The Pittsburgh Gazette

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1868.

PITTSBURGH WEEKLY GAZETTE.

VOLUME LXXXIII.---NO. 8. PITTSBURGH, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1868. ESTABLISHED IN 1786.

It is proposed by the capitalists of Rochester, N. Y., to build a railroad from that city to the coal and lumber districts of Pennsylvania, making connection with the Erie Railway, thence south to the coal fields.

The vote of the House of Representatives, appropriating fifty thousand dollars to defray expenses in the cases of naturalized citizens imprisoned abroad, is thoroughly right, and cannot fail of receiving general approval.

Abuses in the management of Girard College have become so flagrant that proceedings have been commenced to take the control of the trust out of the City Government and vest it in the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth.

Mexico is fast relapsing into its anarchial habits. Repudiations, pronunciamentos and revolutions are the last notable incidents. The population does not possess the elements out of which a respectable and permanent republic can be educed.

Though the Turks have several times announced the subjugation of the Cretans, that consummation seems further off than it was some months ago. The Greeks have shown much of the fire and tenacity of the ancient stock from which they are descended; and are likely, in the end, to secure a complete triumph over their oppressors.

St. Louis has evinced an enterprise in the way of public improvements during the past few years which has enveloped herself in a debt of $9,908,600. Estimating the population at 240,000 heads, and a valuation of $100,000,000, this will give a ratio of $41.26 per capita, and be 9.91 per cent. on valuation. Quite a respectable burden under which to rest.

There is promised a needed reform in the distribution of seeds by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Horticulturists will rejoice over this announcement; as in days past when they planted what were labeled with high sounding names as favorite rich flowers, they were extremely mortified at seeing stately sunflowers crop up like a Cinderella in gay company.

Lieut. Gen. Sherman, in common with nearly all the other Generals of the army, is evidently dissatisfied with the assault of the President upon General Grant. He has, however, allowed his sensitiveness to carry him to extremes in threatening to resign if he can in no other way avoid taking command of the new district carved out for him. It may be his resignation, under the circumstances, would suit the President better than his acceptance.

A. T. Stewart, the merchant prince of New York, has entered with much spirit into the campaign for Grant. He has already done much good work for the soldier hero. When such men, so largely interested in the finances of the country, lend their time and exertions to the advancement of Grant's claims on the Presidency, weaker capitalists need not hesitate. Mr. Stewart has made a collection of all the journals, and their name is legion, that have expressed a preference for his favorite.

In our advices from Harrisburg it is stated that the Free Railroad Bill has passed the Senate. This means that when the House bill reached the Senate it was amended by substituting for it the bill that originated in that body. It is now apparent, from the strong majority in the Senate in favor of its own bill, that no other can pass at the present session. Either the House must recede, and take what it can get, or get nothing at all. Under the circumstances, we trust it will recede and accept the Senate bill. Though not all that is desired, it is in the main a very good bill. If it shall become a law, and prove so stringent as to prevent enterprises from growing up under it, the popular demand will force a revision.

It seems probable that a connection will be made between the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad and the Allegheny Valley Railroad at Turtle Creek, about twelve miles above this city. This will enable trains of the first named road to run directly into business quarters here and easily to effect a junction with the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad. The depots of the Allegheny road and the Fort Wayne road are close together, so that this arrangement will enable the three connecting lines to use one station, and to make a through schedule, liable to as little delay or inconvenience at this point, as is experienced under the most favorable circumstances elsewhere. Indeed, trains, whether for passengers or freight, can run through from Baltimore to Chicago, or any other point west of this city, without the slightest impediment.

When the Paris Exposition was in progress our country had just commenced to recuperate from the state in which it was left by the long waged war against rebellion, and was in no proper condition to enter into a contest with the world at large for honors and prizes in recognition of the handiwork, art and mechanism of her citizens. Notwithstanding that fact, and the various obstacles and drawbacks in other shapes under which she labored in representation, a comparison of the awards demonstrates that we are number one in grand prizes and exceeded every nation excepting France in the general proportion of gold and silver medals and honorable mentions. This is a splendid commentary on the industry and genius of our people, but how great would have been the triumph over the civilized world had no impediments been offered to full and general representation.

No State in the Union is more sadly in need of mineral and agricultural development than West Virginia. Her broad fields and hill sides have been permitted to remain idle for the want of labor, capital and enterprise. Indeed, up till within a few years back the great majority of the inhabitants of the interior districts of that State had developed no energy or talent, and were but a shade higher in the intellectual order of society than the "poor white trash" of the slave States more distant from free ones. The establishment of the public school system, the influx of men of education and capital who sought new fields of operation, have given higher tone to the people and has aroused them into a full sense of their being part and parcel of an enlightened nation. They are gradually lifting themselves out of the bondage of ignorance and indolence, twin followers of slavery, and a new order of things is about to be established.

West Virginia is rich in mineral wealth. Her hills are teeming with rich deposits of iron, lead, coal and copper, and possibly gold, as that precious metal has been found in quantities sufficient to justify the belief that it exists in abundance. Comparatively little capital has been devoted to the development of the oil fields, but in proportion to the amount expended, her regions have proven formidable rivals in richness of yield and superiority of oil to our own great producing petroleum lands. The day is not far distant when lines of railroad now projected will pass through her interior and afford one of the great arteries of trade of the continent. We see in the future of West Virginia a glory hardly dreamed of now, and but few years will roll away before she is permitted to take her place amongst the most prosperous States of the Union.

HISTORY OF UNITED NETHERLANDS.

Among the remarkable literary incidents of the current century stands the fact that the best narrators of memorable epochs in the histories of Spain and Holland are citizens of the United States. Mr. Prescott first won renown by his masterly delineation of the period of Ferdinand and Isabella, followed naturally by a graphic and scholarly treatment of the Conquest of Peru. Mr. Motley, starting later, brought out the Rise of the Dutch Republic, following it with the History of the United Netherlands, in four volumes, commencing at the death of William the Silent, and ending with the Twelve Years' Truce in 1609.

It is not exaggerating to affirm that Mr. Motley has entirely surpassed any writer born and educated in Holland in the thoroughness, accuracy and brilliancy of his treatment of these great themes. He was not content to restrict himself to a dry detail of facts in chronological order, but preferred by careful induction to show in what conditions of society, and in what motives of individuals, particular actions or policies had their origin, and to make the whole glow with a freshness sufficient to restore the impression of a living reality. This is the hardest task of a historian. Any intelligent and dispassionate citizen of our own country who shall attempt to review both sides of the great controversy going on for thirty years between the North and South, and, unfortunately, not yet brought to a close, will feel this difficulty such a task. It is easy to detect the general drift of affairs, but when an attempt is made to go deeper and pry into the secret or occult motives in which special acts originated; to strike through specious reasons and pretenses set up to delude followers and bewilder opponents; and to lay open the actual influences that operated upon, or went forth from, prominent leaders in the momentous debate, it is perceived that the task is arduous and delicate, requiring the nicest perceptions and the most exquisite balance of judgment. Time will doubtless remove some of the obstacles that now exist to the prosecution of this study. We are yet too near the scene of action to take in all the details so as to comprehend the relations of the various parts of each other. Passions rise up and bias the understanding. Explanations are still deferred that will come many years hereafter; perhaps not till the present and next generations shall have passed away.

In the History of the United Netherlands Mr. Motley had the advantage of a theme congenial to the natural bent of his capacities, and to all his tastes and habits. Philip II. of Spain was at the head of a most powerful despotism. The whole machinery of government was moved by his single will. Not only allied to the ecclesiastical hierarchy, but imbued with its spirit, he resolved to suppress the rising inclination to doubt, to inquiry, to debate, to reformation; to subordinate all the instincts and aspirations of the people to the despotic rule of monarchs and oligarchs. Against this tremendous attempt the Netherlands stood forth, single handed and alone.

By the edict of 1568 Philip sentenced every inhabitant of the Netherlands to death. The decree included women and children as well as men. By the aid of the Council of Blood, of the municipal officers of which he had the appointment, and the executioners of the Holy Inquisition, his butcheries amounted to as many as eighteen hundred in a week, and ran up to the appalling aggregate of eighteen thousand in the course of six years. While he thus struck at the lives of the people, he enforced a system of Confiscations full as sweeping as in the madness of passion has been recently proposed in this country, and by which countless families were reduced from comfort or opulence to beggary. Embarrassed by the expenditures his immense enterprises compelled him to make, he repudiated his debts and contracts, and seized the public properties pledged to the national creditors, which depth of infamy, unhappily, there are Americans who would have our government imitate, without delay or remorse.

All this Philip did professedly in the interests of religious orthodoxy and social order, and to make himself the sovereign of one universal and undivided monarchy. The ambition, however censurable, was not ignoble. So great a prize has seldom dazzled a human mind with a possibility of securing it. Equal to the conception of such a scheme, which was favored by the condition of European society, he put forth marvellous efforts to accomplish it. But in France and England his projects were baffled. A new spirit began to stir among the populations. While the old darkness had not disappeared, a fresh light was breaking forth, and destined to increase until it should flood the whole heavens with its radiancy.

But, whatever embarrassments Philip experienced in England and France, the chief impediments that confronted him were in the United Provinces. Liberty there asserted its superior efficiency. Narrow in boundaries and meagre in natural resources, freedom gave such an impulse to the inhabitants that in spite of the devastations of war they were prosperous and increased in numbers. Various arts of practical industry were developed or domesticated. Individuals and families, persecuted elsewhere, fled thither as into an ark of safety, carrying with them their wealth, and knowledge, and application. The burghers kept alive the passionate love of liberty. In a recent article we attempted to show that this was a general tendency and a main excellence of popular municipal government. One of these burghers, John of Olden-Barneveld, after the death of William the Silent, and the departure of Lord Leicester, presided with genuine and high statesmanship over the destinies of Holland.

But we cannot follow the thread of the story. Those who have a taste for this department of literature will certainly do that for themselves.

Mr. Motley has not laid aside his pen, but is now engaged in writing a History of the Thirty Years' War, the natural complement of his other works. This will take him over ground much traveled and by eminent authors—among them, latterly, by Mr. Carlyle. His treatment of his new subject will, therefore, afford uncommon opportunities for comparing his performances with that of his predecessors.

The additional bounty bill, passed by Congress and awaiting the signature of the President, provides that if any person or persons entitled to the bounty provided by sections 12 and 13 of the act making appropriations for the civil service, approved July 28, 1866, shall have died, or shall die before receiving said bounty, it shall be paid to the heirs of the soldier, as designated in this act, in the order therein named, and to none other.

The Republicans of Indiana have spoken out in favor of Grant for President and Colfax for Vice President. The resolution was adopted unanimously amidst much enthusiasm. The ranks are daily growing compact and solid for the soldier hero, and we will marvel not should he be made the unanimous choice of the National Convention.

NATIONAL BANK RESERVES.

In October, 1866, it was developed that some fifty of the National Banks in operation throughout the country had an inadequacy of reserve, and were compelling the sound banking institutions to carry more than was required of them in order to keep general confidence in the system. The Comptroller of the Currency urged that the requirements of the law be complied with by the delinquents, which was that twenty-five per cent. be held in reserve by the banks of cities designated for redemption, and fifteen per cent. by all other banks. There was certainly an effort made in the close of 1866 to act on the recommendation or order of the Comptroller, but the profit and advantages to be realized and obtained by an inadequacy of reserve have led many of the banks into their old ways.

From the report of the Comptroller, embracing the statements of the National Banks at the time attention was directed to the insufficiency of reserves held by the defaulting banks, the reserves amounted to $213,941,476, against liabilities amounting to $886,783,929, or 24 per cent. The January, 1868, report of the same officer, while it does not direct attention to the inadequacy of reserves, presents figures from which it is easily educed that the number of defaulting banks has been largely increasing. At the time of that report the liabilities amounted to $856,674,656; the reserves to $182,394,994, or 21 per cent., against 24 in October, 1866. The report is not as concise regarding this subject as its importance to the general community seems to warrant, and he who would know of the increase or decrease of reserves must wade through a sea of figures, and in the end hardly arrive at any definite conclusion. It has been suggested that the Comptroller should, in the future, add to his list of questions sent at stated times to the banks, a query as to the proportion their reserve bears to the liabilities. Answers to this interrogatory could readily be obtained and would develope at a glance the standing and condition of every institution in its relations with the Government.

Presuming that the Comptroller's report discloses the fact that the number of defaulting banks is increasing, and that the system of National Banking is being gradually undermined by divergence from the basis of their strength, it seems highly important that the evil should at once be corrected, and the provision of protection afforded by the law rigidly enforced. Comparatively few examples have been made of banks which permitted their reserves to grow inadequate, but the most potent way to bring delinquents to a sense of duty would be, as we have before suggested, full publicity of their affairs, and especially affording a clear knowledge of their adequacy or inadequacy of reserves. Public faith in the different institutions would then be held just in proportion to their own showing of stability, and it would become an object with them to increase rather than decrease their reserves.

AID FOR THE CONNELLSVILLE ROAD.

In the first branch of the City Council of Baltimore an ordinance was introduced, on Tuesday, providing for a loan not exceeding four million dollars to the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company, with the express understanding that the money shall be applied to no other purpose than the construction of the road from Connellsville to Cumberland. It makes B. F. Newcomer and John W. Garrett trustees to receive and hold as security for the payment of said loan a deed for the entire property of the Company, which is to take precedence of mortgages issued—an arrangement to be effected by the officers of the Company. It provides that the interest now due from the Company, as well as the interest that may accrue and remain unpaid, from this to the first day of January, 1871, on the bonds of the city, be directed to be funded, and that upon the payment of the principal of the bonds, with the interest directed to be added to said principal, together with the interest that may fall due, at the dates stipulated on the said bonds, on both principal and funded arrears, from and after the 1st of January, 1871, the Company shall be discharged from all obligations under the mortgage of Aug. 4th, 1856. That on the 1st of Jan. 1871, or sooner, if the Company shall sooner declare its readiness to commence the payment of interest on the bonds and funded arrears, the Register of the city be directed to adjust the arrears of interest up to that time, when the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company shall execute and deliver to the Register such an acknowledgment or agreement as the counsellor of the city shall approve, as evidence of the amount on which, in addition to the one million dollars aforesaid, interest is to be regularly paid thereafter by the Company. The proceedings instituted against the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company, on account of the interest directed to be funded, are to be dismissed.

The ordinance was referred to the Committee of Ways and Means. Its adoption is highly probable.

STATE CONVENTION.

The Republicans of Lancaster county have appointed J. A. Heistand and R. J. Houston, delegates to the National Convention, and J. M. Dunlap, John E. Wiley, Jacob G. Peters, Wm. M. Wiley, M. H. Shirk and Joseph C. Stubbs, delegates to the State Convention. The National delegates are instructed for Gen. Grant.

The Republicans of Bedford county have instructed their delegates to the State Convention to vote for Grant and Stanton for President and Vice President.

The Republicans of Mercer county, last week elected delegates to the State Convention and instructed in favor of Grant for President, and Curtin for Vice President.

The Republican Central Committee of Venango county met at Franklin on Monday to select a delegate to the State Convention, and also elect conferees to represent the Senatorial and Congressional Districts in Conventions for choosing delegates to the Republican National Convention.

Hon. R. S. McCormick, of Franklin, was chosen to the State Convention. The Congressional Conferees are Hon. M. C. Beebe, of Pleasantville, and F. W. Mitchell, Esq., of Franklin. The Senatorial Conferees are Messrs. E. E. Clapp, of President, and J. R. Campbell, of Oil city. The delegates were not instructed.

The Northumberland county slate quarries are pronounced inexhaustible. Capitalists are investing largely there and the work of developing the lands is being vigorously pushed forward. A railroad connection to bring the product into market is in consideration. The slate obtained is of very superior quality. A bed of very fine yellow ochre has recently been discovered in Lehigh county. The mineral wealth of our State cannot be estimated.

It is a singular fact, and one which does not reflect much credit to the lawmakers of Maryland, that in that State the local insurance companies are taxed from $1,000 to $3,000, while rich London companies are permitted to transact business within her borders, and, indeed, to monopolize a large amount of the business, at $300 per annum.

THE SOUTH.

—The Mercer county (Mo.) *Advance* says there is a great dearth of good mechanics in that district.

—The City Marshall of Bowling Green shot himself through the head on Wednesday last. No cause for the rash deed was known.

—There is a rumor that two gentlemen, Mr. David Ray and Mr. Vancleve, were murdered by illicit distillers in Union county, Kentucky.

—There is in Missouri a city called Louisiana, and it is to have an election in March for Mayor, City Attorney, Treasurer and Marshal.

In Harrison county (Ky.) the farmers predict very large crops of wheat; while in Franklin and Bourbon, it is thought the frost has ruined the grain.

—The Memphis *Post* asks the question in a manner of hopeless despair, "How many murderers are now aspiring to office in the Conservative party in this State?"

—Cassius M. Clay is once more to appear prominently in the political world. He is going to stump Kentucky for Grant and is spoken of as a Radical elector from that State.

—Valuable tracts of improved land have been sold recently in the neighborhood of Holly Springs, Mississippi, for from sixty cents to one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre.

—The Conservative State Convention met at Nashville Tennessee, and nominated, as their choice Mr. Andrew Johnson for the Presidency. Their choice is about as bad as their taste.

—A petrified butterfly, the head and wings of which were in a perfect state of preservation, was found twenty feet below the surface by some men who were digging a well in Hamilton, Mo.

—Ponds near Montgomery, Alabama, were recently frozen over sufficiently for skating purposes. Search was made, but only one pair of skates could be found in the city, and those in a dilapidated condition.

—The Roman Catholics are erecting a new convent in Brownsville, Texas, near the old one. The new building is to be much more spacious and convenient. The old one is to be used as an infirmary and hospital.

—A few days ago William Wright Parker was convicted of the murder of William Childress, in Wilmington, North Carolina. The murder was accomplished as long ago as 1863, and the murderer will be hanged sometime during the present month.

—A Sedalia (Mo.) paper says that one hundred carpenters and builders, fifty bricklayers, twenty-five stone masons, three brick yards and a steam planing mill are very much needed in that village, and could find active and continued employment.

—Amateur dramatic associations which have been so popular in Wisconsin and Michigan this winter, have had an equal share of popular favor in Missouri. We heard of several villages, among which are Farmington and Sedalia, where these social troupes are making fun and laughter the order of the day.

—While Mr. Larmer and his sister were riding in a sleigh last month something became loose about the harness, Mr. L. leaned over to adjust the same, when his pistol fell from his pocket and was discharged, the load passing through his breast killing him instantly. Miss Larmer was obliged to drive the sleigh containing her brother's corpse several miles to Lineville, (Mo.) where they lived.

—They have queer ways of settling bills, and sometimes settling creditors, too, in some parts of the South. A Dr. Skinner presented his bill to a Mr. Quick residing in Galveston, Texas. The Dr. had attended Quick during a recent attack of yellow fever and brought him safely through, and for these services the bill was rendered. Quick objected, and that too with a huge knife. Skinner barely escaped whole to the nearest police office where he succeeded in having the pugilistic and war-like Quick arrested and put under bonds to keep the Peace.

Gen. Weitzel, who was appointed to survey the present canal at Louisville, and also for a new one on the Indiana side, in accordance with a bill passed by Congress last spring, has furnished his report. Mr. Eggleston, of the Committee on Commerce, to whom the report will be referred, is said to be in favor of the completion of the present canal, so as to secure free navigation as soon as possible. To do this General Weitzel estimates the expense at $933,500, provided the same scale of enlargement already began will be carried out. The amount of bonds of the Company to be assumed by the Government, provided it took possession, he reports at $1,570,000. From this he deducts $200,000, which the Company has on hand, and makes the total cost to Government $2,303,500. He presents three plans for new canals on the Indiana side, at a mean cost of $3,695,000, and recommends the Government to undertake to complete the present enlargement of the old canal, and also to build a new one on the Indiana side. His principal reason for the new one is, that even if the present enlargement on the Kentucky side is completed, the locks will still be too small for the largest sized boats. He estimates that if both are ordered, two million dollars will be needed the first year, if the completion of the old canal alone is agreed upon. There is hardly any doubt but the recommendation for both canals will be favorably acted upon.

The Democrats have not that high degree of admiration for General Grant they professed six months ago. Indeed, few men have been more soundly abused by them than he is at the present time. And this is only the commencement of their rage. When the action of the Chicago Convention shall have made him the Republican candidate for the Presidency, neither his vast services, nor his well-earned renown, will avail to shelter him from the gathering storm of obloquy and defamation.

—Mr. Bergh of New York is too absurd; he really ought to be remonstrated with. He is president of a society to prevent cruelty to animals, and in that capacity does the most preposterous things. Last week he had actually the foolish temerity to have a driver of a street car arrested, because he beat his horses with a board. There were two horses and they had only one car to pull. To be sure the car had more than *ninety* people on it, and the grade was heavy and the rails icy, but then they had no business to fall down, and it was not until they did that, that the driver beat them, and Mr. Bergh had him arrested.

—Frederick Gerstaecker, the renowned German traveller and author, was in Cincinnati during the prize fight in which Aaron Jones was defeated. He, in writing to the *Koelner Zeitung*, says he finds it strange that such things should be allowed in a country where a horrible outcry is raised if one drinks a glass of beer on Sunday, particularly as the field where the fight took place was rented for that purpose by a Baptist preacher.

—A strong Russian squadron is being fitted out for the alleged purpose of escorting the Grand Duke Constantine on a visit to his daughter, the Queen of the Greeks. Turkey does not like such escorts so near Crete.

NEWS FROM ABROAD.

—Senor Jose Jacinto De Frias, an eminent agricultural writer, died early this month at Havana.

—General Salnave's reign in Hayti was very short. Gen. Solomon has been appointed as his successor.

—Bulgaria seems also to be indulging in revolution, and Turkey has to keep troops to watch the borders.

—Prince Achille Murat and the Marquis de Galliffet are going to fight another duel and all about Cora Pearl.

—Don Carlos Garcia, a daring and terrible bandit, in Cuba, has applied for pardon to the Governor General.

—The French official journals flatly contradict the rumors of changes in the cabinet, so we may expect them shortly.

—The *Osservatore Romano* denies that the Pope ordered the Italian Bishops to offer *Te Deum* in honor of the recent Papal victory.

—Mr. Tennyson has become a regular contributor to the periodical press, writing three poems a month for as many different magazines.

—The dispossessed Italian princes met recently at the house of the ex-King of Naples in Rome and proceeded to concoct a common policy.

—A Chinaman was executed in Havana on the 7th inst. He had previously been convicted of the murder of a policeman, and this was the result.

—New Russian regulations permit but two war vessels of a foreign power to remain in a Russian port at one time, and to remain but two weeks.

—Lord Stanley is spoken of as the probable successor of his paternal relative Lord Derby in the duties and emoluments of Premier of England.

—Gen. Marquez is about to publish in Havana a pamphlet, the object of which will be to justify his conduct during the imperial sway, and to prove that he was loyal to Maximilian.

—Cholera has again appeared in Cuba. From the 1st to the 4th inst. there were fifteen cases in Havana, all of which proved fatal. In the Cabanas district it is raging with unusual violence.

—On February 5th the Emperor and Empress of Austria were received with loyal enthusiasm by the people of Pesth, who voluntarily illuminated their houses. The policy of Von Beust is telling well.

—Dean Stanley's new book on Westminster Abbey has recently appeared in London. The book is of course good, but is not large enough. Dean Milman is engaged on a book about *his* cathedral—St. Paul's.

—General Lersundi has been making a tour of the tobacco districts of Cuba and has met with an enthusiastic reception from the people. He will shortly visit the principal cities of the eastern part of the island.

—Japan is having another revolution, on account of the opening of the ports of that country to the world. Japan bids fair to fall into the ranks with China and South America where revolution is the natural state of affairs.

—Some one thinks it would be a good idea to keep a huge fire going on Mont Blanc all the time, and by melting the snow to furnish water enough to supply through pipes the cities of Savoy, Southern France and Italy with drink.

—The two young Murats, Princes of blood which is not very blue as yet, are said to be the greatest scapegraces in France, and to be bent on inextricably compromising themselves if possible, in spite of the almost fatherly kindness of the Emperor.

—Mr. Erdan, the Italian correspondent of the Paris *Temps*, says that people make a grand error when they suppose that Victor Emanuel is lacking in ability; and that they will very soon have an opportunity of finding out how grievously they have misjudged him.

—There is a lady in Paris who during her daily walks in the gardens of the Tuilleries is constantly surrounded by swarms of various kinds of small birds, who perch on her person, eat from her mouth, and nestle in her hand. The cause of the attraction is unknown.

—The sudden coldness of Napoleon to the Pope is accounted for in the fact that thousands of young legitimists and other political enemies of the empire are drilling and learning the art of war in the Pope's guard, which they significantly call the new army of Conde.

—The old Archduchess Sophia, who used to be called the most ambitious woman in Europe, has completely broken down since the death of her favorite son, the Emperor Maximilian. It was principally owing to her diplomacy that Ferdinand abdicated the throne of Austria in favor of her son, the present Emperor.

—The recent riots in Prague arose in the following manner: Herr von Herbst, one of the new Cabinet, was in that city on a visit; some of the German students serenaded him. The Tzechs, or Bohemians, were indignant and collected around the hotel of the minister, when the riots, which gave the authorities so much trouble, began.

—The melancholy news of the death, by drowning, of Admiral Bell, while trying to cross the bar at the mouth of Osacka, (Japan) harbor, will be received with sadness by all who knew or knew of that gallant officer. He was buried near the mouth of Osacka River, and Lieutenant Reed, who lost his life at the same time, shares his grave.

—The Eastern Indies, jealous probably of the sensation caused by the reported engulphing of Tortola in the West Indies, have gotten up a horror which surpasses even the worst romance about that new possession. Fortunately those horrible stories are generally, like personal items, denied soon after they make their appearance. We cannot undertake however, to deny that 80,000 lives were destroyed by a recent earthquake in the island of Formosa, but we hope that it is not true.

—King John, of Saxony, is going to abdicate. The loss of several of his children, the rather disolute conduct of his eldest son, and the political degradation which his country has suffered, have all worked severely on him. But the death, last summer, of his favorite daughter, the lovely Duchess Sophie, in Bavaria, capped the pyramid of his bereavements, and he is now subject to most distressing spells of melancholy. His son Albert will be a poor successor to him.

RAILWAYS.

—The Winooska bridge, the scene of the late accident on the Vermont Central Railroad, is restored for the passage of trains.

—The Trempeleau (Wis.) *Record* says the La Crosse, Trempeleau and Prescott Railroad is to be completed and in full operation this summer.

—The West Shore Hudson River road is to run through the Walkill Valley from Hoboken to Kingston, and thence to Albany. The construction of the road as far as Kingston is an assured fact.

—Cars on the Council Bluffs and Sioux City Railroad reached Woodberry, seven miles from Sioux City, on the 5th inst., and the *Journal* states that the locomotive will be in that place by the 25th inst.

—The La Crosse *Democrat* says work has been suspended on the St. Paul and Chicago railroad, between Winona and St. Paul, and men ordered to be retained on pay until railroad matters are straightened out in that State.

—The Peori (Ill.) *Transcript* says the Board of Supervisors of Tazewell county, on Wednesday, ordered that an election be held in that county on the 17th of March, to vote on the question of subscribing $100,000 in stock of the Pekin, Lincoln and Decatur railroad. We understand the people of Delavan will vote on the proposition for a township subscription of $30,000 to the same road, and that the city of Pekin proposes to vote a subscription of $70,000.

PERSONAL.

—Mrs. Lincoln thinks she is not insane.

—Charles Kean is reported to have left $250,000 behind him.

—Somebody asks if the famous "Black Douglass" of history was Fred.

—Miss Bateman is still playing *Leah* with unabated success in England.

—Gen. Burnside has decided to run once more for Governor of "Little Rhody."

—There are seventeen aspirants for the Congressional nomination in the Third, Iowa, District.

—Bob Lincoln is to be married to a daughter of Senator Harlan, and not to Miss Harris, as was reported.

—Mr. Frederick Douglass says that he has reason to believe that he is the son of a United States Senator.

—Judge N. Holmes, of the Missouri Supreme Court, has been tendered a professorship in the Harvard Law School.

—Gen. Phil. Sheridan is thirty-seven years old. He was born at Somerset, Perry county, Ohio, on the 6th of March, 1831.

—A portrait of Fred. Douglass spoils the sale of Mrs. H. B. Stowe's new book; but she refuses to have it removed.

—It is thought the Hon. N. P. Baldwin will receive the unanimous nomination for Governor from the Republicans of Michigan.

—General Albert Pike, the poet, soldier rebel and rapscallion, is a step son of Paul Pillsbury, the man who invented shoepegs.

—Hon. J. S. Macdonald has refused the Lieutenant Governorship of Ontario and has been tendered a seat in the Dominion Cabinet.

—The ladies of Cork presented Mr. George Francis Train with, what they considered a suitable present, a boiled blood pudding.

—The Davenports who have been fully exposed so often, still travel, and draw large houses. When last heard from they were at Marseilles, France.

—Queen Victoria devotes a great deal of her time to knitting, so that employment has become very fashionable among English ladies of a certain age.

—Col. A. M. Tyler was engaged, with a number of assistants, at Rolla, Mo., on the 10th inst., in removing the bodies of Union soldiers buried there during the war.

—Garibaldi is very ill at Caprera and fears are entertained that he will never recover. Hope deferred has made his heart sick beyond the reach of medicines.

—Judge Billington was executed for murder near Boston, in Plymouth Colony, early in the seventeenth century. It was the first execution for murder in this country.

—Gen. Sheridan's denial of his engagement to Miss H——n is now understood. He is said to be engaged and shortly to be married to Miss Grace Fenton, of Albany.

—Roger A. Pryor, once notorious as a fire eater, who ate his own words at the point of Mr. Potter's Bowie-knife, is now practicing as a criminal lawyer in New York.

—Tennyson is industrious; he writes seven or eight stanzas every day and reads a great deal. His annual income now amounts to $50,000, and is steadily on the increase.

—The Marquis de Caux is said to have a fortune of four millions of francs of debts. Therefore, it is said, the Patti has at last been prevailed upon to send him the mitten.

—Mr. George Ticknor Curtis thinks Mr. Winthrop would be the proper person to whom to tender the mission to the Court of St. James, but he fears he would not accept it.

—Rev. Herrick Johnson has been called to the First Presbyterian Church (Dr. Barnes) in Philadelphia. His response was a telegram referring to Proverbs 23d Chapter and 18th Verse.

—A woman in Lancashire, England, starved to death recently because she would not go to the poor house, and all because she once had a relative who was a member of the parliament.

—Forrest, whose infamous and cruel behavior at Fort Pillow has embalmed his memory in rather an undesirable form, has recently filed a petition in bankruptcy in Memphis.

—The Senator who made his appearance at breakfast at Willard's recently in the costume usually devoted to the hours of slumber, was not Yates as was reported, but Saulsbury.

—Menken (the figure-aunt) sails this month for New York where she will rest for a short time, and then go to San Francisco where she has been engaged to play one hundred nights.

—The first child born of Christian parents in what are now called the United States, was Virginia Dare, in the year 1581. If still alive and unmarried she would be quite an old maid.

—Mrs. Gen. Robert Anderson is likely to get fifteen thousand dollars for injuries done to the plantation of her father, Gen. Clinch, in Florida, thirty years ago by the Seminole Indians.

—The ladies of Buda and Pesth have presented the Empress of Austria with a beautiful cradle for the exclusive use of the expected addition to the Imperial and Royal family of Hapsburg.

—Finette, who a few years ago so scandalized Germany by her exposure, in the court room, of the proceedings of a prominent member of the Berlin Cabinet, is now doing the can can in London, and is quite disgusted that neither the government nor the police will notice her.

—Mr. Lincoln once said that if there was ever any difference in his cabinet he was always certain to have the member from Connecticut on his side. It is hardly necessary to state that Mr. Welles was that member and that he still exhibits the same readiness to be on the side of the man in power.

—A gorgeous wedding took place in St. Louis on Wednesday. The happy bride wore a $5,000 set of ear-rings and a $750 lace veil. She is worth some $400,000 in her own right, and the groom is about as well supplied with filthy lucre. His present to his bride was worth $10,000. His name is James P. Thomas. He is a barber by profession, and a negro. The wife is a mulatto.

—It may be interesting to some persons to learn a little about the private character of some of prominent men of Mexico. The following was clipped from the private Black Book, a diary kept by one of Maximilian's private secretaries in Mexico, and reveals some curious personal traits of the chief actors in the Imperial tragedy in that country. The notorious General Juan N. Almonte, one of the chief promoters of the intervention, is described as "dishonest, avaricious, and revengeful." The savagery of Marbuez is also properly booked, with the remark, "Sent to Jerusalem." Of Miramon, it is told that having once lost at play the money of a company of which he was the captain and treasurer, he drew his sword, and swept all the stakes back again into his pocket. Then follows a recount of the way in which he upset his fellow-rascal Zuloaga, took possession of the Government, took the field, levied contributions for the army, and spent the money at the gaming table. O'Horan is set down in black. He was, according to all accounts, a cold and vulgar villain. He sometimes decreed death between cigar-puffs. "General, I am going to shoot you," he remarked to an astonished prisoner, after taking a last swallow of chocolate with him. The General was Marcial Lascano, and he was shot an hour afterward at Tacubaya.

TRADE AND LABOR.

—A paper mill is to be built at Clermont, Iowa, next summer.

—The Massasoit Mills, at Huntington, Mass., turn out one ton of fine writing paper per day.

—Two cargoes of African peanuts, comprising 15,000 bushels, arrived in Boston last week.

—During the year 1867, 53,490 hides were shipped from New Orleans to New York, and 51,287 from New York to Boston.

—The iniatory steps have already been taken toward the erection of one of the largest woolen factories in the west, at Lansing, Iowa.

—Several sales of lumber have been made at Bay City, Mich., during the past week—one of over 1,000,000 feet at $6, $13 and $35.

—Baltimore, the newspapers of that city say, expects to become the first tobacco market in the world when her new European steamship line is in full operation.

—It takes 16,000 bales of cotton, or 6,480,000 pounds, to supply the daily demands of the cotton mills of the world. Of this immense amount one thousandth part is used every day by the Wamsutta Mills, New Bedford.

—Lowell's old title of the "City of Spindles" is no longer its especial due. Fall River exceeds it by 40,000 spindles, and its weekly production, when its mills are in full operation, will surpass that of Lowell by 300,000 yards.

—A peat machine has recently been invented by Charles Moore, of Springfield, Mass., which can be worked by steam or water power, and can turn out eighty tons of peat per day. Machines of this pattern will cost from $300 to $500.

—The granite mill of the Granite Mill Company, at Stafford Springs, Connecticut, contains 125 looms, and employs 125 hands, whose joint efforts produce 1,200,000 yards of shirting and sheeting per year, consuming 300,000 pounds of cotton in the work. The machinery is driven by water power.

—At Moline, Illinois, the new works of Dimock & Gould have a capacity of turning out daily 1,500 buckets, 500 wash tubs and 600 wash boards. Deere & Co. are soon to make an extensive addition to their works, and are now turning out over 900 plows per week, besides a large number of sulky plows and cultivators.

The Yosemite Valley—A Monster Juniper Tree—Ruins of Aztec Cities.

[From the Alta California, Jan. 31.]

Mr. J. M. Hutchings, the pioneer, more generally known to the community of late years through the association of his name with the great Yosemite Valley, where he now resides, is at present on a visit to San Francisco. He tells us that on his visit to the "Nevada Fall," he, with a companion from this city, ascended to the summit of the "Cap of Liberty" peak, to the north of the fall, and there, growing in the fissure of the rock, away up under the very clouds, found a juniper tree, the trunk of which measured ten feet two inches in diameter. When we remember that the juniper is, in most countries, a very slow grower, and at the best a mere bush, hardly rising to the dignity of a tree at all, the statement of the immense size of this one appears almost incredible, and some have been inclined to doubt the exactness of the measurement. Those who are acquainted with Mr. Hutchings will not, however, doubt the correctness of his statement for a moment, and we are inclined to think that the age of the tree is likely to be very much less than those acquainted with the slow growth of the tree in other lands would naturally estimate it. On the elevated plain lying around the base of the great mountain chains of Central Arizona may be seen forests of the juniper cedar extending to the limit of vision. The trees in these forests are scattered like apple trees in a New York apple orchard, and are never of great height, but the trunks are often of considerable diameter. We have seen thousands which would measure from one to five feet in diameter, and would yield several cords of beautiful wood. They are, however, almost valueless for timber, as the trunk is invariably but a few feet in length—several large limbs of minor trunks branching out as from five to ten feet from the earth, the top limbs spreading out over a space entirely disproportionate to the height of the trees. This country is thickly dotted with the ruins of Aztec or Toltec cities and fortifications, in some of which timbers exposed to the storms and blazing sun of that trying climate are yet to be seen in a good state of preservation, showing that the builders must have disappeared at a comparatively recent date. Juniper trees of immense size are found on these ruins in some places, showing that in that climate at least the tree is of more rapid growth then is generally supposed. Nevertheless, the Yosemite juniper is a remarkable tree, and worth the attention of the scientific.

The Land Slides at Naples.

A private letter from a gentleman of this city dated at Sorrento, Italy, January 31st, gives the following particulars of the land slip at Naples, of which a brief account is given elsewhere:

"We have had a wonderful escape from death. A mountain over six hundred feet above the road fell just before we reached the spot, and after we had crossed the barricade in the road, the remaining portions of the mountain side came down with the roar of artillery."

"But this is nothing to what has just occurred at Naples. Bayard Taylor and family resided at No. 21 Santa Lucia, and I went twice to the house to secure an apartment there, and the situation was very lovely; and should certainly have resided there if the rooms had been large enough. The house stood on the principal street—the Chiaja—and stretching away up over it was a hill with a house above house, for several hundred feet. Taylor, thank God, came to Sorrento a few days ago, to see us; and yesterday the whole side of the hill on the Chiaja gave way, and eighty persons are lost in the ruins. Taylor's house is entirely buried beneath the wreck of three upper ones; and I am sorry to say that an omnibus, coming from the railway and containing (among others) two Americans, was passing at the time, and that all the passengers perished. I went into Naples to-day to see the scene of the disaster and am sick at heart.

"I am disinclined to stay here for any great length of time, for it seems as if the mountains were all tumbling down, and I think Vesuvius is at the bottom of it all."

Miss Charlotte Thompson as a Cotton Planter.

A correspondent writes from Alabama: "Anything in the shape of a personal budget from Montgomery would be sadly incomplete without mention of Miss Charlotte Thompson, the actress. Miss Thompson owns a plantation, five miles from town, where she spends her time with her mother when not on professional tours. She has about one-thousand and five hundred acres, two-thirds of which are devoted to the cultivation of cotton. She has the reputation of being a remarkably capable woman in business affairs, though with all her tact and executive talent, she has made nothing from her crops during the past two years. The cabins of her hired negroes are models of neatness and comfort. Often of a summer morning she rises with the sun, mounts a favorite pony, and in person directs the gangs at work in the field. She keeps all the accounts, makes all contracts and superintends all the buying and selling. I fear, however, that the next time I see her in Julia, I shall be led to suspect when she buries her face in her handkerchief just before wildly sobbing "Why don't you speak to me Clifford?" that her mind is engrossed with the latest bulletin about the army worm, or the evening dispatches from Liverpool. In Ophelia's mad scene there would be no special impropriety in her whispering with a vacant stare, 'Upland 22 cents and excited!'

Cardinal Antonelli and War.

A letter from Rome, in the *Correspondence Italienne*, says:

Cardinal Antonelli, in his private conversations, expresses firm belief in an approaching war. He says that the great works which the French are executing are by no means intended to shelter Rome from a *coup de main* of Garibaldi, but to guarantee it against an attack of the regular Italian army. In the war which is preparing, he recently said, the French army will fight alone against Italy and we shall keep our troops to hold in respect the Roman population. This, to say the least, is a singular admission from the Secretary of State of his Holiness, and you will perhaps be glad to make a note of it. Let me add that I hear from a good source that Cardinal Antonelli, while speaking with some persons well known in Rome for the great alacrity with which they receive, everywhere repeat the news they receive, is said to have expressed himself nearly in these terms: "The Emperor Napoleon has lost all sympathy for Italian unity ever since the discovery of the secret treaty between Signor Rattazzi and Herr von Bismarck."

—Heavily loaded wagons are now drawn over common roads in France by means of steam road locomotives adapted to the purpose.

A Splendid Entertainment in Boston.

A brilliant entertainment was given in Boston on Thursday evening, by a young millionaire of that city, on the occasion of his coming of age and into possession of his estate. The event is described:

"Horticultural Hall was last evening the scene of a very costly and a very fashionable entertainment, which created a great sensation among the *beau monde*. The system has obtained great favor this season and last, of hiring a hall for private balls, levees and 'routs,' and Papanti's in Tremont street, Horticultural Hall and Minot Hall have witnessed many lively gatherings of this kind. It saves wear and tear of furniture and carpets, derangement of the internal economy of households, labor for servants and anxiety for mistresses; it obviates the necessity for a house to be turned upside down for a week in advance.

"The party last evening was given by a wealthy lady of this city, in honor of her son, the heir to a princely fortune—whose father was one of the millionaires of Boston. No pains or expense were spared to render it superior to anything of the kind ever seen here. The total cost was from $15,000 to $20,000. The floral decorations of the two halls were rich: eight thousand camelias, innumerable roses, calla lilies, and other choice flowers, rare plants, etc. The pillars, the cornices, the chandeliers, the balconies, every accessible or salient point, was draped with strings of inkberry leaves, studded with camelias and other rich flowers in great profusion. In the centre of every window of the upper hall hung a globe bouquet, a ball of flowers, matted close together, several feet in circumference. This form of bouquet is new to Boston. Some of them contained, apparently, as many as fifty camelias. And the platforms were perfect flower gardens, that of the upper hall being diversified with a lofty floral arch, surrounding a costly mirror, which reflected back the whole brilliant scene. Behind this mirror was stationed a full orchestral band. The floral display alone cost about $3,000.

"The guests who arrived in carriages in full dress, alighted on a carpeted sidewalk, beneath a canopy, and were escorted up-stairs to the dressing rooms each side of the main entrance. Supper was announced at 11 o'clock. There were several large tables in the centre of the hall loaded with the choicest viands and wines, and numerous small tables were arranged around the hall at which the guests were served. The table ornaments, silver, floral, confectionery, etc., were exquisite, and in keeping with the lavish manner in which the whole affair was conducted. Upon each of the tables was a pyramid of camelias, or in the form of stars, or grouped together in massive bouquets, causing the banquet hall to assume an appearance almost as brilliant as the large one above. The interior of the building was carpeted, with the exception of the floor of the upper hall in which the dancing took place."

Outrage Upon Jews in Roumania.

A letter from Vienna contains the following:

"A fresh outrage on Jews has taken place at Birlat, a large straggling place, half village, half town, of about 15,000 inhabitants, of whom 3,000 or 4,000 are Jews, situate about seventy miles north of Galatz. This place elected about a month ago as deputy to the Chamber at Bucharest one Vernoff, a priest and monk of the Greek Church, having immense influence among the lower orders and illiterate class, and famous for his impassioned sermons and speeches against the Jews. On the evening of the 5th of January this priest died, and from the previous Saturday his doctor expressed the opinion that he was suffering from poison, said to have been given him by a German woman, at whose lodgings he took his meals daily, she having been bribed to this by the Jews with four hundred ducats. As yet no one believes in the poisoning. An altercation on this subject having arisen in a coffee-house kept by a Jew, led to an attack by the Moldavian shopkeepers and poorer people of the place on every shop and house belonging to the Jews. The doors and windows were beaten in, the inmates shamefully beaten and ill-treated, and their property entirely destroyed and stolen, and this went on in a fine moonlight evening from 6 P. M. to midnight, when the rioters gave in exhausted. The prefect and other officials who tried to interfere were beaten off by the men.

"The riot would have been resumed next day, without doubt, but the commandant of the place, who had some fifty gendarmes (militia) under his orders, had obtained leave by telegraph from Bucharest during the night to fire on the rioters. This soon became known, and an end was put to the shameful outrage. The value of the property stolen is not less than 175,000fr., and destroyed much more. I left Birlat on the 12th of January, and then the commandant of the district was in charge of the place with a military force, and had over sixty persons in prison charged with being concerned in these riots. The government have promised a strict inquiry into the matter and punishment for those concerned; but the result will, I fear, be about *nil*."

The Chemistry of Furniture.

Young housekeepers do not always understand the theory of the chemical and mechanical action of different substances on articles of furniture. The substances from which furniture is chiefly exposed to injury are water, oils, alcohols, and acids.

Acids act on marble. Marble is itself composed of carbonate of lime; that is, it is a compound of carbonic acid and lime. Now, the carbonic acid has a comparatively weak affinity for lime, and most other acids will prevail over it with it; thus destroying the texture of the stone, liberating the carbonic acid, and leaving nitrate of lime, or muriate of lime, or sulphate, or aceiate of lime—as the case may be—in the form of a white powder, in its place. But oils, alcohols and water produce no effect on marble.

All varnished or polished surfaces of wood, on the other hand, while not injured materially by acids, are attacked by alcohol. Varnishes are composed of different gums and resins, which are generally soluble in alcohol. Many of them are made by dissolving the material in alcohol so as to liquefy them, and then, when they are applied, the alcohol evaporates, leaving the gum or resin in a thin, even coating over the whole surface. If now any alcoholic substance comes upon such a surface, whether it be alcohol itself, as used for lamps, or spirits of any kind, or even wine, which contains but a small per centage of alcohol, the varnish is attacked, a portion of it is dissolved, and the brilliancy of the surface is destroyed.

Oils will not attack either marbles or varnished surfaces, and will do no injury except to naked wood or other porous substances which admit them into pores, from which they cannot afterward easily be expelled.

Water affects no substances except such as have open pores exposed, in which case it enters and causes the substance to swell, or such as are soluble in water, as glue in joints, and mucilage or gum arabic, used sometimes for attaching superficial ornaments to fancy work.—*American Artisan.*

Spontaneous Combustion in Theatres.

A correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* writes: "I was lately conversing with one of our most eminent scene painters upon the late catastrophe at Her Majesty's Theatre, and he gave his decided opinion that the accident proceeded from spontaneous combustion. He stated that larges heaps of the debris and refuse of the painting and property rooms were often swept up together, and left to accumulate for years, and that he had often had reason to complain of this practice and to point out the danger of it. He related one instance in which such a heap had stood in a theatre for a long period, and after many complaints he induced the authorities to remove it, and the moment a spade was thrust into it it burst into flames. I see that in the *Times* a correspondent puts aside spontaneous combustion because scene painting is done with water color, which is not inflammable; but the danger, though sometimes existing even in the painting-room, lies more particularly in the property-room, where varnish and oil colors are largely used, and where scraps of oiled rag, tow, varnish, sawdust, and flue or fluff are swept up together with other matters. They only require to be damped, as is not an uncommon practice, for the purpose of laying the dust, to induce eventually spontaneous combustion. My informant also pointed to the case of Astley's Theatre, which he stated was burnt down somewhat in this way from the sweepings of the sawdust and stables; and from his experience, which is very great, he felt certain that many other theatres had been so burnt."

—At a ball given recently at the Hotel de Ville, in Paris, 700 white and rose camellia trees were employed to decorate the apartments, which trees were sent from the city gardens. There are now 2,000,000 camelia plants in the camelia houses of these gardens, which cover a superficies of about 53,000 square yards, which space being found insufficient for the supply required, underground houses are being constructed, the excavations for that purpose extending over 34,000 square yards of ground. Four head gardeners superintend this vast flower manufactory.

—The large penguins of the Antarctic Ocean exhibit a curious peculiarity in the place of deposit of the single egg laid by them. This instead of being placed in a nest, as with other birds, is held between the legs and feathers of the belly, and transported by the bird wherever it goes until hatched.

PENNSYLVANIA NEWS.

—A shocking accident occurred at the Lehigh Iron Works, a short distance above Catasaqua, on Friday last, by which one man lost his life and another was seriously injured. Several of the hands had been engaged in blasting and had filled two holes with powder, one of which took effect. The other, however, did not, and three of the hands supposing that the fire had been extinguished went to the place and poured in more powder, when in an instant a terrible explosion took place. One man was thrown over an embankment forty feet high, and though not killed was dangerously hurt, while another by the name of Kunkle was lifted ten feet in the air, and coming down head foremost upon some rocks, smashed in his skull, causing his almost instant death. He leaves a wife and four children. One other man was also somewhat injured.

—On Friday night, the 14th inst., two villains, blacked and disguised, entered the house of Mr. Paul Cunningham, about a mile from town. Mr. Cunningham is an old man and a cripple, and resides with his sister, an old maiden lady. The rascals made their entrance through a window, and, with pistol in hand, demanded the keys of the secretary, where they found $83, with which they made their escape, and, as yet, no direct clue as to who the parties were, has been discovered, although certain disreputable persons are suspected. It is hoped that the authorities will be enabled to bring the scoundrels to justice. Fortunately, they did not discover a larger amount of money that was in the house.—*Monongahela Republican.*

—In Monroe county there is a man named Labar, whose age, by his own declarations as well as undisputed authority, is between 105 and 106 years. Notwithstanding this, he is able to saw wood, do any little work around his house, and can, on a stretch, walk five miles and more. We doubt if there is a parallel to him in the United States.

—John Miller, of Lower Nazareth township, Northumberland county, is charged with forging two checks payable to the order of Philip Boser, one for $23 and one for $67.10, and drawn by A. S. Knecht, on the Easton Bank. He endorsed Mr. Boser's name and received the money last week.

—The grocery store of Mr. Boyles on Julia street, Altoona, was completely destroyed by fire on Friday last. The loss was a good deal more than the insurance which was but $1,000. In number at least Altoona competes with the largest cities in the conflagration way.

—Miss Margareta Seip, an aged woman who resided in Bucksville, in a temporary aberration of mind, rose from her bed a short time before daybreak on Wednesday of last week and was shortly after found in an open field frozen to death.

—Mr. David W. Howell, of Mt. Bethel, has purchased land on the Flats above the Delaware bridge, in Philipsburg, and it is reported that he intends moving his cotton factory from Mt. Bethel to Phillipsburg.

—Several persons from New York have been negotiating for the purchase of lands on the Flats in Philipsburg, and propose, if they can make arrangements, to put up a boiler factory there.

—The Grand Jury of Bucks county strongly recommend the erection of a hospital and asylum, for the sick and insane, in connection with the almshouse establishment of that county.

—Over 15,000 tons of iron are carried over the Catasauqua & Fogelsville Railroad annually.

—The Bucks county Alms House cost the county about $18,000 during the last year.

VARIOUS TELEGRAMS.

—Sergeant Bates, carrying the United States flag, arrived at Montgomery, Alabama, on Monday. He was met by a large number of citizens in carriages, decorated with United States flags, and by a band of music. About three thousand people turned out to hear the reception speeches and to welcome him. He was the guest of the city. All the speakers and marshals of the day were Confederate soldiers.

—The Cincinnati *Price Current* will publish to-day the reports of pork packing in Cincinnati this season. The whole number packed was 356,831 head, average weight two hundred and ten pounds, and average of leaf lard twenty-five pounds—showing a falling off as compared with last year of 105,770 head, twenty-two pounds in the average weight and five and one-fourth pounds in lard.

—Stephen Ives, proprietor of the Meridan House, in Meridan, Conn., in whose hotel Frederick Douglass was called a "nigger" and from whose public table Douglass was ejected, brutally assaulted Captain Riggs, editor of the Meridan *Recorder* on Thursday morning, for commenting on the affair. Much excitement prevailed and popular indignation was aroused against Ives, who was arrested and held to answer both in civil and criminal actions.

—The Fort Sanders *Index* says an army of two thousand Indians is marching into the Sweetwater country from Idaho and Montana. They are on the war path, and have burned the ranches north of Soda Springs, and driven off the stock, compelling the ranchmen to seek refuge in canons.

—A dispatch from Havana, says: The question of the rights of naturalized American citizens is absorbing the attention of many Cubans. There are rumors that the Spanish Government has authorized the Captain General to transport one hundred and seventy criminals to Africa. The shoemaker who brutally murdered his wife with an axe, a short time ago, was executed yesterday.

—A man named Henry R. Ellsworth pleaded guilty to a charge of bigamy in the Police Court, at Buffalo, yesterday. The prisoner was married in Lake county, Ohio, on March, 1845, to one Caroline Henderson, and re-married in this city September, 1867, to Lucy McNeil. Ellsworth claims he was intoxicated at the time of the last marriage and not responsible for the act.

—In the Supreme Court of New York, on Wednesday, a citizen of New York sued a firm in Texas for the recovery of certain goods delivered during the war. The plaintiffs were non-suited, on the ground that the contract was treasonable and unlawful.

—Mayor Toumppert, of Louisville, Ky., was assaulted and badly beaten in a barroom last night by Harry Kirby, a discharged policeman. Kirby was arrested and bailed in the sum of one thousand dollars.

—Robert Osgood, defaulting teller of the Irving National Bank of New York, has been sentenced to five years in the State Prison. He plead guilty to misdemeanor under the National Bank act.

—A detachment of one hundred and fifty recruits for the Papal Zouaves passed through Massachusetts on Thursday, on their way from Montreal to New York.

—At Hillsdale, Michigan, Wednesday night, the Waldron House was destroyed by fire, causing a loss of $40,000. Cause, explosion of a kerosene lamp.

—The Board of Aldermen of New York have passed a resolution inviting the session of the Democratic National Convention in that city.

—It is generally understood Rev. Dr. Tyng will be found guilty and receive admonition for violating a canon of the Episcopal Church.

—A large steam mill at Richmond, Vt., owned by J. Jewell, was destroyed by fire last evening. Loss unascertained.

—The whisky meter commission will meet in Washington on Monday next to learn their practical value.

—Bishop Stevens was slightly injured by a railroad accident at Wilkesbarre, Pa., Thursday morning.

A Father's Gratitude.

The other day we told the story of the poor Martha Griggs, who was recently sent to a debtors' prison in London. She was released on the payment of $200 by Ruskin, while $350 more were contributed by sympathizing friends. The girl's father writes to the London *Telegraph*:

"But for your kind intercession she must have remained in jail for a long time. Unless you are a father you can not imagine what my feelings were when I found my poor girl had been cast into a prison, in addition to the suffering she had previously endured. My surprise at her release was only equaled by the joy it gave me. I had no idea of succor coming from such a quarter. All I can offer you is a grateful heart, in which will dwell the memory of your disinterested and noble conduct as long as life remains."

The remainder of the fund has been invested for the girl's benefit. Her case is a striking commentary upon the present state of the English law.

—The value of land in Paris is given in a table published in the *Moniteur*, which shows that the highest price of any in that city is given generally for places in the neighborhood of the theatres. Thus, the various sites near the Theatre Francais have brought per square metre $211, $250, and even $260. Near the New Opera, the figures have varied from $110 to $206, the new Vaudeville from $200 to $250, and the Gaiete from $90 upwards. A meter is equal to about one and one-ninth English yards.

—A writer in one of our scientific weeklies advocates the adoption of an uniform standard of time the world over, numbering the hours from one to twenty-four, so that it would be one o'clock everywhere at the same moment.

POETICAL.

PITTSBURGH.

BY GEORGE ALFRED TOWNSEND.

In the cleft of thy great left hand,
Mississippi! reached out to the deep—
Swart, and sweaty, and tanned,
And clasping the mountain steep—
This city, a wedding ring,
With God in its thunders for priest,
Thou givest the first of thy brides
And mother of cities, the East!

'Tis a bastion no more but in story,
A trophy no more but a dower;
They have vanished, the scars of its glory,
In the visible frown of its power.
The bloodstone, red-veined by the martyrs,
When Braddock went down to Beaujeu,
Is black as the jet of its caverns,
That scorches the stars of its blue.

The mighty arena of ridges
Looks down at the sacrament rites;
Down the wizard perspective of bridges
Leap red the hymeneal lights.
From the gulfs of the globe and the fountains
Swim the monsters of steam to be guests
And sliding the slopes of the mountains
The giants bring gifts o'er the crests.

Aroused by the axe from its slumber,
The great Apalachian spine
Shakes down to the rivers its lumber,
And belches the fire from the mine.
The rains, lifting up the long rivers,
Bear heartily onward the spoil;
The iron that melts for the dancing,
Smooth-kissed by the bountiful oil.

The dance, it is never to finish;
The dancers are never to tire,
So long as there's pulse in the water,
Or soul in the glow of the fire;
The tune, it is more than a measure;
The dance, does it naught but amuse
The feet that slip deftly to pleasure,
Slip also to generous use.

They fashion the broad axe edges
That shall fiddle the forests to light,
And the billion tingling rivets
That shall bind the rooftree tight;
To the quickstep of their forges,
Spins into highways the ore,
And its great black cannon's salvo,
Like a roused nation's roar.

So, with this grimy mosaic,
Volcanite, lava and steel,
No stake of contending empires,
But carved with our eagle-seal.
The great West weds the ocean
In a union never to tire,
Till the heavens and the earth like a parchment,
Roll together with fervent fire!

THE PEARL WEARER.

Within the midnight of her hair,
Half hidden in its deepest deeps,
A single peerless, priceless pearl,
All dimy-eyed forever sleeps.
Without the diamond's sparkling eyes,
The ruby's blushes—there it lies!
Modest as the tender Dawn
When her purple vail's withdrawn—
The flower of gems—a lily, cold and pale!
Yet, what doth all avail!
All its beauty, all its grace,
All the honors of its place!
He who plucked it from its bed
In the fair blue Indian Ocean,
Lieth, without life or motion,
In his earthly dwelling—dead!
And his children, one by one,
When they look upon the sun,
Curse the toil by which he drew
The treasure from its bed of blue.
Gentle bride, no longer wear
In thy night black, odorous hair
Such a spoil! It is not fit
That a tender soul should sit
Under such accursed gem.
What need'st thou a diadem!
Thou, within whose Eastern eyes
Thought, a starry genius lies!
Thou, whom Beauty has arrayed—
Thou, whom Love and Truth have made
Beautiful!—in whom we trace
Woman's softness, angel's grace—
All we hope for, all that streams
Upon us in our haunted dreams!
O, sweet lady! cast aside,
With a gentle, noble pride,
All to sin or pain allied.
Let the wild-eyed conqueror wear
The bloody laurel in his hair;
Let the black and snaky vine
Round the drinker's temples twine;
Let the slave-begotten gold
Weigh on bosoms hard and cold;
But be thou forever known
By thy natural light alone!

Barry Cornwall.

OUR SKATER BELLE.

ANONYMOUS.

Along the frozen lake she comes
In linking crescents, light and fleet;
The ice imprisoned Undine hums
A welcome to her little feet.

I see the jaunty hat, the plume
Swerve bird-like in the joyous gale—
The cheeks lit up to burning bloom,
The young eyes sparkling through the veil.

The quick breath parts her laughing lips.
The white neck shines through tossing curls;
Her vesture gently sways and dips,
As on she speeds in shell-like whorls.

Men stop and smile to see her go;
They gaze, they smile in pleased surprise;
They ask her name; they long to show
Some silent friendship in their eyes.

She glances not; she passes on;
Her steely footfall quicker rings;
She guesses not the benison
Which follows her on noiseless wings.

Smooth be her ways, secure her tread
Along the devious lines of life,
From grace to grace successive led—
A noble maiden, noble wife!

SONNET.

BY HENRY C. BLOUNT.

There is a serpent whose envenomed bite
Is rarely healed, yet, who feels its tooth,
If he survives, oft goes again, forsooth,
Unto its haunts, as if it were delight
To feel its bite again, until the blight
Of poverty and woe reveals the truth
Of this vile fiend, so loved, yet so uncouth;
It to one's interest so perverts the sight
That enemies are thought to be one's friend's,
And friends are seen in light of enemies,
While blessings slip from the finger-ends,
And character on fleeting pinion flies!
What is this monster that such power extends?
Its name is Debt!—avoiding it be wise.

[*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

MOONLIGHT AND DARKNESS.

Lights upon the water dancing,
Eyes beneath the mountain glancing,
Words spoken low;
Filled my heart with tender fancying,
Long, long ago.

Clouds above a dark sea bending,
Sighs with sad sea breezes blending,
Words wild with woe,
All my heart with fears were rending
Long, long ago.

Years that brought with them estranging
Hopes and fancies all deranging,
Hearts altered so;
Love, like life, forever changing,
Since long ago.

THE SWEET NEGLECT

Still to be neat, still to be drest,
As you were going to a feast:
Still to be powd'red, still perfumed:
Lady it is to be presumed.
Though art's hid causes are not found,
All is not sweete, all is not sound.

Give me a looke, give me a face,
That makes simplicitie a grace;
Robes loosely flowing, hair as free:
Such sweete neglect more taketh me,
Than all th' adulteries of art,
That strike mine eyes but not mine heart.

BEN JONSON.

—In a recent pastoral Bishop Arthur Cleveland Coxe says:

"When I see the tawdry fashions, the costly vulgarity and wicked extravagance of the times, I feel sure that thousands of American women are strangers to the first law of refinement—simplicity in manners and attire.

"When I see that thousands of American women read the most shameful romances and the most degrading newspapers; frequent the vilest dramatic entertainments and join in dances to shocking to be named among Christians, I feel that Christian matrons are becoming too few, and that civilized heathenism is returning to the fields we have wrested from the Indians.

"When I read daily, of the most ungodly divorces and of crime against social purity and against human life itself, which are too gross to be mentioned more particularly, I feel that too many of our countrywomen are without God in the world, and that radical reforms are necessary in the systems of education on which the young women of America are dependent for their training.

"When I see thousands of households in which young girls are reared for a life of pleasure, without reference to duty, I cannot wonder at these results, nor at the misery in which they involve families and communities. Sow the wind and reap the whirlwind!

"As a christain Bishop, therefore, I make my appeal to you, Christian women, and I ask you to begin the reformation, by faithfully bearing your testimony against all that tends to the degradation of your sex, and the more so, when such crime is not only winked at, but receives countenance in circles which ought to be exemplary."

—A German paper, published at Leipzig, gives a romance of American boarding-school life, which is not too incredible for belief except in one or two particulars. The scene is located at a fashionable seminary on the Hudson, attended by young ladies from seventeen to twenty. There was one, whose blonde curls and blue eyes appealed to the German heart who seemed oppressed with a hidden grief. At the Christmas vacation she went home with the rest, but did not return with them, a telegram being received from her father stating that illness was the cause. Soon she reappeared, and shortly after received visits from a young man who became so assiduous as to be at length forbidden the house by the Principal. He then threw off disguise and, in the character of a husband, sued out a writ of habeas corpus and secured the young woman of flaxen curls and blue eyes as his wife. It was he who had sent the telegram announcing her detention, while she was traveling over the country with him. The parents were crushed but finally relented and all is now pleasant. The episode did not hurt the reputation of the seminary; on the contrary it became more crowded after the event than ever before. The Principal seemed to have learned strange experience, for he says, "If I should surrender the young ladies claimed by young gentlemen as their wives, I would in a fortnight sit alone at my breakfast table."

—In Paris, the proposal is seriously made, on account of the great adulteration of the milk sold there, to establish a cow-house from which the animals shall be driven each morning to the different houses, and that milk maids shall milk them in the presence of the customers. This recalls to the mind of the French journalist who tells the story, an anecdote of Scribe, the poet. He had hired a house in the country to pass the summer. As soon as he was fairly installed in it he went in search of a farmer who had a milch cow. Having found one he tasted his wares. "My good man, my servant will come every morning to buy a pint of milk." "Very well, it is eight sous." "But I want pure milk, very pure." "In that case it is ten sous." "You will milk in the presence of my servant." "Oh! then it is fifteen sous."