Tribune from Havana says: Christmas day was ushered into Havana by the cracking of revolvers and rattling volleys from Mauser rifles, in an affray which occurred near the center of the city between the Spanish troops garrisoning the city and the Cuban residents. One Cuban was fatally wounded, two others were badly injured, and a Spanish soldier was stabbed. A Cuban negro, who received three wounds, made by Mauser bullets, and a bad cut across his forehead, and who was taken to the emergency hospital, is reported to be dying.

The affair was brought on by the Cubans, who fired from a housetop on a company of soldiers asleep in the Hotel Roma. The soldiers sprang to their feet and at once returned the fire. A company of infantry scaled the low wall on one side of the building, and hunted over the rooftops for the individuals who had begun the firing. They found a negro badly wounded, and carried him down. Other injured men were carried away by their friends.

The volleying of the Mausers caused great alarm among the Americans, many fearing the fighting would become general throughout the city.

An affray on Christmas night between troops and Cubans has been prophesied by those who have watched events for the last few days.

DISORDERS PREDICTED.

Better Feeling Between the Spaniards and Cubans.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Major General Francis E. Greene, United States army, accompanied by his aide, Lieutenant Schuyler Schiefferlin, Forty-seventh New York volunteer infantry, passed through this city today on their way from Havana to New York City.

General Greene said that there would undoubtedly be trouble in the maintenance of order, pending the transfer of the control of affairs from the Spanish government to the United States military authorities, but he did not anticipate that it would reach proportions beyond the control of the American forces. According to his representations, the feeling between the Spaniards and Cubans is intensely bitter, a serious rupture between the two factions now being averted only by the presence of American troops and the knowledge that the American military authorities are determined to preserve order by the prompt exercise of force, in case of necessity.

General Greene has large private interests in New York state, and today gave notice to the adjutant general of his desire to be relieved of further military service, in view of the practical conclusion of peace between Spain and the United States.

INTER-COLLEGIATE CHESS.

Tournament Between Yale, Harvard, Columbia and Princeton.

New York, Dec. 26.—The seventh inter-collegiate chess tournament between students from the universities of Columbia, Harvard, Yale, and Princeton began in this city this afternoon. K. G. Falk (C), and C. F. C. Arensberg (H), discussed a Petroff defence, in the course of which game the former got the superior position. After thirty-two moves the players agreed to draw. L. A. Cook (Y), and J. A. Ely (P), contested a very fine game. Ely, however, had a strong attack at one time. This would scarcely have won the game, but for a blunder on the part of the Yale man, who lost his queen and the game after thirty-six moves.

The game between A. S. Meyer (C), and A. S. Weston (P), a king's gambet declined, was of very short duration. Meyer won after sixteen moves.

F. F. Southard (H), had an easy victory over A. M. Webb (Y). The Yale man relied on the queen's pawn opening, which his adversary transferred into a Dutch game. The latter won a pawn early in the game and after twenty-eight moves Webb had to resign.

The second round will be played in the following order tomorrow: First table, Falk (C), versus Cook (Y). Second table, Ely (P), versus Arenberg (H). Third table Meyer (C), versus Southard (H). Fourth table, Webb (Y), versus Weston (P).

EXPORTS TO CANADA.

Made Great Gains Under a Discriminating Tariff Rate.

New York, Dec. 26.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says: The new Canadian tariff does not appear to have decreased exports from the United States to the dominion. That message, enacted in 1897, provided that goods entering Canada from Great Britain and her colonies should enjoy a tariff rate 25 per cent less than that collected from goods from other countries, one-half of that reduction going into effect on Aug. 1, 1897, and the remainder on Aug. 1, 1898. The exportation from the United States to Canada has, therefore, since Aug. 1, 1898, been made under whatever disadvantage the new discriminating rates of that tariff afford. It is therefore interesting to compare the figures of the exports to Canada since that date, both with those of the corresponding months of 1897, in which only one-half of the discriminating rate was in operation, and with those of 1896, in which no discriminating rate existed.

The figures of the treasury and bureau of statistics covering the details of the export trade are now available for the months of August, September and October. They show that during these three months of 1898, in which the full 25 per cent tariff reduction in favor of Great Britain and her colonies was in operation, exports from the United States to Canada were larger than in any corresponding three months in the history of our commerce with that country. In fact, the exports from the United States to Canada have never shown more rapid gains than since the enactment of the new Canadian tariff, giving to imports from Great Britain and her colonies advantages over those from the United States.

"ZAZA" AT WASHINGTON.

Mrs. Leslie Carter Appears In a New French Play.

Washington, Dec. 26.—The first American production of "Zaza," a play from the French, which has been running in Paris for over a year, took officialdom and society in large numbers to the Lafayette Square theatre tonight. Many of the diplomatic corps, including the French ambassador and Sir Julian Pauncefote, had seen the play in Paris, and there was some curiosity to see Mrs. Leslie Carter's interpretation of the part of the heroine. The play is quite out of the ordinary. It is Frenchy, without being immoral. The best compliment which Belasco, adapter, and Mrs. Leslie Carter, actress, could be given, came from the pronounced and apparently sincere applause from the boxes occupied by the diplomatic corps. Mrs. Carter was given six curtain calls at the end of the first act, and Belasco was called before the curtain for a speech.

Mrs. Carter's gowns were the subject of comment, because they are unique and lavish. The production is elaborate, and the supporting company of fifty-two speaking parts is satisfactory. "Zaza" is a love story of much light and some shadow. It is the story of a child of the streets, who, becoming an actress, develops the strength and will to rise above circumstances, to sacrifice herself to preserve the sanctity of the home of the man she loves.

Father Larrabee's Church Damaged.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—The Episcopal church of the Ascension has been damaged $20,000 by fire. The edifice is widely known as Father Larrabee's church. No other church in the west has more advanced ritualist services and furnishings. The fire started from an overheated furnace.

AMERICA ON THE SEA

Government Preparing to Maintain Our Naval Supremacy.

GREAT STORES OF COAL

HALF A MILLION TONS FOR WARSHIPS

Will Be Conveniently Distributed On Both Coasts and Across the Pacific—Indicates the Policy of the Government—Naval Officials Want the Caroline Islands.

New York, Dec. 26.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Washington says: The navy department is going to be prepared for any emergency that may hereafter arise in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans by carrying on hand the enormous stock of nearly half a million tons of the best steaming coal for warships that can be procured. This supply of the most important of all sinews of modern war is to be systematically distributed in American ports most conveniently located for the coaling of ships for any operations the navy may conceivably be called upon to undertake, extending along the Atlantic and gulf coast line from Frenchman's bay, Maine, to San Juan de Puerto Rico, as well as to the commanding positions along the line of commerce which have already been secured by the United States in the Pacific ocean, stretching from San Francisco and Puget sound to Manila and southward to Samoa. In the naval sphere of activity in the Atlantic about 300,000 tons are to be promptly and systematically stored, in accordance with the recommendation of the chief strategists of the service, and at least 120,000 tons will be sent around Cape Horn to the great western ocean, where American interests have suddenly become second to those of no other nation, and where the influence of the United States will not hereafter be subordinated to that of any European power.

GOVERNMENT POLICY.

The distribution of immense piles of American coal for naval purposes in the Pacific indicates the unalterably attitude which has been adopted by the administration regarding the future policy of the United States in that direction, as the initial expense involved in transporting the proper quality of fuel for use in the marine engines, as well as the elaborate character of the apparatus which might be installed for the expeditious coaling of war vessels, for which time is a most essential element, demonstrate how gravely and thoroughly the authorities have matured their plans.

The number of tons which will be held in reserve at the various coaling stations west of the American continent have been fixed for the present as follows: Manila, 25,000; Guam, 10,000; Honolulu, 25,000; Pago Pago, 10,000; San Francisco, 25,000, and Bremerton, Puget sound, 25,000. On the Atlantic coast, in addition to the fuel supplies already established at the various navy yards and naval stations, the recommendations of Admiral Belknap's board, which made its investigations early in the Spanish war, will probably be adopted without modification, with the addition of several requisite ports in the West Indies.

With strong coal bases provided in this arrangement, within easy steaming distance of every vessel in the naval fleet, the effective protection of the Atlantic coast will be more than doubled, as compared with its condition six months ago. With the exception of the long stretch around the South American continent, where, in case of enforced neutrality of the Latin-American republics, United States ships cannot purchase coal in their ports, a continued recourse to armed colliers will be unavoidable. The government is now fortunately possessed of seventeen of these invaluable vessels, with an aggregate carrying capacity approximating 50,000 tons, and it is the intention to keep those vessels filled to their capacity and constantly ready for immedite service.

MORE ISLANDS WANTED.

There is no concealment among naval officers of the almost priceless value that the possession of the Carolines would contribute to the maintenance of American interests in the widest of oceans. To Spain, this archipelago can never be more than a burden and expense, which must now appear prohibitive to the government at Madrid in its straightened circumstances, and an auction sale to the highest bidder is believed to be among the certainties of the early future. It is no secret that the present administration at Washington is not inclined to permit any European power to buy this group, and emphatic evidence is given of this determination in the orders issued to naval vessels in the last week, providing for the disposition of all the available naval forces at Manila, Guam and Honolulu. There is another line of communication with the Philippines during a period of hostilities. This is to be undertaken by naval auxiliaries and army transports from New York by way of the Suez canal early next month, but it is a route which gives to the strategists no concern whatever for the present, as it would not be needed in time of war, or after the completion of the Nicaraguan canal.

ANTI-EXPANSION LABOR.

Boston League Opposes Ratification of the Treaty.

Boston, Dec. 26.—In reply to the telegraphic request of Governor Pingree of Michigan for a speaker for an anti-imperialist meeting in Detroit tomorrow, the Anti-Imperialist League has sent Rev. Samuel F. Fuller of Boston, Governor Pingree bearing the expense.

The protests received by the league today include one from a branch of the Federation of Labor in Montana; from the Unitarian club in Jackson, Mich.; from fifty-four citizens in Clark county, Virginia, and from Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Alabama, Texas, California and other states.

Secretary Winslow of the league will send to every member of the house and senate a letter urging them to prevent the ratification of the treaty as it stands, making the point that one-third of the senate can accomplish now what hereafter will require a majority of each branch and the approval of the president.

NICARAGUA CANAL COST.

Commission Estimates Range From $90,000,000 to $140,000,000.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Admiral Walker, chairman of the Nicaraguan canal commission, when questioned today as to the time when the report of the commission would be sent to congress, said that the time could not be stated definitely, as the report had not been signed nor entirely completed. He presumed, however, that it would be ready within the next very few days. In answer to further inquiries, the admiral said that there was no difference of opinion among the members of the commission, except possibly on the question of cost, and that difference might be adjusted so that the report would be unanimous on all points.

Some months ago Admiral Walker stated to a committee of congress that in his judgment the canal would not cost more than $125,000,000. Another member of the commission fixed the maximum at $140,000,000, but stated that it might cost considerably less, and it had been the opinion of the third member of the commission that the canal would not cost more than $90,000,000. All were agreed, however, that these figures were and could be only aproximations. There were too many considerations and contingencies that might change the result materially. An epidemic of cholera or fever might lay off half the working force, accidents to machinery or possibly earthquakes might damage the work in course of construction, and, while none of these would be likely to happen, yet they were among the possibilities, and in estimating the cost of the work a reasonable provision had been made for accidents of various kinds.

RETIREMENT OF DEWEY.

May Be Postponed By Special Law For Ten Years.

New York, Dec. 26.—A dispatch to the Herald from Washington says: Captain R. D. Evans' name is prominently mentioned as Rear Admiral Bunce's successor in the New York navy yard, now that it seems to be decided that Rear Admiral Sampson will remain commander-in-chief of the North Atlantic station, and Rear Admiral Schley will be assigned to sea duty, in compliance with his request.

Unless congress should pass a law authorizing him to remain on the active list, Rear Admiral Dewey will be placed on the retired list on Dec. 26, 1899. Only one other retirement will occur next year—that of Commodore H. L. Howison, now commandant of the Boston navy yard.

There is a strong sentiment in naval circles in favor of the passage of a law which will permit the retention of Admiral Dewey upon the active list for ten years, as was done in the case of heroes of the civil war. Reports from Manila that Admiral Dewey desires to return home are not believed by department officials. Their advices from him indicate that he desires to remain in the Philippines. It is not expected that he will be detached from command of the Asiatic station until just in time to reach the United States on the eve of his retirement.

INCREASED KLONDIKE OUTPUT.

Winter's Product Will Double That of Last Year.

San Francisco, Dec. 26.—A special from Dawson City, dated Nov. 19, says: Reports from all creeks in the vicinity of Dawson indicate that the winter's product of gold will exceed that of last year by more than 100 per cent.

Several persons are reported to have been frozen to death. One of these was found in a kneeling posture beside his sled and dogs, between Hunker and Dominion, at the summit.

Several steamers are in winter quarters on the upper river, prepared to take advantage of the first rush of traffic.

Between Dawson and Circle City there are reported the steamers Arnold and John C. Barr, in safe winter quarters; the Monarch at Circle, the Sovereign aground in mid-river, and certain of destruction, as are also two of the Moran fleet, the Victoria and the Tacoma.

CLEVER BANK ROBBERY.

Thieves Opened the Vault and Carried Off $18,162.

Lima, O., Dec. 26.—The American National bank of this city was robbed last night of $18,162. The money was taken from the big vault. The robbery was perpetrated in a skillful manner, no damage being done to the vault. The bank is located on the corner of Main and High streets. The money stolen was in currency and gold. No silver was taken. The robbery was discovered this morning by the bank janitor, who found the door of the vault open. A deposit of $16,000 made on Saturday was gone.

The directors of the bank held a meeting at once, at which an assessment was made to meet the deficiency, and other banks in the city offered assistance.

The manner of entrance to the bank is a mystery, as all windows are protected with heavy iron screens. The front door was found locked this morning as usual. There was not the slightest clue for detectives to work on. The robbery is the work of professionals, surely.

BAD TRAIN WRECK.

Three Trainmen Seriously Hurt In An Indiana Smash-up.

Vincennes, Ind., Dec. 26.—A bad wreck occurred today at Emison, on the Evansville & Terre Haute railroad, in which three trainmen were seriously hurt, and a score or more passengers bruised and scratched. The Nashville limited express, going north, crashed into a freight train, demolishing both engines and wrecking several cars. The injured are: Conductor Lew Stinzon, Evansville, Ind., internal injuries; Engineer Henry Ott, Evansville, ankle sprained; Express Messenger George Mulf, leg crushed.

The freight, in taking the siding, failed to clear the main track.

COINCIDENCE IN DEATHS.

Two Prominent Citizens of St. Joseph Found Dead In Bed.

St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 26.—Louis Hax, banker, furniture manufacturer, cattle man and promoter of many financial schemes, and Herman Garlish, druggist, financier and a figure in state Democratic politics, have been found dead in bed at their respective homes. It is not known how long either had been dead when found. Both men were apparently in robust health. The remarkable coincidence in their mysterious sudden death causes much speculation.

THREE BURNED TO DEATH.

Result of Using Kerosene to Start a Fire.

Houston, Tex., Dec. 26.—A special from Hillsboro, Tex., says: Mrs. Izbel, her daughter, Mrs. Ossie Malone, and Mrs. Malone's infant were burned to death in their home near here. The women could be seen in the house, but it was impossible to rescue them, though every effort was made. The fire started by the use of kerosene to kindle a fire.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

CHICAGO.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Hogs—Estimated receipts, 25,000. Market opened strong to 5 cents higher, closed weak with advance mostly lost. Light hogs 3.30@3.60; mixed packers, 3.35@3.65; heavy shipping grades, 3.30@3.65; rough hogs, 3.30@3.40.

Cattle—Estimated receipts today, 9,000. Mostly 10 cents higher. Beeves, 4.00@5.85; cows and heifers, 2.00@4.75; Texas steers, 3.40@4.65; stockers and feeders, 2.50@4.40.

Sheep—Estimated receipts today, 7,000. Sheep strong; native sheep, 2.50@4.25; westerns, 3.00@4.15; lambs, 3.75@5.25.

KANSAS CITY.

Kansas City, Dec. 26.—Cattle—Receipts, 3,220. Market 10 cents higher. Medium steers, 4.80@5.10; lightweights, 4.25@5.00; stockers and feeders, 2.25@4.25; butcher cows and heifers, 2.65@4.25; western steers, 3.25@4.60; Texas steers, 3.00@4.60; Texas butchers cows, 2.30@3.25; canning stock, 2.00@2.65.

Hogs—Receipts, 4,210. Strong demand from local packers advanced prices 5 cents again today. Heavies, 3.45@3.60; mixed, 3.35@3.50; lights, 3.15@3.50.

Sheep—Receipts, official, 775. The supply was too light to interest all the buyers, but trading was fairly active at steady prices. Lambs, 3.00@5.50; muttons, 3.85@4.60; feeding lambs, 3.80@4.20; feeding sheep, 3.25@3.75; stockers and feeders, 2.25@3.60.

Sagasta's Condition.

Madrid, Dec. 26.—Although the latest bulletin regarding Senor Sagasta's condition, which was issued this evening, says that he has passed a quiet day, and that the fever has diminished, it is feared by some members of the cabinet that he will not recover. A rumor is in circulation tonight that his respiration is much more difficult.

Mail From the Orient.

San Francisco, Dec. 26.—The Pacific Mail Steamship company's steamer China arrived at a late hour tonight from Hongkong and Yokohama via Honolulu. Neither mail nor passengers will be landed tonight, as the vessel will not be boarded by the quarantine officers until tomorrow morning.

Alice Neilson's Banquet.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 26.—Miss Alice Neilson tonight gave the company supporting her in her new opera, "The Fortune Teller," a banquet at the Hotel Cadillac. Covers were laid for about eighty, and an elaborate menu was served. This was Miss Neilson's Christmas present to her company.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

The First battalion, First United States infantry, departed from Huntsville for Cuba.

The condition of Dr. Horatio Stebbins of San Francisco is very alarming, and it is believed that his death may occur at any time.

Major H. R. Brinkerhoff, United States army, has been ordered to join the Third infantry at Fort Snelling, and to accompany it to Manila.

Commissioner General Peck has appointed Charles Richards Dodge of New York director of agriculture for the American exhibit at the Paris exposition.

Lieutenant Colonel W. P. Hall, who has for several years been adjutant general of the department of the gulf, has been assigned to a similar position in the department of Puerto Rico.

The announcement made several days ago that overtures had been made to the Cleveland Rolling Mill company for the purchase of its big plant by the wire trust has been confirmed.

Jay L. Athey, one of the best known attorneys, and at one time a leading Democratic politician of Cleveland, O., is dead of pneumonia, aged 44. He was one of the best known Pythians in Ohio.

Frank Huber, one of the proprietors of the Catawba Wine company, Toledo, O., left the supper table and shot himself to death in the bath room. No apparent motive. He was one of the largest wine dealers in the United States.

Bishop William E. McLaren of the diocese of Chicago, will accept the mission to Puerto Rico to investigate the field there for promotion of the Episcopal church interests, as delegated to him by the Episcopal conference in Washington.

Lindus Cody, a wealthy real estate dealer of Cleveland, O., who is an enthusiastic supporter of President Simpson of the Christian Alliance, will depart for Cuba Jan. 9 for the purpose of starting mission work in the island in behalf of the alliance.

Colonel Philip Henry Moore died at Wheeling, W. Va. He was the editor and owner of the Ohio Valley Manufacturer. When the civil war opened he cast his fortunes with the confederate army, and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the engineer corps. In 1879 he established the Wheeling Daily Union.

CONDENSED CABLEGRAMS.

Emilio Castellar, the distinguished Spanish republican statesman, orator and scholar, is prostrated with serious pulmonary catarrh.

Owing to the failure of the seconds to agree upon conditions, it has been decided to abandon the proposed duel between Baron Banffy, the Hungarian premier, and Deputy Heransky, of the opposition in the lower house of the Hungarian parliament, who, in the course of last Friday's debate upon the government's policy, called the premier an imposter, cheat and traitor.

RACE FOR A WIFE.

Two Young Scandinavians Chase Half Way Round the World.

(Minneapolis Journal.)

Dr. Hjelmar Sangstrund and Captain Olaf Dahlin raced all the way from Scandinavia to marry the same girl. Both lost.

Sangstrund is the son of a wealthy physician in the old country; Dahlin of a land-owner of the same town. The two were rivals for the hand of Gerda Thorngren, the daughter of a tenant of Dahlin's father. Three years ago her family resolved to seek a new home in America.

Sangstrund was then pursuing his studies at the University of Stockholm. His father promised him a competency and permission to wed whomsoever he would after he had taken his degree, but threatened to cut him off with a shilling if he married sooner. Dahlin was a lieutenant in the army, and feared that his chances of promotion might be injured, should he take a peasant girl to wife at the time.

So the young men agreed that neither should press his suit for three years, when Sangstrund's course at the university would be finished, and Dahlin better able to defy public opinion without injuring his future prospects. The situation was explained to Gerda, who apparently acquiesced in the arrangement. But Gerda had a mind of her own, and was not too well pleased at the coolly calculating spirit manifested by both her lovers. So she left them with nothing more than an implied promise to await their convenience. Sangstrund and Dahlin supposed it was an ironclad contract, but she didn't understand it so.

The Thorngrens settled on a farm near Emery. Three years passed, and, true to his agreement, Sangstrund notified Dahlin that he should leave Hamburg on a certain day for America. Dahlin was there, too, and the rivals took passage on the steamer together. From New York to Emery again they traveled on the same trains. But at Emery they separated, with the understanding that whoever reached Gerda first should have her.

Their train pulled into town about 6 p. m., in the midst of a howling blizzard, and inquiry revealed the fact that the Thorngren farm was twelve miles north of the village. Dahlin hired a team and started to drive out alone. Sangstrund was more fortunate. The man to whom he applied for horses told him that Christian Nelson, a countryman of his own, was just starting to drive to the Thorngren's, where some kind of festivities were to be held that night, and that he could probably be induced to take a passenger. He knew the road, and Sangstrund would run less risk of losing himself in the storm.

The arrangement was easily made, and the two started to learn the nature of the entertainment. Nelson was going to attend, but the latter was uncommunicative, and the subject was dropped.

Five or six miles out of town they passed Dahlin, struggling through the snowdrifts alone. Sangstrund fairly hugged himself with joy. He was less pleased when he reached the Thorngrens to find a Norwegian minister waiting to marry Nelson and Gerda. The latter was delighted to have him present as a guest, but evidently had no idea of throwing her new lover over for the old one. Dahlin did not arrive until after the ceremony had been performed. He was so angry that he returned the same night to Emery, and thence to New York. Sangstrund took his defeat philosophically, and stayed to dance at the wedding and wish the newly-married couple good luck. He is still in Emery, and will, it is said, soon take his former sweetheart's sister, Selma, home as his wife.

New York Society's Little Mystery.

(New York Letter.)

Society also furnished a mystery today. The strange disappearance of a young and beautiful woman, prominent in society, is causing a great deal of comment in certain uptown circles. Less than a year ago no social function was complete without her, and up to six weeks ago she was frequently seen at social gatherings. Then she suddenly dropped out of sight. It is probably another of those metropolitan life puzzles, the solution of which must be sought in a sanitarium or else behind the barred back windows of her stately mansion. Judging from skeletons that are no longer confined in the family closets, wealthy lunatics are frequently worse off than the pauper insane.

To Cure a Cold In One Day
take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c. The genuine has L. B. Q. on each tablet.

A WOMAN OWNS IT ALL

MRS. KING'S CATTLE RANCH THE GREATEST IN THE WORLD.

Twice a Year, Accompanied By Her Superintendent, She Travels Over Her Vast Empire to Inspect It.

(New York World.)

The greatest cattle ranch in the world is owned by a woman—Mrs. Richard King. She inherited it from her husband, who was once a barefooted, penniless boy of Orange, N. J. He drifted to Texas, met prosperity and compelled success. His widow is there known as the cattle queen of Texas. Sometimes they call her empress. Her empire is variously estimated at from one million to a million and a quarter acres. Upon the more generous estimate it is as large as Delaware and nearly twice as large as Rhode Island.

It would hold, ten times over, all of Greater New York, from these marshes of Far Rockaway to Tottenville, S. I., and to the Yonkers line.

It is ruled in almost imperial fashion by its owner. As her tract covers a great part of two big Texas counties, she is within its borders practically the civil law. She does not vote; she commands her voters.

When Richard King ran away from his home in Orange, he began life as a Mississippi river cabin boy. He became a pilot like Mark Twain, fought Indians in the Seminole war, served on a quartermaster's vessel during the Mexican war, and became captain of a Rio Grande steamer.

Captains don't usually turn into successful farmers, but King was an exception to all rules. Nueces and Cameron counties were then given over to scalp-collecting red men and shiftless greasers. He bought land for a song, and in 1852 began the Santa Gertrudes ranch.

It grew and it grew, like a snowball; land and cattle perpetually added to its borders. Thus he became one of the first and easily the greatest of the Texas cattle kings. He fought Indians who came on raiding expeditions; he fought Indians who tried to steal his mavericks, and he fought stage robbers who waylaid him when he came back from New Orleans with the proceeds of his increasing sales.

In 1885 Captain King died. He had five children, little Etta being the youngest and favorite of her mother; but, having no wish to see Santa Gertrudes divided, he left all his property absolutely to his wife.

Mrs. Henrietta M. King is a woman of middle age and pleasing appearance. She has two fine residences on her domain, and one, the finest in all Texas, in the town of Corpus Christi.

Seek her there and you will find a cultured woman of wealth, in no essential different from her like in an eastern city. To see her at her best, in a position almost unique in America, one must travel with her upon one of her great tours of inspection.

Twice every year Mrs. King takes a look over her property; once in the spring, when her cattle are rounded up for branding, and in the late fall, to see how the grass looks and how the cattle will stand the winter. It is like taking a far journey.

Mrs. King combines pleasure with business. Besides her superintendent, she is always accompanied by invited guests. The inspecting party travels with a caravan of carriages for Mrs. King and an imposing retinue of cowboys, guides and cooks. The cracking of quirts and the neighing of horses and lowing of cattle make the trip seem like the emigration of a patriarchal tribe.

Mrs. King doesn't know how many cattle she has—or how many acres, for that matter. Her land has never been surveyed or her cattle counted. About fifteen years ago, the palmy days, nearly a quarter million cows, bulls, yearlings and calves roamed on prairies of Santa Gertrudes; there are probably not more than half that number at present.

The yearly shipments from the ranch are about 30,000 head, and the net proceeds from their sale range from $40,000 to $500,000. Besides the cattle there are 40,000 head of sheep and 1,000 saddle horses. Mrs. King's ranch is divided into about a dozen districts—call them counties, towns, baronies, what you will. Each has its lord, and over all is Mrs. King's general manager.

In his own domain each boss is supreme. He seldom has orders to obey, except at branding time, and when shipping orders are sent. He employs hands, rules the round-up, controls his own village.

The village in each section is clustered round the residence of the boss, who is generally a married man of mature years, with many years of experience, and around the school house and the church built by Mrs. King.

The ranch houses are rough and unpainted, but roomy and comfortable, and not destitute of luxuries. Around them are barrack-like buildings for the cowboys, huts for Mexican laborers and stables for the saddle horses.

About 1,000 people, laborers and cooks, work on the Santa Gertrudes ranch, nearly 100 at each of the little villages.

The system of government is paternal—perhaps maternal is the better word. All the employees are furnished with food, medical attention and lodging, and all the necessaries of life, except clothing, and the horses, saddles and bridles used by the cowboys are the property of Mrs. King.

It is a benevolent despotism. There is neither crime nor poverty in the realm. For any injustice there is the right of direct appeal to the mistress of the domain. And thus it is that all goes well with the Santa Gertrudes.

WONDERFUL CONJURESS.

Does Remarkable Feats, According to Reports.

(Indian Telegraph.)

The conjuress, whose liberality to the gamins of Lucknow we noticed some days ago, has been distinguishing herself again, according to bazar gup. According to this, the lady in question has been performing more miracles, the most remarkable feature of them being that they are firmly believed by the people who retail the story. It is said that a certain Bengalee, being hard up, applied to her for money, and she at once agreed to give him ten rupees if he could produce one.

This he did, and received ten from out of the handful of dust she hastily picked up from the road. He placed the eleven rupees carefully in his purse, but on reaching home he found the entire eleven missing. A corresponding accident occurred to a simple bearer, on whom she bestowed five in addition to one rupee he possessed. He wrapped the six carefully in his loin cloth, but on reaching home they were non est, which he considered so dishonest that he informed the police that he had been swindled. The woman was therefore arrested and haled before a magistrate (name not stated), who questioned her.

She denied any swindling or wish to swindle, and said they might lock her up if they liked, but that they could not keep her free spirit caged. The magistrate suggested that, anyway, the experiment might be tried; and she was accordingly locked up in a cell at the far end of a well-guarded corridor of cells (locality not stated.) The court went on with its usual business, and the conjuress was forgotten for a moment. Then occurred a curious thing—a sort of repetition in oriental fashion of the "little jackdaw" business in "The Jackdaw of Rheims."

A quail came hopping into the courtroom—a very tame quail, that seemed not in the least afraid of the big naughty men present, but which was running about picking up imaginary grains here and there. Suddenly the litigants, pleaders, etc., became conscious that the quail had disappeared, and that a fine strapping man stood where the quail had been a moment before. The court, noticing the stranger, asked who he might be, and received a startling answer. "I am the woman," said the man, "whom you locked up just now."

"How can that be?" inquired the magistrate, "when you are a man." "Nevertheless, I am the woman," was the strange reply, "and you may lock me up, too, if you like." Upon this a rush was made for the woman's cell, and although it was secured as tightly as bars, door and lock could close it, it was tenantless! After that the woman or the man, or whatever the combination called itself, was allowed to go in peace. This tale is current just at present in the bazar, and shows what extraordinary stories pass current in the bazar.

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We do thank you earnestly and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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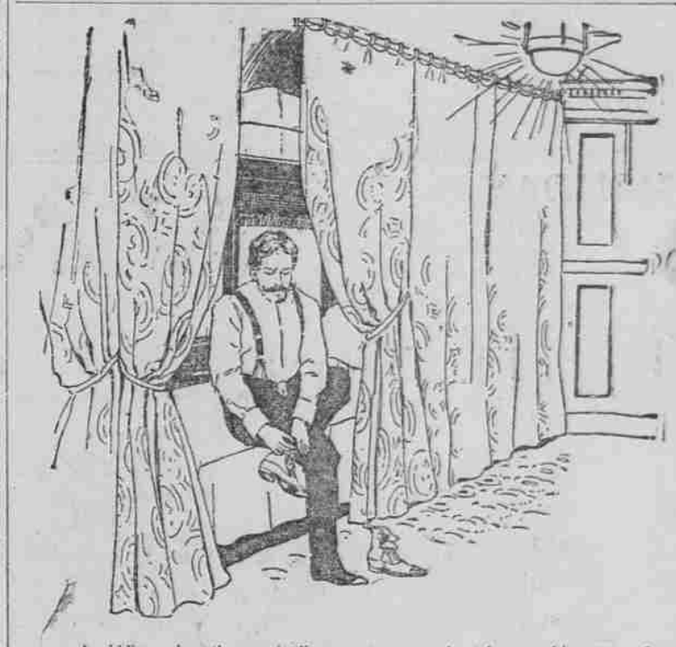

A middle-aged gentleman who lives pretty constantly at home and is very regular in his habits relates that he is occasionally compelled to make a railway journey for a night or two, and these used to upset his usual condition of health, resulting pretty uniformly in a cold or an attack of constipation. He has found a remedy for all that, however, and nowadays before starting off he places in his vest pocket a five-cent carton of Ripans Tabules. One of these Tabules, taken as he goes to rest in the sleeper, not only induces sleep, but keeps the bowels in a healthy state and prevents the opposite result formerly so apt to be engendered by the shaking up due to an all-night ride in a railroad car. He used to know that the change of diet on such occasions, and the taking of food at untimely hours, would upset his stomach for a certainty and cause a sick headache, but to his surprise he finds that all this is obviated by the precaution of swallowing a Ripans Tabule after each meal.

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