword was broken off short, partly plugging the wound.

The ship Wanderer was struck in the South Atlantic in the same way, and the pumps had to be manned. When she was docked the terrible sword was found. The United States government has recently collected testimony relating to such cases, and it makes a most interesting showing. Hundreds of instances have been brought to light where swordfishes have struck vessels with disastrous results, one case cited being the sinking of the sloop Red Hot, which was employed around New Bedford by the United States Fish Company. The swordfish, undoubtedly enraged at the presence of what it considered an enemy, dashed at the vessel and sank it.

### THE KAFFIR DOCTOR.

#### Queer Methods and Remedies of Natal Medicine Men.

In Natal, native physicians are divided into two classes—medicine and herbalists. The former, known to their fellows as "Izinyanga zo kwe Iapa," are especially proficient in the healing art; while the latter, rejoicing in the name of "Izinyanga zemoti," effect their cures through the medium of herbs with medicinal properties, of which there are over 100 species in the colony known to the natives. One of the most frequent cases with which a native doctor has to deal is snake bite, and for this there are at least a dozen herbal antidotes, the chief of which is the root of the aster asper, a small plant somewhat like the daisy, with lilac-colored flowers. It has been used with success by hunters on their dogs when snake-bitten, but the secret of the infallible remedy for the deadliest snake bite is said to have died with Cetewayo, who had a gray powder which never failed to cure. Herbs for cattle diseases are plentiful, but so far none of them has stemmed the onslaughts of rinderpest. The isinwazi is a favorite remedy for "red-water" in cattle, and is also employed as an eye salve, and to its milky sap the late Sir Theophilus Shepstone was indebted for the preservation of valuable horse which had got some of the blinding juice of the euphorbia into his eye. The most popular plant, however, is the u-mondi, whose aromatic roots act as a very wholesome tonic. It is on the point of extinction in the colony, and a large price is now paid for its roots.

When called in, the doctor receives a fee known as "ulugxa," varying from three shillings to a half guinea, according to his standing. Should a cure result a further fee is claimable, but failure to cure is unrewarded by payment beyond the call fee. Every doctor has to take out a license to practice from the magistrate or administrator of native law in the district, which must be favorably indorsed by the chief of his or her (for lady doctors have existed from time immemorial among the Kaffirs) kraal. For this license a payment of 25 is made, and the holder is immediately removed from the list of practicing physicians if so rash as to sell, or profess to possess love philters or charms to soothe the savage breast. And in the code of native law made and female diviners and other quacks, such as rain or lightning doctors, are expressly forbidden to practice the black art. Though practically extinct in the colony, the profession of dream doctor was in full swing in Zululand prior to the dethronement of Cetewayo, and they pretended to detect and "smell out" any one guilty of malpractices—a convenient method of doing away with awkward relatives and opponents. Chaka himself assumed the office of dream doctor, and in pursuit of his profession (it is on one occasion brutally murdered no fewer than 400 women, for mere lust of blood. His last words were in keeping with his assumed role of a diviner, for, as he expired at the hands of Dingany's assassins, he exclaimed: "You think you will rule this country when I am gone; but I see the white man coming and he will be your master."

A Cannon Ball's Flight to the Moon.

Astronomers may use long strings of figures, but there is nothing that gives us a more graphic idea of the immense distances which separate us from the celestial bodies than the old illustration in which the flight of a cannon ball is made the basis of calculation. It has been shown by the mathematicians that a ball fired from a modern "great gun" would, if it could keep up its initial velocity, reach the moon, which is 240,000 miles away, in twelve days. That is a long time, indeed, especially when we consider the fact of the wonderful rate of speed with which the iron messenger would travel. But, when we come to make comparison between the time which it would take such a missile to cross the space which separates us from the goddess of night and the fixed stars, or even the planets, we are simply amazed. If it would take such a missile twelve days to reach the moon it would take it six and a half years to reach the planet Mars! And yet some "speculative" astronomers talk about communicating with that planet! It would take fifty-four years for the ball to travel to Jupiter, 168 for it to cover the distance between us and Saturn, 330 years would elapse before it would reach Neptune, and 3,000,000 years would go by before it could reach Alpha Centauri, the nearest fixed star.

### India's Pearl Fisheries.

The pearl fisheries in the Gulf of Mannar are the most important in India. According to Friar Jordanius, 8000 boats were engaged in this gulf in 1339, plastered walls to dry. A house can be plastered in two mornings, and the family can move in in the afternoon.