

FACTS AND COMMENTS.

The "roast beef of England" evidently believes its name. With 12,000 head of live cattle yearly, 2,000 quarters weekly from Chicago, and 1,000 carcasses weekly from one firm in New York going to the London and Liverpool markets, it is plain that the roast beef of America is coming to the front on English dinner tables.

General Lew Wallace, United States minister to Turkey, accepted a commission at the close of the civil war in the republican army of Mexico, with a view to organizing a legion of American soldiers to aid in driving out the Emperor Maximilian. The legion was not raised, but Wallace rendered efficient service, for which he got no pay, because the Mexican treasury was drained. His claim for pay, however, has been pushed, and he has recently received \$15,000 in gold in full of account.

"Illiteracy, as shown by the census of 1880," was the subject of a recent address by Mr. John Eaton, United States commissioner of education, in the hall of the Union League club in New York. He said that in 1880 there were 7,000,000 white persons and 3,000,000 colored persons in the United States who could not write. He thought that it behooved the nation to become the patron for educating the 5,700,000 children who do not attend school. It would take \$1,100,000 and 30,000 teachers to start the work.

According to Professor Sargent, of Harvard college, Michigan and Wisconsin will some day find rivals in Massachusetts and other New England States in the production of white pine, which is a second growth in those States. The product sawed in Massachusetts in 1880 was worth \$1,000,000. Vermont and New Hampshire produced 100,000,000 feet, and Maine as much more. This, of course, to a Michigan or Wisconsin lumberman of to-day, is a trifling affair, but in the future, when the pine resources of that region are exhausted, it may seem quite important.

An appeal in behalf of the starving goats of Michigan may be looked for shortly. A Detroit man has built a furnace in which refuse tinware, such as oyster cans, fruit cans, etc., may be treated in such a manner that the solder is restored to commerce and the sheets of tin, being rerolled, are available for binding the edges of wood trunks. From five hundred pounds of old cans he obtains about thirty-five pounds of lead and solder, and from old boilers, pails and other tin dishes a considerable amount of wire and other iron, all of which can be sold at a fair price.

Vermont is said to produce more marble than any other State in the Union or than any country except this. The business has expanded with marvelous rapidity since 1870, when comparatively little Vermont marble was to be found in the market. The aggregate amount of the State's production the present year is 1,000,000 cubic feet, valued at over \$2,000,000. The number of men employed in the quarries and mills exceeds 2,300, and it required 10,000 cars to carry the marble away. Nearly \$1,000,000 was paid for the labor of workmen by the quarry owners.

A sorrowful story comes from Louisville, Ky. The wife of the late Chief Justice Hardin, of Kentucky, has been found living on the fourth floor of a tumble-down rookery in absolute want. Her only companion is her seven-year-old daughter, the rest of her family of five children being scattered through the world the whereabouts of two of the children being unknown to the mother. Mrs. Hardin lives in one room, and when found by the reporter was without fire or food. The poor woman has been struggling for years to keep herself and little child from starving to death, and has barely succeeded.

In the natural course of events the eleven general officers will retire from active service as follows: General Sherman, February 3, 1884; Lieutenant-General Sheridan, June, 1884; Major-General Hancock, March, 1888; Major-General Schofield, November, 1895; Major-General Pope, July, 1886; Brigadier-General Howard, June, 1895; Brigadier-General Terry, 1892; Brigadier-General Auger, August, 1885; Brigadier-General Crook, July, 1893; Brigadier-General Miles, July, 1895; Brigadier-General Mackenzie, August, 1884. This will prove interesting to the army, as the records of the ages of officers are guarded as sacredly at the War department as if they were jewels.

Among the various uses to which electricity may be put there is one very practical nature, which promises to effect a great saving of property and life. It consists of an arrangement for the immediate stoppage of a steam engine by merely pressing a button similar to those by which electric bells or fire alarms are sounded. This button may be placed at any distance from the engine upon which it acts; and Mr. Tate, the inventor, proposes that a number of such buttons should be dispersed throughout the factory or elsewhere where the apparatus is in use. In factories accidents occur almost daily through the impossibility of stopping machinery on the instant. Such accidents will be readily avoided by this method of instantaneously stopping the engine from any part of the building in which it works. The principle of the contrivance depends on the action of an electro-magnet upon the stop valve of the engine.

The writer who furnishes the St.

Louis Globe-Democrat with sketches of noted people resident on the Pacific coast, says of Senator Jones: The unluckiest man on the Pacific slope, in point of wealth, is Senator Jones, of Nevada. There has perhaps never been so vast a fortune so quickly scattered as that of Jones'. In spite of popular belief, Senator Jones today is poor, comparatively speaking. When he was elected to the Senate in 1873 he was worth at least \$10,000,000. To-day he is not worth \$50,000 above his debts, and his congressional salary is no longer despised as a source of income. It would be hard to tell where Jones' fortune has gone, or more correctly speaking, hard to tell where it hasn't gone. No man ever sunk so much money in chimerical schemes, invested so much in bogus friendships, or became so easy a prey to financial sharks as Jones. He sunk \$2,000,000 hard money in mines in Pauamint, California, which never yielded a dollar. He sunk another million in the Sumner mine in Southern California. He built a railroad in Southern California twelve miles long, and it cost enough to have had every tie of mahogany and every rail of silver. The Central Pacific afterward bought it for about \$1,000 a mile. He bought every ranch ever offered him—indeed, he bought one in Nevada which has never been located to this day. Jones' agents could never find it. He started an ice factory in New Orleans. He never saw the factory, and never but once or twice the man who got him into it. He opened the St. James hotel in New York, and of course it never paid. The last cruel wipe that fate had in store for Jones was the "Sierra Nevada deal," as Californians call it, of four years ago. On a mere prospect the stock was jumped from \$3 a share to \$275. Jones got in at about \$200, on the drop. The stock is selling now for less than \$5 a share. The Bank of Nevada is believed to be carrying Jones' stock for him yet.

THE SONGS OF THE DAY.

Ballads that become Popular—Enormous Editions of Simple Melodies that Catch the Public Ear—Profits of Authors and Publishers.

"What constitutes a popular song?" was asked by a Star reporter of a New York music dealer. "I can answer your question best by telling you a little story. Some years ago, when Rollin Howard composed a song and dance, he took his production, of which he felt very proud, to Pond & Co., and offered to sell it to them. They looked it over and returned it with the remark: 'We do not publish any such stuff as that.' Mr. Howard pocketed his discomfiture in silence and sadly wended his way homeward. A short time after this Howard went to Boston, where he was engaged to sing in a minstrel company. One night Mr. C. A. White, the composer and publisher, heard Howard, and offered to publish his discarded song. This is how 'Shoo Fly, Don't Bother Me' came to see the light. It soon became popular all over the land. The publisher sold over 200,000 copies, and with the profits established the well-known Boston firm of White, Smith & Co. A song is popular when it catches the public fancy, and the best songs seldom become popular."

"How do you account for this?" "Well, the popular mind is not educated enough for them. Many persons have what they call an ear for music, but have no knowledge of music. They have no special training in order to appreciate the general beauties of a first-class song, or the fine, delicate shades of expression that are the very soul of the piece. The ballad, or comic ditty, is about the extent of popular appreciation. In these you will find a simple melodic expression, such as 'Wait Till the Clouds Roll by, Jenny,' and 'Tommy Dodd.' There is no effort of the mind to glide, as it were, through these."

"Tell me some of the popular songs." "Just now, 'Wait Till the Clouds Roll by, Jenny,' by H. J. Fulmer, has captured the popular fancy, and will continue to sell for some time. Close on the heels of this piece comes an answer to it—'The Clouds are Rolling By, Jenny,' by Mayhath, a much superior song in every way and likely to be as popular. Then we have 'In the Morning by the Bright Light,' by James A. Bland, the colored songwriter, and the best of his kind. All his pieces have become popular, and include 'Keep dem Gates Wide Open,' 'Won't We Have a Jolly Time?' 'Oh, dem Golden Slippers' and 'De Angels an-a-Coming.' In the popular list is 'When the Leaves Begin to Turn,' by C. A. White, of Boston. It is a beautiful waltz song. There is a fund of the popular songs sung by Harrigan and Hart. I need only mention 'Babies in Our Block,' 'The Skids Are Out To-day,' 'Whist, the Bogie Man,' 'Little Widow Dunn,' 'Never Take the Horseshoe from the Door.'"

"In trade we call a song popular when it reaches a sale of 10,000 copies. Many editions only reach 5,000, and some do not run beyond 500 copies. There may not appear to be any value to a song until it goes before the public. If they catch on, then the value of the song is assured. Many good pieces—real gems of song—have been published by Pond, which do not go beyond his studio. Among this class is a sweet thing called: 'Say Not, My Love Will Change with Time,' written by Albert Rowse. When Harrigan & Hart sold the 'Mulligan Guards' for \$50 they did not expect that it would march to the tune of 100,000 copies. The Hildebrandt Montrose song they sold for \$25, and the publishers worked off 200,000 copies."

"Who are the leading composers?" "You mean of this class of music? Well, many of our most popular songs

have been written by authors on the other side of the water. Our home names are Harrison Millard, Will S. Hays, S. C. Foster, J. R. Thomas, H. P. Danks, Henry Tucker, W. H. Brockway, C. A. White, J. T. Ordway, E. Root, J. A. Bland, G. Operti, Harry Birch, B. F. Baker and others. These men do not all write their own words—most of them buy the poem. There are few good song-poets, the best, perhaps, being Mr. George Cooper. His remuneration is poor, being from \$5 to \$10 for a song outright. Many of them possess genuine merit. When the composers sell a song they receive from \$50 to \$100, and sometimes \$200; some will only take a commission on the sales and secure a handsome profit should the piece reach public favor. When Danks wrote 'Silver Threads Among the Gold,' he sold it for forty dollars. After it was published the publisher sold 400,000 copies, and the piece still sought for. J. A. White made money by writing 'Assidua,' which holding a comfortable position in the custom-house he managed to secure a small fortune by his muse. His 'Vlyla d'America' brought him \$2,500, and his song, 'When the Tide Comes In,' has been worth \$1,000 a year. The song 'Waiting' is now looked upon as a stock-selling piece, the publishers disposing of 6,000 copies a year, while his 'Under the Daisies' sold at the rate of 7,000 copies. 'Mollie Bland' has had a sale of something like half a million copies.

"J. A. Barry composed 'Little Footsteps,' and sold it for \$5. The publishers made money and disposed of 75,000 copies. Hays' songs: 'Little Old Cabin in the Lane,' 'We Parted by the Riverside,' each had a sale of 100,000. Ordway's song, 'Dreaming of Home, Mother,' reached a sale of 50,000 to 60,000. 'How the Gates Came Ajar,' by Eastburn, reached a sale of 100,000. Brockway sold his 'Little Sweetheart Come and Kiss Me,' for \$25, and the publishers run out an edition of 25,000 copies. 'The Old Folks at Home,' by Foster, reached the sale of 400,000 copies, and still continues to be bought. 'The Sword of Bunker Hill' reached a sale of 100,000 copies, and the famous temperance song, 'Father Come Home,' written by Work, has had a sale of 300,000 copies."

"How about the English songs?" "They are readily sold in this country. The famous London popular song, 'Pull Down the Blind,' had not been introduced here a couple of months, when 50,000 copies were sold. 'Let Me Dream Again,' by Arthur Sullivan, has reached to 100,000 copies, and is still a favorite. 'What Are the Wild Waves Saying' has sold to the number of 300,000 copies, while 'Champagne Charley,' 'Good-bye, Charlie,' 'Won't You Tell Me Why, Robin?' 'Five O'clock in the Morning,' and some others have had very large sales."

Washington in 1848.

Ex-Congressman Wentworth, of Chicago, in some interesting reminiscences of life in Washington forty years ago, says: Washington was, in 1843, the greatest slave mart in the United States. Within sight of the capitol, not far from the lower gate, and near, if not upon, the land where the public garden now is, was a building with a large yard around it, inclosed with a high fence. Thither slaves were brought from all the slaveholding region, like cattle to the Chicago stock yards, and locked up until sold. There were regular auction days for those not disposed of at private sale. The Chicago fire destroyed a hard cracker which I had preserved as a specimen by which purchasers tested the age of slaves. And to this day, if there is anything that the average Southern negro does not know, it is his own age. The slaves were placed upon a block and when a question rose as to age, the auctioneer requested them to bite on a cracker, which all slave auctioneers keep for such occasions. The theory was that while a slave could masticate well he could work. Nearly all the labor of Washington was performed by slaves, many of whom were hired from the neighboring States. The slaves were expected to collect their wages monthly, and take them home on some Saturday night. One morning I missed my boots, and when I went for the bootblack, he was unable to find them. After a few days I saw a procession of captured slaves, who had sought their liberty in a Potomac schooner, chained two-and-two, conducted toward the slave-pen; and there I noticed my bootblack trudging along in my boots. I had made a successful canvass for Congress in those boots, but they failed the slave in his canvass for freedom. He was sold for the Southern market, as was customary with captured fugitives, and my boots went with him. But whether they were worn out by him upon some sugar, rice or cotton plantation, or by his new master, it was useless for me to inquire.

Many strange stories are told of how cats and dogs, taken a long distance from home, have found their way back. This one is all the more singular because the little dog found a place to which he had never been at all. A man living in a Maine village got ready to move to another village some thirty miles away. The household goods and the family, together with all the pets except one little dog, were transported by water to the new place of residence. The little dog was forgotten, and to everybody's surprise made his way to his master's new home the very next day. As the dog could not follow the trail of the boat the wonder is by what means he made the journey.

"Blood will tell," so be careful how you make confidants of your relations

Pollution of the Air. Ardent writer in Nature called attention to the pollution of the air by the burning of coal, and calculated that in the year 1900 all animal life would cease on the globe, from the amount of carbonic dioxide thus produced. But another correspondent points out that most of this gas is washed out of the air by rain. There were, however, some products of combustion, or rather of incomplete combustion, as hydrogen and the hydrocarbons, which are not removed by the rain. Of these unburned gases it is estimated that 100,000,000 tons have escaped into the air during the last thirty years. What will be the result of this accumulation? According to Professor Tyndall's researches, hydrogen, marsh gas and ethylene have the property in a very high degree of absorbing and radiating heat, and so much so that a very small proportion, of only one-thousandth part, had very great effect. From this we may conclude that the increasing pollution of the atmosphere will have a marked influence on the climate of the world. The mountainous regions will be colder, the Arctic regions will be colder, the tropics will be warmer, and throughout the world the nights will be colder and the days warmer. In the temperate zone winter will be colder and generally differences will be greater, winds, storms, rainfall greater.

A High Opinion. Captain John J. Dawson, late of the British army, residing on Love street, between Mandeville and Spain, this city, says he used St. Jacobs Oil with the greatest possible advantage when afflicted with rheumatism. — New Orleans Times-Democrat.

It is claimed that medicinal plants and flowers for perfumery can be grown in greater perfection in Australia than in any other part of the world.

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HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA. Sold by Druggists. Price, six for \$5. Made only by G. I. HOOD & CO., Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass.

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