The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, MONDAY, JULY 8, 1889.

THE JOHNSTOWN VERDICT.

When the incitement to local feeling is considered, probably few will feel surprised at the verdict of the Coroner's jury of Cambria county, holding the owners of the South Fork dam responsible for the Johnstown disaster. The jurors were necessarily selected from the vicinage of the catastrophe. They were surrounded by the scenes of desolation while they were yet hearing the evidence. It would be strange if they were not moved to find as strongly as possible against those connected with the agency of destruction. Still, these very circumstances make the verdict one which the public must necessarily be the slower to accept for its own judgment. That it bears hardly and with clear injustice in putting the whole membership of the South Fork Club under the condemnation of culpability, a few considerations conclusively show. There is no contention that the affairs of the club were managed directly by the members. Like other such organizations, it necessarily entrusted them to agents. As individuals the members of the club were at the ill-fated lake but a small part of each year, and then trusted their lives and those of their families to it without expectation or thought of danger. Some of them had but recently become members; in one case, it is alleged, a member never even saw the lake or attended a meeting of the stockholders. Few, if any of them, were in a position to know as much respecting the dam, or the local conditions, as many of the unfortunate people of Johnstown themselves, who lived in the shadow of the valley of death, year after year, unmoved sufficiently by fear or suspicion to take the determined steps they surely would have taken had there been in their own minds serious apprehension of impending danger. These are facts which it is impossible to ignore. Surely they do not point to culpability on the part of the individual members of the club.

In dwelling on these facts, which simple justice to the individuals concerned requires should not be lost sight of, we by no means imply that responsibility nowhere existed, or that the cause of this or any other such disaster should be in any way excused simply on the plea of not having been foreseen. Reasonable and competent foresight becomes itself an imperative duty where the conditions, without it, involve danger. Whether this was exercised as to the dam is the vital point. The Johnstown people exhibit this terrible disaster as a demonstration of the insufficiency of the dam, and bring expert evidence of the inadequacy of the structure; while, on the behalf of the club, it is contended that a phenomenal rain-fall, such as was beyond all human expectation, caused the overflow and the break. The club, as an organization, may of course, be legally answerable for the acts of commission or omission by its agents. It is not the place of the press to pass upon the point further raised as to individual liability of members because of acts alleged to be outside of the scope of the charter. But, whatever the law and the facts shall prove to be, as bearing on the question of civil responsibility, the Coroner's verdict is clearly harsh and untenable in so far as it imputes culpability to the club members. That such is its intended import is to be gathered from the intimation that criminal prosecutions are in view. Such would meet with no favor or support in any quarter outside of Johnstown, and we rather think would be soon regretted there.

There has been so much abuse and extravagant misrepresentation of the members of the South Fork Club in papers outside of Pittsburg—mostly demagogic attacks because of their presumed wealth—that fair play, which is due to rich and poor alike, calls for a just consideration of the facts in framing judgment.

THE GLASS EXCHANGE.

The opening of the glass exchange, or exhibition of glass and pottery ware for the benefit of the trade, this week, testifies by its enlarged scope and expectations of increased business, to the prosperity of one of Pittsburg's leading industries. The fact that the exhibit is made by factories outside the city makes the location and growth of the annual meeting of manufacturers' agents and buyers all the more significant as a recognition of Pittsburg's supremacy in that line. The exchange shows Pittsburg to be the glass center, and brings business to our manufacturers, as well as to participants in the exhibition. Its increased trade and good prospects are therefore good news for Pittsburg in a double sense.

LEGAL AND YET ILLEGAL.

The lawyers of Norristown, finding fees rather scarce and the general outlook discouraging, have put their heads together to discover a remedy. They think they have found what they want in making law students study at least three years, and during that time devote themselves exclusively to the study of law, and in compelling lawyers from other counties who may practice at the Montgomery bar to take in with them Norristown attorneys in the conduct of cases.

Of course the Norristown lawyers want the world to understand that these rules and regulations have been made simply to elevate the profession. The idea of discouraging the study of the law and keeping the practice before the Montgomery county judges in the hands of the local lawyers never occurred to them. Sordid motives never were known to soil the soul of a solicitor.

All the same we invite the barristers of Norristown to walk discreetly in their narrowed paths. The public will not object as long as one set of lawyers seeks to deprive another set of patronage. The temptation exists, however, whenever a monopoly is obtained, to squeeze the consumers. The public consumes the law's services in Norristown—although the law sometimes consumes the public—and we imagine that if the fees go up two or three hundred per cent there will be a vigorous kick on the part of the clients who have to pay. In short, the danger is that the attorneys of Norristown, having formed a species of trust, will take advantage of their position to extract more than their just dues from the people. The fate of other trusts ought to be recited by our esteemed cotemporary, the Norristown *Herald*, for the lawyers' benefit.

NEW VIEWS ON SPEAK-EASIES.

The views on the "speak-easies," or illicit liquor saloons, expressed by Captain Wishart in an interview elsewhere, present several interesting points. The opinion that they are not as numerous as has been supposed is comfortable; but it seems that when it comes to prosecuting them for violations of the Sunday laws they can be found in considerable number.

The further declaration that the Department of Public Safety can suppress them in a day, if it chooses, seems to call for either correction on the part of that department or action to make it choose to do so. The opinion which has been heard, that the city is not interested in the maintenance of the license law, is plainly erroneous. The city derives a revenue from the licenses; and evasions of the license laws are, therefore, an injury to the city revenues, to say nothing of the city's duty to enforce statute enactments.

Captain Wishart's idea that illicit saloons are not wholly obnoxious is a novel one, especially from such a source. It is true that their nature compels them to be conducted quietly and secretly. Their customers must be selected and disorder would be fatal to them. But it remains the fact that they are violations of the law and are conducted in defiance of the legal measures for the regulation and restriction of the liquor traffic.

That fact should make their suppression desired by law-abiding citizens, and especially by those who have organized to uphold the laws governing the liquor traffic and the observance of the Sabbath.

UNEXPECTED INSPECTION.

The commission constituted by the last session of the Legislature to take charge of the soldiers orphans' schools seems to be going at its work in a business-like way. It descended upon the Mt. Joy School on Friday, without a moment's notice, and consequently had a good opportunity to see the regular workings of the school. Its most serious discoveries were dilapidated buildings, poor ventilation, overcrowded beds, insufficient towels and hairbrushes. This result shows that in this particular institution the practice of turning charity into money-making has produced nothing more than the inevitable consequence of stinted accommodations. The commission may not be able to take the other schools so completely by surprise; but the knowledge that it is liable to drop in at any time, will probably keep them all in a state of order that the orphans will appreciate.

PUBLIC DRINKING FOUNTAINS.

The fountains which furnish a drink of water upon the insertion of a penny in the slot, constituted one of the leading features of the city yesterday. That they serve a good purpose was shown by the run upon them which exhausted the supply of water at a comparative early hour, and the obvious fact that neither disorder nor crime resulted from the use of their beverages.

The indications are that no attempt will be made to interfere with the supply of so necessary a beverage as water in so quiet and inoffensive a way. This is no less a necessity than the street cars or Sunday passenger trains, and make far less disturbance. If an attempt should be made to use them for the sale of liquor there is no doubt that those who put them in operation could be held responsible. But, besides the probability that the bibulously inclined would carry off a tank of beer or whisky, they are plainly unsuited for that traffic, except possibly in private club houses. They are altogether too public for illicit selling, and the licensed dealer who should adopt that method would very promptly lose his license.

Employed in the sale of pure, cold water they are an unmixed benefit. We do not think anyone can be so devoid of care for the comfort of the public as to seek to stop a service of such benefit and harmlessness.

VICTORY MAY BE BARREN.

The decision rendered last week in the suit of the Government against the Bell Telephone Company, denying the defendant's motion to restrict the testimony in the case to the single charge of fraud, constitutes a technical victory for the prosecution; but its practical results are somewhat enigmatical. This decision reopens about all the issues that have been raised against the validity of the Bell patents, and permits the whole question to be gone into as to whether the patent rightfully and honestly belongs to Bell and the company should be maintained for its full term.

This is what THE DISPATCH has always claimed ought to be done, in order that the adjudication of the case shall be thorough and conclusive. But the proverbial, leisurely way in which cases of this sort are tried, renders it possible that after some years have been devoted to the investigation of this point, the case will be decided about the time that the patents expire. In which event it will be very satisfactory to learn that the exorbitant prices which the people have been paying for the use of telephones were not justified by law, but that nothing further can be done about it.

FROM the number of "rising and prosous" young towns in Washington Territory which have gone up in flame during the past few weeks, there is room for the intimation that the territory has been preparing for the expenses of becoming a State by realizing on its insurance policies.

"IT looks as though the whole of the newspapers of the United States, from Dakota to Texas, and from Oregon to Maine, with the exception of those of Washington and Chicago, are of one accord in maintaining that New York is the place for the great American Exposition of 1892," remarks the shining New York *Sun* with double-leaded brilliancy. True enough, esteemed *Sun*; but always with the condition precedent that you first kill off your Aldermen and members of the Legislature, and shut up McAllister, Fish and the rest of the Four Hundred in idiot asylums. Until that is done, one centennial of the class illustrated last spring is enough for the people of the United States.

IT IS rather remarkable that the railroads now engaged in cutting each other's throats have not so far followed their usual precedent of laying it on the inter-State commerce law. It must have penetrated the railway mind that this particular piece of fiction was worn threadbare two years ago.

WITH respect to the numerous columns of talk about stamina and determination to win fame that are to be seen in connection with the pilgrimage of the professional toughs to the South, it inevitably goes in with the rest of the nonsense. Nevertheless it is evident enough that the one object which the pugilists have constantly in view is furnished by the gudgeons who yield up the gate money.

CAPTAIN WISHART takes the original course of speaking rather easy of the "speak-easies."

THE three deaths from drowning yesterday among the bathers along the rivers indicate that Sunday bathers, like any others, must take due precautions against danger. Possibly a degree of progress like that of other cities would furnish free bathhouses and diminish at once the display and dangers of surreptitious bathing along the river banks.

THE weather cranks who were moved by the Johnstown disaster to predict great and destructive storms for the opening of July are now searching for little whirlwinds to verify their prophecies. "Old Probs" is the only weather prophet who, despite occasional slips, has not been made a fool by recent meteorological events.

GERMANY and Russia have been accused of desiring to extend their boundaries; but both powers have abandoned the field in despair since Chicago made its record of annexation.

ANOTHER bank teller, in conjunction with Wall street speculation, produces the natural result of an $18,000 shortage in the bank's cash. This being as far away as Hoboken, N. J., it will prove no impediment to those of this locality who desire to repeat the old dogma that speculation is legitimate business.

WITH the present furore at its height, some enterprising summer theater manager should catch the patronage of the pugilist-worshippers by advertising a season of Sullivan's operas.

THE announcement of Mayor Grant, of New York, that he "will run the knife into Governor Hill and give it a twist," promises lively times in the Empire State. What Grant will do for Hill, Hill may do for Grant. Is it possible that New York politics are to be cleaned up by the mutual knifing of its leaders?

THE penny-in-a-slot water coolers were a greater feature than the speak-easies yesterday. Their results were also much more satisfactory.

PEOPLE OF PROMINENCE.

THE father of Edgar Saltus, the novelist, sold Louis Napoleon the guns with which he won the battle of Solferino.

GOVERNOR BIGGS, of Delaware, the largest peach grower of the Delaware and Maryland peninsula, said of the peach crop as he passed through Philadelphia recently: "The crop this year will not be much more than the season of '87, which was about 1,600 cars, or about 1,000,000 baskets."

JAY GOULD'S engagements for the day are scrawled on a blackboard in his private office. Russell Sage scribbles his daily programme in hieroglyphics on his cuff. John Jacob Astor keeps tally of his time on the margins of an almanac's pages.

MEISSONIER was married on the first day of the Secretan sale, and probably had little leisure to think about his pictures, or he would have been gratified to observe that the 24 paintings from his hand which figured in the collection brought the round total of 968,700 francs—almost a million.

To those persons who are blessed with discerning eyes, says the London *World*, it has become quite evident that the Italian papers are preparing the country for the announcement that the Prince of Naples is to marry a Protestant, and Princess Margaret, of Prussia, the youngest sister of the Emperor William, and goddaughter of the Queen of Italy, is understood to be the intended bride.

THE Empress Frederick receives a jointure of £40,000 a year from the Prussian Government, the fortune left to her by the Duchess of Gallera represents upward of £12,000 a year, and she has a life interest in the trust estate of her husband, besides her own savings. As the Empress was always very frugal, and as there was ever in her mind the prospect that she might be left a widow while her children-in-law was yet alive, in which case her jointure would have been very small indeed, she regularly put aside one-half of her own separate allowance of £8,000 a year, which was granted to her by Parliament on her marriage. The Empress accordingly now enjoys an income of quite £70,000 a year, and all her children are well provided for.

FOOLED BY A MOCKING BIRD.

New York Police Make Fruitless Chases After Mock Police Calls.

NEW YORK, July 7.—One of the residents of a tall tenement in West Thirteenth street, nearly opposite Capt. Reilly's station house, recently secured a fine mocking bird. At night he fills the air with variegated melody and imitations of all sorts of queer sounds that he hears in the busy neighborhood. One peculiarity of the bird is the rapidity with which it learns and reproduces new sounds. The Captain and Sergeants sit on the station stoops on pleasant summer nights listening with delight to the bird's wondrous vocalization.

The other night a policeman's private call floated out on the night air near the station house. The private call is two prolonged whistles, twice repeated. Policeman George W. Reid, the policeman who nearly brained an innocent Maltese kitten with his night stick, under the impression that it was a big rat dashing out of the station house, came running down Thirteenth street breathlessly from Sixth avenue.

"Did you call, Sergeant?" he cried, hailing Sergeant Sheldon, who was standing in the doorway.

"No, I didn't," the Sergeant replied, when the call rang out again distinctly.

"It must have been the roundsman," the patrolman replied, and started toward Seventh avenue on the run. He came back in a few minutes with a disgusted look on his face.

"It's that darned mocking bird," he growled; "that's the fourth policeman he has fooled: I'm getting tired of it."

The whistle rings out on the night air with unfailing regularity now, and it is one of the practical jokes of the station for a sergeant to assign a new man to the post for a while to watch the promptness with which the bird's call will bring him flying down the street.

During the last few nights the mocking bird has tackled the job of trying to imitate the thud of a night stick on the pavement. As yet the peculiar sound seems to be too complicated for him. But everybody who has heard an exhibition of his mastery of sound combinations believes that he will get there before he is much older.

His Mind Had Changed, Too.

From Harper's Bazar.]

"Professor, I's 'bout come to de conclusion dat you's trifin' wid me. Heah we bean 'gaged mo'n seben yeah now."

"Yes, Missus Wubbleby, but you's prob'ly 'ware dat de physiology state dat de human body change once eber seben yeah; so 'cordin' to science I hain't de same person wot mek dat 'gagement wid ye."

"Yes, but de min' don't change ef de body do."

"Waal, my min's changed."

A New Tobacco Center.

Asheville, N. C., is looming up as a leaf tobacco market, although a comparatively new industry there. Within the past nine months 4,043,845 pounds of leaf tobacco were sold in the warehouses at Asheville for $410,505, an average of a fraction over $10 per 100 pounds. This is a large increase over the previous year, despite the fact that last year's crop was cut down nearly one-fourth by the frost which came upon it about the middle of September.

THE PRESIDENT'S COTTAGE.

Where Mrs. Harrison and the Grandchildren Will Pass the Summer.

DEER PARK, MD., July 7.—The little sage-green, red-roofed, 12-roomed structure, which will hereafter be pointed out as President Harrison's cottage, is two and a half stories high, with artistic gables. It has a frontage of 40 feet, and is entered from a spacious piazza, upon which open three long windows, without hall or ante-rooms. The parlor, which is the largest room in the house, takes in the entire width of the building, and is entered directly from the veranda. It is supplied with a great fireplace, built in the middle wall. The floors are covered with new matting and the walls with buff papering. The furniture, of green rep, has been reinforced by a number of easy wicker rockers and lounges, which lend an air of luxurious leisure. Off the parlor, in a wing of the building, is an apartment which has been devoted to the use of the President as a library. The dining room is of good size, furnished in red, and adjoining is the kitchen. On the second floor are four bed chambers, and overhead, under the roof, are rooms for the use of the servants. The floors of the other rooms are laid with matting, and bamboo furniture predominates. In order to add to the comfort of the inmates, awnings have been placed at all of the windows.

The grounds in the immediate vicinity of the neat little structure have been beautified by the hand of skill and taste, the florist of the Executive Mansion having been sent up specially to put the exterior appearance in becoming garb of floral beauty. The cottage, which is the property of ex-United States Senator Henry G. Davis, the railroad and mining magnate of the surrounding region and proprietor of vast landed possessions in West Virginia, was placed at the disposal of the President by the proprietor immediately after his inauguration. Having been the guest of Senator Davis during his Senatorial term, the President was familiar with the natural advantages of the locality in fine scenery, good water and bracing air. He also has agreeable society among the families of Mr. S. B. Elkins, son-in-law of ex-Senator Davis, and others who occupy their own cottages in the neighborhood of the hotel. The region around affords admirable facilities for hunting, fishing and driving.

It is the present purpose of the President to have Mrs. Harrison and the children remain in this mountain retreat until September. He will pass Sundays with them and possibly other days during the week when the heated term is at its height, but will be in Washington a portion of every week.

ANOTHER NEW IDEA.

A Plan to Make Use of Worn-Out and Disabled Monitors.

Special Telegram to The Dispatch.

WASHINGTON, July 7.—Mr. C. E. Creecy, of the Pneumatic Gun Carriage Company, has a plan for using the old monitors belonging to the Government for coast defense vessels, and will ask the next Congress for money to carry it out. There are 13 of these old monitors, and as they now are they are almost useless. Their armor is too light to be of any use against modern guns, and when it was proposed to make their armor thicker it was discovered that the additional weight would sink them, so that they were abandoned, and there seemed to be nothing else to do but to sell them for old iron. They cost about $200,000 each, and the loss would be heavy. Now Mr. Creecy proposes to take off their turrets entirely, and put two large cannon, each upon a disappearing carriage, in the hull. These guns are to be sighted and aimed by means of mirrors, and that and all the operations of loading and working the gun will be done down below the water line.

When the gun is ready to fired it is to be hoisted by pneumatic power, fired and brought back to its own place in the original position, the entire process requiring about three seconds time. The guns, of course, can be revolved so that there will be an all-round fire. The only target offered for an enemy to fire at is the gun, as it rises to be fire, and that will be visible for only three seconds. If a cannon was fired at by the time the ball reached it the gun would no longer be there. It would be like the water fowl known to sportsmen as the "hell diver," which dives quicker than a rifle ball travels, and was never shot when it was in good trim. Mr. Creecy has protected his plan by a caveat, and has interested some prominent officers of the army and navy, who believe that it is feasible.

EXTINCTION OF THE BISON.

How the American Buffalo Were Ruthlessly Shot Down by Millions.

Dr. Carver in the Kansas City Times.]

As the Indians hunted them, the race of bison would probably have lasted forever, but about 1866 the white men turned their attention to the shaggy monsters of the plains. Large Eastern firms organized hunting parties and paid the shooters $2 50 for each bison where he lay dead on the plains. I then went to Southern Nebraska and became a professional hunter. The bison consisted of two large divisions, the one living in the South and the other in the North. Their only common feeding ground was along the Republican river and its branches in Nebraska. The Indians were not afraid of this fact, and hostile tribes have had many a fight for that territory. It was not until 1873 that the Government put an end to this by sending the Pawnees South and the Sioux to their Northern reservations.

Like a herd of cattle, the bison are always on the go, and are apt to walk out of rifle range in a short time. In moving, however, they always have in their track one who was to kill any one that started to lead the others off. By thus killing the leaders we could often shoot for an hour from behind one clump of grass, and when they had moved out of range the skinners would come up, cut the hide in the ordinary way for skinning, tie the animal's head to a stake, hitch a team of horses to the hide, and jerk it off. No one will ever know the immense numbers of bison were killed by these hide-hunters, but to my certain knowledge 3,000,000 hides were shipped from the bank of the Frenchman river in one winter. At the close of that winter a wagon road ran along the banks of the Frenchman for 50 miles by simply jumping from the carcass of one bison to another. Now a few old circus animals represent the great herds.

THE BOSTON LEAVES NEW YORK.

Off for Philadelphia to Tow the Amphitrite to Norfolk.

NEW YORK, July 7.—Those who have become familiar with a steel vessel painted white, having a formidable appearance and long, ugly-looking muzzles of cannon protruding from her sides as she lay in the East river, opposite Twenty-sixth street, were surprised yesterday to find her gone. She weighed anchor without any announcement and went down the bay and outside Sandy Hook late on Thursday afternoon. This was the cruiser Boston, and her present mission is a peaceful one, notwithstanding her hurried departure. She has gone to Philadelphia to tow the monitor Amphitrite to the Norfolk Navy Yard, where her reconstruction is to be completed. This will be a boon to the mechanics of that part of the country, as $500,000 is to be spent on her, a large portion of it in labor.

At present she is but a shell with the machinery in place, and the work to be done on her will consist of the placing of two turrets, armor, guns, decks, furniture, spars, boats, etc. The transfer of the Amphitrite to Norfolk explodes the insinuation that Secretary Tracy is "terribly prejudiced" against having any naval work done there, and he has been assured that there are mechanics there available for any kind of work. It was not possible to have the Amphitrite completed at League Island because of the lack of facilities there for shipbuilding, and Secretary Tracy intends bringing the matter to the attention of Congress. The Boston is ordered to return here after completing her present service, and she will probably be back in about a week.

AN EQUINE HERO.

Dixie, the Veteran War Horse of the Southern Army, Still Alive.

LOUISVILLE, July 7.—At Sadieville, in this State, there is a horse which was ridden to battle at Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, Appomattox, and in a number of the other great encounters of the civil war. He served in the Southern army, and was quite appropriately named Dixie. James Devers of Sadieville was his owner and rider, and those who knew Dixie say there never was a better war horse. He was not afraid of artillery or small arms, and even now in his old age pricks up his ears and prances around when he hears the sound of exploding powder. After the war Mr. Devers traded him to W. E. Bates, who has since used him as a riding and farm horse. Dixie was 4 years old when the war began, and therefore is now 32. He has done some light plowing this spring. His eyesight is good, but he cannot hear well.

Bitten by a Rattler.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 7.—Mrs. E. W. Barber, an old lady living six miles out, was bitten by a rattlesnake yesterday while out in her garden gathering plums. She had knocked some plums from the tree and was in the act of stooping down to gather them from the ground when the snake bit her on the finger. She immediately became very sick, and has since laid totally blind and swollen beyond all recognition. She has been heavily dosed with whisky and all other known remedies, but her life is despaired of.

GOSSIP FROM THE CAPITAL.

Fred Douglass' Wealth—Colored Men Who Own Large Blocks of Valuable Real Estate—The New Marshal of the District—Phelps and His Friends.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, July 6.—Fred Douglass, the recently appointed Minister to Hayti, is not only the most famous, but he is one of the wealthiest colored men in the United States. His wealth is estimated at $300,000. There are a great many wealthy colored men in Washington. Most of them made their money in real estate speculation. They used the wages which they received to buy land in the northwest section of the city, which a few years ago was regarded as the least desirable residence section of the city. When the tide of immigration set in toward the northwest section these colored people were sensible enough to hold on to what they had and wait for the rise in price. In this way many colored men gathered together $10,000 and $15,000 and even $25,000. One of the messengers on Newspaper Row is worth $20,000, the result of investing his little earnings in real estate.

A great many colored people own property on Sixteenth street, the broad thoroughfare which leads out from the White House and Lafayette square to the Boundary. It is destined to be the most popular and fashionable of the residence streets of the city. Now, however, it is disfigured by a great many small houses, almost hovels, which stand beside the tall and graceful structures recently erected and detract greatly from their desirability as residences. Little stores and even saloons mar the beauty of the street. All of these are the property of colored people, who are holding them for higher prices. They will get their price sooner or later, for the presence of these houses on the street lessens the value of other property.

The Whirligig of Time.

Mr. Douglass owns a residence opposite Washington. There is a history surrounding it. It was once owned by a man who hated the colored race so thoroughly that he would not sell anything to a colored man. Mr. Douglass did not make his money in real estate. He made most of it in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia over which he presided for many years. Mr. Douglass had a great many of his relatives in that office, and when President Cleveland came in the Douglass family was exceedingly well to do. The other negroes appointed to office by this administration are comparatively wealthy. Robert Smalls, the ex-Congressman, now Collector of Customs at Beaufort, S. C., is considered a wealthy man among the people of his race. John R. Lynch, the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury, who was temporary chairman of the Chicago Convention of 1884, is quite rich and owns a fine plantation in Mississippi. Another wealthy colored man is Geo. W. Williams, who is the author of a history of the colored race. He is said to be worth $40,000. John M. Langston, who was Mr. Douglass' predecessor at Hayti, under former Republican administrations, is thought to be worth $75,000.

Of wealthy negroes elsewhere, Dr. Gloster, who died a few years ago, left nearly $1,000,000. John X. Lewis, a Boston tailor, does a business every year which is reckoned up in the hundred thousands. Robert Gordon, of Cincinnati, who died not many years ago, was the proprietor of a great deal of improved real estate. The list could be enlarged almost indefinitely. There are more than 100 colored men in the District of Columbia alone whose wealth is rated above $25,000.

Harrison Remembered His Friend.

Daniel N. Ransdell, the new Marshal of the District of Columbia, is a warm personal friend of the President, with whom he has been associated socially and politically for many years. A friend of Mr. Ransdell told me the other night that he thought that General Harrison owed his election to the Presidency as much to Dan Ransdell as he did to any man. Ransdell organized the Republicans of Indiana, and particularly of Indianapolis and Marion county, as much as 12 years ago, and through his individual effort, more than any other influence, the organization was maintained, and grew stronger and stronger each year. The President never forgot his friends in the time of personal favors, and he has shown his appreciation of Dan Ransdell by giving him one of the pleasantest positions within his gift. The Marshal of the District has many duties of a social nature to perform. Before the time of President Cleveland it was the Marshal of the District who made the presentations at the White House receptions. He had general charge of these receptions and acted as a sort of groom of the second floor front.

Under President Cleveland the presentations at the receptions were made by Colonel Wilson, the Superintendent of Public Buildings. Colonel Wilson will probably go to West Point to succeed the officer in charge. He will be much missed from social and army circles in Washington, but he will be hard to fill. Not that Colonel Wilson made himself invaluable by a phenomenal recollection of the names of those presented at the public receptions. It is the invariably experience of those who preside at these affairs that they forget the names of their most intimate friends in the monotony of hearing and repeating the names of strangers.

Phelps and Blaine.

There were not many people surprised at the appointment of Mr. Phelps to be Minister to Germany, because it had been predicted for some time before it was made. To those who were at the Chicago convention a year ago it emphasized vividly the changes that have taken place within a year. One year ago the friends of Mr. Blaine were engaged in violently execrating Mr. Phelps and satisfying their desire for revenge by defeating him in the race for the Vice Presidental nomination, for which he was a strong candidate. Senator Ingalls' famous letter about "some fellow like Phelps" had injured the chances of the man from New Jersey, but he signed his own political death warrant in that convention when he cabled to Mr. Blaine to prevent the consummation of the plan which had been formed for the nomination of the Maine statesman. I sat just in front of the presiding officer in that convention when Harrison was nominated, and the air was filled with cheers for the successful candidate. For or three of Mr. Blaine's best friends stood near me. I asked one of them who would be the candidate for the Vice Presidency. He replied that it would be Mr. Morton. I asked him if Mr. Phelps was not a dangerous man.

"Phelps!" he replied, with several profane ejaculations to emphasize his remarks. "No; confound him. He prevented Blaine's nomination. We would have nominated Blaine if it had not been for those two cable messages which Boutelle read to the convention. And if it had not been for Mr. Phelps calling Mr. Blaine and calling on him not to allow his 'honor' to be sacrificed by his friends in the convention, those messages would never have been sent. Phelps has nothing to expect from any Blaine man in this convention."

And yet the present preferment of Mr. Phelps is attributed to the good offices of Mr. Blaine and not to the President. Perhaps Mr. Phelps knew better than the friends of Mr. Blaine what the man from Maine wanted.

John C. New Was a Fighter.

Captain William M. Meredith, the new Chief of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, was a member of the old volunteer fire companies in Indianapolis before the war.

"John C. New, our Consul General at London, was a member of the old company," said the Captain. "In those days the proudest honor of the fireman was to be the first man at the engine house after the alarm. The first man there had the privilege of running to the fire at the head of his company, and of holding the nozzle of the hose at the fire. We always had a fight with some rival company at the fire. John C. New was one of the best fighters we had."

O'BRIEN BAIN.

Gossip of Courts.

Queen Christina of Spain, we are told, at the time of her marriage was an angular, hard-faced, repellant woman, whose manners offended those who approached her. But her passionate desire that her baby son shall inherit his father's throne has altered her whole character. She is gracious and friendly; has acquired fine tact, and her manners are now as charming as they were once unpleasing. She has subjugated the haughty grandees of Spain and made them loyal to their little King by her direct personal influence alone. Every day is a new battle for her boy; and so far she has won every battle.

The Czarina of Russia, several months ago, with her husband and children, was in a railway train which was wrecked by conspirators. For some time she thought her oldest son was killed. The result was that for a time her mind was affected; the dead boy was constantly before her.

The Empress of Austria, it is rumored, owing to the suicide of her son, has lost her reason.

The Queen of Sweden has long been an invalid from some obscure disease. She is extremely fond of music, and her happiest hours are those when her sons sing to her.

The most touching story which comes out of the court surroundings is that of the Duchess of Cambridge, aunt of Queen Victoria, who has just died at an extreme old age. Her son, who is over 70 years old, invariably came twice a day to sit by her bedside and entertain her with family gossip. He never left her without bending his white head that she might lay her hand upon it in blessing.

A Cure for Tattoo Marks.

It has generally been supposed that tattoo marks are indelible. A writer in the *Revue Scientifique* has, however, just given a recipe for the removal of these unsightly adornments. Tannin and nitrate of silver are the principal agents in destroying them.

A REASON FOR THE FOURTH.

An Atlanta Colored Man Explains It to an Uncultivated Reporter.

Atlanta Journal.]

On another stand was a long pan in which was an old-time gingercake, blackish brown in color, and smelling loudly of soda and sorghum.

When the rain came, the tent leaked above the pan.

The ginger cake began swelling, and in half an hour it had risen so high that it looked like a single wardrobe of mahogany laid on its back on the shelf.

A regular Fourth of July darkey stood gazing sorrowfully upon the risen mass of "spiled" sweetness.

He was an old man, a sage among his people. He wore the regulation black suit, second-handed and faded, while his head was adorned by a broken down beaver hat that had done service in ante bellum days.

The old man sighed very audibly as a *Journal* reporter came up.

"What's the matter, old man?" asked the reporter.

"Ha! Lawd, boss, I hates ter see all dat sweetnin' stuff sp'ilied, an' hit de fofe er July, too."

"Do you know what the Fourth of July is?"

"Who, me? In course I does. Hits de openin' er de watermillion season, an' de folkes lays off a day ter git a good taste."

"Why do the colored people celebrate it?"

"'Cause de white folkes celebrate hit."

"Well, why did the white folks first start it?"

"Well, dat was 'fore my time. You gwine back too fur me, boss. But I'se hear 'em tell how dey cum ter start de fofe er July."

"How was it?"

"Weil, ef I'se up on de Bible, hit wuz 'bout de time Moses wuz 'lected fust President er dese Nunited States."

"No, you are a little off there; it wasn't Moses."

"Well, wot wuz de gemmen's name?"

"Don't you know it?"

"Course I knows it, but I can't 'member de name rite now."

"Was it Abe Lincoln?"

"Yasser, he de man. My grandpa wuz wid him when he rid across de Chattahooche riber in de batteau an' grandpa catched de bigges' catfish offin de trot line dat Mister Linkun eber seed, an' he gib him a silver dollar fur hit, an' my ole lady's got de dollar now. Yasser, das de reezin dey sclebrates de fofe."

Just then another shower came up and the old darkey hobbled off to take shelter under one corner of a friendly tent.

There are many negroes in town to celebrate the Fourth with no other idea of what it is than the one interviewed above. They know it is a day of rest, ginger cakes, apple pies, red lemonade and soda water, and that is sufficient for them.

GHOOLY KHAN'S BAD BREAKS.

How the Resigned Persian Astonished Society in Washington.

WASHINGTON, July 7.—When Ghooly Khan arrived here he was taken up by society and made much of. He was inclined to be very genial. His nature seems to be possessed of more levity than the average Oriental, and the men about town voted him unanimously a good fellow. Ghooly Khan became a rounder in Washington, and unfortunately because possessed of the idea that it was the proper society caper, and that what he heard at the places he visited was the language of the best society. This caused trouble. For instance, when he told his hostess on a certain occasion to "wipe off her chin," and suggested to his host that he "pull down his vest," his entertainers appeared uncomfortable. On another occasion, when he told the lady of the house at which he was a visitor to "come off" and "not make so much noise," there was consternation all around him. At a reception at Secretary Whitney's one evening, when he told the accomplished wife of the Secretary of the Navy that he thought she was "too fresh," an extraordinary sensation pervaded the surroundings.

A few weeks later, at a party given by the Secretary of State, when Hassein Ghooly told one of the Misses Bayard to "Kiss me sweetly, baby dear," society people thought it was time to draw the line. Ghooly Khan's impertinence was tolerated for some time longer. But about last January, when the social season was fairly open and a great gathering was convened in the parlors of a distinguished Senator, the representative of the Shah took snuff up his nose of the wife of the Senator and said: "What a —— of a bugle you have." It was considered to be ample time to cut Ghooly Khan, and he was forthwith cut. Since then he has been completely cut from all social connections at the capital. His social calls are met with the invariable announcement "not at home." Ghooly Khan has tumbled to the racket after a time, and the cold shoulder of society made him sad and peevish. As a result he resigned his place and is preparing to quit the country, but he makes as his excuse the comments of the American press on himself and his imperial master. Ghooly Khan will be missed. We never had a diplomate in this country like him and may never have again.

SOMETHING IS WRONG.

The Public Printing Employes Will Not Get Leave of Absence With Pay.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, July 7.—There is a very unpleasant feeling in the Government Printing Office over the fact that, by some mismanagement prior to Mr. Palmer's appointment, the money appropriated for the leaves of absence of employes has been partially used for some other purpose; consequently none of the employes will be able to secure their full 30 days' leave with pay, and the clerical force is now engaged in allotting the time which can be granted. The pro rata pay which is due to clerks who have not taken their leave, and which is legally due them, cannot be paid in full, owing to the exhaustion of the fund.

The employes do not know yet whether they will get 25 or 10 per cent, or what the proportion will be. Mr. Palmer is doing everything in his power to straighten out the matter in the employes' favor. In the meantime the employes are wondering why a fund set apart by Congress for the annual leaves should have been encroached upon. It is stated that many employes helped to exhaust the fund by staying several days beyond the limit allowed by law and receiving pay for the extra time.

MAJOR ARMES' MEDAL.

He Accepts It in a Letter Combining Thanks and Business.

Special Telegram to The Dispatch.

WASHINGTON, July 7.—Major George A. Armes, who received a gold medal from 100 Pittsburgers for "pulling Governor Beaver's nose," has sent the following diplomatic and business-like response:

WASHINGTON, July 5, 1889.

To John F. Blair, Treasurer:

DEAR SIR—Having received the beautiful gold medal, donated and sent to me by 100 of your citizens, I accept the same as their approval of the letter I sent General James A. Beaver, March 15, 1889. Being a real estate broker, the honorable Secretary of War extended my limits outside the city of Washington to 30 miles. While undergoing my sentence as commuted by the President, this affords me an opportunity to give some bargains to those who apply to me for houses, lots or farms.

GEORGE A. ARMES.

SELLING TO THE SYNDICATE.

Indianapolis Breweries About to Pass Into the Hands of Englishmen.

INDIANAPOLIS, July 7.—The three breweries of this city are about to pass into the hands of the syndicate which has made so many purchases in this country, and the deal may be said to have been consummated. Several weeks ago an agent of the syndicate was here and inspected the property, and made each of the breweries an offer. This was followed by a request for their books, and these for two years back were sent by express to New York. To-day a reply came that the inspection was perfectly satisfactory, and it is believed that the terms of the owners will now be accepted, and that the property will pass to the ownership of the syndicate.

Nebraska After Cotton Mills.

The citizens of Kearney, Neb., which has a population of 10,000, have undertaken to raise $250,000 as a subsidy for an Eastern cotton manufacturing company to remove its extensive plant to Kearney. In two days $