THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Foreign.

—George Cassagnac and an old Sergeant Major fought a duel with swords on the Swiss frontier, and Cassagnac's throat was pierced.

—Jem Mace, the noted pugilist, was soundly thrashed in a prize-fight by Lord Charles Beresford. The contest was witnessed by the Prince of Wales.

—The Emperor of Russia, in addressing the Village Elders at Moscow, said: "Do not credit the senseless rumors respecting a redistribution of grants of land. All property must be unassailable."

—Thomas Caffrey, convicted of participation in the Phoenix Park tragedy was hanged on the 2d inst., in Kilmainham jail. He was the fourth man executed for this crime.

—In addition to requiring that the Queen of Madagascar recognize the protectorate of France, and concede the right of Frenchmen to hold property in her country, the French Government will demand an indemnity of 1,500,000 francs for the expense of the expedition to Madagascar.

—It is estimated that more than 1,000,000 people attended the grand celebration at Moscow in honor of the Czar's coronation. There was no disturbance, and the Czar and Czarina were received with great enthusiasm by the populace. The Czar issued a proclamation affording greater freedom to religious sects.

General.

—In a fire at Santa Clara, Mexico, five little girls were cremated.

—The Dakota Capital Commission has fixed upon Bismarck as the site of the new capital of the Territory.

—Hughes won the six-day pedestrian match at Baltimore, making 558 miles, to 516 for Noramac, 504 for Panchot, and 490 for Hart.

—The tent of Barnum's great circus was burned the other night at Chicago. The fire was kindled by sparks from a passing locomotive.

—The schooner Fannie A. Bailey, from Chevering for Philadelphia, went ashore at Cape May. Three men and one child were lost.

—Theodore Martin, a 7-year-old boy of Troy, N. Y., shot his 14-years-old brother in the throat while examining a pistol which he had found.

—By the explosion of a pile-driver engine, on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, near LaGrange Tenn., the engineer and fireman were killed outright. Two other men were seriously injured.

—Chief Justice Waite says the United States Supreme Court is about three years behind in its work. It is impossible for the court to consider more that 400 cases annually, while very many more are filed.

—During the performance in Nathan's circus at Suspension Bridge, N. Y., the tents were struck by a terrific rain squall and utterly demolished. About 1,500 persons were in the tents and a terrible panic ensued. A large number of persons were injured, though none fatally.

—Mormon missionaries are meeting with remarkable success among the poor white population of North Carolina, and are making many converts. A leading newspaper of the section advises the people to take shotguns as a counteracting agent, and to chase the proselytizers out of the country.

—Postmaster General Gresham has issued a general order directing Postmasters at first and second-class offices to give personal attention to their official duties and not absent themselves from their offices without permission from the department.

—It is reported at the Treasury Department in Washington that the British Government is sending paupers to this country by a roundabout process. The people are said to be assisted to Belgium and then again aided to emigrate to the United States. These "assisted" migrations are, of course, from Ireland.

—In the inquest upon the victims of the Brooklyn bridge disaster, the jury returned a virdict that "the death of the victims resulted from suffocation." They also found the officers and Trustees responsible in not having the bridge properly guarded by police, and recommended that the accommodations for foot passengers be improved.

—A telegram from Wilcox, Arizona, says: From a party just arrived from Oposura, Mexico, it is learned that hostiles are depredating east and south of that point, rendering travel very hazardous within a radius of thirty miles. It is reported that over twenty person have been murdered by the Apaches. They were chiefly Mexicans, only three Americans being among the victims. Oposura is situated in a very mountainous part of Sonora, surrounded by lofty peaks, and the country is only suitable for grazing purposes. A great many Americans are in that vicinity, engaged in mining, it being one of the richest mining districts in Sonora.

Crimes and Criminals.

—Paddy Hannois, a resident of the Cherokee nation, murdered his brother James and an Indian named Tom Scraper.

—Ike Paradise, of Paradise Range, Davidson county, Tenn., shot his father John Paradise, through the heart. The parricide was the outgrowth of an old quarrel.

—A store on the lower Rio Grande, in Hidalgo county, Texas, was raided by a band of outlaws from Mexico, and robbed of $2,000 in cash and $3,000 worth of goods.

—Frank Brown and John Anderson, notorious desperadoes, undertook to "run" the town of Wiota, Iowa, threatening peaceable citizens and firing their revolvers. As they passed up the street, a public-spirited citizen fired a load of buck-shot at them. Anderson has since died, and Brown cannot recover.

—About 100 men assembled at Winterset, Iowa, and being refused the jail keys broke in with crowbars and sledges. They then led out John Hamner, held for the murder of William Nowell one year ago, and hanged him to a tree in the Court House square, but while he was struggling one of the mob shot him through the heart. The party fired a volley and escaped on horseback. Little or no excitement was caused by the act.

—A desperado named Whiting, or Fisher, who operated on the plan of the late James gang, was taken from jail by a mob at Hermann, Mo., and hanged. In his last raid Whiting and a partner had murdered a young man named Burchard, who was protecting his father's store in Casconade county. Whiting's partner was killed and he himself wounded by a companion of Burchard's. There had been a previous attempt to lynch the outlaw.

—A United States Deputy Marshal and his posse, looking for criminals in the Chickasaw country, Indian Territory, recently reported having encountered and killed three desperadoes. It transpires that, having stumbled upon a woman and two children sleeping out of doors, they fired without waiting to investigate further, killing the children and wounding the mother, who fled to her house. Thither the posse followed her, and, finding a third child, shot him dead. The story about the desperadoes was invented to conceal their frightful blunder.

Financial and Industrial.

—In sympathy with the decline in pig-iron, ore has been materially reduced in Pennsylvania, stock now selling for $3 per ton, which a few weeks ago commanded $4, and even at this figure the demand is restricted.

—According to the report of the Directors of the Mint, the production of precious metals in the United States during 1882 was $32,500,000 gold and $46,800,000 silver, a decline of $2,200,000 as compared with the yield of the mines in 1881.

Casualties.

—Reports from Council Bluffs say the recent great rainfall and consequent flood resulted in no loss of life. Several families were driven from their homes, and in some instances lost all their household effects. Many bridges, including two stone structures, were wrecked, and the rear wall of the Opera House, in process of erection, collapsed, and the side walls are in a dangerous condition. The total loss is placed at $300,000.

Personal.

—Amasa Stone's will bequeaths $500,000 and the Euclid avenue homestead in Cleveland to his wife, and the remainder of the estate goes to his family, except that Adelbert College is to receive $100,000 if the estate reaches $3,500,000; and $10,000 each is alloted to the Home for Aged Women and the Children's Aid Society.

—P. J. Sheahy, one of the jurors in the Guiteau case, has become so violently ill that his family have been compelled to send him to an asylum for confinement. He believed that Guiteau was insane, and reluctantly consented to a verdict sending him to the scaffold. Since the hanging he has brooded over the matter until finally his reason gave way.

Political.

—The Pennsylvania Senate has passed a bill to abolish the contract system in prisons and reformatory institutions. It also passed a measure designed to prohibit political assessments.

Characteristics of Greyhounds.

When the greyhound chases anything he means killing it. Should a little dog become scared and start to run from two or three greyhounds, his life may be numbered by seconds, unless he quickly finds a place of refuge, where his pursuers can not have access to him, and where he can "bow wow" his disgust at their want of courtesy and bloodthirstiness without fear of retribution. As for cats, of all the enemies of the feline race, none are to be more dreaded by them than the greyhound. In a field where there are no trees poor pussy is soon down, when one grip from the long, powerful jaws of her pursuer settles her account in this world. And this habit of chasing everything that runs from them is so much a part and a parcel of their nature and is so fostered by their training that to eradicate it is impossible without rendering the dog useless. On the other hand I have seen them run up to a small terrier, who was plucky enough to stand and face them, awaiting the course of events, when they would simply nose him all over, which is the nature of strange dogs in general when they meet one another, and let him proceed on his way unmolested, although I must admit there is generally a "lurking devil" in the corners of their eyes as he trots quietly off to see if he will not break into a gallop and so give him an excuse for "chevying" him forthwith. Also, this breed, one and all, must plead guilty to the charge of larceny. Most impudent theives they are, too, not being very particular about stealing under the very noses of the owners of the property purloined, and having got possession of the coveted plunder, they, to quote an expression of our American brethren, "hop around lively," leaving the agrieved proprietor the option of vowing vengeance against greyhounds in general and that hound in particular, and so put up with his loss, or else visiting the owner of the dog and endeavoring to obtain satisfaction and redress from that quarter. The best way to escape trouble from either of these two faults, is to keep your hounds coupled so long as you are in the neighborhood of shops; and although this may not be a perfect cure for the evil, you will find it a great check on their propensities in these directions.—*Toronto Globe.*

The New Capitol.

Galveston News.

AUSTIN, June 5.—The Capitol Board met to-day to reply to a letter of the contractors, giving a list of seventeen stone quarries in this and adjoining counties they had thoroughly examined at a cost of $16,000, and stating that the only quarry where they had found suitable stone in sufficient quantity, was that at Oatmanville in this county. They further asked the board to examine the stone and decide if it was acceptable. They had lost much valuable time in this endeavor and hoped the board would decide the question, as they did not want any delay that might be attributed to their action. To this letter, the board replied through a letter written by their secretary, in which they say the specimen block of stone from Oatmanville quarry, submitted May 4, has been examined, and the board has visited the quarry and they passed a resolution that the specimen block corresponds with the sample block required for the building and designated in the specifications, hence is acceptable: but the board does not commit itself as to the amount of stone in the quarry; or in other words, does not accept the quarry. It seems they merely decide the specimen conforms to the class of stone that is required for the building. As to the remark about delay, they express the hope the contractors do not attribute the delay to any fault of the board, for they have been anxious the work should proceed. They also gave the contractors notice that the supplemental contract for changing the tensile strength required of the cement to be used would be null and void, unless the unqualified consent of Designing Architect Meyers and bondsmen was given to the change. Meyers' consent, it appears, is conditional, and his sureties have not agreed to the change. The board returned Meyers' consent to the change, in order that it be made without qualification.

Justice to Texas.

When Mr. Fred Warde, the distinguished tragedian, was in San Antonio he said many pleasant things of the people and cities of Texas. It is pleasing to find that his impressions were not evanescent as in most cases, for recently he paid the following just tribute to the Lone Star state: "Texas is the grandest state it has ever been my good fortune to visit—both in point of climate and sociability. Northern people, as a general thing, associate cowboys and all that is tough with that grand country, but it is a mistake. I found it directly opposite. The citizens represent the surplus energy and culture of the world and enjoy the advantages of all modern improvements. The cities are splendid ones. In them can be found a society second to none in the land, and although a great many combinations travel through the state of Texas, the preference of the people is for the higher order of music and drama. As a field for youth and energy it is unexcelled."

—The Gulf Colorado and Santa Fe railroad has just closed a contract with the owners of the coal mines in the western edge of Parker county, three miles from Milsap, for 500,000 tons of coal, to be mined and delivered along the line of their track during the present year. A comyany was recently formed to operate these coal mines, the principal stockholders residing at Weatherford. They have been making some nice developments lately, and claim to have coal that is equal, if not superior in quality to the Indian Territory coal.

A PHILOSOPHER observes that when a man takes more pleasure in earning money than in spending it, he has taken the first step towards wealth. He has also taken the first step toward leading the meanest kind of a life.—*Boston Post.*

CURIOUS PATENTS.

Products of Our Yankee Invention.

Some investigating person has furnished the New York *Times* with a brief list of patents on small things—such as any man or boy might have thought of, but didn't, and which in many instances have proved mines of wealth to the lucky discoverer.

Among these trifles is the favorite toy—the "return ball"—a wooden ball with an elastic string attached, selling for the sum of 10 cents each, but yielding to its patentee an income equal to fair returns on a capital of $500 000. The rubber tip on the end of led pencils affords the owner of the royalty an independent fortune. The inventor of the gummed newspaper wrapper is also a rich man. The gimlet-pointed screw has evolved more wealth than most silver mines, and the man who first thought of putting copper tips to children's shoes is as well off as if his father had left him $2,000,000 in United States bonds. Although roller-skates are not so much used in countries where ice is abundant, in South America, especially in Brazil, they are very highly esteemed and have yielded over $100,000 to their inventor. But he had to spend $125,000 in England alone fighting infringements. The "dancing Jim Crow," a toy, provides an annual income of $30,000 to its inventor, and the common needle threader is worth $10,000 a year to the man who thought of it. The "drive well" was an idea of Col. Green, whose troops, during the war, were in want of water. He conceived the notion of driving a two-inch tube into the ground until water was reached and then attaching a pump. This simple contrivance was patented after the war, and the tens of thousands of farmers who have adopted it have been obliged to pay him a royalty, a moderate estimate of which is placed at $2,000,000. The spring window shade yields an income equal to an investment of $1,000,000; the stylographic pen, with which this article is written, also $1,000,000; the marking pen for shading in different colors, $100,000; rubber stamps, the same. A large fortune has been reaped by a western miner who, ten years since, invented a metal rivet or eyelet at each end of the mouth of breeches and coat pockets to resist the strain caused by the carriage of pieces of ore and heavy tools. Fortunes have been made out of the dead as well as the living. The torpedo grave, which will explode when body-snatchers meddle with it, is one bonanza; another odd, but probably not lucrative one, is an open tube, running from the top of the ground to the coffin lid, just over the face of the corpse. If the person is in a trance and has been buried alive, he draws himself up through the hole and returns to the surface by means of a rope-ladder in the tube. If he prefers, however, to send for assistance, he pulls a chord which rings a bell near the top of the tube. After lying there long enough to assure his friends that he has no intention of coming back the tube is pulled up, drawing as it comes a glass plate over the face of the inmate of the coffin.

Every time a woman pricks the shell of an egg preparatory to boiling it she violates a patent right, this having been secured by some genius who discovered that it would prevent their breaking during the boiling. It having been said that chickens hatched by artificial heat do not thrive as well as others because they miss the maternal affection expressed in the "cluck, cluck" of the natural hen, an inventor has taken out a patent which imitates that sound, soothing and charming the tender-hearted but bereaved offspring with its artificial croon and consoling the young orphan with its mechanical solicitude. This is based evidently upon another patent for babies of a machine operated by clock-work and producing a low and melancholy murmur which no child, however wakeful, can successfully resist, but to which it succumbs in profound slumber. There is also the false-bottomed nest which deludes the hen into the belief that she has not laid an egg, and, combined with her own conscientious devotion to duty, persuades her to continue her work until she is exhausted or undeceived. A patent hen roost, by the action of the hens, closes the doors of a bee-hive at night and opens them in the morning, protecting the hive against the ravages of the bee-moth. A wire frame strung above a horse's head is also patented. It is meant to persuade the animal that it is the top of a fence too high for him to everleap. This, of course, presumes that the horse is an ass.

Gold Fields of Lower California.

The following interesting notes about the placer mines of Lower California were written by Samual Brannan, one of the best known men of the Pacific coast, to an old friend, John B. Best, of Lake Valley, N. M.: In 1847, George McDougall, brother of the governor of California, and Benjamin Lipincott, senator from Mariposa, started on a vessel for Mazatlan, Mexico, from San Francisco, On their return trip they were shipwrecked on the coast of Lower California, near Cape San Lucas. The vessel was lost and they were obliged to proceed on foot to San Diego, Cal., where they obtained mules and then went to the northern part of the state. When they arrived in California, in the spring of 1848, they learned of the discovery of gold in that state. They reported that they had seen some very rich placer claims in the country they had passed through in Lower California. One of the men who heard the story of the hardships they had encountered while traveling through this rich country proposed to Brannan to form a company to explore the peninsular. This was done. Each of the men put up $500 and five miners were sent to Cape San Lucas with such equipments as could be obtained in those times. The men were gone seven months and nearly perished at one time for want of water. They thoroughly explored the gold fields and then returned to Upper California by land, carrying with them many samples. They reported that there was plenty of gold, but no water at all, so it would be impossible to work it unless a supply could be obtained. As there was at the time a great excitement over the gold discoveries in California, the project was abandoned for the time being.

Of the existance of gold in Lower California, there can be no doubt. There are many specimens of the metal in Guaymas, one of which weighs over sixteen ounces. Six vessels have left Guaymas for the gold fields recently, laden with men and burros and carrying a considerable quantity of provisions and several dry-rockers. As not one of these ships has yet returned, it would appear that the officers and crews have all flocked to the gold fields. The only persons who should go are those who are able to form a company and take with them a good pump and apparatus for digging an artesian well. As no provisions for obtaining water were made by the parties who have gone, they will probably all make failures and be obliged to return.

Southern Proscription.

In the suburbs of Natchez I found a northern man. He was digging worms alongside the fence and getting ready to go fishing, and his wife sat on the back steps smoking a corn-cob pipe and kicking with her bare feet at the chickens whenever they come too near. The man had black patches on the knees of gray pants, a leather belt in place of suspenders, and he chewed plug tobacco and squirted the juice around with a vigor which would have earned him two dollars a day in any other locality. There was only one room to the house, and the furniture would have been no load at all for a skeleton mule.

"Yes, I'm from the north—from Illanoy," he said, as we sat down in the shade for a talk, "and I made a great mistake in moving down here."

"How came you to move?"

"Well, some of the folks back there got down on me because they missed some hogs, and it got so hot I concluded to move."

"And how do you like the south?"

"Not a bit. It's no country for a go-ahead man. There's nothing here to rouse a man's ambition to rip and tear and bust things. I've accumulated four dogs, three fishpoles and a shotgun since striking this country, but I feel homesick and discouraged."

"How does your wife feel?"

"Clear discouraged. Why I'd hardly know her to be the same Sarrah Jane Baker. She's run right down to a skeleton, and she's got heaps on her mind."

"Say, we've been here better'n a year and not one of the ladies in Natchez has called on her!"

"No!"

"Solemn fact, stranger! When we first came she greased her shoes and washed her best calico and called on every lady in town, to show 'em that she wasn't proud nor stuck up, but nary one of them has returned the call. They know we are from the north, you see, they cut us on that account. I tell you the northern family has to suffer down here. They are entirely ostrichcized from society. Sarah, Sarah Jane!"

Sarah came around to our side of the house in answer to his call. I remember that I judged she had on just the single garment of a dress, and half the buttons were missing from that. Her bare feet went spat! spat! spat! and I further judged that they hadn't been washed since the winter break-up.

"What you want?" she growled out."

"Say, Sarah, haven't we been ostrichcized here in Natchez 'cause we're from the north?"

"Dead right you are, old man," she replied as she blew a cloud of smoke from her mouth, "but what do we keer? We kin hold our heads up and bust around fur all that. If they don't like us let 'em look t'other way. Come, ye'd better be off to the river after suckers. If ye don't git fish to-night ye'll go to bed with a stomach as empty as yer wallet."—*Free Press.*

Pursued by a Waterspout.

One of the steamers of the Pacific Mail Company, while off the coast of Gautemala, had the rare experience of being pursued by a waterspout. It suddenly appeared near the ship. In the midst of the consternation the captain ordered his course reversed and soon the steamer was driving along with the water spout in pursuit.

Its crest was hidden in a dark mass of cloud, its base seeming to operate like an immense revolving cullender, while the entire external periphery formed a cushion of foam, over which the sea-bird screamed, occasionally seizing upon dead fish which came within reach.

The spout itself formed a sort of spiral cylinder, streaked with opaque parallel lines through its whole length from the surface of the sea upward.

These lines were evidently ascending columns of water, for afterwads when the upper and lower sections became detached, the accumulated body of water overhead immediately began its descent within the body of the spout as though it had been the valve of an immense syringe.

The water thus relieved must have been equal to several tons, as it was solid and almost black and returned to the sea with a loud roar, all the other parts of the aerial structure dissipating gradually.

Perhaps the most singular of all was the serpentine form assumed by the section nearest the clouds, which moved off at first almost horizontally, and then turned upon itself in a perfect coil, so that for a moment, when when the end of the aqueous rope—or whatever it was—switched around squarely to the eye of the observer showing a section, it represented a ball of ink.

When the spout was in its finest condition the lightning several times flew through the penumbra in zigzag courses making a spectacle not only terrible in its manifestation of power, but sublime and beautiful.

A Bear's Winter Nap.

Prescott (Ont.) Messenger.

Mr. James Hopper of Edwardsburg is the happy possessor of a year-old bear, for which he has snug quarters prepared in the shed. On the 6th of last December, his bearship, no doubt feeling drowsy, returned to his quarters, and much to the surprise of his owner, refused to be coaxed out again; even savory dishes placed at the door of his box had no the slightest effect upon him. Weeks passed into months, and still bruin remained in a state of lethargy, until people began to look forward to the 17th of March, when all well regulated bears are supposed to come forth and look for their shadows. But alas! for the old story, he came not forth, and it was not until the 28th of the month that he condescended to poke his brown nose out and partake of a little milk, and not until the 9th of April that he may be said to have partaken of a square meal. His long fast does not seem to have disagreed with him, as he looks just as well as ever

—It is estimated that over 2,000 head of cattle have been exported to Texas from Garland and Hot Spring counties, Arkansas, the past few weeks.

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

History of What Will Be the Highest Structure Ever Raised by Man's Hand.

Washington Telegram.

Probably few persons outside of Washington realize that the time has come to speak respectfully of the Washington Monument. The unsightly column—as it was for so many years—which used to stand as a big stone stump between the Ionic portico of the Treasury and the broad, glittering shallows of the Potomac, has, within the past two years, risen into a stately obelisk, whose marble sides gleam in the sun—a simple and imposing shaft, which will one day be majestic. The paragrapers, who are still joking about it, are behind the age. It is now higher than any of the Egyptian pyramids, except that of the Cheops and its companion pyramid, King Shafra's; and when it is completed, it will be more than 100 feet higher than either of these, and will be not only the highest known structure in the world, but, so it is said, the highest structure which is known to have ever been raised by the hand of man. The great spire of the Strasburg Cathedral runs up to the height of 468 feet; the height of the tower of the Cathedral in Cologne is put at 511 feet; St. Peter's, from the base of the lantern, is 448 feet, and the Milan Cathedral is 355 feet to the very top of the Statue of the Madonna. The Washington Monument is now 340 feet above the floor of the shaft. When completed, as it will be by December, 1885, at the latest, it will be 555 feet high, or more than forty feet higher than the very tip of the slender pinnacles at Cologne. The comparison is an awkward one, perhaps, but it has its uses nevertheless—a plain shaft is not to be compared, architecturally, with a cathedral or pyramid; but it is of some interest to remember that while the tower of the Cologne Cathedral will probably taper into the air with a very small diameter, the Washington Monument at 500 feet, or almost exactly the same height, will show a width of thirty-five feet on each of its four faces. At the base each of these sides have a width of fifty-five feet.

The engineering feat by which a new and enlarged foundation was inserted under a structure 150 feet high and weighing 71,500,000 pounds, as the monument was when work was begun in 1878, is one which can only be adequately described by Col. Casey, the engineer in charge, and he says that, though often urged to do so, he shall not write a line upon the subject until the monument is completed. Perhaps it will make the story more intelligible to go back a little. The plan of a monument to Washington in the city bearing his name was, as many will remember, formally approved by Congress in a resolution passed less than a fortnight after his death, and which requested that his family permit his body to be deposited under it. The monument was to be erected by the United States, but nothing was done. In 1832 an association of leading citizens here was formed, which, having collected enough money by private subscription to begin work, secured the site from Congress in 1848 and laid the cornerstone on July 4 of that year. In the eight years following the shaft was carried to the height of 156 feet, where work was suspended for lack of funds, and no stone was laid on the shaft from that time until August 8, 1880, an interval of twenty-four years, during which the slavery agitation, the civil war and the convulsions growing out of it, united to distract the public mind from a peculiarly national and suggestive of peace and unity. But one of the great reasons why the flow of little subscriptions from all over the land was stopped, was the belief, which became general, that the foundation was not strong enough. When Mr. Corcoran, Dr. John B. Blake and other citizens here, succeeded in inducing Congress to undertake the completion, which it did by a resolution in the Centennial year constituting a joint commission, it was found that this belief was correct. The monument, which, as already stated, showed a breadth of 55 feet on each of its faces at the base line, rested upon a foundation only 80 feet square and 23 feet deep, and poorly constructed at that. Below this was the ground, of rather a yielding nature. If they had gone on heaping stone upon the monument, the result would simply have been that the weight would have driven it downward like a punch. It would probably have settled unevenly; and we should have had either a new leaning tower of Pisa, or perhaps no tower at all, which would have furnished either way a fine paragraph for the newspaper correspondents, but would not probably have been of much benefit to any other class in the community.

Obviously, the foundation needed to be strengthened, and Col. Casey addressed himself to a task which a good many engineers would have preferred not to undertake. Going down below the foundation already built, he dug from under it all around, leaving a core of earth 44 feet square directly under the center of the foundation and monument; and the 71,500,000 pounds of weight stood on this pillar of earth. The new excavation was of a depth of 13 feet, and made a cellar under the foundation 126 feet square. This was filled with solid masonry, except where the core of earth stood, which was not removed. Then the sides of the old foundation above were torn down for a considerable distance under the walls of the shaft, rebuilt of better materials, and spread out further over the new base below, thus distributing the pressure over a much larger area. So, instead of a foundation only 80 feet square, that is, exceeding only 12½ feet beyond each of the four faces, and running 13 feet deeper. A good many engineers have come at different times to visit the monument and inspect this interesting work. One of them looked at it a long time without saying anything. Then he remarked quietly: "Well, that's easy enough to do, but I don't know one engineer in a thousand who would want to try it. The result proves how well the work has been done. Since the laying of stone was renewed 28,355 tons of stone have been added to the pile, and the settlement of the shaft due to this load has been just one and a quarter inches. The settlement is so even that the greatest variation in the sinking of the four corners is a difference of four-hundredths of an inch between the southwest and northeast corners. The other two have settled exactly alike, even to the hundredth part of an inch. The total pressure now borne by the bed or foundation is 74,871 tons, or 22 per cent. of the whole pressure that will be placed upon it. The line at which the work rested in 1856 can plainly be seen, the old portion of the monument being darker and more weather-beaten than the new. The slow rate at which contractors are able to deliver the marble regulates the progress of the monument. The money which Congress has already appropriated, about $800,000 in all, will suffice to complete the shaft and pyramidion, as it is called, the pyramid which is to top the shaft at the height of 500 feet and rise for fifty-five feet, part of it being of glass, in order to light the deep wall of the monument.

CROWNED HEADS.

The Sad Fate of Many Kingly Sinners.

From the Cincinnati Saturday Night.

Did you ever stop, dear reader, in your evenly balanced and unchecked career as a peaceful freeman of our glorious Union, to consider how fortunate it is for you that you were not alive 500 or 1,000 years ago? Because if you had been living then you might, and in all probability would, have been king or queen of England, in which case your wretched existence and miserable death would have been assured.

There was King Edmund, who, while feasting with all his nobles about him, was attacked by a noted robber of the day, and stabbed to the heart. Without pausing to inquire what the nobles were about to permit this murder, we will proceed to King Edred. Edred was hounded into dissoluteness by a favorite, St. Dunstan, an ambitious priest, who was permitted to run the governmental machine pretty much as he pleased. Edwy, the successor of Edred, inherited the partizanship of Bro. St. Dunstan, but, choosing to marry against St. Dunstan's will, he incurred the violent displeasure of the man of God, who through the instrumentality of Odo, then archbishop of Canterbury, caused the queen's face to be burned with hot irons, and then carried her away to Ireland, and finally killed her, the shock breaking poor King Edwy's heart.

The next king, Edgar, reigned for 17 years, and, strange to say, had no trouble at all, and finally died an ordinary, every day sort of death, at his residence, No. so and so, such a street, Edgar, king of England, age 37 years, 11 months and 18 days. Friends of the family invited to attend. The next to assume the crown was Edward, who, a very short time thereafter, was stabbed in the back by a hireling of his mother, Elfrida, whose own son, Ethelred, then succeeded to the throne. King Edmund was murdered by one of his nobles; King Harold died from the effects of a shot in the eye; William of Normandy got a bruise that led to a wretched death; William II. was shot with an arrow and killed; and so it went, the good kings and quens being killed by the bad people, while the bad sovereigns were put out of the way by the good people.

California Ostriches.

Denver Times.

As yet no ostrich chicks have been hatched at Anaheim, the change of season between the antipodes of California and South Africa having disconcerted the birds and thrown them out of their regular order of egg-laying. Each hen lays fourteen eggs three times a year. If the eggs are taken away from her and put in an incubator, the deluded hen goes to work and lays another dozen or so. Each egg is nearly as large as a man's head, weighs twenty-four pounds and is equal to twenty four common hen's eggs. Each egg has to remain forty-two days in an incubator, and there are several of them now laid in the patent hatcher. The profitable part of the business is in plucking the feathers from the birds; from the sale of these plumes enormous profits are made for the raiser, dealer and retailer. Every seven month the birds are blindedfolded and the feathers clipped within two or three inches of the roots of the quills. A few weeks later the dried stumps of the quills are pulled out with tweezers, and new feathers begin to appear. The ostrich resents this treatment, and there are severe contests at plucking time, the attendants often receiving serious hurts from them. The male ostrich wears his wings full of beautiful long plumes alternating in layers of jet black, snow white and a dirty cream color. The female birds have drab colored suits of mixed gray and white feathers that do not rank in value with those of the male ostrich.

Some of the first visitors who went out to the farms risked their lives in the attempt to snatch a few feathers from the birds whenever they approached the fence, and as this wrenching out by the roots makes the new feathers come in crooked and twisted, the manager took pains to stop these predatory incursions by creeting a double fence. Dr. Sketchley counts upon this Anaheim ostrich farm being the opening of a great enterprise in this region. According to the figures there were eighty birds owned and cared for by farmers in South Africa in 1865. In 1882 over 50,000 ostriches were being kept, and the export of feathers for that year was valued at $5,000,000. As this country offers a nearer market, the manager thinks ostrich farming will prove twice as profitable in California as in any other, and with a large home product pouring in upon the great marts of in these coming years, womankind can look forward to a plentiful supply of beautiful plumes, and mankind take heart in the coming millenium of insignificant milliners' bills.

A Voice From the Press!

I take this opportunity to bear testimony to the efficacy of your "Hop Bitters." Expecting to find them nauseous and bitter and composed of bad whisky, we were agreeably surprised at their mild taste, just like a cup of tea. A Mrs. Cresswell and a Mrs. Connor, friends, have likewise tried, and pronounce them the best medicine they have ever taken for building up strength and toning up the system. I was troubled with costiveness, headache and want of appetite. My ailments are now all gone. I have a yearly contract with a doctor to look after the health of myself and family, but I need him not now. S. GILLILAND.

People's Advocate, Pittsb'g, Pa. July 25, 1878.

EVERY man who carries a pistol ought to be obliged by law to wear it in a belt at his side, and have it labled "emotional insanity."

GIVING fourteen ounces for a pound is a wrong weigh to get rich.

TEXAS BANKS.

Interesting Statistics Regarding Texas Banking Institutions.

Special from Galveston News.

WASHINGTON, May 31, 1883.—There are few things people like better to talk about than money, and if they can not talk about their own, not having any, they talk about that belonging to some other man. It is not illogical to think that as people like to talk about money, they would be pleased to hear something about it, even if locked up in a bank vault. This led me, while at the treasury, to make some investigations as to the national banks of Texas, and, with a view of writing on an interesting as well as material subject, I will tell the readers of the *News* a few facts, statistical and otherwise in connection with these banks. Long before the war terminated hundreds of them had commenced business in the North; indeed it was largely a war measure, and, as a result, the South of a necessity has been lessa upplied with proper banking facilities. This point was raised in Congress after the war, and the representatitives of the South had to work hard to get anything from the dominant party. This being the case, it is but natural that national banks in the South are not so numerous, and do not occupy that commanding position in the financial world as those do in the North.

In the State of Texas there are twenty-one national banks, having an aggregate capital of $1,952,000. The San Antonio National bank has the largest deposits of any in the State of Texas, amounting to $1,187 259.38, this too with a capital stock of $125,000. The First National bank at Galveston has the largest capital, $3 0,000.

The total liabilities of the national banks in Texas are $10,573,074.97, and they have a surplus fund of $471,581.49 and a bank circulation outstanding amounting to $1,056,925. As individual deposits they hold $5,487,067.81 and as deposits by United States disbursing officer, $212,995.88. Their loans and discounts reach the sum of $5,601,881.69. The bonds deposited for circulation amount to $1,218,500, and bonds for deposits, $200,000. All the real estate held by these banks only reaccesh the value of $191,433.47.

They keep a good amount of cash in hand, rather more I think, than the average throughout the country. This is, of course, divided into two principal items: specie, $495,486.43; and legal tender notes, $597,720. The reports show a continued growth in the business of these banks, commensurate with the expansion of the country in which they are located.

There has been but a single national bank of Texas that has gone into voluntary liquidation under the provisions of the banking act. It was the National Exchange Bank of Austin, which had a capital of $100,000, and an issued circulation of $31,500. There is still outstanding of this circulation $9 693, which is, of course, fully protected by the treasury. The only failure was in the case of the First National Bank of Dallas, which had a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars. This bank became insolvent in 1878 and has proved claims against it amounting to $73,8 4. Thirty-seven per cent. has already been paid as dividends to the creditors.

During the year, eleven of the banks have suffered losses, the total amount being $106,109.68. This includes losses in their business on every account, including losses on technical bad debts.

The amount loaned by all the Texas banks, on "single name" paper is, $1,283, 714; on United States bonds $1,000; on other stocks, $219,992, and all other loans, $3,927,580.

There seems to be but sixteen of the Texas national banks which declared dividends last year, the average being 9 per cent of the capital stock. But the net earnings of these banks last year were $320,176.07, making the percentage of earnings on the capital and surplus over sixteen per cent.

The number of banking institutions in the State of Texas outside of the national banking system, is 138, having a combined capital of $4,636,446, and on deposit $10,381,853. There are fifteen state banks, with a capital of $1,987,079 and deposits amounting to $857,246. The total amount they have invested in United States bonds is $30,619. The private banking establishments are in number 123, having a capital of $2,708,634, and deposits, $7,224,606. These banks have but $11,275 invested in government bonds.

The outstanding circulation of the Texas national banks amounts to $1,113,209. By law they are required to hold a reserve of $893,835; but in fact they hold $1,794,088.

There are a great many figures here represented, but I doubt if the readers of the *News* ever had so much statistical and official information on the subject before. It is only within the past year or two that the treasury has brought so much of it together.

TEXAS TOPICS.

—Presidio county has 138 miles of railway.

—Arrangements have been made to ship 1,000 head of cattle from Greenville, Mississippi, to Texas.

—The damage done by the cyclone in the region of Greenville, Texas, is estimated to exceed $1,000,000.

—Land with water power has been purchased at San Antonio with view of organizing a woolen goods manufacturing company.

—The committee appointed to investigate land frauds in Texas have gone to work, and expect to recover for the state some 2,000,000 acres of lands.

—The Texas report to the agriculture for June, says all crops are fifteen days late, but the prospects are good for an abundant harvest.

—Six hundred and thirty-two acres of land have been bought at Terrell for the section of a lunatic asylum. The price paid was $12.50 an acre.

—The charter of the Independence cattle company, of El Paso county, capital stock $1,000,000, office at Colorado City, Mitchel county, has been filed at Austin.

—The Cuero *Star* says: "Large tracts of land between Victoria and Indianola have had a hedge of the Macartney rose planted around them, and though exposed to all kinds of stock, it is growing finely, and in a few years will be a fence which no kind of stock will attempt to pass. This fence is everlasting, and much cheaper than rails, wire or lumber.