Tears.

BY WILD EDGERTON.

O would that I once more could weep;
When tears into my lashes leap,
Care's cobwebs from the soul they sweep
And lay grief's haunting ghosts to sleep—

They purge the breast and cool the brain,
And sorrows from the heart distill,
Drawing the sting from present pain,
And binding me to coming ill.

Not bitter tears that sometimes fall
From stern men's eyes; there is no balm
In such hot drops—they are as gall,
And waste, and wear, and do not calm.

I'd have that gentler summer rain
That, falling on a heart forlorn,
Wins its bright flowers to bloom again,
And freshens it with hope new-born.

Sweet, transient tears of youthful hours,
Give back the healing of thy dew!
I'd barter many boasted powers
For one such tear as childhood knew.

Sweet tears of youth, come back once more!
Thy drops were priceless pearls to-day,
If ye'd but sweep my eyelids o'er,
And wash the stains of time away.

Who scorneth tears is like the fool
That in the flame his hand still keeps,
Nor heeds the friendly fountain cool
Which woos him to its crystal deeps.

Nor is he wise to whom appears
Grief's phantom grim through stony eye,
Earth's frightful spectres seen through tears
Lose half their power to terrify.

Who might, yet will not weep, when fate
Drags him thro' sorrow's starless gloom,
May find ere long, yet find too late,
That drought but withers for the tomb!

The Use of Initial Letters, and their Abuse by Snobs.

The rage for monograms on articles of personal adornment, and with which many Americans have been afflicted for the last few years, is excessively vulgar as so manifested. Of course it comes of a hankering after crests and badges of rank, which has been imported from Europe into this country. But people of good taste abroad, who are used to crests and ciphers, and who are entitled to them, do not display them on every occasion and in every available corner of their dwelling, on their dresses, and equipages. To have your monogram on your China, on your dog's collar, on the livery of your attendants, or on a pannel of your carriage, is a very different thing from sporting it personally and thus making yourself a kind of walking advertisement of your own initials. Even on letter paper and envelopes, the greatest caution ought to be observed not to have monograms or devices too conspicuous. I was told by one who had received such a letter, that Queen Victoria, for her own private correspondence, used a perfectly plain sheet of paper, without any coat of arms, and a rather large, business-looking envelope to match. Your letters should be valuable for what you put into them, and not for what you pay the stationer to put on them. It is especially for articles of dress and adornment worn conspicuously on the street and in public places that monograms and initials are in bad taste. About two years ago an attempt was made to introduce embroidered initials and crests upon parasols in Paris. I do not know whether the mania was ever transferred to this country, but it was abandoned entirely to *parvenues* and persons of questionable character abroad. For the same reason the jewelry that had the initials in diamonds on a ground of black or colored enamel, or onyx, was never popular with the best people.

Monograms on lockets or bracelets are not so conspicuous, especially when these are to be worn only in the house. But the best rule is to have your personal mark placed on articles of personal adornment where it shall be least conspicuous. You must be poorly off, if, having no servant on which to display it, you make a shift to wear your own livery!

The theory of monograms and crests sprang from a very natural conceit that cannot be satisfied unless it lets others know that this or that is "*my*" personal property! But while it may be consistent to advertise your dog, your carriage or other articles of personal property in this manner, it is not necessary to proclaim to the world the fact that the clothes upon your back, or the personal adornments in which you delight, belong to you and are bought and paid for. People have given you credit already for owning them, seeing that you are wearing them, although they may *not* be paid for. And, therefore, as the principal object for setting a mark on individual wearing apparel and various little articles of personal use and embelishment is only to serve as a means of identification, the best taste indicates that such marks shall be as little obtrusive as possible. What, then, shall we think of initialed ear rings? Could anything be more vulgar?

The truth is, that according to the rules of good breeding, it is not proper to obtrude your personality conspicuously upon others. And upon this foundation rests the whole superstructure of good taste and surroundings. You are very unfortunate if you are obliged to advertise yourself and your business by carrying them into the surroundings of private life; and if not compelled to this by necessity, the taste must be hopelessly vitiated which is constantly challenging public attention by meretricious efforts at personal prominence.—"*Howard Glyndon*," *in the N. Y. Evening Mail.*

RESPECTABILITY IN OLDEN TIMES—Some 40 years ago, when a man's respectability depended upon his taking a newspaper, a certain shrewd individual was one morning enjoying the luxury of perusing his paper—although he labored under the disadvantage of not knowing a single letter of the alphabet—when a more knowing neighbor of his happening in, perhaps to borrow his paper, observed to him that he had his paper wrong end up. The old gentleman, drawing himself up in the pomposity of affronted dignity, exclaimed: "I would have you to know, sir, that if I take a paper and pay for it, I have a right to read it which end up I please."

NEW AIR BRAKE.—The new air brake which is exciting so much attention among railroad men was invented in Pittsburgh. It is automatic and self-adjusting, but is directed by machinery on the engine. This machinery consists of an air-pump and receiver, which are worked by the movement of a hand lever at the fire-box. Pipes connect the brakes of the entire train, and through these, by the movement of the lever on the engine, the air is made to act upon each wheel instantly. The expense of this apparatus is $300 for the engine, $25 for the tender, and $100 for each car.

A Prose Poem.

The following poem from the San Francisco *Golden Era* is not now only Homeric in style, but complete in itself, for it ends with a total annihilation of the combatants.

On a pine woodshed, in a dark alley, where scattered moonbeams, shifting through a row of tottering chimneys, and awnings torn and drooping, fell, strode back and forth, with stiff and tense drawn muscles and peculiar tread, a cat.

His name was Norval; on yonder neighboring shed his father caught the rats that came in squads from the streets beyond Dupont, in search of food and strange adventure.

Grim war he courted, and his twisted tail and spine upheaving in fantastic curves, and claws distented, and ears flatly pressed against a head thrown back, defiantly told of impending strife.

With eyes agrim and screeching blasts of war, and steps as silent as the falling dew, young Norval crept along the splintered edge, and gazed a moment through the darkness down, with tail awag triumphantly.

Then, with an imprecation and a growl—perhaps an oath in direst vengeance hissed—he started back, and crooked in back like a letter S, or rather like a U inverted, stood in fierce expectancy.

'Twas well. With eyeballs glaring and ears aslant, and open mouth, in which two rows of fangs stood forth in sharp and dreadful conformity, sly up a post from out the dark below a head appeared.

A dreadful tocsin of infernal strife young Norval uttered, then with a face unblanched and moustache standing strait before his nose, and tail slung widely to the passing breeze, stepped back in cautious invitation to the foe.

Approaching each other, and with preparations dire, each cat surveyed the vantage of the field. Around they walked, with tails uplifted and backs high in the air, while from their mouths, in accents hissing with consuming rage, dropped brief but awful sentences of hate.

Twice around the roof they went in circle, each eye upon the foe intently bent, then sideways moving, as is wont with cats, gave one long drawn, terrific, savage yeow, and buckled in.

The fur. A mist of hair hung o'er the battlefield. High above the din of passing wagons rose the dreadful tumult of the struggling cats. So gleamed their eyes in frenzy that to me, who saw the conflict from the window near, naught else was plain but gory stars that moved in orbs most encentric.

An hour they struggled in tempestuous fight, when faint and fainter grew the squall of war, until all sound was hushed. Then went I forth with lantern, and the field surveyed—what saw I?

Six claws, one ear; of teeth perhaps a handful; naught else except a solitary tail. The tail was Norval's; by a ring I knew it. The ear was—but we'll let the matter pass. The tail will do without the ear.

Cheap Paint for Barns.

No paint, we beheve, withstands "the tooth of time" better than Venetian red. There are houses in some country towns painted red so long a time ago that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, and they look fresh to this day. The wood is admirably preserved, and appears as though it would not need another coat of paint for a quarter of a century to come. But, then, who would have such a color on house or barn? some people would say. To our eye it does not look badly when the trimmings receive a shade somewhat different from the body of the building. In point of economy, there is probably nothing better. We would not shock the taste of any by advising the use of red paint on a horse or barn, but think we could live comfortably in a house so painted, all other things being agreeable. For a cheap white, silver or pearl gray "paint" a correspondent of the *New England Farmer* gave, a few years ago, the following recipe for making a composition which he had used and found to be durable, cheap, and economical: Skim milk, two quarts; fresh slacked lime, eight ounces; linseed oil, six ounces; white Burgundy pitch, two ounces; Spanish white, three pounds. The lime to be slacked in water, exposed to the air, and mixed in about one-fourth of milk. The oil in which the pitch is previously dissolved to be added a little at a time; then the rest of the milk, and afterwards the Spanish white. This quantity is sufficient for twenty-seven square yards, two coats. If a particle of blue be added, or if this blue be combined with a slight portion of black, a silver or pearl gray will be obtained. The addition of raw umber will make a brown. It will be necessary to keep it stirred in the bucket while using.

Petroleum, benzine, etc., have been tried, for dark paints, with various success. Some complain that it does not harden properly. The editor of the *Country Gentleman* has used petroleum with good success. He advises the application of a coat of light petroleum alone first, and then after a few months give a coat of the heavier petroleum mixed with the colors or other paint. He has seen such a coat on a barn of six years' standing, hard and unchanged. It is recommended for roofs as well as for the side of buildings.

ANOTHER CALIFORNIA YARN.—California sends us another of its remarkable little stories, through the medium of the Los Angeles *News*, of the 3d inst., the same being as follows: "While 'Uncle' Billy Rubottom was engaged, a few days ago, in quarrying stone near the top of a very high hill near his residence, he struck a promising lead of petrified whales. The bones are very numerous and completely turned into stone. The vertebræ, particularly, were found in great numbers, and are easily recognizable from their peculiar form. How the whales got up there, and how long they have been there, are questions for geologists, to whom the discovery offers a fine field for examination and research. The presence of the remains of marine animals upon such an elevation is a fact difficult to explain."

THE Jockey Club monogram is a very prevalent ornamental present.

The Uses of Fashion.

A writer in the Boston *Transcript* chats in this fashion about the uses of Fashion:

Perhaps some husbands complain—I dare say very unjustly—of the amount of time women now give to dress, but what if everything was left to each one's caprice? They must be glad that the law of fashion, which settles many questions for them, gives them leisure for anything else.

Not that dress is anything less than one of the great interests of a woman's life. And justly so. It is the language by which she expresses her neatness, taste, judgment, character, not for the sake of exhibition, but for the realization of her own ideal.

What a grotesque appearance would any assembly of men and women present, did no fashion prevail. Fancy a church filled with worshippers dressed in all imaginable colors and cut. Who could keep a countenance befitting that sacred place? Who could so restrain his wandering and wondering eyes as to give attention to the preacher? And then the dress of the preacher himself might be the most laughable caricature there.

It was precisely to guard against this that clerical officiating robes were at first introduced. In reading the Old Testament, perhaps we think that a great deal of unnecessary pains were taken to prescribe the pattern of the priest's dress. But we find a like minute care in the old pagan temples, and in the ancient services of the Roman Catholic Church. In times when the worshipers were half dressed in skins of wild beasts, and many not dressed at all, the decency of public worship required all this attention to robes, but any change of officiating garments is less needed now.

Fashion is a great saving of time, and in the main a great educator of taste. But it is our most tyrannical master. A gentleman's stove-funnel hat is hard on his pate, and is jammed down over his eyes perhaps half a dozen times a day. All the hat-makers in the world have long been trying to get up something better. But not one of them can command those associations of gentility which gives pre-eminence to the dress of the head.

As to a lady's skirt, a dozen things might be said against it. It is unhealthy, expensive, interferes with walking, and sweeps the dust. But what of all that? We have associations of womanly modesty and propriety with the garment which will probably perpetuate it forever.

To tell the truth, I think the autocrat fashion is here in the right. The skirt just hints at the lower limbs, but conceals them. Bloomerism seems to me to be a prosaic, bold and impudent telltale. I have sometimes thought that the long trains now in vogue came in as a protest against it. While I see the inconvenience of the train, I like the protest.

The traveler returning from Europe sees that sameness of dress is an American defect. With us, all men dress alike and all women dress alike. The barber wears a neck-tie and frock coat like that of the bishop, and Bridget apes all the ribbons and flowers of her mistress. A Frenchman and Englishman, accustomed to see a style appropriate to each station, when he comes here takes every barber for a gentleman, and every Bridget for a lady, and then goes home and tells how vulgarly gentlemen and ladies behave in America.

It is a clear case of optical delusion. In the habit of forming his opinion of persons by their outside appearance, he does not note those other indications which tell us at once of one's grade of culture and good breeding. When Charles Dickens was first in America he was surprised that the man who came to measure him for a pair of shoes wore kid gloves. If he had not known this man's business, I suppose that Dickens would not have doubted that the kid gloves marked one of our most cultivated gentlemen.

How it would add to picturesqueness if each class had its appropriate dress! I think it was a step in the right direction to put policemen in uniform. Why should not each railway company uniform all its officials? I was sorry when clergymen gave up their distinctive dress. I went this summer to an Old School Presbyterian Church, and in the pulpit were two young ministers who wore turned-down collars and fancy neck ties and white vests. An unaffected prayer from the one and an earnest sermon from the other made me almost forget the incongruity; and yet the service seemed shorn of some effect through their want of deference to professional propriety.

On the whole, I think we need not rail at fashion. We owe much to it. Probably its sway has always been as imperial as it is now. It is curious, however, that we are quite ignorant of many details of the dress of the ancients. Such a vast number of nude statues have come down to us, that we know more about the bodies of men and women of old times than about the garments that covered them.

COTTON ACREAGE AND CROP.—The returns already received by the Department of Agriculture from three hundred counties representing the most productive districts in each of the cotton-growing States show that there is a diminution of the cotton acreage in every State except Florida. According to these figures the present area devoted to cotton will be seven and a half or eight million acres, or over a million less than in 1870. It is not possible to tell what the average yield per acre will be; in 1870, an unusual year, it was 200 pounds, but in former years the average has not been higher than 150 per acre. The condition of the growing plant is below an average in nearly every State. The Spring has been unusually wet and cold, retarding growth, causing many of the plants to turn yellow and die, and obstructing cultivation. To a large extent replanting has filled the vacant places of "imperfect stands." The weather has recently been more favorable, and it is not impossible that an average condition may be attained by the commencement of the packing season. The condition of cotton in 1869, a year favored with an abundant yield, was only a little better than the showing of June this year. While the prospect is slightly unpromising, there is nothing in it of a decisive character.

THE GREAT LAKES.

The Extent of these Island Oceans—The Effect they have on the Climate—Why Michigan is a Good Fruit State.

The current number of *Harper's Magazine* has an interesting illustrated article by Prof. Winchell on the "Climate of the Lake Regions." From it we extract the following:

The climatic influences of vast bodies of salt water, like the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, have long been understood. The effect of small inland bodies of fresh water in averting early autumnal frosts has also been generally remarked. But, as before intimated, meteorologists do not seem to have observed, till recently, that great lakes, like Lake Michigan or Lake Superior, exert an influence in deflecting the isothermal lines which is quite comparable with that exerted by the great oceans themselves.

These lakes, in truth, are no inconsiderable representatives of the ocean. Lake Superior is 460 miles long and 160 broad, with a mean depth of 988 feet. It has a superficial area of 32,000 square miles. The State of Massachusetts might stretch herself out at full length and bathe in its waters. Even then there would be room enough for Rhode Island at her feet and Connecticut at her head, with Vermont stretched along her right and New Hampshire on her left. You may take all New England, excepting Maine, and hide it bodily beneath the waters of this single lake. Lake Michigan is 360 miles long and 108 broad, with a mean depth of 900 feet and a superficial area of 20,000 square miles. You could sink in this lake three States of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. Lake Huron, with a length of 270 miles and a breadth equal to that of Lake Superior, has a mean depth of 300 feet, a superficial extent equal to that of Lake Michigan, and would swallow up the kingdom of Denmark, including the duchies.

You may embark on a sea-worthy steamer at Chicago and travel for thirty hours without a sight of land; and, after having passed the Straits of Mackinac and entered Lake Superior, you may steam for two days more without reaching Superior City or Duluth. The voyage from Buffalo to Chicago around the lakes is a thousand miles; from Buffalo to Duluth is eleven hundred miles, or three-fifths the distance from Newfoundland to Ireland.

The majesty of the tempest is little less in the lakes than on the Atlantic, and the low perpetual moan of the breaking waves along the beach transports the imaginative listener to Long Branch or Nahant. During a summer day they breathe, like the ocean, a cooling atmosphere on every shore, while at night the direction of the breeze is frequently reversed. These are our interior land and sea breezes. To complete the analogy, our great inland seas exhibit the fluctuations of a diminutive but genuine lunar tide.

It is impossible that such enormous masses of water should be materially elevated above the mean temperature of the year by three months of summer weather, or depressed materially below it by three months of winter. The land surfaces in the same latitudes attain far greater extremes of cold and heat than the lakes. Two reasons exist for this: First, watery surfaces absorb and radiate more slowly; and secondly, the continued stirring of the waters by the winds mixes the surface temperature through a depth of several hundred feet, while, on the land, the entire effect is confined to a superficial zone of about seventy to ninety feet. The normal mean annual temperature of the land in the neighborhood of Milwaukee is 44 degrees, and this should be about the mean temperature of the water of Lake Michigan. In summer the Milwaukee mean rises to 67 degrees, while in winter it sinks to 22 degrees. The water of the lake, meanwhile, rises in summer only to 40 degrees. Winds from the lake, therefore, partaking largely of the temperature of the water, must exert a material influence in equalizing the land temperatures of summer and winter. Still more, in cases of extreme weather, when the land temperature rises to 95 degrees, or sinks to 30 degrees below zero, must the ameliorating influence of such a vast body of water, holding itself steadily at a somewhat uniform temperature, be most conspicuously and most beneficently experienced.

There is one cause of the mild temperature of deep lake waters during the cold season, which probably has been very little considered. Lakes Michigan and Superior are nearly a thousand feet in depth. They reach down toward the internal fires, a distance which, if measured through the solid crust of the earth, would bring us a very considerable increase of warmth. Upon the land the influence of climatic changes does not extend, on the average, to a greater depth than eighty feet. Beneath this we experience an increase of temperature amounting to one degree for every forty-five feet of descent. According to this law the terrestrial temperature at the bottom of Lake Michigan should be increased eighteen degrees. Were there no mingling of the deeper and shallower strata of water this increase would exist. This amount of heat, nevertheless—with some abatement to which it is not necessary to refer—distributed through the entire depth of the water, must produce no inconsiderable elevation of temperature in the general mass.

During the winter, therefore, Lake Michigan may be regarded as a great natural stove holding and slowly radiating the heat absorbed during the summer from the fires, eked out by an unfailing accession of heat from beneath, yielded by the reservoir of igneous force imprisoned within the earth. When, on a stinging wintry morning, we behold the steam ascending from the whole face of the placid lake, we witness an analogy to the vessel of water steaming over our household fires, which is more literal and more striking than we had dared to imagine.

Such vast and efficient compensators of climate extremes, situated in the interior of continents, rescuing broad areas from the waste supremacy of summer heats and wintry frosts, seem like interpositions of Providence to adapt the world to the bodily necessities of its inhabitants. Such beneficent equalizers are all great lakes; and such, not less strikingly, are these vast seas strewn through the midst of lands which were the home of the earliest representatives of our race—the Mediterranean, the Black and Caspian seas.

The Presents of the Little Folks.

A tailor and a goldsmith were once wandering in company, and one evening, when the sun had sunk behind the hills, they heard the sound of distant music, which became clearer and clearer. The tones were uncommon, but so inspiriting, that, forgetting their weariness the two walked on. The moon had risen, when they arrived at a hillock, on which they perceived a number of little men and women, who had joined hands and were whirling round in a dance, with great spirit and delight, and singing thereto in the sweetest manner possible, and so making the music which the travelers had heard.

In the middle sat an old man, taller than the others, who wore a parti-colored coat and an iron-gray beard, so long that it reached down to his waist. The two stopped, full of wonder, and looked on at the dancers, when the Old man beckoned to them to join in, while the circle opened to receive them.

The Tailor, who was deformed, and like all other hunchbacks, quick enough, steppped in; but the Goldsmith, feeling shy at first, held back, till, seeing how merry the circle was, he took heart and joined in too. The circle closed again directly, and the little folks began to sing and dance in the wildest manner, while the Old Man taking a broad-bladed knife, which hung at his girdle, sharpened it, and when it was fit, looked round at the strangers.

They became frightened; but they had no time to consider, for the old man, seized the goldsmith, and then the tailor, shaved off both their heads of hair with the quickest dispatch. Their terror, however, disappeared when the old man, having completed this work, tapped them both on the shoulders in a friendly manner, as much as to say they had acted well in enduring his sport without resistance. Then he pointed with his finger towards a heap of coals, which stood on one side, and showed them by signs that they should fill their pockets with them. Both obeyed, though neither could see of what service the coals would be to them; and then they journeyed on in quest a night's lodging. Just as they came to the next valley, the clock in a neighboring church struck twelve, and at the same moment the singing ceased, all disappeared, and the hill lay solitary in the moonshine.

The two wanderers found a shelter, and making a straw couch, each of them covered himself with his coat, but forgot, through weariness, to take the coals out of their pockets. A heavy weight pressed upon their limbs more than usual, and when they awoke in the morning, and emptied their pockets, they could not trust their eyes, when they saw that they were not filled with coals, but pure gold. Their hair and beard, too, had grown during the night to their original length. They were now become quite rich, but the tailor was half as high again as the goldsmith, because, impelled by his coveteous nature, he had filled his pockets much fuller.

Now, a miserly man, the more he possesses, desires yet an increase; and so it happened that the tailor, after the lapse of a day or two, made a proposition to the goldsmith to go and obtain more gold from the Old Man of the Mountain. The goldsmith refused, saying, "I have enough, and am satisfied; now I am a master-tradesman, and will marry my sweetheart and be a happy man." So in the evening the tailor swung across his shoulder a couple of bags to hold the coals, and set out on his road to the hillock.

He found the little folks singing and dancing, as on the previous night; and the Old Man, looking at him with a smile, treated him as before, and pointed to the heap of coals afterward. The tailor delayed no longer than was necessary to fill the bags, and then returned in high glee to where the goldsmith was waiting for him, and went to sleep, covered with his coat, "although the gold does weigh heavily," said he to himself, "I will bear it patiently," and so he went to sleep with the sweet belief of awaking in the morning a very wealthy man.

Judge, therefore, what was his surprise, on awaking and rising, he searched in his pockets and drew out only black coals, and nothing beside. He consoled himself, however, by reflecting that he still had the gold which he had taken the first night, but what was his rage when he discovered that that also become coal again! He beat his forehead with his coal-begrimmed hands, and then found out that his whole head was bald and smooth as his chin. His mishaps were not yet ended, for he perceived that during the night a similar lump to that on his back had made its appearance on his breast.

He began to weep bitterly at this sight, for he recognized in it the punishment of his covetousness. The good goldsmith, who awoke at the sound of his weeping, comforted the unhappy man as well as he could, and told him that since he had been his companion in good fortune, and had fallen into trouble, he should share his treasure and remain with him.

The goldsmith kept his word, but the poor tailor had to carry all his lifetime two humps and to cover his bald head with a wig, for the hair never grew again after the second magic shaving. So you see it is not well to be too greedy after the world's goods.

The Harvest in Europe.

The Belgium *Moniteur* give some details of the prospect of the approaching harvest in the corn-growing countries of Europe. In Prussia the provisions are unfavorable; much to the autumn sowings perished; and those of the spring are suffering for want of warm sun; in Saxony the appearance is better, as the crops are thick and healthy; in Russia the yield is expected to be a good average, and a very large quantity of last year's stock still remains unexported at Odessa; in Roumania, Bulgaria and Bessarabi, the aspect is most favorable, and in Hungary an abundant harvest is expected; in France a large portion of the winter corn is lost, and the fields have had to be resown.

The German Confederation.

The grand celebration which took place in Berlin, a few days ago, recalls attention to the Germanic Empire or Confederation, of which the Emperor William is President. His jurisdiction in this capacity is now extended over a population of about 41,000,000, including Alsace and Lorraine, and it is worth while to notice the conditions under which this is brought about. The original Constitution of the North German Confederation, comprehending the Prussian monarchy and the small Northern and Central States, came into operation on the 1st of July, 1867. It instituted a Federal Council of 43 members and an Imperial Parliament of 297, which bodies were to form the Legislature in all matters affecting the common interests of the Kingdoms and States in the Union, such as the civil rights of German subjects, the army and the navy, matters of trade and finance, railways, posts and telegraphs, and the administration of justice.

The presidency was assigned to the King of Prussia, with power to declare war and to make peace, to conclude treaties with foreign powers, and to send and receive diplomatic agents. Where such treaties affected matters reserved to the Legislature, they would uire the sanction of the Federal Council and the Imperial Parliament. The war with France and victorious progress of the German armies determined the South German States, which had previously stood aloof, to accede to the Union. First came Baden and the southern portion of Hesse Darmstadt by a convention signed on the 15th November, 1870. The treaty with Wurtemberg was concluded on the 25th and that with Bavaria on the 23rd of the same month, and they severally took effect on the 31st December, just before the assumption of the Imperial crown by the Prussian king. Baden and Hesse adopted the Federal Constitution with very few alterations. It was, however, stipulated that the President should in no case declare war without the consent of the Federal Council, and that any change in the constitution should require a majority in the Council of three-forths instead of two-thirds. The number of votes in the Council was increased from 43 to 48, and the number of Deputies in the Parliament from 297 to 317. Baden reserved to herself all taxes raised on brandy and beer. By the treaty with Wurtemberg the votes in the Council were increased to 52, and the deputies in the Parliament to 334. Wurtemberg reserved the taxes raised on brandy and beer, and also, for the present, the regulation of her own posts and telegraphs. The military relations of Wurtemberg to the confederation were settled by a separate convention bearing the same date, in such a way that the Wurtemberg army was to form a compact army corps as a part of the Federal army, and under the supreme direction of the President of the Confederation.

The accession of Bavaria was not so easily effected. By the treaty with that State, the votes in the Federal Council were finally raised to the number of 58, and the Deputies in the Parliament to the number of 382. In submitting to the Federal laws respecting changes of residence, the Bavarian Government reserves to itself the right of separate legislation in matters of domicile and settlement, of the enjoyment of political rights, of marriage, and of regulating the laws of assurance and mortgage as affecting landed property. It further reserved the administration of its own railways, posts and telegraphs, subject to the control of the Confederation in so far as the general interests might be concerned, and to the normal principles which the Confederation might prescribe for railways to be used in the Federal defences.

A committee of the Federal Council was to be appointed for Foreign Affairs, consisting of Bavaria, Saxony and Wurtemberg, with Bavaria as President. At those foreign Courts where there were Bavarian Envoys, the latter were to represent the Federal Body in case of the absence of the Federal Envoy, and at the Courts where Bavaria might keep Envoys the Federal Envoy should not be charged with affairs exclusively Bavarian, and in the absence of Prussia, Bavaria to have the Presidency in the Federal Council. The taxation of Bavarian brandy and beer was reserved. The costs of the Bavarian army were to be borne by that State, as an army corps belonging to the Federal Army, and such army corps to be regulated in time of peace by the Bavarian Government. The Bavarian fortresses to continue her own, subject, however, to Federal supervision. Lastly came the important stipulation, that in the Federal Council fourteen adverse votes should suffice for the rejection of any measure affecting the Constitution; so that the provision previously agreed to, for a majority of three-fourths of the Council, falls to the ground, and it is in the power of Bavaria, in conjunction with the other Southern States, to defeat any amendment whatever which may hereafter be proposed to the Federal Constitution.

Notre-Dame Horrors.

A curious tale, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, is told concerning the Church of Notre-Dame des Victoires. Recently it was visited by citizen Moussu, three members of the municipality of the second arrondissement and two doctors. Several corpses are said to have been already discovered, and under the altar of the Virgin was found an oak coffin, in which a priest was buried. The workmen, as is usual on such occasions, brought to light several cases of silver ornaments and other precious objects, and by the side of one of the cases was found the head of a woman with long fair hair. In another vault the bodies of four women recently buried were discovered, and in a small lateral vault a couple of bracelets were picked up. Here citizen Moussu thinks some fearful crime must have been committed, for on the wall of the vault was plainly visible the mark left by a jewelled arm, and it is evident to him that the lady with the bracelet must have struggled in the vault, which had been newly painted when she was confined in it. The church is reported to have a peculiarly cadaverous smell, and it is expected that citizen Moussu will make further discoveries. Four priests connected with the church have been arrested.