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CURRENT PARAGRAPHS.

THE modern cookstove is approaching a degree of perfection which will require a competent engineer at a stated salary to run it.

MR. MOUNT PLEASANT is the singular title of the boss Tuscarora chief on the Niagara county reservation. This honest fellow claims, too, to have recently discovered some old papers which entitled his tribe to the whole state of North Carolina, not to mention a trifle of 1,500,000 acres in Kansas.

WITHIN a few days the first installment of colonists for western Massachusetts, numbering twelve families, will leave for Berks county, S. C., and begin the work of building a village about seven miles east of Morgantown. The colonist have a refusal of 24,000 acres in a body, of which 19,000 is of heavy white-pine timber.

THE supreme court of Ohio has effectually broken up the barbarous practice of railroad conductors in kicking tramps off their trains between stations. Under the decision of the court a passenger, even when he steals a ride, can only be put off at a regular station. Where the poor fellow who had to steal a ride and got kicked off found money enough to take his case to the supreme court, the decision doesn't show.

THE enormous cost of funerals is again attracting attention in New York. A leading undertaker of that city declares that the most economical funeral which he can possibly have with any regard to decency costs $200. The funeral of the two actors burned in the Brooklyn theater, at which there were ten carriages and two very plain caskets, cost $765, and was considered cheap at that.

J. J. VALENTINE, superintendent of the bullion department of Wells & Fargo's express, has made his annual statement of the treasure product of the states and territories west of the Missouri river for the past year, which is summarized as follows: Gold, $44,328,000; silver, $41,536,700. Great care has been taken in separating the gold from the silver product. Nevada leads, with $40,000,000; California, $18,615,800. The statement corrects many erroneous theories on the silver question.

THE idea which England is endeavoring to impress upon herself, that Russia is afraid to go to war with Turkey, is the absurdest notion that the long year has furnished. On this side the water it looks as if Russia were encouraging that idea, in order to increase the uppishness of Turkey and make peace impossible. It is apparent that Russia has thus far caused the diplomacy of England to accommodate itself to her own ends, and she will probably continue to do so.

THE story that a regular business was carried on in the manufacture of butter from the mud of the Thames river turns out to have been a fabrication. The story was that the floating particles of grease and fat from the sewers were collected, and that the transmutation of the product into good table butter for boarding-house use constituted a systematic and profitable industry. Inspired by the tale, some speculative individuals have been making experiments, and have come to the conclusion that butter can not be made in that way.

Two important observations in regard to the effect of prussic acid upon animal and insect life have been made by A. Gautier, a French chemist. Rabbits poisoned with this acid, and apparently dead, can be restored to life by the artificial respiration of air containing chlorine, and the same now proves to be true of insects. In each case several minutes after apparent death had elapsed before the restorative agent was applied. These results point towards the eventual discovery of an effectual antidote for prussic acid poisoning in the human subject, and illustrate the importance of not imposing too severe restrictions upon experimentation on the lower animals.

FLORENCE manages the bussiness of making New Year's calls upon the "commutation" principle. It has a society known as the "Societa di Capo d'Auno," which announces just before the expiration of the year that under the direction, patronage and auspices of the children's hospital it will open its lists at certain well known shops for the benefit of those who desire to be registered. No further explanation appears, but all Florence knows what it means. The individual who desires to escape the labor of calling upon the one of the shops, presents his card and pays a subscription of five francs or more to the children's hospital, taking a receipt therefor. In return therefor his name is posted for a week with the names of his fellow subscribers at the street corners, and he is considered as having paid all his New Year's calls. The hospital receives in this way about $500 every year.

THE lunatic who collects stamps will take in fresh enthusiasm over the results of a recent sale in New York: "A five cent (canceled) violet Bolivia stamp, dated 1867, was sold for eight dollars; a ten-cent blue stamp of the same nationality and date, ten dollars; a fifty-cent orange stamp, same, six dollars and fifty; a hundred-cent blue stamp, same, twenty dollars and fifty cents, a four-cent blue stamp of British Guiana, dated 1851, ten dollars; a set of confederate stamps, five dollars and eighty-five cents; an 'unsevered pair of five-cent St. Louis stamps, the only pair in this condition known to the owner, used, but in splendid condition, extremely rare,' was knocked down for twenty dollars and fifty cents. Another stamp sold for eleven dollars. It is described as a five-cent provisional United States, believed to be New Orleans. The biggest price paid was fifty-two dollars and eighty cents, for an entire set of Plimpton envelopes, ninety-six varieties."

TOO THICK SEEDING.

Baron Liebig says that two plants prove prejudicial to each other if they stand in the soil, or in the atmosphere surrounding them, less of the means of nurishment than they require for their perfect development. There is no plant more injurious to wheat than wheat itself; none more hurtful to the potato than another potato. Hence we find that the cultivated plants on the border of a field are much more luxuriant, not only in strength, but in the number and richness of their seeds or tubes, than plants growing in middle of the same field. From these facts it follows that we should feed our crops better by better tillage or reduce the number to be supported on each square yard of earth.

A VOICE IN THE TWILIGHT.

I was sitting alone towards the twilight,
With spirit troubled and vexed,
With thoughts that were morbid and gloomy,
And faith that was sadly perplexed.

Some homely work I was doing
For the child of my love and care,
Some stitches half wearily setting,
In the endless need of repair.

But my thoughts were about the "building,"
The work some day to be tried,
And that only the gold and the silver,
And the precious stones should abide.

And remembering my own poor efforts,
And wretched work I had done,
And, even when trying most truly,
The meagre success I had won.

"It is nothing but 'wood, hay and stubble,'"
I said; 'it will be burned'—
This useless fruit of the talents
One day to be returned.

And I have so longed to serve him,
And sometimes I know I have tried;
But I am sure when he sees such building
He will never let it abide."

Just then, as I turned the garment,
That no rent should be left behind,
My eye caught an odd little bungle
Of mending and patch-work combined.

My heart grew suddenly tender,
And something blinded my eyes,
With one of these sweet intuitions,
That sometimes makes us so wise.

Dear child! She wanted to help me,
I knew 'twas the best she could do;
But oh, what a botch she has made it—
The gray subsmatching the blue!

And yet—can you understand it—
With a tender smile and a tear,
And a half compassionate yearning,
I felt she had grown more dear.

Then a sweet voice broke the silence—
And the dear Lord said to me,
"Art thou tenderer for the little child,
Than I am tender for thee?

Then straightway I knew his meaning,
So full of compassion and love,
And my faith came back to its refuge
Like the glad returning dove.

For I thought, when the master-builder
Comes down his temple to view,
To see what rents must be mended
And what must be builded anew,

Perhaps as he looks o'er the building,
He will bring my work to the light,
And seeing the marring and bungling,
And how far it all is from right.

He will feel as I felt for my darling,
And will say, as I said for her,
"Dear child! She wanted to help me,
And love for me was the spur.

"And, for the true love that is in it,
The work shall seem perfect as mine,
And because it was willing service,
I will crown it with plaudit divine."

And there in the deepening twilight
I seemed to be clasping a hand,
And to feel a great love constraining me,
Stronger than any command.

Then I knew by the thrill of sweetness,
'Twas the hand of the blessed one,
That would tenderly guide and hold me,
Till all the labor is done.

So my thoughts are nevermore gloomy,
My faith no longer is dim,
But my heart is strong and restful,
And mine eyes are unto him.

—*Mrs. Herrick Johnson.*

STARS ABLAZE.

A Consoling Possibility that the Earth is Either to be Frozen or Roasted.

The recent conflagration in the constellation of the Swan, discovered by Professor Schmidt, of Athens, has directed the renewed attention of astronomers to the frequent fires in the sun. The subject becomes one of immense importance in view of the effects which a great conflagration in the world's luminary may have upon the earth itself. As ordinary mortals are not qualified to speak on a subject of such vast importance a reporter of the New York Herald was dispatched the other day to ascertain the views of a distinguished scientist upon a question so momentous. The gentleman visited for this purpose was Mr. Stuyvesant Rutherford, of Eleventh street and Second avenue, who kindly consented to give any information in his power in relation to the catastrophe.

"Have you seen Professor Proctor's letter," asked the reporter, "on the burning of a star in the constellation of the Swan?"

"I have not but I saw some reference to the fact of a recent conflagration among the stars."

"Are such conflagrations of frequent occurence?"

"Within a comparative recent period a number of stars were discovered to be on fire. There is no question that conflagrations are constantly taking place in the heavens. Change is the law of the universe, as it is of the earth itself. A star which had been shining with a dim, ineffectual light sometimes suddenly blazes up with a brilliancy which can be accounted for in no other way than by the theory of stellar conflagration. Indeed, the fires among the stars are rather to be regarded as a fact than a theory, for in the two most recent cases the conflagrations were carefully scrutinized by the aid of the spectroscope and their character is fully established."

A dogma so startling cannot fail to have a lively effect upon quiet people accustomed to regard the stars in the sky as bright but inoffensive attractions for poets and other romantic persons. In the past nobody was afraid to say "Twinkle, twinkle little star," but now ever twinkle in the heavens will suggest the question whether or not it is on fire. The peaceful stars are peaceful no longer, but burning masses, full of danger to the universe and terrible in the eyes of the inhabitants of the earth and possibly to those also of "Other Worlds than Ours."

CAUSES OF THE STELLAR FIRES.

"What is the cause of a conflagration so remarkable as must be that of a burning star?"

"There can be no combustion," said Mr. Rutherford, "unless there is something to consume—hydrogen for instance."

This proposition in astronomy is even more startling than the one which preceded it. "Where there's smoke there must be fire" is the old maxim; "where there's dydrogen there must be combustion" will become the new. With the reporter, however, it was a great object to ascertain the analogy between hydrogen and combustion, and so he asked, "Where does the fire come from?"

"It is generated by heat," was the laconic answer.

Plain people with old fashioned notions of heat will find it hard to accommodate their views to the new fangled doctines of astronomy. Under the old economy heat resulted from fire; now it seems fire results from heat, at least among the stars. Imaginative persons might expect hydrogen to be ignited by the friction of a comet or to be the result of some such cause, but if heat creates fire in the heavens, some of the stars must of necessity be comfortably hot. Just think of it—a star bathed in atmosphere of hydrogen growing so hot as to set its own atmosphere on fire! That is what must have happened to the star which Professor Schmidt saw blazing in the sky, and unless Mr. Rutherford is misinformed something like it is taking place most of the time in the heavens.

IS THE EARTH SAFE?

Facing these terrible truths the reporter nerved himself for one more question.

"But the earth—what is to become of the earth?"

"Oh, it is burned out already."

This was a relief. The stars may blaze until they become as invisible as Tatters, in the little "Shaughraun," but the earth is safe! This little planet has always been known to its children as a cold world. People have been lamenting its frigidity until they grew warm in their expostulations, and now they learn that the old thing is so completely burned out that in its absence of heat is their surest safety. Mars is also secure, because like those of the earth, the fires of the god of war are out. It is fortunate, however, that all the dydrogen in the atmosphere was not consumed when the conflagration took place, or that enough was secured to make the world endurable before Adam undertook to populate it. Out of the fire came vegetation, life, the aspirations after the infinite. Secure in our own little world, we can look on with complacency while other planets are ablaze with light and heat. "Let them burn," we say, "and they may become as pretty and habitable as our own lovely sphere."

NOT TO BE BURNED, BUT ROASTED.

It does not follow, however, because the earth is safe from fires except such as we kindle for ourselves, that it is entirely secure as a place of habitation. When Mr. Rutherford said that change is the law of the universe. While man is in no danger of being burned alive by superheated hydrogen, he may be roasted by the power of the sun's rays.

"The earth is nearly related to the sun," said the savant, "and a conflagration in that great luminary which would materially increase its heat, would make life on this planet impossible."

So it will be seen that while we have passed the stage where there was danger of stellar fire by the action of the heat of the planet upon its hydrogenic atmosphere, we still run the risk of a similar disaster in the sun. It is no wonder, then, that our astronomers are constantly turning their telescopes toward the fountain of life and light for the earth. Now is it any wonder that when a new star is seen to blaze, fresh fears should be excited of a blazing sun in the heavens? It is a calamity to be feared as one which if not imminent, is yet possible, and as awful in its way as the mantle of flame which would envelop a star.

"The quantity of heat emitted by the sun in every second," said professor Proctor in one of his lectures, "is so stupendous that all ordinary modes of representing his action fail us. It is a mere form of words, for instance, conveying no clear ideas to the mind, to say that in each second the sun gives as much heat as would be given out in the burning of eleven thousand six hundred millions of tons of coal. Should the sun's atmosphere take fire from this stupendous heat and a new intensity be given to his rays there would be such a convulsion of nature that a roasting earth even would be among the minor consequences. A planet or two might be drawn into the sun's furnace to add fuel to the flame and the laws of attraction work so disastrously that in the end the whole universe would be drawn to one center. This, however, is scarcely to be expected, even if there should be a great conflagration in the sun, and for the present the only danger against which we keep a sharp outlook is that of being roasted.

IF NOT ROASTED THEN FROZEN.

There is, however, a still greater danger though it does not seem to be impending over the present generation. The human mind is apt to go from one extreme to the other, and some profane people have looking forward to a time when even the dominions of Pluto shall freeze. The reporter belonged to this class, for he dared to ask Mr. Rutherford whether the fires of the sun would not stop some day—if the fuel which keeps that luminary alight would not some time be exhausted.

"Oh, certainly," answered the scientist. "The present heat of the sun cannot be kept up forever, but as it diminishes the earth will grow cold. It will not require much change either way to affect the earth. There may be a conflagration which will roast us or the sun's fires may give out and let us freeze."

Here, indeed, was a terrible prospect starting from such fair promises. A blazing star is a matter of indifference to us because our own star was ablaze long before Adam came to tenant the Garden of Eden. But a blazing sun is equally possible with a blazing star and from like causes which would subject us to a risk not less terrible. This danger escaped we may freeze because the sun's fires give out. Change is indeed the law of the universe, and in these immense possibilities we see very clearly that purposes of Divine Providence are inscrutable and the ways of the Creator past finding out.

GIVING THE ORGAN GRINDER A LIFT.

An Italian organ grinder, in a side street in London, with a terribly bad instrument was mourning pitiously his ill success. He had taken not a penny all day, and had not the wherewithal for a night's lodging. Presently a showily dressed woman came along. "What's the matter, old man?" The Italian artist told his tale. The woman was evidently touched by the man's tears. "We'll soon put that right," she exclaimed. "Give me your organ." When she heard its tones she winced a little. "You are a little out of tune, friend," she said rebukingly, but she set off playing, while the old man looked on bewildered and a crowd began to gather. The old man stood still until the woman was provoked into chiding him for not having recourse to his hat. "Pass it round, and be quick; it's money you want, isn't it?" The old man obeyed, and the girl sang to the organ until a good harvest of pennies had been reaped. "Will that do friend?" she asked, and receiving an affirmative answer, resigned the instrument and passed rapidly away, laughing.

XLIVTH CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, January 9.—*House*—The speaker laid before the house a communication from Wm. R. Morrison, chairman of the committee on Louisiana affairs, relative to the refusal of William Orton, president of the Western Union telegraph company, to appear before said committee. Bills were introduced by Mr. Watterson to regulate commerce among states. Mr. White, (Ky.) asked leave to offer a resolution reciting that fears were entertained lest there shall not be a peaceful settlement of the presidential question, and declaring that any attempt to prejudice and excite the public mind in advance of the decision by the authority provided by the constitution, is unwise, unpatriotic, and full of danger, and that it is the duty of all good citizens to peacefully and faithfully abide by the results reached in accordance with the constitution. Mr. O'Brien (Md.) objected. Mr. Schleicher offered a resolution calling on the president for copies of papers in possession of the state and war departments relative to the imprisonment of John J. Smith, an American citizen, by the Mexicans, and also in reference to the murdering and robbing by Mexican soldiers of Samuel Higgins. Adopted. Mr. Durham, from the committee on revision of laws, reported back the senate bill to correct the statue to punish counterfeiting so as to require intent to be shown. Passed. Mr. O'Brien, (Md.), from the committee on mines and mining, reported back the senate joint resolution to authorize the president to appoint three commissioners to attend an international conference on the subject of the relative values of gold and silver, with an amendment, authorizing the president to propose such a conference to foreign governments. The morning hour having expired and the joint resolution laid over, Mr. Reagan, from committee on commerce, reported back the bill repealing so much of the act of December 17, 1872, as provides for a pivot draw in any bridge to be erected over the Ohio river between Covington and Cincinnati. After discussion, the matter went over and the house adjourned.

WASHINGTON, January 11th.—*Senate.* The chair laid before the senate the credentials of E. H. Rollins, elected senator from New Hampshire. Laid on the table. Senator Edmunds [Vt.] said no one would question the election of Mr. Rollins, but the certificate did not set forth when the legislature met and the time of his election. A question might be passed about the credentials not setting forth the facts. Senator Spencer presented a petition from the citizens of Alabama in favor of the government assuming control of the telegraph and for cheaper telegraphic facilities. Referred. Senator Hamlin reported back the house bill to establish certain post-routes, and said the committee had considered the disagreement of the houses in regard to the fast mail service, and that the committee had instructed him to report in favor of the senate insisting upon its amendments and move that a committee of conference be appointed. Agreed to, and the chair was authorized to appoint the committee. Senator Mitchell gave notice that at an early day he would ask the senate to consider the bill for the relief of Dr. J. Milton Best, of Kentucky, which had already passed congress and been vetoed. Senator Withers gave notice that if he could get the floor on Tuesday next, he should call up the motion of senator Preston in regard to the military occupation of Petersburg on the day of the last general election, and would submit some remarks. The chair announced senator Hamlin, Paddock and Maxey as the conference committee on the bill to establish certain post-routes. Consideration was resumed of unfinished business—house bill to perfect a revision of the statutes of the United States, and an amendment was adopted requiring ordnance officers to make quarterly returns. The bill was then laid aside informally, as senator Hamlin desired to submit certain amendments in regard to post-routes. The senate then went into executive session, and when the doors reopened adjourned.. *House.*—Mr. Holman's amendment to the consular and diplomatic appropriation bill, decreasing the salaries of ministers and consuls, was defeated by a vote of 50 to 100. Mr. Morton, from the committee on privileges and elections, submitted a resolution discharging Enos Runyon, of the firm of Marton & Runyon, bankers and brokers, New York, from the custody of the sergeant-at-arms, he having testified before the committee. Agreed to. All amendments to the consular and diplomatic appropriation bill were voted down and the bill passed. The military academy appropriation bill was taken up and passed without amendment. It appropriates $265,161, a reduction of $129,919 from the estimates, and a reduction of $24,944 below the bill of last session; a reduction in the West Point academy in the pay department where $23,150 had been saved by striking out the longevity pay and by not paying the assistant professors and teachers any more than their regular army pay; $85,544 was saved in the reduction of the band at West Point, and $1,050 on the item for repairs. Consent was given for printing of the testimony taken by the committee on the election in Florida. A joint resolution for the appointment of an international silver commission was considered. Mr. Willard offered as a substitute an amendment authorizing the president, in the event of a full remonetization of silver, should one or more countries unite upon the convention with a view to agree upon a uniform relation of silver with gold, to appoint three persons to attend said convention, and also authorizing him to propose to such countries as use both gold and silver as a legal standard of value of such convention. The consideration of the bill then went over till Thursday. Mr. Wood, from the committee on ways and means, reported a bill to provide remedies for overcharge of duties on the tonnage and imports. The bill passed, and then the house adjourned.

WASHINGTON, January 12.—*Senate.*—Senator Frelinghuysen presented a petition of persons representing the financial, commercial, manufacturing and business interests of Newark, New Jersey, asking that in counting the electoral vote all party consideration be laid aside, and that pure, unselfish patriotism guide the action of congress. The petition was received, and, after a brief speech by senator Frelinghuysen, referred to a special committee of seven senators, appointed to consider the presidential difficulties. Senator Thurman submitted a resolution instructing the committee on revision of laws to inquire into the propriety of providing for the publication of a new edition of the revised statutes, as corrected, and to include the laws passed since 1873, and also the articles of confederation and constitution of the United States. Agreed to. Senator Paddock introduced a bill to authorize the removal of the obstructions in the channel of the Missouri river, and to repair and protect the levees at Omaha, Plattsmouth and Brownsville, Nebraska, and Sioux City and Council Bluffs, Iowa. Referred. It authorizes the secretary of war to expend the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars in removing sand-bars, and other obstructions in the channel of the Missouri river, between Brownsville, Nebraska, and Sioux City, Iowa, and fifty thousand dollars to repair and protect the levees at Omaha, Plattsmouth and Brownsville, Nebraska, and Sioux City and Council Bluffs, Iowa. Senator Chaffee introduced a bill to abolish the use of stoves for heating passenger railroad cars. Referred. Senator Maxey

[illegible] submitted a [illegible]

[illegible] AR[illegible] IN[illegible]

[illegible] purpose [illegible] agree with [illegible] the amendment was [illegible] bill passed [illegible] after [illegible] journ[illegible] after [illegible] the [illegible] a [illegible] pr[illegible] m[illegible] dar[illegible] Mr. Kn[illegible] chair. committ[illegible] judiciary [illegible] Barnes, the re[illegible] New Orleans [illegible] office, that the [illegible] compel the prod[illegible] the offi- cers of [illegible] Y. Mr. Barnes w[illegible] house. He declared the [illegible] charge of the New Orlean[illegible] but that should be again be place[illegible] charge of that office, and should t[illegible] grams demanded be there, he would [illegible] produce them. Witness made furth[illegible] answer, declaring that he was entire[illegible] willing to produce the messages if [illegible] could do so. Mr. Knott then offered a resolution declaring that the response of witness was not sufficient, and remanding him to the custody of the sergeant-at-arms until he shall have produced the telegrams or been discharged by the order of the house. Adopted—yeas, 13[illegible] nays, 72. Mr. Knott, from the c[illegible]ittee to ascertain the privileges of [illegible]use in the counting of the elector[illegible] made a report from that comm[illegible] recommending the adoption of th[illegible] resolutions: Resolved, That [illegible]titution of the United States d[illegible] confer on the president of the S[illegible] power to examine and ascertain the [illegible] to be counted as electoral votes [illegible]sident and vice-president of the [illegible]ed States. Resolved, That the [illegible]ower which the constitution con[illegible] the president of the senate in [illegible] be the electoral votes for presi[illegible] vice-president is to receive the [illegible]sts transmitted to him by the s[illegible] electoral clerks, and to keep safe and [illegible] all certificates, or those pu[illegible] to be such, in the presence of the [illegible]ate and house of representatives. [illegible]olved, That the constitution does confer on the senate and house of representatives the power to examine and ascertain the votes to be counted as electoral votes. Resolved, That in the executi[illegible] power in respect to the coun[illegible] electoral votes, the no[illegible] and power with the senate. Resolved, That in the counting of the electoral votes no vote can be counted against the judgment and determination of the house of representatives. Resolved, That the commit[illegible] have leave to sit aga[illegible] and report here after further matter [illegible] the consideration of the house of representatives. The report, together wi[illegible] the minority report submitted by [illegible] Burchard [Ills.], was ordered print[illegible]. Mr. Knott gave notice that he would call up the resolution for action [illegible] Wednesday next. Mr. Knott also asked that two additional members be appointed on the committee to ascertain the rights and privileges of the house of representatives in counting the electoral vote. The speaker appointed Messrs. [illegible] and Lawrence as such additional [illegible]bers. The speaker laid before the ho[illegible]ssage from the president, stating [illegible] money appropriated by the ri[illegible] harbor bill has been expended. [illegible] speech by Mr. Reag[illegible], in which [illegible]erely criticised the action of the p[illegible] in regard to that bill, the messa[illegible] was referred. Consent was given to [illegible] the testimony taken by the commi[illegible] on elections in South Carolina. [illegible] house then adjourned until Mon[illegible].

WASHINGTON, Ja[illegible] 15th—*Senate.* A number of bills [illegible]vate character were considered, [illegible] the report of the committee on [illegible]es, prescribing new rules for the [illegible]rnment of the senate, was taken [illegible] committee report an amend[illegible] third rule so as to compel t[illegible] of absent senators whenev[illegible] certained that a qu[illegible] [illegible] special co[illegible] into the changes [illegible] in the relative [illegible]er was given u[illegible]uary to report. [illegible] considerati[illegible] committee [illegible] on the send[illegible] on and so [illegible] Orton, pa[illegible] of gr[illegible] ing the [illegible] in co[illegible] tain tele[illegible] ing be[illegible] headed ill- [illegible]mmitt[illegible] attendance. [illegible]grams, [illegible] matter was ness a[illegible] [illegible]mittee, and The s[illegible] referr[illegible] custody of Orton [illegible]kins intro- [illegible] duce[illegible] Ten[illegible] [illegible]ed [illegible]ing [illegible]a., etc. [illegible]olution Ad[illegible] privil- to [illegible] house, [illegible] to sit [illegible]ege was to send [illegible] during [illegible]. Mr. adopted [illegible]mmittee, Lynde [illegible]efusal of made a re[illegible] [illegible]ave and Messrs. Wells, [illegible] Louisiana re- Kenner, member [illegible]ce before the turning board, [illegible]isiana, cer- committee on elect[illegible] said committee. tain papers demand[illegible] [illegible] a resolution The report conclud[illegible] [illegible]t-arms to take directing the serg[illegible] before the bar of into custody and b[illegible]emen. A long the house the name[illegible] [illegible] the resolution discussion followed [illegible]ow. Adjourned. went over until to[illegible].

"REFUTING" M[illegible]—The New York Times weeps for M[illegible] because he is being so constantly [illegible]rribly refuted. "Th[illegible]are," says [illegible]imes, "encouraging instances o[illegible] geologists who have refuted M[illegible] by investigating the stratifica[illegible] their ash barrels. It is, perhaps, t[illegible] regretted that the refutation of Moses [illegible]ne of the imperative duties of the [illegible]ogist. No man can hope to obtai[illegible] considerable reputation as a lead[illegible]ologist unless at stated intervals [illegible] up and remarks that Moses was, [illegible], a well meaning person, but he w[illegible]ssly ignorant of the palentology of [illegible] mesozoic period. Whenever a new fo[illegible] discovered, it is promptly thrown [illegible] head, and thus, in one way o[illegible]er, he is constantly and comple[illegible]

A N[illegible] TLE.—It [illegible] and Farm[illegible] that the [illegible] commenced [illegible] buffalo. [illegible] are [illegible] tam[illegible] at a [illegible] are found [illegible] yield of m[illegible] stock give e[illegible] yield of rich [illegible] promises well, [illegible] wild animals is [illegible]ock. In this way [illegible] species w[illegible] [illegible]hen

MAD RAILROAD KING[illegible]

[illegible]hough the death of Mr. Vand[illegible] has been long looked for, it has been reported so many times that it came at last as something of a surprise. He was a vigorous fighter and beat whoever was unfortunate enough to contend with him, and his wrestle with the last great enemy was a long one, and it almost seemed for [illegible] that death would be thrown. [illegible]anderbilt was one of the strongest [illegible] this community, and his remark- [illegible]ss was due quite as much to [illegible]ual vigor of his nature as to the [illegible] of its direction and the excep- [illegible] circumstances of the time in [illegible] he ruled. For sheer, downright [illegible] of nerve he had few equals and no [illegible]rs among his contemporaries. He [illegible] one of the Carlylean heroes in his [illegible]y—one of those aboriginal facts that [illegible] cannot be classed or, in the circle in which he moved for the last twenty years he was the event. He made no secret of his methods, claimed no genius, pretended to no exceptional qualities, and never had his head turned by a craze of any sort; he simply kept his strong hand on the long end of the lever, and every advantage he gained was used to give him a better purchase. He worked for one end, and gained it by a systematic and energetic concentration of himself upon it. It was Napoleonism in business—the whole force thrown irresistibly on one point. His rivals yielded. He has ploughed his name into the railroadway system of this country in a furrow which cannot be levelled. He belongs to the system, and its evils and benefits, its defects and merits, are due to some extent to his mind. He found the community anxious for means of cummunication and unprotected against monopoly: he furnished the railways and took possession of the open field and held it for his own profit against all competitors. His vast power and property were the legitimate results of the old democratic notion that everybody should be allowed to do anything short of direct robbery or murder without let or hindrance from the government, and if he ran his railways and steamers directly into his own pockets, without regard to the interests of anybody save as those interests furthered his own, it was because the community gave him the right to do so and encouraged him in the doing. It was the individual on the make. He was the natural offspring of the old theory, and nobody has a right to complain. He managed his property well; so well that its accumulation made no disturbance, and his death produced scarcely a ripple on the street. He set an example of sobriety, steadiness, and industry, and his cool, clear, level head at eighty showed to the feverish and fast young men of the time the way power was gained and kept. He made few gifts, considering his vast means; his sympathies were not affluent, though he had freaks of generosity. He must be judged as a whole by the light of the time he lived in and the methods by which his business was done. But whatever the final verdict may be he will be remembered as a great personal force in the business, and especially in the railway development, of the country.—*Graphic.*

THE SPIRIT-WORLD.

The following is an extract from one of Bishop Simpson's beautiful sermons:

The very grave itself is a passage into the beautiful and the glorious. We have laid our friends in the grave, but they are around us. The little children that sat upon our knee, into whose eyes we looked with love, whose little hands have clasped our neck, on whose cheek we have imprinted the kiss—we can almost feel the throbbing of their hearts to-day. They have passed from us—but where are they? Just beyond the line of the invisible. And the fathers and mothers who educated us, that directed and comforted us—where are they but just beyond the line of the invisible? The associates of our lives, that walked along life's pathway, those with whom we took sweet counsel, and who dropped from our side—where are they but just beyond us?—not far away—it may be very near us, in the heaven of light and love. Is there anything to alarm us in the thought of the invisible? No! It seems to me that sometimes, when our heads are on the pillow, there come whispers as of joy from the spirit land, which have dropped into our hearts thoughts of the sublime and beautiful and glorious, as though some angel's wing passed over our brow, and some dear one sat by our pillow and communed with our hearts, to raise our affection towards the other and better world.

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The invisible is not dark; it is glorious. Sometimes the veil becomes so thin, it seems to me that I can almost see the bright forms through it, and my bending ear can almost hear the voices of those who are singing their melodious strains before the throne of God. Oh, there is music all around us, though the ear of man hear it not; there are glorious forms all about us, though in the busy scenes of life we recognize them not. The veil of the future will soon be lifted, and the invisible shall appear. And when you and I shall just step beyond the veil,—oh, how glorious! We shall look back to life and wonder why it was that it did not flame with light, even while we were treading the pathway here below. Oh, that look into eternity! We see the the invisible and it gives us joy. Our friends are there, our beloved ones are there, and they are not far from us.

CARDINAL ANTONELLI'S SUCCESSOR.

Cardinal Simeoni, who succeeds Cardinal Antonelli as secretary of state to the holy see, does not appear likely, from his previous career, to eclipse the fame of his predecessor. Starting in life as tutor in the Colonna family, he was an early friend of Pius IX., whom, while yet a bishop residing in his diocese, he kept well-informed in Roman affairs, and when his friend was elected pope he received his reward in the appointment of secretary to the Roman university. Thence, on the recommendation of Cardinal Patrizi, he was promoted to the head of the Apollinare college, and subsequently sent to Spain on a mission to Queen Isabella. On his return he was nominated secretary to a commission for revision of [illegible] liturgy, and, [illegible]h little progress was made on the subject in hand, it sufficed to procure him the secretaryship of the Propaganda, an office which insures the holder his cardinal's hat. In 1876 he was sent a second time to Spain as Nuncio to Alphonso, and by his publication of a letter from Rome which was only intended for the royal ear, nearly produced a rupture between the two courts. He had only recently received his cardinal's hat when Antonelli died, and he was summoned to take his place, a call he obeyed only "out of obedience due to the Holy Father," as he wrote himself. He is said to be a man of austere and ascetic habits, in this, too, offering a striking contrast to his predecessor.

A STORM OF GRASSHOPPERS.

The Washington [illegible] recent date prints the following:

Last Sunday night, at about ten o'clock, there was an immense number of grasshoppers passed over and through this town. The night was very dark but the "hoppers" came butting against the buildings, rattling against the windows, entering the houses at the windows and doors, and playing havoc with the over superstitious, for many persons had gone to bed and were in their first sweet sleep, as the "hoppers" commenced to rattle against the glass of the windows and jump about rooms, making an infernal small noise like unto a parcel of baby spirits out on their first spree. It was a strange experience for those who were awake and took the pains to go out doors and listen to the odd small noise that filled the air, produced by the concussion of their wings and the butting of their heads against any obstacle in their way. As far as could be judged from the noise they made, they were in great force, and came from the north going in a southern direction; but many thousands came to grief in town, either giving out through fatigue or the many accidents of attempting to make night trips without good pilots, as the next morning thousands of dead and maimed grasshoppers were lying about loose on the streets, in the yards and houses. They were of the largest type of Rocky mountain species, some of them measuring fully three inches in length from "head to toe." They evidently came across the Missouri river, which at this place is fully three-fourths of a mile wide, and those that did not perish in town kept on toward the land of perpetual green.

THE POWER OF MUSIC.

Chubb has not much of an ear for music, but he spent a considerable sum in having his daughter taught how to hammer a piano, and he is proud of her accomplishments. He was talking with us over the fence the other day, when a series of dreadful sounds came from his piano through the open parlor window. Presently Chubb remarked:

"D'you hear that? Just listen to that, will you? That's what I call music!"

There were a few additional bangs on the instrument, a flourish or two, and then more discordant thumping.

"Splendid, isn't it?" said Chubb, "Mary Jane's bustin' the music right out of that machine, you observe Them's the Strauss waltzes, I believe, she's raslin' with now. Just listen."

We remarked that from the energy displayed, Mary Jane, at least, seemed to be really in earnest. But whether she was treating Mr. Strauss exactly right was an open question.

"I don't know nothin' about music," observed Chubb, "but I kin tell the real thing when I hear it, and I sit and hear Mary Jane play waltzes and the Maiden's Prayer until it makes me cry like child."

We asserted that if she played those compositions as she was doing now it would make anybody cry. A deaf mute would shed tears.

"Listen to that now, will you?" exclaimed Chubb as a wild tumult of sound came from the parlor. "Isn't that splendid! if I didn't know it was Mary Jane a-tearin' round among them waltzes, I'd think it was one of the fellers who play at the concerts. Let's go over and hear her."

We entered the house. Mary Jane was nowhere to be seen, but, to the infinite disgust of Chubb, there was a red-haired man, with a fist as big as a loaf of bread, tuning the piano. Chubb asked us not to tell anybody, and we won't. It is related here in confidence, and it must go no further.—*Philadelphia Bulletin.*

A COMICAL SCENE IN COURT.

An illustration of the fact that lawyers, like the famous Silas Wegg, do sometimes "drop into poetry in a friendly way," was offered, says the New York Times, in a proceeding before Judge Hoesen, in the special term of the court of common pleas last week. The case was one in which the discharge of an imprisoned debtor was sought. The counsel were John H. Bird, a gentleman of portly build, and Royal Crane. The latter made a long and ardent speech. At its conclusion Mr. Bird arose and in a dramatic manner exclaimed:

"Although no Royal Crane am I,
This fact must plainly be;
A Bird of uncommon size
You all both hear and see."

The recital of this doggerel with its accompaniment of elaborate gesticulation convulsed the judge and the other auditors with laughter. Mr. Bird waited several minutes for the merriment to subside before he went on to argue his case.

RELIEF FOR THE POOR.

The mayor of one of our cities, a place of about 28,000 inhabitants, when consulted as to what could be done for the poor these times, when suffering is reaching a class usually in comfortable circumstances, said: "You should go the root of the matter. You should shut up the liquor saloons." "Yes," was the answer, "at least seven hundred dollars are spent every day for ale." "Seven hundred dollars!" the mayor replied; "I give my word for it that over $2,000 a day are spent here in the saloons."

Imagine what $2,000 a day, or $14,000 a week, distributed in the form of coal, food, or clothing, could do, even in a larger place than the one above mentioned.

Let the women everywhere meet and pray and use all their influence of gospel temperance. Let a committee be set at work to see that the law as to licenses are strictly carried out, and, with God's blessing, plenty will again dwell in our homes, and the heart of the widow and of many others will "sing for joy."

A Visit to a California Cattle Ranche.

A week since I accepted an invitation to visit one of the principal cattle walks of California, and to say that I was astonished would be useless. Lux & Miller are the cattle kings of the Pacific. In former years a man might own half a million head of cattle, and still be poor for the hides and tallow were the only parts saved. But to-day, when grazing grounds are worth from six to thirty dollars an acre, the man who owns 100,000 head of cattle, and ground enough to feed it a year on grass and hay, is a prince.

California is one of the greatest beef eaters in the world, if not excepting the English. High, low, and middle classes eat beef here. Not only beef, but mutton, pork, and game. San Francisco alone, with a population of 280,000, consumes this year about 100,000 head of beef cattle, besides 50,000 calves for veal, 500,000 sheep, and 300,000 hogs. Deducting for export, and there still remains about 90,000,000 pounds of fresh meats consumed here, to say nothing of the enormous consumption of wild game, poultry, fish, oysters, etc. Now, San Francisco contains only about one-fourth of the people of the state, and if the same proportion will hold good throughout the state, which is doubtful, the annual consumption is not less than 360,000,000 pounds of meat, beef, mutton and pork.

The wonder is, where does all this meat come from? I did not wonder when, the morning following my arrival at the neat little farm of Lux & Miller, I rode for twenty miles inside of a high board fence, with heads of cattle scattered as far as the eye could scan. This ranche is situated in the very heart of the great San Joaquin valley, and comprises the best farming land in that great wheat growing section. There is a series of ranches here. First, the Santa Nila rancho, used exclusively for grazing, and embracing 10,000 acres. Next is the Canal farm, of 10,000 acres, which has been brought under irrigation, and is intersected by hundreds of canals. These lands are almost level, and the water flows naturally over the surface. Fifteen miles further on, is the old Santa Rita grant, covering 50,000 acres. Here the vaqueros have their headquarters. The land along the river between these two farms, also belongs to the firm, and embraces 200,000 acres more. Further on, across the river, they also have a little farm of 30,000 acres, and another patch in Kern county, of the choicest land, worth to-day twenty dollars an acre, and covering about 125,000 acres. At G