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The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, SATURDAY, DEC. 20, 1890.

OIL PRODUCERS' LESSON.

Of course the session of the Executive Board of the Producers' Protective Association at Bradford yesterday was secret, as all the sessions of that body were when it was meeting regularly. But with all the secrecy it is intimated the resignations of two members were tendered and accepted. These two members recently sold their property to the Standard. Two other members were not present. They, too, have sold their property to the monopoly. One member of the old Executive Board is dead. Therefore less than half of the old Executive Board was left to meet the committee of "independent producers" to devise means for the relief of the trade.

There is much in this meeting that is instructive. It calls to mind the great mistakes of the association of which this portion of the Executive Board is the remnant. That association was organized in a time of depression like the present. Its constitution set forth its purpose to establish competition in the transportation, marketing and refining of petroleum. But false counsels prevailed with it, and it went into an unholy alliance with the monopoly itself for immediate profit. It helped, all in its power, to suppress the truth about Ohio oil. Its chief members, including four of the Executive Board, are now found in the employ of the Standard.

It may be hoped the present movement will not be so easily misled from its purpose, and, in the light of experience, that wiser counsel will prevail with it. It has a much harder road to travel than the old movement would have had. If Pennsylvania oil is now withdrawn from the Standard it has the Ohio stock to fall back upon. If refineries are started they must compete with that cheap crude, while the Pennsylvania market may be kited out of sight. Yesterday's market was an indication of how easily this could be done. But that still points out the road. If the crude market is too high for a producers' refinery the crude will be high enough for the producer. Competition is the only salvation of the "outside" oil man.

BOROUGHS IN TROUBLE.

When boroughs are not in trouble it may be taken for granted there is no trouble going anywhere. This is, perhaps, no fault of the dwellers in those half way points between city and country. It is rather the fault of that half way position. The boroughs naturally want city advantages, and they do not want to give up any country advantages to get them. It is difficult to frame laws for the government of these cities in embryo which produce altogether satisfactory results. Every session of the Legislature under the new Constitution has wrestled with the question, and many a legislator has had a bad fall in consequence. Still it is possible the next Legislature may be induced to pass a bill that will work better than the present laws.

NEITHER OF THEM.

It is very interesting to observe that the organ of unique and in one sense of the word, original, Democracy, the New York *Sun*, has turned its rays upon the assertions of the Republican organs that the Farmers' Alliance Convention was a Democratic movement thinly masked. The shining *Sun* gives the Republican organs a Roland for their Oliver by the discovery that the purpose of the Northern delegates to the Farmers' Alliance was to ruin, split and disintegrate the Southern Democracy.

The foundation of this conclusion on the part of the *Sun* is not quite as simple as the other one presented by the Republican organs. The *Sun* declares that the Western delegates to the Alliance pushed the subtreasury scheme for the purpose of dividing the Democracy of the South, and tried to get the convention to indorse a third party movement for the same end. It declares, however, that they are reckoning without their host in this respect, as the Republican States are more liable to the ravages "of paternal and socialistic doctrines than the Democratic South." All of which is a more complicated and imposing edifice of political reasoning than the simple syllogism of the Republican organs, which, though a rank case of logical vice known as "undistributed middle," sounds quite convincing as follows: "All Democrats are opposed to the elections bill; the Alliance Convention is opposed to the elections bill; therefore, the Alliance Convention is all Democratic."

The attitude of the parties toward the Alliance thus takes the curious shape of an attempt of each side to charge the paternity of the new organization on the other. The Republican organs discover in the convention a masquerade of the Democratic agents, while the *Sun* perceives in the same proceedings a deep-laid but unsuccessful plot to split the solid South up the back. The case is thus shown to have been correctly described by the witty Irishman who met a stranger, and when both stopped under the mutual impression that they were acquaintances and had discovered their mistake, declared: "I thought it was you; and you thought it was I; and be jabers, it was naither of us!"

A CITY OF HOMES.

Very encouraging, indeed, is a look into the assessors' books in this city, when they show so large a percentage of the population owning their own homes. The building records show a wonderful increase in the number of dwellings in the city, and the assessors' report shows that the occupants are the owners, in very large measure. There is nothing leads to good citizenship more surely than the ownership of the citizen's home. And nothing leads so strongly to good government as such general ownership.

THE LIBRARY PROPERTY.

The publication yesterday of the fact that a controlling interest in the stock of the Mercantile Library Hall Company had been acquired by the managers of the Bijou Theater was interesting matter of local information. The inference that the management of the building will be in the interests of the theater was taken by a good many people to carry with it the abandonment of the purposes for which the building was put up. But that opinion, in view of the conditions and obligations of the charter of the Library Hall Company, is premature, to say the least.

The Mercantile Library Hall Company was chartered to build the building in question for the purpose of furnishing a home for the library now occupying that building. Further than that, its purpose was, when it had repaid to the subscribers their subscriptions to the stock, that the building should become the property and endowment of the library. Those purposes were clearly set forth in the charter, and are as binding now as in the first year of the company. Through the depression which followed the completion of the building, and from the fact that the building was on such a scale as to burden it with a large mortgage, the building was for many years unremunerative, being sometimes unable to meet all the interest on its mortgages. More recently its revenues have improved, and the floating debt has been paid off. The effort of a year ago to prevent a sheriff's sale was based on the claim that the corporation was solvent and should not therefore be sold out at forced sale. The fact that since then the debt has been refunded, and is now being steadily reduced under the conditions of the refunding, is the best evidence that this claim was correct.

With regard to the present departure it is no doubt correct that it is not in accordance with the private view entertained by many that Library Hall should be used solely as a lecture and concert hall. But this departure was made years ago, as a matter of stern necessity, in order to keep up the revenues of the company. At present, the view that the hall ought not to be used as a theater is evidently not shared by the majority of the shareholders who sold out their stock to the theater management. But as concerns the new proprietorship of the stock, it does not divest the corporation of its charter obligations. It has simply acquired a control subject to the conditions imposed on the company by its incorporation, and which can only be avoided in the method provided by the charter.

Under these circumstances it is to be presumed that the new owners of the controlling interest in the Library Hall Company will conduct that corporation so as to make it yield the best revenue and preserve the property in its best shape. As theater managers they have made the record of conducting the most successful and profitable theater yet known in Pittsburg. It will be no more than natural to expect that they will extend the same record of profit and success to the Library Hall Company's property. With all incentives leading them to show the same increase in the profits of the corporation that they have done in the profits of the theater, it is possible that the new control may hasten the day when the property will actually yield a revenue to the public and educational purposes for which it was founded.

FRENCH JUSTICE AND HYPNOTISM.

French justice and general science were deprived of a public exhibition of hypnotism yesterday that might have been instructive to both. The French Court rejected an offer of the hypnotizers to demonstrate their theories in the open courtroom in the Eyrand trial, to the great disappointment of some of the counsel and all of the audience. Perhaps it is just as well. If hypnotism is tricky, a trial would hardly have been satisfactory unless one of the judges had been selected as the subject of experiment. And in case a Judge had really been hypnotized, he might have become a troublesome factor in the further trial of the case.

AN APOCRYPHAL ADMISSION.

In relation to what the Boston *Traveller* calls "the admission of the Inter-State Commerce Commissioners that they are powerless to enforce the provisions of the law," that journal thinks that this is an argument for the repeal of the law and the abolition of the commission rather than making the law more stringent.

This is the view to be expected from the class of journals that accepts as gospel whatever representations may be for the interest of the corporate school. But the admission does not, in the light of facts, amount to an argument either for the repeal of the law or for the enactment of more stringent provisions. It may amount to an argument for the abolition of Commissioners who declare that they are powerless without ever trying the means of enforcement which the law puts into their hands. This, if the admission is made as quoted, is exactly what the Inter-State Commerce Commission has done.

The law provides two methods of enforcement. One is where complainants take their cases directly into the United States courts, either by civil suits or criminal proceedings; and the attempt to secure that method of enforcement has been put into practice recently at Chicago. In addition to this the law provides for the enforcement of the findings of the commission by providing that if the railroads do not comply with such findings the fact may be certified by the Commission to the United States Courts and their rulings will there be enforced by peremptory mandamus with very severe penalties in case of further contumacy.

In view of this fact it seems hardly probable that the Commission has made such an admission as that attributed to it. It is the fact, however, that this body has shown signs of being infested by the widespread idea that it is an awful thing to make a great corporation yield the same obedience to law that is required of common people. The best evidence of this supersensitive fear on the part of the Commission, of agitating the great corporate interests, is that during a long period of what it declares to be violation of the law by the railroads, there has not yet been a single case in which it called upon the courts to enforce its rulings. When a body does not exercise the means of enforcement given to it by the law the fault is plainly, not in the law, but in the body itself.

It is foolish, under such circumstances, to talk of the necessity of either repealing or adding to the law. There should be a decent attempt at enforcing its present provisions before they are changed in either way.

AN INVESTIGATION NEEDED.

There is an evident disposition on the part of the House to give very gingerly treatment to that resolution of Mr. Dockery's providing for an inquiry into the allegation that certain Congressmen were interested in the silver speculation that hinged on the passage of the last silver bill. It is difficult to imagine any case in which there is a more evident call for investigation, or in which there will be a clearer inference, if the investigation is not made, that the reason is the necessity of protecting some influential men who are mixed up in the scandal.

The allegation was clearly made by a leading journal of the same party as the majority in Congress, that a number of members were interested in a speculation that depended for success on the legislation to be decided by their votes. It was further alleged that a number of them realized large profits from the speculation. With these allegations so prominently made, it is hard to see how any other course than an investigation can follow. If the allegation is unfounded there is no surer way of protecting the reputation of Congress than to show the baselessness of such scandals by a fair investigation. If the assertions are well-founded, the reputation of legislation depends on exposing and punishing any such source of scandal, even if it should produce another fatal demise among legislative reputations like the famous Credit Mobilier investigation.

There is an especial reason why this action cannot be creditably avoided, in the pending silver legislation which has become a prominent feature of the session by the recent action of the Senate caucus. It is a part of the proposed measure that 12,000,000 ounces of silver which are supposed to be carried in New York shall be purchased by the Treasury. Whether this amount of bullion is owned by the same speculators who engineered the first bill is not by any means certain. The current assertions are that some of the keener of the former speculators realized on the advance of last fall; but that they or their successors may not have Congressional affiliations needs to be determined. If it were to be decided on its merits this measure would deserve a fair and impartial treatment. But in the presence of the allegations about the first speculation Congress cannot afford to vote a $12,000,000 purchase of silver until the suspicion that some of the men whose votes will decide the measure may profit by their votes is fully cleared up.

If the call for an inquiry is suppressed by the present House, it will be a blunder as decided as any of those of the last session. The leaders in Congress should understand that they cannot afford to enlarge their list of blunders.

It is pleasant to be assured by the Philadelphia *Press* that the Alaska seal-fishery dispute is due to the attempt of each Government to secure arbitration on the issue that is favorable to it." The *Press* asserts, as THE DISPATCH has often said, that on the issue whether the Behring Sea is a *mare clausum*, "the United States has not a leg to stand on." In that case it will be easy for the United States to block the attempt of England to secure arbitration on that point by giving it up. Thus the arbitration would have to be upon the point that the United States has the right to secure protection to the seals. A little common sense is sometimes of use in diplomatic matters.

NOT for many days has the petroleum market shown so much life as yesterday. The jump is attributed by some to the producers' agitation for competition, or to an effort to pinch the independent refiners. But it appears a New York speculator caught the crowd short and sprung the trap.

THE appointment by Mayor Grant, of New York, of two notorious rum-ring politicians, Divver and Ryan, to be police justices, has given New York a lesson on political deals. The *World*, which supported Grant for re-election, says that the appointments "are about as bad as could have been made if the avowed purpose had been to make police justices out of men notably disqualified for the position." Under these circumstances it is to be hoped that the esteemed *World* will take to heart the lesson that the way to prevent such appointments is to defeat the elected officials who belong to that class of politics.

THE fact that the census records Senator-elect Brice as a resident of New York, revives the suggestion that a valid Presidential ticket would be composed as follows: For President, Calvin S. Brice, of New York; for Vice President, Calvin S. Brice, of Ohio.

WE are pained to observe that the old dispute with regard to the effect of the sugar schedule of the new tariff on the price of sugar still goes on. The Buffalo *Express* is accusing the Louisville *Courier-Journal* of "unlimited gall" because the latter paper "cites the reduction in the price of sugar since the passage of the McKinley bill as proof that all tariff taxes are paid by the consumer." The dispute of our esteemed cotemporaries is an old one, but it is rather unimportant just at present, in view of the vital fact that the reduction of the duties on sugars has not yet gone into effect and will not until the first of April next.

EX-CONGRESSMAN HERR's description of Speaker Reed as a "Republican who weighs three hundred pounds and is all backbone" is calculated to create the impression that the Speaker is a great big fossil.

THE reappearance in *Judge* of cartoons lampooning Secretary Blaine, indicates the President's immediate family organs are not at all pleased with the idea of the Secretary's standing ready to realize on the remains of Mr. Harrison's Presidental boom. But in view of the fact that the President has declared that he will not accept a renomination unless the Senate passes the elections bill, and the elections bill being a cooked goose, what reason has the President for jealousy of Blaine?

RIVALS to Dr. Koch are springing up, now, from a number of places. Detroit claims the latest "only sure cure." It will, indeed, be well if each of these cures does a little good.

THE refusal of the discharge of Boodlers Moloney, DeLacy and Dempsey the other day, with a notification that their cases must be brought up under DeLancey Nicoll's administration of the New York district attorneyship, is a promise that something yet may be done with those famous fugitives. But it is not thought likely that Nicoll was permitted to gain the election last fall to convict the men whom Fellows was elected to protect.

WE can suggest to our Irish friends a decided amendment of Senator Ingalls' famous remark. Crowbars and lime have no proper place in politics.

OF course the use of an official envelope for private business by Attorney General Miller was wrong, if he did it. But inasmuch as the custom of politicians is to do that sort of thing the attempt to make political capital out of it is rather foolish. If the Democrats will attack all the big steals they can afford to let the little two-cent ones pass unnoticed.

ALLEGHENY, having been admitted as a city of the second class, can now make faces across the river at Pittsburg and say, "you're another."

Inasmuch as recent failures have created comments abroad to the effect that the trade of politics in Pennsylvania is precarious and unremunerative, we will notify some of our esteemed cotemporaries making that remark that Pennsylvania has still quite a number of politicians who enjoy a comfortable and stable competence.

POSSIBLY it was an oversight that the railroad Presidents' alliance at New York omitted to indorse the Farmers' Alliance at Ocala.

THE abolition of bull-fighting in Mexico has proceeded to the length of cutting up the plazas where the fights used to be held into building lots. Now if the United States will abolish dog-fighting, slugging and football matches, it will show an equal progress in civilization with the land of the Aztecs.

PERSONALS.

ERNEST RENAU, the French historian and critic, lives in a modest house that is almost lost in the woods in Brittany.

MRS. BUTLER (Fanny Kemble) is living with her daughter, Mrs. Leigh, in Surrey, England. She is quite feeble, having completed her 81st year last month.

AN important feature has been eliminated from the Presidental problem since Mrs. Belva Lockwood decided that she never again could consent to be a candidate.

JAMES P. SCOTT, son of Thomas A. Scott, late President of the Pennsylvania Railroad, proposes, by way of experiment, to plant 1,000 acres in rice near Kissimmee, Fla.

SENATOR WARREN, of Wyoming, is six feet tall, and his form is as straight as a Rocky Mountain pine. He is a blonde, is rather good looking, and talks and dresses well. He is 46 years old.

MRS. ELIZABETH HOLLENBECK, of Los Angeles, Cal., widow of Joseph Hollenbeck, has just deeded in trust about $750,000 worth of property to found a home for indigent women and homeless children.

LADY WILDE, mother of Oscar Wilde, is still remarkable for her beauty, brilliancy of conversation and accomplishments. She speaks half a dozen languages, has cordial manners, excellent sense and a great social following.

CARDINAL GIBBONS is very simple and methodical in his habits. He rises at 5:30, says mass at 7, breakfasts at 8, takes a walk at 10, dines at 2 and spends the afternoon receiving visitors. Supper is served to him at 7 and by 10 he is in bed.

DR. HELEN L. BETTS, of Boston, is the first woman physician chosen to visit the laboratory of Prof. Koch, of Berlin, for the purpose of investigating his discovery. She has been delegated by the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, of which she is a graduate.

ONE of the three daughters of John D. Rockafeller, while a student at Vassar, had a handsome allowance in the way of money from home. Instead of spending this on rich gowns and apartments she paid for two years the tuition and expenses of a girl from the country who was not able to pay them herself.

CHIEF GALL, who succeeds Sitting Bull as head of the Sioux Nation, led the Indians in the battle that brought defeat and death to Custer. He is not only fond of fighting, but is capable of handling a body of Indians successfully when in the field, and has frequently exhibited the qualities of generalship. He is, moreover, an Indian of some honesty.

PRINCE CHUN, the Chinese Prime Minister, appears to be recovering from his long illness. The populace attribute it to the neglect of the Emperor, when building a residence for his father, to have the site cleared of evil spirits, who accordingly torment the occupant. It is reported among foreigners, however, that the Prince is trying to break off the opium habit.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

Edwin H. Sheldon.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Edwin H. Sheldon, executor and trustee of the estate of William B. Ogden, died yesterday afternoon at the residence of his niece, Miss Caroline Ogden Jones, aged 68. He had been in failing health for about two years. Last summer he came from Chicago to visit at Newport with his niece, and has since remained at her home here. He was senior member of the firm of Ogden, Sheldon & Co., of Chicago, the largest real estate firm in the United States; President of the Chicago Dock and Canal Company, and prominently identified with divers other enterprises of a similar character. Since the death of Mayor Ogden, of Chicago, the management of the $20,000,000 of the Ogden estate has devolved largely upon Mr. Sheldon, who was himself wealthy.

Rev. William Nassau Molesworth.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—Rev. William Nassau Molesworth, M. A., the well-known author, died today. He was a son of the Rev. John Edward Nassau Molesworth, D. D.; was born at Millbrook, near Southampton, November 8, 1816, and educated at the King's School, Canterbury, and at St. John's and Pembroke Colleges, Cambridge, graduating as a member of the latter, B. A. in 1839, and M. A. in 1842. Taking orders, he became incumbent of St. Andrew's, Manchester, in 1841, and vicar of St. Clement Spotland, Rochdale, in 1844. Mr. Molesworth's works are "An Essay on the Religious Importance of Secular Instruction," 1857; "Plain Lectures on Astronomy;" "England and France," 1860, being a prize essay on the importance of a close alliance between the two countries; "A History of the Reform Bill of 1832," 1864, second edition 1865; "A New System of Moral Philosophy," 1867; "Prize Essay on Education," 1867, and "The History of England From the Year 1830," 3 vols., 1871-72.

Richard Parker.

Richard Parker, a well-known resident of this city, died yesterday, at 5:30 A. M., at his residence, Bedford avenue and Morgan street. He was born in Westmoreland county, England, coming to this country when but 11 years of age. He was several years employed as cutter for John Forsythe, merchant tailor, on Liberty street. In 1845 he entered into partnership with the late William Lowe, under the firm name of Parker & Lowe, merchant tailors, on Smithfield street. He sold out his interest to his partner in 1867, and removed to the Thirteenth ward, where he had built a home. In March, 1886, this home was burnt, from the shock of which he never fully recovered. He leaves a wife and six grown children to mourn his death.

Mrs. Washington Anderson.

DUBUQUE, IA., Dec. 19.—Mrs. Washington Anderson, over 90 years old, was buried here to-day. It is claimed that she was the last living representative of the family of General George Washington. The remains were brought from Red Cloud, Neb., and were laid beside those of her husband, who was also related to the Washington family.

Joseph F. McLaughlin.

Joseph F. McLaughlin, son of Thomas McLaughlin, of Chartiers township, died at the residence of his parents yesterday, after a painful illness, but with true Christian fortitude. He suffered patiently until Providence relieved him from the pains and trials of this world. He was esteemed and respected by young and old.

Hon. A. H. Phelan, Journalist.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 19.—Last night the Hon. A. H. Phelan dropped dead on the sidewalk in this city. Mr. Phelan was the publisher of the *Western Watchman*, and a brother of Father Phelan, the editor of the paper. He has for many years been a prominent figure locally and in Catholic affairs.

Mrs. Margaret Nealous.

Mrs. Margaret Nealous, one of the most highly respected old ladies of Allegheny, died yesterday, at the extreme age of 96 years. Her funeral will occur Sunday at 1:30 from the residence of Captain J. K. Barbour, Secretary of the Oil Exchange, on Page street, Allegheny.

Mrs. Sarah Cargo.

Mrs. Sarah Cargo died yesterday at her home in West Deer township, Allegheny county, at the age of 81 years. The funeral will occur Sunday at 2:30 P. M.

M. Polos, Belgian Socialist.

BRUSSELS, Dec. 19.—M. Polos, the Belgian Socialist leader, is dead.

SNAP SHOTS IN SEASON.

SOME of the artists on the operatic stage are very high toned.

DO YOU ever think about testing the boiler? The careful engineer knows to a pound just how much steam he can carry, to be sure. He has tested his boiler and knows its capacity. But you don't test your boiler, do you? I mean your body, of course, for isn't that your boiler? No, indeed. You haven't time. Day in and day out you turn on a full head of steam and forge ahead under high pressure. You don't even clean the flues, examine the valves, look at the gauges. The old shell has stood the strain so long and well that you grow strong in confidence and recklessly fire up, regardless of the loose rivets, the spreading seams, the gnawing crust inside and the signs of decay outside. You look into the glass hastily and fail to see signs of wear and tear. Pleasure is the stoker and at your bidding it furnishes hot fuel and keeps the steam up to the limit. No safety valve there to sound a warning toot. So when the boiler bursts the wreck is generally quite complete. If it isn't you begin to patch up. After an overhauling you find that the clay shell is not completely burned up nor irreparably cracked, and the feed valve is turned on again and you steam up. But the old boiler has seen its best days. The pressure is lowered, but it won't hold steam. It hisses and sputters, but only ounces instead of pounds can be carried now. Poor old shell, isn't it, after all? How fast it rusts, how quick the flues clog, how wheezy, seamy, shaky it is, to be sure. It was intended to last a lifetime, but here it is disabled at the half-way station—barely able to carry enough steam to pull you along the hours instead of the days, weeks, months, years. Well, you didn't test it in time. It was overheated and overrated. It wore as well as could be expected, after all. Now it is patched, battered, caulked. When the fire is drawn it will fall to pieces. And the Force it could no longer carry, what of It? That will then be your Secret, not mine.

THE summer girl makes a delightful winter companion.

A FACT can be distorted until it masquerades as a lie.

A STOCK special says money is getting cheap. A dollar seems to be worth the same old hundred cents in this region.

WHAT a note would say if it could talk: "I know that my redeemer liveth."

THE loafers who are looking for winter quarters will not refuse dimes.

THE winter dude is in the swim when he parades in sealskin gloves, minus overcoat. Of course he cannot afford both.

A MAN dropped dead while running for a street car yesterday. He undoubtedly ran till he was out of breath.

A Common Occurrence.

She was clad in costly fur of seals,
And looked quite cute and sweet,
The tip-tap of her high French heels
Made music in the street.
She spun along o'er the slippery pave,
Glancing from side to side,
Then gave a yell, but no hand could save,
And boys yelled, "Let her slide!"

No matter what becomes of Africa, she will get her deserts.

A HEIR worker—The lawyer engaged to break a will.

THE fellow who sees a pretty girl caress a pug longs to lead a dog's life.

THE railroads are talking about laying a new Atlantic coast line, but the map-makers will not reap any benefit from it.

THE gamblers, like other folk, are at the mercy of dishonest dealers.

MEN who are blinded by jealousy seem to be able to shoot straight when they get hold of a gun.

PITTSBURG was undoubtedly taken by storm during the week.

AN exchange asks: "What makes men and women drunkards?" Whisky, dear boy, whisky.

SOME good workers are grate setters.

CONGRESS will doubtless be in good fighting trim about New Year's. It is merely sparring for points now.

THE newest clocks in the shops are second-handed.

A Lowland Prayer.

O, beautiful snow,
You are deep we know.
When you start to go
Will you please go slow?

FULL notes are to be found in bars of music.

A GREAT many people are propelled by force of circumstances.

PARNELL'S eyesight is not so badly impaired as the cause of Ireland.

SPONGES are found in the sea of humanity as well as the deep, blue ocean.

AUCTIONEERS should make good pugilists. They are experts in knocking down.

PARNELL is now engaged hunting a sight.

MOVEMENTS always seem to start on foot. This is the reason why so many of them are slow.

DOOR-BELLS receive more engagement rings than society belles.

A DRY joker—The thirsty clown.

AFTER murdering eight people, a Mexican has been sentenced to be hung. The laws of the Greasers must be very slippery.

IT sounds queer to hear of a failure in Providence, doesn't it?

A FRIEND in need is a needy friend, of course.

A REVENUE cutter—Mills, of Texas.

A Child's Error.

"O, mamma, dear, where's the flying machine?"
Asked a little child one day.
His mother replied: "What do you mean?
'Flying machine,' did you say?"
Then the little chap spoke up once more,
And glanced in his mother's eye,
"Why, didn't pa say that his head felt sore
After last night's little fly?"

ALWAYS subject to change.—The weather.

A RELIGIOUS sect up the Allegheny river say the world will go to smash about 1900. They probably mean that it will go to naught then.

BRICKLAYERS often ascend the scaffold.

SULLIVAN would be a handy fellow on a farm about harvest time. He's a good thrasher.

THE lazy man is wedded to his idle hours.

REMEMBER that you will have to die to find out the Secret.

WHEN Joslyn builds his theater dramatic managers will be jostling each other in Pittsburg.

WHEN the gambler cuts the cards the chips fly around.

HAVE you made up your mind what you will give her? The early purchaser catches the bargain, you know.

THE blacksmith's helper is a most persistent striker.

LIFE is always satisfactory to those who are satisfied.

THE tired tramp never resists a rest.

THE scull also takes a prominent part in the tank drama as well as "Hamlet."

UNCLE SAM got worsted in the recent woolen goods decision. WILLIE WINKLE.

ENTOMBED ALIVE.

Horrible Case of Suspended Animation Taken for Death.

DENVER, Dec. 19.—Louis Brenner, aged 35, died here November 13 from over-indulgence in malt liquors, and was buried December 2 by the Independent Order of Red Men. When the body was placed in the hearse the horses, used for that purpose for years, became unruly and another team had to be procured. Then one of the horses of a mourner, Henry Speck, would not go. A runaway team crossed the funeral procession on the way to the Riverside Cemetery and collided with a buggy containing two of the friends of the deceased. Arriving at the cemetery, the coffin was dropped from the hearse by blundering attendants, to the disgust of the mourners.

As the coffin was being lowered into the grave one of the ropes broke, and for a moment the people were horrified by seeing the coffin standing on end in the grave. According to the burial services of the Red Men it is provided for the liberation of a dove from a small box placed on the coffin just as the first handful of dirt is thrown into the grave. With a feeling akin to superstitious terror, some of the mourners saw the dove flutter from its cage and alight at the very edge of the grave. It would not take wings until frightened away by the men who piled the dirt over the narrow home of the supposed deceased. The more superstitious began to ponder over the matter and finally decided to disinter the remains. This work was done one week ago last Sunday, and to their unspeakable horror they discovered, as soon as the lid of the coffin box was raised, that the coffin itself was split, and the glass in the cover was broken, as if the dead had come to life, and in the unutterable agony of a realization of his position had struggled with the mad desperation of hopelessness and helplessness to free himself from the very grasp of a death whose horrors can be but feebly imagined by the living.

The coffin lid was raised, and the full horror burst upon them. The body was lying on its face, the lining of the coffin had been torn to shreds, the hair was pulled out of the head, the arms were bent and the hands so tightly clinched that the finger-nails had been sunk into the flesh. The face of the dead was distorted from the awful struggle through which the man had passed, and the cheeks showed that in his frenzy the man entombed alive had dug his nails into his flesh.

RIVALS OF KOCH.

Two Michigan Doctors Think They Have Downed Consumption.

DETROIT, Dec. 19.—Dr. E. L. Shurly, of Harper Hospital, and Dr. Heneage Gibbs, of the Michigan University at Ann Arbor, announced a few days ago the discovery of a sure cure for consumption. They propose now to make public tests of their discovery on which they have been working for over a year.

Their theory does not harmonize with that advanced by Dr. Koch. It is founded upon the belief that the chief injury in consumption is caused by powerful alkaline poisons which the body is capable of generating, and that these poisons cause ulceration and the gathering of the cheesy matter in the air cells of the lungs. Owing to the complex nature of the affection no specific can effect a complete cure.

The doctors decided that an injection of animal matter was dangerous to life, and, searching for chemicals, they hit upon the chloride of gold and chloride of sodium as the proper materials for the injection. In addition to the injection they decided to use chlorine gas, but chlorine gas has always been supposed to be irrespirable. By introducing a spray of sodium into the room before the chlorine gas the doctors found it not only rendered the gas breathable but also heightened its effects.

The patient is placed in a cabinet with no communication with the outside air except a breathing tube which is fitted closely to his mouth. The air in the cabinet is rarified until the pressure is eight pounds to the inch. The result of this is that the air rushes to the cells that have been broken down and debilitated, and the process of rejuvenation is started. This is helped out further by a series of chest exercises. The hospital has spent $12,000 in perfecting arrangements for the cure.

A dozen cases attest the efficacy of the treatment. The most marvelous feature is the cure of Miss Jackson, of Windsor, who was taken to the hospital in a dying condition in an ambulance seven weeks ago, and to-day, on being discharged as cured, walked two miles to her home, apparently restored in health. Both Dr. Shurly and Dr. Gibbs stand high in the profession.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE FAIR.

The Chief Executive is Making Very Slowly in the Premises.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Secretary Butterworth, of the World's Fair, to-day said that there was no change in the situation with respect to the President's proclamation. The President, he said, was going slow and making sure of everything; and as soon as satisfied of the financial sufficiency of the Fair subscriptions and bond authorizations, he would issue his proclamation. It is expected that the proclamation will be announced early next week.

Chairman Candler, of the World's Fair Committee, said his report of the result of the visit to Chicago was to be made soon after the proclamation was issued. By delaying the committee's report, Mr. Candler can give in it an opinion on the Fair in its latest aspects, and hopes to materially reduce legislation to be recommended, so that there may be little additional for Congress to do about the matter. It is proposed to incorporate in the report handsome lithographs of the Fair buildings.

There was a report in circulation to-day of trouble over the World's Fair subscriptions growing out of rumors that some German subscribers and others had threatened not to make payments of subscriptions unless assured that there would be no closing of any part of the Exposition on Sunday, as proposed by Senator Blair's resolution introduced to-day. No importance was attached here to these reports, however.

GENERAL TERRY AT REST.

A Funeral Marked by Quiet Simplicity Takes Place at New Haven.

NEW HAVEN, Dec. 19.—The remains of Major General Alfred Howe Terry were placed in their last resting place this afternoon. At 1 o'clock services were held at the home of the deceased hero for members of the family only. The remains were then transferred to the United Church on the Green. Until 2 o'clock the public was allowed to gaze upon the face of the deceased, and then public services were begun. During the services minute guns were fired and the bell in the City Hall tower tolled. The members of the City Government were present in a body, as were also the members of Admiral Foote Post. There were also present a large number of the survivors of the Seventh Connecticut Regiment, General Terry's old command, and several of his staff officers. The various bodies and organizations occupied the body of the church, the galleries only being open to the public.

After the exercises the remains were transferred to the Grove Street Cemetery, where the interment occurred. In accordance with the wishes of the family, there was no military pomp or civic display connected with the procession. The bearers were eight sergeants from the Second Regiment. The honorary bearers were ex-Governors Henry B. Harrison and Charles B. Ingersoll, Lieutenant Governor S. E. Mervin, Judge John C. Hollister, Francis Wayland, Dean of the Yale Law School; Henry A. Blake and Arthur D. Osborne.

A GREAT STRIKE AVERTED.

Northwestern Railroads Grant Trainmen an Increase of Wages.

CHICAGO, Dec. 19.—For some months past the railroad switchmen in all of the larger cities of the Northwest, outside of Chicago, have been agitating for an advance in wages to a parity with those paid in this city.

As a result, the General Grievance Committees of the Chicago and Northwestern, Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, and Illinois Central railroads were called to this city some days ago, since which time they have been in conference with the officials. The result is that a general advance in wages has been agreed upon. The advance has not been fixed, but it will be somewhat less than the men at first demanded.

This is Special Pleading.

From the Buffalo Express.]

The occupation of the pawnbroker will be gone if Congress passes a free coinage bill. A man could then take his old silverware to the Government mint and have it made into standard dollars. He could realize much more in this way than by leaving the goods with his uncle.

The American Health Association.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—The American Health Association, which has been in session here during the last three days, adjourned this morning. The next meeting will be held in Kansas City, Mo., next December, the date to be fixed by the Executive Committee.

The Standard Absorbs Another Rival.

LIMA, Dec. 19.—The Standard Oil Company has gobbled another independent company, the concern being the Delaware Oil Company. The sale of the Delaware leaves only two independent concerns in operation.

TWENTY-FOUR pages, 192 columns, will be issued by THE DISPATCH to-morrow. It will give all the news.

THE TOPICAL TALKER.

Working the Weather Oracle.

THE little den at the top of the Hamilton building where Mr. Stewart and other soothsayers in the Signal Service hang out is a busy place in these portentous times. The weather has been interesting to all of us since Monday, but to everybody in the river business it has overshadowed all the other affairs of life. So all day long and late into the night since the snow began to fall steamboat captains, pilots, coal men and representatives of all the river interests have sailed up by elevator or painfully climbed the sixteen flights of stairs to interview the vicar of the weather clerk.

On Wednesday afternoon when there seemed to be a good prospect of a sudden and general thaw the anxiety of everyone concerned in water navigation was intense. It looked like very high water then. There has been enough freezing weather since to defer the prospects of a flood. But the Signal Service station will be a shrine for devout visitation by river men for some time to come.

Rubbers!

IT is safe to say that more rubbers of all sorts, shapes and sizes have been sold in Pittsburg since Tuesday's blizzard than in all the previous weeks of this winter. In one store alone over 400 pairs were sold on Wednesday. The flooded state of the streets compelled men who had the deepest and most conscientious scruples against rubbers to take refuge in them. Another feature of the rush for rubbers has been the adoption of ladies' rubber boots by men. The ladies' boot is lighter and less cumbersome, and it apparently comes in sizes large enough for the average man's foot, for a round half dozen men I know have succeeded in wearing their better halves' shoes.

If a rubber shoe could be made that would not make the foot ache, what a fortune would fall to the inventor! The so-called watertight leather shoes are in nine cases out of ten absolute humbugs. If rubbers did not provide such an easy, though unhealthy, way to keep the feet dry, and so command almost universal use in this country, the shoemakers would feel encouraged to make water-proof shoes of leather. In England, with all its rainy weather—and in some parts it could be truthfully said that it rains every day for nine months out of the year—rubbers are practically unknown. The few that exist for the delectation of nice old ladies in the rural districts are concealed under the euphonious