The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, FRIDAY, AUG. 8, 1890.

THE DISPATCH FOR THE SUMMER.

Persons leaving the City for the summer can have THE DISPATCH *forwarded by earliest mail to any address at the rate of 90 cents per month, or $2 50 for three months. Sunday edition included. Daily edition only, 70c per month, $2 for three months. The address may be changed as desired, if care be taken in all cases to mention both old and new address.*

THE COUNTY'S PROSPERITY.

Allegheny County is troubled with too much money. Her embarrassment is unique. On a valuation of over two hundred and sixty-eight millions the county tax of three mills yields over eight hundred thousand dollars. The County Commissioners have discovered, however, that a two mill tax will produce sufficient revenue to pay the county's running expenses and provide for the sinking fund to meet the bonded indebtedness. Probably the county tax will be two mills on the dollar next year.

Commissioner Mercer points out that the millage could be still further reduced if the assessments were made upon full valuation of property. At present the taxables of the county are set at about two hundred and fifty millions, whereas five or six hundred millions would be nearer the correct figure. THE DISPATCH agrees with Mr. Mercer that the under-valuation of property is not wise. It is among the circumstances that keep Allegheny county—which is another name for Pittsburg—from taking her proper place before the world. At the same time there is much comfort in the excellent showing made of Allegheny county's finances. It is worth remembering also that we owe a great deal of this favorable condition of affairs to the honest and able Commissioners of the county.

THE HARVEST PROSPECTS.

The drought has done considerable damage to the crops in the Western States. Reports from Kansas and Illinois are especially gloomy. In Kansas where, one month ago, the prospects of the corn crop were stated to be 90 per cent, are now reported at but 33 per cent of an average crop. The month of July was the hottest Kansas has known for twenty years. Out of the 102 counties in Illinois only four fail to complain of the lack of precipitation and its damaging effect on the growing crops. The effect on corn can be estimated from the following conditions given for August 1, as compared with an average: In the Northern division the condition is reported at 68, in the Central at 79, and in the Southern at 54—making the State average about 67. These facts and figures correspond in a great measure with those of other corn producing States.

In Kansas, however, the yield of wheat is found to be better than was expected. Thirty to forty bushels per acre are reported, testing 62 to 65 pounds per bushel. The aggregate wheat product will be about 23,000,000 bushels. The flax area has been greatly increased, and the crop is very good. The oats crop, although short, is yielding better than was expected—a yield from 40 to 70 per acre is reported from a number of counties.

The wheat harvest in Illinois is not so satisfactory as that in Kansas. The acreage of wheat harvested was about 1,300,000, and the total yield 14,560,000 bushels. The estimated area seeded to oats is 3,250,000 acres; the average yield per acre for the State is 18 bushels, making a total yield of 58,500,000 bushels as compared with 142,000,000 bushels last year. The weather has changed for the better since these figures were obtained, and the final returns of the wheat and corn harvest may prove more favorable than the partial reports would indicate.

INVITE SOUTH AMERICA!

The managers of the Chicago Exposition will do well to follow the advice of Mr. A. M. Gibson, who writes from Brazil suggesting that the World's Fair should be thoroughly advertised throughout South America as soon as possible. The probable establishment of a fast line of steamships direct between New York and Rio De Janeiro, under the rapid and frequent ocean mail service to be granted by Congress, in accordance with the recommendations of the Pan-American Conference, will, he says, enable the Brazilians to visit the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago with comfort and at a very great saving of time, and that he doubts not the opportunity will be embraced by large numbers.

He urges the advisibility of the Columbian Exposition people taking immediate steps looking to the spreading of information among the people of his country regarding the attractions which Chicago will afford visitors, and make known to them the routes of travel between the Eastern seaboard and the Western metropolis and the wonders to be seen en route, and that it is of the first importance that the Government of Brazil should be spurred to a realization of the necessity that it make at Chicago a display commensurate with the great advantages Brazil and the Brazilian people will derive therefrom; that his familiarity with all great world expositions enables him to say that Brazil has never made a display in any sense worthy of its wonderful and vast resources. But now that recent occurrences have awakened there special sentiment toward the United States advantage should be taken thereof promptly to set in motion the proper agencies for securing a grand display by the Brazilians at our World's Columbian Exposition. Mr. Gibson says that to do this, it will be essential that the Brazilian press should be enlisted and the public there roused to a proper degree of enthusiasm; that the official initiative by our Government, through the State Department, ought to be anticipated.

If Mr. Gibson's advice is acted upon we have no doubt that it will inure greatly to the success of the World's Fair at Chicago in the first place, and, what is far more important, that the development of our South American trade will be greatly stimulated thereby.

KEMMLER'S EXECTUION.

The execution of Kemmler, as far as the facts are known, was a good deal more humane than the average hanging. It has suited some people to represent the first execution by electricity in the worst light, to claim that Kemmler was done to death in a cruel and indecent manner. The evidence of the eye witnesses does not bear out this assertion. Capital punishment can never be made agreeable to principals or witnesses. The taking of human life, no matter how justly, is a solemn and dreadful thing. A great many persons are unable honestly to approve of the death penalty in any shape, and we respect their scruples. But it is folly to condemn the killing of Kemmler in a few seconds by electricity as inhuman or barbarous, compared with the torture, often long-drawn-out, of strangulation.

It does appear, however, that considering the time and pains spent upon the preparation of the apparatus of death the execution of Kemmler was carried out in a careless way. If electricity is continued in this service, the apparatus should be made perfect and a skilled electrician should be employed as a State executioner. Under these conditions electrical killing is clearly the most humane and decent form capital punishment can take.

THE TORY TRUMPS.

It is quite evident from Lord Salisbury's recent utterances and more particularly from his speech at the banquet given by the Lord Mayor of London—an occasion which is now usually chosen for the announcement of the Ministry's programme—that he is relying upon his foreign policy to retrieve the waning fortunes of the Tory party. The domestic policy of the English Government has been such a lamentable failure at all points, a policy of backing and filling and trimming and turning, that under any circumstances Lord Salisbury would have political justification for preferring his foreign policy as a platform upon which to appeal to the country. Candidly it must be admitted that Lord Salisbury has displayed remarkable ability in his negotiations with Germany as to Africa. The solution of what promised to be a troubled question for a generation by the cession of an island of no earthly use to England and a concession of colonizing privileges that Germany already possessed in point of fact, is an achievement of which the Tory Premier may rightly be proud. The paucity of hostile criticism in and outside Parliament is the best evidence that the foreign policy of the Tory Government is generally popular. It is the strong card in Lord Salisbury's hand, and he means to play it to the best advantage.

The signs are plain that Ireland is certain to secure home rule no matter which party triumphs, some time in the next ten years. If Lord Salisbury had not drawn such a strong hand of foreign trumps he might be expected to lead with home rule for Ireland in this the last game of the rubber. A few years ago home rule seemed to depend upon the life and strength of its greatest advocate, Mr. Gladstone. But the logic of events, assisted by the campaign of education pursued by the Liberal party in England, has altered the situation. Home rule will be granted to Ireland before long whether Mr. Gladstone lives or not. It will come quickest of course if the Liberal party wins at next year's general election, but it will come in due time in any event. The issues upon which the general election will be fought are not yet fully in sight. The triumphs of British diplomacy in Equatorial Africa are certain to form a large part of the Tories' claims for retention in power. If fortune should favor Lord Salisbury again in the settlement of the Newfoundland and Egyptian question with France, it may be that the glamour of victories abroad may hide the muddles and mistakes of the Ministry at home, and persuade the uncertain British voter to continue the Tories in office. This is a possibility which the history of Parliamentary Government in England reminds us is worth considering. It would be a misfortune to Great Britain beyond a doubt; a set-back to the Democratic forces at work there, and so a blow to the cause of freedom and progress everywhere. Mr. Gladstone and his lieutenants know full well how the traps are being baited for the British voter, they have seen the seductive foreign policy scheme worked before. They may be relied upon to keep the vital issues of the hour before the people, and upon those issues the Liberal party and Home Rule for Ireland ought to win.

THE Federal election bill was yesterday placed upon the calendar of the Senate. The bill as reported has been deprived of some of its offensive features in the letter, but the spirit of the measure is unchanged.

THE humor of Bob Burdette is equaled only by his modesty. In a reply to Bishop Porter's assertion that the grand old lecturers of the day when there were giants on the platform have given place to the "end men," Burdette shows that in the Boston Lyceum Bureau, the oldest in the country, there is but one name bracketed "humorous," namely, that of Mr. Burdette himself; "and that one is not very funny, either," to use Burdette's own words.

THE Argentine Government believes in homeopathy. The country is suffering from reckless inflation of the currency and the Government proposes issuing $50,000,000 of paper money as a remedy.

THE Census Office at Washington must be at once a delightful and a dangerous place for a man to enter, according to a correspondent of the Philadelphia *Record*. He says that Census Superintendent Porter has selected a thousand pretty girls, and none but pretty girls for his office. The Census Office, therefore, certainly is a thing of beauty, even if the the census is not likely to be a joy for a little while.

SENATOR PLUMB, of Kansas, is having a delightful race through Senatorial pastures, but it will be strange if he is not made to pay dearly for his contempt of party discipline.

CHICAGO'S claims to be the second city in the Union are confirmed by the latest returns of the census. The gain in population in ten years was over half a million or more than one hundred per cent. The chances are that in 1900 Chicago, having annexed the small residue of Illinois now beyond her borders, will make a bold stagger for first place. New York will have to hustle to hold the lead.

THE Patriarchs Militant in convention at Chicago seem to be living up to their name. But though they are Odd Fellows it is not necessary for them to be at odds.

A REPORTER who is on intimate terms with Queen Victoria and her fiery young grandson, Emperor William, states that the latter has received an anonymous letter warning him not to visit the Czar of Russia. Queen Victoria is said to be sadly alarmed about the matter—but whether it is lest Emperor William should go or lest he should not, the confidential reporter does not say.

ELECTRICITY killed Kemmler in a few seconds, and there are some indications that it administered a death blow to capital punishment at the same moment.

A SANGUINE citizen of the Argengine Republic commenting upon the forced resignation of President Celman yesterday said: "The Argentine Republic is now secure. It will not have a goverment of robbers." With all due respect to the sanguine citizen it appears that the Republic has only as yet shown a desire to change robbers.

TAKING the census in Alaska is no joke. The chief difficulty encountered by the enumerators is not in counting the inhabitants, but in finding Alaskans to count.

THE story that the Hon. Chauncey F. Black contemplated withdrawing from the Democratic ticket was flatly denied by State Chairman Kerr yesterday. The denial was hardly needed; the Democracy of Mr. Black is not of the sort that countenances a movement to the rear in the heat of the battle.

OPEN letters are a sort of political can opener. But there are some cans that refuse to be opened.

THE River and Harbor bill will have to wait till the Tariff bill has been passed in the Senate. The Senate came to this decision yesterday, and it is certainly the wisest course. The sooner the Tariff bill debate is ended the better, and until it is over other legislation can well wait.

DEMOCRATIC gains in Alabama are so large that difficulty is found in counting them.

THE Allegheny Councilmen who adopted the lofty light tower system because it appeared to be just the thing for Detroit are finding out their mistake somewhat late in the day. More lights upon the streets and fewer among the clouds are desirable.

PERSONAL MENTION.

VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. LEVI P. MORTON have left their country place at Rhinebeck for a visit to friends in Newport.

"IT may come to that pass," says the New York *World*, "where Chicago will have to accept the services of Speaker Reed as director general of the fair."

JAMES FRAISER was excused from jury duty at Philadelphia the other day on the ground that he was over 75 years of age and had shaken hands with Lafayette.

LADY CHURCHILL, formerly Miss Jennie Jerome, of New York, wife of Lord Randolph Churchill, has given birth to a son, the third since her marriage in 1874.

DR. WATSON L. PHILLIPS, of the First Methodist Church, Wilkesbarre, Pa., has accepted a call to the Church of the Redeemer (Congregational), at New Haven, Conn.

DR. GUISEPPE SCARLATA, Acting Vice Consul of Italy at Baltimore, has received orders to close his office in that city, its business to be hereafter conducted by the consulate at Philadelphia.

SIR JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE, the English Minister at Washington, and Lady Pauncefote, who are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Wilson, are being handsomely entertained, and they are delighted with Newport.

MR. AND MRS. ANTOINE DE NAVARRO, nee Miss Mary Anderson, and Mrs. Jose de Navarro, Mr. de Navarro's mother, are at present at Dinard, where they will remain for a short time, and then proceed to St. Malo.

SENATOR DAVIS, of Minnesota, was formerly an expert telegraph operator and was for a long time employed in the office at Waukesha. Senator Davis was one of the first four men in the country to read telegraphy by sound.

MR. ROBERT MCCORMICK, Secretary to Mr. Robert Lincoln, Minister to England, is the guest of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Medill, at Bar Harbor. Mr. McCormick will return to England in a few weeks. His mother is at present in London.

SENATOR GORMAN is said to be the handsomest man in the United States Senate. He is a Presbyterian, and one of the few members of the Upper House who pay sufficient respect to the chaplain's prayer to be present when it is uttered. He has been nicknamed "Cardinal."

Best Humorous Hit of the Season.

Mr. W. R. Johns, the veteran journalist of the oil country, says of R. W. Criswell's humorous poem, "McCance," published in THE DISPATCH last Sunday: "The verses were most opportune, and I consider 'McCance' by all odds the best humorous hit of the season."

KEMMLER'S ELECTRIC EXECUTION.

ERIE *Dispatch*: The execution was a success from a legal point of view. Death was undoubtedly painless, if not instantaneous.

CLEVELAND *Plain Dealer*: The first execution by electricity cannot be called a success. It was demonstrated beyond question that death was not instantaneous.

CLEVELAND *Leader*: The fact seems to be clear that the method employed in putting Kemmler to death is less painful and uncertain than hanging and much quicker in its operation.

CHICAGO *Mail*: Sentiment's mercy has at last been put into effect and Kemmler is dead. The sufferings of the man are partially made known through the dispatches. A horrible death—one to cry out for the ax, or the rope, or the file of soldiers. Sentiment stands convicted not of evil purpose but of a blunder.

SYRACUSE *Herald*: If the apparatus was in fault, the failure to produce death instantly is one that can be remedied. Moreover, was the mode of death, even if terrible in appearance as it occurred, to be compared for an instant to the torture of the victim of a bungling hangman? It will not do to condemn the new method in an instant. Let it be fairly tried.

PHILADELPHIA *Times*: Making all allowance for error, exaggeration or sensationalism, it is impossible to draw any other conclusion from the dispatches from Auburn than that electricity, as a swift, painless and humane mode of putting a man to death, is a failure. Kemmler was killed, unquestionably. But hanging is a refined and gentle mode of death compared with this horrible process.

PHILADELPHIA *Public Ledger*: Kemmler died in less time after the first application of the current than he would have died if he had been hanged; he was more certainly unconscious from the first moment of the application of the current than a hanged man is when when he falls to the end of a rope; he, therefore, suffered less, and he was no more disfigured than hanged men very often are.

NEW YORK *Evening World*: The subtle fires which roasted Lineman Feeks have at last broiled the wretched Kemmler to extinction. The acrid, sickening stench of burning flesh smites the nostrils of the lookers-on. A thin gray smoke curls about the rigid head. Yes; the current has won. This is unconditional surrender. The smoking tenement tells of the evicted soul. Kemmler is dead! It was a ghastly revolting torture.

NEW YORK *Evening Star*: At last the world knows what judicial execution by electricity is. The first experiment is sufficiently horrible. Of course, the failure of the attempt to kill instantaneously in this case does not prove that a man cannot be instantaneously killed by electricity. It proves no more than that in this case somebody blundered. So hangmen have blundered. But the public judgment will probably be unanimous that further electrical experiments in this direction ought not to be made on human subjects.

PHILADELPHIA *Times*: If Kemmler could have been first hanged and afterward "electrocuted," and could have been so far raised from the dead on each occasion as to be able to describe his sensations during the process of killing, we should have something tangible on which to base an opinion of the comparative ease of dissolution by strangulation or shock. But as Kemmler cannot testify, the better plan is to await the autopsy and the inevitable discussion of the doctors and scientists. There does not seem to be any doubt that Kemmler was effectually killed. All else is speculation.

NEW YORK *Telegram*: The first execution of a capital sentence by electricity took place this morning at Auburn—the first not only in New York, but in the world. It was a failure. Not that Kemmler is not dead; but that the method is shown to be a cruel one. There were two attempts before the victim of the law's vengeance was dead. The first attempt being a failure, the execution was a failure, the method is a failure.

AMERICA ABROAD.

The Dead Level of Equality in This Country—Fondness of Our People for Titles—Lord Rosebery's Portrait of Washington—Yankees Abroad.

AMERICAN life shows undercurrents of reaction. The main bulk of the national existence is a mass of fairly prosperous people placed on a dead level of legal equality, with institutions more or less democratic. Now we hear that some ladies of the States have entered upon the delicate task of forming a club to be known as "The Colonial Dames of America." Its objects are "to promote patriotism and to conserve aristocracy," and the only eligible candidates will be those who can show more than a century of ancestors. Each member will be required to prove her descent from persons of English race settled in America before the Declaration of Independence who then filled recognized social positions. This outcome of what everybody knew was a characteristic trait of our kin beyond the seas is rather unexpected. We were aware of their fondness for tracing their blood to old English families; it was an interesting touch of nature, tending to bridge the Atlantic and to bring together the several sections of the race. The greatest number of applications to the English Heralds' College for pedigrees, arms, mottoes and crests are, it is said, from American citizens. It must be gratifying to the ladies belonging to a successful speculator in silver, oil, or pork, to find that in the far past their ancestors wore armor as knights, or "bore without abuse the grand old name of gentleman."

The old castles of England have also a fascination for Americans, says the *Illustrated News of the World*, despite the remark of the Yankee who referred to them as "certainly handsome, but rather out of repair." Will not, however, these retrospective women of the States experience a trouble in sifting the claims of the fair candidates? In the time of Louis Quatorze it was easy for the officials at Versailles to ascertain the "sixteen quarterings" necessary for all presented at Court. Yet when the Bourbons returned the attempt of Louis XVIII. to purge his Peerage utterly broke down. He issued an order that there should be an investigation into all the titles of nobility then used throughout the land; but his political advisers told him that the carrying out of the task would alienate some of the wealthiest and most ardent Legitimist bankers, merchants and manufacturers, whose grandfathers or fathers had unlawfully taken titles, or who had assumed them themselves. Consequently the attempt to draw up a list of the real nobility was given up; and to this day there is no authority to decide in France whether a title was conferred by a King or assumed a generation or two ago by some aspiring parvenu. Will the Colonial dames succeed where a Sovereign of France utterly failed?

The American Colonel.

AMERICA has no orders or decorations, no titles, personal or hereditary, nothing to distinguish the son of a President or a Senator from the son of a shoemaker. In revenge, however, the people cling desperately to anything that varies the monotony of the "Mister" so indiscriminately applied. It was Max O'Rell who said that "the population of the United States consists of over 60,000,000 of people—mostly Colonels." They certainly are sufficiently numerous to justify the satire. Long before the Civil War there were so many Captains, Majors and Colonels—especially officers of the highest rank—pervading the States, that the progress of the struggle could hardly add to the number. Now they are everywhere. They practice as lawyers, edit newspapers, manage railways, manipulate finance, run theaters, own stores, and cultivate farms. The prefix "Honorable" officially attached to membership of Congress is paraded largely in private life; and, beyond official and publicly recognized marks of distinction, America can boast a greater number of quaint and picturesque societies than any country in the world. There are at least a hundred self-assumed orders of chivalry who have knights and squires and dames, and who keep up a vast etiquette of ceremonies and forms of salutation.

One of the greatest trades unions in America, composed of artisans, calls itself "Knights of Labor." The President, the Senators, and the members of Congress are all appareled alike in the subdued uniform of modern civilization. Yet nothing pleases the humbler American so much as to array himself in fantastic garb and to parade the streets in dresses that almost eclipse the best efforts of a theatrical costumier. This revenge in private life for the sober monotony of legal and official existence is a curious proof of that reaction of sentiment so natural to the human heart. The Americans have no court, and have not even retained the modest state that surrounded George Washington. They demand, however, color in their daily lives, and it is supplied by voluntary organizations with odd titles, quaint costumes and incomprehensible motives of existence. Their political campaigns center around tariffs, banks or currency, but they manage to make them poetical and picturesque. They invent mottoes and symbols, and fill the streets with images, illustrations and pictures, calling in also the notes of the composer and the stirring words of the party bard.

A Historical Portrait of Washington.

LORD ROSEBERY, in his dining room at Berkeley square, has a portrait of George Washington by Stuart, one of the only two existing portraits painted from life. This picture was painted by Stuart for Lord Shelburne, and is dated 1796. When Lord Shelburne died, in 1805, his pictures were sold, and this portrait brought £540. It is known in art circles as the Lansdowne portrait, Lord Shelburne having become Marquis of Lansdowne before his death. The man who bought the portrait became bankrupt, and Washington was again in the market. How greatly it had, in a comparatively brief space of time, increased in value is shown by the fact that it now brought 2,000 guineas. It was acquired in a raffle by Mr. Delawarr Lewis, member for Devonport. When that gentleman died, the picture was again for sale, and Lord Rosebery bought it.

Mrs. Roberts' Ball.

MRS. MARSHALL ROBERTS' ball at Spencer House, last week, was a grand affair; and the mansion, which is one of the finest in London, was shown off to admirable advantage. The cotillion was the principal attraction; and numerous valuable presents were given away by the trayful, to the great satisfaction of their recipients. The result was that bevies of lovely ladies, loaded with loot, were seen to stream into St. James' place at the first glimmerings of dawn. Mrs. Roberts is the third wife of the late Mr. Marshall Roberts, and was formerly Mrs. Endicott. Mrs. Roberts is wealthy (according to English notions), but cannot compete with the Astors, Vanderbilts and Bradley Martins in America. Hence she prefers London and Spencer House to New York and the Fifth Avenue. She has an only son, who is also possessed of an ample fortune.

Poor Mrs. Mackay.

MRS. MACKAY has long been the victim of malice of the most venomous type. She offers a reward in the journals to discover, if possible, the offenders; but it is always difficult to trace falsehoods to their original source, as slanderers are invariably cowards, and take refuge, when confronted, in the most miserable subterfuges. Mrs. Mackay need not bother her mind about these abominable pests of society, as all who have the pleasure of her acquaintance know her to be a lady an fond, and that the stories so industriously circulated are sheer lying inventions got up by people whom Mr. and Mrs. Mackay cannot, for social reasons, recognize. This mean form of revenge is in frequent use among low-minded persons, but, happily, it has little or no effect.

An American Composer Honored.

A NATIVE American composer has received universal praise at the hands of Transatlantic critics for an opera which has achieved great success with the public. "Don Quixote" is the subject, and both score and libretto were sent to London and duly considered before Mr. Horace Sedger went over to New York to negotiate for its production in England. "Captain Therese" will be the next novelty at the Prince of Wales,' with "Don Quixote" to follow. The author is Mr. De Koven, a native of New York, who has been educated in London and at Stuttgart.

Manton Marble as Umpire.

MR. MANTON MARBLE, ex-journalist, of New York, was one of the umpires to decide about the prize of £400 offered by Mr. Cernuschi for the best essay on certain aspects and potentialities of Bimetallism. There were 39 competitors, and to Mr. Rochussen, formerly Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, the prize was awarded.

FISH PONDS OF INDIANA.

Private Establishments Which Serve as a Recreation for Their Owners.

COLUMBUS, IND., August 6.—Some of the largest and most prosperous fisheries in the Western States are located near this city. James Perry, a farmer, has a large pond fed by running springs, and in this he has 20,000 to 25,000 German carp, ranging in size from the smallest minnows to 30 pounds. They are fed regularly each day and called to their meals by hallooing the same as one would call cattle to their feed. Valentine Stillabower owns the Bavarian Fisheries, which consist of several ponds 10 miles west of this city. His plant is estimated to contain 60,000 German carp. He also has a large number of native fish taken from the White river and other streams, among which are Channel codfish whose weight ranges from 10 to 40 pounds. When feeding the fish he calls them by blowing a large horn and they rush in a body to receive their rations.

Three years ago Mr. Stillabower's ponds were overflowed by heavy rains, carrying large numbers of fish into White river. He estimates his loss by that flood at $10,000. These fish are being caught almost daily by local fishermen. The ponds are drawn once a year to separate the large and small fish. Cranes and kingfishers are enemies of the fish and destroy many of them. Steel traps are set for the kingfishers and many are caught, but the cranes are very shy and only occasionally are they shot with long-range rifles.

CURRENT TIMELY TOPICS.

OKLAHOMA has gone Democratic by a small majority. By committing this awful blunder it has lost all chances of ever being admitted to Statehood.

CANDIDATE TILLMAN will in all probability capture the Gubernatorial nomination in South Carolina. He has only one eye, but it is a good one, and he sleeps with it wide open.

QUEEN VICTORIA kissed her grandchild upon both cheeks. There are a great many American mothers who would jump at the opportunity to kiss a royal son-in-law upon one cheek, even if he had nothing but his title.

THE rumor that the Louisiana lottery owns Congress is authoritatively given out to be a campaign lie.

DOES advertising pay? Go ask the heirs of an English pillmaker, who has just died, leaving $25,000,000.

A WAITER in one of the Beloit, Kan., hotels can fold a napkin in 27 different ways, and swear in three different languages. What a useful man he would prove to be for General Butler.

WARDEN DURSTON should give way to a man with an iron nerve. The Democrats have in their mind a man in Washington who would fill his place to a certainty.

LADY DUNLO has refused the $300 per week offer of an American manager. The woman is to be credited with having more sense than the manager.

AN Ohio editor has been soundly thrashed by two indignant females. A pair of muscular women can make things uncomfortable for the most vigorous editorial "we" in the country. —*Washington Post*. Especially the sort of muscular women they raise in Ohio.

HAIL measuring 7 inches in circumference fell in Dakota a few days ago. The hen's-egg hail liar should now go and throw mud at himself.

CHOICE SNAKE STORIES.

HENRY DAWSON, a colored laborer living near Guyton, Ga., killed a five-foot rattler on his place Saturday night. It had over a dozen rattles, and in size was immense. It is known there as the swamp rattler, which grows very large, and its stripes are much brighter than the upland rattlers.

A. C. CAPLINGER and Jeff Scott killed a snake in Mr. Caplinger's barn at Georgetown last Thursday, which measured 4 feet 3 inches. It was about the color of a common house snake, but the end of the tail consisted of a horn four inches long, colored like the body except half an inch at the end, which is perfectly white, very sharp, and hard as steel. Mr. Scott has the horn.

N. L. COURTER, of Manatee, says he has killed his last blacksnake. It was four feet long, and from its mouth protruded a moccasin's tail. He stood on the tail and had his boy pull the blacksnake off, disclosing a moccasin about two feet long, which had been swallowed. Mr. Courter saw a blacksnake swallow a blue moccasin several years ago, and Dan Richards saw one kill a large rattler, and George Brown saw one kill a moccasin, so spare the blacksnakes, he says, for they do more good than harm.

THE boss snake of the season was a monster rattler on exhibition at J. F. Bolton's store, in Americus, Ga., yesterday afternoon. His snakeship was more than 6 feet in length, and measured 20 inches in circumference in the middle, while his caudal appendage was ornamented with 14 rattles and a button. The hideous object was killed in a sedge field on the Hueuenin plantation by Alfred Fields, a colored laborer, who, after a lively fight of several minutes, knocked him on the head with a fence rail. Mr. Boulton had the snake's hide stuffed and hung up in front of his store.

JOHN COURTER, of Manatee, was bitten on the heel by a large moccasin snake Wednesday. He was walking past Howard & Kennedy's pond, and, as he was stepping over some grass, the snake struck him and hung on so that he had to pull him loose. Courter felt pains shoot over him, and started for home, over a mile away. He became sick and was obliged to lie down, but he got up again and went home. When he got there his body was swollen, his throat nearly even with his chin, his eyes nearly shut, and he could hardly speak. Fortunately the boys had been instructed what to do. They gave him a dose of ammonia, saturated the wounds with it and sent for Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Abel and other neighbors. They gave him all the whisky they could find with ammonia in it, and got up a reaction. Then they applied turpentine and ammonia until he was out of danger and able to get up.

A Surfeit of Statutes.

From the Philadelphia Record.]

In Germany the Government encourages the circulation of Tolstoi's book because of the good there is in it; in America its circulation is forbidden because the book is bad. The trouble with governments on both sides of the water is that they meddle with affairs that are none of their business. We are governed too much.

STATE POLITICS.

THE Democratic kickers of Adams county will hold their independent convention on August 11.

COLONEL THEODORE W. BEAN, of Norristown, may be a candidate for the Legislature, and if so will enter the race for the Speakership.

CHAUNCEY F. BLACK called on Governor Beaver the other day and pressed the claims of W. F. B. Stewart for the vacancy on the York county bench.

HAZELTON *Sentinel*, Rep.: When a man claims to be a protection Democrat he says virtually that he is an angel with a dirty face and sawed off wings.

COLUMBIA *Independent*, Dem.: Lyon, of Pittsburg, has gone to the coast to hear the music of the sad sea waves. He heard the band after the Republican State Convention.

AT a meeting of the Young Men's Democratic Society of Lancaster delegates were elected to the coming County Convention, and a resolution indorsing the State ticket was unanimously adopted.

PHILADELPHIA *Inquirer*: The Hon. Charles S. Wolse began as a Republican, merged into a Mugwump, then became a Prohibitionist, and now is a Democrat. Mr. Wolfe would make a fine subject for the evolutionists to make a study of.

THE only person suggested for the Democratic nomination for Congress in the Twelfth district beside Eckley B. Coxe is Lawyer John B. Reynolds, of Kingston. Mr. Reynolds was a candidate two years ago and was beaten by Hon. John Lynch.

THE Media *American*, in reply to an insinuation of the Chester *Democrat* that Collector Cooper's declaration meant only that he would support the county ticket, reiterates that the *American* will heartily support Hon. John B. Robinson for Congress.

PHILADELPHIA *Record*: While Representative Kerr is busily occupied with his duties in Congress and with the preparatory work of the State campaign his Democratic constituents of the Twenty-eighth district manifest a cordial disposition to relieve him of any personal labor or care in connection with his renomination. Mr. Kerr deserves this recognition of his faithfulness and devotion to the public interests.

GREAT CROWDS GATHER

TO WITNESS TABLEAUX AND LISTEN TO HIGGINSON'S LECTURE.

Literature as a Profession—The Independent American Author—Dr. Hanchett on the Unconscious Man—A Learned and Able Address—Chautauqua's Jerusalem.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

LAKE CHAUTAUQUA, August 7.—"Well, you see, the people like the show a little better than the prayer meeting," said Dr. Flood, editor of the *Chautauquan*, as he tried to contemplate the vast sea of humanity gathered in the Amphitheater. It was not yet 7 o'clock, and all the people on the grounds, regardless of the dozen denominal prayer meetings, had flocked to the great auditorium in order to get a seat for the "Ben Hur" tableaux that took place at 8. Before this hour all the available sitting and standing room was taken. Some of the old timers even went without supper to get there in time.

Every imaginable means was taken by the people to see the great realistic scenes of General Wallace's romance. You would have thought their lives depended on it. They fought, scrambled, pushed and pulled to get standing room. One poor fellow, with arms extended, was endeavoring to hold four young ladies on a single chair, while another party was quarreling over the space on a rickety stepladder, and the crowd up in the trees was trying to persuade the unfortunates below that there was room for no more. One fellow, a Pittsburger, with the activity characteristic of his city, sat upon a chair suspended in midair by means of straps hitched to the Amphitheater ceiling. Considering the disadvantages under which they were given the scenic effects were a splendid success. To-morrow evening the series of three tableaux will be closed.

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The Literary Profession.

THE lecture of Thomas Wentworth Higginson upon "Literature As a Profession," was a masterpiece. Mr. Higginson's thoughts are clear and concise and his language chaste. He is a splendid example of the man who studies literature for literature's sake. He has a pleasant, well modulated voice that reaches every part of the Amphitheater. "I do not think for a moment that this great audience is here to greet me. You are undoubtedly here to wait for the tableau of 'Ben Hur' this evening. I am here to speak of my profession of literature."

He told the story of George William Curtis, who heard through a door, among a discussion of literary men, his own name. "Curtis is an intelligent man," said one. "Yes, Curtis is a very intelligent man. Yes, an intelligent man for a literary man."

"Literature is held in very high honor in this nation. There is a courteous, but not a complimentary, consideration of literary persons. We admit there are reasons why a literary man's title to his spurs should be questioned. Our early history was too stern for the practice of high literature. Everything concentrated itself on the education of the clergy. When we say that these men do not love literature, we say that we do not love their literature. In colonial days everything was celebrated in song and prayer. Fisher Ames, in an address in 1800, said that literature would never come until liberty had gone. But only a few years afterward American literature was born and freedom still remained intact. Now American literature may be called a profession.

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The Dignity of the American Author.

"THERE are many drawbacks. We see young men of ability, drawn away from literature to things that combine more action. If a man devotes his best availities to building a steamboat and his secondary energies to make verses, the steamboat will run at high pressure, but his verses will probably be a failure. The conditions are becoming more favorable, and the American man in literature stands dignified and free. Every one knows his superiority in this land over his cotemporaries in England. Unless the man of literary talent is raised to the peerage he stands below the man in the meanest position of royal favor. The foremost of England's poets, Tennyson, was given a peerage, though a peer stands ahead only of a London brewer.

"In a republic the man of literature certainly has a great advantage. English society is not only divided by a stratum, but by many cross and collateral ramifications. Every meeting must consist of those of equal training and standing. The separation of set from set marks all of English literature. Why is it that *Harper's* or the *Century* has a larger circulation in London than that of two or three English magazines put toge her? They are magazines, and deal freely with all questions. English magazines are conducted by clubs and cliques in the interest of their own views.

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But Scant Remuneration.

"THE disadvantage in literature, is that it is not well enough paid. You cannot convince a man that makes a failure at literature, but that he would have been a howling success in any other line. There is no doubt that the lawyer, the doctor, the minister, and the literary man, are poorly remunerated for their labors. If you aim at money, put your son in among the bulls and bears, and if he succeeds—he probably will not—he may come out with millions. As we pay our members of Congress—and they make their salaries themselves—only $5,000 a year, we should not object.

A literary man is always sure of something. His profession is a reliable one. He does not need a library, nor the great public libraries of to-day. Pen, paper and postage are cheap, and there is always something to do. I warn every young man and woman against trying to get public favor by some trick or conceit. Be brief. Make your sentences like bullets. There are few sentences but can be cut down and improved. Strike out clean and sharp like a sword and you will succeed. I look forward for a great future for American literature.

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Schubert Quartet Concert.

AN entertainment fit for the gods, a feast of music and song that found an answer in the soul of every Chautauquan with the least particle of sentiment, was the concert given by the Schubert Quartet, Miss Ida Hooper, the violinist, to an audience that inspired even these excellent artistes to surpass themselves. The Schuberts never sang better and Miss Hooper is a player of exquisite tone and technique.

"The Unconscious Man" was the subject of a lecture, by Dr. Henry G. Hanchett, excellent in thought and well delivered. Dr. Hanchett has been connected with various colleges and at present is secretary of the Academy of Anthropology in New York City. The lecturer began his address by remarking that when cell life, animal life and mental life were all taken into account, it would be found that the conscious are to the unconscious activities the go to make up a man as one to ten. In fact, the conscious man is little more than an inattentive and preoccupied spectator of the doings of the unconscious. Beginning the study of the unconscious man with cell life, it was plain that intention and preference, qualities of mind could be traced here, where there is no sign of consciousness. Even atoms and particles which have no life, manifest determination and choice, as shown in the construction of crystals, where atoms are free, and leave one combination to enter another. Cells, upon which organic life is based, manifest these qualities of the mind to a remarkable degree.

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Indestructible Atoms.

IT is impossible to kill or destroy the life of atoms, although they may have to wait thousands of years to display it. The stomach does not truly tell its state to the conscious, but the unconscious man not only knows exactly what is going on there but directs it all, recognizing the character and destination of each morsel, and treating it differently, according to its value, rejecting this and appropriating that, and continuing his supervision through all the processes of nutrition and repair. Still more wonderful is his building of the unborn body, which he fits up with a prophet's faith. He forms the eye for light before it has seen the light and maps out the curves of the body 40 years before they are completed. But if all these are called routine work we can see intelligence in the way the unconscious man handles peculiar problems.

When a person breaks a