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POETRY.

THE OLD CANOE.

Where the rocks are gray and the shore is steep,
And the waters below look dark and deep,
Where the rugged pine in its lonely pride,
Leans gloomily over the murky tide;
Where the reeds and rushes are long and rank,
And the weeds grow thick on the winding bank;
Where the shadow is heavy the whole day through,
There lies at its moorings the old canoe.

The useless paddles are idly dropped,
Like a sea-bird's wings that the storm has lopped,
And crossed on the railing, one o'er one,
Like the folded hands when the work is done;
While busily back and forth between
The spider stretches his silver screen,
And the solemn owl, with his dull "too-hoo,"
Settles down on the side of the old canoe.

The stern half sunk in the slimy wave,
Rots slowly away in its living grave,
And the green moss creeps o'er its dull decay,
Hiding its moldering dust away,
Like the hand that plants o'er the tomb a flower,
Or the ivy that mantles the falling tower;
While many a blossom of loveliest hue
Springs up o'er the stern of the old canoe.

The currentless waters are dead and still—
But the light winds play with the boat at will,
And lazily in and out again
It floats the length of the rusty chain,
Like the weary march of the hands of time,
That meet and part at the noontide chime.
And the shore is kissed at each turning anew,
By the dripping bow of the old canoe.

Oh, many a time, with a careless hand,
I have pushed it away from the pebbly strand,
And paddled it down where the stream runs quick,
Where the whirls are wild and the eddies are thick,
And laughed as I leaned o'er the rocking side,
And looked below in the broken tide,
To see that the faces and boats were two,
That were mirrored back from the old canoe.

But now, as I lean o'er the crumbling side,
And look below in the sluggish tide,
The face that I see there is graver grown,
And the laugh that I hear has a sober tone,
And the hands that lent to the light skiff wings
Have grown familiar with sterner things.
But I love to think of the hours that sped
As I rocked where the whirls their white spray shed,
Ere the blossom waved, or the green grass grew,
O'er the moldering stern of the old canoe.

MISCELLANY.

THE WOLFF DISASTER.

An Interview with Two of the Survivors—A Plucky Young Lady—She is Blown Up Seventy Feet, and Comes Down Uninjured.

[From the St. Louis Democrat, Aug. 23.]

Miss Beckie Cohn, of Jefferson, Texas, and her cousin, Mr. W. Solomonsky, of Paris, Texas, two of the survivors of the Wolff disaster, arrived in this city by rail from Memphis yesterday afternoon. A *Democrat* reporter at once sallied forth for the purpose of interviewing them. Mr. Solomonsky is a wholesale and retail dealer in clothing, etc., at Paris, Texas, also having a branch of his establishment at Honey Grove, in the same State. On arriving in this city he and Miss Cohn proceeded to the residence of Mr. Dressner, at 2205 Franklin avenue, where they were seated when the reporter called.

Miss Cohn occupied a rocking-chair, which had been drawn up to the door to give her the benefit of what air was stirring. She was evidently very tired, but greeted the reporter kindly; and, upon being asked to tell her story, did so quite readily and naturally. From what follows it will be seen that she can properly lay claim to being a lady of great presence of mind. It may be well to state here that she spoke very reluctantly of her good actions, and that the newspaper man had to resort to a little pardonable strategy to bring them to the surface.

She commenced by stating that she took passage on the steamer George C. Wolff at Shreveport, and that when the vessel's boilers exploded, she and a party of ladies and gentlemen were seated on the port guard, near the boilers. This party consisted of herself, Mr. Solomonsky, Miss Tyler, Mrs. Frisbie and child, and an old gentleman from Memphis, named Nelson. When the crash came, Miss Cohn was thrown sixty or seventy feet in the air, and fell into the water in mid stream. She grasped spasmodically at nothing, and had gone down three times before she succeeded in clutching a large log, to which a rope was attached. She then drifted down about a hundred yards and saw a man in the water. He turned out to be an attache of the Transatlantic Circus, and she caught hold of him by the foot with one hand, while she clung to the rope with the other. He told her to release his foot, which she did, transferring her hold to his neck. He then told her to take his arm, and said that he would give them both. This she also did, and they both were successful in getting on the log. They worked hard to reach shore and succeeded in doing so in about an hour, the wind helping them considerably. On nearing the shore the barber of the steamer was seen, but he was too excited to know what to do, and was only brought to his senses when Miss Cohn shouted for a pole. He finally handed her one, and she and her companion reached *terra firma*. On reaching shore Miss Cohn saw her cousin floating some distance below, and at once proceeded to take measures to save him. No rope was to be had except a short one which the circus man succeeded in finding. The lady at once tore off her skirts and made an addition to the rope, with which she finally drew him out of the water.

She says she had a presentiment of the accident; that she had not felt safe during the entire trip; she could not feel secure; and so certain was she that an accident would happen to the boat, that she had her cousin show her how to use a life-preserver the day previous. She was bruised about the head and mouth and had one of her legs slightly hurt, but on the whole congratulates herself at having fared no worse. Part of her baggage was destroyed.

Mr. Solmonsky says he was seated with the party on deck, when it began to rain. His cousin proposed that they go into the cabin, but at his suggestion they remained on deck, going to the left of the stack, while Mr. Nelson went to the right. While they were sitting there a peal of thunder was heard, and Miss Cohn asked him if there was danger in case a storm came up. He replied that in a storm the boat would be tied up; and no sooner were the words out of his mouth than the explosion occurred. He knew nothing until he struck the water, among a lot of boards, and tried to raise his head half a dozen times before he finally succeeded. He could not swim, and buoyed himself up with the timber as well as possible. He saw Miss Cohn clinging to the log about 300 yards above, and also saw two men trying to launch a boat from the Wolff, which had drifted ashore. He also saw old Nelson about ten yards off. He told Nelson to hold out, that the boat was coming. The barber was within six feet of him, and he and that artist managed to keep lumber enough to float them until he got hold of two life-preservers, which had been thrown after them by the second cook. He could not swim, and tried to get a preserver to Nelson but failed. They had then been in the water about forty-five minutes, and Mr. Nelson's strength had given out. He shouted, "Come here! come here!" Solomonsky told him to hang on, but he said that he could not, and was drowning. This frightened Solomonsky so much that he let go of everything and went down. When he came to the surface he got hold of a mattress, and looked round for Mr. Nelson, but he had already sunk and disappeared. The barber had got his lumber together and was standing on the pile, and Mr. Solomonsky tried to do the same thing, but failed, and sank again. Finally, after many mishaps, the lumber became entangled in a tree, about twenty yards from the east shore, where he was rescued by Miss Cohn. Mr. Solomonsky states that, although he and his cousin were in the water over an hour, nothing was done by those on the Wolff to save them. On reaching the vessel, which was about 500 yards above, he ascertained that the reason no boat had been sent to their aid was confusion on board. The officers thought that the boat was on fire, and a perfect panic prevailed. Two men tried to launch a boat to take the passengers ashore, and Mr. Ellis, of Memphis, prepared to jump overboard if they failed, as did also Mrs. Frisbie and her daughter and Miss Tyler. He thinks if any one had had presence of mind enough to launch one of the boats, that Mr. Nelson could have been saved.

In regard to the explosion, Mr. Solomonsky stated that it was reported that the second engineer had been on duty for forty-eight hours, owing to the first engineer being ill.

A Lost Child in Danbury.

A family named Cobleigh, living on Nelson street, lost their little child, a girl of six years, Monday. The alarm was at once given, and a vigorous search was soon prosecuted. The neighbors for several streets adjoining either joined in the search or assembled at the house of the afflicted family and graphically recalled cases where little children were lost and after a long search were found stark and stiff in death, and thus consumed time that would have otherwise passed drearily enough to the agonized parents. Several people remembered to have seen the little girl in several different directions, and parties followed the various directions.

Then there were others who had ideas of their own in regard to the whereabouts of the missing child, and one of these, a neighbor named Wakely, was led by this instinct to crawl under a barn, but in the transit became so wedged in that it took two men and a shovel to get him out again. A few minutes later his zeal and discretion led him to go down a well, and when part of the way down he lost his hold, gave forth a whoop like an Indian, and disappeared beneath the sparkling waters. He was rescued more dead than alive, but still burned with sympathy for the stricken family, and with the water dripping from his garments, crawled up on a beam to look over into a haymow, and, owing to the slippery condition of his clothes, again lost his balance and came down on the barn-floor on his back with a force that deprived him of his breath.

At 10 o'clock the search was given up for the night and the parents retired, but not to sleep. At 10½ a knock sounded at the front door, which, being opened, revealed the lost child. She had fallen asleep on top of the hen-house, and, becoming uneasy in her dreams, had fallen off and awakened, and had now come in for the particulars. No words can express the delight of the parents at the recovery of their child, nor depict the sensations of Mr. Wakely when he came around the next morning on a pair of borrowed crutches, and smelling strong enough of liniment to knock down a chemist, and learned the result of the affair. It is pleasant to learn that not one of the excited neighbors had any serious idea that the girl was lost any of the time.—*Danbury News.*

Mr. Birch's Cholera.

"Have we really the cholera among us?" is the query now passing from mouth to mouth. Of course we have. Mr. H. T. Birch, Assistant State Attorney, has had it, and the disease is thus made official. Up to Thursday evening Mr Birch was apparently as well as ever. His landlady reports that she had been watching him apprehensively for a week or two previously, but she could see no perceptible falling in his appetite. On the evening in question, after tea, Mr. Birch lighted his cigar and went out on the porch to smoke and flirt with the young ladies of the establishment, as usual. While in the midst of the most sprightly conversation he was suddenly observed to make a frantic grab with both hands at his lower vest button. He next arose to his feet with a grieved expression upon his handsome countenance. His next movement was to open and shut a few times like a pair of shears, all the time acting as though he had not intended to do it. After that he darted away as though he had suddenly recollected something he had previously forgotten.

But that wasn't what was the matter. A series of shrieks and groans shortly emanated from his chamber window. A flock of children engaged in the dry nurture of babies gathered on the street underneath, and wondered what was the matter. Some experienced old ladies passing along paused and listened for a moment, then went on saying significantly they guessed they knew what was going on inside the house. But it wasn't that. Mr. Birch was having the cholera. Fortunately he had a strong constitution, good nursing and a skillful physician, and before morning he was out of danger. On yesterday Mr. Birch, having been fumigated and disinfected, was walking about town looking white, interesting and intellectual, and advised the boys what to eat and drink.—*Chicago Times.*

JACOB WILLIS, of Fond du Lac, Wis., led his son to believe that he had buried $20,000 in gold, and the son gave him the best kind of treatment for fourteen years. The old man died the other day, and on his death-bed he broke the news that he hadn't a cent. His son would like to see himself take care of another old man.

NEWS SUMMARY.

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

President Grant and party returned to Long Branch from their Eastern trip, August 22.

The fall campaign in Ohio was opened by a Republican meeting at Athens, August 23. Senator Morton and Governor Noyes were among the speakers.

The Secretary of the Senate has received a letter from Senator Morton directing him to return his (Morton's) back pay to the United States Treasury.

The Washington *Daily Republican*, of August 26, publishes a four-column editorial advocating the re-election of General Grant for a third term.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

It appears by later reports, that the victims of the wholesale murder at Twin Springs, Kansas, the perpetrator of which, Kellar, was hung by a mob at La Cygne, were Kellar's wife and a Mrs. Boyd and her two children. The Boyds were neighbors of the Kellars, and Mrs. Kellar, having had some difficulty with her husband, had gone to pass the night with Mrs. Boyd. It is supposed that Kellar killed Mrs. Boyd and her children and then burned the house in order to cover up all evidence of the murder of his wife. Boyd, the husband and father of the murdered family, adjusted the rope around Kellar's neck when he was swung off.

By a collision on the Marietta & Cincinnati Railroad, August 21, three train men were killed and several injured. Only one passenger was hurt.

Edward Bean, the conductor of the coal train which caused the recent terrible accident on the Chicago & Alton Railroad, had not been arrested, as reported, up to August 22. The Railroad Company offer a reward of $1,000 for his apprehension.

Two negroes were executed in Maryland, August 22—one for murder and the other for rape.

The published confession of Kate Stoddard, the woman held for trial on the charge of murdering Goodrich, in Brooklyn, turns out to be a fraud, invented by the detectives for the purpose of effecting the capture of Roscoe, who is believed to have been implicated.

A conflagration at Belfast, Me., August 24, destroyed over one hundred and twenty-five buildings and other property, the total value of which is estimated at $500,000.

The steamer George C. Wolff exploded her boilers at St. Francis Island, on the Mississippi, about ten miles above Helena, on the evening of August 23, causing the death of fifteen persons—seven whites and eight negroes. Nearly every person on board the boat was more or less injured.

Sheriff Law, who was shot by the Callaway county, Mo., rioters, has since died.

An accident occurred on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, near Cameron, West Va., August 24, by which three or four German emigrants were fatally injured and fifteen or twenty wounded.

Miss Rebecca Pentess, a lady eighty years old, perished in the burning of the Frothingham House at the recent large fire at Belfast, Me.

The large brewery of V. Blatz, at Milwaukee, was partially burned on the night of August 25. The loss is placed at $300,000, and insurance at $225,000.

An accident occurred on the South Side Railroad, Long Island, August 25, by which some fifty passengers were more or less injured, one child fatally.

By the falling of the walls of a partially demolished building in New York city recently, eight men were killed and seven wounded.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Gold closed in New York, August 26, at 115¼.

The National Bureau of Education has received official advices respecting the awards at the Vienna Exposition to the American Exhibitors in the group of education, teaching and instruction, of grand diplomas of honor. The highest prizes were awarded to the State of Massachusetts, City of Boston, Smithsonian Institute and United States Board of Education. The grand medal of progress to the City of Washington and Cooper Institute, New York City; medals of merit to the cities of New York, Chicago and Cincinnati, and diplomas of merit to Worcester, Cleveland and Jacksonville, Ill.

The following is the comparative cotton statement for the week ending August 22:

	Bales.
Receipts at all U. S. ports for the week	10,657
Same time last year	3,874
For the year	3,584,257
Last year	2,706,496
Exports for the week	13,254
Same time last year	4,164
For the year	3,505,602
Last year	22,843
Stock at all U. S. ports	114,309
Last year	64,225
At interior towns	16,749
Last year	5,216
At Liverpool	796,000
Last year	92,000
Afloat for Great Britain	6[illegible],000
Last year	62,000

The War Department has issued orders promulgating the findings and sentence in the case of the Modoc captives, Capt. Jack, Schonchin, Black Jim, Boston Charley, Bannche, alias One-eyed Jim, and Slotuck, alias Cox, who were tried by Military Commission for the murder of General Canby and Commissioner Thomas, and for the assault with intent to kill other Peace Commissioners. They are found guilty of the specifications of the charges and sentenced to be hanged. The proceedings have been approved by the President and Secretary of War, and an order issued, that the sentences be duly executed under the direction of the General commanding the Department of the Columbia at Fort Klamath, Oregon, October 3, 1873.

Secretary Richardson has issued orders to Supervising Inspector Carr, at Memphis, Tenn., directing him to cause a speedy and searching investigation into the circumstances of the explosion of the George Wolff at St. Francis Island, and that to insure a thorough and impartial inquiry, an investigation should be conducted by the local board not identified with the last inspection of the steamer.

News from the Yellowstone expedition gives particulars of two sharp encounters with the Indians, which took place on the 4th and 11th of August respectively. The Indians are supposed to have been principally Uncapapas, under the command of Sitting Bull, and were well armed and had plenty of ammunition. The U. S. troops, under command of General Custar, were victorious in both encounters. The losses were four men killed and twenty-two wounded. The Indian loss is estimated by General Custar at forty killed and wounded.

The authorities of California have asked the Government that the Modocs charged with grave offences committed prior to their capture, other than those sentenced to be hanged, be delivered to them.

The Supreme Court of Georgia has decided that the law forbidding validity of judgments for notes whose consideration was slaves, is unconstitutional, and that unless barred by statute of limitation, such judgments can be made operative. The court was divided, Judge McCoy dissenting.

The town of Fayette, Mo., has been fearfully scourged by the cholera, the number of deaths reported up to August 25 being fifty. The town was nearly deserted, and both the papers had been forced to suspend publication. All the saloons and nearly all of the business houses had been closed.

The National Temperance Convention met at Saratoga, N. Y., August 25. Judge Pitman, of Massachusetts, was elected President.

FOREIGN.

Madrid advices, August 21, state that a battle had taken place near Berga, between the Republicans and insurrectionists, which resulted in a brilliant victory for the former. After a desperate conflict the insurrectionists were utterly defeated, with a loss of 90 killed and 300 wounded. Among the latter are Gens. Caballas and Tristang.

At a recent meeting of the members of the Left of the French Assembly, it was decided to seek the support of the Left Center to prevent the success of the plans of the Fusionists and Legitimists, for the establishment of a Bourbon.

The threatened lock-out by iron-masters of Manchester, England, of a portion of their operatives, has been postponed for the present, a proposition having been made to submit the differences between employers and workmen to a committee of arbitration.

From St. Domingo news comes that the revolutionists under Luperon have gained a decided advantage over the troops of President Baez. It is the general opinion that Luperon will finally be successful.

The Republican army under command of Gen. Sanchez Bregna, numbering 12,000 men, has entered Bilboa. The Carlist forces occupying the city withdrew without offering battle.

It is reported from Rome that the Pope has intimated his desire for a reconciliation with Germany, on condition of Germany not interfering in the Italian complications.

A dispatch from Vienna, August 24, says that the cholera continued to increase in that city.

Sir Samuel Baker and party have reached Cairo, returning from their expedition in Africa.

Senor Emilio Castelar has been elected President of the Spanish Cortes by a vote of 134 in his favor against 73 blanks. Upon taking the chair Senor Castelar delivered a conservative speech.

The Capitol Frescos.

Of the thousands of persons who yearly visit the capitol at Washington, but comparatively few stop to examine critically the frescos in the corridors. They are so wrapped in eternal shadow one needs to remain a considerable time to accustom the eyes to the twilight effect. At first it is but a confused mass of half illuminated color, gradually drawing upon the sense like a rainbow web. Look closely; in kaleidoscopic changes, figures begin to form into portrait, landscape, beast, flower, insect and emblematic designs. Movement, voice given, and the Congressional hall itself would be outdone in diversity of speech and motion. Every blossom and bird known in America is here faithfully and artistically depicted; individual panels tell stories of morning and evening, the birds bathing at the fountain, the buds heavy with dew, and myriads of tiniest insects studding leaf and bough. There are but few who know by whom our national palace was decorated. They pass by, note the endless variety of design, the minute finish of the smallest worm upon the leaf, recognizing with delight a familiar landscape, a well-known portrait, stand amazed before the tender grace of goddess and cherubs, never once asking who were the artists, or if asking, fail to elicit any satisfactory reply. They are the work of two young Germans. Seven long years they worked with straining eyes, burning in upon those walls their wonderful impressions, until the declining health of one and failing eyesight of the other forced them to rest from their labors. One lies in his premature grave, the other, stone blind, weaves baskets for a living in the city of Hamburg.—*Exchange.*

A Daring Stage Robbery—Four to Fourteen.

Our readers will remember the telegraphic accounts, three or four weeks ago, of the halting of a stage in Nevada by brigands, who robbed Wells, Fargo & Co.'s safe of a large sum of money. A citizen of Davenport was passenger on the said occasion—E. Baldwin, Chief Engineer of the D. & St. P. Railroad. He writes an account of the affair to a friend. He says he left Colfax at 4 p. m., with thirteen other passengers—destination Downieville, Sierra county. At the start they "ascended 1,000 feet," then descended 1,000 feet, and then repeated the ascension, and just as the coach reached the last summit an episode occurred. Four men sprang from behind rocks, seized the leaders by the bit, and bade the driver "get down from there." It was some time, Mr. Baldwin says, before the passengers could understand the interruption, but at last they were made to comprehend it without much ceremony. The driver was ordered to take the horses from the coach and lead them to one side. He obeyed. Next the passengers were told to "dismount" and seat themselves on a red-wood log. As each of the robbers held a double-barreled shot-gun, and swore that somebody's brains would be spilled unless "you step right lively now," the order was obeyed with alacrity. "I tell you, my friend," writes Mr. B., "I felt terribly put out!" The passengers sat still as mice under cover of the shot-guns, and silently watched the operations of the robbers in getting at the contents of the safe. The scoundrels drilled holes about the lock, and elsewhere in the door, poured powder into the openings, tamped them, and then lighted the fuse. In half a minute there was a thick puff of smoke, a dull, heavy sound, and there lay the safe open. It was but the work of a minute to sack the bags of gold and packages of greenbacks, and then the robbers ordered the passengers to "mount." The travelers obeyed and took their seats; then the driver was ordered to "hitch up," and he did as he was told—and was requested to "drive on quick and not lag once for a mile." And the way the four-horse team flew away from the locality would astonish a locomotive. The robbers gobbled between $8,000 and $12,000.

After making the aforesaid mile in uncommonly quick time, the passengers got to comparing notes concerning the "late interruption," and it was found that every man of the fourteen had a revolver—safely stowed away in his trunk or valise. Not a man among them had a weapon about his clothes when the robbers were at hand.

When the stage reached Grass Valley the passengers told the people the "story of their sufferings!" And they were laughed at. "Fourteen passengers of you ordered to sit on a red-wood log by four robbers armed with nothing but old shot-guns, and you did it—you squatted, did you, while they robbed the safe?" was the gist of the remarks of the Grass Valleyites, delivered with looks and accents of scorn.

Mr. Baldwin says one experience of the kind is enough for him—he wouldn't go across the street to meet another.—*Davenport (Iowa) Gazette.*

The Machine that has Injured a Coopers' Union.

Since the strike Havemeyer & Elder have maintained twenty-five hands inside of Palmer's cooperage, and by the aid of machinery that force of inexperienced men and boys are turning out one thousand barrels a day. The machine-made barrels are equal in every respect to those made by the Cooper's Union men, and are turned out with immeasurably greater speed. First, the machine sets up the staves on a cast-iron foot and drives their lower ends closely together. A heavy iron hoop then grasps the lower ends, while a rope drawn by machinery brings the top ends together, when another heavy iron hoop slips on. Two iron bilge hoops then supervene, and the barrel falls into the embrace of a clamping-machine, which raises the two lower hoops and draws down the two upper ones. There is no driving of hoops by hammers. The barrel then rolls down an inclined plane, and is caught by a man who places it over a furnace. There are twenty-three furnaces in a line at these works. The heat fixes the curvature given to the staves, and the next operation is to make the barrel true by placing it between two circular iron heads, which approach each other and force the ends of the staves back or forward until they are true. The "justified" barrel (to use a printer's term) then rolls down an inclined plane and is caught in another machine which bevels the ends of the staves, and cuts grooves for the reception of the head and bottom. Away goes the barrel over another inclined plane, is caught by the arms of another endless elevator, and thrown on another plane one floor above. There the iron hoops are knocked off one by one, and the strap hoops put on; the heads are fitted, and then the barrel rolls away on another plane to the store-room. One boy in the hooping-room, whom the Union coopers would not allow in the old shop, except as a laborer, is now trimming forty barrels per day and making four dollars. The sirup barrels require heavier machinery, which is now in position, but not used, because the firm have a surplus of barrels; it is of the same general description.

Inside the cooperage are a kitchen, dormitory and wash-room for the workmen who choose to remain inside. Outside of the works are pickets of stalwart Irishmen keeping guard for the Trade Union, to prevent new men from applying for work, and to entice away those who are working. Guarding the picket is an able-bodied policeman, who never hesitates to use his baton if he sees the picket guard interfering with the workmen. The business of the firm is progressing as rapidly as usual, and no fears are expressed for the result of their endeavor to maintain their rights.—*New York Journal of Commerce.*

MRS. CAMPBELL and Mrs. Chambers, of Madison, Ga., have fallen heirs to twelve million dollars in France. The property is inherited from the estate of Rennaleau. The ladies are in receipt of a letter from Judah P. Benjamin to the effect that there will be no obstacle in the way of obtaining possession of the property.

AH SING, the Chinese overseer at North Adams, Mass., has been charging his followers $100 for rice which cost him $50, and fifty cents for mailing letters which don't cost him anything. Ah Sing is civilizing remarkably fast.

PITH AND POINT.

THE largest room in the world is the room for improvement.

A FUEL-SAVING COOK—The one that "boils with indignation."

IT takes twenty-four hours to make one day, but a good dose of physic will make one weak.

"CLOSED in consequence of a debt in the family" is the communicative announcement on the door of a fugitive haberdasher.

A COUNTRY boy having come to Louisville for an education, being asked, What is a "strait?" horrified his teacher by replying, "It beats two pair."

A WORTHY old lady offers the following advice to girls: "Whenever a fellow pops the question, don't blush and stare at your foot. Just throw your arms around his neck, look him full in the face, and commence talking about the furniture."

THE response in full of Mr. Richard Grant White to the *Graphic's* invitation to their balloon excursion is as follows:

"If I could read my title clear
To mansions in the skies,
I'd bid fare-well to every fear,
And with your gas arise."

AN enterprising gentleman from Portland, Me., while traveling recently in the interior of Missouri, being uncertain as to whether he was on the right road, stopped at a farm-house to inquire. The lady of the house, a stout, buxom white woman, unable to inform him, referred him to her husband, who was at work in a field near by. On going to that place he found the husband was a negro, black as the ace of spades. Stopping a moment at the house on his return, he said to the wife, "How is it that a good-looking woman like yourself should have married a colored man?" "Oh, that's nothing," said she; "my sister did a good deal worse than that." "How could that be?" "Why, she married a man from Maine!"

A SACO woman, while putting down a carpet a few days ago, accidentally spilled a paper of tacks in a chair, and, before she had time to remove them, she was called away to attend to a lady visitor, who dropped in to tell her about a love of a bonnet she had seen over in Biddeford; and in the excitement of listening to the description of the bonnet, she forgot all about the tacks. When her husband came home at night he sat down in that chair to take off his boots, and then he got up again, without wasting any time, and made a speech; and his wife is ready to take her oath that he can quote more Scripture in a short space of time than any man now living. Up to the present writing, with the aid of a screwdriver and a pair of pincers, a large portion of the offensive tacks have been removed; but his customary evening seat on the railing of Cataract bridge is vacant now, and will probably remain so for some time to come.

Safety in Ocean Travel.

The loss of the steamship Atlantic, of the White Star Line, and the City of Washington, of the Inman Line, both of which ran into shallow water and foundered on the rocks, has set inventive minds to thinking whether some device could not be made to prevent such accidents in the future. One inventor, Mr. E. D. Gird, of Syracuse, N. Y., has a very simple plan which has already attracted the attention of some of the steamship owners. This plan is based on the law of specific gravity, which makes the pressure exerted by a column of water twenty fathoms deep much greater, of course, than that exerted by a column only four or five fathoms in depth. The apparatus consists of a hollow line or flexible tube, at the lower end of which is a weight and an air-chamber, with a piston, upon the outer surface of which the pressure is received. The upper end of this tube is attached to the ship in the engine-room, and a pressure-gauge, resembling an "aneroid" barometer, indicates constantly the depth at which the weight is depending with as much accuracy, it is claimed, as the steam-gauge indicates the pressure on the boiler. As the vessel nears land the air-chamber comes towards the surface, the pressure becomes less, and the result is told by the gauge, which is constantly before the eyes of the engineer. An alarm-bell is also attached to the gauge, so that in case the vessel enters very shallow water the signal of danger is at once sounded. The inventor says that a gauge can also be placed in the captain's room, and claims, furthermore, that the same apparatus can be made to indicate the speed of the vessel.—*New York World.*

An Anecdote of Napoleon III.

A gossipy book, just published in London, entitled, "Court and Social Life in France, under Napoleon III.," has an anecdote of the late emperor, which, if true, is very much to his credit. While Napoleon was in London, "waiting his destiny," he was watched by French diplomatic detectives. Three of these elevated gentlemen so far imposed upon the exile that he invited them to dinner, asking some of his English friends to meet them. After dinner the subject of horses came up, and the conversation resulted in the purchase of a horse by one of the Frenchmen from an English officer. The horse was sent to the place designated, but the English gentleman did not get his money. Prince Napoleon heard of the transaction a few days after, and immediately sent to the English gentleman a check for the price, saying that no English gentleman should sell a horse at his table and not be paid for it. "There were swindlers," he said, "in all countries; but, if they made their way into good society, the hosts which they deceived must see that their other guests did not suffer."

Force of Imagination.

At a large dinner party once, the poet Rogers was speaking of the inconvenience of having windows formed of one sheet of glass. They look as if there was no glass he said. A short time ago, as I sat at the table with my back to one of those panes, it appeared to me that the window was open, and such was the force of imagination that I actually took cold. Dear me, said Babbage, who sat opposite, how odd it is, Mr. Rogers, that you and I should make such a different use of the faculty of imagination. When I sleep unexpectedly away from home, and consequently have no nightcap, I should naturally take cold. But by tying a piece of pack-thread tightly around my head, I go to sleep imagining I have a nightcap on, and catch no cold at all.