LOYAL WOMAN'S WORK

The Household, Conversation Club, Puzzles, etc.

The Happy Household.

NEW YEAR'S SONG.

(Dedicated to the H. H. and C. C. by the Editor.)

GOOD-BY, OLD YEAR.

Good-by, good-by,
Old year, good-by!
The bells are sadly pealing;
For all the dead
Unnumbered
The fount of tears unsealing.
Good-by, old year!

Good-by, good-by,
Old year, good-by!
The bells are slowly pealing;
For hope that lies
No more to rise
Unto our vain appealing.
Good-by, old year!

Good-by, good-by,
Old year, good-by!
The bells are softly pealing;
For life will last
Though joy be past
Beyond our utmost feeling.
Good-by, old year!

WELCOME, NEAR YEAR.

Welcome, New Year,
Bright, budding year!
The bells are blithely ringing;
For with the morn
New hopes are born.
Welcome, New Year!

Welcome, New Year,
Glad, golden year!
The bells are bravely ringing;
O heart, be strong,
Take up the song:
Welcome, New Year!

Welcome, New Year,
Brave, beauteous year!
The bells are loudly ringing;
Beneath its skies
Is Paradise.
Welcome, New Year!

—Kate Brownlee Sherwood, December, 1888.

BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY TABLE.

How lovely the New Year's table will be. No more stacks of fruit, high stands of cakes and big vases of flowers and greens to hide your friends across the table from your view.

Pure white linen, with sprigs or sprays of evergreen before the plates, or a few cut flowers, and then flat dishes, with your fruits and viands.

Even cakes-basket are discarded; plush and velvet decorations have had their day; colored glass is on the wane. Whiteness white, with gleaming crystal and a few bright flowers or holly berries thrown in the center of the table, is a pleasant revolution in the laying of the cloth.

After all, what was prettier than the old-fashioned white table, with its glossy linen and golden fare? Welcome its return and a feast of good things for the Happy Household, all the year round.

RECIPES WORTH TRYING.

HAPPY HOUSEHOLD: Here are some recipes worth trying:

Queen of Puddings: One pint of bread-crumbs, one quart of sweet milk, yolks of four eggs, piece of butter size of an egg. Flavor and bake. Beat the white of an egg to a froth, with a cup of pulverized sugar. Spread over the pudding a layer of jelly, pour the eggs over and brown slightly. Serve with cream.

Cocoanut Cake: One-half cup butter, two eggs, two cups sugar, three cups flour, one cup sweet milk, two teaspoonfuls baking powder. Bake in layers and put together with frosting and grated cocoanut. This can be used for jelly-cake.—Mary Butcher, Murphysboro, Ill.

Editor's Chat.

The Editor acknowledges the photograph of Mr. J. W. Lauterman, Wetzell, Mich., and his pretty little C. C. wife. It has been placed in the C. C. album.

Maude Miller: All the members of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE families who send on their names, either to commend or contribute, are enrolled in the C. C. Find your name.

Edgar L. Stevens, Goshen, Wyo. Ter., quotes Swinton's Spellers as authority for the abbreviations "Wy. T. for Wyoming Territory and Wn. T. for Washington Territory." Certainly, if the names are not written out, such distinctions should always be made.

Conversation Club.

Rules of the Club.—1. Write briefly. 2. Write only on one side of the paper. 3. Write to the point. 4. Write on one subject. 5. Write your best. 6. Send answers to all puzzles for use of Editor. Each week the names of those writing the best letters—style, composition, spelling, penmanship and general merit considered—will be named at the head of this column on the Honor Roll. First honor will include all of these requirements. Second honor will include a deficiency in some one point. No others will be named.

HONOR ROLL—BEST LETTERS.

First Honor—Ernest Lincoln, Hingham, Mass.
Second Honor—A. L. Earlcourt, Walla Walla, Wn. Ter.

SEARCHERS AND SOLVERS.

James E. Alger, Swampscott, Mass., 9; Mabel C. Giddings, Thornton's Ferry, N. H., 8; Mamie C. Burke, Rosebush, N. Y., 6; Mary Dawn Petty, Castleton, Vt., 9; Ina M. Kepner, Marengo, Iowa, 3; H. B. Young, Rosecrans, Ill., 7; Lenne Morrow, Stark, Ill., 1; Annie L. Williams, Saugus, Mass., 7; E. M. Tinkham, Springfield, Mass., 8; Eva E. Grate, Oceanside, Cal., 9; Will H. Sheahan, Westminster, Md., 4; Minnie O. Hyer, Springfield, O., 4; Lois Gaskill, South Wilson, N. Y., 5; Maude Miller, Alpha, Mo., 2; Edgar L. Stevens, Goshen, Wy. T., 4; Belle Meskie, Lynn, Mich., 1; Carrie Skeel, Lostant, Ill., 8; Edna Brophy, East Dorset, Mass., 2; John W. Barr, Solitude, Ind., 5; Lulu M. Black, Pawiet, Vt., 3; James A. Wray, Loradoville, Pa., 2.

OUR ROLL CALL—GREETINGS.

Edwin H. Hayman, Parsonsburg, Md.; Lizzie S. Meley, Swedesboro, N. J.; Anna M. Combs, Box 37, Hanoverton, O.; William R. Dutenhaver, S. of V., Dell Roy, O.; Ina L. McDavitt, Vineland, N. J., daughter Co. K, 19th Mass., later Lieutenant, 4th H. A.; Maud Miller, Alpha, Mo., daughter of Dr. T. H. B. Miller; Cora Gray, veteran's daughter; Edna Brophy, East Dorset, Mass.; Benny Luke, 12, son 131 Ohio, New Bedford, O.; Amy Larimer, Rolcy, D. T.; Lizzie Taggart, Cascade Canyon, Conn., daughter Co. I, 63d Ohio; Sadie Depue, California, Mich.; Lou O. Arthur, Box 1, Good Hope, O.; Geo. E. Miller, Box 47, West Toledo, O., belongs to Toledo Cadets and goes to Harrison's Inauguration; James A. Wray, Loradoville, Pa., son Army Potomac veteran. Total, 5,323.

BIRDS OF KANSAS.

FRIENDS OF THE C. C.: Some one wrote to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE and said that in western Kansas there are no song birds but the meadow-lark, which, no doubt, is the case where she lives; but here we have little brown birds with light breasts. They are something like the snowbird. I do not know what they are called. They do not sing very much, but they have such pretty voices I think they deserve mention. They stay here all year. Among the birds that do not sing are the bald and bronze eagles, and five kinds of hawks; some of them have beautiful plumage. We also have an occasional visit from the cranes; most of them are gray. We have seen a few robins and catbirds, but they are not common.—Lilla Belle Strain, Kepple, Kan.

C. C. NEW YEAR'S HYMN.

Another year approaches,
And as our heart are glad
Let us as we remember Jesus,
Who for us hath died.

In the morning as the sunbeams
Light the earth with golden light,
List! the angel voices singing
"Jesus is the Light."

In the evening as we're kneeling,
And our hearts with love o'erflow,
Let us thank our Heavenly Father
For the blessings here below.

—M. R. Winter.

INVALID-CHAIR FUND.

FRIENDS OF THE C. C.: As Harry Mundy, Secretary of the Invalid-Chair Fund, cannot notify you as quickly as I can of the new contributions, I take the liberty of sending names of those received up to Dec. 12: Cora Avery, Litchfield, 50c.h., 25 cents; Maggie Sutter, Sharpsburg, Pa., 20 cents; Belle Clifton, Brookfield, Neb., 10 cents; G. E. Fisher, Londonville, Va., 25 cents; Frank Jones, Watts P. O., O., 10 cents; Emmie Macurda, Lisbon, Mc., 10 cents; Capt. S. M. Henderson, Concord, Ill., 25 cents; Mrs. Carrie Briggs, Canton, Mass., 10 cents; Effie Smith, Big Plain, O., 25 cents; Wm. Smith, Big Plain, O., 10 cents; J. Squires, Big Plain, O., 5 cents; Maggie Beatson, Rockville, Ill., 10 cents; Simeon Waite, Myrtle, Minn., 20 cents; Minnie Roe, and Artie Roe, Plymouth, Neb., 25 cents each; Florence Underhill, Winooski, Wis., 10 cents; Mrs. Ali Gittings, Green Springs, O., 50 cents, and Carrie and Fred Candee, Georgetown, Colo., 25 cents from their Christmas savings; making a total of $3, which, added to the total in Harry's last account, makes $24.35.—Annie L. Williams, Treasurer of Chair Fund.

ILLNESS IN THE C. C.

Bertha E. Edwards, Chicago, Ill., and teacher in Room No. —, Sacred Heart School, Chicago, writes of the illness of Viola E. Smith, a C. C. member, of diphtheria, and says: "She is very poorly, but we pray for her recovery, as we miss her kind and loving spirit from among us. Her schoolmates and I have learned to love her."

Frank L. Hollenbaug, Shelby, O., sends the sad news of the illness of a C. C. favorite, Eva T. Pryor, of Providence, R. I., of typhoid fever. Eva was taken ill Nov. 24. Frank pays her this touching tribute, and asks the sympathy of the C. C. for her afflicted parents, which we know will be given in unstinted measure: "Eva is a beautiful, accomplished and gifted young lady, a great lover of the beautiful in art, nature and literature, and an enthusiastic admirer of the poets, and is herself a poetess. Through the kindness of her mother I have had the pleasure of reading several poems from her gifted pen, and should she live, I would not be surprised some day to see her name rank side by side in the world of letters with those of the brilliant Cary sisters, or Ella Wheeler Wilcox, whose poems she so greatly admires, or our own dear C. C. Editor, whose grand and beautiful poems so many of us have read and enjoyed."

AN ALASKAN ADVENTURE.

FRIENDS OF THE C. C.: After an absence of nearly a year from your midst, I am with you once again. Since my disappearance from among the members of the C. C., I have had quite an abundance of experience in the far-off Territory of Alaska.

Last November (1887) I joined a party of explorers, sent out for the purpose of gaining more information relative to the natural productions of Alaska, as well as to ascertain the adaptability of organizing a colony for the cultivation of the interior portion of the Territory. We landed at Sitka, situated on an island, on the 28th day of November, and from there proceeded to the mainland in a small boat. The coast abounds in islands, most prominent among which Queen Charlotte Islands claim attention.

The climate at Sitka presents no great extremes, being an average Summer range of 51°, and Winter range of 32°. Four degrees below zero is the lowest range noted for the past 45 years, the equable temperature being due to the warmth of the Pacific Ocean, but the country back from the coast is an ice-clad region for eight months in the year, the cold being too intense to be noted except with a spirit thermometer.

Along the coast a rank growth of wild and tame grasses is universal, and a rich variety of berries common to the northern portion of the United States. The surface of the country is broken by mountain ranges whose peaks attain immense hights, that of St. Elias being 19,500 feet, the highest in the United States.

Coal is found along the coast, and there are signs of petroleum. Gold has been found in a few paces, and iron in a great many.

The purpose of our expedition, however, was a failure; but, taking all things into consideration, we had a very pleasant trip, and I would advise any ambitious parties who are bent on exploring or delving into the bowels of the earth for curios to pay Alaska a visit, and they will be amply rewarded for the loss of time and money expended.

If there are any scientific members of the Club who desire to be further enlightened in regard to Alaska, I shall be pleased to respond to any and all inquiries regarding that portion of our possessions. Would like to hear from some of the young ladies of Pennsylvania, as I was born in the Keystone State.

I heartily indorse the circulating library, and would be pleased to hear from the founders of same for information, as I have quite a collection of books on hand, and could thereby derive considerable benefit from them by turning them over to the library.—A. L. Earlecourt, Walla Walla, Wn. Ter.

A WRECK AT SEA.

FRIENDS OF THE C. C.: Thinking some of the C. C.'s who live away from the seashore would like to hear a description of a shipwreck, I have tried to give a faithful account of one I saw last Tuesday.

After the storm of Nov. 25 and 26, word reached here that three ships were wrecked at Nantasket Beach, about four miles away. I was not able to go there till Tuesday noon, and then the waves had subsided considerably, but still it was terribly rough. After a pleasant (?) ride of half an hour in a pouring rain, with bad railway up to the hubs, we reached the head of the beach. What only a few days before was a nice hard road was now covered with stones, from the size of an apple to that of a football, worn perfectly round by the waves, and finally tossed up there, at least 80 yards from where the high-water mark usually was.

After passing some other damages done by the storm, such as piazzas swept away and two houses actually rolled up on one end, we climbed Atlantic Hill, and right before us was the wreck. The ship, a three-masted schooner, had struck hard and fast on the rocks, at low tide, and as the tide was about two hours high when I got there, it was nearly all under water. The bow and one rail were out of water, and all three masts were standing, which caused one of our party to exclaim, while we could only see the masts, not having climbed high enough to perceive her deck under water, "I don't think she is injured much." But one glance after reaching the top of the hill told to the most inexperienced eye that the noble ship would soon fall to pieces. She lay with her bows on to the sea, every wave of which would sweep over her bowsprit and bury her completely, except her tall masts, which arose apparently from the very depths of the sea. All of her topsails were lashed securely against the masts; her other sails were blown to pieces or else missing entirely.

Two booms were in the water at the ship's side, still held from getting loose by some ropes that were dragging from the ship. The sea tossed these great spars about as if they were no more than straws. In the cross-trees of the fore-mast lay one of the poor sailors, who had died from exposure, and his comrades had lashed him there; but in the excitement of their rescue, which was accomplished by the Life-saving men, no one thought to lower him down. Now his legs could be plainly seen hanging over the edge of the cross trees.

The boards at the stern were all knocked off by the force of the waves, and the whole beach was sprinkled with debris. The people said they expected her to go to pieces at any moment, but she was still there Nov. 30. At that high tide she rocks from side to side so that her masts nearly touch the water.

A very few minutes spent in looking at such a scene make us realize more forcibly than anything else I know of, how feeble and insignificant are the works of man in comparison with those of God.

Had the ship struck 100 yards either to the right or to the left, she would doubtless have been saved, with little or no injury.

We afterward visited the other two wrecks, but one was not damaged at all, and neither one of them made such an impression on us as the wreck of the C. H. Higginson.—Ernest E. Lincoln, Hingham, Mass.

TO EXCHANGE—WANTED.

To Exchange: Twenty Indian arrowheads for best offer.—H. B. Young, Rosecrans, Ill. New telephone. Six numbers for Webster's Dictionary; novels with the C. C.—C. C. Cole, box 45, St. Mary's, W. Va. Plush photograph case for best photograph by Feb. 15; embroidered hat-lining for best cabinet photograph of gentleman.—Mary Butcher, Murphysboro, Ill. Two pair five-prong, black-tail deer for best offer.—A. R. Kelsey, Hotchkiss, Mont. Dark lantern, hand force-pump, charts of Presidential candidates for best offer, or reading-matter. —D. C. Harman, Davis, Pa. No. 5 shoe pattern for 12 silk or velvet pieces.—Mrs. Frank M. Hunt, Reedtown, O. Books, papers or sensbells for "Capturing a Locomotive" or "Si Klegg."—W. R. Smith, Box 34, Coyville, Kan. Eighteen carat gold ring for best photograph of young lady by Feb. 1; my photograph to all sending.—James E. Gates, Louisville, W. Va. Fine plush album for best photograph by Feb. 1; my photograph to all sending. —James Freeman, Louisville, W. Va. Photographs for the same.—Susie De Witt, Dixon, O. *Century Magazine for Scribner's;* letters with young ladies. —Eugene Cole, Wilsey, Kan. "Flowers of St. Petersburg" for "The Tempest."—Ina M. Merrill, Sanford, Me. Yucca filimentosa and western Kansas cacti for flower seeds, cinnamon vine or bulbs.—Lilla Belle Strain, Kepple, Kan.

Wanted: The C. C.'s know that my address in future is Will H. Sheahan, care Francis Stiver, 146 West Main street, Westminster, Md. To know why Marcell Hatch does not return autograph. —Eva E. Grate, Oceanside, Cal. The C. C. to know I am to remove with my parpents to Washington Territory.—Eugene Cole, Wilsey, Kan. Samples of darned lace.—M. C. Giddings.—Thornton's Ferry, N. H. The helpless and invalid to know that by sending a stamp to Charles Talimadge, Mendon, N. Y., they can learn all about the invalid-lifter, which I would not do without for worlds.—Quincy J. Drake, Brighton, N. Y. Songs, "Old Black Joe," "Katie Lee and Willie Gray," "The Letter that Never Came"; letters from the C. C. and recipe for cottage pudding.—S. E. Smith, Jack Knife River, Minn. "The Dying Californian."—Lou O. Arthur, Box 1, Good Hope, O.; James Freeman, Louisville, W. Va. The C. C. to know my address is Eureka, Ill., not Kansas.—Minnie Brant, Box 44.

Letters: With the C. C.—C. C. Cole, Box 45, St. Mary's, W. Va.; Hattie Marlow, Belle Center, O.; Walter E. Gray, Box 461, Woonsocket, R. I.; Wm. R. Dutenhaver, Dell Roy, O. With gentlemen.—Pearl Agnue, Limeville, Ky.; Dell Agnue, Limeville, Ky.; Della Ripley, Box 56, Fremont, N. H.

Prizes Offered: Five prizes, for best photograph, second best photograph, best sketch, best painting on plush or velvet, and longest list of words beginning with C.—Lizzie Matthews, Trenton, N. J. Prize for best photograph by Jan. 25, 1889.—Bert H. Hotham, Edmund street, Pittsburg, Pa.; not now, but to be a teacher.

Postal autographs with the C. C.—Della Ripley, Fremont, N. H.; M. O. Hyer, Box 526, Springfield, O. With young ladies in California or Ohio.—Edwin H. Hayman, Parsonsburg, Md. With 12th N. J. C. C. friends.—Lizzie S. Meley, Swedesboro, N. J. With sons and daughters of veterans of Co. E, 8th Iowa Cav. or Co. G, 22d Iowa.—Lucy Lorimer, Robey, Dak. With sons and daughters Co. H, 65th Ohio.—Mary E. Allison, San Rafael, Cal. With soldiers' sons and daughters, 14 to 17.—Minerva D. Wagner, No. 532 North Main St., Manchester, N. H. With ladies, 16 to 18, Geo. E. Miller, Toledo Cadet, Box 47, West Toledo, O.

The Curious Corner.

[Answers to questions will not be published within two or three weeks after questions appear. So all will have a chance to send replies and receive honorable mention with the number answered.]

Martin Van Buren was called "The Little Magician." Daniel Webster was known as "The Expounder of the Constitution."

The motto of Massachusetts is "Ense petit placidam sub libertc quietam," or "With the sword she seeks quiet peace under liberty."

The Hoang Ho River is called "China's Sorrow," because of its destructive effects.

Italy is known as "The Garden of Europe." Copenhagen, in Denmark, is the "Merchant's Haven."

Quito, in Ecuador, South America, is the only city on the Equator.

1. What is the motto of Missouri?—Mabel C. Giddings, Thornton's Ferry, N. H.

2. Who were the seven champions of Christendom?—Eva E. Grate, Oceanside, Cal.

3. What was the 21st rule, House of Representatives, 1840 to 1844?—E. M. Tinkham, Springfield, Mass.

4. Who is said to be the founder of the Democratic party?—Cora Gray.

5. What city is sometimes called "The City of Masts?"—Eva E. Grate, Oceanside, Cal.

6. What was the first book published in North America?—Arthur O. Sisson.

7. How many varieties of cacti are there, and where found?—May Russell, Rodman, Iowa.

8. What is the origin of the American Flag?—Fred Taylor.

BIBLE BRIGADE.

The town clerk is spoken of in connection with the Ephesian riot, stirred up against Paul.

It is supposed the millennium is referred to in Rev., 20:2.

Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt because she turned toward Sodom when the family was warned to flee.

1. Who was Luke? Was he an Apostle?—James Geddes, Pittsburg, Pa.

2. To what is the New Jerusalem likened?—Sarah Manning, Wheeling, W. Va.

3. To what is the evil one likened in the Scriptures?—Mary Morrison, Columbus, O.

BRAIN-RACKERS.

[TO CONTRIBUTORS: In sending answers name No. of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE in which the puzzle is found. Answers of guessers may be forwarded within a week after receiving this TRIBUNE. Do not make numerical enigmas of your own names. Answers must accompany all puzzles forwarded.]

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES IN TRIBUNE DEC. 6.

Changeable Charades—Mat, sun—Matson.
Charade—Adamant.
A Poet—Longfellow.
To Clarence W. Bowers—Keepsakes.
A C. C. Puzzle—Loyal Woman's Work.
A Wise Enigma—A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.
Green Mountain Jewel Casket—Sapphire, opal, garnet, ruby, rhinestone, diamond, carbuncle, tiger's-eye, emerald, pearl, onyx, goldstone, cameo, turquoise.
River Enigma—Potato.

TRUTHFUL TANGLE.

Veil ot mose porusep; kema yht flie
A fitg fo suc ot heet,
A yoj, a dgoo, a lodegn pohe,
A vehnaiye gyaors.
—Minnie A. Preston, Charlotte, Mich.

A C. C. REQUEST.

Who will write a letter,
The nicest you can write,
To a C. C. member?
To exchange compliments is right.

You may write upon a postal,
But your autographs I'd like;
With a letter long before them,
Would to me be pleasure bright.

Take a word from each line in the order they come, and you will have a popular C. C. request (and I intend it for a request), which I hope you will all comply with.—Tennie Wiar, Armour, Dak.

DECEMBER ENIGMA.

In ice and snow, firelight's glow,
Stockings hung up in a row;
Time, midnight, visions bright
Fill the youthful dreamer's sight.
Scrambling noise—Santa Claus
Steps forth from the chimney's jaws;
Sees the hose, quickly goes
And fills each till it overflows.
Then he grips his pack, tips
His cap, and up the chimney skips.
Whole is here, once a year,
Bringing blessings and good cheer.
—Annie Walter.

ENIGMA.

(To John Fox, jr.)

Am composed of 9 letters:
My 1, 8, 3, 9 are useful conveyances.
6, 2, 4, 5 is a pronoun or adjective.
7 is the 13th letter of the alphabet.
My whole is a Winter event, which we all enjoy.
—Carl M. Kepner, Marengo, Iowa.

TIMELY GREETINGS.

1 and 2 is in the parting rhyme;
3 and 4 is in the merry Christmas time.
5 and 6 is in the young cannoneer,
7 and 8 is in the Hindoo's fear.
9 and 10 is in our progressive C. C.,
11 and 12 is in the spreading elm tree.
13 and 14 is in searchers and solvers bold,
My whole to both young and old.
—Arthur O. Sisson, Redfield, Dak.

An Interesting Volume.

We are in receipt of a bound copy of Ayer's Almanac for 1889, embracing editions in 10 languages. Specimen pages of pamphlets in 11 other tongues are also included, some of them being very curious and interesting, especially those in Turkish, Hawaiian, Burmese, and Chinese, which we have not yet had time to peruse. The accuracy of the astronomical calculations, as well as the other tabulated matter contained in this work, commends it to all in need of a valuable and reliable almanac. The annual issue of Ayer's Almanac is about fourteen millions—far exceeding that of any other work of the kind.

A Holiday Number.

The New York *Mirror*, the leading dramatic paper of the country, has published a splendid Christmas number, with artistic cover, fine chromos and single colored pictures. It is published at the corner of Fifth avenue and Twenty-first street, New York.

A Long-Lost Document.

Nearly 27 years ago Capt. Benjamin F. Hawkes had sent to him from the War Department at Washington the following letter:

SIR: I herewith forward your commission of Assistant Adjutant-General of Volunteers with the rank of Captain, your receipt and acceptance of which you will please acknowledge without delay, reporting at the same time your age and residence, and the State where born. Fill up, subscribe, and return as soon as possible, the accompanying oath, duly and carefully executed.

Your obedient servant, JULIUS P. GAUTSCHE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Inclosed with it was a sheet of parchment containing the commission signed by President Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. The commission never reached him, but he assumed the office and discharged his duties until promoted to a higher position, in which he continued to the end of the war. Last week the letter was discovered in the archives of the War Department and turned over to him, to his great pleasure, as a commission signed by these distinguished officials is a precious souvenir.

THE REGULAR ARMY.

Rapid Growth of the New Society.

The notice of the organization of Regulars in a recent issue of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE has brought mail by the half bushel to Col. Butts, Commander-in-Chief, New York, and his Aide-de-Camp, "The Boy Spy," in Washington.

The society previously mentioned at Cincinnati is one of the many Subordinate Garrisons of the General Command.

The Society of Veterans of the Regular Army was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York in 1885. Its jurisdiction covers the United States. The membership embraces all honorably-discharged soldiers of the Regular Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Signal Corps, etc.

The objects, as previously stated, is similar in plan to the G.A.R.—to secure for Regulars some of the honors, etc., granted to volunteers. Local Garrisons or Commands are established at principal cities.

A National Encampment or Convention will be held in Washington city soon.

The Commander-in-Chief is Alexander B. Butts, 93 Nassau St., New York. It is proposed to secure such legislation for the veterans of the Regular Army of 1860 and 1861 as was granted to those who enlisted subsequently.

Does the Earth Really Move?

Science says it does, but we cannot help wondering sometimes if there isn't some mistake about it, when we see how stubbornly certain old fogies cling to their musty and antiquated ideas. It was believed once that consumption was incurable, and although it has been clearly demonstrated that it is not, thousands of old-time physicians close their eyes and put their hands to their ears and refuse to abandon the theory. But for all that the world moves on, and Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery continues to rescue sufferers from consumptives' graves. It is a sure cure for this dreaded disease, if taken in time. All scrofulous diseases—and consumption is included in the list—yield to it.

EX-PRISONERS OF WAR.

Enthusiastic Meeting at Toledo, O.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: An enthusiastic meeting of Toledo Association Union Ex-Prisoners of War was held last Saturday evening. Resolutions were adopted memorializing Congress to put the prisoners of war pension bill upon the House Calendar for this session. The House Pension Committee should no longer delay bringing this bill out of the pigeon-hole. There are but very few men in the North, either citizen or soldier, who do not approve this bill, in fact, it is only faulty in not including arrears. The Legislature of Ohio, as well as of most of the Northern States, have annually for the past four years unanimously adopted resolutions memorializing Congress to pass the prisoners' (Robinson) bill. After having passed the Senate, let us hope it may not die in Committee of the House.

The Toledo Association is in a flourishing condition. The annual meeting for election of officers will occur at our magnificent Soldiers' Memorial Building the first Thursday in January next. A committee have in charge the arrangements for banquet and Campfire on that evening.—GEO. W. VROOMAN, Toledo, O.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria,
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria,
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria,
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

OUR RURAL TOPICS.

Some Practical Suggestions for Our Agricultural Readers.

UNDER-DRAINAGE.

This system of farm improvement does not appear to be indulged in to the extent that its importance and advantages would seem to warrant. It is a difficult matter to convince the average farmer, and especially in the rougher sections of the country, that it is best for him to engage in an enterprise that becomes so expensive as under-drainage is. Under-drainage in a soil that is free from stones and so loose that it can easily be removed with the shovel or by machinery is very different from that in a soil that is filled with boulders from the size of a man's head to those four, six, eight or even 10 feet across, imbedded in a sub-soil so firm that every inch requires to be loosened by a pick before it can be removed. The items of expense are entirely disproportionate, and in a case of the kind last described the question at once arises, Which is best, to enter upon the severe labor of improving a soil at an enormous expense, or dispose of the same and purchase land that has been improved and can be bought with the money it would require to improve the other? These are conditions that confront farmers in some sections of our country, and which have to be met manfully.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

SEED POTATOES.

Edgar Sanders, in the *Prairie Farmer*, says that there is a desirability in changing seed potatoes, and mentions a case of experience, where he planted his own seed in part and also seed from the north of England of the same variety, and found a very great difference in yield in favor of the seed from off the farm, and closes the statement by making the rather wild assertion that it would pay anyone to give away their own seed rather than plant it again on the same kind of soil. We have no doubt but that the planting of potatoes on the same kind of soil tends to a deterioration of both the quantity and quality of the crop, and the rule might be advisable when the soil of the entire farm is uniform; but there are sections of our country, and New England notably, in which a single farm of even more than 150 acres contains nearly every variety of soil that can be named, and so we can imagine many cases where the great necessity for a yearly change of potato seed would be wholly unnecessary. Sometimes broad statements require some modification before being applicable.

GREASING SHEEP.

As it is a difficult matter to keep sheep from every storm, it would be a good idea for sheep-growers to adopt the plan of English and Scotch shepherds, which is too smear the sheep thoroughly with grease, quite frequently with butter that has been condemned. This practice tends to keep out water, which sometimes is ice cold. Perhaps American farmers might secure oleomargarine for this purpose, and so make it of some use and to a purpose for which it is better fitted than for table use. With cheap material it costs but little to smear the sheep, and in this way their health may be preserved or lives prolonged.

ACTION OF SPECIAL FERTILIZERS.

Those who have been in the habit of using special fertilizers, know full well how varied are the results, often in a way that cannot be understood or explained. This fact only goes to show the necessity of careful experiments conducted under different conditions in order that some general conclusion may be arrived at. This can be done upon a small scale in a comparatively inexpensive way, and would show whether the use of the material employed, under average circumstances and conditions, would be likely to prove profitable in the growth of various crops.

THE CRANBERRY CROP.

According to *Bradstreet's* reports from the most important cranberry raising districts indicate a short crop, and as a consequence prices are high. Many of these berries are raised in Massachusetts, especially on Cape Cod and the shores of Buzzard's Bay. Last year the Cape Cod crop amounted to 83,500 barrels; this year it will fall some 10,000 or 15,000 barrels short. Some of the best berries we have seen this season were from Cape Cod; they were of good size, and, what was more, were very highly colored, which is an important feature.

NOTES.

—A calf born in Fall or Winter is worth two born in the Spring for profit.

—It is said that by forcing salt into the holes made by borers in the trees, the borers will be destroyed.

—Cut-worms do not like buckwheat, and may be driven off the field, or starved out, by planting it with that crop.

—The water-trough needs a thorough scrubbing and scalding occasionally, or it will soon be coated with slime.

—The warmer and more comfortable the bed of pigs the more rapidly will they grow and fatten, while less food will be consumed.

—Too much grain is more detrimental to breeding stock than not enough. The food should be bulky, with a small allowance of grain.

—Mushrooms are always salable, and can be grown in any dark room or cellar that is kept at a temperature from 50 to 60 degrees.

—Maj. Alvord condemns dehorning in toto. He says, in the Boston *Cultivator*, that it is cruel, and argues that it does not render cattle less pugnacious.

—A heavy application of poultry manure on places infested with Canada thistles is said to be effective, as the manure is too strong for the young plants.

—No animal is so hardy as to require no attention. The more an animal is exposed the less it will produce, either of pork, wool, mutton, beef or milk.

—The Pekin duck can be kept in yards without pouds of water, but it should have a trough to bathe in, while the food should consist mostly of grass or cooked roots.

—Tarred paper makes an excellent covering and protection for cold-frames at night. Old bagging serves well, but the paper is a better non-conductor of heat.

—Don't be afraid of the onions being injured by cold. The point to observe is not to allow them to become too warm. Keep both onions and sets in a dry place in thin layers.

—Do not set apart a special time to clean your house cellar. When you spill anything clean it up. Leave nothing there that does not belong there just because it is out of sight.

—Pour brine down the sink-holes and there will be less liability of pipes breaking from frost. Salt and lime should also be used freely where the outhouses are choked up with manure and ice.

—Clean out the seeds of beans, beets and peas and put them in woolen bags, with a small piece of gum camphor in each bag. Hang the bags in a dry place, and occasionally shake them up during the Winter.

—There is no way in which pork can be so quickly and so cheaply produced as upon a partially-green diet, which the animals gain through the wholesome exercise of picking from the pastures themselves.

—Evergreen boughs make an excellent covering for young rose bushes. Cornstalks can be utilized in no manner as well as for covering plants that are to be exposed to the weather during the Winter.

—The developing of the useless part of a plant is at the expense of the useful portion, and a writer therefore claims that if potato blossoms are cut off when they appear the tubers will be larger and better.

"Purgatory Bullets."

An excited Irishman lately rushed into a Boston drug store, having a "broken up" appearance generally. "Be jabbers"! he yelled, "I'm all wrong entoirely. I want some stuff to straighten me out. Some o' thim 'Purgatory Bullets' will fix me, I'm thinkin'. What d'ye tax for thim"? "What do you mean"? asked the clerk. "'Purgatory Bullets,' sor, or somethin' loike that, they call thim," replied the man. "Shure, I'm in purgatory already, with headache, and liver complaint, and bad stomach, and the divil knows what all." The clerk passed out a vial of Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets, and Pat went off contented. These little Pellets cure all derangements of liver, stomach and bowels. Sugar-coated, little larger than mustard seeds, and pleasant to take. Druggists.

SUNDAY MEDITATION.

Practical Duties Taught by a Study of the International Sunday-school Lesson Appointed for Jan. 6. St. Mark, 1:1-11.

[One reading these notes should first carefully study the paragraph from the Holy Scriptures as indicated above.]

SUBJECT: THE PREACHING AND THE BAPTIZING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST.

1. *Time.*

When St. John Baptist became 30 years of age he set out as the forerunner of our Savior. That was A. D. 25. He continued to herald Christ for about one and one-half years, or until he was imprisoned. After about six months from the time he began his ministry he baptized Jesus. Then for 12 months he kept pointing persons toward Christ, preparing them to become followers of the Messiah. His voice was hushed only by the arrest and incarceration of his person.

2. *Place.*

The location of the ministry of St. John Baptist was the wilderness of Judea, reaching from the south quite down to Juttah and to the north up to the region about Bathabara. By "wilderness," verses 3 and 4, we are not to understand a sterile, uninhabited locality. Sections of that region are indeed very wild, rough in rocks, terrible in gorges and rifts, waste as to vegetation. And yet there were parts quite cultivated and much inhabited. In the time of Joshua we find a wilderness in which there were six cities. (Jos., 15:61, 62.) Carmel was in the wilderness of Paran, and yet the thrifty shepherd Nabal lived in that section of country. (1 Sam., 25:1, 4.) We must not then attach to the word wilderness the idea of a desert, barren and wild. It is plain many people lived in the region through which St. John went declaring the coming of the Messiah.

3. *Subject.*

We are to study in this paragraph the account of the ministry of St. John Baptist. His special work was to prepare the way for Christ; to tell the people that Christ was coming; to get them into a fit frame of mind to receive him; to lead them to a consciousness of their sins, and thus to a realization of their need of the Savior. He would not tolerate even a suspicion that he was himself the Messiah. He was loyal to his Principal—ready to sink out of recognition rather than that any should lose sight of Christ.

4. *Analysis.*

1. An account of St. John Baptist's personality.
2. The preaching of St. John Baptist.
3. The baptizing of St. John Baptist.
4. The baptism of Christ by St. John Baptist.

5. *The Discussion.*

1. The personality of St. John Baptist. He was the son of Zacharias and Elizabeth. He belonged to the priestly family. His birth was miraculous. He had neither brother nor sister. His mission, foretold, it was his aim to study and meditate and otherwise qualify himself for the work. He became ascetic. He began the special mission of heralding Christ when he became 30 years of age, six months the senior of Jesus. We have notices as to his food and clothing. He ate locusts and wild honey. The Jewish laws related even to diet, and Jews are very particular to observe them. But said laws allowed the eating of locusts. (Lev., 11:21, 22.) The supposition we are to understand by locusts the pods of locust trees is not entertained by many writers. Insects of the locust order are still much eaten in Eastern lands. The legs and wings torn off and the entrails removed, the body is placed on a spit and roasted. Often the locusts are dried and pulverized, making a sort of flour. Sometimes, like sardines, they are dressed in oil. Bedouins salt them and carry them in sacks, eating the food on their journey with much satisfaction. Dr. Kitto says of locusts: "In taste they much resemble shrimps, and whole armies have been relieved by them when in danger of starvation." The force of the statement that St. John ate locusts is in the fact they were the food of the poorer classes, and would naturally be chosen in the East by one who had given himself up to a humble, self-denying life. He also ate wild honey. We do not understand this to be what is known as a vegetable sort of honey. He may, however, have eaten both kinds. Palestine was a land flowing in milk and honey. (Ex., 3:17.) Honey was deposited in hollow trees and in fissured rocks, and that even in wilderness places, free to the passer-by.

We find the clothing of the forerunner of Christ specified. He "was clothed with camel's-hair, and with a girdle of a skin about the loins." (V. 6.) In St. Matt., 3:4, a leathern girdle is mentioned. The material was probably rudely prepared—tanned imperfectly. Girdles were often made of linen, silk, silver, gold. The ancient style of attire for men as well as women—the garments being long and flowing—called for girdles. But the one of St. John Baptist was not soft. (St. Matt., 11:8.) Some believe he simply cast about his person a camel's pelt or rawhide. But most think the raiment was made from cloth spun from the shaggier hair, drugget or carpet-like in appearance. Certainly it was not the expensive, elegant camlet stuff. The poor of the East now and monks at some points still wear garments made from Camel's coarse hair mixed with wool. St. John's apparel was common to prophets. (2 Ki., 1:8.) False prophets imitated such dress. (Zec., 13:4.) On his feet St. John Baptist wore sandals. The sandal was simply a sole fastened about the foot and ankle by means of strings or straps with buckles. The sole was made of leather or wood.

2. The preaching of St. John Baptist. He was the forerunner, pioneer, harbinger, messenger, envoy, avant-courier of Christ. His coming to prepare the way for the Messiah was the subject of many prophetic utterances in the Old Testament. We have two special allusions to certain prophets, together with quotations. Malichi (3:1) is quoted in verse 2, and Isai