

EXTRA SESSIONS IN PRIOR TIMES

Review of an Interesting Phase of Our National History.

REASONS FOR THE VARIOUS CALLS

The Prolonged Debate on the Congress Clause in the Constitution. The First Extra Session Was Called in May 1797, President John Adams. Other Extraordinary Assemblages of the Law-making Power.

The constitution, article II, section 2, provides that "the president may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both houses or either of them."

The legislative power shall be vested in a congress, to consist of two separate and distinct bodies of men, a house of representatives and a senate.

When that article was taken up for consideration, James Madison of Virginia, desired to know the reasons of the committee for fixing by the constitution the time of meeting of congress, suggesting that only one meeting should be held every year, leaving the time to be fixed or varied by law.

The chief of them were commerce and revenue. Mr. Madison removed his objection to the provision, and as a strong consideration that it might happen that the congress might be called together by the public exigencies and finish their session but a short time before the annual period, in which case it would be inconvenient to reconvene so quickly.

MR. MADISON OBJECTED. Mr. Madison removed his objection to the provision, and as a strong consideration that it might happen that the congress might be called together by the public exigencies and finish their session but a short time before the annual period, in which case it would be inconvenient to reconvene so quickly.

IN WAR TIMES. The next "extra" session was called by President Madison, who convened the Twelfth congress on the 4th day of November, 1811, to consider questions growing out of the condition of foreign affairs, especially resulting from the British orders in council, and the French edicts, which seriously affected our commerce.

Article III, as reported, was further amended by striking out the words "each of which shall in all cases have a negative on the other;" and by adding the words "unless they shall by law appoint a different day."

This, in the final revision, became clause 2, section 4, article 1, with the substitution of the word "Congress" for "Legislature." The judgment of Mr. Madison, that the extent of the country would "stretch business," was vindicated by the first congress. The first session—convened on March 4, 1789—did not adjourn until Sept. 29, a period of 210 days, while by act of Sept. 29, it fixed the day of meeting of the first session on Jan. 4, 1790, that session lasting 21 days. By act of March 2, 1791, the Second Congress convened on Oct. 24 of that year, sat until May 8, 1792, and, by act of May 5, convened the second session of that Congress on Nov. 5. Prior to the Fourteenth Congress there had been five "extra" sessions called, and by act of Congress the time was changed from the first Monday in December, in seven other Congresses to about the 5th of November.

The provision that the President "may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both houses, or either of them," was in the report of Mr. Rutledge from the committee on Detail, save the words "or either of them." It led to no debate or contest, it necessarily being apparent by the experience of the Continental Congress and the belief that exigencies should be provided for.

TWELVE "EXTRAS" IN ALL. The power of convening Congress "on extraordinary occasions" has been exercised by nine Presidents, viz.: John

Adams, Jefferson (twice), Madison (twice), Van Buren, Harrison, Pierce, Lincoln, Hayes (twice), and Cleveland, making in all twelve "extra" sessions out of the 13 sessions of Congress held during the century of our existence as a nation under the Constitution.

The first "extra" session of Congress was called by President John Adams, and convened on Monday, May 16, 1797, and was the first session of the Fifth Congress.

It was called on account of the suspension of diplomatic intercourse with France, on the pretext, on the part of the French Directory, that the Jay treaty was a violation of our part of a solemn compact in relation to the French West India possessions.

The next "extra" session was the first session of the Eighth congress, convened by President Jefferson on Monday, Oct. 12, 1803.

The "extraordinary occasion" necessitating, in the opinion of Mr. Jefferson, an extra session of congress, was the secret session of Louisiana by the King of Spain to France, the Intendant of Louisiana being instructed to make the formal delivery of the territory to France when ceded to Spain.

Speaker Mason was re-elected without opposition, and as both branches were friendly to the administration by large majorities, the treaty made by Monroe, Livingston, and Pinckney was promptly ratified by the senate.

The attack upon the Chesapeake by the Leopard and the seizure of alleged deserters from the British navy under the "right of search" claimed by Great Britain, together with unsettled differences between the United States and Great Britain, induced President Jefferson to call an "extra" session of the Tenth congress, on Oct. 28, 1807.

The earnest recommendation of the president for the passage of an "embargo act"—the most vigorous legislation affecting private property ever enacted by congress—was promptly concurred in by the senate by a vote of 22 to 6, and by the house by a vote of 82 to 44.

The next "extra" session was called by President Madison, who convened the Twelfth congress on the 4th day of November, 1811, to consider questions growing out of the condition of foreign affairs, especially resulting from the British orders in council, and the French edicts, which seriously affected our commerce.

Article III, as reported, was further amended by striking out the words "each of which shall in all cases have a negative on the other;" and by adding the words "unless they shall by law appoint a different day."

This, in the final revision, became clause 2, section 4, article 1, with the substitution of the word "Congress" for "Legislature." The judgment of Mr. Madison, that the extent of the country would "stretch business," was vindicated by the first congress.

TWELVE "EXTRAS" IN ALL. The power of convening Congress "on extraordinary occasions" has been exercised by nine Presidents, viz.: John

quent speech saving the bill, the first instance of a speaker taking part in the debates of the house. During this session many important measures were passed in harmony with the president's recommendations, plans of internal revenue were considered, and custom duties were doubled.

The session terminated July 6, 1812, the second session being fixed for Nov. 2 following, and the first session of the Thirteenth congress being set for May 24, 1813. Henry Clay was re-elected speaker by a vote of 89 to 54, representing the administration vote, a majority in the house.

IN SPIRE OF THE FACT that the second session of the Thirteenth congress, which adjourned April 18, 1814, had fixed the commencement of the third session on the fourth Monday of May, 1814, President Madison was compelled to convene congress in extra session at a still earlier day in order to provide for treasury deficiencies, as well as to consider negotiations then on foot with Great Britain to decide "whether it should require arrangements adopted to a return of peace or order the more effective provisions for the prosecuting of war."

The Hartford convention aggravated the situation, and though its ill proceedings have never been published—its sealed journal, when opened, being found to contain a meagre sketch of formal proceedings—enough is known to show that a deliberate attempt was made by representative Federalists to procure a separation of the states.

JOHN TYLER'S EXTRA. The next "extra" session was that of the first session of the Twenty-seventh congress, which was convened by President Tyler on the 31st of May, 1841. The occasion of this session was declared in the proclamation to be sundry important and weighty matters principally growing out of the condition of the revenue and finances of the country.

THE LAST ONE. The twelfth and last "extra" session was convened by President Cleveland, and met on Aug. 1, 1893, as the first session of the Fifty-third congress. The House of Representatives was Democratic by a large majority, having 218 members, the Republicans 127, and the Populists and opposition 11.

Secretary Ewing in response to a request from the two houses of congress, transmitted a plan of a "Fiscal Bank of the United States," in which he had the aid of Mr. Webster, then secretary of state. The details of its provisions are outside the scope of this article, but as it passed (the senate, 26 to 23, and the house, 128 to 97) it was considered a compromise measure.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON one month after his inauguration, and the accession of Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency, with the complications growing out of the change of policy on the part of Mr. Tyler from that mapped out by his predecessor, produced great bitterness in Congress against him, so that the session was barren of any important legislation.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON one month after his inauguration, and the accession of Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency, with the complications growing out of the change of policy on the part of Mr. Tyler from that mapped out by his predecessor, produced great bitterness in Congress against him, so that the session was barren of any important legislation.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON one month after his inauguration, and the accession of Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency, with the complications growing out of the change of policy on the part of Mr. Tyler from that mapped out by his predecessor, produced great bitterness in Congress against him, so that the session was barren of any important legislation.

throughout the entire country, but it saved the Whig party from destruction. This "extra" session, but for President Harrison's untimely death, would have strengthened the Whig party, and placed Henry Clay in the White House four years later.

THE FAILURE OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS (which adjourned Aug. 13, 1856) to make provision for the army for the ensuing fiscal year, necessitated an "extra" session, which was accordingly called by President Pierce, and met on the 21st day of August, three days after the close of the first session.

THE NEXT "EXTRA" SESSION was the first session of the Thirty-seventh congress, convened on the 4th of July, 1861, by President Lincoln.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON one month after his inauguration, and the accession of Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency, with the complications growing out of the change of policy on the part of Mr. Tyler from that mapped out by his predecessor, produced great bitterness in Congress against him, so that the session was barren of any important legislation.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON one month after his inauguration, and the accession of Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency, with the complications growing out of the change of policy on the part of Mr. Tyler from that mapped out by his predecessor, produced great bitterness in Congress against him, so that the session was barren of any important legislation.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON one month after his inauguration, and the accession of Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency, with the complications growing out of the change of policy on the part of Mr. Tyler from that mapped out by his predecessor, produced great bitterness in Congress against him, so that the session was barren of any important legislation.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON one month after his inauguration, and the accession of Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency, with the complications growing out of the change of policy on the part of Mr. Tyler from that mapped out by his predecessor, produced great bitterness in Congress against him, so that the session was barren of any important legislation.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON one month after his inauguration, and the accession of Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency, with the complications growing out of the change of policy on the part of Mr. Tyler from that mapped out by his predecessor, produced great bitterness in Congress against him, so that the session was barren of any important legislation.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON one month after his inauguration, and the accession of Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency, with the complications growing out of the change of policy on the part of Mr. Tyler from that mapped out by his predecessor, produced great bitterness in Congress against him, so that the session was barren of any important legislation.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON one month after his inauguration, and the accession of Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency, with the complications growing out of the change of policy on the part of Mr. Tyler from that mapped out by his predecessor, produced great bitterness in Congress against him, so that the session was barren of any important legislation.

throughout the entire country, but it saved the Whig party from destruction. This "extra" session, but for President Harrison's untimely death, would have strengthened the Whig party, and placed Henry Clay in the White House four years later.

THE FAILURE OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS (which adjourned Aug. 13, 1856) to make provision for the army for the ensuing fiscal year, necessitated an "extra" session, which was accordingly called by President Pierce, and met on the 21st day of August, three days after the close of the first session.

THE NEXT "EXTRA" SESSION was the first session of the Thirty-seventh congress, convened on the 4th of July, 1861, by President Lincoln.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON one month after his inauguration, and the accession of Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency, with the complications growing out of the change of policy on the part of Mr. Tyler from that mapped out by his predecessor, produced great bitterness in Congress against him, so that the session was barren of any important legislation.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON one month after his inauguration, and the accession of Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency, with the complications growing out of the change of policy on the part of Mr. Tyler from that mapped out by his predecessor, produced great bitterness in Congress against him, so that the session was barren of any important legislation.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON one month after his inauguration, and the accession of Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency, with the complications growing out of the change of policy on the part of Mr. Tyler from that mapped out by his predecessor, produced great bitterness in Congress against him, so that the session was barren of any important legislation.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON one month after his inauguration, and the accession of Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency, with the complications growing out of the change of policy on the part of Mr. Tyler from that mapped out by his predecessor, produced great bitterness in Congress against him, so that the session was barren of any important legislation.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON one month after his inauguration, and the accession of Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency, with the complications growing out of the change of policy on the part of Mr. Tyler from that mapped out by his predecessor, produced great bitterness in Congress against him, so that the session was barren of any important legislation.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON one month after his inauguration, and the accession of Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency, with the complications growing out of the change of policy on the part of Mr. Tyler from that mapped out by his predecessor, produced great bitterness in Congress against him, so that the session was barren of any important legislation.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT HARRISON one month after his inauguration, and the accession of Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency, with the complications growing out of the change of policy on the part of Mr. Tyler from that mapped out by his predecessor, produced great bitterness in Congress against him, so that the session was barren of any important legislation.

manufacture, bring distress and privation to our farmers, and withhold from our workmen the wages of labor; that the present position of affairs is largely the result of a financial policy which the executive branch of the Government finds embodied in unwise laws which must be executed until repealed by Congress.

ON AUG. 7, President Cleveland urged the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman Silver act, which compelled the purchase each month of 4,500,000 ounces of silver bullion. He spoke of the "alarming and extraordinary business situation" and of the "unfortunate financial plight," and amplified this view, and also urged that Congress should "put beyond all doubt or mistake the intention and ability of the Government to fulfill its pecuniary obligations in money universally recognized by all civilized countries."

ON AUG. 11, Chairman Wilson introduced a bill to amend the purchasing clause of the Sherman act. The debate ran until Aug. 25, and after various amendments adding provisions for the free coinage of silver were voted down, the bill was passed by yeas 239 to nays 109, a majority of the affirmative vote being Republican and of the negative vote being Democratic.

ON AUG. 11, Chairman Wilson introduced a bill to amend the purchasing clause of the Sherman act. The debate ran until Aug. 25, and after various amendments adding provisions for the free coinage of silver were voted down, the bill was passed by yeas 239 to nays 109, a majority of the affirmative vote being Republican and of the negative vote being Democratic.

ON AUG. 11, Chairman Wilson introduced a bill to amend the purchasing clause of the Sherman act. The debate ran until Aug. 25, and after various amendments adding provisions for the free coinage of silver were voted down, the bill was passed by yeas 239 to nays 109, a majority of the affirmative vote being Republican and of the negative vote being Democratic.

ON AUG. 11, Chairman Wilson introduced a bill to amend the purchasing clause of the Sherman act. The debate ran until Aug. 25, and after various amendments adding provisions for the free coinage of silver were voted down, the bill was passed by yeas 239 to nays 109, a majority of the affirmative vote being Republican and of the negative vote being Democratic.

ON AUG. 11, Chairman Wilson introduced a bill to amend the purchasing clause of the Sherman act. The debate ran until Aug. 25, and after various amendments adding provisions for the free coinage of silver were voted down, the bill was passed by yeas 239 to nays 109, a majority of the affirmative vote being Republican and of the negative vote being Democratic.

ON AUG. 11, Chairman Wilson introduced a bill to amend the purchasing clause of the Sherman act. The debate ran until Aug. 25, and after various amendments adding provisions for the free coinage of silver were voted down, the bill was passed by yeas 239 to nays 109, a majority of the affirmative vote being Republican and of the negative vote being Democratic.

ON AUG. 11, Chairman Wilson introduced a bill to amend the purchasing clause of the Sherman act. The debate ran until Aug. 25, and after various amendments adding provisions for the free coinage of silver were voted down, the bill was passed by yeas 239 to nays 109, a majority of the affirmative vote being Republican and of the negative vote being Democratic.

ON AUG. 11, Chairman Wilson introduced a bill to amend the purchasing clause of the Sherman act. The debate ran until Aug. 25, and after various amendments adding provisions for the free coinage of silver were voted down, the bill was passed by yeas 239 to nays 109, a majority of the affirmative vote being Republican and of the negative vote being Democratic.

194 to nays 94, and the bill was approved. So far as the session was concerned, it was—besides the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman act—barren of results, and the repeal of the law has not borne the fruit expected.

IT MAY BE SAID THAT THE "EXTRA" session failed to accomplish any substantial relief, for the simple reason that a majority of the Democratic members of both houses of congress had no confidence in either President Cleveland or Secretary Carlisle, and that the lame and impotent conclusions—or resolutions—of that "extra" session really laid the foundation of an overwhelming defeat of the Democratic party in November last.

OF THE TWELVE "EXTRA" sessions called, the first session of the Twelfth congress, called by Mr. Madison, was the longest (215 days), and the second session of the Thirteenth congress, called by Mr. Pierce, was the shortest (ten days).

THE ANNUAL EXPENSES OF CONGRESS approximate four millions of dollars, and an extra session of congress does not cost, besides the printing, to exceed \$75,000 per month, as mileage is allowed for but two sessions of congress, while the great mass of business left unfinished at the expiration of each congress will readily suggest the absolute necessity of providing for at least three annual sessions of each congress.

ALL THIS WILL DOUBTLESS receive the careful consideration of the president-elect, who has personal knowledge of this anomalous condition of affairs, and has expressed his personal belief that it should be corrected by proper legislation.

A CHICAGO general passenger agent the other day received a letter from the publisher of a little paper down in Arkansas which seemed to contain some interesting news at least. The Arkansas editor said: "Dear Sir:—I wish you would send me a pass from Little Rock to Chicago and return. I've got to go to Chicago and I can't do it unless you do. My paper goes through the hands of a lot of people. I'm having mighty hard work to keep it from going to hell."

A CHICAGO general passenger agent the other day received a letter from the publisher of a little paper down in Arkansas which seemed to contain some interesting news at least. The Arkansas editor said: "Dear Sir:—I wish you would send me a pass from Little Rock to Chicago and return. I've got to go to Chicago and I can't do it unless you do. My paper goes through the hands of a lot of people. I'm having mighty hard work to keep it from going to hell."

A CHICAGO general passenger agent the other day received a letter from the publisher of a little paper down in Arkansas which seemed to contain some interesting news at least. The Arkansas editor said: "Dear Sir:—I wish you would send me a pass from Little Rock to Chicago and return. I've got to go to Chicago and I can't do it unless you do. My paper goes through the hands of a lot of people. I'm having mighty hard work to keep it from going to hell."

A CHICAGO general passenger agent the other day received a letter from the publisher of a little paper down in Arkansas which seemed to contain some interesting news at least. The Arkansas editor said: "Dear Sir:—I wish you would send me a pass from Little Rock to Chicago and return. I've got to go to Chicago and I can't do it unless you do. My paper goes through the hands of a lot of people. I'm having mighty hard work to keep it from going to hell."

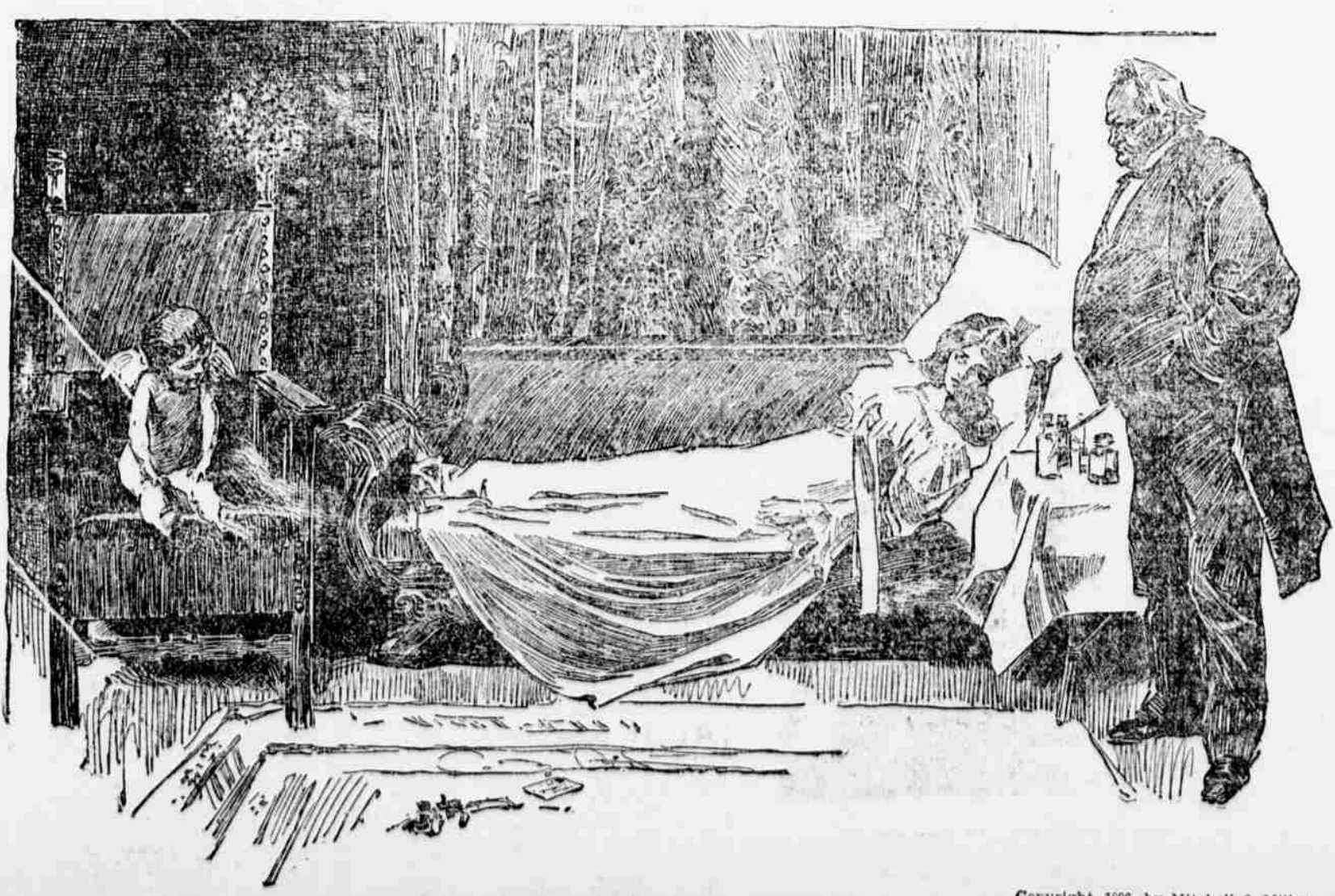
A CHICAGO general passenger agent the other day received a letter from the publisher of a little paper down in Arkansas which seemed to contain some interesting news at least. The Arkansas editor said: "Dear Sir:—I wish you would send me a pass from Little Rock to Chicago and return. I've got to go to Chicago and I can't do it unless you do. My paper goes through the hands of a lot of people. I'm having mighty hard work to keep it from going to hell."

Cottolene Better than lard Cheaper than butter Two-thirds as much will do the work of either. THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY, CHICAGO, ILL.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY. Personally-Conducted Tours. MATCHLESS IN EVERY FEATURE. CALIFORNIA, FLORIDA, WASHINGTON. OLD POINT COMFORT TOURS.

CUSHMAN'S MENTHOL INHALETS. HAVE YOU CATARRH OF THE NOSE? HEADACHE NEURALGIA. MANSFIELD STATE NORMAL SCHOOL. Intellectual and practical training for teachers.

Complexion Preserver DR. MEDRA'S VIOLA CREAM. REVIVO RESTORES VITALITY. Made a Well Man of Me. FRENCH REMEDY produces the above results in 30 days.



WHEN DOCTORS DISAGREE.—Life.