

control of existing telegraph lines, or to construct others with a view of entering into general competition with private enterprise. The objections which may be justly urged against either of these projects and, indeed, against any system which would require an enormous increase in the civil service, do not, however, apply to some of the plans which have lately provoked public comment and discussion. It has been claimed, for example, that congress might wisely authorize the postmaster general to contract with some private person or corporation for the transmission of messages at specified rates and under government supervision. Various such schemes, of the same general nature but widely differing in their special characteristics, have been suggested in the public prints, and the arguments by which they have been supported and opposed have doubtless attracted your attention. It is likely that the whole subject will be considered by you at the present session. In the nature of things it involves so many questions of detail that your deliberations would probably be aided slightly, if at all, by any particular suggestions which I might now submit. I avow my belief, however, that the government should be authorized by law to exercise court supervision over interstate telegraph communication, and I express the hope that for attaining that end some measure be devised which will receive your approbation.

#### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. REGULATION OF FEES.

The attorney general criticizes in his report the provisions of the existing law fixing the fees of jurors and witnesses in the federal courts. The provisions are chiefly contained in the act of February 26, 1853, though some of them were introduced into the act from statutes which had been passed many years previous. It is manifest that such compensation as might have been just and reasonable, would in many instances be justly regarded at the present day as inadequate. In concert with the attorney general in the belief that the statutes should be revised by which these fees are regulated. So, too, should be the laws to regulate the compensation of district attorneys and marshals. They should be paid wholly by salary, instead of in part by fees, as is now the case. The change would prove to be a measure of economy, and would discourage the institution of needless and oppressive legal proceedings, which it is to be feared have in some instances been conducted for the mere sake of personal gain.

#### INTERIOR DEPARTMENT. EVILS TO BE REMEDIED.

Much interest and varied information is contained in the report of the secretary of the interior. I particularly call your attention to his presentation of certain phases of the Indian question, to his recommendations for the repeal of the pre-emption and timber culture acts and for more stringent legislation to prevent frauds under the pension laws. The statutes which prescribe the definition and punishment of crimes pertaining to pensions, could doubtless be made more effective by certain amendments and additions, which are pointed out in the secretary's report. I have previously referred to the alarming state of delinquency in certain portions of the country, and again submit for the consideration of congress whether some federal aid should not be extended to public primary education wherever adequate provision therefor has not already been made.

#### UTAH.

The Utah commission has submitted to the secretary of the interior its second annual report. As a result of its labors supervising the recent election in that Territory, pursuant to the act of March 22, 1882, it appears that the persons by that act disqualified, to the number of about 12,000, were excluded from the polls. This fact, however, affords little cause for congratulation, and I fear that it is far from indicating any real and substantial progress toward the extinction of polygamy. All of the members of the legislature are Mormons. There is grave reason to believe that they are in sympathy with the practices that this government is seeking to suppress, and that its effort in that regard will be more likely to encounter their opposition than receive their encouragement and support. Even if this view should be erroneous, the law under which the commissioners have been acting, should be made more effective by the incorporation of some such measures as their recommendation and as were included in bill No. 2,238 on the calendar of the senate at its last session. I am convinced that polygamy is so strongly entrenched in the Territory of Utah that it is professed to attack with the state weapons which constitutional legislation provides. I favor, therefore, the repeal of the act upon which the government depends, the assumption by the national legislature of entire political control of the Territory and the establishment of a commission with such powers and duties as shall be delegated to it by law.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE is accomplishing much in the direction of the agricultural development of the country, and the report of the commissioner giving the results of his investigations and experiments, will be found interesting and valuable. At his instance a convention of those interested in the cattle industry of the country was lately held at Chicago. The prevalence of pleuro-pneumonia and other contagious diseases of animals was one of the chief topics of discussion. A committee of the convention will invite your co-operation in investigating the causes of these diseases, and providing methods for their prevention and cure. I trust that congress will not fail at its present session to put Alaska under the protection of laws. Its people have repeatedly remonstrated against our neglect to afford them the maintenance and protection expressly guaranteed by the terms of the treaty, whereby that territory was ceded to the United States. For sixteen years they have pleaded in vain for that which they should have received without asking. They have no law for the collection of the debt of the support of schools the conveyance of property, the administration of laws, or the enforcement of contracts—none indeed for the punishment of criminals except such as are afforded by certain customs, commerce and navigation acts. The resources of Alaska, especially in fur, mines and lumber, are considerable in extent and capable of large development, while its geographical situation is of great political and commercial importance. The promptness of interest, therefore, as well as considerations of honor and good faith, demand the immediate establishment of civil government in that Territory.

#### RAILWAYS.

Complaints have lately been numerous and urgent that certain corporations controlling in whole or part the facilities for the inter-state carriage of merchandise by the great railways of the country have resorted in their dealings with the public to diverse measures unjust and oppressive in their character. In some instances the State governments have attacked and suppressed these evils, but in others they have been unable to afford adequate relief because of the jurisdictional limitations which are imposed upon them by the federal constitution. The question whether the national government may lawfully interfere in the premises, and what, if any, supervision of control it ought to exercise, is one which merits your careful consideration. While we cannot fail to recognize the importance of the vast railway systems of the country, and their great and beneficial influence upon the development of our material wealth, we should, on the other hand, remember that no individual corporation ought to be invested with absolute power over the interest of any other citizen or class of citizens. The right of those railway corporations to any profitable re-

turn upon their investment and to reasonable freedom in their regulations must be recognized, but it seems only just that, so far as its constitutional authority will permit, congress should protect people at large in their interstate traffic against an act of injustice which State governments are powerless to prevent.

#### FOREST PRESERVES.

In my last annual message I called attention to the necessity of protecting by suitable legislation the forests situated upon the public domain. In many portions of the West the pursuit of general agriculture is only made practicable by resort to irrigation. While successful irrigation would be impossible without the aid afforded by forests in contributing to the regularity and constancy of the supply of water. During the past year severe suffering and great loss of property have been occasioned by protracted droughts, followed by periods of unusually low water in many of the great rivers of the country; these irregularities were, in great measure, caused by the removal from about the sources of the streams in question of the timber by which the water supply had been nourished and protected. The preservation of such portions of the forests on the national domain as essentially contribute to the regular flow of important water courses is of the highest consequence. Important tributaries of the Missouri, the Columbia and the Saskatchewan, rise in the mountains of Montana, now the northern boundary of the United States, between the Blackfoot and Flathead Indian reservations. This region is unsuitable for settlement, but upon the rivers which flow from it, depends in the future the agricultural development of a vast tract of country. The attention of congress is called to the necessity of withdrawing from the public sale this part of the public domain, and establishing there a forest preserve.

The industrial exhibitions which have been held in the United States during the present year attracted the attention of many foreign countries, where the announcement of those enterprises had been made public through the foreign representatives of this government. The Southern exhibits at Louisville were largely attended by the exhibitors of foreign countries, notwithstanding the absence of any professional character in those undertakings. The centennial exposition to be held next year at St. Louis, in commemoration of the century of the first shipment of cotton from a port of the United States, bids fair to meet with like gratifying success. Under the act of congress of the 10th of February, 1883, declaring that exposition to be national and international in its character, the foreign governments with which the United States maintains relations, have been invited to participate. The promoters of this important undertaking have already received assurances of the lively interest it has excited abroad.

The report of the commissioner of the District of Columbia is herewith transmitted. I ask for your careful attention, especially for those portions which relate to assessments for taxes and water supply.

#### THE CIVIL SERVICE. WORKINGS OF THE LAW.

The commissioner appointed under the act of Jan. 16, 1883, entitled "An act to regulate and improve the civil service of the United States," entered promptly upon the discharge of his duties. A series of rules framed in accordance with the spirit of the statute was approved and promulgated by the president. In some particulars where they seemed defective these rules were subsequently amended. It will be perceived that they discontinued any political or religious tests for admission to the offices of the public service to which the statute relates. The statute, related in its original form to the classified clerks in the several executive departments at Washington, numbering about 5,600, and to similar positions in the customs districts and postoffices where many as fifty persons are employed. A classification of these positions, analogous to that existing in the Washington offices, was fully made before the law went into effect. Eleven custom districts and twenty-three postoffices were thus brought under the immediate operation of the statute. The annual report of the civil service commission, which will soon be submitted to congress, will doubtless afford the measure of a more definite judgment than I am now prepared to express as to the merits of the new system. I am persuaded that its effects have thus far proved beneficial. Its practicable methods appear to be well adapted to the ends proposed, and there has been no serious difficulty in carrying them into effect. Since the 16th of July last no person, so far as I am aware, has been appointed to the public service in the classified portions thereof at any of the departments or at any of the postoffices and customs districts above named, except those certified by the commission to be competent in the basis of the examination held in conformity to rules.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

##### THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION.

At the time when the present executive entered upon his office, his death, removal, resignation or inability to discharge his duties would have left the government without a constitutional head. It is possible, of course, that a similar contingency may again arise, unless the wisdom of congress shall provide against its recurrence. The senate, at its last session, after full consideration, passed an act relating to this subject which will, I trust, commend itself to the approval of both houses of congress. The clauses of the constitution, upon which must depend any law regulating the presidential succession, presents also for solution other questions of paramount importance. These questions relate to the proper interpretation of the phrase "inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office." Our law providing that when the president shall suffer from such inability, the presidential office shall devolve upon the vice president who must himself, under the circumstances, give place to such other as congress may by law appoint to act as president. I need not here set forth numerous and interesting inquiries which are suggested by these words of the constitution. They were fully stated in my first communication to congress, and have since been the subject of frequent deliberations in that body. It is greatly to be hoped that these momentous questions will find speedy solution, lest an emergency should arise when longer delay will be impossible, and any determination, albeit the wisest, may furnish cause for anxiety and alarm. For the reasons fully stated in my last annual message, I repeat my recommendation that congress propose an amendment to that provision of the constitution which prescribed that the formalities for the enactment of laws, whereby in respect to bills for the appropriation of public money, the executive may be enabled, while giving his veto as to such others as do not commend themselves to his judgment.

THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT of the constitution confers the rights of citizenship upon all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof. It was the special purpose of this amendment to insure members of the colored race the full enjoyment of civil and political rights. Certain statutory provisions, intended to secure the enforcement of those rights, have been recently declared unconstitutional by the supreme court. Any legislation whereby congress may lawfully supplement the guarantees which the constitution affords for the equal enjoyment by all the citizens of the United States of every right, privilege and immunity of citizenship, will receive my enthusiastic approval.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 3, 1883.

Mr. Jones has been acquitted at Kansas City of lynching the wrong man.

#### Painting the Sky Red.

Another surprising sunset spectacle was witnessed in St. Paul late yesterday afternoon, the phenomenon presenting all the characteristics of the bright red atmospheric picture of a week or ten days ago. Shortly before 5 o'clock a red glow began to light up the western horizon, gradually spreading until a large area of sky was marked by the blood-red coloring. The brightest and clearest tinge was just before 6 o'clock, after the sun had disappeared from view, and the effect was marvellously pretty and brilliant. The reflection seemed to extend to everything in the range of one's vision, giving the appearance, as the buildings and the high bluffs across the river a reddish or pink tinge; while, looking toward the illuminated sky, it seemed as if there really was a tremendous fire raging at Minneapolis or away beyond. The red glow extended upward to a great height, and it was after 6 o'clock before the sky assumed its normal appearance. The brilliant spectacle attracted wide-spread attention and admiration. A similar display, occurring about ten days ago, was made the subject of extended comment by the scientists and newspapers throughout the divided world. Last evening's phenomenon was much less striking, though brilliant enough to entitle it to mention as a most remarkable atmospheric spectacle. The display of ten days ago has puzzled the astronomers and the scientific world generally, wide differences of opinion existing as to the causes leading to such a wonderful effect. At a meeting of the American Astronomical Society in New York on the evening of the 31, the curious problem was exhaustively discussed. One of the members said the first appearance in San Francisco on Nov. 20 of the present year, it was then supposed that the appearance was caused by some fire burning in the West, although such a supposition placed the fire in the Pacific ocean. Subsequently the phenomenon was observed in the Mississippi valley. It seemed as if it were then west to east across the continent. But on the 9th or 10th of November, nearly two weeks before it was observed at San Francisco, similar phenomena were seen in England. So wide-spread was the red glow that the speaker soon formed the opinion that it was due to comical causes. He advanced the theory that the cause of the phenomena might be reflection from meteoric dust. He also suggested that the phenomena of the green sun seen in India and southern Africa might be accounted for in the same way. The idea was advanced that either of these phenomena could be accounted for by the volcanic vapors from the island of Java. Certain it is that some very unusual condition of things exists in the atmosphere to produce the singular appearance that have recently been witnessed, and the display of last evening will tend to still further mystify the scientist and stimulate an effort to solve the extraordinary problem.

#### EASTERN INVESTIGATION.

New York Sun: A remarkable observation was made by Prof. Brooks, an industrious astronomer of Western New York on Wednesday evening. While searching with his telescope for comets, he saw what he describes as a shower of telescopic meteors "near the sun." This, of course, means that they were near the apparent place of the sun in the sky, and not literally near that body, for the sun had already set at the time, and if what Prof. Brooks saw was really a meteor swarm, the meteors must have been in the upper regions of our atmosphere. Supposed flights of meteors seen through telescopes have occasionally turned out to be flocks of birds, but an observer as careful and experienced as Prof. Brooks seems to be would not be likely to make such a mistake as that. Assuming, then, that he really did see an extraordinary swarm of meteors, and remembering that such meteors are large enough to be visible without telescopes and some of great size and brilliancy, have recently been unusually numerous, the suggestion that the red light seen in the sky for several evenings past, long after sunset, may be caused by reflection from clouds of meteoric dust in the upper portion of the atmosphere is not unnatural. There are several reasons for thinking that the strange light is the result of some such cause as the presence of meteoric dust rather than of differences of ordinary refraction. In the first place, the phenomenon has not only been visible over an immense extent of territory, but it has lasted several days, and has been seen in the east before sunrise as well as in the west after sunset, so that any abnormal refraction in the atmosphere would have to be of almost incredible persistence in order to account for the observed appearances. Besides, during this time there have been considerable atmospheric changes in respect to temperature. These remarkable sunset displays have also been accompanied by a notably hazy appearance of the sky.

It is well known that the earth is daily and nightly pelted with millions of meteors, the vast majority of which are so most instantly consumed by the intense heat developed as they dash into our atmosphere. The products of the combustion of these meteors filter slowly down through the air, and have been found in the shape of metallic dust on the snow fields in the retro-arctic localities, being recognizable by their peculiar chemical composition. It is also known that the solar system abounds with swarms of meteors revolving around the sun, and that the earth crosses the paths of a number of these, occasionally encountering the swarms themselves. The vast majority of these meteors are very small, those that are seen weighing on an average probably only a few grains; and since the telescope reveals millions which escape the naked eye, it is reasonable to conclude that millions more are too small to be seen, even with telescopes—mere meteoric dust. There are historic instances of supposed falls of meteoric dust, the most remarkable, perhaps, being that of 1783, when Europe, part of Asia, and part of North America were covered for months with a dry fog, or haze, which excited the greatest alarm. Prof. Brooks' suggestion that the earth has encountered a cloud of meteoric dust is not, therefore, without foundation in probability. If, of the recent blazing sunsets have really resulted from such a cause, they are likely to continue, in a modified form, for some time, gradually disappearing as the dust sinks lower in the atmosphere. But, although so many reasons can be advanced which give probability to the theory that meteoric dust is concerned in the production of these strange sunset effects, yet it cannot be considered as proved, and some better explanation may be offered. Whatever the true explanation may turn out to be, however, everybody seems to agree in the opinion that the red glare in the west during the last three or four evenings has been one of the most singular spectacles beheld in the sky for many years.

#### Gallows specimens.

The effects of Marwood, the late hangman, were sold by auction at the corn exchange, Horncastle, Eng., recently. Brokers and collectors of curiosities from all parts attended, and for some of the articles there was a brisk competition. The cup and sancer which Marwood ordinarily used fetched 10s. 6d.; his purse, 2s.; his walking stick, 15s.; his spectacles 11s.; the Gladstone traveling bag which Marwood carried on circuit, £3; a rope, £4 10s.; an old carpet bag, 21s.; a pair of stockings, 5s.; Sunday neckties, 11s.; his writing desk, 21s.; a watch, £4 10s.; seven old hats, 2s.; a Japanese sword (presented), 45s.; his dog Nero, 30s.; an India rubber stamp, with the inscription "Wm. Marwood, Executioner, Horncastle," 11s.; the tools from off his shoemaker's seat, £1; the seat, £2 5s.; a whisky flask, 11s.; a snuff-box, 3s. 6d.; a Bible, with autograph, £1 15s.; and the sign-board of his shop, £1.

The new pasture of Captain King, in Coleman County, Tex., is to contain 650,000 acres, and will be the largest tract of land within one fence in the world.

#### MY BABY'S EYES.

My baby's eyes in melting blue,  
Are beaming bright as morning dew,  
And from the skylight takes a hue,  
Or like the starlight clear and true,  
My baby's eyes in a liquid roll,  
Enhance my world from pole to pole,  
And love sits smiling in that goal,  
Forever speaking to my soul.  
My baby's eyes, in other years,  
May fill with many scalding tears;  
And yet through cruel taunts and jeers  
A mother's love will banish fears.  
My baby's eyes in blight or bloom,  
Those glorious orbs in grief or gloom,  
Shall be to me in death or doom,  
The dearest diamonds to the tomb.

—John A. Joyce.

#### POT LUCK.

##### A Thanksgiving Story Dealing With an Odd Train of Circumstances.

When Ortelia opened her eyes in the morning she could look straight through the side of the house at the blue sky and the tops of the waving pines. It wasn't a red brick house with a layer of smooth white mortar between every brick; nor was it a painted wooden house with green blinds; neither did it have a cupola on top, or a conservatory at one end, or a piazza in front. Ortelia's father and a few of the neighbors built the house, and as there were no architects among them they simply rolled the logs on top of each other and didn't take time to fill in the spaces between. But the sun and the moon came creeping through the chinks that the builders had left and Ortelia was more than satisfied.

One Thanksgiving morning Ortelia took Maggie out in the woods and together they trampled the few dead leaves that had fallen. Ortelia didn't know it was Thanksgiving Day. She knew when Christmas came, although no one had ever made her the smallest present.

"O, here's a heap o' dock!" said Ortelia, getting down on her knees and digging up the roots with both fat brown hands. "We'll take some home to granny. She'll make a power o' tea of it. Mebbe it will cure her rheumatiz. O, look!" she cried, suddenly. "I've found such a funny stone, with marks all over it."

"Put it in my pockey," lisped chubby Maggie.  
"Come yere, quick!" exclaimed Ortelia, who had begun to dig again for dock root, and before Maggie's uncertain steps could reach her she had drawn from the sand, where it lay half buried, a small iron pot, covered with a thick coat of rust.

"Take home to granny," said Maggie, as she quickly threw the bright berries she gathered into the pot and tried to drag it along by the handle.

"It's a heap too heavy for you," said Ortelia. "Reckon you'll have to let me carry it. You kin carry the berries and we'll fill the pot full o' dock root."

Granny was sitting in the doorway when Ortelia and Maggie came in sight of the house.

"What you chillen got?" she asked. "Pears though you done a heap o' walkin'. What's that your fetchin' me? Wherever did you git the pot?"

"It was in the sand behind a heap o' bushes," said Ortelia. "I'm goin' to git some ashes and see if I can't scour it up."

In half an hour the old kettle looked as black as ink once more, and Ortelia's arms ached hard with rubbing. "Put in the dock root, granny," she said, "Mebbe it will cure your rheumatiz a power o' good."

So Granny set the pan on the fire, and soon the dock was simmering gently. Maggie crept in to see the new pot boil the dock. The pretty berries she had gathered lay on the floor, and she picked them up and dropped them one by one in the pot. Her mother was out in the field husking corn. Granny was fast asleep in her splint-bottom chair, and Ortelia sat on the doorstep trying to get the baby asleep.

"I don't feel right well," said Granny, after their Thanksgiving dinner of pork and corn-bread, "reckon I'll have a sip o' the dock."

But she didn't feel any better when supper-time came, although she had taken several sips of the dock, and Ortelia's mother grew anxious.

"Do you think you could git over to the minister's?" she said to Ortelia.

Now the minister lived a long mile away, and the path lay straight through the woods.

It was scarcely dark when Ortelia came to the minister's long frame house but the minister himself had gone to the shore, a mile further on, so there was nothing for her to do but to hurry back home again as fast as she could.

It grew darker and darker. Suddenly she stumbled over a black object that lay in the path, and fell flat on her face.

"Who is it?" asked a man's faint voice.

"Me," answered Ortelia, almost too frightened to speak.

"I think I must have fainted," said the man. "Did you stumble over me a minute ago? I thought I felt something."

"I reckoned you was a bear," said Ortelia.

"Well, I'm as hungry as one, but I won't eat you up. I haven't had any Thanksgiving dinner yet. I've hurt my foot and I'm afraid I can't walk. Do you live far from here?"

"No," said Ortelia, "not very far. Kin you crawl?"

"Not very far, I'm afraid. Has your father got a cart of any kind?"

"No," said Ortelia, "father's dead and we never had no cart. But the minister, he's got a mule," she added. "Mebbe I'd better go back an' git him."

"Is it far?" again.

"Yes," said Ortelia, "it's a right smart ways in the dark, but I'll go for you," and started back through the woods.

The old colored woman who kept house for the minister let Ortelia untie the mule and lead him off up the road.

"Hullo!" called out the man when he heard the patter of the mule's hoofs, "it didn't take you long. I was afraid you might lose your way."

When Ortelia's mother saw them coming she came to the door, with the baby asleep in her arms.

"I've sprained my foot, ma'am," explained the stranger, "and your daughter here thought perhaps you could keep me over night. I'll take pot luck. Anything will do. I'm too hungry to particular."

When he was seated by the fire, with his ankle bound up in catkins, he looked around curiously. The old pot stood beside the hearth.

"What a quaint old kettle!" he said. "I found it in the sand this morning explained Ortelia.

"It's dock tea in it," said Granny. "It's good for a heap o' things. 'Pears though it liked to killed me this time."

The visitor stooped and picked up two or three of the berries little Maggie had dropped.

"Maggie brought home a lot o' the berries," said Ortelia; "mebbe she'll have some o' them in the pot."

"Here, Ortelia," said her new friend, "go and empty the kettle and bring it to me. I want to look at it. Now, Granny," he continued, "come here and let me feel your pulse; I know a great deal about sickness; I have you all right in less than no time."

When Ortelia came in with the empty pot he looked at it closely.

"Bless my soul!" he exclaimed, "here's 1679 on the bottom. Now I see this pot luck. Ortelia, will you sell me this old kettle?" And he drew a handful of silver out of his pocket and thrust it into Ortelia's hand.

But Ortelia laid the silver back in his lap.

"It ain't worth such a heap o' money," she said; "it's old pot."

"That's the reason I want it," answered the stranger. "It's so very, very old. Take the money, Ortelia. It hadn't been for you I might still be lying down there in the woods."

"An' Granny might a-died if she'd gone on takin' the dock," said Ortelia, still hanging back. "You kin have the pot."

"Well, we both have enough to be thankful for," replied the visitor. "I guess we'll have to kill a chicken to keep Thanksgiving to-morrow."

"What's Thanksgiving?" asked Ortelia. "It's one o' our holidays up North," said the man, "and we all go to church and give thanks for our many blessings."

"I'm thankful," said Ortelia, shyly. "We always have a plenty."

"Be you a minister?" asked Granny, turning toward their new friend. "You're good enough fur one."—Nina H. Clark.

#### An Emperor's Friend Dead.

Berlin Dispatch to the London Daily News.

The Emperor William, like his ancestor Frederick the Great, lives to see nearly all the friends and companions of his generation passing away before him. By the death of Count William von Redern, which took place recently after a prolonged illness, his majesty loses not only the highest official of his household, but also a trusted friend, whom he was accustomed to address most familiarly. Besides being Imperial Lord Chamberlain, Count Redern also bore the titles of Chancellor of the Black Eagle Order, General of Cavalry, and hereditary member of the Upper House. His complete memoirs will appear shortly in book form, entitled, "Under Three Kings." Having been born in 1812 his recollections go back to Napoleon's entry into Berlin as conqueror. He accompanied Frederick William III. to the Verona Congress, and also witnessed the coronations of the Czars Nicholas and Alexander II. and Charles X. in France. In 1758 he attended the present Crown Prince's wedding with the Princess Royal as Prussian Commissioner, and subsequently escorted her Royal Highness from London to Berlin. The Count, who was one of the richest landed proprietors in Prussia, leaves no direct descendants. The emperor is greatly affected by his disease, and will attend the funeral services.

#### How "The Scarlet Letter" Was Written.

An intimate friend of Hawthorne's has related the following charming little anecdote, showing the circumstances under which one of his best novels was written: One wintry day Hawthorne received at the office notification that his service would no longer be required. With heaviness of heart he repaired to his humble home. His young wife recognized the change and stood watching for the silence to be broken. At length he faltered: "I am removed from office." She left the room; soon returned with fuel and kindled a bright fire with her own hands; next she brought pen, paper, ink, and set them before him. Then she touched the sad man on the shoulder, and, as he turned to the beaming face, said: "Now you can write your book." The cloud cleared away. The next office looked like a cage from which he had escaped. "The Scarlet Letter" was written, and a marvelous success rewarded the author and his stout-hearted wife.—N. Y. Home Journal.

A meeting of Orangemen, to express indignation at the suspension of Lord Rossmore's commission was held at Monaghan, Ireland. A carriage containing Lord and Lady Rossmore was unharnessed and drawn by the crowd to the place of meeting. A resolution was passed condemning the removal of Rossmore. The latter said that what he had already done he was ready to do again. The half yearly meeting of the grand lodge of Orangemen of Ireland passed a strong resolution addressed to loyalists of the British empire, resenting the insult offered to loyalists in Ireland through the suspension of Rossmore's commission, and asking all to stand by and for the integrity of the empire and honor the throne against rapine and rebellion.

Joseph Proctor, the actor, well known through his performances in "Nick of the Woods," first appeared on the stage in Boston on November 29, 1833, and his fiftieth anniversary is to be celebrated in that city by a special benefit performance at the Boston Theater.

Senator Miller of California is president of the Alaska Fur Seal company and a millionaire.