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PITTSBURG, THURSDAY, OCT. 24, 1888.

AN OLD CHARACTERISTIC.

The oil market, which proved such a lively delusion to many speculative people hereabouts in times past, has lost much of its activity, but its old characteristic of running counter to the field reports. Yesterday it danced up to four cents above the dollar line, utterly regardless of the late strikes in the Chambers field and of the accounts of big gushers in West Virginia. There was a time when a sudden advance like this would bring in a crowd of lambs, who generally bought on a rise, but the attractions of oil as a speculative commodity are not now nearly so strong as formerly. There is a healthy reason for this, besides merely the experience which was dearly bought on the exchanges. It is neither more nor less than the industrial growth of this town, and the recent multiplication of opportunities for money making in so many lines of safe investment. Unlike the people with large and those with moderate surplus find profitable business openings in a time when growth and prosperity are the order of the day. The movement in real estate—the extensive buying and building of homes—also makes a diversion of funds from the merely speculative channels into which they formerly flowed.

THE UNDERGRADUATE DICUM.

The announcement that co-education of the sexes would be permitted at the University of Pennsylvania seems to have been premature. The students of the University have interposed their veto. The students of this institution appear to entertain the not uncommon theory among undergraduates, that the greater part of the wisdom connected with that scholastic seat, is concealed in their own brains; and of course they next proceed on the universal principle that whatever is outside of their personal experience is all wrong. These considerations lead them to the conclusion that co-education at the University of Pennsylvania would be ruinous. They consequently send in their weighty opinion to the trustees, that it should not be allowed. The freshness of the average undergraduate is calculated to impress the mind with an overpowering sense of the total insufficiency of the world's supply of salt.

A WISE MODIFICATION.

The modification of that order of the Pittsburgh and Western Railroad prohibiting the shipment of nut coal and slack, as to permit a certain proportion of the nut coal to be used for that purpose, removes the railroad from a decidedly false position. It surely ought not to require any argument to show that a railroad combining the obligations of the public highway and a common carrier, cannot place one class of traffic under an embargo in order to give others better facilities. That this should be done in the case of so legitimate a freight as nut coal and slack, which is used in the production of so much other freight, is a singular, and so far unaccountable, discriminatory railway regulation. The modified order, which permits nut coal to be used for that purpose, is so that it amounts to a distribution of cars among the various classes of traffic. This may be an allowable method of getting over the car shortage; but it is a question whether any shipper has not the right to demand his proportion of cars and to use what he gets in the way that his business most urgently requires.

ARMENIA AS AN EXCUSE.

The latest war report in Europe is to the effect that Russian agents have been quietly investigating the outrages of Turkish officials against the Armenian Christians, and will present so strong a case as to justify Russia before Europe in entering Armenia and assuming the protection of the people there, as she did in Bulgaria in 1878. There is little doubt that Russia has kept a close watch upon all events in the history of Turkish officials, and is prepared to take her position as the champion of the oppressed Greek church. That has been her traditional attitude from the inception of the Crimean War, if not before, and in the last war it was eminently successful in keeping the hands of Europe off the contest, until Russia had won the victory. But the fruits of victory were then wrested from her at the Congress of Berlin, and it is doubtful if the same policy will now suffice to permit the expansion of Russian power into Asia. Prince Bismarck, who holds the reins of the alliance which stands in Russia's way, is not likely to allow any sentimental considerations of sympathy for oppressed and abused common people to interfere with his chosen policy. That is not the Bismarck method. So long as the Iron Chancellor can maintain his quiescent alliance against the growth of Russian power, the czar will not be permitted to overstep his boundaries on any pretext. That Russia is ready to take possession of Armenia when she can do so safely is beyond question; but such a step is not likely to be taken so long as it means war with Germany, Austria, England, Italy and Turkey combined.

TURNING THE TABLES.

Why shouldn't a man sue for breach of promise of marriage? If he can be sued, surely he should be allowed the privilege to sue. Yet the world frowns on the man who tries to punish the perfidious fair in court, and juries are sadly given to putting a low value on broken hearts if they are masculine. But surely a man's heart is damaged by being broken, even if the process of fracture be not so painful as in the case of a woman. Men who are unfortunate enough to be jilted deserve the sympathy of the world, but jeers and jests are all they are like to get.

There is one man in Ohio at least who does not propose to let his feelings be trifled with, his heart lacerated and his purse depleted by a heartless female without some reproof. He has sent the wealthy widow who gave him her heart, took his, and then withdrew the former without a word of explanation. Good, substantial damages are what he seeks for the breach in his affections. We do not suppose he will win the suit, but his courageous effort will be a splendid example for his sex to keep before them. These triflers in petticoats, widows equipped in all the panoply of experience, maidens demure but dangerous, will be less unscrupulous and daring when they see that the law has some hold upon them even in the domain of love.

A CONCLUSIVE STATEMENT.

Mr. Westinghouse, who is more candid than most investors or inventors even to his own interests, was concerned, and to a reporter yesterday that he was "firmly convinced" that electric wires could be operated underground and that he was in favor of the change, but did not consider the recent fatalities at New York the pertinent argument in support of that position. The public will not quarrel about the reasons so long as the conclusion is conceded. What is evident is that the whole system of overhead wires, telegraph, telephone and those for electric lighting, constitute an unsightly nuisance; and that whatever view is taken of their relative fatality as compared with railroads, elevators, or other sources of danger, the public appreciate fully the value of electricity. It is as abundantly recognized. No one wants to do away with the telegraph, the telephone or the electric light. But what people do want and insist upon is that the corporations which are supplying these necessities shall not, because of mere cheapness, keep their appliances where they are a disfigurement to the streets and a menace to life.

IT IS THE ADOPTION OF THE SAFEST METHODS OF USE WHICH THE PUBLIC DEMAND IN NEW YORK AND ELSEWHERE.

The statement of an authority so admittedly well posted as Mr. Westinghouse, that the underground system is feasible and safe, should put an end to the insinuations pretense which other less candid or less competent electricians put forth, that the overhead system alone would answer.

A NEW ROSTRUM.

Some ingenious and patriotic person has suggested that Congress make an appropriation for a permanent rostrum to be built in front of the White House grounds in Washington. It is to take the place of the temporary reviewing stands that are erected from time to time to accommodate the President. The rostrum is to be of white marble with Corinthian pillars, and wide steps rising from the White House grounds. The New York District Attorney's office knows too much to make out a strong case against the influential political bribers who put its present incumbents in their places.

Dr. Barnum's show will only reach Paris in time to swell the American exhibit at the World's Fair we might have felt that our country was creditably represented at the centennial of free government in Europe.

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THE PITTSBURG DISPATCH, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1888.

THE TOPICAL TALKER.

Toothache as a Tonic—A Serio-Comic Pastime—Jim Blodso and the News. There is nothing pleasanter or easier than to go in on a shoestring with one's friends when one has a pet tooth playing the scales upon the high-strung piano of pain. Every jump and jolt of the nerve is an incentive to fresh cheerfulness and renewed humor. You can fancy that almost invariably, toward the nerve of your pet tooth, is before your eyes. Now glowing red, now quivering like a carbon filament in an incandescent lamp, now showing a forked sting, now still for a moment and then off again into a wild whirl of excruciating twinges. Teeth, so painful to get and so painful to lose, are a man's merry jesters. Princes and peasant must know their infinite humors.

ALL THE SAME I RATHER KICK THE TOOTHACHE AND THE CHAIN TO EXHIBIT SPARTAN INDIFFERENCE TO PAIN.

What a precious concert that selection of music is between acts one and two of the play at the Grand Opera House this week! "A Trip to the Moon" and "The Battle of Prague" order of music. Supposed to be fearfully, really descriptive. All the scenes of a trip to the moon are pictured in selections from operas of Mose-Tobani music from the hand of Mose-Tobani himself. One would have paid a goodly sum in cash to have seen the great Tobani at work on this masterpiece. Doubtless the music is a masterpiece of its kind, and high-colored beakers of beer, a la Conny Island, and a dinner bell roared between the great composer's knees.

THE GILDED YOUTH OF NEW YORK ARE GOING TO THE WILDS OF AFRICA TO HUNT THE LION, HAVE OUR APPROVAL AND BLESSING.

The gilded youth of New York are going to the wilds of Africa to hunt the lion, have our approval and blessing. Although the chase of the royal beast may be expensive and dangerous it is less so than the contest with the royal tiger in the wilds of New York.

THE TURKISH OUTRAGES IN ARMENIA MAY GIVE RUSSIA AN ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF HER INTERFERENCE WITH TURKEY; BUT THE INCREASED MILITARY APPROPRIATION INCLUDED IN THE GERMAN BUDGET IS LIKELY TO FURNISH A STRONGER ARGUMENT AGAINST IT.

The Turkish outrages in Armenia may give Russia an argument in favor of her interference with Turkey; but the increased military appropriation included in the German budget is likely to furnish a stronger argument against it.

IT IS AN INTERESTING FACT THAT THE TRIAL OF "SILVER DOLLAR SMITH," THE SALON KEEPING ASSEMBLYMAN OF NEW YORK, WHO WAS INDICTED FOR THE MURDER OF JOHN D. BROWN, WAS CONDUCTED IN A QUARTER WITH WHICH HIS WEAK CASE PRESENTED BY THE STATE AS TO MAKE ACQUITTAL ALMOST INEVITABLE.

It is an interesting fact that the trial of "Silver Dollar Smith," the salon keeping assemblyman of New York, who was indicted for the murder of John D. Brown, was conducted in a quarter with which his weak case presented by the State as to make acquittal almost inevitable.

THE HIGH AND MIGHTY LORDS.

A Quaint Old Document, Telling of the Purchase of Manhattan. ST. PAUL, October 23.—Samuel H. Thayer, of Minnesota, United States Minister at The Hague, has written to the Rev. Dr. E. D. Neill, Dean of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, and ancient document. The letter and document are self-explanatory. Here they are:

MY DEAR DOCTOR.—Knowing that the Historical Society sometimes accepts contributions.

MY DEAR DOCTOR.—Knowing that the Historical Society sometimes accepts contributions, I have the honor to inform you that I have a manuscript of a translation of the original document, which is a translation of the original document, which is a translation of the original document.

MY LORDS.—There arrived here yesterday the ship called the Arms of the Amsterdam, which brought the news of the death of the late General Mahone.

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THE EXCISE OFFERED FOR ONE OF THE REPUBLICAN OFFICIALS IN CINCINNATI, WHO HAS BEEN PUT IN AN UNCOMFORTABLE ATTITUDE BY THE PUBLICATION OF ONE OF HIS LETTERS, THAT HE WAS INSANE WHEN HE WROTE.

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THE HON. HANNIBAL HAMLIN IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE THAT WILL SELECT GIFTS OF Cakes, Pies, Doughnuts and other eatables for the coming G. A. R. fair at Bangor, Me.

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CAPITAL CITIZENS ENCOURAGED.

They Think the World's Fair Question Settled in Their Favor.

WASHINGTON, October 23.—There is great enthusiasm this evening among the local members of the Board of Promotion of the Exposition of 1894 on account of the success of the convention of the national board held at their headquarters at Willard's to-day. Of the more than 100 members present there seemed to be none who were not in favor of Washington. Colonel Anderson said this evening that he felt the influence of the great convention would settle the question of location if there were any doubts about it before.

THE HISTORY OF THE GREAT KINKA TRADE.

THE HISTORY OF THE GREAT KINKA TRADE. The history of the great kinka trade has been a most interesting one. It is a story of the struggle for the control of the oil fields of Pennsylvania, and the efforts of the various companies to secure a monopoly of the supply.

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GAS TO GO ON FOREVER.

Brice Denies the Stories of General Diminution of Supply.

IN VIEW OF THE GENERAL OUTSIDE DISCUSSION as to the probability of Pittsburgh's supply of natural gas, and the disposition at home to deplore the value of certain investments in the line, the following from the New York Star's interview is certainly seasonable. Mr. Calvin S. Brice is one of the largest owners of natural gas wells in the country, his property lying in the thickly populated districts of Indiana and Ohio, where he and his associates have expended a great deal of money for the effective working of their enterprise. Mr. Brice says it is a mistake to suppose that the supply of natural gas is being exhausted, and that it is not so expected that all new wells in a fresh territory opened up now and then.

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MINOR METROPOLITAN NEWS.

A Bague Detective in Trouble.

NEW YORK, October 23.—Francis B. McMahon, a well-known detective, introduced himself last May to the officers of the Whiting Manufacturing Company, Silverthrift. He said he was an expert private detective. The company had been losing a great deal of their metal and McMahon proposed to ferret out and identify the thieving employe. He introduced at the same time two men who claimed to be Detectives Carey and Logan, of the city police, and who recommended him highly. The company hired him. All summer he was to be close upon the heels of the thief. He reported progress frequently, and every time he asked the company for more with which to prosecute the waiting for him. They were Carey and Logan, the men whom he had first sought of his pals to personate when he first sought the job. They had him off to a police cell. McMahon was assigned to-day for swindling and remanded.

How Out the Gas and Died.

Christopher Finken and Max Bauer, employes in an Eastern city, were found dead in their common bed this morning with the gas turned on full blast. Finken went to bed early last night and left the gas burning. Bauer, who came to New York City a few days ago, got home shortly after midnight. It is thought that he blew out the gas.

Only Eight, and a Burglar.

Charles Peterson, a young child hardly a year old, was assigned to-day by Judge Martine for burglary. He is very small that the Judge could not find him at the bar, but the Judge suggested, he peeked over the back of a chair, and down the hall, he saw a pair of big innocent blue eyes and a frayed yellow jacket. This wee bit of humanity was on trial for having committed three burglaries. He broke into an Italian fruit broker's and stole bananas. Recently he was caught robbing a downtown fur store at night—or, at least, helping an older boy to rob it. To-day he was sentenced to a juvenile asylum during his minority. The little fellow had when heard his sentence; then he climbed upon his mother's lap and fell asleep in her arms.

Lively Day for the Shevelers.

For a long time the Department of the City Works in Brooklyn has been trying to persuade the Long Island road to elevate its tracks to the level of several streets newly cut through and graded. Last week City Works Commissioner Adams informed the company that it must elevate its tracks at street crossings of the Manhattan Beach road, and if it were not done by to-day the city would cover the tracks. The company's agents were trying to get an injunction to-day, when they learned that Commissioner Adams' men were covering the tracks with earth, and that several Long Island trains were blocked. Street Inspector Hickey had turned out in force to encourage the city's workmen. The city's men showed no mercy as they worked. The blocked tracks were finally, at moments when the railroad shoelers unshowered their opponents. The situation was getting hot and the railroad men were being hit with stones when a squad of policemen arrived. The police stopped the stone throwing but gave the street force protection. Then the track was covered over. Somebody, amid the cheers of the people, planted an American flag over the buried tracks.

A NOVEL WRITER INSANE.

REJECTION OF "LAWSON'S DRIVE A YOUNG MAN INSANE." CANANDAIGUA, N. Y., October 23.—Mr. Jacob Easton, who lives near Naples, Ontario County, was started early yesterday morning at discovering a young woman sitting on the steps of her home dead in a thin nightgown. Mrs. Easton, who lives near Naples, Ontario County, was started early yesterday morning at discovering a young woman sitting on the steps of her home dead in a thin nightgown.

PROGRESSIVE EUCHE.

THE PRIZES ARE GRANTED TO THE SKILLFUL PLAYER OF THE GUESTS. A progressive euchre party was given this evening at the residence of Mrs. C. B. McLean, Winchfield avenue, in honor of her guest, Miss Edith Savage. The prizes were granted to the skillful player of the guests.

EDITH V. DAY, A WELL-KNOWN SOCIETY WOMAN OF BROOKLYN, N. Y., DIED YESTERDAY.

EDITH V. DAY, A WELL-KNOWN SOCIETY WOMAN OF BROOKLYN, N. Y., DIED YESTERDAY. She was a well-known society woman of Brooklyn, N. Y., and died yesterday.