Spain is preparing to get together a navy again. But this time it will be the sea force of a very minor

Even John D. Rockefeller has his financial troubles. Instead of Standard oil paying \$50,000,000 in dividends this year it pays a paltry \$48,000,000 only.

Eighteen states and one territory now have valued policy laws-that is, laws requiring fire insurance companies to pay the face of the policy, no matter what may be the actual value of the property burned.

Although the Berlin experts admit that American coal is superior in quality to that imported from any other country, still the German colliery owners hope to get the government chemists to report that it is full of disease germs and subject to exclusion like American pork.

An attempt is being made to reform the Mexican army, teaching the officers to stay by their men in an engagement, instead of seeking a secure place when danger is encountered, and the men to fire from the shoulder, instead of from the hip. President Diaz also intends to have his army provided with the best mod-

Speaking of Indian summer, a down-easter is quoted by the Portsmouth (N. H.) Chronlele as saying: "The Indian summer comes in November, usually the first week. It got its name from coming so late in the autumn that the shiftless red man could accomplish his tardy hunting and crop gathering in season to he ready for the first snows when they fell-playing the limit, I might say." This will answer for time and reason until a better guess is given.

It is rumored in Europe that King Victor Emmanuel of Italy desires to introduce the American cabinet system into his government, in addition to the European system of responsible ministries, and is determined to have a privy council which shall be answerable to him alone. In order not to violate the Italian constitution. which makes the ministry the sovereign's sole official adviser, King Victor will make his new council a sort of "kitchen cabinet."

The government of New Zealand last year paid out about \$50,000 for freezing the butter intended for export. As the process cost threeeighths of a cent a pound, they must have exported over 13,000,000 pounds. Next year they propose that the farmer or shipper shall pay one-half of this cost, that they may use the money to promote agricultural exports in some other way. They think that the farmers now understand so well the need of freezing butter that they will not be unwilling to pay at their exports of dairy products are expected to increase.

Taking the recent developments in the Castellane case as a text, the Philadelphia Times presents a severe class arraignment, concluding: "It is der?" said Mrs. Dean, taking an ap-American women who had opportunity for culture and for the most generous philanthropy that so beautifully adorns American womanhood, who have brought reproach and shame upon the better women of this country. They make marriage a mere matter of commerce, and grasp thinking themselves thereby honored. when they sacrifice the last vestige of self-respect, the respect of the country and of the world, and all the airiest yellow froth. sanctity of home life where woman is grandest in her offices and achieve-

Any one who has had the pleasure of being greeted bolsterously by an Affectionate Great Dane can imagine what a powerful aid he would be to highway robbers, if only some of them were sharp enough to put one to such work. It has finally been done, and, of course, in Paris. There is a gang of footpads in that city which has been causing much trouble. Its modus operandi was simple, but very modus operandi was simple, but very Boston boy who war'ted me to get effective. The leader of the gang him a tomahawk?" queried the mirthowned a huge Great Dane named Turk. Turk would be taken out in the evening with his pals, and when the victim came along he would jump at him. Of course, the victim would go down in a heap, and moreover would be scared to death, although the dog would never bite him. While down and half unconscious with fright, the gentlemen who owned the dog would clean out his pockets. This is a great improvement on the lead pipe or sandbag, because none of the lictims suffered except from fright

HARRY'S CABINET.

BY MARJORIE BURNS.

mean? Are you a summer Santa

Claus, Harry?" Mae Thorndyke's dark eyes added their laughing inquiry to this question as she glanced from the thick packages, thin packages, and packages of every size, shape and color that strewed the grass at her feet to the handsome boy, who had just tumbled them from his bulging pockets.

Mae was the prettiest teacher that ever queened it in a country schoolhouse, and she was idling away one of the last sweet afternoons of summer vacation in the apple orchard when Harry Freare, her fellow-boarder at the brown farm-house on top of the breezy hill sought her with his bulging pockets.

'My exchanges," he explained, surveying the packages at Mae's feet with an air of proud possession. You know my offer of exchange came out in Golden Days a little while ago-Petrified wood from the Indian Territory for miscellaneous curiosities.' A star-fish, a sea-urchin, a piece of the Atlantic cable," he continued, keeping up a running commentary as he unwrapped each pack age. "And here's fun!" claimed, as he finished reading a letter. "A Boston boy wants me to get him a tomahawk from some of the neighboring tribes of Indians, and to tell him about some of the buffalo hunts I've had. The idea of buffaloes and Indians in Southeastern Kansas: I haven't done with that boy yet," he concluded, mysteriously, as went away to arrange his curiosities in the empty cabinet, which was a late birthday present, and the motive

of his sudden craze for curiosities. Left alone, Mae took up the zephyr that was dancing into pink foam under her swift fingers, and tried to fix her attention on the volume of Rossetti: but tears came thronging to her eyes, and at last she gave up all attempts at self-control, and bowing her golden head on her folded

arms, sobbed unrestrainedly. A single word is sometimes the that unlocks a whole world of recollections, and "Boston" had been that word for Mae.

The past came surging back upon her-the golden past of two years ago, when she was one of the happlest girls in Boston, with a brother in whom she, at least, could see no fault, and a lover whom all the world agreed in calling as manly and honorable a fellow as ever lived.

Then the crash came. John Thorndyke had speculated with his employer's money, lost it, and on the eve of exposure had cut the dark knot of impending fate and his own thread of life at one stroke.

It was only one more item in the lengthening list of crime and suicide. but it changed the face of the world

She slipped away, severing all connection with her old life: and for two years had been teaching a little prairie-school, near which an old nurse of hers lived, at whose home she boarded

"Dear old Phil, with his heart of gold, I am so glad he was traveling in Egypt when I went away, for I know he wouldn't have given me up if wild horses had been tearing me least half the cost of the process, and away from him; but I love him too much to stain his name with brother's disgrace, and he shall never know where I am hiding," she said to herself, with loving resolution, as the storm of sobs abated.

"Is that boy gettin' crazy, I wonpetizing peach-tart out of the oven one Saturday morning, and looking from the open window at Harry Freare, who lay on the grass-plot reading a letter, and bubbling over with suppressed merriment. never seemed overly fond of writin' till about a month ago, and now he's always scribblin' and chucklin' away to himself, and mumblin' a string o' the empty baubles of foreign titles, stuff about Injuns and buffelers, and yaller-haired gals. Do you think his brain can be a little mite teched?" she inquired, anxiously, of Mae, who was whisking a dozen eggs into the

"Perhaps he has been writing a story, and has just received a letter of acceptance from the publisher,' laughed Mae, as a wild, exultant yell rang out, and Harry rolled on the grass in a paroxysm of mysterious delight.

"See here, now, sir, you've just got to tell us all about this! crazy, or hev you got a fit, or hev you been writin' a story?" demanded Dean, swooping upon Harry,

and tugging him into the kitchen. "It's the greatest fun I ever had and I'd have fold you and Miss Mae all about it, only I was afraid you'd want me to stop. You remember the ful culprit at the bar of justice, as he faced Mae. "Well," he continued, as she nodded, "I've been writing him the greatest string of stuff you ever heard about the Indians and buffaloes, and of course I had to have a pretty girl in my yarn, so I took you, and wrote him a lot of stuff about your riding over the prairie, with your hair flying loose, and jump ing six-foot fences, and said that the Indians called you Sunshine-of-the-Plain. Well, the Boston fellow takes it all in; but the furniest of all the thing that I was roaring so over, out on the grass, is that a boarder of his mother's takes it ir, too. Jim—that's the Boston follow—has been telling

· "What in the world does all this him about my letters, and gave him the one to read where I wrote all about you. Well, the upshot of it was the boarder made up his mind to go West in a hurry, and Jim thinks he's fallen in love with you, and is coming out to propose. Maybe that's him now," Harry suggested mischievously, as a determined knock sounded on the half-opened door.

So the exclamations, reproofs and laughter that Harry's story called forth were hushed, and the stranger bade to enter.

He appeared to be a fine-looking man, so far as his features were discernible through the cataract of red whiskers that overflowed his face, while a pair of enormous green spectacles concealed his eyes.

He wore a huge Panama hat, lined with green, and carried a small wooden box and a geological hammer.

'If you lend me-aha! vat you call -a tin-cup, if you please, goot lady get me some vater from your vell," he said, bowing elaborately to Mrs. Dean.

"Water? No. indeed-you shall have milk!" said Mrs. Dean, her hospitable soul in arms, as she waved the stranger to a chair.

And she brought him a brimming goblet of milk and a fragrant slice of gingerbread.

"You vas so goot and your home vas so lofely, all covered up mit roses! It must be so shveet in the mornings to hear the leetle birds he murmured, gratefully, sipping his milk and staring sentimentally at the late-climbing roses that thrust their pink faces in at the

"Law, what a nice man!" said Mrs. Dean, in an appreciative aside, "Now, my Joshua don't know a rose from a cabbage, and don't care a mite more for a bird than he does for a Junebug.'

The stranger was evidently encour aged by this admiration, and held out a card, bearing the name, "Herr von Schneitzenberg."

"If I could lodge at your lofely home!" he pleaded. "I have-vat you call him?-references, and I vould be out all the day, looking for fosseels in your coal-mines."

"Oh, let him come!" begged Harry. 'As he's a geologist, he could help me label my specimens."

"What do you think about it, Mae" He might have the north room," suggested Mrs. Dean, who had taken a great fancy to Herr von Schneitzenberg, and, besides-transplanted Yankee matron that she was-she was always ready to turn an honest penny. So the bargain was sealed, with the stipulation that Mrs. Dean should be allowed to call her boarder Mr. Smith. "For if I called you that name every time I spoke to you I shouldn't have any time left to do the work," she said.

Toward sunset Mae was sitting on the front porch making some preparation for the next week's lessons, it was September, and her school had begun again, when Herr von Schneitzenberg came out and took a seat near

"This is as it should be-lofe, poetry and lofeliness," he said, beaming sunnily through his green glasses from the little book of poetical extracts which Mae held to the sweet bending above it.

"No; love and I have nothing to do with each other. I am merely preparing a parsing lesson for my scholars," returned Mae, coldly, as she moved her chair a trifle farther from this sentimental Teuton.

"But you surely haf lofed? Vas he tead, or a schamp?" he demanded, fixing his goggles upon her face, with quiet insistence.

"Philip Earle a scamp? Never!" said Mae, rising abruptly, with indignant crimson flushing her cheeks. "Stop! I only wanted to know whether you loved him still," said a mellow voice, from which the foreign accent and guttural tone had strange ly disappeared.

Mae turned, flushing and palingfear, hope, delight, each struggling for mastery in her wide, dark eyes. In a second the green goggles fell

to the ground, the red wig and whiskers following suit, and the transformation of Herr von Schneitzenberg into Philip Earle was complete.

"Oh, you cruel little thing!" he said, folding Mae in his strong arms. When I came home from Egypt. alarmed at hearing nothing from you after that terrible report in the newspapers, and found that you had disappeared as completely as the bride in 'The Mistletoe Bough,' I followed up rumor after rumor, only to find them delusive, until at last your young friend's letters to Jimmie Brown gave me the correct clew. I assumed a disguise, fearing that you might have learned to love some else, and thinking if that was the case I could go quietly away without identity; but your pretty burst of indignation a moment ago showed me that my Mae was still my own.

"But I forgot," said Mae, struggling away from his encircling arm; "I

cannot marry you and disgrace you." "Don't talk of disgrace and yourself in the same breath, Mae! I tell you that you shall marry me! So you might as well accept the situation

with the best grace possible." Somehow Mae's resolution melted away just then, and she accepted the situation with so good a grace that when Mrs. Dean came to the door her golden head was resting on Philip's shoulder, and the two were

cooing lovers' sweet nothings to each surely the happiest pair der the pink sunset that night.

Well, if I ever heard of the like, I wouldn't have believed it of you and Mr. Smith, if I didn't see it with my own eyes!" gasped Mrs. Dean, sinking to the step and fanning herself with a highly-scandalized air.

Mae laughed, and explained the sit uation. "Well, I thought if Philip Earle had

the spunk of a man, he'd find you out, by hook or by crook," beamed Mrs. Dean, much relieved. "But I can't help feelin' sort o' sorry that that sweet Mr. Smith has gone," she mourned, with a rueful glance at the discarded goggles and red hair, the sole remnants of the courteous Teuton who had completely won her soft

But she was partly consoled for the non-existence of "that sweet Mr. Smith" by the present of a red-plush parlot-set that she had long coveted, and Harry Freare and Jimmie Brown also rejoiced in many new possessions dear to boyish hearts.

No need to ask if Mae was happy, as she and Philip steamed across the prairie lit by the cloth-of-gold of acres of wild sunflowers. The dark gulf of disgrace and loneliness was annulled, and past, present and future seemed all one rose-lit unity .-Saturday Night.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

The greatest elevation ever attained by balloonists was 37,000 feet, about seven miles. The ascent was made by James Glaischer, F. R. S., and a Mr. Coxwell, at Wolverhampton, England, September 5, 1862.

Nearly all the snakes in Samoa are harmless. It is customary for the native girls, when about to attend to adorn their necks and dances. arms by winding live reptiles around them.

Beds are comparatively scarce in Russia, and many well-to-do houses are still unprovided with them. Peasants sleep on the tops of their middle class people and servants roll themselves up in sheepskins and lie down near stoves; soldiers rest upon wooden cots without bedding, and it is only within the last few years that students in schools have been allowed beds.

The ashes of Dante, inclosed in an fron urn, are about to be transported, with great ceremony, to the library palace of Florence. The urn was long ago stolen from a church in Ravenna, and secreted in the outer wall of a chapel. It seems that a sculptor named Pazzi has for years possessed this extraordinary treasure, and has recently handed it over to Florence, where Dante was born, and whence he was exiled.

One of the most extraordinary civic customs that still survive is that of "weighing-in" the corporation of High Wycombe, England. After the election of the mayor is concluded. that functionary, the aldermen and the councillors proceed to the borough office of weights and measures, where they are weighed and their correct weights duly entered in a book. The policemen on duty are also included, and last year provided the heaviest man in the person of the senior sergeant, who scaled 18 stone, the light weight of the corporation being the town clerk, whose avoirdupois was barely nine stone.

A notable instance of liberality in high quarters is that of the English Earl of Dysart, who, being himself a musical enthusiast, and a good landlord, recently made a visit to all the tenants on his estate, and arranged to present a piano to every family where he found any of the children showed an aptitude for music. Another singular case of thoughtfulness for the poor comes from Paris. There are few Paris windows where plants growing in pots are not seen. A rich philanthropist has had the queer idea of opening a free hospital for sick plants in the Faubourg St. Antoine. There are big greenhouses, with plenty of gardeners who look after the plants that are brought in till they recover, and then return them to their owners.

A Gong-Whacking Competition. A strange ceremony, indicative of

the hold which the old superstitions still have on the Japanese people and of the queer manner in which their different religions mix, took place recently in the town of Wakamatsu on the thirty-third anniversary of the battles of Alzu, where the star of the the shoguns was forever last of quenched in blood. The ceremony was in commemoration of the Japanese who fell on the wrong side of those fatal fields and was attended by a crowd of Shinto priests, near whom sat another crowd of Buddhist bonzes, in the full glory of purple silken cloaks. A big post in the center bore an inscription inviting the souls of the departed to the feast, and at a signal given both sections burst simultaneously into prayer and chantings to which they kept tune with their gongs and bells. As Japanese music is a terror, and as each sect tried to outdo the other in creating noise, the scene was not one of pastoral calm and the spirits did not, so far as any unprejudiced observer could judge, come back. -Correspondence Chicago Record.

"Do you think that there is as much chance now to make a good living out of literature ?" asked the youth.

" More chance than before,"answered the man with glasses; "especially if you know how to set type and correct proofs."—Washington Star.

*************** A Texas Ranch as barge as Two States.

The largest ranch in the world is to be found in Texas. This immense domain is known as the X. I. T. ranch,

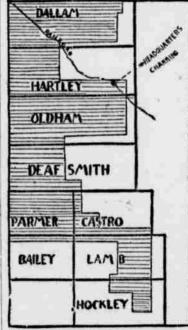
and is owned by Chicago capitalists. This ranch is so extensive that some States could not contain it. Connecticut, for example, could not hold it by several thousand acres. The two States of Rhode Island and Delaware combined could not contain this great ranch, which consists of over 3,000,000 acres, or almost 5000 square miles.

About twelve years ago, when Texas needed a new State capitol, the Legislature adopted a novel plan to get it. A promise was held forth that a vast tract of unappropriated land would be given in exchange for a suitable granite building at Austin. Among those tempted by this offer were ex-Senator Charles B. Farwell and his brother John, who ultimately formed a syndicate in Chicago, and took upon themselves the responsibility of erecting the proposed capitol. In due time they came into the possession of this domain known as the X. I. T. ranch.

The ranch is situated in the extreme

northwest corner of the panhandle of Texas, and covers or touches nine different counties. Its northern boundary is "No Man's Land," now a part of the Territory of Oklahoma, and its western limit is the line between Texas and New Mexico. In width (from east to west) it averages about twenty-five miles. In length it is about 200 miles. The land lies in what is known as the Staked Plains, a high plateau. The soil is mostly of a black or chocolate color-very fertile-and covered with a thick cost of buffalo. mesquite, grama and other grasses, which cure on the ground and furnish winter as well as summer pasture for stock of all kinds. At the southern end of the tract the altitude is about 2300 feet and at the northern end about 4700. The climate is pronounced to be very delightful, the air being brac-

ing, though dry. When the Farwells obtained the land they inclosed it with a substantial barbed-wile fence. There are many cross-fences upon it, separating the territory into from twenty to thirty large divisions, besides many small ones. To make these fences it required 1500 miles of barbed wire. The syndicate also built ranch houses, bored and dug wells, of which there are now about 350, averaging 120 feet in depth, and having earthen or wooden reservoirs and drinking attachments; erect-



LARGEST BANCH IN THE WORLD.

ed windmills over the wells; built dams across arroyos to conserve the rainfall, and in various other ways made the place suitable for a successful ranch on a large scale. They placed cattle upon it as fast as it could be put in safe condition to receive them, and have since continued to add to the herd from time to time by purchase and breeding until they have at present about 120,000 cattle, besides 1600 horses. The calf crop branded in 1899 exceeded 50,000 head. The whole property is valued at \$10,000,000.

Cat Rode 120 Miles on a Flywheel.

A Maltese cat jumped into a large flywheel of the Plymouth Refrigerator Company's engine, at Sheyboygan Wis., the other day. As the engineer could not very well stop and shut off lights to release the animal, he waited until the usual time of shutting down. On stopping the engine he found the cat alive and clinging to the flywheel The wheel is twelve feet in diamete: and makes eighty-seven revolutions a minute. Consequently, during two and half hours the cat covered a distance of about 120 miles. The cat lives, and with the exception of lameness ap pears to be none the worse for the ex perience.-New York Times.

Motors For Market Gardens.

The idea of utilizing a motor haul age in connection with the market gargen near a metropolis has been saggested of late. Motor vehicles would obviate some of the difficulties that market gardeners have now to encounter in getting their produce to market. and it would certainly pay some en terprising carrier to make the venture.

A full-rigged ship has thirty-three sails, fourteen of which are jibs and foresails.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENS

PENSIONS GRANTED.

Found a Human Skeleton Under a Rock-Sharon Doctor Breveted Colonel. Minor State Happenings.

Pensions were granted the following persons last week: William Alters, Millineim, \$6; Frederick Sensor, Fleming, \$12; George Roberts, Sharpsville, \$12; Susan Kemp, Greenville, \$8; Lucinda Reynolds, West Warren, \$12; John Little, Braddock, \$12; James F. Phillips, Oakdale, \$10; Peter Pile, Glade, \$17; Frank Sherer, Braddock, \$12; James Stoops, New Brighton, \$10; Rosa A. Byerly, Jeannette, \$8; Aaron McIllwee, Sharpsburg, \$6; William A. Kreps, Greenville, \$8; Kruson Harvey, Edgewood, \$6; Thomas V. Oviatt, Sugar Girove, \$8; Maria J. Burns, Braddock, \$8.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Nathan C. Schaeffer has submitted to Gov. Stone his annual report ending June 4, 1900, this being the 67th report upon the public schools of the Commonwealth. During the year ending the first Monday of June, 1900, the whole number of teachers employed was 29,300, the total enrollment of pu-1,151,880, the total receipts for school and building purposes were \$24,-916,668.69, and the total expenditures were \$21,476,004.00.

The remaining bribery, perjury and onspiracy cases of the last session of the Pennsylvania State Legislature on which true bills were found by a grand jury of Dauphin county came to a close when District Attorney Miller entered a nolle prosequi. This was entered on the agreement of the defendants to pay the costs, which amounted to about \$2;-

With the thermometer 25 degrees beow freezing ten faithful members of the Church of God were immersed in the cy waters of Dunbar creek, Dunbar, he minister was so benumbed by the old that one of the women baptized slipped from his hands and was nearly

At Lone Pine, Washington county, on the Bayne farm, while making an ex-cavation on a hillside for a coal plat-form, T. C. Gantz found part of a lu-man skeleton under a rock. Many years ago a peddler disappeared there and it is thought he was murdered.

Secret service men are making every effort to run down the gang of counter-citers operating near Altoona. The headquarters from which the spurious coin emanates has not yet been located, although several arrests have

Mrs. Nancy Clark, widow of the late Dr. Henry Clark and a sister of the late Andrew G. Curtin, the famous war gov-ernor of Pennsylvania, was killed by a train on the Pennsylvania railroad at Torresdale station.

Michael Cunco, a wealthy fruit dealer, of Greensburg, has offered a reward of \$100 to any one furnishing him with in-formation of his son, Andy, a fat boy 15 years old, four feet four inches high, and weighing 185 pounds.

Robert Williams has returned to New Castle, after 20 years. He went west on advice of a doctor, who told him he could not live six months. He had long been given up as dead, but is in good

The short line railroad from Somerset to the main line of the Pennsylvania railroad has been assured. The route will be 35 miles shorter from the town of Somerset to Pittsburg than it is now.

George Rowe, of Connellsville, found a man trying to pick the lock of his front door and shot and wounded the burglar. A pal carried the injured man away and all trace of the pair was lost. Mrs. Lavinia Stark is suing for \$10.

200 life insurance carried by her late husband, C. H. Stark, of Greensburg. His will named Attorney W. H. Byers as executor and beneficiary.

Four more Montgomery county township petition for a mandamus to com-pel the State superintendent and State treasurer to pay them more school

Dr. Salem Heilman, of Sharon, a surgeon in the United States volunteer army, with the rank of major, has been breveted colonel for faithful and effi-

horse driven by Shoemaker H. Wolfson, at Altoona, frightened at a train and backed over a 50-foot embankment, killing it. The driver narrowly escaped by jumping.

Mary Kobuka, who was burned by a gasoline explosion at New Castle, and Mrs. James Jackson, in whose hands a lighted lamp exploded, are both dead from their injuries,

The attorney of J. H. Turner and Les-lie Thomas, New Kensington milk men sent to jail for refusing to pay fines, followed them to jail and secured their re-

Samuel Gill, aged 26, an employe of the Steel Casting Co. at Sharon, was caught by a belt and whirled around a pulley wheel, receiving injuries from which he died. Constable John A. Linn, of Smith-

ton, was shot in the arm while arresting tramps, two of whom were lodged in jail later.

James Doherty, a Methodist revivalist at Tatesville, was waylaid and beaten and left for dead. It is said his ser-

mons angered young men A New York syndicate has purchased options on 10,000 acres of coal land near West Middletown Washington county, A new coal road may be built.

Charles Buehner, a brewer, of Mi ville, was instantly killed by b over by a heavy wagon on

Thieves poisoned two took several hundred of of J. H. Shoop & Son were frightened away,

Somerset citizens \$50,000 to secure th town of the railroad the Ligonier valley Bert Havens, a

thrax poisoning, ian hides.