

Items of General News.

The director of statistics furnishes a table showing that the actual revenue derived by the General Government from the use of distilled spirits in the United States during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1886 to 1887 inclusive, or for five years, were \$135,356,355 currency, or a total average of \$27,071,271, currency per annum.

Among the debts itemized in the petition of John W. Steele ("Coal Oil Johnny"), of Oil City, claiming bankruptcy, is a hotel bill of \$19,000, and a cigar bill of \$8,000. Steele is the millionaire who created such a furor in Oil City and elsewhere some time since with his \$2,000 a day income. He is now driving team in the oil regions. "Rich is life."

A Richmond, Virginia, correspondent says that every where during the day one meets freedmen, women and children going to and fro with baskets to the several soup houses established by the Government in different localities to keep these unfortunate people from starving. There is no work for them and they are perfectly destitute. The county pays for their soup and wood, and scanty enough is the supply they get of both.

T. P. Pinkham, seventy-one years of age, died suddenly in Lafayette, Indiana, last week, after a long illness (ill about half an hour before his death), when he went down stairs and remarked, "I am going home in half an hour—in thirty minutes—I shall be a corpse." He quietly proceeded to give directions about his business, and commending his soul to his Maker, expired in exactly thirty-four minutes. His relatives wanted to go for a doctor, but he said, "It is no use; I shall go hence in half an hour."

A few days since here, a boy discovered a snake, and killed it by shooting the reptile through with his arrow. Soon afterwards another boy placed himself behind a tree, and exposing one of his hands, challenged the other to "shoot at the target." The banter was accepted, and with the same arrow which had just pierced the snake, fired at the exposed hand, and struck it nearly in the center, inflicting a slight wound. In a few hours the hand and arm of the lad began to swell, showing that poison from the snake had been communicated by means of the arrow. The youth suffered in distress agony, and ingesting in this horrible condition for three days, expired.—(Montgomery (Alabama) Mail.)

A letter received from an American citizen at Beyrout, Syria, dated Jan. 2, says, John C. Breckenridge was there on January 1, making inquiries with regard to traveling through Syria. He denied all claims to the privileges of a citizen of the United States, and appeared much affected while conversing upon the affairs in America. When asked if he intended to return to the United States, he said he had no wish to become a martyr, and ingoring in this horrible condition for three days, expired.—(Montgomery (Alabama) Mail.)

Who Can Vote.—Maine—Every male citizen. New Hampshire—Every male inhabitant. Vermont—Every man. Massachusetts—Every male citizen. Rhode Island—Every male citizen. Connecticut, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, New Jersey, Ohio, California, Oregon, Nevada, West Virginia, and Colorado—Every white male citizen. New York—Every male citizen, but colored men are required to own \$250 worth of taxable property. Pennsylvania—Every white free man. Wisconsin—Every male person. Minnesota—Every male person. Kansas—Every white male adult. Delaware—Every free white male citizen. Maryland—Every free white male citizen. Tennessee—Every free white man formerly, but now negroes vote. In these States which were engaged in rebellion, and which are governed by the reconstruction laws, negroes are allowed to vote and hold office.

ROMAN CATHOLICS IN THIS COUNTRY.—So little attention has been paid by the daily press to the condition of the Catholic Church, that few persons are aware of the progress it is making in this country. In 1860 the "American Cyclopaedia" estimates that there were only a little over 3,000,000 Catholics in the United States adhering to their doctrines. The best Catholic authorities now declare that nearly five millions of persons belong to their denomination.

In 1850 there were in Rhode Island and Connecticut only 10,000 Catholics; there are now 125,000. At the same time Pennsylvania contained 89,591, while there are at present 275,000 in the diocese of Philadelphia alone. In Illinois there were 29,100, and the district about Chicago alone now counts 150,000. The diocese of Albany and Buffalo have 450,000, against 120,298 in the whole State of New York in 1850; and there are 90,000 in Michigan, while in 1850 there were 16,122.—N. Y. Post

Out in Illinois, a Justice of the Peace was recently elected who is not particularly noted for legal attainment. Wishing to have a little fun, a friend asked him what he would do were a case of mayhem brought before him for trial? The Squire looked a little puzzled at first, but soon began to look wise and said: "I had a case of that kind when I was Squire before, so I just ordered the fellow to jail, and after staying there for a week, he was willing to marry the girl!"

A well known minister of New York, repudiates the received theory that they have choir in heaven. He declares that his choir has given him much trouble on earth, that the idea of music in the world to come is wholly repugnant to his ideas of eternal peace and rest.

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