THE INAUGURATION.

Dreary Weather in Washington on the Fourth, Followed by a Little Sunshine—The Ceremonies in the Senate Chamber—The Diplomatic Corps, the Supreme Court and Distinguished Visitors—Mr. Garfield Is Sworn in as President and Delivers the Customary Inaugural.

WASHINGTON, March 4.

A FURIOUS snow-storm intermingled with rain prevented much of the display which was to signalize the inauguration of President Garfield. The military portion of the programme was carried out as proposed, but the execrable weather prevented the gathering of the many thousands who were expected to witness, line and grace the route of the procession. At half past ten o'clock General Garfield, accompanied by Mr. Hayes, left the Riggs House and drove to the White House in the President's carriage, drawn by four horses. The journey was made so quickly that the people congregated on the avenue in front of the White House did not know until after the carriage had passed who the occupants were. Just at this hour the sun, which had not been visible for two days, broke through the clouds, and shone brightly for a few minutes.

At 10:45 the troops comprising the first division were nearly all in line, waiting the order to march. As the midshpmen from Annapolis made their appearance, they were given a demonstration by the assembled thousands. Their appearance was exceedingly creditable.

The scene within the Senate Chamber was exceedingly brilliant. The galleries were densely packed, the ladies being largely in the reserved gallery. On the front row of seats were Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Garfield and General Garfield's aged mother. The Senators occupied seats on the left of the Senate Chamber, the right being reserved for the Diplomatic Corps. Generals Hancock, Sheridan and members of their staff occupied seats in the area, to the front of the Vice-President. At 11:20 the Diplomatic Corps, headed by Secretary Evarts and Sir Edward Thornton, entered. At 11:25, the Supreme Court came in and were assigned seats on the right, immediately in front of the Diplomatic Corps. They were received by the Senate standing. The ceremony of swearing in the new Senators was then proceeded with, and all but Senator Mahone responded to the call of their names, and took the oath of office. As soon as this was concluded the ceremony of inaugurating the President was carried out, the Senate adjourning to the east portico. Only a small part of those inside the Capitol could get on the stand to see General Garfield sworn in. Owing to bad management on the part of the police the Diplomatic Corps were excluded, and a number of Senators could not get through the crowd. The crowd in the area in front of the platform numbered many thousands—by far the largest number ever before crowded within the space.

General Garfield took the oath of office and then read his inaugural message, occupying nearly half an hour in the delivery. The utmost attention was given him, and when he concluded the assembled multitude gave tremendous cheers. The inaugural address is as follows:

RETROSPECTIVE.

FELLOW CITIZENS: We stand to-day upon an eminence which overlooks a hundred years of National life—a century crowded with perils, but crowded with the triumphs of liberty and love. Before continuing our onward march, let us pause on this height for a moment, to strengthen our faith and renew our hope by a glance at the pathway along which our people have traveled. It is now three days more than 100 years since the adoption of the first written Constitution of the United States, the Articles of Confederation and of Perpetual Union. The new Republic was then beset with danger on every hand. It had not conquered a place in the family of Nations. The decisive battle of the war for independence, whose centennial anniversary will soon be gratefully celebrated at Yorktown, had not yet been fought. The colonists were struggling not only against the armies of Great Britain, but against the settled opinions of mankind, for the world did not believe that the supreme authority of government could be safely intrusted to the guardianship of the people themselves. We cannot overestimate the fervent love of liberty, the intelligent courage and saving common sense with which our fathers made the great experiment of self-government. When they found, after a short time, that the Confederacy of States was too weak to meet the necessities of a vigorous and expanding Republic, they boldly set it aside, and in its stead established a National Union, founded directly upon the will of the people, and endowed it with future powers of self-preservation and with ample authority for the accomplishment of its great objects. Under this Constitution the boundaries of freedom have been enlarged, the foundations of order and peace have been strengthened, and the growth in all the better elements of National life has vindicated the wisdom of the founders and given new hope to their descendants. Under this Constitution our people long ago made themselves safe against danger from without and secured for their manufactures and flag an equality of rights on all the seas. Under this Constitution twenty-five States have been added to the Union, with Constitutions and laws framed and enforced by their own citizens, to secure the manifold blessings of local and self-government. The jurisdiction of this Constitution now covers an area fifty times greater than that of the original thirteen States, and a population twenty times greater than that of 1783. The supreme trial of the Constitution came at last under the tremendous pressure of civil war. We ourselves are witnesses that the Union emerged from the blood and fire of that conflict, purified and made stronger for all the beneficent purposes of good government, and now, at the close of this first century of growth, with inspirations of its history in their hearts, our people have lately reviewed the condition of the Nation, passed judgment upon the conduct and opinions of the political parties, and have registered their will concerning the future administration of Government. To interpret and execute that will, in accordance with the Constitution, is the paramount duty of the Executive.

THE FUTURE.

Even from this brief review, it is manifest that the Nation is resolutely facing to the front, resolved to employ its best energies in developing the great possibilities of the future. Sacredly preserving whatever has been gained to liberty and good government during the century, our people are determined to leave behind them all those bitter controversies concerning things which have been irrevocably settled, and the further discussion of which can only stir up strife and delay the onward march. The supremacy of the Nation and its laws should be no longer a subject of debate. That discussion, which for half a century threatened the existence of the Union was closed at last in the high court of war, by a decree, from which there is no appeal, that the Constitution and laws made in pursuance thereof shall continue to be the supreme law of the land, binding alike upon the States and upon the people. This decree does not disturb the autonomy of the States nor interfere with any of their necessary rules of local self-government, but it does fix and establish the permanent supremacy of the Union. The will of the Nation speaking with the voice of battle, and through the amended Constitution, has fulfilled the great promise of 1776, by proclaiming "Liberty throughout the land to all the inhabitants thereof."

EMANCIPATION.

The elevation of the negro race from slavery to the full rights of citizenship is the most important political change we have known since the adoption of the Constitution of 1787. No thoughtful men can fail to appreciate its beneficent effect upon our institutions and people. It has freed us from the perpetual danger of war and dissolution. It has added immensely to the moral and industrial forces of our people. It has liberated the master as well as the slave from the relation which wronged and enfeebled both. It has surrendered to their own guardianship the manhood of more than five million people, and has opened to each one of them a career of freedom and usefulness; it has given new inspiration to the power of self-help in both races by making labor more honorable to one and more necessary to the other. The influence of this force will grow greater and broader richer fruit with coming years. No doubt the great change has caused serious disturbance to our Southern community. This is to be deplored, though it was unavoidable; but those who resisted the change should remember that under our institutions there was no middle ground for the negro race between slavery and equal citizenship. There can be no permanent disfranchised peasantry in the United States. Freedom can never yield its fullness of blessings as long as law or its administration places the smallest obstacle in the pathway of any virtuous citizen. The emancipated race has already made remarkable progress. With unquestioning devotion to the Union, with a patience and gentleness not born of fear, they have "followed the light as God gave them to see the light." They are rapidly laying the material foundations of self-support, widening the circle of intelligence and beginning to enjoy the blessings that gather around the homes of the industrious poor. They deserve the generous encouragement of all good men. So far as my authority can lawfully extend, they shall enjoy the full and equal protection of the Constitution and laws.

EQUAL SUFFRAGE.

The free enjoyment of equal suffrage is still in question, and a free statement of the issue may aid its solution. It is alleged that in many communities negro citizens are practically denied the freedom of the ballot. In so far as the truth of this allegation is admitted, it is answered that in many places honest local government is impossible if the mass of uneducated negroes are allowed to vote. These are grave allegations. So far as the latter is true it is the only palliation that can be offered for opposing the freedom of the ballot. A bad local government is certainly a great evil, which ought to be prevented, but to violate the freedom and sanctity of suffrage is more than an evil; it is a crime which, if persisted in, will destroy the Government itself. Suicide is not a remedy. If in other lands it be high treason to compass the death of the King, it should be counted no less a crime here to strangle our sovereign power and stifle its voice. It has been said that unsettled questions have no pity for the repose of nations; it should be said with the utmost emphasis that this question of suffrage will never give repose or safety to the States or to the Nation until each within its own jurisdiction makes and keeps the ballot free and pure by the strong sanctions of law. But the danger which arises from ignorance in the voter cannot be denied. It covers a field far wider than that of negro suffrage and the present condition of that race. It is a danger that lurks and hides in the courses and fountains of power in every State. We have no standard by which to measure the disaster that may be brought upon us by ignorance and vice in citizens when joined to corruption and fraud in suffrage. The voters of the Union who make and unmake Constitutions, and upon whose will hangs the destiny of our Governments, can transmit their supreme authority to no successor save the coming generation of voters, who are sole heirs of our sovereign power. If that generation comes to its inheritance, blinded by ignorance and corrupted by vice, the fall of the Republic will be certain and remediless. The census has already sounded the alarm in appalling figures which mark how dangerously high the tide of illiteracy has risen among our voters and their children. To the South the question is of supreme importance, but the responsibility for the existence of slavery did not rest upon the South alone. The Nation itself is responsible for the extension of suffrage, and is under special obligations to aid in removing the illiteracy which it has added to the voting population for the North and South alike. There is but one remedy. All the Constitutional power of the Nation and of the States, and all the volunteer forces of the people, should be summoned to meet this danger by the saving influence of universal

EDUCATION.

It is a high privilege and sacred duty of those now living to educate their successors, and fit them, by intelligence and virtue, for the inheritance which awaits them in this beneficent work. Sections and races should be forgotten, and partisanship should be unknown. Let our people find a new meaning in the Divine oracle which declares that "a little child shall lead them." For our little children will soon control the destinies of the Republic.

RECONCILIATION.

My countrymen, we do not now differ in our judgment concerning the controversies of past generations, and fifty years hence our children will not be divided in their opinions concerning our controversies. They will surely bless their fathers and their fathers' God that the Union was preserved; that slavery was overthrown, and that both races were made equal before the law. We may hasten or we may retard, but we cannot prevent the final reconciliation. Is it not possible for us now to make a truce with time by anticipating and accepting its inevitable verdicts. Enterprises of the highest importance to our moral and material well-being invite us, and offer ample scope for the employment of our best powers. Let all our people, leaving behind them the battle-fields of dead issues, move forward, and, in the strength of liberty and a restored Union, win the grander victories of peace.

PROSPERITY.

The prosperity which now prevails is without parallel in our history. Fruitful seasons have done much to secure it, but they have not done all.

OUR MONETARY SYSTEM.

The preservation of the public credit and the resumption of specie payments, so successfully attained by the Administration of my predecessors, has enabled our people to secure the blessings which the seasons brought. By the experience of commercial Nations in all ages, it has been found that gold and silver afford the only safe foundation for a monetary system. Confusion has recently been created by variations in the relative value of the two metals, but I confidently believe that arrangements can be made between the leading commercial Nations which will secure the general use of both metals. Congress should provide that compulsory coinage of silver, now required by law, may not disturb our monetary system by driving either metal out of circulation. If possible, such adjustment should be made that the purchasing power of every coined dollar will be exactly equal to its debt-paying power in the markets of the world. The chief duty of the National Government, in connection with the currency of the country, is to coin and declare its value. Grave doubts have been entertained whether Congress is authorized by the Constitution to make any form of paper money legal tender. The present issue of United States notes has been sustained by the necessities of war, but such paper should depend for its value and currency upon the convenience in use and its prompt redemption in coin at the will of a holder, and not upon its compulsory circulation. These notes are not money, but promises to pay money. If holders demand it, the promise should be kept.

REFUNDING.

The refunding of the National debt at a lower rate of interest should be accomplished without compelling the withdrawal of the National Bank notes, and thus disturbing the business of the country. I venture to refer to the position I have occupied on financial questions during my long service in Congress, and to say that time and experience have strengthened the opinions I have so often expressed on these subjects. The finances of the Government shall suffer no detriment which it may be possible for my Administration to prevent.

AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.

The interests of agriculture deserve more attention from the Government than they have yet received. The farms of the United States afford homes and employment for more than one-half the people, and furnish much the largest part of all our exports. As the Government lights our coasts for the protection of mariners and for the benefit of commerce, so it should give to the tillers of the soil the lights of practical science and experience.

MANUFACTURES.

Our manufacturers are rapidly making us industrially independent, and are opening to capital and labor new and profitable fields of employment. This steady and healthy growth should still be maintained.

THE INTERCOURSE QUESTION.

Our facilities for transportation should be promoted by the continued improvement of our harbors and great interior water-ways, and by the increase of our tonnage on the ocean. The development of the world's commerce has led to an urgent demand for shortening the great sea voyage around Cape Horn, by constructing ship-canals or railways across the Isthmus which unites the two continents. Various plans to this end have been suggested, but none of them have been sufficiently matured to warrant the United States extending pecuniary aid. The subject is one which will immediately engage the attention of the Government, with a view to thorough protection to American interests. We will urge no narrow policy, nor seek peculiar or exclusive privileges in any commercial route, but, in the language of my predecessors, I believe it is to be "the right and duty of the United States to assert and maintain such supervision and authority over any interoceanic canal across the isthmus that connects North and South America, as will protect our National interests."

POLYGAMY.

The Constitution guarantees absolute religious freedom. Congress is prohibited from making any law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. The Territories of the United States are subject to the direct legislative authority of Congress, and hence the General Government is responsible for any violation of the Constitution in any of them. It is, therefore, a reproach to the Government that in the most populous of the Territories the Constitutional guarantee is not enjoyed by the people, and the authority of Congress is set at naught. The Mormon Church not only offends the moral sense of mankind by sanctioning polygamy, but prevents the administration of justice through the ordinary instrumentalities of law. In my judgment it is the duty of Congress, while respecting to the utmost the conscientious convictions and religious scruples of every citizen, to prohibit, within its jurisdiction, all criminal practices, especially of that class which destroy family relations and endanger social order, nor can any ecclesiastical organization be safely permitted to usurp in the smallest degree the functions and powers of the National Government.

THE CIVIL SERVICE

can never be placed on a satisfactory basis until it is regulated by law. For the good of the service itself, for the protection of those who are intrusted with the appointing power against the waste of time and the obstruction to public business caused by inordinate pressure for place, and for the protection of incumbents against intrigue and wrong, I shall, at the proper time, ask Congress to fix the tenure of minor offices of the several Executive departments, and prescribe the grounds upon which removals shall be made during the terms for which the incumbents have been appointed.

CONCLUSION.

Finally, acting always within the authority and limitations of the Constitution, invading neither the rights of States nor the reserved rights of the people, it will be the purpose of my Administration to maintain authority, and, in all places within its jurisdiction, to enforce obedience to all the laws of the Union in the interest of the people; to demand a rigid economy in all the expenditures of the Government, and to require honest and faithful services of all the executive officers, remembering that offices were created not for the benefit of incumbents or their supporters, but for the service of the Government.

And now, fellow-citizens, I am about to assume the great trust which you have committed to my hands. I appeal to you for that earnest and thoughtful support which makes this Government in fact as it is in law—a Government of the people. I shall greatly rely upon the wisdom and patriotism of Congress, and of those who may share with me the responsibilities and duties of the Administration; and, above all, upon our efforts to promote the welfare of this great people and their Government. I reverently invoke the support and blessings of Almighty God.

The procession was then again formed, and President Garfield was escorted to the White House. All along the route he was given a perfect ovation.

Dr. Glenn's Great California Wheat Ranch.

The ranch of H. J. Glenn, in Colusa County, is one of the largest and most noted in the State, and perhaps presents the best illustration of extraordinary farming along the Sacramento. On being asked recently why he raised wheat alone, his reply was as follows: "People ask why I raise all wheat. The answer is simple: It is the only crop that will bear transportation; it is the only crop not perishable. I must not raise on my land what ruins me, but what is profitable." Dr. Glenn's ranch comprises about 60,000 acres of land, and the number of acres in wheat each year ranges between 40,000 and 50,000. Reckoning an average of from twenty to twenty-five bushels to the acre, the aggregate crop each year amounts to something more than 1,000,000 bushels. This enormous amount of grain requires vast appliances for planting and bringing it to market; and the capital invested in machinery alone sums up a considerable fortune. During the last contest for the Governorship of California, Dr. Glenn was the candidate of the Democratic and New Constitution parties; and, to a representative of one of the city papers who visited the ranch during the campaign, some noteworthy statistics were furnished. According to the report, during the harvest-time there are employed on the entire ranch some 500 men. Dr. Glenn is General-in-Chief of his force, and the ranch is divided, for convenience of operations, into nine smaller ranches—each with dwelling-house, barns, blacksmith-shop, and other necessary buildings. In charge of these are seven foremen, under whom are sixteen blacksmiths, fourteen carpenters, six engineers, six machinists, five commissaries and numerous cooks and servants. The common workmen are divided into gangs, and detailed where they are needed. There are 130 gang-plows; sixty herders, to which belong 180 wagons; six cleaners, 100 harrows, eighteen seeders, six thrashers, six engines. Besides, there are many smaller instruments and vehicles, which cannot be classified. Co-operating with their human brethren in the great labor are 1,000 work-horses and mules, with a kinship of 1,000 brood-mares and younger stock which has not yet achieved the dignity of labor. There are thirty-two dwelling-houses, twenty-seven barns, fourteen blacksmith shops, and other structures sufficient to swell the aggregate to 100. The machinery could not be replaced for $125,000; the work-horses and mules are worth $110,000, the brood-mares and young stock $75,000, and the buildings on the place $100,000. The ranch is about twenty miles above the Town of Colusa; its length is about sixteen miles on a meridian line, and the average width is about one-third of the length. The soil is a black, gravely loam; and the surface is flat or undulating like the prairies of Southern Illinois. During the months between and including July and December of the year just past Dr. Glenn loaded on his own account and dispatched to Great Britain no less than twelve vessels, carrying an aggregate of 506,474 centals of wheat, valued at $759,916. This season there are no less than 175 miles of fence on the ranch; and 350,000 sacks, each holding 140 pounds, have not been sufficient to hold the crop. It may be stated, in addition, that the average daily run of the great 48-inch separator or thresher is 1,800 sacks of two and one-third bushels each; and, on the 8th of August, it turned out the enormous amount of 5,779 bushels. It is claimed that this same separator can produce 3,000 sacks, or 7,000 bushels, in a single day. The old mode of cultivation could never have shown such astonishing returns; and, with wheat-culture on such a gigantic scale, it is not to be wondered that the production of California should in one season be placed at 45,000,000 bushels, and the total be second to that of no other State except Illinois.—*A. R. Whitehill, in Chicago Tribune.*

—Justice Clifford, of the United States Supreme Court, is under the constant care of his devoted wife, who has grown very old in her looks since her husband's attack. A few days ago the invalid escaped from her care and wandered out through the halls of the hotel, looking pitifully into faces that he did not remember, although they were the faces of old friends. He was going to court, he said, when one of them detained him; in a few moments his nurse led him back, without resistance, into his room.

—"My canary," said a lady, "I allow to fly about the room. One day the poor thing alighted on the hot stove and burned its feet. It has never been on the stove since. For some time after it was hurt it would place one foot and then the other in its bill, and put on a pitiful look that went to my heart. It soon recovered."

High-Priced Fruit—What Early San Franciscans Paid for It.

FOR the following items relative to the first introduction and sale of fruits in California, says the Virginia (Nev.) *Enterprise*, we are indebted to Mr. John Piper, the well-known theatrical manager of this city, who was the first fruit-dealer in San Francisco, and who came to that city from New York in the steamer Oregon in the month of April, 1853. Mr. Piper says that the first box of apples of Pacific Coast production which reached San Francisco came in the same year from the ranch of Lewis Allen and Mr. Meade, in the vicinity of Portland, Ore., the owners of the same having crossed the plains in 1846 and having brought fruit trees with them.

Mr. Piper purchased the first lot from the agent, Mr. King, for $2.50 per pound, and retailed the same from $1 to $4 and even $5 apiece. The next steamer, the Columbia, brought another box, for which Mr. Piper offered the same price, which was declined. He finally secured the lot for $1.12 1-2 each and sold them again to two lads named Keeling (now in the gunsmith business in San Francisco) for $1.37 1-2 apiece, who in turn peddled them out for $3 to $5 apiece.

During the winter of 1853-54 Mr. Piper and Mr. Andrews, who were then engaged in the hardware business on Davis Street, ordered four or five thousand pounds of apples shipped from New York City to San Francisco by steamer, paying 50 cents per pound for freight. The apples were packed in sawdust in closed tin cans. Says our informant: "The apples when first opened had a delicious flavor, but turned black in half an hour afterward from the effect of the heat during the twenty days' voyage." Mr. Piper adopted a suggestion from some one to preserve the apples by pickling them in salt water, and sold them pickled for 50 cents apiece, at which price they were readily disposed of. The fruit dealer noticed, however, that customers, after taking one bite, would generally throw away the apple in the plaza (Portsmouth Square). He was afterward advised to bake the pickled apples, by way of variety, and actually sold several hundred dollars' worth baked for 50 cents apiece.

The first lot of peaches which reached San Francisco, 1854, came from Mr. Hill's ranch at Napa, and sold as high as $2.50 per dozen, retail. Cherries of Oregon growth were introduced the same year. Mr. Piper purchased the first lot for $2.50 per pound. Putting them in a clothes-basket he retailed them on the street for 25 cents apiece, and afterward sold them in his store for $5 per pound.

Strawberries arrived from Alameda in 1854-5, and cost $4 a pound wholesale, and heaped up in French soup-bowls, holding a half-pound each, were retailed for $5 per bowl. Pears, which came into market about the same time, retailed at a high figure. Mr. Piper remembers getting $11 for a single pear. The first lot of grapes which came from Los Angeles sold at wholesale as high as 25 cents per pound. In 1856, Mr. Piper bought 5,000 boxes on the steamer Senator, just arrived in San Francisco, and took them to Sacramento and Marysville, where he was compelled to dispose of them for less than the freight charges, the hot weather having nearly ruined the entire lot. On the return trip a cargo of watermelons, obtained from a rancher for 25 cents apiece, were sold in San Francisco at prices ranging as high as $1.

Oranges, which were first brought by steamer from San Juan, the terminus of the route of the Nicaragua steamers in 1854, brought $90 per 1,000 wholesale. Limes brought up from Acapulco were worth $60 per 1,000; pine-apples, $40 per 1,000; bananas, $25 a bunch. Mr. Piper continued in the fruit trade from 1853 to 1858. Among the retail dealers during that period were Marco Medin and undertaker Wilson, of this city.

Mr. Piper, after continuing two years longer in the grocery business in San Francisco, took up his permanent residence in this city. Among his best customers while in the fruit business were Michael Reese, Captain Folsom and W. H. Rhodes ("Claxton"), and a host of others whose names we have not space to enumerate.

Paris in a Snow Storm.

THE Paris correspondent of the New Orleans *Picayune* writes: The night of the severest snow storm here it was impossible to sleep, so angrily howled the wind, so continuous was the noise made by the flakes as they beat against window panes. That night 200 vehicles stayed till daybreak in the street unable to budge, ignorant of their position. Care was taken this year to avoid the blockade we underwent last year. Paris was divided into twenty-nine districts, which some time since were let to the bidder who undertook to clear them of snow in the shortest time. He agreed to provide so many carts, so many horses, so many workmen with shovels, under penalty of a heavy fine for each cart, each horse and each workman under the agreed number. Beside, the 5,000 road menders, street sweepers and pavers were divided into forty-eight divisions, each under experienced men. The streets were arranged into three classes: streets of active circulation—from these every flake of snow was removed; streets of mean circulation—in these snow was removed from the street and piled near the curbstones of each side; streets of small circulation—in these snow was piled near the curbstones of one side; each gang master had a map of his district given him, with streets of active circulation colored red; streets of mean circulation colored blue; streets of small circulation colored yellow. The sidewalks were cleared by tenants. In this one night 11,703,000 cubic yards of snow fell. The cost of removing the snow this year has not been given; last year it cost Paris $700,000. The suburban theaters are managed, those north of Paris by one, those east by another, those south by a third, those west by a fourth manager. The companies play one night here, next night there, and so on, returning nightly to Paris. The snow storm prevented their reaching the station in time for the last train. Ignorant of the country, blinded by the snow and by the complete darkness, they wandered for hours until some good soul showed them the way to the village.

—The railroad frog can't swim.

Our Young Folks.

A CRYSTAL WEDDING.

"'Tis time for our crystal wedding,"
Said Mr. Frost to his wife,
With a suddenly sharp expression,
That cut like a two-edged knife.
"The North Wind must be invited
To bring his friend from the East,
And none of our friends must be slighted
Or fail to appear at the feast."

So then they began to make ready
With speed, regardless of cost,
For the beautiful crystal wedding
Of Mr. and Mrs. Frost.
The North and the East Wind called for
Miss Snow and old Mister Sleet,
And all of that party together
Were sure to have things complete.

In honor of the occasion,
The houses with fringe they drape,
Rich beads and bugles of crystal
Suspended in every shape.
While all the poles and the chimneys
Were drest in transparent suits,
And the trees were overloaded
With loveliest glaced fruits.

The Telegraphs were invited,
So out of town couldn't go;
And the Telephones failed to answer
When any one cried "Hallo!"
The magnates were not forgotten,
Who stand in serene repose,
And Franklin made his appearance,
With an icicle on his nose.

There were acres on acres of icing,
And wonderful rivers and lakes;
Most beautiful caves and grottoes,
And delicate frosted cakes;
While cobweb curtains suspended
Above the scene, in mid-air,
Lent a charm to the crystal wedding,
That proved such a grand affair.

Decanters and tumblers, engraven
With initials of old Jack Frost,
Were scattered about in profusion—
No telling just what they cost;
And I couldn't begin to number
How many from out of town
Came in to this crystal wedding,
And at the banquet sat down.

Old Sol got wind of the matter
Just as he was going to bed,
And out from between the curtains
He suddenly popped his head
And smiled, as with glowing fingers
He took Jack Frost by the ears,
And loosened the pearls and diamonds,
That straightway dissolved in tears.

Soon faded the lovely picture,
The limpid and sparkling sheen,
That seemed, to our raptured vision,
Like unto a fairy scene;
And some will remember the beauty,
And some will remember the cost
Of the wonderful crystal wedding
Of Mr. and Mrs. Frost.

—*Josephine Pollard, in N. Y. Independent.*

AN EXCITING SLEIGH-RIDE.

Bang, bang, bang! went Philip Sullivan's hammer, as he pounded on his sled "Chain Lightning." "Chain Lightning" had needed mending ever since last winter, but Phil had concluded not to touch it till "just before the snow came."

"Never do to-day what you can put off until to-morrow."

The consequence was that the north wind suddenly puffed up a midnight storm, and Master Phil was awakened one morning by the shouts of the six Dyke boys, who were coasting merrily down "Sullivan Hill."

Phil was out of bed in a twinkling. Ten o'clock found him still working fiercely on "Chain Lightning," his glue-pot simmering before the fire in company with his father's best chisel and his mother's machine oil-can.

The shouts of the Dyke boys still resounded; and not only their jubilation but that of forty more coasters drove Phil nearly frantic.

With all his might Phil worked on, and "Chain Lightning" was beginning to look as if it might hold its own even among newer sleds, when the door leading into the library opened softly, and fair-haired Rosabel, Phil's sister, appeared on the threshold. At the same moment an opposite door flew open with a jerk, and there stood Rosabel "done in sepia," as it were; little brown Kate, Rosabel's twin-sister.

Phil glanced up, and then became more than ever absorbed in his work. There was a peculiar expression on the twins' faces. Phil instantly recognized it. "The *errand* cast of features," he grimly called it.

"Phil, dear," began Rosabel.

"Phil, dear," echoed Kate.

Phil handled a screw-driver dextrously.

"Phil, dear, will you please run over to the station and see if my new skates have come by the twelve-o'clock train? Go when the cars are due, won't you?"

"And Phil, dear," chimed in Kate, "can't you manage to go into the city to-day and call for a roll of music which is to be left for me at Hale & McPherson's?"

Now, could anything be more trying to the temper of the average youth than requests like these, make under the existing circumstances? Perhaps some of us may find it in our hearts to forgive Phil for answering with a certain touch of asperity:

"Don't 'Phil dear' me! I'm not going to the station and I'm not going to the city, and —"

Bang, bang, bang! the hammer expressed the rest of his sentiments.

Rosabel arched her eyebrows, and mildly withdrew.

Kate tarried to wheedle the enemy a bit; and, that failing, gave it as her opinion that boys ought never to have been created. Departing she closed the door with more force than was strictly needful, and left Phil alone.

That individual worked on in an injured and gloomy frame of mind.

"Mean enough in them to be forever nagging me. Mean enough in me not to get their skates and music."

It was hard for Phil to decide which was the greater wretch, himself or Kate. Rosabel, he concluded, could never be a "blot on the earth," whatever she did. It was Rosabel who had helped him write his composition on "Spring;" it was Rosabel who knit his mittens; it was Rosabel who never shirked her share of the stirring when they made molasses candy.

The remembrance of Rosabel's virtues haunted Phil even after "Chain Lightning" was in order, and he was shooting down "Sullivan Hill," lying prone on his sled, with his legs waving in the air.

Perhaps that was the reason that when his elder brother Will came hastily up the hill and offered him five cents if he would carry a bundle to a store next the railway station (you see that Phil was regarded as the family errand-boy), he condescended to saunter in that direction. Not that he cared for the pennies, although he accepted them as a token of brotherly esteem.

He even quickened his pace as a shrill whistle sounded in the distance, and ended by racing up to the depot just as the twelve-o'clock train stopped.

No one seemed to know about Rosabel's skates.

"Ask the man in the express office—perhaps they came on an earlier train," suggested Fred Rodman, who was standing on the platform. "I'll keep your sled for you. Or, see here, just slip the rope through this iron ring on the rear car."

Phil did as he was bidden, and leaving his sharp-shooter tied with a slip-knot, went into the express office.

The man in the express office had never heard the proverb concerning "a place for every thing;" or, if he had, knowing it was not among the Ten Commandments, felt under no obligation to heed it. He remarked that "somebody had said something about some skates being somewhere," and went fumbling among boxes and bundles, exclaiming, alternately, "Hi! here they be," and "Ho! no, they ain't."

At last, just as he laid his hand on a queer looking package, and was next to sure that here were the skates, the engine bell rang, there was a slight scurry outside, and the train began to move.

Phil was out of the depot in a flash.

"Stop!" he cried; but the locomotive paid no heed.

Slowly past the platform glided the cars, pulling "Chain Lightning" behind.

Almost before he knew what he was doing, Phil had thrown himself on the sled and grasped its rope. To his horror the slip-knot suddenly tightened, and "Chain Lightning" was firmly fastened. Every moment the train quickened its speed.

I should not dare to tell the rest of this story, were it not true. I am not "making it up." It really happened.

The sled hung on the car. Phil Sullivan clung to the sled. Do you suppose he would lose "Chain Lightning?" Not he.

Faster and faster—faster and faster still—dashed on the train. Over the sleepers bounded "Chain Lightning." To this side, to that, it swayed madly. Phil's grasp never slackened. On they rushed. Phil dared not roll off the sled now lest he should be killed. It seemed no less certain death to stay on.

The engine gave short, panting breaths, as if it were frightened, itself, at the trick it was playing the boy.

A kindly tree stretched out a limb, but tried in vain to rescue Phil. The sled bounded far less now as the train whizzed along. The runners were half an inch from the ground. Held by its strong rope, the sharp-shooter was like a small tail to a big kite. Cinders flew—the cars flew—"Chain Lightning" flew—Phil flew. (I am telling you the truth.)

It seemed to our friend as if he had been rushing through space ever since he was born. It seemed as if he had come millions of miles. Would this awful ride never end? Phil's fingers were numb, so tightly did they clasp "Chain Lightning's" edge. He saw stars before him.

And now *thump! bump! bump! thump!* "Chain Lightning" was knocking the sleepers once more. It might have occurred to Phil that he could hardly bear this sort of traveling much longer had not his brain been too dizzy to do much thinking.

Presently, after another small eternity, with a final shriek the locomotive drew up in the city depot.

An hour later Philip Sullivan entered the paternal mansion. Never a word did he say in regard to the black-and-blue spots which dotted him from head to foot, not yet did he feel it necessary to mention that every bone in his body had an especial and separate ache.

"I thought I might as well go into town," he remarked, carelessly. "Here's your music, Kate. Your skates will probably come to-morrow, Rosabel."

"Well, you are a dear," began Kate, looking up from her crocheting. But before she could finish there came a loud ring at the door bell, and in rushed Fred Rodman. As he caught sight of Phil, his eyes and mouth opened wide, and he stared for a full minute.

At last, "Arn't you dead?" he gasped.

"Pho!" said Phil, loftily. "I've as much right to be living as you, sir."

"Well, I never!" said Fred. "I was over to the post-office when the whistle blew, and came out just in time to see you off, and I raced most of the way to the city after you, and then I turned round and raced back to tell your folks!"

"Pho!" said Phil, again.

We will pass over any family discussion of the incident; but within an hour one-half the boys in town were relating to the other half the story of Phil Sullivan's ride. To be sure the versions differed, and to this day some of the lads a little out of Phil's own circle are convinced he went to town on the cow-catcher, and other some believe that he rode all the way under a car, sitting on a brace between the wheels.

But that evening Phil, much bruised and battered, yet whole in every limb, told to a select few the full particulars of his journey; and the facts of the case are as I have here narrated them.—*Mary Densel, in Wide-Awake.*

—The widow of James K. Polk, now more than eighty years of age, was recently visited by a correspondent of the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, who thus describes her: "I was surprised to find in Mrs. Polk a lady of active movement, bright and animated face, clear and firm voice and quick and responsive memory. She is of medium height, rather stout but not obese; has a bright and most pleasing face, without the lines and furrows usually accompanying great age, and her gray or dark-blue eyes are even yet sparkling and full of sweet animation. In her beaming countenance there still remain abundant traces of the rare and radiant beauty, lit up by earnest vivacity, which made her so attractive and conspicuous thirty odd years ago as mistress of the Presidential mansion, and by courtesy or *ex officio*, 'first lady in the land.'"

—A German savant, after much investigation, reports that the average brain of a man is ten per cent. larger than the average brain of a woman.

—The average age of German university students is eighteen, of Dutch twenty and of French seventeen.