THE DAILY RECORD-UNION.

TUESDAY.....DECEMBER 7, 1880.

SIX-PAGE EDITION

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

In New York yesterday Government bonds were quoted at 111½ for 4s of 1907; 101¼ for 5s of 1881; 110¼ for 4½s; sterling, $4 80@4 82½; silver bars, 111¾.

Silver in London yesterday, 51 13-16d; consols, 99 3-16; 5 per cent. United States bonds, 104½; 4s, 115¾; 4½s, 114¾.

In San Francisco half dollars are quoted at ½ discount to par; Mexican dollars, 90½ buying, 91 selling.

At Liverpool yesterday wheat was quoted at 9s 11d @10s 3d for good to choice California.

Mining stocks were quite active in San Francisco yesterday morning, but very irregular. Alta opened at $10, or $3 lower than the lowest Board price on Saturday, then fell to $9 75, rising to $10 at the opening of the second call, then dropping to $8 75, and finally closing at $9 50 at the regular morning call. Sierra Nevada rose $1 37½ from Saturday, Mexican $1 25, and most other Comstock shares from 5c to 75c above the best rates Saturday. Hale & Norcross dropped 50c.

Mr. Neate, a prominent citizen, died suddenly at Olympia, W. T., Sunday.

Duncan McNeil met with a horrible death Saturday at Comstock, Douglas county, Oregon.

John Dunn died of apoplexy in the city prison at Marysville yesterday.

Counterfeit dollars are circulating freely at Toronto

The Mount Shasta Grand Council of the Champions of Honor met yesterday at Shasta.

Duncan McRae, the wood contractor, has failed at Carson, Nev, for $50,000.

Seven men were fined from $500 to $1,000 at Carson yesterday, for fishing in Pyramid Lake.

Two steamers from Europe brought to New York yesterday $1,317,000 in gold.

A man was killed and two engines and a number of cars wrecked near Newark, O., Saturday.

A passenger on the west-bound express train killed himself yesterday the other side of Winnemucca, Nev.

The death of Madame Thiers is announced from Paris.

A bill was introduced in the House of Representative yesterday to cut down the President's salary to $25,000.

The Japanese Embassador to France is dead.

The Kurds have killed and wounded over 500 pilgrims to Mecca.

The increase in small-pox cases at San Francisco is so great that another enlargement of the pest-house will have to be made.

Congress assembled yesterday, and the last annual message of President Hayes was read, the full text of which will be found in this morning's RECORD-UNION.

With to day's paper a sixteen column supplement is issued, well filled with interesting and valuable matter.

CHINA AND THE OPIUM TRADE.

It is rumored that the new commercial treaty with China contains provisions in regard to the opium trade which promise to produce very important results for the Chinese. It is said that our Commissioners agreed to consent that this country should be prohibited from engaging in the opium traffic, the object being to effect a leverage for diplomatic action upon England. The latter country, as is well known, forced its Indian opium upon China at the cannon's mouth, in one of the most infamous wars ever engaged in by a nation pretending to be civilized. It is indeed by no means improbable that if there had been any considerable American traffic in opium our Commissioners would have hesitated to accept a condition of this kind. But fortunately we have no appreciable interest in the sale of that poison, and so we could afford to help China in outmaneuvering England. When the latter sees that the United States have consented to this prohibition she will be placed in a quandary. If then she insists upon the maintenance of her right to poison the subjects of the Pekin Government, she must put the matter nakedly upon the brutal ground of self-interest alone, and we do not believe that in the face of the outcry such a position would extort from the civilized world, her Parliament would dare to adhere to the proposition. If the United States in this indirect way succeeds in liberating China from the curse which the heathen rapacity of Christian England has fastened upon her, she will owe us a debt of gratitude which, as usual with nations, she will take care not to discharge. Virtue, however, being its own reward, this consideration ought not to be regarded as of any consequence.

THE CHRISTIANCY CASE.

The sensational episode which has just brought the Christiancy divorce case to a standstill certainly does not reflect any credit upon the late Minister to Peru. It appears that the whole case rested upon the affidavit of a hotel clerk to the effect that Mrs. Christiancy had occupied a room at his hotel with a person not her husband. And this clerk, being now confronted with Mrs. Christiancy in Court, declares that she is not the woman who was pointed out to him as Mrs. Christiancy, and that in fact he never saw her before. The singular fact about this is not that the clerk should have been mistaken, but that a suit for divorce should have been commenced upon no better grounds. It is impossible to believe that any care was exercised in examining the truth of the clerk's statement, for it now appears that he himself relied altogether upon the statement of somebody else, and had no personal knowledge of the identity of the lady whose character he nevertheless undertook to swear away. Mrs. Christiancy is to be congratulated upon this vindication of her fame, but hardly upon the probable failure of the scheme to separate her from a husband capable of so reckless and cruel an attack upon his wife's honor.

RUMORS ABOUT REFUNDING.

It is rumored that considerable difference of opinion exists among Congressmen in relation to the refunding bill which is now so peremptorily demanded. Secretary Sherman, it is believed, will propose a three per cent. long bond for the majority of the fives and sixes, and also a three-and-a-half per cent. short bond. Doubtless Mr. Sherman understands as well as any man in the country what prospect there is of floating securities at lower rates of interest than have yet been reached, and Congress is not likely to hit upon a more sagacious plan than that which his ripe experience suggests. That the fives and sixes can be refunded below four per cent. appears to be admitted beyond controversy, and the question of three long or three-and-a-half short, is really one more of simple arithmetic than anything else.

SHOULD BE STOPPED.

It appears to us that the hat-passing business in regard to General Grant ought to be stopped, if not by his real friends, then by himself. It is now stated that a sum of $100,000 has been collected and is about to be given to him. Surely he will not consent to accept such a gift? Whatever he stands in need of the country ought to supply, and we believe is willing to supply if it is properly approached. But this making of collections for his benefit is a kind of indignity which we should have thought him too proud to submit to, and those who admire him too intelligent to force upon him. It strikes us as a very sorry business, so far as it has gone.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The message of the outgoing President is usually of more consequence to him than of interest to the country. The faces of men are always set forward, and they desire rather to learn the policy and purposes of new rulers than to review the course of those who are about to withdraw from the scene of action. To the President himself, however, his final message is necessarily more than commonly important. He feels it proper and necessary to rehearse the measures of his administration, to offer suggestions for the use of his successor, and to make recommendations to Congress which his experience may approve. It may often be that the last messages of a conscientious Executive contain more pregnant and statesmanlike ideas than his earlier state papers, since after four years of government he certainly should be better prepared to discuss grave questions understandingly than when he entered office. In these times, however, it is very difficult for Presidents to offer the public anything new. The press and the department reports have always forestalled whatever of special interest the Government may have to communicate, before Congress meets, and the result is that unless the Executive be an original thinker his messages are apt to be tame, trite, and not a little superfluous. President Hayes has written at great length on this occasion, but a large proportion of his message is little more than a recapitulation of the statements and suggestions of the heads of departments, and as these have already been published and commented on, it would be a waste of time to notice them again. Naturally President Hayes devotes considerable space to the important subject of civil service reform. What he says of it is partly a vindication and partly an exposition. He of course adheres to the principles which he has so frequently expressed, and he intimates that though the progress already made in the line of reform has not been very encouraging, yet the results of what has been achieved are so striking as to afford a tangible basis for further and more vigorous effort. The country is by this time aware that President Hayes succumbed, in this regard, to circumstances which stronger men had previously been much more disastrously overthrown by. But while he failed to carry out the reform he had at heart, it must always be remembered to his credit that he refused to the last to acknowledge the supremacy of the political "bosses," and that he not only endured the ostracism by which they sought to punish him, with good-natured contempt, but succeeded in giving the country an administration entirely free from official scandals, and distinctly moral and elevated in tone. Whether his views upon Civil Service reform will bear fruit in the coming administration remains to be seen.

On the Southern question the President expresses himself hopefully, though as it seems to us, without sufficient grounds. He endeavors to persuade himself that the change in the political methods of that region from bulldozing to ballot-box stuffing is an advance in civilization, and he thinks that in its turn ballot-box stuffing will give place to better methods. We are afraid that the change in Southern methods is really attributable to the discovery that violence was unnecessary, since fraud would produce the same results with less scandal and noise. That there is any less disposition at the South to deny the negro his political rights we see no evidence. He is still disfranchised, and those who disfranchise him appear in no way inclined to abandon the power they have usurped. Mr. Hayes has, however, nothing to upbraid himself with in this connection. He took the only course which the Constitution left open to him, and those who find fault with his policy hold by implication that they would have favored unconstitutional methods.

The President is quite severe on Mormon polygamy, and urges upon Congress the duty of abolishing that institution. It is evident that he has not studied the question sufficiently, and that his ideas upon it are rather ecclesiastical than statesmanlike. It is not an easy matter to enforce laws which are obnoxious to a whole community, and this his Southern experience should have taught him. His recommendation that the Territorial Government of Utah be reorganized in order to give effect to Congressional legislation is not at all to the purpose. Any such policy would be sure to help Mormonism by lighting the flames of fanaticism, while it would merely confirm and intensify the devotion of the Mormons to plural marriages. The question is one to be dealt with in the most cautious manner. Violent methods can only make bad worse. It is quite possible that influences now in operation will destroy polygamy if they are suffered to work quietly, but no coercive measures can eradicate an evil so intrenched by superstition and self-interest.

The views of Secretary Schurz on the Indian question merit the approval of the President. He thinks that the wild tribes may be tamed and taught to cultivate lands secured to them by better titles than they have hitherto enjoyed. Whether the breaking up of tribal relations by legislation is practicable we are not prepared to say, but we think the experiment at once bold and dubious. We are glad to find that reference is made to the defenseless condition of the entire coast line, and that Congress is urgently recommended to make the necessary appropriations for fortifying our great sea-ports. Unless this is done, it may at any time become impossible to preserve the dignity of the United States against foreign insolence or aggression. Reference is made to the new Chinese treaties, but nothing new in regard to them is stated. The financial paragraphs are little more than partial indorsements of the recommendations made by Secretary Sherman, and, singularly enough, the silver question is not discussed. It is not necessary to make any special reference to the other topics discussed in the message.

THE RAILROADS AND THE THURMAN BILL.

The United States Supreme Court, by its decision on the constitutionality of the so-called Thurman bill, affirmed the right of the Federal Government to compel the Pacific Railroads to make provision for the payment of their debts before those debts had matured. It declared that Congress could take from the corporations so much of their earnings as was necessary to the establishment and maintenance of a sinking fund, and it held that these amounts could be collected annually or semi-annually, as might be thought most convenient. In taking this position the judicial and legislative departments of the Government necessarily committed themselves to the theory that the debtor corporations must be protected in the exercise of those functions by which alone it can be possible for them to meet the demands of Congress. It is perfectly clear that if the Government compels a corporation to pay a debt out of its current earnings, it is under obligation to protect its debtor in securing these earnings. It cannot permit a subordinate authority to interpose a scheme of "regulation" under which all guarantee for the receipt of any definite amount of earnings is destroyed. It cannot insist that the railroads shall make bricks without straw. In such a case every assault upon the earning capacity of the railroads is an assault upon its own interests, and it must guard those interests by the exercise of its power and prerogative. The Central Pacific Railroad has been threatened by the new Constitution of this State with the practical destruction of its wage-earning capacity. That instrument has created a tribunal, under the style and title of a Railroad Commission, which is clothed with authority whose full exercise would divest the corporation of every vestige of independence and self-help. It is empowered to fix schedules of charges for freights and fares without any reference to the business necessities of the corporation, and by direct implication it is required to adjust these schedules from the standpoint of the popular interest alone, which is equivalent to saying that the purchaser instead of the seller is to fix the price of the things to be sold. It is plain that the principle underlying this Railroad Commission is in complete contravention of the designs of Congress in passing the Thurman bill. That bill was based on the hypothesis that the then existing tariffs of charges would enable the companies to set aside a certain percentage of their earnings without injury to the interests they were compelled to conserve. It was conceived necessarily under the assumption that the *status quo* would be preserved, and its enactment devolved upon Congress and the Supreme Court the obligation of preserving and maintaining the conditions whose existence it assumed. But the State of California in adopting the new Constitution traversed the position of Congress. It decreed the creation of an entirely new condition of things as regarded the railroad. It acted without any consideration for the relations between the Federal Government and the corporation. It undertook to deal with the latter precisely as though it had been under no other than State control, and it proposed to regulate and control the resources of the company in the most arbitrary and despotic manner. In doing this it produced an issue between itself and the Federal Government, and one which the latter cannot afford to ignore or postpone.

If the State has the power to deal as it pleases with the earnings of the Central Pacific Railroad, it is perfectly clear that the United States can possess but the shadow of authority over the corporation. For it is apparent that the powers intrusted to the State Railroad Commission are of such extent that it could if it chose cut off the entire profits of the road. In that case the payments to be made to the Government under the Thurman bill could not be met. It would, however, be useless for Congress to complain of a state of things produced by powers wholly beyond the control of the corporation. It would have but one avenue of redress, and that would be by attacking the authority and jurisdiction of the State in the premises. That this course will be taken there can be no doubt, since not to take it would be to admit the supremacy of State over National authority. It may be presumed without rashness that the Supreme Court, which has showed so marked a jealousy for the maintenance of Federal supremacy in many instances of late, and which is in fact so deeply committed to a policy of centralization, and to the entire subordination, if not the entire abrogation, of State rights, will find it necessary to take the position here indicated when the case is brought before it. Any other position, indeed, would be in contradiction to the principles so clearly enunciated in the Chicago Elevator cases, and in the decision on the Thurman bill, and would obviously go far toward overthrowing that elaborate edifice of national sovereignty which has cost the Court so much labor during the past decade. It may therefore be almost taken for granted that the Supreme Court will hold the State Railroad Commission to be an unconstitutional body, at least in so far as the plenary power intrusted to it is concerned. It will probably decide that the State cannot delegate power the exercise of which may involve the defeat of Congressional legislation, and that it must, in undertaking the regulation of the railroads within its limits, confine itself to such reasonable and just provisions as will not endanger the revenues of corporations indebted to the National Government. This appears to be the inevitable line of reasoning in the case under discussion, and it is further evident that the Central Pacific Railroad Company is bound to urge the issue to adjudication, seeing that in the absence of any determination of the question it is practically situated between the upper and the nether millstone. The National Government says it must pay its debt. The State Government says it shall not be allowed to control its own finances. Under these circumstances there is nothing for it but to bring the conflicting authorities together, and obtain, as speedily as possible, the judgment of the supreme tribunal upon their relative powers in the premises.

SCHURZ ON THE TIMBER QUESTION.

Secretary Schurz in his report calls the attention of Congress to the rapid destruction of redwood and other timber in this State, and urges protective legislation as absolutely necessary to prevent the complete disappearance of the Big Trees. There can be no doubt that Congress ought to legislate in regard to timber generally, in a more intelligent and effectual manner than has yet been done. The destruction of the forests which clothe the Sierras is proceeding at a rate which in less than a generation must produce most serious ill effects upon the best interests of the State. In many places the demolition which is going on is not compensated by any new growths. Indeed where the acclivities are steep the action of avalanches renders a second growth impossible, and in this way preparations are being unceasingly made for the formation of torrents, and for the future destruction of valley lands by sudden floods. All these matters we have repeatedly discussed, but Congress has had too much political work in hand for several years to pay much attention to mere questions of practical legislation.

THREE ORIGINAL STORIES.

During the coming year, and commencing December 1st, the WEEKLY UNION *will publish three Prize Stories of California. The first, publication of which will commence in the first week of December, will be entitled, "The Ventures and Adventures of Charlie Gould." This is an intensely interesting story of the Stock-Gambling perio of California, and was written by Edward F. Cahill, of Los Angeles. The price of the* WEEKLY UNION *will be $2 50 per annum.*

A Chicago girl made an unsuccessful attempt at suicide by swallowing brimstone. Now, by chewing a little phosphorus, she ought to make a pretty good match.

COAST DISPATCHES.

SPECIAL TO THE RECORD-UNION.

CALIFORNIA.

Nice Question of International Law.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 6th.—The habeas corpus case of Clodomiro Cota came up in the Superior Court to-day. Cota was recently arrested under the extradition treaty with Mexico, charged with kidnaping, handed over to the custody of the Mexican Consul, and confined on board the Mexican gunboat now in the harbor. His friends obtained a writ of habeas corpus returnable to-day. A nice question of international law arose thereon, counsel for the Mexican authorities holding that the Court has no jurisdiction in the case, as a war vessel is legally part of the country to which it belongs. Counsel for Cota wished to have the commander of the gunboat imprisoned for refusing to produce Cota. In view of the delicacy of the case, the Court took the matter under advisement until to-morrow. Cota's friends claim that the charge of kidnaping is trumped up against Cota with a view of getting him into the hands of the Mexican Government, he having been engaged in the revolutionary movement against that Government.

The Mussel Slough Case—Small-Pox.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 6th.—In the Mussel Slough case nothing new was developed by the evidence offered in the afternoon, Robinson and L. Oppenheimer both testifying to facts previously adduced.

The increase in cases of small-pox is so great that additions have been made at the pest-house, notwithstanding which there are only five spare beds, and a still further enlargement must be made.

The Schroder Murder Trial

OAKLAND, December 6th.—The Court-room was again crowded this morning. When the outer doors were opened there was a rush of spectators to obtain seats. Those who could not get places to sit contented themselves with standing room.

Judge Green asked counsel engaged in the Schroder case about how long the trial would last.

Hall McAllister said he believed the testimony would all be in to-day, and he supposed the trial would end Wednesday evening.

The entire forenoon was taken up by the testimony of Dr. Meares, Health Officer of San Francisco, in reference to insanity.

When the Court-room doors were reopened at 1 o'clock there was another rush for seats, and very soon all the sitting and standing space outside the railing was pre-empted.

The defense recalled Sarah Gallagher, the servant girl in the Schroder family who testified on her first examination to so many interviews with Dr. Lefevre.

Mr. McAllister—In your previous testimony you said that you sent for Mr. Montgomery and told him that you did not want to be exposed. Did that relate to anything between yourself and Mr. Schroder? A.—No.

Witness also testified: "I was in St. Joseph's Convent, Sacramento, before I worked for Mrs. Schroder. I also worked in a convent at San Francisco."

The defense then closed.

The prosecution offered in rebuttal Schroder's evidence at the preliminary examination, to which the defense objected, and pending the argument the case was continued until to-morrow morning.

Weather Reports.

PLACERVILLE, December 6th.—Rainfall for the storm, 7.29 inches; for the season, 7.95 inches. Wind southeast, with prospects of more rain. Snow fell sixteen miles east last night.

SHASTA, December 6th.—Rain still continues to pour down. The rainfall to date is 6 3 inches. It is very cold, with the wind from the south.

PLYMOUTH, December 6th.—A strong wind is blowing from the southeast. The sky is overcast with heavy clouds, with indications of rain before morning.

Death in Prison.

MARYSVILLE, December 6th. — A man named John Dunn was received in the City Prison last evening and died during the night of apoplexy. Deceased was a native of Ireland, aged about 58 years, and was lately engaged on the levee work near Wheatland.

A Santa Barbara Phenomenon.

SANTA BARBARA, December 6th.—On Friday night, about 10 o'clock, a vivid flash of lightning was observed at Los Alamos, accompanied by the loudest peal of thunder ever heard in that region. People rushed out of their houses and heard a sound like the rushing of mighty waters, which, after a time, subsided. The next day for a few hours the Santa Ynez and Santa Maria rivers were swollen to a remarkable extent. Lesipe creek, in Ventura county, and Santa Ignacio creek, near Goleta, were also swollen enormously. The inevitable conclusion is that an immense waterspout burst in the Santa Inez mountains, north of Santa Barbara, which flooded all the streams heading in the vicinity.

Grand Council of the Champions of Honor.

SHASTA, December 6th.—The Mount Shasta Grand Council of the Champions of Honor convened at Shasta to-day, Grand Commander Aaron Bell presiding. Quite a large number of delegates from the subordinate Councils are in attendance.

Mojave Passengers.

MOJAVE, December 6th.—The following southern overland passengers passed Mojave to-day to arrive in San Francisco to-morrow: J. H. Strobridge, New Mexico; G. H. Walker, San Francisco; H. Light, Tombstone; T. F. Tracey, San Francisco; G. Smith, San Francisco; T. G. Jones, New York; C. C. Reynolds, Los Angeles; J. M. Rice, Globe; J. P. Lawger, Mrs. J. E. Weston, San Francisco; Jas. Conway, Benson.

NEVADA.

Passengers Passing Carlin.

CARLIN, December 6th.—The following passengers passed Carlin to-day, to arrive in Sacramento to-morrow: Miss M. J. Miles, Ohio; Mrs. E. S. Caldwell, Miss Jette Dillheimer, Mrs. M. E. Haerr, J. C. Weber, James W. Conrow, New York; S. Leach, Miss Hattie Leach, J. S. Waterman and wife, D. R. Jones, Illinois; Miss Louise Linter, St. Louis, Mo.; S. H. Brodie, San Francisco; D. C. Sparrow, Reno, Nev.; Miss M. Leaycraft, Canada; Mrs. E. Mayberry and family, R. Sherwood and family, California; Frank Eames, Oakland; Mrs. E. Clement, Carson City, Nev.; Mrs. Mary McGowan, Jersey City; Miss E la Chapman, Portland, Me.; W. S. Tuttle and family, Kentucky; Mr. Murit, Omaha; 39 emigrant passengers, including 33 males, to arrive in Sacramento December 8th.

A $50,000 Failure—Fined for Fishing.

CARSON, December 6th.—Duncan McRae, wood contractor, failed here to-day for about $50,000.

Seven men were sentenced to-day in the United States District Court for fishing in Pyramid Lake. The leader, J. S. Sturgeon, was fined $1,000, and the rest $500 each.

Suicide on the Cars.

WINNEMUCCA, December 6th.—The body of a suicide was brought in by the express train from the east this evening. He was a through passenger from New York, went into the water-closet of the car, placed a pistol in his mouth and killed himself. The body lies in the freight house awaiting the action of the Coroner. An examination of his effects show that he was a Polander, quite recently arrived from Europe. His name is Anton Ullinski. He was probably 55 or 60 years of age, and quite bald. He had a heavy grey beard. He was a tailor by trade, judging from his baggage, and had over $100 in coin and a list of bonds for a large amount, together with letters from bankers in New York. No cause is known for the act, as it could not have been from financial trouble.

OREGON.

Frightful Death—Weather—Suspension of Navigation.

PORTLAND, December 6th.—A man named Duncan McNeil, living at Comstock, Douglass county, was instantly killed yesterday. McNeil became entangled in the traces of a runaway team, and was dragged over 100 yards. His neck was broken, also several ribs crushed, and his body horribly mangled. Deceased was aged 53 years, and a native of England.

The temperature has greatly moderated here. A warm southern rain has prevailed during the afternoon and evening. The snow, which has fallen to a depth of a foot or more, is rapidly disappearing. The storm has not extended more than fifty miles south. Had the storm prevailed generally over the valley a heavy flood might be expected, and the warm rain will cause the snow to melt very rapidly. High water is anticipated in a few days, but as the Willamette is extremely low no damage will probably result. Reports from up the Columbia are very discouraging. At Umatilla this morning the thermometer stood at 6°. The temperature is very low at Wallula, Celilo, The Dalles and Cascades. At The Dalles and Cascades the snow is fifteen inches deep, and a heavy storm is prevailing. The Columbia is filled with floating ice from the mouth of the Willamette to the head of navigation. At the Dalles there is a tremendous block of ice clear across the river. Should the weather continue warm here the ice siege will not be raised and navigation resumed for a week or ten days.

Owing to the suspension of navigation mail communication is interrupted with all regions east of the Cascade mountains, and the depressing effects are felt on trade generally.

WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

Weather—Coasting—Sudden Death.

OLYMPIA, December 6th.—During the last 36 hours there has been a fall of 18 inches of snow. The weather is now moderating, and a slight rain is falling.

Coasting is all the rage here, although several casualties have occurred among those engaged in it.

Yesterday morning Mr. Neate, a prominent druggist of this place, died very suddenly. He went to his store and opened it as usual, but in a short time returned home, complaining of feeling unwell. A physician was sent for, but before his arrival Mr. Neate was dead. He has been for some time troubled with gravel, and has been in the habit of taking small quantities of chloral to deaden the pain, and the doctor thinks he in haste took too large a quantity, which caused his death. He leaves a wife and son.

A STORY OF THE WAR.

Joseph Wingfield, an ex-guardsman of Libby Prison, tells the following story of his experience while standing guard over the prisoners one night in Libby Prison in 1863: "The building was so crowded with prisoners that a large number of them were quartered in the second story of a building across the street. In the first story of this building the prison officers had stowed a large quantity of splendid, large, North Carolina sweet potatoes. About the third day after the prisoners had been placed in the building it was noticed that the potatoes were disappearing at the rate of about a bushel a day. At first it was thought that the rats had taken them, but a second thought showed that the idea was absurd. Sentinels were posted around the building, with orders to shoot any man caught stealing those potatoes; but they didn't see anybody to shoot, and, although they were posted there day and night, and no one was allowed to enter the room in which the potatoes were kept, they still continued to disappear. These potatoes at that time were considered luxuries, and the Confederate officers were nearly wild with rage at their repeated losses. The doors and windows of the room were sealed, and private marks were put on the wax. The next morning the officers went into the room. The wax was all right, but another bushel of potatoes had vanished. It was the maddest crowd you ever saw. They locked me in, and a lighted candle was put at each end of the room so that I could see. I was ordered to shoot on sight anybody that I saw stealing those yams. I was terribly lonesome in that room. Just as fast as I would light one candle and go to the other end of the room to light the other, the rats would cut the first one down. They were regular Confederate rats, and a candle was a godsend to them. About midnight I heard a creaking, grating noise. I cocked my gun and listened. The noise ceased, I could see nothing but the rats, and I began to think that the place was haunted. Presently the noise occurred again. I looked at the pile of potatoes, and presently saw something shoot from the ceiling and fall on them. I saw it was a brick, and could distinguish a rope tied to it. I crept a little nearer to get a good look at the thing, but before I could examine it, it was drawn slowly up, and there was about a peck of potatoes sticking to it. It went up through a hole which had been cut in the floor above, and presently came down again with a thump right among the potatoes. It was the most artful arrangement you ever saw. The brick had about fifty holes drilled in it, and through each hole a sharpened tenpenny nail had been run, so that when the brick fell among the potatoes these nails stuck into every one they fell on. I couldn't help laughing at the smart dodge those Yankees had taken. I gently put my hand forward and caught hold of the rope. Pretty soon they began to draw on it, and when it did not move I heard one fellow say: 'Steady, boys; the brick's hung in something. Pull her steadily without jerking.' They did pull steadily, and fairly lifted me from the floor. 'No jerk; easy, boys, easy,' the director said, and they tugged away. I got pretty red in the face holding to the rope. I was afraid to let go, because I thought some of those spiked nails might strike me in passing. I thought of my pocket-knife, and hauled it out just as they were putting all their weight on the other end of the rope. I cut it in two, and the end shot back through the hole in the ceiling, and I could hear a rolling and tumbling on the floor above, showing that the sudden giving way of the rope had had a disastrous effect. I heard another voice say: 'There, now, I told you so. You've broken the rope. We've lost our brick, and to-morrow we'll be found out.' Then another voice called out: 'Can't you see it? We might hook it up.' Next I saw a long neck protruding through the hole, and a fellow peering down. Then I called out: 'If you trouble any more of those potatoes I'll shoot.' That fellow's head shot back through that hole just like a terrapin, and it was as still as death up there. I hated to tell on them, because it was such a sharp scheme of foraging on the enemy, but I had to. When the officers went up the next morning to examine the room it took a long time to find the hole. Those Yankees had cut a hole about a foot square through the floor, and it was done so neatly that it took good eyes to discover it."

AN UNKNOWN TURNING-POINT.

In 1832 Dr. Wood was surgeon of a twelve-gun schooner, cruising in the gulf. A man-of-war of the existing Mexican Government committed an act of piracy upon a United States merchantman. The schooner captured the offender off Tampico, in view of five consorts. But the Captain of the Port of Tampico was a Baltimorean, a townsman of Dr. Wood, and was aboard his ship at the time. He was by a ruse de guerre decoyed aboard the schooner, and held there until the desired capture was completed. From that time till he met him in the City of Mexico, fourteen years later, Dr. Wood had not heard of his Tampico townsman. But, while on this perilous journey, this friend came up to the doctor in a hotel in the City of Mexico. They looked at each other; the recognition was instant and mutual. The Captain said, gravely:

"You took me prisoner once, and I have you now."

The Doctor was startled, but, affecting indifference, made some light reply. The Captain took him to his own room and told him he was disgusted with the Mexican Government, and would never take part against his own country. The streets of Mexico were rife with war news. Resaca de la Palma and Palo Alto had been fought, and Dr. Wood heard, with bitterness, the newsboys calling out exaggerated accounts of "Overwhelming defeat of the North Americans." But this Tampico Captain was an intimate friend of Torel, the Mexican War Minister, and he told Dr. Wood these accounts were false, published to deceive the people. The flower of the Mexican army had been annihilated by Dr. Wood's own life-long friend, Zachary Taylor. Surgeon Wood, through this channel, every night learned the discussions of the Mexican Cabinet, and received, as it were, from the Minister of War himself, the latest secrets of the campaign and of the national policy. All this information, together with his own observations, Dr. Wood promptly transmitted to Sloat, through the Mexican mails, under neutral cover. On the receipt of this, which at the time was characterized as "vital" and "all-important" information, Sloat himself put to sea, and joined the Cyane and Levant at Monterey, where, on the 7th of July, he raised the stars and stripes and formally took possession of California. Admiral Seymour arrived one day later, and was terribly chagrined to find that he had been outwitted, that American patriotism had been superior to his carefully laid plans, and that California was lost to Great Britain forever.—[C. E. S. Wood in the Californian.

HAMMER'S GLYCEROLE OF TAR, for coughs and colds, contains no opiates or astringents. The best preparation out for children.

HAMMER'S CASCARA SAGRADA BITTERS touches the right spot in dyspepsia, constipation and liver complaint.

HAMMER'S GLYCEROLE TAR.—The most perfect cough cure extant. Hundreds can testify to its good effects

HOLIDAY ISSUE.

Following the custom first established by this paper the RECORD-UNION will on the 1st day of January, 1881, issue a mammoth edition containing valuable statistics, business review of Sacramento, and interesting special articles.

The superior value of the New Year's issues of this paper is already so well known as to require no detail of the prospectus. The editions of this special issue have often reached 30,000 of the daily alone. All matter presented in the daily reappears in the WEEKLY UNION, thus receiving the widest and most general circulation.

The RECORD-UNION and WEEKLY UNION are the only papers published outside of the metropolis having a general circulation.

The WEEKLY UNION has over TEN TIMES the circulation of its local cotemporaries, and the largest and most general circulation of any weekly published on this coast.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Cider is so cheap in New Jersey that the Police Justices have reduced the fine on drunks to half a dollar.

The Detroit *Free Press* believes that the scenes of the new play, "Five Hundred Thousand Devils," are laid in Chicago.

In the ordinary walks of life you can perform civil service toward your fellow men without bringing in a bill for the purpose.

The trees are beginning to get their trunks in order, and they'll keep them so all winter, so they can leave early in the spring.

A man "out west" was offered a plate of maccaroni soup, but declined it, declaring that they couldn't play off any biled pipe-stems on him.

Spicer says he has almost forgotten about baseball terms now, but when he goes to the museum he cannot but think that R. M. is the right Field.

A medical writer asks: "Does position affect sleep?" Well, rather; if you're hung up by your trousers on a spiked fence, you won't sleep very soundly.—[Boston Post.

The Prince of Wales has won $75,000 on horse races. If he win or lose, it troubles him but little. In the former case, half a dozen of his subjects pay it; in the latter, all of them.

"Landlady," said he, "the coffee isn't settled." "No," she replied, "but it comes as near to it as your last month's board bill does;" and that man never spoke again during the meal.

It was not a bad comment on what some men call "business" that an old German made in New York. He said: "Der beeples go round der streets all day sheating each odder, and dey call it pizziness!"

"By Jove!" exclaimed Harry; "look at that girl! What color! She's the picture of health." Said Dick, who has learned to discriminate between nature and art, "A picture of health! A painting, you mean."

Emerson says a man ought to carry a pencil and note down the thoughts of the moment. Yes, and one short pencil, devoted exclusively to that use, would last some men we know about 2,000 years, and then have the original point on.

Everyone, at least once in his life, passes through the rapturous experience of the young man who, while sitting by the side of the lady of his choice, heard her heart beat so loud that he thought some one was at the door and cried out "Come in."

A Boston publisher announces: "Out of the Deep; Words for the Sorrowful." It is timely. A copy should be in the hands of every Democrat who voted for Hancock. There is not a more sorrowful lot of people in existence to-day.—[Norristown Herald.

New York belles are wearing the Zulu hat. It is hoped that they will not adopt the Zulu full dress. It would occasion remark, except at one of Queen Victoria's receptions. A Zulu full dress costs about twenty cents, and is cut extremely decollete at both ends.

Miss Florence Toole, the 14-year old daughter of the comedian, is described as the possessor of remarkable literary ability; and it is thought that her father will presently be able to get his pieces written for him at home. There's nothing like having the Tooles in the house when one wants to construct a play.

"It is understood that the New York Sorosis has decided that the cold shoulder be turned to Sarah Bernhardt."—[Ex. Bless you, dear girls, Sarah wouldn't mind cold shoulders if you did not wear more than a shoulder strap above your waist. If it was a question of cold feet now she might possibly object.

Dennis Kearney has retired from political life with the pathetic remark that he "is now compelled to seek a livelihood" for his family. Seek as far away as possible, Denny. It would break all our hearts to see you step down from your proud pedestal of rant and blasphemy to indulge in so vulgar a pastime as labor.

We notice in the Philadelphia *Times* a poem entitled "Another Autumn." If the editor of our esteemed contemporary had passed the autumn just closed in this city and read all the poems about it that came to this office he would never think of letting the tangle-haired brigade start in on another one at this season of the year.

"Yes, I am up to my ears in business," said Jones, swellingly. "Well, there's no danger you'll ever get over them, Jones; not a bit of danger," said Smith; at the same time putting his thumbs to the tops of his own ears and flapping his hands up and down like a loose casement in the wind. Jones wonders what the deuce Smith meant.

A lady correspondent wants to know if we can tell her in a brief space "the beautiful story of Lancelot and Elaine." We cannot; but we can tell you briefly the beautiful story of Santa Claus and Elaine. The mare won the first heat in 2:20, but lost the race through a break on the home-stretch. There was no horse called Lancelot in the race. You probably got things a little mixed.

A young man in a dentist's chair in Waterbury, Conn., fancied he was riding a bicycle, and forthwith striking out with great vigor, put each foot through a pane of glass in the window before him.—[Ex. And yet, while under the influence of the anæsthetic he probably felt no pane. [Richmond (Va.) Baton. Perhaps the young man imagined he was at a dance, and the prompter had just called out: "All sash, hey?"—[Boston Journal of Commerce.

The Buffalo *Express* wants to know who invented kissing. We don't think it was ever invented; it just came kind o' natural, like a shock of sugar-coated electricity. Our first mother, in her maiden innocence, asked Adam to tell her if her back hair was all right, and we presume he couldn't help it. We couldn't if we had been Adam, and the girl's mother away at a prayer meeting.—[New York Commercial. It only remains for the *Commercial* to tell who Eve's mother was, and what church she attended.—[Buffalo Express.

In the case of a gentleman wishing to marry—literally in the market with his heart—he wears a plain or chased gold ring upon the forefinger of his left (or heart) hand. When success attends his suit and he is actually engaged, the ring passes to the third finger. If, however, the gentleman desires to tell the fair ones that he not only is not "in the market," but he does not design to marry at all, he wears the sign upon his little finger, and all ladies may understand that he is out of their reach. This is important if true.

Prince Pierre Bonaparte, who was too crippled to witness his son Roland's civil wedding, writes from Versailles to the *Figaro*: "In your notice of the 7th of November of my son's marriage you omitted giving him the titles to which he has a right. Roland is Prince, Highness, and Monseigneur, as my daughter Jeanne is Princess and Madame. I count on your equity for inserting this letter, and assure you of my high consideration." Prince Roland, his wife and mother-in-law, after the civil ceremony, drove to Versailles to dine with Prince Pierre, who wept as Mlle. Blanc, the bride, begged him to regard her as an affectionate daughter.

REGULATE THE LIVER with Hammer's Cascara Sagrada Bitters, and health is the result.

MARRIED.

Sacramento, December 6—By Rev. H. H. Rice, Wm. Brewer, of Stockton, to Caroline Sparrow, of Sacramento.

Sacramento, December 2—By P. H. Coggins, Justice of the Peace, Walter Bernard to Carrie Walkins.

BORN.

Sacramento, December 6—Wife of J. T. Kagee, a son.

DIED.

Sacramento, December 6—Howard, youngest son of E. and E. Pait, 3 months and 7 days.

[Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, which will take place from the residence of Matheno Wood, No. 502 O street, between Fifth and Sixth, this Tuesday) afternoon at 3 o'clock.]

Sacramento, December 5—Friedrich Gotthold, 60 years.

[Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, which will take place from Turner Hall, K street, between Ninth and Tenth, this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.]

Near Freeport, December 5—Charles Neubauer (grandson of R. A. G. and Mary Gourlie), a native of California, 13 years, 3 months and 16 days.

[Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, which will take place from the residence of his grandfather, two miles below Freeport, this forenoon at 10 o'clock; thence to St. Rose's Church, where funeral services will be held at 12:15 o'clock.]

Florin, December 6—Mary E. Jackson, a native of New York, 23 years.

Plymouth, December 3—Mrs. Susannah Rodda, a native of Breage, Cornwall, England, 39 years.

Plymouth, December 3—Mrs. Mary Coleman, a native of Abersychan, Monmouthshire, Wales, 52 years and 25 days.

Mortality Report.

For the week ending December 4, 1880, made by W. C. FARNSWORTH,