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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1868.

RESTORATION OF SECRETARY STANTON.

That the Office Tenure Law originated in the desire of Congress to prevent the removal of Mr. STANTON from the War Department by the President, is a fact too notorious to be successfully disputed. That the Law was so precisely worded as to completely cover his case, has been doubted, by us and by others. The Senate has judged from the standpoint of its consciousness. What it intended, what the President and all others knew to be intended by the law, it assumes to be the law. Such action dispenses with verbal criticism, by rising into a plane above it. Courts proceed by a different method. Having no consciousness of intention on the part of law-makers, because not of that class, they go exclusively by the meaning they attach to words and phrases; and sometimes they do most surprising things by construction—finding in a statute what the framers thereof never thought of putting into it, and what plain people, guided only by common sense, never conjectured could be educed therefrom. We do not see that Courts can adopt any other rule of interpretation than that they follow. From the nature of the case the Senate has a safe rule, and resorts to it. In this, it does well. It has the same right to work by methods congenial to its nature and function, as the Courts have to pursue methods suited to their sphere and character.

Mr. STANTON has been charged with humoring both the President and Congress, giving each assurances of his sympathy and co-operation. That is a matter quite apart from the issue between the Executive and Legislative Departments. Whether he was frank and sincere in his intercourse with either is a problem for each of those Departments to settle with him; not with each other. This was evidently one view of the Senate in reinstating the Secretary. The President had suspended him. The Senate judged the reasons assigned for the suspension to be insufficient, and put him back. It looks, indeed, as if the Senate was satisfied as to Mr. STANTON's intentions towards Congress; but that was not material to the action taken in his behalf.

The course of the Senate was dignified and energetic, and has imparted solid satisfaction to all loyal men. It is to be hoped that both houses are fully resolved to sustain what has been done by any further action that may become needful by the progress of events. In a number of important exigencies Congress has quailed and retreated when it should have moved steadily forward, and with increased vigor. By its hesitancy in grave crises it has shaken the confidence of the supporting masses, and even bewildered those most ready to render assistance. Let us hope that this accession of energy and boldness is not temporary.

The conduct of General GRANT in the premises is truly gratifying. He yielded, not simply with grace, but with manifest heartiness, to the mandate of the Senate. This may safely be taken as a pregnant indication of his position touching the merits of the great controversy between the President and Congress. At first, it was charged, on the authority of the President, that the General had used duplicity; that he had promised not to yield up the Department upon Senatorial requisition, but to give the President leisure to take any ultimate measures he should deem suitable; and that he had unexpectedly failed to make good his assurances. If this charge had been sustained, it would have detracted immeasurably from the reputation of the General. But it was soon abandoned. Indeed, proof was not long in coming forth that the President was duly notified of what was intended, and failed to make the resistance he had vaunted.

Almost simultaneously it was alleged that General GRANT would be adjudged guilty of insubordination in relinquishing without the consent of his superior the Department to which he had been assigned. It will be recollected that when General GRANT superseded Mr. STANTON we held that he was not assignable as a military officer to that position, because it was purely civil; that he was assigned to it as a citizen and not as a soldier; and that it was doubtful if his headship of the Department was compatible with his generalship of the army. This position being now almost unanimously conceded, there need be no fear that Gen. GRANT will be ordered before a Court Martial for declining to play into the hands of the President in this matter.

It was intimated awhile ago that Mr. STANTON, soon after being re-instated, would resign, thus making the triumph of Congress one of form, rather than one of substance. We trust such is not the intention. The issue has been brought to a head. So far Congress is master of the situation. Let it maintain its present attitude, and it need not fear but the people will rally to its support. Pluck is a most excellent quality, when under the guidance of intelligence and conviction. Congress is now exemplifying its uses. By all means, let it persevere.

STANDING ARMIES.

A century and a half ago was commenced that system of standing armies in Europe, which has since grown to such enormous proportions as to threaten to eat out the substance of the nations in order to gratify the ambitions of the monarchs. As fast as one Emperor or King has increased his enrolled or drilled force, all the others have felt compelled to follow his example and multiply soldiers and armaments in corresponding ratio. In the earliest stages of its development MONTESQUIEU deplored this system as fraught with innumerable calamities. Fifty years later ADAM SMITH stated that the prevailing computation in his age was that one in a hundred of the population could be sustained as a regular military force; while to increase the proportion would be certain to result in national bankruptcy. NAPOLEON III. now proposes to raise the French army to 1,200,000 out of a population of 48,000,000; that is, he proposes to convert into soldiers a thirtieth part of the whole people. It is manifest, therefore, either that a great fallacy lurked in the earlier computations, or that important changes have been wrought in the condition of society. It is not improbable that something must be allowed for both these causes.

Statistics, as a science, were exceedingly imperfect even fifty years ago, and in many departments comparatively little progress has been made even now. Still, enough has been ascertained to make it certain that all the earlier estimates were so inaccurate as to be of little value. At best, they were only rough approximations; often they were so crude as to be only misleading. It is probable, therefore, that ADAM SMITH's estimate of the average capacity of nations in his day to support military organizations was considerably below the actual point. But, during the last century the productive ability of all the European nations has been vastly augmented by the introduction of machinery. Steam, as a propelling force, has multiplied almost indefinitely the capacity of the nations for producing all descriptions of goods, wares and merchandise, and the multiplication goes on steadily and in apparently increasing ratio. It seems impossible to set a limit to this expansion. If it was safe to conclude that SMITH's computation was correct, and that NAPOLEON was now pressing the capabilities of his subjects to the utmost limit, a basis would be furnished for measuring definitely what machinery has thus far accomplished in supplying the place of population as a dynamic force. Neither of these points, however, are settled. Indeed, many known facts indicate that to assume either of these points as true, would be to fall into serious error. It is manifest that a century ago the power of nations to carry public burdens of any sort, was greatly under-estimated. It is just as clear that machinery has made much more than the difference between SMITH's calculation and the demand now made by NAPOLEON. Some of the European nations, as England and Belgium, have certainly increased, by nearly a hundred fold, through machinery their power to produce commodities demanded for consumption. Then, it must be considered that it costs vastly less to run a steam engine of any given force, than to maintain a number of men and women sufficient to equal it. Iron hands, whenever they can be used, are cheaper than hands of flesh and bones.

It must be pondered, as well, to comprehend this whole matter aright, that the science of war has felt the modern impulse as well as other departments of activity. A given number of men, employed in the work of war, can now accomplish much more than the same number could have done a hundred years ago. With railroads and steamships as means of transportation; with telegraphs to send messages; with modern guns and missiles, the work of destroying lives and property has received a fearful acceleration. This was demonstrated during the recent wars in this country and in Germany. True, there were superficial persons among us, while the rebellion was in progress, who saw vast sums of money rapidly accumulated through army and navy contracts, or through speculations in stocks consequent on the expansion of the paper circulating medium, and thought the nation was rapidly increasing in wealth. It was impossible to make them understand that the taking of a million and a half of men from productive industry, was in itself a cause of national impoverishment; that to set them at the work of destruction, in tearing up railroads, conflagrating towns, sweeping away fences and crops, and transforming fruitful districts into desert places, was quickening the waste of substance beyond former precedent, and would reduce the nation to such a condition of exhaustion as to require many years for full recuperation.

Of course, the augmentation of the French armies will result in proportional strengthening elsewhere—especially in Germany and Italy. It was the good fortune of Prussia to possess rulers who perceived in advance of others the changes that were inevitable in the art of war by reason of the general progress in mechanical invention; and who were prompt in adopting all the improvements that were presented. Her military system has been thoroughly modernized, so that her Prime Minister, instead of being dismayed at the gigantic French preparations, confidently utters the assurance that the peace of Europe is not to be broken this year. He knows what resources are at his command, and what his great opponent can summon. But Austria has need to strain her capabilities to the utmost; while Italy, wearied and impoverished by exertions beyond her strength, sees occasion for still larger efforts, if she will accomplish her ambition and realize her noblest destiny.

The United States has reason to congratulate itself that, while Europe, in time of profound peace, is incurring most of the burdens incident to a state of war, it is able to reduce its army to a scale of comparative insignificance. Having exemplified the strength of the Government, and the exhaustless patriotism of a majority of the citizens, it can lay down its weapons, confident in its inherent strength and in the full persuasion that it will not be menaced from without. Herein is hope. Seriously as we were depleted while the war raged, now that the war is over the expenses safely fall far below what is deemed practicable on the other side of the Atlantic. Instead of keeping 1,200,000 men under arms, our army has fallen already below 30,000, with a fair prospect of going yet lower. With so few abstracted from the works of peace, and so few to maintain for the purposes of war, the restoration of the nation from the embarrassments under which it now rests must be correspondingly accelerated.

A STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.

REV. JAMES FRAZER, a Commissioner appointed by Her Majesty to inquire into the Schools in Scotland, on the Common School system of the United States, and of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, in his report of our Schools speaks in "warm terms" of the natural aptitude of Americans, particularly of American women, for teaching, and also of the training of our teachers as exceedingly imperfect. The English course is nine years—five years as pupil-teachers, two at the Normal School, and two years under probation. Here, he says, they enter on their work "without having learned to teach," and, it might be added, often without having learned to learn.

The recent report of our able State Superintendent shows that only 2,726 of the 15,000 teachers in our State the past year ever attended a Normal School of any kind, and that only 7,458 read books on teaching. There are, consequently, many acknowledged failures and very many more which are so in fact. The teachers enter on their duties with sufficient knowledge of a few text books to obtain their certificates, but without that general and thorough education they should have, and without any special training for their important profession. They have never learned how to teach or how to govern. Even those who attended for a few months any of the many private Normal Schools became from that fact satisfied with their fitness for their work, of which, or the method of accomplishing which, they knew comparatively nothing. Hence, such schools, although answering a purpose as a temporary expedient, do much harm, standing in the way of genuine Normal Schools, which they resemble in name only. They do not, and they cannot, with their slender advantages and their extremely limited course of study, make professional teachers. To make such requires years of study. The books which they are to teach should be thoroughly mastered, and far higher and broader ground should be conquered, so that they may be prepared to awaken an interest in higher education.

The teacher whose education is limited to a few books soon becomes dull and unable to excite any interest in his classes. Then there are the difficult questions of governing the many different classes of students which may be committed to them, so as not to injure the amiable and good, and so as to benefit the willful and passionate. The dull and stupid are to be aroused and not discouraged, and the bright and active stimulated to high attainments. The different wishes of many uneducated and unreasonable yet loving parents are, as far as possible, to be complied with. He then should have all the instruction in his difficult work he can obtain. The experience of veterans in the cause should be given to him. How to influence the child; how to control the adult; how to teach the different studies, and how, in the full and broad sense, to educate that subtle part of ourselves, which is in fact ourselves—mind—he should be taught. A model man, a model school, and lectures will do much in this respect.

This the Normal School seeks to accomplish. It aims to do for the teacher what the Law, Medical and Theological schools do in their departments; and it is as important as either. It is a long time since such schools were established in Europe. It is less than forty years since, on an humble scale, the experiment, as it was called, was tried in Lexington, Massachusetts. It required much labor to accomplish this; and they have made slow progress—in inverse ratio to their value and importance. Now, Massachusetts has five well equipped schools of this kind doing great service in the cause of education. Pennsylvania, moving slowly in the cause of education with her 3,000,000 of population, has but four for her 800,000 pupils and her 15,000 teachers.

In our district we have none. We are glad to see that an effort is now being made to supply this want. We hope it may succeed. There should be such a school here with all the requisite appointments and with a thoroughly educated, self-denying man at its head. Its influence on all the departments of education will be great. Many will be induced from the aid afforded by the State and the superior advantages it will furnish, to fit themselves for the business of teaching, who otherwise would not; and a large number of females, who make our best teachers, will engage in the work. Of the thirty who graduated at the Westfield (Mass.) Normal School last year twenty-seven were females. Nine-tenths of those who have graduated at the excellent Normal School at Albany, N. Y., have engaged in teaching.

The very meagre compensation offered to teachers, the estimation in which they are held, and the want of suitable preparatory institutions, are difficulties in the way of securing those who are well fitted for their work, and who are willing to make it a life-business. One of these obstacles it is now proposed to remove; and this being overcome, the others will be lessened. Let not our people underrate what is proposed. To be a good teacher requires a combination of powers and acquirements rarely possessed. Extensive knowledge, a well disciplined mind, self government, patience, kindness, firmness, love of labor, ability to govern and to awaken the minds of others, and sound judgment, are necessary. Small compensation, not increasing in proportion to the increase of knowledge and experience, he must expect. Exhausting labor and a short life are his. But he makes noble and true men and women, or by his incapacity, hinders them from becoming such. He deals with mind and heart. He starts the youth on his way to greatness or usefulness, or the way to ruin. He, if fitted for his work, builds up men in all that adorns and ennobles. Thousands of such teachers are demanded in this district of our State. Shall they have the advantages to fit them for their great and good work?

A POMPOUS LIBELLER.

The National Quarterly *Review* claims to stand at the head of periodical literature in this country—to represent the largest degree of culture—to rise above all sordid and grovelling passions and prejudices, and to estimate men and affairs with judicial impartiality. How far it makes good its pretensions may be judged as accurately from a paragraph, in the December number, taken from an article on the "Ruinous influence of paper money," as by stopping to collate hundreds of similar revelations scattered through its pages. Speaking of opposition to Secretary MCCULLOCH's recommendations looking to a resumption of Specie Payments, it says:

"The Radicals oppose him because he is the Cabinet Minister of a President whom they think it their duty to abuse and traduce, as if he was their coachman; and the Democrats because it was a Republican that he came into office, and because, ergo, it is probable that he is a Republican still."

This recklessness in statement, and this imputation of low or bad motives where none is proven, is quite down to the level of the worst hacks of the newspaper press.

It may be this writer in the *Review* knows no better kind of society than that in which coachmen or other servants are abused simply because they fill humble but useful positions. The disclosures he makes of himself indicate as much. Probably there is an upstart circle in Boston, as in other cities, where such demeanor is common, and passes as becoming in gentlemen. It is none the less shameful for that; and in no way could this writer have betrayed his lack of proper breeding more absolutely than in the way he uses this comparison.

Nor is it true that any Democrat is hostile to Mr. MCCULLOCH because he was appointed as a Republican, and is likely to remain one to the end. As we understand his case, he never was a Republican, and never gave out that he was. Always a Democrat, his special knowledge of Finance commended him to the President, and his nomination was promptly confirmed by a Republican Senate.

Equally false is the allegation that the Radicals as a body oppose the policy of Mr. MCCULLOCH because he sustains the President in other matters, or oppose it at all. So far as Mr. MCCULLOCH's policy is intrinsic, it tends to a restoration of Specie Payments. In that central idea, a good many Radicals—including a considerable proportion of the Radical newspapers—coincide with the Secretary. The GAZETTE is about as Radical as Republican papers are made, and it has constantly urged Resumption. It is by no means alone.

Much diversity of opinion exists among business men everywhere as to the right path to pursue in the present monetary emergency. Even men whose daily pursuits have led them to make a special study of Finance, are as much loggerheads as to Resumption as men in other calling. Each distinguished financier has his scheme, and neither two agree. No larger measure of disagreement obtains among politicians. We do not see how it well could, even with the most obstinate intention to get apart. No larger divergence is apparent among politicians, nor is it conceivable that it could exist.

On the test questions, touching this matter, so far presented to Congress during the current session, it is true that most of the Republican members voted against the continued contraction of paper currency. The writer, who asserts they did so in order to oppose the Secretary of the Treasury must fall into the category of knaves or of fools. Manifestly they did so in accordance with the feeling prevalent among the larger number of business men, as it was, perhaps, proper they should do, holding a representative position. But it is also true that the larger part of the Democratic members voted to sustain Contraction; that is, voted to sustain the general policy of the Secretary, our reviewer to the contrary notwithstanding. In this the Democrats clearly followed the Hard Money traditions of their party, which were of a later crop.

It would be idle to deny that thoughts of party advantage enter into the discussions and manoeuverings relative to the management of the finances. The country is on the eve of a Presidential election. Experience goes to show that a monetary revulsion, happening at such a conjuncture, is pretty sure to defeat the party that chances to be in the ascendency. This fact may not be creditable to the discernment and intelligence of the masses; but so it is. Consequently, the Republicans are specially solicitous to tide over the presidential election without commercial disaster; while the Democrats, if a break up must come, prefer its coming when it will be of political help to them. There is nothing marvellous in this state of feeling, or that calls for censure. Most men, except in rare crises, feel that they have interests as citizens which far transcend in value and durability any interests they have simply as politicians.

Awhile ago men were frightened at the prospect of a collapse of prices, which they supposed to be contingent on a return to specie. They thought that to stop the contraction would prevent the fall in market values, and that this ambiguous position, midway between earth and heaven, or coin and paper, might be protracted indefinitely. But, prices have gone down, in some lines of goods as far as they can easily be crowded. The labor market is settling away to correspond. It could not do otherwise. A few weeks ago Gen. GRANT recommended Congress to increase materially the wages of clerks in the War Department. Before his recommendation could be acted on, he saw reasons, in the rapidly changing condition of affairs, to withdraw it. Then the Navy Department reduced wages thirty per cent. in all the yards and arsenals. These are significant facts. But when a mass meeting at Indianapolis refused to pass resolutions against contraction, that was a still more pregnant circumstance. This only shows that the laws controlling finance are as absolute as any other laws, and will vindicate themselves no matter who may oppose.

RECONSTRUCTION.

No doubt it is of high concernment to have the Union restored, so that all the States may once again hold their normal relations to each other and to the general government. But it is of yet higher consequence to have the Union so restored as to make sure that all the sacrifices incurred during the war were not in vain. Here all the rebels, and all the men who encouraged them to take up arms, insist not simply that no forfeitures shall be enforced, but that no guarantees shall be exacted for future good conduct. What these factionists want is, that as the rebels failed to accomplish their ends by getting out of the Union, they shall now succeed by staying in. That would be lucky for them, in case the result could be brought about, but would make the martyred patriots turn over in their graves.

Before Mr. LINCOLN was assassinated Mr. JOHNSON avowed his purpose to break with the Republican party. He did not want the Union dissolved; but he wanted just as little that Republican ideas should prevail in the national settlement. Hence, upon his accession to power, after a short period spent in dissimulation, so clumsily over wrought by prodigious threatenings as to excite the fears of all discerning men, he went over to the rebel side; made factious opposition to Congress; and has so far succeed in obtaining followers in the Southern States as to impede reconstruction. Yet this man has the effrontery to declaim because reconstruction progresses so slowly. If he would only give his influence to that end, the whole work could be closed up in ninety days.

SOMEWHAT more than a year ago the Fenians held a National Convention in this city. Mr. George Francis Train came hither with the crowd, greatly insistant on being recognized as a leader. Not being of Irish birth or parentage he was ineligible to membership in the order, but he proposed to compensate for this accidental deficiency by superior zeal. The actual managers of the Convention were intent on making a military movement against the British provinces across our northern border. Mr. Train disdained to deal blows at the extremities of the Empire, but was enthusiastic for a crusade directly against the British domination in Ireland.

Notwithstanding his zeal Mr. Train was ruled out of the Convention. He was denied the privilege of making a speech before it; and then he conceived the idea of creating a diversion in his own favor by an address from the balcony of the St. Charles Hotel. In point of numbers the audience was flattering, but it proved anything but docile and tractable. So long as he simply expatiated on his sympathies with Irishmen in their efforts to wrest their country from British rule, he was listened to with commendable patience; but as soon as he proceeded to advise what should be done his stormy oratory was silenced by a dissent yet more tumultuary. He was baffled, overwhelmed, and constrained to evacuate.

At last the Fenians gave up the enterprise against Canada, and adopted Mr. Train's scheme for a movement in Ireland. It was natural he should desire to go over and see how it worked. It was just as natural the British authorities should lay hands upon him on his arrival within their borders. Perhaps he was even more eager to be a central figure in a sharp controversy between two great nations than to secure Irish independence. His love of notoriety is certainly his predominant weakness, and he has turned himself into many extraordinary shapes in the bare hope of creating a sensation. His last adventure is likely to fill the measure of his ambition.

IN the State Senate yesterday a bill for the restoration of the charter of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad was introduced from the Railroad Committee, where it passed by a bare majority of one out of twenty-one votes. We hope the measure may be favorably acted upon in that branch of the Legislature, as, if it can fight its way through there, no difficulty will be experienced in obtaining concurrent action in the House. In the Senate the hard struggle will take place. Its friends, however, feel confident of success, and will exert their best efforts to promote its passage, an event which will prove of incalculable benefit to the western section of the State.

The Railroad Committee also acted on the question of Free Railroads, yesterday, and by a vote of eleven to nine agreed to report a very broad and liberal bill on the subject. This will probably be introduced into the House to-day.

DURING the Southern Rebellion the aristocracy of Great Britain were hostile to our national government, and gave aid and comfort to the Confederates. The wrath of our loyalists waxed hot against them. If British citizens who made a public parade of being in the Southern conspiracy, and of furnishing arms and munitions thereto, had ventured into New York or Philadelphia while the struggle lasted, and with the avowed purpose of proceeding to South Carolina, it is more than probable they would have been arrested. At least, we should have said our District Commandants were grossly remiss if such men were not taken into custody.

THE friends of a Free Railroad Law may reasonably anticipate a severe struggle in the State Senate. It seems probable the opposition thereto will mainly, if not exclusively, be developed in that body.

"THE SANCTITY OF THE JUDICIARY," and other phrases of similar import, are confessedly rhetorical, but they do not impose on the judgment of men of sense and experience. Notoriously the Courts are just as partizan as the newspapers. Chief Justice Taney, and the Supreme Court of the United States with him, when the Slave Power demanded, did not hesitate to declare that black men had no rights that white men were bound to respect. Judge Gibson, and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania with him, made no scruple in affirming that a freeman was not a freeman if his color happened to be black. Instances to like effect can be cited without end. Whenever a political question is up for decision it can almost invariably be told beforehand what the judgment will be, by ascertaining the party affiliations of the Judges. About the only exceptions occur during political reactions, when one or more of the majority Judges, under the influence of panic, go over to the minority, as was the case in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania last year, upon the case involving the rights of blacks to ride in street cars.

—For two days Chicago existed without sensation, but the pause was only the lull before the storm. On Saturday morning a young girl named Louisa Staug deliberately poisoned her father, mother, two sisters and a brother, and then accused her mother of the deed. The girl is not yet sixteen years of age, and complains of having been overworked and cruelly treated by her parents. A little sister of the unfortunate girl saw her put something white into some coffee, and as all who drank the coffee were similarly affected there is but little doubt as to the falsity of her denial. Fortunately the dose was too strong, and although dreadfully prostrated it is thought that none of them will die. The Chicago *Tribune* proudly asserts that Mrs. Grinder is outdone, and we are not unwilling to yield the point to Chicago.

—At a murder trial at Orleans, Ind., last week, a witness confessed to having been hired by a man named Sanders to do the deed, and he had done it. The prisoner who was thus proved innocent was immediately dismissed, but the crowd in the court room became intensely excited, and determined to hang the self-confessed murderer. A scene of the wildest excitement then occurred. All of the members of the bar, sheriff, constables, and the officers of the court clustered around the terrified murderer and only at imminent personal risk kept him from the clutches of the mob. Knives, clubs and pistols were put, and only the determined and temperate conduct of the sheriff and his assistants prevented a bloody tragedy. The excitement in Orleans is still very high, and Cutzinger, the hired assassin, is by no means safe yet.

—A man named Higlin, in Philadelphia, loved a maiden who scorned him. On Monday morning about two o'clock Higlin went to the front door of the maiden's house, and knocking, asked Mary "Will you have me?" Receiving no answer he shot himself with a pistol. On Monday afternoon Mary visited him in the hospital, and told him he was a fool to shoot himself for any girl, and behaved altogether in such a heartless manner that Higlin is going to get well out of pure lack of sympathy.

EX-GOVERNOR CURTIN has bought a lot of ground in Bellefonte, and will soon commence building a dwelling house on it for his own occupancy. During the winter his family will be located in Philadelphia, he remaining with them about half the time, his business engagements calling him to Bellefonte or elsewhere, the remaining portion. After the turmoil of ten years in public life his present comparative repose must be grateful to his feelings.

—The Philadelphia *North American* has the following humane suggestion: "If anybody wants to know how a horse feels on a bitter morning, when a frozen bit is placed in his mouth, let them first place a piece of frozen iron upon their own tongues. Having done this, let the coachman or driver see that the bit is warmed before being fixed in position. The horse will look, though he cannot say, 'thank you.'"

—We are pleased to learn that at the great Industrial Fair, at New Orleans, two Pittsburgh firms carried off all the prizes in the wagon line, Messrs. Phelps, Parke & Co. receiving a medal for an elaborately ornate silver mounted dray, and Messrs. Harper & Gutman receiving several medals for various sorts of heavy wagon work.

A Singular Dinner Party.

A writer in *Blackwood* describes a dinner party in Belgrade:

"I mustered enough of the 'mysterious gutturals' to say something civil and complimentary about the place, the dinner and the company, which the prince acknowledged politely, saying, 'I believe you are the first Englishman who has ever set foot here. Your countrymen, I fancy, are too haughty to like to mix with indiscriminate company, and though the rule may be a safe one, they lose something by their reserve. The people who sit about you now in this room comprise every class and condition of life. That large man with the cicatrix on his cheek is Prince Carl Delgourouki, and the man opposite to him, in green velvet and gold, was his valet once. He is now the Greek Minister of Police. Yonder is a Mexican General, who is now in command of a troop of banditti in Patras; they are in Russian pay, and are meant for service in Thessaly. He with the spectacles is the correspondent of the *Allgemeine Zeitung*, and the tall quaint fellow on his left is Hunyadi, who is under sentence of death in Austria; and the dark handsome man, next but one to him, is Seristarchi, a man ruined by high play, and compromised in that affair of Orsini's.' 'Who is that noble looking fellow near the stove—he with the white attila over the scarlet jacket?' 'That's the headsman of the Valattica of Montenegro. It's a bold thing for him to sit down in a company, many of whose sons and brothers have fallen under his sword. He's the vainest dog in Europe, and fancies the Queen of Greece is in love with him.' 'And what do they all do here? What's their object in meeting thus?' 'What the Bourse is to the moneyed folks this room is to the secret police of Eastern Europe, and those countries which depend for their existence on the Turkish Empire. They play at espionage as men gamble at Homburg; each knows what his neighbor is after, and does his best to outwit him, now by bribing higher, now by sheer knavery, now by something a little more energetic than either,' and he drew his finger significantly across his throat, and smiled as he spoke."

Iron.

It is well known that, under the influence of the hammer and of constant use, the particles of iron gradually assume, by repeated vibration, a different texture from that they had when the piece was new. The metal becomes crystalline, loses its tenacity, and gets brittle. The sudden breaking of old iron axle-trees on railways is exclusively owing to this cause. Now it would be of the utmost importance to find some means of ascertaining whether or not this alteration in the texture has taken place, but up to this time every attempt in this direction has been a failure. We now learn that the problem has been solved by Mr. Sarboy, an Englishman, who has thought of employing the magnetic needle for this purpose. It appears that when an iron bar is homogeneous, the needle will not be suddenly displaced from its position on being slowly moved to and fro in a direction perpendicular to the magnetic meridian of the locality; but if there be in the bar any unsound place, a fault or flaw, the oscillations of the needle will become very intense as it passes over these defective points.

GLEANINGS.

—Iowa has no State debt and has a million of inhabitants.

—An iron foundry is to be established in Shelbyville, Tenn.

—The two Troy co-operative foundries are succeeding.

—The transfer of Maximilian's corpse cost $240,000.

—There is but one white female in the Kentucky penitentiary.

—Henry J. Raymond is to write a history of General Grant.

—The Queen of Greece is fascinating her subjects by economy.

—Great distress prevails among the working classes of Quebec.

—Patti's dower from the Marquis de Caux is to be $200,000.

—Chicago is to have a wigwam for the Republican Convention.

—Houston, Texas is alarmed at the number of fires there recently.

—Colorado wants in, and is trying again to accomplish her purpose.

—The Natchez city authorities retrenched nearly $17,000 last year.

—Fernando Wood is worth $3,000,000—of course we do not mean morally.

—It is said that Salt Lake City has no rats; we suppose it is too far inland.

—The fastest Train in the world was suddenly arrested in Cork, on Saturday.

—Why are babies like cigar stumps? Because they are thrown away in New York.

—Thirty thousand people are said to have perished of yellow fever in New Orleans.

—The Bishop of London is said to be one hundred years old and to read without glasses.

—The Finnish famine has finished so many Finlanders that the rest talk of emigrating.

—The North Carolina Convention has made it a penal offence to call a colored man a negro.

—$5,000 were collected at Grace Church, Brooklyn, last Sunday night, for the Western Missions.

—Apples are healthy, says an exchange. We are very glad to hear it. How are the little apples?

—John C. Breckenridge has applied personally for a pardon, and will be at home again in the spring.

—The new city hall of Portland, Me., is a magnificent brown stone building, which has cost $300,000.

—Gen. Grant, Horace Greeley and Petroleum V. Nasby are probably the best known men in the country.

—Commodore Nutt is about to marry Minnie Warren. These two nuts are worth a nice plum of $250,000.

—Only 23 persons in St. Thomas and St. Johns voted against transferring themselves to the United States.

—An old lady in Kansas has such a horror of Trichina that she has forbidden her daughter to read Bacon.

—A man was arrested in East St. Louis for setting fire to his own house, on which there was no insurance.

—Eight million guilders is the dot of the Princess of Hanover, who is to marry the Crown Prince of Holland.

—An old and once much respected and prominent citizen of Cincinnati died there on Saturday a drunken vagrant.

—Secretary Seward said that he had half a mind to have Charles Dickens arrested in retaliation for the Train affair.

—The remnant of the Cherokees in South Carolina, some 1,000 in number, are getting ready to move to the Indian territory.

—The Duke of Newcastle thinks it is a sad thing that the Prince of Wales was not drowned on his way home from America.

—Work has been resumed in the Mott Iron Works, Morrisania, New York; one hundred and eighty-five men are employed.

—The library of John C. Calhoun is soon to be sold at auction in South Carolina, its late owner, Andrew P. Calhoun, being now dead.

—The East Tennessee marble quarries are again to be worked, and the beautiful Tennessee marble will again be an attainable luxury.

—An exchange tells young ladies who want to get married not to take their mothers with them to carry the bundles when they go shopping.

—They do queer things in Cheyenne A man was arrested there for roasting his step-children, although he did not eat them when well done.

—The Savannah (Ga.) National Bank declared a dividend, on the 8th inst., of thirty-seven and a half per cent. An excellent six months work.

—A grocer in Vicksburgh says he gets rid of his rotten eggs by leaving them in a barrel, in front of his shop all night; somebody always steals them.

—Aquaria are the latest sweet things in the ear ring line. They are made of rock crystle filled with real live water animals on a small scale.

—The people of St. Thomas are in doubt as to whom they belong; but it always was a characteristic of that Apostle to be in that condition.

—The King of Prussia mourns the death of his black charger. There are plenty of black chargers in Pittsburgh, among the tonsorial professors.

—Extra bolts and fastenings in large numbers have been put up at Windsor Castle. The New York *Mail* say that if you ask why? The answer is Pat.

—State dinners in Vienna must be a little borous. A recent one lasted twelve hours, and consisted of twenty-nine courses and fifty different sorts of wine.

—The Pope wants females to come oftener to church, and to wear long dresses. He also says that when they do come to church they should wear veils which must not be worn as ornaments.

—Two men were attacked by a wild cat in Wisconsin, last week, and were so desperately beset that nothing but an opportune axe saved them from the beast's claws, which were anything rather than saving clause.

—The Cincinnati Rink has proved a decided success. One of the papers thinks that a remarkable increase in the number of applications for marriage licenses is observable since the Rink became popular.

—A Mrs. Fredericks, residing in Baltimore, dropped a lighted coal-oil lamp on the floor on Saturday night, thus setting fire to herself and burning herself to a crisp. She leaves a husband and four small children.

—As the body of a gentleman in Kansas was recently being lowered into the grave the coffin, which was of cotton wood, fell to pieces, and the corpse sprawled into the grave amid the shrieks of the horrified relatives.

—The new rector of Grace Church, New York, is a son of the late Bishop Potter, of Pennsylvania. We heartily hope that his rectory and $10,000 salary may prove beneficial to him, and that he may live long to enjoy them.

—On Saturday night the three story frame hotel at Pittsfield, Warren county, Pa., was burned to the ground; the fire was first discovered at about one o'clock and the boarders escaped with their night dresses only; the loss was some $5,000.

—A philosopher thinks the best way for water drinkers to make their beverage popular is to get up an impression that it is sinful to drink it. An immense amount of pleasure would thus be given to a large class of people who only drink whisky, rum, gin, etc., now because it is not proper to do so.

The Parkersburg Murderer—Confession of the Culprit.

The Parkersburg *Times* says the trial of Joseph Eisele *alias* Joseph Schafer, charged with the murder of Lilienthal and Tutor, and with attempting to kill John White, was had before a special term of the Circuit Court of Wood county, Va., Monday. The Grand Jury in the morning found true bills on all the charges. The Court met again at two o'clock amid the greatest excitement. Crowds of people thronged the court yard, and as the prisoner was conducted to Court some cried hang him! hang him!

Eisele made the following confession, which was read by an interpreter:

I wish this may be read to the people at my next trial. I, the undersigned, confess from my own free will that I am the murderer of Aloys Ulrich, Joseph Lilienthal and Randolph Tutor, and that I intended also to kill the fourth man, if Almighty God had not prevented it, for which I thank him on my knees day and night. I want no witnesses and no defense, and cannot really give any reason for my misdeeds, except that the evil spirit led me into temptation, and could not resist it. I am willing to sacrifice my blood and life for my crimes, and hope that Almighty God will forgive me, and after death receive me into his kingdom. I therefore beg the people present their forgiveness. I have no enmity towards any one in the world, and acknowledge that I deserve all that may befall me and am ready to bear it all with patience. I especially beg my German countrymen for their forgiveness for the great disgrace I have brought upon them, and hope every one will forgive me. I also beg the American people not to think ill of the Germans, who are not to be held responsible because one of their countrymen is a wicked man.

I beg also that no disgrace may attach to my wife, who is free from blame, as I always arranged matters so that she would not have any suspicion. I also pray that those whom I owe may not think that they will be defrauded. I am anxious to give each man his own as near as possible. I have made my last will and testament, which will be opened after my death, and hope I shall be able to realize enough to refund his own to every man. I have also written down my life, which is an example to every one who may read it, and all can see what follows when a man omits his prayers and disregards religion.

JOSEPH EISELE.

After the reading of this confession, the prisoner was remanded for sentence.

Education in Holland

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says: "A Dutch correspondent furnishes us with an account of public education adopted in Holland. It is based on an act passed in July, 1857. The first article of that law declares that primary education shall include reading, writing, arithmetic, the principles of syntax, the Dutch language, history, natural history and singing. The primary schools are divided into two classes, public and private. The former are established by the communes, the provinces, or the state, either jointly or separately. The other schools are private adventures which may be subsidized only when such conditions as may be deemed necessary by the authorities complied with. The subsidized private schools are, like the public schools, open to children are every sect; an amendment to establish separate schools for Jews was rejected by fifty-one to six votes, when the bill was before the second Chamber.

"The education is given by male and female teachers, who must have obtained a certificate of capacity and morality. Non-certificated teachers discovered in subsidized schools are liable to be punished by fine and imprisonment. It is directed that the number of schools to be established in each district shall be in proportion to the extent of the population. And, again, the teaching staff is graduated according to the number of pupils. One teacher is deemed sufficient when there are not more than seventy pupils at a school; when there are more than seventy and under one hundred pupils a subaltern, or sort of pupil teacher, is allowed; and when the school can reckon one hundred and fifty, it is entitled to an assistant teacher. As has been said no religious distinctions are recognized in any of the subsidized schools, whether public or private. The teachers are bound to abstain from introducing matters of religious controversy into the course of instruction, and to avoid offending the susceptibilities of any sect. Religious education is left to the churches; but the schools may be used for this purpose when the ordinary school hours are over. No teacher is allowed to undertake any other office without special permission from the authorities, and both the teachers and their families are prohibited from engaging in any branch of trade. A teacher has a right to retire on a pension after forty years' service, and when he has attained the age of sixty-five.

"Each district has to pay the cost of its schools and teachers out of the local funds, but a contribution may be required from the scholars, with the exception of the poorest class, who cannot afford to pay anything. The local authorities are required to do all they can to secure the attendance of the children of the poor. District commissioners and inspectors of various grades are appointed by the Home Minister, who is responsible for the general management of the schools. Strong objections have been raised to this system by the ultra-Protestant party."

Explorations in Greenland.

We have in a previous number of the *Ledger* adverted to the explorations in Greenland, contemplated during the past summer by Mr. Edward Whymper, a celebrated Alpine traveler, and a leading member of the Alpine Club. We regret to learn by a letter just published, that he has been entirely disappointed in his expectations of penetrating the vast and entirely unknown interior of Greenland, leaving us as much in the dark as ever concerning it. Whether this interior be really in places at least a green land, abounding in lakes and running water, affording pasturage to immense herds of reindeer, as has been suggested, or whether its ice and snow increase in height and depth and ruggedness towards its central portions, cannot yet be known, and perhaps never may be.

The cause of Mr. Whymper's failure was the prevalence of an epidemic in the vicinity of his starting point, which carried off a large percentage of the able-bodied natives, leaving not enough to procure the necessary amount of seal meat (their chief sustenance,) for the others. Under these circumstances, it was a long time before Mr. Whymper could obtain the assistance required for his start. More than a month of precious time was lost, and when he was ready to set out, the snow that had at first covered over the country with a smooth, firm coating, exactly what was best for the journey, had entirely disappeared, leaving hard, rugged and ribbed ice holding small lakes, and with running streamlets on its surface. Two miles were all that was accomplished, when it became necessary, in consequence of the overturn and threatened destruction of the sledges, to turn back and abandon the enterprise. Mr. Whymper closes his letter with a well merited tribute of acknowledgment to the Danes in Greenland for their hearty assistance and co-operation, a trait of character to which our own intrepid explorers, Kane and Hayes, have been ample witnesses.—*Phila. Ledger.*

Important Cases.

Attorney General Brewster is now engaged before the Supreme Court, at Philadelphia, in a number of important cases. Com. vs. Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company, involving the question of the validity of the act repealing the charter of that company, was before the Court last week, and occupied three days in argument. Hon. Reverdy Johnson and J. H. Latrobe, Esq., appeared for defendants. Judge Green's case and that of the Gettysburg asylum for invalid soldiers will also be heard during the present session of the Court in Philadelphia. The former case is to test the constitutionality of the act of the last session, erecting a new Criminal Court in Dauphin, Lebanon and Schuylkill counties. The *quo warranto* in the Gettysburg case was returnable in July last, but no Court sitting until the fall, and the pleadings requiring a considerable time to be perfected, no argument has yet been had. The case will be finally disposed of as soon as a day for argument is forced by the Court. The question of the right of the Quarter Sessions Judges to enter rules, within term, to reconsider sentences imposed by them, and of remitting the same to an indefinite period, after they have been pronounced, is also being prepared for the court at its present sitting.

Explosion of a Chinese Arsenal.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

BOSTON, January 23.—The *Traveler* contains correspondence dated, Shanghai, November 27th which gives the following details of an explosion in China:

News has just reached us of a terrible explosion in the Chinese arsenal at Wenhunn, opposite Hankow. The loss of life has not been definitely ascertained, but some persons estimate it as high as five thousand. Probably one thousand is nearer the number of killed and wounded. No Europeans were hurt. The shock was distinctly heard at Kinkiang, one hundred and twenty miles distant.

—A Paris correspondent writes: Every symptom of approaching revolution is apparent in the air. They say that history repeats herself, but the assertion is false, for the symptoms of a revolutionary eruption are the very same as in preceding reigns. The pressure is felt to come from the female influence exercised at the Tuileries, and strange to say the aversion is all shown towards the Empress. "*A bas l'Espagnole!*" is the cry of 1867, as "*A bas l'Italienne!*" was that of the Fronde, and "*A bas l'Autrichienne!*" that of 1786.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

—Rev. Walter Powell, of the Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, died yesterday morning.

—The American House, at Jacksonville, Wisconsin, was burned yesterday. Loss $12,000; partially insured.

—Grace Church, the finest Methodist Church in this country, was dedicated yesterday at Wilmington, Delaware.

—The City Councils of Columbus, O., have passed an ordinance to build a Water Works, which is to be submitted to the voters of the city.

—A fire, caused by the explosion of a coal oil lamp, occurred at Ottumwa, Iowa, on Monday night. Eight frame buildings were destroyed. Loss $12,000.

—An old freedman, name unknown, was found dead in an old boiler on the levee at Memphis yesterday morning. The Coroner's verdict was death from hunger and exposure.

—J. R. O'Connor, a school teacher in Richfield, Minnesota, was put off the cars for failing to pay the extra ten cents exacted for not procuring a ticket, and was frozen to death.

—Paul M. Burkes shot his wife in this village, Bennington, last night, firing five shots at her, four of which took effect. She probably cannot live. He was enraged at her for procuring a divorce from him.

—There are rumors that one Rafael sailed in the steamer "Moro Castle," for New York, to issue bonds for Santa Anna, to enable the latter to prosecute his plans against the Mexican Government in Yucatan.

—The Woolen Mills at Readfield, Me., largely owned by A. P. Morrill, have been obliged to suspend operations on account of low water. Other mills in that State have suspended for the same reason. All the mills in Lewiston are running as usual.

—Numerous protests have been received at the Treasury Department against the new measures adopted to prevent smuggling on the borders of Maine. The smuggled goods seized there last year were valued at over sixty thousand dollars.

—In the suit against John Leighton, instituted by the Franklin Mining Company, at Boston, for misappropriation of funds in certain transactions in which the Company was interested, the jury found a verdict for the Company, assessing damages at $19,000.

—Joseph Behre was arrested at Memphis, Tenn., on Monday, while serving on the United States Jury, on a requisition from the Governor of Missouri, on a charge of obtaining twenty thousand dollars' worth of goods of A. L. Lacroix, of St. Louis, under false pretenses.

—Gen. Wagner, at Philadelphia, issued his Circular in relation to a Department Convention of the Grand Army of the Republic, to be held at Philadelphia, on the 29th. Matters of great importance under the Constitution and ritual are to be considered, and an election of officers to take place.

—At Baltimore, Wednesday night, an immense mass meeting was held, irrespective of party, on the rights of American citizens abroad. Letters were read from Reverdy Johnson, of Maryland, and Senator Conkling of New York. Speeches were made by Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, and Hon. Chas. E. Phelps, of Maryland.

—While the little trading steamer D. A. Hewitt was lying at Florida Landing, near Napoleon, Ark., last Thursday, the rest of her safety valve gave way, and the steam rushed through the state room above, scalding to death Frank Crosby, the clerk. Crosby's wife left the room a moment before. The deceased was a native of Fort Dodge.

—Considerable talk is occasioned in political circles at Washington City over the fact that Elihu Washburne dodged when the vote was taken on the reconstruction bill. He was in his seat and voted on the amendments, but when the final vote was taken he did not respond to his name. This give rise to a surmise that he was influenced to this action by Gen. Grant.

—The publication of the sale of St. Thomas was unofficial, as the authorities refused to give the details on the subject. The Danish Consul at New York has telegraphed to the Captain of the corvette Dogmar that Secretary Seward's reply was satisfactory, and that the President of the United States had sent the treaty to the Senate for ratification.

—In the United States Supreme Court, yesterday, Chief Justice Chase announced that the Court, after considering the motion of Judge Black to advance the McArdle case upon the docket, had decided to hear the case on the first Monday in March. This decision gives satisfaction to the Radicals, as they hope by that time to have affairs in such a condition in the States of Mississippi and Alabama that even if the Court decides the Reconstruction vote unconstitutional, it will not seriously impede the work in those States.

—The cause of the arrest of George Francis Train is thus given in a special to the New York *Herald* from London:

An Englishman named Gee, a fellow passenger of Mr. Train, informed the officers on the tug-boat which boarded the Scotia at Queenstown that Train had said he came to Ireland to organize the Fenians and commence the fight. Train was arrested upon this information. Gee denied giving such information when before the Court. Consul Eastman, at Queenstown, was exceedingly active in Train's behalf. Minister Adams at once saw Lord Stanley, who ordered the release of Train. Lord Stanley disavowed the act on the part of the Government, and stated that the local authorities were solely responsible.

OHIO NEWS.

—At Huntington, Lorain county, there has been an unusual amount of severe sickness.

—At Elyria the new town hall is completed. It seats seven hundred and fifty people, and cost $30,000.

—Lieut. Col. David Dove, of the Second Virginia (loyal) Cavalry, died in Johnson county, Ohio, on the 12th inst.

—Ex-Mayor Samuel Hendry and wife, of Oberlin, celebrated their golden wedding on the 13th instant. Mr. and Mrs. Swift, of Ravenna, observed a like anniversary on the 15th.

—Mr. Nathaniel Holmes, the oldest citizen of Akron, died at his residence on North Broadway, at 1 o'clock P. M. on the 12th inst. Mr. Holmes was born at Fishkill, Duchess county, New York, on the 14th day of May, 1780, and was consequently 87 years, 7 months and 27 days old at the time of his death.

—A correspondent of the Mansfield *Herald* says: "Mrs. Haskins, who died at Camden on the 16th ult., was born in what is now Burlington, Vt., in 1751, and was consequently 116 years of age when she died. When young she was bound out, and did much hard work. In early life she lived on Long Island, and when the British invaded New York, fled on foot, carrying her bed and a few other articles eighteen miles, to a place of safety. She was the mother of ten children, eight of whom still survive."

—A Mt. Gilead (Morrow county) correspondent of the Cleveland *Herald* says: The old stock of molasses on hand is now being used. Much of the wheat that was sown has a poor stool. Streams and wells were dried up to a great extent, farmers and others having to haul water for house use, and drive their stock to water. It is thought by many that the drouth hastened the maturity of the apple crop, which is a considerable item in this county. The result has been that green apples have not kept well. Over ten thousand bushels were bought in this place; considerable loss sustained; rotten apples were hauled out by the load, and the kind that usually keep until April and May are now mellow. Fall pasture being short, required early feeding. There is plenty of hay and grain, but they command a high price. Live stock of all kinds are doing well, except sheep where farms were overstocked; but little demand for stock at present. There is some wool in the market yet; price from 35 to 40 cents.

A DEPARTING GLORY.—A subterranean stream has been discovered at Niagara Falls, which, beginning about half a mile above the Falls, has found a channel to the gulf below, and is rapidly undermining the ledge now known as the Horseshoe. It is prophesied that the Falls will be entirely broken down at an early day, and the present grand appearance of the river at that point be converted into a simple "shute" or rapid. What will the tourists do? Where will all the bridal parties go? To whom will the dusky red man and woman sell their useless but ornamental moccasins, pincushions and mimic canoes! What substitute will the traditional American traveler in Europe find for his—"Talk of your Alps! Wait till you see our Niagara Falls, sir!" These and other equally momentous questions of the future naturally present themselves in this gloomy prospect of destruction.

—Some time ago a little daughter of a Mr. Bowers mysteriously disappeared from Sandusky, Ohio, and was supposed to have been stolen by gypsies. Since then the father and mother of the child have been constantly searching for the lost one, but without success. They have once or twice obtained traces of the gipsy family, traveling with a mule team, and having with them a white child, but have not been able to overtake them. The mother writes: "We have found five or six little children that are supposed to have been stolen, and we must find ours, although it is a long, dreary waiting.

FOREIGN TOPICS.

—The fluctuation in the value of early editions of Shakspeare is amusingly illustrated by the following observations of Steevens, which occur in his edition of 1785: "An ancient quarto was sold for sixpence; and the folios 1623 and 1632, when first printed, could not have been raised higher than at ten shillings each. Very lately one and two guineas have been paid for a quarto; the first folio is usually valued at seven or eight; but what price may be expected for it hereafter is not very easy to be determined, the conscience of Mr. Fox, bookseller, Holborn, having lately permitted him to ask no less than *two guineas* for *two leaves* out of a mutilated copy of that impression, though he had several almost equally defective in his shop. The second folio is commonly rated at two or three guineas." What would Steevens have thought of Mr. Fox if he could have foreseen that £105 would have been publicly offered for three leaves only of one of the quarto editions? The first folio, valued in 1785 at seven or eight guineas, now realizes from £400 to £500, if in a perfect, genuine state.

—Cassell's Magazine says: It is no mean proof of the manner in which the Prussians are educated that these very elegant little toys are all made by prisoners under penal servitude. We wonder what sort of a figure our felons would make at the like occupation. Some of the details are capitally modeled. There, for instance, is a butcher's shop, with all the joints hanging on their hooks. They are made in paper, and show that the modellers must have copied them from the originals. The governing powers in Germany do not think it beneath them to give an art education to the children engaged in the manufacture of toys. The Duke of Saxe-Meiningen has established schools for this purpose, and the result is that the most beautiful animals made in *papier-mache*, come from his kingdom. They are too good, however, for playthings, and are more likely to find their way to the mantel-piece as ornaments.

—Practitioners (says *Galignani*) are well aware that cod liver oil, which has now become an important element in *materia medica*, unfortunately possesses a taste, the repugnance to which many patients cannot overcome. Dr. Lu Jovic Rouland has endeavored, and not, it seems, without success, to remove this obstacle by ridding the oil of its characteristic taste. His receipt is as follows: Cod liver oil, 100 gms. (21 drachms); alcohol, at 40 degrees of Baume's areometer, 60 gms. (12 drachms); essence of peppermint, 3 gms. (45 grains). By mixing these ingredients an emulsion is obtained, which is administered at the rate of three table spoonfuls a day. The proportion of these ingredients may be varied according to the taste of the patient. Dr. Rouland says that he has obtained very satisfactory results from this mixture.

—A raft, on which were fifteen seamen, and a temporary stage composed of four barrels and planks, lately broke away from one of the ships in Portsmouth harbor, England, and drifted down the main channel; fortunately without getting into collision with any of the vessels, buoys, &c., although it passed close enough to the Pigmy, tender, to enable the men to throw ropes on board the vessel. An eight-oared cutter, manned by men of the Royal Artillery, and a pinnance from the St. Vincent, went to the assistance of the men, and took the raft in tow, but with all their efforts they could not stem the strong ebb tide which was running, and so were compelled to pull for Southsea beach, a distance of two miles from where the raft broke adrift.

—According to statistics published recently, extending over a term of thirty-two years, the cost of pauper relief in England has remained nearly stationary, the amount in 1834 having been £6,317,255, against £6,439,517 in 1866. In the interim an addition of nearly 7,000,000 has been made to the population of England and Wales, and the result has been attained, no doubt, by the copious emigration during these years. The state of the country was bad in 1834, and in 1866 it was anything but flourishing; still it is reassuring to know that things are "not so bad as they seem." It is also satisfactory to be informed that the cost of pauperism per head of the population has sensibly declined, namely, from 8s. 9½d. in 1832 to 6s. 1½d. in 1866.

—An English paper says: "Mrs. Mulray, the Devonshire witch, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labor for having obtained from Thomas Rendle £4 10s. for certain charms, which she asserted, would cure his wife who is paralyzed, but which failed to do so. Mrs. Rendle is now under treatment by another local witch named Gribble, who has undertaken to cure her or to refund all payments. It is hard to see why a woman should be sentenced to imprisonment with hard labor for undertaking to do by 'charms' what quack doctors, mesmerizers and spirit-rappers undertake every day to do—with equal want of success—with perfect impunity.

—An especial feature in the machinery department of the late French Exposition was the variety of instruments for the economical cutting of coal, so as to save the enormous waste of the pick and other hand tools. One machine, worked by compressed air, was capable of giving sixty or seventy blows a minute, and of undercutting along a line of ten to fifteen yards in an hour, to a depth of over a yard, and with very little waste. Another more complicated machine acts not by percussion but by planing, scraping or gouging, making its way through sandstone with facility. The power is applied by hydraulic pressure, and the apparatus will cut about twelve yards in an hour.

—M. Gostell, Mayor of Hub near Berne, Switzerland, and M. Mathys, a schoolmaster of the same place, were driving home late a few evenings ago, when about a hundred yards from their dwelling the horse shied and overturned the cabriolet down a steep bank. At the bottom was a rivulet with not much water, but a great quantity of mud. The two men were buried in the latter, and the vehicle falling on them with the wheels uppermost, they were unable to extricate themselves or to cry out for help, and were found there in the morning dead. M. Gotsell, who was a man in good circumstances leaves a widow and four children, and M. Mathys, a widow and seven children.

—A German telegraph operator received information last month that he was one of the heirs of an East India millionaire recently deceased; whereupon he borrowed large sums of money, took his family to Vienna to live and threw his thalers about in princely style. But in the height of his enjoyment the information came that it was all a mistake, and that he had no claim upon the inheritance. Maddened by the sudden overthrow of his hopes, the morning after the receipt of the fatal intelligence, he strangled and shot his wife, beat out the brains of his infant, shot his two elder children, and emptied the last charge of his pistol into his own brains.

—Le Follet describes a short dress of "truly Parisian make":—"The under-skirt, though short, is not very short; generally either red, violet, or black; and is plaited round the bottom. The upper skirt, which is most frequently black, should be cut moderately trained at the back, and so looped up as to be perfectly flat at the front and the sides; whilst the back, being set in at the waist, in large plaits, is quite *bouffant*. Four buttons are used for the looping up, two at the sides and two at the back, those at the sides being so placed as to stretch the front-breadth quite plain. This skirt, of course, is considerably shorter than the under-skirt.

—The Paris papers report that the utmost activity prevails in the French dock-yards, where there are no less than thirty-nine vessels in course of construction, including four armor-plated frigates, the same number of corvettes and of gun-ships, likewise armor-plated, and a formidable armor-plated floating battery. Besides the foregoing there are a screw frigate, six screw corvettes, and a screw-transport, none of which are armor-plated. The actual sea-going force of the French navy now amounts to 343 steamships and 116 sailing vessels, which, with the 39 in course of construction, gives a total of 504 ships of war.

—A more barbarous crime than the murder committed at Droylsden, England, on Christmas Day, has seldom been chronicled. An Irishman named Faherty, called upon Jane Hanmer, a woman who had rejected his addresses, and attacked her with a poker. Hanmer staggered into a room where her landlady lay in bed, and thither she was followed by Faherty, who struck her down by a terrible blow on the head. The ruffian then closed the door, placed himself against it, and dealt the prostrate woman five other blows with the poker. Hanmer died in about half an hour, and Faherty was taken red handed.

—The Paris Rothschild recently had a royal shooting party at his country seat, the peculiar feature of the entertainment being the engagement of the celebrated surgeon Nelaton, who presided at a pavillion where all the wounded hares, pheasants, etc., were conveyed by a regular ambulance service, their limbs reset, their wounds dressed, and themselves put in condition to serve another time.

—In the new spectacle play of "Gulliver," the Lilliputians are represented by little figures, ingeniously worked, and a Brobdignag baby by a large fat woman. The incident of Gulliver's extinguishing the fire in the Lilliputian capital, which the French authors could not afford to lose, is represented on a drop curtain, as a sacrifice to decency, which is displayed throughout an entire *entr'acte*.

—In London, at the suggestion of the well known philanthropist, Miss Burdett Coutts, an association has been formed to furnish work for the unemployed in road making, cleaning streets, and in similar ways. Miss Coutts has undertaken to pay two hundred and fifty persons for six months, at about 50 cents a day, and has given $1,500 toward the road making fund.

POETICAL.

THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

BY JOHN G. SAXE.

Good-bye, Old Year—I can but say
Sadly I see thee passing away;
Passing away with the hopes and fears,
The bliss and pain, the smiles and tears
That come to us all in all the years!

Good-bye, Old Year!—Little indeed
Thy friendly voice we were wont to heed,
Telling us, warning us every day,
"Transient mortals! work and pray;
You, like me, are passing away!"

Good-bye, Old Year!—Whatever may be
The sins and stains thou has chanced to see,
Consider, O Year!—O purge the same,
And wash away the sins and shame,
Whilst thou wert passing CHRISTMAS came.

Good-bye, Old Year!—With words of grace
Leave us to him who takes thy place,
And say, Old Year, unto the New,
"Kindly, carefully carry them through,
For much, I ween, they have yet to do!"

ON A SPITEFUL LETTER.

BY ALFRED TENNYSON, D. C. L.

Here, it is here—the close of the year,
And with it a spiteful letter;
My fame in song has done him much wrong,
For himself has done much better.

O, foolish bard, is your lot so hard,
If men neglect your pages?
I think not much of yours or of mine;
I hear the roll of ages.

This fallen leaf, isn't fame as brief?
My rhymes may have been the stronger,
Yet hate me not, but abide your lot;
I last but a moment longer.

O, faded leaf, isn't fame as brief?
What room is here for a hater?
Yet the yellow leaf hates the greener leaf,
For it hangs one moment later.

Greater than I—isn't that your cry?
And I shall live to see it.
Well, if it be so, so it is, you know;
And if it be so—so be it!

O, summer leaf, isn't life as brief?
But this is the time of hollies;
And my heart, my heart is an evergreen,
I hate the spites and the follies.

THREAD AND SONG.

BY J. W. PALMER.

Sweeter and sweeter,
Soft and low,
Neat little nymph,
Thy numbers flow.
Urging thy thimble,
Thrift's tidy symbol,
Busy and nimble,
To and fro;
Prettily plying,
Thread and song,
Keeping them flying
Late and long,
Though the stitch linger,
Kissing thy finger,
Quick,—as it skips along.

Many an echo,
Soft and low,
Follows thy flying
Fancy so—
Melodies thrilling,
Tenderly filling
Thee with their trilling,
Come and go;
Memory's finger,
Quick as thine,
Loving to linger
On the line,
Writes of another,
Dearer than brother;
Would that the name were mine!

TOO LATE I STAYED.

BY ROBERT WILLIAM SPENCE.

Too late I stayed—forgive the crime!
Unheeded flew the hours.
How noiseless falls the foot of Time
That only treads on flowers!

And who, with clear account, remarks
The ebbings of his glass,
When all its sands are diamond sparks,
That dazzle as they pass.

Ah! who to sober measurement
Time's happy swiftness brings,
When birds of paradise have lent
Their plumage to his wings!

MACAULAY'S ENIGMA.

Cut off my head, and singular I am;
Cut off my tail and plural I appear;
Cut off both head and tail, and, strange to say,
My middle part remains, tho' nought is there,
What is my head cut off—a sounding sea;
What is my tail cut off—a roaring river,
Within whose eddying depths I ceaseless play,
The parent of soft sounds, tho' mute forever
Answer—Cod.

GENERAL NEWS.

—A new Frankenstein has appeared in Newark, N. J., who has constructed a steam man, a machine in human shape, dressed in fashionable clothes, with a hat which is a "stove pipe" in reality as well as in name, a face of white enamel and neatly painted whiskers. This affair will draw a load for three horses at the rate of a mile a minute.

—Fur is still much in favor. It is profusely employed in trimming. There are various ways of arranging it. For taffetas, cloth, or velvet dresses, a double row placed on each side of the front breadth is a very suitable style, a single band being put round the cuffs and armholes. The paletots of medium length have a square collar, bordered with fur.—*Le Follet.*

—A destitute father in St. Louis had not enough money to procure a coffin for his dead child. So taking the body in his arms, he carried it a long distance to the cemetery, but on arriving there discovered that he had neglected to obtain a burial certificate, and was compelled to retrace his steps and repeat his sad journey, carrying his dead child all the way.

—The day after the drawing of the quarter million prize in the Vienna lottery, the report was set afloat that the fortunate individual was a female pastry cook in the Archduke Charles Hotel. She was neither young nor fair, but yet received a dozen offers of marriage in the course of one afternoon. She can make her selection at leisure, as she did not draw the prize.

—A negro girl is in jail in Henrico, Virginia, charged with burning the house of Mr. Magruder, of that county, on Sunday night week. While the house was on fire, a servant carrying crockery to the second story of the kitchen as a place of safety saw a suspicious looking bundle on the bed, and upon examining it found it to be the infant child of Mr. Magruder, and beneath the bed was a pile of shavings to which the torch had already been applied.

—A nice elopement was planned the other day between a St. Louis belle and a dry goods clerk, who was unable to win the approval of her cruel father. At the romantically early hour of five in the morning the couple had seated themselves in the cars and assumed the appropriate attitude of confidence and affection, when the little scheme was foiled by the appearance of the stern parent, who remorselessly carried off the bride, all tears and hysterics, vowing eternal constancy to her checkmated, though not mated, lover.

—The Burlington (Vt.) *Free Press*, of the 14th inst., says, regarding the ice bridge over Lake Champlain at that place: "The ice which covers the lake roared steadily yesterday, with a low, continuous hum. This sound is owing to the running of small cracks through the ice, each of which makes an inconsiderable sound, but which, multiplied by thousands, makes a steady roar, which is audible, under favorable circumstances, several miles from the lake. Contrary to what might be supposed, this is a sign of good strong ice.

—A curious study of character is afforded in the various replies which were sent to the Canada imposter, "Miss Minnie L. Pury," who has been victimizing persons all over the States with her tale of loveliness in distress. A Chicago gentleman sent her $50, with a most fervid letter, telling her to come right on, that he would meet her at the depot, etc. A New Yorker who was less demonstrative, sent only $10, and asked for her photograph before he committed himself to further advances. A Boston man thinks there must have been a mistake, that the letter had evidently got into the wrong envelope; says that he had unsuccessfully endeavored to find the right owner and that he did not consider it improper to offer her—his sympathy.

—The question of the rights of American naturalized citizens when abroad is now occupying a large share of the public attention. Meetings demanding protection for adopted citizens are being held in all parts of the country. It is reported that a foreign-born citizen of Cincinnati has written to Secretary Seward, stating that his name has been published in the papers of his native country as a deserter from the army, although he had left that country when he was only five years old, eighteen years ago. He inquires, in case he should make a visit to his native country, whether he would be liable to impressment into the army of that country. Mr. Seward answers that he may be subject to some detention and trouble, to which the United States Government cannot recommend him to expose himself.

—A Portland (Me.) paper tells a story of a countryman who was coming from that place to Boston on one of the steamers, and who met with a curious accident. The vessel, it seems, had fire annihilators placed round in convenient spots. The gentleman from the interior became thirsty; eyed an annihilator for some time and evidently concluded it was some new fangled drinking arrangement, and was not going to show his greenness by asking about it. So he stepped up smartly, put the nozzle in his mouth and turned it on. The effect was instantaneous and stupendous. The countryman was knocked sprawling some ten feet away. The shock to his internal organization must have been something tremendous, for he remained senseless and speechless for some time. When he sufficiently recovered to articulate, he wanted to know if "the biler had burst!"

—To ascertain the velocity of cannon and musket balls, some interesting experiments are being conducted in the Springfield (Mass.) Armory. Two newly invented machines are used in these experiments, the "electro-ballistic pendulum," which is the invention of Col. Benton, the commandant at the armory, and "Schultz's chronoscope," a machine invented and constructed in Europe. The former is much the simpler of the two. Targets are placed at measured distances apart and connected by electric wires with the machines. In passing from one target to another the ball ruptures the electric current and records its velocity. It is ascertained by these experiments that the ordinary rifle ball of the Springfield musket, with a regulation quantity of powder, passes over one hundred feet from the muzzle of the piece in about the fifteenth part of a second. It thus travels much faster than sound.