The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, SUNDAY, FEB. 3, 1889.

THRILLING BASTILE SENSATIONS.

Very dramatic are the charges brought by inmates of the Western Penitentiary, which form the basis for the inquiry which was afoot at that institution last week. The narratives of McPhillamy and other convicts of their negotiation with officials for the means of escape, the accounts of bribery, and the intimations of torture, are all of a sort which, considering the exclusive and gloomy character of the Riverside colony, are as thrilling in their small way as tales of the old bastile or of the Tower of London.

Of course it is proper that such charges should be fully and thoroughly inquired into. It would be grossly improper if the prison inspectors do not promptly investigate; and it is needless to say that, if established, the offending officials should be removed and punished. But before accepting the evidence of the complaining prisoners the public will want very clear corroboration. In enforcing proper discipline officials may often incur the bitter enmity of convicts. Not much weight is usually attached to testimony that is suspected of being thus colored. But the very fact that the complaints of convicts are liable to this sort of discount has, on the other hand, led in other persons to the prosecution of abuses with impunity. It is easy to carry the distrust too far.

Up to the present the administration of the Western Penitentiary has stood well so far as the public have known of it. It is due to the officials, as well as to this State, to know whether the charges which are now made are true or false.

THE VALUE OF LIFE.

A boiler explosion on the Allegheny river destroyed two boats, yesterday, and with them two lives. The boats were not worth much; and for that matter the estimate of the Pennsylvania law and the people who operate explosive boilers does not place the value of the lives any higher. The straight assessment is made on the whole business, of $5,000 each. This is probably full value for the boats, but we submit that a human life is worth rather more than that. It may not do any good to raise the civil valuation of human life; but that inestimable gift of the Creator should be worth enough to send men to the penitentiary who are guilty of the carelessness which results in destroying life. When people get ready to place that value on others' lives as well as their own, the periodical killings will diminish in frequency.

NOT THEIR UNPAID AGENT.

By the Court decision yesterday the Schenley and the Denny estate, are discouraged in their policy of leasing rather than selling, to the extent that they will hereafter have to pay taxes on the improvements made by their tenants. This simply means that the city assessors can tax these big estates, just as they always tax lesser ones, for what they find upon their ground. They will not go to the trouble of presuming or inquiring whether there are contracts between the Schenleys and with other parties whereby those other parties foot the bill. Nor does it seem reasonable that the city should be required to take note of such private contracts. It is particularly not desirable that extraordinary steps should be taken to facilitate a policy which has kept large tracts of ground in Pittsburg in a very backward state.

It is not, however, likely that either the Schenley or Denny estates will sustain any actual loss by the new procedure of having them pay their own full taxes. Where they have stipulations in their leases that the tenants should pay, they will doubtless have recourse on the tenants; and, in new leases, they will probably adopt the expedient of counting in a sort of general average of prospective taxes when fixing the rent.

The practical working of the decision merely is that the city besides giving the big estates the "unearned increment" does not additionally propose to continue the expense and bother of acting as their special agent and intermediary to enforce the peculiar terms of their leases.

THE RAILWAY VIEW.

The declaration of Mr. C. C. Waite in this city yesterday that the building of railways should be restricted by law is the legitimate conclusion of the railway theories that competition has got to be restrained in the interest of the inflated capital of the existing lines, and that legislation must shape itself especially for the interest of the railway class, without regard to the interests of the people at large. The irreverent outsider may ask why the same logic should not prevent the building of new rolling mills where their competition would be inconvenient to the existing ones. The operation of new blast furnaces is now worrying the pig iron interests of this section to no slight degree; why does not Mr. Waite propose that no more blast furnaces shall be put up? The one reliable test as to whether new enterprises will pay or not is that furnished by demand under free and honest competition. This applies to all classes of enterprise; but the declaration of the railway interest that people who wish to develop their own section, by building new railways, must not be permitted to do so, because it will squeeze the water out of older railway stocks, is a remarkable exhibition of the stereotyped railroad expression as to what the public can do.

WHAT IT HAS COME TO.

A significant indication of the value which is attached to the enactments of the interstate commerce act is furnished by the statement that Commissioner Walker is to be the manager of what is called the Inter-State Commerce Railway Association, at a salary some three times the very liberal sum which he now draws from the United States. This organization professes to be for the purpose of enforcing the inter-State commerce law—which establishes the inference that the commission does not enforce it. Let us see how the railway organization proposes to supply the lack.

The fifth section of the law prohibits the pooling or division of railway traffic or its proceeds, "or any portion thereof." The purpose of the enactment is well known to every man who has given the slightest attention to railway regulation. The object was to prevent combinations to raise rates above the level which would be fixed by competition. All the railway organizations since the law was passed have had for their end that which the law was intended to prevent; but as most, if not all of them, abstained from the pooling device, they could be tolerated, although the marked friendship of the commissioners for them was unique. What is the status of this organization? It provides a penalty of $100 for each violation of the agreement, and in addition the company violating it is to forfeit the revenue secured by such violation. This revenue is forfeited to the association, and thus constitutes a distinct violation of the letter of the fifth section, just as the whole purpose of the association is to nullify its spirit.

It is only two years since the act was passed. That lapse of time was all that was required to bring its provisions to that condition of desuetude necessary to let a Commissioner step from that body to a higher-salaried position established by the railroads for the object of violating the law.

TRACTION ROAD DANGERS.

The accident on the Citizens' Traction road yesterday, emphasizes the imperative necessity that the traction companies should adopt the utmost precautions in running their cars through the crowded portions of the streets, and at points where their approach cannot be readily perceived. In this case, it is tolerably clear that an aged man was run over, with injuries that are likely to prove fatal, partly because the gong on the car was not sounded, and more than that because the cars come round a corner where pedestrians are likely not to see them when other cars are going down, at a higher rate of speed than is safe.

The Fifth avenue line has, so far, been happily exempt from fatal or serious accidents; but enough has occurred there to show the necessity of strict instructions to the employes to observe the utmost care against any possibility of subjecting passengers or pedestrians to danger. On the Citizens' line the necessity has been shown to be more imperative, by the serious occurrence of yesterday and by others less vital but still of sufficient gravity to call for prompt measures. It is a primary public duty to keep our streets safe for the weak and infirm, and no privileges granted to corporations can be permitted to destroy that safety.

The civil penalties, in the shape of damages, which cannot fail to follow such accidents, ought to be enough to produce extreme caution on the part of the traction companies and their employes. The indications that they do not, however, may make it necessary for the people to resort to the criminal penalties.

THE ABSENT COKE STRIKE.

So far, at least, the coke strike does not appear to be a general thing. The advices from Connellsville are to the effect that only a small number of the workmen have struck, and from one source among the workers it is alleged that the majority are satisfied with their present wages.

This is probably the sensible view to take of the matter, especially at this season of the year when any deprivation of the comforts of life, such as is sure to result from a strike, is severely felt. THE DISPATCH does not believe that the resort to a strike affords much prospect of a correct settlement of any disputed points. It is industrial warfare, and like warfare should only be resorted to for the preservation of liberties or honor, and then only all when other means have failed.

Nevertheless, it is worth while to remark that the future probability of strikes would be very much allayed by the establishment of an equitable scale based on the actual selling price of coal.

A MONOPOLY MEASURE.

The bill prohibiting parallel lines within a thousand feet of the existing traction companies was a sufficiently remarkable specimen of legislation for the benefit of monopolies introduced in the present Legislature. But the bill brought in day before yesterday, giving gas or electric companies a monopoly where they are laid "until they have paid eight per cent dividends for eight years," caps the climax. It is hard to see how legislation for the benefit of the corporations at the expense of the people can go further than that. The name of the legislator who assumed the paternity of this measure is not given; but it would be interesting to learn whether he read over his bill before he launched it into life.

With that provision in force, and provided it were not declared unconstitutional, nothing would be needed to complete the sway of gas and electric companies over our cities. Each one could take up what territory it wants, charge what rates it chooses, and, by the simple expedient of passing a dividend every seventh year, make its monopoly perpetual. Such a thing as protecting the interests of the people never entered the head of the author of this bill, except as something to be religiously abjured and avoided.

It is getting to be the case that the people, after electing legislators to represent them, will have to send down authorized committees to the State Capital as a guard against the desertion of their representatives to the service of the jobbers in monopoly.

PROF. HADLEY is quoted as saying: "In President Porter's time, when I went to the President's office I usually found him reading Kant's 'Critique of Pure Reason.' Now, when I go to President Dwight's office it is two to one that I find him reading the *Financial Chronicle*." The moral is obvious. It furnishes a sufficient explanation of the way in which Yale College teaches that the principles of political economy must be suspended whenever it is necessary to support the Wall street effort to force values into watered stocks.

THE news that the crisis has come in the West Virginia fight is not startlingly novel. The crisis came about election time, and bids fair to stay steadily by the West Virginia politicians for the rest of their natural lives.

IT seems to be necessary to suggest to our police officials that charges affecting their integrity are not disproved by threatening the person who makes them with bodily violence, or by telling the alderman before whom they are brought on surety of the peace that they will work against his reelection. The charges may be wholly unfounded; but proceedings of that character are not calculated to make the public think so.

IF it be true that the hospital steward of the Western Penitentiary supplied revolvers and clothing to convicts contemplating escape, the situation is more picturesque than that usually presented on the stage.

THE sentence in the Criminal Court yesterday, of a barkeeper for selling liquor to an intoxicated person, will be apt to exert a restraining influence on that practice. Three hundred dollars fine and sixty days in the workhouse will take the profits off the sale of so much liquor, that selling it to persons already intoxicated is likely to go out of style among the licensed vendors.

BALFOUR'S policy of freezing political prisoners to death is worthy of the days of King Bomba, and may produce a result very similar to that in the case of the earlier type of tyranny.

IT will have to be said for our legislators that class legislation like the traction monopoly bill and the bill to make meat dear for the benefit of the butchers and grangers does not stand very much show this winter. Only the biggest corporations can get the Legislature to ignore the Constitution for their especial benefit.

BOTH in petroleum and stocks the agreements by which the big manipulators hope to bull the markets and then unload, are the substance of things hoped for but not yet seen.

THERE is one reason for believing that the story that Prince Rudolf was shot by an outraged husband, and that is that the statement of his suicide was officially promulgated. If the suicide story had not been useful for covering up something more disgraceful it would have been declared that he died of apoplexy.

IF the cable dispatches keep on as industriously as they have begun they will before long have the Austian Crown Prince killed by Bismarck in *propria personæ*.

MINISTER PHELP'S departure from England was accompanied by the tearful adieux of the nobility, gentry and theatrical profession; but England has since then had time to draw solace from the reflection that George W. Smalley is still left in England to hold up American affairs by the tail.

THE accident on the Citizens' cable line yesterday is another proof that extreme care is necessary in adapting rapid transit to the needs of crowded streets.

THE New York street car strike being ended, some one will doubtless be keen to suggest to the strikers that they might have saved themselves from the trouble of appearing in the character of rioters by not striking until a strike could succeed on peaceable grounds.

THE Denny adaptation of the George theory of land taxation does not commend itself to the courts any more than the genuine single tax idea.

MISS MARY ANDERSON'S performance of "A Winter's Tale" is very vivid; but it cannot create so lasting an impression as the tale of this winter will, unless we have some ice—as it will be represented by the bills of the ice companies next summer.

PROMINENT PEOPLE PARAGRAPHED.

IN the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon's library is the precious copy of one of his sermons which was found in Dr. Livingstone's box, in Africa, after the explorer's death.

A THOUGHTFUL and worthy New Year's gift was that of Prince Charles of Sweden to his mother, the Queen. It was a set of furniture for a hospital room for the use of two patients, and it has been placed in the Queen's name in the Royal Hospital at Stockholm.

THE Czar has been advised by his physicians to "do Banting." For a man who—as a Continental correspondent puts it—can eat his two pounds of meat and drink nearly a magnum of champagne at luncheon, the advice would in ordinary times not have been palatable, but the Czar now suffers cruelly from insomania, and the doctors think that an over-liberal diet is the cause of the mischief.

DR. OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, in presenting his medical library to the Boston Medical Library Association, has parted with a collection which has taken a lifetime to gather. The oldest book in the series was written in 1490 and the latest in 1887. Says Dr. Holmes: "These books are dear to me; a twig from some one of my nerves runs to every one of them, and they mark the progress of my study and the stepping-stones of my professional life. If any of them can be to others as they have been to me, I am willing to part with them, even if they are such old and beloved companions."

OBJECTS belonging to the slaves and overseers who worked the copper mines of Rio Tinto, near Huelva, Spain, during the Roman epoch are kept in a museum in that town. Mr. J. H. Round reports that the hoes and pickaxes used in Spain are almost the same as those found in the mines. The treadmills used for draining the mines had ropes for the slaves to hold on. Bronze urns and pigs of lead with Roman stamps, fetters, collars and anklets of modern shapes, amphoræ standing in their stone sockets, and coins as late as A. D. 680 are there to be seen. An earlier working of the mines than the Roman is indicated by rude mortars and pestles, together with hammers of stone with depressions in the center of the handle.

THERE may be some humor in Senator Palmer's forthcoming novel. While Senator Dolph was speaking on the Samoan question on Wednesday Senator Palmer left the Senate chamber to see a constituent from Detroit. "What's going on in the Senate?" asked the caller. "Why," replied Palmer, "they are discussing a bill relating to the affairs of your late father-in-law." "Not Mr. Owen," exclaimed the astonished Michigander. "Yes, Mr. Owen," returned the Senator, "old Sam Owen. You can get a copy of the bill in the Document Room." The surprised visitor made a dash for the gallery. He wanted to hear Senator Dolph had to say about Father-in-Law Sam Owen.

Qualifications of a College President.

From the Boston Herald.]

Wherein the qualifications which are now required in a model college president differ from those of the old days was very pungently stated by Prof. Hadley at the Yale alumni dinner in this city the other night. "In President Porter's time," said Prof. Hadley, "when I went to the President's office I usually found him reading Kant's 'Critique of Pure Reason.' Now when I go to President Dwight's office it is two to one that I find him reading the *Financial Chronicle*." The moral is obvious.

Close of the Cathedral Fair.

The closing night of the eminently successful Cathedral fair wound up with a pretty evening of music and recitation. A large crowd was present and was delighted with selections by Misses Jennie Gray, Flora Womersley, Emily McAlister, Sadie Totten, Ida Lanigan and Celia Fenesy; also Messrs. J. M. Hays, Lawrence Ricketts, Frank J. Totten, P. A. Ward and R. Mayers.

Sir Knights to Entertain.

On February 14 the third of a series of charming entertainments will be given at Lafayette Hall under the auspices of Drill Corps of Allegheny Commandery No. 35, Knights Templar. The entertainment begins at 7:45 with music and elocution by well-known people, a few hours of pleasant dancing to follow.

THE TOPICAL TALKER.

A Few Words on the Text of Domestic Servitude in Modern Guise.

IF it were possible I would always like to obtain the views of the servants in the house in estimating the value of a man or woman. To make my meaning clear, I think the character of a man or woman is more often displayed naked to his or her domestic servants than to anyone else. The valet knows his master so well that it has been wisely said that no man appears great in his valet's eyes. The maid, be she a stylish girl of the imported kind, or a plain, not too well-informed cook, usually has the traits of her mistress and her motives and means at her fingers' ends.

Have you ever noticed that the best men and women you know, and especially the women, are those who are uniformly popular with the servants wherever they go? If you haven't observed this already, test the accuracy of my statement with your own eyes.

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APROPOS of this, an incident I noted recently suggests itself.

A woman who applied for a place as cook with a family in this city was subjected to a very searching cross-examination as to her abilities and habits by the lady of the house. At last the latter asked the woman:

"Do you drink?"

The woman replied with quiet dignity: "No, ma'am; but judging by what I've seen in service I might ask you that question."

Asked to explain herself the woman continued: "In both my last places my employers drank to excess, and I led a dog's life in consequence. I do not mean to enter a house where the mistress touches a drop of liquor."

This was turning the tables with a vengeance.

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NAGGING and a silly prediliction some women have for interfering with everything and everybody they can reach, are at the bottom of a great many complaints one hears in social circles against the nineteenth century domestic.

There was an excellent parlor maid in a certain family in this county who for some reason took it into her head to "better herself;" that is, she left a comfortable place for one which promised more money. She stayed in her new berth for exactly one year and then returned to the family she had worked for at first.

But that year of contact with a woman who had a real genius for nagging and annoying her servants had made this paragon of a parlor maid pert, impudent and inclined to shirk her labors.

It seems to be a fact that while many servants injure their mistresses' tempers and health by their misconduct there are not a few servants who are spoiled by the foolish behavior of their employers.

A FORTUNE SAVED BY MARRYING.

A Callow Youth Weds a Widow to Escape Annoying Lawsuits.

CHARLESTON, S. C., February 2.—About the queerest case of matrimony on record is reported in Spartanburg county, in this State. Obadiah Blaylock, a callow youth, found himself the defendant in several lawsuits, with judgments out against him. His property was advertised for sale Friday last. Before Saturday night the Sheriff received notice from him that he would claim homestead, and he asked that he send out and have it laid off for him, inasmuch as he was not willing to see his wife and children placed in a condition of want and suffering.

It seems that this enterprising young merchant had found a widow with three children who consented to an immediate marriage and had thus provided himself with a ready-made family. Under the homestead laws of this State a man's estate is exempt from judgment to the amount of $1,000. The plaintiff's attorneys have given notice to the other side that they will apply to the court to set aside the marriage as illegal, having been contracted to hinder, delay and defraud the creditors out of their just and lawful claims.

LINCOLN'S PORTRAIT,

Valued at $15,000, Meets With a Serious Accident in the Senate.

Special Telegram to The Dispatch.

WASHINGTON, February 2.—The portrait of Lincoln, which is to be purchased by the Government for $15,000, if a bill introduced yesterday by Senator Voorhees passes, came near being ruined to-day. Workmen were moving it to the gallery corridors of the Senate to place it near the famous landscapes by Thomas Moran, when they brought it so violently into some object as to make a long rent in the canvas, about a foot above the top of the head of the portrait. As it is the damage can be easily repaired, but if the rent had been across the face the work would have been irretrievably injured.

As a portrait the picture is fair, but as a work of art it is worthless. It is by one Travis, an artist without reputation, and in view of the lack of merit of the work and the obscurity of the artist the price named in the bill is looked upon as laughably absurd. It is not claimed that the portrait was even painted from life, and there are several artists in this city who will paint a better portrait of Lincoln or any other man for $500.

M'GLYNN'S PARISH DIVIDED.

The Carmelite Order, From Dublin, Will Take Charge of the Eastern Portion.

Special Telegram to the Dispatch.

NEW YORK, February 2.—St. Stephen's Roman Catholic parish, Dr. McGlynn's old parish, has been divided by Archbishop Corrigan, and a new parish formed from the eastern part. The new parish will run from Twenty-fourth to Thirty-third streets, and from the east side of second avenue to the East river. It will be in charge of the Carmelites from Whitefriar street, Dublin. The Provincial, the Very Rev. John Bartley, has been in town some time, making the arrangements for introducing his order into the archdiocese. The site of L. V. Conover & Co.'s iron foundry on Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth streets, between First and Second avenues, has been bought for $70,000 as a site for the church. It includes seven lots—four on Twenty-eighth street and three on Twenty-ninth street. The Carmelites will administer spiritual consolations to the Catholic patients in Bellevue Hospital.

FOR A LONG CRUISE.

William K. Vanderbilt and Family on the Yacht Alva.

BALTIMORE, February 2.—William K. Vanderbilt, the millionaire, and his party arrived here yesterday afternoon, and went aboard the yacht Alva. At 9 this morning the Alva steamed out of the harbor. The Alva is off for Bermuda, Funchal, Madeira and thence to the Mediterranean.

She will cruise for some time and then go to Norway and England. The trip will last about seven months. Mr. Vanderbilt has his wife and children, O. H. P. Belmont, G. Redmond and Winfield Scott Hoyt accompanying him.

Our Triennial Assessment.

From the Philadelphia Times.]

Pittsburg is bragging that the new triennial assessment of that city will show a taxable valuation of $191,072,000. This is nearly equal to the assessed valuation of the State of Alabama, which is $214,925,869, and of Louisiana, assessed at $213,000,000. It exceeds the assessment of Arkansas, which is $127,000,000, and Colorado, which pays taxes on $130,000,000, while it is more than twice the assessed value of Florida, which is $76,617,409. The fault which the taxpayers will find with the new assessment is that the big valuation will encourage the levy of big taxes.

Queen of Sweden and the Servant Question.

From the Chicago News.]

It is said that the Queen of Sweden has to do her own housework in order to preserve her health. Probably the hired girl whom she last had was more trouble than she was worth.

Has One Distinction, at Least.

From the Chicago News.]

Even if it should never float any ships, De Lesseps can at least assert that the Panama Canal has floated General Boulanger into great power.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

Captain John A. Davis.

Captain John A. Davis, a widely known Ohio river pilot, whose list of friends was only limited by the range of acquaintance, died after a long and painful sickness at his residence in Coraopolis, on Friday night. He will be buried this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Miss Jennie Cogan.

Miss Jennie Cogan, of Braddock, a teacher in the Port Perry schools, died yesterday morning of pneumonia, aged 28 years.

THE DOCTOR ASTONISHED.

A Philadelphia Invalid Thrives on a Diet of Glass Tumblers.

PHILADELPHIA, February 2.—Michael Hanley, of 143 North Fourth street, yesterday went on a periodical spree and became involved in a quarrel with a stranger. During the encounter one of Hanley's arms was dislocated. He went to the Pennsylvania Hospital for treatment. Dr. Shoemaker fixed him up soon. Then the patient asked for a glass of water. Nurse McCann secured it. The man swallowed the contents and astonished the physician and nurse by biting out a portion of the tumbler and swallowing it. Then he took another big bite. He was careful to show the physician that he swallowed the glass. He had eaten about three-fourths of the tumbler, when the doctor, fearing fatal consequences, took the remainder away. But the man was not to be discouraged.

"I'll tell you what I'll do," he shouted excitedly. "I'll bet you that I can drink water faster than you can hand it to me. You can get a bucketful and hand it out from that and I can beat you."

Nurse McCann told the doctor that he would soon knock the visitor out, for he intended getting goblets that could hold a pintful. He returned with the glasses and one of the big goblets was filled with icewater from the cooler. The man emptied it at one draught. Another was handed to him instantly. He gulped this down also without stopping. Fifteen more were handed to him and he disposed of them with the same rapidity.

Dr. Shoemaker, fearing that the man might be taken seriously ill, interposed at the seventeenth round. He begged for more, but the doctor said he had enough. He was bowed out and reluctantly went.

A TRUE PREDICTION.

Mrs. Harrison Always Thought That Benjamin Would be President.

CHICAGO, February 2.—Mr. Russell Harrison, son of the President-elect, refused to see reporters while here. While Mr. Harrison would not and did not talk to reporters here, he told an interesting story to a personal friend with whom he had engaged in conversation.

"Mother has always had an idea, as long as I can remember," said the young man, "that father would some day be President of the United States. When he was defeated for reelection to the Senate she cheered him up and told him his chances for getting the Presidental nomination were better out of the Senate than in it, and mother had an idea, too, that father would be nominated here by this convention. Father was never sanguine, but mother stuck to it, though we all feared the Gresham movement would kill father's chances.

"When at last the nomination was made, I don't think mother was surprised a bit, and she told father he needn't concern himself about the election at all, as he would go to the White House just as sure as he lived. Mother didn't pretend to know anything about politics, but she wouldn't give up her idea that father would be President some day. So you see she knew more about it than most of the politicians."

A BOOKKEEPER'S PRISON.

Accidentally Locked in a Bank Vault for Fifteen Long Hours.

NEW HAVEN, February 2.—Benjamin C. Lum, bookkeeper at the New Haven Savings Bank, was accidentally locked up in the big bank vault yesterday afternoon and his whereabouts were a mystery until the vault was opened for business this morning at 9 o'clock. Just before closing the bank yesterday Bookkeeper Lum carried his books into the vault and, while arranging them, struck his head in some way against a shelf with such force as to render him unconscious. Shortly after Treasurer J. P. Tuttle, supposing that Lum had gone home closed the vault and set the time lock.

During the night Lum's family grew very anxious over his unusual absence, and early this morning began searching for him. No trace could be found, and the bank officials finally concluded that he must have been locked up in the safe. The party reached the bank just at opening hours, and when Treasurer Tuttle hurriedly opened the door Lum hastily stepped out where he could get fresh air, decidedly hungry but little worse for his 15 hours close confinement. In answer to inquiries Lum said:

"I feel first rate and am as bright as a dollar, but I was anxiously awaiting the opening of that big door."

A SINGULAR LAW SUIT.

The Case Postponed Many Times Because of Sickness and Death.

ALLIANCE, O., February 2.—One of the most remarkable instances which has ever occurred in this place is that connected with the lawsuit of Benjamin Eldenier versus Michael Glessner and Ream Brothers, all residents of this community, and is as follows:

Plaintiff was living on defendants' farm until 1885, when trouble arose, and he was informed that his remaining there was not in accord with defendants' wishes. A suit in Common Pleas Court for damages was instigated. A day was set for trial, but it was postponed on account of sickness of one of the defendants. Time after time a day for trial was announced, but sickness interfered. In the meantime an important witness on the part of the plaintiff sickened and died. This was followed by the death of two of the defendants; then a witness on behalf of defendants passed away. The case was finally taken from Common Pleas for arbitration. Yesterday was set apart for the trial, but again it was destined to meet its fate, having to be postponed on account of the critical illness of two others of the defendants.

FROZEN WHEAT WILL GROW.

Experiments Prove That the Grain is Not Affected by Cold.

ST. PAUL, February 2.—The experiments being carried out at the State Experimental Farm with frozen wheat are attracting the attention of all leading grain men. About 30 samples of frozen or frosted wheat, of all grades from No. 3 down to the poorest sort of shriveled, shrunken, frozen grain, have been employed for the test. Fifty seeds of each quality were selected and planted, and are growing in the greenhouses. Some of the seeds are about the next thing to mere chaff, and yet many of them have sprouted, and, as a rule, seem to be making a healthy growth.

The stalks are now six or eight inches in height, and it simply remains to be seen whether they have sufficient vitality to mature.

A Postmaster Since 1830.

STEUBENVILLE, February 2.—W. H. Wallace, Sr., of Hammondsville, this county, is the oldest postmaster in years of service in the United States. He has been postmaster for over 58 years, his first appointment being by President Jackson in 1830, and he is still handling the mail at Hammondsville, as well as conducting a mercantile business. Mr. Wallace was born at Frelighsburg, Province of Quebec, Canada, in 1801.

Mrs. Frelinghuysen is Dying.

Special Telegram to the Dispatch.

NEW YORK, February 2.—Mrs. Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, the widow of the late Secretary of State, is dying at her home in Newark. She has never been thoroughly well since before her husband's death. She was ill at the time of his death.

St. Petersburg's Population Decreasing.

From the Boston Herald.]

By the new census of St. Petersburg, it appears that the population has fallen off 80,000 in eight years. This seems to vindicate the law of physics, which declares that heat expands and cold contracts.

THE ALL-KIND MOTHER.

Lo, whatever is at hand
Is full meet for the demand:
Nature oftimes giveth best
When she seemeth chariest.
She hath shapen shower and sun
To the need of every one—
Summer bland and winter drear,
Dimpled pool and frozen mere.
All thou lackest she hath still,
Near thy finding and thy fill.
Yield her fullest faith, and she
Will endow thee royally.

Loveless weed and lily fair
She attendeth, here and there—
Kindly to the weed as to
The lorn lily reared with dew.
Each to her hath use as dear
As the other; an thou clear
Thy cloyed senses thou may'st see
Haply all the mystery.
Thou shalt see the lily get
Its divinest blossom; yet
Shall the weed's tip bloom no less
With the songbird's gleefulness.

Thou art poor, or thou art rich—
Never lightest matter which:
All the glad gold of the noon,
All the silver of the moon,
She doth lavish on thee, while
Thou withholdest any smile
Of thy gratitude to her,
Baser used than usurer.
Shame be on thee an thou seek
Not her pardon, with hot cheek,
And bowed head, and brimming eyes,
At her merciful "Arise!"

—*James Whitcomb Riley, in The Century.*

CAPITAL GOSSIP.

Warlike Sentiment Among Politicians—The Men Who Would Fight—Quay and Magee Still on the Outs—The Mystery of Five Aces.

Correspondence of The Dispatch.

WASHINGTON, February 2.—"Let loose the dogs of war," has been the cry of the small fry every day and night during the last week. Those of broad and "statesmanlike" views advise proceeding with care. They say if we must fight it will not cost any more lives and money to wait awhile. "On to Samoa!" is the response of the small fry, interspersed with such pretty remarks as "Down with Bismarck!" "American citizens in Samoa must be protected!" shout a class that is just a bit more conservative than the witless small fry. "Our flag must be respected," growls the enthusiastic patriot, who don't know why he is so.

What Were the Outrages?

What right of what American citizen has been outraged or curtailed? What was "our flag" doing when it was shot down and burned? Let us look at the truth in all its glorious nudity. A few hundred citizens of the United States, finding themselves unable to gobble up sufficient pelf to satisfy their porcine desires, in competition with other citizens of the United States, in their own country, go far away among the simple-minded natives of the Navigator Islands, who are yet uncontaminated by the autocracy of fashion, and who have not yet asked the momentous question, "Is Marriage a Failure?" They teach these children of nature to wear clothes, and glass beads, and brass jewelry, and to smoke, and chew, and drink, sell to them at enormous profit all of the articles necessary for the gratification of these newly-created desires, and then when they fear that the English or the Germans will drive them out of business, conspire with the old Samoan King and his generals to secure the ascendency of the United States in Samoan affairs. When they are hauled up short by the Germans they tell a heart-rending story of the vicious conduct of the aggressive and unprincipled subjects of Bismarck, and ask for "protection" in their pursuit of skinning the natives. As for the flag, I am not informed that when it was shot down and burned it was floating over a building owned or rented by the United States. It may have been over a house devoted to faro and chuck-a-luck, or a mercantile establishment devoted to cheating the Samoans, which would be no more respectable than the other.

What it Means.

What business has the United States with Samoa, anyway? Would it not be better for us to be a purely domestic country and keep our noses out of unprofitable foreign corners, where we are likely to get them tweaked by people whose business it is to fight, who want room to spread out and must have it? I can't for the life of me see why we should more object to the Germans having Samoa than to them having Germany. It is certainly as much theirs as ours, and they need it, possibly, and we certainly do not. Down with a "vigorous foreign policy," say I. It means the expenditure of hundreds of millions unnecessarily, the sacrifice of unmeasured property and life, and possibly the ruin of the nation. It means a vast navy and a big standing army, an increase instead of a decrease of the national debt, the piling up of taxes and other evils too many to enumerate.

The Poor Man Does the Fighting.

"Oh, it's all well enough for you to talk war," said I to a Jingo Senator this morning, "but who would do the fighting? Not you, nor any of the others who help to make war, but the poor who flee to the army as a sure means of employment, and whose lives are not much pleasure to them anyway."

"Well, I think that would be a good thing," said the philanthropic Senator. "We have a surplus poor population, and a war might be a happy solution of labor troubles, at lest temporarily."

Well, in this, at least, some of our statesmen are in sympathy with the German statesmen. It was a frank, if somewhat brutal avowal. It is interesting to know just how some of our great law makers feel about these matters, and I have no doubt many hold opinions exactly similar to the one so honestly expressed above.

The Quay-Magee Feud.

"Your hopeful picture of a cessation of hostilities, and the beginning of a new era of peace and love between Senator Quay and Mr. C. L. Magee, is very pretty, but I fear it is premature," said a prominent visiting politician from Pennsylvania to me the other day. "I know pretty well what is going on in that circle, and I can assure you that while Senator Cameron is using his best offices to bring about harmony, Quay and Magee are no nearer together than they have been at any time since the divorce. Oh, yes, they speak as they pass by, but that is about all. I have no doubt they will rearrange their relations in the course of time to work together, because it is to the interest of both to do so. The entire tendency seems to be toward harmony among all of the bodies of former disagreeing factions of the Republicans. Cameron and Blaine have sat together at several love feasts. Mr. and Mrs. Blaine were at a dinner at the old Cameron mansion on Lafayette Square. At an elegant luncheon given by Senator Hale in the room of the Committee on Naval Affairs who should I see hanging on the arm of Mr. Blaine but Mrs. Senator Cameron. It seems to me that the cordiality between the two families is genuine and complete. I believe the overtures in this mediation came from the friends of Mr. Blaine. They knew he was to go into the Cabinet of President Harrison. It was desired by him and all his friends that he should go in there without serious antagonisms lurking on the outside. Quay, at the head of the National Committee, occupied a position in which, if he had opposed Blaine, things would have been unpleasant all round for the new administration. Quay was in a way responsible for the existence of the new regime, and consequently responsible for its success as far as it lay in his power to promote success. Therefore, I imagine the junior Senator from our State was quite willing, with the senior Senator, to meet the Blaines half way and bury the hatchet, recognizing that it was practically impossible for Harrison to avoid offering Blaine the portfolio of State. The reconciliation of Quay and Magee is in line with this, and will doubtless come soon."

A Disappointed Politician.

"Hon. W. L. Scott is the most disappointed man politically in the United States," said a member of Congress to me this morning, as the Erie millionaire walked past us through the aisle. "He believed implicitly in the power of money, and he and his fellow Democratic millionaires poured it out like water. He would have been in the Cabinet had Cleveland succeeded himself. He had pictured the close of his active life surrounded by a blaze of political glory. He would be the power behind the throne. He not only gave tens of thousands but wagered many other tens of thousands. He did not think failure was possible. He actually believed that Pennsylvania would be carried by the Democrats. His downfall was simply terrible, because it meant his retirement from national politics forever, except perhaps as a manipulator of conventions of the minority party. It was a cruel blow, but one common in political life."

An Ace Too Many.

I have received the following communication from a Presbyterian elder, highly esteemed by his fellow citizens of the æsthetic and moral town of "Little" Washington:

DEAR SIR—Your poker story in Sunday's DISPATCH was good, but a careful scrutiny of the number of aces laid down in those three hands seems to make it appear that for "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain the Washington game is peculiar.

Out of consideration for the good elder's modesty I do not print his name. Let my crude knowledge of the game of poker be my excuse for those five aces. The story was absolutely true, with the exception that I should have said the opener laid down a king high flush instead of one ace high. The game was honest if ever a game was, and my Washington (Pa.) friend would recognize the truth of this assertion if I were to whisper in his ear the names of the statesmen who were engaged in the game. The only curious thing about the incident was that the Representative whom I called to see passed his hand blind in a "jack pot," in sheer disgust at his previous bad luck; that the "jack" was opened by the very next player, thus giving my friend the "golden seat;" that every man "stayed in;" that the Representative picked up four aces in his blind hand, and luckily found against him one strong flush and a big full hand. If there were any other technical errors in the account, I hope my good friend, the elder, will attribute them to my poor memory of the graphic explanation of the hands and play given to me by the statesmen engaged, and to my own utter ignorance of the game. E. W. L.

A Magnificent American Ship.

PHILADELPHIA, February 2.—From Charles Hillman & Co.'s shipyard the large wooden 1,100-ton steamship Maracaibo was launched this afternoon. She is said to be stancher than any other wooden vessel of her size ever put into the water from any of the shipyards along the Delaware. She was planned and constructed for a special trade by the Red "D" line for their main line.

GATHERED IN GREAT GOTHAM.

Mrs. Brice Loses a Valuable Jewel.

[NEW YORK BUREAU SPECIALS.]

NEW YORK, February 2.—Mrs. Calvin S. Brice has lost "an oblong aqua-marine pin, cut intaglio with several figures, and set with 35 diamonds." She offers $100 reward to the finder. She thinks the pin contains the largest aqua-marine stone in the world, and values it way up in the thousands. Colonel Brice is advertising for it in all the papers. The pin disappeared at a big Madison avenue reception, two nights ago.

Six Men Saved From Starving.

In Justice Duffy's police court, this morning, six young men asked to be sent to the Island because they could find no work. The Judge asked them if they could care for horses. They said they could. The Judge promptly handed a nickel to each man and said. "They need men at the Second avenue street car stables since the strike. Take a trip up there." All six went to the stables and got work.

Getting Ready for War.

Colonel James J. Mooney is enrolling a small army of veterans who are ready to help drive the Germans out of Samoa. As soon as the Samoan trouble began, veterans of Colonel Mooney's acquaintance decided to form a regiment. This they did—on paper. Nearly 2,000 have signed their names to the enlistment roll. They claim that similar enlistments are being made in several large Western and Southern cities, and that they can be ready for the field in 30 days.

Got Hold of the Wrong