# The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, TUESDAY, NOV. 17, 1891.

# TWELVE PAGES

NEEDS ONLY ZEAL AND LIBERALITY. If Pittsburg does not put her best foot foremost for the Republican National Convention, it will be from a strange undervaluing of her own advantages, combined with a singular want of perception of the best opportunity she has had for years.

The great city whose push and prestige would as usual have jostled all competitors out of the race-Chicago-has formally declined to compete this year. San Francisco is the most ostentatious entry, offering free transportation for delegates and a fund of \$50,000 for entertainment. But San Francisco is out of the question by reason of distance. There should be no compulsion upon delegates to devote three weeks of their time to nominating a ticket. That is what a trip to San Francisco and back, with a week thrown in for the convention, would mean. The scenery en route is beautiful; the California wines and fruits are worthily famous, and the climate at certain seasons quite as "glorious" as the poets and orators of the Slope are wont to assert-but if the delegates all over the country are to be limited to the class whom it will suit to give three weeks' time to the nominating business, this exclusion of all others will neither be popular nor a good precedent.

With Chicago out voluntarily, and San Francisco out by the logic of circumstances, there are only Cincinnati, St. Louis, Minneapolis and Omaha to consider. The two former cities have had their share of politica: courtesy and consideration in times past. They have not been lucky in the fate which befell the tickets nominated there; and they are not as well prepared to move the crowds of visitors as Pittsburg iz, with its unapproached rapid transit systems. As for Minneapolis and Omaha there is no sensa in dragging the great majority of the delegates, who will come from the New England, Middle and Southern States, on a three days' journey when Pittsburg is within twelve to twenty-four hours' reach of them.

Such are some of the practical arguments presenting themselves for Pittsthe birthplace of the party will count for something, also-and about all that remains is for the people of this town to guarantee a bigger fund than any other point for the entertainment of the delegates. San Francisco offers \$50,000-but as the newspapers of Pittsburg alone offer about \$10,000 as their own contribution, the hotels and merchants and manufacturers and great special interests, such as the railroads, coal, coke and petroleum, should readily put the figure up to \$100,

The advantages to the city of having 50,000 to 75,000 active strangers from all parts of the country see its development and the splendid opportunitles it offers for new capital and brains will far exceed any sum it can be called on to contribute for the securing of the convention. The movement is, therefore, one of real importance, and should be forwarded with the utmost zeal and liberality.

# A POSSIBLE DILEMMA.

The rumor that Italy has taken advantage of the strained relations between the United States and Chile to renew her de-New Orleans mob murders may be a mere roorbach, but it arouses interesting speculation as to the logical dilemma in which such a demand would place the Administration.

How would the State Department deal with a double diplomatic situation of this | these incongruities. sort? Would it be possible to make an international issue out of a sailors' riot at Valparaiso while declaring that the organ- and improve upon present conditions; but ized mob at New Orleans was without international significance? Can we claim that the Chilean Government is responsible for the former fight, and at the same time assert that our Government has no responsibility for the acts of the New Orleans lynchers? The fact that consistency is not usually deemed an essential quality in diplomacy has been clearly recognized. but it seems rather difficult for a diplomatist at the same time to set up one theory of international law for the United States and another for Chile.

Not to speak of the ultimate difficulties which might arise if the United States had the navies of Italy and Chile to deal with at the same time, the logical complication presented by this report justifies the hope that Italy will generously spare us this diiemma, or that the Administration will take the earliest steps to straighten out the

# Chilean muddle.

SUCCESSFUL CO-OPERATION. The discussion of co-operation is generally limited by the assertion that industrial co-operation, or the organization of workingmen to carry on a manufacturing enterprise, is sure of failure. This rather dogmatic view is based on the belief that the United States equally with United intelligent and consistent direction of the States lines, and that the effect of that enterprise cannot be secured unless the section has been affirmed by a ruling of head is principally interested in its success. | the inter-State Commerce Commission. For that reason profit-sharing which leaves | In view of that fact the repetition through the management under such a head has the article of assertions concerning the

received a more general indorsement. This view is not entirely unfounded. although it is worth while to notice that it presents as valid an objection to industrial enterprises in corporate form as to co-operative organization. But there are some very striking instances to prove that the rule is not universal. In England workingmen have given much attention to co-operation, and a remarkable example of its success is presented in the opening of the mammoth boot and shoe factory at the greed and misuse of corporate power. Leicester. This factory covers six acres, It is the fact that the Canadian railroads

the buildings and machinery cost \$250,000, with a capacity of 50,000 pairs of boots per week, and it has a working capital of \$1,000,000, which has been created by the earnings and enterprise of co-operating

It is evident that only a few such suc cesses as this are needed to shake the dogma that workingmen cannot organize to be their own employers. It may remain the case that the organization will require the most careful guarding against negligence or dishonesty in this direction; but the fact that such success is within the reach of co-operation when properly organized is an important one. The effect on labor problems is readily perceived. An Eastern journal says with reference to it that "the capitalist per se disappears by absorption into the workingman," but another way of stating the same thing is that the unattached or floating workingman disappears by becoming a small capitalist and his own employer.

Certainly every such establishment as the one at Leicester is an incitement to the pursuit of the co-operative experiment in the hope of producing a complete solution of the labor problem.

#### THE BRAZILIAN CONTEST.

The efforts of the representatives of Fonseca, and the organs of Brazilian absolutism in the United States, to suppress the uprising against usurpation so far as publication of it is concerned meets with an insuperable obstacle in the obstancy of the Nationalists, who keep on capturing towns and extending their opposition to the dic-

tatorship. The advices from Buenos Ayres, which is the nearest large city to Rio Grande do Sul, give tolerably authentic information that the Nationalists have taken Porto Allegro, the capital of Rio Grande do Sul, and are practically in complete possession of that populous and important State. The provisional organization of this movement is taking steps to extend it to other States, while Fonseca is concentrating all his forces to suppress it.

In the geographical division of the movement, as well as in its political aspects, this closely parallels the Chilean struggle. The Southern provinces, being those where the more temperate climate produces a more active and independent social development than in the more tropical regions, takes the leadership in forcibly opposing the usurpations of a military dictator. Whether the same success will attend the Brazilian contestants against absolutism as the Chileans won is only to be determined by the issue of the conflict. But those who believe in the maintenance of representative institutions will be glad to recognize that a gallant stand is being made for that cause in Southern Brazil.

#### TRUE AND FALSE CHIVALRY.

The latest demonstration of "Southron chivalry," a common fisticust fight in a stable between two scented scions of bluest-blooded Blue Grass aristocratic families-one of them a son of Congressman Breekenridge-who adjourned for the purpose in their dress suits from the Governor's reception ball at Lexington, will suggest to the average Kentuckian or Southron gentleman of the old school a most lamentable degeneracy from the 'duel under the code" in the days "befoh the wah, sir, when, by 'gad, we did things differently, by 'gad." To the average Northern-why not Northron-gentleman it will merely suggest that after all perhaps the best form of chivalry is that which begins far enough back to obviate the giving of offense.

# ONLY ONE WAY.

We have received, with a request for ourg. The sentimental one of this being careful perusal, a pamphlet written by National Divorce Reform League, on "Uniform Legislation for Marriage and Divorce." It sets forth, what has long been recognized in these columns, the necessity for uniformity, discusses at length the obstacles in the way of Constitutional amendment which will bring the subject within the purview of national legislation, and concludes by setting forth the direction which the effort has taken. namely, the appointment of State commissions to confer with a view to securing uniform State legislation.

We can go with the National Divorce Reform League to the extent of regarding this plan as a proper one for securing adequate study of the question, and agitation of its importance; but as for the hope of securing uniformity in the marriage and divorce legislation by separate State action, it is a futile dream. There always will be a wide diversity of opinion as to what should be the legislation on these subjects; but all will agree as to the scan dal and public injury of a system under which a couple may be legally married in one State and living in violation of the mand for apology and indemnity for the | Commandment in another, or by which a man divorced in one State may commit bigamy by marrying elsewhere. But so long as the subject is left to independent State action the different social conditions of the various States will be reflected in the different legislation which produces

The Divorce Reform League is worthy of encouragement in its effort to study it should understand that there is but one way of securing uniformity of legislation, and that is to put the subject on which uniformity is desired in the control of a single legislative power.

KEEPING UP THE MISSTATEMENTS. The persistence with which misrepre

sentations are circulated concerning the inter-State commerce law, and especially concerning the status of the Canadian railroads under it, has been noted heretofore. But the presentation of a champion example of the sort appears in the New York Telegram with an iteration of the misstatements worth noticing as a legal

The article in the Telegram starts out with the assertion that "Canadian railroads can make what rates they please to the detriment of American lin must conform to the law," which is at once characterized as an "unjust and absurd discrimination in favor of foreign roads." Any one who takes the trouble to inform himself on the subject could learn that the first section of the law in question makes all its provisions apply to the Canadian railroads doing busing "superior rights" of the Canadian railroads, and allowing them "privileges which are not accorded to our own railroads," is shown to be purely an effort of the imagination. It is of a piece with the assertion credited by the Telegram to the president of an important railroad that "the inter-State law was intended for the protection of American railroads," the fact being that its entire purpose was the

protection of the American people against

which transport freight to and from any portion of the United States stand before the inter-State Commerce Law on exactly equal terms with the railroads of the United States. The railroad president already referred to is quoted as acknowledging that violations of the law are frequent among the railroads of this country.

"Yet," he says, "there is no means of reaching the great and supreme offender of all-the Canadian railroad." This is another triumph of imagination over facts. There are exactly the same means of reaching the offender in one case as in the other, namely, by the penalties of fine and damages provided in the law for both. When those who affirm this inequality are pinned down to an exact statement they try to make it good by asserting that on that portion of the Canadian roads' traffic arising and terminating in Canada they are not subject to the restrictions of the long-and short-haul clause. But in that respect they are on an equality not only before the law, but in actual fact with the trunk lines of the United States which have the same exemption on their traffic within States having no such enactment.

The real trouble between the roads of the United States and those of Canada is that the latter are carrying the products of the Northwest more cheaply than our trunk lines are willing to do. This makes the object of the corporations, in continuing the palpable mistatements concerning the law, plain enough. But what is the purpose of the esteemed Telegram in misinforming its readers concerning the law?

A SILVER ANOMALY. Mr. David A. Wells, in a recent article, takes occasion to present a humorous view of the stock of silver held in the Treasury. It now amounts to \$400,000,000. If erected in a column one foot in diameter it would reach above the highest mountain in the world, being six and a half miles in height. To move it by wagon would take a train of 5,500 two-horse teams, or if carried by hand it would enlist the services of 220,000 men, while one person who undertook to count it dollar by dollar, would have a job for eleven years.

These aids to realizing the magnitude of the Treasury stock of silver are given especial significance by a recent assertion of Secretary Foster. So long as the outstanding silver certificates were represented to be redeemable in this silver, it had an obvious function, although it contained the danger of possible return to the silver basis. But now we have the statement of the Secretary of the Treasury that the certificates, though based on this silver, are, by the pledge of the Government, to be redeemed in gold. In that case, it appears that this immense stock of silver is absolutely without use, except that of using the Treasury funds to take the surplus silver out of the market. Moreover, we are confronted with the inquiry, first, as to what is the Treasury reserve of gold, by which these certificates are to be redeemed, and, second, as to what resources the Treasury will be able to call up, say ten years hence, when the silver stock has increased to nearly a thousand millions, and the other cash resources of the Govern-

ment have been used in accumulating it. The entire range of monetary history contains nothing more remarkable than this example of an immense stock of silver heaped up as an alleged basis for a note circulation, which the head of the Treasury now declares is not to be redeemed by this silver, but by a gold reserve that, so far as public knowledge extends, is nonexistent. ·

COMPLIMENTS are extended by the New York World to the distinguished editor of to be congratulated upon the organization him to manage it, if he so elects, from the four quarters of the globe." The practice of editing from the remote sections of the earth has more than one exponent in New York without exactly producing a vindica tion; but the ubiquity which enables Mr. Bennett to manage his paper from the four ome of the editorial outbreaks of that journal, which have heretofore posed to be due to the fact that Mr. Bennett ad been dining.

"How to Feed a Railway" is the title of a new publication, which ought to convey valuable instruction to the corporation anagers who have heretofore sh their ideas of feeding were confined to an alost untimited watering of the stock.

AS THE DISPATCH indicated, it was the typographical error which did its work on e iron ore statistics. Our esteemed cote porary, the Philadelphia Record, explains that it should have said there was a de of 50 cents per ton in the cost of mining and 95 cents per ton in the value of ore at the mines, instead of giving these figures as percentages. This very radical difference makes it quite evident bow the richer veins of the new regions should permit this decrease concurrently with an increase in the wages of miners.

THE question of war at present is not whether there will be war in Europe or a naval contest in America, but whether there will be a desolating, internecine conflict be tween the baseball organizations.

THE soitation of the Poor Farm question s bringing to the surface numerous evidences that plenty of suitable land can be had for prices much less than the recommended \$350 tract. Considering that Controller Morrow estimates a probable deficiency in the Treasury at the end of the fiscal year of 00,000, it would seem that a diversion of some of the surplus proceeds from the sale of the old farm to the relief of the taxpayers would be more timely than throwing it away on an unwise and indefensible rea state venture.

It is singular that Uncle Jerry, in deal ing with the recusant Massachusetts people mitted to warn them that he may yet roused to give them the worst assortment of weather he has got in stock.

DR. HAMILTON GRIFFIN, on whom the the fierce sunlight of publicity throws its glare less frequenly than heretofore, has ermitted himself to be interviewed in Louisville, and assures the public that Mrs. Navarro is happy; that she has no intention of returning to the stage, and that she is not writing a book. As Mrs. Navarro has no es mies the news that she is not writing a bool will be received with satisfaction that con pensates for any disappointment over the fact that she will not resume her profession

WHEN we remember that free coinage solves the problem of what newly married couples shall do with their duplicate silve presents, the political strength of that measure explains itself.

THE people of New York built a big ac queduet for their city a year or two ago, but they omitted to provide for a constant supply of water to fill it. The long-suffering tax payer may be induced by the present scarcity to put up enough money to enable the political contractors to construct water supply in proportion to the magnitude of the tunnel.

THE eclipse of the moon attracted somattention where it could be observed, but i with the obscuration of the recent tiger hunt in New York City.

OUR pavy is larger than it was, but, with business first in Brazil, Bering Sea, Chile, China and Hawaii, its employment seems to have increased in more than due proportion of

If we build more ships shall we feel the ne-cessity of watching the North Sea, the Brit-ish Channel, Cronstadt, the Dardanelles, Gibraltar and the Suez Canal?

THE bitterest stab yet given is in the report that those arrests the other day were not of Chicago Anarchists, but of Chicago editors. The assertion that the police could not tell the difference between the two leaves open a topic for debate whether it was most severe on the police or the editors.

THE German war department has resolved that the German soldiers shall eat American corn and rye mixed in the same loaf. Corn is rapidly demonstrating its claim to royal honors.

THE discovery by THE DISPATCH of one man, who will let the city have a Poor Farm at less than he will sell the land to anyone else, is a grateful compensation for the pre-vailing determination of the rest of the county that the city must pay 75 per cent more than the price for private purchasers. THE Conservative programme is a strong old for the support of the labor element and

the conciliation of the Irish in any way that can be done without swallowing the Liberal programme whole. A COTEMPORARY remarks that an American corn-meal agent could find a large demand in the hungry parts of Russia at the present time. True: but the Russian govrnment is not either paying for corn or allowing the charity of the outside world to

THE victorious pig of America is extending its conquests. Austro-Hungary proposes to recognize his supremacy.

#### SNAP SHOTS IN SEASON.

elieve the distress of its subjects.

IT doesn't spoil the barrel organ to knock few staves out of it

PEOPLE above suspicion must, of course, stand very high. BARDSLEY has conclusively demonstra-

ted that a man can keep a secret. WHEN bank stock is watered there'

BEFORE she left the dry goods store The merchant smiled in glee; But you can bet her hubby swor

ough to vote just suit Harrison.

ound to be a run on it.

When those goods came C. O. D. POSTAL clerks who can handle males old

THE Anarchists say it will take 20,000 vears to reform the world. It shouldn't take minutes to reform the Anarchists

THE early bird is now apt to catch a cold.

DOCTORS are the ones who can afford to smile every time they see men drinking each

THOSE who imagine they are close to the throne of grace because they sit in the front pews will some day find out their mistake. THE Salvation Army fanatics that carry

guns are bound to go over to the enem ONCE she was true, but now, alack! She's given me the cold, cold shoulder

Because I bought no sealskin sacque To keep her back from growing colder.

ALL watches stop, but all are not stop watches. THE tired actor smiles when the curtain drops, and so do a good many in the audi-

MASCAGNI, the new composer, is a baker's son and is well bred.

IT does seem strange that poor farms fetch

#### more money than good ones. PERTINENT PERSONALITIES.

MRS. POULTNEY BIGELOW has a million n her own right, but she writes stories and takes pay for them, just the same. PRINCE GEORGE, second son of the Prince f Wales, is ill with the suteric fever, but

his physician says he is in no danger. SCALCHI and Patti don't speak nowa days. Scalchi even goes so far as to say she

won't sing on the same stage as Patti. HON, DICK OGLESBY, of Illinois, says he has had enough of politics. Three times Governor of a State ought to satisfy any

REV. HOSEA WISE has been preachin against vice in Illinois for 50 years, and he is still a vigorous opponent of his satanic majestv.

WILLARD, the actor, pronounces his name with the accent on both syllables. Since he is coining money for his manager no one objects. ROBERT HOE, JR., of printing press fame, has a penchant for old and curious en-

gravings. He has already collected \$500,000 worth, but he can afford it. Some of the American ladies could well follow the example set by Lady Arthur Rus seil. She has built and donated swimming

baths to the village in Surrey, England where she resides. W. K. VANDERBILT pays a physician \$10,000 for taking a six weeks' trip with him. It is to be presumed that the physician will ake extra good care of his patient. He will if he knows a good thing when he sees it.

# AFTER THE CONVENTION.

Ir Cincinnati wants the Republican Na tional Convention she must give a bond that the gas supply will not fail .- N. Y. Press SAN FRANCISCO is working for both nation l conventions next year. It is supposed to be competing with the City of Mexico as the only other place of equal inconveniences —St. Louis Republic.

THE Republican National Committee should understand that there should be no toadying to Tammany by locating the National nominating convention in New York City.—Chicago Inter Ocean. New York wants both of the national

Presidental conventions. She wanted the World's Fair, but didn't get it. Her younger rivals are better "hustlers" when it comes o grabbing for the plums .- New Haven News.

CHICAGO has the earth now, why should she insist upon the wire fence. She has her hands full with the World's Fair and the decent thing under the circumstances is for her to get out of Omaha's way for the Repub-lican National Convention.—Omaha Bee. THE claims which Cincinnati makes for

the honor of having the next Republican National Convention are naturally reinforced by the splendid vote which the city gave to the Republican candidates and th noteworthy victory of Major McKinley in Onio. Chicago is not so importunate as usual, but Minneapolis, with the aid of St. Paul, is making a vigorous effort to secure the convention.—Boston Journal.

In a political point of view the metropoli is the place of all places for the national gathering of the Republican party. Her newspapers are not only national but international in their circulation and influence, and the Democratic ones are, under their new policy, distinguished for the absolute fairness and fullness of their reports of political gatherings irrespective of party. New York is the place. No argument worth considering can be urged against it. -N. Y. Recorder.

# Honest Banking Profitable.

Chicago Journal.)
Honest banking is one of the most profit-able business enterprises of the day. The stock of the well-managed banks of the ountry is from 200 to 500 per cent, or more, above par. There is enough in the business honestly conducted to satisfy any ordinary desire for business profits, the accumulation

# PLANT CANNIBALS.

The Devil's Snare Found in Nicaragus-It Lives on the Blood of Any Animal That Gets Into Its Clutches, and Never Suffers From Dyspepsia.

Some years ago a striking story was published in France describing a wonderful flesh-eating plant discovered by a great bot-anist. If we remember rightly the story recounted how a certain collector discovered a plant of the flytrap species of so gigantic a size that it could consume huge masses of raw meat. Just as the fly-catching plant snaps up a fly and draws nutri-ment from the fly's dead body, says a writer in the London Spectator, so this one fed itself on the legs of mutton and sirloins of beef which were thrown into its ravening maw. The botanist in the story, for some reason possibly fear of having his plant destroyed as dangerous to public safety, keeps the existence of the plant a secret and preserves it in a locked-up conservatory. His wife, how ever, who is made miserable by his absorp-tion of mind-he thinks of nothing but how to feed and improve his wonderful and fas-cinating plant-determines to follow him. This she does, accompanied by an old school friend of the husband.

When the pair reach the inner conserva ory they see, to their horror, the infatuated ootani st tossing bleeding joints of raw meat into the huge jaws of a giant flytrap. They are at first petrified with horror. At last, however, the wife throws herself into the arms of her husband and implores him to give up dwelling upon the horrible carnivorous monstrosity which he has discovered and reared. Unfortunately, however, the wife in appealing to her husband goes too close to the plant. Its huge centacles surround her and then proceed to drag her in, and the two stupified men see the plant begin to devour its victim. Fortunately, however, the friend catches sight of an ax lying near, and seizing this he strikes at the root of the plant. A few frenzied blows do the necessary work, and the flesh-eating plant tumbles to the ground and releases from its clutches the terrified woman. The botanist, however, cannot survive his most cherished discovery, and with the exclamation, "You have killed my plant!" he falls back dead.

It is a Vegetable Octopus. arms of her husband and implores him to

It Is a Vegetable Octopus. The story is good enough as a story, but if we are to believe an article said in the Review of Reviews to be taken from Lucifer-we say "said" advisedly, because we have looked in the October *Lucifer* and can find no such article, and therefore presume there must be some mistake-it is only another in stance of fiction being prophetic, and anticipating scientific discovery. According to the article quoted by Mr. Stead, there has the article quoted by Mr. Stead, there has been discovered in Nicaragua a flesh-eating, or rather, man-eating plant, which for horror is quite the equal of the novelist's imagination. This plant is found, it is asserted, in Nicaragua, and is called by the natives "the devil's snare." In form it is a kind of vegetable octopus, or devil fish, and is able to drain the blood of any living thing which comes within its clutches. We give the story with all reserve, but it must be admitted to be circumstantial enough in all its details to be possible. It appears that Mr. Dunstan, a naturalist, has lately returned from Central America, where he spent two years in the study of the plants and animals of those regions. In one of the swamps which surround the great Nicaragua Lake, he discovered the singular growth of which we are writing. "He was engaged in hunting for botanical and entomological specimens when he heard his dog cry out, as if in agony, from a distance. Running to the spot whence the animal's cries came, Mr. Duncan found him enveloped in a perfect network of what seemed to be a fine, rope-like tissue of roots and fibers.

A Dog Captured by Its Arms. been discovered in Nicaragua a flesh-enting

A Dog Captured by Its Arms. "The plant or vine seemed composed en-tirely of bare, interlacing stems, resembling, more than anything else, the brances of the weeping willow depuded of its foliage, but of a dark, nearly black hue, and covered with a thick, viscid gum that exuded from the pores." Drawing his knife, Mr. Dunstan attempted to cut the poor beast free; but it was with the very greatest difficulty that he managed to sever the fleshy muscular fibers of the plant. When the dog was extricated from the coils of the plant, Mr. Dustan saw, from the coils of the plant, Mr. Dustan saw, to his horror and amazement, that the dog's body was bloodstained, "while the skin appeared to have been actually sucked or puckered in spots," and the animal staggered as if from exhaustion. "In cutting the vine, the twigs curied like living, sinuous fingers about Mr. Dunstan's hand, and it required no slight force to free the member from its clinging grasp, which left the flesh red and blistered. The gum exuding from the vine was of a grayish-dark time, remarkably adhesive, and of a disagreeable markably adhesive, and of a disag remarkably adhesive, and of a disagreeable animal odor, powerful and nauseating to inhale." The natives, we are told, showed the greatest horror of the plant, which, as we have noted above, they call the "devil's snare," and they recounted to the naturalists many stories of its death-dealing powers.

### Plants of a Similar Nature. The neighborhood inhabited by that Amazonian tribe who by the use of some secret

can reduce a human corpse to a tenth of its original size, and so produce a perfectly proportioned miniature mummy of the dead man, would have been a good locality in which to "place" the tale of the cannibal plant. Again, Nicaragua is within the tropics, and plant life there is therefore specially gross and vigorous. Besides, there is no inherent impossibility in the idea of a flesh-eating plant. It is merely a question as to whether evolution has or has not happened to develop the fly-eating plant on a sufficiently large enough scale to do what is related of the vampire vine.

related of the vampire vine.

No one who has seen the ugly snap which
that tiny vegetable crab, Venus' fly-trap,
gives when the bairs inside its mouth are that tiny vegetable crab, Venus' fly-trap, gives when the bairs inside its mouth are tickled by the human finger in the way that a fly would tickle them by walking, can doubt for a moment that the development of a plant capable of eating or sucking the blood of a man, is only a matter of degree. Even in England, there are plants which act on a small scale exactly the part asserted to be played by the vampire vine—lorexample, Lathreas squamaria, the toothwort, "a pale chlorophyl-less parasite found in British woods." There are known to be several hundred dicotyledous which, in some way or other, catch and live on animal food. From such a basis the evolution of a giant and such a basis the evolution of a giant and man-eating dicotyledon is within the bounds

of possibility. Experimenting With Their Digestion. We cannot help hoping very much that the story of the vampire vine will turn out to be true, for if it does, the botanists will be able to try some curious experiments as to how these vegetables which are half nimals, digest, and whether their movenents can properly be regarded as muscular novements. It is true that Darwin adminstered extremely homeopathic doses ( 000095 of a milligramme) of nitrate of ammonia to a sundew, and found the plant responded to the drug exhibited: but it would be far easier to conduct experiments on a larger plant. Even as it is, we know that the insect eating plants secrete not only an acid, but a "poptonising ferment" for the purposes of digestion. They also feed, like animals, "on substances at a high chemical level." More than 150 years ago, Linnaus noted that the Lapps "used the butterwort for curdling milk, a property due to a rennet-like ferment which the plant has in addition to the digestive or peptic." Again, we are told that Dr. Burdon Sanderson has "detected electric currents similar to those observed in the neuro-muscular activity of animals." The borderland between animal and plant life occupied by the insect-caters is, indeed, one of the most curious and interesting fields of biological study; and if a plant as large as the vampire vine could be betained to a suppression of sundew, and found the plant responded to dant as large as the vampire vine could be blained to experiment with, discoveries of enormous importance to science might very likely be made. The vampire vine would doubtless stand a grain of calomel after a heavy meat meal without damage or annoy-

#### Individualism Fostered Boston Transcript. 1

The Australian method fosters individualism. It enables every citizen to voteds he pleases, and for the candidates he believes will best serve the public, without anyone to molest or make him afraid. It imparts a new dignity to voting. Of course it pro upon the supposition, as do our institutions generally, that our election machinery has been confided to honest men. But it takes a step in advance of old methods by preventing corrupt officials from intrench selves so firmly that they cannot be reache. by the popular voice. It renders ballot stuffing an impossibility.

# Bellamy's Colony Fails.

Detroit Journal. The California Berlamy colony has gor all to pieces. The honest members have been starved out by the rascals and are now under arrest for stealing sweet potntoes i order to keep themselves alive. No community, scheme unless inspired by religious motive like the Moravians, Shakers, Mor-mons, Mennonites and the like, has ever attained enduring success.

### TALK OF THE TIMES.

The Chicago Anarchists are again demanding public attention.—Columbus Journal.

They will probably get more than they want. This is a bad season for them.

The Sandwich Islands would be a valuable addition to Uncle Sam's domain.—Chicago Tribune. They are a little too far away and there are a few questions to consider before the annexation can take place.

It's bad enough to bite off more than you can chew, but it's worse to try to chew it .-Detroit Free Press. That is what is the matter with the calamityites. They bit off more than they could enew and now they are chewing the cud of reflection.

The British colonies of Central America now seek reciprocity with the United States. The whole continent apparently wants reciprocity.—St. Louis Globe Democrat. The United States stands ready to enter into commercial treaties. The doors are open.

The long and tireless chase after the trai obbers has begun. Detectives say they have a clew to the villains.—Chicago Globe. So long as the detectives have a clew, the robbers are safe. Clews are strange things, generally leading everywhere save in the right direction.

Every part of the country pays tribute to this insatiate monster (the Louisiana Lottery), and every State is interested in its ex-termination, but how to bring it about is a very knotty question.— Buffulo Courier. The simplest means would be for each part of the country to stop paying the tribute.

President Diaz, of Mexico, gives instruc tions to his army to kill no more men until it is ascertained whether or not they are really guilty of what they are suspected. This is a good idea.—Fort Worth Gazette. It would have been more satisfactory, though, if the orders had been given out before the alleged insurrectionists had all been killed.

### THE DATE IS SET.

Next Summer Fixed as the Time for the Great European War.

Chicago Tribune. 1
All signs indicate the probability of a great European war next summer. France and Russia upon the one hand and Germany, Australia, and Italy upon the other are plaing themselves upon an active war footing by concentrations of troops on their fron-tiers, by reinforcements of their fighting strength, by frequent maneuvers and move enormous supplies of provisions-far more indeed than would be necessary if there were no prospect of war. Speaking of the massing of troops, a correspondent of the New York Times calls attention to the fact that there are over 600,000 men in position between Odessa and the Pruth and Warsaw

between Odessa and the Pruth and Warsaw, and that since the first of August 300,000 Russian troops have been thrown into Southwestern Russia, the entire force previous to that date having been posted in Eastern Russia. Such colossal movements as these mean war if they mean anything.

The nations are expecting war. The people talk of war as if it were sure to come. In the Ealitic provinces the old antagonism between Russians and Germans grows more bitter every day. Bloody encounters frequently occur between the students of these respective nations. They share the enmity which exists between the Emperor and the Czar. There is no sympathy and can be none between these rulers, for they represent national sentiments as far apart as the earth and the sun. Twice the Czar has passed through Germany lately without paying his respects to the Emperor, thus showing a degree of personal antagonism which itself is sufficient cause for outbreak before long. Such a strain as this, which is shared by the people, cannot long continue without rupture.

# ART IN TRAIN ROBBING.

sary Violence Deprecated by Members of the Profession.

Philadelphia Inquirer.] There are various methods of stopping the train; but the simplest, quietest, most merci ful and, on the whole, preferable one is to hang out a red lantern. This avoids the labor incident to ditching the train, takes less time and does not endanger the lives o the passengers. A train robber must care nothing for human life; but it is still scarcely professional to take it without occasion, and besides if one happens to be arrested, as will occur sometimes, it is better to be "sent up" for murder. When train robbing becomes a fine art, unnecessary violence in conducting it will be deprecated by the profession.

By careful planning beforehand and systematic arrangement of work, it is estimated that a train can be stopped, the express car broken open and the safes transferred to a wagon by six men in from 20 to 30 minutes; during which time, if the schednie has been properly studied, there need be little danger of interruption by other trains A slight disarrangement of the locomotive will insure its further detention for an hour will insure its further detention for an hour or more, and in the meantime the band can escape with their booty to a rendezvous previously arranged—after which there is nothing to be done but to open the safes, divide their contents and keep out of prison. The last is a contingency that must be faced, but it never deterred bank burglars, and train robbers will be equally ready to take the risk. In this way train robbing can be made a fine art, and the indications are that unless something is done to nip the are that unless something is done to nip the growing industry in the bud it will soon de-velop into something of the kind.

# ALUMINUM FOR WAR.

The German Government Purchasing It Large Quantities.

Cleveland Leader. 1 The German Government is buying great quantities of aluminum in this country to be used in making cups, linings for knapsacks, and in other ways employed for light-ening the load which common soldiers must carry in a campaign. It is such attention to tablishment the finest in the world. After the Franco-Prussian War it was said that the splendid triumph of the German arms had been won largely by the "goose step" in which recruits are drilled until they acquire which recruits are drilled until they acquire great power and endurance in marching, and it is probable that the rank and file of the German army is now better able to carry heavy knapsacks through long and arduous campaigns than any other troops in the world.

arduous campaigns than any other troops in the world.

This, however, does not by any means constitute a reason, in the estimation of the Imperial Government, why any German soldier should be weighed down with one unnecessary ounce, and hence the German army is to profit by the lightness of the metal which is not used to anything like the extent that it should be, simply because the inertia of habit is so difficult to overcome. In many respects the haiser's Government is very conservative, but when the weifare and efficiency of the army are concerned no pushing American business man could be more alert and ready to make use of every improvement.

Canada's Awkward Position. Detroit Evening News.]

Some little figures are scaring the conser vatives of Canada to-day. They are reading of the progress of negotiations for recipro ity in trade between the United States an the British West Indies, and the little figures that scare are those which represent \$1,491,000 worth of Canadian products snipped to the British West Indies by Canada in 1889-90. If those figures should be wiped out it would strain the back of the national policy another notch to appease the losing province with railroads and other subsidies. Things are getting more awkward with every tick of the clock for the present Canadian Government,

st. Paul Pioneer Press.] The London papers having discovered that the "Democrats made a clean sweep of the State of Philadelphia," we would like to know where they left the broom. It would be funny to unearth the sources of American news as published over there.

# A Heap of Difference,

Chleago Times, 1 Sometimes there's a heap of difference between what the minister is preaching in the pulpit and what the congregation is thinking in the pews.

# Just Regun to Come Back.

Chicago Inter-Ocean.1 Nearly \$25,000,000 of American gold has found its way back from Europe to Uncle Sam's money boxes, and it has only begun to

#### CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

-Missouri has 168,100,000 bushels of

-In Kansas sunflower stalks are being sed for fuel. -Washington now has newspapers in all

its countles except one. -The only fish that never sleep are almon, pike and goldfish.

-The French Minister of War is about to establish three aerostic stations in the

-In the Solomon Islands the market quotation on a "good quality" wife is 10,000

-The Glasgow magistrates have been fining cyclists 30s each for riding at night without lamps.

-The slowest thing on earth, an ox team; has run away and killed a Tennessee family. Vonders never cease. -Official statistics show that Colorado

has over 20,000 square miles of coal, and the product of 1890 was 3,000,000 tons. -A fir tree ten feet in diameter has been discovered in Washington. Its lower lim bs are 200 feet from the ground.

-Barnesville, O., has a cow which has presented its owner with triplets. It is con-sidered quite an unusual occurrence. -A woman of Thibet who chooses to re-

main single and to earn her own living is re-regarded as an object of scorn and derision. -It is the lament of an Oxford county (Me.) village that there are only three young men in town town eligible for social pur-

-The New Year book of the Congrega,

tional Church reports 4.817 churches, with 506,832 members, and 613,810 in the Sunday -Five Indians from Indian Territory

passed through Reno, Nev., the other day on their way to Walker Lake, in search of the "Great Messiah." -A lump of coal weighing a ton has been sent to Denver from Rock Springs, Wyo., as

an advertisement. One lump broken up there last week filled seven cars. -There are yet a few beaver along the Umatilla River to remind old-timers of the days when this little animal frequented. Oregon streams in large numbers.

-The population of Rome has decreased The hand-organ industry in this country has increased perceptibly during that period. 00 during the past four years.

-Santa Catalina, a small island off the coast of Southern California, has become a great summer resort. The waters are so clear in its barbor that fish can be seen 40 feet below the surface. -A firm of chemists in Birmingham

place upon all poisons sold by them direc-

tions as to the antidote which should be ap-plied in cases where the poisons are taken accidentally or intentionally by human be--The palace and even the bedchamber of he young King of Servia were recently invaded by a huge monkey, which had escaped from a menagerie and had climbed in a window while His Majesty's bed was being

-While the Penitentiary Commissioners were in session at the Santa Fe (N. Mex.) prison three prisoners with "wooden revolvers," wrapped with tin-foll, held up the guard, and succeeded in escaping in a carriage which was in front of the building.

-A Saco (Me.) man whose house had

been haunted by weird, mysterious sounds

at night for a fortnight or so, at last opened the unused parlor stove and found therein a poor little pigeon wasted away almost to a skeleton. The mystery now is, how the pigon get there? -Flounders and other bottom fishes frequently fall a prey to the appetite of the lobsters, and sometimes they will nimbly capture small minnows as the latter go swimming by. They dig clams out of the mud or sand and crush the shells of mussels with their claws, devouring the soft parts.

-A Delaware cobbler gave his wife a certain sum of money each week for her personal use. He never inquired what she did with it, but, after 39 years of wedded life, the wife died, and in the drawer of an antique table the husband found a bag containing, gold, also a roll of greenbacks, amounting in all to \$10,000.

-Some few years ago the Paris picture dealer Ferrett bought a picturesfor 10 francs in a rag and bone shop. He soon discovered that it was a portrait by Jordaen, and he got rid of it for 1,500 francs, to the late M. Rothan, the diplomatist. The picture— which is in Jordaen's best manner—last year fetched 58,000 francs. -Who would believe that any one could

make money out of cigar ends? Yet the

make money out of cigar ends? Yet the business of gathering them is so lucrative that the Russian Philanthropic Society has organized a regular system in St. Petersburg of collecting these trifles, and disposing of them for the benefit of the poor. Upwards of \$1,500 was realized in the month of July. As to what is the ultimate destination of this refuse matter it would be somewhat hazardous to decide. -The Emperor of Germany is fond of poetry, but does not like plagiarism. A Prof. Herman Thom, of Berlin, recently

dedicated to His Majesty a bymn of labor, so full of beantiful sentiments that it was greatly admired, and the professor was liberally rewarded by the Emperor and other members of the royal family. But upon the discovery being made that the poem had been stolen bodily from an old book of poetry, Thom was arrested and sent to jail. -Anatomists classify animals by their teeth more accurately than in any other way, and the jaws of the small lemur, which way, and the jaws of the small lemur, which connects the anthropoid apes, like the chimpanzee and gorilla, with beasts not so high in the scale of creation, are provided with a dentition so astonishingly human like that one might well imagine the teeth to be actually those of a miniature man. Molars and incisors are shaped and placed in exactly the same way, and the canines, two in the upper jaw and two in the lower, correspond perfectly with the human type.

BAZAR BUZZINGS. "I picked that vase up in Rome. The armor I picked up in Paris."
"I expected to find a lot of nice things here. Your brother told me last winter, when I asked after your health, that you were picking up all the

"Why did that Frenchman demand your blood, anyhow?"

"Oh, I was joking with him. I said that innsmuch as Sedan was responsible for the overthrow of the French Empire, the Presidental chair should be a Sedan-chair. He got awfully hot,"

If every one would think of me As my boy does, I wis To all the world I'd seem to be The greatest man there is. "I know what I'm going to give pa this

Christmas, "said Arabella,
"What, my dear?" asked her mother.
"A nice woolen comforter. It will be lovely to
wear when Ned comes to take me tobogganing." "Mamma, I want some water in a bowl. am going to christen my doll."
"No, little dear. That would be trifling with a

'Then give me some wax to waxcinate her wi h.

She's old enough now to have something done to After the barn is rifled, When stolen is the horse, Why do we lock the portal? To save the door, of course. "I suppose the baby is a delicate pinkeh, Bronson?"
"No. He's a robust yeller," replied the proud

and sleepy father. A joke is very like a nut-I state this as a fact— Since none can tell if it is good Until it has been cracked. "Jimmie, do you know when your sister's birthday is?" asked Chapple.
"Is? You mean was, don't you? She had it thirty years ago," returned Jimmie.

- The man who lives upon his brain, By wit earns all his bread, Ne'er finds it in the least way vain To stand upon his head. Willie (scared) -Now we've milked

the cow, what'll we do? Pop 'll be awful mad.

Jimmie (equal to the occasion)—We'll drive her
down to the pend and fill her up with water. I always know when autumn's here-

Oh, baneful time of life!— For then fur-dealers' cards appear ressed unto my wife

"Do you ever weary of your beautiful home here in town, Mrs. DeCashly?"

"Never, Mrs. Bronson. What with our autumn home at Lenax, our winter home at Asheville, our summer cottage at Newport, and the spring in London, 1 hardly have a chance to grow tired of