The Pittsburgh Gazette

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THE CONVENTIONS.

The Republican State Convention will be held at Philadelphia, March 11th; the Republican National Convention at Chicago, May 20th.

By the terms of the call of the State Convention, its duties are restricted to nominating candidates for Auditor and Surveyor Generals and Presidential Electors and the selection of four delegates at large to the National Convention. The other delegates will be appointed by the respective districts.

Two methods for selecting district delegates have been used. Sometimes the delegates to the State Convention, of the proper year, have assumed the function of conferees for this purpose, and chosen the delegates for their respective districts. At other times the selections have been made by district conventions or conferences. This latter method has many advantages to recommend it. We believe it has steadily had the preference in this county.

It is highly desirable the delegates to both National and State Conventions should be chosen from among the very best materials; for the duties that will devolve upon them are of unusual gravity.

THE CASE AS IT IS.

A wide-spread and powerful conspiracy exists to wrench Ireland away from England. Most men everywhere who are of Irish birth and the Catholic persuasion, either sympathize with or are in connection, more or less active, with this conspiracy. We do not blame them. On the contrary, we see manifold reasons which would induce us, if we were related as they are, to do as they do touching this matter. Most Irishmen, adhering to Protestant faiths, stand aloof from this effort at Irish independence or are opposed to it.

The pivot of this conspiracy is in the United States. The conspirators have received much encouragement from the native-born population for various reasons. Because they are understood to be working against monarchy, a form of government not approved by the liberalism here prevailing. 2. Because of traditional spite at the English, growing out of the old colonial embroilment. 3. Because of the bad conduct of the aristocratic classes of England towards us during the rebellion. 4. Because of a natural willingness in men of low organization to sell others involved in trouble. 5. Because of demagogism, seeking to gain or hold on upon the Irish Catholic votes.

Last year this conspiracy was developed in such flagrant violation of the national neutrality laws, and of the treaty obligations of our government, that the President, doubtless unwillingly, felt constrained to interpose by military force to frustrate it. Finding their scheme for an invasion of Canada thwarted by governmental hindrance from Washington, the Fenian leaders turned their enterprise directly towards Ireland, and soon developed a most formidable insurrectionary power. Latterly they have extended their operations into England with singular energy and audacity, though no man of sober judgment will justify all the instrumentalities resorted to.

American citizens, by naturalization and by birth, who are involved in this conspiracy have gone hence to Great Britain. It is fair to presume they went there to watch or to aid the progress of the insurrection. They seek and demand the protection of the Government of the United States the same as if they were abroad in pursuit of their lawful callings. Popular passions are invoked throughout this country in their behalf. It is even insisted that we shall rush into war with Great Britain unless these conspirators are allowed to proceed with their enterprise unhindered.

During our rebellion the British Government conceded belligerent rights to the rebels. Under this authorization certain British subjects, through hatred of democratic institutions, or a desire to get gain, furnished the rebels with money, warlike stores, and ships of war. We hold the British Government answerable for all the provable damage resulting to us from this cause. Hence the Alabama claims. Nay, we went further, and held that this violation of amity justified a declaration of war by our country against Great Britain; and such declaration would have been made and executed but for the fact that the rebels gave us all the employment we could attend to. Are we prepared to relinquish the ground on which we set up the Alabama claims, and still urge them? Or, are we ready to respond in damages for losses inflicted on British subjects by the Fenian movement, so far as it is traceable to our shores?

There are men who, in private affairs, have one rule by which to measure their own rights and demands, and another and very different one, by which to gauge the claims and pretensions of their fellows. More still insist on unlike standards of judgment when dealing with the concerns of their own government and those of other powers. We see no grounds of reason or justice on which this discrepancy can be exposed.

If American citizens see proper to stir up trouble for Great Britain, and in the prosecution of that enterprise take the risk of putting themselves within reach of the clutches of the power they assail, they are in law and in fact their own measures. If they suffer loss, they must indemnify themselves as best they can, and not embroil our government in a quarrel of their own seeking.

This does not touch the case of other classes of American citizens. All citizens of this country, whether naturalized or native, going abroad in pursuit of lawful business or pleasure, have a right to expect and claim the amplest protection of our government. In this regard there can be no difference between citizens by birth or adoption. Both stand on a common level, and the honor and dignity of the government is as fully pledged to the one class as to the other. Nor does it matter in the least whether a citizen is rated high or low as to wealth, learning or social status. As to rights, all citizens are necessarily equal, and the same measures of redress must be accorded to one as to another.

Of course, whenever an American citizen is interfered with in a foreign country, by the authorities thereof, whether by arrest or otherwise, our government will assume that the interference is improper and demand satisfaction. It will then devolve on the power interfering with him to show good reasons for its conduct or to make compensation. But it must be borne in mind that a citizen of one country, journeying through or sojourning in another country, is bound to respect all the laws and usages he finds established and in operation. It will not do for a Protestant to go to Rome and set up a church or conventicle at his pleasure. If he wants to enjoy freedom of worship, he must stay where the laws allow it. He may complain that the restriction laid upon him is illiberal, in contravention of natural rights, or what not, but when he voluntarily places himself where laws he dislikes are in force, he must either conform thereto or suffer the consequence.

It must, also, be remembered that the English government is peculiarly situated at present, and especially towards citizens of the United States. That government is seriously menaced. It knows that the blow aimed at its head was designed within our borders, and that much of the force imparted to it is derived from hence. It has cogent reasons for standing on its guard against Americans coming within its jurisdiction. As an independent power it will exercise such precautions as it deems necessary to self-preservation; doing even as arbitrary things as our own government did when it was in danger. But these considerations will not justify or excuse its intermeddling with an American who has observed the neutrality due from his government to nations with which it is at peace. Nor can it be adjudged sufficient to warrant interference with an American abroad that he has, either in Congress or elsewhere, expressed sympathy with the Fenians. Such expression may properly excite suspicion, and induce a vigilant watch over him, just as we suspected and watched Englishmen who came here while the rebellion raged, after having denounced the Union and wished the success of its enemies.

Our government is not in a humor towards England to suffer fresh wrongs at its hands; and it must be confessed that our people are not so entirely recovered from recent smarts as to be without desire for retaliation. That England is in trouble does not awaken our sympathies but rather gives us satisfaction. A grim delight is experienced in seeing the poisoned chalice she pressed to our lips commended to her own. What we wish is that our government may so deport itself in the present conjuncture as to vindicate its late exposition of international law and lead to its general recognition. Such a triumph concerns all mankind, while the obtainment of revenge, though sweet for the moment, will entail consequences to be permanently deplored.

THE BLIND.

We acknowledge the receipt of the thirty-fifth annual report of the Managers of the "Pennsylvania Institute for the Instruction of the Blind." There are now in the school one hundred and eighty-three blind persons. Thirty-two of these support themselves wholly or in part, as assistant teachers, or in the work department, five are full paying pupils, eleven in part, and eight are day scholars. By a series of carefully arranged figures the Principal, WILLIAM CHAPIN, Esq., shows that there are now 13,259 white blind, and 15,635 total blind persons in the United States. Of this number there are 1,590 in Pennsylvania, 273 in New Jersey, and 56 in Delaware, the three States contributing to the support of the Institution. Great difficulty is experienced in providing employment for the blind after they have been instructed and graduated from the College. To obviate this, the report recommends the establishment by philanthropists of a manufactory where the blind may be employed at fair wages. Such an establishment could not be made self supporting but it would contribute largely towards ameliorating the condition of those doomed in this world to perpetual darkness. The system of education adopted by the School embraces not only mental culture but practical instruction in mechanics and general handiwork. The factory attached to the institution, where brushes, brooms, whisks, mats, carpets, cane chairs, beadwork, knitting, sewing and general handiwork are made by the pupils and graduated workmen, is very successfully managed, and during the past year stock to the amount of $16,865 41 was made up. There are seven blind persons among the pupils from Allegheny county. The report shows a very gratifying state of affairs and reflects great credit on those immediately connected with the management of this noble institution, of which Pennsylvania should feel justly proud.

THE report of the House Committee on Foreign Relations admits the point we have heretofore urged, that our courts enforce the same rule as those of England and other European countries, in respect to the right of citizens to expatriate themselves—that is, that citizens have no right to throw off their allegiance. The Committee do not recommend any change in our own laws in this regard, but insist that the naturalized citizen shall be entitled to and shall receive the same protection as the native born, and that upon the arrest or detention of any naturalized citizen by any foreign government, upon the ground that naturalization in the United States does not operate to dissolve his former allegiance, or the arrest of any native citizen without charge of crime committed within the jurisdiction of such foreign power, the President is empowered to order the arrest of any subject of such foreign power who may be found within the jurisdiction of the United States.

This seems to us very much like unadulterated charlatanism. If a citizen has a right to repudiate his allegiance, at his option, the United States ought to recognize that right at once, and unmistakably. If he had no such right, then the United States ought not to endeavor to compel European governments to accept a rule which it refuses to adopt.

BORDERING ON THE ALLEGHENY RIVER, in Pennsylvania, especially on the higher section, are large masses of hemlock timber. Latterly the attention of tanners has been turned to this district, and in particular tanners hitherto located in the State of New York, whose supplies of bark are exhausted, or soon will be. Several of these tanners have already taken up large tracts of land. A few of them have already erected tanneries, and others will soon do so. Several enterprises of this description have been started as high up as Warren county, and with good prospects, all things considered. Of course, tanning is beset with the same uncertainty as other departments of industry, arising out of the financial situation of the country; but this will be only temporary. The hemlock forests of the Allegheny valley will soon experience a general invasion, and will yield abundant rewards to the enterprise that shall utilize them.

THE DEMOCRATS have been insisting with much apparent earnestness on a reduction of governmental expenses. Every step of Congress or the respective Departments in that direction met their approval until a bill was introduced into the House of Representatives to vacate some of the higher offices in the army. This measure was accordant with the previous reduction of the army itself. But the Democrats howl over this reduction because it will lessen the grade of their own sort. If expenses are to be reduced, it cannot all be accomplished with the rank and file. Some of the Generals must go lower. Why not?

THE Conservative Republican members of the House of Representatives at Washington are now going to greater extremes than the Radicals ever suggested. A little of the energy evinced at this late day would have accomplished much last spring; some of it does not promise to be beneficial as affairs stand.

IT IS PROVED that specific mention should be made of the fact that Speaker Davis fulfilled his pledge so to constitute the House Committee on Railroads as to secure the prompt reporting of the Free Railroad bill and the bill to restore the charter of the Connellsville Railroad Company.

MANY OF THE WHITE MEN at the South who lately engaged in an attempt to take themselves and their States out of the Union, and failed therein, are now seriously thinking of asking Congress to expatriate the black people. In former years these whites maintained most stoutly that black people were absolutely indispensable in the Southern States; that white people were naturally incapacitated for labor in those regions; and, consequently, complete depopulation must ensue but for the presence of the blacks. As a matter of fact the blacks did about all the work that was done, and the whites pocketed nearly all the gains. We see, however, a hopeful sign in the desire to have the blacks sent off. It implies that the whites have discovered the fallacy of supposing there are climatic hindrances to their working, and are inclined to try their hands at it. That is exactly what is needed to restore the Southern States to prosperity, and the South can cannot too soon carry the hopeful intention into effect. What is within their own competency. The removal of the blacks is another matter. As they are now freemen their consent will have to be asked, unless the Southern people are prepared to recognize in Congress a lawful authority more arbitrary than has ever been claimed by the most advanced radicals. When your conservatives want a particular thing done they can find a warrant for it in the Constitution, without the slightest difficulty.

TEXAS is no concealing the fact that great indignation is felt among Republicans in the northern tier of counties at the manner in which Senator Lanson was overreached in the formation of the senate standing committees. One of the oldest, ablest, and most experienced Senators, as well as one of the most powerful and eloquent Republican leaders, to be thus set aside, without an apparent cause, is sufficient to make those restive who love and honor him, and in whose lead they have marched to many Republican victories. "Are we a band of brothers?"—*State Guard.*

To this the Scranton *Republican* responds as follows:

"There are several people hereabouts who think that Senator Lanson's course last winter was quite sufficient to account for his being left off the Railroad Committee."

THE House of Representatives at Washington saw proper to express sympathy with the Irish in the movement they are making against the power of Great Britain. The London journals are indignant at this action, and profess to regard it as monstrous and unprecedented. The British Government went much farther when it accorded belligerent rights to the Confederates. It is now reaping only what it sowed, and ought not to complain of the quality of the crop.

THE COAL COMPANIES operating in the anthracite counties of this State greatly increased their facilities for business during the last year, with the expectation of considerably enlarging next year the amount of coal sent to market. It may reasonably be doubted, in view of the present outlook, whether with a materially increased supply the price will not fall below the average of the last season, which certainly yielded little or no profit.

THE Pottsville *Journal* gives the amount of anthracite coal sent from Pennsylvania to tide-water during the year 1867, at 12,650,571 tons, being an increase of 271,031 tons over the year 1866. Of semi-anthracite and bituminous reaching tide-water there were last year 2,255,738 tons, being a decrease of 82,588 tons from the preceding year. This gives an aggregate of 14,906,309 tons, and an increase of 188,443 tons.

THE English Government is heartily ashamed of having caused the arrest of the notorious Train, and is now endeavoring to induce his bondsmen at the doors of the authorities of Cork. George Francis will not relish the fact that he was arrested through a mistake, and that he was not deemed large enough game to alarm the British lion to such an extent as to cause his capture.

AWHILE AGO the Democrats confined their appeals to passion and prejudice mainly to those who hate black people because they are black. Recently they broke out in another direction. The "bond barons" and "moneyed aristocrats" are held up to public odium. It will soon be difficult to decide which is most offensive to the Democrats, a black man or a rich white one.

THE Republicans of Northampton county have declared for Grant as President, and designated Mr. Wm. H. Armstrong as one of the delegates from the Eleventh District to the National Convention. Mr. H. D. Maxwell is delegate to the State Convention.

Huntingdon county has also declared for Grant and Curtin.

THE people will be glad to know that the House Committee on Appropriations at Washington are resolved to cut down expenses. The further they go in that direction, while keeping the wheels of government properly moving, the better will they suit all thoughtful citizens. Whatever expenses can be abridged, ought to be.

MR. D. L. SMITH, one of the members of the Legislature for this county, has been shut up in his room at Harrisburg, by sickness, for two weeks past. We are glad to learn that his health is now amending, and that he will resume his public duties in a few days.

THE Republicans of Susquehanna county have elected W. J. Turrell and W. H. Jessup delegates to the State Convention, and passed resolutions in favor of General Grant for President, and Galusha A. Grow for Vice President.

A HARRISBURG correspondent of the Philadelphia *Sunday Dispatch* says the leading spirits in the House, on the Republican side, are Mr. Thorn, of Philadelphia, Mr. Herr, of Dauphin, and Mr. Hickman, of Chester.

J. M. COOPER, of the Chambersburg *Valley Spirit*, formerly editor of the *Intelligencer*, of Lancaster, is a candidate for Surveyor General, before the Fourth of March Democratic State Convention.

—The Boston *Post* makes an assertion. It says that more than thirteen negro soldiers deserted to one that was killed in battle. If the *Post* is able to prove this, it should at once offer its proof, for so grave a statement is likely to make prejudiced persons think that the paper making it is actuated so far by mean petty partisan spite, as to forget even truth in its endeavors to make a telling point.

—The German Young Men's Christian Association of New York gives free dinners every day to the poor. One hundred and sixty rations are also sent daily to poor families in the city. This, we humbly suggest, is better than paying a hundred thousand dollars or more for a ball such, as the Farwell, in Chicago, which was after all nothing but a horrible trap.

—A San Francisican complains that th California English is horribly butchered and mangled, and says that Spanish, Chinese and Kanaka words are freely used, and that soon, in the course of another generation or two, the language will be a completely separate dialect.

—The Hyppomanis which has raged for some time in Paris and London has extended to New York, and some ardent admirers of things equine are going to have a dinner where nothing will be talked or eaten except horse.

—On the 7th inst., Mr. John Henry died at Charlotte, Va., in the 73d year of his age; he was a son of Patrick Henry, the greatest and least known orator of America. One child of Patrick Henry's is still living.

—In Atlanta, Ga., real estate which sold for $40,000 in gold before the war resold recently for $7,000 in greenbacks. Any one who can afford to wait can make a fortune by investing in Southern real estate now a days.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The *Advance*, of Chicago, a Congregational organ, assumes the ground that the doctrine of Christ is that marriage is indissoluble during life, except on the ground of adultery, which is in fact the sundering of its peculiar bond. All other wrongs may justify a temporary or permanent legal separation, but not admit of re-marriage. It thinks the root of lax views as to marriage and divorce, is found in the pernicious and plausible doctrine that the only true marriage is that of spirit, and that all other is licensed or legal adultery. Liberines use this idea to effect the seduction of their victims. The adulterer uses the same plea to insure the ruin of his neighbor's wife. It argues very forcibly that the purity of marriage and of society—whose fundamental institution it is, underlying both Church and State—demands that it be indissoluble save for the one cause indicated by our Savior. It commends the course of the Catholic Church in adhering to this doctrine, though wrong in making it a religious sacrament.

The First Congregational Church of Chicago has decided to dispense with a paid choir and volunteers from the congregation have taken its place.

Considerable difference of opinion exists among the various religious denominations, in regard to incorporating in the Constitution of the United States a clause "acknowledging God as the source of all authority in civil government, the Lord Jesus Christ as the ruler among all nations, and his will, revealed in the Holy Scriptures, as of supreme authority." The Boston *Watchmen and Reflector*, a prominent Baptist journal, argues that the absence of such a clause is not a defect, but an excellence, and that in nothing does our noble Constitution stand out in sublimer peculiarity than in the absence of just that religious feature, which is now proposed to put in. The Baptists claim that it opposes their idea of religious liberty. A Convention is to meet at New Castle, Pa., Thursday, 20th, to promote this so-called reform movement.

It is well known that the Methodists and other bodies, which spring from them, have always observed the *Agape*, or "feast of love"—familiarly called by the Methodists, "love feast," after the practice in the primitive churches. They however observe it wholly as a church rite or religious experience meeting. The *Independent* gives a interesting account of a "modern *Agape*," celebrated in festival form by the Second Baptist church of Newport, R. I., which society was organized in the year 1656. The church was richly adorned for the occasion with evergreens, drapery, shields bearing appropriate mottoes, and a variety of symbols. Two trees, reaching to the vault of the Gothic roof, were hung with many gifts for the poor of the church and the children of the Sunday School, while tables arranged for four hundred guests at one time, were laden with refreshments. The exercises consisted of religious services, conducted by the pastor assisted by several clergymen of other denominations. It is estimated one thousand persons were present. John Cotton, in an address, urged the adoption of this form of the *Agape* as means of promoting a healthier social life in churches.

In Linebrook Parish, Massachusetts, there is but one religious society in the place; the people, believing that union is strength, unite, with a few individual exceptions, in supporting this society. The *Independent* thinks they are sensible people. So they may be, and yet a great many "sensible people" think that the union of persons of different friendly union of members of various churches to accomplish certain objects of nominations into one society, and a general interest, is a widely different thing.

D. L. Moody, the honored President of the Chicago Young Men's Christian Association, and lay evangelist, was presented on New Years' Day with the free use of a new and commodious house by Mr. J. V. Farwell, a princely hearted Methodist of Chicago. The house was furnished by other friends.

Bishop Simpson lectured lately in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, by invitation of the Young Men's Christian Association, for the benefit of the Iowa Wesleyan University, Rev. Dr. C. A. Holmes, formerly of this city, President. During his visit he addressed the students of the University. Turning to the venerable Dr. Elliott, the distinguished author and widely known editor for over a score of years, who sat on the rostrum, the Bishop said that twenty-five years ago he had walked eighty miles, carrying his little bundle of clothes, and became a student under the Doctor, when he was President of Madison College, then located at Uniontown, Pennsylvania. The *Western Advocate* says the venerable Doctor, the eloquent Bishop, and the touching allusion of the past, made the occasion unusually rich and affecting.

Rev. A. S. Hunt, an old Presbyterian minister in Brooklyn, N. Y., received for a Christmas present from his parishioners an India rubber model of a young lady, stuffed with five hundred dollars in greenbacks—a hint, says a friend, no doubt, of more greenbacks with a genuine article of young lady.

According to a recent report of Dr. Rust, general Superintendent of the Freedmen's Aid Society of the M. E. Church, the schools have rendered essential and in the work of restoring social order, of bringing about friendly relations between the employers and laborers, in promoting habits of cleanliness, industry, economy, and morality, rendering more emphatic the great distinction between right and wrong, enforcing fidelity to contracts, teaching them to respect the rights of others, while they are prompt to claim them for themselves. It is believed these schools, and the same fact in many respects is true of the schools of similar societies, have met a great want which no military or political organizations could supply. The teachers are quietly but surely "reconstructing" by teaching not only the elements of education, but of civilization and evangelization.

The *Lutheran Observer* represents St. Peter's Lutheran Church, in Chester county, Penna., as being in a very gracious state. Its membership of one hundred and seventy are great workers in Church matters. All the beads of families have erected the family altar. Every member of these families, with perhaps half a dozen exceptions, both male and female, are ready, when called upon, to take part in public prayer.

Among the grand projects in New York, is one by James Lennox, a gentleman noted for his princely gifts to the Presbyterian Church, to build a Presbyterian Hospital, on a magnificent scale. He announces by circular that an ample and eligible site has been secured and one hundred thousand dollars proffered besides, for the erection of suitable buildings. He suggests that a Board of Managers, numbering thirty-six, be selected from the different branches of the Presbyterian Church. Already full two hundred thousand dollars are pledged for the project.

Recent statistics show that the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States numbers thirty-four dioceses, forty-four bishops, twenty-four hundred and sixteen priests and deacons, twenty-three hundred and five parishes, one hundred and sixty-one thousand two hundred and thirty-four members, one hundred and fifty-one thousand eight hundred and nineteen Sunday School scholars; contributions over three millions of dollars.

It is stated by an exchange that over eight hundred persons have professed conversion in connection with the Rev. Henry Morgan's meetings in Franklin Hall, Boston.

GENTLY, GENTLY!

BY EUGENE E. RUFFAY.

Though he neither sighs nor groans,
Death is busy with his bones;
Rear him o'er the jutting stones—
Gently, gently!

Sisters, faithful to your vow,
Swathe his limbs and cool his brow;
Peace! his soul is resting now,
Gently, gently

He has fallen in the strife!
Tell it to his widowed wife,
And to her who gave him life,
Gently, gently!

Loudly praise the brave who rose,
With their blood, our diadems!
And their faults,—oh, speak of them
Gently, gently!

EPHEMERIS.

—Frozen scallops poison people.

—Wood is dearer than coal in Maine.

—Prussia has seven first-class fortresses.

—Ohio gained but 11,000 in population in 1867.

—The forty-six banks of Boston have $46,000,000 capital.

—Seven cents a pound is the price of Moose in Quebec.

—There are ten thousand negroes in Lexington Ky.

—Boston is to have a mammoth fair for the Cretans.

—Seward Territory is the name now given to Alaska.

—Dr. Livingston was a living man on the 1st of October.

—There are six candidates for Mayor in Portland, Maine.

—Santa Fe has paid $34,000 for a telegraph from there to Denver.

—The paper having the largest circulation is the paper of tobacco.

—The wheat crop is nearly ready for harvest in the Salt Lake district.

—C. B. Brewster is the orator of the graduating class at Yale this year.

—There never was a better logging season in Maine than this has been.

—The St. Pauls *Magazine* laments the deterioration of English race horses.

—Poor men and rich ones can get hot dinners for nine cents apiece in London.

—Louis Napoleon skates badly, and often falls, and always on the bony part.

—Twenty Indians were naturalized in Topeka, Kansas, at the last term of court there.

—Sixteen divorces were granted at the last term of court in Henry county, Illinois.

—It is proposed to make foreigners reside ten years in Virginia before they can vote.

—Anthracite coal is shipped from Philadelphia to Louisville, by way of New Orleans.

—The editor of the Moscow *Gazette* speaks and writes seventeen different languages.

—The exports of Great Britain have fallen off 4,000,000 pounds sterling during last year.

—A lame beggar in New York is worth $65,000, which is securely invested in real estate.

—A stop cart driver in St. Louis blew his brains out, on Wednesday because he was swindled.

—Fifty tons of trout have been caught in Moosehead lake and shipped to New York and Boston.

—The New York *Mail* denies the assertion that Rev. Henry Potter has been called to Grace Church.

—Mike Lipman, the circus man, has bankrupted in Cincinnati, with debts amounting to $32,500.

—Rev. Phillips Brooks, of Philadelphia, has collected over $1,700, which he has sent to the Cretans.

—Another large bed of garnets has been found in Bohemia. Most garnets come from that classic country.

—Napoleon can't get over his chagrin at his Mexican fiasco, and can't be induced to send a minister to Juarez.

—The Sioux and Cheyenne Indians are again becoming very troublesome in the neighborhood of Fort Pike Kearney.

—The monks of New Mellery, Iowa, are said to be excited over their new monastry, which is in course of erection.

—Mr. Van Wyck acknowledges that the Gettysburg diamonds are real, and the farm worth as much as they value it at.

—Near Chester, N. J., a fine bed of iron has been found. Some of it is to be taken out and made into sheets and pillets.

—George Francis Train vows he will be President of the United States. We fear that is only one of his superfluous vow-ills.

—The Prince Imperial has a small steam engine, which his kind father gave him on New Years day because he had been a good boy.

—A trip to Paris recently found a bracelet worth thirty thousand francs in her muff, at the opera, and she does not know how it got there.

—George Peabody has presented Cyrus W. Field with a magnificent silver dinner service, consisting of twelve large pieces, weighing in all seven hundred ounces.

—There are seven thousand Jews in New Orleans. The yellow fever gave that city a pretty tight squeeze, but all the juice don't seem to have been gotten out yet.

—Railway iron is shipped from Pennsylvania to the Rocky Mountains, without change of cars, for the Pacific Railroad, which is the railway to do that sort of thing.

—Salnave denies the story of his barbarously murdered General Montas with a chisel. He says Montas died of apoplexy. We have heard of such deaths before.

—The New York millionares want Hamilton Fish for Vice President. There might be some truth in the sneers at cod fish if we have a member of the family at the White House.

—General Anderson, the hero of Fort Sumter, will preside at a grand temperance banquet at the Cooper Institute in New York on the next anniversary of Washington's birthday.

—A revolting crime occurred on Thursday, in Milwaukee. A heinous outrage was committed on the person of a homeless white girl by an abandoned negro, who is now under arrest.

—President Johnson has sent his son Robert to an insane asylum, to be cured of periodical fits of drunkenness, which amount to insanity. We know from which side of the house he inherits that peculiarity.

—Harpoot is in Asia, on the spot which, according to some authorities, once was the Garden of Eden. There the women do all the work excepting the knitting, which is kindly performed by their lords.

—Young Brown, the student of Amherst, who defended himself against the sophomores who came to haze him, has been publicly commended by the faculty, and presented with a scholarship of $204 a year. George Graves, the hazer who was most injured, is in a hopeless condition.

—Chicago has had a gorgeous affair; a silver wedding where between $5,000 and $10,000 worth of presents were given. The cards were printed in silver and everybody went. One gentleman presented a set of silver valued at $2,500, another gave a dinner set of solid silver worth $1,500, and the employees of the firm of which the happy groom was senior partner sent a present worth $1,000.

—At last Charles Kean has taken his farewell benefit and left the stage. The performance still goes on, but his special foot-lights have gone out, his drop has fallen, and he has taken an orchestra stall as it were, a private box in the pit, where the throng is great, and there quietly waits the rising of the curtain on the new scene. It is a transformation scene, and we hope it will meet his every expectation. He has made his last appearance, and the curtain will not rise for him again. Let the audience shriek and whistle, bravo and *da capo* as much as it pleases; he can't appear again, for he has taken off his costume and left the stage.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Mulching Grape Vines.

My observation and experience have led me to the conclusion that we do not sufficiently mulch our grape soil. Moisture (in the ground) is the great lack of the grape, as of most berries and small fruit. The grape vine in the summer is a succulent thing, and needs much water. Mulching thoroughly and keeping the soil mellow is a necessity to good success. The best mulch, perhaps, is a covering of garden refuse, grass and weeds that are removed. These not only keep the ground moist, but fertilize it, and with that kind of manure which is the most appropriate and natural to the grape, improving its quality, its growth also, and its healthiulness. Our best success has been with this kind of mulch and with leaves gathered in autumn and kept (rotted) till the following season.

A Pies for the Hog.

The hog is not a hog because he loves the mire; he seeks it to cool his heated sides; water is preferable; and the cooler he can get it the better he likes it. Although he is of a hot nature, he is not therefore to be turned out into the cold—intense cold, rain, sleet, &c.—to provide for shift for himself often; suffering, yes, suffering; and he is not slow in manifesting it—whining, grunting, reproaching you. He has not the patience of other stock. If a hog, he is an intelligent one.

On your farm you have no animal that will improve upon feed as much as he—that will respond to good treatment as readily as he. He is not a "hog" in the ill sense of that word. His owner, from time immemorial, has made him such; he has done it by chase, by neglect. But the hog is sensitive, intelligent, good-natured, clean, if you give him a chance for cleanliness, of more cleanly habits than any creature on the farm, and some human creatures that we wot of included.

The wise man takes care of his pigs of other stock. He is proud of it. He gives it good quarters—expecting the same in return. He loves to see it thrive; and it does thrive successfully under his care. Piggy here is no "hog," but one of the family at large of the farmer, and a profit to him, because treated with regard.

Renovating Grass Lands.

"An Allegany correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker* furnishes an interesting statement of his experiments in renovating meadows where dairying is the principal business, and where it is desirable to keep the land most of the time in grass. Meadows there become greatly diminished in their crops in a few years. He tried harrowing the surface, top-dressing with manure, re-seeding, plastering, applying ashes, &c., with little effect. He has sowed small lots of an eight year meadow after manuring it in the fall, and with an increase of twenty-five pounds of hay per acre. Sheep manure, applied in the fall on a new meadow, gave an increase of a hundred pounds per acre. Discarding these modes, he next turned the sod with a good plough, and re-seeded to clover and timothy after the first crop. What this crop was he does not state. He has thus obtained seventy acres, rolling down to seed. An old twelve acre meadow yielded but six loads; after renovating as described, the first year it yielded ten loads; the next twenty-four. In four years, the whole lot, seeded with four and a half loads of manure per acre, and harvested fifty bushels of timothy per acre, and the next year forty-one loads of hay from the twelve acre lot.

"It will be seen that this manuring was not heavy. The application made in spring in a former experiment, resulted as we should expect, especially if thinly and unevenly applied at that season of the year. Autumn manuring uniformly and evenly made, is much more efficient. But it must be admitted that investing the sod on dry uplands is the most perfect way of restoring heavy crops, a full amount of grass seed being used. Manure must be applied freely if only a single year is taken for the renewal; but if two more years can be added, so as to turn in a heavy crop of clover in a short rotation, there is no question that a great improvement would be made. It must not be forgotten that one great objection to ploughing down and seeding grass fields, is owing to a sparing use of grass seed, and an imperfect preparation of the surface for it. Sow thickly, say a peck or more per acre, on a smooth, mellow, finely top-dressed surface, and the heavy growth of grass will be the result, much better in quality than that afforded by large, coarsely scattered seeds. Some successful readers inform us that they have succeeded in restoring meadows after cutting four or five crops of grass from them, by partially ploughing in the top two or three years, taking care never to graze them short, but allowing a growth of grass at least eight or ten inches high, and especially in the autumn and on the approach of winter."

The Point of Success in Applying Manure.

The great point to be considered in the application of raw manure is a speedy fermentation. This is effected readily by surface application, in which case it undergoes decomposition in a short time. The sun plays a direct part upon it, which causes this. It is hence that surface application is so highly beneficial, for without the composition there is little benefit to be consulted. It is a hindrance rather. But, the heat decomposing, and the rains washing it in, the work is done.

The next best thing, if not equally good, and even better perhaps, is to apply on the surface of ploughed ground and harrow in. This mixes it with the top soil exposed to the direct rays of the sun, the soil increasing, if anything, the heat, and this, in conjunction with the increased moisture, increasing and accelerating the fermentation. This practice never fails. It is always found to good—and good rather than bad—if care is rotted or not, providing it can be properly mixed with the soil.

The secret in both these cases is, that the sun has its effect. Ploughed in deep, there is a different result—not always successful, especially in cold soils, or in the latitude of the United States, where proper hydrometric condition, are necessary.

This, then, is the secret, that we must expose our manures to heat and the nearer the surface, the more heat and the more fermentation. We have had our best success with manure harrowed in. On meadows, it should be used only way; and the time of application, it is agreed, is the fall or latter part of the summer, when the heat has still its effect, and the rains help it.

But deep ploughing under will keep the manure as it goes into the ground, and will put it, if left there, out of the reach of the grasses and light-rooting grains. It is simply bad. It can be of benefit (deep in the ground) only when the soil is porous and of a sandy and dark or heat-attracting nature, and the season a warm one. In such summers it may have known the best of effect, where long manure was plentifully used, and made a bed for the roots of Indian corn, or roots.

The safe and certain way, however, is top-application. There may be some loss, which may not be the case where the ground covers the manure. But harrowed in well, if not too deep, or ploughed shallow—a more covering up where there is much straw—and there will be a certain, and immediate benefit; immediate if applied in the heat of summer, and never failing in its effect.

For corn, in a black sandy soil warmly located, we prefer to plough under. For roots also. Otherwise not.

The Apple-Worm and the Apple-Maggot.

The *American Journal of Horticulture* for January has an article on the subject of these destructive insects from Benjamin D. Walsh. He says:

"There are two very destructive larvæ, which burrow into the flesh of the apple, so as to render it not only unsightly, but absolutely unfeasible. The first of these, the apple-worm, was originally, like almost all our worst insect foes, imported from Europe; though it has gradually spread westward, till now it infests nearly the whole northern half of the Valley of the Mississippi. The second larva, the apple-maggot, is a native American species, and breeds naturally in our wild hawns and crabs, but within the last few years, has been noticed to attack the cultivated apple in Massachusetts, in Connecticut, in New York, and probably in Vermont also. What is very remarkable, although the very same species exists, to my personal knowledge, in Illinois (for I first it myself there many years ago from haws, or thorn-apples as they are sometimes called) yet it has not, as yet, been ascertained to attack cultivated fruit anywhere in the west. It would seem as if in this as in many other cases, it is only a local race of the species that has acquired the habit of attacking tame and imported instead of wild and indigenous species of plants; and that this race transmits to its descendants by the law of inheritance, the peculiar habits which it has itself incidentally acquired. Thus the habit of polluting game in the field, which is clearly an acquired and not a natural habit, is often transmitted by inheritance to young pointer puppies, without any artificial breaking or training whatever. On no other supposition than the above does it seem possible to account for the fact that the very same species of insects is both in the east and in the west, and yet it attacks the cultivated apple only in a certain limited region, even in the east; for, according to Dr. Trimble, "this new and formidable foe of my people is found in the Hudson river country, but has not yet reached Jersey."

"If these views be correct, we may anticipate that the apple-maggot will gradually spread westward, till, in some thirty or forty years' time, it becomes as great a pest in the valley of the Mississippi as it now is in New England and New York."

Mr. Walsh knows of no remedy for the depredations of this American pest save catching and crushing them. Will not the sparrow of Europe, which has lately been introduced here, and which is beginning to spread into the country, prove an effectual destroyer of these and other insects which seem to be every year becoming more numerous? The sparrow is undoubtedly a great devourer of grain and other seeds and of certain other fruits—but it should destroy the curculio and the apple moth it might more than compensate for the mischief it will do in other respects.

Collision of Vessels at Sea.

People unaccustomed to seafaring life are frequently surprised at hearing of collisions at sea, thinking it strange that, with apparently unlimited room, vessels do not so shape a turn out for each other in time to avoid such accidents. Such persons are not probably aware that the highways and byways of the ocean are as well defined, and often as narrow, as those of the land; that a vessel is bound under ordinary circumstances to keep in her course, and finally, that the winds and waves have a very decided say in the matter. The various causes which lead directly to collisions, as well as their frequency, are given in a recent English official report, from which it appears that no less than 2,755 such accidents happened, during the last eight years, on the coast of Great Britain alone, and that 795 of them occurred in broad daylight. The number has shown a regular increase from year to year during this period; and it is important to notice the various causes that led to the loss of these 2,755 vessels. The average annual number of collisions in the eight years was 346. Of these, an annual average of 74 occurred through neglecting to show a proper light, 19; through neglect or ignorance of steering rules, 65; through neglect of pilot, 3; want of seamanship, 16; general want of caution, 25. It will be seen that no less than 202 of the 346 happened from causes which, with proper care, might have been avoided. The average number of vessels lost from actual want of seamanship was only eight; from thick and foggy weather, 18; error in judgment, 24; and from parting cables, dragging anchors, breaking masts and sailing, 40.

A very singular fact is that of the 145 collisions which happened in 1866, between 6 a. m. and 6 p. m., 64 occurred when the weather was fine and clear, and only 30 when it was foggy. Of 222 collisions between 6 p. m. and 6 a. m., 192 occurred when it was fine and clear, and only 30 when it was foggy. Of 222 collisions between 6 p. m. and 6 a. m., 192 occurred when it was fine and clear, thick or foggy weather. Of the total number of collisions in 1866, 11 occurred between two steam vessels, both under way; 60 between two sailing vessels, both under way; 85 between two sailing vessels, one under way and one anchored; 29 between a steam vessel and a sailing vessel, both