IT PAYS to buy "MILLER" Lamps.
"The best is the cheapest" surely applies to lamps.
FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS.
"Miller" lamps are **Beautiful** and **Useful.** Banquet, Boudoir, Piano, Bracket, Hanging, Vase, Study—**all styles—a thousand** to select from. We are **asked to show why** "Miller" lamps **are the best.** We also make brass and onyx tables.
EDWARD MILLER & CO., Manufacturers. Established 1844.
28 and 30 West Broadway, and 66 Park Place, New-York.
☞ For cool weather buy a "Miller" oil heater.

NO COMMISSION YET NAMED.

Continued from First Page.

with the Venezuelan question. It was intimated that he might have something to say to-day.

The vanishing prospect of war had a gratifying effect among business men, who generally believe that the worst effects of Mr. Cleveland's lack of dexterity in presenting his views to Congress and the country are passed, and that there was nothing in the situation to lead to apprehension in the future.

"SOBER SECOND THOUGHT."

ENGLISH TAKE HEART AT THE APPARENT REVULSION IN AMERICA.

ADVICE FROM "THE STANDARD"—THE VENEZUELAN COMMISSION MAY DO SOME GOOD, AFTER ALL—STANLEY, THE AFRICAN EXPLORER, SAYS WAR WOULD BE A CRIME—THE EDITOR OF "THE CENTURY" HAS PERFECT FAITH IN MR. CLEVELAND'S SAGACITY—THE LONDON PULPITS FOR PEACE.

London, Dec. 22.—"The Standard," taking its text from the financial situation that has resulted from President Cleveland's message, will, in its issue to-morrow, lecture the United States on its economic policy. It predicts that unless America abandons its present fallacies and dishonesties the day must come when it will be neither able to borrow nor pay. This, it adds, would be only an episode in the history of a great people, but the sufferings of the generation having to bear the burden would be great and memorable. It advises the United States to fall back on the declaration of Mr. Gladstone that "Only common sense is required."

"The Times" will to-morrow say: "Although the reaction may not yet be triumphant, it is satisfactory to find that the Americans, whether they dislike us or not, are hesitating to incur the guilt of breaking the peace of the civilized world for such a contemptible cause, and in vindication of claims repudiated by all the nations of the Old World.

"President Cleveland's manifest incapacity to understand the effect of what he was doing when he sent such a warlike message to the Congress has shattered the confidence felt in him as a pillar of sound finance and a mainstay of the public credit. The renewal, therefore, of his proposals of currency reform, after he himself has made them impossible, has dashed the hopes of his friends and set his opponents to turn his errors to account. It is now clear that Mr. Cleveland's financial proposals have no chance at all of passing.

"Deeply as we must regret that the controversy has arisen, we can, at all events, rejoice in the demonstration it has afforded of the unity of our national sentiment, especially the attachment of our Canadian fellow-subjects of the Crown. Good may come out of evil if the incident should lead the Canadians to strengthen their organization for defence and admonish us at home to strain every nerve to retain that indisputable command of the sea on which the empire depends."

THE COMMISSION ABOVE SUSPICION.

"The Chronicle" will to-morrow say that the names of the gentlemen suggested as members of the Venezuelan High Commission are above suspicion for integrity, experience and good judgment. Unhappily, the body itself is in a diplomatic sense hors de concours. Its findings will not be recognized by Great Britain.

The "Daily News" to-morrow under the caption of "Sober Second Thought," will discuss the situation in that light. It will say: "It would be improper and ungenerous to attribute the change of opinion to the chilling influence of a financial panic on a people so self-reliant and courageous as those of the United States. They would never be turned from any supreme object of patriotic effort by misgivings respecting their own power. No American can have stronger belief than we in the potency of the great country and its people. It is because we so strongly believe in the power and will of the American people that we rejoice in their rapid change of opinion."

The paper then proceeds to blame Mr. Cleveland, and says that the sooner his language is forgotten the better it will be for all parties, including himself. The Commission, it adds, will be regarded, not as an international tribunal, but as a form of domestic inquiry, designed for the better information of the American people and their rulers. It may be positively useful. Its very appointment is, in one sense, an admission that the State Department believes that the Venezuelan claims are exaggerated, and that no further action could wisely be taken until the Washington Government discovered some firmer basis for negotiations than the shifty statements of the little military despot at Caracas. It adds that there is every reason to believe that the three Americans of credit and standing who will be appointed will propose a very different line of demarcation from Venezuela.

STANLEY WONT COMMIT HIMSELF.

Henry M. Stanley, M. P., the well-known African explorer, declined to accede to a request for his opinion on the dispute between Great Britain and the United States. He said he hoped that all would end well, and that a war would be a crime and the biggest blunder of the age.

ON THE DEFENCE OF CANADA.

In an interview on the defence of Canada, John Wimburn Laurie, M. P., who was appointed a lieutenant-general in the Canadian militia in 1862, said that the natural force of Canada was only a skeleton. The companies have been reduced to thirty-nine each. They could immediately be raised to 100. The members were still youthful. Canada could, in the event of war, immediately place in the field 100,000 men, each of them filled with the highest loyalty to the motherland, and fired with the utmost enthusiasm.

Speaking of the disparity of the peoples of Canada and the United States, he said it was not a question of 65,000,000 against 5,000,000, because Canada's people were mostly within striking distance of the frontier, while, although the frontier on the American side was more thickly populated, the main population was some distance away.

It would take the United States longer to bring up some of its forces than to send troops to England. There was no question of the Canadians being unanimous in their resolution to defend their country and remain a part of the British Empire. Canada would be perfectly friendly with the United States, provided the latter minded its own business, but if it once attempted to interfere in Canadian affairs, there was not a man in the Dominion who would not cry "Hands off." The French-Canadians were equally solid against Canada's absorption by the United States. He had the highest opinion of the French-Canadians.

MR. GILDER BELIEVES IN MR. CLEVELAND.

Paris, Dec. 22.—Richard Watson Gilder, the Editor of "The Century Magazine," has communicated the following to the representative in this city of the United Press: "Nothing in President Cleveland's career has been more marked by a deep sense of justice than his attitude toward foreign countries. He has been as firm as courteous in treating with powerful nations, and always magnanimous in treating with weak nations. In the present instance it is evident that he acted with a strong conviction of justice and right. His record and character are assurance that so far as the Executive is concerned everything in honor will be done to avoid the profound misfortune of war between two such countries as the United States and Great Britain."

THE CLERGY PRAY FOR PEACE.

London, Dec. 22.—The Rev. Mr. Waller, president of the Wesleyan Conference, preaching at Liverpool to-day, said that every lover of their kindred would strive to avert a war which would be unnatural, monstrous and wicked.

The Archdeacon of London, preaching at Canonbury, said that for the branches of the Anglo-Saxon race to plunge into a war for such a cause would seem to be a disaster whose magnitude, compared with the slightness of the occasion, removed it from the region of possibility. A give and take policy, he added, would soon settle the difficulty.

Speaking at the City Temple to-day, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Parker said: "Do not trouble yourselves with the thought of war. There will be no war. England and America cannot do without each other. War would be suicide. We send to-day messages from our hearts to our fellow-Christians in America. We must act in a spirit of magnanimity and concession. We miss Henry Ward Beecher. He could, and would have, spoken the word of reconciliation. I call upon British and American Christians to unite in prayerful counsel in the interests of peace."

Dr. Parker prayed in a similar strain, the congregation giving a hearty amen to his supplication.

Canon Newboldt, preaching at St. Paul's to-day, deplored the fact that the peace and good-will of Christed nations had been disturbed in the Christmas season, but he thanked God that the spirit of truth and honor animated both. This was the best pledge of a just and amicable settlement.

The Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, in the course of his sermon at St. James's Hall, said that the two most distressing spectacles for any lover of peace were the Sultan of Turkey and Mr. Cleveland. The latter bullied Great Britain and rudely threatened her with war, but, awful as a conflict was to contemplate, he hoped that those answerable for the conduct of the Nation's affairs would not allow him to dictate where the frontiers of the British Empire ended and began.

At the Tabernacle the Rev. Thomas Spurgeon prayed fervently that the Almighty's hand would guide the statesmen of both countries, and that [illegible] would endow them with wisdom and patience to bring the trouble to a happy issue.

The prayer was greeted with fervent amens.

The Men's Sunday Union, which is composed of workers in the West End of London, have adopted a resolution sending a hearty Christmas greeting to their brother Nation as an expression of their opinion that a war would be unnatural and unChristian, and should be forever impossible.

NOT A GUN IN SIGHT.

A TIPSY CITIZEN'S LAMENT ON SEEING THE GORGEOUSNESS OF THE GOVERNOR'S STAFF.

A funny incident took place at the Gilsey House Saturday night while the corridor was thronged with a number of the commissioned officers of the National Guard. They were all in uniform, gaily bedecked and beplumed, ready for the reception at the Hotel Savoy for Governor Morton. The splendor of the officers' uniforms, and especially the members of the Governor's staff, is well known. The scene almost reminded one of a scene that comes down in history of the night before the battle of Waterloo. The officers were tramping up and down the corridor of the hotel, plumes nodding, sabres rattling and spurs clanking, waiting for the order to proceed to the Savoy.

Suddenly the storm-door of the Gilsey House was thrown open. A citizen, well under the influence of liquor, stumbled into the corridor, righted himself, and then started ahead. Suddenly he caught sight of all the military trappings. He stopped short; careened up against a friendly wall; blinked at the glare and glitter of military trumpery. Then suddenly he lurched to one side and pulling his hat from his head whirled it around his head and shouted huskily:

"Hurray! hic! Hurray! War's declared! Hurray!"

His shouts attracted attention, and those around him began to regard him attentively to see what else he would do. He returned the stare with interest and then began to mutter in a mystified way:

"There ain't one of 'em (hic) that's got a gun! What's she mazzer! Ain't a gun in sh' place. All generals (hic), colonels and leftenants. Not a gun! How yer goin' to fight without (hic) a gun?"

Then he turned around, muttering sadly as he went out:

"Shure to get licked! Can't help it! Not a gun! Too bad! Not a gun!"

WILL PUNISH THE PRESIDENT.

WHAT A ROMAN PAPER THINKS THE AMERICANS WILL DO.

Rome, Dec. 22.—The "Popolo Romano," commenting on the financial effect of President Cleveland's message on the Venezuelan affair, says it is of the opinion that the common-sense of the American people will punish the President's imprudent effrontery.

COLOMBIANS WILDLY ENTHUSIASTIC.

DEMONSTRATION BEFORE THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN COLON.

Colon, Dec. 22.—There was a grand demonstration last night at the American Consulate here in honor of the United States for its attitude in support of the Monroe Doctrine. Many prominent Colombians and also Venezuelans, who either reside or are visiting here, were present. Much enthusiasm was manifested and the American Government was, through the Consul, heartily commended for the action it had taken. The streets in the vicinity of the consulate were filled with cheering crowds.

A BIG ORDER FOR POWDER.

Santa Cruz, Cal., Dec. 22.—The powder works here are rapidly filling an order for 125,000 pounds of Government powder ordered a month ago. Government contracts are frequently filled at the works, but no order so large as the present one has been received at this time of the year. Men are working night and day to fill it. Whether this rush has anything to do with the war scare no one is prepared to say.

CORNICE FALLS FROM THE WALL.

STONES WEIGHING FROM 200 TO 500 POUNDS CRASH THROUGH AN AWNING—A BOY ALMOST BURIED IN THE DEBRIS.

People near No. 373 Washington-st. were startled early yesterday morning by the noise from the falling of the cornice of that five-story building.

It struck a wood and tin awning, which hung suspended over the sidewalk at the second floor of the building. The awning broke the force of the mass and doubtless saved the life of Andrew Boeson, seventeen years old, a butcher boy, employed by Louis Meyer, at No. 184 Washington-st. Boeson, with a big basket of meat on his shoulder, which he was about to deliver to a customer, was directly under the awning when the débris crashed through it. The boy was hit on the head and shoulders and knocked to the sidewalk. Fortunately for him, Policeman William J. Redmond, of the Leonard street station, was directly behind him, and at once ran to his assistance and pulled him from the wreckage.

He took Boeson to the Hudson Street Hospital, where Surgeon Kennerson dressed the boy's wounds. Internal injuries were feared, but Mrs. Meyer insisted on taking Boeson away about noon. His home is at No. 513 Clinton Place, Brooklyn.

Part of the coping which fell consisted of pieces of bluestone, weighing from 200 to 500 pounds each, and the number of bricks which crashed down would load a big cart. The gap in the front wall, under the roof, extends across the building and is two feet wide under the roof, which is unsupported there. The fallen bricks show that long ago the mortar had ceased to be of any use.

The crash was heard for blocks around. A number of the people in nearby houses rushed from their homes in fright. The firemen of engine No. 27, whose house is in Franklin-st., gained entrance to the building by opening the shutters in the second floor. An investigation proved that no fire had occurred, and the men then knocked down all the loose brick in the old wall. The building is occupied by the C. Rosenstein Company, dealers in bird food.

RECEIVER FOR A HOTEL COMPANY.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Under a bill filed in the Superior Court Eugene A. Myers was yesterday appointed receiver of the Chicago Beach Hotel Company. The appointment was made by Judge Payne and the receiver took charge after filing a bond for $50,000. The hotel was placed in the hands of a receiver in furtherance of a plan for a reorganization of the company. The bill was filed by the Phoenix Furniture Company, of Grand Rapids, Mich., which holds forty-seven of the bonds issued by the company in the fall of 1893. The bill asks that the owner of the leasehold be restrained from enforcing a foreclosure of the trust deed securing the $400,000 bond issue of September 1, 1893. Judge Payne issued a restraining order preventing the forfeiture of the lease and the plan for a reorganization will be proceeded with.

A WELL-KNOWN DWARF DEAD.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 22.—William Heard, a dwarf who has been travelling for several years, died yesterday at the Grady Hospital. He came here sick from Chicago, where he had an engagement. Heard was one of the smallest men in the world. He will be buried at Union Point, Ga., his old home.

M'KINLEY'S BROTHER-IN-LAW SUED.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—A dispatch from Canton, Ohio, says: "Mrs. Annie George yesterday filed suit for $50,000 against George D. Saxton, Governor McKinley's brother-in-law, alleging breach of promise. Saxton is a wealthy bachelor. Mrs. George came from Columbian County and opened a dressmaking establishment in a block owned by Saxton. Her husband subsequently sued Saxton for $30,000, charging the alienation of his wife's affections. The case has been shifted about on legal technicalities, so that it has not yet come to a hearing. Meantime, Mrs. George got a divorce in South Dakota. Her husband alleges in his $30,000 suit that Saxton paid the expenses of the divorce case."

FEARS FOR MANY VESSELS.

Port Townsend, Wash., Dec. 22.—The American ship Wachusetts, coal-laden, from Nanaimo to San Francisco, is being towed into this port in a disabled condition as the result of her encounters with recent gales off the coast. As the Wachusetts is one of the stanchest and best-manned of the coal fleet, and the first to be heard from since the storm, grave fears are entertained for other vessels exposed to its fury. Apprehension is especially expressed for the disabled Strathnevis, as it is conceded by navigators that it would have been impossible for her to weather the hurricanes of the last week.

BICYCLE WORKERS STRIKE.

Chicopee Falls, Mass., Dec. 22.—Fifty polishers in A. H. Overman's Victor Bicycle Works went out on a strike yesterday morning. All of the strikers are union men, and the strike is on account of W. H. Crosby, the only non-union man in this department. The men refused to work unless Crosby was discharged or joined the union, but Mr. Overman refused to discharge him. He says that unless the men are at work on time to-morrow morning he will lock the strikers out.

AN EIGHT-CLUB BASEBALL LEAGUE.

Pittsburg, Dec. 22.—It is now practically settled that the Central Baseball League, an eight-club organization, to include towns in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, will be doing business when the season of 1896 opens. Four clubs have already been located in Wheeling, Youngstown, New-Castle and Washington. Other towns have made application for the remaining franchises, which will be given to those most eligible. A meeting of the League will be held probably in the second week of January for purposes of organization. Among the other cities under consideration are Akron, Bradford and McKeesport.

STECK
The Old Reliable.
Of 40 Years' Renown.
Standard of Perfect Workmanship.
Independent Iron Frame, Pat., Insures Ideal Musical Tone and Marvelous Durability.
Only Pianos Improving with use.
Sold, Rented, and Exchanged.
Cash or Time Payment.
STECK HALL, 11 East 14th St.
PIANOS

SAVED BY THE TUG'S CAPTAIN

HE JUMPS INTO THE EAST RIVER AND RESCUES A DROWNING MAN.

FOUR OCCUPANTS OF A SAILING SKIFF THROWN INTO THE WATER AND HAULED INTO A BOAT WITH ROPES.

Four men had a narrow escape from drowning in the East River yesterday by the capsizing of a small sailboat in which they were sailing down the river. About 3 o'clock in the afternoon Patrick McNally, of No. 202 William-st.; Thomas Smith, of No. 31 Cherry-st.; Henry Schreiber, of No. 313 Browne-st., and Charles Smith, of Pier No. 19 East River, who owns and was sailing the boat, were sailing down the river opposite Pier No. 14, under a fair breeze, when the tug Intrepid steamed along, having a car float of the New-York, New-Haven and Hartford Railroad on each side of her.

The tide was ebb and was strong, and as the tug proceeded up the river Smith attempted to clear it by jibing the sailboat.

His three companions were unprepared for this and before they could change their positions their combined weight upset the boat, and the four men were soon struggling in the icy water.

The pilot of the Intrepid could give the men no assistance, but he sounded his whistle repeatedly, attracting the attention of Captain McLaren, who was coming down the river with two sand barges in tow behind his tug, the Day Spring. McLaren ordered the barges' lines cast off, and headed his tug toward the men. When they were reached lines were thrown to them, and Thomas Smith was hauled on board the tug. Charles Smith, who is an expert swimmer, was helping Schreiber to keep above the surface, and these two men were also pulled on the boat, but McNally, when a line was thrown to him, was too weak to grasp it.

He had already gone under the water for the second time, and was making feeble efforts to save himself, when Captain McLaren, who had been helping rescue the others, jumped into the river, and, catching hold of McNally, held his head above water while he tied a rope around his body, and the tug's crew pulled the two men on board.

McNally was taken into the fire-room to be cared for, but fearing he would die the tug was headed for pier A at the request of Harbor Policemen Edward Collins, Cornelius Sullivan and James J. Murray, who, while patrolling the river a mile away, had seen the boat capsize, and had pulled hastily to the place.

In the mean time the two sand scows had made rapid headway down the river with the strong tide, and one of them was caught near Governor's Island, almost grounded, while the other had rounded the island safely and was captured this side of Fort Hamilton.

The three harbor policemen towed the little sailboat down to Pier A, where the four rescued men were taken into the boiler-room. After much rubbing, with the aid of a stimulant, McNally was able to go home with his friends.

All the men were loud in praising Captain McLaren for his brave rescue.

WILD RACE AFTER A RUNAWAY.

OCCUPANT OF A BUGGY THROWN OUT AND TWO PEOPLE KNOCKED DOWN BY A MOUNTED POLICEMAN IN PURSUIT.

James Rodgers, twenty-five years old, who lives at No. 450 West Seventeenth-st., with his sister Flora, went driving yesterday afternoon. They were spinning along Seventh-ave. when one of the traces broke at the One-hundred-and-twentieth-st. crossing. Part of the broken trace struck the animal's leg, and so badly frightened it that the horse started to run away. Rodgers tried to stop the horse, but it was unmanageable, and tore madly up the avenue. At One-hundred-and-twenty-fourth-st. the buggy was partly upset by a mound of sand lying in front of a new building. Both occupants of the vehicle were thrown out. Rodgers received a slight scalp wound, but his sister escaped injury. He declined hospital attendance, and the two went home.

The animal continued his wild run and Mounted Policeman Fralley, of the Highbridge station, patrolling near One-hundred-and-twenty-fourth-st., gave chase. Fralley drove his spurs after the runaway, which had by far the best of the start. Mrs. A. Mullen, of No. 73 East One-hundred-and-twenty-fourth-st., in company with her daughter, was crossing One-hundred-and-twenty-seventh-st. and Seventh ave. when Fralley's horse went dashing along. They did not see the pursuing animal, and the policeman could not stop his mount in time to avoid a collision. Both Mrs. Mullen and her daughter were knocked down by Fralley's horse. The girl's right arm was broken. The mother was not injured, but she was overcome by the shock. They were both taken home, where Miss Mullen was attended by the family physician.

The runaway was finally captured at One-hundred-and-thirtieth-st. by Policeman Halloran.

QUIET IN PHILADELPHIA.

THE TRACTION COMPANY MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO RUN CARS—A CONFERENCE HELD.

Philadelphia, Dec. 22.—For the first time since last Tuesday, when the strike of the mortormen and conductors of the Union Traction Company began, peace and quiet to-day reigned in the streets of Philadelphia. This was due to the decision of the Traction Company to make no attempt to run any of its cars to-day. This decision was adhered to. Since Tuesday the police force of the city has been on duty almost continuously, and the lull in hostilities to-day afforded the men a much needed rest.

The strikers held a long meeting this afternoon behind closed doors, and the probable result of this meeting was seen to-night, when a committee representing the strikers and officials of the Union Traction Company held a long conference at the offices of the company. At midnight the result of this conference is still in doubt.

THEY WANTED LAMBERT'S BODY.

FOUR MEN DISCOVERED WHILE TRYING TO ROB THE MURDERER'S GRAVE.

Camden, N. J., Dec. 22 (Special).—Joseph Loper, watchman at the Johnson colored cemetery in Stockton, was aroused early this morning by a noise in the rear of the cemetery. Peeping out of a window, he saw a dim light, and going into the yard to investigate he found four colored men with a wagon. The men surrounded the grave of Theodore Lambert, the murderer, who was hanged last Thursday. The men had all the implements for grave digging in and around the wagon. Loper says he demanded to know the object of their visit. The men at first refused to give an account of themselves, but finally one of them stated that they came to watch Lambert's grave, as they had heard somebody was going to steal the body. They denied that the implements were in the wagon for the purpose of digging the grave. The watchman allowed them to drive away.

DEATH THAT SEEMS LIKE A TRANCE.

Franklin, Penn., Dec. 22.—Physicians say that Nellie Baker, who is supposed by her parents to be in a trance at their home in Canal Township, is really dead, though they cannot profess to account for the lifelike appearance that her body presents. She was taken ill on Saturday of last week while on a visit to her sister at Kane, Penn., and to all appearances died the next day of dropsy. When the supposed corpse was brought here on Monday her family and friends noticed that there was a natural color in the face and that the limbs were not rigid. The body has now lain seven days and the parents will not permit it to be buried until they are certain that the girl is dead.

WOOL-GROWERS' MEMORIAL.

REASONS GIVEN FOR THE DEMAND THAT THE TARIFF BE REVISED.

A DRAFT OF A BILL SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS—EVEN THE M'KINLEY LAW SAID TO HAVE BEEN INADEQUATE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Dec. 22.—At a conference held in Washington early this month of the National Association of Wool Growers and others it was agreed to present to Congress a memorial asking for protective duties on wool. This memorial, together with statistics and other matter printed by order of the Senate, makes a volume of 260 pages, as "Senate Miscellaneous Document, No. 17, First Session of the LIVth Congress." In this document is contained the draft of a wool tariff bill which Congress is asked to pass, providing for duties of 12 cents a pound, unwashed, on classes 1 and 2 of wools, including China wools, and eight cents on class 3, omitting the so-called skirting clause of the tariff act of 1890. It provides for a duty on raw cotton of two cents a pound. The memorial had the unanimous approval of all who took part in the conference. In the opinion of Judge Lawrence, president of the Wool Growers' Association, the tariff act of 1890 contained three fatal and ruinous defects:

(1) The provision known as the "skirting clause," the effect of which was to reduce the protective benefits of the prescribed duties by nearly one-half. (2) The protective duty intended by the law of 11 cents a pound on unwashed merino, which was in fact only six cents and even less on Territory wools; and (3) the protective benefits of 33 cents intended by the law on scoured merino, which was only 13½ cents. Such low duties are, in the estimation of Judge Lawrence, ruinous to American wool growing.

"When the McKinley bill was passed," Judge Lawrence said to-day, "the effect of the 'skirting clause' was not understood by wool-growers nor generally in Congress, and the protective benefits intended to be given by those who voted for the bill were in a large measure defeated by another defect—the ad valorem duties on class 3 wools. The original bill as reported provided for specific duties. The change to ad valorem duties was secured by some carpet manufacturers. This feature of the law operated ruinously to wool-growers by increasing immensely the importance of class 3 wools, which, to a large extent, were used in the manufacture of clothing goods, thus supplanting the use of merino wools and the long wools of the mutton breeds of sheep. The ruin of the ad valorem duties was immensely aggravated by the unforeseen, unexpected vast imports of China wools—a source of supply of very recent date, so that in the fiscal year 1895 the enormous quantity of 26,089,418 pounds were imported at an import price of only 5.15 cents per pound, and these, by reason of their light shrinkage of less than 40 per cent in scouring, were equal to and displaced 46,800,000 pounds of ordinary unwashed merino, and the immense increased imports of those third-class wools exceeded in quantity those of both other classes combined at unprecedentedly low prices.

"In addition to the defects in the law itself, its protective purpose was in a large measure defeated by conditions arising since the law was passed. One was the decline in the prices of wools all over the world, caused (1) in part by a vast increase of sheep and (2) in less degree by the general decline in nearly all values as a result of the gold standard of values. By reason of the combined operation of these causes the McKinley act failed to accomplish the purpose intended by it. Under it prices of wools constantly declined and the inevitable result would soon have been a failure to secure prosperity to American sheep husbandry. Even in Texas, where the cost of growing wool is as low, if not less, than in any other State, sheep declined in numbers from 4,281,812 in 1890 to 2,859,269 in 1894, and on December 31, 1894, the number was only 2,386,822.

"The rates of duty asked for in the memorial as those deemed absolutely necessary to secure fair prices for wool are spoken of as follows: 1. The rates are much less than those of the act of 1867, under which wool-growers and manufacturers prospered more than under any other law. 2. Any less duties will not secure fair prices for wools or give sheep husbandry prosperity. 3. Wool-growers have not asked duties expecting to secure less. That would be uncandid. 4. Wool-growers are the best judges of what they need, as manufacturers are of what they need.

"There was another defect in the law of 1890, not generally understood by wool-growers and not generally, if at all, by members of Congress, who voted for the bill—the failure to make a provision to meet the light shrinkage in scouring of Australian wools, as compared with other merino wools of all or nearly all other countries, including our own. That is pointed out in the memorial, and the fifth paragraph of the proposed draft of a wool tariff bill found in the volume is presented with a view to remedy this defect. The possibility of a veto by the President has been extensively urged to dissuade Congress from carrying out the wishes of the people for adequate protective duties. The fear of this cannot justify Congress in the failure to perform an acknowledged duty on its part. Besides this, the President's message of December 3, 1895, is understood to declare in effect a purpose to cooperate with Congress in giving to the country needed revenue legislation, and a purpose to defer to the wishes of that body as to the mode of raising it."

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The American Historical Association will hold its eleventh annual meeting at Washington on Thursday and Friday, the 26th and 27th inst. Among the papers of the programme are the following: Inaugural address, "Popular Discontent with Representative Government," George F. Hoar, president of the association; "Historical Work in Canada," Dr. J. G. Bourinot, clerk of the Canadian House of Commons; "Colonies of North America and the Genesis of the Commonwealths of the United States," Dr. J. M. Toner, Library of Congress; "Locating the Capitol," Gaillard Hunt, Department of State; "Some Bold Diplomacy of the United States in 1861," General Marcus J. Wright, of War Department; "Dismemberment of the Turkish Empire: A Historical Sketch," Professor Edmund K. Alden, of Packer Institute, Brooklyn; "The French in Mexico and the Monroe Doctrine," Dr. Frederick Bancroft, of Columbia College.

The American Historical Association now numbers 615 members, with 100 life members.

AGREEMENT ON THE CHEROKEE FUND.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The United States Court of Claims will to-morrow probably ratify an agreement entered into by counsel for all the parties in interest, in what is known as the Cherokee Fund. This fund, aggregating $2,300,000, was by a treaty with the Indians paid to them for surrendering to the United States what is termed the Cherokee Strip. It was paid by the United States to the treasurer of the Cherokee Nation and is now in the United States Sub-Treasury at St. Louis awaiting his order. A question arose when the money was about to be distributed pro rata among the tribe as to who was entitled to receive it. There were half-breeds, men who married Cherokee women, full-blooded Cherokees and other Indians who had become citizens of the Cherokee Nation.

All the parties in interest have now by counsel, after much bickering, come to an agreement and submitted it to the Court of Claims to ratify, each agreeing to abide by the Court's award. The essential feature of the agreement is that each of the several classes—Cherokees, half-breeds and adopted citizens—is to receive $295, and if any residue remains, it is to be distributed to the full-blooded Cherokees. The Court on Thursday last heard oral argument in support of the agreement, in which all the counsel expressed their satisfaction with the compromise adopted, and the Court of Claims to-morrow is expected to ratify this unanimous agreement, and thus make a Christmas present to the Indians and others interested.

SCHOMBURGK'S CAREER IN THIS COUNTRY.

Washington, Dec. 22.—An interesting fact in connection with the famous Schomburgk line which has escaped observation is that the man who provided the British Government with that boundary came to this country from Germany when he was twenty-two years old, and after working for some time as a clerk in Boston and Philadelphia, became a partner in a Richmond (Va.) tobacco manufactory in 1828. The factory was burned, and Schomburgk drifted to the West Indies, where, after unsuccessful ventures, his botanical work attracted the attention of the London Geographical Society, and secured means to explore the unknown region of the Orinoco, where he travelled from 1833 to 1839, and where he discovered the Victoria Regia lily and numerous other plants. This work led the British Government to commission him to suggest a boundary between Venezuela and Guiana, and to make further explorations. The line was drawn and he was knighted by the Queen for his services. Schomburgk, until his death in 1865, continued in the British Consular Service, but devoted himself chiefly to geographical studies, being a member of the principal American and European learned societies.

RESULT OF RAPID-FIRE GUN TESTS.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The reports of the Ordnance Board charged with conducting tests of four-inch rapid-fire guns submitted for acceptance by the Army, have been received by the Chief of Ordnance, and show that two of the guns tested burst during their trials. The other gun presented—that of the Driggs-Schroeder type—stood the test well, and as a result of its inspection the Ordnance Board reports that the gun has shown itself to be a simple, safe and efficient mechanism for a rapid-fire gun of this character. In the rapidity test the total time for the twenty-five rounds fired was two minutes and thirty-four seconds.

ADMIRAL BUNCE'S SQUADRON NOT TO SAIL AT PRESENT.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Secretary Herbert had a conference to-day with Rear-Admiral Bunce, commanding the North Atlantic Squadron, in regard to the sailing of that fleet for the West Indies and nearby South American waters. The Admiral was at the Department on Thursday to receive verbal instructions preparatory to the sailing of his ships, but, owing to the absence of the Secretary in New-York, failed to get them.

In the mean time, as a suspicion would likely attach at this juncture to the sailing of the squadron for the vicinity of the Venezuelan coast, Secretary Herbert consulted with the President as to the best course of action to be adopted.

The interview between the Secretary and the Admiral to-day was long, the latter having come on from Fortress Monroe, his squadron being anchored in Hampton Roads.

The Admiral originally had sailing orders for Saturday last, but they were subsequently amended, and it is learned to-night that the time of departure is indefinite. The present composition of the fleet will be augmented by the addition of the Maine and possibly the Texas, both battle-ships.

As the Texas will have to undergo another trial trip, and the Maine is not yet fully provisioned, it can be seen that the sailing of the squadron will not be for some time.

BIG RISE IN THE MISSISSIPPI.

St. Louis, Dec. 22.—Since Thursday the Mississippi River at this point has risen twenty-two feet, which is unprecedented in the same length of time. The boatmen and dwellers on the river bank were taken unawares and the loss is already great. A number of shanty boats were swept away. In one of these, the Handy Hook, a dance was in progress last night and the revellers were not aware of their peril until the boat struck in a tree. The American bottoms are half under and the loss of stock is considerable. At 6 o'clock to-night the gauge read twenty-four and one-half feet, whereas Thursday morning it was only two and one-half feet. Meagre reports, due to breaks in communication, show that the flood covers the Mississippi Valley from the Iowa line to Cairo, Ill. At Warsaw, Mo., the Osage River flooded the town, and the last dispatch was sent out by an operator perched on a desk four feet high, while a boat was moored to the door. At Fairfield, on the Osage, the water is waist high in the stores, the tracks are gone and no mail has arrived since Tuesday. At Taberville the Osage was fourteen miles wide and all the bridges are carried away. In Union County Joseph Eckert, a surveyor, went down with a bridge across the Bourbois and was drowned. The St. Louis mail reaches Carthage, Mo., by going 200 miles around through Kansas. All small streams have but begun to pour their flood into the Mississippi, and a repetition of the disastrous floods of former years is predicted.

RETURN OF THE GOVERNOR.

Governor Morton returned to Albany yesterday. During his brief stay in the city he consulted, not only politicians, but also financiers. His visit to Wall Street and his consultation with J. P. Morgan occasioned a great deal of comment, but the Governor was non-committal. He said that he came to the city simply to attend the National Guard reception Saturday night.

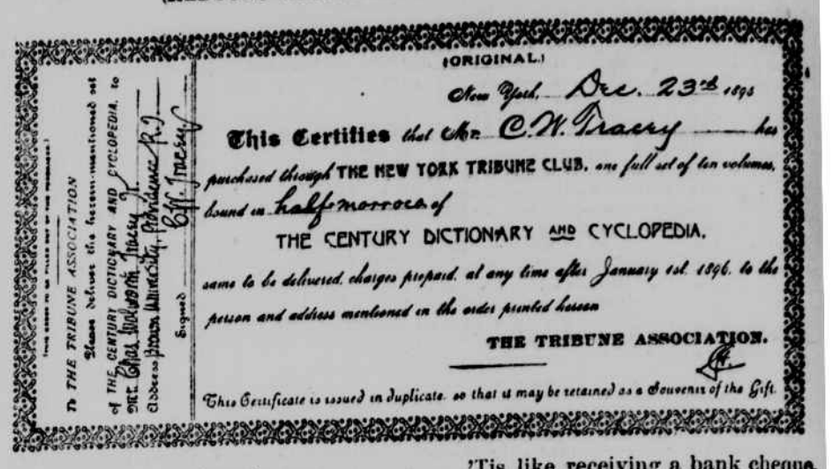
COST OF SHILOH BATTLEFIELD.

Monticello, Ill., Dec. 22 (Special).—The jury that was selected by the United States District Court of West Tennessee to settle the price of lands on the Shiloh battlefield, have made their decision in the case of O. C. Meeks & Co., and have allowed them $5,583, being about $30 an acre. Meeks asked the Shiloh Commissioners $25,000 for the land. The case will be appealed to a higher court. The Shiloh Battlefield Association have legal options on the remainder of the 2,800 acres on the battlefield, at an average of $12 an acre, and if the Shiloh Commissioners and the Government take advantage of these options, there will be at least $42,000 saved the Government.

NEXT BEST THING.

Since the last one of the 500 holiday sets of THE CENTURY DICTIONARY AND CYCLOPEDIA was allotted THE TRIBUNE has received many applications from new subscribers and others who for various reasons did not apply in time to participate. The actual sets available before the holidays are all bespoken, yet THE TRIBUNE dislikes to disappoint its readers, and, as the next best thing, has decided to issue a certificate good for a set of the work, accompanied by an order for its delivery early in January

(REDUCED FAC-SIMILE OF THE CERTIFICATE.)


(ORIGINAL.)
New York, Dec. 23rd 1895
This Certifies that Mr. C. W. Tracy has purchased through THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE CLUB, one full set of ten volumes, bound in half morocco, of
THE CENTURY DICTIONARY AND CYCLOPEDIA,
same to be delivered, charges prepaid, at any time after January 1st, 1896, to the person and address mentioned in the order printed hereon
THE TRIBUNE ASSOCIATION.
This Certificate is issued in duplicate, so that it may be retained as a Souvenir of the Gift.
To THE TRIBUNE ASSOCIATION
Please deliver to the person mentioned out of THE CENTURY DICTIONARY AND CYCLOPEDIA, to
Address Providence, R.I.
Signed C. W. Tracy

BEATS A CHEQUE.

'Tis like receiving a bank cheque, but with the advantage clearly in favor of the certificate, for the gift represented by the latter is worth many times its cost. You cash your cheque and presto! the money's gone. Your set of books beats a cheque, for it remains a solid equipment to help fight the battle of life, being of lasting value to yourself and others having access to its treasury of knowledge.

FITS ANY STOCKING.

The certificate has other advantages. First of all, it enables readers to still easily make a Christmas gift of the work, although too late for the 500 distribution. Second, the certificate can be handed over personally or sent by mail, and Uncle Sam is pretty sure to "get there" with it on time. Then again, the certificate fits any stocking, while the set of books wouldn't go in Goliath's. Further than this, there's a double pleasure in it for the recipient, first when the certificate itself is received, and then when the beautiful volumes themselves come to hand and are opened.

But remember, these certificates can be obtained through THE TRIBUNE Club only. Each stands for a set of the books to be delivered immediately after January 1. If you wish to secure for another the one superb Christmas gift **this is the only way to secure the certificate.**

THE TRIBUNE CLUB has been formed for the benefit of readers who desire to secure the work either for personal possession or as a holiday gift to another, and the entire set of 10 volumes may be made immediately available for the latter purpose in the following manner: Send $5 as your first payment on the work, and THE TRIBUNE will issue and send you a certificate showing that you have purchased the complete work in cloth binding, and that the same will be delivered to any one you name, in any part of the United States, free of charge for carriage. The balance to be paid at the rate of $5 monthly. The price of the work to those who join THE TRIBUNE CLUB is $4.85 per volume. A nominal charge of $3 per set will be added to cover actual cost of delivery and incidental expenses of forming the club. The work will be supplied in half morocco binding for three additional monthly payments. Also a handsome bookcase, made specially for this set of books, for one extra monthly payment.

WHAT PLAN COULD BE SIMPLER? WHAT TERMS COULD BE EASIER?

YOU GET THE TEN VOLUMES NOW AND PAY FOR THEM (PRACTICALLY) NEXT YEAR.

EVERY ONE IS INVITED TO INSPECT THE WORK, OR FULL INFORMATION WILL BE SENT ON APPLICATION.

For Inspection Call at **152 BROADWAY.** **THE TRIBUNE** For Information write to **154 NASSAU ST.**

GUESTS AT LEADING HOTELS.

That peculiar quietness which gives the impression that the world has suddenly gone to bed prevailed at