

Weather Probabilities. WASHINGTON, December 29th.—For Pacific Coast region: Generally fair.

THE PRIZE.

The Holiday issue of the Record-Union, to be published Monday morning, January 1, 1884, will be sent at the Office at 20 cents per copy.

THIS MORNING'S NEWS.

In New York Government bonds are quoted at 107 for \$6 of 1897; 112 for \$4; 103 for \$3; 107 for \$2; 104 for \$1; 103 for \$1/2; 102 for \$1/4; 101 for \$1/8; 100 for \$1/16; 99 for \$1/32; 98 for \$1/64; 97 for \$1/128; 96 for \$1/256; 95 for \$1/512; 94 for \$1/1024; 93 for \$1/2048; 92 for \$1/4096; 91 for \$1/8192; 90 for \$1/16384; 89 for \$1/32768; 88 for \$1/65536; 87 for \$1/131072; 86 for \$1/262144; 85 for \$1/524288; 84 for \$1/1048576; 83 for \$1/2097152; 82 for \$1/4194304; 81 for \$1/8388608; 80 for \$1/16777216; 79 for \$1/33554432; 78 for \$1/67108864; 77 for \$1/134217728; 76 for \$1/268435456; 75 for \$1/536870912; 74 for \$1/1073741824; 73 for \$1/2147483648; 72 for \$1/4294967296; 71 for \$1/8589934592; 70 for \$1/17179869184; 69 for \$1/34359738368; 68 for \$1/68719476736; 67 for \$1/137438953472; 66 for \$1/274877907944; 65 for \$1/549755815888; 64 for \$1/1099511631776; 63 for \$1/2199023263552; 62 for \$1/4398046527104; 61 for \$1/8796093054208; 60 for \$1/17592186108416; 59 for \$1/35184372216832; 58 for \$1/70368744433664; 57 for \$1/140737488867328; 56 for \$1/281474977734656; 55 for \$1/562949955469312; 54 for \$1/112589991098624; 53 for \$1/225179982197248; 52 for \$1/450359964394496; 51 for \$1/900719928788992; 50 for \$1/1801439857777984; 49 for \$1/3602879715555968; 48 for \$1/7205759431111936; 47 for \$1/14411518862223672; 46 for \$1/28823037724447344; 45 for \$1/57646075448894688; 44 for \$1/11529215089779376; 43 for \$1/23058430179558752; 42 for \$1/46116860359117504; 41 for \$1/92233720718235008; 40 for \$1/18446744146470016; 39 for \$1/36893488292940032; 38 for \$1/73786976585880064; 37 for \$1/147573953171760128; 36 for \$1/295147906343520256; 35 for \$1/590295812687040512; 34 for \$1/1180591625374081024; 33 for \$1/2361183250748162048; 32 for \$1/4722366501496324096; 31 for \$1/9444733002992648192; 30 for \$1/18889466059852964384; 29 for \$1/37778932119705928768; 28 for \$1/75557864239411857536; 27 for \$1/151115728478823715072; 26 for \$1/30223145695764743144; 25 for \$1/60446291391529486288; 24 for \$1/120892582783058972576; 23 for \$1/241785165566117945152; 22 for \$1/483570331132235890304; 21 for \$1/967140662264471780608; 20 for \$1/193428132452894361216; 19 for \$1/3868562649057887224256; 18 for \$1/7737125298115774448512; 17 for \$1/154742505962315489024; 16 for \$1/309485011926230978048; 15 for \$1/61897002385246195616; 14 for \$1/123794004770492391328; 13 for \$1/247588009540984782656; 12 for \$1/495176019081969565312; 11 for \$1/990352038163939130624; 10 for \$1/1980704076267878612512; 9 for \$1/3961408152535757225024; 8 for \$1/7922816305071514450048; 7 for \$1/1584563261014302890096; 6 for \$1/3169126522028605780192; 5 for \$1/6338253044057211560384; 4 for \$1/12676506081115443120768; 3 for \$1/25353012162288886241536; 2 for \$1/50706024324577772483072; 1 for \$1/10141204864915554966144.

THE QUESTION OF FREE TEXT-BOOKS.

Among the subjects discussed by the California Teachers' Association, now in session at San Francisco, is that of free text-books. This plan is the natural outgrowth of the scandalous text-book contests waged by several publishing houses, and at such expense, that it became a question that the business of furnishing text-books was entirely profitable, and a suggestion showed that it was a kind of business in which the most extravagant charges were possible, and in which the public were made to pay more than their share.

GAMBLETT'S ILLNESS.

It appears from the latest dispatches that Gamblett's illness is much more serious than was at first supposed. In fact the symptoms disclosed seem to be those of peritonitis, which is almost always fatal. Gamblett, too, is a most full habit of body, and therefore liable to be taken hold of by inflammatory affections very severely. Should he die at this time, French would perhaps be thrown into some confusion, but it does not follow that the future of the republic will be injured by learning to shift its proper responsibilities and burdens upon the State. And it is necessary further to have a clear understanding of what is meant when the phrase "free text-books" is used. When loosely employed this phrase is very apt to convey the impression that under the proposed plan the books would not cost the people anything. But this is obviously an illusion. The State can no more obtain text-books for nothing than individuals can. And whatever the State expends for it or anything else, must come out of the pockets of its taxpayers.

PLAYING THE PRIZE.

France is about to pay 25,000,000 francs for the occupation of Tunis. This is but a part of the total cost of the Tunis expedition, which the Ministry assured the Chamber would not exceed four millions of francs at the outside. The republic was plunged into this unfortunate affair through the vanity and ambition of Roostain, its cousin at Tunis, who had become the lover of a prostitute woman, whose husband had been killed in the war.

A PROPER CONVICTION.

Smith, the man who murdered his son, and then described the deed to a divine in the street, and was sentenced to prison for life. This is a proper disposition of the man. The evidence all went to show that he was not insane, but that even if he was insane he would have been guilty of the crime.

SAN FRANCISCO ITEMS.

There are eight local fire and marine insurance companies in this city, and all but one of the San are on a dividend-paying basis. Patrick Curran died suddenly yesterday of hemorrhage of the lungs, at the Receiving Hospital, where he had applied for treatment.

Fit John Porter's Violation.

John Porter, in respect to the violation of the Twenty-second Regiment and the Twenty-third Regiment, was sentenced to a month's imprisonment for each of the offenses.

PARIS, December 29th.

There are about a dozen street railroad companies in active operation in this city, and at least a dozen more have been proposed, work on three of which have been actually commenced. Two of these, however, are connected with branches of existing lines.

THE CHIMNEY DANGER.

Vienna, December 29th.—The danger from the rising Danube is increasing. The water level has risen to such an extent that the city is in danger of being inundated.

Gambetta's Condition.

Paris, December 29th.—The condition of Gambetta is still alarming, and his friends no longer deny that his state is critical.

MASSOBY IN "EARLY DAYS."

Among those present at the installation of the new officers of California Lodge, No. 1, was a man named Massoby, who was known in "early days" as a member of the lodge.

Galena (Ill.) December 29th.

A telegram received yesterday from St. Louis, Mo., advised that the late Senator James H. Lane had died at that city.

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HOME AND ABROAD.

Deadly combats by Vienna.—A sister of the late Emperor Franz Joseph, the Duchess of Braganza, died at Vienna.

DOMESTIC NEWS.

The Jeannette Disaster.—De Long's report, which was published in the Standard, has been widely discussed.

WOMAN-GOD BLESS HER.

Tallahassee (Fla.) December 29th.—At a meeting of the Florida Legislature, a woman named Mrs. J. M. ...

Both Accidents.

Pottsville (Pa.) December 29th.—At the junction of the Pottsville Iron Company's line with the Erie Railroad, a train ...

Three Children Drowned.

Boston, December 29th.—Five children were drowned in the city of Boston, ...

Infant Train-Wreckers.

Meriden (Conn.) December 29th.—Two infants were killed and a year-old boy ...

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GENERAL NEWS.

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