PITTSBURGH WEEKLY GAZETTE.

VOLUME LXXXIII.---NO. 6. PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1868. ESTABLISHED IN 1786.

The Pittsburgh Gazette

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1868.

THE PETROLEUM JOB.

Last year a bill was brought into the Legislature to authorize and direct the Governor to appoint an Inspector of Oils. Neither the owners of oil wells, nor the refiners, nor the dealers in oils, here or elsewhere, asked for the creation of such an officer. On the part of consumers of oils, whether in this Commonwealth, in other States of the Union, or in foreign countries, there was no demand for an Inspectorship, and no desire for one. Persons engaged in the trade, and the general public, were satisfied abundantly. No difficulty was experienced at Antwerp or other ports in Europe in negotiating the sale, in advance of delivery, of large invoices, on the reputation of established brands and trade marks, and not the slightest desire was evinced anywhere for additional guarantees as to quality or quantity. Indeed, there were many indications that a new brand, even by an accredited officer, would interfere, for a considerable period at least, with a condition of the trade with which all parties were content.

From whence, then, came this attempt? Evidently, one or more individuals, with no capacity for starting and pushing successfully a business of his or their own, were anxious to make a living, and a good deal besides, by virtually levying a tax, for their especial benefit, and for no other conceivable end, on the business of other people.

The combined remonstrances of all the dealers in oils were so sharp, that members of the Legislative bodies were constrained to give heed thereto, and the plundering enterprise failed.

Soon after the opening of the present session a borer from Philadelphia sought an interview with the President of the Senate, disclosed to him that the experiment was to be repeated, and begged that the bill, when presented, might be referred to the Committee on Corporations. A reference more illegitimate could scarcely be imagined. It was not proposed to create a new corporation or to deal with an old one, but to provide for the appointment of an Inspector. The bill went, as was proper, to the Judiciary Committee General, and was by that Committee reported to the Senate in about twenty-four hours. Who asked for this bill? Nobody but the borer. No voice went up from the consumers of oil for it; and none from the producers and dealers. Is anybody marvelled? The bill as read in place, and as reported by the Committee, proposed to levy taxes to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars annually on the oil trade for the benefit of the borer and his associates. That was the milk in the cocoanut; and the Committee made hot haste to report the bill so that it might be put on its passage before the men from whom this large amount of plunder was to be wrenched, should be apprised of the design.

No sooner was intelligence of the introduction of the bill spread over the State than there was a simultaneous movement on the part of oil dealers to defeat it. Committees of them from this city, Philadelphia and elsewhere, repaired at once to Harrisburg, to make known their objections. The delegations in the two Houses from Allegheny and Philadelphia, in view of facts and considerations within their own knowledge, presented a united front against the bill. They knew it would be injurious to both cities, tending powerfully to drive the whole export trade out of the State, and concentrate it at New York and Baltimore. This would compel the immigration thence of considerable numbers of experienced, able and useful citizens, and the removal with them of their accumulated capital, as well as their business skill and energy. It was natural to suppose, in view of this condition of facts, that the bill would be thrown out; but that did not happen. The best terms the dealers could obtain was a nominal reduction of Inspector's fees to five thousand dollars a year and an exemption of oils in bond from inspection. With this the dealers were constrained to be content, lest worse should come upon them.

Who confronted the dealers, demanding the passage of the bill? Nobody. Only the borer stood behind, quietly engineering his game. As the bill originally stood the swindle was too manifest and flagrant, after a revelation of the facts, to permit any body seriously to defend it. And hence the abatements.

By what precautions the Inspector's emoluments are to be exactly gauged and determined so as not to exceed five thousand dollars a year, we do not clearly see. In all probability, whatever the law may provide, his income would be made to greatly exceed the amount specified. Indeed, we think it safe to infer that the limitation would be altogether inoperative, and that the only saving clause is that which exempts oils in bond from inspection. But if oils sent abroad may go uninspected, why not let the smaller quantity that stays behind be exempt likewise? or, if it is and must pass through the process of inspection, let it not be till the people ask for it instead of a speculator in legislation.

We do not like the bill, even with the amendments engrafted upon it. There is no popular demand for this Inspectorship. Not one citizen has asked for it; and not a citizen will who understands the case. The creation of fat places, at the expense of business men, simply to have comfortable places to put drones into, who ought to go to work at some useful and productive employment, is a shame and disgrace. The pensioning of such men on industrious and enterprising people, without their consent, and under color of law, is a matter that calls for the interposition of the high prerogative of the Governor, if it shall be persisted in. Governor GEARY will miss the chance of doing an excellent thing, and of adding to his claims upon the confidence of the people of the Commonwealth, if he approves of this bill, either in its original shape or in the form to which it has been reduced.

IN CONNECTION with the anticipated completion of the Connellsville Railroad, affording a direct communication between this city and Baltimore, it is deserving of mention that Messrs. A. Schumacher & Co. announce that the North German Lloyd will put on two screw steamships of twenty-five hundred tons burthen and seven hundred horse power each, which will make regular monthly trips hereafter between Baltimore and Bremen. The first vessel will leave Bremen on the 1st of March next, taking her departure from Baltimore on her return voyage on the 1st of April. These steamers will touch at Southampton going and coming.

THE friends of three different gentlemen in Pennsylvania are striving to obtain for them the endorsement of the Republican State Convention for the Vice Presidential nomination by the National Convention. These are CURTIN, GROW and GEARY. It is understood that the two latter consent to what is thus done in their behalf, while the former remains passive, holding himself at liberty to act ultimately as either his own feelings or the good of the party shall seem to demand at his hands.

THE Senate Finance report is expected within a few days. The delay thus far is attributable to the desire expressed by the members that their action be unanimous. The prevailing opinion in the Committee is in favor of a low rate of interest, say not to exceed four or four and one-half per cent. in every scheme for funding the national debt in long bonds.

A CONVENTION PROPOSED.

Mr. MANN, of Potter county, has introduced into the House of Representatives at Harrisburg a joint resolution submitting the question of holding a Convention to revise the Constitution to the people at the election to be held next October. Of course, this resolution does not contain a scheme of amendments, desirable or undesirable. Such embodiment would be out of place in a proposition of this sort. Only the naked question is presented of allowing the people, through representatives chosen for that special purpose, to alter or modify the organic law under which they live. This question will not necessarily involve any other; nor is it probable that it could be made to assume a party character. If the Convention should be decided upon, it is now likely some of the changes submitted would become matters of party contention; but even this result could be measurably avoided by appointing a special election for the ratification or rejection of the instrument, either as a whole or in separate sections.

Probably every thoughtful man in the Commonwealth would be glad to have the Constitution changed in one or more particulars. It is reasonable to presume that if a Convention should be held public opinion, as to changes, would be found in a somewhat chaotic condition, but a decided majority would concur in demanding amendments on certain heads.

Whether the present is a suitable time to take up this matter may well be debated in view of results developed elsewhere. We have fallen upon a transitionary epoch as to ideas; and hence there is no small amount of incertitude and ferment. It seems to us that the period appropriate to discussion has not yet been exhausted, and that to precipitate a verdict on either of several points would at best be to consume time and means to no avail, and might throw ultimate consummation still farther into the future. We apprehend this is the view the Legislature will adopt, and upon which its action will be based.

We do not make these suggestions because we are anxious to escape responsibility on any of the points likely to arise in a revision of the Constitution; but because we fear a Convention called at this time would furnish another illustration of the maxim, "the more haste, the less speed." When discussion shall have done its work, and public opinion shall have more nearly crystalized, we shall rejoice to have a Constitutional Convention summoned.

THE CIVIL CODE.

Last year Mr. DAVID DERRICKSON, of Meadville, Mr. MCCLAY HALL, of Bedford, and Mr. WAYNE MCVEIGH, of Chester, were appointed Commissioners to revise the Civil Code of Pennsylvania. The duty assigned to them, they have performed in part, and transmitted the result to the Legislature in the form of nine distinct bills, respectively on Corporations, General Pleading, Deeds and Mortgages, Evidence, Interest, Landlord and Tenant, Statute of Limitation, Highways and Bridges, and Poor Laws.

In addition to the general importance of having these bills reported so early in the session as to allow the amplest consideration to be given to them, there exists a special reason in the fact that bills are before one or the other of the Houses relating to some of the matters provided for in the labors of the Commissioners. For instance, a Free Railroad bill is pending in each House, and the Commissioners in their bill on Corporations have covered the same ground, providing for freedom of construction to as large an extent as is thought desirable, and at the same time imposing restrictions and conditions necessary to guard both private and corporate rights, so far as liable to be improperly trenched upon by new enterprises.

Some topics, as the regulation of banking, the Commissioners have not yet concluded their labors upon.

The bills reported by these gentlemen will necessarily receive a large measure of attention from the members of the legal profession throughout the State; and if this body shall be substantially united in opinion as to the merits or demerits of the codification, their judgment will doubtless be accepted by the Legislature as of very high, perhaps as of conclusive authority. If, however, that judgment shall be divided about equally, it may be inferred that the proposed codification will fail.

THE Harrisburg *Telegraph*, with apparent seriousness, expresses astonishment that the Republican journals of this city have not broken out into unmeasured laudation of the Legislature on account of the restoration of the Connellsville charter. We cannot help suspecting the solemnity is simulated, and that beneath the assumed gravity there lurks the leer of jolliest waggery.

The Legislature took away the charter, against law and equity—not through misapprehension, but because it was paid to do the job. Year after year it refused to make restitution, because it was purchased to withhold justice. At last the power of the Supreme Court was invoked, and the Judges unanimously ordered the restoration. When the Legislature could not help itself, it gave back the franchises it wrongfully took from us.

If a rascal should plunder from our contemporary a valuable purse; should persist, in spite of the most earnest remonstrances and solicitations, in keeping it; and the aid of the police should be sought and obtained to enforce recovery; and thus the reclamation should be accomplished, would he thank the thief or the police?

The press of Allegheny, in common with its whole population, have raised their hats in profound respect to the Supreme Court. They thank the Legislature for nothing, touching this matter.

All along there have been members of the Legislature who were actuated by a nice sense of honor—a supreme regard for justice—in all their actions relative to the Connellsville bill; neither the press, nor the people of this county, have been wanting in respect for these honorable gentlemen. Faithful among the faithless, they have warm places in our gratitude, which will never cool.

THE President has been talking with various individuals as to what he will do about the Alabama claims. If their respective representations may be credited he was not careful to use the same language, or to convey the same impression, to these different persons. One of his failings, as a public man, is that he talks too much, and remembers too little, on each occasion, what he said previously. However furiously he may talk concerning the claims in question, there is no probability that he will do any of the terrible things he has threatened.

THE SPEECH of Mr. G. W. Woodward, on the currency questions, finds considerable Democratic endorsement in Pennsylvania, notwithstanding the persistent efforts of demagogues of his party to debauch their followers into demanding a prolonged era of irredeemable paper money.

FROM the tone of the Republican press throughout the State, we conclude that the coming State Convention will renominate Gen. Hartranft for Auditor General, and Mr. Campbell for Surveyor General, almost if not quite by acclamation.

STATE LUNATIC HOSPITAL.

The Trustees and Superintendent of the State Lunatic Hospital of Pennsylvania, located at Harrisburg, have presented their annual report to the Governor of the Commonwealth. On perusing it, we find that the institution has been doing as the other insane public asylums have been, as much good as its dimensions will allow; that the number of patients under treatment has been larger than the buildings were intended to accommodate, and that the expenses of the year have been heavier than the appropriations made by the Legislatures.

On the first of January, 1867, there were 327 patients in the hospital, 181 of whom were males, and 146 females; 170 were admitted during the year, of whom 99 were males and 71 females; 95 males and 62 females were discharged during the year. Of this number 51 were restored, 39 improved, 33 were stationary, and 34 died. On the 31st of December, 1867, 185 males and 155 females remained in the hospital. There was a decided increase in the number of patients treated during the year, and the wards of the hospital have been crowded. Early in the summer the pressure was so great that the Board was forced to refuse admission to all save recent cases of insanity, and they have never yet been able to recall that order, nor do they see any prospect of being able to do so during the coming year.

Knowing as we do the extremely crowded state of Dixmont, and finding now that the State hospital is in the same condition, we think that the Legislature should examine into this thing, and provide amply for all these, the most afflicted of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Notwithstanding the crowded state of the wards, however, the health of the whole household at this hospital has been remarkably good, and we find of the 34 deaths during the year, 19 were caused by the exhaustion of chronic mania; 4 by exhaustion of acute mania; 1 by injuries from another patient; 1 by injuries from a railroad train; 5 by disease of the brain, and 4 by disease of the lungs.

The buildings have been somewhat increased during the year, and a great improvement effected in the arrangement of the interior; further improvements, however, are delayed until other appropriations render them possible. These facts we glean from the two reports, but the report of Dr. Curwen, the Superintendent, is too able to admit of much curtailing. The author himself is one of the greatest authorities on this subject now living, and has written a dignified, exhaustive and clear report, not only on the state of the hospital, but also referring to some of the causes of the rapid increase in the number of lunatics. Many of his statements are facts which are absolutely startling, but none the less true, and Dr. Curwen deserves the thanks of the people of the State for thus clearly and forcibly bringing them to the notice of their legislators.

THE continuance of the cold weather and general scarcity of labor combine to keep hundreds of persons in this neighborhood in poverty and want. The office of the Guardians of the Poor is daily thronged with applicants for relief of all ages, sizes and conditions, and with the scanty means at their disposal the gentlemen having charge of the distribution find it impossible to materially assist any of the unfortunate paupers. They afford in nearly every case temporary relief, and in cases where the applicants are feeble or old, they are committed to the Poor House, which is at the present time uncomfortably crowded. The private associations for the relief of the poor are heavily taxed, but through admirable management and wise discrimination, have succeeded in performing a vast amount of good towards their suffering fellow men. It is a fact worthy of note that a large percentage of our paupers come from the neighboring country districts seeking employment. They are able bodied and willing, but our labor market is over-stocked, and they cannot obtain anything to do in the way of work, and in the loneliness of a great city, without friends or acquaintances, and what is worse, without money, they are forced to go from door to door seeking alms. We say to our country friends to remain at home and not flock into the city for employment, as our own mechanics and laborers, who are well known and capable, are idle in hundreds, and can barely sustain themselves. It is better to stay on a farm without work to do than to rush into an overcrowded city, without acquaintance or money, in the vain hope of obtaining remunerative employment.

A MEMBER of the House at Harrisburg has exhibited his zeal for the worthy gentlemen who hold offices in the several counties, by proposing to increase their emoluments twenty per cent. While wages in all other departments are going backwards, this advance movement will not do. When patriots cannot be found to serve the people, on the present scale of pay, it will do to offer higher inducements; but so long as fifty applicants regularly appear for every office to be filled, higher pay is not to be thought of.

IT IS WELL KNOWN that most of the National Banks have considerable amounts invested in government bonds beyond what are deposited in the Treasury Department as security for their notes in circulation. Mr. Henderson, of Missouri, has reported to the Senate a bill authorizing any bank to deposit the bonds it holds and receive eighty per cent. of the full amount in circulating notes, which will enable them to double their gains on that portion of their investment.

AS THE PUBLIC revenues during January were not sufficient to meet the current demands on the Treasury by twenty millions of dollars, the prospect is not brilliant for a reduction of taxes.

Business of the Interior Department.

The whole number of claims received during the month of January, original and increase, in the Pension Office, of widows, &c., 1,705; of invalids, 1,006—total, 2,711. Number of claims admitted original and increase, of widows, &c., 2,851; of invalids, 1020—total, 3,871. Number of claims rejected, original and increase, of widows, &c., 356; of invalids, 1,057—total, 1,413. The total number of claims disposed of during the month was 5,284. The number of letters written was 6,451. Circulars sent, 19,570. In the bounty land division, 161 warrants of 160 acres each were issued; 6, of 120 acres; 1, of 80 acres. The total number of warrants issued was 168, covering 26,560 acres. Original applications received, 119. Number of letters written was 296. Circulars sent, 379. Claims suspended, 319. In the division of navy claims, 31 original and increase applications were received. Number of claims admitted, original and increase, of widows, &c., 16; of invalids, 26—total, 42. Number of claims rejected, original and increase, of widows, &c., 7; of invalids, 5—total, 12. The total number of claims disposed of was 54. The number of letters written was 208. Circulars sent, 349.

Central Pacific Railroad Bonds—Change of Price.

The sales of the First Mortgage Bonds of the Central Pacific Railroad Company have recently been so rapid and extensive that the full amount which the Company had proposed to sell at the original price of 95 and interest, has been marketed, and the price has been advanced to par and accrued interest.

The progress of the road, the prosperous condition of the Company's affairs, their abundant cash resources, and high credit, would seem to fully justify the advance in the price of their First Mortgage Bonds, and to afford a sufficient guarantee of an active demand at the advanced rate.

EPHEMERIS.

—The dog tax in Vermont yields that State a tax of $10,000.

—Honduras is rapidly being depopulated by the terrible ravages of the cholera.

—Last week there were 219 deaths in Philadelphia, and of these 66 were from lung disease.

—A. T. Stewart has sent $1,000 as a donation to the Bethany Mission School of Philadelphia.

—A Chapter of the Society known as the Knights of Pythias is to be established in New York.

—The honorable and liberal Asa Packer wants to be our next President on a Democratic platform.

—Arkansas gets up just about as many assassinations of Union men now-a-days as she did before or during the war.

—The Southern Relief Association is very active in its work of forwarding provisions to the sufferers in the South.

—Isaac Leeser, Rabbi of the Portuguese Synagogue in Philadelphia, died on Saturday morning, aged sixty two years.

—The petroleum refiners have spoiled, with their emptying and refuse, the drinking water of our neighbors of the Forrest City.

—Margaret Anspach was convicted on Saturday, in Philadelphia, of murder in the second degree in causing the death of her babe.

—Brother Brice, a member of a lodge in the Island of Jersy is said to be the tallest mason in Europe. He is almost eight feet high.

—A young man aged twenty-four has recently married a woman aged forty-two, who was his foster-mother and wet nurse in Dantzig.

—The victims of the famine in Algeria are so numerous that they are thrown promiscuously into trenches as the dead on a battle-field are buried.

—The present Legislature of Ohio, knowing that its chances and time are few and short, is going quickly through its laws inserting the word white.

—The most rapid promotion on record in the British army is that of Major General Carey, C. B., who twenty-three years ago received his commission as cornet.

—Napoleon's boy will be twelve years old in March. His chances of succeeding his father for any length of time on the throne of France seem to be very slight.

—A Newark, N. J., firm of brewers is reported to have purchased $8,000,000 worth of salt. The beer of the firm, it is hoped, will be better after this enormous outlay.

—Lord Brougham has at last succumbed. He has been deprived of the use of his limbs, and he can no longer articulate, yet his mind is as clear and robust, apparently, as ever.

—On Tuesday morning last Matthew Flynn was arrested in Kansas City, Mo. He is charged with the slight offense of killing two negroes and wounding a third at Fort Hays some time last December.

—The Mexican banker, Jecker, is, says *L'Independence Belge*, in Paris for the purpose of bringing suit against the French Government for the payment of thirteen millions of francs. We wish he may get it.

—For years no civil service appointment has caused so much dissatisfaction or given rise to so much newspaper discussion in England as has that of Mr. Thornton, the new Minister to the United States.

—Detroit is said to be the largest fur market in this country. The amount of that sort of wealth which reaches that city during the year is immense. Leipsig, in Germany, is the greatest fur market in the world.

—The family of Mr. Boyle, residing in Cincinnati, was poisoned with arsenic which was mixed with some food last week. Nobody died from its effects however, and the perpetrator of the deed is thus far unknown.

—One of the ancient Saxon laws concerned leap year, and was a little more arbitrary than might always be pleasant. The lady had the privilege of proposing marriage, but the unfortunate man was not allowed to refuse.

—The Portland *Oregonian* says that thirty-five men from Bozeman captured eleven horse thieves in the Yellowstone valley, returned the horses to the owners and accounted for the thieves by saying that they had "gone to States."

—Miss Arabella Bernard was making a bed in her home in Kansas City last week, when she shook to the floor a pistol which was lying under the bolster. In falling, its load was discharged and entered into her person. She died next morning.

—They are evidently up to the times in Oregon, and we should say it is a good place for marriageable persons to go to. In Marion county, in that State, ninety-one marriage licenses were issued during the first three days of January.

—Edward Edwards, an old citizen of Cincinnati, and purser on the Alabama at the time of its action with the Kearsarge, was murdered last month near Vicksburg by a colored man who robbed him of all his clothing and everything he had about his person.

—Mme. Miramon, the Princess Miramon, as she is now entitled to be called, is attracting much attention and sympathy in Vienna, where she is now residing at the request of the Emperor, who has granted her a very liberal pension.

—New London intends to squelch New Bedford completely some day in the whale business. Five vessels are fitting out there for the Greenland whale fisheries, and many more will be forthcoming just as soon as the supply of petroleum gives out.

—James Love is to be hung on Friday next, near Maysville, Ky., for committing a rape upon a young girl. If capital punishment is righteous, if legal murder is politic and proper, then the crime for which the man Love is to die, should, as surely as is murder, be punished with death in every part of the land.

—Some persons express surprise at the size of the pile which Mr. Bonner has seen fit to offer Mr. Bryant for his three poems. Three thousand dollars does seem pretty extensive, but then Mr. Bonner paid $30,000 for Norwood, which did not have as much in it, that amounted to anything at all, as a single stanza of Mr. Bryant's is sure to have.

—A wealthy gentleman has purchased a very elegant house in New York, which is superbly finished and furnished. The cost has been nearly $100,000, and he purposes presenting it to his daughter as a surprise on her return from a wedding trip which she is now making. The surprise may not be so pleasant to the young husband, who will have to meet the enormous expenses of living in such a house in New York City.

—A man in Wheeling drove his wife and child out of doors into the cold night of Friday last. The two unfortunates were awakened by his threats of shooting them, and it was but with difficulty that they escaped into the street, and even then with no other protection against the bleak winter winds than flimsy night gowns could afford. A friendly neighbor offered them shelter and clothing, and they thus escaped being frozen to death, although they had traveled several squares before they reached the welcome refuge. We have heard, as yet, of nothing having been done to punish, or as some would say, to reform the brute who was the author of all this suffering.

EPHEMERIS.

—There were but some 5,000 persons married in St. Louis during the year 1867.

—The New York *Sun* says that John T. Hoffman will certainly be the next Democratic candidate for President.

—It is reported that Sir Morton Peto will resign his seat in parliament on the approaching re-assembling of that body.

—Between August and January last the population of Toledo, Ohio, is said to have increased nearly one-fifth. It is now upwards of 40,000.

—A prominent New York politician says that Grant stands no chance at Chicago. Just so. There is no chance about it—he has a dead certainty.

—The King and Queen of the Society Islands have adopted a couple of infant girls who are united in a manner similar to that in which the Siamese twins are joined.

—Twenty engines have been taken off of the track of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, and one thousand employees discharged from the work-shops of the company.

—Prince Humbert evidently cannot afford to be disconsolate very long for his fiancee, who was burned to death not long ago in Vienna. He is to marry a pretty Princess in Italy.

—A New York *Tribune* correspondent is dreadfully shocked at the torture which death by hanging must cause to criminals, and suggests that death by a heavy shock of electricity would be instantaneous and pain less.

—It is stated, on reliable authority, that superior iron ore, yielding thirty-three per cent. of pure metal, has been found on Mr. Tarr's land, on Bailey Run, three miles above Tionesta village. This is directly up the Allegheny, about 120 miles from Pittsburgh.

—An exchange is so overcome by the announcement that out of eight hundred and eighty persons killed by lightning in France during the last thirty years but two hundred and forty were females that it shouts "who wouldn't be a female." We really can't say, unless it be Susan Anthony, Anna Dickinson, Gail Hamilton and a few of that sort.

—Southerners still cherish the idea that one day their worthless money will be at par; at least some southerners do, as is shown in the following from the Memphis *Avalanche*: "A prominent Judge yesterday paid $1500 in Confederate money for two pounds of head cheese. The day may come when he will find out that he has lost $1500 by the transaction."

—A tremendous revival is going on in the Methodist denominations in Philadelphia. In one chapel there in one evening twenty young people had their nerves so worked upon that they arose and shrieked aloud "what shall I do to be saved." In some of the other houses of worship a revival more thorough and quiet, and probably more lasting in its effects, is going on.

—Dubuque has a startling ghost, who has ice cold fingers with which he amuses himself by clutching sleeping citizens by the throat. As this treatment generally awakens the sleepers, and as the ghost is an orthodox one, who wears white grave clothes, (though where he gets them now-a-days, when shrouds are no longer fashionable, we can't think,) the effect is anything but pleasant.

—The leaning tower of Pisa is said to be in a very ruinous condition and likely to fall down. It is not generally known that there are many other leaning towers. In Lubeck, one of the four [illegible] Germany, there is not one [illegible] from the perpendicular, and nearly every church in the town has two of these crooked fingers pointing to the sky.

NEW YORK LETTER.

The Newark (Naked) Spiritualists—Tom Paine Supper—The Opera.

(Special Correspondence Pittsburgh Gazette.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 5, 1868.

Among current notices of discussion is the trial of the Newark so-called spiritualists, who were arrested on New Year's day for exhibiting themselves at a public window in a state of nudity. The case is before the Quarter Sessions, and is exciting no little attention. The parties are a woman, by the name of Reeves and her daughter, and a man the name of McEwen. The testimony is quite remarkable and would seem to prove that these people were animated by a species of religious infatuation, and that however disgusting their conduct may seem to others, it was prompted by [illegible] motives. The three, mother, daughter and man, sometimes slept together, and sometimes entirely [illegible] each other's presence, and yet the evidence goes to show that beyond the fact itself nothing improper ever occurred. The deluded creatures seem to have been laboring under the impression that by these personal exposures they were simply disciplining the soul and expiating from it all impurities of the body. It is clearly a case of religious insanity. Miss Reeves, the daughter, is described as very modest and of prepossessing appearance.

How many readers are aware that the birthday of the famous infidel, Tom Paine, is annually celebrated in this city? On the 29th inst. about fifty men and women sat down at a banquet, to commemorate the event, and indulged in the toasts and speech-making common to such occasions. It was an odd assembly, composed pretty much of the crack brained philosophers, the long-haired, long-bearded spiritualists, the free dressing, free thinkers, and such other odd fish that in a city like ours can so readily be gathered together. A large proportion were Germans, and of this nationality were most of the courses. It is to be hoped the company approved of the [illegible], the lalberbrate, the [illegible], pumpernickel, the apple compote and other dishes, the mysteries of which are best known to our German friends. The toasts, and the speeches in response, glorified Tom Paine, civil and religious freedom, the French revolution, the "Age of Reason," and other subjects.

PERU.

Civilization in Remote Districts—Gold Discoveries.

(Special Correspondence Pittsburgh Gazette.)

LIMA, January 13, 1868.

In the midst of the revolution with which our country is at present effected, it may be interesting to your readers to know that steps have been made for the introduction of civilization, even in the most remote districts of the Republic. The report made to the Secretary of the Navy by Captain Mariano Adrian Vargas, commander of the corvette "Napo," of the banks of the Upper Maranon and Morova has lately been published in full, and shows that the country which he has visited with his command abounds in immense wealth. After having explored the Morova, the expedition proceeded up the Maranon from its mouth to Naedemjara, where they had to stop for want of provisions and because they met with creeks which the previous heavy rains had made impassable. In regard to the gold washing in the Maranon, the chief of the expedition assures that there is no illusion about it. He says that he has seen and examined the gold, and has convinced himself of its abundance. According to his statement the lazy Indians of those regions go to the shore with a simple wooden tray, and wash the gold, which they deliver to a few tradesmen, who give them axes, hatchets and knives in exchange. Thus they work for an hour and a half or two at the utmost, until the sun rises, and then lie down in the shade of some tree all day long and only stir again when an opportunity presents itself for making another exchange. During these two hours of work every Indian can gather two or three ounces of gold, which shows sufficiently the abundance of the precious metal. The Captain winds up his report by recommending a colonizing expedition to start for those regions and is sanguine of a favorable result. He represents the soil to be very productive and adapted to the cultivation of coffee and all sorts of fruit. Capt. Vargas has arrived at Lima, in order to give to the Government a personal account of his expedition, and brought with him some gold, which has influenced a number of persons to a desire of emigrating, and it appears that the Captain himself has a sincere wish to return to that part of the country.

What is the Talmud?

With this question begins a long and elaborate article in the *Quarterly Review*, to which greater currency has been given by its insertion in Littell's Living Age. The subject, attractive even in the obscurity in which it has been so long shrouded, is presented by the reviewer in such a shape as to enlist the attention of all thoughtful readers. Paradoxical as it may seem, there never was, he tells us, a book at once more universally neglected and more universally talked of than the Talmud. He expresses his firm belief that numbers still hold with that erudite Capuchin friar, Henricus Seynensis, that the Talmud is not a book, *but a man*. The work is, in fact, the body of law (*Corpus Juris*) of Judaism—"an encyclopaedia of law, civil and penal, ecclesiastical and international, human and Divine." Its origin dates from the return from the Babylonish captivity—"one of the most mysterious and momentous periods in the history of humanity is that brief space of the exile," from which a previously reckless, lawless populace returned as a band of Puritans. The Jewish people began now to press around the scanty records of their faith and history with a fierce and passionate love. These same documents were gradually formed into a canon, which became the immediate centre of their lives and actions. The activity in expounding and investigating gradually begat a science, that assumed the very widest dimensions. Its technical name—"Midrash"—is already contained in the Book of Chronicles, and in the authorized versions is rendered by the word "story." There had sprung up innumerable modes of "searching the Scriptures." The Talmud is the storehouse of "Midrash," in its wider sense and in all its branches. Meaning in the first instance nothing but "study and learning." It next indicated a special method of "learning," or rather arguing; and finally it became the name of the great *Corpus Juris* of Judaism. The Talmud is composed of two parts—the legal and the legendary—*Mishnah* and *Gemara*—the one the product of thought, investigation and careful comparison, and the other the creations of fancy and imagination, mixed with feeling and humor. The Pentateuch remains in all cases the background and latent source of the Mishnah as the immutable, divinely-given Constitution, the *written law*; in contradistinction to which is the Mishnah, together with the Gemara, the oral or unwritten law. The ever-growing wants of the Jewish Commonwealth required new laws and regulations at every turn, and modifications of old laws as seen in the softening down of the severe laws of the Pentateuch. The whole process of the development of the law was in the hands of the Scribes, who, according to the New Testament, sat in the seat of Moses. Their time ranges from the return from Babylon down to the Greco-Syrian persecutions, (220 B. C.) Their duty above all was to preserve the sacred text, and they had also to instruct the people to preach in the synagogue, to teach in the schools. After the Scribes came the Learners or Repeaters, called also Master Builders from 220 B. C. to 220 A. D. "In this period fall the Maccabean Revolution, the Birth of Christ, the destruction of the Temple by Titus, the final destruction of Jerusalem, and the total expatriation of the Jews." The legal labors that belonged to this period were never seriously interrupted. The highest legal assembly, the House of Judgment was known as the Sanhedrin. Whenever the New Testament mentions the priests, the elders and the scribes together, it means the great Sanhedrin. There were two lesser ones. Law in the Old and especially in the New Testament has a much wider meaning than that which is commonly given to it. It "stands for all and every knowledge, since all and every knowledge was requisite for the understanding of it," and hence to become a member of the Sanhedrin required an extensive acquaintance with existing literature and science. The Sanhedrins formed the crowns and highest consummation of the schools and academies, which were spread throughout the length and breadth of the land eighty years before Christ. Education had in fact been made compulsory. An exiled place was also given to [illegible]. "Worthy of all notice are the numerous points of contact between the New Testament and Talmud. "Such terms as 'redemption,' 'baptism,' 'grace,' 'faith,' 'salvation,' 'regeneration,' 'Son of Man,' 'Son of God,' 'kingdom of Heaven,' were not, as we are apt to think, invented by Christianity, but were household words of talmudical Judaism in which Christianity gave a higher meaning." The general character of the penal code of the Talmud is humane in the extreme. Of the "Haggadah," or legendary and imaginative part of the Talmud, we have no room to speak. The work of reducing the bulk of ordinances, injunctions, prohibitions, precepts, was attempted at three different periods, but was only accomplished the last time by Jehuda, the Saint, 200 A. D.

Steel for Railroad Purposes.

A writer in the Philadelphia *Bulletin* strongly urges the general adoption in this country of steel rails on railroads. With philosophical nicety he shows that such rails would prove the best preventives known against accidents, inasmuch as steel has tensile strength double that of iron, and transverse strength equally adapted for railway uses; and as it is a homogeneous metal not liable, like iron, to be effected by extremes of temperature. *A good quality of steel rail will readily bend at a right angle, or will even double up cold without fracture in pretty weather*, although it requires a far greater pressure than iron in bending. *The enduring qualities of the steel rail have already been shown in England to be over twenty-fold greater than* [illegible]. The first cost of the steel, however, being double that of iron, prevents many railway companies from laying it on the main line of their track, and it is yet deemed good policy by many roads to continue the use of iron rails with all their risks, and at an average life of only five years, rather than go to the expense of a first cost of double the iron in putting down steel, which has already been proved to outwear twenty iron. Could *stockholders* be contented to build their roads for posterity, there is no doubt steel would quickly come into very general use, as an interest account at 6 per cent., added to the first cost of iron rails at to-day's prices, with a re-rolling every five years *for a hundred miles of track*, would in a century make the gross cost of the iron track $22,000,000, whilst the steel would be but $10,500,000, provided it endured twenty times as long as iron. How much would be saved by the use of steel in the rolling stock account, and in freedom from accidents and comfort of passengers, it would be difficult to estimate.

Not only, however must we employ steel rails, solid steel frogs, steel axles, steel wheels, steel boiler plates and steel tires have also become a necessity. The steel tire question is one already definitely settled, and although only a few years have elapsed since their introduction, iron tires are almost a forgotten thing in railway uses. After broken rails, perhaps no more fruitful cause of accident exists on our express trains than broken wheel flanges. It is too much to expect of cast-iron that it shall stand the increased strain which the accelerated motion of passenger trains constantly demands of it under all variations of temperature. Only *cast-steel wheels* or *wrought-iron wheels*, with *cast steel tires*, can be expected to bear the continued strain which the rapid motion of the cars too often places upon the wheels. Scarcely less important is the use of cast-steel axles, which are now becoming so generally in demand with first-class railways. Solid cast-steel frogs or crossings are also generally being brought into use in this country, although very largely used in Europe for some years. As no part of the permanent way receives harder use than the frogs, switches and crossings, the advantage of making these of one piece of solid, toughened cast-steel will be easily perceived.

VERSATILITY.—The Rev. F. C. Ewer was once a journalist, but reformed and became an Episcopal minister. He has pursued that vocation earnestly and successfully, both in a temporal and spiritual sense. Of what Mr. Ewer might have been, had his ambition led him in a different direction, some idea is given by his lecture and speeches on secular matters since his accession to the ministry. Three years ago, in an oration on Washington's birthday, he uttered opinions and sentiments evincing qualities of great sagacity and familiarity with statecraft. Quite recently he has shown himself an adept as a naturalist. From a lecture recently delivered by him on the Darwinian theory, we take a suggestive sentence:

"Some people may flippantly declare that they do not choose to accept a theory which gives them a monkey for an ancestor, but these same persons have always acknowledged a creed which ascribed their origin to a lump of mud, and, of the two, which is the least objectionable?"

—The Bradford County (Pa.) Republican Convention has passed resolutions recommending Grant for President and Galusha A. Grow for Vice President.

New Method of Lighting Streets and Public Places.

Paris is leading the way to a general reform in the matter of lighting streets and public places by night. A correspondent of the St. Louis *Republican* grows quite enthusiastic over a recent public experiment made in front of the Hotel de Ville, a few nights ago, on the new method invented by Messrs. Tessier du Mothay and Marachals. To judge by the effect produced by the scientific judges who were present, and the applause of the surrounding crowd, the experiment proved a great success. When placed in competition and juxtaposition with new-lights, the old fashioned gas burners looked just what the *lanterns* of former days would do beside the former. The new method consists simply in procuring the complete combustion of the ordinary gas by the application of oxygen. The supply is communicated by a small tube in the centre of the ordinary gas light; and the effect, as estimated by the photometer, is to produce a light sixty times the intensity of the ordinary process of consumption. Indeed, by the judgment of all present, it will be necessary that the luminous power should be moderated and deprived of its too "dazzling" effects by being passed through ground or colored glass, should the method come into common use. Now there is nothing very novel in the fact of a very brilliant light being produced by a supply of oxygen. But then to do so, has been found a very expensive process, entirely unfitted for general application. The boast of Messrs. Mothay & Marechal is that they have discovered the means of effecting this at a very cheap rate. They procure their oxygen from the common atmosphere. How or by what means they do this is their secret. But they have succeeded in procuring it at such a rate that their oxygen costs them only 7½ centimes the cubic meter, or about a fifth of the usual cost. Their calculation, therefore, is that three cubic meters of ordinary gas plus four cubic meters of oxygen, costing together only about nine francs, will give as much light as 180 cubic meters of ordinary gas, of the value of 54 francs. The inference is that, with experience we may now light our streets three or four times as effectually at half the expense.

Gift Enterprises.

Americans have dearly earned their reputation of being the most gullable race of people on the face of the globe. While they like to humbug their neighbors they can good humoredly stand a large quantity of shrewd humbugging. This peculiarity of the people has developed a class of sharpers who are keen on every occasion to take undue advantage of the simplicity or, perhaps, the cupidity of their neighbors. The grand swindles under the caption of "Gift Enterprises," notwithstanding the fact that a large proportion of the people have been again and again victimized by them, are still flourishing and prove attractive to the weak minded who have dollars to invest. In New York there are a score of firms engaged in this species of lottery and singular to say all make it pay handsomely. On Saturday, the "Merchants' and Bankers' Grand Presentation Scheme," the fraud advertised by Clark, Webster & Co., was again before Justice Dowling. Mr. De Forest, of Brooklyn, had purchased tickets. He received a note from the swindlers, informing him that he had drawn a watch worth $300, and inviting him to call and receive it. He called, and was requested to deposit $10. Mr. De F. wanted to see the watch. It was handed to him. He pocketed it and walked away, but was arrested for theft and taken before Justice Dowling, who advised him to enter a formal complaint against Clark, Webster & Co. for swindling. This he did, and the Justice issued a warrant for the arrest of the firm. On this warrant Henry Ellis, the head of the concern, and several clerks were taken into custody and held for examination.

Another called "The Co-operative Gold and Silver Lead Mining Association," located at 231 Broadway, promises for $100 to give transportation (to which point not stated), a year's maintenance, $100 in wages, 160 acres of land (location not stated,) and your share of the profit of the enterprise. Let our readers, if there be any silly enough to listen to these magnificent thieves, beware of investing.

Telegraphic Triumph.

We have before us a copy of the Pittsburgh GAZETTE, in which it is set forth in fat black type that there had been in [illegible] Europe inside of a double [illegible]. That paper was printed some fifty years ago. By way of contrast we publish the following which we find in the Telegraph Journal of February 1st: At an early hour this morning the wires of the Western Union Telegraph Company from San Francisco to Cape Race, Cape Breton, and the wires of the New York, Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company from Placer Cove to Heart's Content were connected, and a brisk conversation commenced between these two continental extremes. Compliments were thus passed between San Francisco and Valentia, Ireland, when the latter announced that a message was just then being received from London direct. This was said at 7.21 A. M., Valentia time, Feb. 21. At 7.21 A. M. Valentia time, the London message was started from Valentia for San Francisco, passed through New York at 2.55 A. M., New York time, was received in San Francisco at 11.21 P. M., San Francisco time, Jan. 31, and was at once acknowledged—the whole process occupying two minutes actual time, and the distance traversed about 14,000 miles. Immediately after the transmission of the message referred to, the operator at San Francisco sent an eighty word message to Heart's Content in three minutes, which the operator at Heart's Content repeated back in two minutes and fifty seconds. Distance about 5,600 miles.

A Funny Dog.

While Mr. Dickens was reading in Washington a full grown dog in attendance barked violently, alarming and disturbing the audience. The Washington *Chronicle* in referring to the sensation created by "Bowser", tells the following incident which occurred in Vermont some years ago:

Rev. Mr. D., a venerable and forcible expounder of the Gospel, was in the habit of frequently rousing, and calling the special attention of his hearers to what he was saying, and among the regular attendants of the church was a large Newfoundland dog, who frequently planted himself upon his hind-quarters in front of the pulpit and looked the minister squarely in the face. Under these circumstances, one Sabbath the reverend gentleman spoke out so loudly and energetically as to wake all the slumberers. "Here is an idea for you! I want you to take hold of it! Seize it!" Instantly the dog perceived a personal application, and broke out with a tingling bow-wow! The whole congregation, even the deacon, found it as difficult to suppress laughter and return to sober business as did Mr. Dickens when he seemed to be so well appreciated by at least one [illegible].

No Building this Spring.

Philadelphia capitalists are slow to embark in any building enterprises on account of the present general stagnation in business. During the past year a large number of houses were put up in that city, and it is thought there will be no demand for either store rooms or dwellings this spring which cannot easily be supplied. Should the determination not to invest any more capital in building, a large number of bricklayers, stone masons, carpenters and laborers will be thrown out of employment and forced to seek new homes.

—A Brussels letter to a Paris paper contains intelligence which will create a profound emotion on account of the painful circumstances connected with it. The Empress Carlotta was a few days back informed by their Majesties the King and Queen of the Belgians of the shocking catastrophe of Queretaro. The first movement of the Empress was to utter a cry of anguish, which was immediately followed by a flood of tears. Then, resuming all the firmness of her character, her Majesty became calm; she observed that for some time past she had suspected that a great calamity must have taken place. She at once requested to have mourning provided for her. The Queen of the Belgians has since remained constantly with her sister-in-law, who supports this cruel trial thus far without injury to her health.

—The Muscatine (Iowa) *Courier* says that a little boy, son of Mr. Webb, of Marengo, fell backwards into a boiler of hot water and severely scalded his shoulders, and that some kind of oil was applied and the little sufferer placed in bed. Shortly afterwards another oil was rubbed on his shoulders over the first. The little fellow soon screamed piteously and smoke was observed rising from the bed. An examination resulted in the discovery that the sheets were on fire, and that the boy's back was literally roasted. Indeed, so severe were his injuries that he died in a few hours. Physicians who were called gave the opinion that the mixed oils applied to the first burn had produced spontaneous combustion, which had ignited the sheets.

—Marshal Forey is hopelessly paralyzed, and so helpless that he cannot move, but must be carried by his servants. His mind, however, is as clear and active as ever. He has recently dictated to his adjutant a pamphlet which will be issued under the title, "Europe in 1868."

FORTIETH CONGRESS.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

WASHINGTON, February 6, 1868.

SENATE.

The CHAIR laid before the Senate a memorial of the Arkansas Convention, setting forth that as the State officers are enemies of the government, and persecute loyalists, the Convention asked to be authorized to appoint new officers. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Petitions were presented for the removal of the duty on raw jute, and for the reduction of the army and navy. The latter was from the citizens of Green Bay, asking that a portion of the money thus saved be applied to the improvement of the harbor at the mouth of Green river. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Messrs. SHERMAN and HENDERSON reported favorably from the Committee their respective bills, and gave notice they would call them up as soon as the reconstruction debate was closed.

Mr. Henderson's bill repeals the limitations of the National Banking Law in regard to the amount of the circulation of National Banks. It allows any banking association depositing with the Treasurer of the United States the necessary securities, to issue National bank currency not exceeding eighty per cent of the par value of the bonds so deposited, provided, whenever the amount of United States notes and circulating notes of National banks combined shall be in excess of seven hundred million dollars, the Treasury is authorized to withdraw and cancel as rapidly as possible the United States notes to the extent of such excess until the whole amount of United States notes outstanding shall be reduced to two hundred and fifty millions.

The Committee on Finance reported a substitute for Mr. Sherman's bill, introduced December 17th; providing as follows: The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to issue bonds bearing interest at five per cent., and principal and interest payable in coin, and due in forty years, but redeemable in ten years, to an amount sufficient to cover all outstanding obligations of the United States, other than five per cent. bonds, and to be exchanged for obligations or disposed of otherwise at not less than par, and said bonds or proceeds thereof to be exclusively used for the redemption or in exchange of existing securities. United States bonds to be issued shall be known as the consolidated debt of the United States, and shall be exempt from all taxation by State or local authorities, and the same with interest thereon and income therefrom shall be exempt from payment of all taxes or duties to the United States, other than such income tax as may be assessed on other incomes, and in consideration of the reduction of the rate of interest there shall be appropriated out of import duties an amount equal to one per cent. on bonds issued, which shall be applied to the purchase or payment of the national debt. In addition to the sums necessary to pay the interest and maturing bonded debt of the United States, there is appropriated out of the Treasury a sum which, including said interest and maturing debt, and the one per cent. as aforesaid, shall amount to one hundred and thirty-five millions annually, which sum shall be applied to the reduction of the debt. In lieu of the sinking fund contemplated by the act of February 25th, 1862, five-twenty bonds shall, after the expiration of five years from date, at the option of the holders, be exchanged for new bonds, and such as are now redeemable shall be presented for exchange before the first of November next, and not thereafter, and the residue not later than six months after the expiration of the five years from date, for lawful money of the United States, and the new bonds are to be exchangeable for each other when presented to the Treasurer, unless the amount of United States notes outstanding shall be equal to four hundred millions, or unless the United States shall have resumed payment in coin for their notes. The last section provides that any contracts hereafter specially made in coin shall be legal and valid, and may be enforced according to the terms of said contracts.

Mr. TRUMBULL presented a petition of colored citizens of North Carolina setting forth their miserable condition and asking to be sent to Liberia. Referred to Committee on Finance.

The joint resolution relative to lands granted to railroad companies in Michigan and Wisconsin was taken up and passed with the pending amendment restricting its provisions to the chartered and projected lines from Fon Du Lac, Wisconsin, to West Kanava, Michigan, and Marquette, Michigan, to certain points in the same State.

Mr. DAVIS offered a resolution asking, in addition to the information heretofore asked from the Secretary of War, what sums by the War Department for vessels chartered or employed by the Department since the 4th of March, 1861, with names and dates.

Mr. HOWARD objecting, the resolution laid over.

On motion of Mr. HOWARD the bill to grant aid to the Central Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad was taken up.

Mr. SHERMAN opposed the extending of subsidies further than under the existing laws. He had no doubt but that the eastern division of that road would eventually extend to New Mexico, when the finances of the country were in a better condition.

After further debate by Messrs. MORRILL and HOWARD the bill went over, at the expiration of the morning hour.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN offered a resolution to instruct the Committee on Naval Affairs to report in regard to providing suitable localities to replace that used for Government magazines near New York and Jersey City.

Mr. DRAKE spoke in support of the Supplementary reconstruction bill.

Mr. HARLAN obtained the floor at the conclusion of Mr. DRAKE'S remarks, but yielded to allow Mr. HOWARD again to call up the bill in regard to the Central Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad.

The motion was carried—sixteen to thirteen—but Mr. FESSENDEN said Mr. Johnson, who had the floor on the subject, was not present, and moved an executive session, which motion was subsequently withdrawn.

Mr. SUMNER moved to postpone the bill and take up the joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to send one or more naval officers to the Havre Maritime Exhibition to represent the United States, which carried.

Mr. CONNESS' amendment, providing against any attending expense, was adopted after a lengthy debate and the resolution was adopted by a vote of twenty-one against nine.

Adjourned.

WASHINGTON, February 5, 1867.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FORFEITING SOUTHERN RAILROAD LANDS—THE BILL PASSED.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the bill declaring forfeited to the United States certain lands granted to aid in the construction of railroads in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida.

The amendment of Mr. ARNELL, to exempt from forfeiture lands of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad was agreed to. Yeas 87, nays 58.

Mr. TABOR moved to table the bill. Rejected—sixty-eight to eighty-four.

The amendment of Mr. PILE, to except the lands of the Alabama and Tennessee River Railroad Company, was not agreed to.

The bill then passed—yeas eighty-six, nays seventy-three.

EXPATRIATION BILL.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the bill reported from the Committee on Foreign Affairs concerning the rights of American citizens in foreign States.

Mr. JUDD continued his speech in criticism of the bill, and read some extracts from letters received by him this morning from Germans in the west, asking why the bill made any distinction between native and adopted citizens. The exception made in the bill of persons escaping from conscription actually ordered would, he said, subject to arrest and conscription all Germans returning to their country who had emigated when under twenty-three years of age. The proposed redress in the second section, that of reprisals, Mr. Judd considered as a most remarkable provision in this very singular bill. As a means of redressing wrongs, the proposition was a farce. As a mode of punishment, it was barbarism. It was at variance with all the principles recognized by modern civilized governments. No one could believe that any European government would fail to make such insecurity of any of its subjects a cause for immediate war. It would not even make the excuse which the Emperor of Abyssinia had for his seizure of Englishmen, for he charged them with being conspirators. Taking the bill altogether, it did not advance one step towards a practical remedy for the grievances of naturalized citizens. He did not believe any specific act of legislation by statute was the form in which to meet this question. Congress should pass a general declaration of what the law of the country is as to the perfect equality of native born and naturalized citizens, eligibility to the Presidency being the only exception, and of what the Government proposes to do in case of refusal to abide by such declaration. The declaration which he proposed would embrace the following:

First—That the government of the United States was established on the principle that every individual has an inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that as a means necessary to secure that right, express power to establish a uniform rule of naturalization was vested in Congress by the Constitution.

Second—That since 1790 that Constitutional power had been exercised by Congress.

Third—That by the Constitution and laws of the United States no distinction is made between the rights of citizenship belonging to native born citizens and to naturalized citizens, or in the protection due them from the Government, the solitary distinction being that the President must be native born.

Fourth—That the naturalization laws of the United States, in force since 1802, require an oath of abjuration of allegiance, and that hence the principles and doctrine of the English common law, and all other conflicting doctrines and principles on the subject, have been abolished within the jurisdiction of the United States.

Fifth—That against any exaction of military or other service or duty which the United States government should protect its native born citizens from, it is equally bound to afford assistance and redress to naturalized citizens.

Sixth—That the naturalization laws of the United States form part of its national and political system, in force for nearly three quarters of a century, and that all foreign governments are chargeable with notice thereof and acquiescence therein, which cannot now be controverted with due regard to the rights and dignity of the United States.

Seventh—Recites the abandonment since 1812 by Great Britain of its claim of right to impress as seamen, naturalized citizens of the United States.

Eighth—That the protection of naturalized citizens abroad cannot be trusted exclusively to the Executive Department, but should be enforced by imperative law.

Ninth—That naturalized citizens, charged with crime in a foreign land, are entitled to the protection of the United States to the extent that it shall see that the laws of such country are fairly and impartially administered without prejudice.

Tenth—That the United States government is bound to see that no United States citizen is tried or punished within a foreign jurisdiction for acts done or words uttered within the United States or in any other country except that wherein the prosecution is instituted.

Eleventh—That it is the duty of the government of the United States to demand the immediate discharge and release of all citizens restrained of their liberty in violation of the principles thus declared, and just reparation for the wrong any citizen has suffered, and that the Executive Department be instructed to carry out those doctrines and enforce those rights, and to report to Congress any refusal or neglect on the part of any foreign government to recognize the demand so made.

In conclusion, and in reply to some observations of Mr. Pruyn, he said he was for Congress saying that such and such rights existed, and that they should be observed by these nations with which the United States deal.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the bill concerning the rights of American citizens in foreign States.

Mr. CHANLER addressed the House in criticism of the bill, liking it to a Niagara. The title of the bill, he said, was the roar, and the bill itself was the fall—and great was the fall thereof.

Messrs. BOYER and WOOD also made remarks and the bill then went over to the morning hour of Tuesday.

Mr. BLAINE, from the Appropriation Committee, reported the Army Appropriation bill, amounting to thirty-three millions. It contains a provision for the gradual reduction of the army until the military force is reduced to twenty-five regiments of infantry, seven regiments of cavalry and five regiments of artillery. No new commission shall be issued in any regiment, except to West Point cadets and Second Lieutenants. The Secretary of War is directed to consolidate regiments as rapidly as the requirements of the public service and reduction in number of officers will permit until the foregoing minimum is reached. This provision is not to be construed to deprive any officer in commission of promotion that may be open to him by the occurrence of vacancies among his superiors in rank. Such promotions, however, are to be always made so as to facilitate and not obstruct the consolidation of regiments.

Mr. BLAINE explained briefly the items of the bill, recapitulating as follows: For navy, $18,000,000, compared with an average annual cost of over $15,000,000 in gold under Buchanan's administration; executive, legislative and judicial expenses, $17,000,000; Postoffice Department, $4,000,000; Consular and Diplomatic expenses, $125,000; Ordnance Department, $3,000,000; West Point Academy, $3,000,000; miscellaneous expenses, $14,000,000—making an aggregate of $90,000,000, compared with $70,000,000 for like expenses of the Government during the first year of Buchanan's administration. To these ordinary expenses were to be added $30,000,000 for pensions, $25,000,000 for bounties, and $130,000,000 for interest on public debt, making an aggregate of expenditure of $275,000,000 for the year, would be greatly reduced in future years, when bounties would not have to be paid, when the army list would be reduced, and pensions curtailed, as would be rapidly from various causes.

Mr. ROSS enquired why the expenses of the Government had not been reduced three years ago, and why economy had been postponed until the elections were near at hand, and the dominant party were seeking a new lease of power?

Mr. BLAINE said he did not propose to enter upon a discussion now—that discussion could be had in Committee of the Whole.

The bill was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union and made the special order for the 13th.

The House, in Committee of the Whole, Mr. WILSON, of Iowa, in the Chair, resumed the consideration of the Military Academy Appropriation Bill.

Mr. ELDRIDGE modified the amendment pending at adjournment yesterday, by making it read, "and provided further, that no part of the money appropriated by this act shall be paid or applied to pay or subsistence of any but white cadets."

The amendment was rejected by 28 to 70.

Some other amendments were offered and rejected and the bill was laid aside to be reported to the House.

The Committee then took up, as the special order, the bill making appropriations for legislative, executive and judicial expenses of the Government. Having been read at length the Committee rose and the House proceeded to the consideration of the West Point bill.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Illinois, who had reported the bill, made an argument against the amendment adopted by the Committee yesterday, on motion of Mr. Schenck, striking out the item of $4,000 for the expenses of the Board of Visitors to the Academy. He contended that the item being based upon a law, and the President being required under that law to appoint a Board of Visitors, it was the duty of Congress to make an appropriation, and he supported his argument by the remark that it would be foolish to deprive the incoming administration, which would be on the side of loyalty, of the right, to appoint a Board of Visitors to the Military Academy. Speaking of the services of the West Point institution, he said its fame would live as long as the names of Grant, Sherman, Sheridan and Thomas were cherished by the American people.

Mr. LOGAN, while admitting the claim on behalf of the Academy, suggested it had also been the nursing mother of Lees, Beauregards and Stewarts.

Mr. WASHBURNE remarked that if he had not been confining his remarks to the regular branch of the army, and if he had touched on the volunteer branch, he would have paid his colleague (Mr. Logan) a high compliment. (Laughter.)

Mr. LOGAN protested he was not fishing for a compliment, but he did not favor the plan of bringing in the names of gentlemen for the purpose of eulogizing on a bill that had no reference to them.

The amendment was rejected and the item restored.

The bill then passed.

The House again went into Committee of the Whole on the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill.

Mr. WASHBURNE, who reported the bill, stated some of its principal points. The amount appropriated for the current fiscal year was $20,882,833. The estimates for the next fiscal year, as received from different Departments of the Government, amounted to $23,870,032, but the Committee on Appropriations had reduced the amount down to $17,217,000. The sums appropriated were as follows: Legislative, $2,262,921; Public Printing, $1,271,720; Library of Congress, $10,990; Court of Claims, $139,500; Executive Department, $850,922; State Department, $189,700; Treasury Department, $2,830,148; Internal Revenue, $6,000,000; Department of Interior, $720,220; Surveyor General and Clerks, $71,500; War Department, $581,250; Navy Department, $157,088; Post Office Department, $376,680; Department of Agriculture, $150,793; United States Mint and Branches, $52,407; Independent Treasury, $290,200; Territorial Governments, $259,500; Judiciary, $1,291,800. Total, $17,217,480.

Mr. WASHBURNE went on to say the Committee on Appropriations would have all the appropriation bills reported as soon as possible, and he thought that if the House was diligent it could have all those bills sent to the Senate before the 1st of April. By sending them to the Senate thus early he could see no reason why Congress could not get through all its business and adjourn at the furthest by the middle of May.

A member—In time for the Chicago Convention.

Mr. WASHBURNE—Yes, in time for the Chicago Convention.

The Committee proceeded to consider the bill by sections. The first item, for compensation or mileage of Senators, gave rise to a running discussion, involving the question of the compensation of Senators and Members, the twenty per cent. allowance to Congressional employes, and the general question of economy and extravagance.

Without getting past this item the Committee rose, and the House adjourned.

POETICAL.

MEMORY.

BY FITZ GREEN HALLECK.

[Written in 1819 and never before published.]

Strong as that power, whose strange control
Impels the torrent's force;
Directs the needle to the pole,
And bids the waves of ocean roll
In their appointed course;
So powerful are the ties that bind
The scenes of childhood to the mind;
So firmly to the heart adheres
The memory of departed years.

Whence is this passion in the breast?
That when the past we view,
And think on pleasures, once possessed,
In Fancy's fairest colors dressed,
They [illegible] new?
And why do Memory's pains impart
A [illegible] to the heart?
[illegible] charm to all endears
The days of our departed years?

True—man's a rosebud, blooming gay,
Life's opening path along;
But all who tread that path will say,
That half the flowers which strew its way,
Are cares corroding thorns;
Yet still the bosom will retain
Affection e'en for hours of pain;
And we can smile, though bathed in tears,
At memory of departed years.

'Tis distance, our bewildered gaze
On former scenes beguiles,
And memory's charm the eye betrays;
For while enjoyment it displays,
And robes the past in smiles,
Its flattering mirror proves a stain,
Conceals the sorrow from our view,
And hides the griefs, the doubts and fears,
That darkened our departed years.

Thus, when our own, we oft despise—
When gone, its loss deplore;
Nor till the fleeting moment flies
Do mortals learn its worth to prize,
When it returns no more.
For this an anxious look we cast,
With fond regret, on hours long past—
For this, the feeling heart reveres,
The memory of departed years.

—*From Hours at Home.*

TO MY CIGAR.

BY CHARLES SPRAGUE.

Yes, social friend, I love thee well,
In learned doctors' spite;
Thy clouds all other clouds dispel,
And wrap me in delight.
What though they tell, with phizzes long,
My years are sooner pass'd?
I would reply, with reason strong,
They're sweeter while they last.
And oft, mild friend to me thou art
A monitor, though still;
Thou speak'st a lesson to my heart,
Beyond the preacher's skill.
Thou'rt like the man of worth, who gives
To goodness every day,
The odor of whose virtues lives
When he has passed away.
When in the lonely evening hour,
Attended by but thee,
O'er history's varied page I pore,
Man's fate in thine I see.
Oft as thy snowy column grows,
Then breaks and falls away,
I trace how mighty realms thus rose,
Thus tumbled to decay.
A while, like thee, earth's master burn,
And smoke and fume around,
And then, like thee, to ashes turn,
And mingle with the ground.
Life's but a leaf adroitly roll'd,
And time's the wasting breath,
That late or early we behold,
Gives all to dusty death.
From beggar's frieze to monarch's robe,
One common doom is pass'd;
Sweet Nature's works, the swelling globe,
Must all burn out at last.
And what is he who smokes thee now?
A little moving heap,
That soon like thee to fate must bow,
With thee in dust must sleep.
But though thy ashes downward go,
Thy essence rolls on high;
Thus, when my body must lie low,
My soul shall cleave the sky.

TO A BEAUTIFUL STRANGER.

BY JOHN GODFREY SAXE.

A glance, a smile—I see it yet!
A moment, ere the train was starting;
How strange to tell!—we scarcely met,
And yet I felt a pang at parting!

And you—alas! that all the while
'Tis I alone who am confessing—
What thought was lurking in your smile
Is quite beyond my simple guessing.

I only know those beaming rays
Awoke in me a strange emotion,
Which, basking in their warmer blaze,
Perhaps might kindle to devotion.

Ah! many a heart as staunch as this,
By smiling lips allured from duty,
Has sunk in Passion's dark abyss—
"Wrecked on the coral reefs of Beauty!"

And so, 'tis well the train's swift flight,
That bore away my charming stranger,
Took her—God bless her!—out of sight,
And me, as quickly, out of danger!

TO HER RING.

BY WILLIAM PATTISON.

Blest ornament! how happy is thy snare,
To bind the snowy finger of my fair!
O! could I learn thy nice coercive art,
And, as thou bind'st her fingers, bind her heart!
Not Eastern diadems like thee can shine,
Fed from her brighter eyes with beams divine!
Nor can their mightiest monarch's power command,
So large an empire as my charmer's hand.
O! could thy form thy fond admirer wear,
Thy very likeness should in all appear;
My endless love thy endless round should show,
And my heart flaming, for thy diamond glow.

THE ORANGE TREE.

The man lies darkling in the boy,
The future dimly marks its morn
Flushed with strange ripeness, fear and joy,
Which fit our later life, are born.
The boy springs brightening in the man,
Frolics, at times, as years before,
Runs gay and wild, as once he ran,
Breathes the free life of days of yore.
Happy the boy in manlike thought,
Happy the man in boylike plays,
[illegible]
Thus dark-bright trees by tropic floods
Mingle the coming with the old;
The deep-hued fruitage shades the buds—
The bud lies white amid the gold.

—*Lippincott's Magazine.*

The Beggar's Day in Paris.

A Paris correspondent gives a curious account of a scene in Paris on New Year's Day. The principal sight the promenaders on the fashionable boulevards and avenues saw was interminable strings of beggars, that lined the former on both sides. There are but two days in the year on which street begging is allowed in Paris. One is the 15th of August, the Emperor's fete day, and the other the 1st of January. On these days of license, however, mendicity is carried on to an extent that is not surpassed even by the begging on holidays in Rome and Naples. I never saw such an exhibition of real and feigned human misery, as that which forced itself on my observation in every direction on yesterday.

It seemed, indeed as though all the one-armed, one-legged, blind, lame, and deformed people of both sexes and all ages from the whole of France had been emptied upon the pavement of her capital. Some begged singly, others in groups. Some sung, some prayed, while others recited the stereotyped begging phrases at the top of their voices. Some stood, some kneeled, and again many others were stretched out at full length, wrapped in rags, on the sidewalks. On the Boulevard des Italiens a dozen groups were lying along the walls of the houses, consisting of old men or women surrounded by three, four, and even six children, including babies, all pale, dirty, and ragged, and presenting together a most pitiful aspect. Most of these beggars had brought all sorts of squeaking and squealing instruments into requisition to attract the attention of the public. Besides the native contingent of mendicants, there were swarms of little Italian beggar boys and girls with violins, guitars, flutes and harps, monkeys and marmots, who clung like burs to the passers by until they had, by sheer persistency, succeeded in levying a tribute upon them. Altogether, the street sights furnished the conclusive proof that under the brilliant surface of Paris a great deal of human misery is hidden.

In Search of a Retail Store.

A green-appearing genius, on his first visit to Boston, observed a sign over a store thus: "Wholesale and Retail Store." He worked his way through the crowd of ladies until he faced one of the clerks, who was exhibiting some articles to a young lady, when he broke out:

"Say, mister, who's boss here?"

"The proprietor has just stepped out, Sir."

"Well, is this a retailing store?"

"Yes, sir, a wholesale and retail store."

"Guess you understand your trade?"

"Oh, yes," replied the clerk, wrapping up a bundle for his customer, "what can I do for you?"

"Well, as the cold weather is coming on I thought I mout as well come and give you a job."

"I don't understand you, sir," replied the clerk, who began to think the fellow had got in the wrong box.

"'Zactly so; well, I'll tell you."

"Explain what you mean, my friend," said the clerk, as he saw him produce a bundle from under his coat.

"Well, as I said before, the cold weather is coming on, and I thought I might as well be fixed for it. Come mighty near freezin t'other winter, I tell you. I did; bu—"

"I hope you will tell me what you want, so I may serve you."

"Certainly, squire certainly; I always do business in a hurry, and just as quick as the old master will let you, I want you to retail these old shirts—let 'em come down about to the knees, kase I don't wear drawers."

The effect can be imagined, but as the novelists say, can't be described.

—Mr. Paul F. Nicholson, for a long time the very competent dramatic critic of the *World*, is about to start a new paper, called the *Town and Country*. This is to be especially a dramatic paper, but attention will be paid to literature and some grace of style and rhetoric will be employed in the discussion of "amusements" to topics that are ordinarily treated with more regard for looseness than for finish of speech. Mr. Nicholson has engaged a corps of good writers, and his own tact and experience will combine their functions properly.

—Baron Gerolt, Minister of the North German Confederacy, entertained on Monday evening a committee of leading German citizens, who called to congratulate him on his having presented his credentials and been received by the President as the plenipotentiary of more than thirty millions of Germans.

—Speaking of Shirley Brooks the *London American* says: In a world where clever men are sometimes ill natured and good tempered men are often very stupid, it is pleasant to encounter a laughing philosopher who is clever in many ways and out of humor with nothing.