Gazette Supplement, March 16th, 1886.

Marriage in Other Lands.

They have very interesting marriage ceremonies in Norway and Sweden. The custom among the Swedish peasants is exceedingly droll. When a girl is to be married in Sweden she is dressed in her bridal garments, and is placed in the middle of a room. As she stands she is surrounded by a circle of bright lights. The groomsmen then enter, each carrying a lighted lamp. The villagers have assembled about the cottage in the mean time, and the doors and windows are thrown open. Through them whoever wishes may enter and the most liberal criticisms of the bride are made. Men and woman walk about her and talk freely of her appearance, her character, her prospects, etc. One will hear some fellow say:

"Well, she's to be married at last, eh? About time, I think. It's the first offer she has had since I jilted her."

"Yes," some one will say, "and I pity the man who married her."

"But don't she look old, though," another spectator will say; and won't she make the poor fellow stand around?

"Women wearing masks and different disguises will always be present for the purpose of making remarks both pointed and insulting; but everything is borne patiently and in good part by the bride and groom. The chaffing is kept up for an hour or two, when every one but the friends of the parties are ordered to quit the house, and the ceremony is performed.

"It takes a good while for a village wedding festival to be carried out in Norwegian villages, sometimes as long as a week. Beer, spirits, plenty to eat, music, and dancing are the features. The guests begin to assemble on the day before the wedding. They are welcomed with plenty of spirits and beer by the bride and groom. The village schoolmaster is always master of ceremonies, and it is he who invites the guests to the reception meal. He says grace. A psalm is then sung to accompaniment of two violins. The repast is simple, and served on a bare table. No plates are used, but large flat cakes of meal instead. The night is spent in revelling. The next morning at eight o'clock the wedding procession starts for church. The bride always wears a silver crown and ornaments. In some parts of the kingdom she is clad in a purple robe, richly embroidered with gold, frequently the heirloom of centuries. Sometimes the way to church is by boat and sometimes on horseback. Music leads the way. The march to church is never halted, but when the party returns after the church ceremony a salute is fired from every house along the route, and at every one the newly married pair alight and partake of beer. The journey home often takes a day, owing to this general joining in the festivities.

"As soon as the bridal party reaches home a grand dinner is served. After that what is known as the cradle tax is collected. A tin dish is placed before the bride, and her father deposits in it a bank note and two silver spoons. The guests all contribute money or silver gifts. The rest of the wedding day and part of the night are spent in drinking and dancing. Then a procession forms, and each person carries a lighted candle and escorts the bride and groom to their apartment. The next day the wedding gifts are presented. They are not displayed, but each giver shouts out what he or she gives, and shakes hands with the married couple. The revelling and rejoicing are kept up until the following Sunday, when they are brought to a close, and the young couple are considered fully married. I know something about marriage in Norway, for I was married there myself and went through the entire programme."—*Exchange.*

Comstock Journalism.

A fierce war has broken out between the *Enterprise* and *Chronicle*. It runs something like this:

Last evening a small boy was run over at the corner of B and Union streets, and seriously injured on the left ankle.—[*Chronicle.*

To this the *Enterprise* of the next morning responds:

The item in last evening's *Chronicle* relative to a boy being run over is the baldest tissue of falsehood ever invented. The boy was not run over at the corner at all, as alleged, but two doors below, near Bandanna's bakery. It was the knee and not the ankle that was hurt, and instead of being a small boy he is almost big enough to work in the mines.

The *Chronicle* comes back as follows:

The assertion that a boy was run over near Bandanna's bakery is refuted by a card of the baker in another column. The ankle was hurt, as shown to the reporter last evening. The assertion that the boy is big enough to work in the mines is quite significant. Anybody knows that the *Enterprise* has always been in favor of filling the mines with kids, to the exclusion of miners with families. The Miners' Union had better interview the paper at once.

The *Enterprise* comes back at once as follows:

The drunken lunatics who mismanage the *Chronicle*, in the absence of the regular editor, are trying to drag the *Enterprise* into a war with the bake shops of this State. The dirty loafers know that we always have been their friend, etc.

The *Chronicle* staff then hold a cabinet meeting and reply:

The *Enterprise* this morning, in referring to the industrious and honest bakers of this city, says: "The dirty loafers know we have been their friend." Alluding to bakers as "dirty loafers" is what might be expected from a sheet whose only humorist had resigned in disgust long ago to make room for a man who escaped from a lunatic asylum and has never been recaptured.—*Carson Appeal.*

Breaking the News Gently.

"What is the matter with you Colonel? You look troubled," said Gus de Smith to Colonel Yerger.

"I am in a terrible fix, Gus."

"What is the matter now?"

"You know my wife is very nervous. If the slightest thing goes wrong she is liable to have spasms."

"Well, has anything gone wrong?"

"I should say so. She is devoted to her father. He died in St. Louis four weeks ago, but she doesn't know it. Nobody in the family has the courage to tell her about it. I don't know what to do."

"I'll tell you what. Let me break it to her. I've got tact, and I can do it in such a way that she will hardly feel the shock."

"God bless you! Go right into the parlor and tor it over."

Gus stroked his moustache and sauntered into the room where, looking like a picture of despair, Mrs. Yerger was sitting on a sofa, evidently absorbed in deep thought.

"Good morning, Mrs. Yerger, are you not feeling well?"

"I am not feeling well at all; I am very anxious about my dear father."

"Ah! Perhaps he is better off."

"I can't tell how he is coming on; I haven't had a letter from him in seven weeks."

"Seven weeks!" exclaimed Gus with a merry laugh. "Why, there is nothing strange about that, my father has been dead fifteen years and I haven't had a letter from him in all that time."—*Texas Siftings.*

The Size of Famous European Churches.

The following statistics as to the comparative capacity of the most celebrated churches in Europe will be read with interest:

	Persons.	Sq. Yds.
St. Peter's at Rome	54,000	15,000
Milan Cathedral	37,000	9,000
St. Paul's at Rome	32,000	8,000
St. Paul's at London	25,000	6,400
St. Stephens at Vienna	24,000	6,000
Florence Cathedral	21,000	6,000
Antwerp Cathedral	24,000	5,500
St. Stephen's at Vienna	22,000	5,000
Dome of Milan Cathedral	22,000	5,000
St. Peter's at Bologna	21,000	4,800
Cathedral at Vienna	21,000	4,500
St. Mark's at Venice	20,000	4,500

The piazza of St. Peter's, it is added, in its widest limits, allowing twelve persons to the square yard, (equals yard) holds 621,000; allowing four to the yard, drawn up in military array, 208,000. In its narrowest limits, not comprising the portico or the Piazza Rusticucci, 171,000 crowded, and 135,000 in military array.

The Panama Canal.

M. de Lesseps before leaving Paris, at a meeting of the Academy of Sciences, declared that he was to be "accompanied by the delegates of several governments and chambers of commerce, whose competence and character will place beyond any doubt the judgment that they shall pronounce." On the second day, "I am sure that in sixty days we shall expect to see with all authority that the canal soon will be ready, at latest, during 1889." Delegates from the New York Chamber of Commerce have been invited. A writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, who is believed to be Mr. J. C. Rodgers, arranges farther the direction of the enterprise, and predicts dire disaster. A pamphlet just out at Paris, by M. Bouquerie-Wyse, heavily criticises the management of the enterprise, "incredulity as to the ultimate success of the scheme appears to be constantly widening. But, while this is true, the stockholders of M. de Lesseps are more numerous. The subject is big with interest. The mortality of the French republican institutions is concerned. There are 110,000 French stockholders and as many more holders of debentures."

A recent visitor thus writes from Panama:

"During a detention of a few days on the isthmus, about a mile from Lesseps to Lima, I have had occasion to see some of the canal work and to talk with many of the employes and with residents on the isthmus. And I am not surprised to find that very few people on this isthmus believe in the completion of the canal by the French. The work done amounts to nearly 10 per cent. of the whole, and over £12,500,000 has already been spent. There has been no practical system of management, and the wages and contracts have been terrible. The only work that has so far been done is that of Slavin Brothers, American contractors, who have several powerful dredges at work between Colon and Gatun. All over the rest of the line there are only a few scratches. Almost all I have conversed with (even court men) predict that 'the bottom will soon fall out,' as the company is short of funds, and M. de Lesseps cannot raise more until he can explain where the £12,000,000 has gone. Workmen by the thousand have been discharged, and both tropical, especially Colon, are now overcrowded with idle laborers, and you may expect at any moment trouble. The present director general, M. Varilla, has commenced to cut down salaries and other expenses and to reduce the force, but I am very much afraid that it is too late. To complete the canal will cost $80,000,000 more, and it will then be too costly to pay. The Chagres river is a stumbling block to the engineer corps of the canal company, and the question as to how they are to control it will be the hardest nut they have to crack. They purchased the Panama Railway from the Americans, and so it here all American employes. The railway does an enormous freight and passenger business, but has no check, or system of checking, on the business of the road, and is greatly robbed by employes. You can do a great service to the English public if you can warn them to let the canal loan alone. The crash must soon come, when this great project of the nineteenth century will cause a terrible financial crisis in France."

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On sums of Five Hundred Dollars or under from any person, they will pay interest at the rate of Five per cent. per annum, from date of receipt, on all sums that shall have remained on deposit three months, or have been on deposit three months at the time of making up the yearly accounts. No interest will be computed on fractions of Dollars or for fractions of a month.

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Thirty days notice must be given at the Bank of an intention to withdraw any money; and the Depositor's Pass-book must be produced at the same time.

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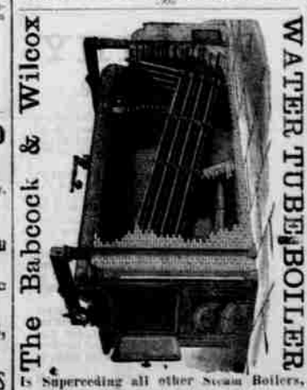

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Total.....Reichsmark 107,000,000

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Capital of the Company & Reserve...Reichsmark 3,000,000 " " their Re-Insurance Companies " 25,000,000

Total.....Reichsmark 28,000,000

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Liabilities . . . 17,878,309.44

Surplus . . . 79,066,619.90

Surplus, New York Standard of 4½ per cent. interest (hence this Gain of any other Ins. Co) . . . 18,726,222.73

New Assurance written in 1884 (hence this 43% of any other company) . . . 84,837,862.00

Total Outstanding Assurance . . . 408,436,475.00

Increase of Premium Income . . . 1,305,795.04

Increase of Surplus—Legal Standard . . . 1,626,525.94

Increase of Assets . . . 4,132,365.94

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