BY W. L. ALDEN.

"Sparrows," said the colonel, "may be very upright, respectable, middle-class birds so long as they stay in England, but when they emigrate to America, they are no better than the average of our working classes. Some meddling didot brought a lot of sparrows to the states some ten or fifteen years ago, expecting they would kill all the worms on the fruit trees. They han't been if the country six months when they took the ground that they were as good as the best of our swell birds, and that they considered that killing worms was a flegrading kind of labor fit only for blackbirds and crows. So they took to living on wheat, and strawberries, and they multiplied so fast that they are the worst curse that the farmer and the fruit grower ever and
"Prof. Van Wagener and I were dis-

"Prof. Van Wagener and I were discussing the sparrow question one day, and I was complaining of the inefliciency of the American cat. Our cats are about as wide-awake and as monarchial cats as you can produce, but they can't atch a single sparrow. I've known imbitious cats who set out to catch sparrows, and who wasted away to mere skeletons, and died of weakness through watching for sparrows from dawn to darkness, and never once getting within ten feet of one. As a general rule I don't have much sympathy for cats, but the insulting language that sparrows use when they see a cat laying for them, and the aggravating way in which they will fly just over the all with their wings, is more than any cat can be expected to bear.

"The trouble is," said Van Wagener, "that the cat isn't a flying animal and the sparrow is. The sparrow's native iement is the air, and you can't expect cat to catch a sparrow so long as the rat can't fly."

"That's true," said I, 'but it don't

t can't fiy."
"That's true,' said I, 'but it don't lpusout of our difficulty. Cat's weren't ade with wings, and neither you nor I invent a new model of cat that will able to fly, and to catch sparrows on a wing!

e wing.'

"Science has improved erything that it has put its hand to, dd I see no reason why science ouldn't improve east. A flying eat ould supply a great public want, for ewould kill off the sparrows as easily she kills off the mice. I've half a nd to try the experiment of inventing lying eat.'

mind to try the experiments of a flying cat.'

"'All right,' said I. 'When you get rour flying cat finished just notify me, and I'll come and see her fly. Then, if you are going in for improving animals, perhaps you will invent a cat that can sing like a nightingale. The present style of singing among cats is disgraceful. They haven't any more idea of music than a Chinaman.'

music than a Chinaman."

"Well, the professor buckled down to business, and from his daily interviews with his private cat, and the consequent scratches that diversified his good old scientific countenane, I judged that he was doing his best to make a cat that would fly. Before the six weeks were up he sent me a note inviting me to some round to his house at two o'clock the next afternoon to see the first suecessful flying cat that had ever been invented. I needn't say that I went. I had assisted at the birth of dozen and when the seen invented. I needn't say that I went. I had assisted at the birth of dozen and which experience in the treatment of accidents was a handy thing so far as the professor was concerned.

"You know, colonel," said he, 'my method as an inventor. I ask myself what is needed in some particular purpose, and then I proceed to supply that need. Most people think that an inventor has ideas come to him all of a sudden, in a supernatural sort of way; but that is all nonsense. Inventing is a business, like any other, and any intelligent man can learn it. Now, when I saw that the reason why cats don't eath sparrows is that they can't fly after the bird, I saw what twas wanted was a flying cat, and I proceeded to invent one. Here I have a small balloon. This I fix to that cat of mice, and when it is inflated it will just support the weight of the cat in the air. Then you are to be fixed one on each side of the cat, and are to be driven by a small electrical engine. The balloon floats the cat and the paddle-wheels propel her. In order to steer the cat I fix a flat piece of in to the extremity of her tail. When he sees a sparrow her instinct will make her swish her tail from one side to the other, and her attention being fastened on catching the bird, she will make her swish her tail from one side to the other, and her attention being fastened on catching the bird, she will miconsciously work her tail. When he sees a sparrow her level best, and got in several good creatches on the professor's hunds

lashed her tail, as cats will do when hent on murder, and, just as the professor predictel, the effect was to steer her in the direction of the sparrows. Her paddle-wheels were working smoothly and regularly, and though they were not large enough to give her any speed, they steadily carried her across the yard towards the sparrows. Van Wagener was in cestasies. He challenged me to point out any defect in his flying cat, and when I candidly admitted that it did seem to be a complete success, he was the happiest man in New Berlinopolisville. The cat came through the air so slowly and noiselessly that she was within two yards of the sparrows before they sew her. When they did catch sight of this new and startling animal, they were the worst frightened lot of birds that were ever seen outside of one of those so-called happy families, where half a dozen birds, clean paralyzed with fear, are shut in a cage with a cat that has been filled up with chloral, and the public is asked to regard the exhibition as a specimen of what will be the usual sort of thing when the millennium gets its work fairly in. Those sparrows left in a tremendous hurry. They had a single one of them stopped flying until they had put at least 30 miles between themselves and Van Wagener's flying cat.

"Yow, you see,' said the professor.

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HARRISBURG LETTER.

Harrisburg, Pa., January 23, 1897.

The legislature did little more than convene and adjourn Monday evening. Speaker Boyer announced that he would not be ready with the standing committees before next Monday evening. A. J. Piteairn, of Pittisburg, who was ill when the legislature organized, was present and Judge McPherson, of Harrisburg, administered the oath. A resolution expressing sympathy for the Cubans was presented by Mr. Spatz, of Berks, which was referred to the committee on federal relations. Neither house nor senate did much business Tuesday. The only event of importance was the formal election of Boles Penrose, United States senator, which occured at 3 o'clock in both branches. He was elected by a strict party vote. The vote in the senate was Penrose, 42; Black, 6. In the house Penrose, 168; Black, 33; Wanamaker, 1. The most important business done by the legislature on Wednesday was the announcing of the appointments.

Representative Smith, of Philadelphia, thinks there should be some looking into the methods of the state treasury and a change made in the habit of the state, in giving its funds to banks, without interest, for them to speculate on. A bill eminating from the state grange, on taxation; a change in the game laws; an attack on oleomargarine and perhaps a bureau on mines and mining will all in due time be presented and acted upon. Unless the most rigid economy is observed in authorizing expenditures for the next two years it will bankrupt the state treasury. A general reduction will have to be made in the appropriations to the institutions dependent entirely upon the state for support to keep within the limits of the revenues. To begin with, the appropriation of 85,500,000 a year to the public schools will have to be scaled down at least a million or two. If it is not, many of the semi-state and private charities will be cut off without a cent.

The question of finances is the most important that confronts the law makers.

Children Cry for

Harrisburg during the session to look after legislation. A bill is to be introduced to protect the retailer, the wholesaler and the bottler.

The legislative committee appointed two years ago to ascertain the number of allens in the state penal and charitable institutions is ready to report. It shows that the insane hospitals, almshouses and jails are crowded with foreigners. The hospitals and almshouses in some counties contain 95 per cent of this class of patients. The committee will recommend that the home governments of these allens be asked to pay for their support. Nissley.

Taking Schools Out of Politics.

Taking Schools Out of Politics.

Taking Schools Out of Politics.
From the Philadelphia Times.
Prominent citizens of Allegheny are working on a scheme to take the public schools out of politics, and a proposition will be submitted to the councils at their next meeting that will provide for state legislation to this end. The plan that is advocated is to take away from the school directors the power of appointing teachers and place this authority in the hands of the principals. This, it is argued, will make the principals responsible for the work of their schools and give them an opportunity to remedy the defects by the appointment of new and better equipped teachers. If any legislation of this character originates from this movement in Allegheny, it will likely be drafted into a general law, and on this account the proposed change in the method of selecting teachers is of interest to the people in all parts of the state.

Undoubtedly the public schools should

Undoubtedly the public schools should be divorced from partisan politics, but whether the plan advocated by the Allegheny reformers will accomplish this separation is doubtful. Appointive offices are not always more free from politics than elective offices. Many school directors are elected under the present system by the ring in power on condition that they will support some relative or friend of the ward boss for teacher, but if the appointive power were placed solely in the hands of the principal of each school, there would yet be a chance for political deals in the election of the principal. And in that case the evil

It is hard to formulate any system of selecting officials that will insure the choice of only honest and thoroughly competent men and their retention in the positions where they are useful to their fellow-citizens. Ours is a popular form of government, from the highest to the lowest branch, and the will of the people is supreme. Politicians and ward bosses cannot control schools if the people assert their right of suffrage intelligently and honestly, and the quickest and best way to divorce schools and politics is for the people to assert their own manhood and independence and elect competent and honest men for whatever position the particular system of school training gives them the right.

Attempt to Burn a Mission House.

sects.

Infinite patience is required to train a politics is for the people to assert their own manhood and independence and elect competent and honest men for whatever position the particular system of school training gives them the right.

Attempt to Burn a Mission House.

An attempt was made to burn the Pottsville Mission building early Friday morning. The blaze was discovered by the police and extinguished before much damage was done. Cotton waste, saturated with oil, which had been placed among some woodwork by parties unknown, with incendiary intent, was found burning. The mission house is located in the very heart of the "slums" of the town, and has had a very salutary effect upon the morals of the neighborhood. The court upon several occasions refused to grant applications for liquor licenses in that neighborhood at the earnest remonstrance of members of the board of managers of the mission. Keepers of disreputable resorts have also been forced to remove from the neighborhood because of the sentiment created by the mission against them.

Garman Still for Silver.

The People's Alliance, organized to

Garman Still for Silver.

The People's Alliance, organized to carry on the free silver and anti-trust fight on educational lines, met at Johnstown last week, when several letters were read, including one from Democratic State Chairman Garman, who wrote in part as follows:

eratic State Chairman Garman, who wrote in part as follows:

"I believe that your proceeding, if extended throughout the state, would do a great deal of good. I certainly indorse your project and will do all that I can, possibly, either by word or influence to promote it. I agree with you that the probabilities are such that at the end of four years the people will sweep McKinley out of power, and McKinley ism with him, with a greater degree of unanimity than that manifested in putting him into power this time, and with much less expenditure of cash."

STATE OF ORIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, LUCAS COUNTY,
FRANK J. CHENRY makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J.
CHENRY & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of CATARRI that cannot be cured by the use of HALLS.
CATARRI CURE. FRANK J. CHENRY, Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886,

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials, free. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. 137 Sold by Druggists, 75c.

Don Cæsar de Bazan Was a Great Favo ite With His Master.

Don Caesar de Bazan Was a Great Favorite With His Master.

The most famous donkey that ever resided in the city of Chicago is Don Caesar de Bazan of the tribe of Jerusalem.

The little quadruped soon learned to love Mr. Field, and, in turn, shared the great-hearted poet's favors with the other pets around the place.

Don was not allowed to enjoy himself all day, however, for no sooner had Mr. Field's familiar figure dispappeared in the direction of Clark street than the boys began to prod sharp sticks at him for the sheer pleasure of seeing him squirm and kiek.

Don was obliged to grin and bear all these abuses until Mr. Field returned at night. He did it with a very qualified grace, but in absolute silence, for the never brayed except in the presence of his master. Don had good ears and a keen perception, and as soon as he heard the deep-toned voice so familiar to all who knew Mr. Field he would commence to urge his complaints in the most vigorous, rasping brays.

When Mr. Field moved to Buena Park, Don became a trouble to his master. Don would get into mischief among the flower beds or stray into some neighbor's lot. At last Mr. Field was driven to despair as to how to dispose of Don Caesar de Bazan to the advantage of that estimable animal.

Just at this time Mr. George Yenowine, a warm friend of the family,

pose of Dou Caesar de Bazan to the advantage of that estimable animal.

Just at this time Mr. George Yenowine, a warm friend of the family, visited Chicago, and when he heard of the donkey dilemma quickly bethought himself of carting Don to the farm in Kentucky.

So Don Caesar de Bazan, with his bag and baggage, in the care of Mr. Yenowine, departed for Kentucky.

Two years later Mr. Field visited Yenowine Farm, immediately repaired to the pasture and called upon Don. The latter marched up to the fence, flopped his ears back and forth in a knowing fashion, looked at his late master with a cunning leer, then promptly and silently retired to the far corner of the meadow. The next morning, however, he marched deliberately to the house and began to bray.

It was ever after Mr. Field's opinion that animals think more than they are given credit for.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

RACING COCKROACHES.

RACING COCKROACHES

An Amusement of Turkish Prisoners Dur-ing Their Tedious Confinement.

ing in Turkish prisons.

The prisons are overrun with cockroaches. The more intelligent of the
prisoners make friends with these in-

because he stopped to scratch his leg.

New York Journal.

Zine Wall Paper.

"Zinc Wall Paper.

"Zinc wall paper" is the latest oddity and several residences of the highest class new building will be equipped with it. The zinc is prepared by a new process, so as to exactly resemble marble. The most beautiful varieties of marble are imitated in such a manner that the imposture is only to be detected after a close examination.

The zinc is attached to the wall by a cement invented for the purpose. The surface of the zinc is enamelled so as to render it permanent and washable. Tiles or any other form of mural covering can be imitated as readily as marble and the material is made in a great variety of patterns.

It is claimed for this new departure in decorative material that while it is as permanent as tiles or marble, it is much cheaper, and can be as easily put on as ordinary wall paper. It can be applied, too, to any surface, whether flat, broken or sound, and any heading, etc., can be embossed on the metal to complete a design or panel.—New York Journal.

A Parson's Blessing.

In one of the rural districts a Georgia minister was invited to dine with a citizen who, though wealthy, furnished his table poorly. When they were seated the host said:

"Times air mighty tight, parson, an' we ain't got nothing much ter set before you, but, sich as it is, you air welcome. Will you ask a blessin' on what you see?"

The parson, absorbed.

The parson, observing the scant repast, lifted up his voice and said:
"Lord, make us thankful for what we see, and may we be able to find it when we reach for it. Let it not escape us and prove a snare and a delusion. Amen. Thank you for the groups."—Atlanta Constitution.

The parson, observing the scant repast, and the parson of the sound in the part of the part

An account of his campaign tour . . . His biography, written by his wife . .

Hon. W. J. Bryan's Book

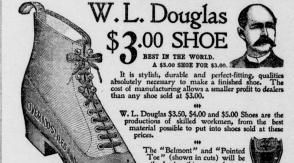
ALL who are interested in furthering the sale of Hon. W. J. Bryan's new book should correspond immediately with the publishers. The work will contain

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A review of the political situation . .

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RAILROAD TIMETABLES

THE DELAWARE, SUSQUEHANNA AND SCHUYLKILL RAILROAD.
Time table in effect December 15, 1895.

Time table in effect December 15, 1895. Trains leave Drifton for Jeddo, Eckley, Hazle rook, Stockton. Beaver Meadow Road, Roan the Hazleton Junction at 5 30, 6 00 a m, 4 15 p daily except Sunday; and 7 63 a m, 2 85 p m,

day.
Trains leave Drifton for Oncida Junction,
Harwood Road, Humboldt Road, Oncida and
Sheppton at 60 a m, 41 b m, daily except Sunday; and 7 65 a m, 2 35 p m, Sunday.
Trains leave Hazleton Junction for Harwood,
Trains leave Hazleton Junction for Harwood,
an, daily except Sunday; and 8 55 a m, 4 25 p m,
Sunday.

daily except Sunday; and 9 37 a m, 5 07 p m. Sunday.
Sunday.
Trains every Sheppton for Oncida, Humboldi Trains every Sheppton for Oncida, Humboldi Trains every sunday; and 8 02 a m, 3 4 p m, anday.
Trains leave Sheppton for Beaver Meadow Road, Stockton, Hazle Brook, Eckley, Jedde Road, Stockton, Hazle Brook, Eckley, Jedde Road, Stockton, Hazle Brook, Eckley, Jedde Road, Stockton, Hazle Brook, Eckley, Trains leave Hazleton Junction for Beaver Meadow Road, Stockton, Hazle Brook, Eckley, Trains leave Hazleton, Jensey Hazleton, Jedde and Prifton at 309, 547, 629 p m, daily, except Sunday; and 10 08 a m, 53 p m, Sunday, electric cars for Hazleton, Jennesville, Audenried and other points on the Traction Company's line.
Train leaving Drifton at 500 a m, Hazleton Trains leaving Drifton at 500 a m, Hazleton Train leaving Drifton at 500 a m, Hazleton Train leaving Drifton at 500 a m, Hazleton Train leaving Drifton at 500 a m makes consect at Oncida Junction with Letigh Valley Trains east and west.

connect at Oberan a trains east and west. Train leaving Drifton at 5 30 a m makes con-nection at Deringer with P. R. R. train for Wikesbarre, Sunbury, Harrisburg and points wisk. west. the accommodation of pussengers at way stitled to the second of the second

LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD.
November 16, 1896.

November 16, 1896.

ARRANGEMENT OF FASSENGER TRAINS.

LEAVE PIREELAND.

605, 945, 936 a.m., 140, 235, 436 p.m., for Mauch chunk, saton. Philadelphia and New York.

605, 845, 936 a.m., 140, 234, 325, 436, 615, 657 pm, for Diriton. Jeddo, Foundry, Hazle Brook and the saton. Philadelphia and New York.

637 p.m. for Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlebem and Easton.

637 pm for Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlebem and Easton.

938 a.m., 234, 436, 637 p.m., for Delano. Mandon and Pottsville.

936 a.m., 234, 436, 637 p.m. for Sandy Run, and Hazleton.

234, 436, 637 p.m. for Sandy Run, white Haven, Wikesbarre, Pittston, Scranton. 728, 1051, 1154 a m, 520 p m, for Sandy Run, White Haven, Wilkesbarre, Pittston, Scranton and the west.

and the west.

SUNDAY THAINS.

10 50 am and 138 pm for Jeddo, Foundry,
Hazle Brook and Lamber Yard.

8 38, 10 30 am for Saudy Run, White Haven
and the state of t

858, 10 50 am and 12 55 pm, from Philadelphia, New York, February 12 55 pm, from Philadelphia, New York, Etchichem, Allentown, Mauch Chunk, and Weatherly, eatherly, a m, from Pottsville, Shamokin, Mt. el Ashland, Shenandoah, Mahanoy City Carmel Ashland, Shenandoah, Mahanoy Cit; and Deiano. 1050 a m, from Wilkesbarre, White Haver and Saudy Run.

Old newspapers for sale.

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