The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, TUESDAY, FEB. 5, 1889.

A TIMELY RECONSIDERATION.

The Prison Inspectors acted wisely yesterday in promptly reconsidering the first purpose of President Kelly to have the inquiry into the charges against the penitentiary hospital steward a secret one. There would have been a peculiar unfitness in sitting with closed doors, because the inspectors themselves, being charged with the duty of supervising the institution, are in a degree responsible for its administration. On the other hand, it is the public who support it; and there need be no apprehension that the public are incompetent or unjust in such matters. They understand pretty fully about what degree of weight should be given to this or that testimony. They are not moved by passion or prejudice, and those who manage their trusts, if they really have nothing to fear, will always find it the safest and best course to be perfectly open and frank with the public.

As for the charges so far made, or any others that may be brought up, they must now be sifted to the bottom. No two opinions exist as to the course that must be pursued if they are sustained; while if they are disproved the officials will have succeeded in putting a quietus on charges that certainly must have been annoying if not damaging. Now, also, is the time for the Board to hear openly from any other parties with complaints to make. If in open meeting, under the solemnity of an oath and facing cross-examination, evidence is given of wrongs that should be rectified, it will have a weight which clearly cannot be accorded to mere rumors.

However, this investigation results, whether in establishing or disproving the charges, the proper way in this and in all such cases is to inquire into them fearlessly and above board. The public will make up its judgment when it hears the testimony.

AN OLD FRIEND ONCE MORE.

The Central Traffic Association which has been in a condition of suspended animation for several months is going to be revived as a part of the general fashion of railway officials of swearing off from the vicious habits of cutting each others throats. This traffic association is an oft-revived organization, its basic principle being to fight against the pernicious idea of running each road on the principle of doing business for itself. The Central Traffic idea is that each railroad must bolster up all its rivals. This looks like a very philanthropic and generous idea; but it wholly fails to include the shipping public in the range of its philanthropy. Unless it succeeds in reducing the enforcement of the Inter-State Commerce law to a dead letter, it will do no special harm. It may repeat its former efforts in the direction of trying to crowd rates up; but if it does it will repeat its old record of flying to pieces again as soon as the advanced rates check business.

WHEN THEY ARE WELL OFF.

It is generally asserted, and in some cases on what seems to be pretty good authority, that Senator Allison declines a Cabinet position because he prefers to keep himself in the Senate as a factor in future Presidental contests. It is also alleged that Senator Sherman takes a similar view. Whereupon the New York *Sun* warns them, tersely but emphatically, that "To be a professional candidate for the Presidency is to throw away all reasonable hope of being elected President."

This is true enough; but it does not by any means prove that Allison is not smart, and Sherman also, if he has had the choice, in preferring to stay in the Senate rather than go in the Cabinet. Either one of them can exert more power in the Senate than they could in the Cabinet, and—in proportion to the worry and friction—than they could in the Presidental chair. Sherman was a remarkably successful Cabinet officer, but he holds a stronger position to-day than he did as Secretary of the Treasury, and a far more comfortable one than he would have had if his long-cherished ambition had been gratified last year. Allison can hold his Senatorial seat indefinitely. If his Presidental hopes are fulfilled, he will, after a term in the Presidental chair, be retired from public life. The comfort and power of a really able Senator is enhanced rather than diminished by the large element of the membership who represent big bank accounts and let their money talk for them.

It is a good thing for a man to know when he is well off; and, though Senators Allison and Sherman do not seem to be fully posted on that point, they are likely to remain in their very comfortable seats in the Senate, and exert the powerful influence on public affairs which they hold there.

SPECIAL PLEAS.

Some special pleas on the Samoan question are worth noticing for their apt concealment of important portions of the truth. Count Herbert Bismarck's extended statement, addressed especially to the people of the United States, is principally significant as showing the conclusion of the German Government that it cannot afford to antagonize the United States on the Samoan question. But the plea that the Samoan chiefs are constantly in a state of warfare, and that Germany is only protecting the lives and property of German citizens, carefully blinks the fact that Samoa was at peace, when Germany trumped up a claim against Malietoa, declared war upon and deposed him, and plunged the island into war anew, by setting up a puppet of the German representatives.

Another special plea is offered in behalf of the administration by the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*. That generally wide-awake paper says: "Any President who, without authority from Congress, commits our Government to the policy of supporting any foreign prince or Government on other than American soil, against enemies domestic or foreign, would be liable to impeachment and would deserve to be deposed for usurping a power reserved to the Congress of the United States." This is intended to prove that the President and Secretary of State could do nothing to check the German aggressions. But in that case the President and Secretary Bayard are liable to impeachment, for over two years ago they committed the Government clearly to the policy of demanding from Germany a pledge against any attempt at annexation. The same principle would have sent Secretary Seward and the administration of 1865 to an impeachment court, for they very decidedly told France that she must leave the Mexican government alone, and followed the declaration by the movement of troops to the Mexican frontier, which resulted in the restoration of Juarez. The *Post-Dispatch's* constitutional principle proves too much.

THEIR FINAL SAY.

After wabbling about somewhat ever since the law was passed on the true interpretation of the Wallace act of 1874, ordering city contracts to go to the "lowest responsible bidder," the Supreme Court yesterday indicated what we suppose must be taken as its final dictum. It dissolved the preliminary injunction of our local Common Pleas against the purchase of the Amoskeag engines.

No opinion was filed, so something is lost to students of judicial construction. But it may be presumed that the Supreme Court rests upon its early decisions of the Wallace act, that the statute was not meant to shut out the discretion of the city authorities, and that fraud would have to be shown to support an injunction. This was the Court's view in the first cases under the act, though later deliverances seemed to tend otherwise.

While a good many readers of the act have always thought that the Legislature clearly meant what it said, viz: To exclude the choice and discretion which the Supreme Court allows, most people of practical business experience will agree that if city agents are competent and faithful it is better to have them use their knowledge and discretion for the city, just as private agents do for their principals. Of course the door is opened to favoritism, but the public must watch for that; and, if the officials abuse their trust, bounce them. That, anyhow, is now definitely laid down as the law. Perhaps, also, it is the best sense, as certainly the cheapest article is not always what is needed, nor is the lowest bidder necessarily the safest or the most desirable.

The decision puts upon the public the duty of observing closely their servants; and, again to these latter it gives not merely discretion in choosing between bidders, but constant accountability to the public for intelligence and honesty in awards. If unjust discriminations are made criticisms will be sure to follow. Where awards are open and reasons are expected for any deviation from the lowest-bidder rule, no time need be lost in estimating whether the discretion is well or ill used.

A HEROIC DOSE.

"A Family Doctor" sends to the London *Globe* a prescription for curing burglars of their nocturnal habits which he thinks will prove a specific. The ordinary dose of a revolver bullet, he regards as too much in the homeopathic line, and his treatment is based decidedly on the kill and cure principle. "I would recommend," he says, "capsules of buckshot, which, being more spreading, would be more efficacious. If the domestic pharmacopœia does not provide this remedy the want could soon be supplied by enterprising gunsmiths." This remedy judiciously applied ought to decrease the spread of burglary which now appears to be epidemic on both sides of the sea. But there are doubts of its practical utility. If the householder should resort to it as a general thing, there is reason to fear that the burglars would follow the example of their bigger prototypes, by getting up a combination and appealing to the law-making power for the protection of their vested interests against the destructive assaults of a prejudiced people.

EDUCATIONAL ESSENTIALS.

The information which comes from London that a fashionable boarding school there devotes a large share of its attention to teaching young ladies to get in and out of a carriage, is interesting and important as showing the lines of female education which the prevalent Anglomania is likely to develop. The importance of this branch of education may not be apparent to those whose hearts are as yet uninspired by the aim of reproducing in this country the manners and customs of the nobility and gentry; but a possible utility may be suggested by two views of the proper female accomplishments in connection with the use of vehicles, that have come from foreign parts to this city.

An Englishman of some social standing, who recently paid an extended visit to friends in this city, while at lunch with a number of ladies one day, exercised the proverbial insular frankness by telling them that American ladies were not properly educated. Upon being challenged by a somewhat outspoken young matron, he replied: "I mean that they are not taught to ride in a carriage properly." This gives us a glimpse of the importance to true education, of the art of using the carriage, without which no lady, however gracious, cultured or kindly, can hope to take rank in England. The complementary view, if the term may be so adapted, is furnished by the remark of a Polish or Hungarian addition to our population, who was heard on one of our street car lines deriding the idea of stopping the cars to let women off. They would not stop for them in the old country, he declared, "Dey make 'em yump!"

Here, then, are the two essential lines of female education as outlined by two authorities from abroad. Those who are to rank in the cultured class have got to learn the art of getting in and out of a carriage in the highest style of affectation; those who ride in street cars have got to learn to jump. There have been indications that some of the cable employes were adopting the Polish idea and "making them jump." The mass of the American people will, we think, prefer the indigenous style of getting into a carriage the simplest way, and of preserving for the great mass of our female population the right to get out of public conveyances the safest way.

THE Akron miller who is quoted in our commercial columns as saying that his mills have been "restricting product in connection with other mills of the West, and we already begin to perceive some advantage from our course," may perceive the advantage better than the consumers and producers who are squeezed by this attempt to establish arbitrary prices for flour. But the report that also appears in our commercial columns that "the flour trade has been exceptionally dull and lifeless," may still leave a practical doubt whether the success of the conspiracy to make bread dear is as complete as represented.

IGNATIUS DONNELLY having demonstrated that Bacon wrote Shakespeare's works, another disputante arises who shows to his own satisfaction that Ben Jonson wrote Bacon. It only remains for someone to perform the easiest task of all, and prove that Shakespeare wrote Ben Jonson's plays, and the circle will be complete.

IN estimating the stability of the French republic, it is no more than fair to recognize that France has got through her elections without even a riot. Time was when an exciting election in Paris carried with it the probability of a revolution. The fact that an election can now result adversely to the Government without disorder, proves that the French are rapidly learning self-government.

IN view of the fact that Blaine is reported to stand in the way of John C. New's appointment to the Cabinet, and that New is alleged to be an obstacle to Blaine's entrance, the cynical opposition may suggest that it will be a hard matter to decide which has the greatest claim on the public gratitude.

FASHION occasionally gets a violent setback. For example, Miss Maggie Grady, of Springfield, Ill., rejoiced in a bang of excessive length till Saturday last. Then while she was at work her bang caught in some shafting, and, in less time than the most adept Indian could have done it, she was scalped. Moral: Keep your bang out of your eyes—and out of the shafting.

COUNT HERBERT BISMARCK demonstrates the pure disinterestedness of Germany in the Samoan matter with the same convincing disregard of the facts that Mr. S. C. T. Dodd uses in showing the philanthropic and beneficial work of the Standard Oil Company.

THE Harvard College baseball nine has been bereft of its best pitcher by the heartless action of the faculty in suspending Mr. Bates. Harvard graduates are consequently thunderstruck at the reckless disregard of the real objects of collegiate institutions, by permitting such a trivial matter as the rules of that institution to interfere with its baseball supremacy.

NOTWITHSTANDING the decided vote in Select Council last night, the public will be likely to agree with Mr. Bigham that the concentration of the cable cars on Fifth avenue will be more convenient and safe than to have them roam all over the city.

COLONEL SHEPARD has the merit of printing texts which bear with especial severity on himself. A recent one was that which spoke of the necessity of having your righteousness exceed "the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees." Colonel Shepard may not rank very high as a scribe, but the text applies just the same.

THE coke troubles take a unique form when they show the strike against the lower rate of wages to be a failure, while that against the company that is paying the highest rate is reported to be in full force.

THIRTY thousand dollars, in round numbers, is not an extravagant sum for keeping Pittsburg's sanitary affairs in good shape; but the public has a right to know what is done with the money. The Sanitary Bureau is certainly not a proper place for providing political favorites with fat berths. Expert and active workers are wanted there.

THE stock market still appears to intimate that the "agreement between gentlemen" is not so omnipotent as its organs crack it up to be.

THE cry of distress over the small profits of the railroads will be worthy of some attention when railroad stocks and bonds represent actual and *bona fide* investments. Three per cent on a capitalization which is two-thirds water is nine per cent on the cash invested. And nine per cent investments are at a premium nowadays.

PUBLIC PEOPLE PARAGRAPHED.

M. SARASATE, the famous violinist, now enjoying a period of success in Berlin, is soon coming to this country.

THE Queen will start for Biarritz on March 4. She will travel in strict privacy under the name of Countess Balmoral.

MAX O'RELL gleefully announces that his book on "Jonathan and His Continent" is enjoying a marvellous success in its French edition.

IT is said that the Duchess of Marlborough, once Mrs. Hammersley, of New York, will be presented to the Queen on the same day as Mrs. Chamberlain.

MR. SPURGEON had two teeth knocked out the other day in falling down stairs. Nevertheless, he says, he would "gladly suffer another such smash to win a prayerless sinner."

DR. MARY WALKER is masculine in her garb, but she cannot stand tobacco smoke. She went up to the Capitol in Washington a few days ago to attend a meeting of the House Committee on District of Columbia Affairs. When she entered the room the air was blue with the incense of cigars. Mary was incensed at once, and, covering her nose with her hands, rushed from the apartment.

SENATOR ALLISON is a great worker. He retires early and rises early, eats a simple breakfast, reaches the Capitol long before his colleagues and pegs away at committee work until noon. He always stays through the session of the Senate and watches every movement until adjournment. He then returns to committee work till dinner time. He is very systematic in his habits, and is thus enabled to accomplish a vast amount of work. He takes plenty of exercise and seldom indulges in the dissipations of society.

HAROLD MARSH SEWALL, our Consul General to Samoa, is a man about 30 years of age, who was graduated at Harvard and later at the Harvard Law School. His father, Arthur Sewall, President of the Maine Central Railroad, is the Maine member of the Democratic National Committee. Young Sewall was Vice Consul at Liverpool before his promotion to the Samoan Consul Generalship. He is a man of imagination, and upon reaching Apia at once became intensely interested in the romantic features of the Samoan affair.

MR. CHOATE, President of the Old Colony Railroad Company, believes there is, in homely phrase, more than one way to kill a cat. A wrecked ship, bearing the date of 1626 was recently dug up on Cape Cod, and given to the Pilgrim Society of Plymouth. "Can't you ship it to us over your road free?" they asked him. "No-o;" he said, "I'm afraid I can't. The inter-State law won't let me. But," he added, reflectively, "what did you say the date was? 1626? Oh, then we can fix it. I can make a special tariff for ships and marine articles manufactured previous to 1627." And under the "special tariff" the venerable hulk went free.

Civilization Overdone.

From the New York World.]

In portraying the advanced civilization of a thousand years hence M. Jules Verne has created an unpleasant impression on a certain class of the community. He has represented it as within the power of the men of that period to regulate the climate. To most people this seems a desirable attainment, but it deprives at one blow the wives and daughters of well-to-do citizens of the excuse of going somewhere for their health. This is bad enough, but still worse is the "phonotelephote," an instrument with which he describes Mr. Smith in this country as not only talking with his wife in Paris, but seeing her and noting her movements. Paris under such circumstances to many would lose its attractiveness. Clearly there may be such a thing as civilization overdone.

THE TOPICAL TALKER.

Tips About the Typewriter and Some of the Results of Its Use.

THEY say that ex-Chief Justice Gordon, of the Supreme bench, is one of the men to whom the typewriter, the machine and not the girl, has come as a blessing. Before the typewriter was invented lawyers will remember that Judge Gordon's opinions in his own handwriting were almost illegible. Some people used to insinuate the Judge's strong point was not his spelling.

Anyway the typewriter has been a great convenience to a great many laymen as well as Judges and lawyers. There is hardly a profession or commercial class that has not found a way to utilize the labor-saving machine.

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CONFUSION is sometimes caused by the indiscriminate use of the word typewriter to denote either the operator or the machine.

A case in point: Said Robinson to Smith the other day, "I've got a new typewriter."

Replied Smith anxiously: "Blonde or brunette?"

And Robinson being called away at that moment Smith was soon circulating the news that Robinson was boasting of a pretty girl he had employed as secretary. Finally the report reached Robinson's wife, and she could not be convinced that the new typewriter was a cold piece of mechanism until she had visited her husband's office and taken observations there for herself.

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JUDGE EWING has an eye for more than the mere routine of Common Pleas. Talking of the typewriter a day or two ago, Judge Ewing said: "We have an immense amount of typewritten manuscript to read, and some of it is trying stuff to the eyes. A good deal of it comes on thin paper, and the typewritten text is often so blurred that after reading two or three hundred words I find my eyes affected as they might after looking for a while into a paling fence. Your eyes travel along, but the distinct outline of what the words convey is lost upon you. Some of the typewriting is very bad, indeed."

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"THE stenographers and typewriters," continued Judge Ewing, "have caused an enormous multiplying of legal papers. In equity and divorce cases heard before a master it is now customary to employ a shorthand reporter and have all the testimony reproduced by typewriter. By this means a great mass of evidence *in extenso* is produced, through which no Judge can find time to wade. Usually there is three or four times as much testimony reported verbatim as is necessary. The longhand reporter who used to take the proceedings before a master was accustomed to leave out the irrelevant matters and condense his report to narrative form. I prefer the old fashion."

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IT is probably a fact that most men who learn to dictate to a stenographer are tempted to be discursive. Sometimes this habit of rambling from one subject to another in a desultory manner is a positive advantage to a man, but oftener it betrays him into a lax verbosity than which nothing is more undesirable in business correspondence or literature.

One of the few men who have reason to congratulate themselves on finding in the habit of dictating a spur to their inventive faculties is Joseph Howard, Jr., the eminent *raconteur*. He says himself that he finds that he can wander on from subject to subject, from a topic of the day to the reminiscence of some event of 50 years ago which it suggests, with far greater ease when he is talking to his stenographer than he can with pen and paper before him. Other writers of the same class could never produce so much matter—indifferent as most of it is—unless they had the assistance of stenographers and typewriters. Look at another famous special correspondent, George Alfred Townsend ("Gath")—how could he grind out with the regularity of a clockwork machine three or four columns a day—that is 5,000 or 6,000 words—if he had not the mechanical aids of shorthand and the typewriter at his disposal?

But it is another matter altogether to aver that the style of these writers' products, and the matter as well as the manner, are improved by the machinery which gives speed to their deliverance.

THE MADSTONE FAILED.

Notwithstanding Its Application, a Man is Dying From Hydrophobia.

PALATINE, ILL., February 4.—William Frost, aged 45 years, is dying from hydrophobia. He was bitten in the face by a rabid dog six weeks ago, the wound bleeding freely. He had the sore cauterized and afterward resorted to the madstone treatment. The stone adhered to the wound for several hours at the first application. On a second trial it would not adhere, and from this it was believed that all danger was past.

It was not until last Friday that this feeling of security was disturbed. On that day Mr. Frost fell ill and symptoms of hydrophobia rapidly developed. Horrible convulsions succeeded, and all hope has been abandoned by the attending physicians. Three other persons were also bitten by the dog, but fortunately all have escaped Mr. Frost's sad fate.

SYMPATHY APPRECIATED.

The Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs Returns His Thanks.

WASHINGTON, February 4.—The following telegram has been received by the Austro-Hungarian Legation at this capital, from Count Kalnoky, Minister of Foreign Affairs:

"You will please tender to the President of the United States in the name of His Majesty, of the Government and of the people of Austria-Hungary, the warmest thanks for the telegram of condolence presented through Minister Lawson, which was received here with the highest appreciation. "KALNOKY."

TRANSATLANTIC NOTES.

THE Sevres dessert service in Windsor Castle is valued by an expert at fully £100,000, the punch bowl alone being estimated at at £10,000. The value of the china at Buckingham Palace and that of Windsor together is thought to exceed considerably £200,000.

VICTORIA'S will was made in 1876, engrossed on vellum, and is now a great bound volume fastened with a lock, with several blank pages left for subsequent codicils. The last was made recently and distributed jubilee gifts. Some are left to the State, and the others are distributed among the members of the royal family.

M. JACQUES, the unsuccessful candidate in Paris against Boulanger, estimates that his election expenses amounted to 2,000,000 francs. The chief expense was for bill sticking, 100,000 being pasted up every day in competition with a still larger number put up by Boulanger. But the question is where does the latter get his money?

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON writes from Tautira, that he has taken to going barefoot, and is doing well. In his own words: "I write this just after having dismissed Oli (the subchief, in whose house I live), Mrs. Oli, and Fairal, their adopted child, from the evening hour of music, during which I Publickly Blow on the Flageolet!"

THE Canadian Government will soon adopt a policy of hostility toward immigration. All alien laborers, except British, will be prohibited from coming to Canada, and the funds which the Dominion Government has hitherto granted in aid of immigration, amounting in the aggregate to a quarter of a million sterling, will be withdrawn.

ON January 14, says the *Glasgow Herald*, Mr. Charles Spinks exhibited in Leith Harbor a small working model six feet long, of a vessel with improvements in the construction of the propeller, which he has invented and patented. The vessel is constructed in the ordinary manner until toward the stern, where, instead of ending in a single keel, a double keel is formed, which completely encases the propeller, and on either side the keels are fitted with sluices, to be used as required. It is claimed that from the position of the propeller between the two keels, it can never be thrown clear of the water, consequently rendering it safer and greatly reducing the strain on engines and machinery, and also, from the protection so afforded, is not nearly so liable to accident as is the case with proprellers as at present situated. It is further held that a higher rate of speed will be reached by the improvements. From the tests the vessel appeared to go as fast astern as ahead. In the case of going ahead by raising the starboard sluice, an additional motive power was gained by the rush of water through the aperture acting on the propeller as on a horizontal turbine, and on reversing the engine, by closing that sluice and opening the one on the port side, a corresponding acceleration of speed was the result in the backward movement.

THE SOUTH PENN SALE

Has a Favorable Effect Upon the New York Stock Market.

Special Telegram to the Dispatch.

NEW YORK, February 4.—Henry Clews & Sons say to-day: Various influences contributed toward producing a much better tone on the Stock Exchange during the last few days. Transactions widened considerably and the market displayed an unmistakable degree of strength, which reflected itself in a sharp advance in prices toward the close of the week.

The first development which led to this change was the meeting of Western railroad Presidents in Chicago on Wednesday, at which the revision of the agreement forming the Inter-State Railway Association was completed, and a resolution passed making Mr. A. F. Walker, at present a member of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, Chairman of the Executive Board. It is perhaps to be regretted that the Burlington, "Soo" and Illinois Central roads have not been induced to enter the agreement; but these companies do not show any hostility to the movement, and, as the agreement will embrace 22 companies when all have signed, its importance can be easily understood.

Another factor of importance was the reported acquisition of Southern Pennsylvania by the Vanderbilts, and their expected intention of turning it over to the Pennsylvania. This negotiation does not yet appear to have been actually consummated, and it is understood there are legal difficulties of some consequence to be overcome, still such a great scheme as this will undoubtedly have a favorable influence upon trunk line affairs in removing one very important element of uncertainty. In addition to these factors, there has lately been an excellent investment demand for better class securities, which was most conspicuous in bonds, and extended somewhat into stocks. The coal stocks continued strong, under lead of Delaware and Hudson, in spite of lessened activity in the coal and iron trades and a weakening in prices of both. Gross earnings on the various lines again made favorable comparisons with last year; probably more the result of better rates than increased traffic. In the money market there was no change, except that funds are still accumulating and the prospects of continued ease are more assuring, since the Bank of England rate was unexpectedly reduced and the probabilities of gold exports thereby considerably diminished.

Under such influences as these, the improvement is not surprising, and manipulation is certain to be more or less active while they last. Stocks have been accumulating in strong hands for some time past; and, if a general bull movement can be inaugurated, it is not likely that it will be wanting in support from large holders; in fact, there are already indications of the advance being of this character. For some time to come, therefore, we anticipate a more active market, accompanied with more or less irregularity, the general tendency of prices being upward.

JOHN SMITH'S PETITION.

He Asks Congress for a Balloon to Get to His County Seat War.

WASHINGTON, February 4.—President pro tem Ingalls to-day laid before the Senate the following petition:

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Your humble petitioner would respectfully beg that your honorable body pass the bill introduced by Senator Butler, of the South Sea Islands, empowering the Commissioners of Whitman county, Washington Territory, to issue bonds not to exceed $100,000 to build a Court House and jail in the town of Colfax. Now, your petitioner most humbly prays that you double the dose, and give them the privilege to raise $200,000. It will take this amount to keep the county seat down in this hole. And while you are about it, give us $50,000 more to build a balloon to get down to the county seat.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

JOHN SMITH.

The petition was referred to the Committee on Territories.

THE REASONS WHY.

Mrs. Flemming Explains About That Suit Against Ex-Senator Patterson.

PHILADELPHIA, February 4.—In the suit of Mary B. Flemming for damages for breach of promise of marriage entered against John J. Patterson, ex-United States Senator of South Carolina, the statement of the cause of claim was filed to-day in the office of the Prothonotary. In the statement filed the plaintiff alleges that Mr. Patterson promised to marry her, that a date for the marriage was fixed for several different times, but in each case was postponed by the defendant, and that the defendant has since married Mildred Frank, of Waukesha, Wis., who is now his wife.

In consequence of the engagement the plaintiff alleges that she laid out and expended large sums of money in preparing for marriage, and that in consequence of the breaking of the engagement or promise of marriage by the defendant she has suffered loss of position, disappointment, annoyance and the loss of sums of money, whereby she has sustained damages to the extent of $50,000, and therefore she brings this suit.

THE BURNED COPPER MINE.

Calumet's Fire Did Greater Damage Than Was at First Supposed.

CALUMET, MICH., February 4.—Six mining Captains went underground in the Calumet mine last evening. They found that the fire had extended downward 1,500 feet from the starting point, making the total depth of the burned district 2,100 feet. This is a disappointment to the management, as they had felt confident it would not burn down at all. The experiment of letting the fire in the mine burn out has proven that the forcing down of carbonic gases saved the mine below where the fires started in former fires. There is no possibility of finding the remains of the dead miners whose escape was cut off when the fire broke out, as they must have been consumed.

OUR MILITARY FORCE.

We Have Eight Million Men That Can Fight if Necessary.

WASHINGTON, February 4.—Secretary Endicott to-day transmitted to Congress the report of Adjutant General Drum, giving the strength of the organized militia of the various States and Territories, and the force of men available for military duty not organized. The totals are: Commissioned officers, 887; enlisted men, 98,109; number of men available but not organized, 8,104,628.

Works of Art Wanted.

WASHINGTON, February 4.—In the Senate to-day Mr. Sherman offered a resolution which was referred to the Committee on Library, instructing that committee to inquire into the propriety and expediency of purchasing Bierstadt's pictures, now in the Executive Mansion, of "Yellowstone Falls," "Yellowstone Park," "Giant Geyser" and "Yosemite in Winter.

Current American Fiction.

From the New York World.]

American fiction now has a prominent representative in the man who "simply stopped over a train for a friendly call on General Harrison."

DEATHS OF A DAY.

Dr. Lusk.

Special Telegram to The Dispatch.

BUTLER, February 4.—The funeral of Dr. Joseph Lusk will be held to-morrow at 2 o'clock P. M., and will be under direction of the Masonic Order. About three months ago Dr. Lusk was last seen on the street, since then he has been confined to his office with heart trouble. On Saturday evening he ate a hearty supper, and sat in his office to receive some gentlemen visitors. One of them asked how he felt and he replied, "I am feeling particularly well this evening." These were his last words and within five minutes he was dead. He was of fine address and stood high in his profession. With remarkable calmness he talked of death and to friends would carefully explain the disease of his heart and why it was impossible for him to live many weeks. He was 63 years old and leaves a wife, two sons and three daughters.

Judge William M. Merrick.

WASHINGTON, February 4.—Judge William M. Merrick, of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, died at his residence in this city this evening, of gastric complaint. He was a native of Maryland, about 70 years of age, and was for two terms a member of Congress from that State. He served on the Credit Mobilier Committee, and made the principal report of the investigation. He served as a member of the old Circuit Court of the District from 1855 to 1863, when the court was legislated out of existence. President Cleveland appointed him to the place he occupied at the time of his death.

Mary H. Fiske.

NEW YORK, February 4.—Mary H. Fiske, the brilliant and versatile writer, and wife of Stephen Fiske, the well-known literateur, died this morning. She was connected with the New York *Mirror*, and wrote under the nom de plume of "Giddy Gusher." She also wrote for the St. Louis *Republican*, Chicago *Herald*, *Tribune* and *News*, and the *Post* and *Herald* of Washington. Mrs. Fiske had been ill for some time at her home, No. 72 West Ninety-third street.

Rev. George Charles Street.

CHICAGO, February 4.—The Rev. George Charles Street, canon of the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, in this city, died at Winter Park, Fla., yesterday, aged 75.

AT THE THEATERS.

The Attractions, Grave and Gay, During the Present Week.

The "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" of Dore Davidson's creation, as seen this week at Harris' Theater, is not an imitation of Richard Mansfield's dramatization of the same work, given at the Bijou last year. It is entirely original, and almost as weird and fascinating as Stevenson's novel. The rapid changes in *Dr. Jekyll's* dual existence, from good to bad and vice versa, are made by Mr. Davidson in a wonderful manner, and yesterday called forth bursts of applause, and the actor was repeatedly called before the curtain—something very rare at this house. Mr. Davidson's version of the singular story on which the play is based is a far more pleasant one than that of Mansfield, in that instead of ending in the frightful death of *Dr. Jekyll* it has a peaceful climax, in which a neat little love story finds a happy termination. Miss Ramie Austen, as *Winifred*, the schoolmaster's daughter, is pretty, winning and sufficiently strong in the portions of the play demanding a forceful woman, whose thoughts of vengeance for the death of her father for awhile overbalanced even her strong love for the man who, under the influence of a mysterious drug which brings out all the evil in a man's nature and banishes the good for a time, is supposed to have killed that father. The rest of the company is equal to the work in hand. A little spice of comedy is interjected to relieve the horror which pervades the drama. Large audiences are the rule at Harris' Theater, but it is safe to say that every performance of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" will make Manager Grover wish daily that his house was large enough to accommodate the crowds that wish to witness a remarkable performance.

Bijou Theater.

It is hardly necessary to introduce the amusing little actress, Miss Minnie Palmer, to a Pittsburg audience, but it is pleasant to remark that she has not suffered by mingling with the "dooks and dookesses" of England. She has been away from Pittsburg for more than a year, and a very large audience gathered at the Bijou last night to welcome her.

She appeared in "My Sweetheart," the play in which she scored her earliest success. It is not a wonderful drama, neither good nor bad in a superlative degree. It contains an abundance of opportunities for a display of Miss Palmer's voice, which is small but sweet, and her ability in dancing, which is very great. The company supporting her is very fair, and the Bijou management have staged the piece in a very handsome way. The set in the second act is especially refreshing in its soft tone. It is also pleasant to be reminded that there are other scenes besides those we have seen in comedy, tragedy and opera for years.

To-night Miss Palmer repeats "My Sweetheart." Among the manifestations of respect which the audience showed Miss Palmer last night was an immense bouquet of roses.

Grand Opera House.

There is no doubt about the standing of Messrs. Evans and Hoey as comedians of great cleverness and originality. They are essentially different in their conceptions of humor, and nothing could be more diverse than the characters they assume in "A Parlor Match." They are the life and soul of Hoyt's whimsical piece, and for the most part the fun they make is of the most wholesome kind. As usual the audience went off its feet into roars of laughter every two minutes. The company is good as a whole, as well. The *Innocent Kidd* of Miss Minnie French is the same piece of incessant motion and good humor, colored with the bright light of a very clever individuality.

In these days "A Parlor Match" must be dubbed a very high class attraction—it is worth any two of the awful farce comedies on the road to-day.

Harry Williams' Academy.

Frank Jones reappeared at the Academy last night with the old favorite, "Si Perkins." It is a laughable piece, well done, and evidently as popular as ever. The house was crowded last night, and the humors of the piece and the music of the Pughtown Band seemed to be highly appreciated.

Notes of the Stage.

THE Casino Museum has surpassed itself this week with Hefron's Specialty Company and a host of new curios, including the wonderful one-legged dancer. The crowds are unusually large at this popular place of amusement.

THE engagement of Cora Tanner, which takes place at the Grand Opera House next week, in view of the great popularity of the handsome and accomplished star, and the marked success which her new play, "Fascination," has achieved in all cities where it has been seen, there is good reason for anticipating splendid business throughout the week. The old-time manager of the Pittsburg Opera House, Mr. C. D. Hess, who is the associate manager with Colonel William E. Sinn in his amusement enterprises, is now in the city completing arrangements for a most elaborate production of "Fascination" next week.

MT. M'GREGOR'S COTTAGE.

The Memorial Association is Making Arrangements to Take Charge of It.

ALBANY, February 4.—Major William Warner, member of Congress from Missouri and Commander-in-Chief of the G. A. R.; General N. M. Curtis, Department Commander G. A. R. for this State; Adjutant General Josiah Porter; William J. Arkell, President of *Judge*, and John Kellogg, President of the Saratoga, Mt. McGregor and Lake George Railroad Company, as the Mt. McGregor Memorial Association, by act of Legislature, passed December 31, will meet in this city for organization to-morrow.

The corporation is created for the purpose of receiving the title of the Drexel cottage on Mount McGregor, in which the late General U. S. Grant passed the last months of his life and died.

Natural Gas in New York.

OSWEGO, N. Y., January 4.—Natural gas continues to flow from the well at Shady Creek with a great roar. Every precaution is being taken to prevent the gas being ignited until the tools can be removed. The contractor thinks there is plenty of gas, and gas well stock cannot be bought at any price. Many people are visiting the scene. Arrangements are being made to pipe gas through the village.

STREET CAR ETIQUETTE.

FOR LADIES.

Always speak in a loud tone of voice in a horse car. It attracts attention.

Never tell the conductor where you wish to get off. He is supposed to know.

Never thank the man who gives you his seat. He might think you wanted to flirt with him.

If you have three or four bundles lay them on the seat beside you, especially if the car is crowded. You will not be so crowded yourself.

Always stay down town until 5:30 or 6 P. M. This will give you a chance to make somebody who has been standing all day give you his seat.

Always try to stop the car on the near side of the crossing. You will have to walk to the other side and this makes a good excuse for jawing the conductor.

If the conductor carries you a block or so beyond your destination look daggers at him and turn up your nose. This will have a tendency to make him feel good.

Do not wait for the car to stop before getting off, but alight with your face to the rear of the car. The result will be unpleasant, but you will have shown your independence.

If you have a lady friend in the car always kiss her and tell her to "be sure and call" before getting off. This gives the horses a chance to rest and pleases the conductor. This urbane official will be particularly pleased if you stop to add a choice bit of gossip to your parting admonition.

FOR GENTLEMEN.

Never give your seat to a lady unless she is young and pretty.

Make a practice of spitting on the floor. Do not omit it if a lady is sitting opposite you.

If you have a plugged nickel give it to the conductor for your fare. He will have to make it good.

Always smoke on the rear platform. Ladies who dislike tobacco smoke will be enabled to get accustomed to it.

It is a good plan to read a newspaper in the street car. It gives you an excuse for not noticing that a lady wants a seat.

If there are any pretty girls on the car stare at them hard and persistently. This has a tendency to make them feel comfortable.

Make a practice of whistling in the cars. Your traveling companions will be obliged to hear it, and they may possibly delight in listening.

Cross your legs so that they will occupy the full width of the aisle. This will afford additional exercise to the conductor, who is badly in need of it.

—*New York Evening Sun.*

THE GOSSIP OF GOTHAM.

One of the Customs of the Country.

[NEW YORK BUREAU SPECIALS.]

NEW YORK, February 4.—A Swede who knew nothing of the English language went to the Government building to get a registered letter from the postoffice. Several hundred applicants for positions in the postal service were crowding into the room where the medical examinations of the Civil Service Commission were being conducted, and the Swede somehow fell into line. When his turn came he was ushered into the examining room. The doctor was in a hurry and didn't question him. He was put on a scale and weight taken, placed under an upright and height recorded, his outer clothing removed and body subjected to a severe thumping, was made to draw long breaths and given further exercise before the examination was finished! "What's your name?" asked the doctor. The Swede presented the notification card sent him by the registry department. An interpreter was summoned. A few minutes' conversation revealed to the Swede the fact that a mistake had been made. He thought the postoffice authorities very strict, and supposed the medical examination was the custom of the country. He was conducted to the proper division.

Used Kerosene With the Usual Results.

Mrs. Catherine Garry poured kerosene from a can upon the smoldering fire in her kitchen stove this morning. An explosion followed. The clothing of Mrs. Garry and her young daughter caught fire, and they ran screaming into an adjoining corridor. The neighbors extinguished the flames. Both will probably die.

Teaching True Temperance.

Father O'Hare is conducting a novel temperance movement in Green