



AT THE SCHOOLS.

The Pupils of the Over River and Center Schools Have a Merry Time.

Merry Christmas Tide for Children.

The Center school will hold a Christmas festival this afternoon. The lower grades celebrate with a Christmas tree as the central figure and will enjoy a season of recitations, carols, etc. Grades 6, 7 and 8 will unite and present the following program of exercises: Selected song—Entire Chorus. Recitation—Lowell's Christmas Carol. Chorus—"Christmas has Come Again."

Room E.

Recitation—"An Eastern Legend," B. Stanley.

"Legends of Christmas Plants," Told by pupils of High School.

Vocal duett, Lillian Gude and Hattie Parker.

"Christmas Thoughts from Selected Authors."

Memorized by pupils of Room 7.

Recitation—"Careless Santa Claus," Minnie Franke.

Piano solo—Harold Wilson.

Reading from Dickens' Christmas carols.

Recitation—"The Widow Gray," E. B. Storsford with responses by class.

Selected song—Entire Chorus.

Exercises will be held at the Over River school to-day. This morning the kindergarten gave the following exercises:

Song—"Father, we Thank Thee."

Song—"Finger plays, Christmas song."

Welcome song.

Sleigh bell song.

Story—"Jolly Old St. Nicholas."

Song—"Tiny Little Snow Flakes."

Wonderful tree song.

This afternoon there will be a Christmas tree as a feature of the occasion, and the pupils of grades 2 and 3 will take part in the following exercises:

Song—"Merry, Merry Christmas Bells."

Recitation—"For Santa Claus," Aurelia Haulenbeck.

Recitation—"Two Little Stockings," Beryl Austin.

Recitation—"A Christmas Eve Thought," Bessie Byington.

Trilo—"Ring, Ring the Bells," Ethel, Viola and Joe Bartram.

March and Drill.

Twelve pupils from No. 3.

Class Exercise—"Santa Claus."

Ten pupils from No. 2.

Song—"Santa Claus is Coming."

Recitation—"Santa Claus to the Children."

Reed Henry.

Christmas Lullaby.

Pupils from No. 2.

Duet—Myrtle Finney and Nellie Byington.

"The Stocking's Christmas," Louise Youngs.

"To My Dollie," Marjorie Cummings and Ethel Bartram.

Snow Brigade.

Twelve boys from No. 3.

"Scaring Santa Claus," Josie Whitney.

"The Tale of the Stocking," Helen Hoyt.

Song—"Shine Out, Oh Blessed Star," Recitation—"Bells of Christmas," Florrie Price.

"The Night After Christmas," Manice Lockwood.

"Writing to Santa Claus," Ruth Baldwin.

"A Christmas Gift," Florence Willmott.

Instrumental solo, Ella Bradley.

"Who is Santa Claus?" Hattie Grumman.

"Surprise for Santa Claus," Mand Adams.

"Hitten's Christmas Tree," Elinor Holmes.

Song—"Hark; The Bells are Ringing Gay."

Don't be selfish! Go to Gregory's Wall street market, buy a turkey or a sparerib, a piece of corn beef or a barrel of potatoes, a nice rib roast or a fine steak, and give it to some one who has a family that are in need.

Government's Garden Seeds.

Congressman Hill informs us that he purposes to place his quota of garden seeds in the hands of our state Representatives in the towns of the Fourth District for them to distribute among the people of their localities as best they can. They will be sent next month.

Norwalk Confectionery Manufactory company; fresh candy all day long. Reduced prices for the holidays. 21 Main street.

ACTED WISELY.

The Norwalk Fire Department Re-nominates Its Old Board of Engineers.

Chief Prowitt's Twenty-Fourth Election.

The annual meeting of the Norwalk Fire department was held at the Pioneer Hook and Ladder rooms last night. There was a good representation of the different companies present with the exception of the Fire Police, who through some misunderstanding as to the date of the meeting were not represented.

Chief J. T. Prowitt presided. As soon as the meeting was called to order, Secretary Druffy of Hope Hose company made a motion that Lieutenant Charles Smith of Phoenix Engine company cast a ballot for the renomination of the old board of fire engineers and department surgeon. The chairman waited for an objection and then the motion was unanimously carried.

And the department acted wisely. The present Chief J. T. Prowitt has served in that capacity for the past twenty-three years and has filled the position with the credit of an experienced fireman and to the full satisfaction of property owners and tax-payers. For nearly forty years he has been a fireman.

His two assistants, Messrs. Fred W. Smith and Thomas Murray are both old fire laddies, are strict disciplinarians and follow close in the wake of the fire fighting proclivities of their chief.

The department surgeon, Dr. W. J. Tracey is well fitted for his official position and deserved a re-election. The meeting was followed by a jollification that was as lively as it was happy.

A Typographical Error.

A typographical error in the figures of the city advertisement as first printed, in the GAZETTE, referring to the amount to be asked to be appropriated for highways has given the malignant "Ruffian of the Connecticut Press," a new but very weak and futile opportunity to attack the city clerk. The error was duly marked in the proof, but in the haste of going to press, escaped the attention of the compositor. The trivial error was easily understood by anyone whose perverted nature was not blinded by chronic malignity, and the iterated and reiterated assaults upon the blameless city clerk only go to show how conspicuously Mr. Lockwood is honored by this impotent spite of a notoriously disreputable paper.

If you want a sparerib that is as tender and as palatable as chicken you can find it at Gregory's Wall street market.

Oystermen Are Pleased

The oystermen of this vicinity are greatly pleased over the introduction of the bill calling for estimates of the cost of widening the channel in the lower basin. This bill would have been introduced last year had it not been that it was not included in the engineer's report. President W. A. Lewis, of the Oystermen's Protective association, was one of the committee that went to Washington in the interest of the oystermen, and they say the action of Congressman Hill on Tuesday, was the carrying out of the promise which was made to Mr. Lewis at that time. The Congressman deemed it a matter of great importance as is shown by the fact that he put it second on the list of recommendations. — Bridgeport Farmer.

At Gregory's Wall street market can be found the finest lot of turkeys ever shown in Norwalk.

No Paper To-morrow.

To-morrow being our annual Christmas holiday and "the world's Christmas," no paper will be issued from this office. As Friday, however, is our regular publication day for the WEEKLY GAZETTE, to day's issue is given up to that edition in lieu of the usual Daily, and carrying with it, to-morrow's date. And to one and all, the old GAZETTE, now on the verge of its ninety-seventh birthday era, most heartily extends the compliments of the season and adds the angel chorus "peace on earth, good will to men."

Happy New Year.

Our three city banks expect to give their stockholders special cause for enjoying a "Happy New Year" by declaring their usual dividends, despite the very hard business conditions of the past year.

FOR CHARITY'S SAKE.

Gen. Couch Calls Attention to a Worthy Society.

The following letter has been received from General Couch and with his permission is given to the public, in the hope that it may attract the attention of those who have such garments to dispose of. General Couch is assured of the worth of this organization and says that no clothing which has any wear in it at all, will come amiss. People are employed to mend and make over, and wonderful results are obtained with shabby garments.

DOTH STONE PINNEO.

Norwalk, Dec. 23d, 1896.

DEAR MISS PINNEO:—Please let me say that there is a charitable beneficiary association, named the "The Industrial Christian Alliance" at 170 Bleeker street, New York, the main object of which is to help any homeless and friendless man to amend his life and regain a position that will enable him to take care of himself. The work of the association is supported by voluntary contributions. At this season there comes an appeal for men's clothing of all kinds, including hats, shoes, and any apparel that may have been laid aside in the house, but can be repaired and made serviceable. For the last two winters my wife has gone through our house and gathered up what could be spared and the contributions were gratefully acknowledged.

From your position in the Public Library and large acquaintance among the charitably disposed, it has occurred to me that you might bring this matter to the attention of the ladies, who would send their collections, duly made up in a package, marked with the giver's name, to you.

Arrangements will be made to send all packages to their destination. Please find inclosed a letter to me from the Society's secretary.

I am very truly,
D. N. COUCH.

Trade is booming at Gregory's Wall street market. You can find all kinds of fish, oysters, escalops, etc., at prices that will suit your purse.

Wanted to Die.

Peter McGee, an inmate of Fitch's Home at Noroton, attempted to commit suicide, Sunday morning, by cutting his throat with a razor. The cut was not sufficiently deep, however, and he will probably recover. He is about 31 years of age and has been an inmate of the Home between two and three years. For the past two or three months he has been obliged to remain in the hospital. He has been despondent of late, and seemed to think that he was being persecuted. The attempt to end his life was made immediately after the other old veterans had gone to breakfast.

WINNIPAUK.

Miss Ida Keith will spend the holidays with friends in Bridgeport, Hartford and Meriden.

The St. Andrews Mission Sunday school will hold a festival this evening, commencing at 5:30 o'clock.

Robert Milner of Wesleyan college is home for the holidays.

The Norwalk Mills will close to-night for the balance of the week.

Exquisite Frost Work.

Rarely if ever was seen a more exquisitely beautiful specimen of frost tracery, than that which decorated the store windows of Newsman James Sutherland, in the GAZETTE building, this morning. On the front the picture was that of a southern live oak tree and that on the East side light was a good representation of a large Mexican Cactus.

His First Mass Celebration.

To-morrow at 10:30 o'clock, at St. Mary's church, Rev. John Sheehan, of this city, recently ordained to the priesthood will celebrate mass. It is expected that the church will be crowded by the many friends of Mr. Sheehan who it is believed will make for himself a leading position among the Catholic clergy of the state.

Special Sale of Toys and Holiday goods which arrived late. Don't fail to call, as these goods will go cheap. The Bazaar, 25 Main street.

Death of Elbert Woodhull.

Elbert Woodhull, father of Mr. James E. Woodhull, of the W. M. Terry Beef Company of this city, died at his home in Miller's Place, L. I., yesterday, aged 74 years. The funeral will take place to-morrow, the interment being at Wading River, L. I.

Star safety razors a specialty. South Norwalk Hardware company.

HERE AND THERE.

An Epitome of Happenings of Interest to the Public.

Garnered With Scissors and Pencil.

Men's Arctics, 75c at Hoyt's.

C. DeKlyn & Son have a new bakery wagon.

Gold chairs at Raymond & Sons.

Hon. E. J. Hill is home from Washington for the holidays.

Cutlery of all kinds. South Norwalk Hardware company.

Thermometers registered 4 degrees above zero this morning.

Carbonette at Lewis'. D. 5 tf

A two weeks' mission will open at St. Paul's church next month.

Go to 23 Wall street. d17 tf

Sixteen tramps were given lodgings at the Hotel Howard last night.

A beautiful calendar given away with our Teas, Coffees, etc. G. A. P. T. Co. 41 Main street.

The public schools will close to-day and the pupils given a week's vacation.

Union beer only is sold at J. H. Gormley's saloon, on Main street.

As the cold begins to strengthen the impudence of the hoboes does likewise.

Turkeys, 16c, at Smith's market.

Ex-champion prize-fighter John L. Sullivan has taken the poor doctor's oath.

Ladies' Storm Alaskas at Hoyt's.

Sand is an important factor in the running of electric cars in these slippery track days.

Big line of reed chairs at bottom prices. Raymond & Sons.

The first session of the night schools for 1897 will be held on Monday evening, January 4th.

Scissors and carving sets. South Norwalk Hardware company.

John H. Foley and Miss Lillian Taylor were married recently by Rev. Mr. Hunt of Port Chester, N. Y.

Ladies' Invisible cork soles, \$3 at Hoyt's.

The children at the County Home will receive a number of gifts from the pupils of the Over River school.

Turkeys, 16c at Smith's market.

Those who can afford it, are taking advantage of the fine sleighing that yesterday's storm made possible.

The Improved Lambs-wool soles Hoyt's.

Mr. Alfred Merritt suffered a paralytic stroke at his home, corner of Main and Cross streets, this morning.

Sideboards, extension tables, dining room chairs, and gentlemen's desks at Raymond & Sons, Main street.

Rev. S. B. Pond, rector of St. Paul's church, Norwalk, preached at St. James' church in Danbury, last evening.

Great Bargains at 23 Wall street for the next 20 days. d17 tf

At Grace church to-morrow at 7:30 there will be holy communion, and at 10:30 morning prayer, sermon and holy communion.

Men's Embroidered Slippers, 50c at Hoyt's.

Mrs. Henry E. Smith widow of the late Postmaster Smith of Stamford died yesterday after a protracted and painful illness.

Easels from 50 cents up, at Raymond & Sons.

Services will be held at St. Mary's church to-morrow at 6, 7, 8:30 and 10:30 o'clock. Rev. John Sheehan will celebrate mass at the latter services.

Cards are out announcing the marriage of Miss Mabelle Bartine Wigham to Alfred G. Bohman at the Congregational church on Tuesday afternoon, January 5th, at 4 o'clock.

Rev. Dr. George G. Saxe, a retired Methodist minister and at one time located in Stamford died suddenly at Madison, N. J. on Tuesday. He was a cousin of the poet Saxie.

A coin silver knife, fork, spoon, with 1 lb. of tea. G. A. P. T. Co. 41 Main str

The Merwin street shirt manufactory will shut down to-day for the rest of the week.

Piano stools at Raymond & Sons.

Frank Patterson of Brooklyn and Mike Sears of Boston, sparred to a draw at 120 pounds, in Long Island city last night.

Dr. Hunt's corn cure, at Hoyts.

Last night's storm caused considerable delay to trains on the Danbury & Norwalk branch of the Consolidated road.

Ladies' dressing tables in birdseye maple, curly birch, oak, and white enamel. Raymond & Sons, Main street.

Newsman Hayes has not yet disposed of his entire holiday stock and you can find bargains at his store on Main street. Call whether you purchase or not.

Ladies' Rubbers, 25c at Hoyt's.

A horse belonging to milk dealer Hawhurst ran away yesterday and in scaling a stone fence succeeded in wrecking the wagon to which it was attached.

Screens, piano stools, and everything else in the furniture line, at way down prices. Raymond & Sons, Main street.

Mrs. LeGrand C. Betts returned home yesterday from her somewhat prolonged visit in Washington, in season to enjoy a genuine New England snow storm.

Men's genuine alligator slippers, at Hoyt's.

To-morrow will be twenty-fifth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Elwood of Orchard street, and may they both live to celebrate their fiftieth.

Men's Fine Wine Slippers, \$1.50, Hoyt's.

The one hundred and seventy-four telephones in this city were in active service to-day. The number will be increased by one at Raymond & Sons' furniture store, next week.

Indian stools, bamboo novelties, onyx tables, fancy upholstered and solid oak chairs, at Raymond & Sons, Main street.

The remains of Mrs. Thompson were brought here for interment at noon to-day. The deceased died in Brooklyn and was a grandparent of Conductor Joseph Bucknam of the Street Railway line.

Imitation alligator slippers, 50c, 75c, and \$1.00, at Hoyts, 37 Wall st.

A proposition from Co. D, C. N. G. to Phoenix Engine company that they unite in giving a grand fair was considered at a special meeting of the latter company held last evening, with the result that the matter was tabled.

A full rehearsal of the pleasing cantata, "Santa Claus' Reception" which is to be presented at the Methodist church to-morrow evening, will be held to-night. An especially fine entertainment by the Sunday school and a full chorus, is promised.

It was proposed to have a game of hockey at Wood's pond, to-morrow between "Captain Jack's" team and a Bridgeport club. Possibly the pond will be cleared of its mantle of snow for the occasion, otherwise the game cannot very well take place.

At St. Paul's

The services at St. Paul's church to-morrow, Christmas day, will be as follows:

Holy Communion, 7:30 a. m.

Festival Celebration of Holy Communion, with sermon, 10:30 a. m., at which the following programme of music will be rendered:

Processional—49.

Introit Anthem, "Glory to God."

—Barnby

Communion Office in E-flat —Eyre

Offertory Anthem "Thus Speaketh the Lord of Hosts" —Stainer

Music Dimittis —Touns Regins

Recessional—51.

Portions of this programme will be repeated at the morning service next Sunday. On Sunday evening there will be a special festival service with procession at the Chapel on Berkeley street. The new cantalabra recently presented to the chapel will be used on the Altar for the first time. The music will be as follows:

Processional—49.

—Trinity Psalter

Magnificat and Music Dimittis, —Gadsby

Anthem, "O Zion that Bringest Glad Tidings." —Stainer

Offertory Anthem, "Thus Speaketh the Lord of Hosts." —Stainer

Processional—51.

DON'T MISS THEM.

The Latest Ads. Received Before Going to Press.

By the People and For the People.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—A genuine Portland Me. made sleigh for sale very cheap. Apply at this office.

FOR SALE—Benedict, Norwalk, newsdealer, is selling an excellent Fountain Pen and Holder for 25c. Call and see it. j12tf

TO RENT.

TO RENT—Five rooms on first floor; good location, \$10 per month for small family. Apply to S. B. Wilson, Builder, 92 Wall street, Norwalk. d11-tf

ANNUAL

XMAS SALE

—OF—

FANCY GOODS

AT THE

Woman's Exchange

NOW OPEN.

Afternoons from 1 to 6 o'clock, this week,

AND

Afternoons and Evenings Xmas Week, from 1 to 10 o'clock.

NOTICE.

Special City Meeting.

I, Arthur C. Wheeler, Mayor of the city of Norwalk, believing that the interests of said city require it, hereby give notice that a Special Meeting of said City of Norwalk will be held in the Town House, in said city, Monday, December 28th, 1896, at 3 o'clock, afternoon, for the following purposes, to wit:

1. If deemed advisable, to appropriate from the treasury of said city the further sum of \$1200.00, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the purpose of the payment of the expenses to be incurred in the Highway Department of said city.

2. If it is thought proper, to appropriate from the treasury of said city the further sum of \$1500.00, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the purpose of the payment of the expenses to be incurred in the Administrative Department of said city.

Dated at the City of Norwalk, December, 21st, 1896.

ARTHUR C. WHEELER,

Mayor of the City of Norwalk.

Hoyt's Theatre.

ONE SOLID WEEK.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday Matinees.

COMMENCING MONDAY DEC. 21st.

FREDERICK and MINNIE

Seward

Supported by a First-Class Company and the finest

BAND AND ORCHESTRA ever seen in this city.

MONDAY—The Red Spider.

Change of Bill Nightly.

PRICES 10, 20,

HER CHRISTMAS.

[Copyright 1896, by the Author.]

It was a glorious Christmas morning, and Miranda stood in the doorway and watched the sun climbing over the snow capped mountains.



"YOU'RE EXPECTIN ROBERT TODAY, AIN'T YOU?"

ing farmer, who was socially under a cloud, on the charge of having committed some small misdemeanor, became a visitor at her house.

As she toyed with the thought that he would be home that morning Christmas seemed to have a new significance from what it had had in the past.

She did not answer, and he continued: "Remember, Miss Miranda, beaus ain't as plentiful with you now as they used to be. You'll have to take what you can get."

"Where's your appetite?" asked her father.

"I feel as if I'd just had breakfast."

"Land sakes, it's been eight hours or more! You must be a little worried over Robert."

"Oh, he'll be here presently. There's another train in about 6 o'clock."

What had Jim Clayton meant? Her father sat down before the big log fire and began to smoke.

"Robert's late," he ventured.

She went to the door and looked out. The sky was a leaden gray, and the moon came over the peaks and cliffs.

She stepped out and went quickly down the valley. A wind had risen, and as she had on neither hat nor coat her thin figure swayed against the keen whips of cold.

"Robert!" she called. "Robert!"

A little farther on she saw something lying still and black against the snow. Her pulse quickened. Was it Robert? Approaching, she found it was Jim Clayton.

"What's the matter, Jim?" she asked, bending over him.

"His pale face gazed up at her through the moonlight."

"I've been waitin and watchin all day yonder on the mountains," he said in a weak voice.

"I reckon I'm about done for, so I might as well make a clean breast of it. I was waitin for Robert. I never meant to let him go home."

"What do you mean?" she asked, bending closer to catch his words.

"I've always had a bad temper, and I meant to kill Robert, just as I killed that man ten years ago and then threw the blame on Robert. He wouldn't let me pass, and—and so I did it. My mind hasn't ever been easy since. But, now that I'm about to go, I'll try and even up things. Robert's been pardoned, and—and you'll forgive me, won't you?"

He reached out and laid his hand over hers in a tremulous way.

"Goodby," he faltered. "I hope—I hope you'll forgive me."

Then he died, lying there on the snow. Miranda unlocked her hand and hurried back toward home again.

It did not take her many minutes to reach there, and as she burst in at the door Robert, who had come up the other side of the valley, came forward to meet her.

"Miranda!" he said, reaching out both arms.

She put up hers and clasped them around his neck. He did not speak, for events had crowded down upon her so suddenly that she could not give vent to words.

He had changed certainly. His shoulders were stooped, his hair was sprinkled with gray, and about his eyes and mouth were furrows, prophetic of a hard life and intense feeling rather than of age.

"What do you mean?" she asked, with gray, and about his eyes and mouth were furrows, prophetic of a hard life and intense feeling rather than of age.

"I never trifled with yours."

"You didn't, eh? Then, when are you goin to marry me?"

"I never trifled with yours."

"You didn't, eh? Then, when are you goin to marry me?"

"I never trifled with yours."

"You didn't, eh? Then, when are you goin to marry me?"

"I never trifled with yours."

"You didn't, eh? Then, when are you goin to marry me?"

"I never trifled with yours."

"You didn't, eh? Then, when are you goin to marry me?"

"I never trifled with yours."



THE CHRISTMAS PUDDING

CHRISTMAS IN CAMP.

HOW IT WAS OBSERVED BY COLORED TROOPS.

The Ole Bull of the Accordion—A Sable Nightingale—Christmas Gifts—A Happy Lot of Children of a Larger Growth.

I enlisted after graduation at Yale in the Twentieth Connecticut regiment and was commissioned first lieutenant of Company F.

Our service during 1863 and 1864 was with the Army of the Potomac until after the battle of Gettysburg, in which we participated, when the Twelfth corps, under the command of General Hooker, "Fighting Joe," was sent west to form a part of General Sherman's army.

About this time the government was recruiting regiments of colored troops, a measure I approved.

The negro, like the Chinese and Japanese, is imitative; but, unlike them, he is musical. A race the negro possesses a positive genius for music both vocal and instrumental.

The men of the Forty-fourth Colored were not at all behind in this regard. We had a number of string bands among the men. In fact, every company had one or more. They had some very good performers among them, some of those on the fiddle and banjo being remarkably good.

They played, of course, by ear, knowing nothing of written music. There was one negro who played the accordion with marvellous skill. He was from Mississippi and had acquired this accomplishment at New Orleans, where his old master spent his winters, this man having accompanied the planter as his body-servant.

The man had brought with him the instrument his master had bought him. Under his manipulation the peculiar whining tone of the accordion as ordinarily played was lost.

Then, there were any number of good singers. One big fellow, the blackest man I think I ever saw, had a tenor voice that would have made the fame and fortune of a white man. It was clear and powerful and as sweet as a chime of silver bells.

In ordinary conversation he spoke in dialect, yet in singing his pronunciation was correct, while his enunciation was perfect by distinct. He sang all the old favorite ballads of antebellum days and the war songs of the time. His favorite song, though, was one of his own composition. It was all about mocking birds and nightingales, orange groves and cotton fields, running brooks and waveless bayous, trackless forests and hunted animals. The language was crude, yet endowed with the spirit of poetry, and when he sang it in that rich voice to a strange air full of pathos and sentiment it always seemed to me somehow that the black singer was inspired by a dim recollection of his ancestral home in some vast African forest and on the bank of some great stream.

This man was the leader of a band of choral singers formed by one of our lieutenants, who had a musical turn, to sing Christmas and war songs. And how they did sing them! Christmas eve was passed in this way. Sweet and touching were the Christmas carols they sang, but they were at their best when they gave musical voice to the fact that "John Brown's soul goes marching on." This they sang as though inspired, and when a thousand voices joined in the chorus, filling the frosty air with a great sound of chanting, the effect was one I'll never forget. This singing and the music were the most characteristic features of our Christmas festivities, the one in which we all participated as performer or listener, and the one which afforded the most universal pleasure and delight. Thus all of Christmas eve was passed. Christmas morning my striker, a boy about 18 or 19, black, careless, shrewd, impudent and faithful, woke me up by crying:

"Crismus gif, majah; Crismus gif, sah. I zedefus. Wot ye gwine to gib me—a drink?"

He dodged a boot and got his drink. Thus my first Christmas with the colored troops began. We of course had our indispensable military duties to perform, and we were to be on duty in hollow square on the parade ground to listen to divine service. Then the day was given up to jollity and merriment. Of course the chief interest of the day, especially with the colored men, centered in the dinner table. It is sufficient to say that they got the best dinner they had ever had. After that they whiled away the time in singing and dancing, swapping stories of their old life in slavery, now ended for them and soon to be for all wherever the stars and stripes floated; ran races and engaged in such games as their plantation life had made them familiar with and generally were boisterously merry, filling the air with their shouts of glee and unctuous negro laughter. They were a tired and happy lot of big, black, overgrown children when taps, "lights out," sounded that night and ended a day that to many of them no doubt seemed to set for the first time the seal of reality on that wonderful possession, personal ownership.

THOS. B. KIRBY.

They whiled away the time in singing and dancing.

because I thought the negroes should fight for their own freedom and the elevation of their own race, and because, in other words, as was said at the time, a negro would stop a bullet as effectively as a white man. I believed, too, that properly officered and led the negroes would fight well, a belief that was confirmed by experience.

I saw four Christmasmas while in the army, for I was not mustered out until 1866—two with my old regiment, the Twentieth Connecticut, and one, that of 1865, while on detached service as the judge advocate of a general court martial. The Christmas which especially impressed itself upon me, however, was that of 1864, which I spent with my new regiment, the Forty-fourth, U. S. C. T. This regiment was recruited from among the plantation negroes, recently slaves of northern Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee, with a small sprinkling from Mississippi. Dec. 25, 1864, was my first Christmas as a field officer, and with the colored troops—and with all of them—it was their first Christmas as soldiers and with many of them their first holiday as free men.

When Hood made his backward swing from Atlanta toward Nashville, while Sherman swung off on his famous march to the sea, the Forty-fourth was among the regiments left behind under Thomas to prevent the imperious Hood from reaching the Ohio. We were not with Schofield at Franklin, one of the fiercest engagements of the war. We did succeed in getting into Nashville in time to take part in the utter rout and dispersion of Hood's army on Dec. 15 and 16, though in getting there our train ran into a cul-de-sac lined with Confederate batteries, and we were only saved from annihilation by the celerity with which we got off the train and went behind cover. That night, guided by some of our Tennessee negroes who knew the bypaths, we eluded the Confederate pickets and got into the Union lines.

After the fight we were sent to Chattanooga and went into winter quarters. Our men lived in huts, rude, but comfortable. In fact, most of them were better housed, better clothed and better fed than they had ever been, and while subject to the restraint of military discipline, enjoyed more real freedom than they had ever before known. As Christmas drew nigh the colored troops showed anxiety to celebrate it appropriately. On all well conducted plantations in the south before the war the holiday season was always a time for enjoyment and feasting with the blacks as well as the whites. The bonds of slavery were temporarily relaxed, and all went in for a good time. The white troops were receiving from their friends at home reminders that they were not forgotten in the shape of packages by mail and boxes by train laden with food, drink and clothing of a kind not provided by Uncle Sam's commissary or quarter-

master. But our colored soldiers had no friends at home to send them these tokens of love and remembrance. Their friends, when not still in bondage, were poor, and homes were yet a thing of the future. But the men had their pay, and sutlers were as numerous as their prices were high. The officers of the regiment, both field and line, helped out the festivities of the black men in blue both by contributions and by teaching them how and what to buy. The result was that so far as creature comforts were concerned the men of the Forty-fourth, colored, fared remarkably well on their first Christmas of freedom and as soldiers.

The negro, like the Chinese and Japanese, is imitative; but, unlike them, he is musical. A race the negro possesses a positive genius for music both vocal and instrumental. The men of the Forty-fourth Colored were not at all behind in this regard. We had a number of string bands among the men. In fact, every company had one or more. They had some very good performers among them, some of those on the fiddle and banjo being remarkably good. They played, of course, by ear, knowing nothing of written music. There was one negro who played the accordion with marvellous skill. He was from Mississippi and had acquired this accomplishment at New Orleans, where his old master spent his winters, this man having accompanied the planter as his body-servant. The man had brought with him the instrument his master had bought him. Under his manipulation the peculiar whining tone of the accordion as ordinarily played was lost.

Then, there were any number of good singers. One big fellow, the blackest man I think I ever saw, had a tenor voice that would have made the fame and fortune of a white man. It was clear and powerful and as sweet as a chime of silver bells. In ordinary conversation he spoke in dialect, yet in singing his pronunciation was correct, while his enunciation was perfect by distinct. He sang all the old favorite ballads of antebellum days and the war songs of the time. His favorite song, though, was one of his own composition. It was all about mocking birds and nightingales, orange groves and cotton fields, running brooks and waveless bayous, trackless forests and hunted animals. The language was crude, yet endowed with the spirit of poetry, and when he sang it in that rich voice to a strange air full of pathos and sentiment it always seemed to me somehow that the black singer was inspired by a dim recollection of his ancestral home in some vast African forest and on the bank of some great stream.

This man was the leader of a band of choral singers formed by one of our lieutenants, who had a musical turn, to sing Christmas and war songs. And how they did sing them! Christmas eve was passed in this way. Sweet and touching were the Christmas carols they sang, but they were at their best when they gave musical voice to the fact that "John Brown's soul goes marching on." This they sang as though inspired, and when a thousand voices joined in the chorus, filling the frosty air with a great sound of chanting, the effect was one I'll never forget. This singing and the music were the most characteristic features of our Christmas festivities, the one in which we all participated as performer or listener, and the one which afforded the most universal pleasure and delight. Thus all of Christmas eve was passed. Christmas morning my striker, a boy about 18 or 19, black, careless, shrewd, impudent and faithful, woke me up by crying:

"Crismus gif, majah; Crismus gif, sah. I zedefus. Wot ye gwine to gib me—a drink?"

He dodged a boot and got his drink. Thus my first Christmas with the colored troops began. We of course had our indispensable military duties to perform, and we were to be on duty in hollow square on the parade ground to listen to divine service. Then the day was given up to jollity and merriment. Of course the chief interest of the day, especially with the colored men, centered in the dinner table. It is sufficient to say that they got the best dinner they had ever had. After that they whiled away the time in singing and dancing, swapping stories of their old life in slavery, now ended for them and soon to be for all wherever the stars and stripes floated; ran races and engaged in such games as their plantation life had made them familiar with and generally were boisterously merry, filling the air with their shouts of glee and unctuous negro laughter. They were a tired and happy lot of big, black, overgrown children when taps, "lights out," sounded that night and ended a day that to many of them no doubt seemed to set for the first time the seal of reality on that wonderful possession, personal ownership.

THOS. B. KIRBY.

CHRISTMASANA.

JUNIUS HENRI BROWNE'S PHILOSOPHIC REFLECTIONS.

A Day That Is Not Only Revered by All Creedsmen, but by Rationalists and Even by Infidels—Originally a Pagan Festival, Now a Universal Holiday.

[Copyright, 1896, by the Author.]

Although Christmas is now universally regarded as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ, although during the fourth century a rigorous examination was made by the theologians of the east and west as to the exact time of his nativity and Dec. 25 finally agreed upon, it seems almost certain that that is not the day. As that is the acme of the rainy season in Judaea, it is not in the least likely that shepherds would then be watching their flocks on the plains at night, when, as is recorded, they saw the star of Bethlehem rise in the east to guide them to the sacred manger. Some of the earlier churches celebrated the divine event in January, some in May, others in June, and any one of those periods would have been more probable than is December.

The time of fixing the religious festival was not chosen, however, without ample cause. Like most of the Christian holidays, it is primarily due to pagan precedent. Nearly all the pagan peoples considered the winter solstice, Dec. 21, as a momentous point of the year. Then nature began the renewal of her active powers, and the gods, who were originally but the celestial personifications of those, were supposed to revive their cars of and interest in man. Consequently those peoples marked the period with festivities and celebrations of many sorts. And when Christianity arose the old heathen spirit was transferred to evangelical agencies and reproduced in evangelical rites.

The ancient Germans held their great Yule feast at the winter solstice (Yule is still a synonym of Christmas) to solemnize the return of the fiery sun wheel—the sun is styled in the Edda the shining wheel—as a part of their nature worship.

worship survived in Europe until 50 or 60 years ago. The inhabitants of some of the villages on the Moselle were long in the habit on St. John's eve of carrying a big wheel wrapped in straw to the top of a hill, firing the straw and rolling it down. If it reached the river still ablaze, they regarded it as a good omen, evidence of a fine vintage. The greenery with which we still ornament our homes and churches at this season and the gifts we hang on Christmas trees are probably relics of the symbols with which our rude ancestors expressed their faith in the power of the returning sun to clothe the earth with greenness and to produce new crops of fruit. And the frumenty (made of hulled wheat, boiled in milk and seasoned), still eaten in parts of Great Britain, and in some of our southern states, at Christmas time, would seem to be a tradition of the offerings paid to Hulda or Bertha, the embodiment of fertility in the Teutonic mythology, to whom the Germans looked for fresh supplies of grain.

Many of the beliefs and usages of the ancient Germans as well as of the ancient Romans concerning the Christmas period, between Dec. 25 and Jan. 6, in which those peoples thought they could trace the interference of their duties in behalf of mortals, survive to a great degree, with new interpretations, to the present time, and exercise no little influence. We think paganism was extinct ages since, and so it was in form; but its animus continually crops out in our creeds, our opinions, our modes of thought, in all our conduct. We are as men much the same now that we were in Egypt, Judaea, Greece and Rome. The kernel of human nature is ever the same.

Inasmuch as Christmas, whether the date be correct or incorrect, stands for the birth of Jesus, everybody must reverence the day, because everybody reveres him. A great many men who do not at all believe in his divinity believe in his transcendent goodness, his love of humanity, his spirit of self sacrifice. They do not think that his being the Son of God would add to his merit, but would rather detract from it, because his Godship would remove him from the plane of humanity and from human sympathies. They prefer to regard him as only a man, but the very best, the noblest, the grandest of his race. All creeds, all schools, all philosophes honor him to the fullest. Even the Jews, who are charged with putting him to death and hating his memory, sincerely respect him, though they do not allow the supernatural claims made for him. It was only one of their sects, the Pharisees, who clamored for his execution. The body of the chosen people hold themselves guiltless of his blood. The educated Brahmanists, Buddhists, Mohammedans, Shintoists, Parsees, place Jesus in the front rank of mortals. The savages idolatrous, the rank-and-file infidel, always speaks of him with admiration. Of God there is no end of opinions; of Jesus, morally, humanly, there is but one.

Christmas is scarcely thought of now by the multitude as other than a day of recreation and pleasure. From the earliest times it was devoted to merrymaking, with which its religious observation was never allowed to interfere. It is the first and most joyous of all holidays, especially to children, whose festivity it is often called. Hardly an American any more than a German child but has delightful associations with Dec. 25, the very poorest in this country receiving presents from their parents and every opportunity and encouragement for joyousness. Unfortunately indeed is the child who has not remembrances of a happy Christmas. We all feel that childhood can never return, and that it is our duty to contribute whatever we can to make it bright and pleasant.

Without, the frost winged breezes blow Across the world, above, below, And the rose in every cheek is stirred With the downy kiss of each snowflake bird. Within, the cheerful Yule log fire Brims with music's high desire, Sheds light and cheer below, above, Bespeaking the warmth of home-love. —Baltimore Telegram.

Christmas is really blessed in what it means and brings, whatever their circumstances, to the world of children.

Dec. 25 naturally suggests, being accepted as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus, the idea of resurrection, about which the theologians differ so widely.

There is probably no other subject about which thoughtful, cultured people more radically disagree. The vulgar notion that they who reject the orthodox doctrine are materialists, atheists, persons destitute of all faith, is an egregious error. Athelst is literally far more a word than a thing. What it is supposed to represent can scarcely be found in the flesh, freely as the term is used by the orthodox toward those holding adverse views. Rationalists refuse to accept authority or dogma and wholly renounce supernaturalism. They have, however, discrepant views of the same topics often, but always eschew what they call superstition. Death they consider natural as life, as not substantially varying therefrom, as bringing neither reward nor punishment specifically, but merely a fulfillment of the cosmic relations.

Some rationalists hold that all life ends with death; others that it continues indefinitely, though without consciousness, so that it is equivalent to extinction. The larger part of the world believes that man dies numberless times, each time being newly incarnated, so that life is but a series of births and deaths through ages. Plato definitely believed and taught this, and many philosophers before and since, maintaining that with each rebirth the soul, which is indestructible, advances and ameliorates.

JUNIUS HENRI BROWNE.

A Long Trip.

From the far northwest of this country to Norway, Sweden and Denmark seems a great way to go to spend the Christmas holidays, and yet thousands of Scandinavians do it every year. They go to New York city in trainloads during the latter part of November and the first part of December, the jolliest, happiest, most contented emigrants that leave this country.

The trip across the continent is shortened by good nature and a recounting of experiences, for they are a simple folk and readily make friends and exchange confidences. They are a home loving people, and after being here for a few years and accumulating a little money they almost invariably return to Scandinavia to visit and to tell of their successes here.

Those who have gone home to visit this fall are generally men in the prime of life who have established interests here, and who will, return in the spring, after two or three months of enjoyment and wonder telling among their relatives and friends. All these emigrants carry much ready money, with which they are liberal to a fault. That which they have is entirely due to their own energy. They are producers of the most valuable kind. They come here with the idea of becoming citizens and landowners, and although they retain their affection for the old home and the old life they never forget or belittle the advantages that they have received here or the allegiance that they have promised to their adopted country. A large percentage of those who are now visiting at their birthplaces will bring wives back with them.

At Christmas time last year So many friends that now are gone were here. So many hopes were glowing then unspoken; So many faiths were strong that now lie broken And loving hearts that trusted without fear At Christmas time last year.

At Christmas time this year So many of us find the world a drear And barren desert wherein blooms no rose, With mountain peaks surrounding it whose snows Have chilled our hearts and turned life's foliage sear— At Christmas time this year.

At Christmas time next year, Who knows what changing fortunes may be near? Take courage, then our night shall turn to day, From bright'ning skies the clouds must roll away, And faith and love and hope shall all be here At Christmas time next year. —Kate Sherlock.

Can't Go Home For Christmas. No drearier mortal can be imagined than the man who cannot go home for college for Christmas. He hangs around the deserted buildings with a most forlorn air, or hovers over his study fire, if he has a study fire, in a vain attempt to get warmth. Or perhaps he takes a different tack and thinks to find Christmas cheer in a lark all by himself. Alas! the spirit of Christmas is essentially communistic; to be thoroughly enjoyed, it must be shared. No theater can appease the loneliness of the solitary one, and the only solace he finds in sleep, where he can forget that he is a man who cannot go home for Christmas.

Christmas Goose. In England goose is more often the Christmas bird than turkey. To those who think of substituting a goose for a turkey the caution is given that the former, though it may present an ample and tempting appearance as it is brought to the table, crisp and aromatic, will serve by no means generously, as only the breast is available. Under the modern treatment of removing the tough leg tendons, thus gaining all the drumstick meat, there is no edible bird to compare in economy with the turkey.

A Simple Good Will. There is a married couple in Washington with their own peculiar method of celebrating such occasions. As the New Year dawns the wife will show you a \$10 gold-piece and announce, "This was Charlie's Christmas present to me." The husband will show you a \$10 gold-piece and say, "This was Annie's Christmas present to me." They always give that and always have given it. They lay the coins away and merely exchange them year after year.

Saved. Wilkins—Miss Oldfryte sat directly beneath the mistletoe on the chandelier, but Providence saved me. Bilkins—Providence? Wilkins—Yes; Providence dropped the chandelier. At Christmas. Without, the frost winged breezes blow Across the world, above, below, And the rose in every cheek is stirred With the downy kiss of each snowflake bird. Within, the cheerful Yule log fire Brims with music's high desire, Sheds light and cheer below, above, Bespeaking the warmth of home-love. —Baltimore Telegram.

Advertisement for Salva-cea, a remedy for various ailments like chilblains, skin diseases, and chafing. Includes an illustration of a shoe and text: 'If the Shoe Fits put it on.' 'Salva-cea the new Curative Lubricant.'

LOCKWOOD'S LIGHT PARCEL and PACKAGE DELIVERY. Will also take orders for mess service in New York. Goods called for and delivered to all parts of the town.

W. H. HAYWARD & CO. Pension Attorneys and Solicitors. 709 East Capitol Street, WASHINGTON, D. C. All classes of claims prosecuted before the Interior Department.

BRAUNSCHWEIGER MUMME. A PURE MALT EXTRACT. A SUBSTITUTE FOR SOLID FOOD. Highest percentage Extract. Lowest percentage Alcohol. An effective Tonic.

PRIVATE BOXING CLASS. Instructions given in at the pupil's home. Now forming, and applicants desiring to join should apply at once to Prof. Geo. Yoerger, South Norwalk, or at this office.

DO YOU KNOW That you can save money by buying your Meats and Fish at F. W. SMITH'S, 55 Main Street. OPEN EVENINGS.

MORE THAN TWENTY DROWNED. The Bark Jamaica Carries Passengers and Crew to the Bottom. SAN DIEGO, Dec. 24.—The bark Jamaica was lost off Dos Rosas Tabasco on Dec. 12, and all on board but three men and a boy were drowned.

Enthroned as Bishop. BUFFALO, Dec. 24.—At St. Paul's Episcopal church today the ceremony of enthroning the Right Rev. William David Walker as bishop of western New York was celebrated.

Vandalia Changes. INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 24.—H. I. Miller, present general superintendent of the Vandalia road, which office has just been abolished, on Jan. 1 will become the superintendent of the main line of the Vandalia from Indianapolis to St. Louis.

Philadelphia Broker Arrested. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24.—Broker Charles E. Lewis was arrested today on the charge of swindling Hotel Keeper Alfred P. Crosby of Troy, N. Y., on a bogus check for \$225.

Atlanta. ATLANTA, Dec. 24.—Hon. William J. Bryan arrived in Atlanta from Chicago. He was called on at the Kimball House by Governor Atkinson and escorted to the executive mansion, where he will remain as the governor's guest during his stay in Atlanta.

Fatal Explosion of Glycerin. CINCINNATI, Dec. 24.—A Times-Star special from Portland, Ind., says that a glycerin magazine near Montpelier exploded today with terrible force.

Engine Works Damaged by Fire. TORONTO, Dec. 24.—John Perkins & Sons' Toronto engine works were damaged by fire to the extent of \$15,000.

Navigation on Lake Champlain. SARATOGA, Dec. 24.—The Lake Champlain steamers will close navigation for the season on Dec. 26.

The Weather. Clearing; continued cold; northerly winds, shifting to easterly.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL. Closing Quotations of the New York Stock Exchange. NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Money on call easy at 1 1/2 per cent. Prime mercantile paper, 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 per cent.

General Markets. NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—FLOUR—State and western quiet and steady; city mill patents, \$5.10 to \$5.25.

EX-QUEEN LIL'S VISIT. Plans For Her Stay In Boston—Kaulani Is Not Coming Over. BOSTON, Dec. 23.—Private telegrams received from Liliuokalani, the deposed queen of the Hawaiian Islands, confirm the press dispatches that she will reach Boston next Friday.

Nicaraguan Financial Methods. WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The Nicaraguan government has called for a voluntary loan of \$500,000, one half payable in cash and the other in paper.

The Coal Mining Explosion. WILKESBARRE, Pa., Dec. 23.—A canvass of the homes of miners employed in the Baltimore mine, where the explosion occurred last night, shows that all the men escaped from the mine.

Collapse of a Bridge. WHEELING, Dec. 23.—At Littleton a wire suspension bridge over a creek broke down while crowded with people, and 40 were thrown into the stream.

Lawlessness in Kentucky. MAYFIELD, Ky., Dec. 23.—A part of the mob that hanged Jim Stone continued rioting. One hundred shots were fired into the house of Tom Chambers, a negro, and the place was afterward set on fire and burned.

More Banks Closed. ST. PAUL, Dec. 23.—State Bank Examiner Kenyon today took possession of the Bank of Minnesota, and as a result of the closing of this bank the Union Stockyards bank also closed.

No Cabinet Place For Allison. DUBUQUE, Ia., Dec. 23.—Inquiry today develops that there is no truth in the story that Senator Allison has been offered the secretaryship of state.

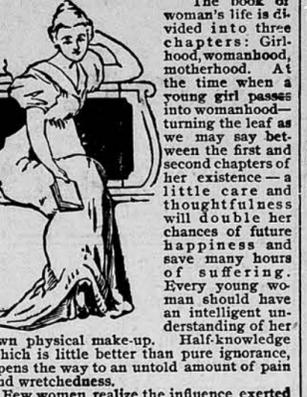
This Ghost Wants \$200,000. CHAMBERLAIN, S. D., Dec. 23.—A delegation of Sioux Indians from Crow Creek agency, with White Ghost, the head chief, as chairman, has left for Washington to collect a bill of about \$200,000 from the government.

Big Ice Crop Expected. SARATOGA, Dec. 21.—Ice, which already has an average thickness of three inches, is forming very fast.

Queen of the Revenue Marine. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 21.—The launching of revenue cutter No. 8 was a success in every particular.

Vatican and Quirinal. FLORENCE, Dec. 21.—Cardinal Bausa, the archbishop of Florence, had an audience of 40 minutes with the king and queen of Italy at the Pitti palace yesterday.

SUBSTITUTION. the FRAUD of the day. See you get Carter's, Ask for Carters, Insist and demand Carter's Little Liver Pills, The only perfect Liver Pill. Take no other, Even if Solicited to do so, Beware of imitations of Same Color Wrapper, RED.



The book of woman's life is divided into three chapters: Girlhood, womanhood, motherhood. At the time when a young girl passes into womanhood—turning the leaf as we may say between the first and second chapters of her existence—a little care and thoughtfulness will double her chances of future happiness and save many hours of suffering.

CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK. 26 WALL ST., NORWALK. INCORPORATED SEPT. 1, 1876. CAPITAL \$100,000. GEORGE M. HOLMES, President. E. L. BOYER, Vice-President. WILLIAM A. CURTIS, Cashier.

SCHLEICHER & SON'S PIANOS. There is simply no use comparing this piano with any other on the market. IT LEADS when it comes to TONE, FINISH, DURABILITY, RIGHTNESS IN PRICE.

DAVID W. RAYMOND. Funeral Director and Embalmer. 59 Washington Street South Norwalk. Residence, Mahackemo Hotel. Uliscount Day, Saturday.

The GAZETTE JOB PRINTING Department. A WORD TO THE WISE Merchants, Manufacturers, Lodges and Societies will consult their own interests by giving us a call. REMEMBER—If you have work to do, write to us.

DEXTER A KNOWING DOG. He is Not in the Show Business, Either, but Assists in the Tobacco Trade. BROOKLYN may claim the best educated dog in the country not engaged in the show business. This canine is the property of a tobacco house in the city and accompanies a city salesman about on his rounds.

GENTLE ART OF BEAUTY. Practical Suggestions for the Preservation of Good Looks. To be beautiful according to the end-of-the-century standard, which is set largely by acrobatic actresses and athletic grand dames one must be supple. This desirable quality is procured only through eternal vigilance and exercise.

The Original Grandfather's Clock. The personal property of the late James Terry, at one time Terryville's leading citizen and President of the Eagle Lock Company, was sold at public auction by Richard Baldwin, administrator of books and household goods left by Mr. Terry, besides a few articles belonging to the estate of Mr. Terry's grandfather, Eli Terry, the first clockmaker of America.

NORWALK GAZETTE.

Truth above all things.

Entered in the Post Office as a Newspaper

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1895.

THE WEATHER—To-day, clear and colder. To-morrow continued cold and partly cloudy followed by slightly rising temperature possibly snow at night. Saturday partly cloudy slightly warmer high winds and probably snow.

The World's Christmas.

What shall be said of to-morrow's sweet and hallowed anniversary, save that time and custom have made it dearer to all hearts with the passing of the years? Poets and minstrels have sung of it for nearly nineteen centuries. Through all that time and with ever-growing potency its name has been a word to conjure with for kindness, love, and sympathy. It has come to include within its tender bonds of practice and observance, not only the religious followers of the Christ who was born to man that day, but the dwellers in all Christian lands of whatsoever faith and creed. It is more than an anniversary of the church. It is the anniversary of a noble civilization—of a splendid and embracing charity of which Jesus said it was greater than either hope or faith.

Christmas calls us to better deeds than mere religious pageantry. It appeals to a deeper and a more exalted sentiment than that of theological observance. It admonishes us of our duty to humanity, of our obligations of mercy, affection and beneficence. It touches the heart. It speaks to us of motherhood, of infancy, of every purifying and endearing influence that radiates from the cradle, the hearthstone, and the family circle. It reasserts the brotherhood of man, proclaims the duty of the strong to the weak, of the happy to the afflicted, of the prosperous to the friendless, destitute and forlorn. On this one day, if never again throughout the year, we put aside our feuds, our suspicions, and our animosities, the breathless quest of gain, the hard indifference to others' woes. Our hearts are open to every gentle prompting. We close them to every thought of harshness and intolerance.

If Christ had done nothing more than this by coming into the world—if He had not replaced the cruelty and vengeance and barbarism of the Mosaic period with the unutterable tenderness and sweetness of the message from the Mount of Olives; if He had left us only this softening memory, this anniversary of love—He would still be the greatest benefactor mankind has ever known; the apostle of the most magnificent gospel vouchsafed to the dwellers of the earth.

Let us all be thankful for this day. Like an oasis in the arid desert of our selfish cares and struggles, it comes to us a vision of peace, a refuge of flowers and foliage, a music of clear waters, an interlude of grace and kindness. We stop in our weary journey to rest beneath the shade, and this hiatus in our toil and struggle we give to sympathy and love. Whether we look to the evangelists, to the New Testament or to "Ecce Homo" for an identification of Christ's character and mission, at least we can all agree that He was the teacher of a beautiful and surpassing creed of sweetness; that He spoke for the tenderest compassion and the most exalted morality that has been proclaimed to men. He was the advocate of justice, truth, forgiveness, love, and charity. Against the lurid cloud of vengeance, terror, and reprisal that overhung the human race He fixed the radiant bow of promise, hope, and mercy. Millions worship Him as God and a Redeemer. All honor and reverence to Him as a messenger of grace. The story of His passion and His agony in Gethsemane will touch men's hearts as long as they are open to noble and tender and refining influences. The picture of His martyrdom will always have a meaning for the world. This is the anniversary of His birthday—the birthday of one who, whether He were God or man, reclaimed mankind from barbarism and made our present civilization possible. We owe Him much; let us pay some slight installment of our debt by practicing the love, the charity, the human kindness of which He was the prophet and the priest!

—Owing to the continued illness of Mr. Frank I. Jones, the crockery store No. 23 Wall street will sell goods for the next 20 days at a great sacrifice. This is the place and now is the time for Bargains d17 if

THE EVENING GAZETTE

CHECKER-BOARD BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

<p>NORWALK Fire Insurance Co. In Successful Operation Since 1866, No Outstanding Claims.</p>	<p>Safes For Rent. VALUABLES STORED IN Safe Deposit Vault OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF NORWALK.</p>	<p>EMBOSSING DONE AT THIS OFFICE.</p>	<p>FRED A. WALTER, MAKER OF AND DEALER IN HARNESS AND HORSE GOODS. Repairing of all kinds done at short notice. Harness made to order a specialty. 31 MAIN ST. NORWALK, - - CONN.</p>
<p>GAZETTE ADS. BRING GOOD RESULTS</p>	<p>Edgar Buttery, Nurseryman, NORWALK, CONN. Trees, Shrubs and Plants. Strawberry Plants a Specialty. Brandy Wine, Rio and Marshel, 20 other Varieties. Office, 6 Water St. Nursery, Broad River.</p>	<p>W. H. BYINGTON INSURANCE. Room 3, Gazette Building.</p>	<p>Painting, Paper Hanging, Kalsomining and Hardwood Finishing. G. L. PLATT, 52 Wilson Avenue, Norwalk, Conn. Send for book containing samples.</p>
<p>G. Ward Selleck, BEST GOODS. TEAS and COFFEES 18 WALL ST.</p>	<p>Frank T. Hyatt DENTIST, 8 West Avenue.</p>	<p>PARLOR BARBER-SHOP, H. S. LEOBOLD. 47 Main Street.</p>	<p>TRY WEED'S SODA WATER 38 Wall St.</p>
	<p>ENTERPRISE Bottling Works, 7 Wall Street. FINE ALES AND LAGER EXPRESSLY FOR FAMILY USE. Mail orders receive prompt attention.</p>		<p>Job Printing OF EVERY DESCRIPTION EXECUTED AT THE GAZETTE OFFICE</p>

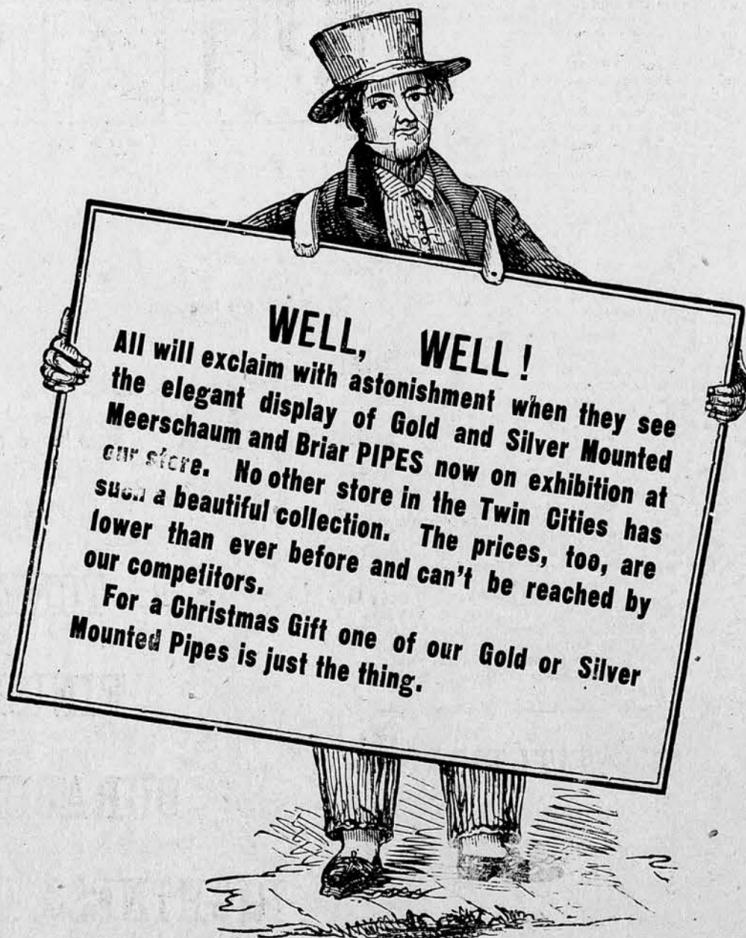
PIPES. PIPES. PIPES.

GOLD MOUNTED,

SILVER MOUNTED,

BRIAR,

MEERSCHAUM.



The Greatest Display of Pipes in the Twin Cities,
At the lowest prices ever offered.
Imported, Clear Havana, Key West and Domestic Cigars. The Finest Line of Smoking Tobaccos.
EXAMINE MY STOCK BEFORE PURCHASING YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.
O. E. BARKER, Mahackemo Hotel Block, SOUTH NORWALK.

South Norwalk.

Branch Office of GAZETTE No. 12
North Main Street.

A Merry Christmas to all.
Will Lander is home from Brown for the holidays.
—Animals at cost, at Lane's, to-day.
Jack Burchard of Trinity is home for the holidays.
—At cost to-day, baskets at Lane's.
Thermometers in this city nearly reached zero last night.
—Fresh hams 10c lb. Paul Schultz's.
This is hard weather for motormen on the trolley lines.
—Knox Derby at O'Brien's.
The ice men are now pleased with this cold snap.
—Pork Roast 8c lb. Paul Schultz's.
The public schools close to-day until January 4.
—Umbrellas and canes, O'Brien's.
The GAZETTE will not be issued to-morrow.
—Western chickens, 10c N. Y. Market.
The Clover club will hold a "Smoker" to-night.
A party of young people will go for a sleighride to-night.
Capital Against Labor at Hoyt's Theatre to-night.
—Tree ornaments at cost, to-day at Lane's.
Get your sleighs at Luther Wright's carriage factory on Madison street.
—Goods very low, at Lane's to-day.
—Fine perfumes at Plaisted's.
Butler Lodge conferred the second degree last night, and served supper after work.
—Elegant cut glass at Plaisted's.
Reporter Charles R. Helmer of the Hour, is seriously ill at his home in East Norwalk.
—Don't forget that Plaisted can furnish you with Holiday goods.
Operator Harry Ambricht, at the signal tower, leaves to-night for a visit in Pennsylvania.
—Western turkeys, 12 1/2c N. Y. Market.
Barker has the finest line of pipes in the Twin cities. Examine them before purchasing elsewhere.
—Home made native sausage meat, 10c lb. Paul Schultz, Jr., No. 5 Railroad Place.
Mrs. W. J. Hotchkiss, of Derby, is the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Alden Solmans, at the Mahackemo.
—Cape Cod cranberries, 7c qt. Paul Schultz, 5 Railroad Place.
The evening schools will have no more sessions during 1896. The first session of the new year will occur on Monday, January 4.
Christmas, at the Springwood Union chapel, will be observed next Monday night. The programme of music and recitations by the scholars will begin at 7 o'clock.
—To-day at Lane's, cornucopias at cost.
The selectmen have sent a family of the name of Hafner, several of whom have been employed in the Silk Mill, to Patterson, N. Y.
—Native turkeys, 16c. N. Y. Market.
The Norwalk Tramway company was unable to run cars over its lines this morning, owing to the snow.—Stamford Advocate.
—At cost to-day, cornucopias at Lane's.
The Tornado will be here next week.
The Germania Singing society is to have its Christmas festival to-morrow night. There will be trees and presents for the children, and afterward a dance.
—First class turkeys, 18c lb., at Paul Schultz, Jr., No. 5 Railroad Place.
On January 7th the Worcester Salt company's special train of 150 cars, drawn by seven engines, will be in this city, with a consignment of salt for Charles E. Seymour.
—Cutlery of all kinds, South Norwalk Hardware company.
Passengers for Norwalk, coming from the east after dark, complain that there are no lights to light the way under the covered shed after leaving the west-side station until the Monroe street stairs are reached. At the depot on the eastern side, the way is properly lighted.
—Glass balls at cost, at Lane's to-day.
Invitations have been issued for an "at home," to be given by Miss Ethel Keep and A. Dwight Keep at their home on Fairfield avenue, on the evening of January 2. A list and a good time in general will be enjoyed.
The post office will close to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock for the rest of the day, it being a legal holiday. There will be one general delivery and collection by the carriers in the morning.
The annual special meeting of the stockholders of the Norwalk Tramway company, will be held at its office in this city, on Tuesday, January 5th, at 12 o'clock noon, for the purpose of electing a board of nine directors. A special stockholders' meeting will also be held immediately following the annual meeting, for the purpose of taking action on increasing the capital stock of the company from 2,800 to 3,000 shares.

Miss Edna Ainsworth is recovering from an attack of the grip at her home on Cottage avenue.
—Native chickens, 12 1/2c N. Y. Market.
The young men will entertain the T. G. L. O.'s and their friends at the Central club on West avenue to-morrow night.
—Danlap Derby at O'Brien's.
Don't forget the Christmas matinee at Hoyt's Theatre to-morrow.
Calvin T. Purdy will furnish music at the dance and whist party to be held at the Central club to-morrow night.
—Christmas turkeys! Don't buy until you have seen them. E. J. Wadwams, Washington street.
Mr. John A. Slater received a sweet Christmas present in the shape of a little granddaughter, presented to him yesterday by his daughter, Mrs. A. H. Nutting, of Brooklyn.
Mrs. George D. Keeler will spend Christmas with her daughter, Mrs. George T. Bunnell of Whaley avenue, New Haven.
The new sweater monograms for the Twin City Wheelmen have arrived and members can secure them from W. A. Wheeler. They are of light blue color.
Sherman Council, Royal Arcanum, will not hold a meeting to-night owing to its being Christmas Eve. They have secured a special dispensation to hold the meeting on the night of December 23th.
The postoffice officials say that this is one of the busiest Christmas they have ever experienced, and that they have handled more mail matter and attended to other business than ever before.
William W. Davis, of Eastman's Business College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., is stopping with Mrs. C. H. Rider at her home on Cottage avenue, East Norwalk, preparatory to returning to his home in Port Jefferson, L. I., to spend the holidays.
Detective Richard Finn, of the New York police, is deserving of credit for the able manner in which he ran down the shoe thief Ernest J. Smith, whom he caught in Pell street trying to dispose of his plunder. He has the thanks of Lounsbury, Mathewson & Co., for his prompt service, and of Chief Vollmer for former prompt and valuable assistance. Detective Finn is worthy of promotion.
Ernest J. Smith, arrested in New York on the charge of stealing shoes from the Lounsbury, Mathewson company, has been held under bonds. It has been learned that the shoes were not stolen from the office as at first suspected, but from one of the rooms upstairs. Mr. Haributt who appeared against Smith in New York yesterday, has hopes of the latter making a confession, which may implicate others.
—Peck & Snyder skates, South Norwalk Hardware company.
The Commercial Record says: "The committee appointed to secure a site for the new school building in East Norwalk, viz., J. B. Marvin, W. G. LeCount, A. C. Golding, W. S. Hanford and Harry Morehouse, have purchased the property on the corner of Gregory Point road and Second avenue. A new schoolhouse of six or eight rooms will be built of frame or brick. The committee will investigate school buildings in other parts of the state and will then engage an architect. The new school will accommodate 300 or 400 pupils."

AMUSEMENTS.

Minnie Seward.
To-night the Minnie Seward company will present "Capital Against Labor," at Hoyt's Theatre. To-morrow afternoon the company will give a Christmas matinee, and in the evening will present another of their many plays. The band, which is one of the best, will also give their concerts during both performances. A crowded house should greet them at both performances.
Froze into Jail.
Sixteen men were accommodated with lodgings at the tramp quarters last night. Among the number were David Hamilton, of the New England states, John McCarthy of Brooklyn, and Richard Farrell of Hartford. This morning they looked at the "beautiful snow" and concluded to plead guilty to the charge of vagrancy and were each given a Christmas present of fifteen days in jail.
John Cliffs, Jr., of Stamford, the 5-mile cross country champion, who is also a member of the Manchester Harrier club, is best England, is trail champion and also champion of America who took place in Madison Square Garden, in February, 1897.
Jack Frost hung a new set of curtains at Raymond & Sons' furniture store on Main street last night. They were closely woven and are beautiful to the eye. Old Sol, however, came along this noon and commenced "melting" them with the grace of an expert penochle player.
Victim Attends Suicide.
STAMFORD, Conn., Dec. 24.—It became known today that Peter McGee, aged 81, an inmate of the Soldiers' home at Norton, drew a razor across his throat, and now lies in a critical condition. He was formerly a resident of New Haven. His death is expected.
A Lady's Holiday Observations.
Purchase all the Christmas gifts you can, of your home merchants. In other words, support your own.
—Diamond rubber soles, 35c. at Hoyt's.
The children's query now is: "Which Santa Claus of the many they see in the shops will visit their homes?"
—Boys' Knox-em-all shoes, at Hoyt's.
The Christmas shopper wears smaller sleeves, but she has the same worried look with her as usual.
—Chiffoniers in golden oak, curly birch and white enamel at Raymond & Sons, Main street.
Pay the debts you owe now before you run into more for Christmas extravaganzas.
—Razors at the South Norwalk Hardware company.
Is the woman with the fewest relatives and friends to be pitied or envied?
—Ladies' Marvel rubbers, 60c, Men's Marvel rubbers, 75c. at Hoyt's.
Isn't it funny when husband and wife meet in the same store when they wanted to keep their purchases such a secret, too.
—Peck & Snyder skates. South Norwalk Hardware company.
A bunch of violets given with a gentle word will mean more to a wife than a check with no accompaniment save the matter of protest against all Christmas tomfoolery.
—Childs spring heel shoes, 33c. 5 to 8. A. H. Hoyt & Son.
That we are all children at heart is proven conclusively when we insist upon decking out a gorgeous Christmas tree for a 6-months old baby, who cannot possibly appreciate it.
—Screens from \$2 up, at Raymond & Sons.
Don't give more than you can afford because you get suddenly smitten with the shopping fever that is epidemic at this season. The first of the year has a way of bringing bills with it.
—Ladies' Flannel-lined Shoes 75c. at Hoyt's.
Do not get cross, even though you are horribly jostled at the stores these days. It is the season when peace on earth and good will to men should prevail, even though your skirt braid is walked off, and your nicely arranged coiffure is knocked into a Witch of Endon wisp most unbecomingly to behold.
Troubles Following a Lynching.
MAYFIELD, Ky., Dec. 24.—Special trains today have brought armed negroes and whites to town, and they are preparing for a fight. An attack is hourly expected. Reports have it that the negroes purpose to punish the men who lynched Jim Stone, colored, and followed this by attacking colored families who lived on the outskirts of town.
A Big German Syndicate.
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24.—German merchants are contemplating a scheme of wonderful magnitude in Japan, according to the Asahi. It is reported that about 25 firms, including shipbuilding, railway and other big concerns, are combining to form a syndicate in order to get all the orders of the Japanese government.
Hon. John Johnston Dead.
CLAYTON, N. Y., Dec. 24.—The Hon. John Johnston died at his home here. He was 80 years of age and was the son of the late William Johnston, who was commander in chief of the naval forces of the patriots in 1838, during the insurrection. Mr. Johnston was president of the Exchange bank.
HANNIBAL, Mo., Dec. 24.—Congressman Hatch is still alive, but is thought to be dying. His friends are gathered around his bedside expecting every moment to be his last. He is totally paralyzed, unconscious and apparently without pain.
Pennsylvania Coal Dividend.
NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—The Pennsylvania Coal company has declared an extra dividend of 5 per cent on its stock. The regular dividend rate is 16 per cent per annum.
Commissioner Davison Injured.
SARATOGA, Dec. 24.—United States Commissioner Charles M. Davison was injured by a fall, which caused a dangerous scalp wound.
Snowstorm in the Adirondacks.
SARATOGA, Dec. 24.—A northwestern snowstorm and a heavy wind are sweeping across the Adirondacks.
Abstemious Carrier Pigeons.
The carrier pigeon, when traveling never feeds. If the distance be long, it flies on without stopping to take nutriment; and at last arrives thin, exhausted, almost dying. If corn be presented to it, it refuses, contenting itself with drinking a little water, and then sleeping. Two hours later, it begins to eat with great moderation, and sleeps again immediately afterwards. If its flight has been prolonged, the pigeon will proceed in this manner for forty-eight hours before recovering its normal mode of feeding.
What We May Expect.
A gentleman learned in all connected with electricity, says that a primary battery has been discovered of such potency that—to use his words—a big ship will be able to go to America with its motive power enclosed in a jam pot. The discovery was made accidentally by two Scotch boys, and has been taken up by several Scotchmen of large means and of considerable business experience.
At Considerate Youngster.
Amiable Mother—Here, Tommy, is some nice castor oil with orange in it. Doctor (playfully)—Now remember, don't give it all to Tommy; leave some for me.
Tommy (who has had some before)—Doctor's a nice man, ma; give it all to the doctor.—Household Words.
Subscribe for the GAZETTE.

Re-opened!
The Old Popular Shoe Store.
New Stock, New Styles, New Prices,
GET MY PRICES BEFORE PURCHASING ELSEWHERE. IT WILL PAY YOU
C. H. HARVEY.
BOOT AND SHOE DEALER,
70 NORTH MAIN STREET, SOUTH NORWALK.
THEY WANTED IT.
They Had Waited Long, and When It Came They Were After It With a Rush.
The people of Norwalk have long suffered with no relief. There is probably no city in the country where that peculiar product of the American climate (catarrh) is more prevalent than in Norwalk. The people of Norwalk know this, and when the California Catarrh Cure company, just to prove the efficacy of their great remedy, offered to take a large number of free patients, the people turned out with a rush. Those who tried it at once told of its great relieving power to scores of others, and they came in throngs after the great medicine.
And California Catarrh Cure has begun its work. Relief is already reported in scores of cases. Nothing helped them till they got California Catarrh Cure. Many had heard of the hundreds of cures in Boston and Providence, and wanted the medicine which worked such great results. They had read of Mr. Charles Bayrloff, a pharmacist, formerly located at 178 Broad street, Providence, who recently said:
"I had a bad case of catarrh. It used to cause a dropping into the throat that provoked frequent gagging, often making me lose my breakfast. I used one bottle of California Catarrh Cure, and in three weeks every disagreeable symptom of the disease had vanished. I was completely cured."
Don't suffer longer with hawking, snuffing, gagging, bad breath, headaches, and all other symptoms, when there is such a cure as California Catarrh Cure.
If you are troubled with any or all the symptoms of this disgusting and humiliating disease, procure a bottle of California Catarrh Cure, and you will get immediate relief.
California Catarrh Cure is sold at R. H. Plaisted's drug store. A great big bottle for 50 cents, and one three times as large for one dollar.
ESTABLISHED 31 YEARS.
NO MAN NEED BE POOR.
Anecdotes of Speculators and 25 Songs Free.
Send me for my circular on money-making in Wall Street, the Chicago Wheat and Pork Markets, and Co-operative Syndicates.
T. BRIGHAM BISHOP,
Boston, New York and Philadelphia.
THE ELECTRIC STAR.
The most Wonderful Discovery of Modern Times. Will instantly Relieve and permanently cure Rheumatism, Sciatica, Varicose Veins, Chilblains, Paralysis, Neuralgia, Dizziness, Melancholia, Chills and Fever, etc. If steadily worn will prevent many forms of disease peculiar to careless exposure, vitalize and correct the entire system. It can be carried in the pocket. Never fails, never wears out. Nothing like it ever known before.
Used with best results in Europe.
Price \$1.00, by mail or sent C. O. D.
The Electric Star Co., 118 1/2-118 3/4 Broadway, New York City.
GIVEN AWAY FREE!
Fine Hanging Lamp,
ON
DECEMBER 31st, 1896.
Every Cash Purchase to the amount of 25 cents, in either store, entitles you to one chance on a Beautiful Lamp, at
R. GOLDSCHMIDT'S,
16 & 18 Water Street, Norwalk.
HOLIDAY GOODS.
D. FEINBERG,
DEALER IN
SOLID GOLD GOODS AND JEWELRY.
Loan Office.
Repairing of Fine Watches and Jewelry Neatly Done.
164 Washington St., So. Norwalk, [on the Bridge.]
10 Day's sale Unredeemed Pledges, Clocks, Jewelry, Clothing and Musical Instruments.
HERE'S YOUR CHANCE.
A fine building lot on Wilton avenue. If you intend to build, look at this before purchasing.
Water, gas and sewer on the avenue.
Will be sold at a Bargain.
W. H. BYINGTON,
Real Estate and Insurance
Room 1, Gazette B'ld.

Re-opened!
The Old Popular Shoe Store.
New Stock, New Styles, New Prices,
GET MY PRICES BEFORE PURCHASING ELSEWHERE. IT WILL PAY YOU
C. H. HARVEY.
BOOT AND SHOE DEALER,
70 NORTH MAIN STREET, SOUTH NORWALK.

THE STRONG AND RESPONSIBLE STOCK MANAGEMENT OF THE AETNA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,
Of Hartford, Conn.,
Has produced results to Policy Holders which are unexcelled
RECORD OF POLICY NO. 133,017.
Issued in 1881, at age 35, for \$1,000. 15 Year Endowment
Annual premium, **\$63.28.**
Amount of the Policy, \$1,000.00
FIFTEEN ANNUAL PREMIUMS, of \$63.28 each, \$949.20
FIFTEEN ANNUAL DIVIDENDS, 199.07
NET COST to maturity, 750.13
NET GAIN, \$249.87
This Policy matured in 1896, and showed a gain of
\$249.87,
And 15 years' insurance for \$1,000.00.
MORGAN G. BULKELEY, President.
JOHN I. HUTCHINSON, General Accident Agent, Hartford
E. E. HALLOCK, General Agent, 5 Hubinger Bldg., New Haven.

SLEIGHS, SLEIGHS, SLEIGHS.
If you want to buy a new sleigh, or have your old one repaired or painted, let me know.
Work called for and delivered free of charge.
LUTHER M. WRIGHT.
FACTORY AND REPOSITORY,
FRANKLIN & MADISON Streets, South Norwalk.

A FREE BICYCLE!
The WHITE SHOE STORE will give away absolutely free, on Saturday evening, January 2, 1897,
A Beautiful High Grade Bicycle,
Your Choice of Either Ladies' or Gent's.
A Coupon with each 50c Cash Purchase. Don't forget the date and place. At
OLSEN BROTHERS'
WHITE SHOE STORE,
3 GAZETTE BUILDING, NORWALK, CONN.

Now is the time

To Send in Your Advertisements

For Fall Trade

THE EVENING GAZETTE

IS THE RIGHT MEDIUM THROUGH WHICH TO REACH THE READING PUBLIC.

The Only Eight-Page One-Cent Paper in the Norwalks.

The Value of an Advertisement

DEPENDS ON THE POCKETS OF THE PEOPLE

WHO READ IT. ADVERTISEMENTS IN

THE EVENING GAZETTE ARE

READ BY THOSE WHO

HAVE MONEY TO

SPEND.

ONLY 1 CENT.

OFFICE OPEN EVENINGS.

Baby's Best Friend—Mother—Next Dr. Hand's Colic Cure.

HARTFORD, CONN., Oct. 26 '95.—The Hand Medicine Co.—"By request of my wife the undersigned writes you 'that baby's best friend is her mother,' and next best is Dr. Hand's Colic Cure. Used same for past months. It is impossible to write our appreciation of your preparation and do most cheerfully request all mothers to use same for their little ones. Our baby is now teething. W. Lincoln Barnard." Sold by all druggists, 25c.

The adjourned hearing of the remonstrants against the granting of a license to John Hogan on Franklin avenue, before the county commissioners will take place on Wednesday next.

If Every Mother Knew Her Little Ones Would be Saved.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., May 3, '95.—Dr. Hand—Dear Sir:—"I have used Dr. Hand's Teething Lotion and found it all it is represented. I have had no trouble at all with baby during his teething; it has helped him so much, he teases to have it used on his gums. If every mother would use it they would save the little ones a great deal of suffering. Yours respectfully, Mrs. Harry Browne, 614 State street." Dr. Hand's Teething Lotion sold by all druggists, 25c.

Those fancy articles on sale at the Woman's Exchange are just the thing for a holiday gift.

Thomas Mason, of Harbor avenue, who went to the Norwalk hospital to have an operation performed on his foot, by Drs. Tracy and Burke, is getting along nicely.

SAVE YOUR LIFE

By using "The New Great South American Kidney Cure." This new remedy is a great surprise on account of its exceeding promptness in relieving pain in the Kidneys, Bladder and Back in male or female. It relieves retention of water, and pain in passing it almost immediately. Save yourselves by using this marvelous cure. Its use will prevent fatal consequences in almost all cases by its great alternative and healing powers. Sold by E. P. WERD, Druggist, Norwalk, Conn.

Raymond & Son have the finest display of furniture in Norwalk. One of their handsome chairs would be just the thing for a holiday gift.

There were four real estate sales in Norwalk last week. The mortgages amounted to \$17,500. For the corresponding week last year there were seven sales and the mortgages amounted to \$17,240.

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease, and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address, F. J. CHENEY & CO Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

"The Cart Before the Horse"



Is just as intelligent a thing to do as the way some manufacturers force their Baking Powders on the public. They don't know themselves what their goods will do. WE KNOW the merits of

BOSS... BAKING POWDER

It's what we have used for 32 years in our business, and is the secret of our success. 3,000,000 of our LUNCH MILK BISCUIT alone, sold last year proves we have a meritorious article. The thousands who follow our example in their home cooking agree with us. It's not only "The kind Boss makes his Biscuits with," but the kind all should use.

MANUFACTURED BY C. D. BOSS & SON, New London, Conn.

S. B. WILSON, PRACTICAL CONTRACTOR AND BUILDER.



Estimates cheerfully given. Large building a specialty. Contracts taken in any part of the country.

STEAM MILL AND YARD, OFFICE 8 GROSS ST., 92 WALL ST. Norwalk, Conn. Plans and Specifications furnished.

Raymond & Son. Successors to George H. Raymond, Furniture Dealers and General Furnishers. 3 and 48 Main Street Norwalk Ct Residence, Berkeley Place.

WEYLER AT THE FRONT

The Spanish Butcher Starts on Another Personal Campaign.

HIS PLANS FORESHADOWED.

Coalition of Forces Reputed to Be Contemplated—Opinion in Spain Not So Violent—Why Warlike Preparations Are Continued.

HAVANA, Dec. 23.—Captain General Weyler left Havana early today on board the Spanish cruiser La Cazpi, bound for Mariel, north of the military line across the province of Pinar del Rio, with the intention of resuming personal command of the operations against the insurgents in that part of Cuba.

General Selmo reports from Santa Clara that Lieutenant Colonel Oliver, in command of the Granada battalion, has had an engagement in that district with a force of insurgents. The general adds that the enemy lost over 800 in killed and wounded.

The insurgents have lifted the rails and derailed an exploring engine near Yaguajay, province of Matanzas, killing the conductor and so seriously injuring the engineer that both his legs had to be amputated. The whereabouts of the fireman is not known.

Generals Arolas and Gasco, as well as the rest of the Spanish generals in the province of Pinar del Rio, have assembled at Artemisa, where they are awaiting the arrival of Captain General Weyler in order to commence a new plan of campaign. Captain General Weyler will combine the movements of General Arolas' troops with the forces of the military line, all these troops beginning active movements in the province, and it is understood there will be no cessation of the movements until the campaign in that part of the island is finished.

General Arolas, however, will be sent to take command of the military line extending from Jucaro to Moron, in the province of Puerto Principe.

Milder Feeling in Madrid.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The Standard's Madrid correspondent says that the government has signified to the Washington government that it is satisfied with the friendly tone of President Cleveland's message and with the attitude of Mr. Olney before the senatorial committee on foreign relations. This correspondent adds:

"Senor Canovas will not take the slightest notice of any talk or resolutions by congress as long as the executive preserves an attitude in harmony with the usages and precedents of international law, which Spain is entitled to expect both President Cleveland and President Elect McKinley to respect. He anticipates a similar common sense will animate the American press and people when the jingo scare fades away. Indeed it would be next to impossible for any Spanish government to yield to foreign interference now. The press is now much cooler and is confident of gaining time. Rumors of unusual war preparations must be received with caution, as the ministers are only acting within the budget limits. They do not wish any aggressive meaning to be attached to purely defensive precautions and to the provision of war stores for Cuba and the Philippines."

The Daily News warns the Spanish war minister against any warlike preparations against the United States. "It is quite clear," says The Daily News, "that nothing is ever intended to come of the Cameron resolutions."

Boston Merchants Disapprove.

BOSTON, Dec. 23.—The board of directors of the Boston Merchants' association held a special meeting and adopted this resolution: "That the Boston Merchants' association views with apprehension and disapproval the attitude of the senate committee on foreign relations in regard to the affairs of Cuba. We believe that, no matter what the sympathies of our people may be, it would be unwise for the United States government at the present time to interfere in the deplorable contest now going on in the land of Cuba. We urge senators and representatives to use grave deliberation before taking any action which may involve the country in war."

De Novallas Talks Some.

PARIS, Dec. 23.—The secretary of the Spanish embassy here, the Marquis de Novallas, in an interview, has declared that but for "American interference" the Cuban insurrection would have been terminated long ago. He is quoted as adding: "The recognition of the independence of Cuba by the United States would only be the result of an insignificant whim. I believe that the struggle will terminate before the end of February." Le Soleil says, "If the United States recognizes the independence of Cuba, European opinion will unanimously support Spain against America."

Measures of Repression in Spain.

MADRID, Dec. 23.—The Correspondencia says that the gendarmes have dispersed a small revolutionary band that had been organized near this city. At Barcelona an additional number of anarchists were sentenced today. Forty of them were condemned to 20 years' imprisonment and 27 to 8 years' imprisonment.

To Prevent War.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—A dispatch from Paris today says it is suggested that Great Britain, France and Italy, the three powers most interested, offer their services in the Cuban question in order to prevent a conflict between Spain and the United States and to terminate the revolt.

Four Cent Fare Ordinance Vetted.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—In his veto of the 4 cent street car fare ordinance, which was sustained by the city council, Mayor Swift said that if he signed the measure he would place the city in the doubtful position of having consented to violate what the street car companies had accepted in good faith as a contract. These contractors stated that the fare should be 5 cents, and, besides, the mayor declared, there was no public demand for a cheaper street car fare.

German Warship For Manila.

HONGKONG, Dec. 23.—The German warship Irene, with Admiral Tirpitz on board, has sailed for Manila, under orders from Berlin to protect German subjects and the subjects of other powers in the event of the severe fighting which is anticipated there.

Higginson's Birthday.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Dec. 23.—Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson, soldier, poet and essayist, today celebrated the seventy-third anniversary of his birth at his home in this city.

TO THE PEOPLE OF NORWALK

The undersigned having purchased the Plumbing and Tinning business formerly conducted by Wm. P. Holmes at No. 7 Water street, and fitted the same as a first-class Plumbing, Steam-fitting, Gas and Tinning Establishment, respectfully solicit a share of public patronage

All work will have our personal supervision and inspection, and be executed with promptness and thoroughness. Any one wanting first-class work done at the lowest prices, will do well to give us a call. We will cheerfully estimate on all Plumbing, Gas-fitting, Steam-fitting, Tin and Sheet Iron work of every descriptions.

All Jobbing will be attended to promptly. Hot air and steam heaters cleaned and put in thorough repair. Call or address,

PHILLIPSON & BROWN,

Practical Plumbers, Steam & Gas Fitters, Tin and Sheet Iron Workers.

7 Water Street, Norwalk.

New York and Norwalk Freight Line

DAILY.

PROPELLERS

City of Norwalk, Eagle and Vulcan

Will Leave Pier 23, E. R., N. Y. (Beedman St.) or

NORWALK AND SOUTH NORWALK

AT 5 P. M.

Leave South Norwalk Daily at 6 P. M.

Leave Norwalk Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 5 P. M.

A BICYCLE FREE.

We shall give away a High Grade Bicycle on the evening of December 24th, just in time for Christmas.

Every cash purchaser of 25 cents' worth will receive a coupon.

SO. NORWALK HARDWARE CO.,

South Main Street,

South Norwalk.

YOU read this advertisement. If it had been yours and others had read it, how much good it might have done. Send in your advertisement and we will do the rest. Rates on application.

Brooklyn Vault Light Company.

MANUFACTURERS.

VAULT LIGHTS, SKYLIGHTS

AND PATENT LIGHT DESIGNS.

OFFICE, 481 DRIGGS AVENUE,

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Because It Is Best. Why is the demand for Welcome Soap in New England greater than for any other family soap? Because housekeepers, after using it for years, and comparing it with others, know it is the best and most economical; its quality never varies.



is the standard family soap.

a speedy cure for the most obstinate cough. It cannot fail. HALE'S HONEY OF HOREHOUND AND TAR. Hale's Honey of Horehound and Tar acts like magic for a cough or any throat or bronchial trouble. Ask your druggist. Pike's Toothache Drops cure in one minute.

Special to Readers of This Paper. TEAS. Send this "ad." and 10 cents in stamps and we will mail you 1 lb. of any kind of Tea you may select. Good Teas and Coffees, 50c. per lb. We will send 5 lbs. of FINE FAMILY TEAS on receipt of this "ad." and \$2.00. All charges paid. THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO., 31 and 33 Vesey St., N. Y., P. O. Box 289.

ASK YOUR HORSESHOER FOR THE NEVERSLIP SHOE FOR WINTER USE. THE ONLY SHOE FOR WINTER USE. It ABSOLUTELY prevents slipping, and insures perfect safety and comfort to horse and driver. Shod with the "Never Slip" your horse's feet are always in good condition—kept so by not having to constantly remove the shoes for sharpening. The CALKS are REMOVABLE. Steel-Centered and SELF-SHARPENING. When worn out new Calks can be easily inserted without removing shoes, saving an immense amount of time usually lost at the blacksmith shop. On receipt of postal will mail free our descriptive circular containing prices of Calked Shoes, ready to be nailed on, for trial, offered this winter at very low prices. L. L. ENWORTH & SON Sole Agents, 104 Front St., Hartford, Ct.

WINTER IS COMING. And my new line of Fall and Winter Suitings are now ready and awaiting your inspection. Call in and examine them though you do not purchase. Suitings are cheaper, and I make them up in the latest styles at prices that will surprise you. F. KOCOUR, MERCHANT TAILOR, 14 North Main Street, So. Norwalk. Horace E. Dann, EXCELSION. Livery and Sales Stable. Opposite Danbury and Norwalk Railroad depot, Norwalk, Conn. Stylish BLAZED Double Team with or without drivers' safe horses for women and children. ADDLE HORSES A SPECIALTY. MEEKER COAL CO. COAL, WOOD, BRICK, LIME, CEMENT, TILE PIPE. OFFICE WITH G. WARDSELLECK WALL STREET, NORWALK.

FAILURES IN CHICAGO. Business Troubles Caused by the Big Bank's Suspension.

RUMORS OF PROSECUTION. The Two Latest Concerns to Succumb Were Closely Allied—A West Superior (Wis.) Bank Goes Under—Big Failure Reported in Iowa.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—The American Brewing, Malting and Elevator company, the George A. Weiss Malting and Elevator company and George A. Weiss, individual, assigned in the county court. The assignments of the two companies, which are intimately connected in business, and that of Weiss were brought into court together. The assignee of the American Brewing, Malting and Elevator company is the Chicago Title and Trust company. The George A. Weiss Malting and Elevator company and George A. Weiss assigned to the Security Title and Trust company. No statement was filed as to the assets and liabilities.

The failure of the two corporations was the result of the failure of the National Bank of Illinois. The two companies were borrowers from the bank and were indebted to it for over \$500,000 when it failed. Both corporations were organized through the efforts of George A. Weiss, who is president of the George A. Weiss Malting and Elevator company. The American Brewing, Malting and Elevator company is the owner of extensive malthouses on North Ashland avenue, which are leased to the other company and are used by it in the manufacture of malt. The American Brewing, Malting and Elevator company has a large brewery adjoining the malthouses, and the two are closely related in business, one buying and selling to the other.

Lackner & Butz, the attorneys who filed the assignments, refused to give any information as to the amount of the assets and liabilities, saying that the business of the two companies and Weiss was so interwoven that it would be hard for the assignees to tell the assets and liabilities of each. Few additional facts of any importance concerning the condition of affairs of the National Bank of Illinois were made public. There were, of course, a number of rumors in circulation, more or less sensational in nature, but most of them were of somewhat doubtful authenticity. One of these was to the effect that certain officers of the insolvent bank were threatened with criminal prosecution.

Talk of Prosecution. Talk of the possibility of such action being taken by the United States authorities seemed to be based on the statement made by Comptroller Eckels and published yesterday morning that it had been discovered that a part of the bank's holdings of Calumet Electric securities were not made to appear as such on the books, but were carried to and covered up in another account. It was rumored that an item of \$900,000, carried in the "foreign exchange" account, was really an additional loan to the street railway company. No verification of this rumor could be obtained.

An officer of the bank is charged with receiving a commission of \$125,000 for making one of the loans to the Calumet Electric Street Railway company. Some of the directors of the bank say that they were not fully informed of the Calumet loans until Saturday, believing them to be nearly \$1,000,000 less in the aggregate than they proved to be. Another rumor that gained some currency was to the effect that many of the loans made by the National Bank of Illinois were unsecured. This was said to be particularly true of the loans advanced to Berger and Weiss. On Monday it was said that in both of these cases the bank had been protected by real estate mortgages and other security, but the impression got abroad yesterday that there was nothing back of them but personal notes. The bank examiner and others in a position to speak authoritatively on the subject declined to discuss the matter at all. The officers said that the bank was in the examiner's hands, and the latter declared that he had not yet had time to investigate the matter.

Des Moines Banks Help. DES MOINES, Dec. 24.—Des Moines banks have been called to the aid of numerous country banking customers who were embarrassed by the failure of the National Bank of Illinois. The Chicago institution had a large number of accounts with Iowa banks scattered all over the state. When it closed, they feared that their drafts on it would not be paid and began telegraphing Des Moines bankers to intervene with their Chicago correspondents and arrange to care for the paper of country institutions until they could make new arrangements in Chicago. The indications are that Iowa banks will in no case be injured beyond temporary embarrassment of this kind, but the number that have made such requests is several score.

Ex-Bank Employee Arrested. BUFFALO, Dec. 24.—Edwin J. Smith, formerly individual bookkeeper of the Bank of Commerce, was arrested by Detectives Hugh Kennedy and Matt O'Laughlin on the complaint of the receivers of the Bank of Commerce, who charged him with falsifying the books of the bank, affecting a practical embezzlement of between \$2,500 and \$3,000. The arrest was surrounded with every secrecy that the police and the receivers could put upon it. Mr. Smith's relatives came forward with a proposition to make good the bank's loss and give a bond indemnifying the bank against any other frauds that might be discovered, provided the story be kept from the newspapers and the criminal prosecution quashed.

Big Firm Goes Under. SIOUX CITY, Ia., Dec. 24.—The Parsons-Pelletier Dry Goods company, one of the largest houses of the kind in Sioux City, did not open for business today. The stock is in the hands of mortgagees, who hold claims against the firm for \$91,533. J. V. Farwell & Co. of Chicago for \$34,424, Marshall Field & Co. of Chicago for \$30,595 and the Farmers' Loan and Trust company of Sioux City for \$9,000 are holders of first mortgages, and H. B. Claffin & Co. of New York hold a second mortgage for \$17,512. No figures as to assets are given. The failure is due to insufficient capital and the general stringency of the times. No local firms are affected by the failure.

Bank of West Superior Closed. WEST SUPERIOR, Wis., Dec. 24.—The Bank of West Superior did not open today. It is a small institution, with capital and surplus of \$100,000.

LAUNCH OF ANNAPOLIS.

The New Gunboat Sent Into the Water at Elizabethport.

ELIZABETHPORT, N. J., Dec. 24.—The new United States gunboat Annapolis was successfully launched from Nixon's shipyard today. The Annapolis is one of the six gunboats authorized by congress on July 14, 1895, and is the fourth of the six to be launched. The three already in the water are the Marletta, the Vicksburg and the Newport. The Vicksburg and the Newport are being constructed at the Bath Iron works and were launched on Dec. 5 last. These boats are a new departure in naval architecture and are designed with the object of being light of draft and speedy, but at the same time sufficiently protected to take an active part in battle as well as to do patrol duty. The lines of the Annapolis are very graceful, and the boat, as a whole, closely resembles a steam yacht with auxiliary sail power. She is barkentine rigged, carrying a sail area of about 11,000 feet, and when under full sail it is expected that she will be able to travel as fast before the wind as under steam. The boat is 205 feet over all, 168 feet on the water line and 36 feet beam. The lower part of the hull is of wood, covered with copper, while the upper part is of steel. The entire frame is also of steel. The deck is housed with light steel plates that give ample protection to the men and stiffen the ship as well as if she were constructed entirely of iron. Her mean draft is 12 feet, which will allow her to navigate very shallow waters, one of the purposes for which these vessels are being constructed. Her speed is guaranteed at 12 knots an hour, but she will probably develop more than that. The boilers are all to be tubular, using a pressure of 225 pounds. The engines are of the vertical, direct action, triple expansion type, with high, intermediate and low pressure cylinders of 15 1/2, 23 1/2 and 36 inches respectively and a 30 inch stroke. They are expected to develop 800 horsepower and make 150 revolutions of the single screw a minute.

Provision is made for a moderate forced draft, which is to be induced by two blowers applied under the ash pits. The armament of the Annapolis will consist of six 4 inch rapid fire guns with a main battery and four 6 pounders and two 1 pounders, rapid fire, as a secondary battery. There are no gun sponsors. Her complement will consist of 9 officers, 10 marines and 125 bluejackets. The contract price for the Annapolis is \$238,000, with the following deductions: \$10,500 for an electric light plant and \$3,000 for a steam steering gear, if the government decides not to put them in. It is expected that the vessel will be ready for her trial trip by next October. Elaborate preparations had been made for the launching this morning. Miss Georgiana Patterson Porter of Annapolis was selected to christen the ship. She is the granddaughter of the late Admiral Porter and the daughter of Theodor Porter, one of the assistants to the commandant of cadets at the United States Naval Academy. He is well known in society circles in both Baltimore and Washington. A large number of prominent persons were expected to be present, among them Secretary of the Navy Herbert, Assistant Secretary McAdoo, Vice President Elect Hobart, Governor Griggs of New Jersey and Mayor Thomas of Annapolis.

THE JOKER'S BUDGET.

Mr. Cumso—This is a very bad report to bring me from school, Tommy. Tommy—I know, papa; but you said if I'd bring you a good report you'd give me a quarter, and I wanted to save you money. His First Offense—Mr. Hyson—"Mr. Cypher, you were absent without leave yesterday." Mr. Cypher—"Yes, sir. I was married very unexpectedly yesterday." Mr. Hyson—"Well, sir, you will please see that it does not occur again."—Life.

Registrar of Voters—"How old are you, madam?" Ancient Female—"I have seen nineteen summers, sir." Registrar—"Er, um! How long have you been blind?"—New York Sun. Mrs. Tight—"My husband is such an economical man." Mrs. Nabor—"Yes?" Mrs. Tight—"Yes, indeed. He went to a dentist the other day to have a tooth pulled, and the dentist said his prices were 50 cents per tooth, or three for \$1.25, and my husband had three pulled."

Theory and Condition—Doctor—"Take these powders as directed, and your cold will be gone in two or three days." Patient—"You seem quite hoarse, doctor?" Doctor—"Yes; I've had a bad cold for four weeks."—The Epoch.

First Chicagoan—"I hope Congress this winter will do something toward suppressing Mormonism. It is a disgrace to our civilization." Second Chicagoan—"It is, indeed. The idea of a man having to keep his old wife after he has got a new one."—Terre Haute Express.

Ed—"What do you do to pass away the time?" Ned—"Easy enough. I just give my promissory note to some one for thirty days, and the time passes quickly enough, I assure you." He—"I don't believe you have thought of me once since I've been away." She—"Well, you know very well that the doctor gave me strict orders to do nothing that would tire me."

PERSONALS. Miss Winter, the English governess who for several years past has had charge of the education of the young Queen of Holland, has returned to England. A life pension of \$2,500 a year has been granted to her. James Payn, the well-known novelist, has for many years been a devotee of whist, and despite his physical infirmities still plays regularly. He is unable to deal the cards, but continues to maintain his reputation as a skillful player.

It is not generally known that before Mrs. Cleveland began building blocks and playing jack straws handling a billiard cue was among her most highly prized accomplishments. She played a great deal during her husband's first administration, and once beat a man who is considered the best player in the navy.—New York Tribune.

Two women preachers who are well known in Cleveland, Ohio, are Miss Murdock and Miss Buck. Their work is by no means light, for, besides preaching, they visit the sick, make many social calls and superintend all sorts of church organizations. They have also established a free kindergarten in one of the poorest districts of the city. In the pulpit they both wear plain black silk gowns with simple white linen collars and cuffs and neckties.—New York Journal.

Mate Bram's Defense. BOSTON, Dec. 24.—Counsel for Thomas Bram, formerly mate of the barkentine Herbert Fuller, who is being tried in the United States circuit court on the charge of murdering the captain, his wife and the second mate on the high seas, formally opened their case today.

Steel Billet Pool Intact. PITTSBURGH, Dec. 24.—The Bessemer Steel association, better known as the steel billet pool, is still intact, reports to the contrary Rotterdamstanding.

WHERE MEXICAN TERRITORY ENDS.

Monuments, Each Within Sight of the Other, Mark the Boundary Line.

Two hundred and fifty-eight stone and iron monuments now mark the boundary line between the United States and Mexico, from the Rio Grande to the Pacific, 700 miles. Most of the monuments are cast-iron, but the principal ones are of stone. They average about two and a half miles apart, but in no case is there an interval of as much as five miles between them. Stone was used wherever possible. Generally they are in the form of a simple tapering, four-sided shaft, bearing suitable inscriptions in English and Spanish. The stone monuments are about eleven feet high, and the iron monuments about six and a half feet high. They are arranged so that they are within sight of one another from one end of the line to the other.

The country traversed consists mainly of deserts and mountains, and, in many instances, the work was prosecuted with considerable difficulty. By the terms of the treaty the destruction or displacement of any of these monuments is made a misdemeanor, punishable according to the justice of the country of the offender's nationality. An extensive report of the Commission that did the work, covering 700 pages of printed matter, and accompanied by maps and photographic views, was submitted to Secretary Olney yesterday by Colonel J. W. Barlow, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A. The original treaty between the two countries in regard to this work was concluded July 29, 1852. The line was formerly marked by about fifty monuments, and the re-marking became necessary in order to put an end to the constant disputes and controversies over territorial rights, resulting from their destruction or displacement. Wherever possible the original monuments were restored. Many of them had been displaced and others completely destroyed.

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A KIND-HEARTED NOVELIST.

Saved the Life of Both Heroine and Reader by Changing the Last Chapter.

Alexandre Dumas was writing a serial novel for a Paris daily journal, and one day the Marquis de P— called on him. "Dumas," said he, "have you composed the end of the story now being published in the —?" "Of course." "Does the heroine die at the end?" "Of course—dies of consumption." "After such symptoms as I have described, how could she live?" "You must make her live. You must change the catastrophe." "I cannot." "Yes, you must; for on your heroine's life depends my daughter's." "Your daughter's?" "Yes; she has all the various symptoms of consumption which you have described, and watches mournfully for every number of your novel, reading her own fate in that of your heroine. Now, if you can make your heroine live, my daughter, whose imagination has been very deeply impressed, will live too. Come—a life to save is a temptation—" "Not to be resisted." Dumas changed his last chapter. His heroine recovered, and was happy. About five years afterwards Dumas met the Marquis at a party. "Ah, Dumas," he exclaimed, "let me introduce you to my daughter; she owes her life to you. There she is." "That fine handsome woman, who looks like Jeanne d'Arc?" "Yes. She is married, and has four children." "And my novel has just four editions," said Dumas; "so we are quits."

CABINET POSSIBILITIES. If a New Portfollo Is Created General Sicles Wants It. General Daniel E. Sicles, who forsook the Democracy last campaign and did good service for the Republican candidates in the West, is outspoken as to his wishes for political preferment.



At a recent reception to Gen. F. S. Clarkson, commander-in-chief of the G. A. R., a letter of Gen. Sicles' was read, in which the veteran said: "You have seen, perhaps, that the newspapers are providing me with a variety of offices, which I do not want and would not take. The only office I would care to fill is the post of Governor of Cuba, and I hope the vacancy may soon occur. All this you can say to whoever it may concern."

GAIL HAMILTON. Some Anecdotes of Her Conversational Gifts—The Minister's Surprise.

It is seldom that a woman is found who combines intellect, charm of manner and womanly fascination, but Miss Dodge (Gail Hamilton) seems to have been thus universally gifted. On one occasion, while she was spending the winter in Washington with Mrs. Blaine, a striking instance of this was shown.

Among the season's visitors to the Capital was a Western clergyman of more culture, reading and thought than knowledge of the world. He desired to make the most of his holiday and first sight of the great city. He wanted to see all there was to be seen, to hear all there was to be heard, but most of all did he desire to meet and have a word with Gail Hamilton. It took him several days to summon up his courage, but at last he boldly presented himself at the Blaines' door and asked for Miss "Hamilton." About three hours later the friend met him descending the steps of the house, one broad smile of delight and satisfaction.

"Ah," exclaimed the confident, "I congratulate you. So you have met your dear Gail Hamilton. I can see it in your face." "That face fell—grew remorseful. "N-no," he stammered, "I didn't meet her—she didn't come down, and the fact is, I forgot to ask for her." "Forgot to ask for her?"

"Oh, I sent up my card, of course, but a lady came down, a Miss Dodge, and, my dear fellow, you never saw such a woman in your life! I suppose that Miss Hamilton must have been out; she didn't mention her, but she began to talk to me, and in two minutes I forgot what I had gone for. I never could believe that any person, man or woman, could know so much. I believe we talked on every subject in the world, and she knew everything about every one of the subjects. I was never so surprised as when a lot of people came in and I found how long I had been there, and I didn't want to come away one bit then. I can tell you, and, till you spoke, I'd forgotten all about Miss Hamilton. I don't believe she can touch Miss Dodge, anyhow!"

His astonishment and delight when he found that he had entertained (or been entertained by) his angel unawares, were very pleasant to see.—New York Tribune.

Mongolian Brides. A Chinese bride, when putting on her wedding garments, stands in a round shallow basket. By relatives and friends this is supposed to insure a placid, well-rounded life in her new home.

Window Glass.

Odd Sizes Cut to Order. Putty in Bulk, and 1, 3 & 5 Pound Cans.

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Oils and Turpentine, Hardware & Housefurnishings.

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GRUMMAN BROTHERS

MANUFACTURERS OF IMPROVED SODA AND MINERAL WATERS.

Flavoring Extracts Also the Syrups and Olden Time Fruit Juices, Root Beer, Lemon Soda, Soda Water, Sarsaparilla, Supplied in Birch Beer, Steel Fountains, Seltzer and Vichy in Siphons. Address H. J. & G. S. GRUMMAN, 44 Main Street, Norwalk, Conn.



25C. Ask Your Druggist

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WILL REOPEN SEPTEMBER 29, 1896.

ALL APPLICATIONS For admission should be made at an early day.

P. W. BATES' 42 WATER STREET,

you can find as fine an assortment of Monumental & Cemetery Work As can be found in any Yard in the State. Look it over and get prices before going elsewhere.

FROM ACROSS THE SEA.

The Most Interesting of One Day's Events in the Old World.

THE STAMBULOFF MURDER.

Officials Seem to Be Shielding the Accused Men—Determination of the Powers to Coerce Turkey—A Californian's Death Abroad.

SOFIA, Bulgaria, Dec. 24.—The trial of the assassins of ex-Premier Stambuloff was continued today and is proceeding slowly. Mme. Stambuloff was not present. A newspaper draws attention to the fact that Mme. Stambuloff has her late husband's hands—which were so terribly mutilated by the knives of his murderers that they had to be amputated previous to his death—preserved in the room in which he died. They are crossed like a pair of fencing gloves under a glass case, above which hangs a photograph of the mutilated corpse.

Zacharieff, who was referred to in the letter written by the late M. Stambuloff some three months previous to his death as having informed M. Stawko, at the latter's house on March 15, 1895, that Natschewitsch and Tuffektchieff had formed a band of 10 to 15 men who would under any circumstances murder M. Stambuloff, was on the stand today. He denied having made the statement mentioned to M. Stawko.

Trying to Shield Prisoners. The ex-prefect of police deposed that shortly after the revolver was fired, with the alleged object of warning the waiting assassins of the approach of M. Stambuloff, he passed Boni Georgieff, one of the prisoners, a native of the Dobrutcha and a former servant of the late Major Panitza, who was shot at Sofia for conspiracy against the government in 1890. Georgieff, the ex-prefect added, was driving rapidly in a direction opposite to the scene of the murder.

Later the ex-prefect of police deposed that Naum Tuffektchieff, another of the prisoners and an employee of the building department of the ministry of public works here, was at home at the time of the murder. Tuffektchieff is a brother of Dimitri Tuffektchieff, who died in prison as the result of tortures, it is claimed, inflicted by order of the late M. Stambuloff.

A Mussulman as a French Deputy. PARIS, Dec. 24.—The Paris newspapers are full of gossip about Dr. Grenier, who has been elected deputy for Pontarlier as a Radical. He is a rigid Mussulman, and he intends to wear the turban and the burnoose in the chamber of deputies. His election was due to bad management by the Moderate Republican committees. He is highly educated and a skillful debater. He is a physician, never refuses a consultation, never takes a fee and gives largely to charities. He advocates free marriage and polygamy and practices all the Mussulman rites.

To Coerce the Porte. CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 24.—The ambassadors accredited to the porte have received instructions from their respective governments to act in concert in submitting fresh proposals for reforms in the Ottoman empire, and all of the diplomats, including M. Nelidoff, the Russian ambassador, have agreed to resort to coercive measures if the sultan should be dilatory in enforcing the reforms.

The Steamer Neptune Disabled. VIGO, Spain, Dec. 24.—The second officer of the steamer Neptune, bound from Newcastle, Dec. 13, for Baltimore, has arrived here and reports that he left the Neptune on Sunday, in latitude 43 degrees north and longitude 14 degrees west, drifting, her propeller having been lost. A tug has gone to the assistance of the disabled vessel.

Earl Russell's House Burned. LONDON, Dec. 24.—The residence of Earl Russell, at Maidenhead, on the Thames, was burned to the ground today. The fire was undoubtedly of incendiary origin, as Earl Russell has recently received several menacing letters, some of them threatening him with personal injury and others threatening the burning of his property.

Majestic Met Heavy Gales. QUEENSTOWN, Dec. 24.—The White Star steamship Majestic, Captain Smith, from New York Dec. 16 for Liverpool, arrived today. She reports having encountered heavy gales in the course of her passage, and on Dec. 19, in latitude 46 north, longitude 47 west, she sighted a large iceberg.

Queen Victoria to Dictate Her Biography. LONDON, Dec. 24.—The St. James Gazette says the queen will personally dictate and revise a biography of her majesty which will appear in 1897. The work will tell the story of the longest reign in the history of England as the queen herself regards it.

France and England. PARIS, Dec. 24.—Le Figaro today intimates that, owing to the difficulties between France and Great Britain in regard to Egypt and Turkey, the post of Baron de Courcel as French ambassador to the court of St. James may be left vacant for awhile.

A California Educator Dead. LONDON, Dec. 24.—Advices received here from Athens say that Professor George Richardson of San Francisco died in a hospital at the Greek capital of typhoid fever.

The Plague in Bombay. BOMBAY, Dec. 24.—It is officially stated that the plague is increasing here, and Karachi, the seaport of Sindh, is also declared to be infected.

Georg von Bunsen Dead. LONDON, Dec. 24.—Georg von Bunsen, who was prominent for many years in the German reichstag, is dead.

Trying Alleged Forgers. TRENTON, Dec. 24.—The trial of George Sands, alias Dr. Clark, and Mrs. Knapp for passing counterfeit silver dollars in Hoboken last summer was resumed in the United States district court today. Owen Owens, a Jersey City stenographer, who took a transcript of the confession made by Mrs. Knapp to United States Secret Service Agent Bagg, gave testimony corroborating that given by Bagg yesterday.

A Big Gas Deal. COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 24.—The Central Ohio Natural Gas and Fuel company has been sold to New York capitalists at 82½ per share. Emerson McMillin made the purchase for them. The capital stock is \$1,900,000. The highest ever paid here before for stock was 77.

CUBANS USE DYNAMITE

A Trainload of Spanish Soldiers Blown Up on the Island.

SLAUGHTER OF SOLDIERS.

Hot Fighting Reported From the Provinces—Mexico Sympathizes Warmly With the Insurgents—Other News of the Rebellion.

SANTIAGO, Cuba, Dec. 24.—An express train has left here to bring back the Spanish soldiers wounded in a dynamite explosion near Dos Caminos.

A large number of Spanish troops had been hastened off on a secret mission over the Sabanilla and Maroto railroad in the early morning. The Cubans were informed of the expedition and laid a dynamite bomb on the track in a spot favorable for an ambush.

The bomb exploded as the middle of the train was passing over it. Four cars were blown to pieces, killing and wounding 18 soldiers.

After the explosion the insurgents attacked the terrified troopers and captured a great quantity of arms, killing 2 officers and 20 soldiers and wounding many times that number.

In the districts of Holguin and Gibara there have been three engagements of late. Near Gibara Colonel Cevallos, with his Spanish column, met the Cuban Sartorio on Dec. 8. The Spanish colonel was mortally wounded.

The insurgent leader Feria has Gibara under siege.

A Spanish column left Holguin on Dec. 7 to relieve the town, but the Cubans were double in number and well supplied with arms and ammunition. They attacked the Spaniards fiercely, defeating and compelling them to flee, leaving a great number of killed and wounded. On Dec. 9 General Nario and his Spanish column met the rebel leaders Nini Sierra and Mateo Sanchez. The Spanish general was taking a convey from Holguin to the interior. Suddenly attacked, he lost the whole convey, consisting of 60 mules laden with arms, ammunition and provisions. The Spanish general's horse was killed under him. A section of Spanish guerrillas, 40 in number, deserted the Spaniards and joined the insurgents.

On Dec. 10 Colonel Demetrio Castillo and his Cubans attacked the Spanish under Lieutenant Colonel Serra. Over 600 men were engaged for two hours, the Spaniards retreating with the loss of an officer and 14 soldiers killed and more than 80 wounded.

The news of General Maceo's death was officially received here on Dec. 10, and the Spanish element celebrated it with dinners, music in the park, fireworks and flags on public buildings and private houses.

Sympathy in Mexico.

SAN LUIS POTOSI, Mexico, Dec. 24.—The feeling in favor of the Cuban insurgents runs so high here that serious trouble is threatened. On Wednesday night a mob gathered in this city, inflamed by a circular said to have been written by a Spaniard and defaming Mexicans and Mexican institutions, especially in reference to the part taken in sympathy with the Cubans. This circular precipitated a riot. A crowd assembled early in the evening, constantly growing in numbers and excitement until at 10 o'clock it had reached the proportions of a mob. It gathered around the Spanish consulate and threatened to demolish the structure, but was finally controlled by one or two cool heads. Banners inscribed with huge red letters were flaunted before the consulate, and violent talk and insults abounded. The Spanish consul was in great peril and appealed to the authorities to protect him. The mob finally left after severe measures had been taken by the police. Plans were made to disperse any subsequent gathering.

Working on Our Warships.

VALLEJO, Cal., Dec. 24.—Though work has slackened somewhat at the navy yard, owing to the discharge of a part of the force because of a lack of funds, there is still a fair amount of work in progress, about 500 men being employed.

Work still continues on the Baltimore, Concord, Mohican, Ranger and Pensacola, for which ships money was especially set aside by the last congress. The cruiser Charleston, however, did not come under this head and will probably have to wait until the appropriations of the present congress are available before her repairs begin.

The gunboat Petrel, which was placed in commission on Dec. 15, is at the dock fitting out with stores for a three years' cruise on the China station. She will probably lie here for two months more, during which time she will be examined by the board of inspection.

Spain's War Footing.

MADRID, Dec. 24.—Queen Regent Christina will, on Christmas day, sign a decree ordering the operation of certain reforms in the island of Puerto Rico.

Admiral Beranger, minister of marine, denies that the government is purchasing warships.

General Azcarraga, minister of war, has rendered an account to the queen regent of the work which has been done by the war ministry, with a view to the arising of possible complications.

El Epoca, a semi-official organ, declares that, together with the reserves, the Spanish army is fully capable of maintaining an international war.

To Assess the Spiritual Temple.

BOSTON, Dec. 24.—The board of assessors has decided to assess the First Spiritual temple for taxes. This action was taken as a result of the appointment of a special committee of the common council to investigate the reason why the temple was exempted from taxation and to obtain an opinion from the common council. The property is assessed for more than \$240,000. There is no doubt that this action will be resisted.

Congressman Elect Ill.

PARIS, Mo., Dec. 24.—R. E. Bodine of this city, congressman elect from this district, is very ill from pneumonia. At the late election Mr. Bodine, who was the Democratic candidate, carried the Second district by an overwhelming majority, defeating Charles A. Loomis of Chillicothe by over 5,000 votes.

Montreal Residences Burned.

MONTREAL, Dec. 24.—The residence of Frank May, a well known wholesale dry goods merchant; John Gault, superintendent of the Merchants' bank; and Judge Doherty, on Stanley street, just above Sherbrook street, were burned today. It is estimated that the loss will be about \$100,000.

BIG STRIKE THREATENED.

Action of the West End Street Railway Company's Employees in Boston.

BOSTON, Dec. 24.—The conductors and motormen of the West End Street Railway company held important meetings upon all divisions of the road. The employees want an agreement with the company for the year 1897 regulating the hours of labor, wages and other conditions. These conditions had been voted on at the several division meetings and then referred to a committee to present to the management of the company. This committee held two conferences with the officials of the road, and it was expected that a third would be held the first of this week. It is said that the officials refused longer to deal with the men as an organization.

This was reported by the advisory committee to the special meetings. After the report to the men they were asked to vote on the question, "Shall we as an organization sustain our committee by refusing to operate any cars until the agreement is signed?"

Ballots on this question were taken on all the divisions of the system, and reports were made to the supreme council at 45 Elliot street. The vote on all the divisions was reported as almost unanimously in favor of supporting the committee in its demand for recognition as an organized body. As the matter now stands, unless the management of the road recognizes the employees as an organization and signs the agreement, no cars will be run by the old employees. In other words, an attempt will be made to tie up the system.

SAVED BY THE ENGINEER.

Dastardly Train Robbery Put One Hundred Passengers in Great Peril.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 24.—Some scoundrels, intending robbery, removed the plates from the rails on top of McComb's trestle, on the Southern railroad, 15 miles from here, and moved a rail 12 inches out of plumb.

Train No. 37, consisting of a locomotive and six cars, with more than 100 passengers on board, came down the mountain to the bridge at schedule rate.

Engineer James Hawes discovered the rail out of place, reversed and put on the airbrakes, but too late to prevent the entire train and locomotive leaving the rails.

The train went its full length and ten feet on the timbers on top of the trestle, but fortunately did not turn over.

Had it not been for the quick action of the engineer the train would have dropped 90 feet.

The work was done by train robbers. Sheriff O'Brien and posse, with six good dogs, have struck a hot trail and are now in pursuit of the would be wreckers. The passengers were transferred from the trestle and brought here. The passengers were loud in praise of Engineer Hawes.

Slavery in Madagascar Abolished.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Among the earliest reforms of the French government in Madagascar is embodied a decree abolishing slavery, a copy of which has been received by the state department from Consul Wetter at Tamatave. It declares all the inhabitants free, forbids traffic in human beings, nullifies every contract providing for the sale of persons and imposes penalties for violations of the law, which are to be tripled in case of a second offense.

A Fortunate Church.

ESSEX, Conn., Dec. 24.—By the will of the late Captain Joseph H. Tucker of St. John's Episcopal church and the Public Library are beneficiaries of an estate valued at \$25,000. A new church is to be built with the funds. A niece of Captain Tucker, Miss Susan M. Loomis, died a few days ago, and her property, valued at \$10,000, goes to the same church.

Atlantic and Pacific's Troubles.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 24.—A decree of foreclosure in the suit of the United States Trust company of New York against the Atlantic and Pacific Railway company has been granted in the circuit court of the



WOMEN AND WOMEN ONLY are most competent to fully appreciate the purity, sweetness, and delicacy of CUTICURA SOAP, and to discover new uses for it daily. To cleanse, purify, and beautify the skin, to allay itching and irritation, to heal chafings, excoriations, and ulcerative weaknesses, nothing so pure, so sweet, so speedily effective as warm baths with CUTICURA SOAP, followed, when necessary, by mild applications of CUTICURA (ointment), the great skin cure.

Sold throughout the world. Price, CUTICURA, 50c.; SOAP, 25c.; RESOLVENT, 50c. and 25c. FORTY DROG AND CHEM. CORP., Sole Proprietors, Boston.

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is the Greatest Sunday Newspaper in the world. Price 5c a Copy. By Mail \$2 a Year. Address THE SUN, New York.

CHEAP FUEL

Owing to many of the factories having been shut down, we have a large accumulation of first class coke.

We offer the same during the month of December at six cents per bushel at the works, or eight cents per bushel delivered within either city limits, in not less than twenty-five bushel lots. Extra for carrying in. The Norwalk Gas Light Company.

THE BOSTON STORE,

CORNER MAIN AND WALL STREETS, NORWALK.

Ante:Inventory::Sale!

Beginning Saturday Dec. 26th, 1896.

The busy Christmas Season is over, but we don't mean to sit down and wait for next Xmas to come around. Not at all. We are here to do business every day and every week. In order to do a large business in the so called "dull season," and also for the purpose of reducing stock before Inventory,

Liberal Reductions

have been made all along the line. Rare money saving opportunities in every Department. We mention a few items to illustrate:

Cloak Department.

The coming week will be a grand time to purchase CLOAKS--that is it will be a grand opportunity for the Buyers--Money to be made by them but not a cent by us. We are merely converting the stock into cash.

- 8 Black Boucle Jackets, the price is \$8.00, sizes 38 to 44, to clean up, \$6.00.
- 10 Black Boucle Jackets, \$10.50, sizes 36 to 44, to clean up, \$7.98.
- 10 Black Boucle Jackets, \$6.00 is the price, sizes 36 to 44, to clean up, \$4.50.
- 20 Odd Jackets, children's sizes, all colors, no two alike, sizes 4 to 14, prices \$7.00 and \$8.00, to clean up they go at \$5.00.
- Plush Capes \$3.50 to \$12.00.
- Cloth Capes \$3.98 to \$10.00.

Wrappers.

- 12 dozen \$1.25 Wrappers for 98 cents.
- Children's Gretchens, the \$6.98, \$7.98 and \$9.00 ones, all of them to go at one price, \$5.

Mens' Furnishings.

- Mens' Unlaundered shirts, the 75 cent quality, for one week only, 50 cents.
- Mens' muslin and flannel night shirts, the 75 cent quality for one week, 50.

THE BOSTON STORE Cor. Main and Wall Sts.

Holiday Presents For All.

SANTA CLAUS will make all homes happy this coming Christmas and we have

Goods the PEOPLE WANT at Prices the PEOPLE LIKE.

Toys, Games, drums, wagons, carts, wheelbarrows, doll carriages, sleds. Plush and celluloid boxes and toilet cases. Albums from 25c to \$5.00. Everything to please the young and old. Latest novelties in Xmas Cards and Calendars.

PICTURE FRAMES MADE TO ORDER.

Church, School, Society and Organization Committees allowed the usual discount.

Goods purchased now will be stored free of charge until wanted.

JOHN T. HAYES.

5 MAIN STREET, NORWALK.

TWO LUCKY ESCAPES

Persons in and about the GAZETTE building were startled Monday afternoon by a crash of glass, and a crowd quickly congregated in front of the Olsen Bros. shoe store from which point the sound emanated.

The crowd seemed somewhat disappointed when it found that instead of a large plate glass window crushed to small bits a show-case only had been partially wrecked.

It might have led to their interest to have known that a young man stood on a roof 50 or 60 feet above their heads thanking his lucky stars that he was not lying on the walk below, very much dead.

The young man was Wesley Mead employed by Phillipson & Brown the plumbers. He was engaged in making some repairs on the roof of the building and stood on the cornice outside the ornamental rail when his feet slipped and he fell, but luckily had presence of mind enough to grab one of the rounds in the railing and save himself from being precipitated to the walk. It was the closest call of his life.

As he fell one of his feet sent a large piece of ice tumbling from the cornice which landed squarely on top of the show-case in front of the shoe store, cutting its way smoothly through the glass and smashing three or four glass shelves on which were displayed samples of shoes, etc.

It was indeed a streak of luck that the ice did not strike any one of the several persons who were gazing at the store window not two feet from the show-case.

Young Mead thanks his lucky stars that he reached terra firma by the way of the stairway instead of a flight through space with a sudden landing on a cold and uncharitable pavement.

Shortly after the above accident, one fraught with more serious results occurred at a point almost directly on the opposite side of the street.

James Tully, aged about 75 years, and a resident of Chapel street was on his way home, and when on Water street he was seen to slip and pitch headlong down a flight of eight stone steps at the east end of the Opera House building.

Several men ran to his rescue and he was picked up and carried into Weed's drug store, where his injuries were examined by Dr. J. G. Gregory. The poor old man's face was covered with blood and his hair matted with the same.

The doctor's examination disclosed no bones broken. He did, however, find an ugly wound on the man's head and scratches on his face, and it is thought that he received bruises about the body.

Later he recovered sufficiently to be carried home in a carriage, accompanied by his son. He is reported as being comfortable to day.

The place where Mr. Tully fell is partially protected by an iron chain, but it was insecurely hitched and gave way like a cotton string as the man's weight fell on it. It is a dangerous place and especially so in the present slippery condition of the sidewalk. The evil will probably be remedied with the improvements now being made at that end of the building.

Interesting Railroad Matters.

The annual report of the railroad commissioners for the past year is out to-day and is an interesting and valuable document. As a suggestion of the work that has been done, the following is significant:

More than sixty different findings, orders and decisions have been made by the board during the year, some of them after repeated hearings, most of them in the exercise of what may be called the police power of the board, but with little friction between the parties interested; all but one without appeal, and, with the exception of the effort of some parties in Bridgeport to prevent the carrying out of the agreement for the elimination of all the high-way crossings in that city, all without any final opposition.

The great improvement on the New York, New Haven & Hartford road have raised many questions, notably in Stamford and Bridgeport, concerning locations, bridges, etc. At Stamford the commissioners decided the principal dispute against the company and in favor of the town.

The Standard's Annual.

A book worthy of preservation is the Bridgeport Standard Annual for 1897. The publishers modestly call it an "Almanac." It is more than that, containing, as it does up to date statistics, beautiful engravings, and first class pictures of the leading men of the state and that city, with biographies, and of our own congressman, E. J. Hill. The picture of the latter gentleman is true to life, and in strong contrast with the unkind "cuts" of him published during the recent campaign. The book is a splendid specimen of the artistic work executed in the job printing department of the Standard.

Connecticut Pensions.

Original—James Cullen, New Haven; John H. Hamilton, New Haven; William Giddy, Windsor. Increase—A. J. Washburn, Colebrook. Original widow's—Mary Williams, Norwich.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC.

Splendid programmes have been prepared by the different churches in town for the celebration of the Christmas season.

Programmes of the exercises have been furnished us from the Methodist, Congregational and Grace churches, and are as follows:

Norwalk M. E. Church.

On Sunday next the following programme will be presented.

MORNING.

- VOLUNTARY—Organ and Piano. ANTHEM—"Sing O Heavens" B. Tours "Gloria Patri," Schubert-Buck "Sweet Babe of Bethlehem." G. W. Warren DUETT—"Noel," violin obligato, Adams OFFERTORY—Violin Solo. ANTHEM—"Arise! Shine," Williams POSTLUDE—Organ and Piano.

EVENING.

The evening service will be particularly attractive, by the use of the stereopticon. Nineteen views illustrating scenes from The Life of Christ will be presented and explained by Rev. Mr. Wyatt. Anthems, solos and choruses by the choir and Sunday-school.

CHOIR.

- Sopranos—Mrs. W. F. Ambler, Mrs. Frank Vail, Miss Ella J. Byrbee. Tenors—Mr. H. B. Wigham, Mr. C. W. Hoyt, Mr. H. P. Price. Contraltos—Mrs. J. Wilkie Collins, Miss Annie Staab, Miss Mary E. Selleck.

- Bass—Mr. William L. Warren, Mr. Frank Vail, Mr. Edward Selleck. Mr. C. G. Ives, organist; Miss Agnes Littlejohn, violinist; Mrs. J. H. Buckley, pianist; Mr. Howard Tilly, cornetist; Mr. H. P. Price, Director.

The children's Christmas Festival will be held at six o'clock on Christmas evening, when the juvenile cantata by C. H. Gabriel entitled Santa Claus' Reception will be given by members of the School and a chorus of forty voices with organ and piano accompaniment.

Congregational Church.

The following is the carefully prepared Christmas Festival arranged for Sunday at the First Congregational church:

PROGRAM.

- 1.—PRELUDE, Piano and organ, Christmas March, Merkel 2.—ANTHEM, "Shout the Glad Tidings," Wilson 3.—GLORIA, Williams 4.—DUETT, Soprano and alto, Christmas, Shelley 5.—OFFERTORY, Piano and organ, "Die Naehigall Singt," Hoffman 6.—SORANO SOLO, "A Light from Heaven," Gounod 7.—ANTHEM, Cantique de Noel, Adams 8.—POSTLUDE, Piano and organ, Pontiffical March, Gounod Miss Bissell of Pittsfield, Mass., will be at the piano.

EVENING.

A Festival service for the children. The choir will render "Now When Christ was Born," (Jacoby), and Miss Sherwood will sing "The Christ Child," by Coombs.

Grace Church.

- The musical program for Grace church, Christmas Day, is: Processional Hymn, 51.....Mendelsohn Venite.....Woodward Te Deum B minor.....Dudley Buck Jubilate Deo, in D.....J. T. Field Introit, "And the Glory of the Lord".....Handel Kyrie in E.....Gower Gloria Tibi.....J. F. Bridge Hymn 53.....Avison Offertory Tenor Solo "Cantique de Noel".....Adam Communion Service.....Gower in E Recessional Hymn, 61.....Siberia

Made of Poor Paper.

There is much fault being found with the new one large bills that are now being widely circulated. Unlike the old bills they are made of paper that is evidently of a poor quality or is devoid of the usual amount of silk. Bills that have been in circulation but a few months have the appearance of having been in use for years. They crack and tear very easily, making it rather inconvenient for those who have to handle them.

County's Share Almost \$19,000.

The county commissioners have received notice from the state highway commissioners to the effect that the county's share for new roads during the year will reach almost \$19,000. The income of the county from the tax of two-tenths last year was but about \$21,000, and it is estimated that at this rate the next county tax will have to be double that of last year.

Forewarned, Forearmed.

Miss Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Charles F. Smith, of East Norwalk has refused to marry Elmer Merrill, a prosperous young merchant of Staten Island because she says she has been warned in a vision that she will be unhappy with him. The wedding was to take place on Christmas eve.

The disappointed young man from Staten Island is in town, a guest of Augustus Pitzer, and has hopes to day that the snowstorm coupled with supplications will break the spell, and the wedding take place as previously announced.

A DANBURY STABBING

S. Ward Williams who is prominently known in Danbury was stabbed and seriously wounded late Saturday night by a young woman named Sadie Reed, alleged to be his wife. The cutting was done in a board up house kept by Mabel Parker, on Main street, a few doors away from the police station. Williams called at the boarding house where the Reed woman was staying and had a quarrel with her.

As Williams started to leave the house the woman followed him to the door and thrust the blade of a potato knife into his breast, inflicting a wound an inch and a half deep just below the heart.

Williams rushed off to the police station, and after telling his story was taken to the emergency hospital. After doing the stabbing the Reed woman went to her room and tried to commit suicide by cutting her throat with a knife and by jabbing a hat pin into her neck. She was taken to the police station and looked up. She is charged with assault with intent to kill.

Williams' injuries are considered to be quite serious. The surgeons found that the knife had penetrated the left lung and caused internal hemorrhages. Williams lost considerable blood and fainted twice in the police station. The woman admitted doing the cutting. She said that Williams was her husband, having been married to him in New York city last September. She said that he had called upon her and accused her of being intimate with other men, and a quarrel resulted.

Williams is 40 years of age and is employed here as an expert accountant. He is a son of Town and City Treasurer Williams and a brother of Cashier Williams of the Danbury National bank. The condition of Williams is such as to cause the physicians to fear that his recovery will be doubtful. Miss Reed belongs in Danbury and was formerly employed in one of the hat factories.

Masonic Home.

The board of managers for the state Masonic home held a meeting at the home in Wallingford Saturday and made appropriations for the institution and transacted the regular routine business. The medical board elected the following officers: President, Dr. Joseph E. Root, Hartford; vice president, James D. McGaughey, Wallingford; secretary, Dr. W. P. Baldwin, New Haven.

The board considered plans for the erection of a building to be used for hospital purposes. At present the room in the hospital used for a hospital is too small, and a larger building and one adapted for such purposes is needed. The suggestion was made that the borough of Wallingford appropriate a sum to assist in building the hospital building in return for which town patients would receive medical attendance. No definite action was taken.

School Visitors Meet.

The board of school visitors held a regular meeting last evening. Permission was granted for the transfer of two children from the North Center to the Center school district. The annual report of the Secretary was read and accepted. It was voted that the Selectmen be requested to incorporate in the call for the next town meeting a call for the establishment of a high school, according to the provisions of Chapter 138 of the General Statutes.

HURLBUTT SRETEET.

Mrs. Cole and daughter Mary of North Salem, N. Y., are visiting her relative Mrs. Angelman.

The Christmas entertainment given at the School House on the evening of December 18, was well attended. At 8 o'clock the curtain was drawn. A platform had been erected and a tree of evergreen stood in the corner laden with presents for the children. The name of the play was, "The Conquest of Santa Claus." Two children are seen playing on the floor. Santa Claus (Edward Scofield) seating himself and wife (Renben Geopler) following. Santa had decided not to follow his vocation this year, but many were the petitions (telegrams, letters, appeals in succession from the children, followed by music) so influenced the old Santa, he concluded to try it once; more—distributing the presents from the decorated tree. The scene was grand; The fairies, Lizzie Radoliff and Sarah Abbott; Aurora Borealis, Sadie Scofield; Snow Plow, Eddie Tegan; Jack Frost, Bertie Brown; Messenger Boy, Chester Geopler; Orphan, Edna Rider. Minnie Angelman and Viola Bennett deserved especial praise, while Lizzie Radoliff was the doll of the evening. Those coming to the entertainment at the same time were Harry Jackson and Miss Adams; Percy Knapp and Miss Hattie Holmes. Others present were Mrs. Annie Cole of South Salem, Mrs. Stuart and Mrs. Hoyt of Bedford; "Uncle" John Dudley was out, several young men from Whitlock Academy, and Miss Roxy Mann. Incidents of the evening: Charlie Newell had been prepared for the occasion, and was the tool of laughter for those who appreciated his nonsense. After the exercises, several of the young men displayed low elements in themselves in throwing corn, spoils, and candy that the "mob" had succeeded in securing by force from one of the actors, breaking plates, etc., and cast gloom over the instructor Miss Ryder who has spent so much time to amuse all at her own expense.

Clinton Van Hoosear is painting his house and fences.

The Sabbath school will also give a Christmas entertainment at the school house on Saturday evening of this week. It will be under the superintendency of T. F. Gilbert.

Booty By the Wagon Load.

Several residents of Stamford, who have summer cottages at Shippan Point have discovered that their houses at the shore have been entered by thieves, and many articles and much household furniture have been stolen. Complaint was made Saturday afternoon by Mrs. George E. Lockwood, that her summer residence at Shippan had been broken into.

Nearly all the furniture was removed from the cottage, including an expensive sideboard. The thieves must have carried the goods off by the wagon-load. Some of the furniture has been recovered in second hand stores in that city by the police.

An Oration and Music.

On the evening of the 4th of March next and under the auspices of the Clan-na-Gael the 119th anniversary of the birth of Robert Emmet will be publicly celebrated at the Opera House Norwalk. The programme will include a choice and appropriate selection of Irish Music and an oration by Counselor Michael T. Sharkey of New York. The proceeds will be given to the Irish Political Prisoners Fund Association.

WILTON.

Orders for Advertising, Papers and Printing Will Receive Prompt Attention by Addressing Box 104, Wilton.

(From Wednesday's EVENING GAZETTE.)

Jacob Miller of Belden Hill is in New York to-day.

Rev. Mr. Gaurnsey, the "boy preacher", was in town over Sunday.

Miss Carpenter is spending the Xmas week with friends out of town.

Julian Gregory of East Orange was in town on Monday.

Mrs. Wilkinson, who has been visiting with her sisters in town, has returned to Binghamton.

Invitations are out for a party at the home of Miss Mamie Miller, at Cannons this evening.

The tying of Christmas greens and Christmas decorations are going on at St. Matthew's.

The snows of last week effectually blocked up the cross roads in the Western part of the town.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Lyon of Belden Hill have closed their pretty summer residence and returned to Brooklyn for the winter.

Miss Hattie Olmstead of Norwalk was visiting friends in town on Friday.

Rev. William H. Gilbert of New Haven secretary of the American Bible society, preached at the Congregational church on Sunday. Mr. Gilbert reported according to his last census, that in Wilton there were 69 families who attended no place of worship.

The Christian Endeavor meeting was largely attended on Sunday evening. Miss Florence Keeler led the meeting and the topic was, "Joys that were born in the world with Christ."

To-morrow night, Xmas eve, will be observed at both the Congregational and Cannon's M. E. Church. The services will be especially for the children but it is hoped there will be a large attendance of older people as well, to listen to the story of love and joy.

Wilton people have been interviewing Santa Claus at his Norwalk headquarters in great numbers. Those who are wise have not waited until to-day, but purchased the stuff for the Xmas stockings before the rush.

Miss Mamie Saunders is visiting Mrs. Walter Asche, in Staten Island.

The Wilton skaters are inconsolable. The decree has just gone forth. "No more skating on the reservoir under the penalty of the law."

The Country club will meet with Mrs. J. M. Betts on Saturday evening.

Miss Winnifred White, of Wheaton seminary, is home for the Xmas vacation.

Miss Florence and Mabel Sturges spent Sunday with friends in Norwalk.

Professor Strong Comstock was a recent guest of his daughter, Miss Harriet Comstock, at Vassar.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lockwood will entertain Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hauxhurst of Norwalk on Christmas.

A cottage prayer meeting was held at the house of Deacon Benajah Gilbert at Belden Hill last evening.

Edward Benedict of the New York Trades school will spend the holidays at his home in Belden Hill.

The majority of our local schools close this afternoon with appropriate Christmas exercises.

Several from here attended the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Seymour in Ridgefield last week.

An incident of the little blizzard of Wednesday last, was the blocking of the roads to such an extent that several of the wedding guests were prevented from attending the wedding of Miss Grace Paddock and Mr. Hans.

George Hodges made his yearly trip to town on Monday, calling attention to the fact that 1897 was near at hand.

Mr. and Mrs. Silas Olmstead and daughters will eat their Christmas dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Olmstead in New Haven.

Miss Florence Keeler has returned from a visit with friends in East Norwalk.

Miss Ada Elliot and Charles Lockwood of Norwalk were recent guests of R. W. Keeler.

Harbes, Barringer & Brown, the Belden Hill loggers, are out with their fine teams carrying off some specimens of our forest trees.

There will be a watch meeting at the Cannon's M. E. church on New Years eve, with appropriate services for the solemn season. Rev. Dr. Lansing Taylor of Georgetown will speak.

Master Leroy Evans is spending the week with his grandfather in Brooklyn.

St. Matthews church. Order of services: Christmas day at 11 a. m. with holy communion and sermon, Sunday after Christmas; St. John the Evangelist day, morning service at 11 o'clock; evening, prayer at Hurlbutt street at 7 o'clock. The Rector will officiate at Cranbury at 4:15 p. m. Holy Innocents day, Dec. 28th, 7 p. m. Christmas festival at the Sunday-school.

Selleck's Norwalk.

Part three will be out to-morrow, Dec. 24th. Topics, Norwalk Islands, Indian and early English census, and Home lots; with copious Notes, etc. On sale at George Ward Selleck's.

PIERCE'S TESTIMONY.

The Superintendent Admits Having Put Fetters on Children.

CHAINED SOME TOGETHER.

The Little Folks Were Kept In Irons For Weeks at a Time—Startling Revelations in the Westchester "Home" Investigation.

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Superintendent James M. Pierce of the Westchester Temporary Home For Destitute Children was again under fire today in the investigation of his alleged cruelty to children under his care.

His cross examination was continued, and he was forced to admit the chaining of boys and the whipping of girls with what counsel called a cat o' nine tails.

The names of 40 boys who have worn chains for from two weeks to six or seven months have been extracted from Pierce so far. He has also admitted that three girls had been forced to wear chains. These girls were Theresa See, Sarah Schiller and Carrie Miller. At one time, Pierce declared, the pnds that the boys wore under the chains on their ankles wore out, and he had to order some more leather.

Pierce also admitted having whipped a girl between 17 and 18 years old while she lay in bed covered only by a thin sheet.

The case of the boy Weeks, who wore chains for a considerable time, was first taken up today. Pierce admitted having discharged him from the institution two days before the state commissioners visited the place.

"What age was Frank DeLuca when you put chains on him?"

"He was 13 years old when he came to the home," replied Pierce.

"When was he chained?"

"I cannot tell when he was chained. I don't remember chaining him, but he may have been chained."

"How old was Joseph Evans when chained?"

"I don't think I ever chained him."

Boys Chained Together.

Counsel read from former testimony of Pierce, showing that when another boy had run away with chains on and had been brought back Evans was chained to him so that the other boy could not again run away.

Pierce then remembered and also admitted having put chains on John Evans and Sam Evans.

"Sam Evans was in chains for two days. The last time he was brought back after running away," Pierce explained.

He admitted having compelled a 12-year-old boy named Ferguson to wear chains while under his care.

Pierce remembered chaining Edward Griffin, 15 years old.

"He ran away before I chained him," Pierce said.

Q.—Did you not put handcuffs on him along with the chains? A.—I don't remember that he ever had handcuffs on.

Q.—Is he the boy who was compelled to pump water while chained and handcuffed? A.—No; that was a boy named Marjore.

A boy named William Banke was kept in chains for two or three weeks on one occasion and for five or six weeks on another, Pierce said.

Q.—Did you put chains on George Harmon? A.—I did.

Q.—Was he one of three boys chained together? A.—He was.

Q.—How long were these three boys chained together—a month? A.—I don't remember.

Q.—And all the time they had those chains on they wore them in bed? A.—They did.

Q.—Three boys chained together were compelled to go to bed in that condition? A.—Yes. I did not have chains enough to chain them separately.

Pierce told of this cruelty in the most matter of fact way.

Pierce Contradicts Haviland.

Lawyer Henderson and Pierce had a wrangle over the case of a boy named Charles Horton. Pierce admitted that Horton had been chained to a boy named Robbins, but denied that he had been handcuffed while chained.

Then Mr. Henderson produced the sworn testimony of Justice Haviland, showing that two days after he had committed Horton he had found him shackled and handcuffed in the home.

"It is untrue," Pierce said. "That was after Horton had run away and after he had been originally committed."

Mr. Henderson insisted that it was after the original commitment.

"Your memory is always poor when I ask you questions," Mr. Henderson exclaimed, "but it is all right on occasions of this sort."

Pierce was then made to tell how he had shackled together two brothers named Hall, one aged 9, the other 10. He denied having handcuffed them.

Thomas Head and James Jackson, he said, were already chained. An adjournment was then taken until next Tuesday.

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CHRISTMAS

on sea or land,
gifts from hand,
sweet bells rung,
The Virgin's Son,
on every one.



THE CHRISTMAS DINNER.

A Palatable Menu With Recipes for the Odd Dishes.

In homes where Christmas is considered the high and holy festival of the year all energies are directed towards its proper celebration. The house is redolent with the odor of pines; wreaths are hung in the windows and every outward and visible sign is made to emphasize the nature of the festival. The table is in holiday trim and the cooking savors of the general rejoicing. Dishes that never appear at any other time now find a place on the menu. Holly and mistletoe are used for the table decoration and many of the dishes are wreathed with foliage. The Christmas dinner has always its plum pudding crowned with a sprig of holly. The following menu and recipes may be of assistance:

- Oyster cocktails. Celery.
 - Cream of barley soup.
 - Halibut timbales.
 - Potato balls with cream sauce.
 - Roast turkey with chestnut stuffing.
 - Cranberry jelly.
 - Sweet potatoes. Cauliflower au gratin.
 - Roman punch.
 - Broiled squabs on fried mush.
 - Lettuce and radish salad.
 - Bequefort cheese. Wafers.
 - Mince pie. Pumpkin pie.
 - Frozen plum pudding.
 - Coffee. Bonbons.
- Oyster cocktails are served in ice shells made for this purpose or in large claret glasses. Put five small oysters into each glass. For one dozen plates allow seven teaspoonfuls each of prepared horse radish, tomato catsup and vinegar, ten teaspoonfuls of lemon juice and one of Tabasco sauce. Thoroughly mix this dressing and put an equal quantity into each glass. Both oysters and dressing should be very cold.

To make the chestnut stuffing for turkey, secure one quart of large French chestnuts, shell them and cook them in boiling water until the skins are loosened. Remove the brown skins and again put the nuts into boiling water and cook them until they are tender. While the nuts are still hot rub them through a very coarse sieve or colander. Mix with the sifted nuts a very few bread crumbs and two tablespoonfuls of melted butter, and season with salt and pepper. Make the mixture moist with a little sweet cream and fill the turkey, but do not press the stuffing in closely; and the bird is ready to roast.

IN AND OUT OF THE GAME.



The Turkey—You may be the emblem of freedom and the National Bird and all that, but I guess you ain't in it with me at this season.

Joy of the Little Ones.

Christmas is the day of the little folks. To them the old customs are not haunting to lose attractiveness. As long as Santa Claus remembers to drive his sleigh over the roofs and fills the stockings at the chimney corner, so long as Christmas trees blossom with marvelous fruit, and Father Christmas with flowing beard and deep-toned voice is there to take the toys from the branches, so long is the Yuletide season a magic one to the children. Holidays and presents, parties and new dresses, toys and candies, nuts, oranges, colored tapers and waxen floors—it is fairyland come anew, and the children love it.

"Mr. Holdgold sent me up a beautiful bouquet last night." Adele—"It makes me very happy, dear." "Why?" Adele—"I know now that flowers are very cheap."

May Christmas chime no note of discord sound.
No strain of selfish song and vocal life,
But everywhere may love of God abound,
And sweets of Peace take place of strife,
For the festive days by Heaven's favor blest,
The Christmas-tide is brightest far and best.
—Wilson Imbrie Davenny

MERRY



Christmas comes
Tis love sends
to hand, Oh!
But dearest gift
Himself bestows



Where have they gone to—the little girls,
With natural manners and natural curls,
Who love their dollies and like the toys
And talk of something besides the boys?
Little old women in plenty I find,
Mature of manners and old of mind;
Little old girls who talk of their "beaus,"
And vie with each other in stylish cloths.
Once, in the beautiful long ago,
Some dear little children I used to know;
Girls who were merry as lambs at play,
And laughed and rollicked the livelong day.
Where have they gone to? If you see
One of them anywhere, send her to me,
I would give a medal of purest gold
To one of these dear little girls of old.
—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

A Christmas Bell.

Swing wide! send forth your swelling notes,
Sweet bells!
Once more 'tis Christmas-tide o'er all the
earth,
No silver throat so sweet a story tells:
The Christ was born—the stars sang at his
birth;
Celestial choirs the anthem rolled along,
And angel hosts gave chorus to the song.

It would almost savor of sacrilege to declare that the Christmas tree has grown tiresome, but occasionally there are souls brave enough to say so. For those who feel that way about it, a welcome substitute is found in the Christmas bell, which is made of three or more hoops of graded sizes. These hoops are wreathed and hung, the smallest at the top, the next in size just below it and so on, so as to give the effect of a suspended bell. The ropes or cords by which the hoops are connected and hung, are wound with green. At the top they are brought together and fastened to a ring in the ceiling. Such hoops may be had of a cooper or easy of adjustment and the effect is very pleasing. The same ornaments used to adorn the regulation tree are displayed on the hoops, and the gifts are attached by narrow ribbons, which are cut when the packages are removed. A Japanese lantern hung in the center of the bell is filled with mottoes, bonbons, etc., and when the gifts have all been distributed a blow from a cane breaks the paper sides of the lantern, and a shower of sweets makes glad the hearts of the wee folk of the party. If the lantern is filled with flowers, the downpour is equally pleasing and rather daintier.

DANGER IN THE GIFT.



Maude—I would like to look at some
cans.
Dealer—Yes, Miss. What kind of a
head do you want?
Maude—I'm not particular. Only it
must be of a material that will not
make him sick at the stomach.

I heard the bells on Christmas Day,
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat,
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

JUSTICE WAS SLEEPING.

Mayor Strong Discovered that Her Scales Were Not Properly Balanced.

While Mayor Strong was walking across the park to the City Hall recently, he cast his eye heavenward and happened to notice that the scales in the hands of the figure of Justice on the City Hall were not properly balanced.

His Honor was greatly disturbed. He called the janitor, and in words that could be heard through the open window by Broadway passers-by, commanded that the scales of justice be adjusted.



"Do it at once," he ordered, "and suspend city business until the work is completed."

Steeple Jack Gustave Briefer was summoned, but said he could not do the work because his helper was not on hand. Finally he heard the angry voice of His Honor through a six-inch brick wall and agreed to fix the scales with the aid of Gus Weber.

Weber is a man of courage, but being unused to steeple-climbing, he took a few braces to steady his nerves. He took one too many, it seems, for when he stationed himself at the feet of Justice to hold a line for Briefer he moved about uneasily, and the thousands who had gathered in the park below to watch the progress of the work were certain he would fall.



Weber's nervousness increased, and finally he jumped around as if trying to get Justice to join him in a waltz. A policeman noticed his danger and ran up the steps of the City Hall to rescue him. As the officer went to the roof Weber did a few fancy kicks and sat down so suddenly that the spectators below shut their eyes and waited for the crash.

The man did not fall, however, but sat quietly until the officer removed him. In the meantime Briefer finished fixing the scales of justice, so that by noon they balanced properly and city business was resumed.—New York Journal.

CLOCKLESS COUNTRIES.

The Curious Way in Which Time is Told in Some Places by the Natives.

Liberia, in Africa, has neither clock nor time of any sort; the reckoning of time is made entirely by the movement and position of the sun, which rises at 6 a. m., and sets at 6 p. m., almost to the minute, the year round, and at noon it is vertically overhead. The islanders of the South Pacific have no clocks, but make a curious time-maker of their own. They take the kernels from the nuts of the candle tree and wash and string them onto the rib of a palm leaf. The first or top kernel is then lighted.

All of the kernels are of the same size and substance, and each will burn a certain number of minutes, and then set fire to the next one below. The natives tie pieces of bark cloth at regular intervals along the string, to mark the divisions of time.

Among the natives of Singar, in the Malay Archipelago, another peculiar device is used. Two bottles are placed neck and neck, and sand is put in one of them, which pours itself into the other one every half-hour, when the bottles are reversed. There is a line near by, also, on which are hung twelve rods, marked with notches from one to twelve. A regularly appointed keeper attends to the bottles and rods, and sounds the hour upon a gong.

A Good Place to Avoid.

"Arrah, Pat, and there's one place I'm looking for that I'll dodge when I find it."

"That place is that, Mike?"

"The place I'm going to die in. If I keep clear of it I'll live that much longer."

Many a man who is a good shot in this world hopes to miss fire in the next.



The prospect of a Christmas dinner has its forecast in the breakfast. General Miles was twitted about "ravens" and "manna in the wilderness," and while it was not said, it was thought he was a poor sort of Moses.

The day wore on, and there was a midday meal of bacon and beans. Baldwin again took copious draughts of parched-corn coffee.

Supper call was sounded. At headquarters they sat down to the usual repast—beans and bacon. Just as Captain Baldwin was about to quaff a second quart of parched-corn coffee—an apparition appeared in the tent door, substantial, savory. It was a turkey, plucked of its feathers, paraded on a tin platter, done to a turn, smoking hot and redolently odoriferous. It was held aloft by an Eighth cavalry trooper. The astonishing spectacle was immediately duplicated—another trooper bearing a similar tray laden with a smoking saddle of venison. Another trooper—a camp kettle full of fragrant coffee, strong enough to float an iron wedge.

The Christmas dinner to which General Miles had invited his staff, 24 hours before, had materialized.

It was the gift, Christmas present of the Eighth cavalry. They had been reveling as hunters over in the Palo Duro. Soon learning, after going into camp, of the starvation rations at headquarters, they sent of their larder, a feast. But while this "manna in the wilderness" was being consumed, a hospital attache of the Eighth cavalry appeared.

Promptly at 9 o'clock the officers at headquarters were the guests of the Eighth cavalry officers at Dr. Collins' tent, except General Miles, who had business to detain him in his quarters. Without any reflection on the general, it can be said his absence was not regarded as an unmitigated affront. Had he attended, his presence as commanding officer might have marred the interpretation put upon Dr. Collins' "how." An army officer can no more take a drink without ejaculating "how" than he can draw his pay without signing a pay account.

"How" was laded out of a great iron pot, half the size of a country wife's soap kettle, with quart cups. And it was a punch with the most peculiar taste and startling effects that ever a well-seasoned man tackled. Everybody tackled it, however, unremotely. The queries were many: What is it? And as stoup after stoup was fearlessly taken, the doctor being at hand, the recipe, or make-up of this "Christmas prairie punch" was disclosed. An iron pot had been used, for nothing less strong could possibly hold the mixture. The body of the fluid was tea, boiled to the consistency of lye—and in alkali water, too—and into this had been dumped a couple of pounds of crisp, burnt brown sugar, for the sake of a color. Next a quart can of portable lemon sugar had been added to give it flavor, and then two gallons of alcohol—taken from the veterinary surgeon's chest—had been poured in. When the mixture was steaming, or on the point of explosion, a two-pound lump of butter, or "axle-grease," as the rancid fat was called in the army, was dropped in.

Concluded to Help Providence.

A little girl told a friend who was visiting her father that her brothers set traps to catch the birds. He asked her what she did. She replied: "I prayed that the traps might not catch the birds." "Anything else?" "Yes," she said, "I then prayed that God would prevent the birds getting into the trap," and, as if to illustrate the doctrine of faith and works, "I went and kicked the traps all to pieces."



On the night before Christmas will likely appear
A miniature sleigh with electrical gear.
And the man at the motor, so lively and quick.

You'll know in a moment for Jolly St. Nick,
To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall,
You'd think that air riding was nothing at all!
And up on the housetops the arc lamp's bright hue
Is shed on the toys and St. Nicholas, too.
"The dynamo works," he cries with great glee,
"For the first time in ages the chimney I see!"
And, placing his hands in the shape of a cube,
He shoots down the gifts—through a pneumatic tube!

It takes scarce a minute, they are filled with a jerk.
Those stockings which formerly gave so much work,
The saint grabs the motor and whisks out of sight.
With "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

THE TONIC FASHIONS.

Styles that are Most Invigorating to Firm Incline Minds.

(By Special Arrangement with the N. Y. Sun.)
Fashion in the guise of a mind tonic is really refreshing. Some wise student of this frivolous subject has discovered the fact that new fashions are unquestionably invigorating to the feminine mind, a wholesome stimulant which most women need to brighten them up twice a year and renew their youth, and the more decided the change in modes the more beneficial is the effect. The consciousness of being well dressed in the latest fashion does wonders for the average woman, while the reverse condition is an unending source of annoyance; so there is a practical side to this question of dress that improves our manners as well as our looks.



Black satin and velvet ribbons in various widths are used in great quantities for dress trimmings this season, and they trim the skirts and decorate the bolero jackets and vests either sewn on plain or plaited into a frill. They form the wide belts so much worn, and are made into bows and rosettes without number. Fur is very extensively used as a dress trimming, and it is quite as fashionable on evening gowns and tea gowns as it is on cloth costumes for the street. Narrow bands of sable with a finish of beaded trimming on one side are set in rows across the front breadths of velvet and cloth gowns and around the bottom of the skirt, and trim the bodices, being set on up and down with cream lace insertion between to form the blouse or vest front of a cloth bodice. Bands of ermine and sable trim some of the brocaded silk evening



gowns, with two rows set wide apart around the skirt, one being on the bottom, and the combination of cream lace and sable is always effective wherever it is used. Little bolero fronts of fur are worn on both house and street gowns, and wide belts of fur are one of the extreme fancies occasionally seen, but it is not at all pretty or becoming to the figure. The prettiest novelties in fur are shown among the neck ruchings and small collarettes made up in a variety of shapes combined with lace and velvet in such a way that odds and ends of fur can be utilized and made wondrously becoming. Another use for small bits of fur is on the revers of cloth gowns. Sable is always good style, and chinchilla is very pretty on black, green or blue. Fur on thin gauzy materials is one of the incongruous combinations this season, but it is very effective all the same, and a pretty example of its use is on a rose colored chiffon gown made over a silk. Small bolero fronts of ermine decorate the bodice, and a frill of cream lace trims it around the edge.

Pushing Him Along.

"How much will you give toward the missionary cause this year?" inquired the pastor.

"Ten dollars," replied the parishioner.

"I am indeed rejoiced at your liberality, especially as Brother Cadd, of our church, sails next week as a missionary to China."

"What! the man who wears a silk hat with a sack coat, has a soiled collar and a diamond pin and asks if it is not enough for you?"

"The same."

"Make it one hundred, and call on me for more whenever you need it."—Texas Siftings.

Never judge a person by his relatives, but by his friends. One isn't responsible for his relatives; be they good, bad or indifferent, they are thrust upon him. But friends are self-chosen, and what they are so is the person.

EYES THAT SEE X RAYS.

Experiments Show that Roentgen Light Waves Affect the Retina.

Dr. Brandes of Halle, acting upon the observations of Professor Salvioni, an Italian physicist, that lenses are impenetrable to Roentgen rays, has been testing the effect of these upon "lensless" eyes.

He knew that there were many people in each community who had had the lenses of one or both eyes removed for extreme shortsightedness or for cataract.

A girl who had been so operated upon for cataract in both eyes, but in whose right eye a remnant of the lens had been left, allowed the experiment to be tried upon her.

Professor Dorn, of Halle, an associate of Dr. Brandes, subjected this girl, quite unexpectedly, to the rays. When a strong current was passed through the darkened Crookes tube she declared that she saw a light with her left eye.

It was at first thought possible that a spark had spluttered across the wires. But when such a phenomenon was made impossible the girl continued to declare that she saw light.

In experiments the two savants themselves saw the cathode rays. They were thus able to decide that Roentgen light waves really affect the human retina.—New York Journal.

CABINET POSSIBILITIES.

Gov. Dingley, of Maine, Who Will Draft the New Tariff Bill.

Gov. Nelson Dingley, Republican leader in the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, and perhaps the next Secretary of the Treasury, will draft the new Republican tariff law for his party. He is a man of wonderful resources. Major McKinley once said of him:



GOVERNOR DINGLEY.

"Now, there is Dingley—no orator, yet always able to command the respectful attention of the whole House by sheer force of intellect. His head is crammed with useful facts, and he marshals them in troops and battalions so that anybody can understand."

NO ELEPHANTS' EGGS.

Poor Paddy Was in a Dilemma and Was Obligated to Retract His Boast.

Pat Maher has long borne the reputation of being the champion egg eater of his locality, and boasts that he once ate six dozen raw eggs, shells and all, at one sitting. But the boys got the best of Pat one evening recently. As usual, they offered to give him all the liquor he could drink, if he would swallow a certain number of eggs.

"Eat a dozen eggs, shells and all, in our presence, and you can get drunk at our expense," said the spokesman.

"Wan dozen hin eggs!" exclaimed Pat, with a contemptuous laugh. "Why, that will be nothin' but a lurch. Ho, ho, ho!"

"All roight, boys, I'm wid yez. Oi'm just as equal t' goose er turkey eggs uz Oi am t' fruit o' th' hin. Oi'm ready, lads."

The "boys" went over to the bar, and procured a monstrous ostrich egg that had long ornamented the sideboard. It was fully seven inches long and four inches in its smallest diameter. The contents of the shell had, of course, long been removed, but this fact was not apparent on casual inspection. The egg was carefully carried to the table by which sat Mr. Maher, beaming and smiling over the free drink which was soon to be his.

"Here's the first egg, Pat," said the spokesman quietly; "the waiters will be along with the other eleven presently."

Mr. Maher gazed with bulging eyes at the giant egg, then at the gang, each of whom preserved an impassive face. Solemnly he pushed his chair back from the table, buttoned his coat, and fixed his battered hat firmly on his head. Then with one reproachful finger directed at the shell upon the table, he said:

"Boys, it's not roight, it's not roight. Oi didn't ask that thin egg be all hin eggs. Oi wouldn't been satisfied with dook eggs or goose eggs—anything in reason. But when ye bring th' progeny uv th' illyphant before me, it is toime for me to renounce me bargain wid ye. Oi wudn't eat wan o' them illyphant eggs if Oi cud."
Pat got no free liquor that evening.

He Judged from Experience.

Sunday school superintendent—Can any of you tell me why Sunday is called the day of rest?

Little Dick (holding up his hand)—I kin. It's 'cause we get up early and hurry through breakfas' so's to dress in time for Sunday school, and then hurry to Sunday school so we won't be late, and then skip inter church 'fore the bell stops ringin', and then go home to dinner and get fixed up for afternoon service; and then get supper an' go to bed so pa and ma can get ready for evening service. That's all we do."

A GAME OF CHANCE.

"Pretty, isn't she?" said Tom Vincent, as he rode along by his half-brother's side across the undulating veldt, and Ralph nodded, although no name had been mentioned.

"There was no need of a name, when their list of feminine acquaintances was so strictly limited. One might have searched within a radius of twenty miles round the spot, near their home, where they were speaking, without finding more than three European ladies, and of these, Mrs. Marsden, at whose hospitable farm they had just been visiting, was decidedly homely, and her little girl took after her. Mr. Marsden's niece, Viola Gray, however, was of a different type altogether, and as Ralph thought of her delicately-colored oval face, with its frame of golden hair, and its soft, dreamy eyes, he felt that to speak of Miss Gray as "pretty" was to do her an injustice.

"Beautiful, rather," he said, quietly, and flushed a little.

Tom was the first to speak again.

"If I had known that Viola—that Miss Gray was coming to the Marsdens, I should not have suggested sending for Floss to come and look after us."

"Why?"

"Well, a sister is rather in the way when one marries," said Tom, slowly. "You know what the proverb says about two women in one house."

"We have not got one woman in the house at present," said Ralph, and his half-brother smiled with easy self-confidence.

"No; but it won't be my fault if we don't have one soon, whether Floss decides to come or not. Directly I saw Viola, last week, I said to myself, 'There is the wife for me.'"

"You have said that to yourself before, haven't you?" asked Ralph, and Tom smiled good-naturedly.

"Lots of times, but this time it is serious, and there is nothing in the way. We can either of us afford to marry."

"And so Miss Gray is willing?" asked Ralph, clearing his throat.

"I haven't asked her yet, but she seems to like me; and out here, of course, I have not much fear of a rival."

"No?"

There was something in the tone of the short monosyllable which made his brother turn sharply.

"Well, what rival is there?"

Ralph's face had grown a shade paler than usual; his lips were tightly compressed.

"Why don't you tell me?" asked Tom.

"I suppose it would be more fair and square if I did," said Ralph, slowly and thoughtfully. "I am sorry, old man, but you have one rival."

"Who?"

"Can't you guess?"

"I am hanged if I can. You don't mean that head-man of Marsden's, Clayton?"

"Of course not. But is there any particular reason why I should not think of marrying?"

Tom pulled up his horse to stare at him in unfeigned astonishment.

"You—think of marrying—Viola Gray?"

"Why not?"

There was something in Ralph's voice again which surprised his brother, and made him stifle the inclination he had felt to laugh.

"I do not know why I should be surprised," he said, seriously, "but somehow I never thought of your marrying. We always looked upon you as a confirmed bachelor."

"Because I never met the right woman."

"And you have met her in Viola Gray?"

"This is awkward," he said. "You cannot expect me to give up my claim to her?"

"You have no more claim than I. She likes me at least as much as you."

"That is a matter of opinion," said Tom. "I am going to ask her to be my wife to-morrow."

"So am I," said Ralph, and his brother laughed unpleasantly again.

The unanticipated rivalry made Tom feel more determined than ever to secure Viola for himself.

His face and voice began to betray some little anxiety.

"Do you think that Viola is in love with you?" he asked, trying to cover the anxiety with a sneer, and Ralph's voice came as a pleasing contrast with its quiet earnestness, as he answered: "I do not think that she is in love with either of us, although she certainly likes us both."

"Then the one who speaks first will have the pull," said Tom, quickly, and was sorry the next moment that he had not acted on the idea instead of putting the enemy on his guard by mentioning it.

Ralph did not answer. He was realizing how true the words were likely to be, and that the chance of a word from his brother might lose for him the woman who seemed to him the one for whom he had always waited and looked forward.

They had reached the farm and a Kaffir servant was coming out to take their horses.

"Omwayho seems to have a letter," said Tom, who had caught sight of him first. "We shall see whether Floss has decided to come."

He took the letter from the Kaffir as he approached, and glancing at the address, handed it across to his brother. Ralph opened it quickly.

"Is she coming?" asked Tom, although the arrival of his sister was a matter of less importance to him since Viola had come to the neighboring farm.

"She has come, of course," said his brother, trying to hide the eagerness in his voice, and his face fell when he

found that Ralph had realized what his absence might mean.

"I do not see why I should go," said Ralph in a way that surprised his brother and showed him that, easy-going as he was in an ordinary way, he could be firm when he liked. "You were all anxiety to go when we first spoke of Floss coming out."

"I have changed my mind," said Tom.

"But I have not agreed to your changing it," said Ralph. "Unless you can give me a good reason for doing so, I shall certainly refuse to take your place."

"Then Floss will have to come here by herself."

"What! all the way from Natal, more than a week's journey through a country that she knows nothing about? We cannot think of it."

"I suppose not, so you had better go for her."

"Or you," said Ralph. "You must see in common fairness that it is as much your duty as mine. But it is of no use quarreling about it. We must decide it like sensible men, and brothers."

"How?"

"The fairest thing seems to be to toss up which goes."

Tom's eyes brightened. After the decided way in which, before Viola Gray's advent, he had declared his intention of meeting his sister at Natal, if she came, and spending a week or two there, he was afraid that Ralph might insist on his holding to his intention.

His face flushed as a sudden thought came to him.

"Let us decide it by a throw of the dice. Clayton gave me a set to-day," he said.

"Anything, so long as it is a matter of chance," said Ralph; and still red, his brother felt in his pocket for the cubes which were to decide which of the two was to have the field to himself in trying to change Viola Gray's liking into love.

"Do you want to throw at once?"

"Why not? The one who has to go will have to start as soon as it is light. If I am unlucky I shall turn in as soon as I have had my supper. Hand me the dice."

"You will decide it on a single throw?"

"All right."

Ralph shook them up in his hand as he spoke and threw them on the table, bidding over it anxiously to see the result. His face had turned pale again under its bronze as he thought how much depended upon the result.

He breathed a sigh of relief when he looked down at the dice. He had thrown fifteen. It was scarcely likely that his brother could be more successful.

Tom's face had grown whiter than his when he took up the dice, and tried his luck.

"Eighteen," he said sharply, and there was no exultation in his voice, although he had won. "Eighteen. You will have to go, Ralph."

"I suppose so," said Ralph, huskily. "Well! good-night. I shall turn in now, and start before you are up."

Tom flushed again as he took his outstretched hand.

"Aren't you going to have supper?"

"No, thanks. I am not hungry. Good-night."

He turned into the small white-washed room at the back of the building where he slept, feeling that the dream of his life was ended.

At the very shortest, the journey to Natal and back would occupy him ten days, ten days in which his brother would seize every opportunity of seeing the woman he loved and making her care for him.

His brother rose later, in the best of spirits, and as Ralph had expected, started as soon as he had breakfasted and walked round the farm, to ride to the Marsdens.

A lady's figure had appeared in the pretty verandah, and was coming to meet him, and Tom Vincent's face brightened at the sight.

The brightness disappeared as the figure came nearer, and he saw that it was only Mrs. Marsden; but Viola could not be far away, and he had no rival now.

"Here I am again," he said. "Ralph has gone to Natal, and left me all alone. I thought you would take pity on me in my loneliness, Mrs. Marsden."

She smiled a welcome.

"We are always glad to see you; it is duller for us now that Viola has gone."

"Miss Gray gone?" he said, staring at her; and Mrs. Marsden nodded.

"Of course you have not heard. The mail last night brought a letter from her brother in Natal. He is ill, poor fellow, and she wanted to start at once to nurse him. George was going to take her as far as Ochefsdroom, but luckily they met Ralph at Gayler's Drift, and George put her in his charge. It is lucky for us that your brother was going to Natal, wasn't it? George is just back."

She ran on chatting without noticing the change that had come into the young man's expression as he rode slowly by her side to the house. But she noticed that he was unusually silent.

He scarcely spoke until they had reached the house, and she ran indoors while he was attending to his horse.

Tom waited until she was out of sight, and then taking the three loaded dice which Mr. Marsden's overseer had given him as a curiosity on the previous day from his pocket, he threw them down and ground them under his heel.

"This is all you have done for me," he said, and ground them again, as he thought of the journey that Viola and Ralph would have together. He knew so well what the end would be.

DEFIANCE TO CONGRESS

Big Flurry Over the Administration's Cuban Ultimatum.

SHARP SHAFTS OF OENSURE.

Senator Chandler Is Particularly Bitter. Little Hope Now For the Cameron Resolutions — Spain Confident of Peace, but Preparing For War.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The statement by Secretary of State Olney of the views of the administration on Senator Cameron's resolutions declaring for the recognition of the independence of Cuba—viz, that such resolutions, if adopted, would only be an expression of opinion on the part of those voting for them, as the executive alone has the right to take such action; that they would simply serve to inflame the public mind, and that if adopted it would be only to meet with the veto of the president—has caused a general flurry in official and congressional circles.

The statement of Secretary Olney was read with unusual interest by members of the house. Many of them refused to express their opinions, as they declined to comment upon the action of the senate committee in reporting the resolutions, upon the ground that it might be considered discourteous for one branch of the government to criticize the course of another. It was apparent, however, that Secretary Olney had made an impression on the house, and several of the leaders on the Republican side endorsed his views. The statement reopened discussion of the question whether recognition of the independence or belligerency of another government was an executive or legislative act, a question which was warmly debated before the foreign affairs committee when the resolutions to recognize the insurgents as belligerents were under consideration last session.

This session the sentiment among members of the foreign affairs committee of the house is not so strongly in favor of radical action upon the Cuban question as it was during the last session. It is evident from the conversation of the members that a majority of the committee opposes recognition of Cuba's independence, at any rate until the next administration comes into power, unless there should be changes in the situation in the island which would demand action or much new evidence regarding the conditions there secured. Messrs. Hitt, Draper and Adams, the members of the subcommittee on Cuba, are all opposed to the action at this time, and the three members at least who voted for recognition of belligerency are now opposed to recognizing independence.

Little Chance to Pass.

Whatever disposition the senate may make of the resolutions, it is improbable that the proposition will be brought before the house for a vote during this session. The Republican leaders, whose hands are on the throttle and who direct the course of legislation, will exert all their influence to prevent the passage or even the consideration of the proposition. It is possible that if the senate passed the resolution the Cuban enthusiasts in the house would vote to consider it as soon as it came to the house without the formality of referring it to the committee, but without some tactics of this nature it is probable that the committee on rules will stand in the way of action.

Most members predict that if the resolutions were put to a vote before the house they would be adopted by a large majority, but many who advance this prediction express the hope that they may not be called upon to record their votes. They do not wish to be placed in the attitude of opposing any struggle for the establishment of a republic, yet they do think that the reports from Cuba up to date are too conflicting and indefinite to justify recognition.

A gentleman who stands very close to Speaker Reed and is acquainted with the speaker's views on the question said: "It is highly improbable that the Cameron resolutions will pass the senate, because there is opposition to them by several senators, and they can be talked to death. If they were brought before the house, they would be passed by a strong majority, because members would vote against their own judgment in deference to what they believe to be the public sentiment of their constituents. The resolutions will not be given to the house, nor any other resolutions to recognize Cuba, unless there should be some change in the situation in the island which would more certainly justify interference by this government. It is possible that the question might be raised in the house as a privileged matter by some hook or crook, though I do not see how that could be done."

Some Stiff Kicks.

Senator Chandler said that the statement by Secretary Olney was extraordinary. "Before a resolution is reported from the committee," he said, "before it is passed by the senate, before it is passed by the house, the secretary issues a statement, saying: 'If you pass it by both houses, it will be vetoed; if passed by two-thirds majority over the veto, it will be defied.' It is the most startling proposition coming from an executive officer."

"Worse than Andrew Johnson," said Senator Wilson, who was sitting by.

"Yes, worse than Andrew Johnson," assented Senator Chandler, and a cabinet officer issuing such a statement should be subjected to severest censure. The idea of announcing in advance that the president will be bound over his veto, the executive will of two-thirds of congress is most reprehensible.

"The only trouble," concluded the senator, "is that if we were to pass the resolutions over the veto and Mr. Cleveland should refuse to execute the law there would be no time to impeach him."

"I cannot conceive," said Senator Blanchard, "that Secretary Olney could have given utterance to the statement attributed to him. What Congress without the power to order the recognition of Cuban independence?"

"If this authority does not exist in congress, it exists nowhere. The president cannot declare war. That rests with congress alone. Yet here is the novel contention that the power which may declare war cannot recognize sovereignty, and the power which may not declare war can recognize sovereignty. It is preposterous. If the Cuban resolutions pass both houses of congress, is vetoed by the president and then passed over his veto, the executive will be bound by his oath to give effect to just as he is bound to give effect to any other law enacted by congress."

"The secretary," said Senator Morgan, former chairman and now the ranking Democratic member of the committee on foreign relations, "takes very high ground, and he cannot maintain his position. His

course in this matter, and especially his acquiescence in the butchery of American citizens in Cuba, scarcely recommend him to the American people. I, for one, resent and detest it."

Think Olney Is Right.

Senator Hale of Maine, one of the active opponents of the resolutions, said: "Secretary Olney is clearly right. Recognition rests with the executive. The resolutions would be usurpation on the part of congress of executive functions. It is well that Secretary Olney has made the statement. It will afford an opportunity for the sober second thought of the people to find expression."

Mr. Dingley of Maine, who stands next to the speaker in the leadership of the house, when asked for his views upon the Cameron resolutions, said: "I have always believed that it was the best policy for congress to leave diplomatic matters to the proper department of the government. When the legislative branch of the government attempts to interfere with the diplomatic, there are likely to be serious errors committed."

General Henderson of Iowa, the second member of the committee on rules, spoke tersely, saying: "As a citizen of a republic, my sympathies are strongly with the Cuban insurgents. As a citizen of this republic, I am in favor of attending strictly to our own business."

Mr. Cannon of Illinois said: "We have had no real information of the state of affairs in Cuba since the president's message. Reports are printed in the press one day and denied the next. I can see no useful end to be attained by agitating the question of what my own or the action of the house would be on a supposed state of affairs. When we are called upon to act upon information on a real state of affairs, we will take such action as justice and patriotism shall dictate, with due regard to our treaty and the real interests of the United States."

Mr. Quigg of New York, member of the foreign affairs committee, said: "The secretary's statement expresses my views of the relation of congress to the act of acknowledging sovereignty. I don't think we have anything that can be described as power. But the secretary, I think, is unduly anxious. The Cameron resolutions will not get past the house committee, in my opinion. The Cuban question must await the judgment of President McKinley. We are not going to start his administration with a war, at least until he has a chance to say whether in his judgment a war is what the people want."

SPAIN'S ATTITUDE.

Premier Castillo Confident of Peace, but Preparing For War.

MADRID, Dec. 21.—In an interview obtained by our correspondent from Senor Canovas del Castillo the president of the council expressed himself as having confidence that the friendship and the correct statesmanship of President Cleveland and Secretary Olney and the good sense of the conservative section of the American people would prevent international war. Spain, the premier said, would do its utmost to avoid friction with America, but he was of the opinion that no Spanish government could overlook national dignity or oppose the patriotism of a nation whose history contains only deeds of heroism and records of brave actions regardless of the consequences. The warlike attitude of the American politicians and certain classes of citizens and sections of the press was explainable only in the light of their absolute ignorance of the true state of affairs in Cuba.

According to the prime minister, the people of Cuba have always received special favors from the mother country instead of tyrannical acts, as imagined by the Americans. If the former administration of affairs in Cuba was immoral, continued Senor Canovas del Castillo, it was a fault largely of the Cubans, who received the principal benefit from the dishonesty of government employees from the pensions of the government. The government is disposed to grant satisfactory powers of self administration to Cuba on submission of the insurgents, he explained. The rebels, he added, do not want reforms, but independence.

Senor Canovas del Castillo said that Spain would succumb rather than give Cuba her independence voluntarily. In conclusion, he said that Spain was preparing against all eventualities. Should matters require the assembling of the cortes, the government will instantly summon the members of the Spanish parliament together, and in case of a great national struggle he thought that all Spaniards would become as one party for the purpose of defending national honor.

Admiral Beranger, minister of marine, has wired instructions to the government and to all private shipbuilding yards to hasten forward to completion all the warships now in course of construction. He received replies to the effect that all these orders would be promptly carried out.

Popular excitement because of the recent action of the foreign affairs committee of the United States senate continues, but no demonstration against the Americans in this country are reported.

WE MAY HELP SPAIN.

Embassador Taylor's Significant Statement as to What May Happen.

MADRID, Dec. 21.—Embassador Hannis Taylor, during the course of an interview with our correspondent said that he attached slight importance to the resolutions offered by Senator Cameron and reported favorably by the United States senate committee of foreign affairs. He thought the probable result would be a friendly understanding between the American and Spanish governments and that this would ultimately lead to a guarantee by the government of the United States for the Cubans of a satisfactory system of self administration, but not of absolute independence, a condition of affairs for which the mixed Cuban races are unfit.

Continuing, embassador Taylor made a significant statement to the effect that should the Cuban insurgents refuse overtures considered fair by both the governments of Spain and the United States the American government would so help the Spanish nation that the insurgents, finding their cause desperate, would be compelled to submit. The solution of the entire question, he thought, depended upon the finding of a mode of procedure whereby the United States could help Spain without offending the haughty character of the Spaniards and the feelings of the Spanish military classes, whose spirits and interests require conciliatory measures.

In view of the fact that American interests must suffer enormously by reason of the continuance of the Cuban war, business men everywhere would prefer peace to "jingoism," said embassador Taylor. In conclusion, Mr. Taylor said that Spain now had the opportunity of pushing the Cuban war to a rapid termination and that this would prove a far better policy than that of bandying words of defiance with a powerful enemy.

BERLIN CABLE LETTER

The Courts Reforms Bill Obnoxious to the Government.

BEATEN IN THE REICHSTAG.

The Labors of a Couple of Years Are Thus Destroyed, and License Dissatisfaction Has Been Aroused Throughout the Entire Country.

BERLIN, Dec. 21.—Intense dissatisfaction has been aroused throughout the country by the refusal of the government to accept amendments to the courts reorganization bill, which resulted in its entire rejection. The reichstag's labors for a couple of years are thus destroyed.

The bill was the result of demands made by the courts, lawyers and people alike to abolish certain hardships, especially in the shape of inadequate safeguards for defendants in criminal cases and defects in the criminal code and court procedure. The government insisted upon the introduction of fresh hardships and illiberal court measures in exchange for old ones.

One of the most objectionable proposals of the government provided for the imprisonment of Opposition papers' editors in the event of their refusal to disclose the authorship of articles, and the government also declined to accede to the granting of compensation to innocently convicted persons. This attitude of the government is certain to mean the loss of many seats in elections arising from deaths and resignations of members of the reichstag.

The rejection of the bill, moreover, throws light upon the temper of the reichstag, which is likely to reject the scheme for the reform of military courts unless the bill proves more liberal than expected. Incidentally the fall of the courts bill has deprived Herr Bebel of his chance of raising a debate on the Luetzow trial. He had amassed a lot of sensational material, which he is now unable to use until the second reading of the budget. The case, however, will be discussed in the diet on the police estimates.

Both the reichstag and the diet had adjourned for the holidays. The diet will reassemble on Jan. 8 and the reichstag on Jan. 12.

Keeping France In the Dark.

The government has made confidential declarations to the budget commission of the reichstag regarding the projected rearming of the artillery, for which it is stated that 177,000,000 marks will be needed for Prussia alone. The whole matter is being handled with the utmost secrecy in order to keep the powers, especially France, in the dark respecting the precise character of the innovations.

The emperor was present at Prince Hohenzollern's parliamentary dinner on Thursday. His majesty was very cordial toward the chancellor, and in conversation with party leaders like Levetzow, Mantuffel, Lieber and Rickert he intimated the hope that the new sacrifices demanded of the fatherland would be ungrudgingly voted. This remark is understood to refer to the naval budget and to the new artillery scheme of the emperor.

According to the newspapers, Emperor William has little sympathy for the Hamburg strikers, and he is reported, in speaking to a guest of the chancellor's party, to have expressed delight at the opposition of the employers to the "unjustifiable demands" of the strikers and is said to have added that the victory of capital will be of advantage to the workmen in the long run.

Herr Fuchs, editor of a Socialist newspaper of Munich, has been sentenced to six months in jail for publishing a sarcastic poem on Prince Bismarck. This is the first such conviction since the fall of the prince from power, and it is significant that the trial occurred in Bavaria and not in Prussia.

The Kaiser's Christmas.

Emperor William will spend Christmas with his family at Potsdam, the elder princes arriving home today from the military academy at Ploen. Six splendid fairs have been ordered from the Harz mountains for the imperial family. The distribution of gifts will take place in the Small Hall of the new palace.

During the holidays his majesty will make frequent use of the new athletic hall which is annexed to Mon Bijou chateau, where he plays football and cricket with the eldest princes.

The emperor has slightly gained flesh lately and looks healthier and more robust. On the other hand, the empress has grown remarkably slender.

Emperor William has dismissed from the service Naval Lieutenant Kettelhof, who recently killed a lawyer named Jenker in a duel.

The supreme Prussian court has confirmed the decree of the president of Posen forbidding the display of any flags or colors save the Prussian and German.

All the members of the Bismarck family will assemble at Friedrichsruhe for Christmas. Prince Bismarck is feeling pretty well, and every day loads of presents for him are arriving from throughout Germany. Many are coming from America.

At the charity performance at the opera the empress specially honored Leonora Jackson, the American violinist. Her majesty called her to the imperial box and congratulated her upon her playing while making inquiries as to Miss Jackson's nationality, parentage and study.

Organized to Murder.

GUTHRIE, O. T., Dec. 21.—There is great excitement at Cloud Chief over a confession made by a young man under arrest for killing Alva Tropp, the farmer found murdered in bed, to the effect that he committed the murder to get Christmas money and secured \$1.40. He says he is one of a gang organized to murder and rob a number of citizens and implicated several other young men. There are open threats of lynching, and the jail is heavily guarded.

A Liberal Won This Time.

CORNWALL, Ont., Dec. 21.—Snellsinger, the Liberal candidate, has been elected to the constituency of Cornwall to the Dominion house of commons. Cornwall county has been represented in the house by a Conservative for the past 18 years.

Shot Himself Dead.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 21.—James M. Glover, aged 39 years, a brother of ex-Congressman John M. Glover, committed suicide yesterday by shooting himself in the head. Despondency caused the deed.

G. A. R. Railroad Rates.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—The Joint Traffic association has granted a rate of 1 cent a mile for the G. A. R. encampment which is to be held at Buffalo in August of next year.

THE TRAITOR'S STORY

Dr. Zertucha's Own Account of the Death of General Maceo.

KEEPING SOMETHING BACK.

Will Not Tell It, He Says, Unless Certain Gentlemen In New York Force Him, In Self Defense, to Publish It to the World.

KEY WEST, Dec. 21.—Advice received here from Havana discredit recent cablegrams received by Captain General Weyler and Lieutenant Crijada. In one of the messages Lieutenant Crijada congratulated Captain General Weyler on the success of his recent combination resulting in the death of Maceo. In reply, Captain General Weyler congratulated Lieutenant Crijada and assured him that he would be rewarded for the splendid service which he had rendered Spain. It is now claimed that these mutual congratulations were exchanged for the purpose of concealing the real facts regarding Maceo's death.

Your correspondent here has just received a copy of a long interview with Dr. Zertucha. This interview is written in Spanish, and it is claimed, gives an authentic account of Dr. Zertucha's description of the death of Maceo. According to this interview, many of the American newspapers have made numerous mistakes regarding Dr. Zertucha and his accounts of the death of Maceo.

Dr. Zertucha says that when Maceo was killed Gordon Nordarse, Marquis di Ahumada and Justiz, were wounded. Nordarse and Justiz were so badly injured that both have since died in a place called Govea.

In his interview Zertucha asserts that young Gomez came up while he (Zertucha) was trying to put Maceo on a horse. While young Gomez was in the act of assisting Zertucha to help Maceo to mount, Gomez received a bullet through the breast and one of his arms, the body of the youth falling upon the remains of Maceo. Dr. Zertucha tried to help young Gomez to escape, but he would not allow Zertucha to assist him, saying that he wanted Maceo's body taken away first.

Dr. Zertucha then mounted a horse, he says, and made an attempt to notify the insurgents of Maceo's death. Maceo, in the engagement, received a bullet in his face, and another passed through his breast. The Cuban leader fell, mortally wounded, and expired soon afterward. Then the Spanish soldiers came up and dispatched young Gomez, who was still alive. During the absence of Dr. Zertucha for the purpose of spreading the news the son of Gomez must have written the letter which was found on his body.

Dr. Zertucha returned with Perico Diaz and others for the purpose of carrying away the remains of Maceo. The skirmish with the Spanish forces resulted, and the Spanish soldiers retired, with the personal effects of Maceo and Francisco Gomez. Dr. Zertucha asserts that they had taken these articles for the purpose of convincing the world of the death of the Cuban leader. The insurgents, however, succeeded in effecting a retreat, carrying the body of Maceo with them.

It is the intention of Dr. Zertucha to return to Spain. He will live a retired life there in some town of Vizcaya. He says that he does not intend to indulge in any controversy over this matter of Maceo's death unless certain gentlemen in New York force him to publish to the world his defense. In that case, he says that he will be willing to give to the world the facts regarding Maceo's death which he has at his disposal.

SEEKING MACEO'S BODY.

Cubans Anxious to Find It For Burial With Honors.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Dec. 21.—In a letter just received by Colonel J. A. Huau, Florida's representative of the New York Cuban junta, the death of Maceo is confirmed.

"The writer is a man up in the councils of the Cuban party in Havana," said Colonel Huau, "and he knows Maceo is really dead. While all the facts have not come to light, still there is no doubt of the main fact."

When all the truth is known, the story as first told of Spanish treachery will be found to be mainly substantiated. The bodies cannot be found, though the Cubans are seeking them very carefully for burial with honors.

Armstead's Side of It.

DENVER, Dec. 21.—Harry H. Armstead, mining engineer, who has been indicted in Kings county, N. Y., on a charge of grand larceny, has agreed to return to New York without requisition papers and has been released from custody, having deposited \$50,000 to guarantee his appearance when wanted. Armstead is said to be worth \$1,000,000 or more. He says that the deal on which Thomas Taylor of Midway, Pa., who caused his indictment, claims to have been swindled out of \$45,000 was perfectly legal.

Want State Banks.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Mr. William L. Royall of Richmond has addressed the house committee on banking and currency in favor of a re-establishment of the state banking system. He argued that state banks were demanded by the south to secure a greater circulation of money and predicted that the silver question will cease to be agitated in the south if state banks are restored.

A Light Sentence.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The Board of Trade, as a result of its inquiry into the wreck of the British steamer Memphis, Captain Williams, which was lost, with ten men, in Dunlough bay during the night of Nov. 17, has suspended the captain's certificate for six months. The survivors paid a high tribute to Captain Williams' bravery.

Big Fire In Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH, N. J., Dec. 21.—A fire which did over \$250,000 damage started last night in McManus Bros' furniture store by the explosion of a toy steam engine. The fire was got under control after it had burned the entire block on First street between East Jersey and Livingston streets.

Harris For Attorney General.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 21.—The name of Addison C. Harris has been suggested to President Elect McKinley for attorney general. Friends of Mr. Harris are doing all they can to secure his appointment.

Labor Headquarters Changed.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 21.—The headquarters of the American Federation of Labor have been changed from Indianapolis to Washington.

THE HOUSE AT ROUTINE

No Business of Importance Transacted by Congressmen.

A DAY FOR PRIVATE BILLS.

A Contretemps at the Opening of the Session - Senator Vest Speaks of the Francis Nomination - To Christen the Annapolis.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—At the opening of the session of the house there was a pretty piece of byplay growing out of the presentation of a resolution for some additional employees of the house. The house was in a state of confusion, and Mr. Dingley, the leader of the majority, was catching Mr. Odell as to the necessity for the increase. When they finished their dialogue, Mr. Richardson (Dem., Tenn.) complained that he had not been able to hear what had been said, and he inquired suggestively if the "distinguished leader of the house" had officially announced that the increase was necessary because of the approaching extra session.

Mr. Dingley parried the thrust and replied blandly that he was sorry the confusion had rendered it impossible for the gentleman from Tennessee to understand what he had said.

Mr. Lacey (Rep., Ia.) weighted the resolution with an amendment providing that the employees provided for in it should come from states not represented on the house roll. This aroused the ire of some of the house members, and the resolution was defeated.

Mr. Bingham, in charge of the legislative appropriation bill, attempted to secure unanimous consent to postpone the regular private bill day in order that he might proceed with his bill, but Mr. Mahon (Rep., Pa.), chairman of the committee on war claims, objected. Accordingly the unfinished business of last week came up, the pending question being the motion of Mr. Dalzell (Rep., Pa.) to lay on the table the bill for relief of Flora A. Darlington.

The bill, it will be remembered, was to pay Mrs. Darling, the wife of a Confederate general, \$5,685 to remunerate her for the loss of an equivalent amount of Louisiana and Tennessee state bank notes taken from her at New Orleans in 1864 while under the safe conduct of a flag of truce. Mr. Dalzell had claimed that these notes were not worth par at the time they were taken, and the friends of the bill, on the other hand, had insisted that the state bank notes of Tennessee and Louisiana were worth par in specie throughout the war.

Mr. Cooper (Dem., Tex.), who defended the bill, demanded the yeas and nays on Mr. Dalzell's motion.

Mr. Dalzell's motion was carried, 140 to 96.

The private pension and claim bills reported favorably from the committee of the whole last Friday were taken up and disposed of.

The Francis Nomination. WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Senator Vest of Missouri has been considerably annoyed over a report that he is holding up the nomination of Secretary Francis until after the senatorial election in that state. Referring to the report, the senator said today:

"It is absurd. There is not a Palmer or McKinley Democrat in the Missouri legislature, and I do not see how Secretary Francis could be a factor in the election of a United States senator from my state. Besides this, the regular Democrats, who supported Bryan, have a clear majority on joint ballot over all other parties, and I have no opposition in my own party."

"The nomination of Francis was postponed for consideration until after the recess, as were the nominations of all the Palmer or McKinley Democrats."

To Christen the Annapolis. WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—The mayor of Annapolis has designated Miss Georgia Porter, a granddaughter of the late Admiral Porter, to christen the gunboat Annapolis at her launching next Wednesday.

Killed in a Freight Yard. WORCESTER, Mass., Dec. 19.—A man, supposed to be a tramp steam fitter's helper from Springfield, was killed in the Boston and Albany freight yard. His arm was caught between a brake shoe and a wheel and horribly jammed. His left side was badly mangled, his left arm and every rib were broken and his chest was crushed in. The only marks for identification are two American flags crossed and surmounted by the head of a woman tattooed on his arm.

Death of Henry L. Pierce. BOSTON, Dec. 19.—Henry L. Pierce died at the city home of Thomas Bailey Aldrich, on Mount Vernon street. Mr. Pierce was 71 years old. He entered the employ of Walter Baker & Co., chocolate manufacturers, in 1850. In 1864 Baker died, and since then Mr. Pierce had been sole manager of the business. Mr. Pierce served two terms in congress, was twice mayor of Boston and had served in the legislature and as a member of the city government.

West Virginia's Official Vote. WHEELING, Dec. 19.—The secretary of state has finished the tabulation of the official returns on presidential electors and made the final official announcement: McKinley, 105,868; Bryan, 94,480; Palmer, 375; Levering, 1,216; McKinley's plurality, 10,888; McKinley's majority, 8,997.

Smothered in an Oil Tank. BRADFORD, Pa., Dec. 19.—Eddie Severina, 12 years old, after leaving school, attempted to secure some petroleum from a tank. He fell into the tank and was smothered to death. When a search was made for the missing boy, his dog indicated where the body could be found.

Japan Helping the Rebels. MADRID, Dec. 19.—La Pais asserts that it has been definitely proved that Japan has landed men and munitions of war upon the Philippine islands and that the Philippine rebels are commanded by Japanese officers. Two more battalions of troops have sailed for Manila.

Small Ball For Harrington. BUFFALO, Dec. 19.—Deputy Comptroller Harrington was arraigned today before Judge Emery on an indictment charging him with grand larceny in the second degree. He pleaded not guilty and was admitted to bail in the sum of \$2,000.

See Additional Editions Asked For. MADRID, Dec. 19.—Our additional battalions of Spanish troops embarked for the Philippine islands, and General Polavieja, the new captain general of that colony, has asked for reinforcements of ten additional battalions.

NO NAVAL AMMUNITION.

We Are Absolutely Without Any Reserve Supply For Our Warships.

REPORT OF CARLISLE.

Secretary of Treasury Makes His Statement to Congress. HIS OLD ADVICE RENEWED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—In view of the unsettled state of our foreign relations, the ordnance officers of the navy are much concerned over the fact that notwithstanding the condition of forwardness in other respects of our naval development we are today absolutely without any reserve supply of ammunition for the splendid rifled cannon which are placed on our warships. It is a fact that, beyond the supply of ammunition that is given each of the ships as they go into commission, there is no further store to draw upon. This original supply is intended to meet the needs of the ship in ordinary times and to last for a certain specified period of time. If it is used up within that period, then the guns must remain silent until the time rolls around for another allowance.

The reason is, as usual, lack of funds. The chief of naval ordnance, Captain Sampson, has made the strongest kind of representations to Secretary Herbert touching the necessity of providing at least a duplicate supply for each of our ships, to be drawn upon in an emergency, and has submitted estimates aggregating \$800,000 for this purpose. The secretary, seeing the need for himself, has in turn sent these estimates to congress after cutting them in half, but apparently the sum total is still too large to secure inclusion in an emergency appropriation bill. It appears that if the extra supply of ammunition is to be had at all it will not be possible to buy it until the beginning of the next fiscal year, when the regular naval appropriations will be at the disposal of the navy department.

PREPARING FOR WAR.

Nicaragua and Colombia About to Fight Over the Corn Islands.

MOBILE, Dec. 21.—News received via the steamer Jarl, from Bluefields, Nicaragua, indicates an open rupture between Nicaragua and Colombia. The bone of contention is the ownership of the Great and Little Corn Islands, lying off Bocas del Toro. The islands are now the property of Nicaragua, but Colombia claims them and is preparing to enforce that claim by landing armed men on them. The Nicaraguan government is increasing the standing army by conscripting everything in the shape of a man around Rome and Bluefields. Colombia has three modern men-of-war, while Nicaragua has nothing but an old tug and practically no fortifications on the coast.

Robbed the Grave.

TOLEDO, Dec. 21.—The body of E. E. Cartwright, superintendent of the Lucas county infirmary, was buried in Forest cemetery Friday afternoon. In the night the grave was opened and the body removed. Yesterday morning a box addressed to James E. Carroll, 108 Bolivar street, Cleveland, was presented at the American Express company's office in the Union station by an unknown man. The officials refused to accept it for transmission, and it was taken to the office of Dr. Hunt, in Cherry street. There it was opened and found to contain Cartwright's body. The police are investigating and expect to make several arrests.

To Raise Tin Plate Prices.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 21.—The tin plate manufacturers will hold a meeting Tuesday, at which they will consider the question of advancing prices, ask congress to make changes in the tariff scale and confer with a committee of jobbers. The meeting will be one of the most important ever held by the association. It is entirely probable that prices on tin plate will be advanced about 5 per cent.

Lit Starts For Boston.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 21.—Ex-Queen Liliuokalani has started for Boston. She will make a short stop at New Orleans. The dethroned queen stated that when she arrived in Boston she would make public her plans. It is stated she has given up her intention of visiting London, but that Princess Kialani will go to Boston to meet her.

Window Glass Advance.

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 21.—The meeting of the rebate committee of the Western and Pittsburg window glass agencies resulted in a rebate scale and a slight advance on the present price of glass for 30 days only. Factories are not to sell any more than their output for 30 days, after which a much larger advance is to go into effect.

Angered at Cleveland.

BOSTON, Dec. 21.—At a meeting of Post 200, G. A. R., resolutions were passed respecting the utterances of President Cleveland in his recent message to congress, which the post terms as undignified and unwarranted, being an assault upon the integrity and honor of the veteran wards of the government.

Three Sisters Burned to Death.

NEWPORT, R. I., Dec. 21.—Martha, Elizabeth and Charlotte Wilbur, sisters, who lived alone in an old homestead, were burned to death last night. The accident was caused by alcohol, which the women used for rheumatism, becoming ignited from a lamp.

Killed by Bad Whisky.

SISTERVILLE, W. Va., Dec. 21.—Copious draughts of "speak easy" whisky last night poisoned 16 men in the Benwood oil field. Of the 16, W. H. Price, a wealthy farmer; Charles Selbert, an Ohio merchant, and Thomas Clegg, an oil well owner, are dead.

Coughed Himself Dead.

HARRISBURG, Ky., Dec. 21.—Mrs. Maria Thompson Davies died here yesterday in a coughing fit. She was a woman of literary attainments and a sister of the late United States Senator John B. Thompson and ex-Congressman Phil B. Thompson.

Resorting to Torture.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—Private letters received here from Manila, capital of the Philippine islands, state that the Spaniards there are resorting to torture in order to extort confessions and information from captured insurgents and suspects.

Passed a Bad Check.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 21.—Oscar O. Wahlfeld, president of a New York wholesale clothing company, has been arrested, charged with passing a worthless check for \$300. Wahlfeld has friends here who believe his mind is unbalanced.

A Wholesale House Falls.

DES MOINES, Dec. 21.—The wholesale implement house of Randall, Selby & Bell has made an assignment. The liabilities are over \$100,000, with unestimated assets.

Bishop Lynch Dead.

DUBLIN, Dec. 21.—The Right Rev. James Lynch, D. D., bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, is dead.

REPORT OF CARLISLE.

Secretary of Treasury Makes His Statement to Congress. HIS OLD ADVICE RENEWED.

He Is Still Desirous of Legislation to Provide For Retirement of Treasury Notes—Facts Concerning Exports and Imports.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—The annual report of the secretary of the treasury, which was transmitted to congress today, deals extensively and in detail with the financial situation. Mr. Carlisle summarizes the condition of the treasury and after reviewing his former recommendations for early and effective legislation to provide for the retirement of treasury notes goes on to say: "The maintenance of a policy which necessarily imposes upon the government the burden of furnishing gold at the public expense to all who may demand it for use or hoarding at home or for export to other countries cannot be justified upon any ground of expediency or sound financial principle, and even if the periodical and frequently recurring demands for gold did not weaken the foundations of our entire currency system, thus impairing confidence and depressing business, it would nevertheless be the duty of all who are charged with any degree of responsibility for the adoption of proper financial methods to insist upon the reformation of our laws upon this subject at the earliest possible day. The issue and redemption of circulating notes is not a proper function of the treasury department or of any other department of the government. While the government has power to borrow money, it is not its duty to issue public obligations merely for the purpose of providing a paper currency for use in the transaction of business, nor has it the constitutional power, in my opinion, to make its promise legal tender in the payment of private debts. Such a policy, even if sanctioned by the constitution, instead of imparting strength and stability to our currency system, seriously endangers it by the introduction of political and partisan considerations into the management of a subject which ought to be regulated entirely by the business interests of the people and by the laws of trade and the principles which control honest commercial intercourse."

Wants Notes Canceled. The secretary refers to what he considers the peril in which the entire financial system has been placed by the constant agitation of the currency question and adds: "There is but one absolutely certain way to remove this delicate and dangerous question from our party politics, and that is to retire and cancel the notes. All attempts to hoard them permanently by the government must fail, for the obvious reason that our people will not consent to be taxed merely for the purpose of accumulating and holding a large and useless surplus in the treasury. Besides, the notes must be withdrawn from circulation in order to be hoarded, and when withdrawn from circulation it would be far more advantageous to the public to cancel them than to keep them on hand as a constant temptation to indulge in unnecessary and extravagant expenditures."

"We must not be deluded into a feeling of security by the fact that there has been a suspension of gold withdrawals during the past few months and a large accession to our stock of gold from abroad during the same time," says the secretary. He points out that there is no sufficient reason to believe that this condition of affairs will be permanent if our existing system is maintained, and, continuing, says: "Fluctuations in the rates of exchange are produced by causes beyond the control of official power, and one of the misfortunes of our present situation is that whenever these rates reach a point at which it is more profitable to export gold than to purchase bills for the settlement of our balances abroad the government is compelled to furnish the gold or fail to maintain the standard of value established by law. In fact, the abandonment of that standard and the legal or practical recognition of silver as the basis of our monetary system would not relieve the government from the obligation to procure coin, by the issue of bonds or otherwise, for the redemption of its notes."

As to Volume of Currency.

"No government, however despotic, can prescribe the exact amount of currency its people shall use in the transaction of their business, and every attempt to regulate the subject by arbitrary rules, in the form of legislation or otherwise, is a departure from true economic principles. The people, if left free to conduct their business affairs in their own way, will always decide for themselves how much money they need, and, unless prevented by artificial obstructions, the necessary amount will always be supplied either from their own resources at home or the exchanges abroad. The volume of business transacted determines the amount of money and credit required, and whenever the volume of business demands an additional supply or an extension of credit the demand will certainly be complied with, provided the laws do not interfere to prevent it. As rapidly as our notes are redeemed and canceled, gold, or a currency as good as gold, will take their places in the circulation if the interests of the country require it."

"With a liberal commercial policy promoting the profitable introduction of our large surplus products into the markets of other countries and a sound currency system promising safe investment for foreign capital in our domestic industries we may confidently rely upon the operation of the natural laws of trade and finance for an abundant supply of good money to transact all of the business of the people and fully develop the great resources at our command. As soon as the resumption of specie payments had become assured and the agitation of that question had ceased gold began to flow into this country in large amounts, and from 1878 to 1881, both years included, our net gain from imports alone was \$179,748,592, but in addition to this our available stock of this metal was considerably increased by our domestic production and by the renewed use of a great part of the coin previously hoarded by our people on account of its superiority in value over a depreciated paper currency. For a series of years there had been deficient crops in Europe, and the sale of our grain and provisions in foreign markets created a very large excess of exports of merchandise over imports, culminating in 1878 in a balance in our favor of \$905,189,642, the largest that ever existed in a single year."

Exports and Imports.

"No such balance has ever been approached in any year since, except during the current calendar year 1896. In 11 months the excess of exports of merchandise over imports has been \$266,084,709, and to this should be added the net exports of silver, \$44,985,015, making a total of \$311,071,724, or nearly \$6,000,000 more than the highest amount for any previous period of 12 months. It is scarcely possible that such changes can occur in the course of our international trade during the next few years as to prevent a large annual balance in our favor, and if these favorable results continue to be realized and our currency system shall be placed upon a sound basis experience and reason alike justify the conclusion that very considerable amounts of gold must be sent here to pay for our exported products, and that even if this should not be the case the demand upon our existing stock will cease, and our own production, amounting to not less than \$45,000,000 per annum, will be permanently added to the volume of our circulation."

The secretary holds that without a reformation of our currency we cannot safely rely upon permanent accessions to our stock of gold from abroad in settlement of trade balances in our favor. He refers to his recommendation of last year that the secretary of the treasury be authorized to issue from time to time bonds payable in gold and to exchange them for United States notes and treasury notes.

BIG BANK IN TROUBLE.

The Illinois National of Chicago Falls to Open Its Doors.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—The National Bank of Illinois, located at 115 Dearborn street, one of the oldest and best known banking institutions in the city, with assets amounting to nearly \$15,000,000, did not open its doors today.

This action was decided upon by the directors of the bank at 6 o'clock last night, after the bank had been suspended from the Clearing House association of Chicago at a meeting of the Clearing House committee, held at the home of Elbridge G. Keith.

The cause of the suspension, as given in the resolutions adopted by the Clearing House committee, is "unwarrantable and injudicious loans," through which "the capital and surplus of said bank are seriously imperiled, if not absolutely lost."

At the last statement of the bank its capital was shown to be \$1,000,000, with a surplus of \$1,000,000.

It is thought probable that none of the depositors will suffer great loss by the suspension, as the bankers who were present at the meeting of the committee have recommended for consideration the proposition to advance 75 per cent on all adjusted claims against the National Bank of Illinois. In addition to this, they have agreed to use their influence with all other members of the Clearing House association to accept all such claims as collateral at the same rate.

E. B. Dreyer & Co., one of the oldest banking establishments of this city, situated at the southwest corner of Washington and Dearborn streets, failed today.

A notice posted on the doors of the bank states that the bank is in the hands of the Security Title and Trust company.

The banking firm of Wasmansdorff & Heinemann of 145 and 147 Randolph street is announced to be in the hands of the Security Title and Trust company.

Dean of the Milwaukee Cathedral.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 22.—The announcement is made here that the Rev. Charles S. Sargent had been appointed by Bishop Nicholson as dean of All Saints' cathedral. This position has been vacant since the resignation of the Rev. J. Mott Williams, who went from here to Marquette and is now bishop of that diocese. Mr. Sargent is 50 years of age and is the son of a retired merchant in Cincinnati.

The Promised Turkish Reforms.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 22.—The Russian ambassador, M. de Nelidoff, had an hour's audience with the sultan, at which he urged the introduction of reforms and the granting of amnesty to the imprisoned Armenians. The sultan pointed out that the reforms agreed upon by the powers had already been executed and promised to issue the amnesty decrees in a few days.

A Railway Accident.

DANVILLE JUNCTION, Me., Dec. 22.—Train No. 71 on the Grand Trunk railroad was thrown from the track at a point about two miles below the junction, and four cars were partly wrecked. Seventeen passengers were hurt, but not seriously. The injured were taken to Boston. The cause of the accident was a broken rail.

Scott Appoints Bayard's Son.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Corporation Counsel Francis M. Scott has appointed Thomas F. Bayard, Jr., a son of Ambassador Bayard, an assistant in the bureau of street openings, a branch of the law department which has charge of all litigation connected with the dedication and opening of new streets.

Big Blaze in Radford, Va.

RADFORD, Va., Dec. 2.—This city suffered from a disastrous fire, the damage amounting to about \$100,000. Thirty-five houses were destroyed. The heaviest losses were the business houses. The insurance will not cover one-tenth of the losses. The fire broke out in Noel's grocery store.

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BOSTON, Dec. 22.—Mrs. William Johnson, 30, was fatally burned about the body at 22 Salem street. Upon being removed to the hospital Mrs. Johnson claimed that her husband, who is a colored man, threw a lamp at her. The police have detained Johnson.

Sunk by a Tramp Steamer.

WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 22.—The dredge Pacific was sunk by the British tramp steamer Delaware in a collision in the Delaware river. The dredge was owned by W. M. Brainard & Bro. of New York and was valued at \$20,000.

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A COOL BANK WRECKER.

Miller Admits That He "Kited" Checks With All the Denver Banks.

THE INAUGURAL BALL.

Final Decision to Hold It in the Pension Building Court.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The general inaugural committee, which is charged with all arrangements for the inauguration of President McKinley, has held another meeting and finally disposed of a matter which has agitated the citizens of the District very much of late by selecting the pension office building as the place for the grand inaugural ball.

People of an aesthetic turn of mind had been apprehensive that the beautiful and still incomplete new library building was to be used for this purpose, but when Mr. Hanna withdrew his suggestion to that effect the ball was easily set for the pension building court, which has before served a like purpose.

The general committee at its meeting also selected a full list of subcommittees to take charge of all the details of the approaching ceremony.

Pitcher Cuppy in a New Role.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 21.—George Cuppy, the star pitcher of the Cleveland baseball club, with a party of friends, is about to join the Cuban insurgents. The following letter was received from Cuppy by a friend in this city: "You will not see my name in any score card next summer, possibly never again. I intend to enlist with a party of friends in the Cuban army. I expect to leave Logansport for Cuba Dec. 26."

Pietrillo's Body Found.

ITHACA, N. Y., Dec. 21.—The body of Pietrillo, the Italian who was thought to have been murdered, was recovered from Lake Cayuga inlet yesterday. Coroner Brown found no marks on the body. On the dead man's body was found \$17, \$13 less than he had Wednesday. Investigation has been dropped, as evidence points to an accidental drowning.

Five Killed by a Bomb.

ROME, Dec. 21.—A dispatch from Cassino says that several bombs secretly manufactured by a druggist named Valerio exploded last night. Five stories of the druggist's house were shattered, burning a number of persons in the ruins. Five