# The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16, 1891.

VALUE OF SPEEDY RAIL SERVICE. Now that the Pennsylvania Railroad has got control of the Allegheny Valley lines, we may hope with some degree of confidence that the latter will be made of much greater service to Pittsburg than it ever was under the old management. The Courts are by no means a shining success in the executive management of outside business, such as running a railroad or undertakings of that sort. But it must be said that in the hands of a receiver, the Allegheny Valley has hardly been more sluggish than it was under its previous erippled management. Though the country up the Allegheny Valley is capable of important development, and opportunities exist for many valuable connections, the railroad has made little effort to improve them. The first train, for instance, going through to Oil City or any point beyond East Brady does not start until about halfpast eight in the morning-near the hour for opening court-while any one coming here from the oil regions and northern part of the State, or from Buffalo, has to come on a train which stops at every suburban station near the city for accommodation traffic. The dilatory process of the law has pervaded the schedule of the line very fully ever since it has been under the jurisdiction of the Courts.

The importance of good railroad service to Pittsburg, and for the ultimate interest of the roads themselves, is worthy of more consideration than is usually given to the subject. The mercantile business of our city depends greatly upon the surrounding towns. There is much debatable territory open equally to Buffalo, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Baltimore, whose custom can be secured for Pittsburg by railroad service devised specially for it. or driven away from Pittsburg by slovenly, ill-considered arrangements. Pittsburg has a good market, and should

be an admirable distributing point. It has decided advantages over any of the other cities named. Its merchants are abundant in enterprise. But the people of mid-way territory must be given a chance to get their news from Pittsburg by early trains in the morning. Thus familiarized with Pittsburg newspapers. they would become acquainted with the inducements offered for trading in this town. Again, in coming and going from our market, they are entitled to a speedy service, as Time is money; and beautiful though the scenery be in this part of the State, life is too short for dallying with it interminably on slow-poke trains.

What helps Pittsburg will in turn help the local roads. Buyers coming to the Pittsburg market swell the road's receipts: and whether they send their produce here. or bring their goods from this point, it is equally dollars in the treasury of the rulroad they patronize. Some of our railroad managers do not seem to care enough for this. To save a few dollars they will give late and slow service out of and into the city in place of an early and speedy one. But the great Pennsylvania Railroad does not do things after this penny-wise fash. ion: so the change of ownership of the Allegheny Valley is a matter for congratulation; as would also be the adoption of the Pennsylvania's enterprise by some of the other roads having their main terminals here.

When our railroads help Pittsburg they will be most efficiently helping themselves This is something they can never afford to forget, though sometimes the less experienced of them think they can.

THE CANAL REPORTS PROGRESS. The Ohio River and Lake Erie Ship Canal is now before the Government. Yesterday Senator Quay presented a bill providing for its survey, and it only remains for the Congressmen who represent the districts interested to push this preliminary step further.

By a proper presentation of the benefits to be derived from a waterway of the character designed by the projectors of the Ohio River and Lake Erie Ship Canal other localities than Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and the river-washed sections of West Virginia will be aroused. When the coal, coke, glass, iron and steel consuming regions reached by lake, river and canal navigation East and West through the medium of the proposed waterway realize fully its advantages, the national servants of the constituencies which now stand alone in its interest will have powerful a'lies. It is not by any means a sectional scheme or a job whereby a clique hopes to reap a harvest through Government aid. It is a necessity of development which, while in a measure local, redounds to the benefit of the whole Nation-an improvement that will be prosperous in

peace and powerful in war. In the advocacy of the survey bill all the internal waterway interests should. and no doubt will, heartily join. To aid them in argument all who have the interests of the project at heart should furnish such data as will convince the skeptical that the canal for which Senator Quay has asked a survey is a legitimate, businesslike, resource-developing enterprise-not a stock-watering foreign scheme like the Nicaragua ghost now plaguing the administration that embraced it.

### ORGANIC LOGIC.

An interchange of political compliments occurs between two New York organs, which indicates the way the organ is apt to look at things. With reference to Speaker Crisp's remark in his speech to the Democratic caucus, "I pledge myself, here and now, to devote whatever industry and ability I possess to the advancement of the real interests of the Democratic party," the New York Recorder says: "The | proposed rate is at that average. But pig

people of the United States do not pay Brother Crisp \$8,000 a year to devote his industry and ability to the interests, real or unreal, of the Democratic party."

Mr. Crisp would, of course, if answering this jibe, reply from his partisan standpoint that the real interests of the Democratic party are the real interests of the country, and in devoting himself to the one he devotes himself to the other. And a Democratic organ might pertinently say that a newspaper which smiles on the record of the Hon. Thomas B. Reed in the Speaker's chair might be a little more modest in demanding that a Democratic Speaker shall abjure party on assuming the position. But the New York Telegram rushes to the defense with the following assertion: "Judge Crisp was at that moment addressing a body of Democrats as such who had designated him for a public post. When Speaker Crisp has an opportunity of addressing the people of the whole country he will no doubt strike a broader note." In other words, the Speaker is to say one thing to a partisan body, but, if we can comprehend the meaning of that mixed metaphor "a broader note," he is to say another thing

to the whole country. "Any way," concludes the Telegram, "please observe that a man who is faith-WEEKLY DISPATCH, One Year...... 1.25 ful to his party is reasonably sure to acceptably serve the public." Let us see. Tweed was faithful to his party, the certain fortress of all machine politicians, including those Republicans whom the Telegram is wont to condemn, that are faithful to their party. Consequently, Tweed, Connolly, Croker, Dudley, Quay and the entire class on both sides of the political fence are "reasonably sure to acceptably serve the public." Of course, such an avowal furnishes a full vindication of the last Speaker from all the Democratic attacks upon him. The logic of a once independent paper converted into an organ is often extremely useful as a warning.

#### THE ADMINISTRATION'S CHANGE,

Following closely upon the heels of the very positive indications that the administration and Senator Quay have ceased to occupy the same sleeping apartments, comes a rumor from New York that ex-Senator Platt is no longer to hold the position of patronage-dispenser for the State of New York. For three-and-three-quarters years of the administration the royal road to federal office lay through the favor of Quay in Pennsylvania and Platt in New York. But this, it seems on good authority, is no longer to be the case. Quay and his followers are already marked for turning down, and New York is given to understand that others beside Platt will exercise the controlling influence as to the appointments in that State.

If this change of base could be taken a a recognition by the administration of the fact that Messrs. Quay and Platt have used the Government patronage in their various States simply to build up a political machine, and that their use of patronage was a falsification of the civil service reform pledges of the President and his party; or as a determination to reform that matter and take the offices out of politics, it would be a strong point for the administration. But unfor tunately no such significance can be at tached to it.

With regard to Senator Quay it may be an open question whether he left the administration or the administration left him; but there is no doubt that whatever changes are made in patronage as a result of the separation will be for the sake of political revenge and political discipline. As to Platt, the trouble is not that he has used his patronage for the machine but that the machine has not worked well enough. The administration quest now is for a man who can use the patronage so much more successfully than Platt as to capture New York for Harrison next year.

Briefly the showing of the cold shoulder to Platt and Quay is not a warning to office-holders that they must keep out of politics; but it is an advertisement that they must keep in; that they must work for the interests of the head of the administration; and that if they do not succeed in their efforts, their state is parlous. All of which shows that it is one thing to make civil service reform pledges, and

#### quite another thing to keep them. AN BONORABLE SETTLEMENT.

The announcement that the estate of Hon. William A. Wallace has been restored to his personal direction without impairment is gratifying. Mr. Wallace under pressure of business complications early in the year made an assignment; but the clearest assurance of the good condition of his affairs is that, with the consent of all his creditors, the court has vacated it, and returned the property to his con-

trol. This is gratifying in a double sense. The efforts of Mr. Wallace in developing the resources of the Clearfield region have added millions to the wealth of that district. It may be that his business troubles arose from the extended condition of his affairs as a result of that effort, and everyone will be glad to know he has a fair chance of getting out of his embarrassments with enough to pay his creditors

and a margin for himself. There is even more gratification in the evidence thus given of Mr. Wallace's high standard of business morals in the care he took to protect his creditors. Most insolvencies of late have been remarkable for the entire disappearance of assets. But this one shows that the creditors were so well protected as to warrant the return of the property to his hands-an arrangement equally creditable to both sides.

IT SHOULD BE DECIDED HERE. At the meeting of the freight agents of the Western railways centering in Pittsburg, the long-standing application of the pig iron interests for a reduction of the rate from the valleys to Pittsburg was again presented. The local agents are reported as impressed favorably toward the application; but the usual course was taken of referring it to the Central Traffic Association.

This exhibits one feature of the combination policy of the railroads. The decision of the question of rates affecting the prosperity of a single region is not left to the railroads doing the business. Even the joint decision of the men in close touch with the interests involved, and knowing the capabilities and needs of the traffic, is not permitted. The question must be referred to a committee meeting hundreds of miles away, some of whom have no interest in developing the traffic of this region, and some of whom may even be interested in preventing it from securing all the advantages it might secure by in-

dependent action. The request for a rate in the vicinity of fifty cents per ton seems like a large one; but recently published statistics show it in a different light. The census bulletin on railway statistics shows that the average rate per ton mile on all freight in group II, consisting of New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and part of West Virginia, was slightly over eight-tenths of a cent.

iron is a freight far below the average in the cost of handling. It is one of the cheapest classes, and is moreover one of the fundamental freights on which a vast

volume of other traffic depends. The pig iron interests are quite right in asserting that such questions should be decided by the men who are familiar with the subject and interested in the development of the traffic. They might go further and assert that each railroad should decide the question for itself, solely upon its relations to its own traffic. But that will never be done so long as the combination policy prevails which carefully reserves the decision of such questions for an organization interested only in keeping up railway charges.

#### COL, MERRILL'S SERVICES,

Pittsburg will join as a community in the public regrets over the death of Col. Wm. E. Merrill. Although that officer was never a resident of this city, his position made a prominent figure in connection with our river interests, and his long services in the work of bringing out the greatest possibilities of that natural waterway, the Ohio river, identified him with both the past and future of Pittsburg. The most striking result of Col. Merrill's labors in the interest of Pittsburg's river transportation was the Davis Island dam; out in addition to that work, the labor of twelve years in maintaining and improving the navigation of the Ohio entitles him to a tribute from Pittsburg's commercial bodies. There is no doubt that the recognition of Col. Merrill's public services to Pittsburg will be prompt and

"Possibly the Government, in loaning a redit of \$100,000,000 to the Nicaragua Canal projectors, may be able to take security that the money will be economically and wisely expended. But there is in experience small varrant for such an expectation," says the Philadelphia Record. Our cotemporary's op it puts the case too mildly. When the engi er's estimate of \$60,000,000 to \$70,000,000 fo the cost of the canal is contrasted with the proposed Government guarantee of \$100,000, 000, and a big tank of water in the stock on terprise on such a basis can be anything but a scheme of plunder.

COMMISSIONER OF NAVIGATION BATES is going through a course of instruction as to the deleterious effects of too much previousness with his reports. Mr. Bates had a warning last year and a reprimand this rear. What he will get next year must be left to the future.

THE New York Sun quotes from a Mem phis paper the statement of a theory that the pasel twang generally attributed to the Yankees is a servival of the sanctimonious tones of the English Puritans. But what will this theory do with the fact that the most ronounced case of the nasal "naow" and baow," previously supposed to belong exclusively to Yankees, was emitted from the cockney, but beautiful lips of Lydia Thompson's British Blondes when they first ap peared in this country years ago? Were those undraped but gorgeous beings also a survival of Puritan sanctimon cousness?

THE impression that the curative acts do ot cure is strongly affirmed by the learned counsel for the property-holders who do not wish to pay for the improvements. But the courts will have the last say on that point.

BISMARCK now finds himself unable to incide with the German Emperor s views of absolute power. The Iron Chancellor had a great deal to do with building up the Imperial power in Germany on the absolute basis, but then Bismarck was the wielder of that power. There is nothing more thoroughly calculated to convince a man of the error of absolutism than to tfind himself on the outside of it.

TWENTY-NINE million dollars for the come bonds a more positive value than they used to have. But how many of them are still in the hands of former holders?

An example of "McKinley prices" is quoted by the Buffalo Courier, which on ex-amination proves to consist of the fact that parnets have got down to such a low level that the Courier alleges a trust to be neces sary. Has our esteemed free trade cotemporary reached the pass of acknowledging that the distinguishing characteristic of 'McKinley prices" is the unprecedented

THE Irish factions are still doing their best to furnish campaign ammunition to their Tory opponents, in the way of practical lemonstration that they will not cultivate the ability to govern themselves.

Now we learn that a German Prince has left Berlin and his creditors with the inten-tion of offering himself and his title for sale to the American heiresses. If some measure for the sale of foreign titles will utterly demoralize the market. According to all the trust theories there is an evident necessity

THE "get-poor-quick" societies do no dvertise themselves as such; but there are plenty of them from speculation in street down to playing the Garfield Park

Ir is sad to learn that while the marriage of Prince Collars and Cuffs meets with the nthusiastic approval of the Philadelphia Press and 'Squire Smalley, the Duchess of Edinburgh is violently opposed to it. Some means should be taken to make these promi nent ladies flop in unison.

PERHAPS we can accept the President's incorsement of the Nicaragua canal Job as an evidence that Warner Miller has bee

taken inside the breastworks. ANOTHER rolling-mill strike is ended by the defeat of the men. The footing up of the losses to the workingmen by that strike will give a new demonstration of the principle that a strike is not to be resorted to, except as a last resort and not even then

#### without a fair chance of victory. NEAR THE TOP RUNG.

THE Duke of Devenshire continues to linger between life and death.

CARTER HARRISON, Chicago's ex-Mayor, has a fortune of more than \$1,000,000. MR. CRISP will keep order with a beanti ful new gavel made of Georgia pine inlaid

THE Virginia Legislature yesterday reelected John W. Daniel United States Sens tor without opposition

HENRY BURDEN McDowell and two daughters are all that remain of General Irwin McDowell's family.

LORD PROVOST RUSSELL is prostrated with the grip, as is also the ex-Lord Provost the Right Hon. John Boyd. SAMUEL R. THAYER, United States Min ister to the Netherlands, will return to his

post of duty to-day, after a vacation of six weeks. HARRY CRISP, a brother of the Speaker of the House, was at one time a well-known actor. He played several seasons in "My

Partner." THE Prince of Naples, heir apparent to the Italian throne, has been betrothed to the eldest daughter of the Duke of Edin-

burgh. The wedding will take place navi CONGRESSMAN SHERMAN HOAR sits in the same pew with his distinguished uncle on Sundays, but it is believed that their naths do not cross on the other six days of

ROSA BONHEUR has finished the largest animal picture ever painted. It is called Le Depiquage, and represents ten horses large as life trotting over the thrashing floor still used in parts of Southern Europe.

### LIVE WASHINGTON WAIFS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 15 .- An inter-

iew with J. W. Woodruff, of Lander, Wyo. Chairman of the Shoshone and Arapahoe Indian Commission, published to-day, stated that Mr. Woodruff was on his way to Washington to oppose the ratification of the treaty negotiated by the majority of the commission, on the ground that the price paid was more than the lands ceded were worth. C. H. Merillat, who was one of the majority of the commission, to-day said: The commission secured more than half of the reservation of these Indians in Wyoming. The amount ceded is estimated at 1,100,000 acres, out of 2,000,000 acres belonging to those Indians. For the lands ceded the commission paid \$3'0,000, or 55 cents an acre. The Wind river reservation included an unusually large number of fine streams of water. The Big Horn river and its continuation, the Wind river, traverse nearly the whole of the reservation. Numerous tributaries flow into the main stream, so that the trouble of securing a water supply, the lack of which is the great drawback to the arid regions, is considerably less on this reservation than in other sections where streams are to be found only a great distances apart. Good timber is found in the northern and western portion of the reservation, and when the reservation is thrown open the indications favor the development of mining properties. In Wyoming the Wind river country is regarded as one of the favored portions of the State. To make it prosperous railroad communication is needed more than anything else. It is surprising, therefore, that Mr. Woodruff, a Wyoming man, should make the objection that 55 cents an acre is an exorbitant price to be paid for the lands. But Mr. Woodruff is disappointed because the Indians absolutely refused to accept an offer he made of \$100,000 for only about \$6,000 acres additional at 1,100,000 acres, out of 2,000,000 acres belonglutely refused to accept an offer he made of \$100,000 for only about 60,000 acres additional on the southern part of the reservation near the town of Lander."

SECRETARY BLAINE has received a long cable message from United States Minister Egan, at Santiago, Chile, but refuses posi tively to say anything about it. It is understood to convey the substance of the com-ments of Mr. Matta, Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the recent official utter-ances of the President and the Secretary of the Navy in regard to the Valparaiso inci-

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL SHIELDS, of the Interior Department, has decided that Jane Waldron, who is the daugh-ter of a white father and a half-blood Indian mother, was a born citizen of the United States, and that her claim that she is Indian by virtue of being born of an Indian mother cannot be allowed. Neither can she longer be permitted to draw rations can she longer be permitted to draw rations and annuities as such from the Government, nor can she receive lands in severalty. It is said at the Indian Bureau that this case practically decides from 500 to 1,000 similar cases in all parts of the West. In many cases, however, the right of a half-blood to be regarded under the law as an Indian, is fully acknowledged in a number of treaties.

In order to afford the young men of the West and Northwest an opportunity of entering the medical department of the army, Acting Secretary Grant to-day ordered a board of medical officers to convene at Chi-cago February 1, next, for the examination of all applicants for appointment in that

MINISTER DENBY, at China, has inormed the Secretary of State that while the Chinese Government will make no provision for an official representation at the World's Columbian Exposition, it has, in order to facilitate exhibits by Chinese merchants and others, removed the export duty on all articles exported for exhibition at Chicago.

SECRETARY FOSTER has so much improved that Dr. Hamilton, who has attended him ever since he was taken sick, left Washington to-day for Chicago, to resume his offi-cial duties at that place. Dr. G. L. Magru-der, of this city, who was lately called in the case, will continue to attend the Secretary during his convalescence.

ONE of the disappointed men on the Democratic side of the House is Representative Bynum, of Indiana, who was in charge of Mr. Mills' Speakership campaign. Had the result been otherwise than it was, Mr. Bynum, it was understood, would have been appointed Chairman of the Ways and appointed Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, having served as a member of the minority on that committee in the Fifty-first Congress. Mr. Bynum, however, takes his defeat good naturedly, and it is understood has in view the womination for Governor of Indiana, to make the race next year. Indiana politicians say that Mr. Bynum can have the nomination if he desires, and, having been disappointed in securing the place he wished in the organization of the House, it is more than likely that he will turn to for consolation to the suffrages of his party in Indiana and head the Democratic ticket there in 1892.

THE sentence in Secretary Blaine's recent conditional acceptance of an invitation to deliver an address before an American commercial club in Boston, by which his appearance was made to depend upon the condition of Mrs. Blaine's health, caused much comment. The deference paid by Mr. Blaine, to his wife's judgment, in all matters pertaining to his political career, is a matter of political knowledge; hence the general interest felt in the statement implying that she is not in good health. It was felt by many that her illness might, and probably would, have a distinct and active bearing would, have a distinct and active bearing upon the Secretary's attitude toward the nomination for the Presidency, and the condition of her health has been the subject of anxious inquiry. Since her return to Washington with the Secretary Mrs. Blaine has been confined to the house almost contantly, and part of the time to her bed. Her trouble was a sort of general prostration, probably due to a relaxation from the strain under which she labored during the filness of the Secretary in the summer. Now, however, she is able to be about the house, but still does not go out, although much improved.

THE Comptroller of the Currency has authorized the Chemical National Bank of Chicago to begin business with a capital of

THE Brazilian Government has asked for an extension of time for the ratification of

the treaty of arbitration recently concluded between Brazil and the United States.

THE National Executive Silver Committee will meet here Tuesday, January 5, 1892, A CABLEGRAM received at the Navy De partment announces the arrival of the Chicago and Burlington at St. Thomas, West Indies, to-day on their way to the South Atlantic station.

### THEIR CIGARS AND HATS.

Mr. REED wears a 714 derby. SECRETARY FOSTER Sports a 71/4 tile. CALVIN S. BRICE smokes the best cigars of

Major McKinley wears a bright silk felt size 714.

THE Shah of Persia has a tobacco pipe worth \$400,000. JOHN D. ROCKEPELLER prefers a mild ciga-

costing about 40 cents. Mr. Blaine wears a 736 hat, as also do See

retaries Tracy and Noble. PRESIDENT HARRISON and ex-President Cleveland wear 71/2 hats. CORNELIUS VANDERBILT Smokes strong

cigars costing 25 cents each. SENATOR VOORHEES wears a 7% tile, and has the largest head in the Senate. JAY GOULD never smokes, but he keeps the est brand on tap for his friends.

#### JOKERS SENT TO THE POOR HOUSE. How a Union City Lawyer Got Even With

Friends Who Dined at His Expense. ERIE, Dec. 15 .- F. M. McClintock, lawyer on City, was in Eric and dined at the Reed House. Soon after he had registered for dinner, C. S. Olmstead, of Corry, and J. W. Sproul, of Union City, came in. McC's name, they winked slyly at the clerk and registered, affixing to their autographs the words, "with McClintock," so that the

bill of the party would be charged to the latter.

McClintock when coming to the counter, saw through the joke. He paid the bill without protest. Then he went forthwith to the office of the Poor Directors, where he filed an application in regular form, setting forth that C. S. Olmstead and J. W. Sproul are destitute and without visible means of support, "and I being a relative of said parties, i. e., a brother (in-law), do most respectfully pray that an order of relief be at once issued by your honorable Board of Poor Directors." The petition was granted and an order made out for the commitment of Sproul and Olmstead to the aimshouse, and there was some tobacco burned at their expense about the Court House.

### ANOTHER SHIP CANAL SCHEME.

An Ohlo Senator Wants to Connect the River With the Lakes. COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 15 .- Hon. W. C. Gear, of Wyandot, who was a member of the last House and will be a member of the next Senate, is here to-day, and gives the outline of a bill, which he will introduce early in the session, providing for the abandonment of a portion of the canal system of the State The bill which Senator Gear has prepared provides for the appointment by the Governor of a commissioner to act in conjunction with the State Board of Public Works in selling the canals and canal property be-longing to the State, except the Miami and Erie Canal from Toledo to Cincinnati and that portion of the Ohio Canal between Cleveland and Dresden. The idea of the author of the bill is that the State, with the assistance of the general Government, should widen and deepen the two canals so

as to convert them into ship canals by

which large boats could ply between Lake Erie and the Ohio river. Senator Gear's proposition is to divert the course of the Ohio Canal into the Muskingum, recently improved by the Governmen at Dresden, which would permit Lake Erie boats to enter the Ohio river at Marietta, while he would divert the course of the Miami and Erie into Mill creek at Cincinnati, cutting off that portion lying within the city limits, which would permit the con-struction of a boulevard so long talked of. Senator Gear, who is a civil engineer, esti-mates that the cost of the Miami and Eric improvement would be about \$18,000,000 while that of the Ohio Canal would amount to \$10,000,000. The proceeds derived from the sale of the canal property and the abandoned portions of the canals, Senator Gear thinks, rould go far toward paying for the proposed improvement.

### CHILDREN IMITATE ANIMALS.

#### One Was Bitten by a Dog and the Other by a Cat a Year Ago.

CANTON, O., Dec. 15.-Several days ago Howard Davis, aged 8 years, taken from the Fairmount Children's Home by George M. Smith, showed signs of hydrophobia. became violent, barking and snapping like a dog. The physician who has been attending him makes the startling statement that boy's heart, caused by a snowball thrown at school several days ago. The mark of the blow is visible. A year ago the boy was bitten in the hand by a pet dog at the home of Ezra Moore, at Salem, where he lived for

Another case of hydrophobia is reported Another case of hydrophobia is reported from Hartford City, Ind. A 10-year-old son of William Smith, a farmer, has all the actions of a cat during the spasms with which he has been afflicted daily, and twice Saturday he was tied fast to his bed, yet it was with difficulty that five men could manage him without danger to themselves. He spits like a cat, claws, and as the spell attacks him. paws and plays like one and licks himself with his tongue. Fully 50 men were present during his last spasms. He was bitten by a cat about a year ago, but no bad effects followed.

#### TO DRAIN A LAKE.

#### Its Waters Never Give Up the Dead That Lie at Its Bottom.

New York, Dec. 15.-A movement is now on foot in the neighborhood of Hutton Lake which will, in all probability, solve a mys tery and show the cause for a legend which has attached to that body of water ever since man has been in this part of the counry. Abou: the middle of October M. B. Dawson, a prominent and wealthy man, fell into the lake, sank and never was seen again. into the lake, sank and never was seen again. The lake was dragged and then a diver was sent for from San Francisco, who searched the lake, but gave it as his opinion that the body was fast in the mud at the bottom.

As there is an insurance of \$27,000 on Dawson's life it is necessary that the body should be recovered. To this end arrangements have been made to have the lake drained. It is estimated that this work will cost \$10,000, and it will take nearly six months to 000, and it will take nearly six months to complete the task. Engineers have been figuring on the work, and the contract will be let at once. The move has attracted the attention of scientists from all parts of the country, and it is expected that valuable information will be obtained from the bottom of the death, tree.

#### of the death-trap. FOUND A CRYSTAL CAVE.

Hollow to the Core. OROVILLE CAL. Dec. 15 -A day or so ago a prospector named James Roos, discovered at Table Mountain a beautiful crystal cave. He was walking on the north side of the mountain when the earth gave way beneath him and he fell into an opening several feet

deep. Having a prospector's lamp with him he lighted it and partially explored the ex-Proceeding down an incline for some distance he found at its end a room some 30 feet square, its walls and roof being completely covered with the most beautiful crystals. Not having sufficient light he did not explore farther and does not know to what extent the cavern extends. This new discovery is near the old cave that has been so long known. It is possible that the entire Table Mountain is a mammoth cave for to e walking on the surface it sounds hollow

#### PREPARING FOR THE POW-WOW. The National Republican Sub-Committee

Meet Minneapolis People. MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 15.—The sub-committee of the National Rannblican Executive Com. nittee arrived in the city this morning from Chicago. There were in the party Chairman J. S. Clarkson and others. The committee was met by the Citizens' Executive Com mittee, and at once went into joint to man out the work of getting ready for the

National Convention next June.

The plans of Architect Warren H. Hayes for remodeling the Exposition building to meet the emergencies of the convention were reviewed. Colonel Clarkson said he saw no reason why Minneapolis could not saw no reason why sinheapons could not take care of the convention in fine shape. He again denied ever having said the things attributed to him in the Harrison inter-views sent out from Washington. He re-turns to-night to Des Moines to attend a

### THAT FLEECY WAR CLOUD.

THE European war cloud is having another inning .- Omaha World-Herald. THE Russian bear does not seem to be hibernating this winter.-Detroit Journal. THE WAT cloud is hovering over Russia again. How that cloud does travel from one

place to another.-Boston News. THE Czar and the Sultan may make it up just now for a purpose. But they will watch each other like two thieves all the same,—

Rochester Union. ENGLAND, for all the world knows, may be low face to face with the problem of the invasion of India. She is at war with tribes on the border that are protected by Russia.

- Washington Star. Ir the sensitive feelings of Great Britain are at all hurt by that little affair at Gilgit, Russia can afford to apologize. It would not do to give too much prominence to the steady advance of Russia toward India.-

N. Y. World. PANIR, which may vet be the battle ground of two great powers contending for supremsev in Asia is only a narrow rocky valley. But it is a gateway to India, and therefore s prize to be coveted eagerly both by Russia

### Painting Seized in Minneapolis.

and England .- Boston Globe

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 15.—United States Treasury officials seized another painting to-day, the "Aux Armen," from the Salon of '91, by Berne-Bellecour. It is claimed the '91, by Berne-Bellecour. It is claimed the duty has not been paid. On Saturday they also seized Gerome's "The Lien Awaiting His Prey." There are still four other valuable paintings in the possession of Gross and Van Gysch which the Government will probably seize and offer for sale at public auction. The collection has been on exhibition here at a picture store.

#### The Story in a Nutshell. Chicago Inter-Ocean. ]

Tammany furnished the animal, Governo Hill groomed him, and Cleveland crawled inside. That is the story in a nutshell.

They Will Lard the Lean Earth. Omaha World-Herald.] The superstitious who fear "a green Christ-

mas" seem in a fair way to "lard the lean earth with their tears."

### DOINGS IN HIGH LIFE.

Mrs. C. L. Magee Presides Over a Dinner for Two Cincinnati Belles-Mrs. Merrill, of the Artistic Needle, Returns to Town -Gossip of the Hour.

Mrs. Christopher L. Magee entertained a few friends at dinner yesterday evening. The guests were seated at a round table artistically decorated with American beauty roses. The service used was largely of rare old china which Mrs. Magee has picked up from time to time when choice pieces were available. Miss Semple and Miss Jordon, of Cincinnati, Mrs. Schoonmaker's visitors, were the guests of honor.

Mrs. Mary Rath Merrill, of Columbus, the artist in needlework, is at the Monon gahela House and expects to remain over Thursday, provided that much time is required for the lessons arranged for to-day, and in concluding the arrangement for her Pittsburg work next year. Mrs. Merrill has enjoyed the most flattering reception ever accorded real artistic work by the ladies of Pittsburg and expects to have full classes when her days here are established.

#### Social Chatter.

Ir Cincinnati does not soon demand the return of its two beautiful young belies. Miss Jordan and Miss Semple, it really will not be surprising to hear that Pittsburg may keep them always. They have made a social sensation here and have been accorded a welcome such as Pittsburg rarely gives any-body. In social circles it is said that the number of aspirants to dance attendance on them would be difficult to count.

Dr. C. B. King sent out invitations last Friday to the number of several hundred for the coming-out ball of his daughter, Miss Nina King. It is to begiven in the assembly rooms of the Duquesne Clubhouse, and is the first large affair given there this season. Next Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock is the time set in the invitations. Ir the dansant grows in such favor as

ur society men will find to reach Pittsburg, our society men will find it harder than ever to combine business-with pleasure. There has been talk of Satur-day afternoon entertainments obtaining, but as this is always a great matinee day in town, the innovation hardly recommends itself. An attendance of nearly 200 was at the

As attendance of hearly 200 was at the regular rehearsal of the Mozart Club in their pleasant rooms on Fourth avenue last evening. The work of the chorus was excellent and indicates that the "Messiah" at old City Hall, on Monday evening, December 28, will be well remembered. MR. AND MRS. FREDERICK W. VAN OSTEN have pleasantly established themselves in a cottage belonging to and adjoining the Ewart residence in Center avenue, and quite look upon themselves as old married people. They will be at home after and during the

remainder of this month. Modjeska's grip has caused the wheels of wont; a number of theater parties having been arranged for this week. This is a

favorite mode of entertaining a debutante this winter. THE marriage of Miss Blanche Playford. daughter of Congressman Playford, of Uniontown, to Mr. Edgar C. Boyle, is ar-ranged to take place January 12. Invita-tions will include people in Pittsburg and the submebs

THE Club Theater is, what might be termed, an electric light beauty. The colors were chosen with a view to their evening effect and the whole work of decorating done in the full blaze of the incandescent lamps. MRS. A. E. W. PAINTER gave a dance last night for the Misses Lane, of Troy; Miss Newport of Cleveland, and Mr. Agassiz, of

## KEELY'S FOLLOWERS EXCITED.

### They Refuse to Belleve the Arkansas Death

Resulted From the Treatment. WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Dec. 15 .- [Special.] The members of the Bi-Chloride of Gold Club of the Keely Institute have circulated in knots to-day in the hotels and in the streets discussing with the greatest interest the announcement made this morning that H. J. Johnson, a contractor, had died at the Keely Institute at Hot Springs, Ark., while undergoing treatment for the liquor habit. Out of the 140 patients not one could be found to-day who believed that Johnson's death was attributable to the Keely treat-

Superintendent Persons, when seen at the superintendent rersons, when seen at the institute, said that Johnson's death was attributable to alcoholism. "He was dying when they took him there," said Mr. Persons. Dr. Vandenberg, the physician in charge, pooh-poohed the idea of Johnson's death having been caused by the treatment. The doctor said that several causes may the been productive of Johnson's death the most likely and probable one being al-coholism. The doctor said that any nation

### SWALLOWED A BABY'S LEG.

### A Snake Escapes From Its Owner

Startles an Indiana Family. DANVILLE, IND., Dec. 15 .- John Craig, who Forepaugh's snake charmer, and winters in this place with his cage of per forming reptiles, missed a 14-foot boa constrictor Sunday morning. The snake escaped the night before from its box in a barn. He hunted all day for it without success. Yesterday morning, at the open door, it crawled into the house of James Reasoner, while the family were in the rear

When the mother entered the sitting room she saw the monster stretched across the apartment floor beside her sleeping baby. Her screams alarmed the neighborhood, and Her screams alarmed the neighborhood, and when Craig arrived with some others they found that the scrpent had already swallowed one of the child's legs, who, awakening with a veil, had alarmed the inmates. The constrictor's jaws were pried open and the infant's leg was withdrawn, after which the reptile grew so furious that he had to be tied with ropes before he could be removed.

### REMARKABLE VITALITY.

### A Young Woman Recovers After Her

Skull Was Fractured Twice. GUTHEIE, O. T., Dec. 15 .- Some months ago Miss Annie Ice, a young lady living near Waco, I. T., had her skull fractured by being thrown from a horse. Possessed of re-markably vitality, she soon recovered com-

markably vitality, she soon recovered completely. A week ago she was thrown from a car and again fractured the skull at the same place and forced a large piece of the skull in upon the brain.

She became a raving maniac and in no way could she be quieted. After she had been in this condition for some days two physicians chloroformed her and removed a piece of the skull as large as a silver dollar. A silver plate was supplied in place dollar. A silver plate was supplied in place of the bone and the young lady at once became rational and sat up. Before night she was going about all right.

### PLACING SHERMAN.

THE political silversmiths of Ohio are still velling "great is John Sherman!" like their prototypes of Ephesus .- Toledo Blade (Dem). It is presumed that Mr. Foraker would be well pleased should John Sherman become a Presidental candidate-Washington Pos (Ind).

SENATOR SHERMAN will be returned to the Senate. The people have so declared, and the people must be obeyed.—Cleveland Leader (Rep). JOHN SHERMAN is coming down the course

an easy winner of the Ohio senatorial weepstakes. Foraker isn't in it, according to present appearances,-Boston Herald. SENATOR SHERMAN is said to be a "full fledged Presidental candidate." While there

is no reasonable doubt of Mr. Sherman's re-election to the United States Senate, it would, we think, be well enough to restrain the Presidental bee.-New York Advertiser (Rep).

It is said that John Sherman has re entered the race for the Presidency in order to save the country from financial lunacy. The old man has tried to save the country on three occasions already, but with singu lar indifference to its peril the country has each time played Emin to his Stanley .- St Louis Post Dispatch (Dem).

#### Biaine Will Be Born Again. Chicago Inter-Ocean. 1

Whenever Democrats get to be "Blaine protectionists," the sooner they begin to narch in the Republican column the better Blaine's record as a protectionist is clear and clean, and when a Democrat gets onto it he is "born again."

### Many Cranks in Congress,

Chicago Times, 1 Chicago Times, 1

There are a good many cranks in Congress
this year, but if their presence there will
frighten Wall street men away from the
capital they may count upon re-election.

### CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

-The City of Mexico has a population of -Forty-eight different dialects are found

n Mexico. -Blotting paper is made of cotton rags

boiled in soda -Harvard College has 219 courses in lib-

eral arts and sciences. -Florida has a man 28 years old and 41

nches high who weighs 50 pounds. -Yale College received \$343,395 in gifts, ranging from \$100 to \$50,000, last year.

-In 1890, 21,412 people were killed in India by snakes, and 510,650 snakes were killed by people.

-In the parrot's beak both mandibles are movable—a peculiarity unknown in other species of birds. -In 12 years the city of Paris has ex-

pended \$270,000 on statues and \$85,000 or ornamental rountains. -In West Southport, Me., a clam has recently been dug which measured 9x14 inches and weighed 14 ounces.

-The horse has no evebrows, and if much thite is visible in the eye itself it is a sure sign of a vicious nature

-In England and Scotland Saturday, Sunday and Monday are considered lucky days on which to get married.

-The University of Michigan has 2,750 students, a larger number than is enrolled in any other institution of its kind.

-The skin of a black deer is worth about \$500. One of these animals has recently been seen in Maine, and hunters are after it. -Fish swallow their food whole because

they are obliged to keep continually opening and closing the mouth for the purpose -The cargo ship of the future will be a ive-masted vessel with auxiliary steam

such as is now building on the Clyde. She will carry 6,000 tons. -Melbourne, Australia, which was ounded less than 50 years ago, has now a population of 500,000, and is the fifth city in size in the British Empire.

-The bog of Allen, Ireland, is the largest

unreclaimed bog, covering nearly a quarter of a million acres. The heating power of peat is about half that of coal, and it rms a very valuable article to the poor Irish peasant. -Rabbits, snakes, birds and fishes never close their eyes because unprovided with eyelids. The rabbit and the common barn-yard fowl are each provided with a thin membrane which is let down over the eye

when asleep or at rest. -The fox hound was so named because it vas originally kept as an addition to every pack of fox hounds. It was always noted for being up within a few minutes of run-ning to ground and aiding very materially in the capture of Reynard. -Bloodhounds derive their name from

the possession of a peculiar power of sceni-ing the blood of a wounded animal, so that f once put on the trail they will hunt the quarry through thick and thin and seldom, if ever, deviate from their course. -In the southern portion of Formosa the natives are of the Malay type, flerce, warlike

and cannibals in their babits. No white man has ever been among them, and no one knows their numbers. It would be as much as his life would be worth to go among them. -A handsome sarcophagus of Carrara marble is being constructed in Italy, in which the remains of Sebastian Lerdo de Tejada, a former President of Mexico, are to be guarded, and then placed in the rotunda for illustrious men in the Dolores Cemetery.

equest the Tapling collection of stamps, containing about 200,000 specimens, exclusive of many cards and envelopes, and valued at between \$250,000 and \$300,000. Mr. Tapling was more than 20 years in making it. It is pronounced the finest collection of stamps existing. -A Skye terrier is so called because the

-The British Museum has received as a

breed was once chiefly raised on the Island of Skye, one of the Hebrides. The celebrated Dandy Dinmont terrier obtained its distinctive title from the fact of its being depicted as the favorite of a character hearing that name in Sir Walter Scott's "Guy Mannering". Mannering. -Block Island is doubtless the most exclusive spot in the United States. There w up, marry and are buried with nt ever having touched the mainland, not

20 miles away. Only in summer is inter-course with the outside world encouraged. Almost everybody on the island is related to everybody else there -A Maine man bought a spring from a Boston firm. The firm sent it to him, paying 2 cents for postage. The bill was then forwarded for 2 cents-the cost of the spring and postage was paid on this. Then the Maine man sent the 2 cents to Boston and

the postage was again 2 cents, making a total of 6 cents paid out to collect 2 cents. -Gold is so very tenacious that a piece of it drawn into wire one-twentieth of an inch in diameter will sustain a weight of 500 pounds without breaking, says an exchange. Its malleability is so great that a single grain may be divided into 2,000,000 parts and a cubic inch into 9,523,809,529 parts, each of which may be distinctly seen by the naked

-In the Yoruba country, West Africa, the natives send messages by means of shells, feathers, peppers, corn, stones, coni, razors, powder and shot and many other things. The meaning of each object is known, and all of them together make up a sort of "code." by which intelligence relating to anything whatsoever may be trans-

-A missionary on the Middle Zambesi who has traveled over all that region, says the best maps of the country are very inaccurate; that rivers are laid down where they do not exist, and that numerous villages appear where there is not a trace of a human habitation. He says the maps are simply an aggravation to travelers, who are simply an aggravation to travelers, who are often put to inconvenience by relying on information which they find later to be inaccurate.

-The Island of Formosa is about 270 miles long and 140 wide. Ranges of mountains extend from the center to the southern portion. Some of the peaks are quite lofty, Mount Morrison being 12,000 feet high, and all are volcanic. Every little while there is a rumble in the center of one of the peaks the whole island is convulsed. The and the wh

#### the thermometer rarely getting below 40°. DIMMUTIVE LAUGHS.

He-There's a good deal to be said in favor of cremation.

She (shivering)—Yes, indeed. It's so clean and They skated together, but little they said,

For they'd just been made known to each other, But he wished, as they over the bright surface That they thus might through life be together. A crash, they went through-"Oh, how awkward," cried she.
"Tisn't deep, but has any one seen us?"

"Never mind-let me tell you-I love you," said

he, "Since the ice is now broken between us. Chicago Woman-I called to see about

getting a divorce.

Lawyer-What will be your charge?
Chicsgo Woman-That's all right; I won't charge
you anything.—N. Y. Herald. The leading man, in love sincere, Did seek the sweet soubrette to wed;

"I would accept you but for fear Of quarrels we might have," she said. The Thespian answered, as he smiled,

"Should such conditions e'er upgrow They'll readily be reconciled— We're skilled at 'making up,' you know." Husband-I've changed my mind abou that sealskin sacque, Mrs. Briggs.
Wife-I'm glad you've changed it, Mr. Briggs
You've needed a new one for the last 10 years.

Brooklyn Eagle. "Your son is a half back on the Mulli gatawny University eleven, is he not, Mr. Hicks?"
"He was this morning. I don't expect to se e than a quarter of him back to-night, though. -Harper's B

"Love is blind," they say:

Yet 'tis very funny That he sees much better When the girl has money. -Philadelphia Press Bessie (aged 6)-Mamma, what kind of

use will I live in if I get to heaven? Mamma-I don't know exactly, dear, but it wi be a beautiful, happy and delightful one.

Bessie (not exactly satisfied)—But what if th
janitor doesn't like children.—Chicago Tribuse.