

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Personal and Literary.

Tom Thumb has taken thirty-two degrees in Masonry.

Moody and Sankey will return to America in time to take part in our next Fourth of July.

Flipper, the only colored cadet at West Point, stands forty-six in a class of seventy-seven.

Mr. Joaquin Miller, the poet, has arrived in New York and taken up his residence at the Windsor Hotel.

General McClellan, who has been spending the winter months upon the Upper Nile, will return home in July.

George Derby of St. Louis, son of the late Lieut. Derby (John Phoenix), ranks second in his class at West Point.

Colored Cadet Smith is now a Brigadier and Inspector in the South Carolina militia.

Mark Twain is accused of removing the cushion in his church pew at Hartford, and putting it into a seat he has purchased on the base ball grounds.

Lord Lytton, the "Owen Meredith" of literature, is stated to have declined the offer of the Governorship of Madras. He is now British Minister at Lisbon.

The congressional service of John A. Cutbert, of Mobile, antedates that of all members now living. He was elected from Georgia in 1819.

Mr. Tennyson has at last sent to the press the drama which he has had so long on hand. It is entitled "Queen Mary; a Drama;" and embraces the life of Mary Tudor, from her accession to her death, together with the chief scenes in her reign.

Carruth, the Vineland (N. J.) editor, remarks in his valedictory, "Two months' constant wrestle with a bullet in our brain has convinced us that we lack the capacity to develop a lead mine and publish an independent Vineland newspaper at the same time."

School and Church.

The cost of the Tennessee public schools was last year about \$1.50 per scholar.

The St. Louis University has had a welcome "windfall." Peter Joseph Vorlagen has bequeathed to it the whole of his estate.

Yama Gama, a Japanese member of the class of '75 at the Yale Scientific School, has been graduated, and has left for home to become an instructor in the Royal Imperial College of Japan.

The University of North Carolina will be revived this year. A faculty is to be elected in June, and the institution will be opened to students on the first Wednesday in September.

The latest school statistics of New Hampshire reveal an alarming decadence in the enthusiasm for education. The number of children attending school in 1874 was 10,000 less than that of 1850.

The American Home Missionary Society has had larger receipts in 1874 than in any other year of its existence. The total from all sources was \$308,896; the disbursements were \$296,789.

The society has in its service 952 ministers, distributed through thirty-three States and Territories. The number of congregations and missionary stations supplied in whole or in part during the year was 2,223.

The Rev. Dr. Woolsey, of New Haven, was re-elected president at the annual meeting.

A question earliest propounded by visitors to Missouri is, "What kind of schools do you possess?" It is the popular impression that Missouri is as careless about education as Kentucky. Few know that it is one of the two or three States in the Union where there is a permanent school fund in excess and constantly being supplied to the uses of the people.

The school system was adopted at the suggestion of Gov. Boggs in 1839, and the public school fund last year amounted to nearly \$2,600,000; the investment produced in 1874, \$410,000. This applies to the public schools alone, and more than three-fifths of the whole fund is invested in United States bonds. Besides there is a county school fund arising from the sale of swamp and overflowed lands, which has netted the State about \$4,000,000, and stands on interest in real estate for the support of local schools. There is a township school fund, besides. Last year there were about 405,000 pupils in the schools of Missouri, and the daily average attendance was 210,000, or nearly 50 per cent. of the whole schoolable population of the State. There are 7,224 school houses in Missouri.—St. Louis Times.

Science and Industry.

There are 73,849 farms in Virginia, of which 45,028 are under one hundred acres.

The report of the commission of engineers appointed to investigate and report a permanent plan for the reclamation of the alluvial basin of the Mississippi River subject to inundation has lately been published.

The wheat crop on the line of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad from Washington, Ind., to near St. Louis, and in Southern Illinois and Indiana to the Ohio River, within those limits, looks well, and will yield a full average.

The tea-plants grown near Athens, Ga., can stand a northern temperature of thirty-five degrees. An analysis of leaves shows eight per cent. more of alkaloid principle than the tea produced in China. One hundred plants will make twenty-five pounds of the tea yearly.

In France cheap wood is now made to perfectly imitate mahogany. The surface is treated with nitrous acid. Then a mixture of an ounce and a half of dragon's blood, a pint of alcohol, and some carbonate of soda is put on with a soft brush. Furniture thus prepared cannot be distinguished from genuine mahogany.

The process of skin-grafting has of late years become importantly useful in surgery. A new form of it has recently been developed by a French surgeon, M. Anger. Hitherto the particles of skin have merely been taken from one part of the patient's body and applied at the other, where cicatrization was sought; but M. Anger takes pieces of skin from ampu-

tated limbs and uses them to obtain cicatrization on the bodies of other patients.

The expansion of the sides of the body in animals, as a support while moving through the air, is an adaptation found in various classes. The fly, squirrels and Petauristas are well known examples among mammals. The lizards of the genus Draco represent it among reptiles. The batrachians possess a modified representative in Wallace's Rhacophorus, where the webs of the toes are so dilated as to resemble a parachute. And now Mr. Cambridge describes a spider from Australia which is furnished with a parachute.

Foreign Notes.

Leeds, England, recently indulged in a spelling-bee.

The estimated value of the last French vintage is \$400,000,000.

The son of King Coffee, of Ashantee, has been sent to England to be educated.

The latest big canal scheme in Europe is one to connect the Black Sea with the Caspian.

Preliminary investigations are being made as to the feasibility of creating an inland sea in Africa.

A man in France who had his foot amputated refused to pay the fee charged by the surgeon, and commenced an action against the latter for damages because the foot, instead of having been buried, had been dissected in the interests of science.

A case of poisoning in Italy, from the use of copper vessels is recorded, of which the well-known author and authoress, Wm. and Mary Howitt, were among the victims. Food which had been left standing in a copper vessel had been served to them, in company with some twenty others, the immediate effect of which was nausea, vomiting and severe pain in the bowels.

Peter Wysocki, the instigator of the Polish rising on the 29th of November, 1830, and consequently of the Polish revolution of that year, died a short time ago at Barka, not far from Warsaw, at the age of seventy-eight. He had been exiled to Siberia from 1831 to 1837. After the amnesty of that year Barka was assigned to him as a place of residence, where he settled down as a farmer.

A characteristic speech in Parliament was made the other day by Mr. O'Gorman, who said: "When I last spoke here I was in Ireland. [Loud laughter.] It is not so now. I beg to inform the right honorable gentleman at the head of Her Majesty's Government that if the liberties of my country are to be destroyed by a despotic and insolent majority, those liberties shall die hard." [Great laughter.] The House had just refused to adjourn by a vote of 243 to 63, but this brilliant effort so demoralized it that it adjourned forthwith.

For some time past negotiations have been in progress between Professor Charles F. Hart, of Cornell University, and the Government of Brazil, in regard to a complete geological survey of that empire. It is now stated that the preliminaries have been completed, and that Professor Hart has been appointed director of the survey. His qualifications for this work are very high, as he has made no less than four successive visits to Brazil with reference to the study of its general geology and ethnology. His salary is said to have been fixed at \$10,000 a year. It is also announced that Professor Caldwell, another member of the faculty of Cornell University, has been appointed to take charge of the agricultural branch of the survey.

Haps and Mishaps.

At Fort Wayne, Ind., the other day, a young child of Wm. Shuister choked to death at the tea-table while eating potatoes.

A young lady named Mary Anderson, aged 22, while fishing at Morrilton, Ind., a few days since, was accidentally drowned by slipping off a log on which she was standing.

Mrs. Lucy Goodwin assisted her fire to start with kerosene, and the village of Neosho, Wis., is consequently in mourning. Mrs. Goodwin left a husband and two children.

A very singular accident occurred to a child near New Haven a few days ago. Its mother had been sewing, and on lifting it from the floor, her needle was by some mishap thrust into the side of the babe, near the region of the heart, causing its death.

John Humphrey, a stock-dealer of Fontville, Ind., was instantly killed recently while traveling on a wrecking-train on the Bellefontaine Road. Mr. Humphrey was in the baggage-car, and hearing the whistle blow, put his head out of the car, and was struck by a car on the side-track.

During a game of base-ball at Columbus, Ohio, the other day, an old shed just outside the grounds, on which about one hundred men and boys were seated, gave way, falling with a terrible crash, burying the entire party in the debris. Most of the party were more or less scratched and injured, but eight persons are severely injured.

Samuel White, a farmer of Ludlow, Mass., went into a large hog pen to feed a number of the beasts confined there. A large and very savage boar attacked him without warning, and a desperate encounter ensued, the man striking with a heavy club, with which he had armed himself before entering, and the boar biting with ghastly effect. At length a deep bite in White's thigh severed the femoral artery and he bled to death.

Mr. J. N. Harrison, of Sullivan County, Ind., while out hunting one day recently, met with a painful accident. His gun exploded, and the breech-pin, about 2 1/2 inches long, together with screw attached, struck him with great force on the bridge of the nose, then entered lengthwise the lower part of the right eye, and lodged under the eye, and extended to near the temple. The ball of the eye was knocked out and hung over the lower lid. The sight of his eye was of course permanently destroyed, though he will probably recover.

Among the suicides noted by telegraph for the week ending June 5, are the following: At Cincinnati, Louisa Rohmeyer, a young German girl, drowned herself in a cistern; at Milwaukee, Charles Holzamer took a dose of mercury; at Indianapolis Nancy Marshall took morphine; near Louisville, an unknown man cut his throat; at Sturgis, Mich., James Bugs blew his brains out; at Detroit, Mrs.

Sarah Seline took laudanum; and at Kemptville, Ont., W. R. Anderson threw himself under a locomotive.

Odds and Ends.

The Prince of Wales is a big man to be ordered out of the House of Commons, but the M. P. who made the motion was Biggar.

Paul Boyton is learning to play "I'm afloat" on his log-horn. Some of these days he will be what Mississippi River people call a "floater."

A visitor to the jail incidentally mentioned that this was a backward spring. "I should say it was," proclaimed a discouraged prisoner. "Here it is the 20th of May and we ain't had green peas yet."

A novelty in advertising is the following from an English journal: "Iron Church wanted, immediately, second-hand, cheap, to hold about 250. Apply Rector, Llanedy, Pontardulais, R. S. O." The man with the iron jaw has been secured for clergyman, doubtless.—Boston Commercial Bulletin.

He leaned on the fence pouring out warm vows of love and admiration to the lovely being on the other side. It was dark. We could not see her face; but she said: "Pray desist. You are too vacillating. Only a week ago you told that same story three doors below here." They parted.—Titusville Herald.

The chairman of a vigilance committee, who was instructed to duck an obnoxious citizen, thus reported to his constituents: "We took the thief down to the river, made a hole in the ice, and proceeded to duck him, but he slipped out of our hands and hid under the ice. All our efforts to entice him to come out failed, and he has now had his start some hours."

The reporters were not admitted to her late lecture on dress-reform, by Miss Agnes Burke. Of corsets all right. We learn that the lecture was about sew-sew, and the lady did not hang on the outskirts of her subject, but struck the trail at once and carried it up. She upbraided tight-lacers, and—a hem—suggested suspenders for—Hose business is it, any how?

Leprosy in Canada.

In the Arcadian village of Tracadie, near the mouth of the Miramichi River, says the Toronto (Canada) Globe, there have been lepers for the last eighty or ninety years. A hospital for their benefit is supported by the local government. A correspondent of the Church Journal, who has recently made a visit to the establishment, says the lazaretto, though well kept as far as it goes, is much too small to furnish the requisite accommodations. The sexes are kept apart, and every thing is done for the comfort of the unfortunate that is possible with the means placed at the disposal of those who manage the institution.

The leprosy which they suffer is elephantiasis groenorum, so called from its tendency to make the limbs swell to elephantine proportions. The disease is understood to have been brought here by a French vessel, which, on its return voyage from Smyrna, touched at the Island of Mityline, and took on a quantity of clothing and other stores, and on her way to Beaubaris Island, a French military port, she was wrecked near the mouth of Miramichi. The people in the neighborhood played the part of wreckers, and helped themselves to clothes cast ashore, which were supposed to be tainted with leprosy, the consequence of which was that the disease soon broke out among them. Another account is that the vessel in question brought two lepers from St. Maicos, and that every leper known in Tracadie descended from one or the other of these men.

The opinion there is that the disease is not contagious, but simply hereditary. The people have no dread of it, and persons engaged about the lepers for years never contract the disease. Not only do the lepers marry among themselves, but such is the feeling among the poor French in Tracadie that there is no repugnance in many cases among perfectly healthy people to taking lepers for husbands or wives. The taint generally manifests itself in every alternate generation. In this way the disease has become permanently seated in the locality, while the general poverty and not very healthy habits of the French population tend to excite and intensify it.

It first shows itself in the form of small white spots on the breast, then the face assumes a puffy appearance, and there is much pain, languor and drowsiness. The fingers become crooked, the neck swells, the limbs show all the symptoms of dropsy, the nails fall off, and at last the throat and lungs are attacked, and the sufferer dies, a mere mass of loathsome disease. Its duration varies from five to twenty-five years, according to the strength of constitution. Leprosy is not nearly so rare a disease as is generally supposed. It is on the increase in many of the British dependencies. In some parts of India one person in every hundred is a leper, and in some parts of the West Indies, as well as in the Sandwich Islands, it is also very prevalent. Leprosy is generally thought to be incurable. It may be mitigated to some extent by cleanliness and attention to diet, but that is all. The certain prospect of death from such a disease must be horrible beyond conception.

Lemon Cakes.—1 pound of sugar, 1/2 pound of butter, 8 eggs, rind of 2 lemons, juice of 1/2 a lemon, 1 pound of sifted flour. Beat the yolks and whites of the eggs separately. Grate the rinds from the lemons. Beat the sugar and butter together, until they make a smooth cream. Add the beaten eggs, the rinds of the lemons, and juice of 1/2 of a lemon. Stir the flour in gradually. Line two baking-pans with white paper, well buttered. Bake in a quick oven. When done, turn the cakes out, and place them on sieves to cool.

Mr. Yeast has just been admitted to the Cincinnati bar. With a jury composed of "leaven men, what a doughy orator he'd be, eh!—N. Y. Com Ad.

He is doubtless a rising man, and if he has been bred to the law will make light of any ordinary case. In the trial of any flour case he will be much kneaded.—Boston Advertiser. How those fellows pun and sin! But it requires a baker's dozen of rude folks to make the thing abundantly funny.—St. Louis Republican.

A recent petition against conventual institutions raised in England, bore 117,000 signatures and was three-quarters of a mile long.

GRANT'S THIRD-TERM LETTER.

Opinions of the Press.

(From the New York Sun.)

Gen. Grant's letter on the third term is evidently all his own production. It is cunning; and it tells a good deal more than its author supposes.

The first intimation respecting the third term did not come from the press; it came from the White House. A person there whose relations we need not more specifically define, said, just before the election of 1872, that "the great difference between Gen. Washington and Gen. Grant, as they would appear in history, would be that Washington had only two terms as President, while Gen. Grant would have three." All that the press ever did in regard to this subject was to call attention to the un concealed ambition of Grant, thereby rendering its success impossible. About the fact of the ambition and the existence of the design, there can be no question.

There is too much humbug in this letter. "I don't want the third term," he says, "any more than I wanted the first." Yet every body knows how much he wanted the first. The only doubt in his mind was whether he should run as a Democrat or as a Republican. He intruded for the Democratic nomination, and failed, before he determined that he would be the Republican candidate; and now in this letter, when he says that he does not want the third term, he carefully leaves the door open in the hope that, after all, it may be given to him; and he ingeniously argues the constitutional point that the people have a right to elect a man President as often as they wish.

However, the thing is ended. The press settled it, and the Pennsylvania resolution registered the decree. When the Republican Convention meets to nominate a candidate for President, there will not be a man in it who will even think of nominating Grant.

(From the New York World.)

Nobody can fail to read in the letter which a warning from his own supporters has at last drawn out from Mr. Grant, the extreme reluctance with which he makes even a pretense of resigning his chance for a re-election. It is true that that chance has grown very slender since last autumn, and it appears that even the President, who is by no means quick either to feel or to follow the drift of public opinion, has at last been made to see it and to make a pretense of following it. The one chance he has depends upon the public belief that he has not solicited or intrigued for a re-nomination. His letter, which purports to be a resignation of his pretensions, is not so in fact. The saving clause in it enables him to push those pretensions whenever he chooses, which means if and whenever he sees a possibility of success for them. If the Force bill, which was in fact and almost in form a third-term bill, and for which he condescended to solicit votes in Congress, had become a law, he would not have wanted for the pretext, under which he even yet declares, he will attempt to secure re-election. He could have declared the country on the verge of civil war, and he could have done a terrible deal towards making his declaration good. Even now he can say the same thing and do something towards making his words come true. He can find another Williams to invent other Ku-Klux outrages, and declare that the spirit of rebellion is reviving, or he can embroil the country in a foreign war, or a rumor of foreign war, in case he sees a chance of re-election, or in case the Democratic candidate is objectionable to them. These are low arts, but the history of his administration shows that he is not above them. It is utterly preposterous for him to pretend that he has not sought a re-nomination, when his representatives in Congress have been urging the enactment of measures which notoriously and almost on their face had no other purpose but to enable him to re-elect himself, and when his little ridiculous organ, the Washington Republican, which has no other reason of being than to do his bidding, was going on under his nose all last session in the most frantic appeals to every body in Congress to help him to a third term. These things are to have more weight with sensible people than the uncouth affectation of coyness which Cameron and the Pennsylvania Convention now tell him is judicious for him to assume.

(From the New York Herald.)

This is an exceedingly adroit and able letter. It has all the clumsy strength and energy of Grant's simple, lumbering style.....

There is nothing in this letter to prevent General Grant's acceptance of the Presidency for a third term. There is no expression of allegiance to that sacred tradition that a third term would be practically a monarchy. The President was thinking about himself when he began to write, and he never abandoned his theme. We can see that extraordinary conviction of Grant, which has made his whole public career, that, after all, the Republic had not done more for him than he deserved. The matter is altogether personal. There is no principle behind it—no evidence that ever such a thing as a principle had entered his mind. We have the President's services and sacrifices; how he gave up an office he preferred, and which would have lasted for life, for one he did not seek; how his second election was a personal vindication from slander; how he does not want the office again any more than he wanted it in the beginning, and how, after all, it might be "unfortunate if not disastrous" if at some future time (say two years from now) the people should be prevented from electing whom they pleased for a third term. The tone of the whole letter is precisely as if the President were writing about an interest in his own personal property—as if he were speaking for Ulysses S. Grant alone, and as if the country had no concern whatever with it.

We shall be surprised if the country accepts this as a satisfactory declaration from the President. It is an evasive letter. It would have been much better for his fame, and even for the welfare of the party which he proposes to serve if he had not written it. In a word, the country is told that the President will not take what is not offered to him. That is not what we wanted from the President. What we did want was an express avowal by General Grant that the question of a third term would be a treason to a sacred precept of our unwritten law—a declaration that whoever presumed to use his name

for such a purpose would do an unworthy act, an admission to the country of the dangers to liberty which twelve years of centralization had produced, and a prayer that the people would destroy Caesarism by limiting all administrations to one term. Such a declaration would have thrilled the country and been a graceful cap-sheaf to the fame of Grant. As it is, Caesarism is a political issue more potent than ever. It becomes the dominant question in the next canvass. Our answer should be the limitation of the Presidency to one term, and no re-election ever after.

(From the New York Tribune.)

Grant has done some extraordinary things in his day, but nothing more singularly characteristic than this. He is still nicely calculating and balancing just how much he thinks the R-public owes him, and with the frankest candor lets the public see the very bottom of his thought about it. He does not think he is quite even yet. The Generalship was worth more than these two terms of the Presidency. It was a life office, and he expected that Congress would let him keep it until he was tired of it, and then let him retire "with the rank and a portion of the emoluments which he so much needed." He positively seems to be proposing a new trade to Congress; suggesting that if they want to get him out of the field for another term—which he evidently thinks is due to him—they might arrange it by giving him back his rank and pay as a General, and then putting him on the retired list. The suggestion is an eminently practical one and worth consideration.

(From the St. Louis Republican.)

This third-term letter of the President is one of the most unfortunate utterances he ever gave forth. It demonstrates beyond a cavil that his sole security has always lain in keeping his lips iron-bound. The disclaimer it embodies lacks frankness. In fact, it is not a real hearty disclaimer at all, but a clumsy evasion of the issue presented to its author, and a feeble attempt to sneer at the Opposition while succumbing to its tactics. Gen. Grant could easily have renounced the third-term idea without insulting the public sense by a reminder of the "sacrifice" he imagines himself to have made, and without exciting the public contempt by his ignoble whine about the "slanders that have been heaped upon him." But he has lived so long in an atmosphere of sickening adulation, forced upon him by people who flattered him because he could give them something substantial in return for it, that he presumes he has no conception of the healthy air which men outside of his own immediate coterie breathe. Hence he probably imagines that his reminder will excite admiration and his whine elicit sympathy. It is a sad mistake. He is past both.

(From the Kansas City Times.)

Even Balaam's ass spoke under a certain compulsion. President Grant exhibited the sublimity of dumbness until he beheld the guardian angel of American liberty standing in his pathway with a flaming sword to cut off third-term aspirants. And then the President's mouth was opened, and he declared that he would not go in the way of that sword "unless circumstances make it an imperative duty."

The Professional Ball Player.

A St. Louis Times reporter interviewed Harry Wright, the Captain of the famous Boston Red Stockings, and elicited the following information:

The Boston club he considers the strongest in the country for many reasons. They have played several years together and understand each other as no other players do. Every fielder is familiar with the strong and weak points of every other fielder, and in playing he makes use of that knowledge. At the bat every man is willing to sacrifice himself in order to save a tally for the club, and does it almost every time an opportunity presents itself. Every member of the nine can play equally as well in three or four positions, so that the players change about frequently without damaging the strength of the nine. McVey and O'Rourke are change catchers, and Manning and Helfert change pitchers. Helfert plays anywhere, except behind the bat, and McVey plays any thing except pitching. The fielders are all good basemen, and the basemen are all good fielders. They have all studied base running until they have reduced it to a science, and rely a great deal for their tallies on their proficiency in base stealing. Throwing also is a great point in good playing, and each tries to excel in both swift and accurate throwing. The fielders are all able to send a ball in to the home plate from the farthest outfield. In batting fair fouling is little practiced. The batter generally tries to knock a daisy-enter or drop a fly between the out and in-fields, but when one man is out and any of the bases are covered a long high-fly is attempted. After two strikes the catcher does not come up behind the bat unless the catcher's ground is very bad for foul balls, and even in that case he sometimes remains back. The boys learned to keep their temper and courage long before they were taken on the nine, and it is very seldom that they allow themselves to become unduly excited.

The rules of the club, though few, are strictly enforced. The members are all considered gentlemen in every sense of the word, and can be relied upon in any emergency whatsoever. Only a few of them either drink or smoke, and none to excess. The penalty of a spree is immediate dismissal from the nine. All obey the commands and instructions of their captain without question. No quarrel—not even an angry dispute—has ever arisen between any of the members, and none would be tolerated. They eat when and what they please, but must not eat too heartily just before beginning a game. As a rule their nights are their own to go and come as they will, provided they do not carouse and dissipate. All but three or four are married, their families living in Boston. In traveling they carry little baggage. Their nights are frequently spent on the sleeping cars. On most of the railroads they travel per cent. less than the regular fare. Their annual expenses amount to about \$30,000. Two of the boys—Spalding and Barnes—are from Rockford, Illinois. McVey is from Indianapolis and the rest from Eastern cities. Manning is the only native of Boston on the nine.