

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Personal and Literary.

Bayard Taylor is said to be writing a "combined biography" of Goethe and Schiller.

McDermott, the man who claims Bessie Turner as his long-lost sister, is lecturing on that subject in New England.

Paul H. Hayne, the Southern poet, has been seriously ill from repeated hemorrhages of the lungs. He is now slowly convalescing.

Ex-Senator Schurz has indefinitely postponed all his lecture engagements in the West, in consequence of the delicate health of Mrs. Schurz.

Mr. Charles Nordhoff has written a book about his recent travels in the South. It will be published by Messrs. D. Appleton & Co., and will be entitled "The Cotton States."

The lady whom James Gordon Bennett is about to lead to the marriage altar is Miss Ida May, the second daughter of Dr. Frederick May, late of Washington. Miss Ida is a young lady of great personal attractions and a brilliant mind. Mr. Bennett met her at Newport last summer, and surrendered at once to her charms.

General Albert J. Myer, of the Signal Service, popularly known as "Old Probabilities," has just received an official letter from the International Congress of Geographical Sciences, assembled in Paris, stating that the Signal Corps under his charge has proved to be so remarkably organized, and the cause of such progress to meteorological science, that no honor provided for by the regulation of the Congress was deemed commensurate for it; hence this special letter of distinction.

Gen. McClellan was tendered the position of Chief Engineer of the Brazilian Government at a salary of \$20,000 gold per year, and, declining it, recommended Col. John Mechan, his assistant in the New York Department of Docks, as the best man for the work. Col. Mechan has made a personal examination of nearly all the great engineering enterprises of America and Europe during the past twenty-five years, and was for a long time connected with the construction of the famous dykes of Holland.

The Rev. Dr. Ritchie, of Edinburgh, though a very clever man, once met with his match. When examining a student as to the classes he had attended, he said: "And you attended the class for mathematics?" "Yes." "How many sides has a circle?" "Two," said the student. "What are they?" "What a laugh in the court the student's answer produced when he said, 'An inside and an outside!'" The Doctor next inquired, "And you attended the moral philosophy class also?" "Yes." "Well, you would hear lectures on various subjects. Did you ever hear one on cause and effect?" "Yes." "Does an effect ever go before a cause?" "Yes." "Give me an instance." "A man wheeling a wheelbarrow." The Doctor then sat down and proposed no more questions.

Science and Industry.

"Gallium," the newly discovered metal, by its brilliancy and color ranks between silver and platinum.

A Massachusetts co-operative enterprise has for its aim the occupation of Spartanburg, S. C., by thrifty folks from the overcrowded manufacturing towns of New England. The plan provides for cotton and lumber mills, and recruits are numerous.

Rainwater brings down yearly about 12 pounds of ammonia per acre of ground. To supply an equal amount in sulphate of ammonia at six cents per pound would cost the farmer \$2.88, and this is therefore the manual value of the rain. To this, however, must be added a certain quantity of nitric or nitrous acid.

Mr. Wesley W. Gary, of Huntington, Pa., is the latest discoverer of a new motor who has been announced. His discovery is an article which, when placed between a magnet and a substance which it would naturally attract, destroys its attractive powers. He has just secured patents for his invention. The Huntington Journal, which places great confidence in the value of the discovery, adds: "But setting aside the discovery of the cut-off or interpose, Mr. Gary has accomplished the utilization of the power of permanent magnets (thereby accomplishing the same object) by simply changing the poles of an electro-magnet by a very simple device."

The best kind of paper is the class known as wove, and not, as is commonly supposed, the so-called laid paper. It is found that a varnish formed of Canadian balsam, dissolved in turpentine, supplies a most valuable means of making paper transparent. The mode by which this is most satisfactorily accomplished is by applying a pretty thin coating of this varnish to the paper, so as to permeate it thoroughly, after which it is to be coated on both sides with a much thicker sample. The paper is kept warm by performing the operation before a hot fire, and a third or even a fourth coating may be applied, until the texture of the paper is seen to merge into a homogeneous translucency. Paper prepared according to this process is said to come nearer than any other to the highest standard of perfection in transparent paper.

Robbing the Helpless.

[From the New York Sun.]

During the past two years the Sun has devoted a great deal of space to exposures of the atrocious acts of injustice committed upon settlers in the West by the great Land King, which, under the present Administration, has been securely entrenched in the Interior Department.

The operations of this King, were they thoroughly understood by the public, would alone afford sufficient reason for the overthrow of the Administration which has sanctioned them. Under new and preposterous rulings, made regardless of law and in defiance of all precedent, the late Secretary Delano and his active accomplice, Willis Drummond, as Land Commissioner, assumed the power, by their mere individual fiat, to confiscate the property of thousands of industrious citizens, and to give the homes of whole communities of energetic pioneers into the hands of wealthy land grabbers. This may seem an exaggerated representation, to those who are not acquainted with the facts; but the truth is that we have understated the case. Indeed, we doubt whether there are words in the English language which can adequately express the enormity of the wrongs inflicted upon holders of homestead and pre-emption rights by Grant's Administration.

It is well known that Congress has granted public lands to a great number of railroad companies. Congress has also passed laws for the sale of public lands to individuals under what are known as the pre-emption and homestead laws. Hundreds of thousands of citizens have availed themselves of the provisions of these laws to purchase and improve lands selected from the public domain, and by their industry they have added immensely, not only to the value of the ground they have cultivated and built upon, but likewise to that of the unoccupied lands of the Government in their vicinity. Now, within a few years the Interior Department has set up the preposterous assertion that Congress, in its grants to railroads, intended to give to them farms, homesteads, houses, and in some instances whole counties occupied by thriving communities who had bought and paid for their lands, receiving complete titles from the Government itself. In short, the Interior Department has arrogated the power to cancel the titles of settlers who have bought, paid for, and improved their property, and to give that property—improvements included—to railroad corporations, as a free gift from the Government of the United States. This is the whole story, precisely as it is, as thousands of unhappy households in the West can testify from bitter experience.

And now a bill has been brought before the United States Senate intended to rectify in part these wrongs, by confirming pre-emption and homestead lands within the limits of railroad grants "in cases where such entries have been made under the regulations of the Land Department"—that is, providing that settlers who have lawfully obtained homes under the pre-emption and homestead laws may graciously be permitted to keep them. Certainly, American citizens have the right to expect at least the privileges accorded in this bill. But it has met with bitter opposition from the start, the most active opponents of the bill being the most prominent supporters of Grant's Administration. Their names are Conkling, Howe, Boutwell, and Frelinghuysen. We do not think that this fact requires any comment. It is one, however, of much significance.

Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

WASHINGTON, February 1.—The Democratic caucus held to-night continued till a late hour, Representative Lamar being Chairman, and Representative Banning, Secretary. One hundred and sixty members were present. The Chairman announced the Congressional Campaign Committee, heretofore ordered, as follows: Representatives Clymer of Pennsylvania, Chairman; Chapin, Massachusetts; Throckmorton, Texas; Hooker, Mississippi; Hewitt, New York; Robbins, North Carolina; and Saylor, Ohio. W. W. Corcoran, J. E. Harvey and Judge Mason are members on the part of the District of Columbia. The Senate appointed as part of the committee Senators Whyte of Maryland, Wallace of Pennsylvania, and Gordon of Georgia.

The Chairman of the caucus also announced the Committee on Consultation, as follows: Representative Cox of New York, Messrs. Whitthorne of Tennessee, Randall of Pennsylvania, Goode of Virginia, Buckner of Missouri, Wigginton of California, Hartridge of Georgia, Blackburn of Kentucky, Tarbox of Massachusetts, Lynde of Wisconsin, Eden of Illinois, Payne of Ohio, and Caldwell of Alabama.

Yale College is desirous of exhibiting at the Centennial all the literary works of the alumni and of those who have been connected in any way with the educational department of the college. To secure this end, pamphlets, reports, sermons, discourses, and printed papers in a form suitable for binding are to be sent to Secretary Northrop at New Haven. At the close of the exhibition the collection will be placed in the college library.

Dr. John Hall, of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York; the Rev. Dr. Hepworth, of the Church of the Disciples; the Rev. Dr. Storrs, of Brooklyn; the Rev. Dr. Chapin, of the Church of the Divine Paternity, and Dr. Park Hunt Schenck, each receive \$10,000.

Republican Treatment of Wounded Soldiers.

[Col. Donn Platt, in the Capital.]

Now, we remember well that when that cruel war was over and the soldier limped or crutched from the hospital, the Republican party, regarding these as so much political capital, hastened to do them honor. They were ridden in carriages, hoisted on platforms, eulogized, feted and feasted, while no end of laws granting pensions and voting swords were passed, until eulogy palled and our National Treasury fairly staggered under the accumulated load. In a word, every thing was done for the wounded soldier that could be done at somebody else's expense, save one, and that was to give him office. These places, especially those of honor and emolument, were reserved for gentlemen who distinguished themselves by fighting the enemy in the rear. By such warfare we mean those brilliant gentlemen who, remaining at home, looked after the disloyal old women, in and out of petticoats, who were supposed to be hatching treason, as hens hatch eggs, in the most obscure and out-of-the-way places. These brave patriots of the home-guard were extremely active, noisy and efficient; and of course, having sent hordes of brave fellows to the front while they protected the rear, they reserved to themselves all the nice places; and it came to pass that while mutilated soldiers, in the worn-out uniforms of the Union, ground out the music of the Union from hand-organs, on street corners, the patriotic home-guard, such as Messrs. Cameron, Morton, Chandler and others, splashed the mud of their official carriages upon them as they swept by. High offices were held, but not by wounded soldiers. Immense fortunes were accumulated, honestly and otherwise—principally otherwise—but not by the mutilated defenders of their country.

An Idea for Teamsters.

A great deal of labor and hard-tugging may be saved if every wagon or truck is provided with one hundred feet of stout rope and a pulley. A snatch-block is the best, arranged with a strong hook, and the usual construction for slipping the bight of the rope under the strap to the sheave, instead of waiting to reeve the line through one end. If a wagon gets stuck in heavy mud or in the snow the driver has only to fasten his block to the tongue, reeve the rope through it, and attach one end to a tree or post, and let his team pull on the other. Their work is, of course just halved, or rather, they bring twice as much power to bear in dragging the wagon clear. There are plenty of other applications of this simple device which will readily suggest themselves. With a couple of skids for an inclined plane heavy logs could be easily drawn on a sleigh by the unhitched team. Another case where it is likely to be useful is when loaded sleighs attempt to cross a wooden bridge. Although the horses draw the load very easily over the snow they are often unable to start it over the generally denuded wooden flooring of the bridge, and hence would be materially aided by the tackle hitched on as we have described.—Scientific American.

Preparing to Terrorize the South.

[Washington Cor. Chicago Times.]

Some rough details of a plot to put Mississippi in a worse state than Louisiana has been in since 1872 are exciting politicians of both sides here. The outlines are to the effect that so soon as the Morton resolution has carried in the Senate a committee will go down and return with the testimony already manufactured. They will demand military aid from Congress. This aid, in spite of all protests from the House, will be sent by the President. All consequences will be risked, trusting to the carrying of Mississippi and other Southern States through the terrorizing process, and securing the election of a Republican President in November. Bold and revolutionary as this scheme sounds, there are indications that a strong sentiment supports it.

The Living and the Dead.

[From the Springfield (Mass.) Republican.]

These eulogies of the dead Vice-President are all very well. But it would be a good deal more to the purpose for the Republican party to cultivate his temper and heed his dying counsels. His last words were for moderation, for a magnanimous policy toward the South, for universal amnesty, for a general broadening and liberalizing of the party platform. That was Henry Wilson's dearest wish, as the Blaines and Morton's perfectly well know. They ridiculed and thwarted him living; now that he is dead they throw flowers of rhetoric upon his grave with one hand and go on tossing fire-brands into our politics with the other.

By the new British factory act, which came into full operation on the 1st of January, no children under ten years of age are to be employed in any factory. Those above thirteen and under fourteen are classified as "children," instead of "young persons," and all children, young persons and women are prohibited from working extra hours for the recovery of lost time.

William Hoffman, a wealthy German brewer, and Postmaster of Parker's Settlement, in Posey county, Ind., fell from his wagon and was kicked to death by his horses.

A GREAT BANK ROBBERY.

Skilled Cracksmen Get \$670,000 Out of the Northampton National—One of the Biggest "Jobs" on Record.

[From the Springfield (Mass.) Republican, January 25.]

Northampton woke up, Wednesday forenoon, to learn of the most audacious deliberate and startling bank robbery that the New England country towns, if not the whole country, have ever known. A band of seven men, who had been hanging about the town for at least a month, it would seem, entered the house of Cashier Whittlesey of the old Northampton National Bank, and bound, gagged and guarded for hours, seven people. They compelled him to give them the combinations on the safe vault, waited until they knew the night watchman had gone home, and then, getting into the vault and safe with only one of the four keys needed, took a large amount of the securities, locked the vault after them, and departed on the early morning Springfield train; and whence they came and whither they went, up to date, is a riddle. An expert had to be summoned from New York, and the lock was not opened until an early hour, Thursday morning. The result is sufficiently appalling. The table of the securities taken shows a total of \$670,000. Of course much of this is not negotiable, so that it is difficult to estimate the real loss to the bank and the depositors. The bank officers offer a reward of \$25,000 for the return of the property, and the conviction of the burglars. The loss falls comparatively lightly upon the bank, the greater part of the securities belonging to special depositors.

The band are supposed to have entered the house of Mr. Whittlesey on Elm Street, about a mile from the bank, through a second-story window. He and his wife were aroused about 1 a. m., and ordered by two of the burglars to dress. The other occupants of the house—T. B. Cutler, a Gazette printer, and wife, Miss Mattie C. White of Williamsport, Pa., Maria Denton, an invalid boarder, and the servant girl—had been similarly awakened, and were filed into the Whittlesey bed-room. All were bound and gagged, the burglars running short of rope and dispatching the servant for the clothes-line. The burglars, who wore kid gloves, were well disguised by masks made from the legs of satinet drawers, with places cut for the eyes, long linen dusters and blue overalls. They took, besides the watch, \$15 from Mr. Whittlesey's pocket.

Mr. Whittlesey, when asked to give the three combinations to the vault, for the outer, inner and chest doors, gave them wrong twice and thrice, but the burglars wrote them down and made him repeat. Of course they caught him, and a pistol compelled the truth, though he told them that four keys were necessary to open the patent lock, three of which were at the houses of the other bank officers. At 4 a. m., Mr. Whittlesey was taken to a down-stairs bedroom, the whole family gagged, and four of the burglars withdrew to operate on the bank. Three hours after, Mrs. Whittlesey succeeded in freeing herself and giving the alarm from a window. The whole party were speedily liberated, and the cashier, still wearing the handcuffs, went to the bank. A clever workman soon after fitted a key and all the handcuffed were released. Examination at the bank showed that the cracksmen had unlocked the outer door, but were apparently balked by the safe-lock, lacking three of the requisite four keys. They tried the metal of the door with bars, and wrenched off two dials, which serve as an index for working the combination, hoping so to tamper with the lock. They were entirely unmolested, the watch having gone home. There is every indication that six and perhaps all of them left on Conductor Adams's 6 o'clock southern train; five of them had tickets previously bought, and one paid his fare. It is surmised that one of them may have got left, for a man was inquiring, soon after, anxiously for a chance to follow the regular train by freight; and a team driven furiously toward Holyoke was heard by the family of Sheriff Wright passing on Maple Street, where, also, a linen duster was picked up. The lock upon the vault was a peculiar and supposed especially safe affair. It was Dexter's double dial combination, with Herring's patent for disconnecting the tumblers from the spindle, was patented by Oscar Yale, last April, and put on this bank only last October. For safety it was accounted fully equal to, if not better than, the chronometer lock. But the gang knew all the ins and outs of locks, for when Mr. Whittlesey told them that they could not enter with but one of the four keys required, they had responded, "We know more about bank locks than you do."

There are many indications that the burglars have been planning their work for at least a month. Some four weeks ago, a suspicious character lingered in the bank so long, on various pretenses, that the officers marked him for a burglar. A small hand bag was picked up near the primary school-house on Bridge Street, December 28, containing a pair of new handcuffs, like those used at Mr. Whittlesey's, a number of ring staples, nails, etc. Only Tuesday afternoon, a boy found in the attic of that same school-house another bag in which were several bits, a bit-stock and a whisky flask, the discovery of which broke up the school for the day, and brought Sheriff's Wright and Potter to make a closer examination. They found, in the same place, four new double army blankets, a pulley and considerable rope, a lot of sandwiches in paper bags from the Stamford (Ct.) Railroad restaurant, roast chicken, apples, etc., a copy of the New York Sun of Decem-

ber 22, and a pair of satinet drawers, minus one leg, which last was found in Mr. Whittlesey's house, yesterday, having been used as a mask. The provisions had evidently been stored at least a month. Still another bag was found, Wednesday afternoon, under the old Canal depot, now a tobacco warehouse, in which was a bottle of sweet-oil and a pair of very large rubber shoes. At Mr. Whittlesey's house were found four large sledge-hammers, five dark lanterns, a number of handcuffs, a linen-duster, several pairs of overalls, two caps, one of which was made to serve as a mask, a coat, several pairs of rubbers, and a piece of wrapping-paper, on which was printed the advertisement of Hall & Prew of this city, from whom the overalls were doubtless bought.

LATER PARTICULARS—OVER A MILLION DOLLARS TAKEN.

BOSTON, Jan. 28.—A special to the Herald has the following particulars of the Northampton bank robbery: It is generally believed at Northampton today that the loss by the robbery of the Northampton National Bank has been understated, and that the aggregate actually reaches, if it does not exceed, \$1,000,000. Many of the losers are reticent, still declining to say how much they lost. It has transpired to-day that the Town of Northampton is a loser to a considerable extent, the burglars taking a package of bonds deposited there by the authorities. Captain Samuel Parsons's deposits of railroad and other securities, amounting to about \$15,000, are gone, and also some owned by Isaac S. Parsons. A large amount, perhaps half, of the stolen securities are negotiable, and the robbers are likely to have realized well in spite of the efforts of the owners. The bank itself does not suffer greatly. It has been ascertained that the burglars were driven from Springfield to Northampton on Tuesday night with a fast team engaged at Burr's livery stable, by a man who said they wanted to go to a surprise party at Holyoke. When the team was returned on Wednesday morning, the horses showed signs of hard driving and were very much exhausted. The hostler gives a very clear description of the man who hired and returned the team, and it is surmised that he was the manager of the robbery. The detectives have not yet made public what may be of great importance.

Joseph and Mrs. Potiphar.

This famous legend is still found among the Egyptians of to-day, but in a somewhat different form than that of the Biblical narrative. M. De Lesseps, the distinguished engineer and savant, who has resided much in the East, gives this as the Egyptian tradition: Potiphar was not a tender-hearted man. He imprisoned his wife, as also Joseph, although the lady and Joseph asserted their innocence. The Judge ordered an inquiry, and the wife of Potiphar, in her defense, urged that her passion for Joseph, had been awakened by his personal beauty, which she declared no woman possibly could resist. Others, she said, would have done as she had, an assertion she was invited to prove. On being set at liberty she invited a number of her female friends to meet her at her house, without informing them of the purpose for which they were assembled. To each guest an orange and a golden knife were given, and they were requested not to cut the oranges until the lady of the house had given them the signal so to do, by pronouncing the word "Now." The ladies, with their oranges in one hand, and their knife in the other, were gazing with surprise at their hostess, when suddenly the door opened and Joseph made his appearance, standing on the threshold. "Now," cried the wife of Potiphar, but her guests, captivated by the beauty of the Hebrew, paid no attention to what they were doing, and, consequently, cut their fingers. The party was called before the Judge on the following morning; every one of the ladies, save one, hid her wounded hand in the folds of her garment, while the one whose hand was unhurt declared that she had escaped the common fate by throwing her knife away the moment she saw Joseph; and, on being further pressed with questions, declared that had she not thrown her knife away she should have stabbed herself to the heart, because she could not bear to look upon the Hebrew and know that she could never possess him as a husband.—Home Journal.

Apple-Dumplings.—Take equal parts good oatmeal porridge and water and add Graham flour enough to make a batter a trifle thicker than for gems. Oil a basin of the size required, cover the bottom with the batter, and place in this dressed sub-acid apples, in quarters closely packed. Cover all this with another layer of the batter, and put it at once to steam over an abundance of hot water, so that it will scald and begin to cook at once. Keep it boiling until the apples are tender. Serve warm with pudding sauce, more or less sweet, according to the tartness of the apples. This crust is very light and tender.

Sir Josiah Mason, of Birmingham, England, has recently turned over to the trustees of a scientific college he is building in Birmingham the proceeds of the sale of the monster pen factory formerly owned by him, amounting to about £100,000. He has already built in Birmingham an orphanage and almshouses which cost about £250,000. His total gifts for the promotion of scientific education will aggregate as much more. Verily he is a great public benefactor.