

The fire losses in this country, during the present year aggregate \$100,000,000.

The New York Staats-Zeitung says that the Berlin kraut dealers are so excited by the fact that German cabbages have been shipped to America that they have made preparations to create a corner in sauer kraut in anticipation of an immense American demand.

It is estimated that 2,000 persons died of diphtheria in Nova Scotia during the past year. The Medical Society of the province is consulting with the Government with a view to checking the spread of the disease. It is reported that there are now 215 cases of diphtheria under treatment at Brockville, Ont.

HON. EDWARD McPHERSON has already been for twelve years Clerk of the House of Representatives at Washington. If he lives to complete the term for which he has now been elected he will have had the longest service as Clerk of the House of any incumbent of that office from the foundation of the Government. Already he has had the longest continuous service.

The London Field says that the reason why American horses trot so fast is because our fast trotters derive their qualities mainly from Barbary horses; Barbary being rough, stony, hilly, intersected with ravines, the horses were unable to gallop and accustomed themselves to the trot, which was the safest gait. The galloping English fast horses are of Arabian origin, where the country is flat and carpeted with sand, allowing them to gallop with ease.

DR. BLISS is now engaged in preparing a book of details in regard to the President's case. He received during the period the President was prostrated hundreds of letters making suggestions as to treatment, etc., and those he proposes to incorporate in the forthcoming volume. He will also make use of the newspaper comments on the treatment of the case, and intimates that he may take occasion to answer some of those criticisms.

HON. FREDERICK T. FRELINGHUYSEN, who succeeds Mr. Blaine as Secretary of State, is a native of New Jersey, and 64 years old. The family has long been a prominent one in New Jersey. This Frelinghuysen is a nephew and adopted son of the one who ran for Vice President on the ticket with Henry Clay, in 1844. He has served two terms in the United States Senate and filled other distinguished positions in New Jersey.

FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL HATROS has made a ruling that the sender of any request matter (mail matter requested to be returned if not delivered in a specified time) has a right to lengthen or shorten the time originally named on the envelope, but the letter or matter must remain as long as three days in the office of destination. Postmasters shall return the matter upon such requests without charge of additional postage. The same ruling applies to card matter containing simply the name and address of the sender.

A MASSACHUSETTS clergyman on going into his pulpit the other Sunday found it already occupied by a man who announced his intention to preach. Thinking he had to deal with a "crank" he handled him very judiciously and finally told him that he wasn't aware that he had asked anybody to preach for him. The stranger said he had come to take Mr. Marsh's place, and on learning that Marsh usually preached over the way, the stranger rushed to the church across the street, where he arrived in a state of perspiration to find all there in a state of great anxiety, the organist having played the prelude through three times, and the worthy deacons were on the point of taking up the collection and then dismissing the audience.

A FARMER living near Ghent, N. Y., was proceeding along the highway, driving a team of horses drawing a load of hay. On top of the hay was a small boy, son of the man driving the team. The air being chilly the boy's prudent mother wrapped around his neck and around his head and ears a muffler. As the team proceeded along the wagon was drawn under the branch of a tree, when, singular to relate, the limb passed under the muffler at the top of the lad's head and hauled him off the load in short order, leaving him suspended from the limb. The father discovered the perilous position of his son in time to jump from the wagon and relieve him from the limb, which had yielded to the pressure upon it and was gradually letting the boy down. Altogether, it was a very narrow escape for the lad.

THE Cleveland Plaindealer says: A highly amusing scene was witnessed at the Academy of Music matinee. About the middle of the last act, while

the "Jolly Bachelors" and the "Jolly Maids" were about to make a grand climax, a feminine shriek was heard in the dress-circle, and half a second later a young lady was observed to jump up into her chair, gather her dress about her and stare at the floor. This was instantly followed by a chorus of squeals, and all the ladies in that part of the house, moved by some common impulse, climbed into their seats, caught up their skirts, and craned their necks to look underneath. Presently a little scream arose from the other side of the aisle, and another young woman jumped into her chair. Everybody looked to see what the panic was. Some of the performers laughed, others were amazed, and all stumbled through their parts—though that made no difference, as nobody in the house was paying the slightest attention to the play. It was a mouse.

The following table gives the number, capital and deposits of private banks in sixteen of the principal cities of the Union:

Table with 4 columns: CITIES, No. of Banks, Capital, Deposits. Lists cities like Boston, New York, Albany, Philadelphia, etc.

The capital of the 2,115 national banks in operation on June 30, 1881, was \$460,227,835, not including surplus, which fund at that date amounted to more than \$126,000,000, while the average capital of all the State banks, private banks and savings banks for the six months ending May 31, 1880, was but \$210,738,203. The latter amount is but little more than one-third of the combined capital and surplus of the national banks.

This question of increasing materially the speed of ocean steamships is now exciting considerable interest in the commercial world. Some time ago M. Raoul-Pictet, the well-known French chemist, undertook at Geneva the construction of an experimental vessel, which was to mark a great stride forward in rapid sailing. Very little is known of his plans, but the mathematical and physical principles involved in the construction of the new ship were recently brought before the French Academy. The vessel will be broad and comparatively flat, and the bottom will constantly receive an upward thrust, tending to raise it out of the water, and diminishing the draught of water in proportion as the speed increases. It will be understood that, beyond a certain velocity, on account of the considerable increase of work expended with this velocity, there may be some advantage in a vertical thrust diminishing the draught; the benefit will be represented by the difference between the excess of work expended to keep up this thrust and the diminution of work resulting from diminution of the immersed surface. M. Pictet calculates that speeds of fifty to sixty kilometres (thirty to thirty-seven miles) an hour may be got thus. At present the average does not exceed eighteen kilometres, or thirteen miles per hour.

A BLOOD-CURDLING tragedy was recently enacted in Lamar county, Ga. Winchester Armstrong, a well-to-do and highly-respected farmer, left his home on business to a neighboring village, leaving his wife and infant child and aged mother-in-law the only occupants of the house. During his absence a crazy negro, whose insane deeds had not previously attracted much attention in the neighborhood, suddenly entered the house, and before the mother could prevent, snatched up the babe and attempted to escape with it. The frightened woman made a frantic effort to rescue her child, which only aroused the lunatic's frenzy, and snatching up an ax that stood near, he dealt her an awful blow upon the head, opening the skull and causing a wound from which she soon died. Her aged mother then attempted to secure the babe, when the infuriated monster fell upon her and beat her to death in a few minutes. While he was still engaged in his murderous work, Mr. Armstrong, totally unconscious of the terrible tragedy that was being enacted in the little home which he had but a little while ago left in such peace and tranquility, approached the house. The scene which met his gaze almost froze his blood, but soon recovering his mind, he rushed for his gun, and secured it just in time to prevent the maniac from completing his bloody work by killing the babe and his father. The negro was advancing upon Mr. Armstrong with his bloody ax raised and his terrible eyes rolling in madness, when Mr. Armstrong leveled his gun and shot him dead. The child, amid all the butchery, escaped unharmed, and it is all that is left Mr. Armstrong to cheer his desolate home.

The percentage of recoveries from habitual drunkenness (inebriety or dipsomania) is one-third under competent medical care.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

Poor Fanny.

"Well, Puss, what are you thinking of, sitting down like this in the middle of the day, and looking as if you were a ghost?" "As if you know everything under the skin?" "Perhaps you are thinking how nice it would be if you were a wee little girl, just like me, with curls in your hair, and a ribbon to wear, and a bow on the top of it there—"

"My dear little miss, I don't think a bit, as here by the nice, cozy fire I sit; but 'tis pleasant to say with curls in your hair, and I know very little, I'm thankful to say."

"I don't think I'd like to have ribbons and curls, and be puffed up and fixed up like you little girls; you mean to be kind, but never would say no such as 'A'!" "I had all my trouble for nothing, that day."

"But, Puss, 'tis really the saddest of all that you never can play with a dear little doll! How can you live so?" "I've more than I know."

"My dear little miss, I don't think a bit, as here by the nice, cozy fire I sit; but 'tis pleasant to say with curls in your hair, and I know very little, I'm thankful to say."

"Please buy." "They are pretty!" he pleaded. "Yes, I know it. They are very fine roses, but you see I have so many other things to buy, and where is the money coming from? You see I am saving money for a brother."

Charlie put on his coat to do a little marketing. "Seven years, to-morrow, since I left England, all the while hoping to get mother over here."

"Better late than never," said Charlie. "If father hadn't died," she thought, "we might have expected him, too. But he will know about it, and it will make him happier."

"The boy that wears a comforter went into that black door yesterday," said a sharp-eyed informant. "It's a poverty-stricken place," thought Fanny, entering the house and climbing a rough, bare staircase.

"Why, why, mother—is it you?" "There was no word spoken now, only a silent, tearful, joyful, folding in one another's arms."

"What is the matter, mother?" "He came home chilled, and the old trouble came back, and the fever set in."

The Pleasures of Business. No human mind is contented without occupation. No human soul is without an aim or purpose in life. The greatest success in life consists not in the mere accumulation of riches, but in being able to acquire wealth with a disposition to apply it in such a manner that it shall be a comfort and blessing to others—not in the mere giving away of money, but in putting people in a way to labor and help themselves.

The Dream That Frightened a Woman. A lady in Bath was much alarmed by dreaming that some one was holding her wrist. Vainly endeavoring to scream for assistance, she succeeded at length in whispering just loud enough to awake herself. After a few minutes relief, at being no longer under the influence of the dream, she became conscious that some one was really holding her left wrist, and all her strength was inadequate to release it.

How industriously the good grows and propagates itself, even among the weedy entanglements of evil.

MICHIGAN. Marvelous Productiveness and Resources of the State.

The act passed by the Legislature last summer, "for the purpose of encouraging immigration to Michigan," has begun to bear fruit. In pursuance of the act Commissioner Morley has prepared and just completed a pamphlet in which he has embodied a careful, accurate and, as far as possible, full statement of the resources of the State, and of the attractions it presents to foreigners and the residents of other States seeking for homes.

This pamphlet is a mine of interesting information, and much of its contents will be as new to the people of Michigan as to those for whose enlightenment it has been specially prepared. Some of the interesting facts are: The State is the ninth in the order of population; it is larger than either Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Indiana, or Illinois. It has a coast line of 1,600 miles and its northern boundary is the largest body of fresh water in the world; the second largest is the western, and, except these two, there are no lakes in Europe, Asia, or America larger than that which washes its eastern borders.

Michigan stands first among the States in the growth and manufacture of lumber, in salt, in copper and in its fresh fisheries. It is second in iron and fourth in wheat. It has the largest iron mine and the largest copper mine in the world. Seven-tenths of all the wheat raised in the country is grown in nine States, and only three excel Michigan in this crop. It is one of the best fruit-producing States in the Union, and ranks among the highest in its yield of wool.

The school system is on a broad and generous foundation, and furnishes education free to all. The State is practically free from debt, the resources of the sinking fund being ample to extinguish every dollar of its obligations as soon as they mature. Its public buildings are paid for. The rate of taxation is low. And there are several millions of unoccupied farming lands suitable to almost every variety of husbandry, some of them open to settlement under United States and State homestead laws, and all of them within reach of moderate means.

These facts, and many more, are presented, not merely in a summary, but, wherever that is appropriate, in tabular and detailed form. There is a very interesting detailed showing, for instance, as to the county and municipal indebtedness, the aggregate of which for the whole State is less than \$10,000,000, a fact which will be new to most Michigan people, and which was furnished to Commissioner Morley in advance of the official publication by Special Agent Porter, of the Census Bureau. The full meaning of this fact can best be appreciated by a comparison which the Commissioner makes with the States of New York, New Jersey and Ohio. This comparison shows that the amount of local debt per capita in Ohio is \$13.96; in New Jersey, \$47.59; in New York, \$48.93, and in Michigan only \$5.71.

Other tables show the cereal and other products of the States by counties; the flora of the State and the statistics as to health. A specially-interesting table shows the average wages of labor at fifteen different points in the State in 1881 and the retail prices of articles of household consumption at the same places during the same period.

The arrangement of Commissioner Morley's book is methodical and orderly, and the information it contains is conveyed in the briefest and most condensed form consistent with clearness and intelligibility. A table of contents serves as an index, and a map accompanies the work, with a table showing the population and unoccupied lands in each county, with other facts of interest. The work itself shows, in a chapter devoted to that purpose, just what proportion of the unoccupied lands in the several counties belongs to the United States, to the State, to railroad and canal companies, and to private owners. The Commissioner is to be congratulated upon the completeness and value of this work, upon which he has bestowed so much painstaking labor. With such a book placed, as it is designed to be, in the hands of all persons seeking information as to the character and resources of the State, the cause of Michigan and her claims upon thrifty and intelligent immigrants, will be quite as eloquently and effectively urged as those of any State in the Union. And it may be as well to say, in closing, that upon such immigrants alone is it worth while to make a favorable impression.

Health in Michigan. Reports to the State Board of Health, Lansing, for the week ending Dec. 3, 1881, by sixty-nine observers of diseases in different parts of the State, show causes of sickness as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Disease in Order of Greatest Area of Prevalence, Number, Per Cent. Lists diseases like Small-pox, Typhoid fever, etc.

For the week ending Dec. 3, there has been a slight increase in the area of prevalence of neuralgia, bronchitis and diphtheria, and a considerable decrease in that of intermittent fever. One case of small-pox and one case of varioloid, in addition to the cases mentioned in the last bulletin, are reported from Hartford, Van Buren county. The disease is supposed to be now under control at that place. Six more deaths are reported from Bingham township, Leelenaw county.

HENRY B. BAKER, Secretary State Board of Health, Lansing, Mich.

Area of the United States.

The following table shows the areas in miles of the States and Territories of the United States, the total water area, and the net land surface, as officially reported by Henry Gannett, E. M., geographer and special agent of the tenth census:

Table with 3 columns: State/Territory, Gross area, square miles, Total land area, square miles. Lists states like Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, etc.

Noblemen as Waiters.

A story is afloat to the effect that a foreign author who went to Delmonico's up-town restaurant to dine found that the waiter who came forward to wait upon her was her own brother. The item was shown to the manager at Delmonico's and he was asked if there was any truth in it. He shook his head and smiled.

"Every now and then," he said, "some story of the kind is set afloat. Generally, however, it is about a waiter who is a nobleman."

"Is it not a fact that occasionally you have a nobleman among you?" "It is not at all unlikely. There are plenty of nobleman abroad who are very poor, and sometimes are hard put to it for a good meal. In such cases they often drop their titles. If they come to this country, why should they not wait at waiting as well as any other business? Then there are fast young nobleman who run through their means and emigrate. They have not been brought up to any business; they are unacquainted with the American ways of life. But they know about table service, and a job as waiter is the thing they are best fitted for. Nobleman are not scarce in the Old World. In Germany the title goes to all of the sons of a nobleman. I have no doubt there are nobleman jerking beer in the Brewery. We have had nobleman occasionally among our corps of waiters. There is nothing surprising in it. We see men—merchants, brokers, etc.—who make a great deal of money. They live fast, spend freely, and make a big figure in the world for a time, and then comes a smash, and they disappear. Perhaps we may afterward hear of them working in a mine or herding cattle on the plains. There is nothing to surprise anyone in finding that the waiter who takes your order is a baron or a count." —[New York Sun.]