

"The Solid South" will be a financial phrase ten years hence, predicts the Chicago Times-Herald.

The peach blossom has been selected by a vote of the school children of Delaware as the floral emblem of the State.

It is remarked by a statistician that the States which have the largest percentage of women teachers have also the lowest per cent. of illiteracy.

Professor Cesare Lombroso, who advises that children and youths of habitual criminal tendencies be isolated as lunatics, says there is scarcely a child who does not abuse his power over those who are weaker than he.

If England sees fit to equip its most important war vessels with wire wound guns, this country must follow suit, declares the New York Telegram. The wire-wound segmental cannon is an American device that has proved under tests by this Government to be practically unburstable.

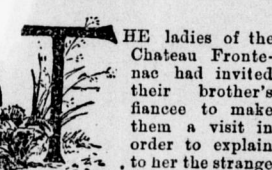
Professor Dyche, of Kansas University, says that he has practically decided to make another trip to the Arctic.

A SONG OF LIBERTY.

Across the land from strand to strand, Load ring the bugle notes, And Freedom's smile from isle to isle Like Freedom's banner floats!

THE PHANTOM BELLS.

BY MRS. M. L. RAYNE.



THE ladies of the Chateau Frontenac had invited their brother's fiancée to make them a visit in order to explain to her the strange shadow which hovered over their house for nearly a hundred years, and to whose baneful influence she must become habituated, when a member of the family.

When they first saw Clotilde, she was so young and timid they made up their minds to wait until Gaspard himself came, but one night as they sat around the great hall-fire there was a great jingle of sleighbells and the sound of swift runners on the crisp snow outside, and then that muffled clash at the door which announced the stopping of the turnout, and the arrival of guests.

Surely there was nothing uncommon in this, the coming of a party of merry people to a country house, and on a magnificent moonlight night when the whole landscape was as light as day! Yet instead of looking pleased or surprised, the ladies sank back in their chairs, and covering their faces with their hands, murmured a prayer.

Clotilde, the little one, clasped her hands, and asked earnestly: "Might it be, my friends, that it is Gaspard, who has come with a surprise?"

"No, Clotilde, it will not be our Gaspard. Mon Dieu, how then shall we tell her? Child, do you not to the door? Those sleighbells you hear are not of the flesh and blood—I mean the driver is not."

But the little Clotilde had run joyously to the great hall door, and though no servant stood there to open it, she swung it wide on its massive hinges. A bitter blast of cold air rushed in with a dreary, wailing sound, and no sleigh stood outside, but even as the startled girl watched, a clash of musical bells and the swift sound of the steel-shod runners filled the area of snow. She turned whiter than a lily in the somber moonlight, and flung the door to, affrighted.

a fine picture the country folk ght her; and that Gaspard was admitted, too, for so the story came to us, and their pictures are a the salon, though some think us not of the right mind to keep them there.

"It comes soon now, petite, the tragedy of those two. One night, just such a night as this, they went riding in the ro gay spirits, and going up hill for the second or third time what should they see but another sleigh coming down! It was coming fast, and my great uncle knew it was death for one side or the other, since pass they could not. And he shouted to the other driver to halt!

"Ah, it was too sad. Oh, on, came the other sleigh, fast like the wind, and my great uncle Gaspard saw that it would injure a pistol, and he quickly drew a pistol, and fired to kill the horse, before it was too late. And his own horse, he got such a fright he plunge over the side, throwing him out, but taking his bride down to death!

"He lived, but like a man in a dream, till some one tell him the truth that on that night there was no other sleigh but his own, and that he saw the shadow was of his own, in some way I know not the exact, the moonlight make that effect by what you call projecting the shadow, and when he knew that, he take again the pistol and with it end his misery and his life."

A long silence succeeded this weird tale and then Clotilde asked in a broken voice: "Is it then that the sleigh is a ghost?" "Yes, petite, a—what you call phantom."

"I am not afraid. I accept, and will pray to give the poor ghosts peace."

It was not like the Loup-Garou, not to the mind of Clotilde half as dreadful, but she was not really afraid of these because her old uncle had much sense, and he did not believe one of these stories, although tell them he did, and most graphically.

Again on the following evening came the sound of bells, and this time Clotilde went not near the door, but sat moving her sweet lips in prayer. Then the door was flung violently open and a brusque, cheery voice called:

"Hello, there, Victor, Alphonse, you varlets, where are you hiding?" Certainly this was no ghost, and the three women who clung about his neck gave frantic evidence of joy at his coming. Clotilde was not one of the three. A big old man in a fox-skin coat had taken her in his arms, and was talking to her in gentle burr, the old uncle who told her the dreadful stories, and then she slipped one small hand into her lover's and looked at him with shy, happy eyes.

"It was so good of you to come instead of the ghosts," she said, when later they sat cooing in a corner, while the uncle, who was a great favorite with the young Gaspard, was making himself agreeable to the ladies.

"Then you know, dear little one?" said the young man. "And you are not afraid to make your home in the Chateau Frontenac?"

"Not with my 'Gaspard,' came the soft answer, "but I like it better if the ghosts come not, and your sisters, they are sorry, too. But afraid—no!" "What of this so much being afraid?" asked a gruff voice, and the old uncle of Clotilde hobbled over to the corner where snatches of their conversation located the two lovers.

Then he was told the story of the ghostly sleigh, and looked wise and thoughtful for the rest of the evening. The shrewd French Canadian was filled with marvelous stories of ghosts which he loved to relate, but none of which he believed, not even his stock fright-story, the legendary Loup-Garou.

The next morning Uncle Pierre was missing from the chateau, but no one was disturbed, he had taken his gun, and would return when he pleased, which was at nightfall, and simultaneously with his coming rang out the jangling, invisible bells.

He found the family shivering around the great fire as if they were stricken with deadly cold. Even Gaspard looked troubled and the little Clotilde was trying to assure him that she was not—"Oh, no, not the least afraid!"

SELECT SIFTINGS.

Corn is being used as fuel in Central Iowa.

Bristol, Penn., claims the credit of holding the first annual fair in Pennsylvania.

Crab pots and eel pots are exact models, on an enlarged scale, of the Emperor moth.

It is said that two women swindlers have been selling colored sawdust for ground coffee at Dunkirk, Penn.

A citizen of Bridgeton, Maine, who is nearly ninety years of age, was shaved for the first time one day recently.

The Mexican sword, in use among the aborigines at the coming of the Spaniards, was modeled after the nose of the sawfish.

Chicory is used to adulterate coffee, Chunks of dried carrot are used to adulterate chicory, but the carrot is rock bottom.

Thieves visited John Brook's farm, at Plymouth, Montgomery County, Penn., and stole a live porker weighing 250 pounds.

Lots of acorns are bought in Pike County, Missouri, and sent to spice mills in St. Louis, to be made into coffee and spices.

A mountain lion measuring eleven feet from nose to tail, and weighing 250 pounds, was killed in San Antonio canyon, Cal., recently.

The use of nets in fishing for sturgeon is rapidly supplanting other methods of taking the big fish in the upper Columbia and Snake Rivers. The nets are from 600 to 900 feet long, and the meshes vary in size between two and nineteen inches.

I. possession of the Baroness Burdet-Coutts is a guinea which she treasurers above all her minor belongings. Her grandfather, who was a gentleman of slovenly outward appearance, was given it by a benevolent old party, who chanced to mistake him for a pauper.

Several large consignments of salmon eggs have lately been sent from this country to Europe. A crate of 50,000 eggs was shipped from the United States fishery at Baird, Cal., to Ireland, and another crate, containing 50,000 eggs, was shipped from the same place to Germany.

Two hunters of Boise, Idaho, had a sorrowful experience. They spent half a day loading shells, being dissatisfied with those on sale, and next morning drove twenty-two miles to the hunting grounds. On arriving there they discovered that they had left all their ammunition at home in Boise.

A fox and a hunter together stalked a partridge near Tyron, Vt., the other day, but each unknown to the other. The bird alighted in an apple tree behind a barn, and the hunter tiptoed around one side of the barn and brought the bird down. But as the bird dropped, the fox, coming round the other side of the barn, seized it and was off with his dinner before the hunter could appreciate what had happened.

"Little Kentucky," as it might be dubbed very appropriately, is located opposite Island No. 10, where Kentucky and Tennessee meet. The river, by gradually cutting out the Kentucky bank, had worn off a narrow strip of land, until one bright morning several people who lived on this side of the line woke up to find themselves on the other side. In other words, the swift current had washed away the neck of earth which made the extreme southwestern corner of this State a part of the commonwealth of Kentucky. The section of territory thus separated from its parent, as it were, is ten miles long and five miles wide—quite a good mouthful to take in at one bite, even for the greedy Mississippi.

Every well-posted river man and every person who is acquainted with the geography and topography of this State will understand how such a thing could happen. Right at the State line the river forms a loop about ten miles long. The loop extends up into Fulton County. The swift stream has simply drawn this noose tight and formed an island out of what was formerly a peninsula. Hickman is the closest town of any size to the place where all this land making occurred. Darnell, a little hamlet over in Obion County, Tennessee, is quite near the spot.

The boundary line between Kentucky and Tennessee has always been rather complicated down about Island No. 10, owing to the peculiar bend in the Mississippi mentioned above. The lakes, bayous and sloughs which bisect that corner of Fulton County in all directions also serve to mix matters. The biting off of such a large strip of soil will add to the general confusion, and the question may arise as to whether "Little Kentucky" will hereafter belong to the domain of the volunteer State or still be a part and parcel of the dark and bloody ground.—Paducah News.

Hanoverian Etiquette.

One of the minute points of etiquette upon which the King of Hanover insisted that he would not receive visitors for a first presentation to him except in uniform. Sir Joseph Crowe had no uniform, and he comments on "the fact that a King who was utterly blind could not see [sic] unless the person he wished to honor was in uniform." An American journalist was once refused an interview with the same King of Hanover on the same ground; but he was ultimately more successful, for, pleading that he was an American republican, and therefore could not do otherwise than appear without a uniform, he was received, the King commenting himself at the beginning of the interview upon the special ground for the exception.—The Atheneum.

"TARIFF REFORM" AND PEARL BUTTONS.



In 1893 we imported 13,057,642 lines of pearl buttons. In 1895 we imported 18,537,049 lines. Americans, under the Gorman tariff, were deprived of the work that could have been utilized in making 5,500,000 lines of pearl buttons. The amount of duty collected on foreign pearl buttons in 1893 was \$393,245. In 1895 it was \$241,193. By the Gorman law, the American Government lost \$150,000 of revenue while American labor lost the work of making 5,000,000 lines of buttons. Who derived any benefit from this species of "tariff reform"? Not our Government, not our workers; but foreign manufacturers and foreign labor.

UTAH--OUR NEW STATE.

EXTENT OF ITS VALUABLE PRODUCTS AND INDUSTRIES.

Farms, Mines and Factories a Source of Interminable Wealth--Active Progress and Public Improvements Always in Hand--A Bright and Brainsy Senator.

The admission of Utah as a State of the Union suggests a brief review of its agricultural, mineral and industrial conditions, which we are able to compile from the annual report of the Governor of the Territory, Hon. Caleb W. West.

The population of Utah increased 44.4 per cent. between 1880 and 1890, and 14.15 per cent. between 1890 and 1895. It now stands at a total of 247,324 persons, of whom 126,803 are males and 120,521 females. The assessed valuation of real and personal property and improvements was \$97,942,152; the revenue from taxes was \$497,516. Almost \$2,750,000 were expended last year on private and public buildings and in public works, and 440,000 acres of land were surveyed.

Table with 4 columns: Crop, Acres, Bushels, Value. Lists crops like Wheat, Corn, Rye, Barley, Oats, Apples, Peaches, Apricots, Plums, Pears, Grapes, Fruits, and Sheep with their respective values.

Besides the above there were produced 866,322 pounds of dried fruits, 200,000 gallons of cider, vinegar and sorghum, 3,441,732 pounds of butter, 820,747 pounds of cheese and 1,102,121 pounds of honey. Of live stock, more than sheep, Utah has 300,000 head of cattle, including 60,595 milch cows, 47,703 hogs and 5090 head of mules and other animals.

The industrial condition of Utah shows 880 manufacturing concerns, employing 5054 hands who earn \$2,027,118 a year. The amount of capital invested is \$5,476,246, the value of the plants is \$5,986,215, the value of the raw material used is \$2,610,033 and the value of the product of the factories is \$8,678,118. For commercial purposes, Utah has 1974 stores employing 6023 hands who earn \$2,685,794. The capital invested in the stores amounts to \$14,551,345 and the sales aggregate \$93,865,611. The capital of the banks exceeds \$5,000,000 and the amount of the deposits was \$9,689,267 last year, an increase of \$423,000 over the deposits in 1894. There are 1880 miles of railroad in the State and eighty-four miles of electric roads.

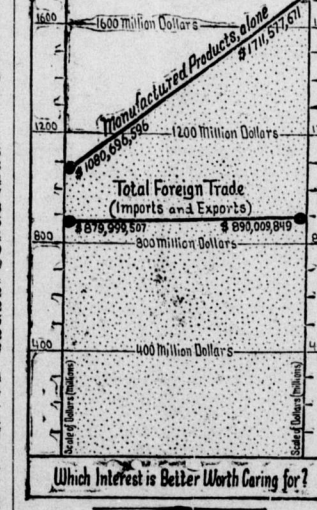
The mineral interests of Utah are important. Briefly summarized they are as follows: Coal and silver. Number of mines, 12. Employees, 139. Wages paid, \$59,775. Output, tons, 62,101. Cost of plant, \$46,708. Cost of development, \$3,991,155. The entire mineral product of Utah is next given:

Table with 2 columns: Quantity and Value. Lists items like copper, refined lead, unrefined lead, fine silver, etc., with their values.

Total export value, Computing the gold and their mint valuation, and at their value at the sea, it would increase the value of the product to \$11,631,402.72.

The last delegate sent to Congress from the Territory of Utah was Hon. Frank J. Cannon. Upon the admission of Utah to Statehood it is believed that he will be elected the first United States Senator. Mr. Cannon is a young man, bright, energetic and progressive. He has already made many friends in Congress and gained the respect of the older members by his diligence and intelligence. He is expected to make a name for himself in National politics. So large and diversified are the industrial interests of Utah that he is a firm believer in the policy of protection for the United States.

New York's Important Interest.



Facts.

The decrease in our exports of American products and manufactures during the first fifteen months of the Gorman tariff, as compared with the first fifteen months of the McKinley tariff, was \$20,353,320.

The decrease in our imports under the Gorman tariff, comparing the same periods, was \$63,138,975.

The excess of exports over imports in the McKinley period was \$213,972,968, but only \$55,755,623 under the Gorman period, a loss, under the latter, of \$157,217,345.

Under the Gorman tariff we exported \$20,010,210 more gold and imported \$17,759,052 less gold than during the McKinley period. The net loss in the trade balance of the United States has been \$193,933,607 during the first fifteen months' operation of the Gorman tariff as compared with the first fifteen months of the McKinley tariff. This loss is at the rate of \$13,130,000 a month, or \$500,000 for every business day in the month.

Facts About Furniture.

The furniture men want free lumber, free glue, free varnish and everything else free, says Editor Godkin of the New York Evening Post, the great destroyer of many industries for the benefit of the few. They have free lumber. What good does it do them? Here are our imports of foreign furniture and the amount of revenue derived therefrom:

Table with 4 columns: Year ending, Value of imports, Total duties collected, Ad valorem rate. Lists data for years 1892, 1893, and 1894.

We give Mr. Godkin, and the other "placid old fogies" of the local branch of the Cobden Club, all the comfort they can derive from the foregoing facts. During the first year of free lumber we have imported \$40,470 worth more of foreign furniture and the Government has lost \$25,137 in revenue on furniture alone without reckoning the million dollars' loss of revenue through placing lumber on the free list. It may also be mentioned that in nine months of this year we captured \$243,444 worth less of the furniture trade of the world than we secured in the corresponding months of 1894. Notwithstanding these great boons from free lumber, we noted the other day the failure of one of the largest American furniture manufacturers. Of course the fact that the people are not able to purchase as much furniture as in 1892 and 1893 has nothing to do with the failure.

Labor Looms Up.

At a special meeting of the Philadelphia Workingmen's Protective Tariff League the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, The Wilson Tariff bill, after one year's trial, has failed to raise sufficient revenue to meet the expenses of the Government, while under its operation the imports of manufactured goods have increased in some instances by 200 per cent.

"Whereas, The Fifty-fourth Congress will be called upon to devise some means to increase the revenue for the support of the Government, and

"Whereas, The late verdict of the American workingmen, as expressed by their ballots on November 5, is a further condemnation to the present revenue system, and is also a fresh mandate to their representatives in Congress to make the necessary change in the present tariff bill so as to afford adequate protection to all American industries, and also to raise sufficient revenue to defray the necessary expenses of the Government without having to resort to the questionable method of issuing bonds for that purpose; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we enter our protest against any further internal taxes upon the American people, but believe that all additional revenue should be raised by increasing the duty on imports, especially imports coming in competition with the production of American labor.

Let Louisiana Celebrate.

It has been suggested by the Chamber of Commerce of New Orleans that the one hundredth anniversary of the admission of Louisiana into the Union be celebrated, on December 20, 1903, by a great international exposition of the products of the world's progress. Such a celebration would practically include Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and parts of Utah and Colorado, as these States were included with the purchase of the Louisiana of to-day when the French flag was lowered in 1803. The idea is a good one, because it cannot fail to convince our Southern friends of the great advance that the country has made, both in its agricultural and industrial resources, during the undisturbed period of protection that ended in 1893, a policy that, let us all hope, will again be in operation in 1903.

Protection--Free Trade.

The exports of 1895 in domestic merchandise were \$75,812,333 less than in 1894; and the imports were \$76,975,843 greater in 1895 than in 1894.—Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, December 16, 1895.

This Is Official.

The year 1894 was one of large exports and diminished imports; 1895 was a year of large imports and diminished exports.—Secretary Carlisle's Annual Report, December 16, 1895.

Good Maxims.

Raise revenue, not debt. Increase wage earnings, not interest payments.

Memo for Grover.

Dead ducks have no use for "energizing paternalism."

His Collar Exploded.

William Benjamin, a brakeman on the Erie Railroad, caught a spark on the back of his collar as his train entered the station at Hillsdale, N. J. The collar took fire and exploded with a loud report. Benjamin seized the collar with both hands and tore it from his neck. He was burned severely on the face, neck and hands. He will be disabled for some time.

A Novel Headlight.

The Queen and Crescent Railroad is using with success an arrangement which varies the reflection of the headlight of the locomotive as it goes around curves to strike the track. It is effective up to a curve of forty-five degrees.