The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, MONDAY, FEB. 3, 1890.

HE DID NOT ASSIMILATE.

The irrepressible Marquis De Mores having exhausted the possibilities of cattle ranching and promoting of dressed beef corporations, in this country, now shines out with meteoric splendor in France, as the victorious principal in a duel. An unbridled and ghoulish Parisian journal bit its thumb, or otherwise poked an indignity at the Marquis, and that Franco-American representative from Bitter Creek called his man out, shot him through the left arm and considers his wounded honor healed in proportion as the unfortunate journalist's left arm is inflamed.

As regards this method of vindicating himself, the United States must disclaim all responsibility for its quondam denizen. If the noble Marquis had adopted the regulation Dakota method of dealing with an indiscreet newspaper, he would have ridden his horse into the *bureau de redaction*, and, if the editor had not got the drop on him first, would have shot the editorial force, pied the forms and thrown the press out of the window. In adopting the formalities of the effete European style, he chose a less dangerous and uproarious, but not less comic method of procedure. If the former cowboy associates of the Marquis should learn that he and another tenderfoot had traveled together a hundred or more miles in order to shoot at each other once, the humor of the thing would be considered as convulsing.

The evidence that the Marquis has learned nothing from American promptness in getting to work with his gun, is damaging to the supposed power of our institutions to assimilate foreign elements. We shall have to give De Mores up as an incorrigible Frenchman.

A POSSIBLE REFORM.

Mr. Henry Warner joins Mr. David McCargo in the opinion that convict labor in the construction of highways would prove less remunerative than free labor, from the expense of furnishing guards as well as the inferior character of the work. This is undisputed as regards the old system, and the one in vogue in the Southern States. But the question is whether the system cannot be reformed so as to make it an incentive to the criminals to do good and faithful work, and actually better their condition by the change to that class of labor. The example of Kansas, though it may not be conclusive, contains a suggestion in that direction that is worthy of investigation. To revive the old chain-gang system would be a step backward; but to provide a plan of work that would be beneficial alike to the convicts and the State would be philanthropic as well as administrative progress.

LABOR IN DEMAND.

A short telegraphic item concerning the scarcity of miners in the Monongahela river mines furnishes a first-class object lesson on the oft-repeated theory that competition crowds down wages. The proof is furnished there that such a theory ignores the obvious fact that there can be competition in the purchase of a commodity or service as well as in the selling of it.

Competition is free in the river coal trade. All attempts to combine that interest have failed; and what is the result? Have wages been crowded down as might have been the case if the operators had been combined in a single organization? On the contrary wages have been kept up, and, even with the drawback of the warm winter, the very presence of legitimate competition ensures such activity as to create a demand for labor. The result is that miners are wanted in the Monongahela region, and the lucky firms are those who have men enough to secure a large output.

The example is one to which attention is not called very often; but it is nevertheless frequent. Where competition is even and unrestrained, capital will compete for labor as freely as labor will compete for wages.

PROGRESS ON THE SUBWAY QUESTION.

The progress which is being made toward the settlement of the underground wire question in New York is shown by the proposition of a new electrical subway company to build all the conduits required within a year. It thus appears that while the underground wire movement is in comparative infancy, it has produced a competition in the business of building and leasing subways which insures full accommodations and moderate charges. So long as the field is open for new companies to embark in such enterprises, we may be sure that if the existing conduits become crowded or the charges excessive, capital will be found to build new ones. Indeed, it looks as if enterprise might eventually reach the point of building subways large enough to accommodate all kinds of underground lines and pipes by the system which is being pursued with the Thirty-third street sewer in this city at present.

SOLUTION BY MONOPOLY.

What is presented as a solution of the gas question, as adopted by the city of Baltimore, is summarized as follows: The city does not take over the works, but it regulates the gas company, fixes the price at $1 25 per 1,000 feet, forbids a higher dividend than 6 per cent, and, in return, guarantees the company against competition for 25 years.

For a so-called solution of the gas question this is a monument of municipal stupidity. The price is fixed at a figure far above the cost of gas in any city so near the coal fields as Baltimore. The stock, however watered, is given a dividend of 6 per cent; and a monopoly of 25 years is granted through which the managers of the company can keep the dividends down to that figure by means of fat inside contracts. If a plan had been drawn to guarantee to a corporation a rich and undisturbed business at the public expense, it could not have secured the object more fully than this alleged solution of the question.

When cities go honestly to work with the idea that the just price of gas will be fixed when it is as easy for any one to compete in furnishing it as it is to furnish coal or flour, it will not be difficult to establish such conditions. But municipal bodies are not generally anxious to seek measures of that class which would take so profitable a business wholly out of politics.

THE REAL ISSUE.

The defense of the course of Speaker Reed, made in our Washington correspondence is about equivalent to that given out by the Speaker himself. Both repeat in detailed form the arguments advanced on that side during the past week. To their full declaration of the absurdity of a member being present and declaring himself absent no dissent need be taken; but with that point conceded the vital feature of the case which makes the Speaker's course one that cannot be justified in the interest of representative government, is ignored by both.

That feature is brought out by the fact, as stated by our correspondent more than once, that "the Speaker and a few of his friends" determined to stop dilatory motions. But that is just what neither the Speaker nor any of his friends, individually have a right to do. The whole House, under the Constitution, is given power to prescribe rules for the government of the body; and the majority, under the principles of representative government, is charged with the duty of bringing in rules and securing their adoption. For the Speaker to undertake to do individually what only the House can do as a body, and to carry out his purpose by ruling out motions privileged in all parliamentary bodies, and forbidding members to read records germain to the discussion, is an unprecedented and unwarrantable assumption of personal power.

If the Republicans had brought in rules for the government of the House, designed to prevent filibustering, the attitude of the party during the fight which would have ensued, would have been very different. That would have been an assertion of the right of the House to govern itself. Although Mr. Reed himself, when the Democrats took that constitutional course in 1880, argued that it would interfere with a valuable and salutary right of the minority, it would probably have gained the approval of the people. But when Mr. Reed undertakes to enact personally what he declared ten years ago the legal power should not do, it can only be recognized as a phenomenal nullification of parliamentary principle for partisan purpose.

Concerning the assertion that the practice of leaving the House without a quorum is a new thing, it is pertinent to quote from Mr. Reed's speech ten years ago that "this privilege is a privilege which every minority has availed itself of since the formation of the Government," and that "it is a valuable privilege for the country."

BOGUS FOOD.

The discovery that an enterprising firm of New Jersey manufacturers have been producing an imitation of "pure" Java and Mocha coffee, indicates a development of home industry which is not likely to meet with public favor. The general tendency of the press is to regard this as a new thing; but it is really a modern and probably improved development of what was generally and openly done in this country during the war when coffee rose beyond the means of the common people, and the entire United States set to the search for substitutes.

There is no inherent reason why imitation coffee should not be as much of a success as imitation butter, imitation olive oil, imitation lard or imitation eggs. The public wrong or right of the manufacture depends on the character of the ingredients used to flavor the bogus coffee; but the secrecy which surrounds the process does not inspire the hope that the substances are such as to commend themselves to public favor. As the trade is likely to be principally in selling the imitation article as genuine, that branch of the new industry, as in the case of most of the other food imitations, will be little more than an organized practice of getting money under false pretenses.

The approach of the day when the American citizen will sit down to his breakfast to drink imitation coffee, sweetened with bogus glucose sugar, and eat imitation eggs, or possibly imperil his digestion with doughnuts fried in imitation lard, appears not far away. Only the discovery of bogus cream for the coffee and bogus flour for the bread is necessary to make it possible for the common American to take a meal without astonishing his stomach by a single genuine article of food.

THE House may not be covering itself with glory; but the Committee on Commerce last week proved that it knows what is wise by setting down on the scheme of Elijah Pogram Merse and bogus anti-monopolist Allerton for repealing the inter-State commerce law. Our Congressmen may squabble for partisan control, but they know better than to turn the wheels of a needed reform backward.

OF the gang of lynchers who have been arrested out in Texas each tried to prove that the other fellows did it. The exponents of mob law are nearly always moral cowards, or they would have stamina enough to stand up for legal justice.

ADJUTANT GENERAL HASTINGS' successful participation in a fox hunt at Elwyn, Pa., a few days ago, may not have been solely for the gratification of his pleasure at the cost of the poor fox. The gallant Adjutant General doubtless saw the need of practice, in order to aid him in a cross-country pursuit of the sly and elusive Governorship.

THE principal feature in the Democratic municipal canvass is its dull and deadly absence of the hostilities which used to enliven such events. Are our Democratic friends becoming apathetic, or has the millenium arrived?

AN unfortunate thief has been arrested in the East for stealing thirteen pairs of gloves, and an esteemed cotemporary thinks that he must be convinced that thirteen is an unlucky number. Probably, also if he had stolen $13,000,000 he might have found that large sum to be a very lucky number, so far as this world is concerned.

THE ground hog declares that there will be no more winter and the Signal Service's cold wave proved a miserable fiasco. If all signs do not fail, as they have been doing, the stock of artificial ice companies ought to go up.

CONCERNING that Southside water question, it certainly is plain that if the public health is imperiled, the shortest course to a remedy ought to be taken. This holds even when the City Attorney's statement of the law in the case does not meet with the approval of that eminent legal authority, the City Health Officer.

NOW Western Pennsylvania is to furnish more steamers for South American rivers. Who says that we cannot furnish manufacturers for the Western hemisphere?

THE way in which both parties are overriding the principles of representatives to secure control, in Washington and Montana on one hand and in Ohio and West Virginia on the other, indicates the foundation of party policy at present to lie in the belief that there is no hereafter—at the polls.

SILCOTT declares that the races were the cause of his downfall. Is it possible that the great system of improving horse-flesh could do anything like that?

THE death of Mrs. Coppinger is an additional family affliction for the Secretary of State. In his repeated bereavements he has the respectful sympathy of the entire people, without regard to politics. Party lines are obliterated by death.

BETWEEN Tom Platt at Albany and Tom Reed at Washington, the Republican party is marching to the beat of the tom-toms.

THE multiplicity of statements in defense of Speaker Reed's course, both from himself and through the special correspondents, indicates the dawn of the idea that the people do not take kindly to a Speaker who enacts rules by personal edict.

PEOPLE OF PROMINENCE.

SENATOR INGALLS' daily lunch at the Senate restaurant consists of nine oysters fresh from the shells.

LYMAN TRUMBULL, ex-Governor, ex-Secretary of State, ex-Supreme Judge, ex-member of Congress and ex-United States Senator, is still practicing law in Chicago at the age of 77. He is in good health and his legal ability is as great as ever.

BARNARD MCKIERNAN, of Phœnixville, Pa., was one of the Light Brigade at Balaklava. He wears a silver medal given him by the Sultan of Turkey and a gold one from Queen Victoria. On each are engraved the words "Sebastopol, Inkerman, Balaklava and Alma."

THE largest tea and coffee importer in the United State is J. W. Doan, of Chicago. He is many times a millionaire. Mr. Doan keeps one man buying teas in China at a salary of $12,000 a year. Another gets the same salary in Chicago for grading teas by inhaling the aroma.

THE Sultan of Turkey has sent three hairs from the beard of the Prophet by a special messenger as a present to the town of Aleppo. Wherever the messenger appeared during his journey he was received in state, and the Governor of Aleppo came to meet him before the gates of the town.

THE Dowager Empress of China wanted to have the photographs of all the distinguished Englishmen who have served China, and the Chinese Government has just procured through London photorraphers for her two portraits of "Chinese" Gordon, each five feet high, one showing him in his English and the other in his Chinese uniform. The portraits were obtained by enlarging old photographs.

POET WHITTIER had an agreeable surprise the other day in the shape of a check for $1,000 from Bonner Brothers in payment for his poem published recently in their weekly, entitled "The Captain's Will." The old gentleman, in sending the poem to the publishers, said it was probably the last poem he should write, a fact which enhanced its value. Mr. Whittier, in thanking the Bonners, said the money was all the more welcome from the fact that it enabled him to perform certain little charities he had in mind.

MRS. LOUISE CHANDLER MOULTON never sends out cards for her afternoons at home, but simply announces through the daily papers that she will be glad to see her friends on such a day. A number of friends are asked to receive with her, and they come in street dress and bonnets. Anybody comes who wishes, announces himself, and has the liberty of the house at once. There are always dainty refreshments provided, but no attempt is made to have them served. They stand on a table in the dining room, and each guest goes out as he chooses to pour his own chocolate or coffee.

PLEADS FOR ITSELF.

Yesterday's 20-Page Dispatch Needs No Eulogium in Review.

The world is full of mistaken people. Man miscalculates, and blunders every day of his life, in greater or less degree. It were idle to even attempt to enumerate the million and one forms in which liability to error shows itself. An example near home will suffice. Hundreds of people anxious to learn, or desirous of enjoying cheaply the delicious fruits of literature, and the fellowship of wit and wisdom, purchase volume after volume, under the delusion that they are attaining their end economically. And yet they can obtain for a mere nominal sum an even greater amount of culture and entertainment. In the pages of THE DISPATCH great authors originate great thoughts; wits, poets, and philosophers amuse and improve, while other nations and other climes are described and pictured in such a manner as to bring them vividly before the eyes of the most dull of comprehension.

Take yesterday's 20-page DISPATCH for instance. Read it, and let it plead to you its own advantages.

I.

A comparative calm fell upon Congress after the late storm had spent its rage. A vote is soon to be attempted. Brave Sister Rose Gertrude, successor to Father Damien, was interviewed by a DISPATCH reporter in New York. Grover Cleveland is flourishing the standard of ballot reform, and ex-Solicitor General Jenks is confident of Grover's Presidential success. A Richmond preacher has been suspended for writing to a married lady. Senator Farwell says that the appointment of Clark to the Chicago Port Collectorship was confirmed with his consent. In spite of contrary statements, the audit of the National League books has proved completely satisfactory. Depositors in the Sixth National Bank of New York are assured that they will lose nothing by the wreckage. The secret of Mrs. Parnell's destitution is out. She speculated in stocks, and was consequently plunged in poverty. She praises her son's generosity, but says he has no means of his own. A terrible and fatal fire occurred in a Boston tenement house.

Portuguese newspapers are striving fiercely to stir up hatred of England in their country. The Austrian Imperial Court observes solemnly the anniversary of the death of Prince Rudolph. The young King of Spain is pronounced convalescent. Barnum performed, figuratively speaking, before some English notables in London, and succeeded in making a few jokes which were almost funny. A rupture is reported between Kaiser William and Bismarck. The Boulangists are still lively.

II.

Rev. Samuel Maxwell, rector of Trinity Church, sues the trustees thereof for damages. Treasurer Thompson gives interesting particulars in response to a Johnstown man's kick against the fund distribution. The Democratic primaries were slow in the extreme. Delegates were elected to the National Colored Convention at Washington. Mr. Pattison states that the postoffice will be moved to the rapidly progressing Government building on Smithfield street by October 1. The election fraud cases from the Eighteenth ward are being ventilated in court. The Americus Club is discussing the project of a new club house. The first banquet ever held in Pittsburg, when toasts were given in French, came off on the Southside with success. Pringle's review and much interesting sporting intelligence are to be found in their usual places.

III.

"L. E. S." writes pleasantly of the present candidates for office in Pittsburg; their lives and works. Miss Grundy, Jr., describes what a really excellent dinner should be. "Beatrice," H. Rider Haggard's charming story, is continued. G. H. Sandison's "Bouts in the Dark" is an able article on wrestling as the best mode of self-defense. Arlo Bates discusses Mr. Bellamy's theories on the social problem. Brenan, in "Gay Gallery Gods," describes scenes and characters in the galleries of a theater. "Is Life Worth Living?" is discussed by Emile Zola and Walt Whitman. A pleasant interview with Chauncey M. Depew, on "Oratory and its Methods," is the compilation of H. L. S. and H. H. C. writes of Gov. Beaver's home in a very picturesque manner. Frank G. Carpenter describes nine of America's leading Supreme Judges. Bill Nye is, as usual, excruciatingly funny. "Come Forth," the biblical story by Elizabeth S. Phelps, is continued. Mrs. Frank Leslie writes in "Fair Woman's World." Other contributors to this magnificent issue are: "Frank Fern," Fannie B. Ward, Louis M. Megargee, Rev. George Hodges, "Bessie Bramble," Henry Haynie, "Lorna Doone," "Bumbalo," "Clara Belle," Edward Wakefield, Shirley Dare, "Kosmos," B. P. Stillaber ("Mrs. Partington"), etc. "Paysie's" fairy story is bright and attractive. The dramatic, musical, literary, military, society, educational, and other special columns are quite up to the mark.

A Smashing Time.

From the Baltimore American.]

There may be a great crash in the Old World soon, as Russia is trying to break up China.

THE CRITIC'S REVIEW.

The Other Professor's Queer Way of Reading—A Book Hard to Read That Way—Memories of Ferdinand—The Annual of Photography, the Pilgrim and the Shrine, Miss Breckenridge, Fugitive Facts and Other Books.

THE OTHER PROFESSOR, in the new book by the author of "Alice in Wonderland," had a queer way of reading.

"The Other Professor was seated at a table, with a large book open before him, on which his forehead was resting; he had clasped his arms round the book, and was snoring heavily. 'He usually reads like that,' the Professor remarked, 'when the book's very interesting.'"

Even the Other Professor would find it hard to read *Sylvie and Bruno* after that fashion. Lewis Carroll may have written it in his sleep—indeed, he confesses in the preface that he dreamed some of it—but nobody can go to sleep reading it. "Sylvie and Bruno" is not equal, of course, to "Alice in Wonderland." That would be quite too much to ask. The middle-aged individual who reads books on "Diseases of the Heart" in railway trains, and divides his attention between lovers and fairies, is not half so delightful a guide into elfland as Alice was, still, the fun and the wisdom, the rhymes and the sermons, the real folk and the fairies, are just as charmingly blended; there is the same succession of dissolving views, and it is just as evident as ever that Lewis Carroll has found that magic vial which Alice drank of, and which brought her head down to a level with the little people by her feet. Mr. Carroll seems to think, for some reason, that he has started out in quite a new path. We could wish for nothing better than that he should take us for still another walk along that pleasantest road on which we started with Alice in our company. And that, in fact, is what he has really done. There is no new path about it. The game of cards and the game of chess have changed into a pretty love-story, and there may be a little more preaching in this book than in the other—a little more of that sobriety which the author says is "a very good thing if practiced in moderation"—but otherwise this is simply "part three" of the same delightful story:

"He thought he saw a rattlesnake
That questioned him in Greek;
He looked again and found it was
The Middle of Next Week.
'The only thing I regret,' he said,
'Is that it cannot speak.'"

Who could read that without thinking of Alice, and the jabberwock, and all the rest of that charming company? We get straight into the midst of that land of strange and learned animals, where our guide assures us that he is very wise in natural history, being always able to tell kittens from chickens at one glance.

Mr. Carroll says of his book in the preface: "It is written, not for money and not for fame, but in the hope of supplying for the children, whom I love, some thoughts that may suit those hours of innocent merriment, which are the very life of childhood, and also in the hope of suggesting to them and to others some thoughts that would prove, I would fain hope, not wholly out of harmony with the graver cadences of Life." (MacMillan & Co.; J. R. Weldin & Co. $1 50.)

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FERDINAND is best remembered among the ladies of the "Queen Isabella Association" as having had the good fortune to be the husband of Isabella. There is some historical foundation for such an estimate; anyway, it was the good Queen who pawned her jewels to give a chance to the adventurous Captain who wanted to go West, in whom she had a faith for which all ages will give her credit. Ferdinand was indifferent, science was hostile; ecclesiastical politics, Franciscan and Dominican, added complications and hindrances. The Council of Salamanca decided that there was no likelihood of any continent over here, at all; even Isabella herself wavered a good deal in her confidence. Christopher Columbus had a hard time of it. If it had not been for the faith and constancy of good Fra Perez, of the little convent of La Robida, near Palos, even Captain Christopher Columbus would perhaps have given up his hope. Fra Perez was the real hero, next to the discoverer, of the Columbus expedition. However, all honor to the Queen, whose jewels, if they ever really went to pawn, let us hope were safely got out again.

She is wearing some of them in the picture of her which illustrates *Isabella of Castile* (C. V. Waite & Co., $2 50). This little book is one of the first signs of the approach of the 400th anniversary. It is published by an association (originating, of course, in Chicago), whose purpose is to erect a statue of Isabella to be unveiled at the Fair, and also to put up an Isabella Pavilion, in which it is purposed to exhibit articles commemorative of the days of the discovery. Harriet Hosmer is to be the sculptor. Eliza Allen Starr has written the book.

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WE have received from the Scovill & Adams Company, by the courtesy of W. S. Bell & Co., of this city, a copy of *The American Annual of Photography*. Even the innocent man who has never stained his hands with the objectionable acids which for some reason seem to be used in making pictures, and who prefers the white light of the sun to the red dusk of the dark room, can still find something to interest him in this handsome volume. He can look at the pictures. If he does, he will see some exceedingly good pictures. Thomas A. Edison's boyish looking face serves for frontispiece. "An Improvised Studio" and "A Merry Group" are capital genre studies. "Babyhood" in photogravure is a charming little picture. Neither of the cherubs in Mr. Carnegie's Sistine Madonna are as pretty as this little curly-headed, bare-shouldered baby. People whose knowledge and taste run in the direction of Hypo-Eliminators and Bromides and Hydrochinon developers, and Eikonogen will find plenty of instruction in these pages. (Paper covers 50 cents.)

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AFTER an extended paper cutting, top, bottom and sides, we get a good look at Edward Maitland's book, *The Pilgrim and the Shrine* (John W. Lovell Co., 50 cents), there seems to be some kind of morbid influence in the air of South Africa, which leads one who lends himself to it into all sorts of emotional, ethical and theological vagaries. "The Story of an African Farm" is an illustration, and is quite enough of that sort of thing to last a good while. "The Pilgrim and the Shrine," however, is in the same tone of thought, and even in manner of expression brings continual reminders of that singular book. Herbert Ainslie, the hero, remarks on the first page that the "Sunday services and week-day devotions," which seem to satisfy the rest of the family are quite "painful" to him, till he feels constrained to declare that he will "never go to church again." This is in England; he "escapes" and seeks the South. He takes up his abode in the South African gold diggings; he flist across the sea, stopping at Samoa to fall in love with a fair, but dusky, native, and visits California; at last, after an immense deal of letter-writing, and diary-keeping, and theological disquisition—which he may read who will—he settles down, marries an Australian heiress, and decides that "in love alone, in pure and unreserving love, does all questioning find answer." The book is No. 3 Lovell's "Occult" series.

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MISS BRECKENRIDGE, who is described as "a daughter of Dixie," poses at the open window clad in "Hellenic draperies of clinging white." Behind her is the "glinting ball room." Before her is a scene, uncharted in any astronomy, and best visible, perhaps, to daughters of Dixie. Anyway, it is not visible in Pittsburg. "A luminous crescent pendent in the dark, azure dome, while myriad stars—like sparks from shattered sunbeams—gemmed the velvet softness of the summer sky like glittering Kohinoors, a royal diadem for the shadow queen, night. The illumined dark lay upon the bosom of earth and sea like the feathery plumes of some silvery pinioned thing, and the perfect night was aquiver at the impassioned kiss of the caressing wind that bore on its saline wings weird love-whispers from the surging sea."

That is a pretty high key in which to pitch a book, but the author of "Miss Breckenridge" manages to keep it up from start to finish. "For one long, long moment their souls stood apart, absorbed in the divine glories of vision; then, then—there was a soft rush—a stifled sob—clinging arms, and—silence! While below there on the beach, alone in the darkness, a brave man lifted his wild, white face to the bending sky, while his heart writhed and broke in its awful agony of sacrifice!" That is the end. The man below was Polk. The happy man on the pier was Roosevelt. In that charming Japanese romance, "The Shadow on the Water," the hero marries both the heroines. It is a pity, with two such perfectly superb heroes, that some similar arrangement could not have been made here. Some day, this Nashville writer, who is evidently a lady, and quite young, and an admirer of the work of Mrs. Amelia Rives Chanler, will write a good, strong, sensible, striking and readable novel. But not yet. (J. B. Lippincott Company; J. R. Weldin & Co., 50 cents).

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FUGITIVE FACTS is an altogether different sort of book, as indeed is suggested by its title. It is a "Handy Family Reference Book," well described as being "entertaining and instructive for desultory reading," but incorrectly styled "unique." Miss Killikelly's excellent book of "Curious Questions" covers as wide a range, concerns things which one is even more likely to want information about, and is in better type. There seems to be no particular reason why Mr. Thorne should have selected just these particular facts. Still, however, we are not disposed to quarrel with his choice. However much of interest has been left out, almost everything is of interest which has been brought in. Every page attracts attention and invites the reader. The Cardiff Giant and the Star Chamber, the Sphinx and the Flying Dutchman, Dynamite and Volapuk are discussed with a thousand other things in brief, clearly stated paragraphs. Mr. Thorne naturally is so wide a field falls occasionally into error, as, for example, where he attributes the name "Star Chamber" to a star ornamented ceiling. The better explanation finds the name in the fact that in the times when Jews had no standing in local courts, but were dependent solely upon the King for justice, their bonds, which in the Hebrew were called "starrs," were kept for safety in this strong room. In the main, however, the collecting and editing has been wisely and carefully done. The appendix contains musical, nautical, commercial and medical vocabularies, and a dictionary of mythological names. The book comes close enough to date to take in the Eiffel Tower. (A. L. Burt. J. R. Weldin & Co. $2.)

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A LITTLE book with red covers, and of a size to slip easily into the average coat pocket, with good paper and clear type, and *Tales from Blackwood* for a title, contains six notable stories. Or rather five stories and a ballad. The ballad is written by John Stuart Blackie, and tells of the battle of Ancrum Moor, wherein was done that deed of valor which is kept in memory still by the quaint inscription on a stone which marks the spot:

"Fair Maiden Lilliard lies beneath this stane;
Small was her stature, but mickle was her fame;
Upon the English loons she laid full many thumps,
And when her legs were cuttit off she fought upon her stumps."

The best story in the book, to our liking, is "Fiddlers Three," by Mrs. M. L. Burton, dramatically written, and showing what good a little music did. Most of the stories are sad, several are tragic. "The Dragon Tree of Teide" describes the working of grim destiny with a bleeding tree for message bearer. "The Ghost of Morcar's Tower" is a capital venture into the undiscovered country. "The Last Words of Joseph Barrable" is a bit of a story by way of comment upon the relations between justice and poverty. The way in which people can be tortured and robbed and murdered "By Act of Parliament," is very grimly shown. "Fell Among Thieves" lightens up the book a little, the misfortune of the story being nothing worse than a succession of weddings, making inordinate demands upon the purse for presents which were not appreciated. (White & Allen; J. R. Weldin & Co.; 40 cents).

ONE OF CUPID'S QUEER CAPERS.

A Boy of Sixteen Marries a Maiden Forty Years of Age.

BURLINGTON, N. J. February 2.—Announcement of the marriage of Walter Clark, who has reached the age of 16, to Miss Phoebe Jones, a spinster of 40 summers, forms the latest topic of vigorous talk in this city. Miss Jones was housekeeper for John Kane, a neighbor of the Clarks, and the boy became infatuated with her. She received the advances of her youthful lover with all the abandon of a giddy girl. The strangely-mated pair went to Camden early this week, but that marriage mill did not pan out a certificate of matrimony for them.

They then tried their fate in Philadelphia, not knowing the marriage law. Failing there to have their wishes crowned, they visited Rancocas, a small village five miles from here, where a country 'Squire pronounced them man and wife. The parents of the boy-husband have as yet made no move to set aside the marriage.

THE WORLD'S FAIR.

Philadelphia *News*: If there is no World's Fair in 1892 New York can tell why.

Boston *Herald*: It now seems likely that it will be held in Washington, if it is held at all.

Minneapolis *Journal*: The World's Fair movement begins to smell of it, fizzle, and failure.

Denver *Republican*: The Congressional Committee on the World's Fair seems to be waiting for additional bids before the hammer descends.

New York *World*: If the metropolitan World's Fair project is killed let its epitaph read: "Destroyed by the Pernicious Bacillus of New York Politics."

Baltimore *American*: The fact that New York is putting politics into the World's Fair enterprise is the best of reasons for selecting the site somewhere else.

Boston *Globe*: The New York Assembly has voted $10,000,000 for the World's Fair. New York legislators are always as generous with the people's money as New York millionaires are stingy with their own.

Albany, N. Y., *Journal*: The party has had a lucid interval in refusing to turn over to Boss Crocker and the other Tammany politicians of New York City the expenditure of $10,000,000 of World's Fair money in a Presidential year.

St. Paul *Pioneer-Press*: It does not much matter who gets the Fair, but it would be distinctly better to have none at all than to tolerate any taint of boodle about it. It is almost inevitable that the New York project, carried out on the New York plan, should involve a scandal.

Looking to the Practical.

From the Norfolk Virginian.]

A Westminster Abbey in Washington has been suggested, but it is thought that a national morgue for legislative deadlocks would be more practical.

Les Miserables.

From the Courier-Journal.]

The coal dealers have fared poorly this winter, but they have prospered in comparison with the man who writes "Shut the Door" signs.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

Alfred J. Parsons.

Alfred J. Parsons, the receiving teller of the Dollar Savings Bank, died yesterday at his home at Ingram station. Mr. Parsons had occupied the position of teller of the Dollar Savings Bank for 20 years, and was an exceptionally attentive, faithful and honest officer. He was exceedingly careful and regular in his habits. He was never away from his post of duty except when off on his summer vacations.

He has been ailing somewhat for nearly a year with Bright's disease. About six weeks ago he got a leave of absence for three months, hoping to recruit himself, but death summoned him before his furlough was over. The deceased leaves a widow and six children—three boys and three girls.

President James Herdman, of the bank, was seen at his home on Arch street, Allegheny, yesterday afternoon. He had not heard of Mr. Parsons' death, and was completely overcome. He had nothing but the highest praise for the deceased, and said he never knew a more straightforward, honest, upright business man than Mr. Parsons had been. This, coming from a bank president of 36 years' experience, is a noble tribute to one who had occupied a position of trust for so long. Mr. Parsons was a pupil of J. B. D. Meads, the present Treasurer of the bank, when the latter taught the Second ward school.

Thomas W. Davis.

Thomas W. Davis, formerly a well-known Collector of Internal Revenue for eight years, died at his home in Glenwood yesterday afternoon from peritonitis. He submitted to an operation last Thursday as the last resort, but it was unfortunately unsuccessful. Mr. Davis has been long and favorably known in local politics. A friend of Robert Mackay, and one of the leaders in the marching club movement in 1871 in the Grant campaign, his services were recognized by his appointment as Collector of Internal Revenue, which he held for eight years. He was very highly esteemed by all those with whom he came in contact, and was about 50 years of age at the time of his death. He leaves a wife and small family.

Peter Beaver.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

LEWISBURG, PA., February 2.—Mr. Peter Beaver, one of the oldest and most respected citizens of the borough, died suddenly. Years ago he was actively engaged in large interests here and elsewhere, but of late years was an invalid and unable to take the prominent position which his business abilities merited. At the time of his death, however, he was senior member of the firm of Beaver & Co., manufacturers of pig iron at Winfield. Mr. Thomas Beaver, of Danville, is a brother. Governor Beaver is nephew, and Mrs. W. H. Cassidy, of Pittsburg, a daughter of the deceased.

Hon. John W. Boring.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

WHEELING, February 2.—Hon. John W. Boring died at 3 P. M. to-day. He was one of the oldest residents of Wheeling, and has been prominent in city and county politics for over 50 years, during which time he held many offices.

THE SPEAKER'S SIDE OF IT.

A Correspondent Sees the Light of Reason in Reed's Rigid Rule—A Majority Not to be Governed or Gulled by a Minority—The Speaker Supported by His Party for Good Reasons—Action the Watchword.

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.]

WASHINGTON, February 1.—The noisiest and most disgraceful scenes ever enacted in the Congress of the United States have been witnessed during the last two or three days. Altogether it was an insane and senseless uproar, which would have been creditable to the population of Bedlam. It was not called into being by any great question of public policy, but merely by a point of parliamentary tactics.

The whole affair has been very generally misunderstood. Individuals and journals in sympathy with the minority have been interested in proving that the action of Speaker Reed is autocratic and revolutionary, and even many Republican journals, and independent ones which aim to be right and not partisan, have appeared to think that the Speaker was arrogating to himself absolute power, regardless of any question of right or fairness for mere party advantage, and that the Republicans, in supporting him, were a lawless mob, simply bent upon ruling at any cost. It may be well, therefore, to go a little farther into the situation than was appropiate in the news telegrams describing the scenes of each day.

It is only within a few years that filibustering has become a constant practice of the minority of the House, for the prevention of any act of the majority not acceptable to that minority. Gradually, in the elaboration of general parliamentary law, known as the "Rules of the House," clauses were inserted which gave to one man, or a few men, absolute power to baffle and defeat the will of the majority, and this, even though a quorum were present; and, furthermore, even though the party of the majority had a quorum present and voting. Motions for the reading of the journal, to adjourn, to take a recess, points of "no quorum" on all of these motions, possibly; demands for reading bills and reports in their entirety, and other motions designated as "privileged motions," repeated over and over (as was permitted by the extraordinary rules), sufficed the filibuster to "block the wheels of legislation," as the conventional phrase goes. The power, by means of a small vote to compel the calling of the yeas and nays on each of these motions, and thus consume the time of the House, greatly added to the force of the weapon in the hands of the minority.

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IT often happened, as in the instance of the contest upon the Direct Tax Bill, about two years ago, that the question is not a political one on which the party line is drawn. That bill was supported by a large majority of both parties, yet for weeks a mere handful of men who wanted to make a record for "economy," defeated every effort of the majority to pass the bill, and that majority was finally forced to yield and deliver the control of legislation into the hands of that small and not particularly savory minority.

Frequently a single member, sincere, but of bad judgment, or one merely playing the part of a demagogue, or possibly one purchased by some influence desiring the defeat of a measure, would prevent absolutely the consideration of such bill, single-handed and alone, against all prayers and protests of every other member. No such condition was ever contemplated in the institution of the Parliament. The groundwork and superstructure of democratic government was defied and destroyed by it, and in America, the center of republican spirit and growth, an abuse was fostered and established that would not be tolerated for a moment in the Parliaments of any of the older, less free and less progressive countries.

In their Parliament a reasonable number of dilatory motions are permitted—enough to emphasize the protests of the minority and call the attention of the country to them—but, to these Parliaments and peoples, continued and successful filibustering by one member, or a small minority of members, would be viewed as not only revolutionary but an anomaly at once criminal, grotesque and ridiculous, impossible with reasonable and honest beings. From time to time efforts were made to limit the infinite power of the minority, but the most that was done was that was once to agree to a temporary suspension of dilatory motions, except the few orderly ones recognized by the most dignified Parliaments.

IN conference Speaker Reed and a few of the Republican leaders determined to abolish this abuse which tended to make legislation to a great extent a farce, to eminate it, to amend it out of all semblance of common sense, and to defeat it altogether. It was decided to embody in the new rules of the House a clause which would be a prohibition of filibustering, except as to the few dilatory motions which may be made in apparent good faith, and which, until they are repeated, cannot be recognized as dilatory. It was decided to test the temper of the House by an application of these rules to the proceedings. They were simply the rules of common sense, first, that a minority must not absolutely and finally rule the majority; and, second, that it is the duty of a member to be in his seat, and that when there he might be counted as taking part in the proceedings, though not voting.

This last feature was the great stumbling block. One of the chief means of delay in the the hands of the minority has been to abstain from voting, and then, if the majority present failed to number a majority of the whole House, to make the point of "no quorum;" that is, too few to legally transact business. Unless this point be raised, any number of members voting may pass bills and transact all the business delegated to the House. The question of a quorum, once raised, tellers must be appointed, and a quorum of members file between them and be counted, or the yeas and nays must be called. A quorum must be disclosed in some way. If it be impossible to find a quorum business ceases absolutely, and the only means by which it can be put in motion is to send out the sergeant at arms and his assistant, arrest members, fetch them before the bar of the House, fine them or excuse their fault and compel them to vote or pass between the tellers and be counted.

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LET us suppose this to be the situation: It is impossible to discover a quorum by tellers or by a call of the roll. The doors are closed. The officers of the House are sent scurrying about the town, for truant members. They are in the restaurant, at home, or driving about town. If it be at night they are in bed, in billiard rooms, gambling at the clubs, or at other places. They are dragged to the bar of the House. All members are jailed within the hall. Hours pass, perhaps, before a quorum can be mustered. When that is accomplished, the doors are opened, the members scatter again, and upon the very next motion a quorum vote is lacking, and the whole wretched farce has to be played over again.

Speaker Reed and his friends determined to do away with this most powerful weapon in the hands of filibusters. For members to sit in their seats and break a quorum by refusing to vote, and thus compel tellers, roll calls, calls of the House, arrest of members, and so on, was the most revolutionary and destructive of proceedings. The Speaker would save the time of the House by counting these silent filibusters as present and taking part in