THE HICKMAN COURIER.

ESTABLISHED 1859. HICKMAN, FULTON CO., KENTUCKY, APRIL 25, 1874. VOL. X. NO. 16.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

EAST.

A suit is in progress in New York for $250,000, the estate of a late Mr. Metcalf, of Georgia.

The cost of running the city and county government of New York last year was $55,588,022.

Orders have been given to put the United States ships Shenandoah and Guard, at New York, and the Franklin, at Boston, out of commission and to discharge such men as have already or nearly served their term of enlistment.

Building in New York, this spring, is much less busy than usual. Some say it has fallen off one-half. No houses are projected costing over $20,000, and one-half of the carpenters, painters and masons are said to be idle. There is great pressure for a reduction of wages by lengthening the day from eight to ten hours, though some employers are willing to pay for the extra two hours.

WEST.

A special from Kearney, Mo., gives particulars of the killing of another detective by the notorious James brothers. The victim was found dead, covered with blood, in the road four miles east of Elkhorn, Ray county. A card crossed with blood was pinned to his coat and inscribed, "This shall be the fate of all Pinkerton's detectives who come to hunt the James brothers," signed Jess James, Frank James. A handkerchief in the murdered man's pocket was marked P. K. Cole.

SOUTH.

The discovery of india rubber trees growing near St. Johns, Fla., is confirmed. Columbus, Ga., is certain she will receive over 60,000 bales of cotton this season.

St. Louis wants a shipyard, direct trade with Brazil, and a line of steamships from Charleston to Bremen.

T. W. Morefield, assistant postmaster at Birmingham, Alabama, is reported to be a defaulter to the amount of $1,700.

The South Carolina, Alabama and Georgia press is zealously advocating all proper means looking towards the encouragement of immigration.

A reward of $500 has been offered by Gov. Brown for the apprehension of John L. Anderson, for the murder of John R. Breckinridge, at Lebanon, Tenn.

The effort among Louisville, Ky., colored people to celebrate the fifteenth amendment, resulted in a sort of general melee, and the procession was a failure.

W. R. Abbott, a prominent lawyer of Louisville, Ky., was shot on Tuesday last, and it is supposed mortally wounded, by Jno. R. Green, a member of the firm of Morton, Galt & Co., bankers.

The towboat Jay Richards capsized twenty-five miles below New Orleans, by Belle Chasse crevasse, and sunk in about eighty feet of water. The captain, engineer and one laborer swam ashore. Thirteen laborers—twelve colored and one white—were drowned.

Suit has been brought against Gen. N. B. Forrest, late president of the Memphis and Selma railroad, and his securities, to recover a hundred thousand dollars, appropriated to be expended within Shelby county, Tennessee, which, it is claimed, was expended in Mississippi in the construction of said road.

In Boyle county, Ky., a few days since, Frank Daughtery was shot and probably fatally wounded by his son, Jno. Daughtery, a young man twenty years old. The quarrel was about young Daughtery's attentions to a woman in the vicinity which his father disapproved.

Joseph Wooten, a highly respectable young man, was stabbed and killed near Holly Springs, Miss., Saturday, by George Yarborough. Yarborough was arrested and placed under $5,000 bond. Whitney Daberry was stabbed and killed the same day at New Albany, Miss., by unknown parties.

A special from Helena, Ark., says a fire Monday night destroyed the grocery store of W. G. & L. Moore, Seelig's dry-goods store, G. W. Hollibaugh, [illegible] Kennedy's store. The loss is estimated at $241,000; Moores were insured for $34,000; Seelig, $11,000, in New Orleans, Philadelphia, and Newport, Ky.

A negro named Ed. Shields was convicted in Spencer county, Ky., a few days since, of rape of a white woman, and sentenced to twenty years in the state prison. While the sheriff and a posse was bringing the prisoner to the Louisville jail, a band of about forty men took Shields out of their hands and hanged him to a cross-beam of a bridge near by, where his body was discovered next morning.

The petition of citizens of the two parishes of Louisiana, Caddo and De Soto, asking to be annexed to Texas, has recently been presented to the Texas legislature, Mr. Gallaway, the gentleman who bore the petition from Shreveport, making an exhaustive argument in favor of the measure, by permission of the house. The legislature favors the annexation of these parishes, conditioned that Louisiana relinquishes them to Texas without compensation, this state undertaking to see that the citizens of the ceded territory pay a proper proportion of the Louisiana state debt.

Mayor Kramor, of Little Rock, has telegraphed to Attorney-General Williams for aid in preserving the peace of that city in view of the present extraordinary condition of affairs, and has been answered that the officer commanding the United States troops at Little Rock has been instructed to prevent bloodshed. The attorney-general in his reply asks if the people of Arkansas have not patriotism enough to allow the question as to who shall hold the state offices to be settled peaceably and lawfully, and not bring upon their state the disgrace and ruin of civil war.

Gov. Kellogg, of La., has addressed a circular to all the police juries in the river parishes, saying the exigencies are beyond all provided means to control the threatened overflow and advising them to go to work, build up and protect the levees in their respective parishes, promising to recommend the next legislature to reimburse the parishes for the money expended. The state authorities have also advanced to the levee company which, by the acts of the legislature creating it, is a monopoly of levee building in Louisiana, thirty thousand dollars in advance of the collections on this year's levee tax to help them to meet the emergency.

GENERAL.

The Ohio legislature is trying to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquor by peddlers.

The Chicago Times has been mulcted in $10,000 damages for applying the term "shyster" to a lawyer of that city.

Wolver, who committed suicide in New York some time ago, turns out to have been in the Royal Hungarian state treasury, and to have absconded with $50,000.

According to the last report of the New York immigrant society, the number of emigrants from Ireland from May 5, 1847, to March 3, 1874, was 1,953,128. In the first quarter of this year 2,087, against 4,816 in the corresponding quarter of 1873.

The mayor of New Orleans has sent the following dispatch to the principal cities: "Owing to the unexampled overflow of the Mississippi river and its low branches, by which more than one thousand square miles of our state are submerged, many thousands of families are ruined in their fortunes, and are threatened with starvation. It is beyond the means of our citizens who have escaped from this great calamity to give adequate relief to the sufferers. I have, therefore, thought proper to give an opportunity to your citizens to aid us. The contributions of the philanthropic are earnestly solicited for these victims of the two-fold visitation of flood and famine."

The statements made by persons on board the steamships Europe and Greece conflict very much. None doubt that of Capt. Lemaire, that he believed his ship in a sinking condition, or speak otherwise than in the highest terms of the discipline exercised on board the Europe when her condition was made known to the passengers; but Capt. Lemaire makes statements in regard to the officers of the Greece which are emphatically denied. On the other hand, a statement is made by the chief engineer of the Greece that at the time he boarded the Europe, at the time of her abandonment, her fires were not put out by the water, but that, had the crew remained at their posts, no difficulty would have been experienced in keeping the water under and safely continuing the voyage.

FOREIGN.

The French government has advised De Lesseps to keep the Suez canal open.

The cable of 1866, between London and Valentia, has been put out of fix by a storm.

The Carlists in the north of Spain have organized a government with a regular cabinet.

The Tichbourne claimant is denied a new trial on all the points raised by his counsel, Kenealy.

The latest news from Fijii indicates that events are tending strongly towards British annexation.

The French steamer Amerique, abandoned recently off Brest, has been picked up by an English salvage crew, and brought into Plymouth, England.

Livingstone's funeral was the grandest ever witnessed during the present generation. Stanley occupied the post of honor, leading the right-hand side of the line of pallbearers.

News has been received of the loss of the Chilian steamer Tasna and nineteen lives. It seems the vessel left Valparaiso on the 13th, and when out at sea began to keel over, and before she could be righted, capsized.

Placards are pasted up in agricultural districts of Europe cautioning intended immigrants to the United States, and stating on authority of Consul Archibald, of New York, that 40,000 hands are ready to return to England.

The steamer Amerique, from the French trans-Atlantic line, running between Havre and New York, was wrecked off the French coast on the 14th inst. All the passengers and crew were saved with the single exception of the second officer.

The announcement is made that the Tehuantepec railroad company have completed a contract for the construction and equipment of the railroad from Minitillan across the Isthmus to Salina Cruz, a distance of 145 miles—the work to be finished by Aug. 1, 1876.

The lost steamer Amerique is said to have leaked badly from the time she left Newcastle-on-Tyne, where she was lengthened. A portion of her cargo was found so badly damaged by water on her last arrival at port, that an inspection of the vessel was made and she was rated down from A No. 1½ to A No. 2½.

CONGRESSIONAL.

In the senate, on the 15th, house bill making appropriation for the payment of teachers in the public schools of the District of Columbia, and providing for a levy of a tax to reimburse the same, was taken up and passed....A bill was introduced to reimburse the State of West Virginia for moneys expended in equipping militia to aid in suppressing the rebellion....The senate resumed consideration of the bill to provide for a new election in Louisiana, and soon after adjourned.

In the house, on the 15th, a bill to abolish mileage to members of Congress, and providing that they shall be paid their actual traveling expenses to and from Washington once each session, was adopted—178 to 70. ....The appropriation bill was discussed until adjournment.

In the senate, on the 16th, a bill was introduced amendatory of the Pacific railroad act. It requires the Union Pacific railroad company to pro rate all freights carried over some feeder of the railroad to foreign lands. Cuba as one of the independent nations, and that the United States will observe strict neutrality between the contending parties.... Nothing further was done except to debate Louisiana affairs.

In the house, on the 16th, the entire session was consumed in the consideration of the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill.

In the senate, on the 17th, the bill to provide for the purchase of bonds of the Louisville and Portland canal came up, and an amendment to strike out the provision, "but the secretary of the treasury shall pay no money, and the secretary of war shall not take possession of the work until the state of Kentucky shall cede to the United States jurisdiction over the canal, and relinquish to the United States all right to tax, or in any way to change said canal during the time the government may remain in possession thereof," was agreed to. The bill still remains on the table, the subject of debate for thereof of the session.

In the house, on the 17th, a joint resolution was introduced to furnish rations, forage and clothing to the people suffering from inundation from the overflow of the Mississippi and tributaries, it was greater than any that had happened since 1847; that people never were more destitute, and the number needing aid would be fully one hundred thousand. Referred to the committee on military affairs, with leave to report at any time....The appropriation bill was discussed until the house adjourned.

In the senate, on the 20th, house bill for the relief of persons suffering from the overflow of the Mississippi river was read and referred.....The judiciary committee reported unfavorably on the bill for the relief of purchasers of lands sold for direct taxes in the insurrectionary states. The bill was placed on the calendar, with adverse report. ....The committee on military affairs reported a bill to equalize the bounties of soldiers who served in the late war. It provides that there shall be paid every discharged volunteer, non-commissioned officer, private soldier or marine, and wagoner, including those born as slaves, who served in the United States in the war of the rebellion, the sum of eight and one-third dollars per month for all his time of service between April 12, 1861, and May 9, 1865, or, in case of a volunteer, to the time of muster of the volunteer organization to which he belonged. In case of the death of such person, payment is to be made to his widow or any children. Any bounties heretofore received from the United States, or any state, are to be deducted from the allowance hereby authorized. No bounties shall be paid to substitutes or persons discharged as minors. No attorney shall be allowed on payment of fee and imprisonment, to charge more than ten dollars for prosecuting any claim under the foregoing provisions....The committee on privileges and elections made a report in the case of Sykes against Spencer, for a seat as United States senator from Alabama, with the recommendation that Spencer retain his seat and the committee be discharged from further consideration of that subject.....The senate resumed consideration of the Louisiana bill, which was continued until adjournment.

In the house, on the 20th, bills were introduced to fix the compensation of the president of the United States at $25,000 per annum; levying a tax of one-twentieth of one per cent. on the sale of stocks, bonds, gold and silver bullion, promissory notes and other securities; increasing the tax on the circulation of national banks, from one-twelfth to one-quarter per cent. per month....Resolutions were offered for recognition of Cuban independence, being the same recently introduced in the senate by Mr. Carpenter....A resolution was adopted instructing the committee on banking and currency to inquire into the expediency of establishing by law a uniform rate of interest throughout the United States and Territories....A bill was passed for the better protection of the frontier settlements of Texas against Indian and Mexican depredations, by the construction and maintenance of a line of telegraph from Dennison, Texas, to Fort Sill, Indian Territory, and thence along the southern frontier line of the settlements, and by various military posts, to Brownsville, and appropriating $100,000 for that purpose....The bill appropriating $5,000,000 for the centennial celebration at Philadelphia was made the special order for May 5th....The house disposed of five pages of the appropriation bill and adjourned.

The Georgia Crop Outlook.

One of the editors of the Macon Telegraph, who was in Atlanta on the day of the direct trade meeting, writes: "We were at some pains to learn from the Patrons what was the present agricultural outlook in Georgia. They were all agreed as to the immense increase, amounting to over one hundred per cent. in the corn and other grain crops, and represent wheat and oats to be unusually flourishing and forward. Of guano, the falling off will by fully fifty per cent. of the quantity used the past year. This undoubtedly portends a short cotton crop, aside from the vast diminution in the acreage of the staple."

ANTIQUITIES.

There is no song like an old song
That we have not heard for years;
With a simple note appears to throng
Thoughts with shapes that swim in tears.
It may have been a cheerful strain,
But 'twas so long ago
That glee, grown old, has turned to pain,
And mirth has turned to woe.

There is no friend like an old friend,
Whose life-path mates our own,
Whose dawn and noon, whose eve and end
Have known what we have known.
It may be when we read his face
We note a trace of care;
'Tis well that friends in life's last grace
Share sighs as smiles they share.

There is no love like an old love,
A lost, may be, or dead,
Whose place, since she has gone above,
No other fills instead.
It is not well near love anew,
For life were drear if so,
But that first love had roots that grew
Where others cannot grow.

There are no days like the old days,
When we, not they, were young;
When all life's rays were golden rays
And wring had never stung.
Dear heart! if now our steps could pass
Through paths of childhood's morn,
And the dew of youth lie on the grass
Where Time's fell scythe has shorn!

Old things, old things!
A stream that's dark till sunshine plays
And changes it to gold;
Through all winds memory's river on,
Mild banks of sere regret,
But a gleam's on the peaks of long-agone
That softens sadness yet.

MY WIFE'S MAID.

The series of burglaries which startled the public in the autumn and early winter of the year 186- was of a description to alarm any household. In each case a party of from seven to eleven masked men had broken into an isolated dwelling containing an unusual amount of silver or jewels; had intimidated the inmates by threatening them with fire-arms; mastered them, secured them, gagged them, then quietly proceeded methodically to strip the house of all the valuables it contained. Their intelligence of the premises was never at fault. Secret drawers and sliding panels supposed to be known only to the family, were sought and opened at once, and safes, whether built into the walls or exposed in closets, were equally at their mercy, and easily forced by means of drills and gunpowder.

My own position filled me with anxiety. My house is six miles from town, set in the center of wide grounds, remote from any habitation but the gardener's cottage at the gate. Both my wife and myself had inherited a large amount of bulky family plate, and besides this useless metal, which never came out of the safe, I had several costly services presented on the occasion of our marriage, three large salvers, etc., testimonials from societies of which I had been an active member, to say nothing of a complete and varied assortment of wedding-gifts of silver and gold. Then my wife's possessions were those of a princess, for she had been the daughter of a millionaire, and all her life a spoiled child of fortune. Besides plate and jewels, her house contained a valuable collection of statuary, paintings and bronzes, and I was only too conscious of having expended a fortune upon the surroundings of our daily life, and was inspired with grave doubts as to its safety. Brooding over such thoughts, and reading the newspapers filled with speculations concerning these mysterious burglaries, I soon became the victim of an exaggerated disease. Had a gun-[illegible] been sent into town to my name sake and wife objected, laughed at my apprehensions, and begged me not to worry.

But I continued to worry, and perplexed myself with conflicting plans for safety, and one day while in town I went to the headquarters of the police and inquired for Betts, the detective engaged on this case.

He admitted me into his private room. I asked for the latest news. Had anybody been arrested? No. Was anybody to be arrested? He shrugged his shoulders. Was anybody suspected?

He chuckled softly to himself.

"My dear sir," said he, "we suspect everybody."

"Then," cried I, "arre t everybody on suspicion! Good God! I cannot sleep in my bed, for something assures me my turn will come next. I can't decide what to do, Betts. My wife won't let the silver and diamonds go out of the house, and this very night I may be awakened to find masked men standing over me with loaded pistols, who would rob my house under my very eyes!"

Betts shook his head; mused a little with his legs crossed and his left forefinger pressed into his cheek. "By-the-by," said he presently, "how many servants have you, Mr. Powers? Please tell me about them individually."

I went over their names, and the detective checked them off in his memorandum-book as I gave the facts connected with them. Saunders, the butler, had been with us seventeen years; the cook, five years; coachman and groom, seven; and the chambermaid, three—all fixtures in the household but Marie, my wife's maid, who had come within the last four weeks.

"Ah!" exclaimed Betts, "where did you get Marie? Was she well recommended?"

"Oh, yes, she is French, and has just come to this country with a family by the name of De Sturges. She was nurse to a child who died on the passage, and was thus thrown out of employment; she advertised, and my wife saw her, liked her, and engaged her."

"You continue to like her?"

"Capitally; she's a perfect genius, with effective magic in her fingers."

"Did you see her former employers?"

"Yes; both De Sturges and his wife."

"Describe her, if you please," said Betts, with a keen interest which surprised me.

"With all my heart. Marie is small, black eyed, black haired, compactly built, with remarkably neat hands and feet. She has a saucy, laughing face, and her hair is short, crisp and curly."

"How about her voice?"

"Very clear and ringing. She does not speak English fluently, but understands every word that is said to her."

"Now about her little ways."

"A thorough Frenchwoman, with a knack of pleasing everybody. I don't know when I've seen such an artless, good, happy little girl."

Betts laughed uneasily, then bent his head on his hand, his elbow resting on his knee.

"Mr. Powers," said he at last, looking up with a peculiar flash in his eyes, "I am going to take you into my confidence, but you must be discreet or you will ruin me. I've sworn to see this thing through or resign my position. I'm sick of this infernal foolery of calling myself a detective and letting Satan reign night and day all over the city. The newspapers drive me mad! They know nothing about the obstacles we contend with, and goad us into premature steps, which cost us our reputation, and end in failure. I've been working in the dark these nine weeks, but, by Heavens, I believe you've shown me a glimmer of light."

Then, producing a note-book, he opened it at well-worn leaves.

"There have been," he began, looking at me with a sort of smile, "five great robberies within the last six months, and each one has these special features, characterizing it as the work of the same hands as the other four.

"First, the combination of seven to eleven masked men, all adroit burglars; second, an isolated house is attacked, sure to contain ample provision for a successful robbery; third, the thieves know the premises; fourth, the leader of the gang is a small man, of active habits, with a clear, shrill voice."

He stopped and looked at me.

"I did not know there was a recognized leader," I remarked.

He drew a large book from his desk. "Here," said he, "is the full testimony in all five cases. Run your eye over it, and you will see that the general facts all coincide. The small man gives directions and leads everybody."

"Probably some London cracksman."

Betts nodded, winked, then leaned forward, and whispered in my ear, "I suspect it is a woman."

"Impossible! no woman has the nerve."

"A she-devil, then—something in a woman's form, at all events. The rest of the gang are as free and easy with each other as you please, yet no one ever lays a finger on this little one, but all draw back to let him pass. He gives orders, exerts himself when ingenuity is required, but when strength is needed he looks on while the others fall to work.

"You have to jump at conclusions sometimes, and mix facts to suit. As soon as I had mastered the details I was impressed by the conviction that one of the thieves had been on the premises before. At Mr. Stewart's, for instance, the safe is built into the wall, and a false panel in the wainscot is the only opening to it; yet the first place the burglars approached was that panel, which the little fellow slid aside at once. So I set to work looking for a suspicious character in the house, and found all satisfactory till I came to a French governess who staid with them six weeks last spring. Now, sir, in each house entered by these masked devils there has been during the past twelve months some similar transient inmate. At Warkwell's it was a French cook, in white cap and apron; at the Lewisses', the young lady's page, a clever Buttons; at the Pratts', a protege of the children, a handsome vagrant Italian boy, with a violin. And now, Mr. Powers," continued Betts, bringing his hand down heavily upon my knee, "I am ready to swear that you have this dangerous inmate under your own roof, in the character of your wife's maid."

I started as if I had been shot.

"Impossible!" I gasped; "Impossible!"

"But truly, sir, impossible?" "The idea is monstrous. Marie is a sweet little girl, playful as a kitten."

"But, Mr. Powers, you are once a man of the world, and know that a woman is not proved honest because she bewitches you."

"But, Betts, admit that though I am an old fool my wife is a thorough woman, and, as a rule, suspects all her own sex, yet she is positively fond of Marie."

"Marie is a clever little puss. Wherever she has lived, as a man or woman, the whole family have adored her. Has Marie shown an interest in these burglaries?"

There could be no doubt of her having questioned me concerning them with intense eagerness, and if I spoke to my wife about any apprehensions while she was present Marie never lost a word.

"Does she know about your silver? Has she any charge of your wife's diamonds?"

I started. That very morning I had shown her my safes behind a false book-case in my study, and asked her opinion whether any one could mistrust those innocent-looking encyclopedias, or suspect the existence of a closet behind them. Her reply was that she would go to Betts, who was good enough to refrain from expression of his opinion of my indiscretion.

"My word for it," he cried, "she has been waiting to find out that secret, and now she will leave your house within forty-eight hours. Her pretext will be a reasonable one, and she will promise to return, but would not return. Two of these predictions were already verified; but if Marie came back I could laugh at his suspicions, and regard them as futile.

But Marie did not return at five o'clock; a telegram arrived in her stead from Madame De Sturges, saying that she had kept the girl, and would write at length and explain. Next morning a letter was received from that lady. She told my wife she was ill, yet obliged to travel; homesick in a strange land, without a familiar woman's face near her, and that she had persuaded, almost forced, Marie to remain and set out with her and her husband for New Orleans that very evening. An incoherent, tear-blotted note from Marie accompanied this, filled with protestations of sorrow at the necessity of thus deserting us. She was torn by conflicting feelings of love toward Mrs. Powers and her sacred duty to the mother of little Helene, the angel child who had so dearly loved her, and whose she now heard calling her from the spirit world, bidding her remain and comfort the lonely mother.

While my wife read this to me with tears, I stood aghast at Betts' predictions.

I instantly telegraphed to Betts that I would meet him at my son-in-law's office at twelve o'clock, then proposed to my wife that she should go to town and spend a couple of days with our daughter, and offered to drive her in myself. We set off within an hour, and after leaving her in town I hurried down, eager for some detective. It was on the stroke of twelve when I entered the office, but I thought at first that Betts was not there, for no one was there but a venerable old gentleman with silver spectacles and white side-whiskers, who was deep in intrigues and mass[illegible] I recognized Betts [illegible] could [illegible] Awkwardness [illegible] coolness kept me within bounds [illegible] I sat down beside him and began reading a paper. Presently, with his eyes still fastened on his Herald, he edged toward me, and dropped these sentences in my ear:

"It's all going beautifully. * * * I followed the girl in yesterday. * * * Went to —— hotel. * * * The De Sturgeses booted there all straight. * * * Whole party left Jersey City at nine o'clock last night, ticketed and luggage checked to Washington. * * * Slipped out of the car at Newark, all three in men's dress, and were back here before midnight. * * * Met eight fellows I know at a saloon in —— street, and I can spot all eleven of 'em this very minute. * * * They're at a den in —— street, getting ready to play their little game somewhere tonight."

"At my house?" I cried.

He shook his head.

"Dunno," said he looking straight into the fire.

"Look here, Betts," I whispered, "this may be fun to you, but, upon my I'm no coward, it's death to me. Why not arrest 'em now?"

"Yes, just so," he returned, irritably—"why not? Where is your evidence? Now, Mr. Powers, just look at this matter sensibly. You know as well as I do that half the thieves we catch get off because no one will swear to their identity at their examination. Now I am anxious to make a sure thing of it for once, and take my oath that I caught them in the act."

"You mean to arrest them while they are robbing me?"

"I do."

"All right—only I should prefer to have the row in another man's house."

I was vexed that Betts' opinion of me had gone down to zero; but he disguised his contempt, and went on to tell me that he had dispatched one of his men, Johnson by name, to my place to make a reconnoissance, under pretense of trimming my evergreens. Upon this man's report, and upon two or three other open questions which he did not think it worth while to explain, depended his proceedings for the night. If by any possibility there was a likelihood of my house being entered at once, I was to know it by dinner-time, that I might be prepared for the burglars. I was meantime to [illegible] quietly, and spend my time in my own manner, so long as I did not leave the house safe for another twenty-four hours.

I went home according to directions, and set about spending the day in my usual way, but the hours was so still, and seemed so drowsy, that I found it impossible to read, even to sit quietly in a chair, for more than five minutes at a time. So I called the little dog, and set out for a walk about the gardens, feeling some curiosity to get a glimpse of the detective, Johnson. It was a black December afternoon, a shivering wind in the tree-tops, and leaden clouds promising snow before midnight. The earth was frozen hard, and a few dead leaves eddied about in gusts that rose and fell at uncertain intervals. I heard the sound of an ax through the somber stillness, and jingle frisked forward and barked at a man hacking at the firs in the shrubbery. I addressed him regarding his work, and he winked back his appreciation of our mutual shyness; then I went on, reconnoitered a few minutes longer, and again turned in. The day seemed endless, and I was glad when Saunders lit the gas and shut out the shivering landscape and funeral clouds with the heavy curtains. Dinner-time came, and brought with it a semblance of occupation, and when I was half through my meal I suddenly remembered Jingle, and sent for him to keep me company. He was not in the house. I flashed upon me that I had not seen him after passing Johnson in the thicket, and I dispatched the coachman to call him in; but only echoes answered the cry. He had evidently remained out in the grounds with the policeman, and I dismissed the subject from my mind, finished my dessert, and went back to my library fire. No word had come from Betts, hence I was safe for to-night, at all events, and I breathed freer, as stretched my legs and dozed until ten o'clock in comparative comfort. Then rousing myself, I lit a lantern and went out the door and along the side piazza to speak a word with Johnson, who, Betts had arranged, was in any case to keep watch under the covered carriage-[illegible]

He was not there [illegible] I did not understand it. Had he [illegible] drunk, or had Betts taken him [illegible] perhaps, however, he was still lo[illegible] at the edge of the grounds; accordingly, I walked out on the lawn and [illegible] my lantern two or three times. [illegible] as it was bitter cold and was beginning to snow, I turned in, and, finding it was almost eleven o'clock, I ordered Saunders to close the house and send the servants to bed, and to bed I went myself.

But as soon as the light was out and my head touched the pillow I was freshly impressed by the mystery of Johnson's disappearance, and accordingly I got up, opened the book-case, took out two revolvers, and putting them about a sword-cane within easy reach I returned to bed.

"Dence take this suspense!" I said, as I again lay down. "I shan't sleep a wink." But after tossing a few times and assuring myself I could not close my eyes I fell asleep—at least, after a time I was awakened by a bright light shining full in my face. "Good God!" I cried out loud, "they've come tonight." For three men, with black cambric masks concealing their faces, stood over me, each pointing a pistol at my head.

"Please to get up, Mr. Powers," said one of them, in a cool, civil way; "please to put on that dressing-gown and those slippers. You shall not be harmed in the least if you will only be quiet and obey directions." I got up and put on dressing-gown and slippers. Then one of the men caught my arms, drew them behind and manacled them; another gagged me with one of my own silk handkerchiefs; and thus rendered harmless, I was led down stairs, where my household, in various stages of night attire, gagged and tied back to back, were awaiting me in the dining-room. I was put into an arm-chair and fastened to it by feet and hands, and then was left alone to stare about [illegible] Maddened, desperate though I was [illegible] when I discovered that the sixth of the prisoners was Johnson, the detective, I recognized him with a keen sense of ridiculous, and only wished that [illegible]—whom I was mentally anathematizing with curses not loud but deep—was [illegible] his place, [illegible]asting some of our humiliation. Besides the three masked men who had mastered me and brought me down, there were five others in the dining-room. Two were left as sentinels over us, and the rest at once fell to work in a way that meant business. A small active man motioned toward the sideboard. It was wheeled aside, and, stepping forward, he pressed the sliding panel and disclosed the closet where the silver in daily use was kept, and the shelves were at once stripped and the contents piled on the table.

The bedrooms up-stairs were next visited, the locks of drawers and wardrobes wrenched apart, and the contents thrown pell-mell on the floor for the chief expert to decide on what should be carried off. The upper rooms gutted, they came down with their spoils, which they piled high before our eyes on the table, and then, leaving us again alone with our sentinels, they went through the entry into my library.

[illegible] my head and closed my eyes, and felt that fate was cruel to me. Only one consolation illumined the blackness of despair—my wife had carried her jewels to town with her, and I was spared the humiliation of telling her I had lost them for her through my idiotic faith in Betts. There was a long silence now, which was followed by three muffled explosions that shook the house like an earthquake, and almost simultaneously was heard the noise of a scuffle, and I opened my eyes to see the room filled with policemen, and hear pistol-shots exchanged, while our two sentinels were thrown down, disarmed, and pinioned before my eyes.

In less time than it takes me to describe it the situation had been reversed, and now Betts, the detective, appeared in the door at the head of his posse of men, who brought in eight of the captured burglars, two of them wounded and bleeding profusely, while the rest showed signs of having maintained a stout resistance; all had lost their masks in the melee, and disclosed sullen faces to our gaze.

"How are you, Mr. Powers?" inquired Betts, coming forward and releasing me. "I hope you're not hurt. I beg your pardon for taking possession of your house in this way."

"Why did you make me think I was safe for to-night, Betts?"

"Because," he replied with a shrug, "I did not expect you were just a little upset at the prospect, and I felt afraid of you." He ran his eye over the group beside me, and when he saw Johnson he grinned, and going up to him knocked his manacles off. "You're a pretty detective, you are," said he, "to be caught and tied up by the very fellows you were in waiting for!"

"Yes, sir," I gasped suddenly, "you haven't got the little one."

He gave a tigerish cry, and glared from one to the other of his prisoners.

"You are sure there was another?"

"No doubt of it," I returned; "any one of these fellows is four inches taller than the leader of the gang."

In another moment he had set picked men at work searching both house and grounds; but he met with no success, finding even a trace of the eleventh man in the party of burglar. Not even after the conviction and heavy sentence of the other ten would any one of them confess the secret of their accomplice. I had easily identified Marie, and could be induced even to acknowledge they had over heard of such a person as Marie, or that they had ever masqueraded under the respectable disguise of her employer.

But when the snows melted off in the spring one little silent witness came to light, and told his pitiful story against her; it was the dog Jingle, found dead in the shrubbery, his throat cut and his frozen eyes still upturned in reproachful agony.

THE FLOOD.

Whole Districts Inundated—Ten Thousand Driven from Their Homes—Starvation—Appeals for Aid.

Late New Orleans dispatches state that the whole country from Monroe to the mouth of Red river is under water and that 10,000 people in that district will soon be on the verge of starvation. Large numbers of negroes from the overflowed districts are flocking to that city. Gov. Kellogg has issued a proclamation to officials and citizens of the overflowed district, assuring them that the state government has done and is doing all that resources will allow to alleviate the sufferings of the people who have been reduced to destitution by disasterous crevasses and floods consequent upon recent heavy rains. He states that application has been made to the general government for aid, which he has reason to believe will be promptly responded to; that the mayor of New Orleans, president of the chamber of commerce, and a committee of other prominent citizens, have stated that can be done to send immediate assistance to those most in need, and that appeals have been made to the great cities of the north; east and west, which will, doubtless, in due time bring generous responses. He states that food, clothing, and money will be forwarded without delay. He advises against sending the distressed population to New Orleans, already overcrowded with unemployed people; recommends the organization of parish committees for the distribution of supplies, and that laborers of inundated districts be assisted in making their way to parishes which are not under water, and where their services are still needed.

In conclusion, the governor says: It may be that even out of this dire calamity some good may come, through the attention of the nation at large being so painfully concentrated upon questions of making the building and maintenance of levees of the Mississippi, as also the preservation of a proper outlet for the river a national work.

Appeal for Aid from Gov. Kellogg.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, STATE OF LOUISIANA, NEW ORLEANS, April 17.—*To President U. S. Grant:* The unprecedented rise in the Mississippi river, aided by violent local storms, has caused much disastrous overflow. Six or seven of the largest parishes of the state are already under water, and 10,000 people, white and black, are without food or shelter and in danger of starvation. The emergency is so great that I feel constrained to appeal to you directly, asking the general government, if possible, to extend to these poor people the same relief that was given in a scarcely more disastrous calamity at Chicago.

W. P. KELLOGG,
Governor of Louisiana.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY.

Your dispatch of this date, asking aid for the sufferers by the disastrous overflow of the lower Mississippi, is received. Congress is busy in session at this time. I do not feel authorized to send government aid, as I did in the case of suffering from yellow fever in Shreveport and Memphis last summer, or in the case of the burning of Chicago two years ago, without the authority of congress. I will, however, send your dispatch to the Louisiana delegation, and if a resolution is passed by congress, authorizing it, I will exert every authorized means to avert suffering from the disaster which has overtaken the citizens of Louisiana.

U. S. GRANT.

BISMARCK is said to have two sets of statistics on nearly every subject. One correct, and the other fixed to suit his own purposes.

GENERAL BUELL.

His Victory Over the Comanches—Lively Description of the Fight.

A stock-driver from Texas furnishes us with the following account of Brevet Maj-Gen. Buell's recent fight with the Comanches, which will be found interesting:

On February 2, 1874, Lieut-Col. Buell, 11th United States infantry, in command at Fort Griffin, the most remote post on the northwest frontier of Texas, left that post in search of hostile Indians—Comanches and Kiowas. After four days' march, in disagreeable weather, in the midst of a cold, sleety rain-storm, he struck his supply camp, which had been previously sent out. On the following morning, a cold, freezing, sleety day, Col. Buell started out with forty men of the 10th United States cavalry, with Capt. Lee and Lieut. B. Turner as his junior officers. After marching ten miles that day they came to a bayey river, which had to be crossed by the command. Lieut. Turner rode into the river, and was thrown from his horse, the poor animal sticking in the mud. He eventually succeeded in extricating his horse and reached the opposite side of the river, mounted and rode up the stream half a mile, where he found safe fording for the rest of the command, when they all crossed. After the soldiers had ridden all day in the rain they arrived, cold and wet, at a camp on one of the branch streams of the Salt Fork, where they staid all night. It may not be out of place to state that there was no grass or forage for the horses. The next morning at daybreak Col. Buell around his command and made a march of thirty miles, the men riding still in the wet clothes, and the horses being pretty well fagged out, when he discovered from his Ton-ka-wa Indian scouts, who were on both his right and left flanks, that there was danger in his immediate vicinity. One of these Indians commenced wheeling rapidly to the right, which was a signal agreed upon to warn the soldiers. Col. Buell at once moved his men in that direction at a gallop, and in joining the Indian mentioned discovered the edge of a precipice a fire burning in the valley below, in the Double mountain fork of the Brazos. Upon a close examination, the fires in command saw a large herd of horses all huddled together. While looking on at this camp Lieut. Turner saw that the enemy had discovered them, when he immediately dashed his horse over the precipice, and took the lead towards the camp. When about half way down the hill he found one of Col. Buell's Indian scouts undressing himself—stripping for action. Before the lieutenant had an opportunity to pass, the Indian mounted his pony and dashed on ahead. On arriving at the foot of the hill, the Indian shouting the Ton-ka-wa war-whoop, they both rode towards the herd of horses, the Indian on the right and the lieutenant on the left, when a strong volley of balls and arrows passed by without hitting them. The Comanches then raising their yell, stood their ground. The scout rode on to a small summit of a small hill, where he could get a good aim, while the lieutenant stopped where he was, wheeled his horse to the right, and commenced firing at the enemy. As sharp, he discovered that the Indians could only reach the valley in single file. Col. Buell was already there looking toward the herd of horses, and had sent twenty men to stop the stampede. Capt. Lewis was in advance of the cavalry coming down the hill, and as soon as he reached the valley eight men dashed by him and joined the lieutenant, who immediately charged the Indians, killing five on the spot, the balance running up the creek. One of the Indians, which proved to be Lieut. Turner in the left side with a steel-pointed arrow, without inflicting any serious injury, however, it striking some Winchester cartridges in his vest pocket. Before the men could reload he himself shot the Indian in the back, who dropped flat on his face dead. A young squaw then turned around and begged for her surrender, but was shot dead by the lieutenant. The rest of the escaping Indians were all killed by the troops on the left.

Col. Buell directed the whole affair, and won the esteem of officers and men by his coolness, courage, and soldierly abilities. The result of the fight may be summed up as follows: Indians killed, 11; horses captured, 64; two silver-mounted saddles, two solid silver bridles, and several very handsomely mounted bows and quivers, and a number of rifles and pistols, etc., were also captured. One soldier was shot in the left shoulder, and was compelled to ride five days without surgical attendance. Two horses were also wounded. A Ton-ka-wa squaw took the scalps off three of the killed, and distributed them among the victors, Lieut. Turner getting two. The party returned to Fort Griffin with their spoils, driving night and day for ninety-six hours.

Col. Buell distributed the stock on the way to the Texan farmers from whom these Fort Sill reservation Indians had stolen them, receiving in return their warmest thanks. The people of Texas are very enthusiastic in their praise of Col. Buell, not only for his success and energy heretofore in putting down horse and cattle thieves, but also for his Indian fighting.

Apache Courtship.

Even those copper-colored cut-throats, the Apache Indians, have a touch of delicacy and reverence in them. From a lecture delivered in San Francisco by Colonel John C. Carmany, the following account of their courting customs is taken:

Every young girl is at liberty to refuse a suitor for her hand. The father, mother and brother are prohibited from interfering in her choice. Her person is at her own disposal. After a brief courtship the lover makes a formal proposal by offering so many horses. Horses are a standard of value among the Indians. As the squaw does all the work, horses are accepted as an equivalent for her labor.

When a young warrior becomes enamored, he fastens his horse near the wigwam of the squaw whose hand he seeks, where he is left four days. If she fails to feed and water the horse during that time, the master is rejected; but if she accepts his offer she grooms and kindly cares for the horse, and then ties him to the wigwam of her lover, as much as to say, "I am willing to be your slave and do your work." At the marriage the sages and sachems meet together, and the bride is not unfrequently loaded with