AND now there is talk of combination among the express companies.

AND now Houston may settle its bonded indebtedness, that was made under the rule of Radicalism, which the *Post* would see established all over Texas.

GENERAL BUTLER is said to have abandoned for the present year his designs upon the gubernatorial chair of Massachusetts, but he will try to get into congress.

STATE TREASURER POLK, of Tennessee, says that the debt of that state is $27,000,000, and that the decision rendered by the state supreme court repudiates all but $2,500,000.

POOL is a great game in Williamson county. Any who may think we slander the good name of the people of that county will please interview the county attorney about it.

THE county commissioners of Harris county have reduced the county debt, and the rate of interest on the county debt; and they have also reduced the advalorem tax, and have abolished the poll tax.

HOUSTON is at last attacked with the paving mania. No wonder; the perambulations of a Houstonian could have been more properly performed during the last two months in boats than in wheeled vehicles.

EX-SENATOR THURMAN has been in New York trying to harmonize the two factions of the Democracy in that city. He is said to be popular with both, and if he succeed in his purpose, it is hinted that he will prove a formidable rival to Hon. S. J. Tilden, in securing the New York delegation to the National Democratic convention in 1884.

REFERRING, lately, to the presidency, Senator David Davis said: "My ambition that way is gone. I am too old, and would not accept a nomination if tendered. I am sixty-seven years old, and the machine is not what it used to be. I am not a candidate and will not be." Such talk on the part of a man who stands no chance whatever of being made president, naturally makes one put David down as a real honest, conscientious man.

THE Chicago *Inter-Ocean* makes a suggestion for the suppression of polygamy which is the best yet. It is the restoration to the Mormon wives their right of dower. The effect of this would at once be to restrict each Mormon to three wives, for the dower being one-third, there would not be enough to go around if there were more than three. Reduction once begun, it would be easy to carry it on until polygamy was wiped out.

BABY insurance has taken the place of graveyard insurance in Pennsylvania. The head of a family at Pottsville recently insured two of his children, the eldest three years and the youngest sixteen months. The latter died, and the father received eight dollars, the agreement being that he was to pay five cents a week on the child, and if it died inside of six months he was to receive eight dollars, and if it did not die until the expiration of a year he was to get sixteen dollars. It is said that in many cases large families of children have been insured.

A PROPOSED amendment to the reapportionment bill, to prevent "jerrymandering," was rejected. Wash Jones and his adherents have been talking about his being "jerrymandered" out in the next deal, and when these Republicans in the house had the power to prevent such a thing they failed to come to his aid. "Jerrymandering" is a peculiar feature in the Republican states, and the only way to fight the devil is said to be with fire. Wash Jones is not exactly the devil, but he owes all his late elevation to Republicans, and that makes him a very near relative to the old fellow.

THE "intelligent compositor" is determined that Greer county shall no longer be known as disputed Texas territory. It must be remembered that the geographical knowledge of this great master is swallowed up in his "art preservative." He is wise in "takes," and knows how to measure the fullest length of a "string," or to convert "lean" into "phat," but when it comes to geography or to orthography he is supremely indifferent as to such trash, and makes out of Greer county, a territory noted in Texas history, a name which might apply as well to some region in Japan as to any portion of Texas.

Governor Roberts endorsed a bill for $100 for copies of his book, for the use of Huntsville normal school, and his action is severely criticised. —*Brenham Banner.*

How could Governor Roberts have done otherwise than endorse the bill? The books were bought by Mr. Baldwin, the principal of the school, from the publisher and owner of the edition, and Mr. Baldwin approved the bill and it was approved by the local board at Huntsville. The board of trustees had delegated to Governor Roberts the authority to countersign all the accounts for them, when so approved, and when this account was presented to the governor he affixed his signature as he had been doing on all other accounts. He had no part in making the account, and he had no right to stop payment. As to the propriety of Mr. Baldwin adopting the book, the STATESMAN has expressed itself unequivocably upon that point, but at the same time it declares it most unreasonable to put in question the action of the governor for doing what was required of him. He had nothing to do with the adoption of the books for the use of the school. This matter is further referred to, in these columns, in correspondence upon the subject, to which attention is called.

The emperor of Germany has conferred upon Madame Albani the title of a "royal chamber singer," which distinction is only shared by Mesdames Adelina Patti, Minnie Hauk and Pauline Lucca.

WEEKLY DEMOCRATIC STATESMAN.

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THE WATER POWER OF THE COLORADO—MILLS AND FACTORIES.

The STATESMAN takes a deep interest in all things calculated to add to the material prosperity of Austin and to the advancement of its commercial interests. It has urged the building of railways and mills, and manufactures, and above all the utilization of this vast water power which passes our very doors. As Austin grows in architectural beauty the STATESMAN would have it advance in business and commercial prosperity. Nature set a charm upon these hills and about the environs of this beautiful river and its famed western tributary, that makes it a treasured spot in the hearts of Texans, and while moulded domes and mounting spires kiss these clear and beautiful skies the busy hum of industry should send tidings far and near that the people of this Capitol City respond in energy and toil and usefulness to the distinctions conferred upon it. It is for this reason that the STATESMAN, a few days ago, took special pride in telling of the reorganization of a most creditable enterprise in our midst, which now promises to prove to the commercial and manufacturing world that these boasts about favored location are not idle. Austin now has one of the most perfect flouring mills in the state, in fact, as far as perfection is concerned, one of the best in the United States. The management of the Colorado Mills is at last perfect, and nothing is in the way of proving that as good flour may be made at Austin as comes from St. Louis or any other market. The opening of direct railway connection between Texas and California has given a new channel for wheat supply, and the wheat now being used at the above mentioned mills is as good as any. Mr. Koerber has been very fortunate too in securing the services of one of the most accomplished millers in the United States, Mr. Tom Code, who is an adept in the production of flour. Such facts as these becoming known makes it only a question of time when demand will be made upon the Austin market for more home made flour than these mills can supply. They must then be greatly enarged or others must be built. The water power supplied by the Colorado, is as the STATESMAN has often before urged, enough to drown many such mills as these, and we hope that others will be speedily established; not necessarily flouring mills, but cotton seed oil mills, cotton and woolen mills and manufactories of all kinds. A few gentlemen are now agitating the question of establishing a cotton seed oil mill, and using for it the same power that moves the Colorado flouring mills. Why this enterprise should not at once be inaugurated is strange. There is money in oil making, and Austin being in the midst of a great cotton producing region, could sustain such mills with more profit than most places. A number of cotton mills have been established in Texas, and all of them are making money, while being forced, because of their locations, to use steam power. Here the water power can be obtained at smaller expense than anywhere in the southwest, and why in a few years almost the entire cotton seed oil production of Texas should not be carried on along the banks of the Colorado river, in sight of Austin, is difficult to understand. It would even pay the cotton seed mill owners at Hempstead and other places to move their machinery to Austin to apply water power. The dam at the Colorado Mills can be raised so as to produce twelve or fifteen hundred horse power, and another and another dam may be constructed above the city, in all giving five or ten thousand horse power for moving machinery. That is what the STATESMAN wants, and what it has often urged; it wants our mills enlarged and the power used besides for cotton seed oil production and for moving woolen and cotton mills; and then it wants another dam below Mount Bonne and another below the mouth of Bull creek, all creating power for a number and variety of mills. The STATESMAN is gratified that the reorganization of the Colorado Mills, under Mr. Koerber's able management, is awaking the people to a sense of what may be achieved for Austin, simply by the utilization of a great power that nature has provided at our very doors. The Austin and Northwestern railway is now sending its powerful little engines toward the north, to tap a rich agricultural, grazing and mineral region. It is an Austin enterprise of which the STATESMAN is proud, and while it opens up new fields for trade let this trade be made permanent by producing, through the agency of manufactories at Austin, a base of supply and demand which may withstand all competition. This little narrow gauge road will be followed by another and another, and to prevent them from running a trunk line to "deep water," or some other seaport town, for trade, let these and other roads learn to know that this unlimited water power is a bigger thing than a city built even like Venice, in the centre of the seas.

Careful experiment has revealed the fact that common cotton stock can be successfully utilized in the manufacture of first-class paper. We are glad to hear this, as the cotton grower of Texas, and other southern states will reap a large harvest from a material which has, as yet been of no service whatever. It is to be hoped that capital will take immediate advantage of this important discovery.

DODGING RESPONSIBILITY.

It is painful to see the efforts of the *Post* to dodge any responsibility for these political movements in opposition to Democracy. It charges unfairness against the STATESMAN in directing attention to the responsibility charged to it, and tries to make it appear that it has been imposed upon The fact is admitted, but it is due probably to the credulity of the *Post*, which is large. It is well remembered how the *Post* attempted to give a boom to the "Young Democracy" movement at Austin, in the spring of 1881, but it would now lead the people to believe that it did not consider the matter of such importance as to go a column expense on an Austin telegram regarding the movement, and then to boost it with much editorial approval. It is not that the *Post* does not love any movement against Democracy that it attempts to avoid the godmothership of "Young Democracy," but it is its compunction of conscience at allowing the poor thing to die, that makes it now deny maternal responsibility. It was delighted, it was jubilant, over the birth of the babe, and it fondled it, just as though it were an old and experienced mother, and it should not now go back on the being of its adoption. It is unnatural, unworthy the *Post*, that stands away out in the dim, unreal political world, ready to stand for anything that is new and that is especially like itself, unreal, undefined. We had not expected the *Post* to deny responsibility for this slightly prolonged sickly, puny life, and we are truly surprised to see it so ungenerous as to attack the character of its quandam great political adviser, Mr Speer. The STATESMAN saw this gentleman placed at the most responsible post on the outskirts of the *Post's* advanced line; he was placed in Austin during the session of the seventeenth legislature to show what character of genius the *Post* could command. He was at the political center of the state, placed here to observe and advise and direct, as all understood, the conduct of the *Post* as seen from the lights reflected through him during one of the most active sessions of the state legislature. Yes, we are surprised beyond measure, when the *Post* even maligns a gentleman, then holding its greatest confidence, simply and plainly to shield itself, from being now known as the heading "organ" of the "Young Democracy." Mr. Speer was the light of that organization, and after it had been ushered into life with six witnesses, he took it tenderly in his charge, and turned it over to the *Post* who ruthlessly killed it on taffy diet. The *Post* surprises us when it calls its trusted agent, by name, an "intriguer," in an ungenerous sense. The STATESMAN was satisfied that the gentleman was an intriguer, but in a different sense from that implied by the *Post*, and it was then satisfied, since the *Post's* existence was to be one of intrigue against the Democratic party, that the service of an intriguer was demanded in its interest. Had the *Post* only been possessed of the genius to back intrigue, it probably could have succeeded in forming new parties but it has signally failed, and now it is ungenerous enough to attempt to make it appear that the responsibility for failure rests on a single individual, for whose acts it was not responsible, while at the same time he represented it with signal ability and with bold purposes. The *Post* should, certainly, not conduct itself thusly; it loses caste among its best friends when it does so. Can the re-born "Young Democracy" confide in it? Can Independentism flop its wings on the top of the *Post*, and prepare for a grand descent upon Democracy? Can Wash Jones or "Gnat Qurious" or Colonel Tom Ochiltree appeal to it in time of need, with confidence? Can Mahoneism transplant itself in Texas through the agency of the *Post*? Never, never; they will all ask how it treated Speer's baby, and when they learn its sad end they will all look somewhere else than to the *Post* for a godmother.

THE proportions in which foreign countries have contributed to Mormonism are shown in the following figures, which are compiled from the censuses of 1870 and 1880:

	1870.	1880
Born in England	16,073	19,654
Born in Scotland	2,391	3,301
Born in Wales	1,783	2,300
Born in Ireland	592	1,321
Born in Denmark	4,967	7,721
Born in Sweden	1,790	3,730
Born in Norway	613	1,214
Born in Switzerland	509	1,040
Born in Germany	358	885

England, it will be seen, makes the chief contribution to Mormonism, and next to England come those Scandinavian countries to whose people the Anglo-Saxon stock is close kin. The infrequency of Irish or German Mormons is very remarkable, and the Latan races of Europe never have been hospitable to Mormon missionaries. The number of proselytes made among Americans during the last twenty years is very small. The recruiting ground is Great Britain and Scandinavia.

One of the recalled Chinese students, in a letter to an American friend, says: "The first two weeks we had a pretty tough time of it. The officials thought we all had our cues cut off, and had Yankee wives, and all sorts of nonsense; in fact, they thought we were perfect barbarians."

Commander Cheyne seems sanguine of obtaining $40,000 in America towards the expense of reaching the north pole by balloons. Sir Hugh Allen and other residents of Montreal have undertaken to obtain a subsidy of $20,000 from the Canadian government.

KEEP MANUFACTORIES OUT OF TEXAS.

Senator Coke's late speech on the tariff question, the personal effect of which was the other day presented by our Washington correspondent, has been sent to all the papers of the state, but few of them have had the hardihood to even attempt its review. The speech is something like his annual messages, more than any mortal, whose time does not belong wholly to himself, could possibly peruse. By a sort of relay the *Express* managed to digest part of it, but found nothing to commend as new, and much to condemn as absurd. Among other things the senator made a bold effort to curry favor with the eastern capitalist, and in doing this he placed himself in direct opposition to the vital interests of the south and of Texas. The *Express* says:

"One of the remarkable positions taken by Coke in this speech was that if a protection were removed it would drive manufacturing establishments from their present locations to where the raw materials were produced; that protection had built up large and prosperous manufacturing communities in the north and east; and that without protection those manufacturing establishments would have to close their doors and be removed to other countries where the raw materials are produced; that their profits would be insufficient without protection to enable them to pay transportation on raw materials to their present abiding places. This was a dangerous statement for a tree-trader to make, or, if true, it explodes the theory of enormous profits they claim the manufacturers are making. If their margin of profit is so small that the cost of transportation of the raw materials for a few hundred miles will crush them out of existence, or if sayed, enable them to continue business, there must be a pretty strong necessity for protection. Manufactories established where the raw materials are produced will no doubt be most profitable, and that is why we believe certain manufacturers will seek the south if their business is rendered safe by a judicious protective law; but the experiment of trying to drive them hither by inaugurating a starving out process in the northern and eastern states is new and unique.

While Senator Coke may be a statesman (we will not quarrel about the title, for such things are cheap now-a-days) we do not think he showed much astuteness as a politician, if his speech was really intended as an argument in favor of free trade and to impress the senate that the protective tariff should be repealed, and not as a foil among the Texas grangers to Governor Roberts' renowned assertion that the plow is the beginning and end of civilization, or words to that effect. It Coke really desired to have free trade established in the United States, it seems to us he took the poorest way in the world to establish it. The west and south are weak numerically and by representation in congress, as compared to the north and east, and without their consent we can accomplish nothing in the way of national legislation; yet Mr. Coke does not hesitate to stand on the floor of the senate and tell that mighty and controlling power, "Pass my measure, remove the tariff, and your property will be ruined, your mills will be left idle and your capitalists will be driven to other sections of the country." He said, to quote him literally: "The protective tariff alone has enabled the New England states to draw our raw materials to their factories. Take that away, and the factories and workshops will have to remove to the raw materials." It Coke expects the northern and eastern representatives to believe him, he certainly must expect them to vote solidly against what he advocates.

Cure for Texas Fever.

Mr. John R. Hoxie, who owns one of the largest and finest farms in Texas, situated in Williamson county, claims to have discovered an antidote for Texas or Spanish fever. For some years past he is reported to have sent a large number of thoroughbred shorthorn and Hereford cattle to his farm for breeding purposes, and claims since he commenced the use of this remedy, he has not lost a single amimal. The following is his own report of his work, and he is reported as in every respect a reliable man:

"I give each animal a dose of belladonna, upon the first appearance of fever. This usually comes about a month after the stock reaches Texas, but not unfrequently six weeks or even two months, pass before they show signs of disease.

"Almost every month of the year I have sent cattle to Williamson county, and since I began using belladonna, have lost none during the acclimatization. Nor do I fear I will lose any so long at I use the drug. I give from a teaspoonful to a tablespoonful at a dose, age of the animal and condition of the fever regulating the size of the dose. I have never needed to give more than three doses to any animal and often one is enough.

"It should be given clear and not mixed with other matter. Soon after taking the dose, the animal will throw up a white froth which will be quite warm, almost at fever heat in fact, but no harm comes from that."

All interested in the matter of introducing the best breeds of cattle in all parts of the country will be sincerely glad to see this remedy firmly established by full experiment, as a sovereign one in all cases where cattle are attacked by Spanish fever, or as a preventive where cattle are becoming acclimated in Texas. The risk involved is not so great per head as where grown animals are taken, and some parties claim that young cattle get through the acclimating process easier than those of mature age do.

The state senate of Mississippi has passed a bill appropriating $50,000 for the encouragement of immigration.

Oscar Wilde approves of Niagara, though the outlines of the falls disappointed him at first sight. When he looked up from the foot he was reminded of Leonardo da Vinci's saying that the two most wonderful things in the world are a woman's smile and the motion of mighty waters. In a private album at the Prospect House, Oscar wrote: "The roar of these waters is like the roar when the mighty wave of democracy breaks on the shores where kings lie couched at ease."

Alex Johnson, a Swede, suicided at Dallas by shooting himself in the mouth.

ART FOR THE HOUSEHOLD.

Every Day Æsthetics for Everybody's Use—Common Sense in Domestic Decoration—Good Taste at Home—Housewives and Help—And a Savory Receipt or Two.

While the revival of art in the sense of a return to knee-breeches and ancient costumes will doubtless fail to commend itself to the common sense of the age, people of taste will find many hints and suggestions for practical use in the movement of which Mr. Wilde regards himself the exponent. Art may not be the highest form of happiness, and yet there can be no doubt that beauty adds to human enjoyment in everything, and that it may be made to contribute essentially to the comfort and pleasure of almost every phase of our daily lives. The time will probably never arrive in this world when men and women can deal only with art subjects, or employ themselves merely in the contemplation of objects which do not offend or grate upon delicate susceptibilities. But to a certain extent we can follow out the æsthetic principle. Even in departments of effort where it might seem incompatible and impracticable, and in the place to which the English heart has always done greatest reverence, and which we call by the almost sacred title home, it is possible to develop the theory of the beautiful in a practical way to an almost unlimited extent. Decorative art societies in general have already done much in this direction, and their field of usefulness and influence is widening and may be widened almost indefinitely. Still one need not go to a decorative art school, though such schools will help even the ablest pupils to learn some of the simpler secrets of house beautification and decoration. It is not every one who can afford to paint pretty china ornaments, or work embroidered hangings or deal in plaques and pretty knick-knacks, and with all deference to our schools of household art, there would seem to be too much tendency on their part to make domestic decoration too expensive for the ordinary run of people.

The rich can buy their art at so much a yard, as they buy their silk, and can purchase beauty as the poorer classes purchase beans; but the great majority of humanity must depend to a large extent upon their own skill and contrivance for their little articles of vertu, and must supplement slim purses with clever ingenuity. It is surprising how far good taste will go in such matters as these, and how much it will accomplish towards relieving the harshness and barrenness of a straightened household. Specifications are unnecessary and useless, for female instinct of good taste in such things is generally the best guide; but those who have not looked into the subject would be astonished to learn how even the simplest articles of household use may be made to take on an aspect of attractiveness, if not of positive loveliness, under a careful, skillful hand. A flour barrel or a candle box might seem impossible subjects for æsthetic treatment, and yet we have seen them transformed into things of positive beauty, as well as of unquestionable use, by a thrifty and clever housewife. So with almost everything in the modern house, which, under the tendency of practical art renaissance, is growing into something less of the old-time castle of which our English forefathers boasted, and into something more of a home.

For the most part out of doors and in the hard conflicts of business life art may find it difficult to maintain itself, but in the home it may find a congenial soil where it can be cultivated even in the slightest details, and may flourish without let or hindrance, brightening and beautifying even the humblest habitations. There is no telling how great is the moral and physical effect of a bright and cheerful home, where everything is done not only regularly and in order, but where good taste suffices the lack of the almighty dollar. Even the humblest fare, the dinner of herbs, becomes more attractive when the dining room is sweet and cleanly, and where the dinner service and viands are arranged with some regard to the intellectual as well as the physical cravings — not merely dumping upon the table in Saxon confusion, as it one were giving the stock their midday meal.

Speaking of dinners suggests the importance of art, not exactly of that sublimated sort which is taught by sunflower apostles, in the preparation of what we eat and drink. And in reaching this end those housekeepers who cannot cook (and more the pity there should be any who can't) must depend upon securing efficient and trustworthy help; for after all is said and done, and decorative art has accomplished its best, what is home without a good cook? The servant girl problem is one of the great live issues of the day for the female head of the house, and various are the ways in which wives and mothers seek to solve it. Some housekeepers have a predilection for this nationality and others for that, in selecting their domestic assistants, but it is scarcely possible to lay down any general rule for guidance in the solution of this vexed problem. As has been pointed out:

"There is a mistaken idea that English servants are always the most desirable in the world, as good as they may be in the main; that English housekeepers have fewer difficulties to contend with than any others, and that there is, in fact, a sort of feudal feeling between mistress and servant which is not found elsewhere. But this idea, like a good many other popular notions, is a delusion. Fifty years ago it was true in a measure; to-day it is almost wholly untrue. The British matron has a good deal to put up with—more than she is even willing to allow, because there is a certain pride in keeping a well regulated house, and in spite of much conversation and free discussion on the subject of servants generally, it is only to the friend of her bosom that she can confide the constant irritation and annoyance she suffers from the vagaries of the cook. The really enviable person in England is she whose income allows of her keeping a housekeeper, and whose soul is never troubled with everyday matters of kitchen and scullery. She is never harrassed by Mary's refusal to put on coals because it is John's place, or John's indignation because he is expected to wait on the governess. Above all she is spared the daily encounter with the cook, and this is an ordeal which tries the strongest There are so many kitchen privileges dear to the heart of the cook, upon which the mistress must be bold, indeed, to trench. Then the connection between cooks and tempers is a very intimate one, and everything likely to ruffle the harmony of the kitchen autocrat must, at all hazards, be avoided. Those mistresses who succeed in achieving real dominion over the culinary department are few. A great many imagine that they are the rulers, when, in fact, the portly dame in apron and cap governs them with an iron rod! She is mistress of her domain, and permits of no interference when once the orders of the day are given. And these orders, how difficult there!"

The thrifty Scotch have a dish of their own which is rarely found in purely English houses, yet which certainly commends favorably with the Irish stew, which every ordinary household tolerates. Cock-a-leekie is, however, not exactly within reach of every economical housekeeper by reason of the fowl that is in it, but still, on a cold, bleak winter's day there are charms in cock-a-leekie which repay the expenditure. A large capon and a couple of bunches of leeks are the essentials, to which good, strong stock, well seasoned, is the accompaniment. Long stewing will reduce the capon to a state of tenderness; then it should be taken out of the pot, cut up into small pieces, placed on a deep dish, and the soup, first thickened with a little flour, be poured over it.

Salads are not only appetizing dishes, but in midwinter often have medical properties as well. A good housekeeper, after thorough study of the salad question, has come to the conclusion that the success of salads comes not so much from the virtue of the receipt, as from the inspiration of the moment; or, in her own language, that "a salad, to be a credit to its maker, has to be invented each time.' Here, however, is a receipt which comes from a good authority in such matters, and which we give for what it is worth:

"After the light green and whitish inside leaves of a head of lettuce (which are alone fit for use) have been washed with the most careful touch, put in a colander and kept on ice for a couple of hours (which gives them a desirable crispness) they should be arranged in a large salad bowl just before dinner and put in a cool place until wanted. The dressing, to render the salad perfect, should not come in contact with the lettuce, or any other kind of greens which may be used either in combination with it or by themselves, until the time for serving arrives, when the host or hostess may show how, with a few touches, a most refreshing and delicious salad is prepared. To say just how to proportion the dressing is a difficult matter. The qantities of salt, pepper, vinegar and oil to a head of lettuce depend entirely upon the size of the latter, which is never the same. For a medium sized one there should be a half a teaspoonful of salt, half that amount of pepper, half a salad spoonful of vinegar, and two salad spoonfulls of the best olive oil. But what has been said before must be repeated, that success depends more upon a certain feeling for the right proportion than on any rules. Another dressing approved by some persons consists of part lemon juce instead of all vinegar, to which add a saltspoonful of mushroom catsup. These three ingredients mix before hand and put into a cruet, to be used when dressing the salad at the dinner table."

OVER THE STATE.

The stockmen of San Saba county are going to form a local association.

The Texas-Mexican telegraph line has been finished to Laredo, and opened for business.

Joseph Spence has been appointed county judge of Tom Green county, in place of the late S. P. May.

The Santa Fe railroad has built an elegant little passenger depot at the growing town of Temple.

Harrison county will vote on local option, March 7th. The Marshall *Herald* supports the cause.

The Dallas ministers have petitioned the city council to enforce the state Sunday law in reference to whisky.

Georgia Thomas, (colored) of Houston, kindled a fire with coal oil, and that was the end of poor Georgia Thomas.

According to the Dallas *Times* North Texas has furnished the Democratic votes and east Texas has held the offices.

Major Alford, well known in Waco, is now in jail at Gainesville for attempted rape on a young white lady of that place.

It is said that the track of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe railroad will be completed to Lampasas about the 10th of May.

Mr. George P. Holcombe will shortly start a new paper at Waco, the *Evening Press*. Waco needs another paper, and we are in hopes the *Press* will succeed.

Hillsboro *Mirror*: General J. G. McDonald, of Navasota, Grimes county, is a candidate for the state senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Honorable J. T. Buchanan.

Dallas *Times*: The Austin STATESMAN will still insist on calling Dallas "the hub" of the state. Therefore, the Fort Worth *Democrat* has ceased to exchange with a paper so "vile" as the STATESMAN.

Dallas *Times*: Every paper in Texas has received a copy of Coke's speech on the tariff. This explains the announcement published a few days ago that the supply of this speech had been exhausted.

The stockraisers association of Northwestern Texas, which will meet in annual convention at Gainesville on the third Monday in March, the twentieth day, will be an unusually interesting meeting.

Of the death of a valuable citizen, the San Antonio *Express* says: "In the death of Mr. Honore Grenet San Antonia loses another valuable citizen, and his sudden demise will shock the community in which he has so long been a prominent figure and a highly respected gentleman. The sympathy for his family, a second time so greatly bereaved within a fortnight, will be general and heartfelt.

Dallas Times: "The 'young Democracy' colt was turned into the lot of the Houston *Post* about a month ago. It fails to thrive on the condensed political milk given it by that paper, and already its legs get tangled, its eyes water, its nose runs, and it has other symptoms of an early death. It is a wood's colt, sired by fence-riders, out of unholy greed, and it was a shame to put it off on a new paper firm like the *Post* as a thorough bred animal.

San Antonio *Express*: Rt. Rev. N. A. Gallagher has received double briefs from Rome, one of which names him bishop of Canopus, a city on the western mouth of the Nile, but the other brief imposes upon Bishop Gallagher the administratorship, inspiritualis and temporalis of the Galveston diocese. This diocese is entirely free from debt, and Bishop Gallagher will find reason to congratulate himself on the choice of the holy father.

At Athens a little girl of six years swallowed a grain of corn, which lodged in the windpipe and produced strangulation.

At Galveston, on Tuesday, Victor Elois, a Sicilian, killed his wife by stabbing her through the heart. He was arrested by two citizens.

The death of W. B. Scates, at his home near Weimer, is reported. He died on the 21st inst. He was eighty years of age and a signer of the Texas declaration of independence.

The Sabine Pass and East Texas railroad now extends from Beaumont to within fifteen miles of Woodville, in Tyler county, and construction is being rapidly pushed.

The Brenham cotton seed oil mills are producing a refined quality of oil, which the citizens are preferring to any other kind of grease for greasing their slap-jack skillits and cooking their lean beefsteaks.

The people of Kaufman are making efforts to secure the northeast branch of the Central road to that town, and with prospects of success. The probability is the road will run from Kaufman via Terrell, Greenville and on to Paris.

Work on the northeastern branch of the Texas Central from Garrett was opened up on the 17th by Captain A. Faulkner throwing the first shovel of dirt. Tom Layden and Ed. Terrell are the contractors, and the work is now being pushed ahead.

The Galveston *Journal* of Tuesday, is a large eight-page paper, one side of which is devoted to pictorial illustrations of the cars in the carnival procession. The attendance of strangers at Galveston was very large, and this year's Mardi Gras celebration has been one of the most successful Galveston ever had.

The Grimes county farm, on which misdemeanor convicts are worked, appears to be a success. An exchange from that section says: "Our commissioners did a wise thing when they inaugurated the system of hiring convicts to this county farm. Were it not for the farm the jail would have been filled again with prisoners, convicted at the present term of the county court. As it is, the farm will receive but one recruit from the present term, the others managing some way to get their fines paid."

Private advices received at Brownsville state that at a meeting of the Palmer & Sullivan company, Mr. Palmer stated they had $745,000 on hand and 3,000,000 subscribed. Mr. Palmer says he is going to begin operations on the Matamoras and Monterey railroad at once. The company have 2,000 tons of rails at New Orleans and a portion has been ordered here at once. The Palmer & Sullivan stock has risen ten points in New York and is still rising, the withdrawal of Gould from Mexican railroad enterprises doing much to restore confidence in the national stock.

PERSONAL.

Gen. Hancock is swinging round the circle. He has lately been at Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Ex-King Amadeus was recently robbed by one of his servants in his palace at Turin, of 100,000 francs worth of jewels and silver.

General Fitzhugh Lee is announced for a series of lectures at different points in the south, the coming spring, for the benefit of the Southern Historical society.

Mr. Trescot, the special minister to the South American governments, receives a salary of $10,000, with traveling expenses, and an allowance of $1500 for clerical service.

Lieutenant Flipper is not to leave the army it appears. He was not found guilty on the charge of embezzlement, but of deceiving his superior officer. General Grierson and other officers have written to the president that Flipper is not a bad person, and that he ought to be given another trial.

"General Washington presents his compliments to Dr. Jones, and requests the favor of his company at dinner this day—4 o'clock, Monday, 5th May." Such is the form of invitation sent by George Washington to the father of a St. Louis gentleman, who prints the note in a newspaper interview.

General Sherman, accompanied by General Pope and Colonel Morrow, will leave Washington the first of March for a tour of inspection of the departments of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, visiting all the principal posts on the frontier of those states. A visit will also be paid the Yosemite valley and San Francisco, the trip occupying eight or ten weeks.

Edison says 80,000 of his lamps are in use in foreign countries, and he will soon be making them in New York at the rate of a thousand a day. His object is to light the interior of buildings, including the smallest rooms. He is experimenting at Menlo park with an electric railway three miles long, and reports favorable progress.

Senator Ben Hill is lying ill at Philadelphia as the result of another surgical operation upon his tongue. It was supposed the cancer was removed at the first operation, but it seems that it was not, and the ulcer was very much aggravated by a four-hour speech he made in the senate recently.

A judge and a jury disagreed as to how much Mr. Robinson, of Sidney, Ohio, ought to pay Miss Alleman for having kissed her against her will. The jury gave her a verdict of $450, and the judge reduced the amount to $200.

The Brownsville *Cosmopolitan* mentions the arrival of Mr. Mitchell, of the Tampico & San Luis Potosi railroad. He says there are three miles of the road the other side of the river nine miles from Tampico, in running order, and about eight miles more graded. The company now have about a thousand men at work on a piece of road from the Tabassi river to Tampico. This is a hard piece of road to build, there being many bridges, etc. The material is loaded on flats, taken up the river by a tug and the work pushed from the upper end toward the city. The steamer Alabama, with 405 men for the road, recently reached Tampico. Of these about two-thirds were negroes and one-third were whites. Seventeen of them died on the voyage out, and one man was found in the river the morning after their arrival with his head crushed, probably having been murdered and disposed of in that way.

The Wisconsin legislature is agitated especially by two bills, which are urged for passage with considerable spirit. One is to tax church property, and the other to restore the death penalty. The feeling engendered by the discussion is bitter, a considerable element denouncing both measures as relics of barbarism.

The Cultivation of the Vine and Manufacture of Wine in Western Texas.

San Antonio Express.]

Yesterday afternoon a reporter of the *Express* met Mr. C. H. Gibby, who for many years has been a manufacturer of wine in southern California, and who visits this city for the sole purpose of finding out whether wine can be manufactured equally well here as in California.

"What is your opinion of western Texas for the culture of the vine?" asked the reporter.

"I have only visited a few counties as yet, but from what I have seen and heard, I am of the opinion that there is no state in the Union better adapted for this purpose. The dry portions of this state is just the thing for the Pico grape, and with a few posts to keep up the vines, large vineyards could be successfully operated at but a trifling cost, and small outlay of capital."

"Have you seen any of the native wine?"

"Yes, I have drank several glasses. It is far richer than our California wine, more piquant and of a better flavor. The color is of a rich red, and there is no necessity of using ox-blood, and logwood, as we are obliged to do."

"Well, do you intend to locate here?"

"Yes, if I can find a suitable locality at a reasonable price. Several gentlemen in Sacramento will join me, and if all turns out as I expect it will, you will not be obliged to send abroad for your wine as you now do."

The Mahogany Tree.

Full-grown, the mahogany tree is one of the monarchs of tropical America. Its vast trunk and massive arms, rising to a lofty height and spreading with graceful sweep over immense spaces, covered with beautiful foliage; bright, glossy, light and airy, clinging so long to the spray as to make it almost an evergreen, present a rare combination of loveliness and grandeur. The leaves are very small, delicate and polished like those of the laurel. The flowers are small and white or greenish yellow. The mahogany lumbermen, having selected a tree, surround it with a platform about twelve feet above the ground, and cut it above the platform. Some dozen or fifteen feet of the largest part of the trunk are thus lost; yet a single log not unfrequently weighs from six or seven to fifteen tons, and sometimes measures as much as seventeen feet in length and four and a half to five feet in diameter, one tree furnishing two, three or four such logs. Some trees have yielded 12,000 superficial feet.

The rapid disappearance of mutilated coins is a matter attracting some notice, and is accounted for in various ways. In the first place, when they began to be refused there was no longer any profit in punching and clipping off coins, and so that industry ceased. In the next place, in order that such mutilated coins might be more readily withdrawn from circulation, the superintendents of the coining mints were authorized to purchase them in sums of $3 and upwards at the rate of $1 per ounce of standard silver contained therein. In the third place, their disappearance has been still further hastened by notices which have been conspicuously posted in different cities, giving a schedule of prices for them very much below their mint value. These notices, although doubtless the work of speculators, inspire the people with a willingness to part with mutilated coins at a heavy discount, and make the business of buying them up quite profitable. As a result of these several influences, the coins are rapidly disappearing from our circulation altogether.

Les Mondes reports that Mr. Dufourcet has in the exposed court of his house, two bars of iron planted in the earth, to each of which is fixed a conductor of coated wire terminating in a telephone receiver. He consults this apparatus twice or thrice every day, and it never fails through its indications of earth currents to give notice of the approach of a storm twelve to fifteen hours before it actually arrives.

The three states of Alabama, Mississippi and Texas have 122,675,500,000 feet of merchantable pine lumber, enough to supply the demand of the whole country for sixty years. Minnesota, the chief lumber state in the north, has only 6,100,000,000 feet. The total cut in the three southern states named is but 38,531,000 feet or about one-half of one per cent., which is less than the annual growth of the forests.

Church property will hereafter be taxed. In due time church property will be taxed throughout the entire country.

Gossip About Conkling.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Conkling's nomination for the supreme bench was a surprise to every one at the capital to-day, except a very few senators who had recently received an intimation of it, but who kept it a secret inviolable. It is this afternoon an absorbing topic of comment. There seems to be no difference of opinion among the senators as to Conkling's eminent fitness for the position, but in view of his declination of chief justice, which was offered to him by President Grant, some doubt is expressed as to whether he will accept the present appointment or not, but the general belief is that he has accepted it in advance of his nomination.

The nomination of ex-Senator Sargent to the German mission was also quite unexpected, and his friends were taken completely by surprise as he had not sought it or expected any other office than the secretaryship of the interior. It is understood that he will accept the place tendered him, and is rather gratified to thus escape from the storm which has been raging about the interior department and hard work attendant upon the position for which his nomination was expected.

Readjuster Nominations.

RICHMOND, VA., Feb. 24.—The Readjusters in caucus last night nominated County Judge Henry M. Ford, of Henry county, to be circuit judge of Danville circuit, and the following for judges of the supreme court of appeals: Robert A. Richardson, of Smythe county, vice Judge Staples, late secretary of the commonwealth, vice Judge Anderson; Drury A. Hinton, vice Judge Burk.

The caucus continued in session last night until 12 o'clock, and completed the nominations for judges of the supreme court of appeals. L. L. Lewis, of this city, was nominated, and Judge B. W. Lacey, of New Kent, received the nomination over two opponents. Lewis is a Republican and United States district attorney for the eastern district of Virginia. He is also the half-brother of Hon. G. W. Lewis.

NEW ORLEANS.

From Austin to the Crescent City—A Word for Railroad Conductors—Mardi Gras Anticipated—Personal.

Traveling Correspondent of the Statesman]

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 20.—During Mardi Gras the trip from your capital city or elsewhere to this city is not a pleasant one. From Austin here on such occasions consumes (and I speak from recent experience) thirty hours, where ordinarily the divers companies in command of railways between Austin and New Orleans might be induced to schedule a man through in twenty-four hours. Some Texas railroads are peculiar in this respect. Further comment on this point is unnecessary. I met a man in transit who hailed from a place he called "Main"—how it is spelled or where located, I did not inquire—no matter, he communicated to me the pursuing episode. "I was once a Jim Blaine delegate to Augusta. The apex of my ambition then was to elevate my friend J. B., to the United States senate. I parted from my fellow citizens with high hopes of victory, took a train,—this one refreshes my memory on the event—and failed to make connections—you understand. Mark the result. Blaine was elected without my vote, and here I am a political wreck, proposing to join hands with my Republican confreres of the sunny south." He offered me something—I took a cigarette.

Nick Darrow is a conductor on the Central. He should be commended as such, and also as a gentleman. Nick'll feel assured will be comfortably located in case of sudden demise; his