The Emporia Weekly News.

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THESE bright, sunny days add luster to the reputation of Vennor as the mastadonic liar of the nineteenth century.

A unique case has been brought in the courts at Rochester, New York, a husband suing to recover the body of his wife from her father.

A man in southern Kansas tried the experiment the other day of melting a bullet out of a gun. There were seventy-five buggies in the funeral procession.

Col. Ingersoll thinks the president ought not to be accessible to office seekers. If Bob values his personal safety he had better cancel his Ohio engagements.

A holiday from Wednesday, December 21st to January 4th is understood to be in accordance with the views of a large majority of the members of both houses of congress.

New York Tribune: The Democrats cannot afford to split on free trade or any other issue. There are not enough of them for one party, and not half enough for two.

Small-pox has broken out among the Indians at Crow Creek Agency. If the post traders at that point don't contract that disease it will be the first thing that they ever failed to take from the Indians.

Fat, smiling advertisements are spreading themselves all over the newspapers now, crowding out editorials and other matter. Some people probably imagine that this makes the editor unhappy, but it doesn't.

The State Grange, which closed its session at Topeka Friday, passed a resolution endorsing the prohibitory law and Governor St. John's efforts to enforce it. The rural "deestricts" are solid on the temperance question.

The Newton Republican says: "Western soldiers may thank Senator Plumb for the removal of the pension office to Topeka. He has been working in this direction for some time, and he generally accomplishes what he undertakes."

Whatever may be said regarding the expediency of Governor St. John's recent proclamation, it has not escaped observation that it has proved in the nature of a bomb in the camp of the anti-prohibitionists, and it is always the wounded birds that do the fluttering.

J. M. Justice testified in the criminal court at Washington Thursday, that Guiteau was employed as a book agent in 1878 at Logansport, Indiana. The intelligent sense of shame and disgrace manifested by the assassin over this disclosure proved very damaging to the plea of insanity set up by the defense in his case.

Ft. Scott Monitor: "The comments upon the Governor's proclamation have been almost as extensive as those upon the President's message. The diversity of opinion might be excepted, however. All that we have to say is, that the people enacted the law and the legislature imposed the penalties for its violation. The responsibility of enforcing it is now the governor's. We hope he will succeed. The means which he uses does not concern us, provided he uses only such as are legitimate and known to the forms of law. We believe that his proclamation does not transcend this limit.

Mr. C. Shaler Smith has given the results of extensive observations in relation to the pressure exerted by the wind. The most violent gale recorded by him was at East St. Louis, in 1871, when the wind overturned a locomotive, the force developed in so doing being no less than 93 pounds per square foot. At St. Charles a jail was destroyed in 1877, the pressure required being 84 pounds per square foot. At Marshfield, in 1880, a brick mansion was leveled, the force necessary being 58 pounds per square foot. Mr. Smith instances numerous cases of trains blown off rails, and bridges, etc., blown down by gales of 24 to 31 pounds per square foot. In all the examples the lowest force required to do the observed damage has been taken as the maximum power of the wind, although, of course, it may have been higher.

The elder Mrs. Garfield has written this letter to a friend, a clergyman, in Iowa: "Cleveland, Nov. 18, 1881.—My Dear Brother in the Lord: I received your kind letter this morning—your Christian advice and encouragement for which I am thankful. I feel that I am deeply afflicted in the death of my noble son. He was my stay and support in my old age. I trusted, sometimes, to say 'Thy will be done.' If he had sickened and died I could feel differently, but I put my trust in God and lean on Him for support. It is a great comfort to feel that I shall soon meet my darling on the other shore, where parting is no more. My daughter-in-law and the younger children are well, and my health is good, considering what I have passed through. Thanking you again for your good letter, I subscribe myself, your sister in Christ, Eliza Ballou Garfield."

There never was much in common between the cause of education and the whisky interest. We are, therefore, not surprised to learn that for some time past several students of the State University have been quietly at work procuring evidence against the saloon keepers at Lawrence. Without making their purpose known they have collected enough material to make about twenty-five cases, and now propose to give both the state law and city ordinance a thorough trial. They have brought complaints before the police court against Madison, Ludington, Martin and Nolan, and these four cases are now being tried before Judge Chadwick. The evidence which is produced seems to be insurmountable, as the students have sworn that they have bought whisky at all of these places and have produced it in court. There is considerable excitement over the trials, and there does not seem to be any doubt but that a large number of convictions will be obtained.

Chicago Inter Ocean: Two views are taken of the proclamation of Governor St. John, of Kansas, offering rewards for the discovery of connivance in violating the liquor laws. One is that the proclamation is a recognition of the fact that the prohibition laws have not, when put to the test, met the expectations of those who advocated and secured their passage. Another view is that the Governor having discovered that the opposition to the laws is encouraged, he can by no loose who have a contempt for all laws, proposes to treat the whole question heroically. The truth is probably between these two extremes. It is natural that there should be an attempt on the part of those who are opposed to prohibition to make the new law seem a failure. If they have laid plans to do this, it is the Governor's duty to thwart them. If they threw down the gauntlet they can't blame him for taking it up.

General Grant and wife are to be the guests of President Arthur at the White House during the month of January. It is tolerably apparent that this visit was arranged without consulting Murat Halstead, of the Cincinnati Commercial.

A NEW THING FOR KANSAS.

We thought Kansas had run the gaunt let of all the ills to which humanity is heir. The early settlers will remember with what christian resignation they stood a term of the prairie itch; then came the drouth of '60; and after that at different times, two sessions of the national grasshoppers' convention assembled on our plains. We have an indistinct recollection that Eli Perkins swept over the state with his lecture, away back before we had circuses, and the raids of the "talented, versatile and dual young actress." We stood the onslaught of the Greenback orator, and have done a fair business in cyclones. The Kansas aldscreecher has roamed every state telling of our sufferings, and pocketing a good share of the profits. Oh, we have just been through the mill, and were settling down into a degree of happiness. It remained for the latter part of the year in which Mother Shipton's prophecy was to put an end to all things, for us to meet a new affliction. The nineteenth century has passed the high-noon, and its sun is setting toward the western horizon, when it is suddenly announced that Kansas has veritable and living witches! Shades of Salem! This new trouble is too much for us.

The story of the doings of these witches comes from Colony, Anderson county. The Garnett Journal gives the particulars of a case in which a certain man named Dluzak, imagined himself to be the victim of queer and unaccountable sensations. He would be suddenly seized with a strange power, which would paralyze him beyond the power of moving; then he would shake and his knees would smite each other; the demoniac spirit would at other times seem to be crushing his very bones, and twisting his body and limbs into the most fantastic shapes; these spirits would also invade the slumbers of his spouse and hold mass meetings, as it were, along her spinal column, which made the cold chills to traverse her veins, and "each particular hair to stand on end." Other members of the family became affected. One of them couldn't put on his boots because the witches would twist the heels and a strange force would repel the foot. Another would be seized with a violent itching, and though he would scratch the skin off, there would be no sign of blood. Finally the witches entered the horses, and though these animals had been gentle and docile, they took to running as if the "old scratch" was after them. In this condition of affairs the Dluzaks, who were devout Catholics, could find no relief except in piously crossing themselves and in invoking the assistance of the saints. One day a crisis came. Members of the bewitched family were unloading hay from a wagon when all of a sudden a chicken was seen to jump from the middle of the load. The poor chicken was undoubtedly much rejoiced to get relieved from the pressure of ten or twelve hundred pounds of hay. But its escape proved unlucky for its owner, because it was at once recognized as belonging to a neighbor named McGan, and the Dluzaks at once came to the conclusion that McGan was the diabolical sorcerer, and that they would put an end not only to the woes of the family, but to McGan himself unless he ceased to molest them with his devilish manifestations. So meeting McGan about two miles from Colony, a couple of the Dluzaks lounged him with a club and pitch fork. It is not recorded whether McGan wilted his assailants with his wizard breath or not, but a citizen named Wilson arrived on the scene in time to prevent bloodshed.

Morley and the attacking parties are held for assault with intent to kill. The merits of the case were heard before a justice of the peace. In the testimony it was developed that there were actually two witnesses, neither of whom were charged with being "cranks," who were ready and willing to swear that McGan was a wizard, and that the strange manifestations experienced by the Dluzaks were veritable facts. The result of the trial was a compromise by which one of the parties paid a fine of $10 and the other $5. The Journal declares most emphatically that in its report of this strange case it has told the truth and nothing but the truth as it received it from those who were present at the trial. THE NEWS is unable to decide whether the manifestations of the Dluzaks proceeded from a plain case of jimjams, or whether the family only had a bad form of dyspepsia. It hereby commissions Elder Rice to investigate and report to these headquarters. Meantime it expresses the sincere hope that witches are not to become the style in Kansas.

THE CARE OF SHEEP.

Breeder's Gazette: The man who seeks to become a flock-owner because he expects to escape the care and work to which he has been subjected in looking after the details of some other business, will certainly meet with disappointment in one of two ways. He will either find that negligence here, as everywhere else, will bring disappointment and disaster, or he will meet the requirements of the situation, and put in all the time and labor necessary to success. The merit of sheep husbandry is, not that it can be successfully prosecuted without hard work and liberal expenditure, but that it will pay for these with so much certainty, and in such liberal returns, as to give it merited prominence among the industries. The man who seeks to demonstrate to himself and others the minimum requirements of the flock, may succeed until mistaken economy becomes manifest cruelty, and even then may "gather where he has not strewn;" but the highest capabilities of the flock will be left to the demonstration of the man who supplements the well-filled trough and teeming pasture with a careful scrutiny and foresight into the comfort and convenience of every animal. He will have provision against inclemencies of cold and heat, wet and drouth; will have winter and summer food convenient and plentiful; will carefully guard against danger and disturbance from every source—knowing from experience that these will insure a compound return for the time and money required for the their consummation. Parsimony never pays the sheep husbandman In proportion to his liberality "such shall the harvest be."

The difference between the introduction and passage of a bill through congress is great. Nearly 6,000 were introduced last session, and less than 100 passed and became laws. The happiness and prosperity of the people do not depend upon the number of laws enacted. The constant changing of laws, in both state and nation, is an evil demanding a remedy.

A new bankrupt law is one of the matters which will claim the attention of the present Congress. The importance of such a measure becomes readily apparent when we consider how many seal skin saques have been sold in the United States during the present winter.

All the hotels at St. Albans, Vermont, have closed their doors against the traveling public as a result of the temperance movement. Proprietors claim they cannot run their houses, except at a loss, unless they are allowed to sell liquor.

Scientific enthusiasts who make a special study of sun spots and attendant phenomena believe that the cornerstone of a new science is being laid by discoveries pointing to an intimate connection between solar and terrestrial meteorology. Just what the connection is they are not yet able to clearly define, although electricity is suspected of being the agent through which the effects are manifested upon our planet. It is known that the gaseous envelope of the sun is affected by eruptions of such prodigious magnitude as to be utterly beyond our power of conception, these disturbances appearing to us in the form of rapidly changing spots and protuberances. The eras of the spots—or sun-storms—occur at remarkably regular intervals, a complete cycle of the various stages of activity from maximum to minimum and again to maximum being performed in about eleven years—the so-called "sun-spot period." The sun-spot physicists claim a coincidence of the periods of maximum spots and years of great atmospheric and physical disturbance in the earth. The present has been a year of great solar disturbances, while it has been marked by violent storms and earthquakes upon our globe. Further than this, these scientists claim to have recently detected, by simultaneous observation minor atmospheric changes as the result of corresponding movements in the sun. Many difficulties attend these observations, but the Astronomer Royal for Scotland and others believe that the state of the sun will some day become an important factor in weather forecasts and like calculations.

New York Tribune: The millions of Americans who were amazed and wearied by the Centennial exposition of 1876 will be interested to know that it actually last week departed this life, and is now comfortably buried. Our Philadelphia neighbors have striven manfully for five years to keep it alive in a sort of a cataleptic condition. A prolonged display of Liberian coffee, feathers from the Sandwich Islands, stuffed animals, and the manufactures of the Quaker City have been kept up in the main building, together with skating rinks, temperance lectures, Sunday school celebrations, agricultural fairs or other divertisements to which the mind of a Philadelphian bent on a holiday seriously doth incline. But even these mild pleasures died a natural death. The building was sold to a western speculator for $97,000; the model cottages, benches, electric organs, pre-historic bones, etc., including the remarkable statue of Washington rising out of the back of an eagle, brought under the hammer $20,00 more. About $100,000 will be divided among the stockholders, about enough to purchase a mourning ring, and the last rite will be over.

SENSITIVE ASSASSINS.

A correspondent of the New York Sun writes as follows:

Iago and Guiteau are alike sensitive in reference to the use of the word murder, and prefer a softer and more ambiguous term to describe the act. While, however, there is much that is devilish in the character of both, the former, when pressed by Roderigo, had at least the manliness and courage to call his crime by its proper name. In "Othello," fourth act, second scene, occurs the following interesting colloquy:

Iago—"Sir, there is special commission come from Venice to depute Cassio in Othello's place."

Roderigo—Is that true? Why, then Othello and Desdemona return again to Venice?

Iago—Oh, no; he goes into Mauritania, and takes away with him the fair Desdemona, unless his abode be lingered here by some accidents, where her loves can be so determinate as the *removing* of Cassio.

Roderigo—How do you mean—*removing* of him?

Iago—Why, by making him incapable of Othello's place—knocking out his brains.

Thus we see that Guiteau, execrable villain as he is, has not even the virtue of originality in his "inspiration."

OVER THE STATE.

An epidemic of female infants has overtaken Concordia.

The Commonwealth says an extension of the Santa Fe branch from Howard to Sedan, near the Indian Territory, now looks probable.

The story is current that a Kansas newspaper man was robbed of a gold watch and chain and other valuable jewelry while traveling in a sleeping car. We feel safe in saying that the author of that statement would, with proper encouragement, develop into a very fair romancer.

Keokuk, Iowa, is enjoying a queer matrimonial jumble. A son married his father's divorced wife, the son's stepmother. The father had secured a divorce in order that he might marry the wife's sister, and the wife and son, like Barkis, were "willin'."

The Kansas insane people at Osawatomie had a masquerade dance at the asylum Friday night. A fellow down at Washington, who has been trying to play insane for some months, will probably have a little masked dance of his own before long, without a platform under him.

Sheriff Pat Garret, of Lincoln county, the slayer of Billy, the Kid, who was in Emporia on Sunday, and who was interviewed by a NEWS reporter, has closed a contract with the New Mexican Publishing Company of Santa Fe for the publication of the "Life of Billy, the Kid."

A remarkable case of "conscience" is reported from Pella, Iowa, two brothers having received a draft of $1,000 from a man in Holland, who borrowed it of their father thirty-two years ago. If the sender lived in this country he would be promptly arrested on the charge of being a "crank."

Virtue and agility bring their own reward in Shawnee county. During a pelting rain a school ma'am up there, finding that she could not unlock the school house door, climbed into a window four feet from the ground, and pulled her fifty-two pupils in after her, and the next day she received six offers of marriage.

Danbury News: Thomas Schofield, aged 91 years, walked nine miles to renew his subscription to a New London paper. It is the general impression among publishers who send out their papers on credit, that there are a large number of subscribers who are waiting until they are 91 years old to come in and pay for their paper.

Gen. Sheridan says that the congressional appropriation for the Yellowstone National Park of $15,000 annually out of which comes the salary of the superintendent and game-keeper, is too small to give much of a balance for the improvement of the roads and trails, so that really the work done in the summer has to be so temporary that it is washed out by the winter rains.

Edwin P. Christie, the founder of negro minstrelsy, left an estate of $200,000. A contest arose over the provisions of his will, and after protracted litigation a decision has been rendered by which the heirs of his widow receive the sum of $5,000 each, the bulk of the estate having passed into the hands of the attorneys. It seems that where there's a will there's always a way—for the lawyers to get the bulge on the legatees.

HERE AND THERE.

Illinois proposes to raise $20,000 for the Garfield monument fund.

O'Connor will lecture at Omaha on the 25th of the present month. There is always a disaster of some kind hanging over that town.

A typhoon visited China, raising the waters of the sea and driving them inland four miles. One town was entirely submerged and swept away with all its inhabitants, numbering 3,000.

Eighty newspapers in Nebraska have declared in favor of female suffrage. This is a significant commentary upon the rolling-pin as an instrument of intimidation.

The question of the renewal of a large number of national bank charters which expire this year, is mooted. Now is the time for the Hon. Daniel Webster Voorhees to turn lose his great mind.

The cheapest riding in the world is on the underground railroads of London. Some of them carry workmen twelve miles for a penny—two cents. The passengers last year numbered 110,000,000.

There will probably be no effort at legislation against the Gainesborough hat as long as ladies prudently abstain from patronizing that class of entertainments which are especially designed for the delectation of elderly gentlemen of meagre hirsute and impaired vision.

Great numbers of Mexicans are gathered at Paso del Norte to participate in the sixteen days' feast of San Guadolupe, with bull fights. Americans who have witnessed these festivals, assert that they are almost as exciting and interesting as a session of congress.

President Arthur is an Episcopalian, Secretary Felinghuysen is an elder in the Dutch Reform church, while it is said that two Presbyterians are about to be offered cabinet positions. We are fearful that the new administration will not be overly popular with Col. Ingersoll.

One of the most remarkable auction sales of concert tickets ever held in the United States was that for "The Messiah" at Cincinnati, in which Patti is to appear. The total receipts for three days were $16,592.10, of which $6,904.40 represent premiums, averaging about $2 per seat.

The late census of Japan shows a total population of very nearly 36,000,000. The Mikado and his family are shown at the head of the statistics as twenty men and seventeen women. Yeddo, of the vastness of which the old geographies used to tell such tales, contains only 957,121 inhabitants. Kioto approaches it closely with 822,098, and Ozaka comes next with 582,668.

At a recent golden wedding in New York, a plumber electrified the company by presenting, with his congratulations and good wishes, his bill, receipted in full. This is the most munificent gift of a brilliant season, and, though doubtless well meant, it furnishes a painful illustration of the wild and reckless extravagance which is corrupting the American character.

Siemerling, the Berlin sculptor, has signed the contract for the execution of the equestrian statute of Washington, to be placed in Fairmount Park, at Philadelphia. The Society of the Cincinnati will bear the expense of the work, which will cost about $20,000. The time specified for its completion is ten years, which, with the amount to be paid, ought to secure a most excellent result.

The Chicago Tribune has gone into the primer business. The following is a specimen of its efforts in that direction: "What a strong Gate. The man who built it has five Daughters, all unmarried. Do you tumble, children?"

The custom which prevails at Lincoln, Nebraska, of obliging the inmates of the penitentiary at that place to listen to amateur concerts whenever singers can be secured, will, it is hoped, have a very salutary effect in staying the flood of crime which is sweeping over that state.

THE rum-venders of Omaha have been indulging in some altitudinous kicking over the "Slocumb law," which requires them to pay a license of $1,000, but as their only alternative was to "put up" or shut up, some forty of them have deposited the requisite amount in the city treasury to secure the privilege of keeping open.

Mrs. Garfield's correspondence is something enormous. For some time past it is estimated that she has written or dictated on an average 750 letters a day. The franking privilege extended to her by congress for life, is quite an important item. Such action, however, on the part of congress has long been customary in similar cases.

If the people of this country can be made to grasp the vital fact that the name of the new speaker of the house is pronounced "Kifer," and that President Arthur's bed-chamber in the White House is the one formerly occupied by Nellie Grant, the safety of our Republican institutions may be regarded as assured for at least another year.

The Rev. Mr. Talmage defines Guiteauism as "able-bodied beggary, disguised as borrowing," and thinks that such vermin as the assassin should be extirpated from society. Guiteau, on the other hand, denominates Mr. Talmage a crank, a liar and an adulterer. We have always observed that reciprocity is the law of admiration.

On exhibition in a Eureka, Nevada, bakery is a piece of petrified wood, about the size of a very big man's head. It assays $1,500 to the ton in silver, horn silver glistening all over it. About one-half of the singular specimen is the clearly marked bark of the fossil tree with leaves embedded therein and tinged with copper stains, the other part being the grain of the wood, seemingly but pine, plainly defined.

It is the general belief that the verdict in the cadet Whittaker court martial was unfavorable to him, and recommended his dismissal from the academy, but that the review of the proceedings by Judge Advocate General Swaim, and the report thereon by the secretary of war, will result in the president setting aside the findings of the court and ordering the reinstatement of Whittaker.

If there is any truth in the report that President Authur has decided to appoint no women to office, we shall not be surprised to learn that the next crank who puts in an appearance at the White House with a divine commission to "remove" the chief executive will wear petticoats instead of trousers. This, of course, is upon the hypothesis that Dr. Mary Walker is not yearning for an appointment.

Omaha has about 160 saloons in a population of something over 30,000. The new license is fixed by state law at $1,000. Sixty of the saloons have concluded to pay the license, and the rest are going out of the business. This $60,000 will defray the whole police expenses of the city and leave considerable money for other municipal purposes; drunkenness will largely be reduced, and the liquor business will be placed on a far more orderly and less injurious basis than it ever has been before in Omaha.

Wilhoft's Fever and Ague Tonic, the old reliable remedy, now sells for $1.

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

The new Secretary of State is 64 years old.

A son of Senator Voorhees is going upon the stage.

President Arthur is overwhelmed with callers and office seekers.

Miss Kate Kane has been admitted to practice in the supreme court of Wisconsin.

An exchange says: "The Democracy are hunting for an issue." Is Mr. Tilden lost?

The phrase "devilish depravity" seems to fit Guiteau as neatly as the hide on his bullet head.

Boston has just elected a Republican mayor and city council for the first time in many years.

Mr. Tilden is beginning to manifest a tender interest in the health of Senator Pendleton, of Ohio.

The press throughout the country is almost unanimous in its advocacy of the repeal by congress, of the arrears-of-pensions bill.

Mrs. Flood, wife of the Nevada millionaire, paid $1,400 for a special car to take her from New York to San Francisco, last week.

We should suppose that either Henry Ward Beecher or DeWitt Talmage would officiate at Guiteau's obsequies with a very acceptable measure of unction.

"Blaine is finally out of the cabinet, but I am not so certain that there is not something prophetic in his exasperating contentment over the situation."—R. Conkling.

THE extremes of theology seem to meet in the family of Col. Bob Ingersoll, whose daughter, it is reported by a Philadelphia paper, has recently become a Calvanist.

Schuyler Colfax, of Indiana, is lecturing in Kansas and Nebraska. The fact may be recalled by some of our readers that Mr. Colfax was once vice-president of the United States.

Chauncey I. Filley continues to be mentioned as the probable successor of Postmaster General James. He is probably not as big a man as the retiring officer, but he seems to be awfully willing.

Congressman Anderson, of this state, has secured the eternal gratitude and devotion of Private Dalzell, of Ohio, by introducing a bill providing for the reduction of postage on letters to two cents.

Florence, the celebrated actor, is an active and earnest Republican, and wants a diplomatic appointment. He and the president are personal friends, and it is believed Florence will get a place.

Senator Ingalls introduced a bill in the senate Thursday instructing the committee on pensions to inquire into the pension of the widow of Abraham Lincoln, and report as to whether it should be increased. The resolution was adopted.

John F. Foster, now on his way to Washington, to testify in the Guiteau case, said that in June Guiteau remarked to him: "I expect to get the Paris consulship. If I don't I will make the biggest sensation in this country that has been since '65.

A correspondent furnishes a pen picture of the new speaker of the house, in which the fact is noted that his ears are exceptionally small. This peculiarity might be reasonably expected in a person so entirely devoid of sympathy with the principles of the Greenback party as General Keifer.

Queen Victoria is ill. She suffers much from the comparative mildness of the weather, warmth always being particularly depressing to her. Her Majesty delights in cold, and a hot room or a prolonged ceremonial involving a crowd invariably causes her to feel ill and faint. The hot air apparatus which is used to heat Windsor Castle is never turned on in the suite occupied by the Queen, however severe may be the weather.

"THE SALEM WITCHCRAFT."

One of the most noted, not to say notorious towns of the original thirteen states was Salem, Massachusetts, sixteen miles from Boston, towards Cape Ann. Its first name was "Naumkeag," the Indian name of the settlement. A colony of sturdy Puritans located here in 1627, and from that colony has emanated some of the most startling transactions in the history of our country. Many of the greatest jurists, historians, poets and the ablest novelist we have produced, Nathaniel Hawthorn, were born in Salem. Here occurred early resistance to British arms, which was followed by the more determined opposition to British tyranny until victory crowned with success the self-sacrificing toils of these sturdy pioneers of advancing civilization.

For many years Salem was the principal commercial town of our whole coast. Boston and New York were insignificant maritime ports in comparison, and up to a comparatively recent date Salem had the monopoly of the East India and African trade. If she did, in her commerce, take missionaries as passengers to Africa, to convert the natives, and fill the hold with rum and gun powder to enable the natives the more readily to destroy each other, this may be palliated in part on the score of great enterprise, which would not allow a competitor to gain by their rivals to show their liberality in being willing to transport missionaries as freely as they would fire-water, saltpeter and old flint locks. But Salem's notoriety arises probably more than any other cause from the unenviable fact that there was the seat of that horrible delusion known as "Salem Witchcraft," in which a score of innocent persons were persecuted to death on the charge of being in league with the devil. At the end of so-called trials, aided and abetted by the most learned men of the town, these poor creatures were tortured or gibeted on what is known to this day as Witch Hill. It seems to us of the 19th century well-nigh impossible that Rev. Cotton Mather and men like him could ever have given their countenance to such an infamous delusion.

This abomination started in the month of February, 1692, at the house of Rev. Samuel Paris. The daughter aged 9 and a niece of Mr. Parris aged 9 and 12 years, began to act in a strange and unaccountable manner, uttering loud and pitious cries, creeping into holes, hiding under benches, and putting themselves in odd postures. Physicians were called, who pronounced them bewitched, and solemn religious services were held at which the girls accused Titiba, a South American slave, of having bewitched them. Mr. Parris beat Titiba until he compelled her to confess herself guilty. These children next accused six other women of excellent character, all of whom were thrown into prison. The demon of superstition was thus let loose upon the people. Says the historian Thacher, "so violent was the popular prejudice against every appearance of witchcraft that it was deemed meritorious to denounce all who gave the least reason for suspicion. Every child and every gossip was prepared to recognize a witch, and no one could be certain of personal safety. Sad indeed was the delusion and shocking the extent to which the bewildered imaginations and excited passions of the people hurried them on to deeds for which they are now visited with unmeasured reproach. Various tortures were resorted to, to extort from the accused confessions that they were in league with Satanic influences. One was to throw them into a pond; if they swam they were pronounced witches and treated as such; if they could not swim they were in danger of being drowned. "Dr. Bentley says that from March to August, 1692, was the most distressing time Salem ever knew; business was paralyzed; the town was deserted; terror was in every countenance, and distress in every heart. Fear haunted every street. At last the courts and judges learned the folly of their course, and the churches and the ministry erased all the ignominy they had attached to the innocent victims of their stupid fanaticism and most humbly acknowledged their errors. The Governor then ordered those accused to be set free. The jail was full of them, and such a jail delivery was never known before or since in New England. Ore hundred and fifty persons, including nine children varying in age from nine to fourteen years, were liberated.

Judge Story has said: "We may lament the errors of the times which led to these persecutions, but surely our ancestore had no special reasons for shame in a belief which had the universal sanction of their own and all former ages, which counted in its train philosophers as well as enthusiasts; which was graced by the learning of prelacy, as well as by the countenance of kings."

The jail in which so many of these victims were confined, in which some were tortured to death, and from which others were conveyed to Gallows Hill for execution, still stands, and was purchased and converted into a dwelling house many years ago by a venerable uncle of the writer of this sketch. In one of the rooms of this historical building, the Rev. Dr. Cheever wrote his world-renowned temperance article entitled "Deacon Giles' Distillery.

THE NEWS.

Congressional

SENATE.

WASHINGTOO, D. C., Dec. 16.—The chair was authorized to fill the existing vacancies in standing and select committees, which will be made in accordance with the program of the Republican caucus.

A number of bills of minor importance were introduced.

Bills were introduced and referred for the suppression and prevention of pleuro-pneumonia in native cattle; to authorize the erection of a statute of Chief Justice Marshall; by Senator Camden, for further appropriations to continue the improvement of the Little Kanahwa river in West Virginia.

At 12:30 this afternoon the resolution for the select committee on woman's suffrage came up as unfinished business of the morning hour.

Senator Vest resumed his remarks in opposition to the resolution, humorously arguing on the subject, and moving that it be referred to the committee on revolutionary claims, as the female suffrage party was the most revolutionary party in the country. Senator Dawes, thinking that the papers be referred to that committee. Motion rejected, 21 to 31; party vote, except Davis, of Illinois, Johnson and Jones, of Florida, and Ransom, who voted "No."

Mr. Bayard moved the reference of the resolution to the judiciary committee and consumed the remainder of the morning hour with his motion, and the subject went over.

Mr. Voorhees then proceeded to address the senate upon his silver resolution.

The chair then filled the vacancies on the committees as proposed by the caucus.

Mr. Windom takes the chairmanship of the committee on foreign relations; Mr. Miller, of California, of the committee on the judiciary, and Mr. Sewell, of the committee on enrolled bills.

Mr. Windom also takes Mr. Edgerton's place on the committee on education and labor and pensions; and Mr. Van Wyck takes Edgerton's place on the committee on pensions.

The others are merely changes of membership between different senators.

Mr. Voorhees introduced a memorial of the president to retire silver certificates as a contraction of the currency. He reviewed the history of the old United States bank, and condemned the present national bank system.

At 2:15 p. m. the senate went into executive session.

VARIOUS NOMINATIONS.

The name of Benjamin Harris Brewster, of Pennsylvania, for attorney general was sent to the senate to-day almost immediately after the senate was called to order.

The nomination of Nathan A. Adams, of Kansas, to be pension agent at St. Louis, was also sent in.

The nomination has also been sent to the senate of Geo. W. Howe for collector, at Cuyahoga, Ohio, and Wallace R. Finch, for surveyor of customs at La-Crosse, Wisconsin.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The senate in executive session to-day confirmed the following nominations: Postmasters—Indiana—G. C. Merrifield, Mishawka: Wm. Conner, Franklin, G. W. Gordon, Auburn; Wm. J. Huff, Monticello; N.

THE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The Speaker announced the following special committee on the expenses attending the illness and funeral of President Garfield: Taylor, Poland, Cox, (New York), Joyce, Lefever, Belford, Blackburn, Page, Springer, O'Neil and Shelly.

A bill was introduced by Mr. Hubbell to amend the act to reduce the duties on imports and reduce internal revenue taxes. Referred.

By Mr. Willetts, to regulate the suffrage in territories and to fix certain qualifications for office; also to provide for oaths of jurors in trials for bigamy in the territories; also to the crime of bigamy and proof thereof; also, to reorganize the legislative powers of Utah; also, granting a pension to the father of the late Gen. Custer.

By Mr. Lord, repealing sections of the revised statutes relating to tax on banks and bank notes and national banking associations; also, to repeal the tax on bank checks; also, to repeal the internal revenue tax on medicines, perfumeries, etc.

By Mr. Burrows, of Michigan relating to the recovery of damages for infringement on patents.

The bill introduced by Mr. Chalmers, (Miss.) for the payment of the public debt and to stop the manufacturing of money by corporations, provides for the issue by the government of $360,000,000 of United States treasury notes similar to greenbacks, which shall be prepared for issue, and that any bank shall be relieved from tax on its deposits whenever it exchanges its national bank notes for them. It also provides that whenever the treasurer receives $1,000 in bank notes he shall demand payment therefor from the bank issuing them, giving an option to redeem them either in legal tender or bonds. If in money, the money shall be applied to the redemption or purchase of bonds, and if in bonds, such bonds shall be cancelled. Section five provides that the treasurer may purchase gold or silver bullion whenever it may be necessary, and shall always keep in the treasury thirty per cent. of the amount of treasury notes and coin certificates outstanding in gold and silver coin, the surplus above this to be used in buying bonds.

Mr. Cox, (N. Y.) introduced a bill to promote the life saving service; also an apportionment bill, placing the number of members of the house at 307; also a resolution as to the Halifax fishery award; fraudulent statistics as to the arrest of American citizens in Ireland.

Mr. McCook, (N. Y.) bill for erection of a statute to General James A. Garfield.

Mr. Robinson, (N. Y.) bill to reduce letter postage to one cent.

Mr. Scales, (North Carolina) bill to repeal all revenue laws and to abolish all tax bond offices enacted by them.

Mr. Vance, (North Carolina) bill to repeal the duty on salt and to punish certain crimes relating to coinage.

Mr. Stephens, (Georgia) bill to regulate the promotion of midshipmen and cadet engineers.

Mr. Townsend, (Ohio) bill appropriating $50,000 for the relief of Mrs. James A. Garfield.

Mr. Neal, (Ohio) bill to incorporate a Garfield Hospital; also one to punish bribery and trading at elections; also one to suppress gambling in the District of Columbia.

Mr. George, (Oregon) bill providing for a military and scientific expedition to Alaska.

Mr. Kelly, (Pa.) bill to redeem and refund a portion of the bonded debt; also a resolution relating to woman's suffrage.

Mr. Watson, (Pa.) bill to regulate interstate commerce.

Mr. Shallenberger, (Pa.) bill to facilitate convictions for bigamy or adultery.

At 5:20 o'clock p. m., 869 bills having been introduced, Mr. Dibble (S. C.) offered a resolution of respect to the memory of Hon. M. P. O'Connor, and the house then adjourned till Monday.

Beck on Presidential Succession.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 14.—At the close of the morning hour Senator Beck spoke of the serious difficulties and confusion likely to arise from the enforcement of the act of March 1, 1792, giving the line of presidential succession in the president of the senate, or if there is none, to the speaker of the house, to the contingency therein provided for, and referred to many instances in which had such a contingency arisen these difficulties would have been illustrated. He said that while the word "officer" in the clause of the constitution empowering the legislature to declare what officer shall act as a provisional successor, has been held to mean "officer of the United States," the only existing provision of law on the subject is the act of 1792, which designated officials not recognized as United States officers. The senate decided in 1798, in the Blount impeachment, that a senator was not a civil officer of the United States, within the impeaching clause of the constitution, and this decision has been followed. They were

MANY PRACTICABLE DIFFICULTIES

in the way of the execution of the law. The speaker of the house ordinarily has no official existence for nine months every alternate year, and the president of the senate may have no official existence at the same time, as has repeatedly occurred, and as was the fact when the assassination of President Garfield took place. In the life of the vice president the office of president *pro tem* of the senate does not exist, except in the absence of the vice president, upon whose reappearance the president *pro tem* becomes relieved from office. The power given congress to provide for the succession being the power to designate an officer already existing, the latter must continue in the office the possession of which qualifies him for the succession as acting president of the United States. Thus the speaker of the house or president of the senate, as acting president of the United States, would wield

BOTH THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE POWER

of the government, as he would take part in the legislation and append or withhold the executive signature to that same legislation. Further, both the president of the senate and speaker of the house may be ineligible to the presidency, both by reason of alienage and non-age. This was illustrated in the case of Clay in 1811, who was elected speaker of the house because he was of presidential age, and under the existing law if both president and vice president had died sixty days before the first Wednesday of the present month, it would have been proper to elect a new president, who would be sworn in on the 4th of March next, in the middle of a long term of congress, and if he was to serve four years his term would expire in the middle of a long congressional term. The introducing of a new cabinet and machinery in the middle of a congress would disorganize all governmental powers and ought to be provided against. Senator Beck regarded the substance of the bill reported by the judiciary committee of the senate in 1856 to make the succession fall on judges of the supreme court, officers who had the qualifications required for the presidency and vice-presidency, as bridging over the difficulty. He deeded the position taken by that committee and by able lawyers, that when, in the temporary disability of the president, the vice-president succeeds, the president cannot afterwards resume his place. If Lincoln had been captured by the confederates, it would have been necessary for Hamlin to sign as president the legislation passed to raise men and money to carry on the war, but the declaration by Hamlin that he intended to act the remainder of the term would have caused a revolution in the north. Senator Beck was

OPPOSED TO GARLAND'S BILL,

vesting the cabinet officers in officers because, in the event of the removal of the president, the cabinet may be found to be not only implicated with the president, but might be shown to have advised the offense for which he is removed. Then too, cabinet members may not possess the requisite qualifications for the presidency, in age and nativity. He then quoted from an interesting letter from the official census report, D. P. Murphy, in response to one from himself, giving the record of the insertion of the clause of the constitution, and the legislation on the subject.

SENATOR MAXEY

followed Senator Beck, holding that the vice-president does not become president, nor is not entitled to take the oath as such, pending the inability or disability of the president, but discharges the powers and duties of the office by virtue of his office of vice-president, pending the disability, and no longer.

SENATOR ANTHONY

followed on the same side. Difficulties in the way of the enforcement of the act of 1792, and the necessity for a remedy.

SENATOR GARLAND

obtained the floor, when the senate went into executive session and soon after adjourned.

Senate Proceedings.

WASHINGTON, December 21.—A number of bills were introduced.

By Plumb—Amending Section 2554, regular statutes, providing for the issuance of gold certificates, so that it substitutes the word "directed" for "Authorized," so as to make it mandatory upon the Secretary to issue certificates upon the deposits of gold coin and bullion. Also authorizing the President whenever in his judgment exigencies of frontier service require it, to add 2,500 enlisted men to the army, to serve during such exigency, and not longer than one year.

By Dawes—For a public building for government offices at Atchison, Kas.

By Plumb—A joint resolution for the relief of the Kansas City, Fort Scott & Gulf Railway Company

Hoar's resolution for the selection of a committee on the rights of women, was taken up.

Senator Vest said he could see no necessity for a committee on that subject, and regarded the resolution as a step toward the recognition of woman suffrage, to which he was opposed on principle.

Senator Hoar replied, but the morning hour closed before he finished, and the matter went over.

Scoville's Lecture

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 14.—Geo. Scoville, brother-in-law and counsel for Guiteau, lectured to night on the "Guiteau Case." Though a large number of tickets were sold the audience was small, but heartily applauded the lecturer.

Scoville premised his lecture with the remark that he had not the least intention of reflecting on the court