BIG SANDY NEWS.

Aut inveniam viam, aut faciam.

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CURRENT TOPICS.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S plate-ware is valued at $10,000,000.

GENERAL A. P. HILL is to have a monument in Richmond, Va.

THE President has determined to take an extensive Western trip.

A CHURCH organ constructed entirely of paper is on exhibition at Milan.

ANOTHER month like July and emigration to Iceland would be popular.

SOME one in New York advertises for one hundred white banjo players.

AT last report Iowa's old soldiers in her poor-houses numbered but sixty-four.

THE President refuses to pardon James D. Fish, the New York bank criminal.

A BILL to make lying a penal offense is pending before the Texas Legislature.

EIGHT hundred women are engaged in the cattle-raising business in Colorado.

THE King of Spain is fourteen months old, and draws a salary as monarch of $1,600,000 per year.

UNCLE SAM owns $75,000,000 worth of buildings in the country, and neither pays tax or insurance.

THE Celtic language is spoken by nearly 940,000 people in Ireland, 64,000 of whom can speak no other.

PROF. PROCTOR says that but for the house fly epidemics would carry off one million people per year.

SITTING BULL is living a life of laziness at Standing Rock agency. He glories in his victory over Custer.

FRENCH soldiers are wearing the Boulanger beard, as they did the imperial cut under the last Napoleon.

BUFFALO BILL and his entire troop of Indians attended church the other day in London, in full war paint.

THE Czar's highest aim is to be crowned "Emperor of Asia" on the site of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

MISS BATCHELLER, of Saratoga, speaks eight different languages fluently. She is but seventeen years of age.

COUNTERFEIT currency of various kinds is reported to be in circulation again in different parts of the country.

AMONG the many singular businesses carried on in New York is that of buying duplicate wedding presents.

MRS. DANNELS, wife of the captain of the English steamer Water Lily, has just been licensed as pilot of that craft.

AN enterprising Western genius has succeeded in producing a fair article of illuminating gas from potato bugs.

IT is asserted upon high authority that witchcraft is believed in and practiced still in some parts of England.

EVERY tenement house in Boston, the president of the board of health of that city states, is visited once a week.

PHILIP HENSER, Corinth, Miss., is sixty years old, six feet and two inches tall and has a beard that touches the ground.

A BRASS BAND, whose fourteen members are all newsboys, exists in New Orleans, and its services are in great demand.

FASHIONABLE Newport women have taken to wearing white muslin gowns having natural flowers sewed all over the skirts.

CONGRESSMAN PHELAN, of Memphis, is the youngest member of the Fiftieth Congress. He will not be thirty-one when he takes his seat.

IT is an estimate of an intelligent Chinaman that there are now ten thousand of his almond-eyed countrymen in New York and Brooklyn.

COMMODORE NUTT, who rivaled Tom Thumb as a dwarf some years ago, is selling tickets for a dime museum in Boston. He is gray haired.

BARONESS BURDETT-COUTTS and her still youthful husband have been forgiven for marrying by the Queen, and will move back into court favor.

MAYOR ROCHE, of Chicago, is a practical machinist, having served an apprenticeship at the trade, and makes good use of this knowledge in his new position.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE furnishes most of the funds for an exploring expedition to Lake Chad, in Central Africa, soon to start under the lead of Joseph Manson.

WHY doesn't some enterprising furniture builder construct a chair suited to that prevailing female deformity known as the bustle? asks the Rochester *Union*.

WHITMAN COUNTY, W. T., has the smallest woman living. She resides three miles from Pine City, is twenty-seven years old, twenty-nine inches high, and weighs thirty-three pounds.

LONG BRANCH will be the tramp's terror hereafter. All of these joyous vagrants captured within its precincts will be set to work cleaning the streets, within ball and chain to their ankles.

THE British Postmaster General is considering a scheme for the use of the telegraph in connection with postal orders. That is to say, payee is to be advised by wire of the amount to his credit at a given post-office.

THE Atlanta *Constitution* says: "Chicago can no longer aspire to rival New York as the fastest city in America. It required two whole years for the entire board of commissioners in Chicago to steal one million dollars.

THE arrest of Miss Josie Holmes, late exchange clerk of the Fidelity National Bank, of Cincinnati, is the first case in the history of the national banking system in which a woman has been arrested for violation of the law.

A GREENVILLE (Mich.) lady put phosphorus on her bunion the other night and retired. In the night her husband spied the glowing thing, and sizing it up for a firefly banged it with a bootjack. She now goes about on crutches.

AT Union Point, Ga., is a madstone for which the owner wants $25,000. It has effected marvelous cures. Scattered over the State there are at least one hundred of these stones, but the Union Point pebble heads them all in estimated value.

SARATOGA is suffering from the popularity of Mt. McGregor. Nearly all the excursion parties pass through the former place and go to Mt. McGregor to see the place where General Grant died.

THE State Department records show that 4,000 passports have been issued in the last three months, and it is estimated that four-fifths of the Americans who visit Europe do not take passports.

THE house in which Payne attempted to murder Secretary Seward at the time of Lincoln's assassination is now offered for sale. It has long been used as the headquarters of the Commissary-general.

FLOOD PANIC.

A Night of Intense Excitement at Augusta, Georgia.

The City Partially Submerged and a Calamity Is Feared from a Break in the Canal.

AUGUSTA, GA., July 31.—The disastrous floods of the past few days will result in appalling loss to farmers. From a few miles below the head-waters of the Savannah to where it reaches the sea its banks are overflowed, and water covers vast areas on either side of its channel. The situation in Augusta to-night is more than alarming. At least half the city is under water and rain is descending steadily. Notwithstanding the rain, however, the river is slowly falling, but another and a greater calamity threatens us. At 9:30 p. m. Augusta was startled by a general alarm, and the rumor spread like the wind that the third level of the Augusta canal had given away. This meant an inundation of from two to five feet of our highest streets and the probable loss of many lives. Men, women and children thronged the streets and cries for fear and lamentation were frequent and distressing. The hundreds that had relatives and friends near the reported scene of the wreck rushed in that direction crying for help to follow to the rescue. The break was visited by your representative, most of the distance being compassed in a boat, and it was found that while the break really existed, it was small and wearing away the embankment much less rapidly than was at first believed. But there seems at this writing no possible way of stopping it, and because the canal is five feet higher than our highest streets, the city must be entirely flooded, and to an alarming depth, in a few hours. The stores on Broad and other business streets are open, and merchants are busy moving their goods to upper shelves. So far no loss of life has been reported.

AUGUSTA, GA., July 31.—The city has been under water for the past twenty-four hours—that is, the upper portion of it. Water commenced coming in early last night, and by three o'clock this morning the territory embraced between Schultz Hill, in Carolina, and Harrisburg Hill, in Georgia, Cumming street and the second level of the canal was from one to three feet under water. The water is now receding and the danger is thought to be over. About ten o'clock tonight something of a panic was created by the ringing of the signal alarm, and the report going the rounds that the great canal had given away. The bell proved a summons for workmen, it being true that the banks were in danger. The loss to the corporation is $25,000, to the citizens $50,000 and to the farmers along the river about $1,500,000.

Drought in Southern Indiana.

WABASH, IND., July 31.—The drought now prevailing extends over a wide section of central Indiana. A gentleman here who visited the counties of Wells, Blackford, Jay, Randolph and Grant during the past week reports that the damage is very serious. Corn will be a failure. No rain has fallen for a month and the streams are running dry. Stock in many instances suffering for lack of water; farmers are completely discouraged at the output.

Used Coal Oil for Kindling a Fire.

FREMONT, O., July 31.—A very sad and fatal accident occurred here this morning, resulting in the death of Miss Paulus, a young lady aged nineteen. When she started the breakfast fire it did not burn quickly enough and she took the coal-oil can and poured some oil in the stove, and the result was an explosion, and the girl burned so badly that she died at 11 o'clock to great agony.

Guiteau's Brother-in-Law.

NEW YORK, July 31.—Lawyer Charles H Reed, brother-in-law and defender of Guiteau, who is alleged to have attempted suicide by jumping from a Pennsylvania railroad ferryboat yesterday, still lies in Bellevue Hospital, and the doctors say that his constitution is so far undermined by high living that serious doubts of his recovery must be entertained. He is also suffering from melancholia.

Suit Against the Mormon Church.

SALT LAKE CITY, July 3.—Geo. S. Peters, U. S. Attorney for the Territory of Utah, has instituted suit against the trustees of the Mormon Church, under the Edmunds law, to escheat the property to the United States. The law does not allow any Church to own more than $50,000 of property under the above penalty. The property of the church of Latter Day Saints is valued at $3,000,000.

In Favor of Lieutenant Governor Robertson.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., July 31.—The Attorney General has given his opinion to the State Auditor favorable to the claim of Lieutenant Governor Robertson to per diem salary and mileage during the session of the Legislature at which he was not allowed to preside.

The Mount McGregor Cottage.

SARATOGA, N. Y., July 31.—Drexel, the banker, has offered to donate the Mount McGregor cottage in which General Grant died to surviving Union soldiers of the late war in perpetuity, to be managed and controlled by trustees.

An Ugly Charge.

ADAMSVILLE, O., July 31.—Mrs. Anna Snoots, wife of Howard Snoots of this place, is under arrest on suspicion of poisoning her three-year-old daughter. Three other children have died suddenly, and it is believed they were also poisoned.

Killed at the Crossing.

DETROIT, July 31.—At a crossing of the Detroit, Lansing and Northern railway, near Lake View, Mich., a wagon containing five persons was struck by a train. Four were killed and the other slightly injured.

—A contractor engaged on the grading at Langhead's coke works at Fairchance, Eng., is the owner of a horse which possesses the remarkable growth of a flowing mustache on its upper lip. The animal seems quite proud of its distinguishing feature, and bites viciously at any one who may attempt to stroke the hirsute ornament. It is not permitted to put on much style, however, and is confined to the humble work of drawing a cart, like the other horses.—*Troy Times.*

DEATH-TRAP FIRE.

A Number of Tenement House Inmates Burned and Suffocated.

CHICAGO, July 29.—At 2:40 o'clock this morning fire was discovered in the bakery of Chris Heffen, at 3,165 Archer avenue, a three-story and basement brick tenement. For a time the fire smoldered, and nothing serious was thought of it. Shortly after three o'clock it was discovered that a number of people living in the building were either dead or dying from the effects of smoke and flames. The firemen and police hurried into the building and soon began carrying out unconscious bodies until all the people had been removed. Then it was discovered that Marie Trugo, aged two years was dead. The list of the injured people is as follows: Nelson Trugo, Adel Trugo, Nelson Trugo, jr., aged twelve years; Della Trugo, aged nine years; Eliza Trugo, aged fourteen years; Joseph Trugo, aged ten years; Mr. Bonner, Mrs. Bonner, Philip Bonner, aged seven years; unknown girl. Mrs. Trugo and Mrs. Bonner and three others will die. The fire started in Heffen's bake shop in the basement, and was caused by a pot of lard being upset. Heffen and his family occupied the second story, but they all escaped in safety. The unfortunate Trugo family resided on the floor above, in the rear, while the Bonners live on the top floor. The four surviving Trugo children were badly suffocated. Their recovery is doubtful.

Columbia River Salmon.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., July 29.—The salmon pack on the Columbia River is running very short, and the *Chronicle*, the local trade journal, estimates that the pack will not exceed fifty per cent. of last year. The same journal says: "As a consequence of the extraordinary demand for this fish, which can not be met, all the large dealers are tendering the fall fish of the Columbia river salmon in the Eastern States in lieu of their original purchases, and that large quantities of Alaska fish are being taken in substitution for Columbia river at original Columbia river figures. The Sacramento river for the last four days has been doing well. The usual fall pack is now taking place. It is estimated by conservative authorities as likely to be twelve to twenty thousand cases.

Hoodooed.

DETROIT, MICH., July 29.—At Lansing today, Chas. W. Sloughton and wife, both colored, were tried for assaulting Henrietta Lee, an aged colored woman. Last night he attacked her and tore long gashes in her arms with needles. Both swore in court that Mrs. Lee had "hoodooed" them, causing innumerable toads to fill their cellars and yards. Slimy lizards haunted them, and both became sick whenever Mrs. Lee was about. She told them to draw blood on her and the witchcraft would cease. Both were sentenced to thirty days in jail. Sloughton was formerly an attorney.

Roasted Cattle.

CINCINNATI, July 29.—A fire this afternoon destroyed sixteen houses, mostly tenements, each occupied by several families, also four dairies with 165 head of cattle; seven other buildings were badly damaged and many others slightly so. The loss is about $300,000, with not over $25,000 insurance. Fifty families were rendered homeless and compelled to camp out until temporary shelter is secured by the authorities. They are mostly people of limited means or none beyond daily earnings.

Fatal Elevator Accident.

ST. LOUIS, July 29.—An elevator in the Breman Tanning and Slipper Company's establishment, fell from the third story this evening while six or eight persons were in it. A piece of iron shafting fell from the top of the building at the same time and struck Alex M. Farrar, treasurer of the company, and Annie Moran on the head, fracturing their skulls and inflicting mortal wounds. All the other occupants of the elevator were more or less injured, none seriously.

Intensely Hot in Illinois.

CHICAGO, July 29.—Dispatches from various points in Illinois show that intense heat prevailed in the central part of the State yesterday. At Lincoln the mercury reached 102° in the shade, and several prostrations were reported. At Carthage the same temperature was reached, with one or two prostrations. At Peoria the thermometer reached 100°, and a number of prostrations occurred. Four will prove fatal.

Destructive Tornado in Nebraska.

LINCOLN, NEB., July 29.—Meager particulars have been received of a disastrous tornado that passed over the town of David City at 6 o'clock this evening. One man was killed and over half the buildings in the town demolished, including the Union Pacific and Burlington and Missouri depots, a large brick school-house, the Methodist and Congregational churches, several stores and many dwelling-houses. The damage is estimated at $200,000.

Yellow Fever Fatalities.

WASHINGTON, July 29.—Surgeon General Hamilton has received a telegram from Passed Assistant Surgeon Guiteras, dated Key West, July 28, saying that there have been 173 cases of yellow fever and forty-one deaths to date.

Family Poisoned.

READING, PA., July 29.—Amos Geigley and his seven children, residing at Terre Hill, Lancaster County, were this morning taken suddenly ill, vomiting and showing other symptoms of poisoning. To-night all are said to be in a critical condition. It is thought that some malicious person threw poison into the well, and the water will be analyzed.

Extension of Suffrage Fails.

BRUSSELS, July 29.—The Chamber of Deputies, by a vote of 83 to 35, has rejected the proposal to extend the right of suffrage.

His Request Refused.

CHICAGO, July 29.—A man called on Chief Ebersold and Collector Onaham in Chicago, asking for a permit for William Baldwin to jump from a balloon at a height of 5,000 feet. The request was refused. Baldwin, it is claimed, has made several similar jumps elsewhere.

Boodler Pleads Guilty.

CHICAGO, July 29.—Commissioner Kleihm, one of the Chicago boodlers, withdrew his plea of not guilty and entered a plea of guilty. This action has produced a panic among the other defendants.

FOUR KILLED.

Two Women and Two Children Hurled to Death.

A Train on the Pennsylvania Railroad Runs Into a Wagon Laden with a Berry-Picking Party.

READING, PA., July 28.—A frightful accident happened at Ridgewood, on the Pennsylvania road, four miles south of this city, to-day, resulting in the instant death of Mrs. Elias Fritz, aged twenty-three years; Miss Amanda Fritz, aged thirty-five, and two babes, children of Mrs. Fritz, and seriously injuring John Nunnemacher, aged thirteen years. The victims of the horrible accident resided about four miles from Reading, and were on their way to Gibraltar, where they expected to spend the day picking berries. They were seated in a covered wagon and it is supposed failed to hear the approaching train. Nunnemacher drove the horse, Miss Fritz sat alongside of him and Mrs. Fritz and her two children occupied the rear seat. Suddenly the sharp shriek of a whistle was heard, but the boy, thinking he could clear the track, kept on, and instantly the express dashed by at forty miles an hour, striking the wagon and hurling its occupants down a fifteen-foot embankment. The women and two little children were thrown sixty feet away and instantly killed, their heads and bodies being badly crushed. Nunnemacher was thrown over the engine and landed in a field. His injuries may prove fatal. The remains of the unfortunates were brought to this city, from where the bodies will be sent to their late home.

Postal Clerk Arrested.

CHICAGO, July 28.—A special from Kansas City, Mo., says: For six or seven months numerous complaints have gone to Postmaster Shelley, of Kansas City, of the loss of letters containing money and postal notes, and for a long time special officers have been working on the case, endeavoring to discover the thief. Yesterday they arrested I. O. Wilson, a clerk at Station A, at the Union Depot. Wilson confessed having opened several letters containing money. He is twenty-three years old, and has been in the postal service for about nine months. He punctured letters with a bodkin, and by a microscope ascertained their contents. If no money or postal notes were seen the punctured places were obliterated by a rubber.

Disturbing the Egg Market.

NEW YORK, July 28.—The hot spell has had a remarkable effect on the egg supply, and thousands of barrels have been spoiled by being hatched on the road or in the nest before being packed. The head of one of the largest egg houses in the city informed a reporter to-day that of one thousand barrels received in the last twenty-four hours not five hundred were good, while some lots of a hundred cases or more, sent by express, were a total loss. If it were not for the eggs that were placed in cold storage a month ago the market would be stripped. Strictly fresh eggs can not be obtained at any price. A similar state of affairs has not existed in fifteen years.

Louisville Will Send a Photograph.

LOUISVILLE, KY., July 28.—A great mass-meeting of citizens has been called to be held at Central Park, in the center of the city, Saturday, August 6, for the purpose of formally inviting President Cleveland to visit the city in October. An immense photograph will be made of the audience, and the picture, symbolically framed, will be conveyed to the President as a souvenir, and to let him see the great assemblage represented by the formal invitation.

Mourning For a Living Son.

HASTINGS, NEB., July 28.—Jas. McConlay received on Sunday last the body of his only son Hugh, who it was reported had been killed in the St. Thomas, Ont., accident two weeks ago. The body was followed to the grave by the sorrowing relatives. Yesterday the old man was astonished to see his son walk into the house alive and well, and then the discovery was made that the body shipped here, mourned over and buried was that of a young Canadian.

One Hundred and Nine.

NEW YORK, July 28.—Hirsch Harris, familiarly known among his friends and acquaintances as Rabbi Hirsch, died on Wednesday at 252 Adams street, Brooklyn, after reaching, as his family claims, the extraordinary age of one hundred and nine years. At the bedside of the dying patriarch there were gathered his wife Rachel, aged ninety-nine years, his son Lewis, aged fifty-six, and nearly a score of grandchildren.

Troops for Bell County.

LOUISVILLE, July 28.—A detachment of the Louisville Legion is holding itself ready, and will most probably be ordered to Pineville, Bell County, Ky., this week. Court will be held there to try a man named Sanders, who, it is alleged, fired into a wagon full of children a year ago, killing several of them. Threats of lynching have repeatedly been made, and the soldiers will go there to preserve the peace.

Boulanger Thirsts for Blood.

PARIS, July 28.—The *Courier du Soir* reports that General Boulanger has requested official permission to challenge M. Ferry to fight a duel on account of the Ex-Premier's recent speech at Epinal.

Irishmen Organizing.

CHICAGO, July 28.—At a large meeting of prominent local Irishmen last night a new association was formed, to be known as the "Anti-coercion Association."

Yellow Fever Increasing.

KEY WEST, FLA., July 28.—Eleven new cases of yellow fever and two deaths have been reported since yesterday.

National Prohibition Party.

CHICAGO, July 28.—The National Prohibition party has to-day issued a call for the National Committee of the party to meet in this city November 10, 1887, for the purpose of fixing the time and place of the National Nominating Convention of 1888, and the transaction of other business.

Mayor Sued by the Pinkertons.

NEW YORK, July 28.—The Pinkertons have sued Mayor Cleveland, of Jersey City, for libel on account of his utterances against them during the late coal-handlers' strike.

A TERRIFIC TORNADO

Passes Over Millidale, Ky., Completely Destroying the Latonia Grand Stand.

CINCINNATI, July 27.—This afternoon a tornado passed over Millidale, Ky. A terrific water-spout came down in a funnel-shape, and striking the grand stand on the Latonia race course directly on the west end, passed straight through it and leveled it completely to the ground. It seems that a cyclone of tremendous velocity and the water-spout struck the place simultaneously. The wreck is complete, and an entire new grand stand will have to be erected. The large timbers that supported the stand were snapped in twain as if they were matches. The roof was rolled up like a carpet, and blown over a hundred yards from its location. People who witnessed it say that the wind seemingly lifted the roof for a moment, and then started it to rolling, as if it were attached to some kind of patent roller. When the final crash came, and the building fell, it could be heard for a mile, so loud was the report. The water-spout was a wondrous sight. It came up the Banklick Valley in a southwest course. It moved slowly for awhile, and could be seen for fully a mile before it commenced to descend. The pool shed, art hall and shed stables, were more or less damaged. The club-house was slightly damaged. The large and elegant shade tree that stood near the lake was clipped off about ten feet above the ground. It was over two feet in circumference. Two large shed stables that were one hundred feet long were lifted from their foundations and carried over three hundred feet on the outside of the Latonia track. Pieces of boards from them were carried clear out of sight into the clouds. Two other stables were leveled to the ground by the wind, and some portions of them were moved over five hundred yards outside of the grounds. The entire loss will probably foot up $20,000.

PROMINENT POLITICIANS

Said to be Implicated in the Ottawa (Ont.) Scandals.

CHICAGO, July 27.—A *Times* special from Ottawa, Ont., says: The sensation which was caused at the capital of the Dominion over the startling revelations made within the past few days as to the traffic in young girls of from twelve to fourteen, in which a number of prominent citizens, as well as several leading politicians, are implicated, promises to develop into a scandal even greater than that exposed recently by the *Pall Mall Gazette*. One scandal following another so closely in the metropolitan city has incensed the citizens greatly. Last night a meeting was held under the auspices of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty, with a view to devising some means by which the great stain on the Capital's good name might be removed. Special legislation, it was decided, would be necessary to attain that end, and the matter must therefore become the subject of special legislation at the next session of Parliament before any law can be enacted to reach the culprits. It is possible, owing to the fact that the chief of police has evidence in his possession which would criminate several prominent politicians if brought into court, that such a measure, if introduced in Parliament, would be defeated, guilty members of the Senate and House of Commons, whose names are freely mentioned, fearing that their indorsement of such a measure and subsequent investigation would criminate themselves.

President Taylor's Successor.

NEW YORK, July 27.—John W. Young, third son of Brigham Young, who is in town on business, was interviewed to-day as to the probable effect upon the Mormon Church of the death of President Taylor. Mr. Young said that there would be no perceptible change in the great body of the church. Its members will mourn for its dead president, but will faithfully place their trust in his successor, Wilford Woodruff, now president of the Twelve Apostles. Woodruff is about seventy-five years of age, yet vigorous and in full possession of all his faculties. He is an educated man, a forcible speaker and is historian of the church.

An Editor Assaulted.

LEAVENWORTH, KAS., July 27.—Colonel D. R. Anthony, editor of the *Times*, was assaulted on the street this afternoon by Councilman W. H. Bond, who struck him several blows with a cowhide. Anthony has been waging an active fight in favor of the strict enforcement of the prohibitory law, and he attributes this affair to the culmination of the rage of the enemies he has made by the fight.

Twenty-Two Fatalities.

PEKIN, ILL., July 27.—Ten dead bodies have been taken from the wreck of the construction train at Hopedale, and eight men are unaccounted for. It is supposed that the missing men are dead in the wreck, in which case the number of dead is eighteen, with the probability that the list will be swelled to twenty-one by the death of those supposed to be fatally hurt.

The New Panama Loan.

PARIS, July 27.—Only two-thirds of the new Panama Canal loan, it transpires, has been subscribed. M. de Lesseps, in an interview on the subject to-day, said the amount subscribed would "suffice for the present."

Peculiar and Fatal Accident.

LIMA, O., July 27.—John Crawford was working on the second floor of a building when the hatchet blade left the handle, and being sent with much force went flying through the air and struck John Dixon on the side of the neck, giving him a fatal wound.

Killed by His Son.

LOUISVILLE, July 27.—Joseph Neave, of Neave, Bracken County, Ky., was shot and killed by his son, who had rented some wheat land from his father. The latter had come for his share of the harvest when he was murdered.

Sisters Drowned in Each Other's Arms.

NEW YORK, July 27.—Mary A. Kearney, aged seventeen years, and her sister Catherine, aged sixteen, were drowned at Spring Valley to-day. They were spending the summer in the country, and went with a party of girls of about their ages to bathe to-day at Distillery Lake. They could not swim. Mary slipped from a small raft into fifteen feet of water, and her frightened sister plunged in to save her. Both girls sank. The bodies were recovered two hours later, still locked together in their last embrace.

CRAZY ROMANOFFS.

How Insanity Has Run Through the Imperial Russian Family.

In the recently published memoirs of Count Vitzthum, of Eckstadt, proofs are given of the hereditary character of the mental disease which afflicted the imperial family of Russia. All the sons of Czar Paul I., like that unhappy monarch himself, who was murdered in 1801, became subject to fits of insanity. Paul I. had four sons—Czar Alexander I., the Grand Duke Constantine, Czar Nicolas I. and the Grand Duke Michael. Every one of them, after his forty-fifth year, exhibited undoubted signs of mental derangement. This was not fully discovered in the case of Nicolas I. until after the Czar's death. An English physician, however, the Count says, noticed the appearance of the hereditary disease in the Czar as early as July, 1853, and he then predicted that the monarch had not more than two years of life before him. This he stated in a letter to Lord Palmerston. The Emperor Nicolas died in March, 1855, about four months earlier than the date predicted. The Count appears to have no doubt that the Crimean war, so far as it depended on Nicolas, was the rash act of a ruler "whose mental equipoise was disturbed." None of the four sons of Paul I. lived to be sixty years of age, and every one of them suffered from concussion of the brain after reaching his forty-fifth year.

Alexander died at forty-eight, a miserable man, moody and despondent, as Prince Metternich has painted him, "tired of existence." His brother, the Grand Duke Constantine, though not manifestly insane, gave frequent signs of mental disturbance, of which he was himself so plainly conscious that he did not think himself fit to be trusted with the reins of government. His conduct in the year 1830, at the outbreak of the revolution in Warsaw, will remain to prove his mental unsoundness. He had to be entrusted to the care of his wife, the Princess Lowicz, who was cautioned in the same way as is a physician in charge of a patient having intermittent fits of insanity. He died in his fifty-second year from congestion of the brain. The Grand Duke Michael was killed by a fall from his horse at the age of forty-eight. Some years before his death he had exhibited signs of undoubted mental disease, and his physicians declared that he was on the road to certain insanity. The events of 1848-52 were not calculated to allay the hereditary dispositions of the imperial family of Russia, but to excite and intensify them. There is something terrible in the contrast between the outward position of the Czar Nicolas, upon the bent of whose will the fate of so many millions in Europe was depending, and the alleged diseased inward condition of his mind.—*London Society.*

CONSUMED IN SMOKE.

What the American Public Pay Annually for Tobacco.

Last year the losses by reported fires in the United States reached a total of $120,000,000, or an average monthly loss of $10,000,000. This is regarded as an enormous waste and is largely due to incendiarism and carelessness. How to reduce the amount so lost is a matter of constant study. Legislatures, local governments and insurance companies make regulations and exercise the greatest care to prevent fires. And yet the loss they occasion is $60,000,000 per annum less than the amount paid by consumers for cigars, and $85,500,000 less than the total cost of tobacco consumed in smoke.

Last year tax was paid upon 3,510,898,488 cigars. The average smoker is content with a cigar worth $30 per 1,000, or one that retails at 5 cents. On that basis there annually goes up in smoke $180,000,000, or $15,000,000 every month, or $500,000 every day. In addition, boys waste on cigarettes $6,500,000, and those who prefer a pipe a further sum of $20,000,000.

How many smoke? If we deduct from the total population as non-smokers all children under fifteen years, constituting forty per cent. of the total population of 60,000,000, it leaves 36,000,000, of whom one-half are females; deducting these gives a male population, above the age of fifteen years, of 18,000,000. If six out of every ten males above the age of fifteen years smoke, it means that 10,800,000 persons consume 3,510,898,488 cigars, or an average per smoker of 325 cigars per annum. This is less than one cigar per day. The average smoker, however, is not apt to be contented with a daily allowance of one cigar, demanding at least two. If the latter basis is the nearer correct, the army of cigar-smokers would be 4,809,449, being eight per cent. of the total population above the age of fifteen years.

Whatever the number of smokers, it is a moderate estimate to place the cost of smoking to the people of the United States at $206,500,000. If the cost of chewing tobacco is added the total expenditure for tobacco reaches $256,500,000; that is a sum that represents a per capita tax of $3.44 per annum. If the number of smokers is 4,809,449, the average expense of smoking is $42.09 each per annum; if the number is 7,000,000, the cost is $28.64 per individual; if 10,800,000 it falls to $19.12, a sum sufficient to afford one five-cent cigar daily, and leave a balance of eighty-seven cents for extras.—*American Grocer.*

—The firemen of Brooklyn are made happy by Governor Hill's signature to the act increasing their salaries to $900, $1,000 and $1,200 for the different grades of the service.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

—Good carpets from common moss (Hypnum vulgaris) are the production of a French manufacturer.

—In every form of production mere muscle counts for less and less, and brain and machinery for more and more.

—A cannon ball in motion, at the rate of thirteen hundred feet a second, has been photographed by a Hungarian artist at Pesth.

—The curious fact has been observed in Rome, and at some places in Northern Italy, that a thermometer in the shade will sometimes indicate a higher temperature than a thermometer in the sun, particularly when a strong wind is blowing upon the latter instrument.

—An improvement in the manufacture of spirit levels consists in placing the glass tube containing the body of spirit in a heavier glass tube, with a rubber or elastic bearing interposed between the holder and tube, thus maintaining them from contact with one another.—*Boston Budget.*

—A standard thermometer is made with a dial upon which the figures are as easily read as upon a clock. In this instrument strips of metal which are unequally acted upon by heat or cold are soldered together in the form of spirals. The action of the temperature is multiplied by delicate wheels and pinions.

—Mr. John Murray, of the Challenger Expedition, recently said in the Royal Society of Edinburgh, that he questioned whether any country in the world, taking its size into consideration, could show a better record of scientific work or a greater mass of scientific literature than Scotland during the past ten or twenty years.—*Public Opinion.*

—Mica has been made by French chemists by fusing a mixture of the constituents of the micas with potassium silicofluoride, and crystallization being facilitated by the addition of potassium arsenate. In this way, among others, crystals closely resembling the ferruginous micas of Vesuvius have been prepared.

—The most successful individuals and firms are those which have developed a promising specialty, leaving collateral matters to the attention of their neighbors in trade and industry. The possibilities of any one branch of manufacture grow upon investigation, and develop rapidly under fostering care. The man who gathers all the profits that are in one branch of legitimate industry can well afford to give his brother in trade a chance as well.—*Scientific American.*

—According to Professor Woodward, of Washington, in about 2,200 years the rock over which the falls flow at Niagara will be all worn away. The area of the rock worn away at Horseshoe Falls between the years 1842 and 1875 was 18,500 square feet, equal to 0.425 acre; between 1875 and 1886, 60,000 square feet, or 1.37 acre. The main length of the contour of the falls is 2,300 feet. The time required to recede one mile, if the rate is 2.4 feet per year, is 2,200 years.—*English Mechanic.*

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

—Struggle toughens the mind, until by-and-by we do not mind the struggle.

—Sensitive folks came to a very poor place when they emigrated to this world.

—The certain way to be cheated is to fancy yourself more cunning than others.

—Men lift their hats. Women do not, thank Heaven! They are quite high enough without any lifting.

—Fashionable women shed more tears over spoiled dresses than over spoiled children.—*Louisville Democrat.*

—From the brusque way some railroad ticketmasters act, one would think they were superior to their stations.—*Boston Gazette.*

—It is a curious fact that the only men who know just how a newspaper should be conducted are generally engaged in some other business.—*Puck.*

—"I've got an elegant idea for to-morrow's paper," said a rising young journalist. "Are you going to credit it?" was the sarcastic rejoinder of a fellow scribbler.—*Merchant Traveler.*

—A boy in the public school defined man as "composed of half water and half avariciousness." When very avaricious his water is principally in stock.—*Anniston (Ala.) Hot Blast.*

—We can guard against yellow fever and other drawbacks, but as yet nothing has been found to inoculate against the croakers. Few of them die and none of them ever hold their tongue.—*Memphis Avalanche.*

—Machinery has reached a great state of perfection. We recently, says an exchange, saw some burnt peas put into the hopper of a coffee mill, and in less than two minutes they were occupying a place in a grocery window, labelled, "Fine Old Mocha."

—Omaha Man—"And so the ox-cart is still used as a public conveyance in Mexican towns?" Great Traveler—"Yes, almost entirely." "Why, don't they have street cars like ours?" "Well, the fact is the Mexicans are becoming quite an energetic people, and are generally in a hurry."—*Omaha World.*

—"What's the trouble now?" asked a nervous passenger on a new Dakota road, as the train came to a sudden halt. "O, nothin' much," said the brakeman, struggling to get away, "the freight ahead of us got off the track and run into the depot, knockin' it clear out o' time, and our engineer can't tell just where the town site is.—*Dakota Bell.*