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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A Kentucky Tornado.

A Stanford, Ky., special to the *Courier Journal* says: A terrible tornado, with a width of 400 yards, swept through Casey county on the 2d inst, doing frightful damage in the neighborhood of Rich Hill and Mount Olive. The whole of the family of Vincent Wesley, near Rich Hill, consisting of himself, wife, two grown daughters and a boy named Sloan, a nephew, and Wm. Taylor, a neighbor stopping at his house, were killed outright. Another man named Richardson had his shoulder and collar bone frightfully crushed. Mrs. Wesley's body was blown four hundred yards, and her clothing entirely stripped off. The two daughters were carried fifty yards and were found locked in each other's arms. The father and nephew were fearfully mangled, and all must have been killed by the first force of the tempest. The dwelling, stable and out houses were blown entirely away, the logs being scattered for many yards along the sweep of the tornado, and the hearth and foundation stones blown from their places. In the vicinity of Mount Olive Mrs. Morgan was killed, and the dwelling and out houses of F. Floyd were completely swept away and the timbers scattered in every direction. In the village of Mount Olive several houses were swept away, and the remainder otherwise injured. Fences were blown away along the whole course of the tornado, post and rail fences being drawn out and torn into splinters and utterly destroyed. Large trees were twisted from the roots and carried hundreds of yards. A considerable number of horses, cattle and other stock and nearly all the poultry in its course were killed. The probable damage is not less than $50,000.

English Grain Trade.

The Mark Lane *Express* says the peace prospects, the fairly abundant granary stocks and heavy anticipated arrivals, both from America and Southern Russia, have combined to reduce the wheat trade to a lamentable state of depression. During the past week the inactivity has been such that in the absence of sales, it has been a matter of some difficulty to record the fluctuation in prices. That the withdrawal of the prop which the uncertain aspect of political matters furnished to the grain trade would depress values was anticipated; but the concession of a shilling to two shillings per quarter has failed to improve the demand for wheat which it might be expected to have done. Having regard to the low state into which the millers have allowed their stocks to run all over the kingdom, an explanation is probably to be found in the fact that supplies in prospective are too heavy to allow the concession offered to have much weight, and until some definite idea can be formed of the amount of wheat this country may expect from Odessa, Nicolieff and other southern Russian ports, millers will only buy from hand to mouth. That the accumulation of grain in the Black Sea ports is large cannot be doubted for one moment, but we think a large proportion will be found to consist of a low class and badly conditioned, as the demand for transport during the war obliged inland grainers to store as best they might on the spot, where of course the appliances for keeping grain in good condition in a granary for so long a period would be to a great extent inefficient. There is a dragging trade for feeding corn, barley, maize and oats, all receded six pence to one shilling per quarter with very little business. With moderate arrivals off the coast the floating cargo trade for wheat raised steady without quotable change in values. Maize fairly steady. Barley dull.

Butter, Cheese, and Eggs.

The fifth annual convention of the national butter, cheese and egg association met at Chicago on the 6th inst., and was called to order by President Harvey Shrever, of Baltimore. Charles Randolph, secretary of the board of trade, delivered the address of welcome. He enumerated the benefits which the association had secured to the public, alluded to the great and growing export business of this industry, and extended a hearty welcome to all delegates. Vice President Rorick, of Wazon, Ohio, responded. About fifty members of the Boston produce exchange are in attendance. Representatives of four Boston newspapers accompany the delegation. Some 1,500 delegates in all are present. Delegations from Boston, Philadelphia, New York, baltimore, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Cincinnati and St. Louis were reported present. Among the delegates were many dairymen and manufacturers. A. A. Kennard, of Baltimore, chairman of the committee on statistics, made an interesting report. Colonel Littler, the secretary, delivered an address of great interest, demonstrating from facts and figures that the interests fostered by the association were not less important than those of any other. He showed that the entire product of the dairy and consumption of poultry and eggs aggregeted in value $900,000,000 per annum.

Changes in the Tariff Bill.

The committee on ways and means have considered the tax on sundries. Brimstone, crude, was made free. Brittania ware was increased from 20 to 25 per cent. *a valorem.* Card cases, pocket books, souvenirs and all similar articles of whatever material composed, are increased form 20 to 30 per cent. *ad valorem* Chicory and the root, ground or unground, burnt or prepared, is reduced from 5 to 4 cents per pound. The rate on castor beans or seeds was fixed at 60 cents per bushel of 50 pounds. Crude cocoa and cork bark were made free; cork bark manufactured 30 per centum *ad valorem.* Chloroform 50 cents per pound. Cream tartar was reduced from 9 to 6 cents per pound. Zante or other currants were reduced form 2 to 1 cent per pound. Raisins were fixed at 2½ cents per pound. Corsets, manufactured of cotton, were reduced from $3 to $2 per dozen. The tax on unwrought clay, pipe clay and fire clay was fixed at $4 per ton; kaoline $4 per ton and fullers earth $3 per ton.

The Sacramento Flood.

A correspondent of the California associated press, who has ascended the Sacramento river to Monroeville, 190 miles above Sacramento, telegraphs that for the entire distance, the country presents the appearance of a continuous sea. On both sides of the river, not five thousand acres of land along the river for the whole distance have escaped the flood. The river is now falling rapidly, and vast tracts of wheat land are making their appearance, much of which may be saved if drying north winds follow the recent continued storms. Between Sacramento and Monroeville there are about 250 breaks in the levees. Dr. Gleen, a large farmer in Colusa county, lost 20,000 sheep and six thousand acres of wheat by the flood. The main wheat lands of Colusa county are five miles from the river and are safe. About 10 per cent. of the wheat crop of that county is ruined, and about the same amount damaged. The loss between Sacramento and Monroeville in levees, buildings, stock and crops, will reach $800,000, besides a decrease in the value of property in some localities. There is however, a prospect of an enormous harvest, and much sediment has been deposited, which will renew the land where worn out by continuous cropping. The flood has caused comparatively few cases of personal suffering and want.

Fiendish and Diabolical Murder.

One of the most fiendish and diabolical murders ever committed, recently occurred near Hoge Stantion, Kansas, a man named Andrew Butts being the victim. He was traveling with a companion named George Stuttman, both being from Mount Carmel, Northumberland county, Pa. While he and his companion were sleeping by a camp fire, three tramps whose names are unknown, came up and asked permission to sleep by the fire. This being refused, the tramps went away and the two young men went to sleep. About midnight Butts was awakened to find his clothing in flames and a burning railroad tie laid across his body. He tore the burning rags from his body, but he was so badly burned before he could do so that the flesh dropped from his body in various places. He crawled to a farm house near by and had his wounds tied up, and was then taken to the poor house at Leavenworth, where he died the next day. His companion has not been seen since that night, and the general supposition is that the tramps made way with him.

Decisions by Postmaster General.

The postmaster general decided that members of Congress have a legal right to become sureties on bonds accompanying bids for mail service. The postmaster general also decided that the bid submitted by J. B. Price, a citizen of the State of Missouri, could not be regarded as invalid, on the ground that his wife, who is one of the sureties thereon, is possessed of sufficient property in her own right. Another decision of interest rendered by the postmaster general is to the effect that certain bidders of Messrs. Brott, of Texas, and Price, of Missouri, who are not actual owners of steamboats cannot be awarded contracts for steamboat mail service and are not relieved from the prohibition of the law on this subject by showing that they have secured a chaater of parties for the use of steamboats conditional upon obtaining mail contracts.

Funeral of the Late Benj. Wade.

The funeral of the late Senator Wade, at Jefferson, Ohio, was largely attended. The exercises at the late residence of the deceased consisted of reading from the scriptures and a brief address by Rev. Dr. Dickinson, pastor of the Congregational church of the village and a short prayer by C. S. Shipman, of Girard Pa. Unitarian church. Resolutions of respect adopted by the Ohio Legislature were read, and an address delivered by Hon. S. A. Northway on behalf of the bar of Ashtabula. The remains were then removed to the village cemetery for interment. The pall-bearers were Hon. H. O. Fitch, and Henry Fassett, Ashtabula Hon. A. Kellog and N. E. French, of Jefferson Judges Ranney, Tilden and Cadwell, of Cleveland and Hon. Z. Chandler, of Michigan.

Sureties.

The bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Thurman, to prohibit members of Congress from becoming securities on certain bonds, provides that it shall be unlawful for any Senator or Representative in or delegate to Congress, to become surety on any official bond hereafter executed to the United States or to any officer thereof, or on any bond hereafter executed by any contractor with the United States, or with any department or officer thereof, to secure the performance of any contract in which the United States may be interested, and any such bond hereafter executed by such Senator or Representative, or delegate, as surety shall be null and void.

Honest Money League.

The executive committee of the "honest money league" has issued a call for a meeting of persons friendly to the object of the league, to take place at the Grand Pacific hotel, Chicago Tuesday, March 15th. The call states that the object of the meeting is to effect a permanent organization for the Northwest, to thereby disseminate sound views of finance and to counteract the influence of organized agitators who would lead the nation to the adoption of irredeemable paper money. The leaders of the movement report that it is rapidly gaining strength and that letters are received daily expressing warm sympathy and a desire to co-operate.

Discouraging Prospects for Lake Navigation.

The vessel men at Milwaukee anticipate little or no business during the early spring. There is absolutely no demand for charters, and no likelihood of there being any before May at the earliest. The amount of wheat there is only six hundred thousand bushels, not more than a quarter the amount usually in store at this season of the year. There will be nothing for vessels to do before the middle of May, and even then freight rates will be ruinously low. There are so many vessels, and so little grain, that vessel men expect to see rates lower than ever before.

Steamboat Sunk.

The steamboat Shannon, from Quachita river, with 900 bales of cotton, collided with the monitor Canonicus, near New Orleans, La., and sank in a few minutes. Captain Depart thinks no lives are lost. The Canonicus is at anchor in the river, at the foot of Canal street. This is the second steamboat sunk by collision with her. Steamboat men claim the light displayed by the monitor was insufficient. The boat is a total loss. A portion of the cargo may be saved, badly namaged. Boat and cargo valued at $60,000.

Suicide of a Fifteen Year Old Girl.

About seven weeks since Miss Ella Schultze, aged 15 years, suddenly disappeared from her adopted home with Henry C. Buell, a wealthy farmer living near Geneva Lake, Wis. Deligent search was made, but no trace of her whereabouts were discovered until on the 6th inst., her lifeless body was found in a water hole near Caledonia station, Boone county, Ill., twenty-five miles away from home. A corner's jury pronounced it a case of suicide.

Cuban Items of News.

Heavy inundations are reported in the Cuban district, damaging the sugar crop. A water spout near Madruga destroyed four plantations. The insurgent chief, Esten Arias with seven hundred men, surrendered the 4th inst., in the neighborhood of Yara. The same day at Trocha, Jose Gomez and 150 persons gave themselves up. Surrenders continue with perfect harmony between Spaniards and Cuba

Refusing Fraternity With French Masons

The grand lodge of Free Masons of England, Lord Carnarvan presiding, have unanimously passed a resolution refusing to recognize as a Free Masson any person initiated in a lodge whose belief in God is denied or ignored. This refers to the action of the Grand Orient of France, which recently eliminated the article expressing a belief in God from its ritual.

Suicide for Jealousy.

Mrs. Kaiser, wife of A. Kaiser, a prominent business man of Burlington, Iowa, committed suicide by taking morphine. The testimony at the inquest developed the fact that she had contemplated self-destruction for some time. Jealousy and imaginary wrongs on the part of her husband were the causes.

CONGRESSIONAL,

HOUSE, March 4.—A large number of bills were introduced, among them one by Mr. Gibson, for the appointment of a commissioner to superintend works for the improvement of the Mississippi. A resolution was adopted inquiring of the secretary of the treasury whether he has authorized the sale of any bonds for outstanding legal tender notes. The house then passed bills on the Speaker's table, among them being the bill to place on the pension rolls the names of all who had served 14 days in the war of 1812, and restoring all names stricken off for disloyalty. Adjourned.

SENATE, March 4.—Petitions and resolutions were presented, among them the resolution of the Minnesota legislature, asking an appropriation for the improvement of the Mississippi. Mr. Cockerell introduced a bill authorizing the deposit of silver bullion in the treasury, and the issue of certificates therefor, to be legal tender for all purposes as money. Minor bills were introduced. A resolution was adopted calling on the interior department for information relating to timber depredations in Montana. Resolutions relating to the establishment of new mints at various places were offered. Bills were passed, among others for the payment of claims under the act of Jan. 16, 1874, and to authorize the construction of a bridge over the Missouri at or near Glascow, Missouri.

SENATE, March 5.—Mr. McMillan called up the senate bill to authorize the Worthington and Sioux Falls railroad company to extend its present line in the Territory of Dakota to the village of Sioux Falls, which was discussed at length and then laid aside. Mr. Beck called up the resolution submitted by him on the 21st of January, declaring it inexpedient at this time to levy and collect taxes for the maintenance of a sinking fund, and spoke at length in favor of the resolution, which was then referred to the committee on finances.

HOUSE, March 5th.—Mr. Marsh offered a resolution instructing farther investigation of the Pacific railroads. The house bill making appropriations for the payment of claims allowed by the secretary of the treasury was concurred in. The bill organizing the Territory of Pembina was reported adversely. The bill to carry into effect the convention of 1858 with China was passed. The house went into committee of the whole on the fortification appropriation bill, which was laid aside and Mr. Kelly made a speech in opposition to resumption.

SENATE, March 6.—Some committee reports were made, the Worthington & Sioux Falls railroad extension bill passed, and the Wallace long-bond bill passed after a long discussion and several amendments.

HOUSE, March 6.—The fortification appropriation bill and the bill for the erection of public buildings at Kansas City were passed. A message from the President, vetoing the bill for holding a special session of United States courts in Mississippi, was received and referred. The House went into committee of the whole on the deficiency appropriation bill and was addressed by Garfield in reply to Kelley's speech of the previous day. Banning reported his army bill, which was ordered printed and recommitted.

SENATE, March 7.—A bill was introduced by Senator Cockrell for the improvement of the Mississippi. The house bill for the relief of Surgeon General Hammond was discussed. The bill amending the revised statutes relating to guano islands passed. Mr. Sargent then called up his resolution relating to Chinese immigration and made a speech thereon.

HOUSE, March 7.—The political disabilities of Robert H. Chilton, of Georgia, was removed. There was a sharp discussion on the resolution to appoint experts for the investigating committees, which was finally passed. The deficiency appropriation bill was considered in committee, and after some discussion reported to the house and passed. It appropriates $55,500.

HOUSE, March 8.—A communication was received relating to the abolition of the duty on type. The senate amendments to guano islands bill were concurred in. The long bond bill was referred to the committee on ways and means. Private bills were then considered. A resolution was agreed to calling on the secretaries of war and the interior for information in relation to geographical and geological surveys ordered. The house went into committee of the whole on the bill to pay Southern mail contractors, and after a lively discussion rose without action and adjourned.

HOUSE, March 9.—Mr. Kelly made a speech in reply to Garfield, and considerable desultory discussion followed. The house then went into committee of the whole on the consular appropriation bill. Mr. Singleton explained the bill in a speech. Mr. Hubbell spoke in favor of maintaining our foreign commerce, after which the committee rose without action.

Milwaukee Produce Market.

GRAIN—Wheat, opened unsettled and closed firm; No. 1 hard $1.15; No. 1 $1.14; No. 2 $1.10; February $1.09⅞; March $1.09⅞; April $1.10⅛; No. 3 $1.03½. Corn, scarce and wanted No. 2 nominal at 44c. Oats, steady; No. 2 25c. Rye, scarce and firm; No. 1 56c. Barley, dull and depressed No. 2 March 52½c; April 53¾@55c.

PROVISIONS—Nominally unchanged; mess pork steady at $10.30. Lard, prime steam $7.30; kettle $7.62½.

Chicago Produce Market.

GRAIN—Wheat, excited, higher and unsettled; opened strong and higher and closed at inside prices; No. 1 Chicago $1.10¼@1.11; No. 2 Chicago gilt edge $1.10⅝ regular; $1.09¾ cash and March; $1.10 April; sales at $1.09@1.11⅝ April; No. 3 Chicago $1.04@1.04⅛; rejected 91c. Corn, demand active; opened strong and higher, and closed at inside prices; gilt edge 43c; regular 42¾c cash, March and April; 43½c May; rejected 36@36½c. Oats, dull and unchanged; 25c cash; 24½c March; 24⅝c April; 27¾@27½c May. Rye, fairly active and shade higher, at 56c. Barley, good demand and prices shade higher, at 47c.

PROVISIONS—Pork, steady, with fair demand $10.25 cash; $10.40@10.42½ April; $10.57½ May. Lard, steady and in fair demand, at $7.25 cash; $7.35@7.37½ April; $7.45@7.47½ May. Bulk meats, steady and in fair demand.

"Brunswick" writes from New York to the Gazette: "The latest fancy work for ladies is the most novel of any thing I have heard yet. You have often seen Canton flannel mice and sponge monkeys on pen-wipers, of course; now there is a new ornament introduced. In this realistic age, sponges and Canton flannel animals become tiresome, and, in their stead real are used, Kittens of a few moments, old are taken from their mothers, drowned, stuffed, and then fastened on pen-wipers by ingenious ladies. I know of one lady who has engaged a whole litter of kittens for this purpose. If I was betrothed to a young lady, and she made kitten pen-wipers, I would break the engagement and turn her over to Bergh."

MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE.

Twentieth Annual Session.

SENATE, March 4.—A large amount of business was transacted in this body. Among the bills passed were the following: To legalize the incorporation of the East and West Norway Evangelical Lutheran churches, Kandiyohi county; legalizing official seals; regulating fees of county clerks in mortgage foreclosures; authorizing the Casuality and other insurance companies to do business in the State; relating to district school treasurers' reports; appropriating money to pay interest on State bonds; relating to the appointment of assessors; amending the law relating to the meeting of commissioners; insurance of exempt property to be exempt from seizure, fixing and appropriating money for salaries of State officers; Relief of settlers on swamp lands; town site of Northland, Lyon county; election of superintendent of schools in Ramsey county; avenue around Lake Phalen; amending the charter of St. Cloud; legalizing an expenditure by the supervisors of Washington Lake, Sibly county; to require the commissioners of Sibly county to give bonds in $3,000 each. The afternoon and evening sessions were mainly devoted to railroad matters, in committee of the whole.

HOUSE, March 4.—The committee appointed to enquire into the truth of the charges against E. St. Julien Cox, reported the charges not sustained by evidence before the committee. Among the bills passed were the following: Locating State road in Pope and Stearns counties; relating to the salary of the clerk of Olmsted county; relating to the draining of Lake Mary, in Wright county; Authorizing the village of Jordan to issue bonds; appropriating money for deficiencies for the year 1877; relating to the right of way of railroads over State lands; Relating to the charter of the city of Rochester; Relating to record of deeds in register of deeds' office and making the same evidence; appointing a commissioner to arbitrate differences between Seymour, Sabin & Co. and the State; for the protection of wool-growers; appropriating money for the further improvement of the State prison; authorizing Stevens county to issue bonds for court house purposes; relating to State library; relating to the voting for license for selling liquors in the city of Owatona; reimbursing Wadena county for disbursments in small-pox cases; appropriating $500 to erect a suitable monument to the memory of certain persons massacred by Sioux Indians in Mecker county in 1862; relating to liability of married women on contracts; relating to preservation of game; relating to common schools; for borrowing money on the credit of the State, for certain purposes; appropriating money for the several State institutions; amending the statutes relating to the election of town officers; amending the laws relating to roads; providing for collection of debts against school districts where trustees have removed. The evening session was devoted to business in committee of the whole

SENATE, March 5.—The bill in the interest of the St. Paul & Pacific railroad was passed by a unanimous vote. The Southern Minnesota extension bill passed with almost equal unanimity. The constitutional amendment provision prohibiting special legislation only received nine votes in the affirmative. Among the most important bills passed were the following: For the incorporation of Pine Island, Goodhue county; amending the charter of Dodge Centre, Dodge county; of amending the incorporation of the village of Kasson, Dodge county; relating to Riverside Cemetery, Dodge county; relating to the appointment of fish commissioners; village of Lewiston, Winona county, allowing the St. Paul & Duluth Railroad Company to construct a branch; town clerks and recorders to administer oaths.

HOUSE, March 5.—A substitute bill was reported for the Senate and House bills for the recovery and cancellation of the old railroad bonds which was ordered to be placed on the head of the list of general orders. The text-book bill as amended in the Senate came up and after a long debate the House refused to concur in the amendments. The following bills were passed; regulating the translation of fire insurance companies' policy; granting swamp lands to the St. Cloud and Blue Earth Valley railroad; Granting swamp lands in Otter Tail county in aid of a railroad from Fergus Falls to the Northern Pacific; appropriating $1,000 to Joseph Wolf, as compensation for dangers sustained by the enlargement of State prison grounds; Extending the time for the payment of the unpaid purchase money for State lands; relating to the forfeiture of life insurance policies; amending the general laws relating to liens upon logs and timber; relating to the preservation of game.

SENATE, March 6.—Among the important measures acted upon were a bill for the levy of a tax of $550,000 for State purposes, the rate of taxation not to exceed 2½ mills; the bill for State prison improvements was amended by reducing the number of new cells from 190 to 90, and the appropriation from $48,000 to $23,000, and the bill was recommended to pass; appropriating $38,750 for improvement of the State prison; appropriating $215,000 for support of State institutions; amending the act of incorporation of the village of Jordan, Scott county.

HOUSE, March 6th.—This branch of the Legislature worked from 8½ in the morning to 12 in the evening. A great many measures of importance were acted upon. Still the work of the session is very much behind considering this was the next to the last working day of the session. Our limited space forbids even a mention of all the measures acted upon, which number at least 70.

SENATE, March 7.—This being the last day in which bills could be passed, everybody took the occasion to force their pet measures to a passage. The Senate was in almost continuous session until 5½ o'clock on the morning of the 8th, at which time they adjourned for breakfast. During the session 384 bills were introduced in the Senate, some of which failed in the last hours owing to the immense accumulation of business.

HOUSE, March 7.—This was a stormy day in the House. An immense amount of business was transacted. Bills were rushed through when many of the members apparently did not know what measure they were voting upon. 450 bills were introduced in the House. Many failed for the lack of time The House adjourned for breakfast at 5½ o'clock on the morning of the 8th.

A lady who had just received an addition to her "help," in the shape of an intelligence-office girl, instructed her how to make coffee. "Now, then," says the lady, "pour in the hot water, and after a few minutes boiling put in one half an egg or so;" and the lady illustrated each description by a demonstration. "you understand, don't you?" continued the lady. "Indade I do, mum," was the response; "bile the coffee, grind water, and dhrop the half of an egg. I sn't that it, mum?" "All right," replied the lady. "Now, then, to-morrow morning we'll see how well you remember it. To-morrow morning came, and the coffee was as good as could be expected. The third morning came, and, to the astonishment of the wife, the coffee was undrikable and nauseating; even the ordor of it was sickening. Bridget was called, and questioned as follows: "Bridget, did you first put the ground coffee in the pot?" "Indade, I did, mum." "Did you then pour in the hot water?" "Sure, I did." "How long did you let it boil?" "five minutes, mum." "What did you do then?" "I put in the egg, mum." "Just as I allowed you the other morning?" "Well, to tell the truth," says Bridget, "I would have put in the half egg, as ye towled me but the egg was a bad one, and I thought ye wouldn't mind kaping the half of it, so I dhropped the critter as it was." the lady no longer wondered that the coffee was not drinkable.

Siftings From the Kitchen Fire.

MRS. ANNIE L. JACK.

It is one of the problems of domestic economy in hearth and home consultation, "How can we save time?" and yet we go on, wasting the precious hours over things of little moment, and neglect more import duties or pleasures. I often hear ladies say in the short days of winter, "It seems as if we do nothing but cook, the days are so short!" and yet they make no effort to change the order of things. My own household is regulated by the fact that five hours of the day are spent in the schoolroom, where I am teacher to the merry group; and in the intermission at noon, we take lunch—as the children would do if they attended the district-school. This, if practiced in many houses when the children come home at four in the afternoon, would leave a whole day for the duties of the household, and the united family could enjoy a five o'clock dinner to the gratification of the children, whose plate "kept over" is often a burnt and tasteless reminder of the dinner the have missed.

In the matter of cooking, too, I am often struck with the fact that women, in their housewife's pride, spend too much energy on their preparations for a company tea, in rural place. How many of us have hardly found time to sip our tea, between eating our bread and butter, for the added duty of *passing cake* to our neighbors! Not long ago, taking tea at the house of a very near and dear friend, I was called upon to sympathize with her tor the misfortune of having "no time to read." The secret was revealed to me when I found myselt afterwards passing around to those whose plates were almost laden with good things—nine kinds of cake, all home made. What skill, energy what time such a work required! How toothsome each delicate morsel! what an amount of labor expended! Reader, I like cake, but I should feel it the dryest of sawdust if it robbed me of my time for mental improvement. With all the other condiments, no sensible person needs such a choice of cake, and I feel as if I were considered a gourmand when I find it displayed before me. The simple elegance of a tea-table is not in overloading, but in the bright, cheery, well-kept furnishings with a full supply of whatever dainty dish is set before use.

Speaking of domestic economy in regard to time, I am often called upon to notice the prejudice against labor-saving machines for *women*, that prevails among farmers who procure (and rightly, too,) everything to aid farm work. How many of you can claim as your kitchen aids, a washer and wringer, a clothes sprinkler and mangle, apple parer and corer, potato peeler and slicer, syllabub churn and raisen stoner, a first-class egg beater and carpet sweeper? And yet all these things would not cost as much as the threshing machine so necessary to a farmer who does not like to be considered behind the times. *We* too often work on in the primitive way, using our old implements, as the farmer might his old flail. But is it economy when *time* is so precious?

Just as I think of changing the subject of my "siftings." one of the crowd comes in with half a dozen new-laid eggs, which he is eager for me to count I make a rule, as eggs get scarce in winter to give the children "an apple for an egg," and it is surprising how faithfully they are gathered and kept in count. As an article of diet we value them highly, and even fancy they taste better at this season of the year, when four times the price of the same article in summer. One of Marion Harland's housekeepers is made to say: —"give me a half a dozen egge, a few poonfuls of gravy and as much cream, spoonful of butter and a handful of bread crumbs, and I can get up a good breakfast or luncheon." One of her tried dishes for these meals is so simple yet so palatable for a hurried time, that I cannot help quoting at closing:

Six eggs; one tablespoonful of butter. Melt the butter in a shallow baking dish. Break the eggs carefully into it, dust with pepper and salt and put in a moderate oven until the whites "set." Serve in the dish in which they are baked.

Reminiscence of Lincoln.

We copy from advance sheets of *Scribner's Monthly* the following passages from "Personal Reminiscences of Lincoln." by Noah Brooks:

"Lincoln particularly liked a joke at the expense of the dignity of some high civil or military official, One day, not long before his second inauguration, he asked me if I had heard about Stanton's meeting a picket on Broad river, South Carolina, and then told this story: 'Gen. Foster, then at Port Royal, escorted the secretary up the river, taking a quartermaster's tug. Reaching the outer lines on the river, a picket roared from the bank, 'Who have you got on board that tug?' The severe and dignified answer was, 'The secretary of war and Major General Foster.' Instantly the picket roard back, 'We've got major generals enough up here---why don't you bring us up some hard-tack?' The story tickled Lincoln mightily, and he told it until it was replaced by a new one.

"Anything that savored of the wit and humor of the soldiers was especially welcom to Lincoln. His fondness for good stories is a well accepted tradition, but any incident that showed that 'the boys' were mirthful and jolly in all their privations seemed to commend itself to him. He used to say that the grim grotesqueness and extravagance of American humor were its most striking characteristics. There was a story of a soldier in the army of the Potomac, carried to the rear of battle with both legs shot off, who, seeing a pie woman hovering about, asked, 'Say, old lady, are them pies sewed or pegged?' And there was another one of a soldier at the battle of Chancellorsville, whose regiment, waiting to be called into the fight, was taking coffee. The hero o the story put to his lips a crockery mug which he had carried with infinite care through several campaigns. A stray bullet, just missing the coffee-drinker's head, dashed the mug into fragments and left only its handle in his fingers. Turning his head in that direction, the soldier angrily growled, 'Johnny, you can't do that again!' Lincoln, relating these two stories together, said, 'It seems as if neither death nor danger could quench the grim humor of the American soldier.

"As a rule Lincoln wrote his most important letters with his own hand. Some of these, perhaps the most of them, were read over to confidential friends, and were corrected or modified before being sent. He kept copies of all letters of moment, and even some of these copies he had made himself with painstaking care. In his office in the public wing of the White House was a little cabinet, the interior divided into pigeon-holes. The pigeon-holes were lettered in alphabetical order, but a few were devoted to individuals. Horace Greely, I remember, had a pigeon-hole by himself; so did each of the several generals who wrote often to him. One compartment, labeled 'W.&W.,' excited my curiosity, but I never inquired what it meant, and, one night being sent to the cabinet for a letter which the President wanted, he said, 'I see you looking at my 'W. & W.' Can you guess what that stands for?' Of course it was useless to guess. 'Well, said he, with a roguish twinkle of the eye, 'that's Weed and Wood—Thurlow and Fernandy.' Then he added with an indescribable chuckle, 'That's a pair of 'em!'

"A remarkable and highly characteristic letter of Lincoln's was one which he wrote to General Hooker just after the latter had taken command of the army of the Potomac. It was quite long, occupying nearly four pages of large letter paper and written entirely in the president's own hand. In this letter the good Lincoln advised Hooker in the most kindly, even affectionate manner, not in respect to military affairs, but as to his personal conduct, alluding particularly to certain traits of character which, the president gently intimated, became faults when made too prominent. It was just such a letter of loving counsel as a father might write to a son—a letter to be forever prized by its recipient. Some weeks after this was written I accompanied the President to the army of the Potomac, then lying at Falmouth. We were entertained at Hooker's headquarters. One night, Hooker and I being alone in his hut, the general standing with his back to the fireplace, alert, handsome, full of courage and confidence, said laughingly: 'B—, the President says you know about that letter he wrote me. on taking command; Then he added, with that charming assurance which became him so well: 'After I have been to Richmond I am going to have that letter printed.' It is a good letter; it is a pity that it never was printed."

Difference Between a Cold Boy and a Warm Boy.

Sunday afternoon a policeman walking along Columbia Street east caught sight of a boy about twelve years old trying to pry up a kitchen window. As the lad betrayed no alarm when accosted, the officer mildly demanded if he lived there, and why he was prying up the sash.

"I live here, but I'm locked out," replied the boy.

"This is a bout the hundredth timet his game has been played on me, and this is the last hair that breaks the camels's back!"

"Where's your mother?"

"Gone over to my aunt's, I spose. I've just got home from Sunday School."

"And why should she lock the door?"

"That's the bloody mystery!" angrily exclaimed the lad. 'There's a big frosted cake in the house, of course, but would I touch it? Why, I just hate the sight of raisin cake with frosting on it?"

"You simply desire to get in to warm your feet?" suggested the officer.

"That is all, and I'm going in if it takes the roof off!"

The officer walked on, and in a few minutes passed up behind the house to help catch a loose horse. Seated on the fence was the boy who was working at the window. He was now working at frosted cake.

"Ah—ha! didn't you tell me you didn't like cake?" cried the officer.

"That was when I was cold," replied the boy, as he hunted for the raisins. "There's a heap of difference between a cold boy and a warm boy!"

"And you don't feel as desperate as you did?"

"Not quite, though I can't tell what minute I may want some pickled peaches and it makes me mad to think that ma hid this cake in a basket in the parlor stove!"—*Free Press.*

Insanity Among the Higher Classes.

Having referred to the bearing of the habits of one large portion of the pupulation upon the manufacture of insanity, we pass on to the consideration of the relation between higher grades of modern society and mental disorder. It has been observed in institutions into which private and pauper patients are admitted, that the moral or physical causes of lunacy are more frequently the occasion of the attack with the former than the latter class. This is not always accounted for, as might have been expected—by there having been less drink-produced insanity among the well-to-do patients, for, in the Royal Edinburgh Asylum, where this disparity strongly comes out, there is even a higher percentage of insanity from this cause among the private than the pauper lunatics. The history of the daily mode of life of many members of the Stock Exchange would reveal, in the matter of diet, an amount of alcoholic imbibition in the form of morning "nips," wine at luncheon and it dinner, difficult to realize by many of less porous constitutions, and easily explaining the disasterous results which in many instances follow, sooner or later, as respects disturbances of the nervous system, in one form or other. In fact, by the time dinner is due the stomach is in despair, and its owner finds it necessary to goad a lost appetite by strong spirits ending with black coffee and some liquor. When either dyspepsia or over-business work is set down as the cause of the insanity of such individuals it should be considered what influence the amount of alcohol imbibed has exerted upon the final catastrophe, as well as the assigned cause. But whatever may be the relative amount of insanity produced among the affluent and the poor, of this there can be no doubt, that certain mental causes of lunacy, as over-study, and business worry, produce more insanity among the upper than the lower classes.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

One by one all the comforts of this life are taken away from the toiling millions. It used to be a great consolation to us in our poverty that none of our rich neighbors could ever get to heaven. Now, alas! we are assured there is no place else for them to go to. O, woful times! O, wretched, harsh, and inconsiderate world!