CITY AND DISTRICT.

THE BERING RELICS.

A Talk With the Naturalist Who Dug Them From the Sands.

MEMORIALS OF THE EXPEDITION THAT DISCOVERED ALASKA—A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE OFF THE ALASKA COAST—THE SEARCH FOR A SEA-COW.

Among the exhibits soon to be placed in the National Museum are some interesting relics taken from Bering Island, near the coast of Kamschatka. They consist of glass beads, grape shot and fragments of a brass plate with Russian armorial bearings upon it. These relics were found on the spot where, 140 years ago, Vitus Bering and his crew of 77 men wintered, and where Bering and 30 others perished. They were found on the site of the winter quarters by Prof. Stejneger, of the National Museum. The fur company of Hutchinson, Kohl, Philippeus & Co., having invited the museum to send a scientist to Bering island to gather specimens of the flora, fauna, &c., Prof. Baird detailed for the duty Mr. Stejneger, who went there in 1882 and spent a year and a half in various scientific pursuits.

THE STORY OF VITUS BERING.

The professor is a genial Norwegian, and, in answer to the inquiries of a STAR reporter, said: "To Vitus Bering belongs the honor, although a barren and empty one, of discovering America from the east. His is the first expedition of which we have authentic information, which set out from Russia for the exploration of America. On his first voyage the explorer sailed through Bering straits without sighting the American coast, which was at that time hidden by the fog. He sailed some distance northeast and then turned his course, but was again prevented by the fog from discovering the coast of America. On his return he asserted that America was separate from Siberia. This was doubted and even denied by the geographers of the day, and Bering made his second voyage in 1741 to prove his assertion. He never lived to see his theory vindicated, although he sighted America and discovered the magnificent volcano of St. Elias. The deadly scorbute had already attacked his system. The majority of the crew were cut down with this disease and the remainder could barely navigate the vessel to Bering island, where the sick were carried ashore and winter quarters prepared. To make their situation quite desperate, their vessel, the St. Peter, struck on the rocks and was wrecked. Bering and about thirty others, out of a crew of seventy-seven, died, and the rest, thanks to G. W. Steller, the naturalist of the expedition, passed through the winter, built a boat from the timbers of the St. Peter and returned home."

SAILING AROUND THE ISLAND.

"While there you circumnavigated the island, did you not?" asked the reporter.

"Yes," said the professor with a smile, "I made a voyage around the island in an open boat. It was a rough experience I assure you."

"What was your object?"

"I wished to search for the skeleton of a sea cow," said the scientist. "The sea cow is now extinct. Steller is the only naturalist who ever saw one alive, and I wanted to secure specimens of the remains of this rare animal for the National Museum. I also desired to visit the bay of Komandor, where Bering wintered, and search for traces of the expedition. It was on the 21st of August, 1882, when we set forth in an open sloop boat, which was loaned to me by Herr Hofrat N. von Grebnitski, the Russian agent. There were six Aleuts, Mr. Osche, an employe of the fur company, and myself. Our tent consisted of an old sail. We took some instruments, a chest for specimens, another of hard-tack, salt meat, cooking utensils, &c. We took no delicate food, as I made a rule to live the same as my men. After waiting in vain several days for favorable weather, on the 31st we set sail into the fog. It was a most uncomfortable voyage from beginning to end, but the two days just preceding the discovery of Bering's winter quarters were simply terrible."

BATTLING WITH THE WAVES.

"Was the weather very cold?" asked THE STAR man.

"No. The temperature is very bearable, but the rain and fog and wind were most uncomfortable. On the 27th it became stormy. The wind increased until it blew a hurricane and it began to rain. The waves dashed into the boat and wetted us through to the skin, and the wind howled and yelled among the cliffs. By liberal pauses of rowing I succeeded in men to struggle on against the tempest. Just beyond the headland was Komandor, where Bering wintered; but it was already dark and I saw plainly that we could not reach it that night. A boat could not land and we was determined to battle with the impossible no longer, but to land where we were. With great difficulty we managed to drag the boat up onto the shore to a spot sheltered by a sand down. Here we built a fire of some the damp driftwood, and after a liberal allowance of tea and coffee, crept, utterly exhausted, beneath the shelter of our boat and sank to sleep. The weather was simply appalling. It soon became almost as wet outside as the shelter as without. The waves dashed upon the beach and the wind howled among the rocks. All through that dreary night my thoughts were with Bering and his crew; who had lived and suffered here in our immediate neighborhood 140 years before. In my mind I pictured them battling struggle against terrible trials with my timidity and despair. This was not flattering, but it encouraged and sustained me in the misery and discomfort of that night. The thought that I was on the very spot where once Steller and his companions had wintered aroused my pride, and I sank to rest in spite of storm and rain with new courage in my heart.

During the whole of the 28th we could do nothing but crouch beneath our tent and move our things from place to place, wherever it was dryest. Everything was thoroughly soaked. On the 29th the weather cleared somewhat, and we were able to dry our stores and collections. I set out to examine the shore in the vicinity of Komandor. The coast here is somewhat broken and forms a little harbor, but the fate of Bering's vessel, which anchored there, would but illy attest its security."

FINDING THE RELICS.

"I spent two days digging in the sands and exploring at Komandor," continued Mr. Stejneger, "and as a reward for my toil found a quantity of glass beads, probably used in barter with the natives, some grapeshot, fragments of a brass plate with Russian armorial bearings upon it, &c., which had lain there one hundred and forty years. Near by were the remains of a house, and some chips and blocks of wood in the sand showed where the last survivors had built the vessel on which they returned. The exact spot where Bering was buried is not known. A large cross stands upon a bluff near by, and it is supposed beneath this bluff lies the dust of the first and most successful of Arctic explorers. A superstitious fear possessed my men during the two days which I passed upon this spot. They regarded with horror my digging for relics. A piece of log, they told me, hangs always over this spot, and, though the weather may be fair to north and south, it always foul here when any one attempts to disturb the resting-place of the dead explorers, and indeed in the little time I was there I saw nothing to disprove their superstitious fears. I yielded to their entreaties, and we proceeded on our way. On September 1st we arrived at Gavan, the point of departure, utterly wearied of our voyage. I was laid up with rheumatism, unable to move for five days after my return. Indeed, I might have been lying there yet had not Capt. Sandman, the company's steamer, given me some porous plasters. If I only knew whose plasters they were I would ask you to give the inventor a little free advertising."

THE SEARCH FOR THE SEA-COW.

"Did you succeed in your search for a sea-cow's skeleton?"

"I gathered some specimens," replied the professor, "which are now on exhibition at the National museum. Among them is a complete skeleton. At Cape Tolstoj, August 27, while hunting, Mr. Osche discovered the skeleton of a sea-cow, with nearly every bone in place. It was, however, much decayed, and only a few bones could be carried away. When Steller wintered on Bering Island the sea-cow existed in large numbers. He is the only naturalist who ever saw one alive, and the account he gave of it is undoubtedly correct. It had short fore legs and no hind legs. It had a tail like a whale, and, unlike the seal, walrus or whale, it fed entirely on sea-weed. Indeed, it resembles more the elephant and pachyderms than any of the animals of the sea. Its flesh was very delicate and tender, and it the sealers provisioned their vessels with it; hence its rapid extermination. The elephant and whale, and, in fact, all the larger animals, will follow in the same process of extermination moves rapidly when once it begins."

Transfers of Real Estate.

Deeds in fee have been filed as follows: D. T. Walker to G. Hine, v. part 1, sq. 894; $3,100. C. J. Bell to J. E. Beall, sub. lots 7 and 76, sq. 162; $8,177.81. A. Heismuller to A. E. Gorham, part subs. 19 and 20, sq. 338; $1,300. L. F. Smith to Elizabeth Smith, n. half 41, sq. 569; $500. Elizabeth Smith to J. H. McDowell, same property; $—. W. H. Carter to A. M. Smith, part 1, Friendship; $475. J. Sherman to A. M. Hoyt, lots 1 and 2, block 29; 1 to 7, 13 to 16, block 28, Columbia Heights; $99,593.48. A. M. Hoyt to J. Sherman, half interest in same property; $—. C. Ross to B. Ashwell, lot 9, sq. 964; $1,980. James Fraser to C. E. Fraser, lots 3, 4 and 12, sq. 596, and 7, sq. 503; $—. W. C. Hooker to Ann B. Taylor, part 8, sq. 205; $2,000. J. B. Swormstedt to H. Eberbach, sub. lots 57 to 59, sq. 873; $—. John D. Walker to D. A. Whitesell, part 15, sq. 101; $1,500. Sarah Kearney to N. D. Larner, part 26, sq. 250; $6,800, &c. G. Taylor et al., to Margaret C. Byrne et al., lots 6 and 7, block 1, Meridian Hill; $666. W. W. Dennenhower to D. Dennenhower, undivided half interest in lot 6, sq. 44; 7, sq. 836; sub. 33, sq. 924; $—. W. Dannenhower to W. W. Dannenhower, subs. 47 and 48, sq. 16; $—. W. Dannenhower to Jos. N. Whitney, subs. 2K to 25, sq. 44; $—. Mary Hynes to C. K. Wetzel, part 3, sq. 537; $825. W. C. Duvall to A. T. Lewis, sub. lots 130 to 134, sq. 510; $7,000.

SMALL PROFITS OF THE FIRM OF GRANT & WARD.—In the Holt-Warner case in New York yesterday, Mr. Spencer, cashier for Grant & Ward, testified that in July, 1880, the net profits of the firm were less than $2,500—less than $500 for each member, and this did not include the amount taken from the firm by the same month U. S. Grant, jr., and James D. Fish drew as their share of the profits $5,729 more than they were entitled to.

Rev. Dr. Smith, president of Trinity college Hartford, Conn., decided to decline the position of bishop of Easton, Md., to which he was recently elected.

ALEXANDRIA'S MAGICIAN.

A Man Who is Said to Have Known the Secrets of the Occult World.

A STRANGE OLD STORY FROM ACROSS THE RIVER REVIVED BY DR. COUES' STATEMENTS—THE BASIS PRINCIPLES OF THE BRAHMIN'S SCIENCE—THE THEOSOPH'S MORAL DYNAMITE SAID TO BE HARMLESS.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., Nov. 18th, 1885.

To the Editor of THE EVENING STAR:

The occult world on whose confines a STAR reporter ventured last week in calling on Dr. Elliott Coues and his associate, the Brahmin pundit, may offer secrets worth searching for, but you will give me leave, I am sure, to say that Dr. Coues need not fear that "if everybody knew what I and Mr. Joshee do the social organism of the world would be thrown into chaos." Others have known for years all he knows, and have found his moral dynamite harmless as tooth powder.

For myself I know little about the Brahminical, which he calls "Theosophy;" but good or ill luck once put into my keeping a mythical MS., which, as it related to my native town, I translated, and in 1866 furnished it to my friend Edgar Snowden, for publication in the Alexandria *Gazette*. This MS., beside giving a clue to several mysterious events connected with the town, gave an insight into the methods of the Brahmins, in which its author was an adept. At that time I paid little attention to that part of the narrative which treated of occult science. My attention was specially directed to the recitals which made local mysteries clear, and I passed over hurriedly what may have been an exhibit of matters of more world-wide interest. Now, after a year's interview with Drs. Coues and Joshee has led me to look again over the publication made in the *Gazette*, and as I see on almost every page evidences that its author was versed in the science which Dr. Coues thinks should be esoteric, I will brief for THE STAR such parts of the narrative as bear on the subject.

THE OLD MANUSCRIPT.

The writer of the MS. submitted it to the world as "a thank-offering to the goodness that has delivered me, and a warning voice, raised up in season against the erring powers, which, my past experience teaches, are soon to lead the world astray with lying wonders."

He described himself as one John Trust, an erudite Englishman of leisure, who during a voyage round the world, had met at Calcutta "a Dr. Wroe, who had a reputation for familiarity with the occult sciences—and it was believed in the capital that he had, by some ingenuity, secured possession of the secrets by which the Indian priests of Hindostan contrived to acquire and perpetuate an unlimited influence over nations otherwise considerably elevated in the scale of heathen civilization." Wroe had afterwards to clear out of India, and in 1815 the Englishman met him in Paris. There, he says:

"We renewed our intimacy, and he promised to initiate me into the Brahminical art he had acquired, and in which he had more than once showed me his power, by causing a water, or tumbler, to come to our classes, to drop into a chair into a stupor; attracting to him a pigeon which was flying past, and some like feats. He had great faith in his art, and more than once expressed to me the belief that a renovation of the whole physical and moral world might be effected by it. He had, without knowing it, the same ambition which drove Lucifer from heaven. He believed that, in his instructions, that perfect calmness and self-possession were necessary to the full exercise of the power; that the least perturbation of spirit weakened it, and it was lost entirely in the presence of any emotion which mastered the soul."

AN "ASTRAL" ABDUCTION.

They went to the Isle of Martinique together, and there, by the "astral" power (I know no better name for it), Wroe carried off a lady and brought her to a little town near Washington, where she died, and where her tomb still remains. There Trust met him again, and again they pursued the practice of the Brahminical art. He says:

"In Alexandria, as in Paris, it was necessary to select a place secluded from visitors, with a chance to breathe fresh air, and abundant opportunities for muscular exercise. At first we took apartments at Sebastian Springs, a rustic place between Alexandria and the federal capital. We chose it because it was retired and the walk there gave us muscular vigor, but we felt the want of apartments in town, yet sufficiently retired for our purpose. Chance favored us. Wroe met in Alexandria an acquaintance, whom he had known in Africa, and through the influence of the American legation at Tunis—a Mr. Tim Mountford, Mr. M. was just opening a 'museum' (he called it, in the top range of the city hall, and offered us rooms there.

"Having secured the best collection of books, treating of the occult arts, we could obtain, which, by luck, included a highly valuable work, which, I believe, Wroe had found among the Arabic manuscripts brought from Tunis by Major Mountford. I began to feel that I was indeed in the presence of a knowledge was, now, power; indeed, every step a new empire to rule, a new region to inhabit.

"Wroe's success had been far greater than his pupils, and I would give, if I could, credulity to the imagination of those who shall read these lines, were I to tell what these eyes had seen, worked by him in that quiet town beside the Potomac."

Trust's sister was sick and Wroe said to him:

"Why do you not try our art? We can cure any nervous disease; and by action on the nerves, all other diseases; indeed, we may one day conquer death itself and drive it from the world."

A SHOT AT THE ADEPT.

Trust, however, became nearly crazed, fearing Wroe would use "Astral" influence with his sister. He shot at him from a copse of trees near the Long bridge in July, 1821, but killed, by mischance, a peddler who was passing along the road towards Washington.

It turned out quite like a romance, that Wroe and Trust were brothers, and Wroe's estimate of the value of the Brahminical art, which he possessed, was shown by a letter he addressed to Trust while the latter was hiding to escape the penalty of his crime.

"This note will be with you the punishment of your crime, for it will tell you that you have lost the chance of winning, *with your brother*, the proudest triumphs man has ever achieved. When I toss away crowns as baubles, you may sorrow to feel that in destroying my life you sought, not earn, you sought to steal from me, by murder, a glorious future; which I valued most, because I could not share it with you."

These excerpts from a narrative published in 1861, show that the author, Trust, as Coues thinks he keeps coiled up, like St. Patrick's serpent, in a chest, under lock and key, has, in fact, been going about the capital for years, free as Santa Claus at Christmas tide.

There is a certain process which the Pope uses, by which, without swallowing a camel's mouth, in due time, opens it again, and I trust that after I shall have shown that the Theosoph's art is as harmless as his creed, Dr. Coues will no longer make a mystery of it, but will offer the public the benefit of a knowledge that is within the range of his extraordinary gifts and acquirements.

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BRAHMIN'S SCIENCE.

I have already said that in the MS. referred to I published only such things as explained notable events hereabouts. The "Lore of the Brahmins," which was appended to the narrative, never appeared to me to be of interest until after I read THE STAR's interview with Dr. Coues. Struck then with the certainty that the MS. was intended to make public a matter which Dr. Coues deems fundamental enough to found thereon an esoteric school of philosophy, I felt it due to the exoteric philosophic school to which I belong (journalism) to give the public all the information I possess. I have, therefore rendered freely, in the best shape that I could, the basis principles of the Brahmin's science:

1—Man is soul and body.

2—Soul is pure, being integral, conscious, immortal and free, but fettered by the body.

3—The body is spirit (atoms) and matter (molecules).

4—Extension (space) is not practicable of atoms.

5—The essence of atoms is motion (force).

6—The equivalent and opposing motion of atoms produces a varied rest, which is both extension and inertia, and we call it molecule.

7—Dynamic atoms are imponderable and are called force or spirit.

8—Molecules (water atoms) have gravity and are called matter.

9—Molecules gravitate because being static, atoms touch them on every side and force them.

10—The "Spiritual body" is atomic.

11—The corporeal body is molecular.

12—At the will of the soul the body may pass from the atomic to molecular state without losing its identity.

13—Thus are spirits materialized.

14—Thus are bodies spiritualized, or made "astral."

15—When not controlled by the will of the soul, the atoms and their resulting molecules act necessarily in obedience to certain laws.

16—The knowledge of these laws constitute the lore of the Brahmins.

17—The intellect of man using them to obtain results is the Brahmic art.

18—It is possible, by this art, so to arrange conditions (the environment,) that the will of one man's soul does control the atoms that make another man's body and spirit.

19—Certain fixities of attention in man, useless if not dangerous, lead to this environment.

Behold! O "Astral Form" of the evening, all that Mr. Joshee and Dr. Coues know, but will not tell your reporter. And believe me,

Yours, truly, WM. F. CARNE.

An Order of Economy.

New York letter to the Buffalo Express.

Drug articles, a new test of the real financial standing of a man-about-town is to sniff at his silk hat. If it smells like a mixture of turpentine, hartshorn, and several other things, however faintly, then the wearer is to be set down as not a deadly reckless as to expenses. He may be a good enough fellow in general way, but he is guilty of rejuvenating his hat by means of a fluid sold by barbers in bottles, instead of having it blocked by his hatter every three days at a cost of half a dollar for each treatment. The new method imparts luster, but leaves an indistinct odor, by which the economizer can be easily detected. They tell a piece of fiction about a fellow noted among the dude set for his devices for living showily at a low cost. The tale runs that he called on a beautiful young heiress, with a distant view to getting eventually so near to her as to marry. At the end of the evening and his departure she lifted his gloved hand to within a foot of her dainty nose, sniffed at it, and exclaimed, "Ah, benzine!" Then she brought her nasal tester close to his lappels and remarked, "Naptha!" Finally she smelt of his glossy hat and added to him with the parting criticism, "O, stovepipe polish!" He did not call again.

Dr. Thornton W. Parker, of Newport, R. I., in the *Sanitarian*, protests against the tendency to overdo the planting of live trees in streets and about residences, to the exclusion of needed sunlight.

CIGARETTE SMOKING.

A Talk with Dr. Purvis—What He has Observed as to the Effects of Tobacco on Boys—Precocious Dyspeptics.

"The use of cigarettes by boys has assumed such proportions as an evil that our legislators ought to adopt such measures as will restrict the sale if not prohibit the manufacture entirely." The speaker was Dr. Purvis, the surgeon in charge of the Freedmen's hospital. The subject was introduced into the conversation by THE STAR reporter because of the resolution which the doctor, who is a member of the school board, had offered at the last meeting calling upon Congress to pass a law to make the sale of cigarettes and liquors to minors a punishable offence. "You have seen these boys in the street," continued the doctor, "walking along puffing a cigarette or stepping to some gentleman and ask for a light from his cigar. They feel themselves to be men, because they are imitating men. I have found during my connection with the hospital that the large proportion of inebriates and men affected with vicious diseases contracted the habit when they were young and continued in a course which they never would have taken up later in life. In this way the importance of protecting and saving the young from the beginning of vicious habits has been impressed upon my mind."

"It is not necessary for me" went on the doctor "to speak of the injurious effects of the use of tobacco upon the human system, especially in a young child. It checks the growth of the children, stunts their physical development, retards and permanently prevents the growth of the brain. But all this is evident to any observer. You see children in the street small for their age with contracted narrow chests, and if your boy is a physician I presume he would have knowledge of diseases which are abnormal in the life of children. Think for instance of a child having dyspepsia, and yet it is now very common. I find children with their digestive organs not only out of order, but their whole nervous system deranged. The boy is stunted by the use of tobacco, his system is affected, and his mental and moral growth retarded. Insanity very frequently ensues as Doctor Campbell of Philadelphia, has said. There is no use in such a discussion to follow this line of argument, as it must be self-evident. The evil effects of the use of tobacco by young children is everywhere acknowledged, and the crusade, if it may so be termed, which has begun in other cities, is a practical evidence of this fact. I do not know what the board may do in this matter. It may do nothing. But if I can in this way arouse the attention of parents and those who have influence in the community to the importance of this matter, so that they discourage their children in such habits, I feel that I will accomplish a great deal. Since the meeting of the board, when the subject was first brought up, I have received a great many letters from people in other parts of the city expressing their hearty sympathy with me in this matter. I have been stopped in the street by prominent citizens, who have commended the object of the resolution, and I feel that I have the support of all who have given the subject the slightest attention or are disposed to do so. It seems to me so self-evident that there is no room for argument, and I do not so look upon the resolution now before the board. The only question is, what is the best way to be raised is whether this is the best method of trying to correct a great and increasing evil."

For The Evening Star.

THE WOODLAWN FARMERS' CLUB.

Agriculture on the Virginia Side—The Question of the Utility of Agricultural Stations.

The Woodlawn Farmers' club met at Cameron, November 21st, President Pierson in the chair. The president gave an account of his trip to the state fair at Richmond, reporting the display as very good, especially in fruit and vegetables, as also fine stock, some Holstein cows from Smith & Powell, of New York, having nearly, if not quite, the largest milk records in the country. The subject of the defective working of the Virginia road laws and some other matters being introduced the following resolution was adopted: "That a committee of three be appointed to consider the expediency of making some change in the administration of our local affairs and report to next meeting;" committee to consist of C. Lukens, A. W. Harrison and the secretary. The discussion of the question of the day was then resumed: "The utility of agricultural experiment stations and the introduction of more practical methods of industrial education into the public schools." The subject of experiment stations occupied the time to the exclusion of the latter part of the question. C. Lukens offered a resolution embodying his views, which was discussed at length, during which the sentiment of a majority was shown to be in favor of experiment stations if they could be economically and honestly conducted in the interests of the farmers, while the opinion prevailed that agricultural colleges so-called had with few exceptions entirely failed to reach the object in view. Some extracts from the first annual report of the Ohio experiment station were read. It was thought desirable that the commissioner of agriculture should be provided with more commodious quarters at Richmond, where the various objects of interest to farmers now crowded into his office could be displayed to more advantage. It was finally decided to refer the whole subject to the committee before appointed on local affairs, with the addition of the president as chairman.

A bearing upon the improvement of land discussed at last meeting, A. W. Harrison read an article from the *Country Gentleman* of November 12th, by Robert K. Tomlinson, wherein he endeavored to show that the best method of improving a soil was to cause to grow a crop of clover, and the surest means of securing this perhaps was a four years rotation. He did not explain the order of this rotation, but it was judged to be—wheat, clover, corn, oats, with all the stable manure put on for the wheat crop to ensure a good set of clover, and the second crop of this plowed down and commercial fertilizers to be used on corn and oats. This article bore evidences of having been written by no novice in farming, and would repay a careful perusal. The conversation then turned upon a field that had been well rolled and harrowed was reported, showing that three-fourths of them had but one set of roots, and those were near the surface, whereby their capacity for enduring the disastrous effects of freezing out would be increased.

I. N. Gibbs, the only member of the critical committee present, reported upon the farm and surroundings. The farm is in a high state of cultivation, carrying upwards of sixty head of cows (about fifty-five now milking), besides a flock of sheep and a ample supply of horses for the needs of the place. Stock all in fine condition; shipping about 135 gallons of milk per day; feeding about one and a half tons of ensilage daily; the cows are well pleased with it for sheep as well as cows; all growing crops looking well—very properly so, as here is an instance where "good land is being made rich."

Isaac Snowden had some very large White Elephant potatoes present, some of two pounds each; also Perkins seedling.

Next meeting at Wm. Hunter, jr.'s "Woodlawn," on the 19th of December. Critical committee, W. Walton, C. Lukens and L. Gillingham.

W. GILLINGHAM, Sec.

CURED OF THE TREMENS.

How an Illinois Judge Was Frightened Into Total Abstinence.

"The best thing I ever heard about delerium tremens and drinking men being scared at symptoms of that sort," said an ex-sheriff of a populous Illinois county to a STAR reporter, "was a joke that was played on Judge ——, of our county. I'm not going to tell you his name, because he has been a very prominent man and too many people know him. Well, the judge was one of our biggest lawyers, and he was an honor to the bench. But he would get on a spree now and then, and when he got to drinking he let everything go to the dogs. He had been on a 'tout' for about a week, and was, of course, feeling pretty shaky. He was trying to straighten up, however, and meeting one of the clerks of his law office on the street the judge pompously informed him that he would be at the office shortly to resume work. The clerk carried this information to his employer. Only two or three doors away from the office was a grocery store and poulterers' establishment. The judge's partner sent the clerk up there and bought a big rooster. It's legs were tied and the rooster was held tight under a table. Presently the judge, the old man entered, doing his best to walk straight, but staggering a little in spite of him. He took his hat off and threw it on the table, square on the old rooster. Well, of course, the chicken fluttered and squawked.

'Who in h—ll put that rooster on the table?' thundered the judge, for he wasn't a man whom people were likely to take liberties with. 'Who has dared to do that?' The judge's partner walked up to him and said in a low tone: 'Come this way, judge, I want to speak to you.'

'No, sir, go away; who in —— and —— dared to put that chicken on my table, sir?'

'Just a word, judge,' urged the partner, all the time leading the judge into an adjoining room. Finally, when they had passed into the next room, the partner said, very seriously:

'Now, judge, I feel that I must tell you something. You know you've been a little off lately. There is nobody here but your personal friends. Judge, there is no chicken on your table.'

'What, sir; d—— you, sir! Do you mean to tell me that I don't know a rooster when I see it, sir?'

"Meantime the clerk as soon as the judge was safely in the next room, quickly seized the rooster by the throat so that it could not give forth a tell-tale sound, and threw it into an old barrel in the back yard," continued the ex-sheriff. "The judge, still bolting over with wrath, jerked away from his partner and pushed back into his office, exclaiming again: 'Tell me, d—— you, I don't know a rooster.' The clerk was sitting at his desk, demurely going ahead with his work. The judge soon came around his partner by ocular demonstration rather to his desk, and, for an instant, staggered back aghast. Without stopping to look round the room he grasped his hat from the table, shoved it down upon his head, and rushed out. He did not return to the office for three days; and gentlemen, he has never taken a drink of intoxicating liquors since."

In Santa Clara county, Cal., there is a rat, allied to the ground-nest-making species, which climbs small trees and makes a compact nest of twigs among the branches, something after the manner of a gray squirrel.

A chicken main between Newark, N. J., and Long Island, to fix the pluck of trees in streets and about residences, to the exclusion of needed sunlight.

ON THE POWHATAN.

A Rough Voyage to Aspinwall—How Neptune Tried the Spirit of the Raw Recruits—The Rainy Season on the Isthmus.

Correspondence of THE EVENING STAR.

U. S. S. POWHATAN,
ASPINWALL, Nov. 15, 1885.

On the morning of the 27th of October the U. S. S. Powhatan left her anchorage off the Norfolk navy yard, bound to Aspinwall, U. S. C., having on board stores and a draft of 104 men for the Pacific squadron. By night we were well clear of the capes of Virginia, with prospects of a pleasant passage before us. With many of the men it was their first experience of sea life, and Old Neptune, in order to make himself well acquainted, on the afternoon of the following day stirred up a fresh breeze, and by midnight it was a moderate gale, increasing in violence every hour and causing the ship to roll heavily. During the afternoon of the 29th the gale was at its height, and sea after sea washed over us. Strongly secured anchors came adrift, the maintopsail and other sails blew to pieces, and the spanker gaff came down by the run. Portions of our paddle-boxes and guards were stove in, and every thing presented a sorry sight. Bins used for storing fresh vegetables for the crew's messes broke adrift, and potatoes, cabbages, &c., rolled about promiscuously. The officers' messes fared equally as bad, in addition to the loss of most crockery.

RUNNING OUT OF THE GALE.

The gale lasted about sixty hours. We were near the outer edge of the gulf stream, latitude 42° 30', longitude 74° 30', and our captain wisely concluded to run out of it. Had we "laid to" we would have suffered equally as bad, and when the gale subsided found ourselves many miles to the north'ard of our course. Some of the heavy squalls nearly threw the ship on her beam ends, the force of the wind was great, and we had to close-reef and battened down, and life-lines run fore and aft of the ship. No cooking could be done in the galley, and we subsisted on coffee heated in the fire-room and crackers.

But few of the officers attempted to lie down—only those having watch on deck and in the engine room—and cots had to be slung for them in order that they might obtain needed rest to perform their duties. It was almost impossible to lie in a berth. Many on board have photographs of this ship in a cyclone off Hatteras, April 13th and 14th, 1877, who now say they have no use for them. After the gale was over the experiences of former cruises were talked of, and the general verdict was that this was the worst gale. Although the ship is an old one she was built in the days when honest work was done and good material used, otherwise some of us might be "climbing up the golden stairs."

RAIN AND DULL TIMES AT ASPINWALL.

We arrived at Aspinwall on the 9th of November; found everything quiet and the health of the port good. The rainy season is not quite over, and it has rained almost incessantly since we arrived, accompanied with loud peals of thunder and vivid flashes of lightning. Business generally is in a depressed condition, owing to the number of people out of employment. Since the fire of last March hundreds of fine buildings have been erected and the city is fast assuming its former appearance. The Panama railroad company have reconstructed several of their old wharves, which are now models of beauty and durability. The Royal mail company's wharf has also been completed. Work on the canal progresses very slowly. The prominent leaders of the late revolution have either been imprisoned or banished from the country. Generals Gaitan and Alzpura have been sentenced to ten years' imprisonment at Vegata. The U. S. S. Mohican is at Panama, and will remain some time. The Hartford left there on the 14th for a cruise down the coast. We leave here about the 20th for Key West, Fla. The health of all on board is good. V.

Interesting Developments in Africa.

SAMUDU AND HIS MOVEMENTS.

To the Editor of THE EVENING STAR:

Much attention has been given on the west coast of Africa and in Europe and the United States to the operations of the people controlled by Alimami Samudu, alias Ibrahima Sanakodu, who, during the last seven years, has conquered the country from the Upper Niger to the maritime districts, near Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Alimami Samudu is represented to be the son of Sanfia Tene, who is still alive, and was born Sanankoro, near the town of Bissandugu, district of West Africa, situated in a tract or country lying between lat. 9 and 11 n. and long. 6 and 7 w. directly east of Mourovia. He is a Mandingo, about 40 years of age, and his family is superior to most of the families on his land.

Samudu visited Sierra Leone as a trader some years ago, and has not received much education; but being of a studious and inquiring nature, he became a pupil of the learned priests of the Mohammedan religion in his native place, and, afterwards, in Kankan, Bute district. Increasing in the knowledge of Arabic, and of the Koran, Samudu became a zealous son of the prophet, and gathered around him many adherents, who, with his assistance, drove the infidel he called upon the Pagans in his own country and among the surrounding tribes to renounce their ways and adopt his religion. They refused; and from that time he began to enforce his views by the sword of social ostracism by public officials and private individuals.

Samudu's first rupture and battle was with his sovereign, Ibrahima Sissi, whom he took prisoner, but refused to put to death. Sissi remains in durance vile, and Samudu is virtually the king of the tribe he has conquered, and even after another in the region west of his country, called Trong, annexing the whole. He next passed still more to the northward, subduing Kolondda, a portion of Mandling and Hamarra, and annexing also a large portion of Bankaran and Sangara. Medina, Barbara and Wurkoro were then added to his conquered lands. After a long siege and many encounters with varied success, Samudu completely routed Abai, chief of the Hootaos, put him to death, and annexed his country, solinta, a district in Hamarra, attracted him. Its capital, the powerful city of Falabah, was burned and its fate sealed. Mauding gave in its adherence, and Bouri, a small but rich province on the east, possessing gold, followed its subjection. Attention was now turned to the adjacent country, and Bailo and Gadamayo, parts of Fontah Territory, Wimes, Firlyah and Sembe, the northern portion of Kouraako, passed under his yoke. The Simlahs were next reduced.

Samudu is now keeping the roads open from Falabah via Samayah to Kamboia on the Scarcies river, and Fort Lokole, and knitting the tribes together under the banner of Islam, with the intention of opening the interior into uninterrupted communication with the civilization of Europe.

Messengers and their attendants, about one hundred in number, from the army of Samudu, have been in Monrovia, Liberia, returning to Samaya. The conquering military force is composed of Mandingoes. Some of them have visited Liberia and are friendly to the republic. They have always shown friendship to the settlement of "People of the Book." Liberia with its five hundred miles of coast and two hundred miles interior, lies immediately south of the country over which Samudu now holds sway, and is considered even more fertile than his district. These people nearly all read Arabic, and, in consequence, invariably presents itself of supplying them with Arabic scriptures.

Siberia furnishes an outlet for a region of country not inferior in importance to that described by Mr. Stanley. The Upper Niger, like the Upper Congo, has been long known for its vast resources. If the American people would put forth the same effort, there would be a wonderful commerce developed and an almost boundless market opened for our surplus manufactures. Tribes would be brought into relations with the United States who live under regular laws and settled political institutions, able to give intelligent and effective co-operation to any enlightened government in all its plans for the improvement of trade and for the regeneration of a continent.

The City Markets.

The official Price Current of the Washington produce exchange says flour is in good supply, with demand confined to regular wants of the trade; that the visible supply of wheat is large and market steady. Oats are higher, with corn firmer. The supply of mill feed is ample, but the market rules firm. Choice timothy hay is in good demand; long rye straw and machine thrashed is in demand. The supply of butter is fair only for fine grades, and market firm; poultry is in fair supply, and common heavy. The receipts of eggs is light, and market firm with an advancing tendency; limed and pickled plentiful and steady. The supply of poultry was larger than at any former holiday, and market heavy and weak, and prices irregular and much carried over unsold; game was also was very ordinary, which affected sales. Pheasants, quail, rabbits and venison in short supply and wanted. Apple receipts increasing, and market easier. Eight Florida oranges in demand; green and common apples dull. Vegetables are firmer and higher on good varieties of potatoes; onions firm. The dried fruit market is very quiet in absence of demand. Chestnuts in better demand, at slight advance; shellbarks and walnut kernels wanted; peanuts quiet.

Silver in the Melting-Pot.

From the Philadelphia Press.

"In the old days," says Col. Snowden, "heaps of family silver used to come to the mint to be melted down from people who had met with financial reverses. During the last days of my incumbency of the office of superintendent much less used to come than formerly, because plated ware had come into general use. I remember once that a gentleman very well known in Philadelphia society brought me a splendid design in silver that he desired to have reduced. It was a gift to his wife on their wedding, and the thought of parting with it was very painful to him. It had cost probably $2,000, but there was not more than $300 worth of bullion. Instead of melting it at once I advanced him the money for six months, and allowed the design to remain in the vaults. At the end of that time I agreed to keep it intact for six months more. At the consummation of the second period, he saw me and said he could not see daylight yet, and the bridal gift went into the melting-pot. Three weeks after that he dropped in on me to say that fortune had smiled on him again and that he had made $50,000. He said he would have given half of it to get his silver back in its old form. Vain regrets, of course. The man is now wealthy."

Jacob Humm, a butcher, 38 years of age, fatally stabbed himself in the throat in Baltimore yesterday.

THE WAY OF WOMEN.

The Observations of the Man at the Patent Office Scales.

HOW LADIES BAFFLE THOSE CURIOUS TO KNOW THEIR WEIGHT—THE KNOWLEDGE OF WOMANKIND ACQUIRED BY AN EMPLOYE—A MAN WHO CAN TELL A BRIDAL COUPLE ON SIGHT.

People who are afraid that they are getting too fat and people who are anxious to increase their flesh are very apt to stop at the main entrance of the Interior department building and tip the beam of the scales that have stood there for many years. As the scales are not used in buying or selling, they are free from the suspicion that is sometimes attached to scales in commercial life, and in consequence they have the entire confidence of the public. Some of the employes of the department who have noticed the patrons of the scales have observed a good many amusing occurrences. A STAR reporter in talking with them made some interesting discoveries. For instance, he was told that ladies never liked to have any one know how much they weighed. Whenever they used the scales it was their invariable habit to slide the balance back or forward, so that the particular niche, where it hung suspended, would not be revealed to the prying eyes of the curious. The reporter was given an opportunity to observe this method, and it was very curious to see a lady mount the platform and, having ascertained her weight, step down, and, as she did so, in the most casual manner slip the balance back. On the other hand, a man would stop, weigh himself and then walk off without bothering himself about destroying the record, which he left behind.

WHAT AN EMPLOYEE HAS NOTICED.

One of the employes, who was evidently an undeveloped philosopher of great insight, remarked to the reporter the other day, as he watched a lady weigh herself, with the usual result:

"Women are curious creatures, and you can see some little proof of it any day by watching them at those scales. Some get weighed before lunch and then after lunch, when they reach the department in the morning and when they leave it at night. Perhaps they carry some comparative table in their heads, you can't tell, and no doubt their numerous weighings have some meaning. I don't think that they do it to impress others knowing what their weight is, but you know they get in the habit of being secretive about themselves, and this is a kind of mechanical expression of this habit. You know sometimes they object to telling their age, that is, I suppose, they are not old enough and if you don't it will be very easy to acquire an experimental knowledge of that fact. I never offer to weigh a lady unless I am requested to do so. This is also a matter of experience with me. If you are too officious in association with women you acquire considerable experience, or rather your bump of cautiousness is developed. I see that you smile. Perhaps you think that I am wrong, or an unnecessarily serious in my view of the subject. However, I only profit from the teachings of experience."

A BRIDAL COUPLE.

At this point the conversation was interrupted by an inquiry from a young man who wanted to know where the Patent Office was. Having received the desired information he rejoined a young lady who was standing in the entrance and they both began to climb the stairs leading to the model rooms. The philosopher followed the young couple with his eyes and his face wore a meditative expression.

"Another bridal couple," he remarked after a pause