The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1891.

THE SAME EXCEPT IN NAME.

The Cincinnati Convention has added to the old adage, and evidently believes that a rose will smell even sweeter under another name. The organization which was launched with so much noise yesterday is the old Greenback party in disguise, and not a very complete disguise at that. The first declaration of the platform is for a practically unlimited issue of legal tender paper money, and the abolition of the national banks. To be sure, the rag baby has a new dress and trimmings, including a revised sub-treasury plan, free silver and Government loans on real estate, but stripped of these gaudy vestments it is the same baby still.

The reason for this is easily found. The farmers' movement, which culminated in the Cincinnati convention, was a spontaneous rising in the rural West and South, but the leadership has been appropriated now by such well-known political back-numbers as General Weaver, the Greenback candidate for President in 1880; Delamatyr, of Colorado; Seitz, of Ohio, and a score of other faithful worshipers of the paper dollar. Three or four years ago, when the Union Labor move looked really dangerous for a short time, these same third party veterans sprang to the front, secured the adoption of their platform with the labor trimmings suited to the occasion, and the promising bud commenced to fade from that hour.

Now the same leaders with the familiar platform are once more with us, but this time their hope is resting mainly upon the farmer instead of the city artisan. They have rechristened the child with any amount of enthusiasm, but an election day or two will determine whether fate will be more kind than before.

MAKE WAR ON THE PRACTICE.

Representative Brooks is on the warpath at the way his wholesale liquor bill has been amended by a committee of the Senate. The amendments are such as to reverse the purpose of the bill. Instead of establishing further regulation of the wholesale trade, it practically opens the door to the bottle traffic under the wholesale disguise, and lowers the license fee for cities of the third class. Consequently Mr. Brooks, who introduced the bill with the intention of making it a regulative measure, is in a fighting mood.

It is not to Mr. Brooks' discredit that this turning his bill upside down should stimulate his pugnacity. But he should direct his fight, not against the single instance afforded by his bill, but against the precedent which Senate committees are establishing for that sort of thing. The Philadelphia representative should remember that the same treatment was given to a bill to secure the secrecy and independence of the ballot, by turning it around so as to put the polls more completely under the control of machine politicians than they are at present. If Mr. Brooks will declare war on all such practices he may be able to effect a considerable reform in Legislative methods.

PROGRESS ON THE SMOKE ISSUE.

Interviews on the subject of smoke consumption develop two classes of opinion among large consumers of fuel. One class is represented by firms already putting in improved stokers, who will in a few days demonstrate the possibility of a practical abolition of smoke. The other is typified by a leading house which, having tried smoke-consuming appliances in the past, has little faith in them now, and has built a stack so high that the smoke will be carried away from its immediate neighborhood. "But," says this firm, "if the law obliges us to do anything more we will do it."

The existence of these two classes should shape the course of those laboring for the abolition of smoke. All who are keeping up with and even in advance of public opinion will help to prove the possibility of the reform, and will lend most powerful aid in securing its ultimate success. Of course, the ability to consume smoke having been proved, previous efforts with unsatisfactory devices go for nothing. When the proof is before every one's eyes that smokeless chimneys are a possibility, the great majority will hasten to secure the economy to be produced in that way, and the resort to law will be necessary only as the ultimate step to complete abolition of soot.

The progress already made in the adoption of improved stokers proves the great value of moral influence to secure this improvement. The same pressure, judiciously kept up, will soon leave very few cases in which it will be necessary to use the law.

A RELATIVE NEED.

The failure of Admiral Gherardi to secure the grant of the Mole St. Nicholas, and the declaration of the Haytian Government that popular opinion there will not permit the cession of the territory to any foreign power, stirs up our Eastern cotemporaries to emphatic declarations of the necessity of a coaling station in the West Indies. The New York *Sun*, in noting the importance of such an acquisition, revives the old proposition of securing Samana Bay, which was one of the famous bones of contention during the Grant administration. It says with truth that the advantages of Samana Bay as a harbor are equal to those of the Mole St. Nicholas, while its position with reference to the routes of commerce are not inferior.

It would be a singular example of the changes of time if an acquisition on which the strongest Republican administration was first challenged and defeated in Congress should be revived twenty years later. Yet this seems likely to be done, provided the necessity of establishing coaling stations for our fleets is accepted as an unquestioned requirement. On this point, however, there is still some room for discussion. The experience of the Esmeralda at Acapulco is taken as an evidence of the necessity for having stations where in case of war our cruisers could resort for supplies. But it may be questioned whether, if we should get into a naval war, our ships would fare much better for the acquisition of coaling stations. In peace they gan get coal and supplies anywhere. In war it is plain that the coaling stations, and even the slightly garrisoned forts would promptly fall a prey to the power which could send the strongest fleet there. As either end of the Domisican island is within a few days' sail of Nassau, Cuba or Key West, it is plain that a coaling station on either side of the island would simply be a prize for the strongest naval force in the West Indies.

Unless the United States is prepared to make a great fortified post and maintain a large garrison at either Samana or the Mole St. Nicholas, they would simply be a present to an enemy in the case of war. In peace, the need of such a station is far from clear until our naval interests have grown much beyond their present magnitude.

MAINTAIN THE CONSTITUTION.

The experience of Kentucky in adopting a new Constitution is remarkable, and has a lesson for States where the need of Constitutional revision is by no means as patent as in the Bourbon State. The old Constitution of Kentucky is a distinctly antediluvian document, and the necessity of changes was universally conceded. But the instrument drawn up to take its place is so full of muddles that a very strong party, represented by the *Courier-Journal*, is taking ground for its defeat, preferring the antiquated instrument.

This is certainly a warning to States which have a good Constitution that propositions to remodel them should be entertained with great caution. Certainly, when a State has an instrument so much in accord with modern needs, and containing such excellent provisions as the Pennsylvania Constitution, the proposition to submit it to revision naturally arouses suspicion. A few days ago, in one of our city cotemporaries, a communication pointed out that the Constitution is only twenty years old; that it was the product of the best minds of the generation; that its characteristic features were such as were dictated by the experience of the people with the modern agencies, and that it would be insanity to subject it to the chances of mutilation before its effects were fully known.

Every word of this argument, which we presume to have come from one of the most eminent citizens of Western Pennsylvania, is strictly true. There is no important provision of the Constitution which requires amendment. There may be some minor respects in which amendment is possible; but these can and should be acted upon separately, so that each will be decided on its merits. With the possibility that a convention composed according to present propositions would emasculate the important provisions of the Constitution in order to loosen the hands of politicians and corporations, insanity is a mild and charitable term for the influence urging the Constitutional Convention.

The people should make up their minds to speak plainly to the effect that the present Constitution shall be retained; and as an appropriate appendix to that resolution it might be well to add the determination that it shall be enforced.

RISKS AND GAMBLING.

An inquiry made in a letter to the New York *Tribune* shows a widespread inability to distinguish between the chances and risks of legitimate business and those of gambling. The writer imagines a person, A, to win considerable sums of B in bets on cards and horse racing. For the third transaction the writer presents the following:

A thereafter, reflecting on the mutability of human affairs and on the inevitable tendency of all betters and gamblers to ultimate ruin, besides the distrust and dishonor in which all such persons are held by right-minded members of the community, proceeds to the office of a well-conducted life insurance company, which we may call E, where, after mutual careful examinations of all the chances and risks involved by both parties, A takes out a policy on his life for $10,000, paying the first annual premium of $250 on the spot. Six months thereafter A dies, whereupon the company, E, which takes a just pride in its prompt settlement of its debts, pays the $10,000 to A's heirs.

Will not some intelligent correspondent of the *Tribune*, with a talent for casuistry, kindly differentiate for me the moralities of the above suggested transactions?

The signature to the article indicates that the inquiree is a college student; but a great many grave business men have shown a similar difficulty in distinguishing between gambling operations and the business systems which benefit mankind. The language quoted shows the idea of the inquirer to be that because an insurance transaction involves chances just as a horse race does—it is plain the inquirer is innocent enough to imagine that horse races are not always "fixed"—therefore it is gambling.

Notwithstanding the confusion of ideas on this point the distinction is a perfectly plain one, and it is so important that it is worth while to make the explanation somewhat frequently. The fact that a business contains risks does not make it gambling. All business has more or less risks. The business of putting down oil wells is one of wide chances, and is entitled to large profits to balance them, which it could get if it did not have the misfortune to be subject to a monopolized market. The business of handling sugar is subject to few chances, and consequently a fraction of a cent is a good profit. Because the risk is greater in one case than the other it does not follow that one is any more legitimate than the other.

The distinction between legitimate business and gambling is this: In a gambling transaction whatever one party gains another must lose; in a legitimate business transaction both parties get something that they wish. A bets B $10 and wins it. Exactly what A has gained B has lost. A buys $10 worth of goods, or the same value of service, from B, and both are better off for the transaction. The insurance transaction instanced above differs from gambling because A paid the premium and got what he wanted, namely, the assurance that in the case of his death his heirs would be provided for. The insurance company got what it wanted, namely, an increase to its premium receipts which, based upon the doctrine of averages, yield it a profit over and above the annual death payments. The idea of the writer seems to have been that by dying within six months the policy-holder made a great stroke of financial luck; but very few investors in life insurance will take that view.

To return to the fact that there are varying risks in different sorts of business which must be compensated in the profits, the whole business of insurance may be stated by saying that it is to assume the more well known and general risks and to take that part of the profit which compensates the risks in the form of premiums. As death is the one great risk incident to all human effort, the function of life assurance in assuming that risk is a legitimate service to all who wish to guard against its chances.

LOCAL WORK ON ROADS.

An Ohio writer in the *Country Gentleman* indicates the way in which those having road work in charge can effect a gradual but in the end marked improvement in the rural highways. He thinks that "nothing will come of it unless those who do the work take hold with an honorable intention of making their work count in the direction of permanence. If a hill is lowered, a hollow filled, a culvert foundation built for all time, or a swamp crossing thoroughly drained, to that extent the work is for years and not for a summer and will bear fruit in a lessening of those taxes which every passer over a bad road pays in wear and tear of team, vehicle and temper." Such a course as this writer points out requires no additional legislation and no expensive appropriations.

It is indisputable that the direction of the present road work to the object of making permanent highways would in course of years effect a permanent reform. There are a few enterprising localities in Pennsylvania where this has been practically demonstrated without State aid. But it is also true that an intelligent policy on the part of the State will offer a premium on such work by granting aid to townships where it is proved to be done by certain prescribed standards and tests. The State should know that its money produces good roads; for the sinking of State money under the patchwork system would only be making a bad matter worse. The trouble with the late road bill was that after starting out on the proper basis of guaranteeing good roads where State aid was to be given, it was pruned and clipped to meet political exigencies until there was scarcely a vestige of that essential purpose.

The failure of road legislation should not lessen the agitation in favor of improving highways. The work of educating the people as to the economic value of good roads should be kept up. Farming districts should be brought to see how they can benefit themselves by such work. If this is done for a couple of years, the next Legislature may contain intelligence enough to pass a law that will hasten the work of building first-class roads.

IT is one of the sad features of the chase of the Charleston after the Itata, that it has knocked into a cocked hat the plan of the industrious Senate Committee on Territories to use that vessel for a trip to Alaska. "In order to inquire into the advisability of establishing a Territorial Government there." The hard-worked Senators will no doubt be able to take passage by some other steamer, and thus afford the Alaskans a chance to put in their plea for a better Government; but the pleasure of going there with a war vessel at their command has been rudely snatched away by the unruly behavior of the Chilean vessel. This will cause the insurgent Chileans to be regarded with adverse sentiments by the Senate at its next session.

THERE is reason to believe that the declaration of the Chileans at Acapulco, that the Esmeralda would fight the Charleston if the latter tried to capture the Itata, was a very pretty feint. It produced the impression that the Itata was coming to Acapulco, and give her a few days' longer start while she was steadily steaming down the South American coast.

THE souvenirs of the Presidental trip are said to number four hundred, and it is proposed by a cotemporary that they be made an exhibition of the World's Fair. As a product of political industry they would undoubtedly be unique.

IT is one of the peculiar features of Pennsylvania fiscal legislation, that each Legislature, after struggling with the tax question, the last proposition is to refer the subjection to a revenue commission. After the commission wrestles with the question awhile the next Legislature takes it up, and in the fullness of time refers it to another commission. The commission is now being urged in its regular season. It is strictly in accordance with precedents, but it does not afford much hope of settling the tax question.

NOW it is asserted in England that Mr. Blaine's communication proposing a method for protecting the seals was not received by the British Ministry. Dear Lord Salisbury, our own David Bennett Hill took out a patent on the plan of not receiving inconvenient communications some time ago, and this infringement really cannot be allowed.

THE New York *World*, having degenerated into the organ of David Bennett Hill, naturally antagonized the proposition to establish immediate ballot reform in Pennsylvania. The Hill idea is not favorable to ballot reform.

JUDGE tries to make it up with the Blaine wing this week by representing the Secretary as sawing wood. But the way in which the central figure of the cartoon is represented as holding his saw proves either that the artist thinks that Blaine does not know how to saw wood or that there is a complete ignorance of that honest and useful occupation on the part of the artist.

THE proposition to put an eight-hour plank in the Cincinnati platform will probably receive the assent of the farmers so long as it applies to other people. Farmers will consent to letting other industries work eight hours, but they will continue to run their farms on the twelve-hour plan during the busy season.

IT is hardly to be deemed as a possibility that, after going from Atlanta to Oregon, the President has not been able to find an acceptable successor for Green B. Raum as Commissioner of Pensions.

THAT report that the Harrison family would not occupy the Cape May Point cottage this season has been officially denied in the Philadelphia *Ledger*, which occupies the unusual position of organ for the Cape May Point real estate syndicate. This permits the conclusion that after a journey all around the country the Jersey mosquito has no terrors for the Presidental family.

GREAT BRITAIN is now reported to be jealous of the reciprocity treaty with Brazil. The Democratic organs are making much of the report, with the usual partisan inability to see that if true it makes mince meat of their former assertions that reciprocity with Brazil does not reciprocate.

THE fortunes of the baseball season threaten to shrink the New York Giants down to the size of pigmies.

An Old Advertisement.

Flying Post, July 20-22, 1699.]

The Man that eat the live Cock at Islington, and another since, on the 15th of June last, at Stand-up Dicks at Newington Butts, near the Borough of Southwark, is to eat another there on Tuesday next, being St. James' day, with the Feathers, Bones and Garbage. Any person may see it performed, paying but 2d. for their admittance.

Nor in a Threshing Machine.

Washington Post.]

Pennsylvania's ballot reform bill could not have been more badly used had it been on deposit in Mr. Delamater's bank.

TALK OF THE TOWN.

Baseball Tackled Seriously—Touching Up a Murillo—Allegheny's Book Lovers—The Bohemian Girl in Carmen's Clothes—Gossip Picked Up by the Topical Talker.

"I AM coming along pretty nicely with baseball," said a studious young Pittsburg business man yesterday.

"How do you mean?" asked a friend.

"Well, you see, baseball seems to be the proper fad, you know; the correct caper with young men, and I concluded I ought to be 'in it,' as the boys say. So I set to work to master baseball. I never could see anything in it, you know, but when I made up my mind to understand baseball I stopped at nothing. I began with the reports of baseball games in the newspapers. Every morning I read the details of the previous day's game. It was very difficult to understand—the reports were full of words and phrases I had never seen before, but that didn't dismay me. I went on reading column after column till I thought I might advance another step. This was to watch the baseball bulletin boards down town, and I did it regularly every afternoon for several weeks, mingling with the crowd that gathers on Smithfield street, and picking up stray crumbs of learning from the cranks themselves. Then I thought I was fit to meet some friends of mine as they alighted from the ball game train at the Union depot, and to ask them questions about the game, such as: 'How many runs did we make?' or 'Did Miller play first better?' or 'There must have been slugging in the seventh,' or 'Why don't they fire Blank?' and these questions were highly appreciated, I honestly believe, and I felt I was rising in the estimation of my baseball friends. Since then my progress has been rapid, and if my courage holds out and I can get some gentle crank to escort me I am going to my first ball game to-morrow. It is a momentous event, I realize, and I am afraid I may be too sanguine in my belief that I have prepared myself for the ordeal, but I shall take the chances, anyhow."

Touching Up a Murillo.

RECENTLY some Pittsburgers, among whom was a daughter of Mr. Simon Beymer, who is visiting a married sister in Los Angeles, made an excursion to the Mission of San Gabriel at Pasadena, in Southern California. The padre who acted as guide took great delight in showing the old buildings which the passage of two or three centuries has made antiquities of a rare order on this continent. It was a labor of love to the venerable padre to relate the story of the foundation of the mission, and to linger upon the legendary sweetness of the seven famous bells that have for years hung silent in the adobe church. But he was most eloquent when he came to the paintings of Murillo, which form the greatest treasure of this Mission. He expatiated upon the age and wondrous beauty of the immortal Spaniard's works. The party carefully examined the paintings, fearful lest they should suffer any mite of such hoary excellence to escape their notice, and this close examination led one of the party to exclaim: "Why, this painting looks wonderfully new considering that it's 200 years old—the paint is bright and fresh as if it had been laid on yesterday."

"Ah! I have had these inestimable paintings retouched," the padre hastened to explain. "They were getting dingy and dim in places and I got a Pasadena artist to come and touch them up a bit. They are wonderfully improved."

The idea of local talent in Pasadena—maybe a stranded binzoner of St. Jacob's will venture—improving upon Murillo was too much for the Eastern intellect, and the padre's explanation was succeeded by a solemn silence.

A Glimpse of Elusive Locke.

MANAGER E. D. WILT, of the Grand Opera House, is home from St. Louis, whither he went last week to corral the elusive Locke, and the $2,500 he lent that extraordinary impressario. Mr. Wilt says he is sure of his money anyhow, for he stands second in the list of creditors who levied upon the property of the Juch Opera Company, and in fact will get the first whack at the scenery, properties and operatic scores, which cost at least $30,000 and should be worth $10,000 to a theatrical purchaser to-day. While in St. Louis the intuitable Charles E. and Mr. Wilt were on the best of terms; dined together and let their hatchets go for the fighting. The conclusion Mr. Wilt came to was that Mr. Locke is an abused man, whose shrewdness has been overestimated with his failings, and certain to be manager of a great Emma Juch Opera Company next season.

Mr. Wilt told me several amusing stories of the Juch company's death-bed scenes. On Saturday last, for example, just before the matinee began, a combine representing some infuriated creditor of Manager Locke levied upon the musician's scores of "Carmen," which were at that time nominally in the hands of the Sheriff. "Carmen" had been announced for the matinee and the audience was already in the theater. Manager Locke took his nerve completely, and was for giving no performance. The company all attired in the "Carmen" costumes clustered about him, and for several minutes confusion of the wildest sort reigned. Then Mr. Wilt, who had been informed of the constable's illegal seizure of the scores, came upon the scene, and, with what voice he had left, asked Mr. Locke: "Isn't there some opera these costumes would suit, and for which you have the music?"

Locke thought for a moment and then said: "The costumes would go in the 'Bohemian Girl.'"

"The Bohemian Girl" with "Carmen" costumes satisfied the audience well enough, for only $40 was demanded back at the doors after the change in programme had been announced.

Bicycling for Babies.

THE latest notion of the parent of bicycling proclivities is to take the youngest to ride with him, and the fad seems to be popular in the East End, for on Tuesday evening I met a dozen men in half that number of blocks who had a little tot seated between them and the handles. The seat for the baby is an ingenious little arrangement, built in front of the saddle, into which the child can be securely fastened. When it is affixed to a safety there is really no danger for the child and no end of fun.

The Army of Readers Grows.

"IT is now two months since the library was opened," said Librarian Stevenson at the Carnegie Library yesterday, "and I think we have every reason to be satisfied with the results so far. The records of the circulating department of the library show that from March 16 to May 16 a total of 11,139 volumes were in circulation, or more books than the shelves of the library contain. The growth of the circulation has been gradual from 788 books in the first week to 1632 in that ending May 16. The two months' records also show that 1,477 books have been used for reference in the library itself."

PEOPLE WHO COME AND GO.

H. Jeffrey, a young London swell and member of the Southampton Club, was in the city yesterday, bound for Chicago. He says the Scotch people don't like Andrew Carnegie on account of the sharp things he has said about them. He travels in the same set with young Schenley, whom he knows very well. Mr. Jeffrey thinks America is a wonderful country.

W. Horatio King, ex-Postmaster General of Australia, started for home last evening. During his stay in Pittsburg he says he gathered much valuable information about the American postal service. He realizes that he couldn't have come to a more progressive city in which to study postal regulations.

Theodore D. Wilson, Chief of Naval Construction, and E. D. Scofield, of Portland, Me., are stopping at the Duquesne. Mr. Wilson has come here to personally superintend the making of the Government armor.

U. S. Grant, of Cleveland, and J. A. Searight, of Uniontown, are at the Seventh Avenue Hotel. Mr. Searight is on his way home from the Scotch-Irish annual meeting at Louisville.

R. E. Wagner, a Milwaukee contractor, is stopping at the Duquesne. He is in the city getting structural iron for a big building.

R. W. Ferguson, of New York, President of the White Spool Thread Company, was on the limited last evening going to Chicago.

Mr. Scham, of Seat Ie, a former Pittsburger, has been at the Schlosser for several days. He came east to visit friends.

H. Sellers McKee went East last evening. He says the Birmingham road will be ready for operation about June 10.

H. M. Roberts, of Connellsville, and J. H. King, a prominent Cleveland lawyer, are registered at the Anderson.

H. W. Semon, advance man for the "Clemenceau Case" Company, is stopping at the Anderson.

J. L. Barclay, the Chicago agent of the Westinghouse Electric Company, is in the city.

John F. Atcheson, Mason McDowell and George T. Oliver left for Chicago last evening.

Ex-Congressman Oscar L. Jackson, of New Castle, is at the Monongahela House.

A MURDEROUS ITALIAN WEAPON.

It Is a Revolver and Stiletto Combined, and Was Captured in a Fight.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

NEW YORK, May 20.—Property Clerk S. H. Powell, of Brooklyn, has in his custody just now a weapon which is probably the most murderous specimen of small arm ever manufactured. It is a revolver and stiletto combined, and it was taken from an Italian whose name on the police records is Julian Rafiano, who, together with two of his countrymen, was engaged in a fight yesterday morning while all were drunk. Rafiano had his weapon drawn and ready for use when Patrolman Peter Gallagher appeared and put the brawlers to flight.

The revolver is six-chambered, of 32 caliber, and self-cocking. The stiletto is double-edged and three inches long. It is fastened to the revolver right underneath the barrel, and can be sprung into place in an instant. When the stiletto is ready for use the weapon measures 10½ inches. There is a spring on the piece of steel which holds the blade, and which is forced back by a screw, which protrudes through the piece of steel. The revolver could be fired while the stiletto is in the victim's body.

CIGARETTES KILLED HIM.

Young Edward Myers Dies in Harrisburg From Nicotine Poisoning.

CHAMBERSBURG, May 20.—Edward Myers, a young man of this place, aged 20 years, died at the Harrisburg Hospital last night of blood poisoning, caused directly by excessive cigarette smoking. He was on his way home and was taken sick and had to be taken to the hospital, where he died. His face was greatly swollen and all covered with sores, caused, no doubt, by the cigarettes.

He had been told by the doctor that the poisoning came from his smoking, but the habit had grown on him and it was impossible for him to give it up. He was employed as a driver on an omnibus and was a native of Cumberland county.

SOME ILLINOIS LEGISLATION.

The Merrit Conspiracy Law Repealed, and Railroad Bills Passed.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., May 20.—What is known as the Merritt conspiracy law, being a codification of the common law on the subject of conspiracy to commit crime, the passage of which was the result of the Haymarket Anarchist riots in Chicago, was repealed by a vote of the House to-day.

The House passed a bill to enable railroad corporations which operate railroads connecting with a railroad or any other State, to own and hold stock at securities in such leased roads, and a bill to compel the adoption of the inter-locking signal and switch system by railroads.

FAME'S FAVORITE FOLK.

EUGENE FIELD is the only writer in the country to speak ill of Barnum.

JOKAI, the Hungarian novelist, is a millionaire, and looks upon life as a joke.

THE Emperor of China looks like a well-bred youth of 17, and his face wears a settled expression of melancholy.

THE Duke of Fife is such an extreme dude that he insists of being measured for his neckties and pocket handkerchiefs.

VIDAL, the French sculptor, is blind, but his loss of sight does not prevent his achieving works which for design and execution are the wonder and admiration of Paris.

CONGRESSMAN STEWART, of Aurora, Ill., whenever a circus comes along near that town, charters a train and takes a lot of children to the show at his own expense.

HENRY PHILLIPS, an Alaskan boy who came to Carlisle, Pa., some four years ago, will leave for Sitka in a few weeks to take charge of the *North Star*, the paper published by the Sitka Indian Training School.

THE Rev. Phillips Brooks is descended from a line of clergymen, one of them being the Rev. John Cotton. When he was in England in 1882 he preached in the pulpit of his ancestor, John Cotton, in old Boston.

THE Emperor William will bring a retinue of 70 people along with him when he visits Grandma Victoria at Windsor Castle in July, and the old lady is already having new locks put upon the doors of the wine cellars. She is not going to take any chances.

LOUIS PHILIPPE, who claims to be a cousin of the last King of France, arrived at the Barge Office in New York the other day as a steerage passenger on the steamer La Bourgogne. He said he was going to California to become a wine producer. Philippe is about 50.

CECIL J. RHOADES, the rising statesman of Cape Colony, is a smart, active and progressive man, who has brains and ambition to push him into any position, and wealth enough to make him independent of all influences outside of his own sense of what is right.

MUSTAPHA GWAMUWR, of Durnar, Arabia, proposes to spend $1,000,000 in a trip to Europe. The old fellow must have a slim idea that seeing the elephant is a costly amusement, and that doing Europe means being done out of enough money to buy a German principality.

REV. M. HARVEY, of St. John's, N. F., has received from the McGill University of Montreal, the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. As a scientific investigator he has been of much value to natural history. His well-known discovery of the devil-fish, a great cephalopod, in 1873, aroused profound interest among the naturalists.

DEATHS HERE AND ELSEWHERE.

George W. Lentz.

George W. Lentz, one of the largest owners of timber lands and most extensive lumber operators in this country, died at Williamsport Monday, aged 73. He was one of the original firm of Herdic, Lentz & White, of which the late Peter Herdic was the head. He owned thousands of acres of timber land in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Florida and Alabama; an immense cattle ranch in Dakota, the water works in the towns of Huntington and Selin's Grove, Pa., Cairo and Orlando, Fla., and was one of the largest owners of the Williamsport Water Works.

Two Old Pennsylvanians.

The oldest woman in Chester county and the oldest man in Berks county died on Monday. Mrs. Sarah Richardson was 99 years old when she died at Chatham, and had always been spry and active until three months ago. She had been a widow for 43 years. Samuel Fritz, of Oley, Berks county, was in his 96th year. He was born in the village where he died and had always lived there. He never rode on a railway train in his life.

John M. Treacy.

John M. Treacy, son of Mrs. Julia A. and the late William Treacy, died at the residence of his mother, 26 Diamond street, after a brief illness. He was a brother of Lieutenant James R. Treacy, of the Eighteenth Regiment. The funeral will take place from St. Paul's Cathedral to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Maggie McFarland.

Maggie McFarland, daughter of Rev. A. J. McFarland, and granddaughter of David Gregg, of 80 Lincoln avenue, Allegheny, died in St. Johns, N. B., on Sunday. She will be buried from the residence of her grandfather to-day.

James Torrence.

James Torrence, of Punxsutawney, familiarly known as "Judge," died yesterday at the advanced age of 80 years. He had many friends in Pittsburg.

Obituary Notes.

REV. DAVID DICKEY, a well-known retired clergyman, died Tuesday at Rochester, N. Y., aged 89 years.

LEWIS R. STEELE, a prominent silk manufacturer and journalist of Paterson, N. J., died Monday night.

EX-JUDGE COLBURN, aged 92 years, originally from Pennsylvania, died in Noblesville, Ind., Tuesday.

DR. GEORGE A. KING, a leading physician of Lancaster, died Monday, as the result of a fall received last summer. He was 45 years old.

ABRAHAM G. KEEMER, who died Monday at Millersville, Pa., was well known as a specialist on eye and ear diseases. He graduated from the Baltimore Medical College.

PETER J. PETERS, aged 91, supposed to be the oldest Grand Army veteran in the country, died at New Bedford, Mass., Monday. Mr. Peters was born in Germany. He served eight years in the German army, and afterward came to this country, entering the service March 11, 1862.

ISAAC T. ROGERS, for many years one of the best-known men in Connecticut politics, died Tuesday at his home in Hartford, aged 79. Death was due to paresis. He represented New Haven in the State Legislature three years, and was in the Senate four years. Fifteen years ago he was considered the ablest Democratic speaker in the State, and was always foremost in Democratic conventions.

TESTING DYNAMITE GUNS.

The Cruiser Vesuvius Does Excellent Work With Her Pneumatic Devices—A Vessel and Armament That May Revolutionize Modern Warfare.

FORTRESS MONROE, VA., May 20.—In compliance with orders from the Navy Department a test was made of the accuracy of the pneumatic guns of the so-called dynamite cruiser Vesuvius. Target practice was conducted by the officers and men of the ship under the observation of a board of ordnance experts specially detailed by the Navy Department, and the result was highly gratifying to the friends of this vessel and of her aerial torpedo throwing tubes, sometimes called Zalinski dynamite guns. The officers of the Vesuvius are Lieutenant Seaton Schroeder, commanding; Lieutenants Karl Rohrer and H. M. Donebaugh, Ensign W. T. Maxwell and Past Assistant Engineer W. J. Moore.

The Board of Experts ordered to report on the results of the target practice consisted of Commander R. D. Evans, Lieutenant Commander A. R. Conden and Lieutenant J. F. Meigs, all men of such high professional ability as to insure the fullest possible investigation of the vessel's merits and defects. As the guns had never before been ranged 11 shots were fired yesterday to discover the air pressure needed to throw a projectile a given distance. The pneumatic guns on board the Vesuvius cannot be elevated or depressed except by the rising or pitching of the bow of the ship. They are built into the vessel at an angle of 18° from the horizontal. Range is altered by changing the amount of compressed air admitted behind the projectile.

The Necessity of Test Shots.

It was necessary to learn by test shots how much would send a projectile a mile and so on for shorter distances. This was approximately known by experiments made with a pneumatic gun on shore, but as every gun has eccentricities of its own it must be tested for its own ranges. The targets consisted of three spar buoys, each surmounted by a small red flag. They had been carefully anchored in a line parallel to the south shore of Chesapeake Bay, half way between Sewell's Point and Cape Henry. The distance between No. 1 and No. 2 was one half of a mile, between No. 2 and No. 3 one-quarter of a mile, and the same distance between No. 3 and No. 4. Hence Nos. 2, 3 and 4 were respectively one-half, three-quarters and a mile from No. 1, which was the firing station.

The range-finding shots fired yesterday were six from the starboard and five from the midship gun. The fall of the projectiles was in one case as much as 310 yards beyond the target, and in another case as close as within 24 yards of the target. The value of these range finding shots was shown in to-day's practice. The starboard guns' capacity was determined with satisfactory accuracy, while that of the midship gun was not obtained with certainty, and no trial of the port gun was made at all.

When Lieutenant Rohrer had taken station in a small boat about half a mile off the line of buoys opposite buoy No. 3 to note the fall of the projectiles, the Vesuvius steamed up toward buoy No. 1. Commander Evans was outside the conning tower and Lieutenant Schroeder inside at the helm and firing lever, for these guns are aimed laterally by the helm. Lieutenant Commander Condon was at the firing valves below to regulate the air discharge. Lieutenant Meigs on the bridge handled a peculiar looking instrument, by which the lateral deviation was observed. Ensign Maxwell, also on the bridge, held a stop watch to record the time of flight of the projectiles.

A Good Time for a Trial.

When all was ready the meal pennant, a red burgee, was hoisted at the foremast head to warn Lieutenent Rohrer to look out for a shot. The sea was so smooth that the vessel was practically stationary in the water. Only an occasional catspaw of wind ruffled the generally glassy surface and the bright sunshine began to be oppressively warm.

At 10:22, under barely steerage way, the Vesuvius came opposite buoy No. 1. "Stand by," said Commander Evans. "Fire!" The starboard tube gave the characteristic wheeze and bark that belong to this gun, fragments of the wooden sabots which hold the sub-caliber shell in place in the bore went whirring out into the water, while ahead of them, rapidly whirling as its vanes caught the air, could be seen the shell itself, a black dot against the blue sky. Rising at an altitude of several hundred feet it gracefully curved downward, and without wobble or gyration it plunged down over buoy No. 4, a mile distant, striking the water 10½ seconds after it left the tube. It was a perfect line shot, but it went beyond the target.

Six shots were fired successively from the starboard gun and then three from the midship gun. The target of the first, fourth and seventh shots was buoy No. 4, one mile distant; the second, fifth and eighth were aimed at buoy No. 3, three-quarters of a mile away, and the third, sixth and ninth at buoy No. 2, half a mile off. The first three and the last three shots were fired when barely moving; the fourth, fifth and sixth were fired while dashing at the target at the rate of about 14 knots an hour.

Would Have Paralyzed the Enemy.

Following are the results of the nine shots: No. 1 fired at buoy No. 4, exact line, 52 yards over; time of flight, 10½ seconds. No. 2 fired at buoy No. 3, 16 yards to the left, 48 yards over; time, 10 seconds. No. 3 fired at buoy No. 2, made a bull's-eye, striking so close to the buoy as to hide it in the splash; time 8 seconds. No. 4 fired at buoy No. 4, 52 yards to the left, 32 yards over; time, 10½ seconds. No. 5 fired at buoy No. 3, exact line, 24 yards short; time, 9½ seconds. No. 6 fired at buoy No. 2, 15 yards to the left, 28 yards short; time, 8 seconds. No. 7 fired at buoy No. 4, 24 yards to the left, 4½ yards short; time, 10 seconds. No. 8 fired at buoy No. 3, 16 yards to the left, 35 yards short; time, 9½ seconds. No. 9 fired at buoy No. 2, 10 yards to the left, 28 yards short; time, 7½ seconds.

In explanation of the failure of the seventh shot it should be mentioned that there was some trouble with the valve of the midship gun, and also during the men's dinner hour, when firing was suspended, a fresh easterly breeze sprung up exactly in the teeth of the line of fire. Examining the results it will be found that shots Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 would have either fallen on an enemy's deck or so close aboard that the explosion of the shells would disable or sink the vessel.

The shells are fitted with a delay action fuse, which explodes them at a depth of about 20 feet. Shot No. 3 would have plumped down directly on the deck, and the explosion there of 500 or even 200 pounds of gun cotton or nitro-gelatine would have put an end to the most powerful armored ship afloat. Shots Nos. 5, 6, 8 and 9 would have fallen just a few feet from the enemy; but as the projectiles plunge continually forward after striking the water, each one would have been just about under the enemy's bottom when it exploded, and no vessel could resist such a shock. The fourth shot went a few yards beyond the enemy's nearest water line, but as most battle ships have at least 20 yards beam, it would have struck either the ship's upper works or so close aboard as to do her serious, if not irreparable, injury.

A Description of the Vessel.

The Vesuvius was built by Messrs. Cramp & Sons, of Philadelphia, at a cost of $350,000, for the purpose of demonstrating the usefulness afloat of the system of projecting large masses of high explosive through the air by air pressure instead of gunpowder. High speed was given the vessel, her trial performance resulting in a record of 21.65 knots per hour. She is 246 feet long, has 26½ feet beam and displaces 725 tons on a mean draught of 9 feet.

When tried at Philadelphia the requirement was that 15 shots should be fired from her three 15-inch pneumatic tubes within 30 minutes. The actual performance was the discharge of 15 shells having a capacity of 200 pounds of explosive each in 16 minutes and 11 seconds. The air pressure was ample to repeat the discharge. The initial pressure used was 750 pounds and the fall of the pressure on the firing ranged between 80 pounds and 120 pounds. In addition to the pneumatic guns she carries three three-pounder rapid fire guns.

CHIEFS OF WORLD'S FAIR BUREAUS.

General Lew Wallace Offered One of the Important Places.

CHICAGO, May 20.—At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the World's Fair this afternoon, Director General Davis will submit for confirmation the name of J. F. V. Skiff, of Colorado, to be Chief of the Bureau of Mines and Mining.

General Lew Wallace has been tendered the position of Chief of the Foreign Bureau, but has not yet signified his willingness to accept the place. Two