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PITTSBURG ∴ DISPATCH.

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PITTSBURG, SATURDAY, AUG. 24, 1889.

THE JOHNSTOWN MUDDLE.

The expected trouble, predicted as the result of the irregular manner in which Governor Beaver insisted on raising the funds for the State's work at Johnstown, opens out into something decidedly like a bitter fight over the refunding of the advance which the Pittsburg Relief Committee made on that work before the State took charge.

The understanding was plainly announced at the time to be that this money should be refunded out of the million dollars that the Governor was represented to command. The money was advanced to meet a pressing emergency, but its return to the relief fund was insisted upon, not only by the Pittsburg committee, but by the contributors to that fund from other cities. The Pittsburg influence urged strongly that the Legislature should be called together in order that the money could be refunded and the credit of the State pledged by competent authority. This was overruled by Governor Beaver, and matters are drifting into a decidedly unpleasant muddle as the result.

The Governor was criticised for his inaction at first; but he bids fair to earn more severe criticism by his subsequent action. He represented that he had $1,000,000 if necessary to do the work; and in the end it turns out that he had but $300,000 and the work is not completed. He agreed that the Pittsburg fund should be reimbursed for the advance that it had made to do the work that belonged to the State; and the Pittsburg fund must now wait on the uncertainties of a Legislature that is not to meet for a year and a half. It almost seems as if the Governor had tried to demonstrate that he estimated himself more correctly than the public did, and to prove that his early inaction would have been better for the Johnstown relief work than his later activity.

After this it is to be hoped that public men will profit by the lesson that the way to do necessary work by the State is to call the appropriating and legislative power together and to have the State pledge itself in the constitutional and regular way.

THE HORRIBLE GALLOWS.

Four men were hanged in the Tombs prison at New York yesterday. They were all murderers of women and deserved their fate if ever any criminals did. There does not appear to have been a shadow of reason why any one of them should have been allowed to pollute the earth with his presence any longer. It was claimed for the man Carolin, whose blasphemy upon the scaffold was in peculiar contrast to the quiet resignation of the other murderers, that he was insane, but it could only be proved that he was a vicious, hard-drinking man. The execution of these bloodthirsty wretches shows that the law against murder is being enforced in New York, even if some other laws are set at naught there.

While we thoroughly approve of the infliction of the death penalty in these cases, and trust that the example may prove infectious in our over-merciful courts, we cannot indorse the mode of judicial killing which has again been proven uncertain and horribly cruel. The death of two of the murderers by the hangman's noose was rendered slow and full of torture by the customary miscalculation of the executioner. Those who favor the new scheme of killing murderers by electricity will not be slow to point to the latest failure of the old process. It is hard to believe that such distressing and unnecessary horrors would attend an execution by electricity. Certainly a more reliable method than hanging with a rope ought to be found, and electricity is most likely to be the executioner of the future.

GRAPHOPHONES AND LIBELS.

One of the agents of the recently ennobled Edison, at the Paris Exposition, has got into a complication which is thought to present a pretty puzzle in libel law. When President Carnot visited the graphophone exhibit, the instrument informed him that certain Parisian newspaper worthies had demanded money as the price of a favorable notice of the President's visit. The newspaper men referred to threaten suit for defamation of character.

The legal puzzle is stated to be whether the proceedings should be for slander or for libel. If the person who made the assertion to the instrument should be sued for libel, he might plead that he did not write the words but spoke them, and that he did not speak them to any person. If charged with slander he might answer that he did not utter the words to President Carnot, but that the instrument did. While possibly the graphophone might be imprisoned for slander, it would afford little satisfaction to the person slandered.

These quiddities might present an obstacle to suits in Anglo-Saxon courts, where hair-splitting is sometimes effective; but supposing the slander to be conceded, the French law has a habit of going direct to the point, and the defamation of character would probably be punished, leaving the question whether a graphophone record is written or spoken to be determined according to individual tastes.

THE RAILWAY CASUALTIES.

Yesterday was railroad accident day. On the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad a confusion of orders brought an accommodation and special passenger train into collision with the ordinary disastrous results. The death list includes only three lives, and fifteen or twenty people are all that are injured. Consequently the affair will be treated as rather commonplace, as such ordinary occasions of slaughter always will be, until the public gets aroused to the necessity of demanding strict accountability for every preventable destruction of life and limb.

A more uncommon style of railway accident was that consisting of the derailment of one of the Barnum & Bailey menagerie trains near the Canadian line. No human lives were sacrificed on this occasion; but the horses and menagerie animals suffered to a considerable extent. The slaughter of trick mules, trained horses, camels and sacred cattle by the modern railway process is a curious jumble of the old and new; and we can hardly blame the elephants who were in the collision and are reported to have been very angry over the shaking up they received.

In fact the elephantine anger would afford a very good example to the human race, if it were only more lasting. Mankind ought to get angry enough over these repeated casualties to insure their stoppage.

TESTAMENTARY FORESIGHT.

The birth of an infant on whose sex the disposition of the already famous Hamersley fortune in a great measure depends, was one of the events of the week. If the baby had been a boy it would have inherited the millions which are now supporting rehabilitated glories of Blenheim. As a male infant may yet be born to inherit this wealth, the charities which are to receive the property after the Duchess of Marlborough has passed away from earth, are not absolutely assured of the wealth; but the reprieve given by the sex of this infant makes the charitable expectants more hopeful.

It looks at first blush like rather hard lines for the baby, that the mere accident of its sex should deprive it of what would have been its heritage if it had turned out a boy. Why would it not have been just as fair to let the girl have the money and let this boy—if it was a boy—hustle for a living? This is the form in which the matter presents itself at the first aspect; and yet when we look at it more carefully, we can see that the defunct Hamersley builded better than he knew. If he could have foreseen that the life income left to his disconsolate widow would have gone to support the last and most disreputable of the disreputable Dukes of Marlborough, he might have made his will differently; but his spirit can console itself with the thought that the English aristocracy can only get the use of his property for one life. If the reversion had gone to the newly-born female infant, the case would have been different. That devoted child would have been marked from its cradle as the necessary prize of some titled foreign fortune hunter.

So the Hamersley will is vindicated. It saves both the fortune and the newly-born girl baby from becoming the permanent property of some dissipated and broken scion of foreign nobility. Both the child and the fortune are to be congratulated.

REINFORCEMENTS TO POPULATION.

The discovery that the name "Carl Baxter, colored, watchman," which appears in the recently issued Minneapolis directory was the name of a very intelligent and faithful watch dog in that city gives the provocation for a larger number of sarcasms at the expense of the enterprising directory compiler who furnished the basis for the large estimate of population in the Northwestern Metropolis.

Of course, the addition of watch dogs to the directory total will furnish material for a very liberal showing of population; but, on the whole, we are inclined to support the probability that this resident of Minneapolis is as well entitled to a place in the directory as a large number of the bipeds whose position in that publication is undisputed. We have no doubt that Mr. Carl Baxter is warmly attached to the interests of that portion of Minneapolis from which he draws his livelihood. That he will zealously resist the encroachments of any of the St. Paul watch dogs may be taken for granted, and should any of the canines of the sister city assert the superiority of their place of residence over Minneapolis we have no doubt that Mr. Baxter will fight as stoutly even as a Minneapolis editor.

Nevertheless, the new departure furnishes a precedent for very wide possibilities in the construction of directories and the claim of large populations. For example, Kentucky could establish a very plausible claim both for increase of population and improvement in the general intelligence and education of her citizens by including her thoroughbred horses in her census and directory reports. By including hogs in the directory, the old rivalry between Chicago, Cincinnati and St. Louis might be continued. New York might make an addition by adding the four-footed donkeys to her directories of the four hundred; and almost any city might do a stroke of business in that line except Boston. So long as Boston makes the pugilists her great representatives she must be debarred from putting any of the animals in her directories—out of respect to the animals.

AN UNAVAILABLE RECOMMENDATION.

The declaration of high officials of the State of Kansas that female suffrage in that State has proven to be a success, is made with the evident intention of securing the extension of that system in other States. The assertion is made that in Kansas the women succeed in attending faithfully to their domestic duties, and yet going to the poles and voting scrupulously for honest men in high positions with the result of abolishing the practice of deals in polls and the purchase of votes. This is an evident recommendation to the Mugwumpian class; but does anybody suppose that the politicians will permit such a violent assault on all their vested interests as to let an element into politics which will thus ruthlessly abolish all the methods by which politics of the present day are characterized? This exposure of the result of female suffrage will secure its exclusion from the older States so long as the political machine has the power and instinct of self-preservation.

ENCYCLOPEDIC IGNORANCE.

In the remarkable address of Prof. J. P. Mahaffey, of Trinity College, Dublin, delivered at Chautauqua recently, the following declaration appears to support his belief that this country is all wrong and that Tory ideas are the only correct ones:

In the preamble of your great Declaration of Rights appears, I believe, the statement that all men are equal in the sight of God. That statement was borrowed, not from the Scriptures, but from the speculations of the French revolutionists, whose opinions on the subject were, to my mind, of very small value.

Inasmuch as the Declaration of Independence asserts not that all men are equal in the sight of God, but that all men are created equal; and, as that declaration was made thirteen years before the States General was summoned by Louis XIV., and sixteen years before the French Revolution assumed its outspoken form, the historical, as well as the social, ideas of Prof. Mahaffey appear to be somewhat nebulous. Beyond that, if there is anything which plainly appears in the teachings of the New Testament, it is the equality of all men in the sight of the Master, who chose fishermen and peasants to be the apostles of the religion which gave a new light to the world. The deduction is rather plain, to adopt the style of expression for which Prof. Mahaffey's countrymen are notable, that while he knows nothing at all of the doctrines of popular government and their history, he knows still less of the doctrines of the Christian religion.

THERE is a good deal of force in the criticisms of the decision of the English Home Secretary in the Maybrick case. It is an executive replication of the compromise verdicts which have been rendered in this country. Either Mrs. Maybrick poisoned her husband and deserved hanging or she did not and deserves to be set at liberty. To imprison her for life for a crime which is not certainly proved is rather illogical. But we presume that she is much better pleased with that *non sequitur* than she would be with the strictly logical result of hanging her for the crime of which she was convicted.

PETITIONS are circulating in New York for the pardon of Buddenseik, the builder of tumble-down tenement houses. The pernicious practice of putting up houses that stand firm for more than twelve months, must be trenching upon the vested interests of the New York builders.

WE are pained to observe the denial of that story that New York's committee of twenty-six millionaires, whose united wealth is stated at five hundred million dollars, had raised $2,600 at their first meeting with regard to the Centennial. When it was permitted to suppose the statement true, there was a hope that New York would be able to raise the necessary funds to get ready for the fifth Columbian Centennial in 1992. But now that hope is dashed to the ground by the discovery that, according to the usual precedent of the New York millionaires, the committee didn't put up a cent.

GENERAL BOULANGER'S new manifesto addressed: "To the honest people," indicates that his late political reverses have convinced him of the necessity of cultivating relations with the class to which he and his supporters have been heretofore entire strangers.

THE Society of American Florists has voted to petition Congress to establish a floral school. We suppose that this will be for the purpose of securing a degree of technical education on the floral subject sufficient to enable the public to select the daisy as the national flower. The American florists themselves are daisies in the fresh and innocent sense.

THE blowing up of a large dynamite factory in Michigan will probably retard the reorganization of society on the Anarchistic plan. It will be necessary to reorganize the dynamite factory before the social reformation can go on.

WITH regard to that pension of Senator Manderson's, it was claimed some time ago that it was only just to wait and let the Senator declare himself concerning it. The Senator has declared himself to the effect that "It is none of anybody's business." This may be held to terminate further discussion of the subject—in the Senator's immediate circle.

THAT patch on the exploded brewery boiler comes to light in time to emphasize the theory that explosions of that sort do not generally happen without some negligence or recklessness to produce them.

THE suggestion that Manitoba will secede from Canada and join the United States because the French language is abolished as the official language of that province, may carry with it a question whether the United States wishes to incorporate a foreign language and foreign customs for the sake of an addition to its territory.

THERE may be a little doubt as to the details of the outcome of that Sullivan conviction, but it seems to be settled that there will be no more prize fights in the State of Mississippi.

MR. CLARKSON'S correction of the report that he had chopped off thirteen thousand political heads since he went into office, with the statement that the total is fifteen thousand, shows that the executive spoilsman of this administration does not propose to abate one jot or tittle from the glory of his guillotine.

THE buried and defunct sewer out in the Fifth avenue district affords a sufficient explanation of the typhoid fever in that locality.

THE announcement that Mr. Steve Brodie, of New York, is going to float over Niagara Falls, is opposed to the general sentiment of good sense as applied to such deeds: but this one might be tolerated as an exception in view of the fact that it affords a good prospect for getting rid of Stephen.

A Second Baseman Subdued.

From the Atlanta Constitution.]

A Pennsylvania woman has eloped with a second baseman. No umpire need fear that second baseman; he will be meek as a lamb hereafter.

THE TOPICAL TALKER.

An Instance of a Rich Man's Inability to Purchase What He Desired—Whistling and Telegraphy—Tent-Life in the East End.

"A rich man can get anything he desires," said a young man some months ago in the presence of a venerable divine, a leader in his church.

"You speak foolishly," said the clergyman, "and a few years' experience will show you that the rich are subjected to as many disappointments in life as the poor. I remember the case of a very wealthy Pittsburger which may serve somewhat to illustrate my meaning. It was a good many years ago and this wealthy member of my congregation had not been notable at all for his good works inside or outside the church. In fact I doubt whether he did anything for the church at all. Therefore when I heard of his illness I did not hasten to call upon him as I might have done had I had the least encouragement to do so. But he had not been long confined to his bed when he sent for me. I went to him at once. He was sitting in his bed, propped up with pillows, and the moment I caught sight of his face I knew that I was in the ante-chamber of death. I sat down beside him and tried to lead the conversation into devotional channels, but he impatiently waved his thin white hand and said: 'Doctor, I did not send for you to talk of anything but what I'd had on my mind ever since I fell sick. The doctors have told me I cannot live beyond a measurable time; it may be a few days or only a few hours. I've been thinking over my past life and it gives me little comfort. My life has been successful as far as the world goes, but I haven't a friend or a relation who will regret my going. I've been a very bad man. Nothing stopped my selfish will. You are a minister of the Gospel. Can you give me any hope?

"He looked beseechingly at me and to the best of my power I tried to bring peace to him then and there. But I could not conscientiously tell him that he had not been a very great sinner. Suddenly he interrupted me again and said: 'Doctor if I were to leave half my entire fortune to your church, would you promise me that I should recover from this illness and have time to seek God's forgiveness? I will draw up a will at once to that effect if you will promise me that.'"

"All I could tell him was that he might still seek forgiveness as did the thief on the cross at the last moment, but that no legacy of his to the church would induce me to promise him life or forgiveness. He was bitterly angry with me and I left him soon afterward. He died that same day. Whatever mercy he may obtain at the judgment day will not have been purchased with his money."

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WHEN the clergyman had concluded his story I asked him if the experience related therein was unique during his ministry.

"Yes, it is," said he; "no other millionaire has ever offered money to my church or to me for forgiveness or a new lease on life. The man I speak of was the worst rich man I have ever known."

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IF you do not wish to be the mark for everyone in the room to hurl movables at be careful not to enter the operating room of a telegraph office whistling. It is the one thing that a telegraph operator at work will not tolerate. The shrill sound from pursed lips mingles with the dot and dash signals of the sounder and is nearly certain to throw the operator out.

It is very amusing to see a fiery, untamed messenger boy stroll into the Western Union operating room whistling like a mocking bird. Every operator in the room stops work to hurl some verbal rock at the whistler. The reception has been known to abash a messenger boy on more than one occasion, marvelous to relate.

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AT the mature age of 7½ years, Willie, the light and joy of an East End household, resolved recently to acquire some camping experience. In the ample grounds about the house accordingly he erected a tent, and after embellishing its walls with all the kitchen implements that bore any resemblance to the tomahawks and bowie knives of the beloved Wild West, he spent the best of the day in and about it. This did not satisfy William, however. At supper one evening he announced his intention to spend the night in the tent. "All right," said his father, "but if you go out there you must stay out." So a bed was rigged up in the tent, and after sunset the 7-year-old hero bade a fond adieu to his parents and repaired to his couch in the back yard prairie. Nothing was heard of him until about 9 o'clock when one of the domestics, passing by the tent, heard a small voice exclaim within it: "Take me to my grandma's—I don't like this tent." The girl took the young desperado to his grandmother's house, which was not far distant. William would not go into his own home that night. He confessed, however, at breakfast that he had not spent the night under canvas.

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NOTHING daunted, a few days afterward, William again announced his intention to brave the perils of the back yard. The bed was made up again and William again took a tender farewell of his father and mother. They had perfidiously planned to make a descent upon the tent in the semblance of wild animals or Indians, and as soon as William had retired they set about to carry out the plot. This programme was spoilt, however, by the appearance of a gang of young hopefuls from the neighboring houses. There was a bucket of water with this party, and the discharge of this over the tent effectually dampened the ardor of William, who retired in light marching order to the house.

There is a vacant tent still in that East End back yard.

PEOPLE OF PROMINENCE.

THOMAS BRAWER PEACOCK, the poet of the West, is a young man full of enthusiasm. He has large dark eyes, which seem to be looking into the future as far as possible.

JOHN H. INMAN, the cotton king of New York, came out of the Confederate army a ragged, penniless boy, and reached New York 1865, with a few dollars in his pocket, and no friends. He is now worth $10,000,000.

ERNEST RENAN, the author of the "Life of Jesus," is a small man, thick set and clumsy, and he looks as if he liked the good things of this earth. His face is round, and would be coarse were it not for the noble brow and fine eyes.

MARK TWAIN asks from $500 to $1,000 for a story or sketch and he gets what he asks. Frank Stockton's price for 3,000 words is $250. T. B. Aldrich charges $300 for a few verses. Richard M. Johnston received $500 for a story recently published in *Harper's Magazine*.

MISS KATE FIELD, so far from regretting her want of personal beauty, has a sublime contempt for a woman whose only recommendation is a pretty face. Certainly, the most brilliant women have not been the most beautiful: Madame De Stael, Lady Morgan, George Eliot, for instance.

MRS. HARRIET BEECHER STOWE once visited Edinburgh, where she was invited to dinner by William Chambers, the dull but pompous publisher of *Chambers' Journal*, of which he was excessively vain. Mrs. Stowe accidentally mentioned that she believed he published a journal of some kind, but she really forgot its name. Mr. Chambers was speechless with astonishment.

WILLIAM M. EVARTS is described as tall, slender, lantern-jawed, lean and somewhat awkward. He dresses slovenly, with a collar rolled, not turned, over his neckcloth. But, in spite of all these personal disadvantages, no Senator is listened to with more attention. In fact, he is one of the few speakers whose eloquence recalls the palmy days of the Senate, when Clay, Webster, Calhoun, Benton were the leaders of their parties.

EDWARD L. BURLINGAME, the editor of *Scribner's Magazine*, is unknown in literature. He is the son of Anson Burlingame, who, after acting as United States Minister to China, returned to this country as Chinese Minister to the United States. The son is a man about 45 years old. He wears a long beard, and has soft, insinuating manners. His voice and language are carefully studied. He was the literary adviser of the Scribner Publishing House before the magazine was started.

An Exchange of Editorial Courtesies.

From the Chicago Tribune.]

Under the head of "Slightly Personal" the editor of the Hutchinson (Kan.) *News* speaks of "a miserable, lying whelp by the name of Inman, who represents a jimcrow two-by-four plate sheet called the Kansas City *News*." When the Hutchinson editor becomes fully aroused and breaks out in a vein more decidedly personal some strong language may be expected.

MASTER AND SLAVE.

A Touching Story of the Days of Slavery in the South—How Black George Proved the Best Friend of His Former Owner.

[WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.]

The records of the old church at Bath, N. C., show that "George Hampden was born the 30th of March, 1825, only child of Dr. George Hampden and Mary Frances, his wife." The old doctor at that time was one of the wealthy slave owners of the South, possessing several plantations, droves of horses and mules, and other property, real and personal, that went along to make him independent and rich.

The same day and hour that his son George was born, one of his slave women gave birth to a boy child, and the doctor and his good wife, struck with the singular coincidence of the two births, decided to name the little negro George also, and especially decree him, should both live, to the service of his baby master. The two boys grew and waxed strong; and from the time they were large enough to run about, until "Marse George" was old enough to send to college, were almost inseparable companions. They played together in the fields and groves, swam and boated together in the river. Black George was allowed one of his young master's fowling pieces and together they hunted wild turkeys, squirrel and quail. Together they "broke in" the young steers and colts, and each had a swift nag when following the hounds.

A Good and Faithful Servant.

It was black George's duty to wait in his young master's room, bring water, brush his clothes and polish his boots. And these services were rendered faithfully and willingly, for the boys were friends. White George taught black George to read and write, shared his sweetmeats with him, and fought for him when in any difficulty with other boys. When the time came for the young master to start for college there was genuine sorrow expressed at the separation. During the four years at college many letters were exchanged between them, and after the young doctor returned home and settled down to his profession, black George was again his faithful body servant.

Along in the fifties the old doctor and his good wife died, leaving the young doctor sole heir to their large estate. Their grand old mansion was now occupied only by the young doctor and the servants; but everyone supposed he would soon marry from sheer loneliness. In this, however, they were mistaken, for when the war broke out between the States Dr. Hampden was still a bachelor. The services of black George in the meantime had been transferred to the plantations, where he was chief overseer. Again he proved as trusty and faithful as in his former duties; and under his supervision the number of bales of cotton increased year by year, while new barns had to be built to hold the grain.

A Soldier's Misfortunes.

When the war broke out Dr. Hampden cast his fortunes with the Confederacy, not only volunteering himself, but contributing largely of his means to the cause. Black George was left in charge of the property with instructions to forward all surplus supplies to the army as fast as accumulated. This duty he performed faithfully until the Federal forces came in possession of that section of the country. Everything belonging to the rebel doctor fell into their hands, and of course was appropriated by them. The darkeys left the plantation and sought freedom with the Union soldiers. Black George alone remained and endeavored to reclaim the wasted property, but war's devastation was too complete. He did well to subsist himself.

The four years' service in the army completely undermined Dr. Hampden's constitution, and he returned home a physical as well as a financial wreck. A few years before the war he had stood security in a large amount for a wealthy neighbor, now this money had to be paid, and it took every foot of real estate belonging to Dr. Hampden to settle it.

Black George's Devotion.

Black George was no longer a slave, but it was now he proved himself still a friend to his former owner and companion of his youth. He was strong and able to work, while his former young master was very feeble, and could live but a short while. He rented a comfortable cottage, to which he moved the invalid physician and hired a competent nurse for him—toiling in the fields for their support. Tenderly he watched the patient day by day, and often spent whole nights at his bedside. When the end came, he personally superintended the interment and defrayed the expenses out of his own pocket. A few years afterward he had a suitable monument erected to his memory. To the inscription it bore should have been added the words, "Erected by Black George."

W. COTTEN DOWNING.

A STRANGE CELEBRATION.

Mexicans Commemorate the Anniversary of the Torture of the Emperor.

MEXICO, August 23.—At the statue of Cuauhtemoc, in the Paso de la Reforma this morning one of the strangest celebrations that it is possible to see in this city, took place under the direction of the Municipal Council. It was the 368th anniversary of the torture of Cuauhtemoc by the Spanish conquerors, who hoped to make the last Aztec Emperor divulge the hiding place of the treasure of the Empire.

On the north and south sides of the statue two perfect Aztec temples had been erected, and at 9 o'clock, before one of the largest concourses of people ever gathered in the paso, President Diaz and four members of his Cabinet arranged to enter the southern edifice to the music of the national anthem. For fully a quarter of a mile along the route the President traversed before entering the temple the broad avenue was lined with soldiers two deep. There were 12 bands present, and civic societies and deputations without number from suburban towns. The exercises consisted of addresses, music and reading of poems. One of the orators was Governor Prospero Casavantes, of Tlaxcala, who delivered a speech in the nasual or Aztec language.

At the conclusion of the municipal programme President Diaz placed a wreath of roses upon the statue. This was the signal for others to do so, and the base was within ten minutes buried under garlands representing the varied flowers of the valley and a value in the United States of thousands of dollars. Natives dressed in the attire of Aztecs danced about the monument, and the Indians, who were present in thousands, played upon strange instruments and kept up the festivals of three centuries ago, reminding one of the "feast of flowers," so beautifully described by Prescott.

HIS MAJESTY EDISON.

How a Parisian Cotemporary Speaks of the Great Inventor.

From the New York Tribune.]

"La 'Majeste' Edison." It is in this fashion, and with large, black capitals, that the Paris *Figaro* announces the arrival of Edison at the Exposition. *Figaro* is right. The young American is a king in the world of invention, and his doings are vastly better worth three columns of description than the comings and goings of some well-descended stupidity, who was kind enough to give himself the trouble to be born, as the other *Figaro* says in the play.

Edison has won his empire by force of his genius, and without the aid of a scientific education or any of the advantages so often enjoyed by even poor lads in this age. The extrainboy and telegraph operator deserves all the honors Paris can give him. All hail to His Majesty Edison!

Sew Up the Hip Pocket.

From the Mobile Register.]

That a man is a man of honor is shown by his life, by his actions, by the evidence he gives of character and principle—not by his willingness to make an animated target of himself on any and every occasion. Of course, there are a number of really honorable men in the South and West who are ready to use the pistol if they think they are insulted, but this class will grow less as the years roll on. As the South and West grow older the influence of the modes of thought and habits of those who first settled them will greatly decrease.

Fostering Egotism.

From the Punxsutawney Spirit.]

Young men keep up their self-esteem by thinking about the great things they will do when they grow old. Old men keep theirs up by lying about what they did do when they were young. Thus mankind are always full of egotism.

His Invariable Practice.

From the Boston Herald.]

The statement that Jay Gould churns his own butter deserves to be supplemented with the information that he usually puts it on his side of the bread.

MANAGER MUTRIE'S SONG.

From the New York World.]

Just a little confidence,
Just a little gall;
Just a little stick work
On the little ball;
Just a few more hitlets
Just inside the flag;
And by next October
We'll have the silken rag.

MATTERS METROPOLITAN.

Lost His Entire Stock in Trade.

[NEW YORK BUREAU SPECIALS.]

NEW YORK, August 23.—When John McDermott, a Harlem milkman, went to his stables early this morning, he found the roof of the cowsheds all ablaze. After turning on the fire alarm he tried to drive his three horses and 13 cows outside. All but two were so scared that they would not budge an inch and were burned to death in their stalls. The two cows which were driven from the sheds were so badly burned that they had to be shot.

Too Much for the Justice.

The case of Annie Brown against John G. Johnson, a physician 60 years of age, with an income of $30,000 a year, was opened to-day in a Brooklyn police court. Miss Brown, a slender, blonde young woman with classical features, claimed through her counsel that Dr. Johnson became too intimate with her while she was his amanuensis, some months ago. When called to the bar she cried so hard that she could not answer the Justice's questions. She recovered quickly, however, when Dr. Johnson excitedly called her a blackmailer and liar, and hysterically denounced him as a brute. She had hardly been quieted before her lawyer and Dr. Johnson turned the courtroom topsy-turvy by shouting names at each other and threatening to fight. Eventually the Justice adjourned the case to prevent bloodshed, after advising Dr. Johnson to engage a lawyer with some self-control.

Lost Her Money and Lover.

Three months ago Bessie Rubenstein, a young servant girl, agreed to pay Charles Feldman $100 for getting her a husband. Feldman introduced to her David Rubenstein. She asked Rubenstein to marry her, he promised to do so, and she paid Feldman the $100. The day after getting the money the two men went to Europe in the steerage. To-day Feldman returned without money and without Rubenstein, who had decided to remain in the old country. To-day Bessie had Feldman arrested for obtaining her money by false pretenses.

Canada to Remain Canada.

Sir Alexander Galt, of Montreal, formerly a member of the Canadian Government, and still active in Canadian politics, was at the Gilsey House to-day. He thinks the Behring Sea question comparatively unimportant, and likely to cut only a small figure in American international negotiations. He believes that Uncle Sam should not meddle with matters of international transportation, but should let the shortest and cheapest routes grab all the business. He regards commercial union as only another name for annexation, and is confident that Canada will remain Canada till the end of the world.

Nearly Crazed by Desertion.

Mrs. Emma Riviero, with her four little girls, deserted Mr. Riviero three years ago to live with the Rev. T. Edward Falconer, a street preacher here. Rev. Falconer, three days ago, threatened to desert her if she would not relieve him of supporting her three children by sending them to an orphans' home. She refused and he left her penniless. She begged enough money to get drunk with, went to the corner on which he was preaching and tried to hit him. She was sent to the Island this morning, and her children were given into the care of a charitable society.

WANTED A GHOST ARRESTED.

Singular Request Made by a Brooklyn Woman at a Police Station.

BROOKLYN, August 23.—On Wednesday Mrs. Gustave Engle, of 832 Manjer street, rushed wildly into the Sixth precinct station house and told Sergeant Kitzer that she wanted an officer sent around to her house to arrest the ghost of her husband. The sergeant finally got her calmed down sufficiently to relate the following story: "I was engaged in my household duties, when a man entered and spoke to me. I turned and screamed. The man was my husband, who committed suicide last June." The ex-corpse took a chair and looked admiringly around the room. "Why are you here?" Mrs. Engle cried. "I buried you two months ago. For heaven's sake, get out of here." Engle smilingly declined to leave, and his wife rushed out for assistance. She was told at the police station that the police could do nothing for her, that they could not arrest her husband for his apparent resurrection.

It appears that "the ghost" disappeared from his home on June 27, leaving his wife and four children behind. Previous to his disappearance he had been out of work for sometime, and had been feeling despondent. On June 30 the body of a drowned man was found in Newtown creek. The remains were removed to the morgue, and Mrs. Engle sent for to identify the corpse. She was sure it was the body of her husband. An inquest was held and a verdict of suicide rendered. The bereaved "widow" had the remains properly buried. At the time Engle disappeared his life was insured in the Prudential Life Insurance Company for $250, which was promptly paid to the widow. Mrs. Engle is still undecided whether to receive her husband back with open arms or not.

A QUEER CHINESE LOTTERY.

Novel Plan of Betting on Winning Candidates in Examination.

From the London Times.]

The most famous of the many lotteries in China at the present time is that known as the Weising. It is of recent origin, is most popular in Southern China and among the Cantonese, and is briefly described by the Consul at Canton in his last report on the trade of that place. After describing the great college establishment by the Viceroy for the encouragement of the study of native literature, with its 100 acres of ground in the city, surrounded by high walls and a moat, its lecture rooms, residences and endowments, Mr. Alabaster observes that, although Canton is not a literary city, there is no want of opportunities of education. Colleges abound, and any boy who shows ability has no difficulty in obtaining teaching and support as long as there is hope of success in the examinations, which in China take the place of the race course elsewhere.

Gambling, in the shape of lotteries on the successful candidates, is licensed, and in place of putting money on the Derby the Cantonese satisfy their taste for speculation by backing favorite students. The lists of those entering are published, and the man who can prick on the list of entries the greatest number of successful scholars wins the lottery. Men ruin themselves buying lottery tickets; tickets are forged or stolen; promising students are hocussed or bribed not to put out their powers; examiners are, it is hinted, exposed to serious temptations; but as racing encourages the breed of horses, so the Weising lottery encourages the pursuit of learning and furnishes the local government with a considerable revenue in the amount given for the monopoly of carrying it on.

TRI-STATE TRIFLES.

ON the farm of Charles Jones, in German township, Fayette county, is an apple tree which measures 6 inches above the ground, 11 feet 11 inches in circumference; 3 feet from the ground, the smallest place in the tree, it measured 10 feet 3 inches in circumference. The first limb on the tree measured 6 feet 5 inches in circumference. The land upon which the tree stands was patented to Michael Franks in 1784, and the tree was probably planted by him. It is vigorous still, and yearly bears apples, which are not, however, of a desirable variety.

MEYERSDALE *Commercial:* 70,000 trout were put into Laurel Hill creek last week by James Long, of Pittsburg. About one-fifth of them are Loch Leven, Scotland, trout, the first of the species ever put in a Pennsylvania stream.

A MONKEY at the Philadelphia Zoo tore the blue tulle off a lady's hat, wrapped in around its stomach as a sash, and then sat posing languidly upon its perch, unconscious of the ridiculous figure.

A PASSENGER on a palace car running out of Columbus was getting off at a station on crutches, forgetting his wooden leg, when a thoughtful porter chased him with the limb, and earned a piece of silver.

ISAAC GARMAN, of Greble, Lebanon county, while cutting an old stump, found among the rotten wood and earth $52 in gold and silver coin.

A LEADING physician of Columbia, while hunting plover near Mount Joy a couple of days since, put down his gun to pick his teeth, and in the act it was accidently discharged, blowing the rim off his hat and tinting his brow with powder.

AN Ohio man makes his living by causing the arrest of peddlers who can show no license. When he is arrested in turn, in the hope of compelling him to refund, he takes the benefit of the insolvency law.

CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

—Thomas B. Moss has just resigned the Principalship of the Meson, Ga., Academy, a position he has held for 41 years.

—At a picnic at Mt. Gretna a baseball nine composed of clergymen played two games against the Germania club. Each club won a game.

—Jules Verne's celebrated traveler who was supposed to go around the world in 80 days a few years ago, is now beaten out of sight. A letter makes the trip, via Vancouver, in 69 days, everything favorable.

—A physician of Philadelphia has learned that it is prudent to heed a warning given him by his coachman. This physician, Dr. J. C. Guernsey, insisted upon driving a fractious horse and thus disregarded the suggestions of his coachman. The horse ran away and the coachman was thrown out of the carriage, and his skull was fractured and one of his legs was twice broken. Now the coachman sues the doctor, putting his damages at $10,000.

—Ancient Pemaquid, the objective point of the Maine Historical Society's excursion the other day, is acknowledged to be the most interesting locality connected with the early history of this continent, its paved streets and other relics ante-dating the discovery of Columbus by hundreds of years. Gosnold visited it also in 1601 and De Ments in 1605, and settlements are spoken of as existing at that time in the vicinity. In 1664 Charles II. granted the territory to the Duke of York; a government was established and a fort built.

—Mr. A. J. Holland, of Jackson county, and Miss Ida Young, of Hall county, both deaf mutes and graduates of the State academy for the deaf and dumb, eloped and were married in Gainesville, Ga. Parental objections necessitated this step. The magistrate submitted the questions in writing and received the responses in the same way, after which he handed them a piece of paper upon which was written: "Whereas, each of you has agreed to live together in the holy state of matrimony, I pronounce you man and wife." This same was repeated orally to the witnesses.

—A beggar was sitting in a New York street, holding out a battered hat. The following placard was hung about his neck: Please, good people, help a poor blind man, who was once rich, but who has been reduced from affluence to poverty. You will never regret it. Presently along came a pleasant-faced man with a sharp, shrewd eye. He looked at the poor old beggar curiously for a moment, and then suddenly drew back his arm as though to strike him a blow in the face. The movement was only a feint, but it served the purpose. The beggar jumped backward about a yard and started on a run up the avenue, winding his way in and out among the passing vehicles with wonderful skill for a blind man.

—For miles southeast of Villanow, Ga., on the west slope of John's Mountain, on land owned by William Roper, occurred a strange disturbance of nature. It was confined to a strip of land running east and west, and being 250 yards in length and between 30 and 50 yards in width. On that limited area the ground shows the mark of some mighty convulsion. Stumps were forced asunder, rocks were split and huge roots torn in twain. Fissures run in every direction. Accompanying the disturbance was an evident upheaval. As it passed at the east end the ground settled back below the original level, while at the west end it was left raised.

—M. Schrieber, of Sanford, Fla., is unfortunate in having snakes around his house. Recently he killed one in his bedroom, and a few nights ago, just before day, he awoke and felt something cold and clammy lying across his feet. Not knowing what the objectionable article or creature