The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, MONDAY, DEC. 16, 1889.

THE VINDICATION OF AMERICAN LAW.

The last information from Chicago, as will be seen from our special dispatches, is that the jury in the Cronin murder case has agreed upon a verdict of guilty against all the defendants. The statement cannot be absolutely verified, of course, until the verdict is formally announced to-day; but as it comes from reliable sources, it may be accepted as probably correct.

This ends the most important criminal trial of the country, since that of the Anarchists. Indeed, in some respects, it involved a greater and more vital issue than the former case. While the Anarchists took the attitude of claiming the right to murder without regard to law, they did not present any such indications of entrenchments within the citadel of justice itself, by which to defeat and defy punishment. In this case the right of organized murder was practically asserted, and there were abundant signs of conspiracy among the officers of the law to prevent conviction.

It is a subject of congratulation that any such attempt to override and defy the law has been defeated. While the evidence may not be best judged of at this distance, it can be said that the general opinion will undoubtedly sustain the verdict, and hold that the evidence, though circumstantial, fixed on the defendants, beyond a reasonable doubt, as the men who murdered Dr. Cronin as the result of a secret society quarrel.

The lesson of the verdict should not be lost. It is plainly that the animosities of other nations cannot be permitted to override the protection of life by the laws of the United States. If the star chamber edicts of secret and exotic societies undertake to deal out life and death, the murderers will be dealt with by our laws.

NOT TO BE USED THAT WAY.

The remarkable attentions which the Governments of England and Germany are showering upon Stanley are doubtless prompted, in large measure, by genuine admiration of his remarkable exploits, but there is also a possible prompting of self-interest in the endeavors to gain the good will of the great explorer. Both Germany and England are doing their utmost to extend their African possessions; and the Government which can secure the services of Stanley can count on large gains from his energy and knowledge of the country. But if anything can be inferred from Stanley's previous career, it will be a decided refusal on his part to sink to the position of agent for the territorial aggrandizement of any single European power in its African possessions. He may have influence enough to restore the policy of impartial protection and open trade free from monopolies. If he secures that it will be a fitting crown to his wonderful African career.

READERS OF THE MESSAGE.

An inquisitive New England paper adopted the plan, the other day, of polling a number of the citizens of its town as to whether they had read the President's message. The results of the inquiry present the remarkable fact that of 202 responsible citizens 11 had read the entire message; 56 had read portions of it; 26 had not read it at all; 5 had not noticed the message; 87 had read the press comments, and 17 had not. The returns show that, of the total number, over three-quarters had given enough attention to the message to read something about it, but that the number which waded faithfully through the entire document was about one-third as many as those who paid no attention to it.

This showing, which can probably be duplicated with slight variations at any point throughout the country, may give our statesmen some new light as to the awful public importance of their deliverances. We need not repeat Mark Twain's famous scheme for enlivening the public documents with a humorous department; or propose to attract attention to them by brightening them up with the current device of newspaper illustration. It is well to recognize the necessity of a considerable degree of decorous dullness in these public documents, when the nation is at peace; and we can even paraphrase a famous saying to read: Happy is the land when the President's messages put their readers to sleep!

But, under this showing of the calm ability of a majority of the public to resist the thrilling passages of the annual public document, might not our rulers accept a revised idea of the importance of their utterances? Instead of frowning upon the newspaper world as banded together to steal the precious documents, should not the President gratefully accept the offer of any newspaper that is willing to print the message when it is fresh news?

AN UNRIVALED APPETITE.

The question of how to get an appetite is one that vexes a large portion of highly civilized society; and the answer is at last furnished. It is only necessary to get sent to jail in Cohoes, N. Y., and appetite will be one of the most prominent features. That is the obvious deduction from some unique accounts of that institution which have just reached the sunlight of publicity. Two prisoners are credited with 14 loaves of bread and six pounds of coffee per day, and when the number was reduced to one the allowance *per capita* was larger. But this record is smashed by the fact that when the jail became empty the consumption of victuals went on at the same alarming rate. This last touch reaches the height of genius and extorts our unwilling admiration. An institution where no inmate at all can consume a large amount of bread and coffee daily must be conceded to be the champion place to develop an appetite—for profit in the officials having charge of the place.

NEW YORK'S ELECTRICAL CONTEST.

The contest between the electric lighting companies of New York and the authorities who seek to maintain the safety of the streets, took a new turn last week, in the shape of a decision by the New York Supreme Court overruling the remarkable decision of Judge Andrews, which forbade any interference with dangerous wires. This decision came just in time to be emphasized by the death of another employe of an electric company from touching an exposed wire.

It is a singular feature of this affair that when this decision was announced, and the authorities set promptly at work to remove the dangerous wires, the representatives of the electric lighting companies came forward and stated that they were willing to take down the defective and badly insulated poles and wires at their own expense. This gracious announcement after the decision of the courts had made it certain that if they did not do so, the public authorities would do it for them, affords a striking contrast to their previous inaction. Judge Andrews' decision gave them several weeks in which they could have taken down and repaired the dangerous wires at their own expense; but so long as the only reason for doing so was the protection of human life they did not consider any such effort necessary. Now that they find themselves defeated in their policy of keeping up wires that cause an almost daily slaughter, they are benevolently willing to do the work, provided they have permission "to repair badly insulated wires"—which proposition it is pleasant to note was curtly refused.

This remarkable display of corporate carelessness for the public safety, except under compulsion, contains a whole sermon against the practice of granting privileges in the streets without the most careful conditions for preserving the rights and safety of the public.

STICKING TO PLEDGES.

From our Washington special it will be seen that some of the Western Pennsylvania Congressmen are indulging in the Biblical vice of Jeshurun because the President does not make a general distribution of the postoffices in the districts, without waiting for the terms of the present incumbents to expire. Jeshurun, it may be remembered, waxed fat and kicked. The Republican Congressmen may not have waxed fat, and it is certain that the expectant among their constituents have not; but they are making up for that by the violence of their kicking.

It is one of the creditable features of the Harrison administration that it has held so firmly to the principle of permitting Democratic postmasters, against whom there are no charges, to serve out their full terms. The example was set by President Cleveland; but the principle he laid down was reduced to a by-word by his Assistant Postmaster General's famous construction of "offensive partisanship" under which nearly every Republican postmaster could be removed without regard to his efficiency or integrity. The present administration having been elected on a civil service platform, cannot afford to go backward. While this rule is by no means perfect civil service reform, it is satisfactory that the administration has so much sincerity and firmness as to resist the clamorous importunity of the Congressmen more firmly than even its Democratic predecessor.

The Congressmen should possess their souls in patience, and not permit their hunger for the offices to get the better of their reputation as supporters of Republican principles.

THE foreign epidemic of influenza is not needed in this country. We can be entirely content with the indigenous and sporadic description that we enjoy as the result of our unparalleled general humidity.

IN a fine fit of sarcasm over the census appointments, a Southern paper says: "It is taken for granted that Mr. Andrew Carnegie will indite the treatise on iron production and the necessity of fostering that tender industry. Any monopolist can write the chapter on the American workingman's enormous wages and luxurious ways of living." It is true, if our Southern paper would take the trouble to put it that way, that anyone, monopolist or otherwise, will find little difficulty in showing that the workingmen of the Pittsburg iron industry enjoy what would seem "enormous wages and luxurious ways of living" in comparison with those which negro labor gets in the South.

SENATOR WINDOM'S silver scheme was an earnest effort to sit down between two stools; and it has met with the usual tumble that attends upon such attempts.

CONCERNING the decision of the Michigan Supreme Court that "there is nothing in the Constitution to prevent the Republican party from sending an idiot or an ignoramus to Congress," the Philadelphia *Record* remarks: "Republican members who have lost money by Silcott are thus assured of the tenure of their seats." It also follows that the Democratic members who are responsible for Silcott's incumbency cannot have their qualifications disputed; but the Democratic *Record* singularly omits to mention that phase of the matter.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S Boston speech may suggest to Governor Hill that he might study the encyclopedia or other instructive works with great advantage.

THE important piece of information is going the rounds that the wife of Joseph Johnston once said to a friend that the wife of Jefferson Davis dressed like an Indian squaw. The repetition of the remark to Mrs. Davis is asserted to be the reason why Mr. Davis removed General Johnston and put General Hood in his place. This is argued to show that women are incapable of exerting political power; but its real significance, if true, is that the husbands must be as big fools as the women, to have the latter's foolishness do any harm.

THE Signal Service's cold waves are almost as fugacious as the several dates fixed for the starting of the Central Traction Company's cable cars.

JOHN KEENAN, of New York, while on the street the other day saw a black cat cross his path twice. Indignant at being hoodooed in that manner he hurled a stone at the cat and broke a show window, for which he had to pay $80. The incident is held to show the sad luck which follows upon having a black cat cross your path; and while that view of the matter may be questioned, all will agree that it is exceedingly bad luck to throw a stone at a cat and hit a plate-glass window.

THE hanging seems to have been transferred from the Cronin jury to the locality where it will do the most good.

MR. EDWARD BELLAMY, of "Looking Backward" fame, has given his attention to the question, "What Can be Done With the Servant Girl?" in a recent magazine article. If Mr. Bellamy can solve the servant girl question and is then able to discover the way to reform the mistresses, he will probably bring about the millennium, without resorting to his idea of running everything by government contracts.

BRICE BUYS AN ORGAN.

The Democratic Chairman Said to Have Purchased a Columbus Paper.

COLUMBUS, December 15.—It is stated upon the authority of Mr. John A. McMahon, of Dayton, that Calvin S. Brice has concluded arrangements for the purchase of the *Evening Post* of this city, which will be conducted hereafter as his personal organ.

The *Post* was established here about a year ago by J. C. McCullough, of Toledo, former owner of the Toledo *Bee*. It was afterward made a stock concern, most of the local Democratic politicians taking small interests.

GOOD IN EVERY WAY.

Yesterday's 20-Page Dispatch a Newsy and Interesting Number.

Yesterday's mammoth triple number of THE DISPATCH was bright, newsy and entertaining. Besides a full record of important events in all parts of the world, it contained many pages filled with original contributions from the pens of famous authors. Every purchaser got many times the worth of his money.

I.

The epidemic of influenza is rapidly spreading in Europe. Physicians are unable to tell the cause. It attacks royalty as well as the common herd, and no country appears entirely exempt. The English gas stokers have been defeated in their strike. Balfour is accused of contemplating matrimony. The prospective bride is a Scotch girl and the daughter of a Gladstonian. The German Government has refused to accept the bill exempting theological students from military duty. The activity of the Socialists is causing much political discussion.

Franklin B. Gowen, ex-President of the Reading Railroad, committed suicide at a Washington hotel. The Cronin jury had reached no verdict up to a late hour Saturday night. Kilrain has been adjudged by a Mississippi jury not guilty of prize fighting, but guilty of assault and battery. He was fined $200, and sentenced to two months in jail, but the case was appealed and bail given. The Federation of Labor provided for assessing its members 2 cents a week to prepare for a strike on the eight-hour question. It adopted an address, asking that the K. of L. discontinue and revoke the charters of all trades assemblies and districts within their order, pledging itself in turn to urge its members to become members of mixed assemblies of the K. of L. No trace has yet been discovered of the missing Philadelphia banker, J. G. Ditman. The South Carolina Legislature, by a unanimous vote, repealed the civil rights law of that State. The latest phases of the contest for the Republican Gubernatorial nomination in Pennsylvania were set forth in a Philadelphia telegram. Official investigation of the public institutions in Utah discloses the fact there has been a systematic misappropriation of funds by penitentiary officials and others. An edict of the Para Government taxing the dealers in rubber has caused a great advance in the price of that commodity.

II.

Local labor leaders and employers discussed the contract labor law, and suggested methods for enforcing it. The great coal deal has not yet been consummated. Carnegie, Phipps & Co. have received an order from the Government for $80,000 worth of steel plate. J. M. Kelly was expelled from the Trades Council. The Fort Wayne Railroad is to lay another double track between Allegheny and Conway. It is estimated that the work will cost $300,000.

Al Johnson's inside history of the Brotherhood, Pringle's review and the sporting news in full occupied the sixth page.

III.

Hon. Henry Hall related his experiences in the "tough" districts of London in a well written and interesting article in the second part. "A World on Wheels," by Frank Jenks, contained a humorous account of the boundless possibilities and remarkable uses of an invention contemplated by an ingenious Pittsburger. Thorne Branch pleasingly sketched the ways of the shoplifter and the female kleptomaniac. Allan Boyd Jardine gave a pen-portrait of the fallen monarch, Dom Pedro. Frank Carpenter contributes interesting gossip concerning the new Senators and other great men at the Capital. Brenan depicted scenes on the Pittsburg streets and bridges. "The Collegian's Sweetheart," by Wong Hatska Foo and Albert Dayton, was a charming novelette. A fairy story by Heinrichs, the continuation of "Joshua," and articles by Belva A. Lockwood, Clara Belle, Ablo Bates, Rev. George Hodges, George Goldie, James C. Purdy, Searight, Jessie Fothergill, Bumbalo, Young, Bessie Bramble and others, were also included in the large assortment of excellent reading matter in the second and third parts.

A MARK OF ESTEEM.

An Employe of the P. R. R. Made the Recipient of a Handsome Present.

Mr. Clayton L. Wilson, for eight years connected with the Pennsylvania Railroad, in the west-bound department, who, to accept a position with Carnegie, Phipps & Co., tendered his resignation several days ago, was the recipient of a handsome present from his fellow-clerks Saturday evening. It consisted of a gold pen and holder, inkwell and stand.

Shortly before the closing of business Thomas F. Jelly announced that W. W. McElheney, a rising young law student, desired to make a few remarks, and in a neat and appropriate speech Mr. McElheney presented the writing set in behalf of his fellow-clerks, paying a glowing tribute to the many good qualities possessed by the recipient, and wishing him much success in his new position.

Mr. Wilson responded in a fitting manner, kindly thanking one and all for their token of regard. A general handshaking ensued. Mr. Wilson leaves the P. R. R. with many friends, who wish him every success in his new enterprise.

PEOPLE OF PROMINENCE.

VERDI is spending the winter in a hotel at Milan, engaged in making notes for a new opera.

THE oldest member of the French Legion of Honor is a soldier 99 years old, the last survivor of the battle of Trafalgar.

GALUSHA A. GROW is in Washington. The capital now entertains a number of ex-Speakers of the House—Banks, Grow, Blaine, Randall and Carlisle.

HON. W. B. FLICKING, member of the State Legislature from the First, or Erie city district, has just arrived in Washington, D. C., from Quitman, Georgia, where he has been for his health. He had almost entirely lost the use of his vocal organs, but has apparently completely recovered.

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM MARTIN, of Texas, who had a good deal of fun poked at him during the last session of Congress, is the heaviest smoker in official life at Washington. He is always smoking cigars. He is not particular as to the brand, quality, style or price. All he requires of a cigar is that it shall draw well.

PROF. MURRAY, of Oxford, England, who was married recently to Lady Mary Howard, is only 24 years of age, and is probably the youngest man ever elected to a first-class chair at any of the great English universities. He and his best man, Prof. Margoliouth, were for a long time the most distinguished scholars in classical and Oriental languages at the University of Oxford.

Two of the daughters of Sir Henry Aaron Isaacs, the new Lord Mayor of London, are deaf and dumb, but they have been so admirably educated on the oral system in Holland that they can by lip-reading even understand what goes on at a theater. They have such bright, intelligent faces that no one could possibly imagine them to be deprived of two of the best senses.

A LADY well known in Boston society having been informed that the poet Whittier, when he received an inspiration, was wont to retire to a certain corner of a certain room and there kneel, while he reduced his thought to words, at once, with her own fair hands, made a handsomely embroidered cushion. This she conveyed herself to Oak Knoll, and formally presented it to Mr. Whittier, although she had not had the slightest previous acquaintance with the poet.

A HEART AND HAND CONCERT.

An Excellent Roster of Participants in a Musical Event.

In the concert for the benefit of the Heart and Hand Society of the Third Presbyterian Church, to be given in the chapel of that church next Thursday evening, a great many prominent musical people will take part.

The concert has been prepared under the management of Miss Madge G. Irwin, and the following are the names of those who will make the evening a very enjoyable one:

Mrs. Jean Wallace Webster, Mrs. Scott, Misses Mamie Heuck, Caroline Schmerta, Jennie Evans, Annie Flower, Carrie Lang, Jessie Raynor, and Messrs. H. B. Brockett and Frank W. Bend.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

Mrs. Margaret Medill.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

CANTON, O., December 15.—Mrs. Margaret Medill, mother of Joseph Medill, editor of the Chicago *Tribune*, died at her residence in this city last night, after a lingering illness from dropsy, aged 87 years. She has been a resident of this place for many years, and was noted for her graces of mind and works of charity.

THE CRITIC'S REVIEW.

Paintings Beautifully Duplicated in a Book—Water Colors Faithfully Reproduced—Pictures and Poetry From Abroad—Children's Floral Publications—Varied Styles of Books for Holiday Buyers.

The handsomest book which The Critic has been able to discover this season in the bookstores is *Fac-similes of Aquarelles* (Frederick A. Stokes & Bro.; J. R. Weldin & Co.; $12 50). Its generous proportions, its embossed cover edged with vellum, its fine paper and strong binding, make a fitting environment for its charming pictures. It represents a great advance in two arts, in the art of water-color painting and in the art of color lithography. This latter art has so recently won a standing for excellence that the word "chromo," which characterized its earlier attainments, has still a most inartistic sound in our ears. A really successful "chromo" is, however, an important work of art, for it means the accurate reproduction of color; it means that a painting can be practically duplicated and multiplied to give inspiration and pleasure to thousands. The fine pictures of the Arundel Society are simply successful "chromos." The "Fac-similes of Aquarelles" which are presented in this book belong to the same high class.

The art of water-color painting has made an advance almost as notable. In 1853, at the New York Crystal Palace exhibition "a handful of water-colors shown modestly upon a screen," represented, both in quality and quantity, all that had been done at that day in an art which was thought to be best fitted for the abilities of young ladies at boarding schools. To-day out of a great number of competing pictures, the Water-Color Society selects 700 to show at its annual exhibition. Some of the best work which is being done now by artists is done in water-color.

The art of painting and the art of accurate reproduction meet at a high point of perfection in these eight pictures. There are figure-studies by Mr. Percy Moran, Mr. Ferris, Mr. Symington and Mr. Paul Moran. Mr. Paul Moran's is perhaps the least pleasing, being a sketch of any airy maiden standing upon nothing and offering a rose to a dragon with a fiery tongue and a tail of blue ribbon. The airy maiden, however, is quite pretty. The tall, tastefully and quaintly clad ladies of Mr. Percy Moran and Mr. Ferris are very fair to see. Mr. Barnsley has "an old-time merchant man" with whole acres of spreading sail. Mr. McVicar has a picture entitled "Vain Regrets," which reminds one of his good work in *Life*. A group of pretty, chubby children picking dandelions is the contribution of Miss Humphrey. A delightful spring landscape of green fields and trees in blossom is the work of Mr. William Hamilton Gibson.

Mr. Ripley Hitchcock has prefaced the book with a valuable review of American water-color painting. Beside each picture is a paragraph descriptive of the artist, with a little sketch of his face; and a reproduction in half-tones of one of his other works.

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"Designed in England. Printed in Germany," is set at the foot of the first page of a great number of pretty books of pictures and poetry, published by Hildesheimer and Faulkner, of London, imported by George C. Whitney, and for sale here by J. R. Weldin & Co. These books are printed in the attractive monotint which is the specialty of certain German art publishing houses.

A Book of Old Ballads, the most important of these publications, is a collection of good poetry, with pictures, by Alice Havers. The ballads are of the order of "Comin' Thro' the Rye." Robert Burns and Thomas Moore are the favorite authors. Some of the pictures are clumsily drawn, but the soft colors make even inferior work pleasant to look upon, and the general effect is good. Two or three subjects are so ill-chosen that the book would be improved by the omission. The less pretentious drawings are the better. The rustic dancers in "Come let us seek the oaken grove" are very graceful.

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Among the Daisies, by F. E. Wetherly, is a pretty book for a child. The verses are simple and good, and the full-page pictures in color, by M. Ellen Edwards, are bright and attractive. There is one especially lively little picture of children and kittens. *Needles and Pins* is another pretty book in the style. Michael Drayton's *Shepherd's Daffodil* gives the name to a little bundle of pastoral ballads delightfully illustrated. Among a great company of other little books sent us by this house, and all of them good, we have space to notice only *Songs of the Birds* and *Toilers of the Sea* and *A Happy Childhood*. The latter is a little book just right for a Christmas remembrance for a child. These booklets, with their pretty verses and charming pictures, are taking the place of Christmas cards by survival of the fittest.

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Speaking of Christmas cards, calls at once to mind the house of Prang & Co., who send us this year a great bundle of samples of their *Holiday Publications*. Among the cards, "Red Letter Days" pleases us most. Old Father Time points out to a little child the great days of the year personified by a group of charming boys and girls in appropriate costumes. A little folding calendar for 1890, with children holding a wreath, is particularly good. Four little books with illustrations in color by Louis K. Harlow are worthy of more extended mention than we can give. "Haunts of Emerson," with pictures of the house and study, and glimpses of the river, the pond and the woods; "Sunlight and Shadow," with pictures of landscapes in twilight; "Good Luck," in which new moons, and old shoes, and horseshoes, and rice and wishbones are brought to remembrance in verse and sketch with equal grace; and "Golden Sunsets," in which the words of famous poetry are set to the music of pleasant pictures. "A Fishing Town" being especially pretty, make attractive little souvenirs for this season of good will.

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Another example of good work in color lithography is *Gondola and Palace* (Frederick A. Stokes & Bro.; J. R. Weldon & Co.; $2 00). The Doge's Palace, the Bridge of Sighs, the Arsenal and the Piazza and Campanile are reproduced from the familiar illuminated photographs, with accompanying text from the writings of Charles Yriarte. *The Star Spangled Banner* and *The Landscape Calendar* come from the same publishers and the same booksellers. The pictures in these pages are sketches of American scenery.

From Lee & Shepard, through J. R. Weldin & Co., we receive several pieces of color work—*One Merrie Christmas Time*, and *A Happy New Year to You*, and *Hurrah for the New Year*. Little cats and dogs and boys and girls dance through these little pictures. *Our Baby's Book* is just what some father and mother are looking for, with a place for the date of baby's birth and christening, a space for his picture and for a lock of his hair, and plenty of room for a chronicle of his bright sayings, all bound up in fine shape with chains and ribbons.

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Sally in Our Alley (White & Allen; H. Watts & Co., $1 25), is an ideal setting of this most delightful old ballad. The illustrations are by Joseph Lauber. Part of the pictures are in monotint, part in rich color and all, without exception, excellent. The work of printer and picture-maker is so uniformly good that one hesitates to express a preference. This is "Sally" just as she looked when her prentice lover wooed her in "our alley."

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One, Two, Three, Four (Frederick A. Stokes & Bro.; J. R. Weldin & Co.; $1) is another of Miss Humphrey's children's books. Four small boys and girls, with verses set beside their pictures, make up the contents.

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In a Fair Country (Lee & Shepard; J. R. Weldin & Co.) is one of that series of books which holiday buyers look for, with pictures by Miss Irene E. Jerome. The text is by Colonel Higginson, and is made up of selections from his "Outdoor Essays." The length of the lines makes the reading rather difficult, but the main feature is, plainly enough, the pictures. These sketches of green pastures and still waters take one out into hearing of the birds. They are a sufficiently true account of the fresh fields through which the artist has been wandering, and they bring with them the rustle of the leaves and the plash of the waves, and the fragrance of the flowers. Mr. Higginson's appreciative papers will seem to some readers to bring them even closer to nature and make them see more than the artist shows; but to most the charm of the book is in the pictures. The publishers have given it a cover of cloth of gold.

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The pictures are so good in *Legend Laymore* (J. B. Lippincott Co.; J. R. Weldin & Co.; $2 50) that one can quite easily forget the poetry. The photogravure illustrations show some of the best artistic work of this season. Mr. Bolton Sones' sycamores, Mr. Denman's Indians, Mr. D. G. Quentin's butterflies, Mr. Church's lovers, Miss Humphrey's graceful maiden, Mr. Swords' and Mr. Gibson's valleys and canons, and especially Mr. William T. Richards' picture of the surf, are a satisfaction and a delight.

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The Wooing of Grandmother Grey (Lee & Shepard; J. R. Weldin & Co.) is pleasantly told in verse by Kate Tannatt Woods, and in drawings by Charles Copeland. The homely story is set forth in homely fashion, Christmas Eve is the time, and thus a touch of the holiday spirit is given to the old-fashioned tale of rural courtships. The popping-corn picture is noticeably quaint and real. The faces and positions in the right hand one of the two pictures in which the ring is tried on are excellent.

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Rab and His Friends (J. B. Lippincott Co.; J. R. Weldin & Co. $1 50) is illustrated by Hermann Simon and Edmund H. Garrett. Here is good Dr. John Brown for frontispiece, and stout old, honest, brave and tender Rab himself and his friends, pictured out like life,—an edition of this pathetic story. The best of any which the lovers of "Rab and His Friends" can find.

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We know before we look inside what we will find in *The Good Things of "Life"* (Frederick A. Stokes & Bro.; J. R. Weldin & Co., $2 50). Author's preface, "Thoughts on Truth in Art," comes in well with cotemporary discussion of realism in fiction. Among the numerous illustrations which adorn these two stately volumes is a dainty little etching of Cinq Mars, which shows the strong face of that ill-starred hero. There are 13 exquisite full page etchings by Gaujean. The publishers have set forth this masterpiece of French romance in a worthy dress.

QUESTIONS BEFORE CONGRESS.

Business Likely to Come Up Before the Holiday Recess.

WASHINGTON, December 15.—Congress this week will provide for the usual Christmas holiday and will adjourn, doubtless, from next Friday, December 20, until Monday, the 6th of January. Aside from action on this subject, the completion of committee organization, the further introduction of bills and the confirmation of numerous recess appointments, there will probably be little to chronicle in the Senate.

Some means of permitting the immediate introduction of bills in the House of Representatives will probably be sanctioned early this week, and a prodigious number of new and old measures now fill the pigeon holes of 329 members awaiting the opportunity. When the call once begins, not less than two legislative days will be required to complete it.

The Committee on Appropriations intend to report, and will doubtless promptly pass through the House an urgent deficiency bill, providing for the wants of the printing office and the Census Bureau.

The Silcott committee is still wrestling with the legal questions upon which it is to pass judgment, and its report, no matter what the conclusions may be, will undoubtedly give rise to a lively discussion when it is presented this week to the House.

Speaker Reed is not prepared to say whether his list of committees can be completed in time for presentation to the House during the week, but it is the general expectation that he will have finished his task by Friday.

A REMARKABLE LIBRARY.

S. L. M. Barlow's Valuable Books to Be Sold at Auction.

From the New York World.]

The sale of S. L. M. Barlow's collection of books will occur at the American Art Galleries during the first week in February. This library is certainly the most remarkable collection of Americana ever made in this country. It includes the first printed copies of the letters which Columbus sent back to Italy detailing his discoveries, the first letters returned to the Court of Spain by Fernando Cortez and the first editions of a number of the reports made by the pioneers in Virginia and New England. Of some of these books it is known that there are only four or five copies in existence, and these are in possession of the great libraries of the world.

The market value of the Cortez letters is said to be about $3,000 each, and there are only 20 or 25 printed pages. The Columbus letters will bring, it is expected, $2,000 each. It is estimated that the 6,000 volumes in the library, which can all be comfortably placed in one small room, many of the books consisting simply of three or four pages, will realize $125,000. The British Museum, Baron Rothschild and several of the leading libraries of Europe will undoubtedly have representatives here to attend the sale.

DELIVERING MILK THROUGH PIPES.

A Novel Scheme Proposed by the Dairymen of Middletown, N. Y.

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., December 15.—Unless some unforeseen difficulty presents itself milk will be flowing through big pipes from here to New York before many months. A company has been formed here to raise $600,000 to build the conduits, and the men interested are sanguine of success.

"This scheme," said the originator of the idea to-day, "presents many difficulties, such as the danger of the milk's becoming sour or being churned, but we can deliver it in a half-frozen condition if we want to prevent the souring or churning. We shall probably be able to send milk to New York from all the towns within 100 miles of the metropolis for 1 cent a gallon. The concern can be as easily controlled as a telegraph system. We shall be able to send milk to the big city in one hour. As the plans are not yet all finished I can give no names or say more."

Probably a Miscalculation.

From the Chicago Times.]

A Washington newspaper correspondent is authority for the statement that there are four good storytellers in Congress. A great many people who have thought that the majority in Congress were storytellers will be relieved to hear this.

The Popular Version.

From the Syracuse Herald.]

"Go buy, sweetheart, go buy," is the Christmas version of the old song.

IS IT COLUMBIA'S CHOICE?

[WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.]

Oh! sprightly Miss Columbia,
Thy shining diadem
Has stars full many—sister States—
And each a sparkling gem.
And of this coruscation rare
Which city dost thou love?
Mong myriad communities,
Which wilt thou place above?

"Kind sir, embarrassing your wish,
For they all honor me;
And am I ingrate to their charms,
That I should choosing be?
From California's golden clime
To Aroostook, in Maine,
They all acclaim my hearty praise
And bless my loving reign."

Oh! sweet, oh! patriotic maid!
Set scruples far away!
List to my supplication wild,
And choose for us, I pray.
For common folk have many minds
And preferences queer;
While millions, if you but speak up,
Your lightest word will hear.

"Well, since the people bid me speak,
I e'en will ope my mouth.
Then listen all! from East to West,
And hearken, North and South:

"New York's where stringent millionaires
Their fortunes tightly clutch.
List to the Eagle's frantic squawk!
They squeeze him overmuch.
A soldier's unmarked resting place!
A city's blasoned shame!
You'd conjure naught but crooked pence
With such a doubtful name.

"Fair Washington, thy paves are broad,
And shafts impale the sky.
Thou wouldst, indeed, be fairy land,
Were all thy flats quite dry.
But would my statesmen thrifty grow
With World's Fair close at hand?
Alackaday! I fear it much,
With lobbies slyly planned!

"Sweet, slow St. Louis, who art thou
That ask for such a boon?
Hath not Jay Gould got quite enough
Without the stars and moon?
Thou hast old Navigation's head
Nursed in thine ample lap.
Go to, Old Girl! Remain, forsooth,
In thy archaic nap!

"What brilliant maiden's this, who comes
With willful, winning mien?
My youngest child; but how she's grown!
A marvel, she, that's plain!
What breeze and dash and nerve and rim!
What conscious power she shows!
Ah! fair Chicago, inland Queen!
Near thee the lake swell flows.

"But hence, ungenerous thought! This child
Is worthy of her sire.
She rose to royalty's estate,
Undaunted e'en by fire,
Come hither! Let me charm thee, then,
The rarest of the rare!
Thou, best of all, deserv'st the wreath;
Thou art the New World's 'Fair'!"

LEONARD WALDO.

PITTSBURG, December 15, 1889.

NO WINTER IN WASHINGTON.

Pleasant Features of the Climate in the New Western State.

Tacoma Letter in New York World.]

Practically there is no winter in the region west of the Cascade Mountains. In all the larger towns ice manufactories have been established, and the smaller towns are supplied with ice from the factories. Ice never forms on the lakes of sufficient thickness to cut and pack, as is done in the East. To-day is a typical winter's day. A heavy mist is falling; at short intervals rain falls. It is a decidedly nasty day. The workmen pay no attention to the weather. The town resounds with the roar of industry. I hear carpenters' hammers, at least 100 of them, driving nails. I hear the sharp tap, tap, tap, of stonedressers' hammers as they strike on granite and sandstone blocks, and an army of workmen labor at the wharves, on the streets, and around the mills.

The work year is 12 months long on Puget Sound, and that fact means a great deal to men who have followed agriculture in lands where blizzards and arctic like frost rigidly suspend work for many months, during which time the farmer and his family and stock eat and burn all he made or grew during the working season. Here fuel is at the farmer's hand. He can find work for every day. But it is true that to clear a farm and fit it for the plow in this region of dense forest is a slow and very costly operation. But it is also true that the farmer who enters the forest to chop out a farm can readily sell every log he cuts if he will haul it to the bank of a river or adjacent to a railroad. When he has cleared a few acres he can grow more food on them than he could on twice as much Mississippi Valley land, and sell the product for more money.

BETTER ACCUSTOMED TO CANDLES.

A Young Couple From Towanda Frightened at Electric Lights.

From the Waverly (N. Y.) Free Press.]

A couple from Towanda arrived at the Hotel Warford on Saturday evening last, and employed the services of a minister, who made them husband and wife. The newly-made benedict then engaged a room, and Henderson Brown, the affable waiter, proceeded to escort them to the bridal chamber, which is lighted by electricity. Henderson then proceeded to instruct the Towandian how to manipulate the light, knowing that but a few from that inland village ever saw other than a tallow dip used for that purpose. His guests stood with open-eyed wonder and fear depicted on their features, so great was their astonishment.

The groom finally asked what caused the light, and when told it was electricity he put in a protest, declaring that he "had heerd tell of it, and didn't want any for him, as he was not ready to die," and insisted on having the light turned off. It is said that candles are now in great demand for the various hotels here to accommodate their Towanda bridal guests.

HON. M. C.'S AS STORY TELLERS.

How Congressman Smithkins Played Up Deaf and Got a Seat in a Car—A Foreign Prince Tells Stahlnecker His Opinion of Chicago—Englishmen Don't Want Buffaloes—A Thrifty Steward's Scheme.

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.]

WASHINGTON, December 15.—There is many a Congressman who has a fine sense of humor, but who hardly ever gets a chance to exhibit it on the floor of the House, but allows it to find vent in other, and sometimes in the most unexpected, places. Coming down-town in a street car the other day, Representative Smithkins found every seat crowded by 20 human beings, a very stout female of one of the foreign legations, who spread her skirts over two seats, and her little dog (about as big as a kitten) which occupied the space of a full seat. The Congressman was tired with his arduous duties of the day, and looked wistfully at the perch of the small canine. The large female looked at the Congressman as though to say, "Take it, if you dare!" Smithkins fixed his eye with an intense, mesmeric glare on both female and pup; but neither of them moved in response to the powerful action of this will. Smithkins, who weighs over 250 pounds, suddenly wheeled about and sat down plump on the little dog, but bracing his feet on the floor of the car and his back against the back of the seat, and letting down just enough of his weight to make the dog howl. Half a dozen ladies drew in their breath quickly and exclaimed, "Oh, my!" The large female gave vent to two or three theatrical screams, and shouted:

"Oh, you horrid man, you are sitting on my dog!"

"Beg your pardon, ma'am, sitting on a log, did you say? I am quite deaf," said Smithkins, with his blandest smile.

"You are killing my little Fay!" screamed the female.

"Yes, it's a very fine day!" said Smithkins.

"Oh, I could just beat you!" she screamed again, digging her elbow into Smithkins' side to make him move.

"Yum, yum," said Smithkins, "and I could just eat you; but you shouldn't talk about it before all these people."

"Oh, you vile wretch!" she screamed, beside herself with anger, and without more ado she grabbed Smithkins by the collar and hoisted him off from her precious pet, grabbed up the howling phist, and signaled the conductor to stop the car.

Amid a roar of laughter she alighted, muttering angrily, while Smithkins, without a smile, but with a prolonged sigh of satisfaction, settled down and spread himself nearly all over the space that had been occupied by both female and dog.

When Stahlnecker Was Abroad.

"When I was abroad lawst summer," said Stahlnecker the other day, with a fine English drawl, "I met Prince Thingumbob, who has a name as long as my arm. We dined together a number of times, and he had a thousand questions to ask about America."

No one doubted this part of the story, as the Yonkers Congressman is handsomer than any prince, and is known as the Adonis of the House.

"It was in Vienna that I met him, continued 'Stally,' and one day at the great Schweizerhof restaurant we sat long over the wine, and the Prince asked to know all about the Exposition of 1892. He had got it into his head that it would be held at Chicago, and he wanted to find out where Chicago was. I told him it was about 1,000 miles from New York.

"Down the coast?" inquired His Royal Highness.

"No, inland," I said.

"Oh, it will never be a success there," said the Prince, earnestly. "You cannot get our people to travel so far inland. They would go in great numbers to New York or Washington; but to go 1,000 miles inland and run the risk of the train being attacked by wild Indians or knocked from the track by herds of buffaloes—impossible! It cannot succeed there."

"It is absolutely astounding," concluded Mr. Stahlnecker, "to discover how many foreigners have an idea that civilization in America extends only a little distance from the coast."

Billy Mason's Little Coincidence.

"The reference of the companion of princes to buffaloes and Indians recalls a little occurrence last winter at my livery stable," said Billy Mason, of Chicago, who was of this distinguished company. "No, I don't run a livery stable," he contin