DISPATCH, MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1892. THE PITTSBURG

# NEW POSTAL FRAUDS. Queer Facts and Figures About Mr. Wanamaker's Department. LATEST TRICKS OF SHARPERS. The Green Goods Eusiness Grows and Thieving Increases. RUIN FROM THE FOUR-POUND PACKAGE WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 .- If the "mls-

sing word" puzzle, which has become such a craze in England, strikes this country, the Postoffice Department promptly shut it out of the will mails. Such guessing contests would be excluded on the same ground as any other speculation in chances, so that this new form of gambling is not likely to be successfully introduced on this side of the water. The Louisiana Lottery is still active, but its tickets and literature are transmitted exclusively by express, being sold and distributed by local agents in various towns and cities. This the Government does not care to interfere with, so long as the swindlers do not attempt to employ Uncle Sam's post for their purposes.

The Postmaster General has finally forbidden the certification of money orders and registered letters from this country to William Lord Moore, of London. This nan has for many years pursued very profitably the business of a "claim agent" for supposed American heirs to properties in England. The postoffice authorities feel no little anxiety on account of the rapid increase in the number of robberies of postoffices. During the last fiscal year more than eleven hundred postoffices were pillaged by burglars.

Mail Robbing Is Growing.

When it is considered that during the previous twelve mouths only 868 postoffices were entered by thieves, it will be seen how fast this form of crime is growing. Notwithstanding the long terms of im-prisonment prescribed by law for highway robbery, 49 stages carrying the mails were held up and robbed last year. Only the most reckless and dangerous desperadoes attempt this kiud of exploit, and for the capture of such criminals a standing re-ward is offered. During the same twelvemonth 345 mail-pouches were cut and their contents stolen. Of course, more or less of the pilfering of the post is done by postal employes, 231 of whom were arrested for such offenses.

During the last fiscal year 33,000 letters were dropped for mailing without any address whatever on the envelopes. Inas-much as this represents an increase of 17 per cent over the previous twelve-month, it would appear that the public is becoming rapidly more careless in the conduct of its correspondence.

At Christmas-time money is sent through the mails in all sorts of queer ways. Bills are concealed in fingers of gloves and mit-tens knitted by elderly female relatives. Sums in cash are inclosed in boxes of candy and wrapped up with merchandize of all kinds. Coins are inserted in pieces of pasteboard. In Europe they are usually sent that way, because over there it is against the law to transport anything made of gold or silver by post. Bank notes are sometimes rolled up like lamplighters and laid in the fold of a letter.

Thieving Employes Become Expert. This is an excellent way to manage where bills must be sent in an envelope, because their presence cannot easily be distin-guished by feeling or smelling. Thieving employes in postoffices sometimes attain such expertness that they can readily detect either an old or a new bank-note in a sealed letter by smell. One clerk who was caught in such depredations a while ago satisfied the curiosity of the detectives who captured him by selecting without a mistake, though blindfolded, seven missives con-

A DETECTIVE IN TROUBLE. THE CHRISTMAS TIDE. His Sweetheart Sues Him for Assault and Battery and Pointing Firearms. G. D. Hammond, a detective employed by the Merchants' Detective Agency, of Pittsburg, who was arrested in Allegheny on Saturday night for raising a disturbance on Saturday night for raising a disturbance at No. 20 Montgomery avenue, was given a partial hearing before Police Magistrate Brinker yesterday morning. John An-drews, in whose house the disturbance took place, has in his employ Miss Carrie Thompson as a domestic, and Hammond has been paying her considerable at-tention of late. On Saturday night be called upon her shortly after 7 o'clock, while she was at work in the kitchen. He was considerably under in the kitchen. He was considerably under the influence of liquor, and following the girl into the scullery insisted that she should quit work and go down street with him. She declined to accompany him, and he, becoming angry, caught her around the

neck, and pointing a revolver in her face neck, and pointing a revolver in her face said he would shoot her it she did not do as he desired. The girl was badly frightened and screamed for help. Miss Laura Andrews ran into the kitchen, when Hammond pointed the re-volver at her, threatening to shoot. Miss ompson knocked the revolver out of Hammond's hand, and picking up the weapon hid it. Hammond was arrested. He says he called upon the girl to take her down street and buy her a pair of shoes for a Christmas gift, and while waiting for her to get through with her evening's work showed her his revolver: that as he was doshowed her his revolver; that as he was doing so Miss Andrews came into the room, and catching sight of the weapon got scared. Miss Thompson says Hammond always treated her respectfully until Saturday evening, and that he frequently called on her and took her out walking. Detective John Glenn said last night that M. Dean, of the Merchants' Detective Agency, told him that Hammond is a married man with several small children, but Miss Thompson says she believes that such is not true. She will make an information against him before Alderman Brinker this morning for assault and battery and pointing firearms.

#### ORIGIN OF THE CYCLONES.

lecent Developments Show That They Originate in the Upper Regions.

There has been of late a tendency toward change of view in regard to the origin of those widespread storms known as cyclones. M. Faye, the French astronomer, has long argued that they originate in the upper regions of the atmosphere, iustead of at the surface of the earth.

Recently Mr. W. L. Dallas has announced as the result of his studies of the cyclones of the Indian Ocean, that the probability seems to him to be that those whirling "descend from and retreat to the storms

superior layers of the atmosphere." Much more study will be required, however, to settle the question, but it is surely most interesting to think that storms should come to us in the way suggested. The at-mosphere is a sort of ocean, at whose bot-tom we dwell, and if M. Faye's view is cor-rect, the storms that whirl over us must first lash the air far above our heads, just as a whirl started in water may bore its way down toward the bottom, and disturb the little fishes there.

## The Island of St. Paul.

Nobody will grudge France her latest acquisitons in the Indian Ocean. St. Paul, one of the two islands on which the French flag now floats, . is volcanic, is about two miles long, and "comparatively bare." New Amsterdam lies 50 miles further to the north. It is densely vegetated, and conse-quently more valuable, but is also small in size. It was at New Amsterdam that H. M. S. Megora went ashore in June, 1871, and the crew had to remain there for 11 weeks.

Robert Eismere in London.

A "powerful appeal" on behalf of the pre-eminent birth testival. settlement in Gordon square, "University Hall," which is an attempt to realize the Robert Elsmere, has be by Mrs. Humphrey Ward, and is to be issued as a supplement to the leading Uni-tarian weekly newspaper of London. The "Robert Elsmere" idea does not appear to be thriving in London.

Dr. Talmage Draws Some Lessons From the Holiday Season. ILLUSTRIOUS BIRTHDAY. AN

Each Day a Good or Great Man Is Born to the World, but None Like Christ. REFLECTION AND JOY SHOULD REIGN

BROOKLYN, Dec. 25. - The sermon reached by Rev. Dr. Talmage this morning was of a character especially appropriate to the holiday season, and was listened to with rapt attention by an audience that crowded the Tabernacla. Before beginning his discourse the preacher gave out the opening hymn:

Joy to the world, the Lord has come, Let earth receive her King.

The text selected was Colossians ii., 16: 'In respect of a holy-day." What the Bible here and elsewhere calls

a holy-day, we, by change of one letter and change of pronunciation, call holiday. I am glad that this season we have the

holidays completely bounded. For years, Christmas Day, starting in the midst of one week, and New Year's Day, starting in the midst of another week, we have been perplexed to know when the holidays began and when they ended, and perhaps we may have begun them too soon or continued them too long. But this year they are bounded by two beaches of gold: Sabbath, December 25, 1892, and Sabbath, January 1, 1893. The one Sabbath this year com-memorates the birth of the greatest being that ever walked the earth; the other celebrates the birth of that which is to be one of the greatest years of all\*time. I propose that we divide this holiday season, the two Sabbaths of the holiday

and the six days between into three chapters. The first part a chapter of illustrious birthday; the second part a chapter of annual decadence; the third part a chapter of chronological introduction.

Christ's Birth the Greatest, First, then, a chapter of illustrious birthday. Not a day of any year but has been marked by the nativity of some good or great soul. But what are all those birthdays compared with December 25, for on or about that day was born one who eclipsed all the great names of all the centuries-Jesus of Bethlehem, Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus of Golgotha, Jesus of Olivet, Jesus of the Heavenly Throne? The greatest pictures have been made about scenes in His lifetime.

The greatest sacrifices on field of battle or in hospital, or in long march, or in martyrdom have been inspired by His self-abnegation. The finest words of eloquence ever spoken have been uttered in the proclamation of His Gospel. The greatest oratorios that have ever rolled from orchestras were descriptive of His life and death. There have been other orators, but none like Him who "spake as never man spake."

There have been other reformers, but none likeHim who will not have completed His mission until the last prison is ventilated and the last blind eye opened and the last deaf ear unstopped and the last lame foot bounds like a roe and the last case of dementia shall come to its right mind. There have been other discoveries, but none like Him, able to find how man may be just with God. There have been other deliverers, but none like Him, the rescuer of na-tions. There have been other painters, but none likeHim who put the image of God on a lost soul. No wonder we celebrate His birth. Protestant Church, Catholic Church, Greek Church, St. Isaac's of St. Petersburg, St. Peter's at Rome, the Madeline at Paris, St. Paul's in London, joining all our Amer-ican cathedrais and churches and log-cabin meeting-houses and homes in keeping this

The Star of Bethlehem. Elaborate and prolonged efforts have een made to show that the star that are better kept and drunkenness turns to sobriety, and bribery, fraud and dissipation CHRISTMAS SERVICES. quit the land.

quit the land. The Clock Won't Stop. "Stop, oh, clock in the tower of the great United States capitol." "No, no," says the clock, "I have been going on so long I cannot afford to stop. I sounded the birth-day of American independence. I rang out the return of peace in 1865. I have seen many Presidents insugurated. I struck the hour of Lincoln's assassination. I have beat time for Emancipation, Proclamation and Chicago free and Charleston earthquake and epidemics of fever atd cholera. Na-tions never stop. They march on towards salvation or demolition. And why should I stop? I chime for the national holidays. I toll for the mighty dead. I must go on.

I toll for the mighty dead. I must go on. I must go on. Tick-tock! Tick-tock!"

There may be a difference of a few seconds or a few minutes in the timepleces, but it will be a serious occasion when next Saturday night about the same hour the family clocks and the city clocks and the national clocks strike One! Two! Three!

national clocks strike One! Two! Three! Four! Five! Six! Seven! Eight! Nine! Ten! Eleven! Twelve! Sorry am I to have 1892 depart this life. It has been a good year. What bright days! What starry nights! What harvests! What religious convocations! What triumphs of art and science and invention and enter-prise and religion! But, alas, how sacred it has been with sorrows. What pillows hot with fever that could not be cooled! What graves opening wide enough to take down beauty and strength and usefulness! What octogenarians putting down the staff of earthly pilgrimage and taking the crown of heavenly reward!

#### A Mingling of Emotions.

What mingling of emotions in this clos-ing year! What orange blossoms for the marriage altar and what myrtle for the tombs of the dead! Hosannas and lamenta-tions in collision. Anthem and dead march mounting from the same ivory keys. Before this year quite leaves the earth, let it hear our repentance for opportunities that can never return. Kind words spoken too late or not spoken at all. Means of getting good or doing good so completely gone by that the archangel's voice could not recall them. Can it be that this year is

closing and our sins are unforgiven and we have no certainty that when our last December the 31st has sped away we shall en-ter a blissful eternity? The most overwhelm-ingly solemn week of all the year is the

last week of December. But on opening this subject, "In respect of a holy-day," as my text puts in, or a holiday as we moderns write and pronounce it, I advised that you divide this season it is advised that you divide this senson into three chapters: The first a chapter of illustrious birthday, fhe second a chapter of annual decadence, and the third a chap-ter of chronological introduction, and this last chapter we have reached.

### Brought in the New Year,

In olden times there was a style of closing an old year and opening a new one that was very suggestive. The family would sit up until 12 o'clock at night, and when the clock struck 12 the family would all go to the front door of the house, take down the bar and turn back the lock and swing the door wide open to to let the Old Year out and the New Year in. And that is what we are going to do. With the same measured step that time has kept since it started it will come to our door in the closing night of this week. With what spirit shall we let the New Year in? I have already indicated New Year in? I have already indicated that it is to be one of the greatest years of all chronology. "Why?" you ask. "Have you any forebodings or premonitions?" "No." "Are you expecting the millen-nium this year?" "No." "Why, then, say this about the coming year?" For the sim-ple reason that I find as the years go by they become more and more eventful. Compare the ninetcenth century with the eighteenth century. Compare the first half of this century with the last half. The surges of this ocean of time are rolling higher and higher. The forces of right and wrong are rapidly multiplying and their wrong are rapidly multiplying and their struggles must be intensified. It is a chronological fact that we are all the time coming nearer to the world's Edenization first and then to its incineration, to its redemption and its demolition.

Expects a Greater Year. so I expect that 1893 will greater year than 1892. Its wedding bells will be merrier. Its obsequies will be sadder. Its scientific discoveries more brilliant. Its prosperities more significant, Its oppning more grand. Its termination stupendous. Look out for 1893! Let printers have in their cases of type plenty of exclamation points to set up a sudden paragraph. Let the conservatories have profusion of flowers that can be twisted into garlands. Let churches have plenty of oom for increased assemblages. Let men and women have more religion to meet the vacillations and the exigencies and the de-mands and the raptures and the woes of this oming 1893. In what mood shall we open the door of the New Year? With faith strong faith, buoyant faith, triumphant faith. God will see you through. His grace will be sufficient if you trust Him. You can go to Him at any time and find sympathy.

that I want to speak, for we are wont to look upon it as some evanescent thing, some whill of emotion, or breeze of trau-Floral Decorations and Sweet Harmonies Draw Crowds to Hear

THE STORY OF CHRIST'S BIRTH.

Special Arrangements Made to, Attract the Younger Members.

CHURCH CHOIRS LARGELY AUGMENTED

The church bells rang out merrily on the wintry air yesterday morning and welcomed the people to the Christmasservices. Their pealing was a little louder and their chiming a little livelier, than was their wont. It was a day for special thanksgiving and most fittingly did the various churches of the two cities observe the most sacred day

in the Christian calendar.

Most of the congregations had made ample preparations for the morning services, both in the way of artistic decorations and enticing exercises. The pastors had chosen fitting themes for their Yule-tide sermons, and were to again narrate the incidents of Bethlehem and tell the old story of the birth of the Savior. The people never seem to tire of the narrative, and

the attendance at all the churches was unusually large.

A Great Day for Children.

The children were in their glory, and with their brightest smiles turned out in large numbers. The Christmas season is the harvest time for the Sunday schools, as it is a rare thing that they are not crowded at this time of the year. The annual treat is a great temptation to a youngster's heart, and the usual bag of candy is too great a temptation to be resisted. Special programmes had been provided and all the schools were crowded yesterday. Christmas falling on Sunday made it all the more appropriate and induced many more extra preparations in the interests of the children than would have been otherwise possible. As a rule the annual treats were held on Saturday evening, but this added none the less to the

interest taken. The feature in the various churches was the special choral service. Elaborate programmes had been prepared and were ren-dered in a masterly way, as the choirs were fully able to render anything that was brought before them. The attendance was for the most part very large, and there were few empty pews. The decorations were profuse in all the places of worship and were in harmony with the occasion.

#### A Strong Double Quartet.

At the First Presbyterian Church the musical programme was rendered by a double quartet, consisting of Mrs. William B. Wolfe and Mrs. Cowan, sopranos; Miss M. E. Bankerd and Miss Ella Semple, altos; Daniel E. Nuttall and Ramsey, tenors, and John A. Strouss and Wagner, bassos; John A. Bell, choirmaster and organist.

James N. Bebout was the choirmaster at the Second Presbyterian Church. The quartet consisted of C. C. Rinehart, Jr., tenor; J. N. Bebout, basso; Miss Edith Harris, contralto, and Miss Irene Sample, soprano. Miss Adele Reahard was the organist.

Rev. A. W. Arundel, paster of the Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church, took Christmas a notable one. A vested choir of 40 men and boys rendered the music. Mrs. Julia M. B. Huntington was the director

and James Dodsworth, organist. The Fourth Avenue Baptist Church choir, under the direction of Simeon Bissell, as-slated by Madame Schiemedeke, harpist, and Edward Rothleder, violinist, rendered an excellent programme Christmas morn-ing. The soloists were Miss Mackintosh, soprano; Wallace Moody, tenor; Charles F. Kahn, basso. Mr. Moody's solo in the enthem "Mangar of Bathabam" are adanthem, "Manger of Bethiehem," was admirably rendered, as was also Mr. Kahn's solo. Miss Mackintosh has a very sweet

quility that now and again will pass over the soul, leaving it reireshed. While these manifestations are often felt by one possessing the spiritual blessing, they are merely incidential features and concomitants and should not be conflicted with the real bless-ing which manifests itself in the upbuilding of pure characters—which enables us to wage a life-time warfare if necessary with the powers of darkness. The real blessing is a substantial thing. Why is it that people complain? Why is it people grow weary of life and sometimes take their own lives? It is not because their troubles are unbearable, but because with them they have the consciousness of sin unforgiven, a feeling of helplessness, and a burden of guilt which they cannot rid themselves of and which ever accumulates. Let these sins be forgiven and this burden sing the spiritual blessing, they are merely

# be removed and they can endure anything, because they have a hope of something per-manent in the future. Is not the Chris-tians' blessing a substantial thing?" A Festival Service.

A Sunday school Christmas festival service was held at the St. James Episcopal Church, Penn avenue, last evening. No regular sermon was preached, but some some special musical numbers were render-ed by the choir. The interior of the church was beautifully decorated, the choir box and rostrum being festooned with garlands.

Let these sins be forgiven and this burden

Services at the Jail, Mr. J. W. McFarland talked to the prisoners at the county jail yesterday. Good singers assisted in the religious ceremonies.

## NEWS FOR WHSELMEN.

An Important Convention to Be Held at Philadelphia Next February.

The League of American Wheelmen will hold a constitutional convention at Philadelphia on February 20, when some material change will be made in the constitution and rules of the league. Outside of the election of new officers, the amateur question will be taken up, and admission of colored members to the league also disconsect. The Racing Board, it is under-stood, will propose the adoption of two classes of riders, an amateur and semi-pro-fessional class. They anticipate by this move to keep men against whom they have any proof of semi-professionalism from competing in the amateur class.

The National Cyclist Union of England are contemplating adopting like measures in regard to their amateur definition. Both the L A. W. and the National Cyclist Union realize that to approve of cash prizes will injure cycling, and in consequence are practically compelled to recognize semiprofessional classes.

The wheelmen of the South intend mak-ing a determined fight at the coming convention of the L. A. W. against the admis-sion of colored riders. The Northern divisions are less conservative. They contend that in an organization like the L. A. W. no restrictions should be placed upon the membership. The attempt to keep colored men out of the League is likely to occasion considerable trouble.

The L. A. W. officials have already begun work upon the international race meet to be held at Chicago next August. The selection of H. E. Raymond, the chairman of the L. A. W. Racing Board, as Presi-dent of the International Cyclists' Union places almost the entire management of the races in the hands of the L. A. W. The American racing men will have their first

opportunity in many years to encounte bons-fide champions from all countries. The L. A. W. will likely have official timers next season. The N. C. U., of Eng-land, have had official timers for some years, and no question has ever been raised

# THE FLY-BROWN MUSHROOM.

ing next year.

about the legality of their records. They are now discussing the advisability of shav-

ing official judges to officiate at their meet-

Bark or the Tree Itself. Peculiar Intoxicating Effact of a Species in San Francisco Chronicle.]

# A WAR OF WHEELMEN

The National Military Cycling Company Has a Falling Out.

A NEW ORGANIZATION TO FOLLOW.

The Crusade for Good Country Roads to Be Kept Up With a Will.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS ARE IN DEMAND

# (SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCE.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 .- Everything has not been smooth sailing in the Military Cycle Company, and a number of resignations have followed the trouble between the captain and the first lieutenant. Angry words passed between some of the parties to the trouble, and more than a dozen members resigned.

Arrangements are now on foot for the organization of a new separate company. which will not come under the orders of the District National Guard. Lieutenant Libby and Sergeant Crook are interested in the new organization, and they hope to form a company with social features which will put them on a basis with other independent companies. One of the most interesting volumes that

has been published for some time, and one that is likely to have a wide circulation among wheelmen, is General Ordway's "Cycle Infantry Drill Regulations." It is the first volume of its kind ever published, notwithstanding the fact that the bicycle has been in use in the armies of Europe and Great Britain for several years past,

Fills One of Those Long Felt Wants.

The book is the result of research and study, and fully justifies the amount of study, and fully justifies the amount of time and labor expended in its preparation. It will be introduced among the bicycle corps of the National Guard, where the need of such a work has long been felt. Chief Consul Stinemetz presided at the meeting of the local division, League of American Whathere willow for the such

American Wheelmen, called for the pur-pose of selecting representatives of this division at the annual meeting in Phila-delphia, February 20. The delegates elected were Messra. Overman, Perry, At-water and VanDoren. This division is entitled to so many delegates because of the larce membership, there being about 1,000 members on the roll at present. This increase is due to the exertion of local wheelmen who endeavored to secure the prizes offered for new members. Many of the members are not wheelmen, and, as the constitution provides the candidates for membership must be amateur wheelmen, it

is likely that the right of this division to have so many representatives will be questioned. Southerners Will Turn Out Well,

The fact that the national convention will be held at Philadelphia will insure a good attendance from the southern contingent of wheelmen. The color line is certain to be one of the important problems that will be broached at the meeting. A warm fight over it is expected, but the general opinion is that it will result in the exclusion of the negro from the league. This will be deplored in a good many sections, but it is apparently the only alternative of a north and south split in the whole body, and there is no question in the minds of the great body of riders as to which is the

preferable course. The subject of good roads will also re-ceive attention, and good missionary work will be done among the rural communities in awakening interest in the improvement of the country roads. It is possible that the question of a series of national highways will also be broached, and interest awakened in the proposition, if nothing

# HOW AN AUSTRALIAN CLIMBS TREES,

The Usual Way Is to Cut Notches Into the A black never uses his knees when climb-

ing. If the tree is small in girth they some-

times use a vine, passing it around the tree

most common way however, is to ascend by

means of notches cut into the tree or back

about one and a half inches deep and about

three feet apart. Having fixed upon the

side he intends ascending, the climber cuts

a notch with his stone tomahawk about

the height of his waist and another on a

Istni p bille out of 400.

The Fourth Assistant Postmaster General in his report issued a few days ago states that the Department is making no headway against the most important of all frauds which are conducted through the mail-namely, the; "greengoods" business. In fact, this nefarious industry seems to be growing rapidly. It is positively known that the whole of this fraudulent enterprise, which extends its operations all over the United States, is conducted by a single gang in New York, the head of which is a newhat notorious sporting man, and no evidence can be obtained against him.

#### Hard on Country Merchants,

The provision of law which allows four pound packages to go by mail is a cause o much complaint. The system causes wail-ing and gnashing of teeth among shopkeepers in small towns. They are being ruined by it. Suppose, for example, that a woman living in a community of a few hundred or a few thousand inhabitants wants to buy a dress for Christmas. Instead of purchasing it at the local shop, she writes to a great drygoods firm in the nearest large city and procures samples. Having selected stuff she wants, she sends on a money order for the price and gets in return the material at a cheap rate by mail. Thus the huge metropolitan emporium fattens at the expense of the provincial merchants. In return for the taking away of a great part of their business by Uncle Sam, the express companies have within recent years become important rivals of the Government in the transmitting of money. Their rates are much less than those charged by the Postoffice Department for sums exceeding \$15, and it is partly for this reason that the Department contemplates a reduction of about one-third in its prices for money orders above \$15. At this eason of the year the outflow of cash from the United States to foreign countries by postal money orders is enormous. Irish Americans particularly send great sums just before Christmas to their relatives in the Green Isle. About \$3,000,000 goes to Ireland annually from the United States in the shape of money orders.

#### Millions for Europe's Paupers.

Striking a balance between the \$3,000,000 received in foreign money orders by this country yearly and the \$13,000,000 sent across the water, it appears that we contribute nearly \$1,000,000 a month to the support of pauper Europe. Money orders 20 years old and more are sometimes offered to the Postoffice Department for payment, Of course, they are not valid after the lanse of one year, but duplicates are always issued in such cases.

The people of this country used during the last fiscal year more than 12,000,000,000 postage stamps and paid nearly \$30,000,000 for them. They are all manufactured by the American Bank Note Company, in New York, which supplies them by contract at a cost to the Government of 7 cents and a traction per 1,000.

During the last year 60 mail clerks were seriously injured on the rail and 112 were slightly hurt. Five were killed-two in collisions, one by the fall of a train from a trestle, and two by putting their heads in-cautiously out of the doors of their cara. But this was a small death rate, as may be seen by the fact that during the first three months of the present fiscal year 13 postal clerks met with fatal accidents. Yet the Government makes no provision for the support of their families when they die in

#### Frightened Her Sister.

Annie Edmundson, sbout 20 years old, whose home is on Duquesne Heights, fell in an epileptic fit last night at the corner of Fifth avenue and Smithfield street. The occurrence, with the hysterical cries of her sister who accompanied her, created quite a sensation. Both girls were taken to the Duquesne Pharmacy, where the sister cried at an alarming rate, saying Annie would surely die. In half as hour the efforts of several gentlemen restored the girl to her normal condition and she went home.

A MERCANTILE SENSATION.

#### Retail Grocers Taking a Hand in the Combine Business

mbus, O., Journal.)

There has for some time been a breach between the wholesale and retail grocers in this city, which has, by what the retailers call arbitrary action upon the part of the wholesalers, become so widened that a reconciliation now seems impossible. As claimed by the retail men the wholesale grocers have been selling goods to restau-ranters, hotel and boarding house keepers in job lots at little over wholesale prices, thereby shutting the retail merchants out of this class of trade to which they claim they are entitled. The retailers allege also that the wholesalers are combining to trol prices in their own favor, and that they are declining to sell, or boycotting, popu-lar brands of goods which, owing to their having become standard articles, are ordinarily sold at small profits, in order to force the retailers to make a market for other brands, upon which the wholesalers and jobbers can make larger profits or are themselves interested as manufacturers. This action, the retailers claim, compels them to go to the manufacturers direct for many articles, and they have found that by combining and buying in large quantities they can save the middlemen's profits and besides procure at all times the brands of

goods which they want and which are the most saiable. Several meetings of the retail grocer have been held for the purpose of devising some means of protection against this al-leged unfair action of the wholesalers. The result is that the retailers have decided to organize a joint stock company, each grocer goes into the organization to contrib ute \$1,000 to the capital stock, the capital to be double the number of subscribing members. They propose to buy their own goods of all kinds direct from the jobbers and manufacturers from whom the whole salers get them. They argue that the per cent charged them by the local wholesale men will more than sustain the gigantic enterprise into which they propose to em-bark. Sixty of the leading grocers have subscribed \$1,000 each to the capital stock, which gives \$60,000 to start on. The capital stock of the organization will be \$150,000, and the remainder, it is expected, will be taken by other grocers who will want the protection which the combination will af-ford. Subscribers will not be limited to this city, but will embrace retailers in every section which can economically draw

its supplies from Columbus. It is stated that combinations of this kind have been effected in other States and have been immensely successful. It is not unusual for a wholesale house, with no larger trade than is required to supply a combination of 40 retail grocers, to make a profit of \$50,000 to \$75,000 a year. To this the retailers made no objection so long as the wholesalers supplied them with such goods as their trade demanded, and did not at tempt to interfere with their legitimate customers. If, however, they argue, they are compelled to send to the manufacturers for some brands of goods which the wholesalers are trying to boycott, and also compete with

them for trade with the consumer, they might as well enter into competition all along the line. Those most enthusiastic in the movement favor it as a money-making scheme, as well as one of protection against all sorts of pools and combinations. Property has been procured at the south-west corner of Third and Main streets for

the erection of a large jobbing house for the reception and distribution of goods. The reporter was informed that the organi-ration would be complete in a few days and that the company would be in full opera-tion shortly thereafter, with temporary quarters somewhere until they could erect their own building.

pointed to the manger in which Christ was born was not what it appeared to be, but a conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn. Our wise men of the West say that the wise men of the East were mistaken. In order to take everything supercatural out of the story, we have to blind the eyes of the Magi and introduce a second star to help out the idea of the one star. But I prefer the simple story of the Bible, that a light of some kind-stellar or meteoric-pointed from the sky to the straw cradle. When it s so easy for God to make a world that He nuts eighteen millions of them within one weep of the telescope, he could certainly afford one silvery or fiery signal of some kind to point the world to the place where the Sovereign of the Universe lay incar-nated and infantile. If God could afford to make an especial earthquake at the crucifixion-the aslant rocks on Mt. Calvary still snowing that there was a convulsion of nature at that particular point which was felt in none of the surroundings-then he could afford something unusual, something brilliant, something positive, something

tremendous at the nativity. As the finger of light that December 25th pointed to the straw cradle, now all the fingers of Christendom this moment, fingers of childhood and old age, fingers of sermon and song and decoration and festivity point to the great straw cradle.

Jollity Should Reign Supreme,

Am I not right in saying that the first of the three chapters of the holidays should be devoted to the illustrious birthday? By song and prayer and solemn reflection and charities to-day, and by gitts and trees that bear fruit in an hour after they are planted, and family gathering and hilarities sounding from cellar to garret to-morkeep Christmas. As far as possible, gather the children and the grandchildren, but put no estoppel on racket, whether of laughter or swift feet or toys in shape of trains or trumpets or infant effigy. Let the old folks for one day at least say nothing about rheumatism, or prospect of early demise, or the degeneracy of modern times, or the poison in confectionery. If you cannot stand the noise, retire from it for a little while into some other room and stop your ears. Christmas for children without plenty of noise is no Christmas at

The second chapter of the holidays must speak of annual decadence. This is the last Sabbath of the year. The steps of the year are getting short, for it is old now. When it waved the springtime blossoms, the year was young, and when it swung the scythe and cradle through the summer-harvest fields, the year was strong; but it is getting out of breath now, and after six more throbs of the pulse will be dead. We cannot stop this annual decadence. Set all the clocks back, set all the watches back, set all the chronometers back, but you cannot set Time back.

## Great Evils to Be Bighted.

But there is a great city clock, high up in the tower. There are so many wrongs in all our cities to be righted, so many evils to be extirpated, so many prisons to be sani-taried; stop the city clock until all these things are done. Let Common Council and all the people of the great town decree that the City Hall clock shall stop. We do not want the sins of 1892 to be handed over to 1893. We do not want the young year to inherit the misfortunes of the old year. By ledder: lifted to the towar and he stream ladders lifted to the tower and by strong hands take hold and hait the city clock. "No, no," says the city clock, "I cannot wait until you correct all evils or soothe all sorrow or drive out all sin. I have been counting the steps of your progress as city. I have seen your opportunities. I

have deplored your neglects; but time wasted is wasted forever. I must go on. I must go on. Tick-tock! Tick-tock!" But in the tower of the capitois at Wash-

ton and London and Berlin and Vienna and all the great national capitals there are clocks. Suppose that by Presidental proclamation and resolution of Senate and House of Representatives our national clock in the capitol turnet be ordered to stop. "Stop, oh, clock! until sectional an-imosities are cooled off, until our Sabbaths stop.

Thus in three chapters I have counseled that the holidays be grouped. May noth-ing interfere with their felicities. May they be so spent that they will be food for pleasant reminiscence further on. Oh, that these delightful holidays of earth may fit us for those more delightful holidays of heaven!

### The Chiltern Hundreds.

The forced resignations of several men bers of Parliament recalls a curious method of procedure in such cases. A member of Parliament is not permitted to resign in the ordinary way. To do so he must hold an office or position of honor under the crown. To overcome this difficulty an odd scheme was fixed upon about 150 years ago. In early times the Chiltern Hills, in Buckinghamshire, were infested by robbers. To protect the inhabitants an officer was appointed, who was known as the Steward of the Chiltern Hundreds. The necessity for such an office has long ago ceased to exist, but retiring members of Parliament have found a use for it. Forbidden to resign without holding a crown office, they apply for the Chiltern Hundreds, which is no sooner obtained when it is in turn resigned leaving a vacancy always existing for those who desire to follow. If it should happen, however, that the Hundreds are not vacant, the stewardship of the manors of East Hen dred, Nothshead and Hempholme are at the

disposal of the Commoners. The legality of this method of resigning has been questioned, but never in such a manner as to prevent a member from taking advantage of this privilege if he de sired. There is one instance of its having been refused. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has the granting of the gift. As the result of several bribery cases in 1842, cortain members applied for the Chiltern Hundreds, but were refused on the ground that by so doing the Chancellor would make himself a party to the corrupt proceedings.

#### Relay Races in the Future.

Saxony's Home Minister, replying to complaint from the Dresden Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals that the recent Berlin-Vienna military ride was the occasion of gross cruelty to the horses, savs the complaint is in many respects well founded, but he is not able to exercise any direct influence in the matter. He communicated with the War Office, and from that source the society has the meager satisfaction of learning that it may be expected should any similar rides take place in the future the experience gained in the one in question will not be lost.

#### Tied Up for, an Hour.

Two accidents on the Citizens' Traction line last night delayed travel over an hour. About 7 o'clock in the evening a car on the Butler street branch ran off the track at Eleventh street. After 45 minutes' hard work it was put on. The blocked cars extended to Seventh street. Shortly after car 114 of the same branch broke an axle at Fifteenth street, and another delay of a half our occurred until the track could be patched up.

and sympathetic voice.

The usual Christmas services in the Cath olic churches were uniformly observed throughout the city. This is one of the most earnestly observed days of the year by the Catholics and is always a time for special services. Mass was said at 5:30 and was followed by services at 10:30 o'clock.

Special Services in Catholic Churches,

Some of the Catholic churches held spe cial exercises commemorative of the biblical story of Bethlehem. At St. Paul's Cathedral Thomas K. Kirk was director of the quartet, with Miss Alice Carter, organist. The quartet consisted of Miss Grace Miller, soprano; Mrs. William Loeffler, contralto; Joseph C. Briel, tenor, and Lawrence A. Rickett, baritone. These were assisted by a large choir, and the ser-These vices were on an elaborate scale. Perhaps one of the most interesting exer

cises in the entire city was that given at the St. Malachy's Church under the dire tion of rather James J. McTighe yesterday afternoon. He had arranged the exercises of the school and were very interesting. The parts were taken entirely by childre Some of the leading characters were only 7 years old, but filled their parts most acceptably. It was intended to represent by dialogues, speeches and tab-leaux the events as they occurred. The principals were in costume and the exercises passed off most successfully. It is in tended to repeat the exercises during each afternoon of this week. The reciting of a poem composed by Father McTighe, called "Bethlehem," was executed by Miss Katie Discon, aged 11 years, most effectively, while a sermon by Master Harry Collery, aged 7 years, was excellently done.

# THE BEEAD OF LIFE.

The Significance of the Lord's Birth ar the Regeneration of Man.

Rev. John Whitehead preached yesterday morning at the New Jerusaiem Church. Allegheny, on the signification of the Lord's birth in Bethlehem in its relation to the regeneration of man. He said Bethlehem in the Hebrew language means the house of bread, and natural bread which nourishes the body is named in the Word to represent that which sustains the soul. The Lord is called the bread of life, the living bread

which comes down from heaven, and He feeds man's soul by instruction in the divine truth of the Word. The truth teaches how one should live, and as he lives according to the truth he receives genuine good of life. Spiritual good or spiritual life is ob-tained only by a life in obedience to the divine teachings. This is what receives the Lord in the mind. This is the spiritual Bethlehem in which the acknowledgement and love of the Lord and the love of the neighbor is received, for no man really loves the Lord and the neighbor unless he

lives a life of obedience to the Divine Pre-cepts. The Lord says, "If ye love Me keep My commandments." So this living bread comes down from heaven into man's life when he in thought and life lives strict-ly according to the teaching of the Lord, shunning evils as sins.

#### THE BLESSING OF CHRIST.

Something Substantial and Not a Passing Breeze of Emotion.

At the Butler Street M. E. Church yesterday a Christmas service of song was held in the morning. The sermon was preached by Rev. S. A. Keene, D. D., of Boston, who is to conduct a series of evangelistic services in the church durthe present week. Dr. Keene "A desire for the blessing of Christ Keen ing said:

may spring from a variety of causes. It may owe its origin to the destitute condition of the person desiring to be blessed as in the case of the Prodigal Son. It may also spring from an appetite-a sense of relish for the good things of the spiritual kingdom. One receiving a taste of love longs for a banquet of love.

"It is the nature of spiritual blessing

Pearson's Weekly.]

The inhabitants of northeastern parts of Asia use a mushroom to promote intoxicaand holding on to it as they ascend. The tion. It is known as the fly-brown mushroom, and also is very abundant in Scotland. The fungus is gathered in the hottest part of the year, and is then hung up by a string in the air to dry. Some are dry before being gathered, and these are stated to be far more narcotic than those ar titicially preserved.

large or two small fungi produce level with his head, but a little to the right or left of the lower notch, as the case One what is looked upon as a pleasant state of intoxication for one day. The effect is the same as that produced on taking a quantity of spirits or wine, except that it is delayed from one to two hours after the bolus has een swallowed. At first it produces very cheerful emotions of the mind: it render some persons exceedingly active, and is a stimulant to muscular exertions.

Thus, if a person affected by it wishes to step over a straw or small stick, it impels him to take a jump sufficient to clear a low hedge or a trunk of a tree; it keeps those fond of music perpetually singing; and, under its influence, a talkative person can neither keep secrets nor silence. Hence it neither keep secrets nor silence. is an especial source of danger to ladies and politicians.

Uses of Expanded Metal. Architects and builders in New York,

Chicago and other large cities are now using in important buildings the expanded metal lathing which was first announced from Pittsburg a few years ago. They find that besides being fireproof it is much more substantial. In the palaces of Pittsburg recently erected this expanded metal has been used as the base upon which ornamental ceilings are built. Great quanti-ties of expanded metal of the quality used for fencing have been used in the World's Fair buildings for guard railings, etc. The formidable looking model of one of the great naval vessels which lies in the lake inst off the Ernosition grounds is made of just off the Exposition grounds is made of Portland cement trowelled on to the metal, which was bent to the proper form. Incould scarcely have dreamed of the variety of uses to which it is being put.

Was Shipwrecked Eight Times. Captain Robert A. Annett, an American master mariner now in Liverpool, has been shipwrecked eight times in ten years. He lived like Robinson Crusoe on Morant Caes, an island in midocean, for several months; was a member of the crew on the yacht, Maria, which sailed in November, 1887, to search for Pirate Morgan's treas ures, and which was wrecked after a roman tic cruise; and during the Buenos Avres ins urrection was taken prisoner by the insurgents and cond emned to death.

The Red-Haired Club in Dublin, The Red-baired Club, of Dublin, was a society which barred out all whose hirsute covering was not of the most pronounced auburn. In order that no man could gain admission by false pretenses it was required at the initiation of each member that the applicant wash his hair and whiskers in ot soda and water. This effectually took out any "dye" that might have been used. It is said that this extraordinary club is about to be re-established in the Irish capi-

Quite a Natural Selection There are so many true stories of heroism on the battle-field that an occasional indident not quite heroic may be forgiven human nature. It is said that when a famous French general was obliged to retreat, as he and his aide-de-camp were flee-ing before the enemy, he breathlesslv in-quired, "Who are the rear guard?" "Men who have the poorest horses, general," re-plied the aid, who was making good use of his spura.

tal



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may be. These notches are made by a few taps of the hatchet, first horizontally and the tree

then down at an angle of 45 degrees; having made the two lower ones the secent is made by standing on the ball of the foot with the great toe in the notch, while the climber

cuts a fresh notch level with his head, and so on until the lower branches are gained. Often the gum trees run 80 feet from the being perfectly smooth.

ground up to the lowest limb, the trunk of notches are cut with great regularity, for, measured on a failen tree, the distance betweem them seldom varies half an inch. In reascending a tree fresh cuts are made for every fresh ascent.

WORTH A GUINEA A BOX.