THE BEST SUNDAY PAPER

—IS THE—

PITTSBURG DISPATCH.

TO-MORROW'S

GRAND TRIPLE NUMBER

Will contain BRET HARTE'S latest and best novel, written especially for THE DISPATCH, entitled

THE CHATELAINE OF BURNT RIDGE.

A ROMANCE OF A HUSKING BEE, by Laurel, is a pleasant description of rural life in Vermont.

THE POSTOFFICE CORRIDORS and the people who frequent them, forms the theme of an interesting article by Wales.

Joseph Hatton, the eminent novelist, describes

LIFE'S GREAT PLAY,

As seen in the heart of London.

These are but a few of the many striking features of this issue, which will, as usual, contain all the news, including a full account of the

Speakership Contest.

The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, SATURDAY, NOV. 30, 1889.

THE CLOSING EVIDENCE.

The evidence in the Cronin murder trial at Chicago closes with proof, like a bolt of lightning, that leaves little of the defense in the case of one prisoner. The finding upon the person of Coughlin of two knives, which were identified as the property of the murdered man, will leave little doubt in the general mind as to his guilt.

It is impossible to avoid reflections as to the light which this throws on the course pursued by the defense in this case. There has already been reason to suspect hard swearing in the effort to establish an alibi; while the means taken to "fix" the jury indicated a determined effort to override justice, by foul means. This last disclosure, showing that a friend of the prisoner on the police force concealed a most important evidence against him, till it was fortuitously brought out at the last moment, confirms the belief in a widespread and unscrupulous conspiracy to override and defeat justice, and maintain the right of the conspirators to commit murder with impunity.

It remains to be seen whether the law in Chicago is sufficient to defeat and punish such a conspiracy. In the interest of Government, by law, and the protection of American citizenship, it is to be hoped that it will prove so.

PITTSBURG AND SOUTHERN IRON.

The statement that the firm of Carnegie, Phipps & Co., have ordered an invoice of Southern Bessemer pig iron and will test its qualities at their Homestead works, gives an indication of the correctness of the position which THE DISPATCH has always maintained concerning the relation of Pittsburg to the Southern iron industry. That was that when the Southern furnaces demonstrated their ability to make the kind of iron that Pittsburg wants, and to deliver it here as cheaply as furnaces in other regions, Pittsburg will buy the iron. While this city produces an immense amount of pig metal, its position in the iron market is as a consumer of pig metal rather than as a producer.

The Southern region is connected with Pittsburg by water transportation, and if it can add to the supplies of metal which this market commands it will be a gain to Pittsburg rather than a detraction from her supremacy. The value of the iron is yet to be tested in actual operation; but Pittsburg need not fear to have it succeed.

SAFETY AGAINST CONFLAGRATIONS.

Both the Boston and Lynn fires are reported to have been aggravated in the total of their destructiveness by the narrow streets on which the fires were raging, and probably in the larger city, by the height of the business blocks which made it difficult for the fire department to work. The reflection is very strongly suggested that a large share of Pittsburg's streets have the vice of narrowness while the needs of modern commerce are forcing the reconstruction of our buildings on as lofty a scale as prevails in other cities.

Many of the streets adjacent to the business center, which are now of second rate standing by reason of the inferior character of their buildings, and which therefore must undergo reconstruction in the future, are susceptible of being widened. The cost of a policy which on such streets as First, Second and Third avenues, on Fourth avenue above Smithfield, and on Market and the streets below it, would set back the building line, and require all new structures to build to it, would be comparatively slight. The value of the streets would be unmeasurably enhanced thereby, and the danger illustrated by the last Boston fire would be very nearly removed.

On the other hand it is pertinent to notice that while a fire, once started, may be made worse by narrow streets, that does not account for the origin of fires. These conflagrations at the inception of cold weather are due undoubtedly to carelessness in the starting of fires; and it is reassuring to note that Pittsburg's peculiar fuel has resulted in comparative freedom from them. While natural gas has its dangers from ignorant and careless use, there is little doubt that with proper appliances it gives a greater safety against fire than any other fuel known. This applies equally in the case of manufactured fuel gas. The value of that safety should be borne in mind, if ever the time comes for considering the question whether we shall return to the use of coal or adopt fuel gas.

Safety against conflagrations is one of the most important considerations in large cities, and nothing which bears upon that point can be without value in the adaptation of Pittsburg to its enlarged business and population.

A SEVERE LESSON.

The severe sentences in Court yesterday upon those officials and their accomplices who used the law as a weapon of extortion will teach a lesson which should last for a long time. Nothing is more to be condemned than that the machinery of justice should be set in motion and operated for private purposes. Where it is used for blackmailing, as was clearly shown to have been the case in the operations of the men yesterday sentenced, the Commonwealth cannot too quickly or too sternly assert its dignity and punish the imposture.

As for those offenders who, by reason of their own infractions of the law, put themselves at the mercy of bogus detectives or dishonest magistrates, they are not entitled to sympathy. But the elected or appointed officers of the people, who are vested with the power and duty of preserving order and seeing that statutes are enforced, are authorities for that purpose; and between prosecutions entered with a view to preserving the peace and those which are started with a view to being settled for a consideration, there is such a difference that the public are not liable to mistake the one class for the other.

The lesson of yesterday is one that can hardly fail of a salutary influence.

NATURAL OBSTACLES TO COMBINATION.

The report that the Federal Steel Company, under which it was proposed to combine the barbed wire manufactories of the country, has failed to reach the success that was intended, may not be absolutely certain. But the grounds on which the report is founded not only exhibit reasons why it would not succeed, but show the requirements which are necessary to the success of schemes of that sort.

It is stated that the combination will not be effected because three or four firms, out of the eleven that are engaged in the business, cannot be relied upon to come into it; and further, the control of the patents under which the process of manufacture is most successfully operated is not yet assured to the combination. This statement puts the whole scheme in the light of one to suppress competition and raise prices to a higher level than would be maintained under normal influences. The talk of economy of operation and concentration of management usually heard in connection with the combinations, is shown by the statement to be mere wind. It is recognized that the object is to prevent the natural and legitimate competition to which the great mass of the people are subjected, and thus to obtain especial advantages for the members of the scheme.

The conclusion is correct, that this advantage cannot be secured unless all the present competitors come into the combination and, in addition to that, unless, by control of the patents or other extraneous influences, the rise of new competition can be prevented. For which obstacle to the general growth of trusts and monopolies, the public at large have reason to be duly thankful.

EUROPEAN SUSPICIONS.

The death of a half-civilized ruler in the remote regions of Afghanistan is again causing the powers of Europe to look askance at each other, with the expectation that the war cloud will burst, over the question as to who will be his successor.

A few years ago the Afghan question came close to precipitating a conflict between England and Russia, and while the dispute was compromised each power has kept zealous watch on that debateable ground. Both have extended their military railroads close to the Afghan border, and the expectation of Europe seems to be that when one tries to seat its representative in Aighanistan the other will march its troops over the border.

The state of international suspicion which sets every power to overhauling its war material upon the death of the chief of a far-off and uncivilized nation, is the most remarkable evidence of the false basis upon which European affairs rest. Rather than let it continue, the impartial observation of the United States would advise Europe to fight it out and have done with it.

PARTY AND PUBLIC.

The Speakership contest is alleged to be settled in favor of Reed. Although new combinations may be made and broken before the House organizes next Monday, that part of the slate seems to be so clearly written down as to warrant a hope that Mr. Reed's jocoseness may soften the asperities of partisan contentions. The hope is lessened, however, by the general understanding that Reed is put there to force partisan measures through the House, regardless of the rights of the minority. While the members are fixing up the slate for the Clerkship and the other choice bits of patronage, it may be well for them to consider that to secure partisan ends by means of the gag rule is not the true way to strengthen the standing of the party before the people. Perhaps if the party leaders would consider party less and the public interests more, in their public policy, it might not be worse for their party in the long run.

CINCINNATI has at last worked itself up to the point of adopting standard time as the authorized time for that city. Pittsburg did so years ago, and while there were some people who anticipated dire results from setting the arbitrary and conventional measure of time 20 minutes forward, everybody is satisfied now. It is pleasant to learn that Cincinnati has become able to see the advantages of the change; and it is also not unpleasant to the local *amour propre* to learn that there is one city which is slower in adopting new ideas than Pittsburg is.

SENATOR FARWELL declares the civil service law to be a fraud and a sham. The Senator's attitude recalls the tendency of some intoxicated persons to accuse everyone else but themselves of having looked too long upon the wine when it is red.

A NEW ORLEANS grand jury has found Major Burke's "shortage" as State Treasurer to be $420,000. It will take only one per cent of that fabulous wealth which Burke is reported to have developed in South America to pay this amount; but on the other hand the usual outcome of such cases will warrant Louisiana in considering herself fortunate if she gets back one per cent of the shortage from that source.

SOME millions of dollars lost by fire in Boston as the result of a crossed electric light wire, constitute another object-lesson on the necessity of putting the electric light wires in such a place that they will not be a threat to life and property.

THE fact that Miss Sanger, the President's typewriter, is the custodian of the President's message, is referred to as a refutation of the idea that no woman can keep a secret. But it may be well to wait till the message comes out, to determine whether there was any secret in it which the feminine mind would regard as worth telling.

AT LAST the coke industry appears to be having a fairly decent chance of getting the cars necessary to fill a fair share of its orders. With this long-looked-for consummation come at last, the coke industry ought to do some booming.

THE report that an English syndicate wants to buy the mineral springs of the United States for $25,000,000 will probably evoke the general response that the Englishmen can have the springs. The American public can, for a consideration of that size, content itself by slaking its thirst with plain water, straight or mixed.

THE authorities of Cleveland have made the useful discovery that the one sure way to get the dangerous overhead wires down is to chop them down.

THE Spring Valley Coal Company, which refused employment to those who distributed food, clothing and medicine to the sick and destitute during the recent strike there, emphasize the rule in corporate ethics that starvation is one of the decrees of Providence which must not be interfered with.

ALL sorts of rumors are afloat concerning the condition of the Lawrence Bank, but that authoritative statement still fails to appear.

ALTHOUGH the cold wave may not be comfortable for all of us, it has emancipated the greater part of the two cities from the reign of mud. It is well that the weather occasionally proves efficient in that respect, as no other agencies seemed immediately likely to produce that result.

UP IN Canada, they hang people who kill others. Canada still has some old-fashioned ways.

FOURTEEN years in aggregate workhouses sentences distributed among the various offenders, amounts to an impressive warning against using Aldermen's courts to bleed ignorant people who do not know or are unable to maintain their rights.

PEOPLE OF PROMINENCE.

MR. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M. P., accompanied by Mrs. Chamberlain, nee Endicott, his two daughters, and Mr. Jesse Collings, M. P., have left England for Egypt, and will spend Christmas at Luxor, on the Nile.

BRONSON HOWARD is one of the best-informed men in the country on our late Civil War. In writing "Shenandoah" he was obliged to make historical researches which have fitted him to become a historian. He is a great admirer of Grant and Sherman.

SENATOR INGALLS is bothered by publishers who want his forthcoming novel. Even a London house has made him offers. By nearly every mail he receives letters on this subject. He has determined, however, to bring out the book himself, as he is desirous of obtaining a fair return for his labor.

CITIZEN GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN when in Boston recently, was surrounded by a crowd in a hotel corridor when he offered to bet that he was the biggest fool in America. Nobody accepted the wager at first, but finally a man came forward and said, "I'll take your bet, stranger, provided you are not George Francis Train."

DR. MCCOSH has been invited by the Ministers' Association, of Philadelphia, to read a paper before that body on December 16, on "The Puritan and the Presbyterian; John Witherspoon, the Presbyterian." The occasion for the address is the removal of the statue of Witherspoon in Fairmount Park to a more eligible situation.

MRS. MARY H. HUNT, the well-known temperance advocate, says: "The recent unsuccessful prohibitory temperance campaigns have been attempts to focalize into law against alcohol a popular sentiment that does not exist. If we will seek first the temperance education of the people, all other temperance blessings will, in due time, be added unto us."

EQUAL TO THE OCCASION.

A Book Agent's Shrewd Scheme to Make Himself Popular.

ANSONIA, CONN, November 29.—A book agent called at a livery stable in Middletown one day this week to sell a book. It was a valuable work, and the liveryman and several of his friends who were present thought of taking one each. During the conversation the book agent gave Waterbury as his place of residence, whereupon the liveryman said that he formerly lived in that city and was a financial sufferer through dealings with some of its citizens. He mentioned one name, that of a church deacon, who had owed him a bill, and he had never been able to collect it. The book agent inquired as to the amount of the bill and what it was for, and on being informed took out his pocketbook and counted out the money with the remark:

"I am that man; here's your money; give me a receipt. Now, then, can't I sell you a copy of this great work, which, as I previously remarked, has had the endorsement of eminent divines, learned scholars, prominent teachers, distinguished editors, celebrated ——"

"I'll take four copies," said the liveryman, and signed his name to the book.

The cost was $24, while the old bill which the the book agent paid was $18, just the amount of his commissions. It was a sharp trick and well played, and has made that book agent many friends in Middletown.

MODJESKA GOT A BIER.

The Countess' Request, Which the Manager Was Loath to Grant.

From the St. Louis Republic.]

"On one occasion, when Modjeska was playing at the Globe," said a late resident of Boston, "she required a bier to lie upon in one of her scenes, and, it not having been provided, the Polish Countess sent to Stetson, stating that she wanted a bier.

"'Wants a beer, does she,' said Stetson, 'well, she can want and be blowed. I ain't providing beer for these outlandish players. Tell her she can't have it.' The messanger returned to Modjeska with Stetson's message. The Countess was furious. 'Go to Mr. Stetson,' she said, 'and tell him unless I have a bier I will not go on in the next act.'

"The messenger duly repeated the message.

"'She won't, won't she,' screamed Stetson; 'well, we'll see if she won't. That's the way with these furriners; they always want beer, beer, beer.' Then, as if relenting, he took 50 cents from his pocket and said with a deep sigh, 'I suppose I'll have to let her have it. Here, go and get her a gallon.' It is needless to say the Countess got her bier."

A SNAKE FIGHTS A TIGER.

Sportsmen End the Combat by Shooting Both Animals.

On the 8th of August, not far from Tanjong Priok, near Batavia, says a letter from India, a tiger was shot under peculiar circumstances. The sportsmen out in the jungle there heard a fearful rumpus going on a good way off. On reaching the scene of the uproar, they suddenly found themselves face to face with a tiger in the coils of a big snake, which, with its mouth, was endeavoring to get hold of the tiger's neck. The tiger on the other hand was doing its best to reach the neck of the snake. After being momentarily terror-stricken by the sight, the two sportsmen did not allow either animal time to perceive or attack them, but forthwith took aim—the one at the head of the tiger, the other at that of the snake.

The tiger was hit behind the ear, and the snake in the middle of the head. The distance at which the shots were fired was hardly 15 paces. The head of the former proved to be that of a royal tiger.

SEVERAL FORTUNATE GENTLEMEN

Who Will Represent This Country as Consuls in Foreign Lands.

WASHINGTON, November 29.—President Harrison this afternoon appointed the following United States Consuls: Beckford Mackey, of South Carolina, to San Jose, Costa Rica. He was transferred from Paso Del Norte, Mexico. Hiram J. Dunlap, of Illinois, to Breslau, Germany. Mr. Dunlap is editor of the Champaign *Gazette*. William E. Gardner, of Wisconsin, to Rotterdam. Mr. Gardner has been for several years connected with the *Evening Wisconsin* at Milwaukee. Delos H. Smith, to Nogales, Mexico. John B. Osborne, of Pennsylvania, to Ghent, where a vacancy exists. Mr. Osborne is a son of the Congressman from Wilkesbarre. William Monaghan, of Ohio, to Hamilton, Ont. Mr. Monaghan was appointed Commercial Agent at Chatham, Ont., last June.

TID-BITS OF GOSSIP.

Queen's English That Doesn't Go on This Continent—Thanksgiving After-Thoughts—A Bohemian Club and a Reporters' Labor Union.

Someone should get up an American glossary, to be appended to our guide books, for the benefit of English visitors. A few hints, at least, as to words having different meanings in the New and Old World dialects might be really useful. For instance, it would prevent our transatlantic cousins from asking for "a pair of boots" when they want what we call "a pair of shoes." I heard a worthy gentleman, all the way from Lancashire, make that mistake in a downtown shoestore the other day. Boots were produced indeed, but not the sort of boots the Britisher had expected. It was some time before the truth came out, that patent leather shoes were the objects of his desire.

The same gentleman roundly asserted that England was "a great corn country;" but it turned out that he meant oats, wheat and barley, when he spoke of "corn."

Captain A——, a young Irishman, "doing America, dontcherknow," strolled out of the Union depot last July, and requested a lounging employe to get him a "car." Of course the gay dragoon imagined himself back in the land of "jaunting cars" again; but the employe thought it was a cruel jest on Pittsburg, and angrily inquired if the gentleman wouldn't "want an engine, too."

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It is to be hoped that everybody ate, drank and waxed merry over Thanksgiving. Certainly the very spirit of happiness seemed to be abroad in Pittsburg streets on Thursday. A walk down Fifth avenue meant a regular collegiate course in the study of joviality. One matriculated amid the giggles of bread-and-butter girlhood; and graduated in the guffaws of mighty-wasted city men. Yes, everybody was happy—even the newspaperman, that usually joyless creature, managed to snatch a little pleasure from the great pile. I know of one cosy paper-stainers' dinner, somewhere over Allegheny way, at which half a dozen of the craft were very merry indeed. And what a dinner it was! It is true there were no

Sauce ragouts, an' sic like thrashtrie,
That's naething else but downright wastrie.

But there was a turkey, and a noble one at that; together with other eatables and drinkables galore. I am sure those newspaper men had a good time before they went back to interview Mrs. Jones about the loss of her eloping girl servant, or to write an editorial on the public spirit of the Hon. John Smith.

***

By the way, the Committee on Arrangements for the Armstrong monument celebration made one prodigious mistake. They selected for their unveiling that very portion of the day which Pittsburg middle classes regarded as dinner hour. That accounted for a noticeable stampede of thanksgivers during the middle of the ceremony. How could the Committee on Arrangements have forgotten that turkey spoils by over-cooking?

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Pittsburg, if Dame Rumor speaks aright, is soon to witness an addition to her already numerous list of clubs. It is questionable, however, whether this staid old city will welcome the new-comer very enthusiastically. A little bird whispers that the next candidate for the honors of clubland citizenship is to be appallingly Bohemian—and not a "press club," either. Real Bohemianism, mind you—the Bohemianism of the Quartier Latin, with just enough refinement and restraint to keep the club above water. There are two such institutions in New York, and others in various Eastern cities. The patron saints of the club will, no doubt, be Victor Hugo, Thackeray and Tom Moore, three dead lions of Bohemianism. It is said that all species of the genus dude are to be left sternly outside the portals.

There is nothing radically wrong with this idea of a really free-and-easy club, unterrorized by House Committees.

Speaking of embryo clubs reminds me of another local scheme, also in embryo, which, I presume, must be public property by this time. I allude to the "Pittsburg Journalists' Brotherhood," as suggested by two well-known members of the reportorial force. The idea appears to be that journalists need immediate organization; and these gentlemen want to have a try at organizing them. They suggest that a "Journalists' Brotherhood" be formed and affiliated with the International Typographical Union. The idea is not a new one, locally.

A primary meeting of newspaper men was held a few days ago to discuss the "Brotherhood." Opinion was very much divided on the subject, and until a general meeting, appointed for next Sunday, comes off, nothing can be said about the future of this suggestion.

BRENAN.

A New Idea in Warfare.

From the Chicago News.]

All the military experts in the country are still hard at work inventing plans for the improvement of the army. They have found that noble band of heroes perfect in nothing save in the science of poker playing. It might be well to abolish the barbarous custom of fighting battles with gunpowder and lead and to let the warriors decide all grave misunderstandings with other nations by a series of masterly jackpots.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

Prof. Robert Patterson.

Prof. Robert Patterson, one of the editors of the *Presbyterian Banner*, who had been ill for several days with paralysis, died yesterday morning at 4 o'clock at his home in Sewickley. The funeral will take place from the First Presbyterian Church on Wood street at 1:30 o'clock Monday afternoon. Dr. Passavant, pastor of the English Lutheran Church, and Dr. Campbell, of Sewickley, two of the late editor's most intimate friends, will officiate. The remains will be interred in the Allegheny Cemetery.

Prof. Patterson was one of the most thoroughly educated men in the country, and an author of some note. He was born in Pittsburg on October 17, 1821, and received his education at Canonsburg Academy and Jefferson College, graduating in 1841. He studied law, was admitted, but never practiced. He devoted himself to mathematics, and held chairs in that branch in Jefferson College, in Oakland College, Miss., and Center College, Danville, Ky. In 1864 he became one of the editors of the *Presbyterian Banner*, which position he held until his death.

As a writer he was thoughtful, serious and particularly brilliant. He was always a most bitter opponent of Mormonism and all its doctrines. Some five years ago he wrote a sketch, "The Book of Mormons," which appears in a history of Washington county, in which he treated particularly of the ridiculousness of the inspiration of the Mormon creed, and showing that the book was written by Solomon Spalding. The paper has since become an authority on the Mormon question. He wrote also the "History of the Log College," which was said to have been the first classical school west of the Allegheny Mountains. He took the ground that the first classical school was his alma mater, Jefferson College, and so successfully did he bear out his statements that all further arguments were squelched.

At the time of his death he was engaged in writing a history of the Class of 1840, Jefferson College, of which he was a member. He leaves beside his widow a son Thomas, a member of the Allegheny county bar, and two daughters.

Martin Farquhar Tupper.

LONDON, November 29.—Martin Farquhar Tupper, the well-known poet and prose writer, is dead. He was the son of a surgeon, descended from an ancient Guernsey family, and born in London in 1810. He was educated at Charterhouse and Christ Church, Oxford, where he took the degrees of B. A., M. A., and D. C. L. He was called to the bar, but never practiced. Mr. Tupper was best known as the author of "Proverbial Philosophy," which was published in 1839. "Geraldine and Other Poems," appeared the year previous. The titles and dates of his other works are these: "Modern Pyramid," 1839; "An Author's Mind" and "The Twins," 1841; "Crock of Gold," 1844; "Hactenus: a Budget of Lyrics," 1848; "Surrey: a Rapid Review of its Principal Persons and Places," 1849; "King Alfred's Poems in English Meter," 1850; "Farley Heath: Record of Its Remains," and "Hymn for All Nations, in Thirty Languages, 1851; "Ballads for the Times," 1852; "Heart, a Tale," 1853; "Probabilities: an Aid to Faith," 1854; "Stephen Langton, or the Days of King John," 1858; "Three Hundred Sonnets," 1859; "Rides and Reveries of Mr. Æsop Smith," 1861; "Cithara, Lyrics," 1863. Beside these he wrote a variety of fugitive pieces in prose and verse.

James Kelly.

James Kelly, of Conners & Kelly, variety performers, died in New York yesterday. Mr. Kelly was well known in Pittsburg, and was a general favorite at Harry Williams' Academy. He went to New York from Denver about six months ago. At one time Mr. Kelly was connected with Pittsburg papers.

Edwin R. Meade.

NEW YORK, November 29.—Edwin R. Meade, who represented the City Congressional district, now known as the Sixth, in Congress about 15 years ago, died in the City Insane Asylum to-day. He had been ill for about three weeks.

Modestus Holbrook.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., November 29.—Postmaster Modestus Holbrook, of Brewerton, dropped dead in his office yesterday afternoon while attending to his duties. He was about 60 years old.

METROPOLITAN MELANGE.

Stephen Pettus' Will Found.

[NEW YORK BUREAU SPECIALS.]

NEW YORK, November 29.—The will of Stephen Pettus, the rich Brooklyn financier who was shot dead in the street by Mrs. Hanna Southworth, was found among his private papers last night. It was drawn in 1881, long before he knew Mrs. Southworth or Rosa Lloyd, and he gives his whole estate, valued at $600,000, to his wife. Mrs. Southworth passes the day and night quietly in her cell at the Tombs. The assurances of her counsel that she will not be punished for killing her betrayer have relieved her hysterics and brought back her appetite.

Soon to Die by Electricity.

The Warden of Sing Sing prison is completing arrangements to execute Charles McIlvaine, of Brooklyn, with electricity during the the week succeeding December 9. The dynamo, which was sent to Baltimore to be tested, was returned to the prison in approved condition last evening. This morning workmen began to erect in the prison yard a small, close brick building, in which the execution will take place. McIlvaine was sentenced to death for murdering Grocer Luca, of Brooklyn. His plea at his trial was insanity. His guilt and responsibility were fully proven, and the motion of his counsel for a new trial was summarily denied.

Going Home With Their Money.

The Anchor Line steamship California will leave to-morrow for Italy, calling at the Azores and Gibraltar, and will have as passengers 700 or 800 Italians, who, having earned a small competency, are returning to their native homes. The Italians, more than any other immigrants who come to America, return home periodically, and more especially has this been the case since the Anchor Line has arranged to land them on their native shores. The California will also have a number of Portuguese passengers returning to the Azores, and several first-class passengers bound to the islands in search of health and to spend the winter.

CATCHING LOBSTERS BY STEAM.

A New Method of Fishing Revolutionizing the Industry.

NEW HAVEN, November 29.—A new departure in the lobster fishery in the Race and in Fisher's Island Sound, Plum Gut, and off Montauk Point is being taken by the Noank fishermen. They are invoking the aid of the mighty arm of steam. Heretofore the business has been mainly conducted by sailboats of different sizes. The first deviation from this course was instituted by Captain F. P. Ashby, of Noank, who constructed the steamer Eva, a vessel of about eight tons, and thus became the pioneer steamer lobsterman. His venture was watched with interest by his brother lobstermen, and as success has crowned his efforts, other steamers are to be introduced into the business next season.

The great difficulty hitherto met in the Long Island Sound fishery has been the hauling of lobster pots by hand in the rushing tides. This work has to be prosecuted over so great depths that it is possible to pull the pots only at slack water. Consequently there has been much lost time for the fisherman, and his gear has been frequently swept away by the tides, because if he weighted it heavily enough to hold it in position it would be almost impossible for him to haul it.

As may be judged, fishing for lobsters by steam is attended by much less hard work than is required by the old way, as nearly all the labor is performed by steam. Many more pots can be hauled at a tide, and indications now point to a total revolution in the manner of transacting the business.

MISPLACED CONFIDENCE.

Bostonians Thought Their Fine New Buildings Absolutely Fireproof.

On the very morning that the Boston fire broke out, the *Herald* of that city published the following editorial:

While it will not do to speak too confidently concerning the future, one is none the less justified in believing that a great sweeping conflagration is altogether impossible in the newly-constructed business district of Boston, and this, too, in spite of the fact that the buildings are, as a rule, higher and larger than those which occupied these sites prior to our great fire. There are parts of our city which have not been thus improved, where the buildings are similar in many respects to those which 17 years ago dissolved in a heap of ruins almost as soon as the great mass of flame struck them. But as fast as the requirements of trade or the results of age cause these old structures to be torn down and replaced by new ones, the effect of our building laws comes into play, and the new edifices, if not fireproof, are, at least, so far fire-resisting as to make their speedy destruction by an interior fire improbable, and their quick consumption by a sweeping conflagration impossible.

THE MIGHTY GULF STREAM.

Its Easterly Current Suspends Operations for a While.

From the New York Times.]

The Gulf Stream has again demonstrated the fact that it cannot always be depended upon. Captain Thomas Macknight, of the steamship Claribel, which arrived yesterday from the West Indies, states that on Tuesday last he caught the Stream napping. Although he was in the Stream from 10:45 Tuesday morning until 5 A. M. on Wednesday, there was no signs of an easterly current where the Stream was supposed to head in an easterly direction. If there was any current whatever there it was setting to the westward. The Captain says that he could not have been mistaken as to his bearings.

Captain Macknight attributes the lack of current in the Gulf Stream to the easterly winds which had prevailed for some days. These probably caused the waters in the surface of the stream to become lumped to such an extent that the current was checked, if not actually set back. The Captain does not think that this effect extended below the surface current.

INSPECTION ON THE HOOF

Again Declared to be a Violation of Inter-State Commerce.

TOPEKA, KAN., November 29.—Judge Brewer to-day rendered a decision that that part of the Topeka Meat Inspection ordinance which prescribes inspection of the animal before slaughter within a mile of the city limits is an obstruction of inter-State commerce and therefore void.

This opens Topeka to the product of the packing houses of Kansas City and Chicago.

Something of a Hustler Himself.

From the Detroit Free Press.]

A Michigan man buried his wife, put up a headstone, repainted his house, married a second wife and dug five acres of potatoes within 17 days, and yet he says he can't begin to hustle as his father used to.

TRI-STATE TRIFLES.

GEORGE MULLEN, of Eddington, Pa., assisted his neighbor, John Vansant, to drive the rats from his barn. With gun and dog a bushel of them were killed, but the next day Mullen found that the rodents had been driven in hundreds from his neighbor's to his own barn, where they attacked a new-born calf and maimed it so badly that it had to be killed.

A PHEASANT escaping from a hunter flew through a window of a Joanna Heights mansion and fell dead in the parlor.

WHEN a Pensburg divine handed his wife the envelope which contained the customary present from a groom, she found it only contained 6 cents. The clergyman had been called out of bed to perform the ceremony.

THE Pottstown bear, wearied nearly to death by the hunters, lay down exhausted. B. F. Rambo came upon it, lassoed the beast and dragged it to town, assisted by a triumphant crowd.

A white swallow was hatched in a nest in the barn of Amos D. Hunt in South Gibson, Pa., in 1886 and it visited the place regularly during the next two summers. This year the bird did not return.

A Springfield, O., man requires a No. 9 shoe for his right foot and a No. 6 for his left.

A Parkersburg genius is at work on a flying-machine, which he believes will be a success.

Reuben Seidel, employed in a Reading brickyard, went to the clay pit on Thanksgiving Day and there discovered a black bear that showed fight. The man returned to the kiln where some other men were, who rushed to the pit, whereupon the bear fled across the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, and escaped to Mount Penn, after several shots had been fired at him.

VERY NICE TABLEAUX

The Valley Club Gives a Very Artistic Entertainment Before a Large Audience.

The second entertainment given this season by the Sewickley Valley Club was something of a departure from the beaten track, and all the more enjoyable for that reason. It was given last night at Choral Hall, Sewickley, every seat in which was filled. For many weeks Miss Dickson, Miss Whiting and Messrs. Carpenter, Chaplin, F. E. Richardson and L. Miller have been planning and preparing the exquisite series of tableaux which were shown last night. The ladies of the committee are naturally entitled to the largest share of the credit, and, as usual, Mr. Chaplin's assistance in the scenic and stage arrangements told heavily. The tableaux were nine in number, as follows: No. 1. "Taking the Carmelite Veil," represented a young candidate, Mrs. Calvert Townley, for holy vows at the altar. The Carmelite nuns, in their cheerless garb, attended her, and she was received by a bishop, Mr. Richard Swartzwelder, and a priest, Mr. Robert Macrum. Relatives of the novice filled up the picture, which was very impressive. No. 2. "Fleeting Time," was after the splendid piece of statuary by D. Barcaglio, in which a young girl is represented as trying to stay the flight of time. The grace and power of the sculpture were admirably preserved by Miss Mattie Fleming and Mr. E. S. Carpenter.

No. 3. "The End of the Game" was a very dramatic tableau in three scenes, representing the progress of a quarrel at cards to a bloody ending in a duel. It was well done by Messrs. F. E. Richardson, Robert Franks, D. R. Warden and J. B. Booth.

No. 4. Statuary on a revolving platform—an of Mrs. Miller's, which seemed to exhibit to advantage the charms of the following young ladies: Misses Mattie Fleming, Maud Miller, Lou Osburn, Bessie Waters and Jane Black.

No. 5. A group of vestal virgins at the sacrifice. Miss Dravo was the celebrant at the altar, and her companions were the Misses Nellie Carpenter, Elizabeth Blair, Mame Nevin, Maud Ogden and Jane Black.

No. 6, "L'Amour et Psyche." Canova's great work somewhat toned down. Mr. E. S. Carpenter and Miss Bessie Carpenter were beautifully posed, and the presence of drapery was not a drawback. No. 7, a group of Amazons from a Greek frieze, was also well executed.

No. 8 was perhaps the prettiest tableau of all. It represented a group of bisque figures, and the bright colors and bizarre costumes and fair faces made a brilliant show. The revolving platform was again used to advantage here. The ladies included the Misses Jane Black, Louise Jones, Bessie Waters, Mattie Fleming, and Miss Detweiller.

No. 9. In this tableau all the characters in ancient garb, who had appeared before, took part in a "Festival of the Vintage," in the presence of the Roman Emperor, Dick Swartzwelder. This as had been in the preceding tableaux was heartily applauded.

Mrs. J. Sharp McDonald and Messrs. R. J. Cunningham and W. W. Whitesell contributed several songs well rendered to the musical part of the programme. Gernert's Orchestra was in attendance. The next entertainment will take place on December 20.

SOCIETY DRAMATICS.

A Presentation of The Palace of Truth at the Penn Building Rooms of the School of Design.

Society people turned out in full force last evening to witness the presentation of Gilbert's comedy, "The Palace of Truth," by the young ladies of the Pittsburg School of Design, assisted by several popular young gentlemen.

The rooms of the society were fairly packed and seldom is as much enthusiasm displayed over an amateur dramatic presentation as was shown last evening. The cast of characters was as follows:

King Phanor	Mr. A. M. Schoyer
Prince Philamier	Mr. A. R. Wilson
Chrysal	Mr. H. S. Stevenson
Zoran	Mr. W. R. Siedle
Aristaeus	Mr. E. W. Smith
Gelanor	Mr. T. K. Gray
Queen Altemire	Miss Frances McCreary
Princess Zeolide	Miss Sallie Keenan
Mirza	Miss Cora Richart
Palmia	Miss Mary Cecil Rhinehart
Azema	Miss Nora Dickson

The curtain separated on a full court scene in King Phanor's country house where the usual homage was paid the King and Queen by all the nobles and ladies, and the customary compliments and pretty sayings were distributed freely.

With the consent of all, a visit to the King's Palace of Truth was arranged, only two of the company, however, being aware of the fact that the palace was enchanted and whoever entered its mystic portals were compelled to speak the plain, unvarnished truth. The two possessing the secret were the King and the Quen, the King very wisely securing for himself a talisman whereby he alone was exempt from the enchantment.

Mirza, the lovely ethereal character, overhearing a conversation between the King and Gelanor, the attendant of the castle, regarding the necessity of the talisman, by a clever trick confiscated it for her own use and the King upon arriving at the castle, was much surprised to find that he, too, is under the enchantment and much to his dismay is confessing his numerous flirtations and peccadillos.

Mirza, alone, bears the test and is, apparently, just what she always appeared. The confusion that resulted from unvarnished statements made to and about each other was intensely interesting. Prince Philamier who, for reasons of his own, had been protesting the most violent love to his betrothed, Princess Zeolide, confessed in the most startling manner that he had never loved her, but that he loved Mirza, while the Princess, who had received his protestations with the greatest composure, was forced to admit in burning language her insane passion for her sweetheart.

Chrysal, the affianced of Palmia, freely declared to his lady love that he had professed his admiration and affection for her for political reasons, and that he not only had no love for her, but positively disliked her. Asema, a most artfully artless coquette by the enchantment, was unable to resist the impulse to explain her actions and methods by which she attracted the attention of the gentlemen. Queen Altemire bore the test exceedingly well for one without a talisman. Aristaeus in everyday life noted for his bluntness and illhumor was completely transformed when obliged to be truthful, and confessed his surliness was affected with a view to eccentricity. Zoran made himself generally useful in trying to win the love of Palmia and provoking quarrels with everyone by his compelled candor. Duels and broken hearts were promiscuous, but at the opportune moment the King regained the talisman, and with its help proved himself a most exemplary husband worthy of so faithful a queen.

Philamier was disenchanted with *Mirza* when she appeared in her true colors, and appreciated the purity and sweetness of *Zeolide*. Eventually out of chaos was happiness and peace restored. Too much cannot be said in praise of the performances and the skill and tact with which each and every character was represented. The costumes worn were all of them elegant and in the fashion of the early part of the fifteenth century.

It is to be hoped that the young people will be prevailed upon to repeat the performance at an early date.

A BELLE'S PLEASANT DEBUT.

Miss Margaret Phillips' Successful Entree Into Pittsburg Circles.

Mrs. Bakewell Phillips, of Hazelwood, gave a reception yesterday afternoon at the house of her mother, Mrs. Ormsby Phillips, No. 344 Ridge avenue