TIME FOR THE COUNTRY.

HOROLOGY AND ITS HUMBLE HOME AT WASHINGTON OBSERVATORY.

A Room Given Over to Clocks, Tickers and Telegraphy - Description of the Principal Time-Pieces and Their Uses -The Black Clock.

The clocks and instruments used to distribute time are in a very humble apartment in bisement of the university, the observatory itself being so small that it would be difficult to get the clocks into it. The mean approach to this basement scarcely prepares a visitor for the interesting sight which awaits him. The room is just given over to clicks, tickers, and telegraphy. The principal clocks are encased most carefully and mounted on piets of solid masonry which absolutely prevents vibration by coming in contact with the earth at their base alone, six or eight feet below the surface. Of the three one is kept absolutely correct, while in the other two the errors are allowed to accumulate and a record of them kept in the most careful manner. One of these erratio timepieces got 1-1000th part of a second behind one day last week and was dusy records, and from the records it seems that another varied nearly two seconds in a whole year. The error is de

tected by a very scientific process of star-gazing, described later on.

The magnificent clock which registers standard time is considered as fine a timepiece as can be made, and comes from the orkshops of Hohwn, of Amsterdam, Holwho shares with Frodsham, of Lon-England, the reputation of being one finest makers in the world. It ourse devoid of any ornament, and is constructed for pure utility. It stands about five feet high and has a seconds pendolum of thirty-nine inches. It has the Graham dead-beat provement, and its face has three dials, one recording the from one to twenty-four, another the minutes, and a third the seconds. It is the daty of this clock, which would up once a week, to go steadily and record the time as accurately as nd as it is never altered any stered against it. In order to assist it in keeping accurate, it is inclosed in three air-tight cases and a thermometer the glass fronts of these, records ion from 70 degrees Fah., which

clock registers sidered or star h differs considerably from ne, inasmuch as the sidereal year contains 203 days. Hence this clock agree exactly with its Dutch neighbor once a year, and now the variation is about seven hours. It is by E. Howard & Co., of Boston, and is not so nest in appearance as that showing standand time, though it resembles it in size and shape.
The third clock has more work to do. It

is also by Howard, and is know as "No. 225." It is kept at central or Mississippi valley mean time, just six hours behind Greenwich and forty-nine seconds before St. Louis local time. Unlike the two recorders of time just referred to, this clock is kept just right, and as a matter of fact it requires very little regulating. At times astronomical observations prove it to be an infinitesimal fraction of a second in error, and this is rectified by increasing ing by a fraction of a grain the weight which provides the motive power. the regulation character. only, and exactly above the figure twelve is a small platinum spring, which projects sufficiently to be touched by the minute hour just as it records the hour.

The most hard-working clock in the collection is the hack clock, which does the great bulk of sending out time. Its huge pendulum beats alternate seconds, the tick being audible as already explained both in the observatory and at various of fices and stores down town. By its side is an ordinary seconds pendulum freely and accurately hung, and which, when set in motion, runs by force of gravity. It ticks in exact unison with the hack clock, but registers the seconds only, so that when work a double beat is recorded. At 9:56 every day the back clock is put actly right, and a minute later "time" called to all the points taking time at I This preliminary warning having been given, double beats commence at 9:58, and continue for 50 seconds, when the circuit is opened. At 9:59 the clock begins again and sends single beats only for 50 seconds, when the circuit is once more opened, until exactly 10, when a single beat is given, followed by the telegraphic signal, "10 K. Ob." and the signaling is over.-Globe-Democrat.

A Great Difference in Copyists.

There is a great difference in copylsts, both in style and swiftness. The average copyist can copy and compare about 6,000 ordinary words per diem, while an extra rapid one can write 10,000. The 10,000 man, however, is liable to break down if he tries to hold up to that number for any length of time. A twelve months' work, subdivided into months, of the fastest penman in this office, is as follows: April, 235,344; May, 262,165; June, 298,025; July, 255, 825; August, 241, 451; September, 238, 232; October, 254, 128. November, 242, 187; December, 251,281; January, 173,531; February, 207,100, and March, 205,105, Total number for the year, 2,919,864.—Deputy Recorder in Globe-Democrat.

Drilled in the Art of Swimming.

Cavalry regiments in the Prussian army are being carefully drilled in the art of which is swiftly ferried across the river, while the men take the horses by the head with one hand and swim with the other. utmost precision and rapidity, whole regi- zette. its creasing and recrossing in an astonishingly short time.-Chicago Times.

How the Question Was Decided.

Little Johnny, age 5, was greatly taken with the circus-posters and begged his papa to take him to the circus. He could get no promise from him, however, until, making a last be seeching appeal on cicrus day, his father replied: "Well, Johnny, we will go down street and see the tents. Johnny walked along with his father, looking very dubious indeed at such a scanty privilege, until, glancing up, he remarked: "Papa, I'd much rather see the catents" That decided it; they went inside. - Baby bood.

A Millionaire Widow's Factotam. widow, has for her factotum a young colored man, who manages much of her business and conducts a part of her correst to heat the record at 550 feet a minuta.—

Cleveland Leader.

CARET.

What reck I now that all the earth be fair, That bees and leaves be gay, and blossoms sweet. That birds trill out their blithesome song

to greet The bright-eyed day, the gladsome morn ing air? Are blind men dazzled by the noon-tide glare.

Or heeds the deafened ear the drum's slow beat? Are boisterous tales of feast and danc-

ing meet To help a dying man his pangs to bear? O Love, my Love, I dying am and blind, Blind for the light of thy dear presence

Dying for lack of love and love's own Oh, come, and leave the pitiless world be-

Once more o'er me thy glow of beauty And with one long kiss bring a whole world's good.

-Sophie M. Almon in The Current.

THEY TURNED TO THE RIGHT.

How Grant's Military Stand with the Men Hung Upon His Action.

That evening the troops began to pour out of the woods in columns. The infantry soldiers marched soberly past the artillery. There were no exultant songs in those columns. The men seemed aged. They were very tired and very hungry. They seemed to be greatly depressed. I sat by the roadside in front of the battery waiting for it to move, and attentively watched the infantry march past. Many of the soldiers spoke to me, asking if there was authentic news as to where they were

"Here we go," said a slab-sided Yankee private; "here we go, marching for the Rapidan and the protection afforded by that river. Now, when we get to the Chancellorsville house, if we turn to the left we are whipped, at least so say Grant and Meade. And if we turn toward the river you will see hell. The bounty jumpers will break and run, and there will be the very devil of a panic. Oh, for a general!" he exclaimed, "oh, for a general who knows how to fight!"

"Suppose we turn to the right, what then?" I asked.

"That will mean fighting, and fighting on the line the Johnnies have selected and intrenched. But it will indicate the

urpose of Grant to fight," he replied. Then he told me that the news in his Sixth Corps brigade was that Meade had strongly advised Grant to turn back and recross the Rapidan, and that this advice was inspired by the loss of Shaler's and Seymour's brigades on the evening of the previous day. This was the first time I heard this rumor, but I heard it fifty times before I slept that night. The enlisted men, one and all, believed it, and I then firmly believed the rumor to be authentic, and I believe it to-day. None of the enlisted men had any confidence in Meade as a tenacious, aggressive fighter. Grant's military standing with the enlisted men this day hung on the direction

we turned at the Chancellorsville house. If to the left, he was to be rated with Meade and Hooker and Burnside and Pope. At the Chancellorsville house we turned to the right. Instantly all of us heard a sigh of relief. Our spirits rose, We marched free. The men began to sing. The enlisted men understood the flanking movement. That night we were happy. There was much interchange of infantry. We gathered from the losses these men enumerated in their own commands that the three days' fighting had cost Grant about 25,000 men, or a little more than one-fifth of the army. And the enlisted men-the volunteers who had brains in their skulls-always stuck to it that those figures correctly represented the losses of Union soldiers in the bloody Wilderness battle. Frank Wilkeson in

Cleveland Leader. An Expert's Opinion of Excise.

Take the heart-itself a very bundle of muscular fibers. We know that as long as we live, whether sleeping or waking, that wonderful organ keeps up its regular contractions and expansions. But, when we use our muscles, their contractile force upon the blood-vessels helps the blood along its channels, and thus takes a little labor from the propelling heart. It beats faster but with less effort. While helping the heart, muscular exercise helps the lungs also. More exercise means for the lungs more breath; that is, more air inspired and more carbonic-acid gas expired. By deeper breathings the involun-

tary muscles are strengthened While the lungs and heart are doing better work under the stimulus of muscular exercise, the heart pumping the blood more certainly to the farthermost tissue of the body and the lungs more rapidly purifying the blood, other organs are benefited. The diaphragm, that muscle separating the lungs and heart from the stomach and liver, is rising and falling, and, with the increased expansion and contraction of the walls of the thorax, is moving all the contents of the abdomen to activity. The liver, the great gland of the body, has not only more blood sent

to it, but is quickened to action.

The Founder of Cleveland, Ohio. The Clevelands were a more than ordinarilly able race. Two of their number -both of whom spelled their name with the "a" so common in the older generations-were noted in their day; the one as the founder of Ohio's second city, and the other as the able, if not eccentric, professor of chemistry in Bowdoin college. He swimming their horses across rivers. At was one of the ablest natural philosophers the word "Dismount!" the soldlers divest of a generation or two back; an intrepid themselves of their clothing, which, with experimenter, yet childishly timid in other their weapons, etc., is placed upon a raft, respects. To the day of his death he is said never to have ridden in a railroad to break away from the Circean fascinacar, and when a thunderstorm came on seated himself on a glass-legged stool in The feat is said to be performed with the his cellar .- Cincinnati Commercial Ga-

> Five Thousand Pounds for a Lady's Life. Easter Monday, 1884, a young Italian lady of good family fell from the pier at Southend into the sea and was in imminent danger of being drowned, when a young man named John David Hudson, who lives in the Deptford Lower road, and was on a visit to Southend with his mother and sisters, plunged into the water and rescued her. He was told at the time that he would be rewarded. May 2 last the young lady died and left Hudson £2,600, to which her brother has added £3,000, and the £5,000 is to be invested for his benefit. -- London Standard,

The Speed of an Elevator. Elevators in certain New York buildings are to run from 450 to 500 feet a minWOMEN AT THE RACES.

Society Ladies Not Addicted to Betting -A Strange Lot at Brighton Beach. The society woman of New York is much malinged, but never more brutally than when represented as gambling with book-

makers at the races. The stories of the 'New York belles' " queer capers seem to find ready credence out of town, however. A lady in New York does not differ materially from a lady in any other quarter of the globe. Ladies do not gamble here or elsewhere, unless one regards a playful wager of gloves with a personal friend as gambling.

The women who have the smallest-if any-pretensions to social recognition are to be found at Brighton Beach. This course has become famous for its "off" decisions and "fixed" races; it is on Coney island, and it catches the rag-tag and riffraff of the famous beach, as well as a daily contingent of 2,000 or 3,000 "sports" from New York and Brooklyn. Pool tickets may be bought for so small a sum as \$2.00, and the crowd is composed of extraordinarily hetrogeneous elements. Negro stablemen, Irish saloonkeepers, French barbers, Germen tailors, Scandinavian boarding-house runners, toughs, plugs, brokers, spruce young clerks, policemen off for a day, crooks of every variety from sneak thieves to expert bank cracksmen, canal boatmen, waiters, hackmen, bootblacks, English visitors, who are as likely as not to be men of title, diminutive jockeys, farmers and flashy sports, all elbowing their way in and out, smoking cheap cigars, drinking quantities of beer and betting all they are worth on every race. As may well be imagined the women who accompany these men are not sociably lovable. They are a strange lot. The number who attend the races day after day the season through at Brighton Beach is perhaps a little less than 100, but the occasional visitors swell the daily contingent to perhaps 300 women-there are several thousand men. Some of those are hard-featured, coarse and repulsive creatures, dressed in gorgeous red or blue satin gowns with their slim fingers loaded with showy rings and their hair bleached to a sickening shade of yellow. They bet rather heavily, entrusting their money to more or less broken and dissipated young men who attend the women in a shamefaced way. One occasionally sees some big, good-natured and cheaply dressed woman betting at intervals through a shrewd-looking lad or an old man. She is probably the mother and her attendant the brother or father of one of the jockeys. -New York Cor. Pioneer Press

A Bluff That Was Called. I have an acquaintance in New York who enjoys life by practicing bluff. He is forever doing what he should not do, saying what he should not say and going where he has no moral or legal right to go, just to see if he can manage to carry himself through by aid of limitless assur ance and come out with flying colors. A few days ago he went on a little trip into the country with a lot of men, and just as they were coming away he discovered a solitary painter at work on the cornice of the hotel, six stories from the ground. The bluffer looked up and then stepping out into the middle of the street he shook both fists at the painter and howled: "You moon faced idiot, didn't I tell you to put more yellow in that paint! I'll come up there and kick your head off your shoulders, you spike nosed chump. want you to understand hereafter that when I give you orders you're to carry them out, and don't you forget it, you-

At this moment the painter was seen to am his brush in the paint pail, shove the all through a window and start down the adders at a miraculous rate of speed. The bluffer made a dead set for the railway station, but the painter chased him all over the town before he got there, and it took all his friends and two brakemen to keep the irate mechanic away from him up to the very last moment. -Blakely Hall in Brooklyn Eagle.

Faults of German Universities.

According to Dr. Flach, the universities are not, in the first place, examples of the doctrine that learning prevents manners becoming ferocious. Mature doctors have been so long in the habit of calling one another-in Latin-asinine idiots, that their pupils think abuse the proper style of a scholar. The general bullying tone is accompanied by its natural commitants, cliquism and partiality, even in examinations. A professor will do his best to pluck the pupils of a rival, and specialism is carried so far that the road success is to study an examiner's hobby, beyond which he never travels—or, oddly enough, to make love to his daughter, and, if possible, to marry her. Indeed, according to Dr. Flach, the universities are simply hot-beds of petticoat government, intrigue, and worse; while the students' clubs are secret institutions, under which the life of an inoffensive student often becomes a torture to him, on account of some imaginary offense, or even caprice, of the president, of which the victim is never even informed. Persecuted by his comrades, plucked by rival professors, and worried by the fascination of some rival professorinns, the life of that lengendary hero, the German student, would not seem to be all pipes and beer.-Brooklyn Eagle.

Living on the Retired List.

A goodly share of Washington society is made up from those who have legally outlived their official usefulness and gone on the retired list. Their honors the judges of the supreme court come first, and they insist on being invited out whenever the younger and more active of those on the bench are. Then we have rearadmirals and commodores, laid up in ordinary, like dismantled iron-clads; generals and colonels, broken-winded and condemned as unfit for service. The crowd is complete by ex-senators and representatives, who have not moral courage enough tion of the metropolis; claim agents, correspondents and confidence men, all anxious to advance some "little bill" in the success of which they are pecuniarily interested .- Cor. Boston Budget.

A Disinfectant for the Sick-Room. A disinfecting compound for purifying the atmosphere of the sick-room has been presented to the Berlin Medical society. Oil of rosemary, lavendar and thyme, in the proportions of ten, two and a half and two and a half parts respectively, are mixed with water and nitric acid in the proportion of thirty to one and a half. The bottle should be shaken before using, and a sponge saturated in the compound should be left to diffuse it by evaporation. The vapor of this compound is said to possess extraordinary properties in controlling the odors and efficient of offensive and inoffensive disorders.-Chicago Herald,

There were 15,163 chattel mortgages filed in New York the first half of 1834, In the island of Java there are twenty letter-press printing offices.

SLAUGHTER OF OF THE BIRDS.

Report of the Committee of the Cincinnati Natural History Society. The following report of the committee on destruction of native birds was last

society and adopted: Your committee report as follows in the matter submitted to them, and state they have carefully investigated the subject of the destruction of our native birds, and several papers have been prepared and read at three meetings of this society. They find:

evening submitted to the Natural History

First-That native birds of many species have greatly decreased in numbers over large areas of the country. This is particularly true of those water and game birds about which it is comparatively easy to obtain statistics.

Second-That the chief cause of such decrease, in addition to climatic changes, natural en-mies, clearing up the country, etc., is the direct destruction of birds for their skins and feathers for decorative and millinery uses, the trapping of birds for cage purposes, the destruction of egg and nests by men and boys, and the intro-duction of the European sparrow. (Passer domesticus), which occupies the nesting places of many native species. Three of these causes are preventable, and the evil results can be greatly lessened. first, if no birds be used for decorations; second, if none of the song-birds and in sectivorous species be used for food; third if the laws protecting certain species be backed by stronger public opinion and be more rigidly enforced; fourth, if thoughtless men and boys could be shown the great economic value of birds and taus the desirability of protecting them and their eggs.

Your committee find that a widespread discussion of the bird question shows more interest in "our feathered friends" than they had hoped for, and they trust that Cuvier clubs, Audubon societies, and other clubs of like aims will continue to flourish on all sides until public sentiment is entirely opposed to the destruction of par native birds.-Cincinnati Commercial Gazettee

Looking at the Circus Bills.

Once more the circus bills have been pasted on the boards. It has been a long time between circuses in Chicago. Last year we had but one, and the man who gave that show knew that no other would be here and he was stingy with his bills and niggardly with his advertising. Many of us scarcely knew when it came, what it year there is to be the old-fashioned circus down on the lake front. A circus anywhere else in Chicago doesn't seem like a

One afternoon I was over one of the great streets of Chicago—the one that runs into the board of trade building. You have heard-I have—a great deal about the restlessness of that section of the city. That men who do business in that great and busy mart, where fortune and rain are neck and neck every day, have no time to eat, sleep, or drink. It isn't so. The other day I saw plenty of them stop at the corner where the old-time illiumin ated circus bills had been put up. There doesn't seem to have been much progre made in printing circus bills. There are the same patterns which I saw some fif-teen years ago. The lady on a leaping horse, a group of giraffes, the king of air swinging from a trapeze, monkeys in a race Starch. on horseback, and the man who juggles balls and knives and bottles. But they seem to attract just the same as they used July sun and stare at these old circus posters until across their faces there swept an old-time smile which had come down many a long and tired year. It did them good. I believe in my soul that some of them hadn't had a thought aside from business before or since they went on the board of trade.—Chicago Herald.

Queen of the Quill Was She.

When Mrs. Stowe was in England Queen Victoria sent ber word that a certain day she would be pleased to see -the author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Mrs. Stowe replied that she had an engagement for that day. But the queen would see her, and sent a lady-in-waiting-a personal friend of Mrs. Stowe-to make the necessary arrangment for an observation. There was to be a pageant of some kind that day in which the queen would take part, passing the hotel where Mrs. Stowe was residing, and the royal messenger had agreed to place her hand on the author's left shoulder to distinguish her from those with her on the balcony as the procession passed. So Queen Victoria and the distinguished American gazed at each other for a few moments in silent recognition but Mrs. Stowe was not pleased that she was outwitted.-Cincinnati Commercial

A Well That "Sucks in Air." It is reported from Nevada that a farmer in that state has bored a well that "sucks in air, and makes a loud whistling noise." The report does not say whether the farmer was pleased at having bored a well of this sort, merely intimating that he was considerably surprised. If he had been an ancient Chinese, he would have been pleased, for that people, it is said, believed that life was prolonged by "swallowing the breath," or accumulating air in the system; and if they had caught the earth swallowing its breath, they undoubtedly would have considered it a good omen. The "vital aura" was what the an-ancient Chinese used to call the air thus acquired. They would have been profoundly impressed by the circumstances of the Mother Earth drinking in the vital aura with a loud whistling noise. - Boston

Characteristics of Clay and Webster. Clay was a political genius; Webster the incarnation of an intellect. One, the natural leader of political action; the other, the selected representative of a New England constituency. One, ardent and constructive; the other, cold, logical, and analytic. One inspired affection; the other, awe of his mental strength. One chose the field for a polital fight; the other lead on the charge of the heavy dragoons. One carried his friends on his shoulders, and the other was carried on the shoulders of his friends. - Chas. H. Peck in Magazine of American History.

Wonders of a French Telephone.

The French of the south of France ere noted for a slight-a very slight tendency to exaggerative. A native of that favored clime was present recently when some one was describing a telephone which had been constructed between a town in France and one over the border in Spain. circumstance, "you should see the one I've just invented. By using that you could talk French in the receiver at Marseilles,

rid.--Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.

CONSTIPATIONI

There is no medium through which disease so often attacks the system as by Constipation, and there is no other ill flesh is heir to more apt to be neglected, from the fact material inconvenience may not be immediate ly felt from irregular action of th bowels. When there is not regular action, the retention of decayed and effete matter, with its poisonous gases, soon poisons the who by being absorbed into it, causing piles, fistula, beadache, impare bloce and many other serious affections BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS WIL immediately relieve, and one bottle positively cure or relieve any case

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