Once in a while the sun shines out
And the aching skies are a perfect blue;
Once in a while 'mid clouds of doubt
Faith's fairest stars come peeping
through;
One paths lead down by the meadows fair,
Where the sweetest blossoms nod and
smile.

And we lay aside our cross of care, Once in a while.

Once in a while within our own
We feel the hand of a stendfast friend:
Once in a while we feel the tone
Of love, with the heart's own voice to
blend;
And the dearest of all our dreams come

true,
And on life's way is a golden smile,
Each thirsting flower is kissed with dew
Once in a while.

Once in a while in the desert sand
We find a spot of the fairest green;
Once in a while from where we stand
The hills of Paradise are seen;
And a perfect joy in our hearts we hold,
A joy that the world cannot deflie;
We trede earth's dross for the purest gold,
Once in a while.

-D. R. Sammers.

Found at Last.

There is a dreary little shop in a rty little street. In the shop wina curious medley of things, old

and new, worthless and valuable.

Into this shop one dull November afternoon Duncan Collis found his way. He had several times picked up curious trifles there, and now, in corner of the window was a small black frame that he fancied might be suitable for a print he had lately

As a matter of course, the wizened old man behind the counter asked twice as much as the frame was worth, though he knew his customer by sight, and respected him.

After some protestations an offer was accepted. "Oh, I'll take it with me," he continued, experience having taught him that such purchases are safer in one's own keeping.

Duncan noticed the old man change color, and, glancing around to discover the reason for such a marvel, he found that an elderly woman had en-

tered the shop.
"Then it's sold," she murmured under her breath, as she looked at the

money lying on the counter.
"Was the frame yours?" Duncan asked, with a disregard for the etiquette of buyer and seller.

"Yes; at least, it belonged to a-a friend. But there was a picture in

"I shouldn't call it a picture," in-terrupted Stooks. And he was not al-together pleased when his customer said: "Well, whatever it was, I should like to see it."

From a drawer was taken a small oil painting-the portrait of a fair-haired girl, with a bunch of white lilies in her hand.

"It isn't much, and it wants a gilt

"No, it isn't much," repeated Dun-can, and he smiled. For once Stocks was mistaken. Duncan Collis had painted that picture, and an apprecia-tive public had taught him the value

Duncan bought the picture from the old dealer put it back in its frame and then left the place.

Three doors off was a draper's, where a stand of cheap mackintoshes screened him from observation; and he stood there until the woman appeared, her lips compressed, a red spot on either cheek. Stooks had evi-dently driven a hard bargain. "I'm afraid you did not get a great

said Duncan, as she reached the door. only \$1.75. And I took the fr

there yesterday. He didn't have much "Now I want you to tell me where

you got the picture. I can't do that, sir." Why not?"

"People don't like their affairs talked about when-

Taey are in difficulties. That I understand perfectly. But when it's a question of refusing help—substantial help—don't you think it makts a difference? Look here," -and he opened a locket he wore on his watch chain - "you know the face?"

As he had suspected, the girl he was seeking had put aside her own name, together with many other things that had belonged to her past.

"Yes; it is Miss March,

Then tell me where to find her There isn't a truer friend in the world than I would be is she would let me.' And Duncan's tone and manner carried conviction.

"Well, she's in need of a friend now, and she'll be more in need of one con. Her brother's dying, though the won't see it; and when he's gone Il have no one belonging to her. Of course, she wen't have to work so

Do you mean to say she keeps "She's done that for a year and

"Good heavens, woman, can't you understand that you're torturing me?"
And possibly she did understand,
for she turned and walked on quickly, till they reached the door of a house in a neighboring street. Here she pansed.

pansed. Will you will you

To Duncan it seemed as if they verse an hour mounting those stairs, and when at last they came to the hird floor and a door of the back room med, a mist seemed to dim his

" said an unsteady vol

the pillow and looked fixedly at the

"Elsa would not hear of it. wanted to keep my secret. As if secrets matter when one's dying "Oh, don't bedownhearted, old man! Perhaps, if you tell me all about

"I fancied you might be looking for us and prayed you would come in time, but I hadn't the strength to write. Do you know why we left Lansale?"

"I-borrowed some money belonging to the firm, and it was found out, Elsa paid half, and they promised not to prosecute. Then we came up to London, took another name, and she wrote to you to break off the engage-Since that time I've learned very little. Nothing for a year."
"And what has Elsa done?"

"Typewriting. It hasn't provided as with many luxuries. It isn't a cheerful story.

"No!" assented Duncan, and it cost him an effort to limit his answer to that monosyllable.

"I suppose you don't think any the worse of Elsa?"

"I think as I have always thought—that Elsa's love is a gift beyond the merits of any man on earth." "Thank you. It is pleasant to be so remembered!" And a soft hand

And a soft hand was laid on his shoulder.

Could it possibly be Elsa—his Elsa?

This girl in the shabby frock and rusty black hat! This girl with the thin

hands, haggard face and tired eyes!
"Have you forgotten me all this
time?" he asked at length.

"I never forget my friends." "We were something more than

friends. "It was to save you pain."

"Pain!" And he laughed a little bitterly. "Child, did you suppose there was any pain in this world like that of knowing you were in hiding without"— and he glanced around the bare room-"without necessaries? Do you believe anything could hurt me as it burts me to recall what you were, and see what you are?"

'I have told her that a hundred She should have left me to

myself."
"Hush,dear!" And Elsa stooped to kiss her brother's cheek, "Are you

"Not more so than usual. Elsa, you didn't let Mrs. Walsh sell the pic-A crimson flush colored the girl's

pale face. "You don't want to look at pictures when I'm here."

"No, I suppose not," he answered, divining the meaning of her words.
"Duncan!" And there was a glad-ring in his voice as he saw the little painting replaced in its frame and

hung on a pail opposite his bed, though he was too far on his way toward the shadowy beyond to feel sur-prised that it had been brought back, -Forget-Me-Not.

A TREE GROWING UPSIDE DOWN. Old Apple Tree With Limbs in the Ground

and Roots in the Air.

John Meiner's distillery in Milwaukee has not been in operation for nine years. It is an old landmark, and is surrounded with the interest that every old building in Milwaukee awakens in the historian. The grounds about it are covered with grand old trees and rustic benches, and form a little by-way nook whose existence one would not suspect from the road outside the fence at the south.

But the object of greatest interest in this unique place is an old apple tree that was planted 28 years ago, with its limbs in the ground and its roots fruit and sprout branches where roots should be and roots where twigs and leaves should be, a curiosity to be-

Mr. Meiners was induced to make the trial through an old German le-

When Mr. Meiners planted his 25 apple trees they showed no signs of life for a long time. Finally the one still remaining showed a leaf, softened by summer rains and expanded by the sun, and with a great deal of care it was nursed to a sturdy life. It grew very slowly, and has not grown more than two feet in height since it was planted. It is now about four feet high, with a trunk 15 inches in diameter. The roots had a tendency droop, and it was found necessary prop them up with a trellis. Instead of growing vertically, they have ex-tended horizontally in long, slender arms. There are about 20 of these, radiating in all directions. Each year, as they grew longer, additional props were put underneath, and they have extended along the trellis flat, straight as a ceiling, with little slender shoots running at right angles and intertwining with one another so closely that they afford some protection from the rain to one who may stand underneath. The top is circular in form, and about 50 feet in diameter. The tree has born fruit for about 20 years. The fruit is of good quality, but the variety is not known by Mrs. Adolph Meyer, daughter of Mr. Meiners, who now occupies the old homestead with her husband and family. - Mechan's Monthly.

Fifty-three Pay Days in 1898. It may be interesting to note that in 1898 there will be fifty-three Saturdays, as the year both begins and ends on Saturday. Those who are concerned with the payment of weekly incomes on that day may view the fact with different feelings. To recipients the circumstance may be of no consecircumstance may be of no consequence, as they really receive nothing more, but in the case of large firms employing a vast amount of labor, fifty-three pay days instead of fifty-two may not be without importance when accounts for the whole year come to be made up.—London News. USEFUL CASTOR OIL

How It Is Secured and Some of Its Numer

The much maligned castor oil bean, which grows within cultivation in al-most all parts of the world, in America, particularly in South America and the southwestern part of the United States, produces an oil which has many other than medicinal uses. The bean contains from 50 to 60 per cent. of oil, 100 pounds of beans yielding about 30 pounds of fine oil at the first pressing, 16 pounds of a second quality by additional heat in the pressing, and five to 10 pounds by heating the mass with steam or in an over and a final pressing.

The extract obtained from the last named process is valuable for burning purposes. In the East the beans are obtained from the pods by allowing them to dry in the sun, and then thrashing them out with flails.

In this country the pods are passed through hard wooden rollers, set about three-sixteenths of an inch apart, which merely crush the pods without reducing the mass to a pulp. The beans are then placed in heavy canvas bags, which are placed in a hydraulic press, if the work is conducted on a very large scale, or a hand press if only a small amount is treated. By slow compression the oil is extracted and runs into receiving tubs.

The cold-pressed oil, as it is known in the trade, obtained in this manner is about one-half of the total oil contents of the bean. For the balance the cakes are removed, crushed and heated to about the boiling point of water, then re-bagged and again subjected to the press, or, what is preferable, to keep the two qualities oil separate, use a separate press and greater pressure. After refining by boiling with water in large retorts the oil is ready for use. As a preservative of leather caster oil has no superior. Mice and rats, which are very destructive to leather articles, will not touch harness or other articles which are occasionally dressed with castor oil, while such applications render the

leather pliable and soft. When applied to ordinary shoes a a polish can easily be got immediately after its use, which is rarely so with other oils. As a preservative for leather belting it has no equal. As a lubricant for heavy bearings it is advocated by many English manufacturers, many of them going so far as to have all of their shafting and also their cylinders lubricated with castor oil. A castor oil lubricated bearing rarely, if ever, becomes hot, even under extraordinary circumstances. - Philadelphia Record.

Gigantle Bow Used in China to Kill Tigers.

In the Smithsonian institution in Washington one of the most interest-ing objects is the bow used by the Chinese to kill tigers in the jungle district.

It resembles greatly in size and shape a crossbow of the mediaeval The whole is cleverly comperiod. The whole is cleverly com-pounded, the power being obtained from ten pieces of bamboo, forming an elliptical spring, and producing an immense power. The barrel part of the weapon is a block of wood, in which two grooves have been cut, and in these rest two arrows, about a foot and a half in length, and from a half inch to an inch in diameter. In the end of these is stuck loosely a shaft, three to five inches in length, with a barb at the end.

The trigger is a compound one, and is released by the pressure on a thread. So strong is the bow that in China it took six men to pull it back, bending the bow, when it broke, and

The weapon is placed in one of the paths frequented by the tiger. It rests on two bamboo sticks driven into the ground, holes being cut in the bottom of the bow for that purpose. The trigger is set, and its presence is concealed as far as possible. When the tiger passes it and brushes against the thread laid out for the purpose the arrows, with their shafts, which have been dipped in poison pots, are driven into its body.

Revolutionary Scholars.

Rev. George Channing wrote an account of the school of his youth, which he attended just after the revolution. Girls and boys attended together the primary school and sat on seats made of round blocks of wood of various heights, which were furnished by the parents. Children bowed and kissed the teacher's hand on leaving the room. The teaching of spelling was peculiar. It was the last esson of the day.

The master gave out a long word, say multiplication, with a blow of his strap on the desk as a signal for all to start together, and in chorus the whole class spelled out the word in syllables. The teacher's ear was so trained and acute that he at once detected any misspelling. If this hap-pened he demanded the name of the scholar who made the mistake. there was any hesitancy or refusal in acknowledgment he kept the whole class until, by repeated trials of long words, accuracy was obtained. The roar of the many voices of the large school, all pitched in different keys, could be heard, on summer days, for a long distance.—The Chautauquan.

Willing to Participate. His Lordship—I am deeply interested in the new gold discoveries.

Friend-You don't think of going to the Klondike, do you? His Lordship—Oh, no! But I thought of advertising that I should be glad to communicate with any successful miner who might happen to have an unmarried daughter.—

American dynamite is finding an ex-

AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

Animal-Cleaning Brush.

In a recently patented animal-clean-ing device, a circular brush is mounted on a revolving shaft geared to two friction wheels, mounted on a yoke frame, the brush being rapidly re-volved by drawing the friction wheels lightly over the body of the animal,

Geese will live on any kind of grass, and red clover is considered an excellent food; in fact it will be a laxury for geese. The droppings are very rich, but will not kill the grass unless there is a large flock on a small lot or yard. The result of overcrowding will be the same with geese as with any other fowl or animal. It is a better policy to give them plenty of pasture room, or to change the runs very often.

Feeding Turnips. All the turnips should be fed in fall and early winter, as, despite all the care that can be given them, they will turn pithy and become nearly worth-less. The rutabaga is a much better keeper, and if kept covered with soil so as to protect it from the air, it may be kept in good condition until spring, The rutabaga, though coarse, is much more solid and nutritious than the or-

dinary flat turnip. The longer season a turnip requires to grow in, the greater are apt to be its nutritive and keeping qualities. For hogs, turnips ought always to be cooked. Then with some grain or meal mixed with them, the hog will thrive, while if turnips are fed raw to hogs the animals have to be half starved before they will eat them.

Drying Of Cows.

There are many differences of pinion as to what is the proper method to be employed in drying off cows, but as a matter of fact the only safe method can be learned by trying different ones on your own stock and sticking to the one you find works the best. As a general proposition, with the average general purpose cow, the following method has been found very satisfactory: At first milk only once a day; at the end of two weeks skip two milkings and do not milk clean; a noticeable falling off of the supply will be seen until the animal is thoroughly lry. If the cow is thin, care will be dry. If the cow is thin, care will be needed during the drying process that the udder is not injured, and it should be examinal frequently. If it begins to harden, milk more frequently for a few days at the same time applying, after each milking, some sweet oil or vaseline, well rubbed in. Atlanta Journal.

The Cream-Separator.

After two years' experience in the use of a cream-separator I am decidedly of the opinion that thousands of farmers who sell butter or cream are tosing enough money each year to pay for a complete dairy equipment, induding not only the separator, but a good milk-tester, cream-ripening vats, butter-packages, churn and all com-plete. I have tested skimmed milk ifter standing twenty-four hours in caus in cold water, and found onefourth of the total amount of butterfat remaining; and if such results come from the "gravity process," in careful bands, what must be the loss when depended upon by less careful persons! Before using the separator I and a good creamer in a cool cellar supplied by well-water at a temperature of forty-eight degrees, and yet I sometimes found the skimmed milk contained as much as six-tenths of a pound of butter-fat to every hundred pounds of milk. Now I frequently find no trace of butter-fat in the skimmed milk.—Farm and Fireside.

Tickle the Earth With a Hoe.

The gardener will always find abunlant success if he will not neglect this tickling of the soil with a hoe or cultivator. It is wonderful what tillage will bring out of the soil. Most men must till to keep down weeds. do not realize that the benefits of this work are far above any mere weed

By persistent cultivation we get the soil loose and mellow, porous and light, so air can enter and roots freely branch and distribute themselves throughout the entire mass of earth within their reach. Parthermore, tillage is a breaking-up process, particles of rock and organic matter being reduced in size and made available for

the nutrition of crops.

Then there is the immensurable effect of shallow surface cultivation in forming a mulch upon the surface of the ground athin layer of loose dry earth to cut off the rise of moisture to the surface and its subsequent evaporation and loss to the use of the growing plants. Water in a drouth is a price-less boon to vegetables, and conserv of moisture is one of the most vital subjects with which the agriculturist has to deal. Tillage is to a certain degree manure, as was claimed by Jethro Tull of old. -M. Sumner Perkins.

Defence Stated in Chyme

In the complaint in a suit for \$10,-000 damages for personal injuries in the pursuit of his work for the Armour Packing Company at Kansas City, Kan., one Andy Dupont, who is a pugilist of local note as well as an Armour employe, stated his case in rhyme, and asserted that he would "suffer his lifelong by reason of de-fendant's wrong." The defendant made answer also in rhyme, setting forth as follows:

orth as follows:

"Each claim of plaintiff we resist
Because he is a pugilist.
And whether it be wrong or right
His duty is to stand and fight.
Not in the court, but with his fist.
Is where the plaintiff should resist.
And not let some poor slaughtered sheep.
Knock plaintiff out and make him weep.
Defendant also here will state.
If plaintiff got a wounded pate,
It was by his own want of care.
For by us he was treated fair.
Therefore defendant should go hence
With costs, for this is its defence."

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

DISCOVERED NATURAL GAS.

Death of Dr. E. L. Slocum Who had the First Well Drilled.

Dr. E. L. Siokum, of Lancaster, who has just died at Knoxville, Tenn., has always been justly styled "the father of natural gas," as it was through his exertions that a well was drilled on his lot, and a sufficiently strong flow of gas was found to demonstrate that his was found to demonstrate that his theory of a subterraneous cavern filled with oil and gas was correct.

lot, and a sufficiently strong flow of gas was found to demonstrate that his theory of a subterraneous cavern filled with oil and gas was correct.

The following Pennsylvania pensions were granted last week: Frank Rusher, Pittsburg, \$12; John P. Bush (dead), Pittsburg, \$5; George N. Stroup, West End, Bedford, \$6; John Williams, Pium, Venango, \$6; Honry E. Douglas, New Brighton, \$5; William M. Gates, Victor, Clearfield, \$6; Hance H. Ferguson, Taylorstown, Washington, \$5; John D. McAfoos, Allegheny, \$6; David W. Madra, Bakers Summit, Bedford, \$6; William K. Kingen, Mili Village, Erie, \$8 to \$10; William J. Shirley, Altoona, \$16 to \$17; John Moyer, Pleasantville, Venango, \$12 to \$17; Daniel P. Foltz, Kilmer, Juniata, \$12 to \$17; George W. Thompson, Harrison City, Westmoreland, \$8 to \$12; Isabella Wildman, Patterson, Juniata, \$1; Sophia Seamon, Denison, Westmoreland, \$8; Susanna F. Burch, Pittsburg, \$8; Mary A. Larkin, Chleora, \$8; Jacob H. Weaver, Confluence, \$8; Jacob H. Weaver, Confluence, \$8; John Cuningham, New Haven, \$8; George Lotz, Pittsburg, \$6; Samuel Goles, Braddock, \$6; Samuel Sentman, Altoona, \$12; Joseph Boughomer, Munhall, Allegheny, \$10; Thos. F. McKee, Beaver Falls, \$8; James N. Lewis, Morrill, Bradford, \$8; William Boundy, Zeno, Butler, \$8; William Roundy, Zeno, Butler, \$8; William Askey, dead, Port Matilda, Center, \$16 to \$30; Theodore F. Jones, Kinzua, Warren, \$8 to \$10; Henry J. Porter, Harbor Creek, Erie, \$6 to \$8; William H. Smith, Fleming, Center, \$8; Bridget Murren, Pittsburg, \$8; Sophronia S. Markham, Kinzua, Warren, \$12; Charles W. Hyde, Mt. Pleasant, \$8; Joneph Goss, Sabbath Rest, \$6; Ferdinand M. Tate, Allegheny, \$8; Augustus Metzgar, Holidaysburg, \$8; William Evans, Brookrille, \$6; Henry F. Harriger, Erie, \$6; Samuel Kent, Coal Center, \$6; Frederick Dornheim, Allegheny, \$12.

Samuel and Mrs. W. K. Runkle, of Center Hall, had spent Saturday in Bellefonte and started home about sark, About one mile above Pleasant sap, at a point designated the "waterng trough," Runkle's attention was att

Mrs. Samuel Edgar, wife of a young nan recently employed at Oil City, was found dead in her bed the other day. Mrs. Edger a short time ago had her husband arrested for desertion and son-support. She had interviewed him at the jail, where he is confined. The excitement in the interview is supposed to have brought on heart trouble. Mrs. o have brought on heart trouble. Edgar leaves four small children.

The second death in the alleged pol-The second death in the alleged pos-soning case at Jamestown occurred Monday, the victim being William Bush of Williamsfield, O. He visited the Birch family about a week ago and was soon after taken ill, lingering in kreat agony. The suspected poisoning is still a mystery.

A judgement was entered against the Fayette Gas Fuel Company, of Union-lown, for \$173,132 in favor of the South-west Natural Gas Company, of Pitts-burg, the same to include all debts ow-ing the Southwest Company, while all prior judgments are to be satisfied.

David McCleary, a prominent Demo-crat of Quincy township, dropped dead at the polls Tuesday morning. He had driven to the voting place, a mile from home, in his carriage, and fell dead while alighting. He was 60 years old and leaves a large family.

James Bascome and Maney Caren arrived at Greenville one day last week, bound for Jamestown, N. Y., where they are to be married. Upon being told the price of railroad tickets they decided to walk the distance, 60 miles.

and save their money. Charles Hall, aged 55, a colored employee of the wholesale grocery house of J. M. Spriggs & Sons, at Washing-ton, was found dead the other evening at the bottom of the elevator shaft. He is supposed to have fallen into the

shaft.

James Ray, of Neshannock Falls, who has been receiving a pension from the government, recently had it advanced to \$75 a month. He refuses, however, to accept more than \$50 per month, claiming that this is all his injuries entitle him to.

Frank Sutton, stoker of the battle-ship Maine, who went down with the ship in Havana harbor, was a former resident of Johnstown, and while there was employed as track foreman for the Johnstown Passenger Company.

At Bedford the election to decide whether the indebtedness of the bor-ough should be increased \$16,500 for the purpose of building a large reservoir 384 votes were polled for and 19 against While temporarily insane Samuel Mc Cune, of Jeannette, committed suicide in his father's stable by shooting him-ielf in the forehead recently. He leaves wife and two small children.

s wife and two small children.

John Johnston has been recommended by Congressman Acheson for the New Haven postoffice. He will be the first negro ever appointed to a postoffice in Fayette county.

Frank Haldeman, one of the most prominent business men of Columbia and a member of the firm of George W. & G. F. Haldeman, fell dead at the dinner table the other day.

During the absence of Mrs. Alice Bentzel from home, at Eastmount, York county the other day, her children played with kerosene and her son, aged 8, was burned to death.

The powder house of Drake & Strat-

The powder house of Drake & Strat ton, contractors, containing 1,000 pounds of dynamite, near Wilmore, blew up recently, fatally injuring two

Franklin, a city since 1868, by special act of the legislature, is moving to abandon its charter and become either a third-class city or a borough.

At last Tuesday's election Wilkesbarre decided by a large vote to become a city of the third class. F. M. Nichols was elected mayor.

Gas from a stove caused the death of a child of George Timble, Mercer county, and rendered other members of the family unconscious.

The safe of the United States Express Company at Carlisle was blown open, and it is thought several thousand deliars were taken last week.

Thomas Farrel, aged 32, was killed in a mine at Williamstown, near Harrisburg.

ed into submission.

ed Into submission.

Frank Patterson, the 18-year-old son of Assemblyman Patterson, of Veters, was killed by a falling tree last week.

St. John's Protestant Episcopal church at Norristown has been damaged by fire to the extent of \$10,000.

Valentine C. Houser, a young miner of Johnstown, was instantly killed by a fall of rock last week.

CONGRESS.

Washington, Feb. 14.—Mr. Turley, of Tennessee, took the oath of office as successor of the late Senator Harris, having been elected by the Tennessee logislature.

having been elected by the Tennessee legislature.

Mr. Morgan, of Alabama, reported the amendment proposed to the diplomatic and consular bill by Mr. Allen, declaring a state of war to exist in Cuba, and recogniging the belligerence of the Cubans, together with a recommendation that it lie on the table, to come up at the proper time. This was agreed to.

to.

Senator Morgan called up his resolu-tion asking the president for corres-pondence from Gen. Lee and American consuls regarding affairs in Cuba, es-

pondence from Gen. Lee and American consuls regarding affairs in Cuba, especially what negotiations or intercourse, if any, had been had with the autonomist government.

It is very important, Mr. Morgan said, if the United States had recognized a government that had not been recognized by Spain. The resolution was agreed to.

Washington, Feb. 15.—A resolution was adopted in the senate calling on the president for information (if not incompatible with the public service) as to what action has been taken in regard to the murder of Segundo H. Lopez, a citizen of the United States, on April 1, 1896, in the districet of San Diego del Valla Magueralla, Cuba, by armed soldiers of Spain commanded by Col. Esteruch. The resolution offered yesterday by Mr. Harris, in relation to the proposed sale of the Kansas Pacific railroad was taken up and Mr. Harris advocated its passage.

Washington, Feb. 16.—A discussion on coast defenses was the interesting feature of the Senate to-day. Many Senators took the ground that the appropriation should be for the full amount of the estimate by the War Department, instead of some \$4,000,000 less. Senators Perkins and Hale said it is the policy of the Appropriations Committee to make an annual expenditure of \$10,000,000 a year for fortifications.

Washington, Feb. 17.—It is possible

tions.

Washington, Feb. 17.—It is possible that the families of the victims of the Maine disaster will be cared for by the Government, as were the survivors of those who were lost in the Samoan hurdcane several years ago, when 54 American officers and sallors were lost from the Nipsic, Vandalia and Trenton. Representative McClellan, of New York Government, as were the survivors of those who were lost in the Samoan hurricane several years ago, when 54 American officers and sailors were lost from the Nipsic, Vandalia and Trenton. Representative McClellan, of New York introduced a joint resolution appropriating 155,000 for this purpose in the House. The resolution is as follows: Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives that the secretary of the navy be and is hereby directed to pay out of any money in the treasury not otherwise provided a sum equal to 12 months' pay to the legal heirs or representatives of each of the officers and rew of the United States Steamed Maine, who perished in the disaster in Havana February 15, 1898, and the sum of \$150,000 or so much thereof as me be necessary is appropriated to carrount the provisions of this act.

A million and a half dollars is the amount of money called for by a bill which Senator M. S. Quay introduced by request, for the purpose of buying a site for a new residence for the President of the United States.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 18.—A debate, decided in its sensations was unexpectedly precipitated in the senate over the consideration of the resolution of Mr. Allen (Neb.), directing the committee on naval affairs to investigate the disaster to the battleship

committee on naval affairs to investi-gate the disaster to the battleship Maine. An artangement had been made for the adoption of the resolution, with a minor amendment, without

House.

Washington, Feb. 15.—A bill to amend the act of 1887 relating to the fees of United States officers, to correct some existing abuses, was passed.

Mr. Cox, from the Committee on Banking and Currency, called up a bill "to better control and to promote the safety of national banks. "The bill provided that no national bank shall

provided that no national bank shall make a loan to the President or any other officer or employee of the bank until such officer or employee has submitted the proposition for the loan writing to the directors and it has be approved by a majority of them, a in no case shall the loan exceed t amount permitted by law. The transmit through the mails private postal cards with a 1-cent stamp attached was passed.

postal cards with a 1-cent stamp at-tached was passed.

Washington, Feb. 16.—The debate on the bankruptcy bill opened in the House to-day, but it attracted little at-tention, the interest of the members being entirely absorbed by the disaster of the Maine. Just before the House adjourned Mr. Boutelle, Chairman of the Naval Committee, presented a reso-lution, which was unanimously adopt-ed, expressing regret for the disaster. ed, expressing regret for the disaster, condolence with the families of those who lost their lives and sympathy with

the injured.
Washington, Feb. 17.—At the opening of the Senate the blind chaplain delivered a touching invocation with reference to the disaster to the Main The only reference thus far made to the disaster to the battleship Mains was in the form of the following reso-lution introduced by Mr. Allen, of Ne-

Resolved. That the committee on na val affairs be directed to make an im-mediate and thorough investigation in to the cause of the disaster to the br tieship Maine in the harbor of Hava on the 15th instant and report to

Senate."
Washington, Feb. 18.—One milli-two hundred and ninety-five thousal dollars if the amount the house will au-thorize to be expended during the next thorize to be expended during the next fiscal year on the improvements on the Ohio. Allegheny and Monongahela rivers that were authorized by previous congresses and placed under continuing contracts. These improvements comprise dams 2, 3, 4 and 5 on the Ohio river, three dams on the Allegheny and six new dams in the upper Menongahela river. A bill appropriating \$4,000,000 to provide a battleship to replace the Maine was introduced in the house by Mr. Foote of New York.

An Ambiguous Query.

Judge John F. Philips of the Federal bench has a peculiar dignity and severity of mien, but for all that he is a great wag. In the Southern Hotel rotunda the other day, relates the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, he met an old Kansas City friend, Colonel John Richards, and said to him;

"Hullo, John! What are you doing down here?"

"Well, Judge," replied the Colonel, "I am appointed on this commission to represent Missouri at Omaha. I am serving as a patriot just now."

"Humph," said the Judge, "How toes it agree with you?" An Ambiguous Query.