

The Dispatch

ESTABLISHED FEBRUARY 8, 1846

Vol. 44, No. 28.—Published at Pittsburgh Postoffice No. 100, second-class matter.

Business Office—Corner Smithfield and Diamond Streets.

News Rooms and Publishing House 78 and 80 Diamond Street, in New Dispatch Building.

FASTEST ADVERTISING OFFICE, ROOM 27, TRIBUNE BUILDING, NEW YORK, where complete files of THE DISPATCH can always be found.

TERMS OF THE DISPATCH: TO ADVERTISERS: Daily Dispatch, per year, \$5.00; Daily Dispatch, per month, \$1.00; Daily Dispatch, including Sunday, 1 year, \$10.00; Daily Dispatch, including Sunday, 3 months, \$3.00; Daily Dispatch, including Sunday, 1 month, \$1.00; Sunday Dispatch, One Year, \$7.00; Weekly Dispatch, One Year, \$3.25; THE DISPATCH, delivered by mail, at 5 cents per week, including Sunday Edition, at 2 cents per week.

PITTSBURGH, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9.

TWELVE PAGES

MINI-CONSTRUCTION IMPOSSIBLE.

There is a disposition in some quarters to insist that Mr. Blaine's letter is not conclusive; but, making every allowance for its brevity and even frigidity, we do not see how it is at all possible to maintain the idea that he may yet be the Republican candidate for President.

Mr. Blaine certainly has no reason to be otherwise than frank and direct. We rather think the letter if anything, was meant to be specially frank and direct.

It is cause for national regret that the Republicans are not to be led this year by the brainiest man now in public life in the United States.

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so long as people eat bread and wear shirts, so long there is no fear that the farmers of both the West and South will be unable to find a market for their products.

AS TO DISCRIMINATIONS. There is a good deal of interest for Pittsburgh in the agitation of Philadelphia over the existence of railroad discriminations against her commerce.

There have been found that the rail routes afford the means of bringing rail traffic to that city from the West, from the lakes and from the interior of the State, the adjustment of rates is such that their grain obstinately goes to other cities.

All this is not unaccompanied with a certain unwholesome satisfaction to the Pittsburgh mind. For it happens to be the fact that the same or very similar inequities of freight rates were the subject of agitation for Pittsburgh business interests.

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people in this city who know how to talk. The only difficulty is to get them to talk on subjects outside the narrow limits of their own business and lives.

THOSE who believe that Mr. Holman is actuated solely by the force of honest convictions would do well to follow a service by adjusting themselves to provide him with an economic education.

WISH men searching after truth are accustomed to find it in unexpected places. The result of this instance is that Ward McAllister, the prince of foolish affectation and artificiality, states that "society" needs more simplicity.

There is a strong scent of truth in the suggestion that the Governor of New York is only a Hill-side Flower and would die were it uprooted from the rich soil which has nurtured it.

THE special delivery stamp is an institution of great convenience. One drawback to it is the absence of the particular kind of stamp and the distance from a postoffice from which it would rather be used.

THE order issued to conductors on the Panhandle Railroad, that in calling out the next place at which the train stops they shall inform passengers on which side they can alight in safety, should extend to all roads without delay.

INDIGENES in high places may be to accentuate the necessity for a change in the national characteristic—indiscriminate and hasty eating?

THE destructive and fatal fire at the Hotel Royal is likely to make things unpleasantly hot for New York's Superintendent of Buildings, as there is evidence of indignation on his part in permitting such a death trap to remain unaltered.

IMPROVEMENTS in the reports of Blaine's health may not be expected, but he will not be out of danger until after the nomination at least.

WOMAN in America is justly considered to have reached a further stage of emancipation than she enjoys in England.

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THE TAX PROBLEM

A Rental Value Basis Endorsed—The Paris Plan—Why Non-Property Owners Should Take An Interest in Municipal Elections.

With its usual quick-sightedness when the public well is concerned, THE DISPATCH has discussed the only remedy for the present municipal tax problem, namely: A system of taxation based upon rental values.

THE property of Paris is founded upon just such a system. It is to be believed a close observer of his studies of the Paris municipality, the tax per individual in that city is 10 per cent of the rental value of the property of the city, and yet the municipality is financially sound.

REVENUE THROWN AWAY. To be sure Paris exacts a tax from corporations. The tax from the street car and electric lines is as much as 50 per cent.

HOW much did the city of Pittsburgh receive for the privilege of laying the miles and miles of natural gas pipes beneath the streets of this city?

WHAT PROPERTY OWNERS WOULD DO. If even one branch of Councils could be composed of real estate owners there would be a speedy end to the wretched dealing with the public money.

OPERATIVE HOMEKEEPING. The University of J. J. [Special.] The University of the colleges held this evening, Joseph M. Huston, '92, who has been the chief organizer of the club, said Prof. Libbey had offered the use of a large hall at the University for \$800 a year.

RUSSIAN WILD HOGS. One of the Rare Beasts Killed After a Long and Hard Chase.

EMMA ABBOTT'S ASHES. Quietly Placed in the Grand Monument to Her Memory.

BLAINE'S WITHDRAWAL. WITHOUT Blaine, what? An open-to-all race, with the chances in favor of the perpetrating of a dark horse.

A PIONEER SHIPBUILDER GONE. Death in New Orleans of Captain John Hughes, a Man With a History.

NOT YET THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. Dave Hill is a Democrat, but we believe he is not yet the Democratic party.

BUTLER'S BOOK ONLY LOANED. No One Can Pay For a Copy Except For His Own Use.

FROM ST. LOUIS TO EUROPE. The Wheelback May Be Utilized to Carry Grain Without Breaking Bulk.

DETROIT FREE PRESS. An English syndicate has bought the cotton presses of New Orleans.

THE STARRY STRANGER

No Observation of the New Scotch Discovery Yet Made in the United States.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 8.—The news received from Boston of the discovery of a remarkable new star by a Scottish astronomer created much interest among scientists on the Pacific coast.

THE star, he said, is of such a magnitude as to be discerned in clear weather without any aid of telescope. It was distinctly seen through an ordinary pair of opera glasses.

MERIWETHER'S REVENGE. How a Cute Yankee Traveler Got Even in Europe.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The story of Mr. Lee Meriwether's recent experience with the students of the University of Washington who entered the country without proper papers and had no money with which to bribe them, has been published.

PRINCE OF THE EATING CLUB. Had Board on the Outside Leads to Cooperative Homekeeping.

THE dinner which Judge Kirkpatrick, of Sherman avenue, gave on last Saturday evening for his friend, Dr. George Merritt, of Cherry Valley, N. Y., was a most delightful and enjoyable affair.

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A FRAGRANT BOUQUET

Events of the Day Done Up in a Bundle, From Which the Reader May Choose Her Favorite Blossom—How the Pittsburgh World Wags.

It may be of interest to some in this town to know that the wedding dress of Miss Mitchell, who will be married to the Duke of Rothesford on Thursday, is to be of point lace draperies over white satin and diamonds.

A CORRESPONDENT, who shall be nameless, wishes to know whether or not it is proper to tell who will become a guest at the reception. Were THE DISPATCH a guest at a function, and wished to withdraw somewhat early—these are the conditions that are met.

SOME ten or a dozen years ago, when Major Wickensham lived in Pittsburgh, Mrs. Wickensham, who was a very accomplished entertainer in the city, gave a small dinner on her birthday.

A FEW invitations in advance have been received of Tanager Commandants reception in the Alvin Theater on Tuesday evening, February 23.

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CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

—Parley is poisonous to many kinds of birds.

—A request of \$200,000 has been made by Dr. Ignaz Hoppo, of the University of Basel, Switzerland, for the investigation of the nature of the soul.

—In the year 1463 Parliament passed a law which prohibited anyone from wearing shoes "with more than two inches longer than the foot."

—The Egyptian fellah is apparently too weak to till his field. Even on the palm tree, which gives him food and shelter the children are a year.

—Parents cannot name their children just what they please in Germany. By imperial order Government functionaries are forbidden to register any names of infants of Christian name bearing the slightest relation to politics.

—The sugar insect is of interest to the physician, as it may possibly be that the insect is found in raw sugar wool which is used in the treatment of some skin diseases.

—A well known fact is that the depth of the atmosphere is not uniform. It is 46 miles above the earth's surface. The air has the same law of air take 4,000 miles above the earth's surface would be a sphere of air fill a sphere 3,600,000 miles in diameter.

—Cloves are the unopened flower of a small evergreen tree that resembles in appearance the laurel or the bay. It is a native of the Malacca Islands, but has been carried to all the warmer parts of the world, and is now cultivated in the West Indies and America.

—It is said that two Parisian women who earn a livelihood by making artificial flowers, have hit on a process for dyeing natural flowers in brilliant hues. Public attention was called to the matter by artists who received a lot of flowers and some were williams of a bright green color.

—The throwing in the shoe is a relic of an Anglo-Saxon custom. In those early days the father delivered her shoe to the bride, and the bride, in turn, threw her shoe into the air, to denote his authority over her. This custom was probably founded upon the practice of the ancient Greeks, who threw their shoes at the feet of their bride.

—A man weighs less when the barometer is high, notwithstanding the fact that the atmosphere pressure on him is more than when the barometer is low. As the pressure is an ordinary-sized man is about 150 lbs. The weight of the air above him is about one ton to the load he has to carry.

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