

FIFTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

In the Senate.
60TH DAY.—The Nicaragua Canal bill was taken up as the unfinished business, and Mr. Morgan addressed the Senate in defence of the bill. Mr. Spooner reported a favorably proposed amendment to the Deficiency bill, appropriating \$2,500,000 to reimburse the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia and South Carolina and the city of Baltimore for money expended by them in support of the war of 1812. The conference report on the Naval Appropriation bill was agreed to. The Senate then adjourned.
61TH DAY.—The credentials of Mr. Platt, of Connecticut, for his new Senatorial term beginning March 4 next were placed on file. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Vest had an encounter over the Nicaragua Canal bill. The Sundry Civil bill was discussed and several amendments were made.
62TH DAY.—Little progress was made with the Sundry Civil bill. The bill to establish a United States Land Court was passed.
63TH DAY.—After eulogies by Messrs. Gorman and Spooner, the Senate adjourned out of respect to the memory of Senator Wilson.
64TH DAY.—The House amendment to the Direct Tax bill was laid on the table for the present. The Sundry Civil Appropriation bill was passed. Among the bills reported from committee and placed on the calendar were the following: Senate joint resolution authorizing Brigadier-General Thomas L. Casey, Chief of Engineers, United States Army, to accept from the President of the French Republic a diploma conferring the decoration of Officer of the Legion of Honor; Senate bill authorizing brevets for gallant services in Indian campaigns; House bill to pension the widow of Admiral Porter.
65TH DAY.—The Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill was passed. Progress was made on the Indian bill. Mr. Stewart presented papers in support of the claim of William H. Claggett to a seat in the Senate from the State of Idaho for the term beginning March 4 next. The credentials of Mr. Dubois are already on file, and they were referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

In the House.
64TH DAY.—Mr. Wickham submitted to the House, by authority of the majority of the Coinage Committee, an adverse report on the Senate bill for the free coinage of silver. The Foster bill was passed. Progress was made on the Indian bill. Mr. Stewart presented papers in support of the claim of William H. Claggett to a seat in the Senate from the State of Idaho for the term beginning March 4 next. The credentials of Mr. Dubois are already on file, and they were referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

65TH DAY.—There was no further filibustering by the Democrats and the Deficiency bill was considered. Mr. Wike has proposed a plan to impeach Speaker Reed for falsifying the record of the House.
66TH DAY.—Mr. Burrows presented the conference report on the Naval Appropriation bill. It was adopted. Mr. McComas introduced a bill to establish a system of postal savings depositories as a branch of the Postoffice Department. Direct Tax bill was passed by a vote of 172 to 101.
67TH DAY.—For the second time in its history the House held two district legislative sessions in the one calendar day. The House, having adjourned at five o'clock, met again at eight o'clock. Mr. Burrows occupying the chair. Mr. Dingley, of Maine, submitted the report of the Silver Pool Investigating Committee. The House then went into Committee of the Whole. Mr. Dingley, of Maine, in the chair, on the Agricultural Appropriation bill, which was passed.
68TH DAY.—On motion of Mr. Quinn, Senate bill was passed for the relief of the assignees of John Roach. The Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill was considered. The Shipping bill was debated, and at the evening session the General Deficiency bill was passed.
69TH DAY.—After a light fasting from five o'clock to midnight the Postal Subsidy bill was passed by a vote of 140 to 120.

WESTERN FLOODS.

Many Persons Drowned in California and Arizona.

Late reports show that at least six persons lost their lives in the floods in California. The family of Charles Watts is also missing from near Downey and is supposed to have been drowned. The Wells family, consisting of a man, wife and babe, were swept down by Duart, and the bodies of two Mexicans were found in the same neighborhood. S. Laurens was drowned at Wilmington while trying to rescue some cattle.
The worst of the flood was probably at Downey and vicinity. Old and new San Gabriel rivers broke from their banks and ran together and made a great inland sea, six to ten miles wide and seven miles long. Many houses were swept away.
Two hundred feet of the bridge of Los Angeles has been carried away, the track washed out, the pile work broken and the tunnel at the entrance of the canyon damaged.
On the Yuma division eight berths of the big bridge were destroyed and the track is six feet out of line in many places. The bridge near Monte was also swept away.
The work of strengthening the levee against the swollen Gila River in Arizona has made it necessary for all citizens of Yuma to be pressed into the service. It is even found necessary to take the convicts from the Penitentiary to assist the workers. It finally became apparent that the levee, which was old and weak, could not be strengthened sufficiently to withstand the river, and the people began moving their effects to higher ground. Finally the levee broke, and in an hour and a half much of the town was under water.
The air was filled with the noise of falling walls and the screams of women and children. The water was ten feet deep in places. Many people had no time to get out their furniture and lost all. Over a hundred houses were ruined. An American named Gus Lee was drowned.
The people are encamped on the hills and the United States Quartermaster's buildings have been thrown open.

FIGHTING IN CHILI.

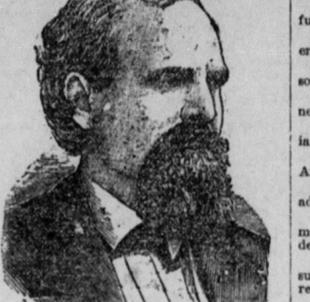
Government Troops Suffer Defeat on the Pampa.

On February 15 a battle was fought on the pampa, at Dolores, Chili. The Government was defeated with the loss of about 500 men.
On February 16 Iquique surrendered to the fleet. A riot the same night, caused by an incendiary mob, was quelled by the fleet and the foreign residents. One hundred and seventy-five of the mob were killed and wounded.
On February 17 the opposition party suffered a check on the pampa near Huaran.
On February 19 Iquique was surprised by the remainder of the Government troops defeated on the pampa. There was hard fighting from morning till evening in the town, the opposition holding the latencia, and firing from the fleet to protect the latencia and to cover the landing of the marines. The business part of the town was fired by incendiaries the same evening. Captain Lambton, of the British ship Warpite, landed, under fire, to arrange an armistice and to take on board any of the remaining women and children from the town.
On the afternoon of the 20th the Government troops were surrendered to the fleet by Colonel Soto, who had fought gallantly. The town is now in possession of the fleet. The women and children are mostly living in the ships in the harbor, all the men remaining at their offices. The hospital is full.

Two silly French boys followed the example of their elders and arranged a duel, in which one was mortally wounded.

FOSTER FOR SECRETARY.

An Ohio Man Gets the United States Treasury Portfolio



CHARLES FOSTER.

The President has nominated Charles Foster, of Ohio, to be Secretary of the Treasury to succeed William Windom, who died suddenly after speaking at a banquet in New York City. Mr. Foster was elected Governor of Ohio, as the representative of sound money, over General Thomas Ewing, who was the candidate of the Greenbackers.
Charles Foster began life as a clerk in his father's store, in Fostoria, Ohio, and at the age of eighteen was admitted to a partnership in the business. He at once assumed the management of the establishment, and his transactions were even then extensive, but by his push, sagacity and enterprise young Foster developed the firm to a remarkable degree, gained great wealth and won the reputation of a most shrewd and successful merchant. At the present time he is probably the richest man in Northwestern Ohio.
He is a man of many activities and his interests are wide and diversified. He is a manufacturer on a large scale. His railroad interests are very heavy and he is a director in several important lines in the State of Ohio and beyond its limits. The banking house of Foster & Co. is one of the soundest in the West. Mr. Foster is the President of the Northwestern Ohio Natural Gas Company and his real estate possessions alone are sufficient to make him a very rich man.
He will be sixty-three years old in a few months, having been born in Seneca County, Ohio, April 15, 1828. The town, which is called after the name of his family, was formerly Rome, laid out about 1832, and a rival town, about a mile to the north of it, which was called Risdon. In 1832 the two were consolidated and named Fostoria, in honor of the elder Foster. The newly appointed Secretary of the Treasury was married in 1854 to Annie, daughter of Judge Olmsted, of Fremont, Ohio. The family consists of two daughters, one of whom is the wife of Dr. P. L. Myers, of Fostoria. The other daughter is unmarried and in Washington, having been a member of four Congresses, the Forty-second, Forty-third, Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth. He has been twice Governor of Ohio. His first election was in 1879 and he was re-elected in 1881.

TWICE HANGED.

The Rope Breaking. William West Was Executed a Second Time.

William West, colored, who murdered John Crouch and his aged wife and their imbeciled son last May, paid a terrible penalty for his crime at Washington, Penn. With blood oozing from wounds in his neck and side, inflicted by himself in a last desperate effort to cheat the gallows, he was strapped to a plank and carried to the scaffold. When the trap was sprung the rope broke and the wretch fell to the ground writhing in agony. Then the rope was again adjusted about his neck and he was slowly strangled to death. He denied his guilt to the last.
The execution was a horrible and sickening affair. West had always declared that he would not hang, and when the watch was changed on the morning of the execution he drew the blanket over his head and inflicted several wounds in his neck and side with a spike. When the new guards discovered him he was unconscious and would have bled to death in a short time had not his wounds been dressed.
Then a race began between death and the Sheriff, as it was feared West would die in a few hours. He, however, regained consciousness, and at half-past two he was prepared for death. He was too weak to walk and had to be strapped to a board to be taken to the scaffold. Against this he fought desperately and would not let the guards dress him. He was overpowered, however, and finally after a dose of chloroform had been administered to him, tied to the board, and carried, weak, bleeding and almost lifeless to the scaffold. When the trap was sprung the rope broke and the wretch fell to the ground in a heap. The wounds in his neck had been reopened and blood was flowing profusely. It was a sickening sight. In a few minutes another rope was procured and the wretch made to stand the gallows eternally—one by himself and two by the law—the first two being horrible failures, but the latter was successful.
A brother of the murderer, Bazil West, witnessed the execution. He had a revolver in his pocket when he entered the jail yard, but it was taken from him. He insisted that his brother was insane, as he had been suffering from progressive paralysis, but he made no further demonstration.

A MARINE DISASTER.

Eighteen Sailors Perish Near San Francisco, Cal.

The ship Elizabeth, of New York, went ashore on the rocks at North Head, near San Francisco, Cal., a few nights ago. She had twenty men on board—the Captain, two mates, the cook and sixteen sailors; also the Captain's wife and two children.
Three sailors, the Captain's wife and the children got off in a small boat. The boat capsized, but the occupants were rescued by a tug.
The Captain and seventeen of the crew were drowned. A lifeboat went to the aid of the shipwrecked sailors, but was capsized by the waves and the Captain of the boat drowned.
The story of the wreck, as told by one of the survivors, is as follows: The vessel was sighted off the port early in the afternoon, and Captain Colcord decided to sail in. The wind was blowing a furious gale from the southwest, and finally the tug, the Monarch came to the Elizabeth's assistance. The men say assistant was refused because of exorbitant charges asked by the tug. The tug Alert then made fast to the Elizabeth, but her hawser soon broke, and the ship drifted before the wind toward the shore. Just as the second hawser was made fast she struck the rocks.
Then Captain Colcord lowered the boat to take his wife and children off. As the boat struck the water it capsized, throwing three sailors—James Laken, George Hanna and Grant Johnson—into the water. They clung to the bottom of his boat and were picked up by the tug.
The Captain's family were then lowered in another boat and taken to the tug by the mate and two seamen. The boat returned to the ship and its occupants perished with the rest of the ship's crew.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

GENERAL BANKS began life in a shoe factory. GENERAL WINDOM left \$150,000 to his wife. GENERAL MILLS is an accomplished bicycle rider. GEORGE W. CABLE, the novelist, is a skillful oculologist. DE LESSEPS, the great French canal maker, is now eighty-six years old. STANLEY says that lecturing is more tiresome business than exploring Africa. EDMUND NEY, of St. Louis, is a grandnephew of the famous French Marshal. THE estate of George Bancroft, the historian, is expected to foot up nearly \$600,000. GEORGE THOMAS KEPPEL, third Earl of Albemarle, is dead. He was born in 1799. MAYOR-ELECT EDWIN S. STUART, of Philadelphia, Penn., is a prosperous bookseller. ADMIRAL L. H. PINNEY AND ALVARO, commander-in-chief of the Spanish navy, is dead. MILAN will probably be requested to resume the Serbian throne soon to prevent a revolution. SENATOR QUAY, of Pennsylvania, has been informed by his physician that he has heart disease. BALLINGTON BOOTH is one of eleven children all heartily devoted to the work of the Salvation Army. PROFESSOR PALMER is the third graduate of the Western Reserve College to assume a chair in Yale. EMPEROR WILLIAM, of Germany, at a public dinner appealed to his people to stand by him in all his efforts. MURAT HALSTED, the journalist, has ten living children—seven sons and three daughters—and has buried two sons. TWO of Fenimore Cooper's daughters, now old ladies, live in Cooperstown, N. Y., in the very heart of the romantic country that the novelist made famous. ABE GOULD, brother of Jay Gould, will have charge of the purchasing department of the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific Railroads under the proposed consolidation. THE death is announced of Sir Richard Francis Sutton, the owner of the English cutter Gemesta, which was defeated by the Boston cutter sloop Puritan in 1855 for the America Cup. JUDGE PEPPER, who succeeds Ingalls in the Senate from Kansas, is a Mason, a Knight of Labor and a member of the Episcopal Church. He wears a long, full beard that gives him the venerable appearance of a patriarch. THE Baroness Burdett-Coutts is reported to be in failing health, although not seventy years of age. Her young husband, Mr. Burdett-Coutts, Member of Parliament, pays her devoted attention. IT took Sir Arthur Sullivan six months of steady work to compose the music of "Ivauhoe." He shut himself up in an isolated village, refused all visitors, and none of his intimates knew his whereabouts. The score was finished Christmas Eve. GENERAL SHERMAN'S favorite companion when in Washington was General Van Vliet. The two officers used to go about arm in arm, greeted everywhere by smiles and salutations. Probably no other man in public life was so cordially welcomed in Washington homes as General Sherman was.

SIX KILLED, FORTY HURT.

Two Cars Thrown Down an Embankment on the Pan Handle Road.

By the giving way of a culvert at Hagers-town, a short distance north of Connersville, Ind., two cars of the Chicago limited on the Pan Handle Road jumped the track and rolled down an embankment. Six persons were killed and a score of others were injured.
The killed are: Case, C. B., conductor; Deal, O. F., engineer of maintenance for the Pan Handle road; Neelham, George, general attorney for the Pan Handle; Reeves, M. E., of Richmond, Ind., President of the First National Bank. Two others, supposed to be Alfred Smith, of Indianapolis, and John Rennie, of Chicago, were also killed.
Those who were fatally injured were: Booth, J. T., Richmond, Ind., contusion of left side; Grew, Mrs. George H., Richmond, Ind., head crushed. The list of wounded will foot up to forty.
The train was running at the rate of forty miles per hour and the cause of the accident is believed to be a hole in the road, which engine broke, throwing the entire train from the track. Those killed and fatally injured were in the ladies' coach.
MERRILL L. FERNALD, son of President M. C. Fernald, of the Maine State College, has accepted the place of assistant botanist and horticulturist in Harvard College. Though only sixteen years old, he is already known in scientific circles. Within the last two years he has discovered and classified thirty plants hitherto unknown in the flora of Maine.
THE Standard Oil Company, after securing nine-sixteenths of the stock of its great rival in Ohio, the Geyser Oil Company, has bought out the minority stockholders for \$1,000,000.
THE bodies of two more victims of the memorable Johnstown (Penn.) flood have been washed from the sand by the recent high waters.

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK.	
9	
Corn	3 20
Milk Cows, common to prime	35 00
Calves, common to prime	2 00
Sheep	5 00
Lamb	8 00
Hogs—Live	3 85
Flour—City Mill Extra	5 00
Patents	5 15
Wheat—No. 2 Red	1 00 1/2
Wheat—State	81
Corn—Ungraded Mixed	30
Corn—No. 1 White	51
Mixed Western	51
Hay—Fair to Good	45
Hay—Long Hay	80
Butter—State Creamery	30
Butter—Dairy to good	17
West. Im. Creamery	14
Factory	10
Cheese—State Factory	8 1/2
Skim—Light	9
Western	8
Eggs—State and Penn.	—

BUFFALO.

Sheep—Western	1 75
Sheep—Medium to Good	3 50
Lamb—Fair to Good	5 25
Hogs—Good to Choice Yorks	3 90
Wheat—No. 1 Northern	4 85
Wheat—No. 2 Yellow	1 08
Jats—No. 2 White	—
Barley—No. 2 Canada	—

BOSTON.

Egg—Near-by	—
Seed—Timothy, Northern	2 25
Clover, Northern	10
Hay—Fair	13 00
Straw—Good to Prime	17 00
Butter—Firsts	23

WATERBURY (MASS.) CATTLE MARKET.

Beef—Dressed weight	4
Sheep—Live weight	5
Hog—Live weight	5
Sheep—Northern	4

PHILADELPHIA.

Flour—Penn. family	4 35
Wheat—No. 2 Red, Feb.	1 04 1/2
Corn—No. 2 Mixed, Feb.	62 1/2
Corn—Ungraded White	—
Potatoes	90
Butter—Part skims	—
Cheese—Part skims	6

SABBATH SCHOOL.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON FOR MARCH 8.

Lesson Text: "Naaman Healed," 2 Kings v., 1-14—Golden Text: Psalm ciii., 3—Commentary.

1. "Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and honorable, because by him the Lord had given deliverance unto Syria." The Bible is full of contrasts. The great contrast is between the Son of God and the devil; between those who believe God, stand before Him and serve Him, and such as are only men of this world, serving of sin and Satan.
2. "And the Syrian went out by companies, and had brought with him captive out of the land of Israel a little maid, and she waited on Naaman's wife." Let any little girl consider well the situation of this little maid, stolen from home, which was as much to her as home to any child, and now a little slave in a far off land, with little if any prospect of seeing father and mother again; and yet she seems to be faithful in her new home under these hard circumstances. Let the boys consider Joseph, stolen from home by his own brethren and serving as a slave in Egypt; and yet we read four times in one chapter that the Lord was with him (Gen. xxxix., 2, 3, 21, 22).
3. "Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy." Not only faithful as a servant, but faithful in testimony, and that for the benefit of her enemy, reminding us of Rom. v., 8-10; Matt. v., 44; Rom. xii., 20, 21. She knew of the mighty works done by Elisha, seven of which are recorded in the last three chapters, and she believed that such a mighty man of God could heal even a leper. If Christians had as much faith in Jesus as this little maid had in Elisha they would be pointing every sick and heavy laden soul to Him.
4. "And one went in and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel." The little girl's saying his ears for whom it was intended. We have only to speak of Jesus as we have opportunity, and we may be sure that the message will in due time be owned of God.
5. "I will send a letter unto the king of Israel." The little girl spoke of the prophet in Israel, not of the king of Israel, but kings and such prophets as Elisha and Naaman were not often in sympathy (I Kings xviii., 17; xxv., 22; II Chron. xvi., 10; xxviii., 25, 29; and the king of Syria may have thought that if there was any power in Israel to heal leprosy the king of Israel would surely know it. But neither of these kings knew the God of Elisha nor the power that could heal the leper.
6. "Behold I have sent Naaman, my servant, to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy." Thus wrote the king of Syria to the king of Israel. The Lord who gave deliverance to Syria is not recognized. We cannot wonder at this if we consider the church of Christ to-day and see her reliance upon money and influence and the favor of the world, while He whose name she bears is comparatively unknown and unsought and unhonored.
7. "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy?" Thus spake the king of Israel, when having read the letter he rent his clothes and fancied that Syria's king sought a quarrel with him. "Am I God, the King of Syria, who created his wife Rachel (Gen. xxx., 2), and killing and making alive reminds us of Deut. xxxii., 30. I Sam. ii., 6. The king of Israel was in the place of God's representative, and instead of being angry he should have felt honored, and been anxious to point to Him who alone can kill and make alive.
8. "Let him come now to me and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." Thus spake the man of God when he heard that Syria had sent his servant. He was the one to whom Naaman should have come, but he loves to honor God.
9. "So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of the king of Syria, seeking for Naaman, and making a loud noise with his feet, but he was not in the right place, but not in the right spirit. He knows that he is a leper, that he has a deadly disease, and he has come a long journey seeking for Naaman; but then he is no poorer man; he does not come as a beggar; he is not like the leper of Matt. viii., nor the ten of Luke xvii. He is able to pay for his healing and he wants it done as a great and mighty man. He is dealing with his position before men to be recognized. He does not know Luke xvi., 13.
10. "And Elisha sent a messenger unto him saying, God wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean." What magnificent indifference to earth's potentates and earth's favors. What an opportunity to make a friend with great influence and obtain a great sum of money. Put like Abraham, the king of Sodom, and he is conscious that the possessor of heaven and earth is his friend, and he can afford to say concerning the king of Syria's gold and silver, "I will receive none" (vs. 16). But what a gracious message he sends to Naaman, and what a simple requirement and glorious result.
11. "But Naaman was wrath, and went away and said, Behold, I thought I was in a style befitting his high position, and he had his own father, but only a kind message telling him what to do and promising health. Many are to-day out of Christ and unsaved just because they have their own thoughts as to how they ought to be converted, and they won't come any other way.
12. "Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Here are some more of his thoughts: Syria is better than Israel, Damascus than Jerusalem, Abana and Pharpar than Jordan. It is a great humiliation for him, a Syrian, to come to Israel seeking any favor, and he does not want favors; he can pay for all he gets. But to be treated thus, and then to be sent to Jordan, is too much for his Syrian pride, he went away in a rage.
13. "My father, if the prophet had bid the do some great thing, wouldst thou not have done it? Thus reason his servants with him, showing more wisdom than their master, for 'Great men are not always wise' (Job xxxii., 9); and they had him, too, as we say, for that was just the thought of his heart.
14. "Then went he down." That is good, for every proud person must come down, and if they come willingly it will save God the trouble of bringing them down.
"And dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God." He is now obedient and in the way of blessing, and blessed he shall be. Jordan is the river of judgment. Had there never been sin there had never been sickness. Sin must be judged and condemned and put away. Seven times denotes perfect cleansing.
"And his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean." Just as the man of God had said so it came to pass. It always has been, and will be just as God says. There is nothing like the word of God, and on our part nothing like the trouble of bringing them down. We are to do to be clean, but just as God says, and accept Jesus as God's gift to us, and He will do great things for us.—Lesson Helper.

WHEN pugilists are about to fight their sign articles of agreement. Peculiar, isn't it?

SMUGGLING IN THE MAIL.

PRECAUTIONS THAT ARE TAKEN BY CUSTOMS OFFICERS.

All Suspicious Letters and Packages Are Examined—How Sealed Parcels Are Treated—Big Hauls.

The mails offer such an obvious temptation to would-be smugglers that it is often asked what steps the Government authorities take for preventing the use of them for the importation of goods free of duty. As a matter of fact, not a few people have an idea that they can get ahead of the customs officials by sending dutiable articles from abroad through the mails, but when they act on this belief they in virtually every instance are disabused of this mistaken impression. To make this lesson the more effective, the Government, whenever the intent to smuggle is clear, confiscates the articles, although, when the goods are sent into this country through an evident ignorance of the law, the simple payment of the duty is all that is necessary to secure possession of them.
To understand fully Uncle Sam's plan for getting his just dues, one should follow the mails from the time they leave the big transatlantic liner to the time they reach their destinations. When an incoming vessel is first sighted word is sent to the Postoffice. If the ship reaches Quarantine before sunset, in time to be inspected by the Health Officer or his assistants, the mails are not landed until the ship reaches her pier. Then the pouches, hundreds in number, are hurried ashore.
If, however, the ship reaches Quarantine at night and is compelled to remain there until after sunrise, tugs in the service of the Postoffice come up to it and take off the mails. The pouches for other places are forwarded by the earliest trains, while those for this city, as in the other cases, are sent to the Postoffice here as quickly as possible. Nearly all the parcels that seem to contain books or other dutiable goods pass through the New York Postoffice, even if they are directed to distant points in the United States. This is the only class of mail matter for places far from this city which suffers delay here.
In the meantime, three inspectors of the Postoffice Customs Bureau have been sent for at their homes, that is, if the mails arrive when the men are not at their work, and no matter what the hour or the weather, the three hasten to the Postoffice. When the pouches arrive there they are opened in the presence of the customs inspectors. Every letter or parcel that looks as if it might contain books, etchings, lithographs, jewelry or other dutiable goods is picked out of the heaps of mail matter and stamped. If, for instance, the parcel is made up of silk handkerchiefs, which can be seen through holes in the wrapping-paper, it is stamped, "Subject to duty." If the package is securely wrapped, so that its contents are invisible, "Supposed to contain goods subject to duty" is stamped on it. The employees of the Postoffice who handle the mails aid in picking out parcels likely to contain dutiable articles.
An idea of the task of the customs men will be gained from a few figures of the mail brought by the Servia from Liverpool a few days before last Christmas. She carried about 1050 pouches, containing in the neighborhood of 450,000 letters, papers, parcels, etc. This was the largest amount ever brought to this port by a vessel. Nearly one-third of it all was for this city.
Long practice has made the men skillful in picking out the parcels with dispatch. About 5000 suspicious-looking letters, etc., were taken in hand by the customs officers. Of this number, perhaps ninety per cent. contained books or other printed matter which may, under the law, be imported through the mails. These, except the few which are sealed, and therefore subject to letter rates, are sent to the big room of the Postoffice Building, together with the other unsealed parcels. A force of men at once sets to work examining these packages, every one of which is opened. If the books are more than twenty years old, or printed in a foreign language, or addressed to institutions of learning, they are admitted free of duty and at once forwarded. Never ones are appraised by men who have become experts at it.
The dutiable books addressed to persons in this city are handed over to the Postoffice employes, together with a "statement and entry," giving the appraised value of the book and the duty levied on it. The postal officers deliver the books on payment of the duty, which they turn over to J. N. Burke, who is at the head of the Customs Bureau in the Postoffice. Every Saturday morning Mr. Burke sends the money he has thus received to Collector Erhardt. If the books are consigned to places outside of this city they are sent to the postmaster of the town or city, with a statement and entry, and he collects the duty on them.
A favorite trick of would-be smugglers is to cut out the heart of a book and pack contraband goods in it. A number of such books have been confiscated within the last month or six weeks. Some contained valuable laces, others, silk handkerchiefs, gloves, jewelry and the like. It is sheer nonsense to attempt this form of smuggling, because all books are examined, and the detection is certain.
The customs officials have an apparent difficulty to face in the case of sealed parcels supposed to contain dutiable goods. The law that sealed mail matter shall be opened by no one except the person to whom it is addressed must be obeyed by Government employes, as well as by other persons. In fact, an infraction of it is punishable by a term of imprisonment. The customs people, however, get past this stone wall easily. While they cannot open the sealed letter or parcel they can compel the person to whom it is addressed to open it in their presence. This is just what is done. The postmaster sends notice to the per-

son to whom parcels for this city are addressed to call on Mr. Burke, whose office is on the mezzanine floor of the Postoffice Building, and open the suspected pieces of mail matter. As soon as the man opens it Mr. Burke examines its contents, and if they are dutiable and of more than trifling value he has them appraised, either by one of his men or by some one at the Custom House. Should the man refuse to open the parcel, it is returned forthwith to the sender.
The largest seizure of articles imported in the mails occurred eight years ago; when diamonds worth \$20,000 fell into the hands of a customs inspector. The most important seizure made last year was that of pearls valued at \$5000.—New York Tribune.

SELECT SIFTINGS.

Japanese screws are left-handed. England has electric street signs. Amateur sculpturing is a fashionable fad. New York and Brooklyn consume daily about 60,000 chickens. The biggest gold coin in the United States was the \$50 gold slug of California. A New York lawyer is said to have received \$400,000 for his opinion of the Sugar Trust. Nearly \$75,750,000 a year is paid by the British Government for the carriage of mails by rail. Two thousand two hundred trains leave London, England, ordinarily every twenty-four hours. The lately taken census shows that seventy-five per cent. of the population of Massachusetts is found in its cities. M. Dornon has laid a wager that he will walk on stilts from the Russian frontier to Paris, France, in thirty days. The tusks of 75,000 elephants are required every year to supply the world's piano keys and for the making of billiard balls and knife handles. Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee raise an average of 2,970,000 bushels of peanuts a year. The annual value of the crop averaged \$2,500,000 for the last four years. Some of the Alaskan natives acquire very respectable fortunes in the fishing trade. A Nicholas Bay Indian has been known to pay down \$1000 in hard cash for blankets and trinkets for one pot-lach. Canister shot will not be used in the French army in the future. The shells are filled with an explosive made of chrysolite and a substance kept secret, and every battery has seventy-five rounds of these projectiles. There are ninety-five towns in Massachusetts which have less than 1000 inhabitants each. New Ashford, in Berkshire, has the smallest population of any town in the State, 125 inhabitants. There are now 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts. The term "bank" is derived from the Italian "banco," a seat or bench, because the early dealers in money were accustomed to sit on benches in the market places of the principal towns. The earliest public bank established in modern Europe was that of Venice, which was founded in 1157. The rise of the price of meat in Germany has not only increased the general consumption of horse flesh, but in western Germany has led many of the peasants, who have had to forego the meat market altogether, to draw blood for blood sausages every Saturday from the living swine. The blood is let into sausage skins, is sprinkled with fat and, after having been thickened, is eaten with sauerkraut for the Sunday dinner. Mrs. John M. Weigle, of Augusta, Ga., excitedly called the attention of her husband to a little animal which was sporting on her sitting-room hearth one night. Mr. Weigle soon saw that it was a pretty flying squirrel. He tried to capture it, but it escaped from the room and was overhauled by the dogs. There was no possible way for the little fellow to get into the room except down the chimney in the face of a hot burning coal fire. At Straubing, in Bavaria, some Celtic tombs have been opened and found to contain most interesting bronze ornaments and iron weapons belonging to the people of Rhetia before the Roman conquest. The long sought-for Roman cemetery has also been discovered—through the unearthing of a Roman tomb containing cinerary urns—flanking the old military road from Servodurum (Straubing) to Abusina, both situated on the Danube. The Atlantic Laid Bare. Figuratively speaking, the bed of the Atlantic Ocean has at last been laid bare. English, American, German and French sounding expeditions have mapped every section of the ooze that lies at the bottom of the great water waste. According to these maps and diagrams the Atlantic is a huge water trough of varying depths, extending from pole to pole. Here and there rocky peaks, like that of Tenerife, or huge mountains of sand, like the Bank of Newfoundland, reach up to or beyond the surface. Between Ireland and Newfoundland there exists a remarkable submarine plain, always referred to as "the telegraphic plateau," which is evidently a continuation of the great watershed, which between latitudes forty and fifty degrees north, surrounds the earth and divides the waters flowing south from those flowing north.—St. Louis Republic.

The Camphor Industry in Florida.

The new industry of camphor production gives promise of being permanently established in Florida. It is believed that in ten years' time there will be more camphor trees than orange trees in Florida, and that the camphor industry will be more profitable than that of sugar. It is stated that the camphor obtained from the Florida trees approaches more nearly to that of Japan than to Chinese camphor, since the odor of safrol is distinctly recognizable.—Commercial Advertiser.