WORDS.

I cannot tell what I would tel thee,
What I would say, what thou shouldst hear:
Words of the soul that should compel thee,
Words of the heart to draw thee near.

For when thou smilest, thou, who fillest
My life with joy, and I would speak,
'Tis then my lips and tongue are stillest,
Knowing all language is too weak.

Look in my eyes; read there confession:
The truest love has least of art;
Nor needs it words for its expression
When soul speaks soul and heart speaks heart.

—Madison Cawein, in Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly.

A DEATH-DEALING HAND.

Upon the evening of December 3, 1881, as the hand on the Wimbledon station clock was nearing 7, the London train steamed in, and among the passengers who alighted from it was a man wearing a long overcoat, with a rug over his arm, and carrying a small black bag in his hand.

His face was refined and handsome. He was young—only about 30. His forehead was broad, and marked by many lines like that of a man who has been accustomed to hard study. The eyes, beneath delicately pencilled brows, were dark and penetrating, and yet tender in expression. He wore whiskers, and a long, drooping mustache helped to conceal a rather weak, feminine mouth. It was a face calculated to impress one favorably, especially when the eyes were lit up and animated. Now, however, as he made his way along the platform under the gas lamps, his eyes had deep rims round them, and, with the sallow color of the face, told of ill-health and harassment.

The man, indeed was ill. He could not sleep. Could one have turned up his sleeve and examined his arm one would have found there the marks of recent wounds caused by the too frequent use of morphia injections, resorted to in order that he might obtain rest.

Some months back, in 1879, a relation, a brother-in-law of this man had died suddenly, mysteriously, and since that time sleep had almost deserted the large, dark, tender-looking eyes of the handsome traveler.

A very short distance from Wimbledon station was a large building situated in its own grounds. It was a school carried on by a gentleman named Bedbrook. To this house the man took his way, and to the servant who answered the door he announced himself as Dr. Lamson, who had called to see his brother-in-law, one of the pupils, a lad of 18. In a few minutes Dr. Lamson and Mr. Bedbrook were chatting together in the sitting room when the door opened and a lad appeared, bearing in his arms another boy, whose healthy-colored cheeks and laughing eyes seemed in strange contrast to the evident helplessness of his lower paralyzed limbs.

"Hullo, Percy," cried Lamson, as he entered; "bless me, how fat you are growing old boy!"

"Sorry I can't return the compliment," laughed the boy—Percy Malcolm John—looking at his relative's haggard face. His boy friend made him comfortable on a sofa in the room, and Lamson, Bedbrook and Percy remained together alone.

"I have called to see you, Percy," said Lamson, "because I'm going to Florence for a few months, and so shall not be here again very soon. Oh, by the way, Mr. Bedbrook, look here!" Lamson went to the black bag he had brought, opened it, and took out a small box. "Look at these," he went on, opening the box. "These are capsules I saw in America when I was there last. See. They're just little bags made of sugar and dissolving stuff. You put the medicine inside like this"—he walked to the table where there was some white powdered sugar in a basin, and filled the capsule with it—"then you slip the top cap on and swallow the whole thing, so." And at the word he put the capsule in his mouth and swallowed it.

"A capital idea," exclaimed Mr. Bedbrook. "You cannot taste whatever the capsule contains?"

"Not at all. Try one," said Lamson; and he filled and handed one to the schoolmaster.

Mr. Bedbrook took it.

"Here, Percy," exclaimed Lamson, filling another capsule with the sugar. "You're a great pill-taker. Now it's your turn."

The boy took it laughingly and swallowed it, Lamson's dark eyes watching him the while.

"And now I must go," he said. "I've got to catch my train. Good-bye, Percy—good-bye, Mr. Bedbrook. I'm sorry, Mr. Bedbrook," he added, as the schoolmaster accompanied him to the front door and they were in the passage out of the lad's hearing—"I'm sorry, Mr. Bedbrook, but I don't think Percy will last long."

That same night, while the pale-faced, sleepless man was being whirled away over the dismal, night-clad country in the express train to Paris, Percy Malcolm John lay dying of some mysterious and sudden ailment. The best medical aid available was summoned, but all was in vain, and close upon midnight death came to close the unhappy boy's agony.

The doctors who had attended him were not satisfied. They had never before had a case which presented such strange features, and dark hints were spread abroad that death was not due to natural causes, but had been brought about by a murderer's hand. Dr. Lamson's name was mentioned in connection with them, and a detective was sent to Paris to find him.

Five days later a cab drove up to the door of Scotland Yard, a gentleman got out, and then turned to assist a lady to alight. The two entered the building—the headquarters of those whose lives are spent in unraveling the mysteries of crime and following with steps of vengeance the perpetrators of dark deeds.

"I have called," said the gentleman, "in reference to the case of the death of a boy at Wimbledon. I wish to see the person who has the matter in hand."

In a moment or two one of the inspectors was with him.

"My name," the stranger said, "is Lamson—George Henry Lamson. I have been staying in Paris, and I have read in the papers an account of the death of a boy named Percy Malcolm John. My name has been connected.

The inspector appeared troubled, and asked the doctor to wait a moment while he left the room. He returned in a short time.

"Dr. Lamson," he said, "your case has been considered, and I am instructed to charge you with causing the death of Percy Malcolm John!"

Not a muscle stirred in Lamson's pale face, as he heard these words, which told him he would have to answer with his life the terrible charge preferred against him, though the ashen gray features, if possible took a grayer tinge. He elevated his eyebrows as if in surprise.

"Very well," was all he answered.

If John's death was not due to natural causes, of what did he die? The question was a difficult one. Poison? the doctors feared. But what poison? Portions of the body were sent up to London, and there, over the ghastly sealed up jars, secured with many pieces of red tape and red sealing wax, which contained, if murder had been done, the clue to bring it home to its perpetrator, two of the cleverest analysists, Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Dupre, were soon busily employed.

By numberless experiments, by days and nights of careful observation, the analysists came to the conclusion that poison had been used, and that the poison was aconintine. The test of poison was not omitted. Dr. Stevenson put some of the suspected matter on his tongue. At first there was a burning tingling, kind of numbness, and later on the tongue felt as if it had been seared with a red-hot iron. So great was the effect that the doctor's tongue suffered for over three hours.

"It was aconitine," said Dr. Stevenson. "I have between 50 and 80 vegetable poisons in my possession, and I have tasted them all. This is aconitine."

It is a curious fact that in a box belonging to Lamson, the police, on searching, discovered a medical book giving an account of the effects of aconitine. The leaf of the work had been turned down. The sleuth-hounds of the law went to work upon the trail the analysis afforded, and soon had to hand results which promised to confirm the worst suspicions.

He had purchased aconitine of two chemists—once at Ventnor, in the Isle of Wight, and again in London. He had had to give his name before the deadly poison could be handed to him, and the assistant who supplied him remembered his face.

The cause of Percy John's death was clear. Lamson had had poison of the kind in his possession. Had he, that December night when he called to see the poor lad, while talking with him and the schoolmaster in the sitting room, introduced the fatal white powder into the capsule he handed the boy, seen him swallow it, and then gone off on that long night journey to Paris so that, should any suspicion arise, he might by voluntarily returning from abroad, disarm it?

He was poor—terribly poor. Only a short time before he had had to raise money upon his surgical instruments. His practice at Bournemouth had been a failure, and it was known that he was in pressing need. Mrs. Lamson, however, was entitled to some money, which would come to her upon the decease of her brother, and she had readily agreed to her husband's suggestion that she should execute a settlement making over her interest to him.

Upon the death of the first brother, Herbert John, in 1879, the doctor had received over 700 pounds; by the death of Percy John, Lamson would benefit to the extent of something like 1,500 pounds. Had his money been a temptation which had led Lamson to dye his hands in the boy's blood?

Upon March 9, 1882, Lamson stood in the dock of the Old Bailey to answer the terrible charge. People were prepossessed in his favor as they looked at the handsome man in the black frock coat and black kid gloves, with the pale, care-worn face, who calmly, and with a certain dignity, bowed to the judge, Mr. Justice Hawkins, and declared that he was not guilty. The solicitor general, Sir F. Herschell, afterward to become twice lord chancellor, was the leading counsel for the prosecution, and for the defense there appeared, with other barristers, the youthful looking, keen-eyed, and slight mustached man whose reputation was greatest in the kingdom for passionate eloquence and acuteness in the conduct of a criminal defense—Montagu Williams. Mrs. Lamson had stirred every effort and raised every penny she possessed to secure the best legal advice for her husband.

Day by day as the trial went on, as the proceedings ended, as the blood-robed, stern-faced judge rose, as the jury took their way from the box, and the crowd in court slowly filed out discussing the points of the day's evidence, a little fragile woman's figure stole from a seat where it had hidden, listening—who shall tell how anxiously?—to all that passed, and stole toward the dock. Then Lamson leaned over the dock's edge, the white, handsome face smiled at the faithful woman's deadly and gray countenance turned up to him, and stretching out his hand—the hand accused of such an awful deed—the woman took it and pressed it to her lips.

The evidence against him was terrible enough. A queer accident which happened while Lamson was being driven from prison in a cab to the court one day impressed some of the goalers and officials more than any evidence could, with the feeling that Lamson was a doomed man. The cab in which he and his custodians were broke down almost at the door of the court. It was regarded as an omen.

At last the day came which brought the verdict which all, save Lamson himself, had come to accept as inevitable.

"I declare before God that I am innocent," he said with a stern effort to preserve his composure. The next moment he staggered back with the look of a trapped animal in his eyes as he heard the judge's tones pronouncing the sentence of death.

He confessed his awful crime before he died. It was suspected, though it was never proven for certain, that Herbert John, Percy's brother, whose death had banished sleep from Lamson's eyes, had also died by the same deadly hand.

Inexhaustible Cement Supply.

It is stated that the deposit of Portland cement discovered near Owen Sound, Ontario, and the manufacture of which was begun in 1889, is proving practically inexhaustible, and the daily capacity of the factory will soon be increased to 300 barrels. The prevailing price is $2.10 per barrel of 350 pounds net. The product is claimed to be fully equal to the English, German or Belgian article, and it is said, will eventually take the place of importations to Canada, at least.—Philadelphia Record.

Reading a person like a book to most people means skipping the surface.

Manure for Orchards.

So much mischief can be done by applying manures of the wrong kind in orchards, says the Agriculturist, that I doubt if we do not lose more by manuring than by neglecting to manure. Fruit trees do not require at any time barnyard manures, or their equivalent. What they require is a supply of inorganic food. You can do no better for apple trees than to supply them with coal ashes in which there is a liberal admixture of wood ashes. The coal ashes loosen the soil; the wood ashes furnish the fertilizer. If you can get a supply of old mortar you have just the thing you need. A mixture of lime and salt, when so mixed as to leave no free salt, is excellent for all fruit trees. All such manures should be applied as a top-dressing. A peach or plum orchard needs nothing better than swamp muck or earth from the woods, with a slight addition of phosphate and potash.

If barnyard manure is applied at any time, it should be thoroughly decomposed and applied as a top-dressing. Such manure, if placed about the roots, when planting a pear or apple tree, will kill it. Grapes, of course, want phosphates and potash. They will also respond to a free application of liquid manures during their periods of rest, both in winter and in midsummer. All the tall growing berries, of the bramble sort, will use a large amount of organic manure. But be careful about dressing your raspberries with rank undecomposed barnyard manure. The probability is at any time you will develop a fungoid disease that you cannot easily master. If you use barnyard manure in raspberries it should be thoroughly comminuted with the soil as a compost. In fact, I prefer to compost every manure before it is placed on my gardens. Equally important as the manure is the mulching of our fruit trees and bushes of all sorts.

Covering a Wagon Seat.

Procure flannel, either black, blue or green, two dozen buttons for the top of cushion, and the same number for the bottom, black oilcloth for lining the "fall," a spool of stout linen thread, and a long darning needle at least five inches in length. Using the worn "fall" as a pattern, cut the oilcloth of the same size and the flannel three-fourths inch wider all around. Bind the edges of the flannel over the oilcloth, basting firmly with firm silk thread, stitch the two together, the line of stitching being very near the edge of the bound-over flannel.

For the seat cut a narrow strip of oilcloth—buckram is better if you have it—for use as stiffening. Lay narrow tucks in the flannel, both lengthwise and crosswise, stitching them in. This forms squares, and the lines of tucks should be very regular and about four inches apart. Cover the bottom of the seat with oilcloth, cutting it of the desired size. Cut the tucked flannel three-fourths inch larger, and stitch as for the "fall," with the stiffening in place along three edges. Slip this cover over the "hair" or "spring" foundation and fasten the end firmly.

Place a stout twine in your long needle, to it fasten one of the larger buttons, put the needle through the covered cushion at a corner of one square, draw down into the cushion as far as possible, pressing the button with some wooden object from the upper side to force it into the yielding material of the foundation, tie a slip knot in your thread at the lower side, put on the small button, and cutting the thread three inches from the cushion, wind the end between the button last added and the cushion around the eye of the button. The tension will hold it if drawn tight enough through the cushion. At the four corners of each square place buttons.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Growing Spinach.

To grow spinach successfully the work of preparing the ground should begin in autumn after the fall crop of vegetables has been harvested. Work into the soil thoroughly an ample supply of well-rotted manure, then level the ground off smoothly as possible and sow the seed in shallow drills from twelve to sixteen inches apart. Sow the seed scatteringly, for it has been found that thick seeding does not pay. This done, cover it only about half an inch deep, and in conclusion firm the ground by treading down each row with the feet. It is well to get the seed in early in November, for then the plants will have a chance to come up and be thinned out before real winter weather arrives. When the ground is slightly frozen a moderate mulch of litter of leaves may be placed over the plants. In this way an early crop of spinach may be gathered—so early, in fact, that it will be entirely out of the way by the time the ground is ready for other crops.—Farm and Field.

Care of Asparagus.

In the fall the tops of asparagus should be cut and the bed rid of grass and weeds, says Western Plowman. The asparagus seed should not be allowed to reseed the bed, as they will simply cause superfluous plants, making the product small and weak. A liberal covering of coarse manure should be applied, serving the double purpose of enriching the soil and keeping out the frost. If sufficient loose trash is spread on—it must be loose to prevent heating and smothering—to prevent the frost from reaching the crowns, the result will be good, as the plant is one of the earliest to start in the spring, and prepares for this during the winter, if the soil conditions are favorable. In the early spring time the coarse manure should be raked off and the fine manure worked in the ground. An application of coarse salt is very beneficial.

Curing Bacon.

Dissolve in a pail of hot water one cup rock salt, one-half tablespoon saltpeter one cup sugar (or one-half cup molasses). Pour the liquid over the pork and let it soak for several days. Remove, dry and smoke; place in a barrel with a pan of sawdust, fire the sawdust and cover airtight, or buy essence of smoke in a tight vessel or brick oven. When smoked hang in a cool place. Another method of curing bacon is to simply salt and dry it without smoking, using more salt and freshening it piece by piece when used. Our grandfathers rubbed the salt and sugar into the meat with their hands. Hams are better salted and smoked without sweetening or saltpeter, and much more healthful without the latter.—Farm and Home.

Ventilating the Cellar.

A great mistake, says Medical Classics, is sometimes made in ventilating cellars and milk houses. The object of ventilation is to keep the cellars cool and dry, but this object often fails of being accomplished by a common mistake, and instead the cellar is made both warm and damp. A cool place should never be ventilated, unless the air admitted is cooler than the air within, or is at least as cool as that or a very little warmer. The warmer the air the more moisture it holds in suspension. Necessarily the cooler the air the more this moisture is condensed and precipitated. When a cool cellar is aired on a warm day the entering air being in motion appears cool, but as it fills the cellar the cooler air with which it becomes mixed chills it, the moisture is condensed, and dew is deposited on the cold walls, and may often be seen running down them in streams. Then the cellar is damp and soon becomes moldy. To avoid this the windows should only be opened at night, and late—the last thing before retiring. There is no need to fear that the night air is unhealthful; it is as pure as the air of midday, and is really drier. The windows should be closed before sunrise in the morning, and kept closed and shaded through the day. If the air of the cellar is damp it may be thoroughly dried by placing in it a peck of fresh lime in an open box.

Nut-Bearing Trees.

All the nut-growing trees do best when planted where they are to stand permanently, and all must be planted in the fall, as once the nuts become thoroughly dried their vitality is destroyed and they refuse to germinate.

The nuts should be planted only two or three inches deep in order that the frost may get to them and break open the shell.

Among all the nut trees none makes so quick a return as the chestnut when planted where conditions are favorable. The American chestnut is as good and sweet as any from any country, but the size of the nuts do not compare with the Japanese varieties.

The best way to secure Japanese chestnut trees is to plant native chestnuts and afterward graft Japanese scions on them. A similar plan was followed with a chestnut grove in New Jersey. The native trees were cut down and allowed to sprout up, and these sprouts were grafted with scions from Japanese chestnut trees. In ten years each one of these grafts was yielding a crop which brought from $5 to $7 to the tree, and this yield will increase every year for twenty or thirty years, when the yield from one tree will be as much as $30.

Walnuts, hickory nuts or pecans are easily grown, the first two in the North and the last in the South. Walnut trees come into bearing in a few years where they are cultivated, and in course of time produce lumber of the most valuable kind.

Millet as a Feed for Poultry.

Millet has not been regarded as favorably by poultrymen as it deserves as a food for poultry. It is said to be equal, if not superior, to any other grain as a ration for all kinds of poultry. It is more fattening than wheat and should be carefully fed, and a very good way to avoid danger from it is to feed it unthreshed. This will afford the fowls exercise while they are scratching it out of the straw. No exclusive diet will give as good results as a more diversified one, because hens will relish a change, but there is no reason why millet will not fill the bill as a grain ration fully as well as any other. The seed is very small, and in searching after it they will get some exercise, and picking it up will serve as a means of occupying their time.—Homestead.

The Devil's Paint Brush.

This "worst" weed is rapidly entering Northern Pennsylvania from New York State. Its similarity to ladies' paint brush is great so far as character goes—far greater than the similarity in name. Salt is the remedy recommended. Prof. Buckout says that a dressing of ten to fifteen pounds a square rod will kill nearly all of it, and this is especially practicable when the first patches appear. Another application may be needed to kill out some occasional plants that survived the first application. This amount of salt is at the rate, say, of a ton an acre, and while it will kill very young grass plants and some leaves, it will not materially injure a sod. Agricultural salt will do the work, and is much less expensive than ordinary salt.—National Stockman.

To Pollenize Strawberries.

A writer in the Rural New Yorker says that in raising strawberries to assist in securing pollenization, either for fruit for consumption or for the seed, swish an evergreen bush back and forth, just touching the plants lightly, doing this every day while in bloom. The most favorable time is at midday, beneath a clear sky, and when the plants are free from excess of moisture. Avoid drenching the foliage with water when the plants are in bloom, if satisfactory pollenization is desired.

The Sunflower.

The sunflower is a native of North America, but it is more largely cultivated in foreign countries than in the United States. In Russia the seeds are to to some extent parched and eaten in this country. Sunflower seed weighs about thirty pounds to the bushel. The plant has been utilized in malarial districts as a protection against fevers.

Poultry Notes.

Drinking water often spreads disease. Fowls with colds or roup should not be allowed to drink with the others.

Common fowls can be greatly improved in size and vigor by selecting the best, and setting only eggs from the best layers.

Turkeys should not be confined while fattening. If they are fed plenty of corn and soft feed three times a day they will keep quiet enough and put on flesh very fast.

White corn is liked better than yellow by many turkey growers, who think it gives a clear white color to the flesh. Some wheat, barley and buckwheat should be given also.

The various oat feeds on the market are much praised by some poultry feeders. They at least afford a change from the everlasting shorts and cornmeal, of which the hens get very tired.

Fowls like turnips either boiled or raw, and this root should be used freely throughout the winter. The hens will make a better use than any other farm animals of the surplus turnips and potatoes.

DEMOCRATIC POLICY.

A student of present political conditions cannot but reach the conclusion that it is more than likely that the Democratic party can secure a majority of the electoral votes next year, and, also, return a majority to the House of Representatives.

It is true that we are having much industrial activity, but long before the campaign of 1900 it will be apparent to the common people that the profits from all this activity have not come to them, but to those who engineer and manage the trusts and corporations which now so largely control all business enterprises. It is true the present Republican administration has conducted a successful campaign against the Spaniards, but it has produced along with the glory a number of intricate problems. Whether it can save national honor in their solution is a matter of speculation and conjecture.

Very clearly this nation's strength cannot be used to widen trade at the sacrifice of any people's desire for independence. These problems are yet those of the Republican party. If they be solved by it, then that party will be entitled to the credit; if not, then it must suffer the criticism for failure. But, in any case, no substantial advantages will accrue to the body of the the people.

Evidently the Democratic party in 1900 will find its greatest strength along the lines of its traditional policy. It came into existence through its assertion of individualism, and its logical mission now is to rescue the people from the threatened serfdom to corporate control of industrial activities.

Within the last two years corporations aggregating a capital of $4,000,000,000 have been organized for the purpose of controlling the manufacturing industries of this country. In competition with these, individual enterprise is paralyzed, when not brutally beaten down. The employer becomes the employe, and—if not by wise laws obviated—in the near future all the people will be mere "hands" in the employ of these monstrous corporations.

What would be the character of citizenship under such a social regime? The Democratic party must formulate and advocate measures to check this demoralization. The Republican party is powerless to do so. Its organization is controlled by the managers of these market forestallers—these bloodless and soulless combinations.

The single gold standard is a weapon in the hands of those who support these combinations. Wise statesmanship by the Democrats will lead to the broadest organization of those who are opposed to having the entire credit of this country resting on gold alone. No man should be barred from participating in this war against the single gold standard by any barren declaration.

In 1896 the Republicans were still claiming to be bimetallists. They make no such professions now, but openly declare in favor of measures designed to fasten on us forever the single gold standard.

The Democrats stand now for the joint standard. Silver and gold at any ratio is infinitely better than gold alone. The fight must be made in that way, and in that way can be won.

The Democratic party will always remain opposed to the protective tariff robbery, and cannot consistently wage war against monopolies and trusts without waging war against a system of taxation which is always unjust to the mass of the people, and is often instrumental in seating and strengthening monopolies.

If the Democratic party should rise above the level of mere legendary traditions and frame a platform consistent with the existing vital problems to be solved, it will be triumphant in the next national election.

Then will come conditions when the humblest may compete with the highest for wealth and distinction—when the results of prosperity will not be confined to corporations and the lordly few, but will extend to the many-handed form of toil in factory and field.—Chicago Democrat.

The Situation Simply Stated.

General Miles maintains that he is in possession of official reports and affidavits fully proving his charges of the use of chemicals in the preparation of refrigerated beef and of the lack of nutritive qualities in the canned beef. He should be required to produce these proofs before an official investigating body. If they sustain his charges the officials guilty of allowing such meat to be issued to American soldiers in the field should be punished. If the charges are not sustained General Miles should be punished for having attacked the War Department without just cause.—St. Louis Republic.

Rocks in McKinley's Path.

Administrations have been wrecked before this on smaller rocks than those in President McKinley's course to-day. His work has in many respects commended itself to the people, but they have had more than enough of the effort to gloss over and hide the iniquities of army administration under Alger, Eagan and the beef contractors, and they do not relish the present attempt to change the issue from beef to Miles.—Rochester Herald.

Responsibility for Bloodshed.

There are principles more important to the country than the acquisition of any territory or even than the prevention of bloodshed. And of these the greatest is that which the senate minority has been upholding in insisting upon its constitutional right to pass upon the treaty, undismayed by the outcry that has been raised against them. And as to the responsibility for bloodshed, it will remain for future history to determine whether that should be borne by those who have opposed or by those who have promoted the policy of subjugation.—Baltimore News.

Twenty Trusts a Day.

In one day twenty trusts were incorporated at Trenton, N. J., ranging in capitalization from $32,000,000 to $50,000.

Among these trusts were those intended to control whisky, milk, butter, cheese, gas and electric light power and heat.

Never before in the history of this nation were so many trusts given legal existence in a single day. The situation is indeed alarming when twenty combines, all intent on "reducing the cost of production" and consequently resolved to cut down the wages of labor, enter upon the field of their endeavors at the same moment.

That the United States law against trusts is a dead letter needs no argument. Facts speak louder than words, and the attitude of Attorney General Griggs is a confirmatory commentary on the facts. This officer, sworn to enforce the law, has notified the trust managers that his office is not "hunting business."

But the trusts are hurting business, and as long as Griggs of New Jersey, Griggs, the greatest trust attorney in the nation; Griggs, the friend of combines, remains at the head of the attorney general's department trusts will go right on defying the law and robbing the people.

JUST A TRIFLE WORRIED.

"Perhaps President McKinley is not afraid of the currency question, and then, on the other hand, perhaps he is afraid of it."—Chicago Democrat.

The Expected Happens.

The opening of actual hostilities between the American army in the Philippines and the native insurgent forces, however deplorable it may be, comes in the category of those events that are expected and happen in accordance with the expectation. The leading men of brains, independence and character in both the Democratic and Republican parties have repeatedly warned the government of the impending danger, while the civilized world wondered at the inconsistency of a policy that accorded the promise of independence to the Cubans, within five hours of our shores, and denied that promise to the Filipinos ten thousand miles away. But warnings, entreaties and the oft-expressed sentiment of enlightened humanity on both sides of the ocean—everywhere except in England—have been persistently ignored.

If the country is to be thus plunged into an unwelcome conflict it will become the duty of citizenship to support the administration in all active and conscientious measures looking to a speedy termination of hostilities. But the administration will be held responsible for the war—for the desolation of the Philippines, the sacrifice of American lives and the depletion of the United States treasury which will result during the next fifty years.—Columbus Post.

Day of Awful Significance.

The day when the American senate formally refused to reaffirm the great principle of the declaration of independence that governments derive "their just powers from the consent of the governed" may well be termed a day of awful significance in American history. Fortunate will it be for the United States of America if in some future century, when the passions and prejudices of our time live only in recorded history, the thoughtful historian does not place his finger upon Feb. 6, 1899, and write: "Here began the decline of popular government in America."

May Be More than a Joke.

An Eastern paper suggests in a semi-jocose vein that a manufacturers' trust should be organized to control the entire business of the country with one corporation. There is in such a suggestion something more than cause for a laugh. The idea may seem absurd, but was not the scheme of the first and greatest combination of all regarded as utterly impracticable before its present almost universal scope was even dreamed of?—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Sundry Silly Bill.

It is nearly time for some genius in Congress to invent a new way of raiding the Treasury. The river and harbor bill as a method of legislative burglary is overworked. Included from year to year in the ridiculous items that make up the bulk of the measure are always projects of genuine merit and importance. But the time will come when the larceny will cease to be a joke, and then projects which have merit will suffer the fate of those which have not.—St. Paul Globe.

Facts Not to Be Forgotten.

Stirring events in army circles at Manila must not be allowed to interfere with the investigation of the beef scandal and the charges of General Miles. The country still has an incompetent Secretary of War, and there is a state of affairs in the management of the army which is exceedingly dangerous as well as unsatisfactory to the country.—Peoria Journal.

THE STATE OF IOWA.

OCCURRENCES DURING THE PAST WEEK.

Coal Combine in Des Moines District—Store and Two Dwellings Burn—Fire at a Coal Mine—Safe Blown Open by Robbers.

F. Witter, president of the Iowa Loan and Trust Company, has transferred to William F. Wyckoff of New York City more than 2,000 acres of coal land near Des Moines. The consideration was $134,734.26. Mr. Wyckoff is president of the Carbondale Fuel Company. The property was transferred to the company by a mortgage. The transfer is a part of a plan to consolidate the coal interests of the State. Wyckoff and R. D. Sears of Marshalltown have been in the East for some time perfecting financial arrangements for the carrying out of their plans for consolidation. A deal has been completed by them for a bond issue of $1,000,000, and about a dozen of the principal mining properties in that part of the State will be operated under the one management. It is estimated that the saving in the annual expense of operating the mines will be decreased $200,000 by the consolidation.

Fire at Prairieburg.

The citizens of Prairieburg were startled by an alarm of fire. The blaze was found to be in Brookman Bros.' general merchandise store, which was a total loss. The flames communicated to a small residence owned by the same man, Mr. Crouch. Another residence owned by Mr. Finkson was also consumed.

New Road for Iowa.

The Moulton, Albia and Des Moines Railroad Company has filed articles of incorporation at Des Moines. It will build the connecting link in the Wabash from Des Moines to St. Louis. Its capital is $200,000 and its headquarters are in Des Moines.

Coal Company Suffers by Fire.

There was a bad fire at Foster, the tower and tipple works of the Deep Vein Coal Company being destroyed. This will close the mine from thirty to sixty days, and this means a heavy loss, as the operators are crowded with orders.

Shot While Breaking Jail.

An attempted jail delivery at Fort Dodge, in which the jailer was assaulted, resulted in the shooting of G. Graft, a notorious crook, by Jailer Flint. The prisoner was dangerously wounded.

Robbers Wreck a Building.

Burglars entered the general merchandise store of Levi Helm at Rock Falls, blew open a large safe and stole the contents. The force of the explosion demolished the side of the building.

Brief State Happenings.

Mason City has a new $45,000 hotel.

The winter wheat outlook in Iowa is better than last year.

Between 400 and 500 cases of measles are reported from Red Oak.

Work has been commenced on the slough bridge at Davenport.

Farmers south of Ames will build a co-operative creamery at Kelly.

Red Oak citizens are working to secure the erection of a $50,000 starch factory.

Rev. Clifford Snowden of Harlan has accepted a call to a church at Fairfield.

H. S. Munson, aged 84, of State Center, died very suddenly at his home there.

Anthon is to have a new $5,000 school house. It will accommodate 200 children.

The Senate has confirmed the nomination of G. C. Toye, postmaster at Norwood.

The barbers of Thurman have come to an agreement to do no work hereafter on Sundays.

Real estate at Denison has doubled its value on account of the reports of new railroads.

Three buildings were consumed by a fire at Mt. Union, the flames starting from a defective flue.

The citizens of Ellsworth are raising $1,500 as a bonus to have a grist mill established there.

A steam excavator at Davenport is said to have dug up a bunch of snakes as big as a bushel basket.

There is talk at Salix of investing the surplus funds of the town treasury in public improvements.

Thieves broke into an office at Thompson and opened the safe, but secured nothing, as it was empty.

The Kelly residence in East Iowa Falls has been totally destroyed by fire. It was insured for $400.

More than the amount needed to start the stove works at Keokuk has been pledged by the residents.

The Dunlap Hotel at State Center has been almost destroyed by fire. Loss nearly covered by insurance.

It is estimated that 50 per cent of last year's wheat crop is still in the hands of Lyons County farmers.

The machinery in the burned creamery at Leeds was saved and a new building will be erected at once.

Receipts at the Fort Dodge postoffice during 1898 show an increase over the preceding year of $2,149.07.

The Catholic congregation at Odebolt is figuring on building a new church this year to cost about $10,000.

The 9-year-old son of Dan Bradbury of Oskaloosa was kicked on the head by a horse and seriously injured.

Roy Miller of North Grant was thrown out of a sleigh and sustained a bruised arm and a broken collar bone.

Charles Deitz of Burlington was shot in the eye by the accidental discharge of a gun in the hands of a companion.

An independent telephone company is being organized at Red Oak to buck against the established company.

Miss Hannah Anderson of Oskaloosa was thrown in a runaway and had her skull crushed and one leg broken.

The Van Buren County Agricultural Association will hold its annual fair at Keosauqua the first week in September.

Charles Blair, a fireman on the C. & N. W., lost his pocketbook at Clinton containing $240 in cash. No trace of it has been found.

The election at Atlantic to decide whether the city will lease, with an option to buy, a system of water works, resulted in an overwhelming majority in favor of the proposition.

The question of court house site at Des Moines is not settled by the special election. The matter will now be taken before the courts by those defeated.

Charles W. Dix of Des Moines was found dead near St. Charles. It is supposed he was struck by a train on the Keokuk and Western track. Mr. Dix was interested in labor matters. He was a single man, about 45 years of age.

Thomas Wilson, living near Washington, had a narrow escape from death. His team became frightened and ran away, dragging the wagon in front of a train on the Rock Island road. The vehicle was smashed, one horse killed and Wilson sustained some injury.

The City Council of Iowa Falls will issue $5,000 worth of refunding bonds and with the proceeds will take up the floating indebtedness of that amount, thus reducing the interest almost one-half.

Mrs. Dunham, the old woman who was found in a hovel in Dubuque in a starving condition, although a sum of money was secreted in the house, has died at Mercy hospital as a result of starvation and neglect.

A small smokeless powder factory near Richland blew up. Asbury Singleton, the proprietor, working about the building, was terribly burned, but will recover. After the explosion the building took fire and was destroyed.

Grip is still raging at Elberon.

The Maxwell roller mills will be rebuilt.

A flour mill is projected at Ellsworth.

Marshalltown is running short of school room.

Work will soon be started at Oto on the water system.

Considerable sewer work will be done in Ottumwa this year.

The Presbyterians at Chester will erect a new church this year.

Dumont will probably be connected by telephone with Hampton.

It is hoped to erect a $500,000 beet sugar factory at Mason City.

Des Moines will be connected by telephone with Marysville, Mo.

Red Oak has a new commercial club to better the interests of the town.

Several houses at Chatsworth are quarantined owing to scarlet fever.

The Iowa Central has declared a semi-annual dividend of 1½ per cent.

There is some talk of erecting a new $5,000 opera house in Waterloo.

The schools at Sergeant Bluffs were closed recently on account of diphtheria.

The first company of the new National Guard has been mustered in at Centerville.

The Home for the Aged will erect a new building in Des Moines that will cost $30,000.

The Ideal Steam Heater Company of Oskaloosa will remove its plant to Des Moines.

A postoffice has been established at Yampa, with Charles E. Walter as postmaster.

The Great Western proposes to remodel and greatly enlarge its stock yards at Waterloo.

A camera club is being organized in Chariton by the amateur photographers of that city.

After having been twice re-elected Mayor Groat of Waterloo declines to again be a candidate.

The doctor of the Dubuque County poor farm reports having treated 1,764 patients during 1898.

The organizing of the company for the National Guard at Mason City is proceeding satisfactorily.

The people of Creston are elated over the prospect of securing a $50,000 Government building.

A couple of Hartley citizens paid $1,000 each for the right to sell a patent washing machine.

Ottumwa increased its postoffice receipts last year 10 per cent and Fort Dodge 13 per cent.

Some gentlemen of Iowa Falls are contemplating the erection of a commercial steam heating system.

The canning factory at Waverly has changed hands, and it will be greatly improved by its new owners.

The Congregationalists at Cresco have raised half of the amount to build the proposed $10,000 church.

Hans Schurman, residing near Denison, was adjudged insane and taken to the hospital at Clarinda for treatment.

The annual joint encampment of the G. A. R., W. R. C. and the S. of V. will be held in Waterloo June 14 and 15.

A petition has been circulated at Toledo asking the school board to submit the free text book proposition to the voters.

The citizens of Leeds are making an effort to raise enough money to furnish the school house with a new bell.

Articles of incorporation of the Ottumwa and Western Railroad Company have been filed with the Secretary of State.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Boswith of Washington County have just celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their marriage.

A train on the Iowa Central jumped the track a few miles from Newton and seven passengers were injured, none of them seriously.

The Commercial National Bank of Waterloo has been selected as a depository for the moneys of the United States in that vicinity.

The farm house of George Barnes, near Bedford, together with contents, was totally destroyed by fire, which caught from a defective flue.

Des Moines will put in a heating plant to warm the municipal buildings, being unable to keep warm with the heating company's steam.

The City Council of Creston will serve notices on the gas and water companies there that they must obey the ordinance in regard to prices.

Miss Jessie V. Shearer of Des Moines has been appointed a teacher in the Omaha and Winnebago Indian school, Nebraska, at $900 a year.

Harry Robinson of Toledo left his wife and family and eloped with Nannie Treble, a young girl of that place. The couple were arrested at Clinton.

The G. A. R. and W. R. C. of Belle Plaine are working for the erection of a monument to the unknown soldier dead buried in the local cemetery.

The family of J. C. Bunger of Fort Dodge had a narrow escape from their burning home. The water pipes were frozen and the firemen helpless.

The 17-year-old daughter of M. Gleesing of Denison struck a match which came in contact with some powder and exploded, and she was severely injured.

The Unitarians of the State will hereafter aid the congregation at Iowa City, it being the desire to maintain an organization at the seat of the State University.

James Daniels and J. E. Greenwood made their escape at Burlington while being conveyed to the penitentiary at Ft. Madison to serve a four years' sentence for a hold-up.

Petitions bearing 2,500 signatures were filed with the Board of Education at Des Moines, thus securing the submission of the question of free text books for the schools in that city. But 1,000 were required.

It was said that the Burlington road has bought the Keokuk and Western. Burlington officials have recently made several tours of inspection of the road. Traffic relations between the Burlington and the Keokuk and Western have been close for some time.

James Holihan, who lives eight miles west of Dunlap, drove his wife scantily clad and in her bare feet, from home. The mercury at the time was nearly 30 degrees below zero and the poor woman was terribly frozen before she reached the nearest neighbor, half a mile distant. Mrs. Holihan is very ill from the exposure.

Jude Terrill, a prominent lumberman of Sac County, killed himself at New Providence. He was wealthy and unmarried. No cause is assigned for the deed.

Reports from western Iowa indicate an increasing alarm over the rapid spread of smallpox. The infection was first brought from a Nebraska town, which did not enforce the quarantine. A total of forty cases is on record.

The President has commuted the sentence of Edward B. Cassatt, convicted in the Federal Court in 1895, for embezzling the funds of the First National Bank of Pella, of which he was president. Fifteen months' imprisonment is taken off.

The coroner's jury impaneled to investigate the cause of the death of Stephen Casey, the fireman who was killed in the Northwestern's fast mail wreck at Grand Junction several days ago, found that the railway company was "negligent in allowing the train to be run at an excessive rate of speed over the crossing."

The body of Mrs. Laura Sherman was found frozen stiff under the feet of the family cow in a barn on her farm, three miles from Marshalltown. She had lived alone since the death of her husband four years ago and a neighbor's boy, sent to assist her in the chores, found her. It is thought she had been dead twenty-four hours