FIGHTS AND ASSAULTS.

Men's Turbulent Passions Give the Police Court Considerable Business Today.

Thomas Raines, a brakeman on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, was a prisoner in Judge Miller's court this morning. He was arrested last night in the Baltimore and Ohio yard by Policeman Horne because of his conduct toward George Propps, the yardmaster. It was reported to the court that the yardmaster was confined in Providence Hospital.

Lawyer Sillers in asking the court to fix bail for his client said that last night in the yard the men had some words about their work and that Propps put his hand to his hip pocket to draw a pistol, when Raines struck him in his face with a lamp.

The officer explained that the man's face was badly injured, but there was nothing dangerous about the wound.

The court fixed bail at $300 and continued the case to await the result of Propps' injuries.

A PARLOR SOCIAL.

John Taylor and Richard Wallace appeared in court to have the judge settle their differences. According to their testimony they attended a "parlor social" at the house of Mary Eliza Scott. There was the usual fight and Taylor was charged with assault. Wallace did not want to fight and tried to get out, but the door was closed on him and he was put on the defensive. He did his duty and so did the judge. Taylor was fined $5 or fifteen days.

John H. Driver, an innocent-looking colored youth, who attended the same gathering, was called upon to explain his possession of a razor. He figured in the fight and had drawn the razor from his pocket when Policemen Murphy and Hayden entered.

"Why did you have the razor at the entertainment?" asked the court.

"I had it," he replied, "but I wasn't going to cut anybody."

"Can't you go to an entertainment," said the judge, "without carrying a razor? You won't go to another one for some time if I can prevent it. You can go to jail for six months."

"He's a quiet boy," the officer said to the judge.

"That may all be true," the judge remarked, "but how long would the razor have been quiet if the officers had not gone there? He will have to go to jail."

OTHER ASSAULT CASES.

Edw. Masterson and Mary Masterson, colored, of the same name, but not related, told the story of their trouble and Edward paid a fine of $5.

"I guess I'm guilty if the officer says so," replied Nathan Ashton, a colored man, charged with an assault on Policeman Gordon. The officer was not injured. Nathan was drunk and the charge of assault was preferred because he hit the officer on the shoulder.

He was fined $10 or thirty days in jail.

Michael and Owen Clark forfeited $5 each for engaging in a fight.

Horace D. Heinline failed to respond to a charge of assault on John Seemark, and his collateral was forfeited.

Similar action was taken in the case of Julius Knight, charged with having engaged in a fight with Thomas Sullivan.

A young colored man named Paul Wright pleaded guilty to a charge of having stolen some baking powder and coffee from Bernard Kane and was fined $5 or fifteen days.

James Hill, another young colored man, said he was guilty of having stolen fifty pounds of lead. He did not have $10 and so he went down for a month.

Man's Inhumanity to Man.

To the Editor of The Evening Star:

Sir: It has been well said by some keen observer that while we adopt all sorts of measures to prevent cruelty to the beasts who serve us we in many ways neglect to protect the men who guide them. The cable and electric motors have released the poor horses from street car servitude, but the men remain. If any one doubts that the comfort and health of the men has been forgotten let him go up to the Treasury corner and look at the surroundings and individual condition of the faithful sentinel who operates the switch that separates the Georgetown and 14th street cable cars. Upon this man's faithfulness and attention to duty depend the lives and limbs of the crowds that ride up and down both lines, week in and week out. If he make but one mistake who shall measure beforehand the gravity of the result? There he sits on a camp stool on the curbstone, with nothing whatever to protect him from the drizzling rain, the blinding snow, the furious gale or the bitter cold. And his tour of duty is said to be ten consecutive hours.

Across the street, on the corner of G, stand the transfer agents who hand out tickets for the storage battery road on G street. These two men are well known to every one who has lived long in Washington. We have all seen them shivering and freezing under the shadow of Riggs' Bank before the advent of the cable. Are they also to stamp their feet and blow their chilled fingers all winter long on this bleak corner?

I have been told that the president of the railroad company has been and is ready to build proper shelter for these men, but that there has been some objection raised in official quarters not wholly unconnected with the office of the District Commissioners. Be this as it may, a valid objection to the construction of proper shelter (such, for example, as the herdic lines have at 16th street and Pennsylvania avenue) do not believe can be advanced.

From time immemorial, at every permanent military post in this country and in Europe, sentry boxes are provided, of circular form about two and a half feet in diameter, mounted on a pivot so that the open side may be rotated away from the driving storm.

A sentinel's usual tour of duty is two hours on and four hours off during twenty-four hours once in three or four days, depending upon the strength of the garrison. But these other sentinels whose tour is ten hours each out of every twenty-four haven't even the shelter the farmer gives his watch dog.

There is nothing more to be said.

J. A. J.

Making the Trap More Effective.

To the Editor of The Evening Star:

The Pennsylvania railroad still endeavor to keep up their record. At the corner of 6th street and Virginia avenue southwest, where a man was killed three or four weeks ago, they are putting down a switch, the mechanism of which will come just where the most travel is, and thus be one more death trap for our citizens.

If the Commissioners will continue such permits then it is time the residents rose up in arms, as did our forefathers under the leadership of Gov. Shepherd. If such is the case you may count on one to start at any time.

There are at present about four or five tracks at this point, and now the railroad has the nerve to lay another.

J.

The Freedman's Aid Society.

An important meeting of distinguished Methodist divines, comprising eighteen bishops and others of the general committee of the Freedman's Aid and Southern Education Society of the denomination, is being held in Grace Church, Harrisburg, Pa. The reports for the year show the receipts to have been $367,751.40 and the expenditures $363,613.82, leaving a balance of $4,137.58. The society has an indebtedness of $164,580. Under the society's direction there are in the south forty-four schools, 345 teachers, 9,065 students and property valued at $1,805,800. Manual training and domestic economy are features of the work. Since 1865 the society has expended over $8,300,000. The actual expenses of the society for the year were $17,551.

Sending Out Bogus Ballots.

Chairman Hackett of the republican state committee of New York, when seen by an Associated Press reporter in regard to the dispatch sent out by Lieutenant Governor Sheehan alleging that the republican state committee had sent out paster ballots to republicans headed by Wm. Steinway and Richard Croker, democratic electors, and followed by the names of the republican electors, said: "I wish to pronounce that statement as absolutely and unqualifiedly false. The committee has not sent out such ballots, nor have any republicans. As a matter of fact, however, that is exactly what the democrats have done. I received a sample paster from up the state which had been mailed by the democrats to a republican. It was headed by Henry W. Sage and Jesse Seligman, republican electors, and the names of thirty-four democratic electors followed. I understand that the democrats have been spreading these bogus ballots right and left among the republicans throughout the state.

Ward Getting Better.

Eugene Ward, the boatswain's mate on the U. S. coast survey steamer Endeavor, who was struck on the head with a piece of brick and badly injured in Southeast Washington last Friday night, is improving. William Rosier and George Shorter, the colored men arrested for alleged participation in the assault, were taken to the Police Court this morning and charged with attempted murder. Owing to the absence of the injured man the case was continued.

GEORGETOWN.

THE CANAL PROSPEROUS.

The following boats laden with coal, stone, wheat, hay, &c., have arrived by the canal since November 1: Dr. Knott, Florence, Theo, Dean, No. 133, Consolidation No. 20, Consolidation No. 2, Three Brothers, No. 108, No. 117, No. 128, Here I Am, Winter, Consolidation No. 13, Consolidation No. 4, S. M. Storm, A. H. Dowden, No. 134, Wheeler Brothers, No. 110, No. 104, M. Wise, John Leetch, P. Flanigan, Consolidation No. 19, Consolidation No. 11, Joseph Bryan, No. 106, M. E. Grove, Unexpected, No. 119, No. 126, No. 121, No. 138, Consolidation No. 16, J. H. Mertins, No. 122, G. S. French, No. 114, L. T. Baughman, Consolidation No. 3, Consolidation No. 10, No. 115, G. L. Nicholson, Three Brothers, E. B. Ladein, Cuba, W. D. S. Waldridge, W. H. Cooper, A. Mayer, H. H. Keedy, Seneca, Cuba and Muskingum. During the season that is now drawing to a close the canal has enjoyed greater prosperity than it has had for many years, and its officers feel sure that with better river shipping facilities the old-time bustle on the 184-mile stretch will again be seen. The greatest trouble those interested in canal shipping have is in the getting of vessels to carry coal, &c., away after it has reached town. The obstruction offered to navigation by the Long bridge and certain other inconveniences that Potomac river captains have had to contend with have had the effect of driving them to other shipping ports in preference to this. Only when business is dull around Baltimore's wharves and those at adjacent cities can the majority of captains be induced to come to Georgetown.

OTHER NOTES.

On Saturday next a meeting of the Assembly Club will be held for the purpose of electing officers and committees to serve the coming season. During the winter a series of four or five dances will be given, the first in the early part of December.

Richard, the two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. S. Jackson of 3340 2d street, was painfully burned about the face last evening by the flames from a coal oil lamp which the little fellow pulled from a table on himself.

The District government has just completed the construction of two culverts over the streams to the rear of Oak Hill cemetery, which did away with the rickety old bridges that for years have permitted vehicles to cross. The approaches through to the new structures are in a rutty condition and disagreeable to all who go that way.

The members of the Woodley Club have begun to make arrangements for a grand fox hunt to be held on Thanksgiving day, and the number who will participate in the chase, from present indications, promises to exceed that of any past event the club has ever been connected with.

The country around Fairfax Court House, the scene of so many of the club's chases, will again be the field of sport. Besides the members of the club about fifty of the best riders of Fairfax county have signified their intention of joining in.

ALONG THE WHARVES.

ARRIVED.

Three-mast schooner George H. Ames, Boston, Capt. Marshall, eighteen days from Pensacola with 350,000 feet of lumber. Jenny Splendid, Georgetown, D. C., Capt. McWilliams, from Saint Mary's river with 300 bushels of oysters. Schooner Fox, Annapolis, Capt. Sempkins, from Saint Mary's river with 350 bushels of oysters. Schooner Samuel Thomas, Annapolis, Capt. Benjamin Rice, from Saint Mary's river with 400 bushels of oysters. Cutter Ella Treadwell, Alexandria, for repairs. Schooner Gilmore Dove, Georgetown, D. C., from Aquia creek with fifty cords pine wood. Schooner Mary Anne Shea, Alexandria, Capt. Monroe, from Aquia creek with fifty cords pine wood. Schooner Silver Star, Alexandria, Capt. Blackburn, from Aquia creek with fifty cords of pine wood. Schooner Rhoda Sun, Alexandria, Capt. Speaks, from Aquia creek with fifty cords of pine wood.

SAILED.

Schooner Carrie L., Baltimore, Capt. McPherson, to Western Branch with fertilizer. Schooner Sunny South, Annapolis, Capt. Gibson, to Saint Mary's river. Sloop Horn Point, Capt. Chiselline, to Coan. Buoyer Dora Hiers, Tappahannock, Capt. Russell, to the Rappahannock.

Three Months to Think Over It.

A colored man named William Smith was before Judge Miller today charged with assaulting a young woman named Laura Cook. The parties were at a "parlor social" last night and it fell to William's lot to see the young woman safely home. The social was given near 10th and W streets and the alleged assault occurred on 16th street while William was on his way home with Laura. She said that while going home he talked love to her and finally made an insulting proposal to her, which she resented, whereupon he drew a knife from his pocket for the purpose of forcing her to accede to his wishes. While standing on 16th street she saw two policemen, and when she complained to them Officer Foley arrested him.

The officer said that after taking him to the station he returned to the place where he made the arrest and found a knife.

The prisoner denied the story about the knife, and said that he made no assault. He told the judge that he had been going with Laura for more than a year and she got jealous last night because he became attached to another girl and paid her more attention than he did Laura. Then he said he took another girl home before he and Laura started. He also said that he drank philopena with Laura and several others and that was what caused part of the trouble.

Laura denied that the prisoner had been going with her, and the court imposed a sentence of three months.

Transfers of Real Estate.

Deeds in fee have been filed as follows: J. O. Johnson to G. J. Seufferle, pt. 6, sq. 417; $—. A. Miller to Mary E. Miller, pt. sq. 930; $—. C. L. Sears to J. A. Walson, pt. 28, S. & B.'s sub Mt. Pleasant; $2,406.25. S. Bieber to S. Bensinger, lot 3, sq. 742; $—. L. Hickey to Catherine Hickey, pt. 11, sq. 580; $80. H. L. Mann to E. D. Farnham, sub 8, sq. 1012; $—. Same to A. W. Chappel, sub 7, do.; $—. S. Oppenheimer to A. Behrend, subs 80 and 82, sq. 364; $—. S. C. Scott to D. H. Summers, lot 37, blk. 4, Twining City; $2,500. C. R. Newman to S. F. Smith, lot 4, blk. 10, Kalorama Heights; $—. Honorah Monahan to P. H. Ward, subs 119 and 120 and pt. 118 and 121, sq. 677; $—. S. Ross to R. L. Cameron, pt. 64, sq. 737; $—. S. R. Bond to J. W. Reid, sub 50, sq. 478; $2,755.79. F. E. Horner to L. S. Nicholson, pt. 8, blk. 17, Brookland; $315. F. V. Bennett to J. T. Arms, subs 1 and 4, blk. 15, Wesley Heights; $—. H. J. Haley to Lydia Hoagland, lots 8 and 10, sq. 1028; $—. J. E. Waugh to F. Weller, sub 32, sq. 992; $2,800. W. R. Tribbie to G. R. R. Hunter, lot 16, Clark Mills' estate; $2,000. B. W. Holman to same, lot 6, do.; $250. Mary J. Snowden to Margaret Brent, lot 9, blk. 4, Ivy City; $862.50. W. R. Wilcox to C. R. Newman, subs 25 and 28, blk. 14, Le Droit Park; $—. C. R. Newman to G. Champlin, sub 25, do.; $—. Same to S. F. Smith, subs 28 and 31, do.; $—. C. H. Parker to J. B. Nicholson, pt. sq. n. of 583; $1,975.

The Record of Deaths.

During the twenty-four hours ending at noon today burial permits were issued from the health office for the following:

White—Charles Ellison, 55 years; Lulu F. Talbert, 2 years; Margaret E. Lynch, 2 years; Catherine Spittel, 35 years; Ermenia C. Worrell, 74 years; Jessie A. Kraft, 4 years; Henry Berger, 64 years.

Colored—Wm. M. B. Johnson, 63 years; John West, 17 years; Harrison Pendleton, 47 years; Harry F. Lee, 9 years; Alexander King, 1 year; Wm. Henry Austin, 38 years; Henry Smith, 50 years; Ernest Cooper, 3 years.

Dr. Hammett Proposes a Reform.

During the next few days Health Officer Hammett will address the Commissioners a letter concerning the removal of offensive deposits from the sewer traps. At present, as heretofore, the filthy deposits have been hauled through the streets in open carts and Dr. Hammett thinks that there should be some improvement in that respect.

He will recommend the use of steel carts or wagons with air-tight covers in order to prevent drippings along the street and to confine the stench to the vehicles as far as possible.

The Home for Incurables.

The following contributions have been received by THE EVENING STAR for the Home for Incurables: Heretofore acknowledged, $221.22; a friend, $20; Miss S., $1; Archibald Hopkins, $5; Jno. W. McCarthy, $10; Mrs. J. C. Breckenridge, $6; total, $262.22.

Sentenced to Six Years in Albany.

Yesterday afternoon in the Criminal Court Judge Cox sentenced James A. Clark, convicted of assault and battery with intent to kill his father-in-law, Eli Hart, in February, 1887, to six years in the Albany penitentiary.

Death of The Sorceress.

The racing filly The Sorceress, owned by Mr. Henry Harrison of Leesburg, Va., died on Saturday last. It will be remembered that there was a great plunge on her in the maiden two-year-old race at Benning on October 26 last, when she was backed down from 30 to 1 to 6 to 1, but she received a vicious kick by the Dundee colt while at the post, which not only lost her the race and caused her backers to be "sadder and wiser," but was the cause of her death.

TODAY'S PENNSYLVANIA ELECTION.

Supreme Court Judge and Congressmen-at-Large to Be Chosen.

In addition to thirty-two presidential electors Pennsylvania will today elect a judge of the supreme court, the candidates being John Dean, republican; Christopher Heydrick, democrat; Amos Briggs, prohibition; R. B. McCombs, people's party, and N. L. Criest, socialist-labor party. Two Congressmen-at-large will also be chosen from the following candidates: William Lilly and Alexander McDowell, republican; George A. Allen and Thomas P. Merritt, democrat; Simon B. Chase and Jas. T. McCrary, prohibition; S. P. Chase and G. W. Dawson, people's, and J. Mahlon Barnes and Thomas Grundy, socialist-labor. Twenty-eight members of Congress, twenty-five state senators and 204 members of the state house of representatives are to be elected. The incoming legislature will choose a successor to U.S. Senator Quay.

Comparison will be made with the 1888 vote, when Harrison was given a plurality over Cleveland of 79,458.

The registration was higher than that of four years ago, but it is doubtful if a full vote will be polled for the reason that Pennsylvania will try the reform ballot for the first time this year. The complicated character of the new ballot will make vote counting a tedious process, and it is not expected that anything like a correct estimate of the vote of Pennsylvania can be formed until late Wednesday morning.

Both the republican and democratic state chairmen have gone to their homes to vote. Republican Chairman Reeder before leaving declined to give out a statement for publication. He expressed himself, however, as perfectly satisfactory as to the result. He has a private estimate of the legislature, which is said to give the republicans fifty majority on joint ballot, and as to the state result he gives no concern, as he figures out between 70,000 and 80,000 majority for Harrison.

Democratic Chairman Wright gave out a statement, in which he says the reports of his canvassers indicate unmistakably such a gain in the state as will leave the republicans no majority but what they can get in Philadelphia. He expects the legislature to be close. The republican city committee estimates Harrison's majority in Philadelphia at 35,000. The democratic city committee, like the state committee, will give out no figures.

CATHOLICS IN MANITOBA.

They Assert Their Rights to Have Separate Schools.

The secretary of state of Canada has received from the Roman Catholic minority of the province of Manitoba a petition asking that under the provisions of Manitoba and the British North American act his excellency, the governor general, in council, make an order to the effect that the right to separate schools possessed by them both at the time when Manitoba became part of Canada and afterward, by virtue of provincial legislation, be restored. This petition is signed by several hundred influential Roman Catholics of Manitoba, including the archbishop of St. Boniface and Mr. Ewart, Q. C., acting in the petitioners' behalf.

The privy council will be obliged to hear the appeal of the Manitoba minority upon the grounds indicated in the petition above referred to, and to decide whether or not there has been a violation of the minority rights or privileges secured by law. Should the decision of the council be rendered in the affirmative an order would have to be issued directing the provincial legislature to restore such rights and privileges. The Manitoba legislature in turn will be bound either to recognize or disregard this order, in which latter case alone will the matter come properly before parliament, and it will remain with that body to say whether such immediate legislation as any private member thereof may propose shall be enacted or rejected.

A Mammoth Cave in Virginia.

A cave was discovered about six miles east of Harrisonburg, Va., near the village of Keezletown, Saturday evening. It has not been fully explored yet, but it is said to rival the Luray Caverns in size and grottoes and in beauty. It is situated on the land of Augustin Armentrout and was discovered while blasting for rock. Twenty-four rooms have been found without the aid of a pick or shovel. Persons from the neighborhood were flocking to see it all day yesterday and specimens of stalactites were brought to town.

Violent Demonstration at Ghent.

There was a violent demonstration of socialists at Ghent, Belgium, yesterday. Speeches favoring universal suffrage and otherwise inflammatory were made. The socialists paraded the streets singing revolutionary songs and hooting the aristocrats. The disorder became so great that the police were forced to charge upon the crowd with drawn swords and revolvers. At length mounted troops which had been summoned to aid the hard-pressed police arrived and succeeded in quelling the riot. Many were injured. The ringleaders of the mob were arrested. The market square pavement was covered with the debris of broken seats and fences, sticks and stones and rude weapons used by the mob.

Funeral of Gen. Crawford.

The body of Major General Samuel Wylie Crawford was laid to rest yesterday afternoon in North Laurel Hill cemetery, Philadelphia, after simple and impressive services in St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 10th street above Chestnut. The body was encased in a black coffin, heavily draped, with silver plate, and overlaid with the United States flag. He was attired in black, and on the breast were the emblems of the Loyal Legion and of the Grand Army of the Republic. The plate bore his name, title and date of birth and death.

Deputies in Baltimore.

United States Marshal Wm. F. Airey of Baltimore was called upon yesterday for names of colored special United States deputy marshals he had appointed for duty today at various election precincts and declined to comply with the request. He also declined to give his reasons for not giving their names to the public and declined to discuss the matter in any shape or form. He stated, however, that there were not more than twelve or fourteen colored deputies throughout the city and explained this by saying that the colored man as a rule did not care to become a deputy marshal. He refused to say in what wards the colored deputies would be placed, except that there would only be one in the twelfth ward.

The marshal stated that while he had appointed five deputies for duty in most of the precincts in some of them only two or three had been appointed. He said he had sole custody of appointments and could make every man in the city serve if he saw fit. He declined to give any names of white deputies.

Want Some of the Indemnity Fund.

Lawyer George T. Aldrich of New York city has filed with the Secretary of State two claims for proportionate shares of the indemnification fund paid the United States by the Chilean government for the victims of the assault by Chileans on United States men-of-warsmen attached to the steamer Baltimore in Valparaiso on October 16, 1891. Mr. Aldrich appears for Edward Duncan of New York and Edward C. Jarrett of Baltimore, who were sailors on the Baltimore and who were injured. They wish to participate in the distribution of the $75,000 fund now in the hands of the Secretary of the Navy for distribution.

President Young Raised $17,000.

"It was somewhat of a bother," remarked President Young to the New York *Sun* correspondent, "but I have raised $17,000 since last Friday. Tomorrow the National League of Professional Base Ball Players will close the season with every obligation met, including the note of President Wagner of the Washington club, which went to protest on Saturday. This was due to a misunderstanding as to the time allowed for a renewal, all of which was explained to the satisfaction of Mr. Elliott, who came over from Philadelphia to see me on the subject. We are tired of lawsuits in the league and propose to do business on a proper basis without having recourse to the courts for a settlement.

"When the National League assumed the obligations made necessary by the amalgamation with the American Association a great deal of our paper went into the hands of third parties, who have tried to make trouble for us at every step. Happily they have been foiled in their efforts, for the backers of base ball in the United States are men of means, who will not hesitate to put up money when it is needed, and today our trial balance shows a clean sheet for the approaching meeting at Chicago."

If the care of the hair were made a part of a lady's education we should see so many gray heads, and the use of Dr. Ayer's Hair Renewer would be unnecessary.

TRICKS OF THE MEMORY.

Speakers and Writers Sometimes Confronted With Embarrassing Difficulty.

One of the queernesses with which writers have to contend is an occasional puzzleheadedness over a perfectly well-known point of orthography or grammar. A word that one has probably spelled correctly all one's life suddenly swerves over into the doubtful orthography column. Is it "ingulf," "engulf" or "engulph?" one queries, with pen poised. Is it "appal" or "apall?" "Fantasy" or "phantasy?" and so on indefinitely. To be sure, there is the dictionary, but, asks the Boston *Commonwealth*, who wants to learn his A B C's over again or to look up the spelling of everyday words? It is a curious fact that, left to themselves, the fingers will generally spell a word correctly. It is in the hesitation that certainty is lost. There can be no doubt that the fingers of a writer acquire a sort of automatic education. Even when a doubt as to the right spelling of a word has crossed the mind the hand will usually bring the letters into form if given its course. It is as if it consciously reasoned, "I have always driven the pen so and so, having begun so!" But once hampered by the spirit of investigation, the irresolute hand inclines toward the unabridged.

The matter is worse where parts of speech entangle themselves. Rules and regulations flatten themselves out and only a helpless floundering among pronouns, antecedents and correlatives seems for the time possible. In one of Wilkie Collins' published letters he writes: "For the last week, while I was finishing the story, I galloped along without feeling it, like the old post horses. Do you remember how we fore legs of those post horses quivered and how their heads drooped when they came to the journey's end? That's me, my dear, that's me. Good God! Is 'me' grammar? Ought it to be 'I'? My poor father paid £90 a year for my education, and I give you my sacred word of honor I am not sure whether it is 'me' or 'I.'" Probably Wilkie Collins could have made a pretty straight guess on this point, but those little aberrations come upon us sometimes when we should be slow to stake anything upon our correctness; though another person, blundering in the same way, would be instantly arraigned before the bar of our correct and scandalized judgment just as we serve with merited condemnation upon fellow mortals who display the identical faults of which we are ourselves guilty.

Voluble speakers and voluminous writers probably experience little of this trouble. The spouting geyser of words never fails them, and for this they are to be congratulated; yet it is a consolation to those of less oratorical ability to know that great writers and speakers learn to curb their flowing speech rather than give vent to it. Prof. Shedd states that in the last half of Webster's public life he learned to reject the vague words that come thick and thronging when the mind is aroused. He grew more select and precise, and presently, as one said, "every word weighed a pound." This style of speaking or writing cannot be driven through with the velocity enjoyed when one is more careless of results. The word fitly chosen is the word to be striven for, and, such is the perversity of inanimate things, it is precisely the word that sometimes fails to come at call.

BANANAS GOING TO WASTE.

Fifteen Thousand Bunches Weekly Rot on Plantations in Colombia.

A correspondent writing to the New Orleans *Picayune* from Bocas del Toro, Colombia, says: The country most extensively cultivated for the growth of bananas, and which for the past three months has so distinguished itself by the unusual quality and fine development of its products, is situated in the republic of Colombia, Bocas del Toro being now the shipping center and principal attraction for planters and merchants engaged in the industry. There are at the present time, taken at a rough estimate, no less than 18,000 acres of land devoted entirely to the cultivation of bananas from which can be shipped weekly 30,000 bunches, all averaging 250 bananas to each bunch. These are termed "whole bunches"—besides which about 2,500 bunches of a smaller size, averaging two hundred bananas each (which are termed halves) still remain uncut, and at the expiration of another week attain their full size, when they also are ready for shipment. At the base of the same length of time perhaps twice the quantity of bunches are ready to be cut, and so on from week to week, month to month and year to year. New plantations are continually starting up, taking ten months from the time the "suckers," or plants, are first put in the ground to the time they commence to yield. Mr. Heins, a German, is the largest planter at the present time; Pedro Lopez, a native of Bocas del Toro, is second, and Messrs. Ryley & Snyder, both Americans, come next on the list of principal banana growers. These own between them 6,000 acres of land, all in course of cultivation and within easy distance of the shipping center.

At present, I am told, there are about 15,000 bunches per week spoiling or obliged to be cut and destroyed on the plantations owing to the stagnation in the traffic between this country and the United States of America. Why this should be the case seems very strange, except that the country has not as yet become thoroughly known to speculators, when bananas are now selling in the United States for the large sum of $2 gold per bunch and can be bought in Bocas del Toro at the low rate of 30 cents United States currency or 45 cents Colombian money. The natives, who are quite content with this price, seem confident, however, that there will be a great demand for their fruit at the commencement of the coming year on account of the world's fair exposition and guarantee to any speculators in this business fair treatment to insure them certain success for the purpose of opening up steady business communication between the two countries.

ICE WITHOUT A SINGLE FLAW.

Wonderful Transparency of Lake Baikal's Wintry Covering—Dangerous Fissures.

In eastern Siberia lies Lake Baikal, which is a mile deep and has an area one-third greater than Lake Erie, says a writer in the *Arctic Ocean*. From November to April it is frozen, and as the lake is part of the great commercial highway between Russia and China, it is crossed in winter upon the ice. For about a mile from shore the ice had a thin layer of snow over it, but we gradually left this sort of dazzling white carpet and at length reached the clear ice, when I saw around me the most wonderful and bewitching sight I ever beheld. Owing to the transparency of the water, the ice presented everywhere the appearance of polished crystal, and although undoubtedly of great thickness, was so colorless that it was like passing over space. It gave me at first an uncanny feeling to look over the side of the sledge down into the black abyss beneath. This feeling, however, gradually changed to one of fascination, till at last I found it positively difficult to withdraw my gaze from the awful depth with nothing but this sheet of crystal between me and eternity. I believe that most travelers on crossing the lake on the ice for the first time experience the same weird and fascinating influence. About half way across I stopped to make a sketch and take some photographs. It was no easy matter, as I found on getting out of the sledge, for the ice was so slippery that, in spite of my having felt snow boots on, I could hardly stand. The death-like silence of the surroundings was occasionally broken, however, by curious sounds, as though big guns were being fired at some little distance. They were caused by the cracking of the ice here and there. I was told that in some parts of the lake were huge fissures, through which the water could be seen. It is for this reason that it is always advisable to do the journey by daylight. We reached Mouishkay, on the opposite coast, exactly four and a half hours after leaving Liestvenitz, the horses having done the whole distance of thirty miles with only two stoppages of a few minutes each. It was evidently an easy bit of work for them, as they seemed as fresh when we drew up in the post yard as when they started in the morning.

A Stout Pedestrian.

From the Manchester Times.

One morning in Glenorchy Prof. Wilson ("Christopher North") started out early to fish in Loch Toila. Its nearest point was thirteen miles from his lodging. On reaching it and unscrewing the butt end of his fishing rod to get the top he found he had forgotten it. Nothing daunted he walked back, breakfasted, made his rod complete and walked again to Loch Toila. All the long summer day he fished and after sunset started for home with a full basket. Feeling somewhat fatigued and passing a familiar farm house he stopped to ask for food. It was near midnight and he routed the family from bed. The mistress brought him a full bottle of whisky and a can of milk. He poured half the whisky into half the milk and drank it off at a draught. While his hostess was still staring in amazement he poured the remaining milk and whisky together and finished the mixture. He then proceeded homeward, having performed a journey of over fifty-two miles.

LIKE JULES VERNE'S STORY.

Began to Burn the Ship for Fuel for the Furnaces.

The steamship City of Belfast reached New York late last night in a terrible condition after battling with storms for two weeks. Her coal gave out and Capt. Mealpin had to burn all the wood work about the decks in order to keep steam up and enable the vessel to reach here.

The steamship left Colombo on August 26 with a cargo of sugar for Funch, Edye & Co. of this city. She had favorable winds and weather and reached Port Said on September 29 and Gibralter on October 12. After leaving Gibralter she encountered terrific storms, which blew with hurricane force. The seas washed completely over her.

The hurricane struck her at times with such force that she was whirled clear around.

This heavy weather continued with but short intermissions of fair weather for two weeks, and her coal ran low as she got within five or six days' sail from this port. She then ran into a succession of hail storms which have been sweeping the Atlantic for the last few days.

COAL ALL GONE.

Her coal finally gave out entirely four days ago, and she was stripped of everything in the shape of wood about her decks for fuel. The crew's quarters were torn out and burned. The fore and main topmasts were next sent down and thrown into the furnace. The bowsprit and the derricks next went to feed the flames, and with this fuel the steamship was finally enabled to get into port.

The condition of the City of Belfast may be understood when it is known that she was from 7 o'clock yesterday morning until 10 o'clock last night running from Fire Island to Quarantine. In good trim she could easily make the distance in two and a half hours.

She is a single screw steel vessel of 2,226 gross tons. She was built at Sunderland, England, by Short Brothers, and is owned by J. F. Boyd. She is 292 feet long, of 39 feet beam and is 19 feet in depth.

Storms, accompanied by hail, have been tossing up the waters of the Atlantic in a lively way, according to the reports of other incoming steamships. The rough weather has detained all sorts of craft, and several are overdue.

AURANIA'S ROUGH VOYAGE.

Capt. Haines of the steamship Aurania, which reached quarantine late last night, reported having met with rougher weather than on any voyage he had made in recent years. The seas were tremendous and washed the decks of the big liner.

The steamship made but 190 miles on November 3, which is the smallest day's run she ever made since she has been afloat.

Capt. Collier of the steamship Le Bretagne gives an account in his log of the rough weather encountered by his vessel. On October 29 and 30 the steamship met with variable winds and a swelling sea. She ran into a terrible storm on October 31. The waves washed over the steamship incessantly for many hours.

She encountered a hail storm on November 2, which continued for two days. The wind blew with hurricane force from the northwest and prodigious seas boarded the vessel. She had rough weather until she reached here.

The brig Towner, Capt. Dayton, from St. Croix, which arrived yesterday, had heavy weather from November 4 to 6. She was blown seventy-five miles out of her course.

The schooner Mosquito, Capt. Hansen, from Porto Cabello, and the steamship Ocean, from Amsterdam, both reported heavy storms.

Fears are entertained for the safety of the freighter England of the National line, which sailed from London on October 16 and is six days overdue. She was sighted by the steamer Montezuma in a disabled condition off Cape Race last Thursday, but no other steamer has since reported seeing her, though many of them arriving here traveled over the same course.

Agents of the line said that the England could float for years if she did not strike a rock. They thought she had probably broken her shaft and had been blown out of her course by the tremendous storms raging on the Atlantic. She is commanded by Capt. A. F. Healey.

CHILEANS ARE INTERESTED.

Taking a Keen Interest in the Election in This Country.

A special cable to the New York *Herald* from Valparaiso says: The people in this country take a keen interest in the result of the election in the United States and there will be much curiosity in official circles to hear the returns.

Active preparations are being made, especially in naval circles, for a friendly reception to Admiral Gherardi's squadron at Valparaiso.

The conservative party is using every means to defeat the liberal majority with a view to forcing the resignation of the present cabinet. So far they have met with no success.

The *Herald* correspondent at Rio Janeiro telegraphs that the National Guard will be mobilized for inspection. The state of Rivera has been placed under martial law. The federal troops in Rio Grande do Sul have been reinforced and are now maintaining order throughout the state. A revolt is expected very soon in the province of San Juan Nattero, Argentina. Matters are quieting down in Santiago del Estero.

The senate has approved the law providing for the liquidation of the national bank. There has been an active weeding out of public employes, and the pay rolls have been reduced $209,000 monthly. The war stores in the arsenals are being overhauled.

Indians in the Rio Negro territory are in a state of revolt and it is alleged have been killing settlers.

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM.

Interesting Additions That Have Been Made to the Collections.

The fall opening of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the Central Park, New York, took place yesterday. There have been only a few additions of curious and some old English paintings loaned by Henry G. Marquand made since last closing. The relics and paintings referring to the first Atlantic cables bequeathed by Cyrus W. Field are now on view. Next to the old masters on loan the most important things are sculptures by David d'Angers (bronze bust of the French poet Beranger, taken from the original bust in plaster and given by Mr. Lucas of Paris) and by Olin L. Warner. Some of the objects from the Elizabeth Coles bequest and further loans of no great value sum up the additions to the objects shown before. Owing to the non-completion of the north wing many objects received by the museum remain for the present in the packing cases.

The many medals received by Mr. Field are arranged around the engrossed resolutions which Congress presented to Mr. Field on the completion of the cable. The largest medal is that presented by the United States government. It contains over two pounds of gold. The pearl box which held it is displayed below. Other medals, all of large size, come from the state of Wisconsin, the chamber of commerce of New York, the chamber of commerce of Liverpool, friends in New York and the French exposition. Besides these are a solid gold box from the city of New York and the decoration of the Order of Knightly Commanders of Italy.

In the gallery of American antiquities is a cabinet with casts of the medals showing both sides and a collection exhibiting the growth of the cable. There are sections of the first cable and of later cables. There is also a pitcher made from wood of the charter oak, which was presented to Mr. Field by 1,000 New York workingmen. On the walls of this gallery are fifty-one paintings, most of them by Robt. Dudley, illustrating the laying of the first cable.

Very Consoling.

From the Chicago Tribune.

Banks (in the newspaper line)—"I put in five days' hard work hunting up the points for that article and I don't believe anybody read it half through. What's the use of a man working himself to death? His labor isn't appreciated."

Rivers (in the same line)—"The good man, Banks, doesn't expect to get his reward in this world. He gets it in the next."

Banks (with a sigh)—"I hope I won't have to wait very long for mine."

Rivers (with feeling)—"So do your readers, old fellow! So do your readers!"

Her Finger Nails.

From the London News.

"If her finger nails are wider than they are long, beware!"

"She hath her nails not long, but broad, beware!"

Examine her finger nails. If the nails are "square tipped, rounded next the hand, you may expect a quick and peppery temper," but not sulks, which is the worst of tempers in matrimony. Remember that when a lady gives you her hand she gives you all that the hand implies—very probably she gives you pepper.

Almond-shaped nails, especially if not too pink, indicate a "cheerful, sweet temper," and and are also of high aesthetic value. "If the nails are bitten"—but we refuse to believe that the nails of the fair are ever bitten. Everybody would shun a maiden who bit her thumb at him.

A CRUISER'S PET ROOSTER.

The Only Living Thing on the Chicago Which May Violate the Regulations.

From the New York Tribune.

It has been said of a maiden of advanced and admitted age with that fondness for making pets of canary birds and maltese cats so common—at least so attributed to be—among that otherwise lonely class of the human family that she changed her mind as to the advantages of single blessedness and got married. It is also said that a short time afterward an old—not necessarily in years, but in constancy and friendship—friend made her a call and noticed the absence of the pet canary, the pet parrot and the pet cat. This was so unexpected a change that the member of the Society of Old Maids felt moved to ask where they were, and got this reply: "Oh, I find that dear husband possesses all of their qualities and have disposed of them."

One might suppose that because so many of the American war vessels have a pet dog, a pet cat, a pet goat or a pet something else that it is to remind the officers or the sailormen of the wife at home, for the navy regulations forbid the toleration of a woman on a vessel of war. But many mariners will declare that a woman is a nuisance on board a ship, while a pet bird or some four-footed animal is indispensable, in fact, is looked upon as a mascot, a harbinger of good luck. Many of these pets have been mentioned in print at times, but there is one that has been overlooked by newspaper men who have had the privilege of visiting the cruiser Chicago. He is a rooster, an ordinary, common barnyard fowl apparently, with nothing in his first appearance to suggest that he is of more value than the fifteen-cents-a-pound fowl brought to Washington market every day by the Long Island or New Jersey truck farmer.

But woe to the man or woman who would attempt to harm this omniverous bird—omniverous because he will eat anything that can possibly be digested. In fact, he has been known to make