

MIDDLEBURGH, PA., AUG. 17, 1893.

Mulhall estimates that the civilized Nations annually pay \$13,700,000,000 for food.

The Midnight Band of Mercy is the name of a New York society, organized for the purpose of chloroforming cats.

The San Francisco Chronicle avers that the great majority of the Siberian convicts are on the moral level of the brutes of the field, and any kindness shown to them would be regarded as a sign of weakness on the part of their overseers.

At the auction sale, the other day, of the personal property of the late Governor Hale, of New Hampshire, stocks having a par value of \$2,700,000, and promissory notes with a face value of \$57,000, were sold to the highest bidder for less than \$7.

Mexico's Government has again resorted to its old plan of scaling salaries from five to ten per cent. in order to keep expenses within its income, but this time the money taken from the salaries is to be returned to the employes next year in three per cent. bonds.

In education Spain is far behind any other European country, Russia excepted. There are school laws that would be useful if they were enforced. Less than one-third of the adult population are able to read and write; but a considerable number of new schools have been established within recent years.

The entire sum realized by the Spitzer sale of antiques in Paris, which has been one of the longest if not greatest on record, amounts to \$2,400,000. The treasures collected by M. Spitzer are now spread over many countries, but England has a good share of the spoil, and some of the finest specimens are already to be seen in the rooms of the very first dealers in objects d'art in London.

Professor C. K. Jenness, of the Stanford University, California, who has been investigating the tramp problem by dressing as a vagabond and mixing with the wanderers, says that it is a mistake to suppose that tramps are mostly of the regular type. Most of the regular tramps are of the regular type, but the irregular tramps are of the irregular type.

James Gordon Bennett has established in Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Columbia colleges, the University of New York and the College of the City of New York annual prizes intended to encourage young men to prepare themselves for the profession of journalism. In each institution the prize will consist of the interest on \$1000. The competition for the prizes is to be in the form of essays in English prose on subjects of contemporaneous interest in the foreign or domestic policy of the Government of the United States.

Orchid hunting in the tropics leads to strange adventures, observes the Atlanta Journal. M. Hamelin, who has sent the most valuable specimens ever received in England, while recently searching in the woods of Madagascar, had for a guide the brother of Chief Mayombosa. The guide was killed by a lion. Hamelin returned alone. After his recital the irate chief gave him the option of marrying the widow or being greased and burned.

He chose the lesser evil, but he was obliged with the marriage a contract in which the chief undertook to close his lands to all other orchid seekers.

It seems to be the mission of England to make the world monotonous. Wherever in Asia or Europe her influence is at all strong, it operates to divest the natives of their customary raiment and fit them out with English shirts, elastic braces and tail coats. You no longer see the gondolier of the Grand Canal in the picturesque garb memorialized in old paintings; he has learned from the English how trousers may be held up with one suspender; how a nail may serve for the missing button and how effective it is to go about "in shirt sleeves." In the Alps, in the Tyrol and along the Nile no native wears the old native costume any more than sailors wear rolling collars and flapping trousers. Some of the hotels make the "National dress" the livery of the servants, which is the only sight a stranger gets of it on main-traveled roads.

NOTHING NEW.

The spider weaves his gauzy web; Quick each false step retrieving, He's weaving on and weaving on— Fast in and out his swift thread goes From morn till night, from night till morn, And why so fast—the whole world knows That old, old web he's weaving.

STRIKING BACK.

BY ROBERT BARR.

GEORGE STREETER was in Paris, because he hoped and expected to meet Alfred Davison there. He knew that Davison was going to be in Paris for at least a fortnight, and he had a particular reason for wishing to come across him in the streets of Paris rather than in the streets of London.

Streeter was a young author who had published several books, and who was getting along as well as could be expected, until suddenly he met a check. The check was only a check as far as his own self-esteem was concerned; for it did not in the least retard the sale of his latest book, but rather appeared to increase it. The check was unexpected, for where he had looked for a caress he had received a blow. The blow was so well placed and so vigorous, that at first it stunned him. Then he became unreasonably angry. He resolved to strike back.

The review of his book in the Argus was vigorously severe, and perhaps what maddened him more than anything else was the fact that, in spite of his self-esteem, he realized the truth of the criticism. If his books had been less successful, or if he had been newer as an author, he might possibly have set himself out to profit by the keen thrusts given him by the Argus. He might have remembered that although Tennyson struck back at Christopher North, calling him rusty, crusty and musty, yet the poet eliminated from later editions all blemishes which musty Christopher had pointed out.

Streeter resolved to strike back, with something more tangible than a sarcastic verse. He quite admitted, even to himself, that a critic had every right to criticize—that was what he was for; but he claimed that a man who pretended to be an author's friend, and who praised his books to his face, had no right to go behind his back and pen a criticism so scathing as that which appeared in the Argus, for Streeter knew that Alfred Davison had written the criticism in the Argus, and Davison had pretended to be his friend; and had pretended, as well, that he had a great admiration for Streeter's books.

As Streeter walked down the Boulevard des Italiens, he saw, seated in front of a cafe, the man whom he hoped to meet; and, furthermore, he was pleased to see that the man had a friend with him. The recognition of author and critic was mutual. "Hallo, Streeter!" cried Davison; "when did you come over?" "I left London yesterday," answered Streeter.

"Then sit down and have something with us," said Davison, cordially. "Streeter this is my friend Harmon. He is an exile and a resident in Paris, and, consequently, likes to meet his countrymen. What will you have to drink, Streeter?" "Bring me a glass of seltzer," said Streeter to the garçon who stood ready to take the order.

When the waiter returned with a glass of seltzer Streeter pulled out his purse. "No, no!" cried Davison; "you are not going to pay for this—you are drinking with me." "I pay for my own drinks," said Streeter, surlily.

"Not while I invite you to drink with me!" protested the critic. "I pay for this seltzer." "Very well; take it, then!" said Streeter, picking up the glass and dashing the contents in the face of Davison. Davison took out his handkerchief. "What do you mean by that, Streeter?" he asked, as the color mounted to his brow.

for you; for your conduct appeared to be premeditated. "You are quite right," answered Streeter; "I have a couple of friends to whom I shall be pleased to introduce you. Come this way, if you will be so kind."

The preliminaries were speedily arranged and the meeting was to take place next morning at daylight, with pistols. Now that everything was settled, the prospect did not look quite so pleasant to Streeter as it had done when he left London. Davison had asked for no explanation; but that, of course, could be accounted for, because this critical sneer must be well aware of the reason of the insult. Still, Streeter had rather expected that he would perhaps have pretended ignorance, and on receiving enlightenment might have avoided a meeting by apologizing.

Anyhow, Streeter resolved to make a night of it. He left his friends to arrange for a carriage, and see to all that was necessary, while he donned his war-paint and departed for a gathering to which he had been invited, and where he was to meet many of his countrymen and countrywomen in a fashionable part of Paris. His hostess appeared to be overjoyed to see him.

"You are so late," she said, "that I was afraid that something had occurred that would keep you from coming altogether." "Nothing could have prevented me from coming," said Streeter, gallantly, "where Mrs. Woodford was hostess." "Oh, that is very nice of you, Mr. Streeter!" answered the lady; "but I must not stand here talking with you, for I have promised to introduce you to Miss Neville, who wishes very much to meet you. She is a great admirer of yours and has read all your books."

"There are not very many of them," said Streeter, with a laugh; "and, such as they are, I hope Miss Neville thinks more of them than I do myself." "Oh, we all know how modest authors are!" replied his hostess, leading him away to be introduced. Miss Neville was young and pretty; and she was evidently pleased to meet the rising young author.

"I have long wanted to see you," she said, "to have a talk with you about your books." "You are very kind," said Streeter, "but perhaps we might choose something more profitable to talk about?" "I am not so sure of that. Perhaps you have been accustomed to hear only the nice things people say about you. That is the misfortune of many authors."

"It is a misfortune," said Streeter. "What a writer needs is somebody to tell him the truth." "Ah!" said Miss Neville, "that is another thing I am not so sure about. Mrs. Woodford has told you, I suppose, that I have read all your books. Did she add that I detested them?" "On the contrary," said Streeter, "she said she had liked them very much."

"Of course," she said, "Mrs. Woodford does not know. It is not likely that I would tell her I detested your books while I asked for an introduction to you. She took it for granted that I meant to say pleasant things to you, whereas I had made up my mind to do the exact reverse. No one would be more shocked than Mrs. Woodford—unless, perhaps, it is myself—if she knew I was going to speak frankly with you."

"I am not shocked," said the young man, seriously; "I recognize that there are many things in my books which are blemishes." "Of course you don't mean that," said the frank young woman; "because if you did you would not repeat the faults in book after book." "A man can but do his best," said Streeter, getting annoyed in spite of himself, for no man takes kindly to the candid friend. "A man can but do his best, as Hubert said whose grandsire drew a long bow at Hastings."

"Yes," returned Miss Neville, "a man can but do his best, although we should remember that the man who said that said it just before he was defeated. What I feel is that you are not doing your best, and that you will not do your best until some objectionable person like myself has a serious talk with you." "Begin the serious talk," said Streeter; "I am ready and eager to listen."

Streeter looked hurriedly at his watch. "Ah! I see," said Miss Neville; "this conversation is not to your taste. You are going to plead an appointment—as if anyone could have an appointment at this hour of the morning."

"Nevertheless," said Streeter, "I have; and I must bid you good-bye. But I assure you that my eyes have been opened, and that I have learned a lesson to-night which I will not soon forget. I hope I may have the pleasure of meeting you again and continuing this conversation. Perhaps some time I may tell you why I have to leave."

Streeter found his friends waiting for him. He knew it was no use trying to see Davison before the meeting. There was a long drive ahead of them, and it was gray daylight when they reached the ground and found the other party waiting. Each man took his place and the pistol that was handed to him. When the word "Fire!" was given Streeter, dropped his hand to his side. Davison stood with his pistol still pointed, but he did not fire.

"Why don't you shoot, George?" said Davison. Harmon, at this point, rebuked his principal, and said he must have no communication with the other except through a second.

"Oh!" said Davison, impatiently, "I don't pretend to know the rules of this idiotic game!" Streeter stepped forward. "I merely wished to give you the opportunity of firing at me if you cared to do so," he said; "and now I desire to apologize for my action at the cafe. I may say that I did what I did under a misapprehension. Anything that I can do to make reparation I am willing to do."

"Oh, that's all right!" said Davison; "nothing more need be said. I am perfectly satisfied. Let us get back to the city. I find it somewhat chilly out here."—Detroit Free Press.

The Use of Poultries. Physicians are often surprised at the ignorance of patients concerning the use of poultices. The trouble arises from a wrong idea as to the curative action of a poultice. In general, poultices are primarily localizers of inflammation; they act by softening and stimulating the tissues with which they are brought directly in contact. The fact that their value lies in the amount of heat and moisture which they radiate to these tissues, is the reason, probably, for the application by the laity in every case where heat and moisture may happen to be indicated as necessary.

Take, for example, two cases—a poisoned wound and a finger swollen by muscular strain. It is manifest that these two cases are not parallel, though in both the application of heat is indicated as a remedy. In the case of the poisoned wound, we have the presence of a foreign substance in the tissues. This sets up a local inflammation, which by means of the circulation tends to spread and become general. We place a poultice over the affected part, and immediately the application of the heat brings to it a fresh supply of blood containing numerous leucocytes—white corpuscles—whose business it is to make war upon all foreign matter with which they may come in contact, and pus is formed. This finds a proper means of escape through the softened tissues under the poultice and with it comes the poison.

In the case of the swollen finger, on the other hand, we have a simple irritation, and what we need in the way of treatment is just enough heat to draw a renewed supply of blood to the weakened part for its nourishment. But we do not wish, in the first case, to confine the heat long enough to stimulate the leucocytes to activity, as in that event we should only have made a bad matter worse, with an abcess to take care of.

The desired result may be obtained by simply plunging the finger into water as hot as can be borne for a short time, or by rubbing on a stimulating liniment. The moral of all this is that we are to use poultices only where we wish to localize inflammation. In sprains and the like proper stimulation is all that is required.—Youth's Companion.

LATE TELEGRAPHIC JOTTINGS

BOTH FROM HOME AND ABROAD.

What is Going On the World Over. Important Events Briefly Chronicled.

Central Labor and Industrial. Reducing Wages—It is announced that the Camden lumber plant at Alexander, W. Va., known as the Alexander Boom Lumber Company, the Burns mills at Burns, and Sutton, and also Camden's several plants along the West Virginia & Pittsburgh railroad have decided to follow the example of the Buckhannon Boom Lumber Company, in reducing the wages of employes 10 to 15 per cent. commencing next week. The reasons given are the companies' inability to dispose of their product for cash or its equivalent and the impossibility of obtaining money to conduct their business on a high scale of wages. They say they must either reduce wages or shut down their mills. The reduction effects several thousand men.

The fire in the Pennsylvania colliery at Shamokin has been extinguished. Work has been resumed, giving employment to 2,000 hands after one month's idleness. Three Youngstown firms have given notice that the men will be expected after Monday to work 10 hours for 9 hours' pay. Swift & Co., the Chicago pork packers, have discharged 100 employes on account of dullness in trade.

At Zurich, Switzerland, the international socialist congress approved the establishment of an eight hour working day. The delegates agreed to agitate for the holding of an interstate congress to settle the question. At Pueblo, the steel plant of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company has resumed operations with a full force of 1,000 men, after a shut down of three weeks for repairs. The company has large orders ahead.

The 29 sewer pipe plants of Toronto, O., will cut wages about 10 per cent. If the reduction is not accepted the works will shut down. The New York, Lake Erie and Western Railway Company has suspended all unmarried employes on the Honesdale, Pa. division.

The works of the Salem, O., Wire Nail Company have resumed after a shut-down of several weeks. Financial and Commercial. The Bank of Wellsburg at Wellsburg, W. Va., closed its doors. The assets are \$500,000, with liabilities said to be not over half that amount.

The First national bank of Nashville, Tenn., suspended. It claims assets of \$3,047,983. The City savings bank also suspended. The Bank of Colfax, at Colfax, Wash., suspended. The Commercial Bank of Minneapolis, Minn., suspended.

New Orleans savings banks will require from depositors 60 days' notice of intended withdrawal. There was a run on the Germania savings bank on Tuesday. The Caldwell County bank of Kingston, Mo., and the Exchange bank of Folo, Mo., have closed their doors.

The First National Bank of Fort Scott, Kansas, the oldest bank in Kansas, which suspended recently has resumed. The American National Bank, Nashville, Tenn., has suspended payment. The Safe Deposit Trust and Banking Company has suspended temporarily. The Hamilton county state bank, Webster City, Ia., one of the oldest and best banks in Iowa closed its doors on account of inability to realize on assets.

Cholera Advises. VIENNA.—An official statement issued by the sanitary council of Austria declares that the condition of the country with regard to cholera is very precarious—much more serious than it was in 1892. The home office has sent a circular to government officials throughout the country enjoining the strictest precautions. Cholera has broken out among Navies—mostly Italians and Croatsians—building a railway at Marmaro on the Galician frontier. Thirty-five have already died. One hundred fled in the direction of their homes without waiting for their wages.

Washington News. The official list of members of the house as prepared by Clerk Kerr gives the Democrats 220 members, Republicans 126 and the third party 9. There is one vacancy, the Tenth Ohio district, caused by the death of Representative Enoch, making the whole number 356. Upon inquiry at the pension office it is learned that up to date there have been 6,472 pensions suspended, which were granted under the act of June 27, 1890, the average being 170 daily. A large proportion of these cases, it is said, were suspended pending medical examination.

Fires. Snow Hill, Md., burned Monday night. Only six buildings were saved. Loss, \$300,000. At Sidell, Ill., the business section of town. Loss, \$50,000; insurance, \$25,000. At Isabella, Ga., the Worth County Court House. All the county records, except those contained in two books were burned. Incendiarism is suspected.

Criminals and Penitents. John Finn, a St. Louis motorman, while delirious with fever, murderously attacked his four little children and then cut his own throat. It is believed that neither himself nor any of the four children can recover.

Disasters, Accidents and Fatalities. By the explosion of the boiler of the Marshall lumber company's planing mill, at Marshall, Tex., Tommy Hill, aged 13, Henry Smalley, aged 16, Gus Saunders, a negro, were killed, and Joe Bright, engineer and Joe Walman were badly scalded.

Sanitary. The Pittsburg (Pa.) mortuary report for the week ended August 5 shows a total number of deaths of 107, an annual death rate of 21.07 per 1,000. The number shows a decrease of three compared with the corresponding week of 1892.

NEW FACTOR IN TRADE.

The Largest Addition to Money Ever Made in a Single Month. Ing to Restore Confidence. R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Business Trade says: The long desired meeting Congress, a President's message which answered expectations, and the arrival of \$13,700,000 gold from Europe, with \$100,000 more on the way, have not brought improvement many anticipated. Stronger, but failures continue and the closing of industrial establishments and disorganization of domestic exchange even greater than a week ago.

There has been no startling crash, but formal failures of banks, including one in this city and several in Nashville, 30, 34, while refusals to pay, except through clearing house or with limitations, are coming more common. Whatever the Congress has power to give, however fruitful for good if long deferred, machinery of exchanges has almost ceased. When \$30, per \$1,000 is paid for New York exchanges at Chicago and \$15 or \$20 in Western cities, settlements between East and the West become extremely difficult.

The roots of the trouble lie that, according to reports of July 12 to the Comptroller, \$131,000,000 of deposits had been withdrawn in two months from national banks, probably \$177,000,000 from all, besides known sums from savings, State and vote banks; and during the month of July 12 the withdrawal and hoarding have been relatively even greater. In two months the national banks have lost in the integrity of order, in the textile mills, for cancellations, not only confidence in the future could be expected, but the monetary troubles might be relieved. But at present war of cash, with no lack of orders, and a decrease of wheat from farms to Western ports and exports have not met expectations, so that prices of grain have become declined.

Railroad earnings show a decrease of about 8 per cent. compared with the last year, but the clearing house, the principal cities show a decrease of settlements of 25 per cent. As yet, Treasury for some relief are frequent. Its cash balance has been reduced, and the war reserve notes have to be in part in current expenses. About \$13,000,000 bank notes will be added to the circulation through the States bonds purchased from savings banks and this, with \$23,000,000 in gold from Europe, in spite of the advance of the Bank of England rate of 4 per cent, make the largest addition to the money supply ever experienced in a single month. It is sufficient to cause the release of gold money, some currency, or some gold waiting for a low-footed lawmaker's signature.

Failures during the week numbered in the United States against 199, and 25 in Canada against 10 for the week last year. The number for the week shows a decrease from the week ending August 1, 1893, the largest number, 291, for the past year against 237 for the previous week. Last year there were 149, and in the South 100.

THE BUSINESS BAROMETER. Bank clearings totals for the week Aug. 10, as telegraphed to Business Directory, are as follows: New York, \$408,000,000; Boston, 69,015,000; Chicago, 67,721,125; Philadelphia, 49,028,200; St. Louis, 16,975,200; Baltimore, 12,572,200; St. Paul, 10,842,200; Pittsburgh, 10,096,700; Cincinnati, 7,911,200; Cleveland, 4,191,200.

OFFICIAL CROP REPORT

Condition of All Cereals, Tobacco and Fruit.

The August report of the Statistics Department of Agriculture shows the condition of corn has declined over six points during the past month, average for the entire month being 93.2 for the month of July. The decline is due in the main to the drought in Iowa, which has been persistent. While in some parts of the crop beyond recovery, it is a serious threat to the larger portion of the area, that improvement is not expected, but with a summer rainfall the crop of August will be assured. Cereals in the principal States are: Indiana, 79; Illinois, 81; Iowa, 90; Missouri, 95; Kansas, 82; Nebraska, 91; Ohio, 88; Wisconsin, 79; Minnesota, 87; North Dakota, 78; South Dakota, 80; Montana, 80; Wyoming, 80; Colorado, 80; Utah, 80; Arizona, 80; New Mexico, 80; Texas, 80; Louisiana, 80; Mississippi, 80; Alabama, 80; Georgia, 80; Florida, 80; Virginia, 80; North Carolina, 80; South Carolina, 80; Tennessee, 80; Kentucky, 80; West Virginia, 80; Maryland, 80; Delaware, 80; Pennsylvania, 80; New Jersey, 80; New York, 80; Connecticut, 80; Rhode Island, 80; Massachusetts, 80; Vermont, 80; New Hampshire, 80; Maine, 80; New Brunswick, 80; Nova Scotia, 80; Prince Edward Island, 80; Newfoundland, 80.

There has been a considerable improvement in the condition of spring wheat, which, according to statistics, stands at 86.2. It is the lowest condition reported in August for many years, and to a cold, wet spring, succeeded by a hot, dry, hot weather, during the month of June and the whole of July. The August returns for larger crops show a slight decline in condition from that of the month, being 81.6 against 85.3 in June, precisely the same as it was in the month of June.

The acreage of buckwheat is 999,983 as compared with 1892, and 988,888. The condition of potatoes has declined nearly nine points in the last month, stands at 86. Condition in August has been lower twice in the last decade. General drought has been the cause of falling off, and rain is needed to prevent further disastrous losses. The condition of the timothy crop, as compared with 93.2 in 1892, the crop on the whole is large, and has been secured in good condition, and some important regions unfavorable conditions cause reduction of the crop. The general average of tobacco is 93 on July 1 to 82.2 on August 1. A still further decline in the condition of apples is made evident by the report August. The indication that the crop would be very light is confirmed. In many of the States a total failure is reported.

The drought has done some damage to peaches in the Atlantic peach belt. Plants are frequent of premature ripening, and the fruit is small and of inferior quality. In this section, however, and local soil, benefited some localities. A further note is noted in Michigan, where the crop of peaches is reported to be of excellent quality. An abundance of grapes is promised at this date. The percentages of July have been generally well maintained. Dry weather tended to check the spread of rot in the dew.

A Royal Betrothal. The betrothal of Prince John, nephew of the King of Saxony, to Princess Marie Wurttemberg, was publicly announced in Berlin on Saturday.

Many well-to-do Frenchmen hope to escape inland to buy land in California, establish there large colonies of fruit.