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Miscellaneous Reading.

NOW.

BY CHARLES MACKAY.

The venerable Past is passed;
'Tis dark, and shines not in the way;
'Twas good, no doubt—'tis gone at last—
There dawns another day.
Why should we sit where ivies creep,
And shroud ourselves in charnels deep,
Or the world's yesterdays deplore
'Mid crumbling ruins' mossy hoar;
Why should we see with dead men's eyes,
Looking at Was from morn to night,
When the beauteous Now, the divine To Be,
Woo with their charms our living sight?
Why should we hear but echoes dull
When the world of sound, so beautiful,
Will give us music of our own?
Why in the darkness should we grope
When the sun, in heaven's resplendent cope,
Shines as bright as it ever shone?

The Present needs us. Every age
Bequeaths the next for heritage;
No lazy luxury or delight,
But strenuous labor for the right;
For Now, the child and sire of Time,
Demands the deeds of earnest men
To make it better than the past,
And stretch the circle of its ken.
Now is a fact that men deplore,
Though it might bless them evermore,
Would they but fashion it aright,
'Tis ever new, 'tis ever bright.
Time nor eternity hath seen
A repetition of delight
In all its phases; ne'er hath been
For men or angels that which is;
And that which is hath ceased to be
Ere we have breathed it, and its place
Is lost in the eternity.
But Now is ever good and fair,
Of the Infinitude the heir,
And we of it. So let us live
That from the Past we may receive
Light for the Now—from Now a joy
That Fate nor Time shall ne'er destroy.

A FLEETING FORTUNE.

COVETOUSNESS is supposed to be the favorite vice of age, which seems to me strange. I am old, and no longer hunger after wealth. What good would it do me now? My habits are settled, my passions are extinct: quiet, freedom from pain and care, and the preservation of my eyesight, are the only blessings I crave. I have enough for food and clothing; not enough to tempt others to flatter, cajole, and deceive me. But early in life I longed for riches with an unwholesome yearning; money seemed to me the greatest good, yet even money was not worth toiling for. When I indulged in airy castle building—which was very often—I always pictured myself as finding a treasure; landing a double event at tremendous odds; having a fortune left me; or becoming suddenly rich in some equally facile manner—never slowly, by hard work. In many novels, the hero, poor, determines to achieve wealth and fame at the end of one chapter; and when the next opens, he has done so. The intervening years of humdrum are jumped. I wanted to jump them too. I was quite willing to be ten years older and ten thousand times richer, could such a bargain have been made. But it couldn't; and I dawdled the ten years away, and was just as poor as at the commencement. And yet I was once for a few hours, actually and literally, a rich man; and it happened in a way which my fancy had not pictured.

I was fond of traveling about, and my small means caused me to seek inexpensive modes of conveyance. My legs were the cheapest; and I walked all over England, Scotland, and Wales; but the coast stopped me, for I could not swim the channel. Pay for my passage I must, but I would pay as little as I could help; so I chose a long sea route from London to Holland. At the boat started in the small hours of the night, I passed the evening in mild dissipation. Dined off a chop and cheese with a pint of "cooper," followed by a pipe and a glass of rack-punch. Sat in the pit of a theater from curtain-rise to curtain-set, a trifle leaving when the brown holland appeared. Then a potato at a singing-tavern brought me to half-past twelve, and it was time to go to my inn in Holborn for my luggage. This was not extensive, consisting merely of a leathern bag, which could be worn when I liked as a knapsack; and with this in my left hand, and a stout oak stick tipped with a formidable ferrule in my right, I sought the Docks. This must seem so very eccentric to young people of the present day, that I think it better to mention that it was upward of thirty years ago: cabs and habits of luxury have considerably increased since then. In the neighborhood of the Tower, the streets were quite deserted, and it was a curious experience to hear one's footsteps re-echoing in the very center of the capital of Bustle. The traffic, rolling dockward by the main arteries of the city, only reached the ear as a faint, muffled murmur, like that of the distant sea. Turning into a small Place—a triangle of houses, with a paved court in its center—however, I came upon a group of three men, who seemed to be engaged in a scuffle, and supposing it to be a drunken row, I was passing on without notice, when one of them called out "Murder!"

What a fine old English word that is—how expressive! The sight of it in large print gives the blood a pleasant curdle, and forces the purchase of an evening paper upon the man whose coppers would never be charmed out of him by any simple "assassination." But heard in the stillness of night there is a muttered horror in the word which is appaling.

I am not a chivalrous man; I shrink instinctively from incurring danger or even discomfort on behalf of a friend, let alone a stranger; but there was an earnestness about that cry which arrested my steps. Again, in a more stifled tone: "Murder! Help!"

I advanced toward the group, and saw, by the light of a dim lamp, that two of the men were stooping over a third, who lay at their ground. One of these rose on hearing my footsteps, and warned me with an oath to go my way and mind my own business; and as I did not heed him, he raised his right arm and ran at me. Knowing something of fencing, I lunged as he came up, catching him low in chest the with the ferrule of my stick, and he rolled over into the road with a gasp and a groan, and lay there, doubled up. His mate stood up, hesitated a moment, irresolute, and then turned to flee; I struck him over the head as he went, but failed to bring him down, and he got away. Glad enough to be rid of him, I went to the assistance of his victim, who still lay on the pavement; but he was not seriously injured; and when I had loosened his neckcloth, and poured some of the contents of my traveling flask down his throat, he was able to get up. Fortunately for him, garroting had not been yet cultivated to a science, and he was only quarter-throttled.

His first care was to feel a pocket inside his waistcoat, having done which, he said in a tone of intense relief: "They have not got it? Thanks to you, young man, they have not got it! You won't leave me? You will see me to the boat? I can walk. O yes, I am better now."

"Don't be afraid," said I; "I will not leave you till you are safe. What boat do you mean?"

"The *Rotterdam*."

"Why, I am going by that myself. I am glad you can walk, for we have not got overmuch time to lose."

We were not more than a quarter of a mile from the wharf, and had half an hour to do it in; but I did not think it incumbent upon me to go to the assistance of the man who had served me as a *plastron*, and still lay in the road; so we went our way, and left him there; and whether he came round presently, or received any permanent injury to his constitution from that poke in the stomach, I know not.

The man I had rescued was gray-haired, with a wizened face deeply scored by wrinkles, and a frame which did not seem capable of making the stubborn resistance which he must have done in defense of his property. The cab in which he started for the docks had broken down, and, afraid of being late, he had taken a short cut through the by-streets on foot, and had been set upon by the rascals with whom I found him. That was the simple account he gave me on our way to the wharf, which we reached in time. As for the luggage, that had been taken on in the morning, when his berth was chosen. The latter precaution I had neglected, but found no difficulty in securing sleeping accommodation, for the vessel was not crowded; indeed, there were but three passengers besides myself and the old man Not being used to five hours of theater, followed by a walk and an encounter with street thieves, I was tired, and turned in soon after we started.

When I awoke, there was no vibration, no din of revolving paddles. Had I slept through the passage, and were we at our journey's end? Hardly, for in that case we should be in still water, not swaying to this side and that, bending backwards, pitching forwards, and bringing ourselves up with a jerk, like a sleepy man during a long sermon, as we were doing. I sat up and looked over the side of my berth, which was on the upper tier, and saw the head of my rescued old man peering out from the sleeping-place below.

"Do you think there is anything the matter?" he asked. "Why are we not going on? Why does that bell keep on ringing?"

Roused by this unpleasant suggestion of peril, I wriggled off my shelf, managed, after several bad shots, to get my feet into giddy boots and my arms into intoxicating coat-sleeves, reeled up to the deck, and found a fog.

It was one of the densest I have ever been in; you could not see across the deck, and a man standing a couple of yards off resembled a figure in one of Turner's later pictures. The effect was the more confusing from the mist not being stationary, for a stiffish breeze sent rolling masses of it sweeping over us. The waves of fog mingled with the waves of water, and the eye could not distinguish which was which, while the large bell forward kept up a continual tinkle, tinkle, in muffled tones, as though the fog were composed of wood, pulled out very fine, particles of which had clogged the clapper.

I am happy to be able to boast that I did not worry the Captain, as passengers are so foolishly apt to do when things look a little awkward. But I got near him, and listened and observed, and made out by degrees that we were somewhere in the channels about the Nore, and in momentary expectation of being run into, or grounding on the sands, and that, when we revolved our paddles, which we did at intervals, the chance of running into somebody else was added. The lead was constantly being heaved, and at one time when the water shoaled very much, the mate suggested anchoring, but the Captain ruled that this would increase our risk of being run down, and preferred keeping loose and able to dodge about—of course, using nautical expressions, which I cannot pretend to repeat.

Directly the state of affairs became obvious to me, I went below and brought up my old man, for in case of some other ship's beak suddenly crushing into our sides, the prospect of those who were under water mark seemed—if you will pardon a slang term in consideration of its extraordinary aptness—very fishy. And he was grateful, for the danger of a collision was very real. Probably the mouth of the Thames is familiar to you, but if not, know that vessels enter it by a number of roads, duly buoyed out and light-housed. These roads or channels being narrow, and the number of outward and homeward bound ships very great, a thick fog or a snow-storm is a serious peril.

About noon the wind increased in violence, and blew the fog away, so that we were able to go on fearlessly; and by and by, when the excitement had calmed down, my old man grew pleasant and chatty.

The sea ran rather high; but as neither of us suffered from sea-sickness, this tended to raise our spirits, as the strong air sharpened our appetites; and though every now and then a big wave would shiver itself against our weather-bow, and send a shower of its fragments sweeping across the deck, we got well under the shelter of the paddle-box, and enjoyed it.

To my surprise, on one occasion when he wanted to draw my attention to something, I happening to be looking another way, my companion spoke to me by name.

"You know me?" I asked.

"Certainly," he replied; "you sold me some jewels five years ago. I even remember the circumstances. A property had to be divided among the various members of your family, and the diamonds were too valuable to be allotted to any individual, so that it was necessary to turn them into money; and you had the management of the transaction, which was carried out through my agency."

He was perfectly accurate in the account which he gave me, even recalling to my mind certain minutiæ which I had forgotten, though surely they ought to have impressed me more strongly than him. I presently remembered his face, however; indeed, it had struck me as familiar when the lamp-light first fell upon it the night before. But his hair had turned from black to white, and the loss of his teeth had caused his cheeks to fall in—changes that alter the physiognomy more radically than any other which leave the eyes untouched. I suppose that he had made inquiries about me at the time when the business alluded to was transacted; and that their result was such as to inspire him with confidence, for he talked to me about his present affairs with a freedom which surprised me, though I *had* done him a good turn. For, in truth, he had that on him which it was not well to blab about. He carried in an inner pocket of his waistcoat no fewer than twenty-five rough diamonds, emeralds, and sapphires, which he was taking to Holland to be cut. "I am too old for such business now," he said. "If you had not come to my rescue last night, and those rascals had got hold of the stones, I should have been ruined, ruined!"

Whether they were his own, or he had but a share in them, or whether they were merely intrusted to him, I cannot say; he did not tell me; but from the hints he threw out of their value, which, if the diamonds were at all worthy of the expense he was prepared to incur for cutting them, must have been enormous—enormous in the ordinary, not the Monte Cristo or Lothair sense—it is not probable that they were entirely the property of one man.

While we were conversing, the wind was growing in violence, till at length we could not make ourselves heard without difficulty, and the paddle-boxes no longer afforded much protection against the spray, which searched the whole deck.

The skipper of a passage-boat always takes the freedom of a passenger from sickness at dinner-time as a personal compliment; and as our present captain had helped each of us to the everlasting boiled mutton twice, we had a right to his good opinion. So he came up to us, and told the diamond-merchant that he thought there was going to be a little wind, and he would be more comfortable below. On the old man acquiescing, he took him in tow, and guided him safely to the cabin-stairs, to my great relief, for I feared that duty would devolve on me; and my legs not being so nautical as my stomach, we should infallibly have rolled together in the lee-scuppers (whatever they may be) or overboard. The captain came back presently; and as he passed me, he shouted in my ear: "I'd go, too, if I were you."

"Presently," I roared in reply. "This is a new sight to me. Just five minutes more."

"Hold on tight, then."

No need to bid me "hold tight." I was clinging to the rope I grasped with great tenacity, for every now and then the deck became so steep that my feet slipped from under me, and the wave-tops that left their own element and came flying across us, struck me with a force which I had not hitherto attributed to water, unless shot out of the hose of an engine.

It was a grand scene. I had never witnessed anything like it before. I had indeed seen more than one storm on a bold coast, but there is all the difference between a wave breaking on the shore, and a wave in the open sea, that there is between a caged lion and a lion in the desert. It is a great thing in these *nil admirari* days to be able to feel awe, and I experienced that sensation. Nature seemed to vast, so irresistible; man, so puny and weak. I had read many descriptions, both in prose and verse, of storms at sea, but had never caught an idea of the truth from them, so that I despair of being able to express what I felt. It was so absurd that I had ever reckoned the little lives and histories of my kind so highly. I caught a glimpse of the fact that we men, who give ourselves such airs, are but as mites in a cheese. Doubtless, there may be good mites and bad, wise mites and foolish, but when they are mashed up together with a lump of butter, at the point of a knife, they are merged in equal insignificance.

As an individual mite, however, I began to feel cold, wet, and uncomfortable, and commenced a series of acrobatic performances having for their object the attainment, first of the cabin stairs, and then of mo berth. In time all this was accomplished, though not without some bruises; then, perched on my shelf, I succeeded in getting rid of my wet outer garments, and, rolling myself up in a blanket, was soon rocked to sleep.

I was awakened by a violent concussion. Have you ever, when going upstairs in the dark, expected another step when you were on the level, and got a jerk which tried every nerve in your body? Well, that was the effect. Whether I was thrown out of my berth, or jumped down in a panic, I don't know. I remember trampling on something, which must have been the diamond merchant; stumbling into the saloon, catching a glimpse of three wild eyed passengers, prostrate hitherto with sea-sickness, but now cured by fear; struggling up the cabin stairs against a torrent of water which came pouring down them: and at last reaching the deck.

The day was breaking. The wind had gone down somewhat. A low line of coast was visible in the distance. The steamer was aground, heeling over on her port side, and the waves were buffeting her to pieces. I managed to climb to the starboard side of the funnel, the base of which prevented me from slipping along the steep deck, while the bulwark and paddle-box behind formed a barrier against the violence of the waves.

But this latter advantage did not last long; plank by plank, paddle-box and bulwarks were torn to pieces, and the loose splinters were a fresh source of danger. A sailor, clinging to the skylight over the engines, not far from my station, had his arms broken by a mass of wood and iron which was hurled against him; and then the waves, which now washed the deck without opposition, had him at their mercy. They rolled him back, away from me, then threw him back, almost to my feet, so that I could see his pitiful, appealing eyes; but before I could clutch him, they snatched him away again. So they worried him to death, and then sported with his corpse.

There were two boats; the captain and crew attempted to get one afloat, but the gear was out of order, or they were clumsy, or the situation was unfavorable. Any way, the boat was capsized, and some of those who were trying to launch it were, I think, crushed, judging by the cry I heard. The other boat, which was near me, had a side stove in, but among the ruins of it I saw the yellow rim of a life-buoy, which I determined to have. It was a task of peril and difficulty to reach the place, but I effected it, and there, inside the boat, clinging to the thwarts, I found my old man, the diamond merchant.

"Mine! mine!" he cried, when I had disentangled the life-buoy, and passed one of my arms through it. He could not have meant that it was his private property, because the name of the steamer was painted upon it; I suppose he had formed the intention to appropriate it before I came, and his strength had failed him. The boat proved a better protection than it had looked. When the large waves struck the stranded vessel, they rose up and enveloped her, flooding the decks with water, which poured off them again in cataracts. I found on each occasion that the boat was lifted at the same time that it was flooded, and this of course brought relief when the reflux came. I had not, as before, to cling hard to prevent being dragged away, the *give* of the boat as it floated and subsided easing the strain.

The vessel was settling down in the sands, burying herself as she swayed, burrowing like a mudfish; it was plain that no living thing subject to drowning could remain with her long. It had been broad daylight now for hours; we were in the mouth of some river, for land could be seen on both sides. But no vessel coming to our assistance was visible. It was a mere question of time, however; the wind had gone down, and the sea was not too rough for a good boat; we were sure to be seen. With the aid of the life-buoy, a man might well float till he was picked up, and its value was evidently immense.

"Mine!" reiterated the old man, clutching at it as the boat was floated for a longer time than it had been yet. And when the water receded, and we were once more stranded on the deck, he felt in his breast, drew out a leather case, and cried: "A fortune for it! a fortune for it!"

I looked at the nearest bank; but it seemed quite possible for a strong swimmer to reach it, and I was a very strong swimmer. Not probable, perhaps, but possible. Money was not worth steady industry, self-denial, but it was well worth striking one blow for.

"On your word as a dying man," I said, "do you believe that if I survive, I shall get ten thousand for the seventy-five jewels?"

"Double, on my oath—double!"

I took my arm out of the life-buoy, and put it over his shoulder, at the same time receiving the leather case.

I had run up on deck in my shirt and drawers, and was pocketless; so I took off a handkerchief I had round my head, tied the jewels up in that, and then secured it about my waist.

I had hardly done this before the boat in which we were was washed clear of the deck, and as, though broken and full of water she proved too shallow and buoyant to go down, I still clung to her for a minute or so; but the waves washed so high over her gunwale, that I had to let go, and swim to a loose oar which was floating near. The old man was kept well out of the water by the buoy; I saw him a couple of waves off with his shoulders well above it. There was no spray now to drown him, for the wind had sunk to a whisper, and, if his strength lasted, he seemed safe. He had made a good purchase. As for my own prospects, my short trip from the boat to the support to which I now clung was sufficient to show me that I had not enough left in me to swim ashore; no, nor half the way, nor a quarter of the way. My weight slightly submerged the oar, so that, when the crest of a large wave caught me, I got a ducking which robbed me of the breath I wanted so badly. But I could fight for a long time yet, having something to hold on by. Some part of the steamer which must have been tenable up to this time, was so no longer, for several fresh figures were suddenly to be seen in the water, clinging to anything that would float. Three of them made for the buoy, and two reached it, which sealed the fate of the diamond merchant. Not that the buoy became useless; it was as good a support to the three men as my oar was to myself alone; but that was not enough for the old man, who required to be kept higher out of the water. I saw him still holding on for some time after he had ceased from all attempts to keep his head up; then he disappeared altogether. I nearly met the same fate; I was all but unconscious when a shore boat came to my rescue. A sailor twisted his hand in the handkerchief tie round my waist, and sought to draw me into the boat by it. It gave way, and I dropped back again into the water. He caught me again by the arm, and dragged me back to life. But my diamonds, emeralds, and sapphires had gone to the bottom of the Scheldt.

For a few hours, and up to my chin in water all the time, I was a moderately rich man; all the rest of my life I have been a poor one. Oh! if that knot in my handkerchief had held, or if the Dutchman who rescued me had caught hold of my leg, or hair, or ear— But it is too provoking; I can't bear to think of it.—*Chamber's Journal.*

The Credit Mobilier Investigation.

Mr. Dawes was sworn before the Committee on the 13th, and submitted a written statement. He says he never was the owner of any Credit-Mobilier stock; he agreed to take ten shares of stock, but the agreement was rescinded before the stock was transferred.

W. Hastings sent a letter to the Committee, proposing to show that a large shareholder in the Union Pacific Railroad, and also the Credit-Mobilier, testified in a California Court that he, said shareholder, had used the money and stock of the Union Pacific Road, and of the Credit-Mobilier, to bribe Congressmen, to inaugurate influence, and to carry through, by bribery and corruption, legislation in the interest of railroads.

Charles H. Neilson, son-in-law of James Brooks, produced his certificates of stock in the Credit-Mobilier, the first certificate being for 100 shares, dated December 26, 1867, and the second for 50 shares, dated February 29, 1868. He testified that Brooks had no interest in the stocks further than that he had advanced the money to purchase a portion of them, and had secured to the witness the chance to obtain them, saying he did not care to hold the shares himself.

James A. Garfield testified before the Committee on the 14th to the effect that he had no knowledge of any dealings between Ames and any Congressmen; told Ames he wouldn't have any stock where a controversy existed; derived his knowledge of the Credit-Mobilier from Mr. Train; Ames never tried to influence his legislative action; never saw a share of the Credit-Mobilier until shown him a few days since by Brooks; once borrowed $300 of Ames and returned it.

Benjamin F. Ham, Treasurer of the Credit-Mobilier, testified that Neilson's name appeared on the books as the holder of 150 shares; didn't know of Brooks having anything to do with the shares. Ham produced several books of the Company, and said others had been sent on by express; the stock transfer book had disappeared, and he did not know what had become of it; he had not destroyed it.

Thomas C. Durant testified that he was a Director of the Union Pacific Railroad till 1869; was President of the Credit-Mobilier Company, and one of the trustees to whom the Ames contract was assigned; has certified copies of the books; signed a paper to distribute some stock on hand; the stock was transferred to the witness to enable him to fulfill a prior engagement; did not know to whom Ames was to transfer the stock; Ames said he had an engagement to deliver some to Mr. Colfax; thinks other Congressmen were also mentioned, and it made an impression on him, as he believed Ames gave the names, and intended keeping the stock himself; never conversed with Neilson; had a business transaction with James Brooks, but it had no reference to Brooks being a Congressman; Brooks desired some stock, and witness arranged to let Brooks have 100 shares of Credit-Mobilier, with $30,000 worth of Union Pacific stock and first mortgage bonds. Brooks, being a Government Director, did not want to hold the stock, and therefore had it transferred to Neilson; knew nothing about the fifty shares additional stock received by Neilson.

T. C. Durant testified further on the 15th to the effect that the shares given to James Brooks were the result of a special agreement with him in 1867. Brooks claimed more than 100 shares, and he compromised in Union Pacific stock and bonds. He (Durant) had no knowledge of Congressmen influenced by the Credit-Mobilier. He never arranged to give any Congressmen stock, except in case of Boyer, of Pennsylvania, and Brooks; the latter gave the offer of $5,000 each to secure the election of Senator Harlan, of Iowa. Harlan was an old personal friend. The witness thought he would take care of the interests of the road.

Mr. Bushnell testified that when the Credit-Mobilier got ashore, Ames went to his friends, in Congress and out of Congress, to get them to take stock. He thought there was a want of moral courage on the part of certain men, who did agree to take stock, but now would not stand up and say they agreed to take it. The witness never offered any stock to any member of Congress. It was the understanding that Ames got a large amount of stock to enable him to fulfill engagements which he had entered into previously. He felt, as Ames had expressed it in one of his letters, that if they went back on the Congressmen after the stock had gone up, when it had been promised them, then when it was down Congressmen would go back on them.

Representative Scofield stated before the Committee, on the 16th, that he had taken some of Ames' railroad securities; he knew nothing of Ames' deriving Congressional aid; had voted against the act of 1864, giving the Company's mortgages priorty; nothing was said about legislation.

Senator Paterson testified that he never owned a penny's worth of Credit-Mobilier, although he would have done so at one time if he had had the money. Subsequently he purchased of Ames both bonds and stock of the Union Pacific Road, which he afterwards sold in New York, making a fair profit. He regretted that his investment was not larger, as the transaction was honorable and honest. He never received nor purchased any property which, directly or indirectly, was connected with his vote.

William D. Kelley testified that he agreed with Ames to take some Credit-Mobilier stock as an investment only, but the matter was dropped, and he never received any dividends or profits from the Credit-Mobilier; had not had an offer from Ames of Credit-Mobilier stock to influence legislation. If the witness had been able to purchase stock, he would have done so. He saw no more impropriety in a member of Congress buying that stock than in buying a flock of sheep, and then voting upon the tariff on wool or woolen goods.

Senator Wilson testified substantially to what has already been published—that the stock was taken in his wife's name, but surrendered when he ascertained all the facts in the case.

Representative Bingham made a statement to the effect that he had purchased twenty shares of stock and received dividends upon it, and defended the transaction as perfectly legitimate, the same as though it was bank stock. It was purely a business transaction, and never influenced his vote in the House.

—**Soaking Seed in Dry Times.**—*Rural Home* says: "This is practiced to a considerable extent, but we have observed that it is a risky operation unless particular attention is paid to putting the soil in suitable condition. A soaked seed in dry and lumpy soil is almost sure to perish if the drouth is prolonged. The dry earth and the air in the crevices around the grain extract the moisture before the roots form and begin to absorb food from the soil. But if the soil is well pulverized, so that its natural condition is somewhat moist, and the seed is then covered pretty deep, it will usually live. Those who endeavor to hasten growth by soaking the seed previous to planting, should take care to use the roller and harrow without stint.

"IT wasn't so very late—only a quarter of twelve." "How dare you sit there and tell me that lie? I was awake when you came in, and looked at my watch—it was three o'clock." "Well, isn't three a quarter of twelve?"

General News Summary.

CONGRESSIONAL.

In the Senate, on the 10th, bills were introduced—for the appointment of a commission on prohibitory liquor legislation; to throw open all branches of the army to all citizens, irrespective of race or color....Resolutions of the Massachusetts Legislature were presented and ordered printed, remonstrating against the passage of the bill which provides that the names of battles with our fellow citizens shall not be continued in the army register, or placed on the regimental colors of the United States ...The bill to amend the National Banking act, to provide for a return to specie payments, was debated and referred to the Finance Committee....The Indian Appropriation bill was further debated, and amendments were adopted, one providing for the appointment of inspectors of Indian Affairs, and the bill, as amended, was passed....Adjourned to the 13th.

In the House, on the 10th, a motion was adopted that the Select Committee, No. 2, on the Credit-Mobilier matter be permitted to sit during sessions of the House, and employ a clerk.... The Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill was taken up in Committee of the Whole, and an amendment to increase the appropriation for the Bureau of Education was debated at some length, and rejected—74 to 73....Adjourned.

In the House, on the 11th, several private bills were disposed of....A bill was passed for the sale of the present cemetery grounds at Fort Gratiot Military Reservation, in Michigan....The Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill was further considered in Committee of the Whole, and several amendments were offered and rejected....Adjourned.

In the Senate, on the 13th, a number of bills were introduced, among them one exempting mineral lands in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota from the operations of the Mining act of May 10, 1872....The bill to provide for the further endowment and support of Agricultural Colleges was called up, and an amendment to appropriate the proceeds of the public lands to the support of common schools was rejected—yeas 9, nays 32....Adjourned.

In the House, on the 13th, several bills were introduced and referred, among them—to reorganize the Treasury Department, fix the salaries of its officers, and establish a system of appointments in the civil service at Washington; to provide for an increase of National Bank notes and for the organization of National Banks without circulation; for the removal of the charge of desertion from soldiers who agreed to join the enemy to escape from the Southern prisons, and who never actually bore arms against the United States; to equalize newspaper postage A resolution was adopted instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the conduct of Edward H Durell, Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Louisiana....A motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill repealing the law for the iron-clad test oath, was lost—yeas, 123; nays, 66, less than two-thirds in the affirmative ...A concurrent resolution for the appointment of a Joint Select Committee of three Senators and six Representatives to inquire into the Louisiana election, was offered and a lengthy debate ensued, at the conclusion of which a resolution was offered as a substitute and adopted, referring the President's message on the subject of Louisiana to the Judiciary Committee, with instructions to report whether any facts in the case require action by Congress....Adjourned.

In the Senate, on the 14th, bills were passed—amendatory to the National Currency act, allowing National Banks to loan to any individual or corporation ten per cent. upon their surplus profit, as well as upon their original capital; the Agricultural and Industrial Arts College bill.... Memorials of soldiers were presented urging the passage of the House bill granting 160 acres of land to honorably discharged soldiers, and a statement was made that the bill would require 320,000,000 acres ...A bill was introduced to extend the jurisdiction of the Southern Claims Commission.... Adjourned.

In the House, on the 14th, bills were passed—to amend the act of 1872, providing for holding a United States Circuit Court in the Western District of Missouri; extending the time for the completion of the Portage Lake and Lake Superior Ship Canal....The Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill was taken up in Committee of the Whole, and after considerable debate an amendment was adopted repealing the ninth section of the Army Appropriation bill, approved March 20, 1871, in regard to payment of railroads for carrying mails, etc. The bill was then reported to the House....Adjourned.

In the Senate, on the 15th, bills were introduced—to amend the Patent and Copyright law; authorizing the Secretary of War to compromise and settle all pending claims of the Government against the Southern Railroad Companies.... An original bill was reported from the Finance Committee to require National Banks to restore their capital when impaired, and to amend the National Currency act....A bill was passed to provide for the building of the Custom House at Memphis, Tenn....Adjourned.

In the House, on the 15th, the Post-Office Appropriation bill, appropriating $32,500,000, was reported....A bill was passed relieving from the operations of the Bankruptcy act State insurance companies against which bankruptcy proceedings are taken in State Courts....The Legislative Appropriation bill was taken up, and the amendment repealing the ninth section of the Army Appropriation bill of 1871 was defeated by the interest on the Pacific Railroad bonds, was agreed to....The bill for the better protection of the Indian tribes, and their consolidation under a civil government to be called the Territory of Oklahoma, was debated... Adjourned.

In the Senate, on the 16th, bills were passed—fixing the compensation and length of sessions of Territorial Legislatures and committing the care of Penitentiaries to the Territorial authorities; House bill to incorporate the Loomis Aerial Telegraph Company; fixing the second Monday of October for the opening of the annual session of the United States Supreme Court.... Mr. Buckingham's bill providing for a return to specie payments was called up, and Mr. Sherman made a lengthy speech and then reported from the Finance Committee a substitute for the bill A resolution was adopted instructing the Committee on Privileges and Elections to inquire whether there is a legal State Government in Louisiana, and, if so, by whom constituted.... Adjourned.

In the House, on the 16th, the bill for the admission of Colorado as a State was debated. ....The Oklahoma Indian Territory bill was, after discussion, laid on the table—93 to 45....The Senate bill, amending the Agricultural College act by extending the time for granting the lands, was passed....Adjourned.

THE OLD WORLD.

The Empress Eugenie and all the household of Chiselhurst were present at the bedside of Napoleon when he died. The Emperor showed slight signs of consciousness toward his last moments. He spoke to the Empress twice in a very feeble tone of voice. The last indication of life was a smile when the Empress knelt and kissed her dying husband. She was completely overcome by her emotions, and fainted at the bedside. The Prince Imperial, who had been summoned by telegraph from Woolwich, arrivd at Chiselhurst fifteen minutes after the death of the Emperor. He was greatly affected and kissed the face of his dead father several times. The Emperor died peacefully and passed away without the slightest sign of pain. A *post mortem* examination showed that the immediate cause of death was a failure of the action of the heart.

The Japanese Government has adopted the European calendar, beginning with the first of this year.

The total number of emigrants who left Liverpool during the year 1872, for America, was 164,000.

A large number of the members of the Prusian Diet having asked on what pretext the Government prosecuted the newspapers that published the Papal allocution, the Minister of the Interior has replied that the purpose of the proceedings was simply to ascertain whether or not such publication of matter calumniating the country was legal.

A recent dispatch from Bombay says that a report had reached that city that a terrible earthquake occurred at Soonguhur, a town of India, in the detached district of the Barada dominions, 114 miles north of Bombay, and 1,500 persons are said to have been killed in the town alone. Nothing had been heard from the surrounding country, but it was feared that there was much additional loss of life.

A London letter says that the retirement of Bismark from the Prussian Cabinet is really due to the differences arising between him and the Emperor William on the Church question. The Kaiser became alarmed at Bismark's course toward the Catholics, and declined to further follow the Prince in his policy.

Seven persons were burned to death in a fire at Litchfield, England, on the 14th.

The funeral services of Louis Napoleon took place at Chiselhurst, England, on the 15th, and were witnessed by 30,000 people. The Empress Eugenie was too ill to attend. While the ex-Emperor's remains lay in state, on the 14th, they were visited by 25,000 people. The body will be taken to France for interment.

A boiler in a factory at Charleroi, Belgium, exploded on the 15th, with most fatal results. Eleven persons were instantly killed, and a large number wounded, some of them in a very serious manner.

One of the persons who went from France to attend the funeral of Napoleon brought with him some soil dug from the garden of the Tuileries, which he strewed over the coffin after it was deposited in the sacristy of the chapel at Chiselhurst. Many French spies were present at Chiselhurst while the funeral services were taking place.

THE NEW WORLD.

Gold closed in New York on the 16th at 112⅝@112¾.

The Illinois House of Representatives permanently organized on the 9th. Shelby M. Cullom, Republican, was chosen Speaker by a vote of 86 to 65 for Newton R. Casey, Democratic and Liberal. All the other nominees of the Republican caucus were elected.

Mrs. Woodhull and Col. Blood were again arrested in New York, on the evening of the 9th, and locked in Ludlow-street jail, on a new indictment for circulating obscene literature through the mails.

The compositors of the New York *Tribune* suggest that each printing office in the country give at least one pound of old type, and that each compositor give the proceeds of 1,000 ems (about an hour's work) set up on February 3, the sixty-second anniversary of Horace Greeley's birthday, for a statue of Horace Greeley, to be raised over his grave at Greenwood.

At a recent session of the Connecticut State Temperance Convention, it was claimed that the needed temperance legislation could not be obtained of either the Republican or the Democratic party, and a full ticket for State officers was put in nomination, with Henry D. Smith, of Plainville, for Governor, and O. S. Beardsley, of Plymouth, for Lieutenant-Governor. A straight-out Temperance platform was adopted.

A. P. Hall, of Hennepin, is Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives. The message of Governor Austin reports the indebtedness of the State at $350,000, with a balance in the Treasury of $2,433,000. The total valuation of property in the State is $103,373,826, which will be taxed five mills on the dollar during the current year.

In his recent message to the Legislature, the Governor of Wisconsin gives the following as the financial status of the State: Balance on hand at the close of last fiscal year, $239,109.11; receipts the past year, $1,060,477.20; disbursements, $1,096,462.96. The State debt on the 30th of September, 1872, amounted to $2,253,057. The assessed value of property for 1872 was $390,450,875.

The total State debt of Maryland is $10,911,678, and the reduction during the past year was $2,090,990.

The message of the Governor of Georgia was delivered to the Legislature on the 9th. It shows the receipts for 1872 to be $3,101,340.84; disbursements, $1,335,207.14; public debt, $8,186,500; valuation of State property, 334,492,468. James M. Smith was inaugurated as Governor on the 10th.

At New Orleans, on the 10th, the Fusion Legislature was fully organized. Senator McMillan, accompanied by Senators Jenks, Noland, Swords, Todd, Worrall and Hunsaker, who had withdrawn from Kellogg's Senate, took their seats in the Fusion Senate, and issued an address giving the reasons for the course they had taken.

The investigation into the charge against Senator Caldwell, of Kansas, of having obtained his election as Senator by bribery, was begun before the United States Senate Committee on the 10th.

A Washington dispatch of the 11th says the Committee on Elections had dispatched a Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms to New Orleans to subpœna both of the Returning Boards, known as the Wharton Board and the Bovee Board, to appear before them in Washington. An effort will be made by the Committee to have presented for their investigation all the returns of the Electoral vote from the various parishes of Louisiana.

A full jury for the trial of "Boss" Tweed was secured on the 11th.

Mrs. Lydia Sherman, convicted in Connecticut of having poisoned her husband in 1871, has made a confession and acknowledges to having poisoned three husbands and four children. She has been sentenced to State Prison for life.

Advices from Arizona to January 4, state that General Crook on that morning had received a dispatch from Major Brown, stating that his command fought the Apaches, killing fifty-seven and capturing twenty-three. His only loss was one Lima Indian. The battle occurred at the National fortifications, on Salt River, thirty miles above McDuell, and lasted five hours.

Terrible snow storms have recently occurred in Minnesota, and in some places along the Winona & St. Peter Railroad the drifts reached the top of the telegraph poles, and the snow was packed so closely that men could walk on the surface. The storm on the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad was the severest ever known. At Kirk Haven, there were several farmers in town when the storm first burst upon them. They left for home with their teams, and very few had been heard from. One wagon was found, containing a Mrs. Soland and a boy, who were frozen to death. Many teams, both oxen and horses, were found frozen in the drifts, and the fate of their owners was unknown.

On the Iowa Division of the Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad there were recently eight freight trains snowed in between McGregor and Austin. The snow was packed so tight that snow-plows had no effect upon it, and it would have to be shoveled out. All that could be seen of some of the trains was here and there the top of a brake just protruding above the snow, and nothing but the top of the smoke-stack of an engine marked the whereabouts of some.

The Nebraska Legislature completed its organization on the 10th. The Governor reports nearly $300,000 in the Treasury, the greater part of which belongs to the School Fund.

Governor Baker, in his message to the Indiana Legislature, states the foreign debt of the State to be $744,980.12, and the domestic debt $3,905,006.25. The expenses of the State for 1873 will be $785,388, to meet which he recommends a levy of 15 cents on the $100.

Acting Secretary of the Interior Cowan has replied to the House resolution calling for information relative to the Teton Sioux Indians. Their proper name is Titwans. They are a nomadic people under the care of the Indian Agents of the Upper Missouri, and number 6,000 souls.

The Rhode Island General Assembly met on the 13th. The annual communication of the Governor was presented, and showed the various interests of the State to be in a satisfactory condition.

Governor Hendricks, of Indiana, was inaugurated on the 13th.

The Democratic caucus of the Missouri Legislature on the 13th nominated Colonel L. V. Bogy, of St. Louis, for Senator—Bogy, 64; Blair, 47.

In the battle of the companies of the Fifth Cavalry with the Apaches, in Arizona, December 29, near Salt River, not a warrior escaped. All the band were killed, and twenty-five women and children were captured.

Recent dispatches from various parts of Minnesota give further details of the terrible nature of the recent storms. At Fergus Falls eight people are known to be frozen; at Morris four, and scattered through the intermediate country seven or eight others. Two men were found near St. Peter, sitting up in a sleigh, frozen stiff, wrapped in buffalo robes. At Worthington, two teamsters have been found dead.

Governor Oglesby and