Juniata Sentinel and Republican.

B. F. SCHWEIER, THE CONSTITUTION—THE UNION—AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS. Editor and Proprietor.

VOL. XXXVI. MIFFLINTOWN, JUNIATA COUNTY, PENNA., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1882. NO. 38.

EVENTIDE.

When dew lay thick on the clover
Where the hoar frost gleamed before,
The grey, bowed form of the good wife
Came out from the cottage door.

Once again she bent to listen;
The waterfall's monotone
Sang on through the dark old forest
Like a child that sings alone.

In the sweet, impatient beauty
Of blossoms, and grass, and tree,
She counted the seven colors,
Where the snow waste used to be.

And like bees that fatten under
The burden of sweet they bear,
The staggering winds could hardly
Lift a fold of her thin, white hair

"Or even the winds of autumn
Will rend the shivering corn,"
She said, "I shall end the story
That began when I was born."

"Right glad are my eyes while watching
The dip of the silent oar,
To look at the old, old splendors,
They have watched so oft before."

"So gently, easily flowing,
I never have dreamed would be
The course of the beautiful river,
That bears me into the sea."

SIGNING THE PAPERS.

The little parlor was the prettiest, neatest room you ever saw, and the little woman with sparkling eyes who tapped the carpet so restlessly with her small slipper, was the prettiest, neatest little woman you ever ought to want to see.

The tall fellow who stood so straight up before the mantle-shelf was a handsome man, too, and looked good-tempered, so that when you knew these two were man and wife, and this pretty house their home, you would have imagined you had fallen upon a perfect nest of domestic bliss.

But listen a moment.

"It's just what I might have expected when I married you!" snapped Mrs. Jenny.

"Pity you hadn't found it out sooner," coolly returned Mr. John.

"I wish I had! I could go where I pleased when I was at home,"

"And so could I when I was a bachelor."

"Well, why didn't you stay a bachelor?"

"Because I hadn't good sense, that's why!"

Jenny began to sob.

"Oh, oh! I think it's awful to say it was not good sense to marry me; I'll go back to my mother, I will!"

"Really, I think it would be the best thing you could do," returns John.

"I will! Unless you say I may go to Brighton, I will go and stay."

"I've already said I couldn't afford a trip to Brighton. If you want to go down to my aunt Higgins' I'll send you at once."

"I won't go there! I hate your horrid old aunt Higgins."

"Very well. I detest my mother in law!"

"Oh, you monster! And you could afford it, you know you could if you didn't always spend so much for your dreadful cigars and beer."

"It's none of your business what I spend."

"Then it's none of your business where I go to"

"Very well madam, go to Old Nick for all I care."

Jenny fairly screamed.

"Oh, you horrible John Denison! I won't live with any man who treats me so. I'm going home this very day. And I'll stay too, so I will. My mother won't let me be treated so."

"All right, ma'am, I dare say a separation would suit us both much better."

"It would suit me, I'm sure."

Mrs. Jenny stopped crying, and her bright eyes being as red as her cheeks and much swollen, she did not look as pretty as usual.

"Very well, said Mr. Denison, taking up his hat to leave the room. "I will send a lawyer and we will divide the things fairly and have it done with. I'm willing to make a fair settlement for you, so that you won't have to look to your mother for money—and that's all I will do."

"That's all I want. And I don't care a snap if I never set eyes on you again."

"Tit-for-tat, Madam. No doubt we shall both be satisfied. I'll arrange affairs here and leave for a holiday at Hastings."

"Oh, oh, and you couldn't afford to let me have a month at Brighton. I'll —I'll get a divorce right off."

"No need. We'll just draw up an agreement to separate, and sign it before a lawyer, and save the publicity of a divorce. Neither of us will want to marry again, any how."

"I sohuld think not. One experience of that is enough."

"Well, we will arrange things immediately, and you can go to your mother's as soon as you please."

"I'm going now. You can send me my part of the things, for I shan't wait here another day."

"All right. Have you got money for your fare?"

"Yes, you gave me enough yesterday.

"Then I'll see the lawyer at once, and you can sign the papers before you go."

"No, I won't go to a lawyer's office. You can bring them down to mother for me to sign before you go to—to Hastings."

John went out, and Mrs Jenny, drying the last tear, went to her chamber and proceeded to pack her trunk, hailed a passing cab to take her to the station, left the coldest note of good-bye on a card for John, and at supper-time the same night, astonished her mother by walking in at the door of her old home, and saying she had come to stay forever.

Mrs. Smith who was a very amiable woman, and whom her son-in-law did not detest at all, guessed the state of the case very fairly.

And when Jenny's father, who did not at all approve of the course the child was taking, would have sent her back at once, she interposed, saying—

"No, no father. Just let this little domestic difficulty work it's own way. It will be very nice to have the child make us a little visit, and you'll see how it will end. Just keep your own counsel, and no one will be any the wiser."

So they told the neighbors that Jenny had come for a few days, and her husband would come for her when her visit was over.

Jenny did not say much, but her mother noticed that her eyes were red a good part of the time, and she did not care to go out anywhere with her friends.

The fourth day came a post-card from John, saying he would be there next day with the papers for Jenny to sign, and then she could tell him where to send her part of the things, so that he could break up and be off at once, for it was too lonely to stay in town.

Jenny said not one word when she tossed the card to her mother to read.

Neither did Mrs. Smith, but she smiled very significantly, and slipped the card away where no one else would get hold of it.

The next day, about the hour when John must arrive, Mrs. Smith took the carriage and drove away, saying she would be back in an hour or so, leaving Jenny to meet her husband alone.

Jenny tried to look very cold and haughty and succeeded in looking extremely silly.

John, on his part, tried to look very fierce and stern, and succeeded in looking very stiff and awkward while they were both very red in the face, and very nervous.

"I—I have brought—these," he said taking a package of papers from his pocket, "and if you will sign them I can go back to town this evening. Here is a pen and ink, I see."

"You will have to show me where to sign," says Jenny. "I never saw any —any such papers."

"Oh, certainly. Write here, and here, and here. And—ahem!—my—Jenny, I—I might as well say while we are about it, I don't bear you any ill-will."

"Oh, no, no! Nor I you," faltered poor Jenny.

"And I—I am sorry I said that about your mother. She's a good woman."

"Yes, John. And I'm sorry I said I hated your aunt Higgins."

"I forgive it, Jenny."

"And I—I—wish—I had gone there."

"Well, I wish I had let you go to Brighton. Will you sign now, Jenny?"

Jenny flung down the pen.

"No, no! I don't want to sign any old hateful papers! I don't want to have you go away, John. I can't stand it. I—oh, dear me!" Jenny burst into tears.

John jumped up, and caught her in his arms, and whispered—

"Pet, shall we go home together, and begin over again?"

"Yes, yes!" sobbed Jenny, with a dozen kisses.

And then—well, then, when Mrs. Smith came home she smiled again, and got the nicest supper she could for her reconciled children.

Some Large Lenses.

The thirty-inch objective for the great telescope of the Russian Observatory at Pulkova was lately tested at the establishment of the grinders, the Clarks, of Cambridgeport, Mass., and found to be fairly perfect. The flaw discovered before the grinding, due to imperfect cooling, has no effect on the definition, but lessens slightly the amount of light transmitted. The flaw is too slight to injure materially the efficiency of the lens, yet another block of glass, of the same size, has been ordered to be placed at the disposal of Professor Struve. For testing, the lens is mounted in a temporary telescope, forty-five feet long, and weighing, with its fittings, about seven tons. The lens weighs 450 pounds will cost when finished $60,000, and will be for a little while the largest in the world. The largest object-glass in use is the 26-inch lens at Washington, with a local length of 33 feet. Its light-gathering power is 16,000 times that of the unaided eye. The Pulkova glass will soon be excelled by that of the Lick telescope, the dish of glass for which is now in the establishment of the Clarks. It is 38 inches in diameter and 2 inches thich. When ground and polished it will be reduced to 36 inches. This glass is optically perfect. It was cast at Paris, France, where the Pulkova glass was, and weighs a little over 374 pounds. The casting occupied four days and the cooling thirty days.

Hawk Fisheries

The best fishers near Spring Lake. A hawk will hover for several minutes over the water of the inlet, looking with his sharp eyes for prey at a convenient distance below the surface. He is ready to snatch anything in the way of fish, but especially eels, of which he is very fond. But he despises crabs, for they give him trouble when he tries to handle them. He does not mind getting wet, but, if necessary, will go a foot or two under water. He grasps the fish in an instant, and, if not too heavy a prey, rises with it and flies away to his nest, which is in the top of a high tree, a mile or two off. Sometimes the fish is too weighty for him to carry or too brave a fighter for him to secure. In that case he tries it again, each time soaring aloft and taking a new observation and decending with lightning celerity to grasp the prey.

Retailing Human Flesh.

We have all heard the Chinese charged with infanticide. We believe that crime to be less prevalent with them than it is with us. If children are ever exposed, as has been seen on a wayside altar near Honam, we believe that bitter want, and a hope that charity would provide for the child better than the mother could, have been the moving causes. As a general rule self-interest acts as the strongest bar to this vice. That the life of the male children should be preserved is most important, as the Chinese law will compel the sons to maintain their parents, and in the event of all the sons dying no one would be able to offer that worship at the tomb of the father and mother on which their happiness in another state is supposed to depend. With girls, preservation is almost as important, and they are a marketable commodity either as wives or as servants. Indeed it is no rare thing to see a basketful of babies sent down from Canton to Hong Kong for sale at prices ranging from $2 to $5. These are all girls; and the purchase of the one or more of them is generally the first investment that a Chinese Aspasia makes of her earnings, a speculation sure ultimately to pay a very large interest on the money sunk. In denying the existence of infanticide it is necessary to make one exception. This is among the Tan-kia or boat population. These are a race of people of different descent and differut religion from the Chinese, governed by their own magistrates, and so looked down upon by the either classes that no child of a boat-woman can compete in the literary examinations, or, whatever his ability may be, become an aspirant for office. This class is excessively superstitious, and we have heard it stated by missionaries that when a child belonging to people of this class suffers from any lingering malady, and recovery becomes hopeless, they will put to death with circumstances of great cruelty, believing it to be not their child but a changeling, and fancying that a demon has taken the place of their offspring for the purpose of entailing on them expense and trouble for which they could never get any return.

Tobacco Stalks.

If we carefully examine a tobacco stalk we shall find that it is one of the best absorbents we have, fully equal to either straw or corn stalks. Each stalk contains a large pith at the bore of the plants fully one-half, or three-fourths of an inch in diameter, while the stalk itself being woody is also valuable for the purpose of retaing liquid fertilizers. When the stalk is dry it is sponge-like and retains a great quanity of liquid matter. The best way to utilize it for absorbents is to cut into short pieces, say from two to four inches in length, and use for bedding purpose. They may be scattered under cattle or horses even, while they are especially valuable in the pig pen. If either way is not practicable a sort of compost heap may be made by putting first a layer of stalks at the bottom and then cover with a layer of manure and so on, alternating the one with the other. In the spring, when fit to use, they will be found soft and full of liquid manure and as valuable for growth of plants as any fertilizer that can be had. When so treated they are especially valuable to put in the drill for either tobacco or potatoes, while as a top dressing for mowing nothing can be better. They also may be used by spreading broadcast on tobacco land, but should be plowed under just as soon as possible. One of the most practical farmers we know of, a gentleman of large experience in growing tobacco, cuts the stalks up and throws them into his hog pen, say from 20 to 25 bushels at a time. Then he scatters corn among the cut stalks, the hogs are turned in and the rooting begins, and so the manure and stalks are throughly mixed together.

Everything Froze Solid.

The markets of Irkutsk are an interesting sight in the Winter time, for everything on sale is frozen solid. Fish are piled up in stacks like so much cord wood, and meat likewise. All kinds of fowl are similarly frozen and piled up, many of them being stuck up in corners in fanciful attitudes. Some animals brought into the markets whole are propped up on their legs and have the appearance of being actually alive, and as you go though the markets you seem to be surounded by living pigs, sheep, oxen and fowls standing up and watching you as through you were a visitor to the barn-yard. You can scarcely realize that they are dead, so natural and life-like do they appear. But stranger yet even the liquids are frozen solid and sold in blocks. Milk is frozen into a block in this way, with a string or a stick frozen into or projecting from it. This is for the convenience of the purchaser who can take his milk by the string or stick and carry it home, swung across the shoulder. There is no need for milk cans or pails to take to market in Irkutsk. Other liquids are sold in the same way, and, so in a double sense such as is unknown in other countries, a man can buy his drink "with a stick in it."

A Costly House.

It is estimated that, when finished, the new house which the Marquis of Bute is building on the site of the house of Mountstuart, near Rothesay in Scotland, will have cost at least $1,250,000. He expects that it will be ready for use next summer. In the meantime an extensive force of workmen, who otherwise would not have employment from him, will be engaged on a large reservoir and splendid water-works which the Marquis has recently determined to construct.

A Novel Fire Department

A correspondent writing from Bayreuth, Germany, thus describes the efforts of the Fire Brigade of that place to extinguish a fire. I was awakened from a sound sleep by the loud beating of a drum under my windows. I could hear drums beating in various parts of the city, the church bells were ringing, there was the heavy tramp of soldiers through the street, people rushing about and shouting "Fire"—in fact every indication of a fire, except the noise of fire engines. A house a little way down the street was burning. A crowd had gathered there. I found the infantry guarding a patch of beans, the cavalry stationed about the potato patch with flashing sabres, and the artillery drawn up around a pear tree. The flames were crackling merrily among the beams. At last, around the corner appeared six big Germans carrying a small ladder, and, after them, six small Germans carrying a large ladder. These 12 Germans wore green suits and brass helmets. When they had managed to place the big ladder against the front of the house they ran away again. After a while we heard a rattling as though a dog with a tin can tied to his tail was running through the next street. The 12 Germans again turned the corner, drawing after them what looked like a tin box on wheels. It was the fire engine—an open tin box with a hand pump. A hose was attached. A fireman mounted the ladder. Another fireman carried the hose up to him. Meanwhile, women with large wooden paniers strapped to their backs brought water from the neighboring fountain and emptied it into the engine. Finally, everything was ready, and the pumping began. Several large streams of water came from the joints of the hose and wet the bystanders. A small stream came from the nozzle. The fire was such a trifle that they really managed to get it pretty well under control. Then they consulted as to whether they should adjourn then and there and get some beer or go on until the fire was completely out. They decided to adjourn. In about an hour they came back and finished their work. I heard one Bayreuther say to another that after all the Bayreuth fire brigade was the best in the world. The next day the city council voted a resolution of thanks and a compensation of 12½ cents to the women who carried the water from the fountain to the engine. During the "Parsifal" performances the firemen are distributed through the theatre. This seems to me unnecessary—the building could burn down without their assistance.

Gate of the Mountains.

A party of Helena, Montana, gentlemen, returned from a trip by boat through the Gate of the Mountains, report some very wonderful discoveries which will add immensely to the already great attractions of that remarkable region. While drifting lazily through the canon admiring the beautiful scenery overhanging both sides of the river, a band of mountain sheep were discovered high up on a bench of the precipice and landing was made with the object of a cold-blooded violation of the game law and of making an addition to the already large assortment of trophies of the chase of the well-known Nimrods of the party. After climbing several hundred feet to the bench upon which the animals had been seen, close and cautious scrutiny failed to discover the sheep, but one of the hunters came accidently upon what appeared to be the entrance to a cave, and with plenty of time at their disposal the party concluded to make explorations. The entrance was large enough to admit of walking upright and from three to seven feet wide. After following the opening some fifteen feet, with guns at full cock on the watch for any possible enemy, the party were forced to withdraw as it became too dark to advance safely.

Providing themselves with a plentiful supply of pine knots, another attempt was made, and very soon the party found themselves in an immense chamber of the cave. The imperfect light failed to show the height of the roof, but by pacing it was found that the room was about seventy-five feet wide by nearly two hundred feet long, irregular in form and with a rough, uneven floor. The action of water is plainly discerned in the cavern, stalactites and stalagmites showing plainly that at some remote date it was quite wet; but now it is dry. The floor in many places shows heaps of bones of animals, indicating that at one time it was a den of some family of carnivorous beasts; but no sign of any recent occupancy was to be seen. No other openings were found leading from this chamber, but closer search might reveal passages leading to other rooms.

Icebergs and Sunspots.

The remarkable ice condition on the North Atlantic and in the Iceland seas this year have been recently compared by an English meteorologist with those of the last fifty years, and the comparison seems to lead to the opinion that "ice-floes in the Atlantic have a decided tendency to occur to an unwonted extent about the time of maximum sun-spot like the present." The last epoch of maximum sun spot was in 1870, and it is something of a coincidence to find that, in a detailed list of icebergs reported by the North German steamer lines from 1860 to 1869, the greatest quantity of ice was encountered in 1868 and 1869, just preceding the maximum. The Goverment meteorologists of India have ascertained, by extended investigation, that the excessively heavy snowfails on the Himalaya Mountains have a tendency to recur periodically at the minimum sun-spot epochs, and it would seem probable from this fact that during the sun-spot minima the solar heat is greatest, and hence the evaporation from the Indian Ocean, which supplies the vapor for the abnormal Himalayan snowfall, is more abundant than in year of maximum sun-spot. Physicists have never been able to determine whether the sun's radiation of heat is greater during periods of maximum or minimum spottedness, so that the study of the great meteorological changes on the earth receives as yet but little help from the observed changes on the sun's face. It is more than probable that, in the case of the abnormal ice drifts occurring at intervals in the Atlantic, the cause of the phenomenon is to be looked for, not in the year of its occurrence, but in the two or three previous years. It cannot be assumed that a season marked by an exceptionally large outflow of ice from the Polar basin has been one of exceptionally high temperatures within that cold area. The extraordinary discharge of ice may be due to an accumulation in the ficrds and bays of Arctic lands, which has been going on for years, until at last the aggregated glacial formations are dislodged by their own weight and descend into the sea. Arctic navigators, since Cook's time, have also noted that the storms and wave-action of the Polar ocean are more effective in breaking up its shore ice and the large ice-fields than the sun's force. To either of these slow-working causes may possible be due the immense efflux of ice in 1882 from the Greenland seas. But, if the expedition now endeavoring to communicate with Lieutenant Greeley in Smith sound is successful, the meteorological data which that officer can furnish from his high Arctic station may tell something very interesting about the immensely larger fields and masses of ice which have issued this year from the Greenland seas, and which still affect the Atlantic near Newfoundland.

Bank Note Paper.

The fibered bank note paper on which American legal tender, national bank note currency and government bonds are printed, is made at Dalton Mass., in an old mill, whose existence dates back to colonial times. If you should stop at the old paper mill, with proper credentials, you may perhaps be allowed to handle a sheet of the crisp paper, where, as the wet, grayish pulp is pressed between heavy iron cylinders, bits of blue and red silk are scattered over its face and silken ribs laid on its surface. You may go beyond, into the counting room, where each sheet as it comes from the drying room is carefully examined and counted and then returned to the paper cutter to be divided into smaller sheets. If you trace this paper still further you will find that from the cutter's hands it passes again into the counting room, and is separated into little packages containing 1000 sheets each, the amount recorded in a register, and then packed into bunddles and stored in fire and burglar proof vaults to await shipment to the United States treasury. From the pulp-room to the vault the precious paper is watched and guarded as carefully as though each sheet were an ounce of gold. Its manufacture is one of the greatest secrets connected with the government's money making. From the vaults of the paper mill at Dalton to the guarded store rooms of the treasury at Washington is but a journey of two or three miles. In the capacious vaults of the treasury building, among gold, silver, copper and nickel coins, bullion, paper currency and official record, you will find thousands of packages of the bank-note paper that is manufactured at Dalton. It comes in little iron safes, such as are used by the Adams Express Company, and each package and every sheet is carefully counted before the manufacturer and express company are relieved of further responsibility. The paper that arrives to-day may lie in the treasury storeroom for years, or it may be sent to the bureau of engraving and printing to-morrow, to return in the course of a month's time a legal-tender or bank note.

The Rag-Pickers' Harvest.

As many as 2,000 rag-pickers find employment about the streets of New York. They are almost exclusively Italians, who have displaced the Irish and Germans who used to do the work. Their gatherings of rags are valued at $750,000 a year. The hand-cart dealers do a business of $3,000,000 a year. The aggregate rag trade of the city amounts to $30,000,000 a year. A prominent dealer estimates the number of rag dealers in the city at 800, about a fifth of them doing a large business. The general trade is controlled by a few extensive dealers. Last year the cotton rag importations reached $10,000,000 in value, the home gatherings being worth $12,000,000; the paper mills taking the whole supply. The cotton rags are worth from 1¼ to 6 cents a pound; the woolen rags from 3 to 35 cents a pound. The latter are used in making shoddy goods. The rags are sorted by women, who earn $5 a week, and packed by men, whose wages range from $12 to $14 a week. Some of the larger dealers have accumulated large fortunes.

Jurors in France.

In France fourteen jurors are drawn for each trial—twelve to form the jury and two to act as substitutes in case of sickness. The two substitutes are sworn and sit in the jury box, but take no part in finding the verdict unless they are required to fill a vacancy. Unanimity is not required in finding a verdict, but there must be a majority of eight to four to carry a conviction.

Tobacco.

In 1565 an apothecary of Augsburg, Germany, received dried tobacco leaves from France as a new drug. In the course of the seventeenth century a number of books on tobacco were published in Switzerland and Germany. In Italy, too, the clergy became protectors of the sanative herb. Bishop Tornaboni sent the first seed of the plant from Paris to Florence. To Rome the seed was first sent by Cardinal de Santa Croce (of the Holy Cross) Papal nuncio at Lisbon, and after him the plant was named the herb of the holy cross. But at Rome tobacco first met opposition. Pope Urban VIII, because laymen and clergymen were snuffing during divine service, excommunicated snuffers in 1624.

In Spain, at the convent of San Jago de Compostella, famous for pilgrimages, five monks were immured alive in 1692 because they had smoked at the choir in the evening. Yet Pope Benedict XIII, himself a passionate snuffer, allowed the use of tobacco again in 1724. Secular governments, too, opposed the use of tobacco. King James I. of England wrote a lengthy essay in Latin against it in 1603. The University of Oxford held a public disputation against the smoking of tobacco in 1605. In France only druggists were permitted to sell tobacco if prescribed by physicians. In Sweden, at the time of Gustavus Adolphus, smokers had to do penance in church. In Russia smokers were unmercifully whipped, while their noses were torn open in 1634. About the same time Sultan Murad IV. went around in Constantinople during the night time, accompanied by executioners, who had to kill those he discovered smoking.

In Persia soldiers found smoking were killed, and, with smashed hands and feet, thrown before their tents. Also among the Mohammedans the clergy were bitterly opposed to the use of tobacco. In Germany where the first smoking of tobacco was chronicled in 1620, the authorities waged war against its use, after the thirty years war, from 1618 to 1648, was over. The city council of Berne, Switzerland, ordained in 1661, that smoking of tobacco should receive the same punishment as adultery. But all that opposition was of no avail. Tobacco remained victor. Thereupon the government commenced to tax it. The Republic of Venice first did this in 1657. It decreed the sale and manufacture of tobacco to be a monopoly of the State, leased the same and derived a net income of 46,000 ducats from it during the first five years. This example was at once followed by the papal government at Rome, and in a short time by the governments of all the other States in Italy. In France, Colbert, the prime minister, made a similar arrangement in 1674, and the government of France derived from the sale and manufacture of tobacco a revenue of five hundred thousand livres in that year, which rose to 29,000,000 livres during the year 1787. In England also a tobacco monopoly of the State was established, but it lasted only about twenty years, when it was abolished, giving way to a tax on tobacco. In all civilized countries of Europe tobacco was heavily taxed in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The tobacco plant is now extensively raised in Europe, too, and manufactured there into snuff, smoking, and chewing tobacco all of which is taxed as luxuries. As to the production of tobacco, the Gartenlaube says: The annual amount of it raised at present is, in the United States, 3,400,000 hundred weights; Cuba 610,000; Brazil, 300,000; India, 150,000; Austria, 100,000; the Netherlands, 85,000; Italy, 93,000; Russia, 180,000, and Germany, 1,100,000.

Of the several States of the latter country Prussia produces, in round numbers, 230,000 hundred weights; Baden, 242,000; Bavaria, 156,000; Alsace-Lorraine, 160,000, and Hessia, 31,000. The tobacco raised on the whole earth amounts to about 13,000,000 hundred weights annually. The present annual consumption of tobacco per head of the total population is in Russia, 1 pound; France and England, each also 1 pound; Italy, 1½ pounds; Cuba, 21-5 pounds; Austria, 32-5 pounds; United States and Germany, each 3 pounds; Belgium, 54-5 pounds, and Holland, 535 pounds. Tobacco, in the shape of snuff, smoking and chewing tobacco, although in itself not a very attractive thing, has millions of devotes all over the world.

Harvest of the World.

As regards the crops of France maize is good in twenty-five departments and very good in two as against good in seven departments only last year. Rye shows a similarly favorable contrast. Barley shows a slight improvement. In Great Britain four hundred and fourteen inquiries have been sent to farmers asking their opinion on the growing crops. The replies, taking 100 as representing an average crop, show the following result: Wheat, 92.2; barley, 95.4; oats, 105.1; roots, 197.1; potatoes, 96.4. This may be compared with last year's figures, which were as follows: Wheat, 90; barley, 110; oats, 80; roots, 80, and potatoes 98. The wheat crop will probably be ten million quarters for consumption, leaving fourteen millions of quarters for which we shall be dependent on foreign supply. Spain is the only country from which he reports are unfavorable. In summarizing the result the *London Times* says: Never, during the time since these reports were collected, has the harvest in the Northern hemisphere been so good all round. We usually had to report a deficiency either in Europe or America. This year there is absolutely none. The world over then is an average harvest, and with such a harvest the year is likely to be one of cheap abundance."

A Mexican Graveyard.

It may have been the doleful effect of our feelings that decided us to drive over to the Mexican graveyard It is of small compass and rests on the side of a mountain. The Texans tell us death occurs here from the too frequent use of six-shooters rather than disease. The size of this graveyard, or "el muerto," corroborates this statement. It seems impossible for the Mexicans to free themselves from adobe, even after death. The bodies are placed in adobe tombs to keep them from the coyotes that infest this region. Some of these tombs are already almost completely demolished by these hungry animals. The bricks look light and as though easily crumbled, but on trying to move one I found it as heavy as stone of the same size. Blocks of wood, bearing Spanish inscriptions, were inserted in the heads of the tombs. They take no pains to beautify "el mureto." Inside a green railing was buried an American mother and child. The gate of the lot was padlocked an unnecessary precaution, as the railing was low enough to scale or light enough to be taken up and carried off, padlock and all.

We also drove down to see them making adobes. They make an "acequai" by drawing the water through a ditch from the creek to where the adobes are to be made. This water, clay and chopped hay form the adobe material. The workers presented a picturesque appearance the red handkerchiefs bound about their foreheads contrasting with their bronzed skins, glittering eyes and dark hair. They wore gay-colored shirts and pants that might have been white at the embarkation of Noah's ark. They were rolled high above the knees. Two of the men stood knee-deep in the mud, with which they loaded an oblong litter, trotting with it to a man on the hill above, who moulded the bricks. He had a hollow, rectangular frame, three inches in depth and divided in the centre.

Placing this on the ground he filled it with mud from the litter, smoothed the mud even at the top, and raising the litter, left two bricks on the ground, while the two men trotted back and again loaded the litter. After these adobes dry on the top they are turned sideways to harden in the sun. At night they are carefully covered with tarpaulin, in case of rain, which destroys them if it falls before they are hardened. The Mexicans, in building their houses, hollow out a place in front of the building, where the "acequai" is formed to make the adobe, and when the house is finished use this hollow for debris.

Thistles and Golden Rod.

The early part of September is the time to gather thistles for room embellishment. There may be some who do not know how to transform them into the white puffy balls which are sold in the stores and on the street. For such the following: Gather them when in full bloom; those gathered a little early will bloom in water. Holding by the pink top, insert a pocket-knife under the green points nearest the stem and bend them back. They will readily break off and the longer points will follow easily. The next thing to do is to pull out the pink; if they are fully bloomed this can be done without taking any of the white, silky fibres that are laid bare on removing the green. Hang them then by the stems in a sunny window a few days and you have delicate pretty things to fill the vases when the garden and wild flowers are gone. They may also be used effectively in conjunction with autumn leaves to cover picture cords. Then it is better to cut off the string stems and string the balls on threads. Large bunches of golden rod seem to be the correct street decoration for the corsage. They are worn at the belt or just over the heart. The addition of two or three large thistles gives one a very formidable, touch-me-not appearance. The miss who dares wear them has presumably learned the secret of handling the prickly things, which is simply to press the hand firmly and with the courage that will grow with experience, in the direction of the points, that is, toward the purplish-pink tops.

Products of Texas.

The following is a summary of the amount and value of the products of the State of Texas for the year ending August 31, 1882, as follows:—Cotton, 878,854 bales, value, $50,094,678; wool, 22,299,652 pounds, value, $5,128,919; hides, 13,582,765; pounds, $1,628,735; cattle, 691,358, $16,654,070, horses and mules 33,724 head, $1,093,100; lumber and shingles, $644,120; grain and hay, $8,497,625. cotton seed, cotton seed cake and oil, $2,485,740; miscellaneous products, $3,427,668; sugar and molasses, $725,694. Total value, $97,380,458. During the year there were completed 1641 miles of railroad, at an estimated cost for construction and equipment of $44,525,000. The state now has 5908 miles of completed railroads costing for building and equipment $165,806,000.

A Demented Widow.

The will of the late Ex-Governor C. C. Washburn, of Wisconsin, which disposes of property worth $2,500,000, is to be contested by relatives of his wife. Mrs. Washburn became insane twenty years ago, and has lived since in an insane asylum, the money for her support being given by her husband. His will provides that the yearly allowance he made for this purpose shall be continued. Under the laws of Wisconsin, however, a wife, whether sane or insane, is entitled to a dowry of one-third of an undivided estate. The will, lawyers hold, can be set aside on this ground.

NEWS IN BRIEF

—There are 1,165 lawyers in Boston.

—Acting Vice President Davis is in North Carolina.

—There were 321 families evicted in Ireland in July.

—Patti will return to the United States in October.

—A French watering place costume is of amber merino.

—The cold season has hurt business at the German baths.

—In the cities of Venice and Amsterdam there are 750 bridges.

—Camp-meetings were held in this country as early as 1779.

—The corn crop in Cuba has been destroyed by the drought.

—Russia has increased 14,500,000 in population in the last twelve years.

—The demand for French cookies is greatly on the increase in England.

—Nevada will send from 40,000 to 50,000 beef cattle to market this year.

—In 1875 sixty tons of human hair were exported from China to Europe.

—An ostrich egg is considered equivalent to twenty-four eggs of the domestic hen.

—A Pittsburg firm is turning out glass slabs for use on furniture in lieu of marble.

—Cyprus is said to entail a clear annual expense of $450,000 on the English Government.

—A movement is on foot among the lawyers of Texas to organize a State Bar Association.

—In Java an inferior must walk with his hands on his heels until his superior is out of sight.

—It is reported that Genl. Abe Buford will soon start a "Christian Army" paper at Louisville.

—France and Germany will purchase $100,000,000 worth of grain in the United States this year.

—A new military post has been ordered constructed on the Niobrara river in Northern Nebraska.

—Captain Carey has written a long account of Prince Napoleon's death for a London society journal.

—The bankers of Indiana are to hold a meeting in Indianapolis on the 1st of October to form a State society.

—In one part of Russia they were recently praying for rain, while in another part it had rained six weeks incessantly.

—Dr. Franz Hoffman, whose story books delighted two generations of German children, has just died in Dresden.

In 1871 the revenue of the Suez Canal amounted to about $1,700,000; in 1881 it had grown to more than $10,000,000.

—The product of California quicksilver mines last year was 60,851 flasks, and the exports by sea and rail were 45,779 flasks.

—Mme. Christine Nilsson is at Divonne, a watering place in Southern France. She will sail for the United States on October 14.

—Mr. Sackville West, the English Minister at Washington, will make a brief trip to England in October to attend to some business matters.

—The Summer corps of New York physicians recently visited 5,078 tenement houses and 30,012 families, and prescribed for 739 sick persons.

—Savannah refuses to allow any more street railways in that city, for the reason that the present companies have abused the privileges granted them.

—Joseph Jefferson, the actor, has presented to his life-long friend, Attorney General Brewster, a fine view of a Southern landscape, painted by himself.

—A marriage is announced as arranged between the daughter of Baron Gustave de Rothschild and Mr. Lambert, the agent of the house of Rothschild in Brussels.

—It is said that Prince Alexander, of Bulgaria, is betrothed to the younger sister of Queen Nathalie of Servia. Her Majesty is daughter of Colonel Keshko in the Russian army, and of his wife *nee* Princess Stourdza.

—They make something besides office-holders in Washington, the manufacturing establishments of the city having a capital of $5,381,226, employing 7,116 persons, while their products are valued at $11,641,185.

—The families of two men lynched for cattle stealing at Pueblo, Col., have sued the county for $50,000, on the ground that the men were not properly protected by the officers.

—It is said that Minister Hunt will soon return from Russia, to look after the large property left to him and his daughter by a gentleman who died a few weeks ago at New Orleans.

—The Crown lands of Australia, besides the reserves for roads, bridges, etc., comprise 32,000,000 unalienated acres, classified as follows: Agricultural lands, 9,000,000 acres; pastoral, 12,000,000 acres; inferior land, called the "Mallee scrub," 11,000,000 acres.

—Of the United States is $29,800,000,000, or $900 per capita; of Great Britain, $44,000,000,000, which is $1,260 per head; France, $37,200,000,000, or $1,045 per capita. In 1840 Great Britain's wealth was five times as great as ours.

—President Grevy of France has been invested with the order of the Golden Fleece by the King of Spain, his neck being adorned by the same collar worn by the late Czar Alexander II. This Order is one of the most distinguished in all Europe, having been founded in 1427 by Philippe III, Duke of Burgundy.

—Fisherman in Penobscot Bay say that the mackerel fishing has been a total failure there this season, and in spite of denials, they reiterate the story that the menhaden steamers seine for mackerel along the coast of Maine and threaten their destruction.

—Paul Tulane, of Princeton, N. J., who has given New Orleans a handsome school fund, is about 82 years old. He rode on horseback from Princeton to New Orleans in 1818, and as early as 1828 had amassed a fortune of some $150,000. He is a bachelor and lives quietly at Princeton, where he is known for his charitable deeds.

—The excavations undertaken by Dr. Schliemann at Hissarlik having come to a close, Hamdi Bey, Director of the Imperial Museum at Constantinople, has gone to the Dardanelles with several other antiquarians for the purpose of receiving the share of the discovered treasures which, by the terms of the firman, belongs to the Imperial Government.