

Some months ago the floors of many Australian garrisons were painted with tar, and the results have proved so unadvantageous, that the method is greatly extended in its application...

Dampening and Ironing Clothes. The clothes should be gathered as soon as dry on windy days, as an hour's whipping and switching in the wind will wear them more than weeks of ordinary usage.

To dampen the night before ironing by sprinkling each piece, which should be lightly rolled up, and then placed in the basket. Do not dampen fine starched clothes until an hour or two before ironing them...

Keep the smoothing irons clean, and free from rust by scouring them well occasionally with powdered emery. It is to be hoped that no one who reads this is an advocate of the "non-ironing" theory...

Apple Froth.—Bake four large apples very soft, press the pulp through a sieve and add twelve ounces of sugar, the white of an egg and the juice of half a lemon...

Blanc Mange.—One package of gelatine soaked for an hour in a pint of water. At the end of this time pour on the gelatine two quarts of boiling hot milk...

Chicken Soup.—Cut up one chicken and put it into two quarts of milk, season with salt and pepper. When about half done add two teaspoonfuls of barley or rice...

Cauleflower with Cheese.—Shorten the stems of cold boiled cauliflower; place it on a flat dish and set it in the oven; when a little warmed pour over it an ounce of hot clarified butter mixed with some ground Parmesan or other cheese...

Broiled Steurgeon.—Cut a fine piece of steurgeon, skin it and divide into slices about an inch thick, dip them into beaten egg, powder fine bread crumbs, pepper, salt and chopped parsley over them, fold in paper and broil over a clear fire. Send to table with essence of anchovies, sage or Worcester's sauce, and a slice of lemon.

Points to Remember. 1. John is the connecting link between the old and the new dispensation. 2. John forgets self, exalts Christ, fears not man, does as he is directed, leaving the results with God...

REV. DR. TAILMADE.

THE BROOKLYN DIVINE'S SUNDAY SERMON. Subject: "Barnlike Birthplaces."

"Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host..."

"Oh, that I were a star, that I might be like the multitude of the heavenly host! I would I were a star, that I might be like the multitude of the heavenly host..."

"I stir your holy ambitions to-day, and I want to tell you, although the whole world may be opposed to you, and inside and outside of the church..."

"I am going in. I am going to take all my family with me. I am going to take all my church with me. I am going to take all my friends and neighbors with me..."

"What a Christmas morning it will make those with whom you used to keep the holidays are all around you again, and you will be able to tell them..."

"I exercise it until they apologize; I won't forgive them until they ask me to forgive them. You are not to forgive them until they ask you to forgive them..."

"Oh, my Lord Jesus, drop that spirit into our hearts this Christmas hour. I tell you what the world wants more than anything else—more help, more comfort, more wisdom, more kind words that never die, more disposition to give other people a ride, and to carry the heavy end of the load and give other people the light end..."

"The French feud in Perry County, Ky., has lasted since 1870, and since 1890 thirteen murders have resulted. No record was kept of previous assassinations. The last two victims of the vendetta were witnesses and were shot down in signs of the court-room."

LATER NEWS.

THE NEW UNITED STATES CRUISER Vesuvius made three trial runs in Delaware Bay with satisfactory results.

"The City Gas Works at Big Rapids, Mich., were destroyed by fire, leaving the city in darkness. The dinking tub and hanging-by-the-wrist modes of punishment, long in vogue at the Ohio Penitentiary, at Columbus, have been abolished by Warden Coffin as too severe and inhuman, and the dark dungeon will be substituted for them."

"A CHILD of Joseph Groff, aged sixteen months, was burned to death at Westminster, Md., a three-year-old brother setting his clothing on fire during the mother's absence. A DYNAMITE cartridge placed under the corner of a house near Colgateville, Va., in which a party of colored people were having a dance, exploded and almost totally destroyed the building, fatally injuring Amos Moore and two women."

"MARTHA HUDSON, a girl eighteen years old, of Jellico, Tenn., killed Peto Morris, who was trying to murder her father. 'PET' OVERTON was hanged at Bastrop, La., for the murder of Frank Hearsey in April last, and Ling Sing, a Chinaman, was hanged at San Francisco, Cal., for the murder of his uncle."

"Up to the present time 163 Republican and 159 Democratic candidates have been certified to the clerk of the House as having been elected to the next Congress. This leaves three districts in doubt—two in West Virginia and one in Tennessee. In Tennessee the Governor decided to issue the certificate to the Republican, but was restrained by an injunction."

"THE bursting of a shell in one of the fortresses of Messina, Sicily, exploded a powder magazine, killing sixteen soldiers and injuring many others. The annual report of the Minister of Customs shows that the exports of Canada during the fiscal year ending June 30 were \$90,250,000 and the imports \$111,000,000, the largest balance of trade against Canada since the Dominion was formed."

"WEBB BRANDON, who killed his wife, while drunk, has been hanged at Winnipeg, Manitoba. FIRE destroyed most of the village of Deloraine, in Canada. The total loss is about \$100,000. PRINCE KARAGEORGEVITCH, brother of the pretender to the Servian throne, is dead. His immense fortune goes to his brother."

"A TRAIN 'HELD UP.' Two Masked Men Rob the Central Pacific Express of Bags of Money. The east-bound Overland train on the Central Pacific, from Sacramento to Chicago, was held up by two men near Clipperton Gap. The express-car was ransacked and many packages were taken. Two men with masks suddenly appeared while the cars were running slowly through a long snowshed. They broke the glass in the upper part of the express-car doors and covered the two messengers with revolvers. Then, while one stood guard over the men, the other went through safe and packages. He secured considerable plunder, but, strangely enough, he passed over one sack containing over \$10,000 in gold coin, and he also left behind many small sacks containing lesser amounts. When the train neared New England Mills the robbers dropped from the door. They are described as young men, but they were so well masked that no description of them could be obtained. Detectives were at once sent by special train to the scene of the robbery. The railroad company claim that the robbers only secured \$18,000 to \$20,000."

"NEWSEY GLEANINGS. A GREAT Match Trust is the latest. INDIANA is about to borrow \$2,000,000. THERE are 500 Hebrews in Minneapolis. DIPHTHERIA is decidedly on the increase. THE use of tobacco is on the increase in this country. THERE are 2068 owners of Percheron horses in this country. OREGON has doubled her population during the last ten years. THE latest syndicate is one formed to force up the price of silk. AMERICANS used 875,211 pounds more stuff in 1888 than in 1887. THERE are 3000 women in charge of post-offices in the United States. THE Pope has abandoned the proposed European congress on slavery. NEW JERSEY will derive \$1,340,431 in taxes from railroads during 1888. MARYLAND oyster pirates number nearly 3000 armed men and have 800 vessels. WARNER, N. H., with a population of over 1500, has not had a death in five months. THE tonnage of the United States in the foreign trade continues to slowly decrease. CHINA has not been without a rebellion in some portion of the empire for over 1300 years. At Los Angeles, Cal., coal was sold for \$25 to \$30 per ton last year. To-day it costs \$15. An experimental shipment of Alabama iron is to be made from Pensacola, Fla., to Cuba. THE damage done to summer resorts along the Atlantic coast this winter is estimated at \$2,000,000. ORDERS have been given for a large increase of the Russian artillery force in Poland. CANADA'S trade with England has fallen off about \$4,000,000 during the last ten months. In eleven months thirty-two men have been taken from Northern and Western jails and hanged up. THE Empress Augusta, of Germany, has offered a prize of \$500 for a portable military hospital. FLORIDA alligator-hunters say that the survivors will be looked upon as curiosities ten years hence. THE Government grant per pupil, reckoned on the daily average attendance for England and Wales is \$4.18. SOUTHERN quail introduced into the State of Maine are wintering well and becoming acclimated. OVER \$8,000,000 was invested in roller skating rinks during the year, and most of it proved a total loss. THE number of streets in London is now upward of 28,000, and new ones are added at the rate of 300 per year. THE French feud in Perry County, Ky., has lasted since 1870, and since 1890 thirteen murders have resulted. No record was kept of previous assassinations. The last two victims of the vendetta were witnesses and were shot down in signs of the court-room."

RAILROAD BUILDING.

More than Six Thousand Miles of Track Laid in 1888.

The Greatest Activity Shown in the Southern States. Since January 1, 1888, 64,000 miles of railway have been built in the United States. This mileage was built, according to statistics collected by the Engineering News, on 280 different lines by 190 companies. The New England States are credited with 167 miles of new track. Maine leading with 127, and Vermont following with 19, and Connecticut with 17. New Hampshire and Massachusetts had 2 miles each. The Middle States built 176 miles, the Central Northern States 88, the South Atlantic States 1107, the Gulf and Mississippi Valley States 945, the Southwestern States 1504, the Northwestern States 750, and the Pacific States 937. In New York 60 miles were laid. In Canada 14 companies built 16 new lines, whose total extent is 355 miles. In Mexico, the Central and National (the two principal American systems) built 465 miles of new road. The 6400 miles laid in this country is only behind the record for 1887 and two-thirds that of 1886, but is still a large showing for a year in which confidence in railway investments has been so badly shaken. Kansas leads the States with 533 miles, California has 468, Georgia 419, Kentucky 351, Washington Territory 330, and Alabama, 304. The South, on the whole, has shown more activity compared with the North than ever before. In Iowa there is no new mileage at all. This fact is ascribed to local legislation and the doings of the State Railroad Commissioners, and the anti-railroad tendencies of other Northwestern Legislatures also had a depressing effect upon railroad building. The Rock Island's extension to Colorado Springs, 298 miles, was about the only long line built during the year. Few of the 1888 extensions are important as competitive lines, while in 1887 and 1888 the feature of the work was the construction of lines to compete for the traffic between Chicago and St. Paul and Kansas City, and the road to compete with the trunk lines via the Santa Fe. There is a great contrast between 1888 and the two preceding years in the ownership of the extensions. The 36 companies that built 9065 miles in 1887, or nearly 99 per cent of the whole, and 1888 built only 2511 miles this year, or only 39 per cent of the whole. "The current belief," says the News, "is that the Interstate commerce law tends to force the local roads to consolidate with the great systems, which are seriously affected by competition, and leave almost untouched the small local roads which in their limited fields are monarchs of all they survey."

Among the large systems the Rock Island leads with 392 miles. The Santa Fe drops from 122 miles last year to 174 miles in 1888. The Northwestern built 121 miles, the Burlington 102, the Illinois Central 90, and the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul only 38 miles. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba built 312, the Northern Pacific 80, and the Southern Pacific 237. In Canada the falling off was as marked as in the United States.

A DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

The Business Part of Marblehead, Mass., in Ruins—A Heavy Loss.

The entire business part of Marblehead, Mass., about twelve acres, has been burned. The fire was discovered in the house furnishing stores of D. B. H. Powers on Pleasant street, at about 10 o'clock P. M. The first warning was a loud explosion of naphtha in the store. The building was of wood, and was rapidly consumed. The buildings surrounding the structure were mere shells, and it seemed every corner of the city to be started. In fifteen minutes the entire business section was burning. The entire shoe manufacturing district, the principal business of the town, was burned. Thirty-seven buildings were consumed by fire. The estimated loss is \$800,000, with 1000 or more men thrown out of employment, and many families rendered homeless. Though the boundaries of the fire were almost identical with those of the big fire of June, 1871, the losses are nearly double those by that one. For a while there was a panic among the inhabitants, who packed their goods for removal. The river boatmen, however, were busy from a second story window, is the only injured person reported. The heat on all sides was intense; curbstones were cracked and crumbled, car rails were twisted out of shape, tall chimneys fell with terrific crashes, and boilers exploded with the force of cannon. None of the manufacturers think it possible to rebuild this winter, and there is a general feeling of depression in the town.

THE MARKETS.

Table of market prices for various commodities including wheat, flour, sugar, and other goods. Columns list items like 'Wheat—No. 2 Red', 'Flour—City Mill Extra', 'Sugar—Cane No. 1', etc., with corresponding prices.