

The Louisiana Democrat.

"The World is Governed Too Much."

HEURY L. BLOSSAT, Business Manager. ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1886. VOL. XLI.-NO. 50.

TEMPORA MUTANTUR.

Oh! it is you once more, my friend? Good evening! You are well, I trust? Yes, I sit just as you here awhile. Apart from dancing, heat and dust. I still an beautiful, you say? O, thanks! you're kind, but then you know I'm here, not faces, that can change in short space of a year or so. Where have I been? The usual round—Europe, the mountains, seashore, springs. Do I recall our parting? Well, No, I've thought of other things. Here, was it? and you thought me kind? Dear me, I was a silly child! But since I've spent two seasons out, at last year's fads I've often smiled. You really think you cared for me? O no, you did but play a part, right well—but then it needs small skill to angle for a fresh heart. Why, yes, I do remember now. You made warm love, you stole a rose, and vowed you'd never part with that. I thought you meant it, don't you know? (Girls are such simpatons you see) Excuse my laughing when I think how short the illusion was with me. I missed a bracelet and came back to find it near this chair. And saw you placid, ha! ha! My little rose in Kitty's hair. The tall, fine man who seeks us out, just as you would explain? Nay, nay, take the trouble, it's not worth, and that—why that's my name. —Annie F. Culbertson, in *Detroit Free Press*.

WOMEN OFFICE-HOLDERS

The Kind of Work They Do For the Government.

The employment of women in the Government service at Washington presents many interesting features of the important question of woman's right status and worth as a worker. It has long been a popular but erroneous idea that women in the Government departments owe their positions entirely to favor and influence, and that they are, as a rule, incapable and unfit to perform the duties incumbent upon them. It is true that political influence and power have in some cases obtained places for women which neither their natural capacity nor attainments fitted them to worthily fill, but are these the only incapable office-holders who owe their positions to political influence? There are about four thousand women employed by the Government, and although the work is chiefly clerical they are also valuable assistants in a variety of other occupations, many of which are comparatively new to women. The greatest number are employed in the Treasury, which was the first department to make use of their services. The occasion arose during the late civil war, and was entirely a question of expediency and even necessity, in order to fill the large number of vacancies made by the enlistment of the employees. Women were first employed as counters of currency and soon afterward as clerks, copyists, etc. As counters of money—work requiring chiefly quickness of sight and deftness of hand—women have always excelled and have been uniformly preferred to men. Their undoubted honesty has also contributed much to their value in this work. It is said by the officials in charge of the currency division that a case of dishonesty on the part of a woman has never occurred since their employment in the Treasury. There are 1,349 women employees in the Treasury Department, including the 450 in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. They are employed as corresponding clerks, accountants, stenographers, copyists, counters, librarians, and in some few instances as chiefs in charge of sections, their duties being supervisory. Some of the books kept by women are models of beauty and accuracy. In the issue division a lady has for several years had entire charge of the books containing the exact amount of currency issued, redeemed, destroyed, and outstanding; also the amounts of daily currency redeemed and destroyed in the several States and Territories. This involves a vast amount of detail and an accuracy of accounts which it is difficult for the uninitiated to conceive of. The National bank notes are brought here from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, where they are engraved and printed, to be re-examined and again counted. The examination is for the purpose of noting the slightest defect or omission in the mechanical part of the bank note, that the bank and charter number, the seal and coat of arms of both the United States, and the State are not wanting or imperfect. The money is usually examined and counted at the same time, and when the accuracy with which this must be done is taken into consideration, and the concentration of mind necessary in the exercise of two manual operations, it can readily be seen that it requires a special mental training and expertness. The annual report of the Comptroller of the Currency, with its bewildering columns of statistics, is almost exclusively the work of women clerks. In some of the auditors' offices the women are obliged to have a knowledge of banking as well as of mathematics. The difficult and responsible work of the Redemption Agency is done entirely by women. This division is devoted exclusively to identifying burned and mutilated money, which is brought here under all sorts of strange and remarkable circumstances, from every part of the country, to be redeemed. Sometimes it is so badly defaced as to seem almost to defy identification. The most successful expert in this work has been here for twenty years, and has in that time saved many millions of dollars. A quick, bright, intelligent woman is she who, upon being asked what appliances were used in the difficult processes of her work, replied: "Only a thin knife and patience." The difficulty of identifying National bank notes is much greater than those of legal tender, as not only the denomination but the title of the bank must be deciphered. A few years ago a package of \$110,000 was brought here by the Adams Express Company which, by the burning of a railway train, had been reduced to a charcoal, coal-black mass. Three days afterward \$75,000 was identified and redeemed by the

women experts of this division. In another case, after a man had been buried many months, a wife was found which stated that in the inner pocket of a coat—the same he had been buried in—would be found a large sum of money in bank notes. The body was exhumed, and the slimy, discolored money, with the odor of the grave about it, was sent her for identification. Another instance, illustrating how cupidly sometimes overreaches itself, was that of a miser who had buried his savings, to the amount of nearly \$20,000, in an earthen jar. After an interval of several months he went one day to add a few hundred dollars to his treasure, and found the whole an indistinguishable heap of moldering paper. Although living in the far West, he had heard of the skill of the women of the Redemption Agency, and lost no time in assigning his precious jar to their care. The money, with the exception of about \$500, was identified and returned to him in fresh new bank notes, to his infinite satisfaction. Another conspicuous example of ability, and also in quite a new line, is that of a woman employed in the Law Division of this bureau, and who prepares the briefs for the Solicitor of Internal Revenue in the various cases arising out of violation of internal revenue laws. She is considered one of the best law clerks in the bureau, and is engaged upon the most difficult and complicated compromise cases. Her remarkable power of grasping important points of a case and presenting them in clear and concise language is shown by the fact that she prepares her briefs from first notice; that is, the first abstract is the one submitted to the solicitor, no other copy being made. In order to do this she thoroughly studies the case before putting her pen to paper. In an important case five days are often spent in careful, laborious study of it. The result is a clearness of statement and a logical presentation of the evidence which is justly considered remarkable. The briefs in the case of the whisky frauds in Grant's time were prepared by her, and it is a satisfaction to add that she receives the same salary as men doing the same work. The Interior Department employs 618 women as examiners of applications for patents, clerks, stenographers, typewriters, accountants, tracers of drawings, copyists, pasters, etc. The work of women as examiners of applications for patents deserves the highest commendation, since it requires a knowledge of physics, mathematics, chemistry and machinery—branches of study with which at present women have only limited opportunities to become thoroughly acquainted, the smattering of science taught at the average girls' school being of little value for any practical uses. Consequently, the women who have qualified themselves to fill positions in this department of the Government service have done so by persevering private study, under the disadvantage of a lack of proper direction, and often after a hard day's work at the desk. The work of an examiner in the Patent Office can best be shown by giving an instance of the duties of a woman filling the place of assistant examiner to the electric division, and whose department is that of electric lighting. The number of applications for patents in this section is enormous, which greatly increases the difficulty of discriminating new claims and those which have been met in some patent previously granted. The inventor gives at least half a dozen specific claims to novelty possessed by his invention. It is then necessary for the examiner to look up all patents of this class. This involves not only a careful research through all the files of the Patent Office, but also in all scientific books and periodicals relating to the class of inventions under consideration. The following are a few of the questions taken from a special examination of the civil-service for third assistant examiner in the Patent Office:

1. State briefly how may be produced glass, sugar, salt, iron, steel, brass, coal oil, coal gas.
2. Name the so-called mechanical powers; state briefly how you calculate the power of each; why are they erroneously called powers?
3. Describe "Barker's mill." Give the theory of its operation.
4. Briefly define the mechanical terms: flange, pinion, bevel gear, friction gear, eccentric, cam, journal, spline, idle-wheel, bolt, piston.
5. What are levers patent? What are levers patent for inventions? For what purpose are levers used? Under what authority of Congress to legislate thereon based? What, in your opinion, has been the effect of their grant in this country?
6. Given a lever with a long arm of 30 feet and a short arm of 5 feet; to the latter is attached the rope from a wheel 3 feet in diameter, on whose axle, 1 foot in diameter, winds a rope leading to a weight lying upon an inclined plane having a face of 3 feet and altitude of 1 foot. To the long arm of the lever is applied a power of 10 pounds. What weight will it counterbalance on the inclined plane? The long arm of the lever is moved through a space of 10 feet. Through what space will the weight be moved?
7. State the law as to reissues.
8. Under the provisions of the law, who may receive a patent? What does the law require an inventor to do before he can obtain a patent?

Miss Ada Sweet, the former pension agent of the Eighteenth District at Chicago, was universally acknowledged by her superiors to be one of the best agents of the Interior Department. She succeeded her father in this office in 1874, having previously acted as his clerk. She is the first woman who has filled this position, and with the exception of her successor the only one. The Post-office Department employs 124 women, principally in clerical work, but some branches of this work are of a difficult nature and require a peculiar fitness and class of qualifications. A knowledge of the modern languages and a complete and minute familiarity with localities are requisite in many of the departments. A lady in the dead letter division is the most skilled expert in deciphering misdirected and illegible letters in this country, and as illustrating her peculiar powers in this field she is called in the department "the blind reader." Letters in all languages, and the perversion of all languages, addresses in dialect, misspelled, misdirected, partly omitted, through carelessness or ignorance, are sent to her every day by the score to be deciphered, redirected and sent to their destination. Four women in the foreign department of the Dead Letter Office return all foreign letters to the countries from which they have been sent. The woman who has charge of this branch is a German, and eminently

qualified for her duties by her linguistic attainments and her remarkable knowledge of geography. She is perfectly familiar with every country, city and town in the world, and it was stated by the chief clerk of the post-office that he had no doubt that she would be able to distribute the mail in London as well as in Washington. The State, War, and Navy Departments have fewer women in their employ than any of the others. A few women are employed as translators, but in this work, which, according to popular ideas, would be especially suited to the acquirements and taste of women, few women succeed. Their knowledge of languages is usually not exact and thorough enough to qualify them for a service which requires a thorough grammatical and idiomatic knowledge of foreign languages. The official translator of each department is a man, and generally a foreigner. In the same connection it may be stated that it is a singular fact that in the occupations in which we would naturally expect women to excel, such as translators, botanists, etc., we find no conspicuous cases of ability, while the universally acknowledged and notable instances of superiority are in those departments where we would least expect to find them at all, much less to find them taking a high rank. There are fifty-five women employed in the Quartermaster's office in the War Department, and about the same number assisting in the preparation of the "Official Records of the War of the Rebellion." In the Navy Department a few women are engaged in the work of the Hydrographic office, in map drafting and tracing, and as telegraph operators, typewriters and clerks. These are in most cases the widows or daughters of deceased army or navy officers, and many of them bear names honored in the historic annals of the country. The Agricultural Department employs 112 women, including those engaged in the seed-room. They are chiefly corresponding clerks, keeping an account of seeds sent to each Senator, Representative and Delegate; also, the records of all applications for seeds, plants, shrubs, etc. Much of the work is manual, such as making seed bags, labeling and putting up seeds. The employees of this department were classified under the civil service last November. The Government Printing Office, which is the largest establishment of this kind in the world, employs 1,200 women as sitters and folders of pamphlets, gold-leaf ornaments, operators of ruling, folding, and sewing machines, press-feeders and compositors. All of the work is manual, and the employees are not subject to the civil service regulations; but, as an offset to this, the salaries are much lower and the number of hours longer. Much of the work is done by the piece, the average amount earned per day being \$1.33-1.3. The compositors are paid \$5 cents an hour, and usually average about \$70 a month, which is the highest salary paid to women in this department. The Civil-Service law makes no distinction with regard to sex, but in original appointments the head of a department designates the sex of the persons appointed. Women are not now chosen as frequently as before the adoption of the Civil-Service rules. Men are regarded as more available for all sorts of work. Women are entitled to the same pay as men for the same work. Two women in the Treasury Department receive \$1,800 per annum each. One is chief of a section and the other a law clerk of the Internal Revenue Bureau. Of the remaining women employed in the Treasury 5 get \$1,600 each, 31 \$1,400 each, 128 \$1,200 each, 91 \$1,000 each, 366 \$900 each, and the remaining 178 obtain all the way from \$180, being the pay of the charwomen, to \$840 each. This list is also exclusive of the women employed in the Engraving and Printing Bureau, where the highest salary is \$1,600. In the Interior Department 7 get \$1,600 each, 30 \$1,400 each, 135 \$1,200 each, 194 \$1,000 each, 154 \$800 each, and the salaries of the remaining 94 range from \$360 to \$800. In the Post-office Department, 2 women are employed at \$1,600 each, 8 at \$1,400, 29 at \$1,200, 11 at \$1,000, 62 at \$900, 5 at \$840, and 7 at \$720. The pay obtained by these women workers is good when compared with that obtained in private vocations, and the hours of service are generally easy. The workrooms, too, are large and well ventilated. —N. Y. Tribune.

DEMANDS PROTECTION.

An Irreclaimable Criminal's Pathetic Appeal to the Court. A few days ago, in the district court, a prisoner, who had been defended by one of our young lawyers (who had been appointed by the Court) received the highest penalty the law allows for horse-stealing, fifteen years. After the verdict was announced this young lawyer was observed to speak excitedly to his client, whereupon the client stood up and told the judge that he looked to him for protection. His Honor, Judge Noonan, replied that the sheriff would see that his rights were not interfered with. "But that is not what I mean," urged the prisoner. "What do you mean?" inquired the judge, kindly. "I want you to protect me. This young man you pointed to defend me says he is going to ask you to give me a new trial, and I want you to protect me, judge." And now that young lawyer tells people that he won't defend pauper criminals without being paid for it, not even if Judge Noonan sends him to jail for refusing. —Texas Siftings.

"We go to press at two instead of four-to-day," said a Tennessee paper, "in order to attend to some business of importance in the country." At precisely five minutes of four two high-toned-looking gentlemen with shot-guns called, and wanted to know where the editor was.

NIGGARDLY POLICY.

The Heads of the Government Department Are Shockingly Overworked—Secretary Manning's Case. The illness of Secretary Manning and the effects of overwork on Secretary Lamar, taken in connection with the rapidly accumulating business of the Treasury, Interior and Postal Departments of the Government, suggest that sooner or later there must be found some relief for the executive officers of the Government. Since 1829, when Mr. Jackson invited Mr. Barry, who was chief clerk in charge of the Postal Department, to a seat in his Cabinet as Postmaster-General, there has been no change in the methods of conducting the executive branches of the Government, except by assistants, each Cabinet officer being responsible for the whole conduct of his own Department. Since then the population of the country has increased from 12,866,000 to 60,000,000, its resources have been correspondingly developed, while the duties of the Cabinet officers of the Government have fully kept pace with the material growth of the country. The time has come when an efficient officer is soon made a physical wreck in the discharge of his multifarious duties. It is simply an intellectual and physical impossibility for the Secretary of the Treasury to administer the finances of the Government, to look after the collection of its customs and internal revenues, to run the mints, take in charge steamboat inspection and the life-saving service, look after the engraving and printing and watch the National banks, have charge of the coast survey, control the currency, assume responsibility of the Government architect, and disburse the funds of the Government. While some of these duties are delegated to others, the Secretary is the responsible head, and must be more or less acquainted with all, according to the measure of his efficiency. The same may be said of several departments of the Government. The Cabinet of the United States is composed of seven men, that of Great Britain of fourteen, that of France of eleven, that of Prussia of ten and that of Russia of eleven. Even Belgium and Switzerland have seven each, and Italy eight. But there has always been a very niggardly spirit shown by our people in the number of officials and the pay they receive, the idea being that there was some merit in Democratic simplicity. This may be true provided that simplicity is not directed by men who drive ten-dollar mules in carts. We offer the very highest possible premiums for dishonesty in the public service by imposing upon Cabinet officers duties it is not possible to perform, and as a result we have starve-out frauds and naval irregularities that are invited and made possible by our methods. Instead of seven we should have twelve Cabinet officers, and the day is not far distant when it will be recognized. —Chicago News.

A SOCIAL LEADER.

The Young Lady of Albany to Whom the President is Said to Be Engaged. The story comes from Albany that President Cleveland is engaged to marry Miss Van Vechten, a young lady who may justly lay claim to being the social leader of the capital of New York. The lady is tall and most beautiful in face and figure and she has many charms and graces of manner. The circle in which she moves is one of the most exclusive in the United States. The high society of Albany is unquestionably the most difficult to penetrate of any in the country and Miss Van Vechten is its central star. She lives in a splendid house that is situated directly across the street from the Executive Mansion, where Mr. Cleveland, when he was in office, could without difficulty have looked into Miss Van Vechten's window. The lady has a wealth of wavy brown hair. There is a quite striking resemblance between her and Miss Jennie Chamberlain, the beautiful Cleveland girl, whose personal attractiveness has been the talk of Europe for a year or two back. When Mr. Cleveland was Governor of New York State, he frequently met Miss Van Vechten at the various receptions which occurred at the Executive Mansion and elsewhere in Albany, and he exhibited a marked preference for her society. It is, indeed, said that he took every possible occasion to be at her side, and it is now noticed that she is spending a great deal of her time in Washington, where few, if any, of the social gatherings of which the President is a feature are allowed to go by without her presence. —Boston Herald.

Right Ahead.

Grover Cleveland, as mayor of Buffalo, Governor of New York and President of the United States, has in all matters pertaining to the public welfare, given an exhibition of unimpeachable integrity. It is a singular fact that in several of his public acts the disapprobation of the populace stared him in the face, but when the sober second thought and restored reason regained supremacy, the decision was almost universal that he had done the right thing in the right place. His rule of action may be said to be embraced in the mathematical verity: "the nearest line between two points is a straight one." With him the public welfare is paramount to party interests, and a public office a public trust. He has never sought office, nor has he ever been a scheming politician. The office in his case has in every instance sought the man. —Des Moines Leader.

"It is now evident that the President can not educate his party," writes that amiable Mugwump, Mr. George William Curtis. The Democratic party nominated and elected Mr. Cleveland to be a President not an educator. But what Mr. Curtis really means is that it is now evident the Mugwumps can not educate the President, or his party either. —St. Louis Republican.

ITS NEXT EXECUTIVE.

The Difficulties in the Way of Establishing Justice in the Territory of Utah. It seems to be taken for granted that President Cleveland is going to select as successor to Governor Murray, of Utah, some citizen of the Territory itself. This expectation is based not only on the declarations of the platform of 1884, but on the belief that no outsider could be found who would have the courage to stand up against the stream of abuse and misrepresentation which the Mormon leaders are wont to heap upon the Gentile Governors who endeavor to enforce the United States laws among them. It is for this reason no doubt that many would be unwilling to accept an executive position involving so much bitter opposition from the great majority of the community in which authority was to be exercised. On the other hand, much may be urged in favor of the appointment of an outsider in this instance, for it is evident that if the President is to be thus limited in his choice he may be unable to find a person who will administer the affairs of the Territory in a just and impartial spirit. The lines of antagonism are very sharply defined, and every Gentile who is not a bitter and uncompromising foe of Mormonism is in some degree susceptible to its influences. Should the selection be made from either of these classes, the interests of good government might not be subserved. There would either be indiscriminate oppression or a government that would find favor with the Polygamists. It is almost needless to say that the evil against which the laws of the United States are directed is not Mormonism itself as a religious creed, but polygamy, which is a crime. A man is not to be oppressed because of his religious belief in a country which proclaims absolute freedom to all creeds and sects. But if he commits a crime he must certainly be held amenable to the law. This is a distinction not always kept clearly in mind. Territorial officers imbued with an indiscriminate prejudice are certainly not qualified to administer the law properly, and the result must be that the present disturbances would only be augmented. On the other hand, a lax administration would only foster the evil which it is the duty of the Government to root out. Under these circumstances, the President may find it necessary to nominate some non-resident who is known to be a man at once firm, fearless and dispassionate. —N. Y. Graphic.

A BRAVE PAPER.

Governor Hill's Brand Upon the Broadway Franchise—Ex-Governor Cleveland's Warning. The people of New York have fresh cause to be proud of the faithful and vigilant guardian of their interests in the executive chamber. Corporation agents and the lobby may infest both houses of the Legislature and swarm around the hotels, but across the threshold of the executive chamber the polluting foot of the lobbyist can not pass. There are no fine spun oracles or equivocal phrases in his admirable message, but incisive, vigorous, plain talk. It is the expression of the righteous indignation of an honest man and fearless official against bribery and corruption. He denounces the thieves who stole the most valuable franchises in the gift of the city of New York, and the shameless officials who permitted themselves to be purchased "in the broad light of day and with a brazenness and boldness unparalleled in the history of a municipality." He alludes to the warning of Governor Cleveland, when he signed the General Street Surface Railway act in 1884, that the bill should have made it obligatory on local authorities to put those franchises up at auction, instead of leaving it to their option. The words of Governor Cleveland, in view of the action of the New York aldermen on the Broadway and cable railroad stais, have an additional interest now. "If the local authorities are determined to cheat and defraud their constituents by refusing to put up a valuable franchise at auction, they must, under this bill, do it in the broad light of day and with a brazenness and boldness that would find a way to evade the most carefully framed law." This did not, in the least, discommodate the disreputable officials to whom Jacob Sharp and the cable company applied. They cared more for "boodle" than for character and were content to be branded as false to every instinct of honor and manhood, as long as they were well paid for it. —Albany Argus.

MR. EDMUNDS' DEFEAT.

His Campaign Ended and He Has Failed to Convince Even the Senate That He is Right. Senator Edmunds has finished his campaign on the Duskin resolutions, and has won a doubtful victory. He has succeeded in securing their adoption by one majority in the absence of a Democratic successor to the late Mr. Miller, of California. The substantial results of the long discussion, which, on the Republican side depended almost wholly for its force and dignity upon Mr. Edmunds himself, are about as doubtfully balanced as was the vote on the resolutions. Mr. Edmunds has not succeeded in convincing the country that the President should share the power of removal with the Senate, or that the Senate had a just claim to the papers bearing on suspensions simply because they were "filed" in the departments, but attention has undoubtedly been drawn, in a very marked degree, to the great advantage the civil service would gain by having all proceedings in connection with nominations, except to places of a peculiarly confidential character, made a matter of accessible record. On the other hand, without meaning to do so, Mr. Edmunds has made it very plain to the country that the methods of the Senate are more in need of reform in this regard than any others. A blow that bids fair to be fatal has been dealt to the secret sessions of the Senate. —N. Y. Times.

PLAIN WRITING.

An Amusing Incident Showing the Weakness of Illegible Chirography. The importance of writing a plain and legible hand is nowhere better understood than among the men who spend their days and nights in newspaper offices. The numerous soul-harrowing blunders that have escaped the eyes of editors, compositors and proof-readers and reached the bright sunlight of publicity in cold type might be enumerated by legions, but we believe there have been very few occasions when illegible penmanship has had the effect of setting an entire community by the ears, precipitating heated discussion and fomenting intestine strife and local discord. Yet such a case has occurred in Pennsylvania. If the apparently veracious and interesting account of a Philadelphia paper may be believed. A little over twelve years ago the enterprising residents of the town of Harbors suddenly became alive to the fact that nothing would so greatly contribute to the material welfare of the village and start it irresistibly on the broad highway to metropolitan position as a bridge across the quiet little stream that crept past the outskirts of the corporation. The matter grew in successive stages from double-headed editorials and communications by "Taxpayer," "Constant Reader" and "Veritas" in the local paper to the dignity of a political issue. The building of the bridge across the Pennypack formed the key-note, so to speak, of one of the most exciting and heated campaigns ever enjoyed by the citizens of the county. The election was closely fought, and the party which favored "public improvements" won the day. The law provided that viewers should be appointed to look into the subject and report their conclusions to the grand jury for final decision. The board of viewers was appointed by the newly elected officials, and as a matter of course they unanimously recommended to the grand jury the immediate construction of the bridge. Just at this point the matter seems to have been dropped, but for what reason the chronicle does not relate. Perhaps it was discovered that the county treasury was in a condition that would not warrant so heavy a draft upon it, or perhaps some more absorbing question arose, in the discussion of which the enterprising citizens lost sight of the bridge issue. It may be that the metropolitan aspirations of Harbors encountered a chilling frost, under the influence of which the bridge across the Pennypack drifted into forgetfulness. Be this as it may, the great improvement over which the famous victory was so gallantly won was never consummated. But after a quiet slumber of twelve years there has arisen a new demand for that bridge, and recently the musty records of the county were tumbled over in search of the grand jury's indorsement. It was finally fished up and eagerly scanned to see what it was. And here is where the real trouble began. A local attorney chanced to have been a member of the grand jury, and to him was delegated the duty of putting the report in writing. With laudable professional zeal he succeeded in producing a scrawl that is not nearly as legible as Chinese, after the lapse of a dozen years, even to the lawyer himself. The faction which favors the bridge profess to be able to read the last sentence of the report. The opposing faction claim that it is as plain as print to them, too, but the two translations do not agree in the most essential particular. Whether the grand jury meant to say: "The grand inquest now occur in the within report," or "non-concur," no impartial tribunal is able to decide. The old light is, therefore, on once more, and with redoubled bitterness. The double-headed editorials with no uncertain sound have reopened in the local paper, and "Taxpayer," "Constant Reader" and "Veritas" have taken their pens in hand with all the vigor of their perennial youth. The quiet serenity of Harbors is again disturbed by the clamor of the warring forces of the bridge and anti-bridge parties, and the only thing the people are unanimous in is the conviction that a man who can't write so that he can at least read his own production should buy a typewriter at once. Meanwhile, that great artery of commerce, the Pennypack, goes unspanned to the sea. —Detroit Tribune.

NOT POISONOUS.

The Funny Mistake Made By a Good Farmer in a County Jail. One never likes to be laughed at under any circumstances, but the minister mentioned in the following incident probably laughed himself over the mistake he had made. He certainly did if he had any sense of humor. He was visiting recently the jail at Vinton, to minister to the spiritual wants of the prisoners. On entering the jail he met two men in the corridor who looked as if they might need a little good counsel. Being a prompt, outspoken man, the minister went straight to business, first addressing the elder of the two men, when something like the following dialogue occurred: Minister—How long have you been in here? "About two hours." There was a short pause. The clergyman looked at him curiously for a moment; then he turned to the younger man and said: "How long have you been in here?" "I came in with him," pointing to the elder man. Another pause ensued, and another question was fired at the elder of the two: "What are you here for?" "Well, I came here to fix the gas-pipes," was the prompt answer. "Do you object?" —Youth's Companion.

—A great many people take off their religion with their Sunday clothes and hang it up in the closet so it will be fresh next Sunday. It is a wise thing to do, for that kind of religion couldn't stand the racket of every-day temptation. —Chicago Ledger.

PITH AND POINT.

—A misfit hat store would do well in any city after the holding of a big public ball. —N. Y. Freeman.

—An Irishman wrote home to his friends over the briny that in this blessed land everybody is so honest a reward has to be offered for thieves.

—A fashion item says sealskin saques are rapidly growing out of fashion. We suspect by next fourth of July not a sealskin saque will be seen on the street. —Norristown Herald.

—"What makes you love me?" asked a young mother of her little daughter. "I don't know, mamma," was the reply, but I think it is because I have known you so long. —Troy Times.

—Men may boast of the fragrance of the genuine Havana cigar, but right here in San Antonio, ay, in our sanctum, we can find a match for the finest cigar ever made—and smoke it, too, with the greatest of pleasure. —Texas Figaro.

—In a Nutshell.—"What's the reason there are so many divorcees nowadays," asked Mrs. Yergar, who was reading the morning paper. "I have studied the subject thoroughly from every possible standpoint, and I think I can point out the true cause, and as long as that cause lasts there will be divorcees," replied Colonel Yergar. "What is that cause?" "Matrimony." —Texas Siftings.

—A married man says a looking-glass affords a woman a marvelous amount of comfort and gratification. He says his wife thinks just as much of consulting the looking-glass when she ties on her apron as when she ties on her bonnet. When there is a knock at the door he goes there at once, but his wife, on the contrary, ejaculates, "Mercy, Joseph! who's that?" and dashes for the looking-glass the first thing. —N. Y. Telegram.

—Bobby was awake when his mother returned home for the theater at midnight. "Did you say your prayers to-night, Bobby?" she asked. "Before you went to bed?" "No," he said, sleepily. "I forgot it." "Well, you had better come and say them to me now." "What?" said Bobby, in drowsy astonishment. "Does God stay up all night?" —Life.

THEY MET AGAIN.

A Love Story Whose Truthfulness is Readily Perceivable. They stood together under the waving branches of a mighty elm on the banks of a singing brook one fair, sweet night in June. A calm and holy joy was in her fair young face—the joy that comes to a maiden loving and beloved. She looked up into his handsome face with such a proud, tender, trustful look. Her hand rested confiding in his; soft and low were the words she spoke—words no ear but his should hear. And he! Ah, me, and ah, me! Would that I could give to the face and the heart of every young man the calm, sweet, holy joy that face portrayed, that heart revealed in. He lived and loved. Life seemed like a summer sea before him. Ah, me, and ah, me! That ever storm should come, that ever rude blasts should assail, that ever hearts should break! Well, well, and again, I say, well, well! Lives and loves end every day, lives and loves like these. Lovers part to meet no more; hearts break and are forever sad. She spoke: "Adelbert," she sighed, her voice like the far away tinkling of evening bells, "and must this be? Must we, O Adelbert, must we be torn apart? O Adelbert, my poor heart will break!" "Contra, my sweet one, courage," he said, with trembling voice and quivering lips, "it shall not be for long. I go to the golden West to make a home, humble it may be, for me beautiful bride. Have courage, me life. We shall meet again." "Yes, yes, yes," she cried, quickly and passionately, "we shall meet again. O Adelbert, if it were not for that blessed assurance I should die, I should die! Heaven be praised, we shall meet again." One passionate, thrilling, joyous, manly, burning kiss on her white lips and he was gone, leaving her in a swoon on the banks of the murmuring stream under the tender light of the plying stars. He was gone! And he didn't come back. Various policemen, justices of the peace and county judges know why. The "golden West" seemed one or a dozen too many for him. A man who met him in Leadville ten years later said he was the toughest-looking old pill he ever saw in all the born days of his life. He had lived in six different mining camps and had married in each of them. The six deserted wives were too glad to get rid of him to make any fuss over his big-amistic irregularities. He was free to go back to his first love now if he would. After fifteen years he thought he would. And she? Had she been faithful? Had her heart broken? Was she lying under the daisies on the banks of that stream where first she told her love? Ah, me! We shall see! A woman, a great big woman, is bending over a wash-tub in a little back yard in an alley running between the streets of an Eastern city. She is doing out "a bit of washing" for her nine small children, while the husband backs on his back in the sunshine by her side. He is smoking; so is she. Four dogs lie at her feet. The nine children are "raising Cain" in the front of the house, but she heeds them not. A man is coming through the alley with a two-wheeled, shabby and uncertain cart and a shakier old blind horse. He is crying: "Bot-tels, bot-tels, bot-tels! R-a-a-gs, r-a-a-gs and bot-tels to buy! Bot-tels, bot-tels!" The woman hies quickly away to a barrel in a corner of the yard and fills her apron with empty bottles. "Here you!" she shrieks. "Here's!" She stops and looks at the man. He looks at her. There is recognition in both their faces. Heart pictures and memories are never effaced. "Well, I'll be darned," said he. "So 'll I," said she. They had met again. —Detroit Free Press.