THERE are certain complications in the

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# TWELVE PAGES

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

The story of the three recently built Canadian revenue cutters, as told by alarmists, bids fair to rank with the tragedy of the three black crows. For reasons best known to the narrators, dreadful prophecies have been indulged in as to what damage these three vessels-magnified into fully equipped ships of warcould do to American lake commerce and lake cities in the event of an outbreak of war between this country and England. There is not the least probability of an outbreak of war between this and any other country, for all others realize that their staying powers must inevitably give out before such infinite resources of men and money as America can draw from. Besides, it takes two to make a quarrel, and America is not in the quarreling business. It leaves that to such powers as seek to thrive at one another's expense, or such rulers as maintain their thrones by armed forces ostensibly gathered to overawe belligerent neighbors.

The telegram from Buffalo, which appears in THE DISPATCH this morning, indicates clearly to what an extent the importance of these revenue cutters has been overestimated. And there is not the least reason to doubt that the War and Navy Departments are sufficiently wideawake to the nation's interests. Nor is the State Department inclined to be mute whenever treaty violations become manifest on the part of others.

### A COMMON BUGBEAR.

The unique ideas which prevail in some quarters on the relative bearings of socialism and taxation are illustrated by a communication to a New York paper relative to a proposed tax on inheritances which had been under discussion. The writer asks the question: "Is not the legislation you advocate a step toward socialism inasmuch as discrimination is made against the rich?" To which he further adds: "The principle of taxing the rich in a greater per cent than the poor, if carried | the quickstep. It must seek out others further and further, would ultimately confiscate all wealth.

This talk presented as an argument with reference to taxation is an example of the power of a bugaboo. If it is socialism to discriminate against property in taxation then all taxation is socialism; for no taxation can be levied without being levied exclusively against property. The Government can make those who have no property work out taxes, as was done in the stage of social development represented by the Pharaohs: but short of that barbarous method all taxation must bear on the propertied class.

As to the theory that it should bear most heavily on those of the largest wealth, if that is socialism it is socialism that has been engrained our Republican system from the first. The trouble at present is that standards that loopholes are left open by which such wealth as that of the Goulds and Vanderbilts is taxed a far less percentage than the property of the common man. Any change from that system could hardly fail to be an improvement.

#### TWO POINTS FOR EXPLANATION. The New York Press, which has long

held the status of an organ of the Nicaragua Canal job, gives the new bill on that subject the expected indorsement. It asserts that the measure "affords ample security to the Government for the risks it is expected to take, and seems to be drawn with ample skill and comprehen-In view of this unqualified voucher, it

is pertinent to inquire of the Press how the Government is protected against this risk. The promoters of the enterprise contract with themselves as a construction company to do the work-estimated by the company's engineer to cost \$65,-000,000-at the price of \$100,000,000, and having got the Government to indorse to the latter amount unload the property on the confiding and paternal Government for the neat profit of \$35,000,000. We have requested explanations of this important point several times before without eliciting a response. Since the organs are giving a clean bill of health to the amended bill, let us hope that they will now produce an explanation. Another risk which comes within the range of possibility might also be a fit subject for explanation. It is that after the Government had got the canal for \$35,000,000 more than it is worth, at the first outbreak of war some stronger naval power might send a fleet and take possession of it.

When the esteemed Press explains how the bill provides against these risks it will render a decided service to that measure.

A recent case of shoplifting by a wellto-do female in St. Louis calls attention to the triviality of the custom of drawing a sale under an indefinite idea that they line between thefts where there is no compulsion by poverty, and those where the stealing may be incited by want. Because the St. Louis woman had plenty of money the conclusion is announced that she had no motive for stealing and therefore must have been a kleptomaniac. This is fearfully bad logic, for it overlooks the fact that she had the motive of getting the property without parting with her money. It is worse public policy, because it permits those who indulge in wanton thefts to go unpunished while consigning those

driven by crime to the workhouse. The English courts have settled this

very loose plea of kleptomania by demanding evidence in reply to this inquiry before the alleged uncontrollable impulse to steal can be taken as established: "Would the culprit have stolen the article, knowing the policeman saw the act?" The answer to this must nearly always be in the negative; and it establishes the fact that the impulse to steal is usually controllable. The allegation of kleptomania is a periphrasis for the unpleasant fact that those who are well enough to do to pay for their thefts can go unpunished. The fact is not a pleasant one to contemplate, but it is not to be mitigated by the continued use of a scientific name for an exceedingly vulgar misdemeanor.

WASTE AND JUSTICE.

There is a touch of unfairness in the attempt of a certain class of journals to make capital against the agricultural interest on account of assertions like Sir Lyon Playfair's in a recent number of the North American Review, that "the agri-WERKLY DISPATCH, One Year.

1 25
THE DAILY DISPATCH is delivered by carriers at of uneven working of our laws, or unfair discents per week, or, including Sunday Edition, at effects of corporate operations, are simply the grumbling of an interest which is suffering from its own fault.

There is no doubt that waste is an American fault, due to the extraordinary plenty which has made this country what it is. The pointing out of such methods of waste, with a view to their correction, is a service either to the agricultural or any other interest. But to use it as a club to whack farmers into silence when they complain of corporate abuses is the cheap-

est sort of evasion. Thus, if the Pennsylvania farmer com plains that it costs him as much to ship cattle to New York as it does the Illinois farmer, it is no answer to tell him that he is wasteful. Whether a man is wasteful or not, he is entitled to equality in the operation of the laws. If the instrumentalities constituted by the law establish a practical inequality, the allegation of wastefulness is no justification of the injustice.

We have no doubt that the agricultural industry is not well organized for the economical application of new improvements, and it is in many sections carrying too heavy a burden of debt. But we doubt if it is the chief sinner in the matter of wastefulness. Nothing in the agricultural line equals the waste which the railway magnates allege of themselves, in throwing away the resources of their own corporations in cut-throat wars without either ryhme or reason.

#### WAKE UP, PITTSBURG.

Pittsburg's natural advantages have hitherto enabled it to indulge in an apathetic laissez-faire instead of absointely necessitating a lively energetic pushing of its interests before the country. But these be days of keen competition, and the natural advantages must be great indeed that enable their possessor to take things as they come without losing ground in the contest. In the interview with Colonel Roberts, published in THE DISPATCH this morning, the eminent and energetic engineer remarks: "West Virginia is certain to be developed. If Pittsburg assists in the work it will share in the benefits. If we stand aloof we may create a dangerous and hostile rival."

The time has come for Pittsburg to choose between increased activity with progress or inactivity with that progress of others which involves its own retrogression. Pittsburg must march to a livelier tune; it must relinquish the dawdle for and not be content to let others search for

it. Natural advantages must be made the most of by artificial improvements. Transportation facilities must be made to increase and multiply. This way lies supreme prosperity for Pittsburg, the other way will mediocrity be found. And of this new departure of public spirited and co-operative effort, a recognition of West Virginia's importance to Pittsburg should be among the first practical demonstra-

## A SUGGESTIVE DECLINE.

A recent article in the New York Trib. une points out that the course of prices in England and this country since 1860 has been practically identical. Take 200 articles which in 1860 cost \$100, and this year they would cost in this country \$79 39. In England, according to the we have so far departed from our old table of the London Economist, the decline from the average standard of \$100 in 1860 would be to \$79 31. In other words, while the table shows that the decline has gone on in both countries, differing only by 8 cents in the hundred dollars, it was therefore apparently uninfluenced by the variation in the tariff policies of the two countries.

But what the two financial organs do not do is to suggest an explanation of this general and world wide decline. It is not scientific to accept such a phenomenon without seeking its cause. It is well known that the course of prices is not always downward. For a decade or two before 1860, and indeed for a decade after, there was a steady enhancement of prices due to the enlargement of the world's stock of money by the California and Australian gold product. Since the contrary operation set in, evidently some time later than the dates of comparison in these tables, it is not illogical to ascribe it to the contrary cause—the diminution of the world's stock of money, begun about

1873. THE DISPATCH has often expressed the opinion that a large share of the apparent depreciation of silver was a real appreciation of gold. These strongly concurring tables of the depreciation of commodities would suggest a 20 per cent advance in gold and about a 121/2 per cent decline in silver as the true statement of the

#### AN OLD HUMBUG REVAMPED. The brewery corporations which were capitalized at double their value a few years ago and unloaded on the British public have turned out so unsatisfactorily that a fresh move is considered. The nev proposition is to convert the whole aggre-

gation of malt, hops and water into a sin-

gle concern, with an alleged resemblance

to a trust. It is worth while to remember that when the original jobbing schemes were going on THE DISPATCH pointed out that their would command the profits of monopol tic trusts was simply a scheme to sell watered stock to the confiding British investors. It was simply selling a dollar's worth of property and a dollar's worth of water under the false representation that it was worth two dollars. THE DIS-PATCH predicted that it would not take long for the investors to discover that they had been fooled. The suggestion of a trust to bring the whole mass of infiation into a single balloon is a tolerably

good verification of the prediction. The new plan is of course mainly intended to unload the concern on a new life and letters or Henry Clay.

set of investors by recapitalizing an old concern on a new basis. Any monopoly in brewing being utterly impossible, the degree to which combination is carried is almost universally an exponent of the attempt to impose fictitious values on the public. It would be idle to conjecture where this process of gulling the public will attain its own defeat. The appetite of investors for such shallow swindles exhausted our stock of wonder long ago.

It was a pity for Senator Hill and a pity for the country that he ever changed his sphere of scheming from Albany to Wash-ington. New York State is more accustomed to politicians of his stamp than is America, and a small man is apt to be more successful in a small area than in a large one. A mar whose every effort is devoted to self-interest is not an ornament to the United States Ser ate, and the number of such will decrease as citizens of this republic awaken to t proper sense of their duty at the polls and make a proper use of their power,

ALWAYS do the innocent suffer with the guilty. These days the man of moderate habits and bilious temperament has to share the unfeeling contempt of his fellows with the glutton whose over-indulgence of a greedy appetite has disturbed the usually mooth working of a well-arranged interior

THERE is every reason to hope that the story is true which ascribes the attempt to unite the organizations of railroad employes into one immense amalgamation to a desire to avoid strikes during the pressure of bility must increase with labor leaders as their power grows, and the prescience which sees that public opinion would inevitably be antagonized by interference with the success of the Exposition is in keeping with the wise conservatism of the men said to be arranging this consolidation.

An outgoing administration that regards as "barnacles" on the ship of State, and talks of discharging government employes for their fallure to "deliver the goods" at the last election, is setting its successor a truly magnificent example in the practice of civil service reform.

QUARANTINE outranks the tariff in importance just now, and it will do so until have been framed to make the protection of this country from foreign dis ease as perfect as is possible. There is no excuse for a partisan consideration of the matter. A Federal quarantine system, well equipped with all that modern science demands for its efficiency, is essential to the nation's safety and must be arranged.

IT is hardly dignified, to say the least, that Allegheny county should be dependent on individual enterprise for a public neces sity like the morgue.

DYNAMITE explosions at Dublin Castle will prove the most effective arguments with English people against granting home rule to Ireland. Irish friends of home rule must surely be awake to the fact, and should demonstrate their antipathy for such acts of barbarism by publishing their disapprobation thereof and lending the authorities every help in their efforts to discover and punish the perpetrator.

PARCEL carrying as a disease is rapidly losing its epidemic form, and remaining cases are to be regarded as merely sporadio nanifestations.

Good roads are a necessity to the economic conduct of the larmer's business, yet farmers fail to organize and agitate on be-half of them. Good roads are a necessity to the enjoyment of a 'cyclist's recreation, and the 'cyclists have formed the strongest single body working for good roads in the country. Surely business is more important than sure, and the agriculturist is as farsighted as the wheelman.

WHAT with footbell in the snow and the customary after effects of the Christmas dinner, doctors are in great luck just now.

BEFORE Americans devote half as much attention to the preservation of health as money there will have to be a notable number of seconds left for chasing street cars or suburban trains, in the arrangement of municipal garbage systems and in other atters too numerous to mention.

As the number of kindergartens in this city and country increases, so will the necessity for jails and poor larms diminish.

APART from all considerations of exense, it is manifestly ridiculous to advocate the free delivery of mail matter in rural districts, the roads of which are impassable for about six months out of the 12. farmers appreciate the advantages of good wagon roads sufficiently to secure them, free delivery will be comparatively easy and inexpensive.

THIS is cold weather for swimming. But a cork jacket should be provided with every mair of skates.

MEXICO is so accustomed to lawlessness of one kind or another as to be rather fond of border robbers and petty revolutionists. The case is somewhat otherwise in these United States, and neither effort nor expeuse shon'd be spared to maintain law and firmly establish safety of life and property north of the Rio Grande.

## FAVORITES OF FORTUNE.

EX-JUDGE CHARLES P. DALY is the oldest "first-nighter" in New York. He attended Edmund Kean's American debut in

THERE is talk of Mrs. Hearst, widow of

the wealthy Senator, intending to leave \$1,000,000 for the establishment of a museum in San Francisco. THE baby daughter of Lady Granby

ecently christened in London, her godmothers being a duchess and an actress, while her godfather was Arthur Balfour. R. HENRY TAYLOR, who is said to have invented baby carriages, was found by the Waltham, Mass., police the other day in a

starving and mentally unbalanced con-

THE young Duke of Orleans holds memory of his grandfather in profoundest veneration. He explained to a friend that he never eats pears because his famous auestor never did.

DR. DR WITT CLINTON GREEN, formerly dentist to the Emperor Dom Pedro of Brazil, and for fourteen years past a resident of Rio de Janeiro, died of maiarial fever Oct. 29. He was about 36 years old and went to South

America from Baltimore. CERILLO VILLAVERDE, the Cuban patriot and novelist, who has resided in New York for the last 40 years, sailed for tuba to spend the rest of his days in his native land. He is now 80 years old and quite infirm, mentally and physically.

In recognition of his services rendered in connection with the brilliantly successful performance of "Carmen" at Windsor Castle, r Augustus Harris was presented by Her Majesty with a diamond and ruby scarf pin, with the royal and imperial monogram and crown, and Mdile. De Lussan with a diamond brooch, bearing a similar device

Ex-Judge Noah Davis, of New York, has said of the proposition to extend the rights of suffrage to women in that State: "There is a love of justice, virtue and honor and a discriminating intelligence in women that will force corruption out of politics and make men better, purer and more fit to take part in the management of public affairs."

GEN. JAMES B. SWAIN, of Sing Sing, and his wife celebrated their golden wed-ding quietly yesterday. The couple were married on Christmas evening, 1842. Gen. Swain and Mr. Horace Greely went once into partnership, but dissolved in 1840. The firm was known as "Horace Greely & Co." They started the "Log Cubin" and editors of it. Gen. Swain later edited the

### A LOOK AROUND.

local political fight which remind me of a story which used to be told by Captain William Riddle, of Allegheny. During a hotengagement the General in command was gal-loping from one part of the lines to another, accompanied by Riddle. Presently they came upon four soldiers carrying a stretcher upon which lay a wounded man, pallid, dulleyed and apparently in a very bad way. Just then a shell exploded in the midst of the group and there was a general scatter-ing. The smoke and dirt cleared away, and there was nothing to be seen of the little party except one man, who was running away rapidly. "Come back, you infernal coward!" shouted the General; "come back and take care of the wounded man." The runner halted long enough to shout back, "Don't worry, General, 'bout me! I'm the

wounded man." "I AM pleased to see THE DISPATCH take up the idea of a training school for young workingmen and women," said a workingman to me yesterday. "I know many an apprentice, mill worker and other wage earner who is anxious to learn the scientific rudiments necessary for him to have to advance in his line of work. It cannot be done by books alone nor can many of the men who are skilled themselves transmit the knowledge they have to othera. They have learned many things by years of hard experience and there are numbers of them who merely know that if they do certain things in a certain way the result is so and so, but why it is so they do not know nor do they know how to change their methods. It would be a Godsend to have a school modeled on the Cooper Institute here.'

FROM the point of view of those behind the counters of the stores it has been a highly satisfactory Christmas. Business of all sort has been very good and in some lines it has been better than for years. A wholesale dealer in fancy goods and novelties told me he had sold aimost twice as much in money value as he did last year, and he was not an exception, he thought, to the trade rule. Jewslers have harvested a crop such as they have rarely had before. Everybody says that it was not the big buying of anybody which made things lively, but it was the large increase in the number of buyers who spend liberally. There does not seem to be any business scare ahead, and good times back of us has produced a disposition to be

How busy the recording angels must be these cold evenings on the corners up town as the crowded cars go by and refuse to stop for people waiting with arms full of bun

THE field of Christmas gifts has widened wonderfully of late years that it is next to impossible to think of something worth buying which is not on the list. Those I have heard of this year range from a bandsome East End house and lot, given by a father to a son who expects to marry soon, to a quail, cooked by a leading enterer, which a young lady gave her terrier. It appears to be a time when the average father is eliminated except as a provider of funds or a porter of packages. "Do the men buy many things of you?" asked a drygoods and furnishing goods dealer of a jeweler. "As a rule they do not," said the jeweler. "A good many of them come into my place, but they usually have some lady with them decision settles the purchase." "That's the way it is with us." chimed in a toy dealer: "the mothers, wives and sisters do about 75 per cent of the buying and the men do the paying and the carrying

In spite of all the talk of other candidates, it looks, at this distance, as if General D. H. Hastings would have things pretty well his own way in the next Gubernatorial contest. He has the solid support of the Philadelphia leaders, the Pittsburg people seem to prefer him to any outside candidate and half a dozen country leaders have de-

I AM told by an old man who has had much to do with the financial affairs of the Economites that their accumulations do not at this time amount to more than three or four millions at the utmost. For some years they have been unfortunate in many of their investments and several of their ininstead of bringing in profits for four or five

CHRISTMAS dinner is a thing of pleasure of course, and part of the "one day in the year when all is cheerfulness." There were a good many people in the East End who felt the force of this. They depended upon natural gas. That alluring and flamboyant article, after behaving in a shabby way for several hours, took a day off. It is pleasant in a house with the thermometerat zero and no coal burning stoves or grates. It is especially cheerful to have the servant girl appear in an ulster and a horse blanket and ask if you want to look at the turkey which has been frozen so hard it seems made of wood. It is nice and inspiring to look at the gas-saving arrangements in the grates and stoves which will be ruined if you burn coal on them-that is, they would be if you had the coal. You put on your overcoat, the children go to bed, your wife's scalskin or inverness coat appears, and when you try to pick something up you find your fingers stiff. Then you rush to the telephone. It is dead. The line is crossed or the snow has buried the wires or something else has happened. Then you go to the cellar to "do something to the furnace." Gentle reader, did you ever do something to the furnace all else had failed? Was it a gas fur nace? If you have had this experience you know how well the gitchen chairs hum when properly cut up and how the various useful boxes and barrels disappear in the blaze. Of course there is no coal. Even your neighbors have none to lend. Fifteen minutes of this sort of thing is enough. Somebody suggests, "Let's go to town for dinner." It is met with distinct fayor. You dinner." dress in a hurry. It is calculated to encour-age and to make you realize the spirit of Christmas to try to button your shirt with mittens on. At last the family gets together somehow. There is a rush for the cars. On the way to town the day is made more cheerful by the kindly inquiries of friends in regard to sleighrides and "what did you get?" Then your wife nudges you and whis-pers: "We forgot all the new plants-do you think they'll freeze?" Then you arrive, you eat a hotel dinner in company with waifs and strays who have no home. It is a wellestablished rule that everybody who has home stays in it on Christmas. Then you return to reconnoiter. The girl greets you with a smile. "Gas on?" "Oh, yes; plenty of it. Came on about ten minutes after you left. Man came and fixed the pipe, Shall I cook the turkey?" By this tin the hotel dinner and the cold you are so numb you can't even swear.

I HEAR one store which is directly affected by holiday trade took in \$67,000 in one day, Saturday, the 17th, and almost as much one day the following week.

THERE is considerable gossip affoat that in a short time there is to be a notable breach of promise suit here, with damages somewhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

In the way of steady, well-developed and unencumbered nerve, something which took place in one of the large stores last week heads the list. A fur muff valued at \$15 was reported missing by the clerk in charge of the department. Next day a man in who said he had bought a must which did not suit his wife, and he wanted his money back. He produced the stolen muff, which at first was not recognized by one of the subordinate clerks, but the chief clerk knew the article and caused the man's arrest. After a stout denial the thief con-fessed that he had taken the muff and had tried to pawn it. He could only get \$5 on it, and was not satisfied with this sum, so he decided to go to headquarters and by a bold play get what it was worth. You do not find them much bolder than that.

WALTER. Not Boom for Both.

Chicago Inter Ocean.1 Democrats are coming in and gold is going out. Make room for the wildcats. AMERICAN WOMEN CAUGHT.

ne of the Panama Muck Has Soiled Their Precious Garments.

Gath in Chicago Tribune. ? The Panama Canal catches several Amerian women who preferred French assidutties to American consideration. Mrs. Loubet is the daughter of Mrs. Burch, of Chicago Mrs. Clemenceau is a Connecticut girl. Sadi Carnot, also, is timid of this vastest of Credit of Carnot the incorruptible. No man is incorruptible. Men can be as

cruel as the first Brutus, yet not pure. History reveals to flawless character. Upon the background of human infirmities is mned the portrait of the unexposed nero. In low and bare conditions of society the chief temptations are meanness, sordidness, want of proper sacrifice for the society and the substitution of superstition and selfish hypocrisy for honor and citizenship, Farther up, where rich cities like Rome of old and Paris now disdain all public opinion old and Paris now disdain all public opinion but their own, extravagant life makes inroads upon the public and generous heart. The promoter unfolds a Christian dream. De Lesseps hears the Macedonian cry: "Come over to Egypt and help us!" As in the days of French chivalry, a thousand swords leap out, and we hear the cry or St. Louis again: "On to Tunis, on to India! Mountipy St. Denis."

But in the endeavor to do the great crusade in physics both the recipient and the promoter lose their virtue. The Khedive has long been a refusee from the land which achieved the Suez Canal. Shall not that promoter also meet his fate—the family-scarred, the cockolded, the senile Lesseps? Yes, the slow pendulum swings back from

scarred, the cockolded, the sentie Lesseps? Yes, the slow pendulum swings back from the son of Mahomet Ali to the legislative chambers of France. As the Coptsand coolies were buried in that great duch of commercial physics, the French peasant, owner, the bourgeoise cry from disappointment: "Our money is buried also in that ditch at Panama, that second Suez. Bring out the purloiners!"

purloiners!"
Often the most generous men become the corrupt ones. We see Robert Morris, the financier of our Revolution, became so reckless by his almost lawless power of raising money that he ruins every friend he has. Pitt, intent only on putting down the France his father scotched, leaves to England his debts of nearly a million and Parliament must pay them, as he had undoubtedly corrupted it like Lesseps.

### OUR MAIL POUCH.

The Domestic Gas Supply. To the Editor of The Dispatch:

The Philadelphia Company gave out dur ing the summer assurances that any domestic consumer contracting with them might rely implicitly upon a full supply of gas during the winter, as manufacturing es tablishments would be cut off if necessary to meet domestic demands. assurances those who had the fixtures in let them remain and faced the increase in price, while many put in gas fixtures and paid their deposit to have gas turned on. When John Doe or Richard Roemake a con when John Doe or Richard Roe make a con-tract with a corporation or individual to supply them with any article and fail to ful-fill the provisions of said contract the law takes hold of them and forces fulfillment of contract or payment of damages to cover amount of loss sustained by non-fulfillment. Why should this corporation not be treated Why should this corporation not be treated as an individual by the people who, upor the first pinch of cold, are unable to ever approach comfort by reason of a short sup-ply of gas? How many become ill, contract colds resulting in pneumonia or consump-tion therefrom? Who can say, and who

tion therefront Who can say, and who shall compute the damages?

That the shortage is a real shortage of gas for domestic use, but caused by greedy attempt to supply manufacturing plants also is clearly demonstrated by the fact that on Sundays and holidays gas is abundant where on week days only a faint glimmer can be coaxed to show. If some sufferers would club together and bring suit for damages any court would, in all probability, award them. And perhaps a lew such suits might convince the corporation that the people have some rights beyond that of shivering and begging a better supply.

Pittsburg, Dec. 25.

Suffered.

### A SIGN IN THE SKY.

How Superstitious Texans Size Up a Re markable Red Glow. Galveston News. 1

BRENHAM, Dec. 12.-The sky was red as blood this morning. People wno were out as early as & o'clock observed the whole seavens overspread with a bright red tint, not simply in the east, as is the case just before sunrise, but in the west as well as the east and north and south and overhead. There were no clouds observed at first, but later they began to form, and they were a bright yellow or golden color. At sunrise these tints faded way, the clouds grew thicker and rain began falling, and has continued to fall all away,

day long.

One of two men, in speaking of the red skies, said they observed the same phenomenon just before the war, and a few of the enon just before the war, and a few of the superstitions argue that a calamity of some sort will soon befall the people. Several negroes said they were scared when they looked up this morning, for they thought surely the comet had arrived. No one may yet given a satisfactory explanation of what caused the unusual glow.

## COMING BACK OF CHOLERA.

FRESH cases of cholera at Hamburg. Now et Congress pass the Chandler bill prohibiting immigration for a year, or forever if necessary .- Ohio State Journal.

Wirn cholers, diphtheria and the hoop skirt headed for this devoted country, the World's Fair year will not be a season of un-alloyed bliss.—Minneopolis Tribune. THE demand for a national quarantine is

eneral. Tammany is good enough to elect a President, but it cannot be trusted to keep out Asiatic cholera.—Indianopolis Journal. The statement which comes to us from Hamburg that the cholera is still lingering in that city, does not furnish pleasant reading in view of the possibilities of the future. Bo ton Traveller.
THE cholera news is not yet positively al

arming, but it is sufficiently serious to justify early and thorough precaution against possible epidemic during the coming sum ner.-St. Louis Globe Democrat.

THE law against the admission of pauper and criminals from Europe to the Unite States should be extended at once to effect ually shut out all whose personal habits ar such that chotern delights in their society

-Kansas City Star. THE most careful sanitary precautio should be taken in every city to avoid invit ing an epidemic. The examination of all persons coming from infected countries should be rigid and a strict quarantin should be maintained .- Washington Herald. One can scarcely measure the suffering nd damage caused by a cholera epidemi which paralyzes trade and business of all kinds, and, by depriving the people of work and healthful recreation, predisposes them o fall victims of the disease .- Philadelphia Ledger.

THE country should have a national quar intine, and should have agents established in Europe to inspect immigrants so as to pre vent those suffering from contagious or in fectious diseases from coming to this coun try. This cannot be done under the present quarantine system .- Sovannah News.

#### O Rare Harrity! tlanta Journal.

The Pennsylvania Democrats are making nuch of the national chairman who has come back to them with the laurels of vic on his brow. They are inclined to say Oh, for the rarity

Of men like Harrity. Under the sun. Call a Halt, Uncle Jerry. Chicago Dispatch.] "Another cold snap is coming," cheerfully

hat do you call this? We're not all of us Eskimos. A Regular Tammany Hall.

A Pennsylvanian is training a chorus of

frogs. It is pretty difficult to establish uni-

Indianapolis News, I

reports the Weather Bureau. Great Scott

son,as there are so many kickers and croak ers among them. Obituary Notes.

PATRICE MANAGAN, of 100 Second avenue, died yesterday, aged 42, of consumption. For several years the deceased had operated marble cutting works on Fitth avenue. He had a large circle of

CAPTAIN J. H. PUTNAM, who was Consul General to Henolula under President Cleveland, is dead at Chillicothe, O. He was an ex-State Sena-tor, was private secretary to Governor Alien and was a well-known newspaper man.

#### PUSHING THE WORK.

Pittsburg Ladies Anxious to Have the Free Kind rgarten Idea Developed Here-A Gala Day for Orphans-Cotillon at the

Pittsburg Club-Society Gossip.

MISS LUCY WHEELOCK, who has made the study of the kindergarten system her life-work, but who has yet found time to write a number of good children's stories, and to act as editor of the Children's Hour, is to lecture Wednesday afternoon at the Fifth Avenue Ladies' Seminary on kindergarten work. Miss Wheeloek comes to Pittsburg at the invitation of the Allegheny and Pittsburg Free Kindergarten Association, arriv ing to-morrow morning. She will be the guest of Miss Etta Stewart, of the seminary. Pittsburg is near the head in everything except in the free kindergarten work. This city is the thirty-seventh of the large cities of the United States to take up the work, and it is desired by the ladies interested that Pittsburg shall push itself forward in this direction so as to make a good showing within a year or two. The ladies think that there would be more interest in kinder-gartens if the system were understood, and it is to promote this understanding tha Miss Wheelock has been induced to come here to deliver her lecture. It is considered that society girls should show their interest in the matter by becoming members of the Kindergarten Association, even if they cannot do anything else. Next Saturday morning at 10:87 the ladies of the association will hold a business meeting at the Fifth Avenue

Making the Orphans Happy. A PRETTIER Christmas sight than the 400 little children marching to the music of a brass band into the large hall of the Tannehill Street Orphan Asylum, and taking their seats to receive their Christmas presents was not to be found in Pittsburg yesterday The children ranged in age from 1 to about 14 years of age. The girls were all in white aprons, which fluttered like snow clouds as they climbed into their seats, demure but expectant, and the boys were resplendent in their holiday neckties and best clothes The gleam of joy that sprang into their eyes as they saw the toys and candles brought for them was touching as well as pleasant, and it would have been a good thing for people who have too much in this world, and seek for a new sensation, to see what happiness could be brought to these poor little waifs through the generosity of those to whom fortune has given the power.

#### Christmas Sleighing Parties.

THE arrival of snow and Christmas sim iltuneously resulted in a great getting out of sleighs yesterday, and the merry jingle of bells that had been silent for a year rang out on the clear frosty atmosphere, and sounded a pean of rejoicing in the ears of the jolly parties that were taking advantage of yes-terday's legal holiday. The sleighing was pronounced good everywhere, and a num-ber of parties were made up, the goal being country and suburban houses, where danc-ing and a jolly supper awaited the travelers, with a pleasant ride homeward in the early morning, well wrapped up in fur robes and

#### The First Dinner Dance.

AMONG the few fashionable events of last night was the cotillon of the Pittsburg Club. It was the first of a series of dinner dances to be given by society leaders, and was entoyable enough to warrant the assumption that they will be one of the delightful social institutions of this winter. The hostesses of the dinner parties were Mrs. A.E. W. Painter, Mrs. Mark W. Watson, Mrs. Sewell and Mrs. H. D. Denny. Mrs. Joseph R. Dilworth and Mrs. Henry. Sproul received the guests at the dance. There was a large company, and the warmth and brightness within made a pleasant contrast to the bitter cold outdoors. The dinners and dance were horoughly successful.

A Wedding at Linmore Station. A WEDDING that will interest Pictsburgers to a considerable extent is to occur this evening at Linmore station, Ft. Wayne Railway. It will be that of Miss Gertrude Edith Machesney and Mr. T. Harry Dolan. It will take place at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Machesney.

#### A Tea Party and Music. A TEA party and literary and musical

entertainment, under the auspices of the congregation of St. Canice's Church, is to be held in Turner Hall, Allentown, to-night and to-morrow evening. A bazaar will be-part of the programme, under the care of the ladies of the church.

THIS evening an informal musicale is to begiven by Mrs. J. B. Murdoch for her niece, Miss Pratt, of Elmira, N. Y.

Wedding at St. Paul's Church. To-MORROW evening is the time set for the marriage of Miss Emma Gray to Mr. Robert C. Gonderman, in St. Paul's M. E.

Women Making Successful Drummers. A NEW avenue of employment for women that is being pursued with a great deal of success is seeking orders for large firms on the road. The woman drummer has become a recognized institution, and the number of temale salesmen is increasing every year. It is said that the persuasiveness that is supposed to be a gift of the softer sex is expreised with a great deal of profit both to the drummer and her employer, and that, while the men will not be driven out of the while the men will not be driven out of the business, any more than they are out of the many professions into which women have made their way, they will have to make room for their sisters, and acknowledge in them competitors not to be despised. Most of the articles in which women deal are of the refined and fanciful kind, such as paints, artists' materials, laces, etc. Truly, the woman of the present day cannot say that her field of usefulness is circumscribed.

## THREE NEWSBOYS' MITES.

One of the Features of the Washington Post's Homestead Fund.

Washington Post .. 1 Among the subscribers to the Homesten Christmas fund will be found the following names and amounts;

"Newsboys: Himan, 5 cents; Abe Lewis, 1 cent; Jacob Goldberg, 1 cent." Little mites are these and they come from little boys, but for all that they bespeak big hearts and generous sympathies. One cent from Abe Lewis means that Abe knows what it is himself. He has been there-he is probably there pretty much all the timefighting a rough-and-tumble fight with the

world, eking out a hard substance, and buffeted by luck more often than blest. He is aware by personal experience, no doubt, what it is for children to go cold and hungry. He has seen them, mingled with them, shared privation with them. Possibly he has little sisters in this plight; possibly an old mother, whose wants he is battling with the elements to supply.

At any rate, his heart is in the right place; so is Jake's; so is Himan's, whose gift, though more princely in size, is no more

though more princely in size, is no more princely in the spirit of it than the tinier contributions of his associates.

Good boys are these. They deserve a happy Christmas, and the Post trusts that they will get it. They will have at least the satisfaction of feeling that there will be 7 cents' worth less of suffering in Homestend to-day than there otherwise would have been. As was said of a certain poor widow in the Scriptures, so be it recorded of these three.

three.

Luke, xxi: 1-4: "And He looked up and saw the rich men casting their glits into the treasury; And He saw also a poor widow casting in thither two miles: And He said; 'Ufa truth I say unto you, that this poor widow has cast in more than they an!; For all these of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God, but site of her penny hath cast in all the living she had."

Look Out for Unplacated Pranks. Los Angeles Times.] Grover had better watch out or Dody Hill will put a pin in that Presidental chair.

## THE HAPPY SEASON.

There's a hustle and a bustle in the street. The snow is trod to mud 'neath many feet, There's a pushing and a crushing And a Jamming and a rushing And triend forgets in passing friend to greet,

There's a flat and flabby feeling to the purse, There's a unsculine proclivity to curse, And the Joyous Christmas season

Is the sole and single reason, For your wife will your whole salary dis

## CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

-Boston has one Chinese voter.

-Newmarket jockeys earn \$15,000 a -The word "girl" occurs but once in the

-In battle only one ball out of 85 takes

-There are 30 towns in America called

Washingt -Michigan's murder roll for 1892 is the largest in the State's history.

-Since the year 1868 there have been 26 interments in Westminster Abbey. -Nearly 7,000 Russien convicts have been sent to Siberfa since April last.

-It is stated that the Russian Governnent is about to purchase the telephone -Iron bedsteads are about the only kind of hardware experted from England to Da-

-The average duration of lives in the United States is 47.3 for mechanies and 59.1

-The death penalty has just been renmed in Switzerland. For 25 years is had -Stockings made of human hair are worn by Chinese fishermen as a preventive

against wet feet. -Jerusalem is still supplied with water from Solomon's Pools through an aqueduct built by the Crusaders.

-The town of Groton, Mass., has the disinction of having furnished eight New Engand Mayors of prominence.

-Two educated negro women at Vasten have begun the publication of the first newspaper in the Congo Free-State. -The total appropriation by Congress

ast year for the propagation, distribution and investigation of fish was \$205,000. -It is stated that it has cost the United States Government over \$1,000,000 to collect the \$75,000 for which a drait has just been turned into the United States Treasury. -The cheapest dress made by Worth, the Parisian milliner, even if of cotton, does not

cost less than \$150, and this he calls his "pauvrette costume"—the poor girl's dress. -Dogs have long memories. Simon Slade, of Bethlehem, Pa., cut off n pup's tail two years ago, and since then the dog attacks him whenever it sees him, although gentle as a dove to other people. -St. Chad's Church clock at Shrewsbury,

which was made last century, has a longer pendulum than any other clock in Great Britain. Its pendulum is 22 feet long and the ball four feet three inches in circumference and 200 pounds in weight. -Japanese women put up their hair with wooden, ivory or tortoise-shell pins, seven

or eight inches in length and fully half an inch wide. The pins are usually carved and fitted with pivotal figures, which dance with every motion of the weaver. -The Duke of Edinburg's Stradivarius has a notable history. The Duke received the instrument, which is extremely valuable, from the late Duke of Cambridge, and the bow was presented to him as a wedding gift by the late Sir Thomas Gludstone.

-A blotter can be made that will remove ink spots from paper. Take a thick blotting paper and steep it several times in a solution of exalic acid or exalize of potassium. While the ink spot is moist apply the prepared blotter, and the ink will be entirely re-moved.

-There is an art in making a coal fire in

a grate. An expert first clears the grate,

then fills it full of coal, on which is built a wood fire. The wood ashes on top of the coal, it is said, prevent its rapid consump-tion, and a fire thus constructed, burning slowly with a moderate heat, will last all -Not many people stop to think about it, but the outside of a lemon is anything but clean. If you will look at it you will

see some tiny spots, like scales, all over it. These are the ergs of an insect, and if the lemon is not washed they are likely to become an ingredient in whatever dish the lemon is used for. -The French newspapers tell of a very interesting match that came off in France. Two women in good society challenged each other to talk fast. Each was to utter as many words as possible in a fixed time. Each woman falked three consecutive hours. One uttered 203,500 words. The other won the

match with 206;080 words. -An electrical Journal that some time ago called attention to the advantages of electric roads for the freight carriage of the farmer now returns to the subject with the express assurance that a comparatively express assurance that a comparatively short time will see the construction of many country trolley roads. It points out that to-day a large proportion of the American farming area is within touch of the 500 towns and cities that now enjoy trolley

-A curious story is told of the recent funeral of an old farmer of Maine. The sons placed their father's remains in a rough cof-fin and took a short cut through the woods. In and took a short cut through the woods.
A deer crossed their path. Depositing the coffin in the bushes, they ran back for their dogs and guns, and were soon on a glorious hunt. Other game turned up, the hunt was prolonged and it was not till four days afterward that they femembered their ather's corpse in the bushes and returned to bury it.

-This is probably the strangest epitaph in the United States: "Here is laid Daniel Barrow, who was born in sorrow and bor-rowed little from nature except his name and his love to mankind and his hatred of redskins: Who was, nevertheless, a gentle-man and a dead shot, who through a long life never killed his man except in self-defense or by accident, and who, when he at last went under beneath the bullets of his cowardly enemies in Jeff Morris' saloon, did so in the sure and certain hope of a glorious and everlasting morrow."

-At a certain mineral spring in an Eastern State the cups that the patients drunk from were fastened by a brass chain to an iron bar which inclosed the mouth of the bubbling spring. The drinker was prevented from coming too close by another iron railing about eight feet across. The iron railing about eight feet across. The ground about the spring was naturally moist, and it was either this ground or the iron which was one of the ends of an open electric circuit. The cup held by the chain was the other end. The person drinking simply completed the circuit through the body, and when he had finished the attendant kindly and immediately removed the cup from his hand.

## FLIGHTS INTO FUNNYDOM.

"Yes," assented Mrs. Smith, "she has a retty face, but I think that it has a rather hard apression, don't you?" "That's because her complexion is enameled, "-

He (angrily)-My dear, I think that you have forgotten what you promised me at the altar. She-No. I haven't forgotten it. I didn't pay any attention to it. I was trying to remember what you promised me. - New Fork Herald.

Husband (to wife at the theater)-Have on brought the opera glass? Wife-Yes, but I can't use it. "I forgot my diamond bracelet."- Texas SU-

THE PRETTY MAID AND THE MISTLETOR. Beneath the mistletoe she stood,

As sweet as sweet could be; He kissed her red, ripe ruby lipa, The while he squeezed her finger tips, And rosy red blushed she. His wife came in, and caught him there Result-a racy scene, The wife now wears a sealskin new, The maid was paid what was her due, She has a new posish in view,

Bunker-Nice hat of yours? Hill—Yes. That cost me §8. Bunker—I thought you won it on the election. Hill—Did. 1 bet with my wife.

As a sweet potwrestler queen

-The Clothler and Furnished "I wonder what would become of you is were to die." "Now that's so inconsiderate of you. Why couldn't you have entertained such ideas as that when I was younger and better looking. If you choose to entertain them at all?" protested his wife. —Indianapolis Journal.

Slangleigh-That girl 1s out of sight. Slangleigh-Of course not. Why did you think

Precise-"Out of sight, out of mind," you