ALL SILENT AND DARK TO HER

YET LITTLE MISS ROBIN HAS ALREADY LEARNED MUCH OF THE WORLD.

Taught in a Year to Read and Talk by Touch and to Perform Many Little Tasks, Though She Has Been Blind, Deaf, and Speechless from Infancy—Kept Ignorant of God to Test the Theory that the Idea of a Divine Being is Inborn.

Throckmorton county, Tex., is far out of the general ways. The little ranch on which Oscar Robin supports his family by the shearing of a few sheep is in this county, thirty-five miles from Dallas, the nearest railroad station. Robin came over from Sweden about ten years ago and found a wife in the depths of the Tennessee mountains. Their first child was born on the ranch on July 12, 1884. Two children, girls, as the first was, have come since. With these younger girls this story has nothing to do, except to note that they are fair skinned and healthy, and as intelligent as most children of their age. The oldest girl is already well known in New England. Before many years she may be famous throughout the world on account of a most remarkable experiment that is being made with her.

When this little girl, who was christened Willie Elizabeth, was fifteen months old, she had an attack of spinal meningitis. The doctors of Throckmorton county said it was congestion of the stomach. The child managed to live through the results of this notable diagnosis, and when she was eighteen months old was again in health, although thin and not as yet strong. But her sickness had stamped upon her an affliction which does not often fall to the lot of human beings. She was by it cut off from all knowledge or means of communication with the rest of the world except by the sense of touch.

A child of fifteen months is never very far advanced. This little girl had learned but two words—mamma and papa. Now at the end of her sickness her mother found that her little daughter's big gray eyes would never see anything again; that the small, prettily shaped ears would have no knowledge of voice or sound of any kind. The child had been condemned to a life imprisonment in a cell into which no ray of light, no sound, however loud, however sweet, would penetrate.

MISS THAYER AND HER PUPIL.

The little one soon forgot the two words she had known and confined her vocal utterances to loud strident cries of pain or anger. As no sensation that would excite especial pleasure could reach her, she never gave vent to anything like laughter. She learned two signs, those most necessary to life and known in one way or another to all animals. When she was hungry she opened her mouth and thrust her fingers down her throat. When she was thirsty she crossed her arms upon her breast, putting her clenched hands against her shoulders. The first sign was, as you see, a simple pointing in the direction which food takes. The second touched the place where thirst affects one.

She got her bearings in the house, which to her was forever shrouded in the profoundest silence and gloom. She followed her mother about almost all the time, having strange freaks of passion and viciousness. She was keenly sensitive to the presence of living things in her neighborhood. She hated and feared animals of all kinds, and when one came about she would fly with uncouth screams of terror.

Her mother taught her to do some things, but of course could make no progress in real training. About the most complicated thing she ever learned was washing dishes. She got to be passionately fond of this, and, to use her mother's remarkable expression, she wiped the plates till they creaked. But at six years she was still a blind, speechless girl, hearing nothing, knowing nothing, groping in blackness and silence.

One day a newspaper brought to this ranch some account of the treatment Helen Keller was getting. The father saw the similarity between the two cases, and after talking it over with the mother, wrote to Mr. M. Anagnos, the principal of the Perkins Institute for the Blind, near Boston. Mr. Anagnos at once saw what a remarkable case it was and paid the expenses of the mother and child from Texas to Boston. Then he took them at once to Jamaica Plain, where the kindergarten for the blind children is situated.

When the little girl arrived there she was a most savage looking creature. She was clad in the coarsest clothing. Her long, dirty yellow hair hung over into her eyes. Her face was dull and blank in expression. She would permit no one to come near her except her mother. She was strong beyond her years, and would bite, kick, and push so savagely that the slender young woman who was to be her teacher could do nothing with her.

After a week's stay the mother went back to Texas. Then the teacher began to take the child in hand. Of course a pupil of this kind takes all the time, energy, and patience of one teacher. The young woman who devoted herself to the labor of leading this little one out of this black and soundless desert is Miss Effie J. Thayer, who lives with her parents at 17 Brooklyn avenue, Brooklyn. All that the child learns she gets through this young woman. To her Miss Thayer is light and voice and protection—the only means she has of touching the world.

Before Miss Thayer began her work the child was carefully examined by Boston specialists. It was found that the optic and auditory nerves were completely paralyzed. So dense is the darkness in which the child lives that she can not distinguish even light from shadow. It is all night for her—night and silence. On Dec. 20, 1890, the first lesson was given to her.

It would seem, when one first thinks of it, that it would be impossible to establish communication with such a being. Her mind was certainly almost blank, and it is not easy to think how the teacher could reach in and take hold of the few tendrils of thought that might have reached out even in such darkness and silence. Miss Thayer did this, and to-day the child has a vocabulary of about 600 words, asks questions and understands answers, reads a bit, and is in many ways as far advanced as the average hearing and seeing child of her age.

Miss Thayer's first difficulty was to get acquainted with the child. In a few weeks she had her trained so that she would hug and kiss her at times, and would have hours when she would be perfectly tractable and obedient. The first word she taught the child was hat.

After first interview with the child she noticed that it felt around on the floor and picked up a shallow basket. It felt the basket carefully and put it on its head. This gave Miss Thayer the idea of teaching the child the word hat. She took Willie, as the child is called, upon her lap. She caught hold of her right wrist and made her little fingers feel a dozen hats of different kinds. Miss Thayer would make the blind alphabet letters for hat against the palm of the little one's hand after feeling each hat. Then she would guide Willie's fingers into the shapes of the letters. Finally, Willie understood that the personality outside of her was signalling to her the sign for the object which fell such and such a way. It was the first ray of light into the darkness.

To make sure that Willie understood, Miss Thayer taught her another word, fan, in the same way. Then she taught her the word ring. These lessons were repeated again and again for ten days. At the end of that time a whole flood of light burst into the child's mind. She grasped the abstract thought that objects had names. She became eager for knowledge. She searched about for objects, and wanted to get the name for each.

After the noun came the verb. This Miss Thayer taught by acting. For instance, she would press against the palm of the little hand the letters of sit down. Then she would push the child into a chair. Frequent repetitions of this and other actions, with their accompanying verbs, soon got the verb ideas into the child's mind. So the lessons went on, until now the child knows the names and shapes of about 100 objects, has a certain understanding of 100 verbs, and has an idea of the meaning of many adjectives, prepositions, and adverbs.

Miss Thayer says that the child does not ask as many questions as she could wish. But, as Miss Thayer observes, this is not surprising when we think how faintly at best the world looms upon the gloomy horizon of the child's mind. She has a few simple abstract ideas, but her mental life is material and practical. She reads simple lessons about "Little Ned Gets Wet," in raised letters. In reading she takes the greatest delight. She is always anxious to take her book to bed with her, where, of course, she can read as well as in the broadest, brightest day.

LITTLE MISS ROBIN.

Miss Thayer now has her pupil at 17 Brooklyn avenue, Brooklyn, for a short visit to Miss Thayer's parents. Yesterday afternoon a SUN reporter called to see the child. Soon there came into the room a little girl dressed in a simple, pretty gown. She had long golden hair loose and waving upon her shoulders, and cut into a straight bang across the forehead. Her skin was snow white with a red flush of health in the cheeks. Her features were regular, her mouth a small rosebud, and her eyes big and gray. One never sees a prettier, more high-bred looking child than this little daughter of the Swedish ranchman, and her face is full of intelligence. Her actions are childish, playful, yet full of a quaint and most attractive dignity. Her eyes have that peculiar look—stealthy and wary, which one always sees in the eyes of the blind. This child, however, seems to be able to put a certain amount of sympathy into them which at times makes them as beautiful and bright as they would be were they seeing eyes.

She came into the room and felt her way with a stumbling, yet not ungraceful hesitation to Miss Thayer's side. Miss Thayer put her left hand about the child's wrist and asked her who was in the room. She, of course, did this by pressing the letters, which she formed with her right hand, into the child's palm. The child came over, felt the reporter's hand, then touched his coat, and answered "Man." She added that it was not a certain man whom she knew, but one she did not know.

Miss Thayer sent her for a rocking chair. She felt around the room, along the hall into another room, and soon came back with the chair. She sat down in it, and, taking her box of beads, began stringing them with as much dexterity as though it were not her small, graceful, sensitive white fingers that saw as well as felt. Every now and then she smiled softly to herself. Miss Thayer said that she was of a most happy and affectionate disposition.

She has overcome her antipathy to animals to a certain extent and has two dog friends. The most curious thing about her is her sense of the presence of men or animals. Even in a crowded street she will feel that a dog is somewhere near. She is most interested in the phenomenon of laughter, which she has had explained to her. One man who had laughed so loudly in her presence that the vibrations reached her, she never mentions without adding that he laughs. She also is anxious to know if animals laugh. Although Miss Thayer has told her that animals do not laugh, she repeats the question and smiles rather incredulously at the negative answer. She evidently has formed an opinion of her own on the subject.

Some of her instincts are curious. For instance, at the house to which she was taken for a visit last summer, there were a young man and young woman who were fond of each other. From the first this blind, dumb child seemed to have a knowledge of the situation. She knows nothing of the abstractions of love, marriage, and so on, yet she never spells out the name of one of these persons without immediately spelling the name of the other.

Mr. Anagnos is making a most interesting experiment with the child. Several times before this experiments have been made with blind or dumb children to see whether the idea of a divine being is innate. But all these experiments have been unsatisfactory, because a deaf child will see something and a blind child will hear something in spite of every precaution, and their acute minds will at once seek and secure an explanation of some sort. Now Mr. Anagnos sees in this child a chance to make a positive addition to knowledge of innate ideas.

The child was smitten at an age when it was impossible for her to have had any ideas beyond hunger and thirst. She has a mind of remarkable quickness and acuteness. All religious ideas have been kept away from her. She has never had the word "God" or "Jesus" or "Sunday" or "religion" or "hymn" or any other word which would lead to inquiry upon religious ideas. She knows the word church, and she has been to church, and likes it because of the sensation of people at rest which penetrates her probably. But she does not know what a church is for or why people go there. She simply has the word church.

Now Mr. Anagnos proposes that this ignorance shall continue. No more about God, religion, or hereafter will ever appear in her reading or in any conversation with her. In a few years the world will begin to arrange itself to her and she will get many abstract ideas. She will begin to reason about things, to ask questions. Then it will come out whether a human being with no aid from other human beings, with no suggestions from the sound of thunder, the flash of lightning, with no view of trees and seas and mountains and skies, can yet rise to the thought of God. Most theists have held that such a human being could, because God has implanted a knowledge of Himself in every human heart, a knowledge innate and intuitive. If the child does some day ask after the Great Cause or address Him under one of His attributes, it will be a striking argument for the theory of innate ideas.

According to some Christian creeds this keeping of the child in ignorance of God and the tidings of heaven and hell would imperil the salvation of its soul. But perhaps Mr. Anagnos thinks there is enough difference of opinion on this point to justify his experiment.

The cost of keeping this child and of educating her is more than $1,000 a year. As Mr. Anagnos pays most of it out of his own pocket, he is not sorry when charity comes to his aid and helps him in his endeavor to give this child a knowledge of the world which she can never see or hear.

She already understands that others do with their eyes and ears as she cannot do. In addition to her reading and dumb speech, she is becoming proficient in all the games and work of the kindergarten. She makes mats, she sews, she cuts out figures. And her skill is marvellous. Her small white fingers have as great dexterity as sensitiveness.

It must not be forgotten that she has learned to articulate twenty words. A deaf child could yet see how words are made. A blind child could, of course, hear them. But this child has learned by feeling how they are uttered. The teacher spells the word to her, then puts the child's fingers against her lips and utters the word. The child then tries to imitate it. After a while she gets the sound with surprising clearness. But no deaf mute ever learned to articulate agreeably, and this child will be no exception.

Miss Thayer and the child have become devoted each to the other. The child obeys her perfectly and yet has developed an individuality of her own. Miss Thayer talks to her now as she would to any person and though the child does not understand a great deal, she thinks it over, in that uninterrupted silence and darkness so conducive to thought, and grasps far more than the teacher at first thinks. The longest sentence she has ever made was at the table the other day when she spelled out this: "Does Mrs. Johnson keep her mouth closed when she eats?"

There will be a doll's fair in Boston during the holidays for the benefit of the kindergarten of the Perkins Institute. This little girl will have a reception there and it is hoped that some money will be raised for her. There are now three of these blind-deaf-dumb children in the hands of the teachers of the Perkins Institute. But this child is the most remarkable, because of the early age at which her misfortunes fell upon her and because of the swiftness with which she is advancing along a pathway that is hard enough for those who see and hear.

Money is It for Senator Gibson.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—Charles Hopper Gibson, the new Senator from Maryland, may not get very much honor out of his new office, but there is money in it for him. Senator Wilson of Maryland died on Feb. 24, 1890, just one week before his term expired. The salary he would have drawn for those seven days was paid to his widow by resolution of the Senate. Wilson had been reelected, and Senator Gibson's appointment carries with it the salary from March 3 last, so that when he takes his seat on Dec. 7 he will be entitled to draw $3,808, with mileage to and from Easton, Md., at the rate of ten cents a mile each way. He will also be entitled to $125 worth of stationery, or the equivalent in cash. This constitutes the perquisites of a Senator, together with three wooden packing boxes each year, several tons of bound and unbound public documents, the privilege of being shaved free of cost at the Senate barber shop, and a clerk at $6 a day to assist in attending to the correspondence.

Flint's Prices Are So Very Low
That furniture this season is being selected early.—*Adv.*

ONONDAGA COUNTY CANVASS.

The Democrats Bound to See that the New Ballot Law is Enforced.

SYRACUSE, Nov. 26.—The candid assurance of THE SUN this morning that it is not possible to defeat a duly elected candidate until every resource of the courts has been exhausted, is approved by Democrats as well as Republicans in this city. The complications that have attended the canvass of the votes in Onondaga county have arisen from technical or wilful violations of the new Ballot law, which was designed to provide for a secret ballot. The Board of Supervisors which is canvassing the vote is Democratic by one vote, the result of several Republican towns and wards sending Democratic supervisors. Two of the Democratic supervisors, John A. Nichols and Robert E. Dorchester, were themselves candidates for other offices in the recent election, Mr. Nichols having run for State Senator and Mr. Dorchester for County Clerk. The execution of the plan which the Democrats have so far followed in the canvass would elect both of them. Nevertheless, it is well known in this community, by Republicans and Democrats alike, that Messrs. Nichols and Dorchester have been exceedingly loath to occasion the least suspicion to attach to their motives. Their object has been to see whether the new ballot law is to be observed by the officials chosen to execute it, and if not to know the reason why and to establish precedents for the future. That the letter of the law has been violated in this county cannot be successfully disputed, and if the law's penalties are enforced the Democrats will win.

The Democrats believe that the attitude of Justice Kennedy all through the canvass forced them in the position they have taken, and as to the action of County Clerk Cotton, they regard him as having gone out of his sphere to oppose a proper investigation by the court. When the canvass was begun no other thing was thought of, the Democrats say, than that a contest was possible of the election of Rufus J. Peck as State Senator. His ineligibility on the ground of his being a citizen of Canada is still claimed, although it has not been formally presented, as it probably will be. The contest over the election of David A. Munro, Jr., as Assemblyman from the First district, was a result of Justice Kennedy's interference. He ordered the vote to be canvassed as returned by the inspectors, and on the face of the returns so canvassed Munro, Jr., was defeated.

It is not thought here that the Governor will remove County Clerk Cotton notwithstanding his careless performance of official duties, but that he will be let off with a reprimand. Justice Kennedy is thought to have been more to blame for the County Clerk's other acts than the County Clerk himself. There is a rumor to-day that Gov. Hill may seek for the impeachment of Justice Kennedy.

THEIR HOME RULE PROGRAMME.

Members of the Old Irish National League Center and Make a Declaration.

Over a hundred Irish-Americans whose affiliations were with the Irish National League met in Brevoort Hall, Fifty-fourth street and Third avenue, yesterday, at the call of the Municipal Council of this city, to consider the disorganized state of the Home Rule movement. Dr. J. W. Casey of Rochester presided, and among the representatives were Luke Dillon and Dr. Carroll of Philadelphia, John Devoy of Chicago, and James Gallagher of Brooklyn. Delegates were present from nine States. A committee headed by John Devoy was appointed to draw up a declaration of principles and in the evening the conference which had adjourned to Ledwith Hall adopted these resolutions which had been drafted by the committee:

Whereas, The dissensions which now unhappily distract Ireland threaten the ruin of the national cause and are a humiliation and a scandal to the Irish race in America; and,

Whereas, Efforts are being made to enlist in the service of faction the sympathy and support heretofore given to the demands of United Ireland for a full measure of self-government; and,

Whereas, The interests and the good name of the Irish citizens of the United States are likely to suffer through a prolongation of fratricidal strife; therefore be it

Resolved, That this conference of Irish-American Nationalists, representing bodies of men in many States of the Union which have contributed largely to the support of the movement in Ireland and given it an unquestioning support for many years, deems it necessary to solemnly warn the people of Ireland that they can receive no further support, moral or financial, from this country until they call a halt in the war of factions and reunite the forces now engaged in the work of self-destruction.

Resolved, That the damage already done to the Irish cause can only be repaired and the confidence of the great mass of Irish citizens of the United States restored by a separate union based upon a clearly defined, moderate and reasonable expression of Ireland's demand for Home Rule and a policy of independence of all English parties; that such a definition should include a parliament with full power over all purely Irish affairs, and an executive responsible to the Irish parliament, and having the appointment of the Judges and magistrates and the control of the police.

Resolved, That a committee of seven members be appointed to communicate with organizations and individuals, and with power to organize branches under the constitution of the Irish National League as adopted at the Chicago Convention of 1886, for the support of such a programme of Home Rule; that such committee shall be hereby instructed to use its best endeavors to bring about a union in Ireland on the basis herein named, and to call a convention of the Irish race in America at an early date.

This committee was chosen in accordance with the resolution: New York, John M. Digney; New Jersey, James Gibson; Pennsylvania, Dr. William Carroll; Iowa, J. P. Howard; Illinois, John Devoy; Rhode Island, John Bevens; Michigan, O'Brien Atkinson; Massachusetts, Thomas F. Keenan; Connecticut, John P. Farrell.

After passing a resolution setting forth the loss to Ireland by Parnell's death the conference spent the rest of the evening in secret session.

THE PRESIDENT'S GAME.

Six-handed Euchre is Now the Favorite Diversion at the White House.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—Six-handed euchre is the favorite diversion of President Harrison on leisure evenings at the White House, and he has a cordial and enthusiastic supporter in Secretary Tracy, who heartily enjoys this game of cards. Even when the election returns were being received at the Executive Mansion there was a party in the family sitting room, adjoining the oval apartment where the Cabinet usually holds its sessions, and play was only temporarily suspended when news began to arrive from Ohio. It was while on his Western trip a year ago that the President was initiated into the mysteries of the game, of which he has since become a devotee in preference to staid whist. Probably no one who has ever played six-handed euchre ever laid down the joker with a more complacent or satisfied air than the President of the United States does when one of his opponents bids five for the privilege of making the trump.

"Count us five, please," is his invariable expression, "and you good people go back five points for your recklessness."

Ladies of the White House invariably participate in these evening euchre parties, and Mrs. Harrison, who is usually opposed to her husband at the card table, takes great pains in playing euchre, and is as systematic about the game as she is in other branches of amusement and entertainment.

Newfoundland Won't Sell Bait to Canadians.

OTTAWA, Nov. 26.—The Dominion Government is taking exception to the conduct of the Government of Newfoundland in refusing to allow the sale of herring to Canadian vessels by fishermen of that colony. This is directly in contravention to the terms upon which the British Government ratified the Bait act, passed by the Legislature of Newfoundland prohibiting the sale of herring to foreign vessels. The attention of Lord Salisbury has been called to the fact with a request that Newfoundland shall be compelled to carry out the assurances that the bait act would not be carried into effect against Canada.

Boiler Blew Out and Set the Place on Fire.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 26.—Soon after 1 o'clock this afternoon the head of the boiler in the bagging establishment of Peter Young, 816 and 818 South Front street, blew out, the live coals setting fire to the building. In less than an hour the structure was destroyed. Three firemen—Barney Barrett, Abe Lacey, and George Crilley—were slightly injured by falling walls. The adjoining houses were damaged by water. The loss is estimated at $40,000.

They Talk of Hiring Melbourne.

MILLER, S. D., Nov. 26.—Rain Maker Melbourne and prominent citizens here are corresponding with a view of having their section of the State moistened during next season's crop period with showers made to order. Melbourne says in his letters that his rain storms extend 150 miles, and he wants adjoining counties to join in raising the required sum. He wants no pay until after the rain has been actually produced. There is little doubt that the contract will be closed.

Big Storm in the Northwest.

ST. PAUL, Nov. 26.—A blinding snow storm, lasting six hours, has been followed by a drizzling rain. Special despatches from points in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Dakotas indicate that the storm was a very severe one. There is now about a foot of snow on the ground in portions of Minnesota, and wheeling on the railroads is very heavy.

DUTY OF THE NEW CONGRESS.

TO CUT DOWN EXPENSES AND PREVENT EXTRAVAGANCE.

An Effort to be Made to Restore the Appropriation Bills to One Committee—Democrats Responsible for the Change Which Resulted in the Billion Congress.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—There is every reason to believe that a strong effort will be made in the next House to restore all the principal money bills to the control of one appropriations committee. The conviction is steadily growing among Democrats that in such a policy lies the brightest hope of bringing about the much desired economy and the resultant victory in the Presidential fight of 1892. The wisdom and necessity of that policy is generally conceded, and the chief difference of opinion now relates to the means by which the desired end can best be attained. A large number, probably a majority, of the experienced leaders and conservative economists among the Democratic Congressmen, favor a return to the old system of concentrating the chief appropriation bills in one central committee as the most effective way of cutting down expenses and preventing extravagance. The circumstances under which the experimental change from the old system of consolidation to the present was brought about in the Forty-ninth Congress are now recurring to the memory of Congressmen, and the warnings then uttered by the conservative leaders against a departure from the time-honored system are recalled. It is remarkable how accurately those warnings and predictions have been justified and fulfilled to the minutest particular. The climax of expenditure reached by the late Republican Congress suggests almost that Randall and Cox and Steckler, the men who uttered those warnings and predictions, were endowed with the gift of prophecy.

With the assembling of the Forty-ninth Congress was made the memorable raid upon the Committee on Appropriations, which, up to that time, had control of all the money bills. The Hon. William R. Morrison, who enthusiastically favored a division of them, reported from the Committee on Rules a new set of rules, by which the relative jurisdiction of the various committees was distinctly determined. In his report he represented that the distribution would enable all the appropriation bills to be reported at earlier periods in the sessions and would promote more careful and thorough consideration by the committees having jurisdiction of them and by the House than formerly, and would result in more considerate and economic legislation. He urged that for several years before the various general appropriation bills had been reported at such late dates in the sessions as to preclude their careful and thorough investigation by members not on the Committee on Appropriations. The real underlying motive, however, is now admitted to have been the natural desire to break down the "pernicious power" of the Committee on Appropriations, which was credited with trying to run things too much its own way. The project to distribute the bills was rendered successful by reason of the restless jealousy with which the Committee on Appropriations was regarded by those not serving on that committee, aided by the ambitious aspirations of those who desired Chairmanships of committees having enlarged prerogatives and the right to appropriate the public money.

When the fight was won the winners divided the honors and the spoils. Six of the most important general appropriation bills were taken from the Committee on Appropriations and turned over to separate committees having charge of general legislation on those subjects. These separate committees were empowered to bring forward their special legislation, and at the same time define what should be the measure of expenditure to carry that legislation into execution—a method declared to be without example in any enlightened legislative body in America or Europe. Six years before that, in the Forty-sixth Congress, the Committee on Rules, which then consisted of Samuel J. Randall as Speaker, Joseph C. S. Blackburn of Kentucky, Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia, James A. Garfield, and William P. Frye, made this report:

> If any other committee is to take charge of one of the general appropriation bills, the interests therein involved and considered will stand separate and apart from the interests involved and considered in the other bills.

Mr. Garfield, in the debate on that report, expressed himself as Mr. Randall had before him. Mr. Randall, likewise in the same debate, made this wonderfully accurate prediction:

> If you undertake to divide all these appropriations, and have many committees where there ought to be but one, you will enter upon a path of extravagance you cannot foresee the length of or the depth of, until we will find the Treasury of the country bankrupt.

Many experienced legislators have expressed the opinion of late that no material reduction of appropriations can be accomplished without a reconsolidation of the appropriation committee under one central and responsible head and a return to the old method in vogue before the costly experiment of distribution was tried. The auguries appear to be good for such a change in the reorganization of the House next month. The great majority of Democratic members in the coming House will be new men, who will not expect or demand recognition in the shape of prominent committee Chairmanships. It is believed that some of the old Democratic leaders can establish themselves with general acclaim among the first-rank committees outside of appropriations, while others who are expert in appropriation matters can be assigned to a central committee on appropriations of increased influence and membership, comprising, say, nineteen or twenty-one chosen economists. By this method, it is thought, there would be enough good committee places to go around among experienced Democrats, and perhaps some to spare.

MR. FROST GETS HIS DINNER,

Though the Goose He so Admired Was Not a Part of It.

William Fosdick Frost, a colored gentleman of some fame in Baxter street, sat in a little game of draw on Wednesday evening and when he arose he had not the wherewithal left to purchase a proper Thanksgiving dinner. It was just before the stores closed that he sauntered down Bayard street with sorrow in his soul and the thought of a dinnerless Thanksgiving.

When he came to Simon Casper's butcher shop at 71 Bayard street he stopped to look at the stock. Very near him a nice fat goose stretched out offered an opportunity which Mr. Frost could not resist. No one seemed to be watching and, seizing the goose by the neck, he swung it gracefully beneath his coat and started down the street. Unfortunately, the after part of the goose protruded from beneath his coat. He hadn't gone far when he met Officer Maloney of the Elizabeth street station. Maloney is an intelligent officer, and knows that a goose's tail sticking from beneath a colored gentleman's coat is a phenomenon demanding careful investigation.

"What are you doing with that goose?" he inquired.

Frost started, but soon regained his presence of mind. "I dun carry 'im dis yere way fer to keep 'im warm," he explained. "It spiles a geese's flavor to let 'im get too cold, an' freezes de richness outen he's innards."

This ingenious explanation might have sufficed had not a clerk from the butcher shop appeared and charged Mr. Frost with the theft, whereupon the officer arrested him. He was arraigned at the Tombs Court yesterday morning.

"Pse guilty, Judge," he said, "but I was pow'ful bad up f'r a Thanksgivin' dinner."

"You'll find a big one down below," replied Justice O'Reilly, "and 350 people to help you eat it." Frost was held in $300 bail for trial.

A Check Swindler in Lockport.

LOCKPORT, Nov. 26.—A stranger giving the name of Richard P. Schoem, and hailing from New York and Utica, appeared here yesterday and represented that he was going into the dry goods business. He leased a store and offered a $600 draft at the Merchants' Bank on the Fourth National of New York, which the bank officials refused on the ground of his being a total stranger in the city. He then went around to different stores to buy goods, and gave them checks on the Merchants' Bank. His business was soon found out when some of the men from whom he purchased went to the bank to get the checks cashed and found them worthless. Schoem meantime had disappeared. He did not get away from this city, however, with a cent's worth of goods.

Whalebacks for the Lake Trade.

DULUTH, Minn., Nov. 26.—The keel has been laid by the American Steel Barge Works for the first of American whalebacks, each of which will carry 140,000 bushels of wheat, drawing fifteen feet of water. They will be 325 feet long, 40 feet beam, 20 feet deep, and are to be built exclusively for the lake trade.

Killed Himself Before His Mother.

MARION, Ala., Nov. 26.—George W. Morgan, a prominent young merchant of this place, committed suicide yesterday by shooting himself through the head in the presence of his mother. Excessive drink, which brought on despondency, was the cause of the deed.

BITTEN BY A BLOODHOUND.

Mrs. Tush Almost Persuaded that She Will Die of Hydrophobia.

Mrs. Annie Tush, who lives at 13 Redwood venue, Paterson, was seriously injured last Saturday night by a large bloodhound belonging to her husband. Robert Tush is a night watchman at the Riverside Dye Works. He is 52 years and his handsome wife is 27 years his junior. A SUN reporter saw Mrs. Tush in the women's ward at St. Joseph's Hospital in Paterson, yesterday afternoon. She is still confined to her bed. This is the story she told:

"On Saturday night I went down to the works to get the money to pay my rent and small bills. It was pay day, you see. My man was lonely, and he asked me to come back, and I said I would. He had two dogs there, the bloodhound and an old Newfoundland. I said I would get some meat to feed them with, but he told me he had some tripe that would do, and so I went away, and when I came back I sat down, and, calling the old dog over, began throwing him pieces of meat and feeding him. I didn't think of the bloodhound until, with a sudden rush, he came out of the darkness and jumped on me. He caught me first by my arm. Here you see the marks. It did not frighten me very much at first, but when I got on my feet and the beast began to tear me to pieces I was frightened almost to death. I was thrown on the ground two or three times before I could call for help. All this time the dog was pulling my clothes off with his teeth and biting pieces of flesh from my thighs.

"My man heard me at last and ran to my help. He had his revolver, but had only one cartridge in it, and was afraid to shoot. I was rolling over and over on the ground with the dog biting and tearing at me all the time. At last my man got a chance and gave the brute a kick. The dog turned in a moment and flew at his throat. Then he shot the dog in the head, and the beast ran away. My skirts were nearly torn from my body and the bone was laid bare where the dog bit my thighs.

"After the dog ran away my husband took me into the dye house and tried to bind up my wounds. I stayed at the works until the first Riverside car came along in the morning and then I went home. My husband couldn't go with me because he was not relieved. My neighbors called in Dr. Doty and he attended me. I was around the house as usual Monday and Tuesday when I ought to have been in bed. I called in three policemen to shoot the dog. They said they had only revolvers, and they were afraid to tackle such a big beast without a shotgun, and that, any way, without the permission of my husband they would do nothing. Some of the neighbors, I don't know who, sent for Dr. Dotv, and he came around with his gun and killed the dog. On Wednesday an ambulance was sent for and I was brought here. During the three days I was at home the neighbors kept telling me I would die of hydrophobia. It is a pleasant prospect, isn't it? The wounds on my thighs burn like fire. I suppose I shall go mad and die."

The Sisters in charge of the hospital say that Mrs. Tush will recover and that the nervous effects of her struggle with the dog and the neighbors' talk are of more consequence than the flesh wounds inflicted by the dog. The dog's brain will be examined to discover if possible whether or not he was mad.

ANOTHER CHARLEY ROSS.

The Sheriff of Cortland County Believes He is on the Track of the Long Lost Boy.

CORTLAND, Nov. 26.—The death of G. Henry Stratton in New York, after trying to break Succi's fasting record, has brought to light a strange story. It has been in the possession of Sheriff Borthwick and the father of missing Charley Ross of Philadelphia for two years. These two men have been working to identify, in a boy adopted by Stratton, the missing Charley Ross. This morning Sheriff Borthwick told this story:

"It is not generally known that Stratton was a married man. He separated from his wife, who is now in Minnesota, many years ago. The separation was caused by Stratton introducing into his family a boy whom he said he had adopted. Mrs. Stratton did not want the boy in the family, and when she gave her husband the choice between herself and the boy he chose the boy. This boy, I believe, was none other than Charley Ross. I will not say now nor until I have concluded my investigation why I believe this. When Stratton came to this village he brought the boy with him. He was known as Fred Stratton, although Stratton admitted that he was not the boy's father. I have been corresponding with Mr. Ross in Philadelphia for some time. We have found many little incidents related by the boy that have led Mr. Ross to believe that there may be something in it. In some way Stratton learned of what I knew, and sent the boy to Denver. I had many talks with him before he was sent away, and what I know of that I am not now at liberty to say. As Stratton is dead, I believe much more will come to light. Stratton was a very peculiar man in many ways, but would never tell where he got the boy. There are many things about the boy that carry out my belief. This boy has cut quite a figure in Stratton's life, and, besides separating him from his wife, prevented him from marrying a Brooklyn lady of wealth. She frequently came to this village to see Stratton, and would have married him were it not for the fact that he persisted in having this boy with him."

Sheriff Borthwick showed a large pile of letters he had received from Mr. Ross. He says he will continue his investigation until his belief is either confirmed or knocked out. Sheriff Borthwick is not a man to believe without reason, and he says his reasons are formed on good grounds, which in time will be made public.

Defrauded of Insurance Money.

Anton Buenan, the Secretary of the New York branch of the Knights and Ladies of Honor, was brought up before Justice O'Reilly at the Tombs Court yesterday morning charged with forgery. Christian Doherr, a member of the Knights and Ladies of Honor, whose life was insured for $1,000 in the order, died last April. Mrs. Dora Doherr, his widow, received no notice regarding the insurance, and, knowing that he held a policy in the organization, wrote to the Supreme Lodge at Indianapolis after having waited some time. She got an answer that the money had been paid to the New York secretary of the order, and investigation showed that Buenan had forged her name and received the $1,000 insurance money. He was arrested last week in Boston, and attempted to kill himself by shooting, but only inflicted a scalp wound. He was brought here Wednesday afternoon, and was arraigned at the Tombs because the District Attorney's office was closed yesterday. Justice O'Reilly committed him until to-morrow, when he will be brought up at the District Attorney's office.

Huber & Sons' Glass Factory Burned.

The glass factory of John N. Huber & Sons in Maujer street and Morgan avenue, Williamsburgh, was burned yesterday morning. Only the big brick furnace chimney and a heap of blackened timbers remain of the factory and store houses that on Wednesday occupied a block 200 by 95 feet. The works had been shut down for two months. They were to have opened again this morning, and the furnaces were lighted at 3 P. M. Wednesday. The factory was a wooden shell, forty feet high. The adjoining storehouses and offices, also of wood, were about twenty feet higher, and divided into five stories. Goods valued at $15,000 were in the storerooms. The total loss is estimated by Mr. Huber at $32,000. The buildings were insured for $11,000. The contents of the safe were not injured.

Assistant Chief Perry attributed the fire to a defective flue.

The Artists at Work.

The artists are coming back to town and doing their fall house-cleaning, preparatory to the winter's work in the studio. Mr. Aug. Franzén, the Swedish painter and pupil of Dagnan Bouveret, after a busy summer at Southampton, L. I., is about to resume his water color classes at his studio in the Holbein, at 146 West Fifty-fifth street, giving instruction on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, beginning on Monday next.

Mr. Frazer of the *Century* will address the students of the Sharp Art School, at Broadway and Astor place, on Saturday, Dec. 5, on black and white drawing for illustration.

Col. Fellows Not So Well.

Col. John R. Fellows, who has been confined to his house in West 152d street for two weeks by an attack of pleurisy, brought on by a cold, was a trifle worse yesterday. His family believe the change in the weather was accountable for the relapse, and do not apprehend serious results.

COLLECTED BY
Mr. E. O. ARBUTHNOT, Shanghai.
RARE
CHINESE PORCELAINS.
FOR SALE BY THE IMPORTERS,
GRIBBLE & NASH,
16 BROAD ST.

No baking powder is gaining in sales and public favor so rapidly as
Cleveland's.
Those who use it once will have it.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

MINIATURE ALMANAC—THIS DAY.
Sun rises.... 7 02 | Sun sets.... 4 35 | Moon rises. 8 08
HIGH WATER—THIS DAY.
Sandy Hook. 4 42 | Gov.Island. 5 12 | Hell Gate.. 7 02

Arrived—THURSDAY, Nov. 26

Ss Rhynland, Weyer, Antwerp.
Ss Havel, Junst, Southampton.
Ss Conemaugh, Spencer, Antwerp.
Ss Churnum, Mace, Liverpool.
Ss Raisby, Stockdale, West Hartlepool.
Ss Henry Dumois, Haslund, Montego Bay.
Ss Claribel, Macknight, Kingston.
Ss Alamo, Lewis, Galveston.
Ss Hudson, Kemble, New Orleans.
Ss Old Dominion, Couch, Richmond.
Ss Athalie, Rentieborn, Philadelphia.
Ss Gen. Whitney, Rearse, Boston.
Ss City of New Bedford, Weaver, Fall River.
Ship Servia, Otis, Havre.
Ship Loanda, Almon, Liverpool.
Ship Otto, Bremers, Antwerp.
Bark Torgersen, Philadelphia.
Bark St. Patrick, Baker, Barbadoes.
Bark Fiorella, Simonsen, Pilau.

[For later arrivals see First Page.]

ARRIVED OUT.

Ss Rugia, from New York, at Hamburg.
Ss Egyptian Monarch, from New York, at London.
Ss Norden, from New York, at Copenhagen.
Ss St. Pancras, from New York, at Liverpool.
Ss Deptford, from New York, at Rotterdam.
Ss Ocean, from New York, at Rotterdam.
Ss Veendam, from New York, at Rotterdam.
Ss South Cambria, from New York, off the Lizard.
Ss Tauric, from New York, off Brow Head.
Ss Urbino, from New York, off Prawle Point.

SAILED FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

Ss City of Paris, from Queenstown for New York.
Ss Didam, from Amsterdam for New York.
Ss Illinois, from Antwerp for New York.
Ss Kingsdale, from Shields for New York.
Ss Standard, from Shields for New York.

OUTGOING STEAMSHIPS.

Sail To-day.

	Mails Close.	Vessels sail.
Algonquin, Charleston		8:00 P. M.
Chattanoochee, Savannah		3:00 P. M.
Claribel, Kingston	11:00 A. M.	1:00 P. M.
Hondo, Honduras	1:00 P. M.	3:00 P. M.