CURSES IN DISGUISE.

The Pall Mall Gazette says:

If, as many people hold, a prayer affects less the object prayed for than him who autters it, the wholesomeness of some recent petitions must be something more than doubtful. Some are jubilant even as those of King David: "Destroy Thou our adversaries; let them fall by their own counsels; let burning coals fall upon them; let them be cast into the fire, into deep pits, that they rise not up again." When St. Paul besought that Alexander the coppersmith be "rewarded according to his works," the unregenerate man was possibly not wholly unrepresented. Few indeed emulate the divine spirit which was expressed in the prayer, Lord, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Indeed, the animus of the old Hebrew prophets is manifest, and the so-called prayers are but curses in disguise, conceived

in the same temper in which the carter was wont to address his forses, "Bless you! You know what I mean!" When a certain dignitary was promoted to a high position, a prayer was offered up in his presence that "the Lord would not suffer our brother to be uplifted by this thy favor;" and we remember a gentleman who was prayed for by a friend in a semi-public and very pointed manner as "a sinner who needed to be brought to repentance, and to see the error of his ways," and who did not scruple to answer with a worldly "damn." But there are prayers and prayers. Our readers are probably aware that in the Roman Church it is the custom for the different confraternities to assemble at stated intervals, when a number of slips of paper on which are written the various prayers which the members desire to be offered up are placed before the preacher for him to read aloud. On one occasion a dozen or more had been repeated. They were of the usual kind. A mother desired the prayers of the confraternity for the safety of a son who had departed on a long voyage; a wife wished for the reform of an unbelieving husband; a father supplicated for the return of a child who had taken to vicious courses; some ardent proselytes were urgent for the conversion of sundry friends or relatives; a girl was petitioned for who had perused some controversial works and shown signs of receiving the true faith. Then came a request that required all the command of countenance which the preacher possessed to read with suitable gravity. "The prayers of the confraternity

were earnestly begged on behalf of a lady who had expressly desired not to be prayed for."

When we read the account of the proceedings at the meetings held nominally to pray for the Pope and his Council, we think the last might reasonably beg, like the lady, "not to be prayed for," at least by Dr. Cumming and his friends. For what do these prayers signify? and in what spirit are they conceived? Not in any which resembles even faintly faith, hope, or charity. We find the reverend rector of St. Dunstan's praying that "the machinations of Rome may produce confusion, and that many people may be rescued," we suppose during the confusion; while Dr. Cumming supplicates that "the day of Rome's anticipated triumph may prove that of her predicted ruin" (vide the reverend gentleman's works), "and that many may be brought out of darkness into light."

Now the Pope of Rome has expressly declared that he will, if only "Dr. Cumming of Scotland" will recant his errors, himself run joyfully half way to meet and embrace that personage; and the Doctor replies by calling the Pope and his works Darkness, and praying for his speedy ruin! If there were such a thing as a Protestant Inquisition, properly provided with protesting inquisitors, it is easy to see that the days not only of Papists, but of heretics, unbelievers, and all other defaulters would be of the shortest. And we have little doubt that it would be safer to trust our bodies to Dr. Newman and the Pope to be dealt with according to their will, than to be consigned to the tender mercies of Dr. Cumming and his followers. It has been said, too truly we fear, that but for the indifferentists and Gallios of this world, the zealots in religion would soon rend each other to pieces. Well may the careless bystander say, "See how these Christians

Humorous Paraphrase on Treasury Regulations.

The frauds attempted, and in many cases accomplished, by parties to deprive the Goveroment of the taxes on tobacco have given rise to the most stringent regulations from the officers of the Treasury Department. There is a prevalent opinion, however, that some of these regulations are unnecessarily severe in descending to small details, not of any special importance: but it is probable that the class of complainants referred to are partial to the weed, and look upon any tax upon the article as an infringement upon individual rights. The author of the subjoined must have taken the matter to heart with more than usual earnest-

NOTICE TO TOBACCO CONSUMERS. It is said that Horace Greeley intends to petition Congress to pass the following law affecting tobacco consumers, this winter:

Tobacco chewers are requested to get their

tobacco from first hands, which is the first man you meet who will give you a chew. Where parties are in the habit or borrowing chews, the Government will furnish each man with a note-book, in which the time of day, the

size of the quid, whether plug or fine-cut, the quality and the time when the amount is to be refunded, must be strictly recorded. Those parties who have been innocently using nustamped tobacco will call on the nearest revenue officer and give in, as near as pos-

sible, the amount which they believe has been consumed. The officer will then furnish the necessary stamps, and if they are chewed up in his presence the Government is then satisfied that no criminal wrong was meant.

Those persons who maliciously carry two

boxes, one filled with base smoking tobacco, to give to borrowers, the other containing superb fine cut for home consumption, are to be treated as deserving of death, and hung on

No tobacco box must have more than two spigot holes in it, and the stamps must be pasted directly over these.

When a quid has been exhausted, the Government strictly forbids it being thrown away until two red chalk marks have been made across it, and a label attached bearing these words: "The fellow who chewed this has complied with all the requirements of the law, and persons are hereby warned not to chew this quid again."

Tobacco consumers must constantly bear in mind that the more stamps there are on a package of tobacco the cheaper does the weed become—in a horn.

The Government strictly forbids the use of

those tobacco boxes having a concealed needle inside a nob on the cover, by which one forgets his desire for a chew after having the instrument run into his thumb about a foot.

The Government has witnessed, with supreme serrow, many young men, and old men also, when they have observed an acquaintance smoking a cigar, come out boldly and ask, "Have you got the mate to that?" Hereafter, in all such cases, the person asked will exhibit the following label, which Government will furnish on demand: "Ask me for ten

The Banner of Cortez:

From the New Orleans Commercial of Dec. 13.]
The Picayune, in a compilation of Mexican news, lately published, had a paragraph announcing that the banner of Cortez, the remowned conqueror of the Aztecs, had been discovered in the municipal palace at Tlascala. This is no discovery. It has always been known that the banner was at Tlascala. When General Joe Lane, in the Mexican war with the United States conducted an expedition Telmacan, south of Orizaba, in pursuit of Santa Anna, on returning to the capital, after passing through Puebla, he turned to the North and took Tlascala in his route. The

banner was then known to be deposited there in a church on the top of a high and steep hill, and the writer of this and several others, who were with General Lane, had the relic in their hands, were tempted to take it as a trophy of war, and would have taken it but that the Alcalde of the town and the Padre in charge of the church prevailed upon General Lane not to allow it to be removed.

Visit of the Tennessee Legislature to Mrs. President Polk. [From the Nashville Union, Dec. 15.]
A large number of the members of both

Houses of the Legislature paid a visit to Mrs. James K. Polk yesterday afternoon, in compliance with a resolution adopted by both Houses of the General Assembly. They formed in procession at the Capitol at 4 P. M., about 100 in number, and marched two by two to the residence, corner Union and Vine streets. As they entered the large and well-furnished reception room they were introduced by the Committee appointed for that purpose to Mrs. Polk, Mrs. McClanna-han, Mrs. G. W. Fall and Miss Laura Gardner, who were assembled for the purpose of entertaining the distinguished guests. After a general shaking of hands and complimentary remarks, the members were ushered into spacious dining-room where was spread before them a variety of wines and edibles sufficient to satisfy the appetite of any epicure. After all had been supplied with refreshments, remarks were make by Mr. Thomas, Speaker of the Senate, Mr. Fleming, of the Heuse of Representatives, and Mr. Cooper, of the Senate, in which they expressed their thanks for the pleasure optationment. Mr. Cooper ends in sant entertainment. Mr. Cooper spoke in behalf of Mrs. Polk, expressing her gratitude and pleasure at the visit of the members of the Tennessee Legislature paid to her. The affair passed off satisfactorily to all those present.

CITY NOTICES.

VALUABLE PRESENTS. - Undoubtedly an VALUABLE PRESENTS.—Undoubtedly an elegant Port-folio, Natchel, Pocket-book or Cigar-case is one of the most acceptable presents that can be given. Such articles are beautiful, useful and desirable. In order to obtain genuine goods of this class, the best place in this city to visit is the extensive and reliable establishment of Mr. C. F. RUMPP, 118 North Fourth street. His commodions sales rooms are stocked with a cheice and varied assortment of first-class goods, comprising Pocketbooks, Satchels, Traveling-bags, Bankers Cases, Cabas, &c. The goods which Mr. C. F. Rumpr manufactures, and sells are unsurpassed in elegance, durability and excellence. He extensively imports from Paris, London and other European cities, and his numerous patrons appreciate the superiority of his selections and the chapness of his prices. Mr. C. F. Rumpr's wholesale department comprises an extensive stock of first-class goods, highly worthy the attention of both city and country merchants.

FRENCH AND ENGLISH CASSIMERE PANTS. Made to Order.

\$12 to \$11.

A similar reduction on all Measured and Ready-made Clothing at

CHARLES STOKES'S.
No. 821 Chestnut street,
Under Continental Hotel.

WRAPPERS! WRAPPERS! WAPPERS!

A fine display of wrappers suitable for gontlemen; and it is universally admitted by all who have seen them, to be the neplus ultra of perfection, of material and exquisite workmanship. The above being the most appropriate present that can be unade for Christmas and New Year's offering, together with a complete assortment of gentlemen's goods of every description.

R. C. Walborn & Co.,
Nos. 5 and 7 North Sixth street.

HOLIDAY CONFECTIONS.

The largest assortment, in neat boxes, for Presents, at E. G. Whitman & Co. 'a, 316 Chestnut, below Fourth street.

FRIED OYSTERS by the dozen or by the hundred. Morse & GUNSALUS, 238 South Eleventh street.

RASP-ROLLS, Fried Oysters and Chicken Salad, Order them of MORSE, 902 Arch street. YOU CAN REGULATE THE COLOR.—Every natural shade from light brown to deepest black is imported by Phalon's Vitalia on Salvation for the Halk. The number of applications determine the tinge, it would be like comparing shining water to the drainings from a marsh, to compare it with the ordinary hair lyes.

BLACKING CASES, COMMODES, and House-ceeping articles for the millions. FARSON & Co., Dock treet, below Walnut.

AN EPICUREAN ANTIDOTE.—This title applies to Dr. WINSLOW'S Liver and Stomuch Lozenge. Everybody likes it, the cick relish it, and its effect in cases of obstinate constipation, billous colic, indigestion and liver complaint, is far more salutary than that of any other alterative and corrective. Sold by all druggists.

ICE CREAMS are rendered delicious by the use of Burnett's Flavoring Extracts.

As a Holiday Gift, nothing could be more appropriate than a Singer Family Sewing Machine. To be had upon easy terms at 1106 Chestnut street. GO TO OARFORDS for Christmas presents of Furs, Mufflers and the most exquisite styles of Hats and Caps at their Btores. 834 and 836 Chestnut street.

SINGER'S FAMILY SEWING MACHINES. TEN DOLLARS CASH.

BALANCE IN MONTHLY INSTALMENTS.

O. F. DAVIS,

810 Chestiaut street.

PHILADELPHIA SEWING MACHINE MAET.

WHITE IRON STONE TEA SETS.

WHITE IRON STONE TEA SETS.

BEST QUALITY, WARRANTED.

Tea Sets, 60 pieces, cups with handles, 35.
Chamber Sets, 11 pieces, large sizes, \$3 25.
Film Glass Goblets, new patterns, per dozen, \$1.
Iron Stone China Dinner Sets, 90 pieces, \$10.
Iron Stone China and Glass loaned to Balls, Parties and Factor of there of the same prices.
N. B.—China and Glass loaned to Balls, Parties and Festivals for three per cent, on selling prices. Candelabras and Vases for flowers. Plated Forts, Spoons and Knives for hiring to parties, at 12% cents per dozen.

EAMUEL FETHERSTON & Co., No. 276 South Second street, above Spruce.

CORNS, Bunions, Inverted Nails, skillfully treated by Dr. J. Davidson, No. 215 Chestnut street. Charges moderate. JUDICIOUS MOTHERS and nurses use for children a safe and pleasant medicine in Bouser's Infant Cordial.

CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAY GIFTS, of Fine Sable, Mink, and all other styles of Furs, at lowest prices, at OAKFORDS, under the Continental.

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS and druggists' sun-ENOWDEN & BROTHER, 23 South Eighth street.

DEAFNESS, BLINDNESS AND CATARRH.

J. Isaacs, M. D., Professor of the Eye and Ear, treats all diseases appertaining to the above members with the sum of success. Testimonials from the most reliable sources in the city can be seen at his effice, No. 805 Arch street. The medical faculty are invited to accompany their patients, as he has no secrets in his practice. Artificial eyes inserted. No charge made for examination.

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Two New Books Ready This Day. FRENCH FAIRY TALES.

By Madame de Segur, translated by Mrs. Goleman and her daughters (the translators of the Muhibach novels, Illustrated by Doré and Jules Didler. 12mo, Cloth, extra boards, glit top, §1 50.

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Rubber Truss nover rusts, breaks or soils, used in bathing; Supporters, Elastic Bolts, Stockings, all kinds of Trusses and Bruces, Ladies attended to by MRS. LEIGH 1230 (hostnut, second story.

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Rings of solid 12 karat fine Gold—a specialty; a full
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INDIA CAMEL'S HAIR SHAWLS

GREATLY REDUCED

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This stock is the most extensive and varied ever offered at retail in this city, and contains more novelties and staples of recent importation than can be found elsewhere. ONE PRICE AND NO DEVIATION. RICKEY, SHARP & CO.,

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Best Blankets, Fresh from the Mills. Marseilles Bed Quilts. Honeycomb Quilts, all sizes. Allendale and Lancaster Quilts. Linen Sheetings, every width. Cotton Sheetings, " " Pillow Casings.

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THE PRICES ARE ALL PUT DOWN.

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Store open from 7 A. M. to 9 P. M. Saturday Nights later.

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1000 yds Assorted Dress Goods Beduced, to-day, to 25 cents.



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We mean to do a large trade in this departmentib

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Fruit Stands, Castors, Assiette Montee. 50 DOZEN POCKET BOOKS AND PURSES,

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Fancy Goods suitable for Holiday Gifts.
Just opened. 1,000 Paris Bilk Fans, at 75, 90c., \$1, \$125, \$1 50, \$175 up to \$3.
Vienna Fans, a job lot, very cheap.
Gilt Stick Fans.
Fancy Purses, 25, 31, 38, 50c. up to \$1.
Porte Monnaies, 20, 25, 28, 31, 35, 38, 40, 44, 50, 65, 69, 75,
St. Start 5, 27, 31 Porte Monnaies, 20, 25, 28, 31, 35, 33, 40, 44, 50, 65, 69, 75, 80c. 31 up to \$2.50.

Bargains in Lace Hdkfa. Linen Centres at 50c., 62!4, 75, 88c., \$1, \$1, 50 and \$2.

Lace Oollars, 25, 31, 35, 69, 62!4, 75, 88c., \$1, \$1, 50.

Ladies' Hemstitch Hdkfa., all linen, 15, 16, 20, 25, 28, 31, 35, 39, 60, 76c.

Gents' Hemstitch Hdkfa., all linen, 31, 38, 42, 50c., up to \$1.

Ladies' Embrodered Hales p § 1. Ladies Embroidered Hdkfs. Ladies Corded Homstitch Hdkfs., all linen, 40, 60, 56,

Ladies' Corded Homstitch Hdkfs., all linen, 40, 60, 56, 624, and 80c.
Gents' colored Border Hdkfs., 31, 35, 40, 50, 65 and 75c.
Ladies and Gents' Gloves.
Misses' and Boys' Gloves.
Gents' Lined Kid Gloves.
Ladies' Kid Gloves, &c.
Sovoral lots of Fancy Goods, consisting of Tea Sets, Toilet Sets, Vases, Tulip Stands. Card Receivers, Jardiners, Building Blocks, Tenpins, Puzzles, &c.

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DRY GOODS. Fine Shawls, Good Silks, Extra Velvets, CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

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BLACK LACE SACQUES.—LOWER D prices. Received per steamer "Allemania," one case Black Lace Bacques. Short Sacques, with sleeves, \$15 to \$25; Long Sacques, with sleeves, \$18 to \$33. The assortment contains the manufacturer's entire line of designs and prices of Sacques with sleeves.

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WANTS. WANTED—TO BUY ALL KINDS OF Furniture and Housekeeping articles in large or small quantities. Address. de21-strp* THOS. Y RUSH, Philadelphia P.O.

MAMMOTH SALE KID GLOVES FOR TWO WEEKS ONLY.

"JOSEPH" Reduced from \$1 00 to 85c.

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139 DOZ. LADIES FRENCH CLOTH GLOVES, 38c. DRESS GOODS. Black Silks, Silk Poplins, Scarfs, Hosiery, Hdkfs., Gloves, Ladies' and Gents' Merino Underwoar, Marked so low as to insure a

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Bold by all first class Grocers. By our improved process in cauning the QUINTON TOMATOES excel all others both in the quality and quantity of the contents of each can.
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The Best and most Suitable Present to a Friend or the Needy is a barrel of our "J. S. Welch's" First Premium Flour,

And a bag or half barrel

"Sterling's Mountain" Buckwheat Meal, which we warrant SUPERIOR to any other in the U. B. All goods warranted as represented, and delivered free.

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