The Pittsburgh Gazette.

[Extracts from the March Magazines.]

"SOUND UPON THE GOOSE."

ORIGIN OF THE PHRASE.

"Id ish a longe dime, now here, in Bennsylfanian's State,
All in dere down of Horrisberg dere rosed a fierce depate,
'Tween vamilies mit gooses, und dose vhere none vere foundt—
If gooses might, by common law, go squanderin arroundt?

"Dose who vere not pe-gifted mit gooses, und vere poor,
All threar de law forbid dis crime, by shings und cerdain sure;
But de goose holders teklare a goose great liberdy did need,
And to pen dem oop vas gruel, und a most oou-Christian teed.

"Und dann anoder barty itself tid soon refeal,
Of arisdocrats who kepd no goose, pecause 'was nod shendeel;
Tey tid not vish de splodderin geese shouldt on delr pafement bass,
So dey sholned de anti goosers, or de oonder lower glass!"

Here Breitmann led his shdeam out: "Dis shdory goes to show
Dat in Foledicks, ash lager, *virtus in medio.*
De drecks ish ad de pottom—de skoom floads high intead;
Boot das bier is in de mittle, says an goot old Sherman Ified.

"Und shoost apout elegdion-dimes de scoom und drecks ve see,
Have a bully Wahl-verwandtschaft or election-sympa hie."
"Dis is very vine," says Misder Twine, "vot here you introtuce
Mit your permission I'll grack on mit my shdory of de coose."

"A gandertate for sheriff de coose-beho'ders run,
Who shvear de coose de noblest dings vot valk peneat de sun,
For de cooses safe ue Capidol in Rome long d mes ago,
Und Horrisburg need sadn mighty pad, ash all do know.

"Acainsd dis mighdy Goose man anoder veller rose,
Who keepedt himself ungommon shtill ven oders came to plows;
Und if any ask now 'was he shtoot, his friends wouldt vink so loose,
Und visper ash dey dapped deir nose: '*He's soundt up on de coose!*

"'He's O K, oopon de soobject; shoost pet your pile on dat:
On dis bartik'ler question he indends to coot it fat.'
So de veller cot elegded pefore de beople foundt
On *vitch* site of der coose it vas he shtick so awfut soundt."

—From "BREITMANN IN POLITICS," in March No. of Lippincott's Magazine.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The annual meeting of the Book Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church, comprising fifteen ministers, appointed by the General Conference for the term of four years, has just been held in New York city. The members of the Book Committee represent every section of the work, and are charged with the duty of supervising the entire publishing interests of the Church. Most of the leading editors of the official papers and other publications, were also present. According to the exhibit of the Book Concerns at New York and Cincinnati, which includes all the Depositories at several points, the assets are $1,340,919 61; liabilities, $175,295 06. Earnings for the year, $152,882 89. Of this sum $38,204 51, was paid by order of the General Conference. The net profit for the year is $114,678 38.

The *Presbyterian*, it is stated, knows a church in which the choir is paid two thousand dollars, and the contributions to domestic missions do not amount to one hundred dollars.

The South Congregational church of Hartford, Conn., has adopted a liturgical form of worship, including the *Te Deum* responsively performed, the Apostles' Creed in unison, and two scripture lessons, each closed with the Episcopal formula, "Thus endeth," etc.

The *Independent* closes a lengthy paragraph on Sabbath Schools, with the statement of the interesting fact that John Wesley, during his visit to America in the years 1736-37, *forty years before* Raikes' first Sabbath School, set apart a portion of the Sabbath afternoon to meet the children belonging to his mission in Savannah, Ga., for catechetical and scriptural instruction. Small children, as well as large ones, were among his pupils, and his manner was very engaging.

It is estimated that full one thousand members of the Greek Church are in California, emigrants from Russia. A Greek church began its services at San Francisco last August. It is thought a large number of adherents to the Greek faith will come from Alaska.

The *Presbyterian* represents Dr. Brook's Presbyterian church at St. Louis, Mo., as having contributed not less than eight thousand dollars, in weekly installments of ten cents, twenty-five cents, fifty cents, one dollar, five and ten dollars, "as God hath prospered" each member. This sum has been given in addition to the pew rents.

Friday, the twenty-sixth instant, is the day set apart by the Old School Presbyterian General Assembly, for prayer for institutions of learning. It is recommended that the day be consecrated to prayer and almsgiving.

The following question has been propounded to the *Presbyterian* by "A Subscriber:" "Is it consistent with the position of a *ruling elder* in our (Presbyterian) church to give a *dancing* party." The editor answers No.

Newton Baptist Seminary, started in 1825, has had a wonderful career of success. There have been five hundred and sixteen graduates, of whom thirty-eight have been foreign missionaries, and one hundred and twenty-four have died. It has furnished fifty-two Presidents and Professors in Colleges and Seminaries.

Quite an extensive revival of religion has been in progress for some time in the Baptist church in Salem, New Jersey. One hundred and thirty persons have been baptized since the revival commenced. The work still continues.

The Congregational churches in Kansas are adopting female office-bearing as well as female suffrage. Thus one Mrs. Wood is clerk of the church in Cottonwood Falls, and another Mrs. Wood holds the same office in Lowell, while in Wabapusee Mrs. N. H. Jones has been elected deaconess.

Some idea of the grandeur of the work of the American Bible Society may be gathered from the proceedings of the late monthly meeting of the Board, which is a fair sample of the usual work of the month, in granting fifteen thousand three hundred and forty volumes, besides others to the amount of three hundred and fifty dollars. These grants were in various languages, including French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Creolese for the island of Curacoa.

It will surprise many to learn that the Unitarians have now seven places of worship in Boston, in which the seats are all free.

The *Israelite*, the organ of the Jews at Cincinnati, advocates the observance of a day of rest, a real Sabbath, which can be observed by all Israel, and suggests that that day set apart by hundreds of millions, nay the whole civilized world, for physical rest and the worship of God. It says let our prayers and thanksgiving with their's ascend to His throne on the same day, Sunday.

Bishop Simpson gives some startling news in regard to the atrocities of the Texans, in his letter to the New York *Christian Advocate*. He gives two or three instences of cold-blooded murder. He writes, a few of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church were one evening assembled to hold a prayer meeting. A band of men surrounded the house, ordered the men, five in number, to come out, and shot them down in cold blood. No effort has been made to arrest the murderers; and the colored people, who know them well, are so fearful of their lives that they dare not give information. These persecutions has caused the breaking up of Methodist societies. The Bishop thinks that this violence is not directed against the members of that Church, simply because they are Methodists, nor yet, as they are termed there *Northern* Methodists, but because they are supposed to be identified with Radical movements.

The receipts of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions for the first nine months of the fiscal year amount to one hundred and fifty-three thousand four hundred and seven dollars, being less than twenty-eight thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight dollars for the same time the previous year. The estimates for the year will require about one hundred thousand dollars more.

A Roman Catholic Church for colored people is shortly to be erected in Detroit. Several colored youths are being educated for priests at Naples, Italy, with a view, no doubt, to fields of labor in this country and among their own race in other lands.

The first Episcopal Cathedral ever built in New England was recently opened in Portland. It is fully organized, after the English system, by Dr. Neely, the Bishop of Maine.

Last year, Rev. Dr. Tyng's society, (St. George and Chapels,) contributed two hundred and thirty thousand dollars for various purposes, while Trinity church, St. John's chapel and St. Paul's chapel, also in New York, unitedly contributed a trifle over one hundred and eight thousand dollars.

The Burdell Mystery Solved.

The murderer of Dr. Burdell is discovered, according to his circumstantial confession, and all the probabilities of the case, to have been the same Charles Jefferds, who afterwards killed John Walton and John Matthews, and who was himself murdered by a fellow-convict at Auburn about a year ago.

Jefferd's declaration is all the more convincing in that it does not release Mrs. Cunningham from the charge of complicity with his crime. He, too, was a friend of that malign woman, between whom and his mother, Mrs. Walton, there appears to have been close intimacy. He boasted of the same illicit favors from Mrs. Cunningham which were enjoyed by her boarder, John E. Eckel, and claims to have been, instead of Eckel, the instrument of her revenge. He alleges that he was at Dr. Burdell's house, No. 31 Bond street, on the evening of the assassination; that he was seated in the parlor and playing on the banjo for the amusement of the Cunningham girls when Dr. Burdell entered the house and met Mrs. Cunningham, with whom he had a violent quarrel. The Doctor then proceeded to his room in the third story, and Mrs. Cunningham to hers on the second floor. Jefferds, to whom the dispute had been audible, stole out of the parlor, went to Mrs. Cunningham, and, after hearing her account of what had occurred, volunteered to "go up stairs and do for the old rascal," meaning Dr. Burdell. The woman, who cordially hated Dr. Burdell, and hoped to inherit his possessions, encouraged the young desperado's sympathetic rage. She informed him of the position of the Doctor's rooms; he drew a slender two-edged dagger which he habitually carried, and started on his cowardly errand. The circumstantial account which he gives of what transpired, from the moment when he glided into Dr. Burdell's apartment and aimed the first blow at his heart, to the moment when he "reached under" and "fetched" his victim by a final stab in the kidneys, has a tone of convincing verity. "At one time," says Jefferds, "I thought he'd be too many for me; but the punch in the ribs fetched him. It was our fighting about the room that made the blood fly so all about on the walls. The old fellow was stronger than I gave him credit for, and we had a mighty tough tussel of it; but you see I had the knife, and I kept all the time jabbing him with that, and he bled a great deal, and that weakened him, I suppose," which is extremely probable. The assassin's description of the whole struggle tallies with the appearance of the room and of the wounds found on the body of Dr. Burdell after the murder; while the facts of Jefferd's intimacy with Mrs. Cunningham and his character as a reckless bravo help to corroborate his statements. It is said of him that "he habitually went armed, and on the slightest provocation would shoot or cut whoever chanced to provoke his wrath." He declared on one occasion that "he didn't think so much of killing a man; he would put any man out of his misery for five hundred dollars if he was short, *and wouldn't get caught at it either.*"

Washington Items.

The President hesitates to veto the Copper Tariff Bill, and the indication is that it will become a law.

The Ohio river bridge question was brought up in Committee to enable three persons from Steubenville to make their statement concerning that structure. They did not believe it was an obstacle to navigation, and thought the location as good as any other proposed for similar bridges. One witness quite strangely assured the Committee that the river at that point was quite straight for half a mile above and below the bridge, while all other witnesses have testified it was almost crescent curved.

The decision of the Supreme Court on gold contracts made before the passage of the legal tender act, does not affect that act or contracts made since; but it is regarded as a slight indication of the opinions of a majority of the Court on questions relating to the legal tenders. The fact that the decision upon the legal tender is not announced looks as if it might be against the act, as it has been understood in case it should be adverse the decision would be postponed till December.

It appears that a strong pressure is being made by Secretary Seward and others in authority, to secure the ratification of the Alabama treaty. The English Government, it is understood, is very anxious to know what its chances are for ratification, before the 4th of March. It is reported that the English Minister has informed his Government that, if the treaty is not ratified before the 4th of March, it will stand no chance of confirmation by the incoming administration. Mr. Seward has begun to work in earnest, and some of the Republicans are already beginning to favor the ratification of the treaty.

Gen. Grant informed one of his callers to-day, who went to impose upon him some advice, that he had made up his mind on his Cabinet, and if any of them declined he had alternates ready.

It is not doubted that one of the leading features of Gen. Grant's administration will be that of a liberal encouragement, and, if necessary, championship of the South American Republics. Cuba is, by general consent, regarded as practically severed from Spain. Should she declare her independence, there is little doubt that she will find plenty of friends to rally around her. The question of annexation is not now among the probabilities.

The Senate Judiciary Committee decided to report the bill which passed the House some time ago, providing for an election in Virginia, with an amendment submitting to a separate vote the disfranchising clause of the Constitution.

The Reconstruction Commiteee will not decide in the Georgia matter until the Supreme Court of that State has made a decision on the question of whether the negro is a citizen, under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

The position of Cuba excites great interest. It is expected that the revolutionary party will proclaim the independence of the island. In that case our Government will immediately recognize the new Government, and extend belligerent rights to it, and the privileges of neutrality.

It will then be open to both parties to obtain men, money, and arms from abroad; and it is not doubted that American sympathy will turn the scale in favor of free Cuba.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Thursday morning agreed to recommend to the favorable action of that body the Naturalization treaty with England. Also, the treaty leaving to the government of Switzerland the arbitrament of the San Juan Island dispute. The Committee came to the unanimous conclusion to recommend the rejection of the Alabama claim treaty.

As it is necessary that the Vice President-elect shall be sworn into office before noon of the day of inauguration, in order that he may call the Senate to order and swear in the new Senators, it is understood that Speaker Colfax will deliver his valedictory to the House, and resign a day or two in advance. The House will therefore have to select a Speaker for the balance of the session.

The entire force of enrolling clerks of the House are at work upon the tax bill, and it will take them until Saturday to enroll it. It will make six hundred large written pages. It will then take two days to print it, and will not be ready for consideration by the Senate Finance Committee before the 24th, and cannot possibly be read or considered and reported to the Senate at this session. Gen. Schenck will start it anew on March 5th, when he hopes to secure its enactment into a law before the first session of the Forty first Congress.

General Grant made a declaration in conversation this morning, which will doubtless ease the sensitive souls of those who fear he may take a Democrat or two into his Cabinet. He said if he were a Republican Senator, and a Democratic President were to select a Democratic Cabinet he should vote for their confirmation, but if under similar circumstances, a President elected by the Republican party should select Democratic advisers, he would think he failed in doing his duty if he did not vote for their rejection. It is thought this remark may be taken as conclusive by even the most stubborn of those who profess to believe General Grant wanting in sympathy with the Republican party.

The Ordinance Committee have discovered that the army Rodman fifteen-inch gun costs $6,500 each, for 49,000 pounds weight. The navy guns of the same calibre weighed 43,000 pounds. The difference in weight, at thirteen cents per pound, makes $910 which the navy paid more for their guns than was paid by the army. The navy contract with the Fort Pitt foundry provided for the delivery of all guns on the seaboard at the expense of the maker, yet the government paid for all this transportation. From the spring of 1864 all fifteen-inch guns procured at Pittsburgh were taken without any powder-proof, according to an order from the Chief of Ordnance. Therefore, guns procured since that time have been mounted in fortifications on expensive iron carriages without being fired at all, and lately an order was issued from the Ordnance Department to subject them to a proof of charges of one hundred pounds of powder, at the risk of the government.

"THE organization of the next Congress," says G. A. T., "is as good as settled, interested gossip to the contrary notwithstanding. Henry D. Washburne will be Sergeant-at-Arms in place of Ordway, the present incumbent—I had nearly said incubus. James G. Blaine will be elected Speaker, and he will be the only officer taken from New England. Edward McPherson will be made Clerk by right of chaste and honorable service, perfect integrity and high-mindedness."

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