

TERRIBLY FATAL WRECKS AT SEA.

HUNDREDS LOST.

The Falter Disaster Worse Than at First Reported.

The loss of life by the sinking of the North German Lloyd steamship *Sailor* at Coruna, Spain, is much greater than at first believed. While it is true that the vessel left Antwerp with only 210 passengers, she embarked more at various Spanish ports, and it is now estimated that, including her crew of 65, the disaster will number from 400 to 500.

The *Sailor* was bound from Bremen to Buenos Ayres via Coruna and Vigo, and at the outset had 210 passengers on board. Her crew was composed of 65 men. All on board, passengers and crew, perished. Of her known passengers, 113 were Russians, 33 Italians, 41 Spaniards and 1 German, and most of them were in the steerage.

The *Coronado* rocks, on which it is believed that the *Sailor* was lost, are situated off the northwest coast of Coruna, and should have been given a wide berth before the steamer headed eastward, and then in a northerly direction for the bay leading up to Villagarcia.

A dispatch from Lloyd's agent at Coruna says that 381 lives were lost by the wreck of the *Sailor*.

The *Sailor* was an old vessel which the North German Lloyd Company had agreed to sell to an Italian firm trading between Italian and American ports, but owing to some slight disagreement as to the terms the deal was not completed and the steamer was sent on another voyage. She was considered to be every way seaworthy, and the only reason the North German Lloyd Company had for selling her was that there were more modern boats on the same line in readiness to take her place. Her last trip across the Atlantic was made in September last, when she left Baltimore for Bremen, arriving there safely on September 23. The *Sailor* was of 3,000 tons gross register, was 351 feet long, 45 feet wide and had a single propeller. Captain Wemyss had commanded the steamer for a number of years.

The weather was thick and heavy. It was night time and the *Sailor* had to run far enough south to clear the rocks off Cape Corubedo before she could head north and heading southward, gradually pointing westward and then in a northerly direction in order to head into the bay leading up to Villagarcia.

Captain Wemyss seemed to have been thrown out of his reckoning by the fog and rain and to have headed to port too soon, with the result that he failed to clear Cape Corubedo and went down with his ship and all hands.

Nineteen Drowned.
The British ship *Springwell*, Captain Kinnaman, from Liverpool on December 9 for Galveston, has arrived at Swansea, Wales, with two survivors of the German ship *Rajah*, of Bremen, which left Cardiff for Hong Kong. She capsized in a gale near Lundy Island, at the entrance of the Bristol channel. Nineteen of the *Rajah's* crew drowned.

Fourteen Lives Lost.
The English ship *British Peer*, Capt. Jones, which sailed from London October 4 for Capetown and Portland, Ore., has been wrecked in Saldanha bay, South Africa. It is believed that 14 persons perished. The ship registered 1,425 tons.

MACEO REPORTED KILLED.
Young Gomez met the same fate on the field. It is stated in most positive terms by the Spanish authorities that Antonio Maceo, the great insurgent leader, and the heart and soul of the Cuban cause, has been killed in Havana province after having effected the passage of the western trocha near Mariel, at its northern extremity. With the Cuban leader died the young Francisco Gomez, son of Maximo Gomez, who accompanied the maulito general on his passage of the trocha. Most explicit reports of the finding of the corpses of the fallen Cubans and of the facts relied upon for their identification are at hand through the report of the Spanish commander, Maj. Croyeda, who contested the passage of the trocha unsuccessfully on December 4, with Maceo.

Antonio Maceo has without question been the most brilliant figure of the present revolt in Cuba. He effected a landing at Orito de Barancos on March 31. With him were Flor Crombet and a number of officers. Maceo had been a member of General Gomez's staff during the 10 years war, from 1895 to 1898, and commanded large bodies of troops in province of Santiago de Cuba, in which province his family had lived, and where he owned a large plantation. After the outbreak of the war Maceo had traveled in Central America and Haiti, attempting to raise a large force to invade Cuba.

He afterward returned to Cuba, and lived quietly on his plantation in the eastern province, where he was very popular. In 1900 he was driven out of Cuba and went to New York. At the time of the present outbreak he was in Florida, and he joined a large expedition which set out from Ft. Limon in March, 1905, on the steamer *Albatross*. A Spanish man-of-war pursued the steamer for eight hours, and at last the leaders were compelled to land on Fortuna Island, one of the West Indies. Thence Maceo and the other leaders made their way to Cuba.

In the great raid across the island led by Maximo Gomez in 1895, Maceo was his chief conductor. Time and again reports have been received from Cuba of his death and rout, his death in action, or his suicide, always to be refuted by his later activities. There is no doubt that many people will doubt the authenticity of the report now received of his death, though so previous reports have given such explicit details of the circumstances of his death or the facts of identification.

PHILIPPINE REBELLION.
Spanish Government Said to Be Giving Out False Reports.
The steamer *China* brought advices concerning the progress of the insurrection in the Philippine Islands. It is stated that the rebels are daily gaining in strength and practically control the district outside of Manila, although the Spanish Government strives to create the impression that the rebellion is practically subdued.

The origin of the uprising is ascribed to excessive taxation and despotic rule, and the statement of the Spanish Governor that native priests started the rebellion for religious purposes is denied. Captured rebels and residents suspected of favoring the rebels are treated with great cruelty, it is stated, and all sorts of indignities are heaped upon captives taken in the field. The shipping of prisoners to the African colony continues, and 100 rebels were shipped October 9.

During the October campaign the rebels captured the towns of Montalban and San Mateo, ten miles from Manila. It is said the foreign residents sympathize with the rebels.

Scott Jackson Must Hang.
The Supreme Court of Appeals of Kentucky denied the motion for a new trial for Scott Jackson, convicted of the murder of Peori Bryan, and confirmed the death sentence by the Campbell county court. It now remains for Gov. Bradley to appoint the day of execution. The decision of the court in Jackson's case is taken as an indication that the same conclusion will be reached as to Alonzo Walling who was jointly convicted with Jackson.

IMPROVEMENT LOOKED FOR.

New Year Likely to Start With a Boom in Trade.

R. G. Dunn & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: The approach of the holidays and doubt about the action of congress put off further improvement until the new year. While industries have gained in working force, they are waiting for commensurate gain in demand, and meanwhile are trying to clear away embarrassments which restrict them.

The wheat market has weakened, with less gloomy news from other countries and larger western receipts. Pacific dispatches show that exports continue heavy, and about 300,000 tons more are available from California. Cotton declined 3-16c.

The iron industry is for the time demoralized by uncertainty regarding the great consolidation. The formal withdrawal of the Bostaire, (O.) company broke the billet pool. The beam makers meet this week to revive, if they can, their compact, and the steel rail works will meet shortly, with the prospect of an important concern will go out, and that if the others keep together prices will have to be materially reduced.

The bar association scarcely pretends to control prices, which are slightly lower this week for steel, and the rupture of the rail association for the time left the bar prices for wire nails cost about \$1.50 at Pittsburgh, with extra charges on ordinary assortments averaging 12c. against \$2.55 paid last month with extras averaging 70c.

Until the further influence of these combinations is better defined narrow trading must be expected. Bessemer pig and gray forge are slightly lower.

Minor metals are generally weaker, tin at \$12.90, copper at 11 1/2c, for lake and lead at \$20 to \$25 for ingots, ton lots, and \$15 to \$20 for rods, production having increased four fold.

As raw cotton is lower, some yielding in prices of staples is expected. Frint clothes are weak in tone, with enormous stocks. Woolen goods are not in better demand, and there is general indisposition to make commitments ahead. Sales of wool in two weeks were 14,378,000 pounds, against 11,993,203 last year.

Failures for the week have been 300 in the United States, against 333 last year, and 43 in Canada, against 51 last year.

Stock Market.
A "bradstreet's" review of the stock market says: Congress having actually assembled, speculative markets have apparently lost much of their fear regarding the action of the body and its influence upon the financial situation. The president's message produced little or no liquidation of long stock, and the introduction, as soon as congress got to work, of a resolution in reference to Cuba had practically no effect. In the street seemed to be under the influence of reports from Washington indicating that the present congress was unlikely to take positive action of any kind in the short time that remains of its existence.

The utter absence of outside participation in the market is severely felt, and the transactions from day to day have been on a very limited scale, and were due in the main to the smaller operators of the board room itself. The strength of the better class of bonds and investments generally is a feature, but the demand in question is sharply drawn so far as securities of a speculative character are concerned.

A feeling asserts itself in speculative circles that after January 1 there will be a broadening out of the market, with more or less of a revival in its activity. This naturally tends to restrict bearish operations to attack on particular stocks. Europe has taken no part in the speculation here, and the weaker tone of the foreign exchange market has been without any influence on stocks.

FLEETS TO MOVE.
The Allied Powers Decide to Bring Turkey to Terms.
The Birmingham Post confirms the repeated statements on the same subject carried during the past two months in saying that it learns from a high quarter that an understanding has been arrived at between Great Britain, Russia and France for the settlement of the so-called Eastern question, which has for generations been troubling the statesmen of Europe.

The Post adds that the Russian Black sea fleet and the British and French Mediterranean fleets will shortly be mobilized in contiguity to the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles in order to enforce if necessary the reforms which the embassies of the three powers are about to present to the sultan, and to which the other signers of the Berlin treaty, Germany, Austria and Italy, have consented. To this end, it is asserted, the allied fleets may force the passage of the straits of the Dardanelles.

REPORT ON TURKISH MISSIONS.
American Churches Have Not Done as Much as Was Expected.
The eighty-sixth annual report of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, shows satisfactory progress in nearly all the missions except those of Turkey, where "a carnival of robbery, massacre and outrage have occurred." The report complains of the withdrawal of the gifts for the Turkish missions usually made by the American churches, and says: "The fact is, as if the American churches were likely to finish the work which fire and sword has begun."

The board thanks the American diplomatic representatives of Turkey for their energy in protecting the persons and property of missionaries. The receipts of the board during the year reached a total of \$743,104.

SUICIDE BEFORE HANGING.
Abram Eckert, The Nanticoke Murderer Took Poison in his Cell.
Abram Eckert, who would have been hanged at Wilkesbarre, Pa., Dec. 8, took poison during the night and died in the county jail at 11:30 a. m.

He had a farewell interview with his wife and children Monday evening. When he lay down he asked the watchman to wake him at 6 a. m. At that hour he was found unresponsive. Doctors used a stomach pump, but Warden Boland does not know how Eckert got the poison.

Eckert was a school janitor at Nanticoke, July 7, 1895, he shot and killed Ferdinand T. Bittenderfer, one of the school directors, who had hidden him for not attending to his work. After sentence Eckert was reprieved twice.

Gold Democratic Trio.
The Executive Committee of the National Democratic party at a meeting in Indianapolis, December 11, delegated its power to a general way to a sub-committee composed of George Foster Peabody, of New York; John S. Bullitt, of Pennsylvania, and W. B. Haldeman, of Louisville. The committee, two members of which are in the East, will advise with Chairman Bryan. The members of the Executive Committee are so widely scattered that it was deemed advisable to create this smaller advisory committee. Chairman Bryan will at once remove to New York. The members of the Executive Committee denied the truth of a circulated report that there is friction in the committee.

Maceo's Doctor Says He is Dead.
Dr. Maxim Zortacha, who was the personal physician of Antonio Maceo, has surrendered to Colonel Tort, the Spanish commander, at San Felipe, Havana province. The doctor confirms the announcement that Maceo was killed. Dr. Zortacha says that Maceo was killed at the end of the battle between him and passing out near the neck and shoulder.

RAVAGES OF THE EASTERN PLAGUE.

A PANIC STRICKEN CITY.

Eight Hundred Deaths in the City of Bombay.

A cable message from Bombay says: Eight hundred deaths are reported up to date from the plague, but the number is believed to be much larger. Crowds of panic-stricken natives are fleeing from the city. Trade and business are seriously affected.

The government bacteriologists are of the opinion that the plague, unlike cholera, has a tendency to stick to the locality where it originates. A few authentic cases are reported in adjacent towns, but they are all of Bombay origin.

The disease where imported was dying out without spreading. In Bombay for two months the plague remained confined to one ward. It was now spread to all districts of the city, and is increasing largely with the coming of winter.

Only one case is reported of a person directly attending a patient having contracted the plague. The disease, though infectious, has not been proved contagious.

The famine which threatened the whole of India has been partly averted in certain districts by the recent rains. Grain speculation continues and aggravates the situation.

CONGRESS OPENED.
Under Most Beautiful Skies and Almost Balmey Weather.
Congress re-assembled Monday with bright sunshine, a gently bracing air, a temperature running from 40 to 52 degrees and both halls of assembly renovated and purified and ventilated in a manner more nearly conforming to hygienic requirements than has ever been before attempted.

The floor of the senate had been torn up and the whole system of foreign air into the interior changed. The sides of each desk are now hollow and connected with the ventilating plan so that a regular supply of properly heated or cooled air without draft of any sort enters the chamber through the opening at the bottom of each desk. In the same manner air is forced in between fine wire netting at each terrace of the floor. In the gallery the old benches have given place to modern opera seats, each ventilated in the same manner.

The several hundred gas jets that formerly illumined the chamber through the false ceiling have been dispensed with, and in their place incandescent lights will dispel the gloom. The electric lighting has been arranged, and thermostats have been arranged, and everything that science and skill could do has been done to make the senate wing of the building as habitable as possible. The electric lighting has been carried to the outside galleries.

There was not by any means a full attendance of senators when Vice President Stevenson rapped the senate to order, though many of the grizzled veterans were on hand. Central among them, and the recipient of many congratulations, was Ohio's success at the late election, was John Sherman, now entering upon his forty-first year of congressional service.

The House presented a bright and cheerful appearance when the galleries were thrown open to visitors. The old carpet had been replaced and the brass furnishings of the chamber had been secured until they were as bright as a gold dollar. The galleries were crowded to overflowing long before 9 o'clock, and a committee to wait upon the members of the House, like the occupants of the galleries, commenced to put in an appearance as early as 10 o'clock, although the hour of meeting was 12.

Both Houses of Congress met promptly at noon and appointed a committee to wait upon the President and inform him that Congress was ready to receive any communication he might be pleased to make. The Senate thereupon took a recess until 1 o'clock.

At 1 o'clock the Senate took a further recess for half an hour, pending the return of the committee, appointed to wait upon the President. The House also took a recess.

Lillookalani's Visit.
While no official information has been received as to the purpose of ex-Queen Lillookalani's visit to this country, her coming at this time occasions much comment in official quarters. One explanation of her expected visit is offered in the theory that she will try to have President Cleveland use his influence in procuring for her a pension, as her means are quite limited.

Capital Echoes.
President Cleveland has recognized Giuseppe Natoli as consular agent at Pittsburgh. The house committee favorably reported the bill for federal buildings at Altoona and Wilkesbarre, Pa., to cost \$123,000 and \$150,000, respectively.

The sundry civil bill appropriation bill carries, among other items, appropriations of \$300,000 for improvement to locks and dams on the rivers adjacent to Pittsburgh.

Hon. W. F. Hynes, of Denver, representing the five great Railroad brotherhoods, is at Washington today for the passage of the Erdman arbitration and Phillips labor commission bills.

Senator Turpie, of Indiana, has prepared an amendment to the naval bill making civilians (lawyers) eligible to the office of judge advocate-general of the navy. It is now limited to naval officers.

Captain J. W. Bryant, Captain A. K. Miller, H. W. Masters and ex-Congressman M. D. Lagan, all of the lower Mississippi district, petitioned congress for \$250,000 to repair the crevasse in the levee at Laus. Aloutre, near New Orleans.

Representative Boatner, of Louisiana, has introduced a bill increasing the salary of the Speaker of the House from \$8,000 to \$10,000, and of Senators and Representatives from \$3,000 to \$7,000.

CLOSED WITH A BANQUET.
Labors of the National Civil Service Reform Ended.
The annual session of the National Civil Service Reform league closed in Philadelphia, December 11, with a banquet. Herbert Welsh, of Philadelphia, president of the Pennsylvania association presided.

At the business meeting the following officers were elected: President, Carl Schurz, New York; vice presidents, Charles Francis Adams, Boston; Augustus Macdonough, New York; Henry C. Potter, New York; Henry C. Hall, Pennsylvania; Baltimore; Henry Hithcock, St. Louis; Henry C. Lea, Philadelphia; Franklin MacVeach, Chicago; Wm. Potts, New York; and Archbishop P. J. Ryan, Philadelphia.

Addresses on the operations of the civil service in different cities were made by C. B. Wilby, Cincinnati; W. E. Cushing, Cleveland; Rev. W. B. Lord, St. Paul; Henry Hitchcock, St. Louis; Richard Henry Dana, Boston; and J. C. Thrupp, Madison, Wis. Papers were read as follows: "The Relation of Woman to the Civil Service Reform Movement," by Mrs. Charles Russell Lowell, New York; "Civil Service Reform in the West," Col. J. W. Eia, Chicago; "Civil Service Reform in the Constitution of New York State," Sherman S. Rogers, Buffalo; "Civil Service Commissions Essential to Civil Service Reform," Dorman B. Eaton, New York; "Four Year Tenure," Lucius D. Swift, Indianapolis.

President-elect McKinley is recognized as a friend of civil service reform.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Important Measures Presented and Acted Upon in Both Houses.

SECOND DAY.

The House proceeded to business today and before the session closed had passed three bills of considerable importance and the first for the regular supply bills, that for pensions.

Three of the bills related to postal matters. One provided for the use of private mailing cards, when one-cent stamps are affixed. This goes into effect July 1 next. Another provided for a limited indemnity of \$10 for the loss of registered mail matter, and the third provided for a private carrier service in towns and villages where no free delivery exists. It provides that on the application of 20 persons receiving their mail at the same office the postmaster shall appoint such persons as are willing to undertake the collection and delivery of mails, the charge not to exceed one cent for each letter, and that the charge shall be paid by the beneficiaries.

The pension bill was passed without factional opposition, but Mr. Grew, of Pennsylvania, took occasion in the debate to submit some views in favor of higher tariff duties, based on that portion of the president's message relating to the tariff.

The notices of the opening a Cuban discussion was about the only feature of interest developed in the debate. The president's message lasted only 35 minutes. Senator Cullom gave notice of a speech on Cuba next Thursday. The senators had expected to start the wheels of actual business, but the appearance of a house resolution relative to the death of ex-Speaker Cass led to the customary adjournment as a mark of respect. A large number of bureau reports were received, including that of the government directors of the Pacific railroad.

THIRD DAY.
Two sweeping Cuban resolutions were introduced in the Senate this morning, one by Senator Call, of Florida, declares the independence of the insurgents, and another by Mr. Mills, of Texas, directs the President to seize the island of Cuba and hold it until a regular Cuban government shall have been established. Both resolutions were referred to the Foreign Relations committee. The Senate by the decisive vote of 31, adopted a motion to take up the Dingley tariff-silver bill.

FOURTH DAY.
The Senate to-day took up the immigration bill and rejected by a vote of 13 to 37 a motion made by Mr. Gibson, Democrat, Maryland, to postpone it until the first Monday in January. The Senate substitute for the bill was agreed to, and Mr. Sewell, Republican, New Jersey, offered an amendment to exclude all filipino persons over 14 years, except that an aged or minor person not able to read or write who is the parent, grandparent, child or wife of an admitted immigrant, may accompany or be sent by such immigrant.

Mr. Vest, Democrat, Missouri, protested against the application of the test of literacy to women and girls and offered an amendment to that effect.

Mr. Lowell, Republican, Massachusetts, and Mr. Chandler, Republican, New Hampshire, opposed Mr. Vest's amendment, as it would detract from the force of the bill. Mr. Chandler reminded the Senate that the National conventions of both parties had declared in favor of the restriction of immigration. If he was wrong in that statement no one was more competent to correct him than the present occupant of the chair—Mr. Hill, Democrat, New York, who was thoroughly familiar with the facts.

Mr. Elkins, Republican, West Virginia, submitted an amendment placing a tax of \$10 on each immigrant coming into the United States on other than an American ship. Without action on the amendments the Senate went into executive session and adjourned until Monday.

In the House C. J. Boatner, Democrat, who was unseated at the last session and re-elected from the Fifth Louisiana district, was sworn in. Mr. Herndon, Republican, Pennsylvania, introduced a bill amending the law prohibiting the alien ownership of land in the territories so as to permit aliens to acquire possession under foreclosure of mortgage and hold the land 10 years, within which period they must dispose of it.

The previous question was refused on the third reading of the bill, 60 to 73.

The bill prohibiting the sale of liquors in the Capitol building was passed by a vote of 194 to 7. Several amendments to the Senate bill for \$50,000 damages caused by the delay of the government in constructing the hull of the cruiser *Maine*, he also submitted similar claims of the William Cramp & Sons, of Philadelphia.

The resolution extending until the end of the session the investigation by the joint committee of the use of free alcohol in the arts and manufactures was agreed to.

Several private pension bills were passed, one granting \$50 a month to the widow of G. G. Garrick Mallory. Similar bills occupied the attention of the evening session, and the House adjourned until Monday.

ALMOST COMPLETE.
Arbitration Treaty Plans Between the Two Nations Regarding Out.
The negotiations between the United States and Great Britain for a treaty of general arbitration, covering all subjects of difference between the two English-speaking nations, present and prospective, has advanced to a stage of completeness far beyond what the public has had reason to believe. The purpose of Secretary Olney and Sir Julian Pauncefote is to conclude the negotiations within the next three weeks. All the substantial features of the treaty have been agreed upon. From the status of the negotiations it is believed the following will be the important terms of the treaty:

First—A term of five years from the date of the exchange of ratification within which the treaty shall be operative.

Second—A court of arbitration of six members, three to be chosen from the judiciary of the United States and three from the judiciary of Great Britain.

Third—The submission to this tribunal of all differences between the two nations now pending or to rise within the period of five years, this not to include the Bering sea question, now before independent commissions, but to include the question of the boundary between Alaska and British North America.

The completion of this treaty will mark an important epoch in the relations between the two English speaking nations, and, in the judgment of those who have been most identified with the consummation, it will be the most important document of a peaceful character in the history of their mutual dealings. The president made a passing allusion to the subject in his recent message. It had been understood, however, that the main purpose of Mr. Olney was to reach an agreement as to Venezuela, and that, having accomplished this, the latter question of arbitrating all differences would require considerable time for its complete development. But the negotiations have proceeded with surprising unanimity, so that those engaged in the work confidently believe that it will be fully agreed upon.

Children's Column



QUEER RHYMES.

There is a young woman who lives in Montana. Her name it is Harriet Isabel Hannah. And one day she sat, in an elegant manner, Twelve pears, twenty prunes, and a great big banana;

Then she called to her maid to come quickly and fan her. While she sat in the parlor and on her piano Played "The Red, White and Blue" and "The Star-Spangled Banner."

"GOING TO JERUSALEM."
This is a game which never fails to amuse children, be they young or old. Two rows of chairs are placed back to back and filled with the persons who desire to play. Some one strikes up a march on the pianoforte, and all rise and march round the chairs, on the way to Jerusalem. As they march to the music (or the beat of a tin pan) the umpire takes one chair from the end of the row. Suddenly the music ceases and all secure the seat nearest them. One player is left standing and declared out of the game; he missed the boat and can't get to Jerusalem. Again the music begins, they march and another is left out, who takes a seat in the room and watches the progress of the remainder. This is repeated until there are but two persons and one chair left, and the one securing the chair "gets to Jerusalem." The umpire has power to decide all questions as to who has secured chairs.

BOASTERS SILENCED.
"Phil" Wampun was a noted hunter. He was one of the early settlers of the town of Granville, Mass., and there was not a hunter for miles around that was a truer shot than Phil. The country was infested by bears, and these animals he chiefly hunted, and with great success.

One evening a number of persons were seated around the roaring fire in the village bar-room, and among them was Phil Wampun. The conversation happened to turn upon bears.

The bear is said to be slow in its movements, and a person pursued by one can easily effect an escape. On the other hand he should be an expert hunter who attempts to kill the animal as he is very tenacious of life. One young fellow said:

"If I had a good rifle that I was used to, I'd risk a bear's killing me." Another said: "If I had a good heavy club, that would strike a heavy blow, the bear that would hurt me would have to get up in the morning."

After they had all told what great things they would do if they met a bear, one of them turned to Phil and said:

"Well, Uncle Phil, what would you do, in case you saw a bear making tracks after you? And what weapon would you want to defend yourself with? You've been amongst the animals long enough to know something about them."

Phil rapped the ashes from his pipe, and having carefully placed it in his pocket, he said:

"I will tell you what I'd do. If I had a good walnut club, about three feet long, not very large round, just large enough so that I could easily hold it in my hand; on the end that I held in my hand I would want a knob, so that my hand wouldn't slip when I went to strike; on the other end, I should want a knob a little longer; and then, if I saw a bear coming, I don't care how big, I'd throw down the club and run like lightning."

SUSIE'S NEIGHBORS.
Susie's neighbors did not live in the farmhouse near grandma's house. They were not boys and girls; for, as it may seem, there were no boys and girls within a mile of the place where Susie was. She had no sisters or brothers or cousins, or even little friends, within walking distance. There had been little children in the houses of grandma's neighbors, but they had all grown up and gone away.

It was a very lonely locality for a child who has to depend for her happiness on having other children to play with. But Susie was never lonely because she made friends of the chickens and the birds, the toads and grasshoppers, the caterpillars and the beetles, anything that had life. It was no wonder that grandma looked surprised, as she was putting a pan of cookies into the oven that morning, to see Susie take her sailor hat from its accustomed nail, and announce that she was going to see her neighbors. What did the little girl mean?

"Your neighbors!" exclaimed grandma. "It is too long a walk, child, to go over to Mrs. Brown's or Mrs. Booth's or down in the hollow to call; and, besides, the sun is too hot. You might melt on the road, like the candle did this morning standing on the shelf by the window."

Susie had a pleased look on her face as she said: "My neighbors live very near by grandma. Pat on your sun-bonnet and come with me, and I will introduce them to you."

"When I get my cookies all baked, dear, I will go."

"Will it be an ever so long time, grandma?"

"Oh, no, only a few minutes; for I've rolled out the last tinfoil, and they are in the oven."

"Well, I'll just run over and tell them you are coming; for you are a stranger, you know, and they might want to fix up a little."

"Whatever can the child mean?" thought grandma, as she took the last of her cookies out of the tin pan, and laid them on the platter.

"I'm ready now, Susie," she called out, and Susie came running to the kitchen door.

She took grandma's hand, and led her to an old apple tree in the orchard. "This is the house where my neighbors live, grandma; and here is the door."

It was a small, round hole in the trunk of the tree, just low enough for Susie to reach.

"I'll knock," she said, "because I'm bringing strangers."

No answer, so she peeped in. "The lady of the house is out," she whispered, "but the children are all at home."

Susie and grandma peeped into the door and saw four little birds lying in a nest which father and mother birds had built in the hollow of the tree.

"The mother does not mind my taking the little birds out and looking at them every day. She sits up there in that red apple tree and watches me. She never cries out, because she knows I always bring crumbs to scatter under the tree, and that I love her little children and would not hurt them for anything."

"I never knew we had such near and such pretty neighbors," said grandma. "I am glad I called on them, and I will send them some of my cookie crumbs this very day."

An old crow sat up in the top of a greening apple tree, and kept calling out something that sounded like "Look out! Look out!"

"That old crow always does that," said Susie. "She wants to break up our acquaintance. I know, and make the mother bird think I'm going to hurt her little ones. She is a mischief maker, that old crow is. I read a story about a mischief maker once who told stories about her neighbors."

"I guess she wants the crumbs you bring," spoke grandma; "and that is the reason she tries to stir up a strife. But I am sure the little mother trusts you, and knows her neighbor too well to be influenced against her by that old crow."

Every day after that morning Susie and grandma went to make a call on their neighbors and carry food to them. But a few days later they went and found their neighbor's house empty. Susie felt very sorry; but grandma told her how the little ones had learned to fly, and had gone out to see the great world for themselves.

"I should not have thought they would have moved out without letting me know it," said the little girl, with tears in her eyes.

But vacation time was almost over, and, soon after Susie's neighbors went away, she went too—went back to her home in the city, gathered her school books together, and was off to the big schoolhouse again for her lessons.—Susan Teal Perry in the Evangelist.

Exposed.
The Cook—Discourage me, is it? Well, yez don't dare. O'll expose yez to the boards.

Mrs. Slimdick—What do you mean?
"O'll tell 'em the fresh muffins they 'fink they're gettin' 'ivery mornin' are nothin' but the old wass blown up wid a bicycle pump!"