# The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, FRIDAY, DEC. 26, 1890.

### THE GLAD HOLIDAY.

Taken all in all, Christmas was a very enjayable and much enjoyed day in Pittsburg and Allegheny. The remarkable prosperity of this region for a number of years past very naturally led to a condition of things favorable to Christmas enjoyment. Bounte ous tables were spread everywhere for material enjoyment. In these cities of homes, a quite general cessation of business enabled employer and employe to give themselves up to enjoyment in the household circle if they so desired.

Of course, there were the usual amuse ments and social attractions for those who enjoy those things. The reports of merchants prior to the holiday are indications enough of the thousands of hearts gladdened by tokens of friendship and love. Not the most costly presents caused the most joy, perhaps, for a modest gift may be a priceless treasure to the recipient. And really those young people with fresh, pure minds and healthy bodies were the greatest beneficiaries regardless of wealth or station.

Evidences are not wanting that Christmas was as generally enjoyed throughout the country as in this section. Sorrow certainly wrapped many homes in its dark mantle, for death is always busy. But the sorrow was far outweighed by the joy.

One feature is not so pleasant. The holiday produced a chapter of crimes. No fault of the day, no, indeed! But the fault of people. We narrowly escaped a Christmas murder here, and other places were not so fortunate as to escape at all. There was some drunkenness and minor offcuses due to the idea some people have that a holiday cannot be celebrated without roystering. This is a pity. It is a pity anything should be done willfully to mar this greatest feast holiday of the year.

### RAPID TRANSIT DEATHS.

During the past year the cable roads in this city have killed 14 persons, and the electric street cars have killed one. This exhibit is interesting from several points of view. It first engrests the idea that this is a pretty high price to pay for speed and comfort in traveling between our homes and places of business. The next idea is that the apparent greater safety of the electric eads balances the account rendered in favor of the cables by experiences with the recent storm. How many of these deaths were due to perlicence on the part of the persons killed or of the motormen we are not informed. But it does seem we might have the blessing of rapid transit by some means without this awful mortality.

EASTERN RAILROAD ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting of the Vanderbilt roads the other day tavorable action was taken on the proposal to form an association of the Eastern railroads, similar to that into which the principal Western roads have entered. The roads elected delegates to an advisory council, as follows: New York Central, President Chauncev M. Depew and Cornelius Vanderbilt; Lake Shore, President John Newell and H. McK. Twombly: Michigan Central, President H. B. Ledyard and W. K. Vanderbilt. The Pennsylvania companies have already approved the plan, and the "Big Four" will be in. The only important roads not heard from are the Eric and Baltimore and Ohio.

There would seem to be little doubt that the Eastern railroad trust will be formed. The holdings of Gould and the Standard Oil party in Erie and Battimore and Ohio are sufficient to control them, and neither of these interests can be suspected of being unfriendly to the trust principle. If they refuse to join the association, it will be from other motives. In fact, the only question is whether the Gould and Standard people have had revenge enough upon the Pennsylvania and Vanderbilt systems to satisfy them for the present.

When the Eastern association is formed the country will be permitted to enjoy the spectacle afforded by the domination of a shall be sufficient. In one respect this step half dozen men over three-fourths of the railroad mileage of the United States. The three jurors instead of one to bring about a other fourth is composed principally of short | disagreement. But in respect to the weight lines and narrow gauge feeders. It will be of a verdict rendered it is rather a detracan instructive exhibit. And it is not hard to see it will not be one calculated to com- is desirable cannot be doubted. It is, howmend the present conduct of corporate affairs. Those agitators for Government control of railroads and telegraphs will find in it a pointed argument in support of their theories. They will make the most they can o: it. It will be a still stronger argument in favor of a rigidly enforced income tax.

After all, the proper view to take of this combination is that it is the legitimate result of wandering away from tundamental principles, and the logical remedy is to force a return to those principles in spite of the powerful corruptive influences of such an aggregation of capital. Corporate franchises are granted by the commonwealth for the common good. They are manipulated for private greed. Justly considered, they have forfeited gress. The memorial sets forth the deep all rights under their charters, by reason of their violation and willful neglect of their dian troubles and charges the whole diffipublic duties. They should be brought to | culty to the perfidy of the whites in these account for their lapses.

### APISH SCIENCE.

Scientific men occasionally make grewsome predictions about the future, on the easy assumption that "science" leads to that conclusion. The latest instance comes from a Smithsonian Institution man at tion of the people of this country to savagery. His assumption is based on the theory that this continent is not adapted to support animal life in its higher forms. By be accompanied by proofs-he cites the contrast between the anthropoid apes of Africa | the whites have been uniformly unjust

and the little long-tailed monkey of South America; the camel and the llama.

It is not necessary to cite any more proofs of this class. In the estimation of this scientific gentleman Africa is much better adapted to the support of the higher orders of animal life than either of the Americas. If his reasoning means anything it means that Atrica should support the highest type of civilization. This is, no doubt, a good theory. But what is the fact? With the single exception of the ancient Egyptian civilization and the possibility that an older civilization preceded the Pharaohs in interior Africa, that continent has been dragging along in the most debased savagery known, except the low life of the South Sea Islands.

Recurring to the animal life theory the certainly superior to his fellow in any other part of the world. As for transplanted animals the American continent appears to be remarkably good soil for them-at least some types. The Texas steer-he of the wide-spreading horns and irresistible eccentricities-is so far superior to his Spanish progenitor that he can hardly be put in the same class. Domestic animals have reached the highest perfection here.

That American civilization be destined to decay may be probable-it may even be susceptible of proof. Other civilizations have failen-not from exhaustion of resources, but through the habits of the people. But it will certainly require more data than the Washington scientific gentleman produces to convince any reasoning mortal that the conditions of life necessary to the proper development of an anthropoid ape are in anyway connected with the environ ments productive of the highest civilization

### A NOVEL SUGGESTION.

That is a somewhat novel idea, to light up dangerous railroad crossings at night. If it will save a single life it is a good idea, too The killing and maiming of people in this country is frightful. Thousands every year. We are supposed to be, above everything, a a money making people. Yet it is a fact beyond controversy that death is the most expensive luxury tired people enjoy. Death is dead loss. It is, therefore, not merely humanitarian interest to save life, but it is public economy. In this view of the matter every effort should be made to reduce the chances of death, and the scheme to light up dangerous crossings at grade is to be commended. At the same time it is well worth considering whether it would not be better economy to abolish all the

The Senatorial situation in Pennsylvania

grade crossings. THE MUTTERINGS AGAINST CAMERON.

s peculiar this year, though it holds no promise as yet of any unusual outcome. Coolness, not to speak of strained relations, among prominent Republican leaders and workers who in years past pulled together has quite clearly led to a disposition in certain quarters to take up a new candidate in place of Senstor Cameron. The Philadelphia Press voices this desire. Again, some of the Delamater supporters are offish to the Senator, and from still another element of the party come prophesyings of opposition unless he alter his course on the force bill. There are squally signs for Cameron in the sky, but gestion that honor might be satisfied equally the chances are, on the whole, against their materializing. Cameron can only be beaten in caucus or by a bolt of at least twenty-six members. There is probably not a county in the State which could not offer at least some candidate as capable as Mr. Cameron, but the latter has the prestige of possession and the support of his old following, including members of the Legislature whose

pledges he shrewdly sought before the elec-

When Cameron was making this canvass with more or less openness, and with a rumored \$100,000 contribution to ex-Chairman Cooper for the special purpose, was the time when he could have been opposed with a fair show of success. The fight against him now-especially over the force bill, which is a dead issue and was never a good one-depends wholly upon some odd chance materi- is a slender woman with fair hair, and wears alizing. Cameron doubtless already has the caucus pretty well set up. The hunt for 26 Independents, however, has begue. It will be gratifying intelligence if so many are found who feel themselves in a position to exercise an entirely free choice uncommitted to Cameron by past associations or recent pledges. But if unexpectedly these shall be found, we trust they will not be so foolish or impracticable as to pretend to base their course on the Senator's opposition to the force bill, in which he is in accord. not at variance, with the wisest judgment of his party. This, indeed, is one of the few positions upon which he has been commended very generally through the country, and neither he nor Quay has lost anything by running counter to Speaker Reed

and President Harrison on this score. The election for Senator will come off early next month. Meantime it will be enrious to hear the threatenings of opposition grow louder or feebly die away, as they so often have done heretofore.

### CHANGING THE JURY SYSTEM.

Minnesota has taken a step for reform in the jury system by inserting a clause in the State constitution providing that in civil eases the agreement of 10 out of 12 jurors is wise, as it necessitates the corruption of tion. That some reform of the jury system ever, an open question whether the Minnesota constitutional amendment is going in the right direction. It would seem that competent persons elected by popular vote, as the judges are, and subject to frequent reelection, with emolument, would strike more nearly at the root of the matter. An improper verdict would certainly cause the defeat of a juror at the next election.

# QUAKERS DEFEND THE INDIANS.

At a meeting of representatives of the Religious Society of Friends, commonly called Quakers, of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, a memorial on the Indian question was prepared for presentation to Conconcern of the society with the recent Interms: "It has been the uniform testimouy of those who have been familiar with the facts, that the Indian has rarely been chargeable with disregarding treaty stipulations which he has comprehended and ratified. While on the other hand it is well known that almost, if not all, wars of the United States with the Indians in the past, Washington. He predicts a speedy degrada- have been the result of injustice or perfidy on the part of the whites."

General Harney, himself an Indian fighter, is quoted as saying that the Indian has always borne wrongs "in silence that way of proof-of course such theories must never fail to drive civilized men to deeds of violence," and that

in their treatment of the aborigines. General Pope's well-known remark, "How can we expect the Indian to observe a treaty which he sees us violate every day to his injury?" and other similar opinions are cited. All of this leads the society to appeal for a different order of things. The friends are convinced "That a course of justice and kindness toward this people would be productive of lasting peace" as "is illustrated by the early history of the Prov-

ince of Pennsylvania." There is much justice and reason in the Quaker view of this matter, notwithstanding the popular belief that the only good Indians are dead. It is the testimony of all officers on duty at the scene of the late disturbances that insufficient rations and injustice on the part of the whites, or more American buffalo, now nearly extinct, is particularly rascally government agents, caused the trouble. And it is a significant fact that since the rations have been increased the warlike spirit of the Indians has been gradually subsiding. Hungry men are desperate men the world over, be they white, red, black or yellow.

THIRD PARTY MOVEMENT. President McGrath, of the Kansas Farmers' Alliance, takes a sanguine view of the third party movement when he says it will soon include all of the labor organizations. It has been the experience of labor leaders in this section, and of officers of national organizations, that with two parties in the field it has sometimes been almost impossible to hold the orders together. Trying to bring them all together under one political standard is likely to be a still more serious matter. The Alliance certainly made a good showing in the last election by getting their candidates through as members of the old parties, and they may lose their whole vantage in the third party experiment.

CHRISTMAS ought not to be marred by murderous proceedings. Of all days it ought to be the one to most effectually dispel the nicidal purpose. Alas! that it is not so.

EX.PRESIDENT CLEVELAND, speaking to the Reform Club, attributed McKinley's de teat to tariff reform sentiment. He did not state specifically, however, that it was the tariff reform sentiment of members of the Ohio Leg-

body's enjoyment yesterday was the certainty that no Congressional jawing was being done in Washington.

SOMETHING is evidently wrong. We have had several cold nights without a complaint of patural gas shortage.

WEST VIRGINIA as an oil field appears to have plenty of oil which it is very expensiv

In view of the results of French duels as they are fought, we offer the gratuitous sugwell if the disputants would set about to hypnotize each other.

aments of the Georgia Legislature. recovering his healt's.

MRS. BESSIE HELM 'r, the President of the

to practice law. MME. CARNOT has required the Mayors of the 20 arrondissements of Paris each to draw up a list of 20 widows having the largest num ber of children, whom Mme, Carnot desires to

DR. EMILY KEMPIN, who delivers law lect ures to the Woman's Legal Education Society. MISS FLORA E. POWERS, stenographer to

the Attorney General, is said to be one of the most indefatigable workers at the capital, frequently working far into the night in a stress f business, not absenting herself on Sunday MRS. JAMES G. BLAINE, JR., is described as having the handsomest hands and feet of any woman in New York. They are perfect, and

in Berlin. His uncle, the Mikado of Japan, has sent him to that city, accompanied by three secretaries and six young Japanese noblemen for the purpose of attending the maritime and other studies.

an illustrators to whom art has brought hand Mrs. O'SHEA is described by a writer, whose

profuse, and her complexion is fair. THE Duke of Marlborough has secured or Tennessee, which are supposed to contain co to build a city something after the plan o

SIR JOHN POPE HENNESSY has spent most of his life abroad, but is in many respects a typical Irishman. When it was known in Cork last year that he had bought Rostellan Castle and was coming home to live, much curiosity was expressed in social circles in the South of Ireland as to what Lady Hennessy was like. It was known that she was a native of Mauritius where she possessed vas: estates, but opinion was divided as to whether she was black or yellow, those being the colors popularly suppos

### Election Day Circulating Medium Philadelphia Inquirer.] The public is notified to refuse all \$2 silver

of them. Perhaps it would be well for the

can give no better advice about it. DEATHS OF A DAY. Rev. David Goodwillie, PEPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH. Youngsrown, Dec. 25.-Bev. David Good villie, who was for 50 years paster of the Presby erian Church at Liberty, three miles from here

Judge Hines.

The Archbishop of York.

### SNAP SHOTS IN SEASON,

Ropes can be taux, even if they are inclined THE ledger will soon be closed. Are you balaucing the year book? Of course you are But just then the old man's toe

ANOTHER thing that contributed to every-

THE classification of English plum pudding as building material gives rise to the suspicion that the customs official, who made the classification, has been eating that savory delicacy and Michigan pine plank in alternate

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE BROWN is quite generally commended, now, on the ground that nothing bad is known of him. The general public admits at the same time it knows very little good about him.

### PROMINENT PROPLE.

HON. POTIPHAR PEAGREEN IS one of the or-THE REV. C. H. SPURGEON writes from the uth of France that he is slowly but surely

ited 12 volumes of the Appellate Courts for her father, Judge Bradley. It is her intention

help on New Year's Day.

have escaped emancipation from the long illness that their owner has suffered. PRINCE HERSYASAWO is the lion of the day

A. B. FROST is one of half a dozen Amersome fortunes, "lettered ease" and rural comfort. He lives on a good-sized farm near Mad ison, N. J., dresses as he will, and dispenses a generous hospitality.

intention is clearly not to flatter, as having the thick lips and bulging brow we see in the Cleopatra medals, and as being as cold blooded ordinarily as Cleopatra was known to be. She is not a very tall or big-boned woman, but is ruddy and full blooded; her hair is blond and

tions on large tracts of land in Alabama and and iron. He has returned to London with the idea of interesting some of his English friend in a plan to organize a company which is to furnish the capital for the development o these lands, and if need be to furnish the funds Birmingbam.

to belong to the inhabitants of the island.

### certificates of the issue of 1888, as the country

derian Caurea at Liberty, tares miss from her died this morning at the home of his son in Clev land. The deceased was 90 years old, and early life adopted the ministry, remaining in acti service until ten years ago, when falling healt compelled him to retire. He was a pioneer in the Prespyterian Church in this section of the State.

INDIANAPOLIS. Dec. 25.—Private dispatches from Rutiand, Vt., announces the death of Judge flines. He lived here for many years and was the

DUBLIN, Dec. 25,-The Archbishop of York is

Pald the Penalty. "She's my Annie, I'm her Joe,"

you on edge.

IMAGINATION is the magnifying glass unde

A DULL companion always manages to keep

BANKER KEAN, of Chicago, was a keer

inancier, but his keenness has landed him in

PERHAPS if the closure was applied to the

old tea department Congress would jog along

SAILORS always call a stiff wind a free

THE barber fishes for natronage with a pole

PEOPLE who show good taste in dress may

will ring the door bell and ask you for a job.

the public to realize what they are there for.

A NEW JULIET.

pearance in Shakespeare's Tragedy.

tion to lay undue stress upon the physical

phrases of the balcony scene, to trust to the pic-

turesque tableaux, is too great for most Juliets,

Take away from the average Juliet the calcium

moonlight, the delicious draperies and beauty of face and limb, and what charm and power is

left is not hers but Shakespeare's. This is not the case with Miss Gale's Juliel. It would be a

tiving and moving picture of love, sorrow and

heroism, of a woman, tender, passionate and

brave, without the pictorial adjuncts. The cal-ciums can be relegated to the rear in the con-

sideration of Miss Gale's work. She can be

credited with beauty, with a figure and car-

riage in which dignity and youthful lissomness unite, with a voice powerful enough, though hourseness marred it a little yesterday, and

usually melodious, and with a personality that

can hardly fail to please. But, then, very few women attempt Juliet nowadays unless they

have most of these qualifications. Miss Gale made her audience thrill and weep, and after

the final fall of the curtain shout enthusiasti-

cally in her honor. It was a cold audience, too;

rural and irresponsive. She did this because she comprehended the character very thorough-ly, and was able to translate Shakespeare's

eation into flesh and blood. It is not nece

sary now to take Miss Gale's performance in

detail. The tenderness which characterized her

veal anything with which her previous por-

us familiar. It was in the tragic heights of the

solloquy and in the outbursts of passion in the

later scenes that Miss Gale's triumph was

complete and surprising. The nervousness

which had been noticeable in the lighter scenes

had disappeared when the opportunities for

nathos arrived. As fine a piece of art as any

was her simulation of the variant emotion

which the nurse's recital of Tubalt's death

evoked, beginning with the blank despair at the bare idea of Romeo's death, depicted in

taring eyes, quivering nostril, open mout

and clenched hands, and ending in unconcealed

joy at the assurance of Romeo's safety. A

and it is backed with a mind evidently aler

and cultivated.

was a picture in itself.

Philadelphia Times.

Philadelphia Press. ]

onderfully expressive face is hers at all times

The performance as a whole was good; Mr.

Barrett's Romeo, a warm, vigorous, and thoroughly artistic performance, from which his

miors could learn much. Mr. Hanley, Mr.

Lane, and Mr. Rogers were also worthy of

high praise. The scenery, which was both good

and bad, did not work smoothly. Juliet's

dresses were lovely. The black velvet walking

son cloak, was perhaps the most becoming, al-

though the robe de nuit, so the women said,

A Deplorable Mistake

The failure of the prosecution in the bribers

cases recently tried in Lawrence county is now

enerally admitted to be due to the mistake of

trying first the case that should have been

tried last. The mistake was that of the Court

however, and not of the special counsel who

had been designated by the Court to prosecute

the cases. They asked to try Downing first,

intending to follow his trial with those of Tate

and Shaffer, putting Wallace on trial last. The

Court directed that Wallace be tried first. It

must be assumed that the Court erred only in

judgment, as it had sent the cases the second

time to the grand jury, and on petition of the

prosecutor had appointed special counsel to try them. The error was fatal to the prose-

that is much to be deplored, as the result can-not fail to encourage bribery in the future.

Hard on the Celebrators.

SOCIAL CHATTER.

Mrss STRLLA HAYS will take her second and

berger Hays. The first step was taken at the

THE Balmoral Choir, at Carnegie Hall to

this evening by her mother, Mrs. John Sho

sneezy merriment they are having.

oution, ne matter how honestly made, a fact

dress, especially when contrasted with a crin

charm of Juliet, to rely upon the pa

WILLIE WINKLE.

reeze, in spite of the fact that it is salted.

ghost in the plum pudding?

ead types.

your own accountant in this department. It would never do to let a stranger con the columns there and set down the footings, would it? Oh, no. He never would be able to strike a balance. But you can, and if you doctor the book, who will be the wiser? It's not a partnership concern, and you can fix the balance sheet the profit and loss schedule—to suit your own secretive self. But the account is not such a long one, after all. It only covers a year-12 months, 52 weeks, 365% days, 8,766 hours, according to the almanac makers—one mile stone on life's highway, one leaf in the ledger whose covers bear your monogram, cradled on one side and buried on the other. Still some you know cram and jama lot of figures between the lids of the year, and when settle ment day nears the long rows stagger them. Others keep a day book, and yesterday's account is nicely squared before to-day's is opened, leaving a bright, clean page to be turned to-morrow. Thus the business of living is systematized, balanced, docketed. But most f us carry our account on the big, broad, but perhaps blurred, tablet of the mind, and settle with the memory when the man with the forelock and the scythe shifts the figure—plucks another ripe flower from the wreath of childhood and drops the seed on the sod at the end of the ane. But the mind tablet is elastic and plas tic. When you demand from memory the annual statement preserve the profits and fling the losses back, back, back. If they haunt only dwell on the lesson they offer. There may be ubstance in the dark shadow over their grave you know. But the profits—the good, the bright the joyous things which bring back a day, an hour, a face, a hand, a hope, should b carried forward. Then when you stand look ing upon the bier of the year you will hear the laugh of the little child hid in the flowers sing ing above the cries of the weepers who mourn over lost hopes—see a tear or a fear in the eye of the year child holding the log line of life ready to reel in and shorten the voyage just

MISERY must have been very lonesome yes-terday. It had no company in this community. SURELY the seeds of happiness sown during

Christmas time will blossom and bloom even in MEN, like tools, are useless when they lose

> My footfall on the floor creates A ruffle in the lace, And then a pretty smile illumes Her happy face. Her chubby fingers on the air Beat a tattoo. To break the magic of her stare

A Common Occurrence

I shout "Goo-goo !" THE sun is heading north, and will reach this ection when winter goes into summer quar

THE World's Fair proclamation has been ssued. Now let Chicago issue the bonds and get

THE four quarters of a dollar cost as much THE greater the charity the bigger your con-

It is not necessary to measure your breath

WHEN you suppress the truth you suggest a

AMBITION often makes men slaves THE world's a stage, but if you wait for your ue you may never make a hit.

THE shoemaker pounds his lapstone in order

MAJORITIES cannot be led by the noes, but hey talk with the ayes. It was a green Christmas for all in this sec tion, of course, but the shrewd business men who advertise feel that it was a golden one,

PRESIDENT HARRISON probably figured that Blaine's mail was not worth a \$75,000 postoffice before he vetoed the Bar Harbor public

Ev'ry heart seemed fuil of great gladness, Eves wore a soul-given shine: But, alast many hearts feel the sadness Of over-indulgence in wine.

building bill.

A VERY weak man may have a strong breath A SUCCESSFUL shoplifter-A straightforward advertisement in THE DISPATCH. It

gets away with the goods. THIS is a free country, but nuisances are not

THE huntsman who shoots his best hound THE Christmas editorial will be carefully lled away for use some other Chris

by any means, nowadays. MESSENGER boys, like money, are always on eall in Wall street.

MODISTE and modesty are not synonymous

WHAT enters the ears should go to the brain to be filtered before being poured out of the

A BONDED warehouse-The marriage licens RICH men always talk from notes.

You do not have to go to court before you A BAND of hope-The engagement ring. Mince and Mint. Ho! ye merry, shouting, jolly dogs,

Who heeded not nature's warning Don't you imagine the whole world's cogs Are jolting your head this morning? THE woman who sweetly scents herself ar dently imagines that men can be led by the

THE merchant who would thrive should not take his Christmas cards out of the newspapers yet awhile.

In the Mayor's race a dark horse is frequent THERE are innumerable laps to the mile in the great human race.

You don't need to be a mind reader to guess what the woman who turns around when an-other passes her is thinking about. OIL well drillers, even if they do not observ

the seventh day, keep it holy.

NOAH saw the first ark light.

ing false notes and making a disc

off the box receipts.

WHEN people organize for a concerted mov

ment it's hard to get them to keep from sound-

THE best way to starve the fasters is to cu

THE wire is charged with the electric light,

the choir is only exceeded by the popularity of its manager, Leonard Wales. Scotch, Irish GLITTERING frauds-Paste diamonds. and English melodies will be given. A REVIVAL of a Welsh custom by members THE foreigners who attempt to live under of the Missionary Church that meets in Superior Hall, Allegheny, resulted in the the laws of their native land in this country should be pulled up with a short turn. Obje eddfod given there yesterday afternoon

lessons are needed, as many of them cannot understand the United States language. and last evening. THE ladies of the Eighth Presbyterian LIFE is surely a holler mockery to the tele Church, West End, are making great preparations for their annual supper to-morrow. A phone girl.

Chinese delegation will be in attendance. GUILTY as indicted—The overhead wire. THE American Social, composed of the General Marion Council, Jr. O. U. A. M., held its annual reception in the Palace Rink yesterday JUSTICE-TO-BE BROWN shot a burglar once The President evidently thinks he is entitled to fternoon and last evening. MISS HAMILTON will give a dancing rece

night at the M

tained a merry Christmas company last even-THE Sylvan Social gave a reception yesterday afternoon and evening at Semple's Hall. THE Allegheny German gives a reception to

THE big dance at the Kenmawr, to-night.

tion this evening for the members of her

Tirk Misses Lyon, of Stanton avenue, enter

but the consumer has to foot the bill, just the THE TOPICAL TALKER.

Polite Under Difficulties Soon after the snow began to fall last night an alarm of fire was given in a lore building in the lower part of the city. One of the tenants was writing in his office at the time when the shout of fire broke upon his ears. He went to the speaking tube, which connected his office with another one several floors above, which a lie and a rumor are too frequently

and whistled up.
"What's the matter?" he inquired when an answering "hello," assured him that someone was at the other end of the tube. "Bullding is on fire," was the laconic reply. It was enough to make a man hurry and this particular individual was making splendid time for the door when there came a whistle again

at the speaking tube. He ran back and yelled up the pipe "hello?" "Hello!" came back the answer. "I beg your ardon, it's not a fire, it's a flood!" Could such polite exactness be surpassed? It proved strictly correct also. The fire had

sever existed and the alarm had impelled some

agacious person to turn on the water in the

fire apparatus on the top floor. Is Christmas So Cheerful? I have heard," said a clergyman to me yester-

day, "some people declaring that the old-fash-ioned merry Christmas is dying out; that it is Was there a skeleton in the mince pie and : not an enjoyable festival any more; that thos who celebrate it do not do so with any honest and sincere jollity. In a way I agree with Koch's lupus cure has been successfully them. I am not speaking of the religious side weighed in the scales which the patients furof the day, but the secular, of course. I think the reason the day is not so joyful as it used to be is partly to be found in the expansion of the custom in giving presents. Of course the cus-AFTER all the snow is shoveled off the tram tom in itself under proper conditions is most idable and thoroughly in keeping with the THE actor or actress who idealizes compel best traditions of the day. Christmas ought to be the festival of charity, and as far as it is so to day I have no fault to find with it. But is If life is a melodrama it is bound to end hap the giving of presents, when it is merely in compliance with the laws and costums of society, often without regard to the real feelings In the study of humanity you must learn to of the donor, charity at all? The giving of presents at Christmas has become in many cases I know at best a system of exchange. A feels he must give B a present because he knows by experience, or thinks it likely, that B will give him a present. Too much money is spent Miss Gale Makes a Triumphant First Apon the presents also. In the old days the presents were merely emblems of good will; now A new Juliet, and one that the world is likely they are often of the costliest character. I should say that the cost of celebrating Christo hear more of hereafter, graced the Duquesne Theater yesterday afternoon. Miss Gale essayed the heroine's role in Shakespeare's tragmas in the conventional manner has become so edy then for the first time. Her success was great as to lay a heavy burden upon the spirit nequivocal, and it will surprise us if Miss of the average man, and thus largely to dimin-Gale's Juliet does not prove in time, after she has grown used to the character and overcome ish his capacity for deriving pleasure from the anniversary which he celebrates. This explanthe nervousness which bindered her in a few ation, of course, does not fit the case of the places yesterday, the most nicely proportioned, utterly destitute, who spend nothing on Christintellectual and yet passionate embodiment of the character that this generation and country mas, nor the case of the very rich, to whom no expenditure is a burden. But from the level of has known. It is an advance upon her pre-vious work, for the reason that the character the well-to-do down to a point just above the lowest depths of poverty I am persuaded that calls for the full display of those very qualities and powers which Miss Gale has partially un-

covered as Ophelia principally. This Juliet is out of the common if for but one reason, namely, that the actor has shown us that Romeo's sweetheart has a mind of no mean order, and a soul more lovely than her fair face. The temptation to lay undue stress upon the physical if not distress." Scientific Humbugs. According to reliable information that reaches me, it was something of a pity that a shorthand reporter was not in a downtown ookstore on Monday afternoon, when Judge Collier made some pertinent and pungent remarks about scientific humbugs. How it started does not matter, but the Court delivered himself in good round terms and in such a tone hat everybody in the store couldn't help hear ing him. It is not fair to give my imformant's ecollection of the little speech, but it was in effect a scathing criticism of some of the hum bugs perpetrated in the name of science by so called scientific men. The truth and cogency of Judge Collier's reasoning struck my in-formant forcibly, and perhaps the Court could It has often occurred to me that Judge Collier's ontroversial powers should have literary expression, and those who have been in constant itercourse with him have expressed the same opinion.

it does account for a vast amount of worry and

dejection and not a little real inconvenience,

The late trains leaving the city on Christman Eve were pretty well filled with people of both sexes going home to spend Christmas. It is pleasant to be able to say that very few of the men were intoxicated—an unusual circum-stance. The night before Christmas last year there were more drunken men in the smo car, in which the writer was unhappily con pelled stay, than he has ever seen together at one time before or since.

The exodus of young women employed in the in the earlier passages of the play did not re- stores of Pittsburg and Allegheny the night before a holiday takes on proportions that most of us never dream of. The evening trains on Wednesday carried a great many more pretty and well-dressed women than usual, and t nuzzled some of the old commuters no doubt The welcome passengers were saleswomen em ployed in the great stores. Some of them had o work uptil nearly midnight, and yet managed to catch the express going west over the Fort Wayne system. The Obio Valley towns, such as Beaver and Rochester, and Youngs town, East Liverpool, and other towns in East ern Ohio, supply a great many workers for the stores and factories in Pittsburg and Allegheny, and at holiday times a majority of them go home to celebrate.

### LIBERAL DISTRIBUTION.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 25 .- George W. Childs

Mr. George W. Childs Made Christmas Gifts to the Amount of \$20,000

oft his office last night happy in the conviction that he had made a happy Christmas for many of his fellow creatures. During the day he disributed upward of \$20,000 in checks and cash esides hundreds of books and other nice things. Of the large amount of cash which he gave away \$10,000 went to his employes in the Public Ledger building. Each individual re-ceived his present inclosed in an envelope bearing his name, and the amount in every case was regulated according to the recipient's worth. regulated according to the recipient's worth. No one was overlooked from the basement to the composing room. Each of the office boys received \$20, while some of the editors' gifts were up in the hundreds. The checks ranged in value from \$100 to \$500 each. Mr. Childs personally placed the gifts in their envelopes, so that no one should know how much he gave each person. Not even was the cashler, Colonel Muckle, taken into the secret. All the latter did was to furnish Mr. Childs with so much cash in \$20 bills, so much in \$50 notes, and so much in hig crisp \$100 greenbacks. Nor did his good work end here; for when he started homeward it was with a hig pocketful of bank bills ready for distribution among his of bank bills ready for distribution among his

of bank bins to an independent of the fact that I am able to give happiness to others, and I thank God that He has placed it in my power to do

## Murder Should be Quickly Punished.

Philadelphia Record. ]

Mrs. Pearcey was hanged in London on Tues day for a murder committed just two months ago. English law is usually accounted slow in New Orleans is trying to celebrate the festiits procedure, but it is evident that the Circum val in the midst of 30,000 cases of grip. It is locution Office has no connection with the Criminal Courts in the British capital. One of the gravest faults in the administration of jus tice in this country is the procrastination in the trial and punishment of murderers. They do these things better in England—and likewise in final step into the social world at the grand ball given for her at the Duquesne Clubhouse France, as was shown in the Eyraud trial the

other day. The Funny French Duel.

reception and tea given recently at the Hays Philadelphia Ledger.] French duels are usually rather amusing performances, in which nobody gets seriously hurt, but one was threatened the other day where a night and to-morrow night, will undoubtedly bring out a large audience, as the popularity of tragic termination was almost insured by a provision that the principals were to begin with pistols, at 25 paces, and, if they failed to kill each other with those weapons, were to resort to swords and fight to a finish. The French comedy turn has been given to this duel also, for one of the principals has apologized and the affair has been settled to the satisfaction of both sides.

### AS WHITE AS SNOW.

Ask me not my heart to give thee, All my heart was, long ago, Burled 'neath the waves of you sea, With a soul as white as snow. Asg me not some song to sing thee,

In a lighter strain might flow As love's harps would woo and win thee, r as bird's sweet overflow. All my soul seemed made for singing. But death's augel, as it flew Starward, left this sadder singing, And love's lighter music slew.

Ask me not, this late, to cherish Dreams of gold, though bright as day; I would rather die, and perish, hat the truth might have its way

### JUSTICE BROWN.

hiladelphia Ledger, Rep.]

man not yet 54 years of age

Philadelphia Record, Dem. ]

having been born in 1836.

Philadelphia Press, Rep. 7

not disappoint the country.

New York Star, Dem.]

of the Attorney General.

New York Tribune, Rep. 1

New York Press, Rep. ]

President Harrison's Ante-Christmas Sur-

President Harrison has selected for the Su-

preme Court Bench a man who has scarcely

been mentioned for the place in the news-papers, and one who is little known to the pub-

lic. But that does not argue that he is not a sound lawyer, qualified to serve as Associate

Justice of the Supreme Court. Judge Henry B. Brown, of Michigan, had a liberal education

before he began the study of law, and, after a few years of practice, became a Judge of the

District Court, in which he has served for 15 years, so that he has had large experience for

Will Give General Satisfaction

The nomination of United States District

Judge Henry Billings Brown, of Detroit, to fill the vacancy on the bench of the Supreme

Court occasioned by the death of Justice Samuel F. Miller will be received with general ap-proval. There is a double reason for it. It is

President Harrison a Lawyer Himself.

knows his man, and that the appointment will

Good in a Negative Sense.

The nomination of Henry B. Brown, of Michi-

In a negative sense, the appointment is entitled to commendation, as it has avoided the scandal

which would have attended the selection by the President of his own law partner, in the person

An Excellent Appointment.

In selecting as the late Associate Justice

Miller's successor District Judge Henry B. Brown, of Michigan, President Harrison has

made an admirable appointment. President

Harrison has now filled two vacancies on the

Supreme Court Bench. His appointments con-

trast most favorably with the two made by his

Regrets Gresham's Failure.

While the Press is disappointed that Presi-

ent Harrison has a second time set aside the

minent claims of Judge Gresham to a place on

the United States Supreme Bench-claims that

were pressed by the whole country—we are free to commend the choice he has finally made of a

No Time to Look Him Up.

Michigan gets the appointment to the long vacant place upon the United States Supreme Bench in the person of Heury B. Brown. Prob-

ably he is a good man-at least, no one has had

an opportunity to learn anything to the con-

Mr. Harrison has plainly disregarded all

partisan considerations in this appointment, and has honestly tried to make a selection with sole

eference to the fitness of his nominee for the

Nobody Expected Anything.

Mr. Harrison's idea in appointing his new

Supreme Justice seems to have been to do what

nobody expected of him. Well, he has suc-seeded. It was nobody that expected anything.

PICKLE PEMININITY.

An Expectant Groom Deserted for He Who

PETERSBURG, VA., Dec. 25.-Some weeks

ago Miss Jennie Demaway, a beautiful and ac-

mplished young lady of King William county,

vent to Jarretts, in Sussex county, to visit her ister. When she left King William she was

sister. When she left King William she was engaged to a well-known citizen of that county, and to-day had been fixed for the wedding. During her visit to her sister Miss Demaway her Mr. W. G. Thompson, of Jarretts, who became a frequent visitor. The acquaintance soon ripened into love and an engagement followed.

On last Monday they took a buggy drive, and

then it was decided that they should go to Weldon to be married. This they did on Friday last. Yesterday morning the gentleman from King William passed through here on the southbound passenger train to claim his bride, but to his utter astonishment when he got to

Jarretts he found the lady of his choice the wife of another man. Mr. Thompson who is the happy brideuroom, was to have acted as best man for the gentleman from King Will-

CURRENT OPINION.

Watters of Interest Referred to With and

Without Bias.

New York Tribune: One thing is certain:

Ex-President Cleveland hypnotized the Reform

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle: The at-

nosphere of the Reform Club dinner was too

Mugwumpish for Governor Hill, and so he

Buffalo Express: However else he conducts

the campaign against the Indians, General Miles should not throw bombs among them.

New York World: Can it be that the veto of

the Ear Harbor postoffice bill has anything to

do with the fact that Mr. Blaine lives in sum-

Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette: With \$15,-

000,000 to \$20,000,000 capital going into new mer-

cantile and manufacturing enterprises weekly.

record, and the wisdom of the tariff law is es

Philadelphia Times: If there is one proverb

atterly discredited and gagged by the weather

of the past few years it is that about the green yule and the fat churchyard. All the same, a

ittle sleighing and skating would be accept

New York Star : Now Boston is complaining

unhappiness here in New York it is some con-

Philadelphia Inquirer: The President's rete of the bill for a public building at Bar

Harbor will be seized upon by the opposition as

n infallible indication of his hostility to Secra-

tary Blaine: but the reasons he gives for it are

so clear and convincing, and show such an in-

timate knowledge of the case, that we should

not be surprised if they had been furnished by

Philadelphia Record: General Butler's an-

councement of his retirement from public life

will occasion general regret. With all his ec-centricities of thought and action, Mr. Butler

has always been recognized as an active-minded, brainy man; and he has made his mark

in the pages of his country's history-military, civil and political-and always in an individual

and piquant fashion. His withdrawal to the

quietude of privacy will be a strange experi-

ence for himself, and will despoil the field of

ational politics of one of its unique and divert-

St. Paul Pioneer Press: People who imag-

ine they see a war cloud gathering about the Behring Sea difficulty should not get nervous.

The United States have very little to fight

that controversy. War is expensive, and when

t comes to spending money, your mutual friends, J. Bull and Brother Jonathan, usually

lo a little figuring before they invest.

few bales of furs wherewith to adorn the

bodies of women and empty the pockets of men are an insufficient casus belli between enlight-

ned nations. The attitude of the Canadian

poachers is like that of an urchin throwing

stones at his neighbors and then yelling as he

better off than we are.

Mr. Blaine himself.

ing characters.

big brother on you."

the old business year is closing out with a go

mer in this interesting Maine village?

Club Tuesday evening.

They have bums enough now.

uccessor to the late Justice Miller.

Disregarded Partisan Consider

New York Times, Ind. Rep. 1

hiladelphia Times, Dem.)

Cincinnati Enquirer, Dem.)

trary.

high office.

prise Talked Of.

-The railroads' pay-rolls for 1890 will be nearly \$700,000,000. Large Experience for a Young Man.

-In Italy 63 per cent. of the population are unable to read or write. -The steel bridge across the Columbia at

ancouver, Wash., will be 6,000 feet long. -Mrs. Fletcher who died lately at Glouster, England, at the age of \$1, had been engaged for 32 years in the somewhat unusual oc-

CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

cupation, for a woman, of gun making. -A steam yacht of 1,000 tons is to be built at Greenock for a Russian sportsman, She will be 240 feet in length, with a beam of 30 feet 6 inches and a depth of 20 feet 6 inches, -According to the new assessment lists of Berlin there are in that city four personages whose annual incomes range from £60,000 £130,000, one of £45,000, four of £40,000, and fo

-A large mining company has arranged for the introduction of the electric light into its pits in place of allowing each miner to carry his own lamp, as was heretofore the custom. The light will be placed along the roads, the lamps being 15 yards apart.

-Eleven battle-ships, with an aggregate displacement of 70,000 tons, are now being built for the German Government—three at Bremen, two at Gaarden near Kiel, one at Wilhelmshafen, three at Dantzig, and two at Bredow, near Stettin. choice much better than the public had been

led to anticipate, and there is no doubt of Judge Brown's ripe attainments. He has had a long experience as a lawyer, both at the bar and on the bench, and is in the prime of life, -It issaid that the torpedo boat Bathurst, that recently made a mean speed of 24.45 knots per hour, represents the last refinement of me-chanical engineering, and that it hardly seems possible to improve upon her as long as steel remains the chief material of construction.

The new Justice has made a creditable repuation on the District Court bench, where he -London, Berlin, Vienna and Paris have has sat since 1875. We would suppose him to provided themselves with underground roads or are preparing to do so. London was the be a solid and safe rather than a brilliant jurist. His strongest recommendation is that President Harrison, himself a lawyer of the first city to meet this problem, and its under ground roads have proved the swiftest, most satisfactory and most profitable system yet pro-vided for a great city. first rank, selected him for this important position. It is to be presumed that the President

-One of the features of the last Oxford term was the University sermon of the Presi-dent of Corpus, who discussed the evils which have arisen from the love of athletics and amusements among the undergraduates. Ho proposed to meet these evils by rearranging the terms and revising the course of studies.

gan, to succeed Justice Miller on the Supreme Court Bench is a political surprise that falsifies all predictions and upsets many calculations. -A new diving dress has been adopted by the French navy. It contains but three pieces -helmet, collarette and body. The helmet is fitted with an incandescent lamp, inclined for-ward at an angle which enables the diver to derive the fullest advantage from it, and fitted with protector and mirror. -A new electric leak detector is destined to effect a very considerable saving in the

amount of property destroyed or damaged by overflows or leaks from hydrants, bath or toilet rooms. The apparatus rings an alarm, and as the same time indicates in which room, apart-ment or floor the leak has occurred. -It has been determined that under no conditions can the deaf learn to speak by association and without effort as pormal children

do, but that in every case speech is an acquisition only possible with great and sustained of fort on the part of the pupil, assisted by the skill, patience and perseverance of competent teachers. -Many authoritative disclaimers have been recently made against the indiscriminat use of such preservatives as borax, boric acid and salicylic acid, more especially as applied to milk, gream beer and other articles of food and drink. Their actual injuriousness is not as-serted, but in many cases it is believed that their function can be performed better and more safely by refrigeration.

-Great care has to be taken now about Queen Victoria's movements. Not only are stairs ascended backward and very slowly, with the ebony stick in constant demand, but even in her own apartments Her Majesty moves about as little as possible. An alert and devoted Scotchman is her personal attendant and is never out of hearing of the little table-going which the Queen strikes whenever she requires his services. Her Majesty does not walk a single yard unnecessarily.

-In the course of the present session Mr. James Stuart, of the English Parliament, will introduce a bill to enable women to sit on County Councils. Miss Cons and Miss Cobden County Councils. Miss cons and Miss cone are prevented now from voting at the London County Council, to which they were elected, but this creamstance does not interfere with their general usefulness, for the former serves on five committees—Housing, Asylums, Industrial Schools, the Sanitary, Parks and Theaters—and on 11 sub-committees, and Miss Cobden has been elected to all that she was put up for.

-German girls are beginning to resent with bitterness of spirit, as do their English sisters, the encroachment of American beautie upon their preserves. These pretty, graceful and brilliant daughters of Columbia are sent to Germany to study music, painting, literatu-etc., and, while quickly mastering the ar-subjugate the hearts of the susceptible Germ officers as well. The number of officers wi-American wives seems to be rapidly on the crease, and the faithful German spinsters, wi-

their frugal habits and domestic ski the invaders with justifiable wrath, -An Ellaville, Ga., minister of the gospel had a rather funny bit of experience not long since, though he did not enjoy it much at the time. He was called out in the country to tie a matrimonial knot. When all was ready he stepped out into the middle of the floor to await the coming of the bride and groom, There was no music nor extra display. One couple marched in and took position on the left, another followed and took position by the side of the first. Then followed another couple who halted a little farther to the right. Not who halted a little farther to the right, No being acquainted with them, the minister, thinking the last couple were the candidates for matrimony, turned and had them about half married before the little lady, who stood

blushing, squirming and choking, exclaimed "We ain't the marrying ones, its that other -At Friedensville (Pa.) zinc mines there is in operation the largest stationary engine in the world. During the last few months it has pumped dry, by underground drainage, nearly every ore pit, spring and small stream within a radius of five miles. The engine is known as radius of five miles. The engine is known as the "President," is of 5,000 horse-power, and is run by 16 boilers. At each revolution of its pouderous wheels a small stream is thrown out, the number of gallons raised every minute being 17,500. The driving wheels are 35 feet in diameter, and weigh 40 tons each. The sweep-rod is 40 feet long. The cylinder is 110 inches in diameter, while the piston-rod is 18 inches in diameter and makes a 10-foot stroke. The engine has a ballast box capable of holding 60 tons, and to feed the boilers 28 tons of coal are required daily. On the engine is the largest out in the to feed the boilers 2s tons of coal are required daily. On the engine is the largest nut in the world. It is hexagonal in shape and weighs 1,600 pounds. To tighten or loosen this nut 20 men are required, while the wrench that fits it is 20 feet long. From the end of the walkingbeam of the engine to the bottom of the shaft the distance is 380 feet. The wasonry on which the engine rests is 108 feet deep, some of the foundation stones weighing five tons.

# WAIFS FROM WIT-LAND.

There was a young fellow named Kipling, Whose thoughts were both merry and rippling; His work was much sought By a public that thought That he did mighty well for a stripling .- Puck,

There are only nine parts of speech, but you wouldn't think it to hear two women fighting of dirty streets, and Chicago and Philadelphia about their children over the back fence: -Philo are distracted over the same trouble. In our telphia Times. The sexton helped his worthy wife, to know that other communities are no He pected potatoes well; He next pected off his overcoat,

And then he pealed the bell.

Mary, about to be married)—My dear girl, do not make the mistake I did with my Charlie. Don't ask George to eat any of your cooking until after you are married.—Heraliz. Two ladies met to fight it out,

Amy (with a broken engagement, to

Somewhere where no police is: And Mary Christmas quickly knocked Sal Ary all to pieces, -Washington Star. When the announcement was made that "Big Foot" had surrendered it created the momentary impression that Chicago had given up

the World's Fair in favor of New York -No

It is shocking, my boy, To find that St. Nick lins put a big stick In your stocking, my boy.

A New York man blew out his wife's brains Monday and then madly fired a builet through the brim of his hat. New Yorkers are desperate fellows whose courage is simply magnificent, -Chicago Times,

Cleopatra and Helen fair Were forty when their rows begant And Mrs. O'Shea was older yet When she upset the home rule plan. -Philadelphia Times The mother and aunt of a Chicago 5-year-

got lived of it.

"Weil," he said yesterday morning, in the tone
of a deeply disgusted young man, "I suppose you
two are going shoplifting again to-day."—Oheeago Trioune.

old had spont the greater part of their time at the stores down-town for several days, and he had