IN MEMORY OF ERIN'S APOSTLE.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES IN THE DIFFERENT CATHOLIC CHURCHES TO-DAY.

PANEGYRICS BY PREACHERS.

LIST OF TOASTS TO BE OFFERED AT THE BANQUET AT DELMONICO'S.

The national colors of Ireland will wave to-day. As in years gone by the citizens of Irish nativity and descent in San Francisco will observe the anniversary of the birth of their apostle, St. Patrick, with becoming religious and social observances. The feast falling on Sunday, however, makes a public celebration impossible.

There will be low and high masses in all the Catholic churches of the city this morning at the same hours as on Sundays. Panagyrics in the life of the saint who planted the seed of Christianity in Ireland, who converted a whole nation without the shedding of a drop of blood, will be pronounced by eloquent tongues, and Irish melody will be blended with the musical offerings of the sacred services.

There will be a solemn high mass at St. Patrick's Church on Mission street at 10:30 o'clock A. M. Father P. A. Foley will be the celebrant, Rev. R. Power, deacon; Rev. J. Brennan, sub-deacon, and Rev. R. O'Hanlon master of ceremonies. The panegyric on St. Patrick will be preached by Father Power. Professor Dohrmann has arranged special music for the day. In the evening solemn vespers will be sung in honor of the day.

Rev. Father Scanlan will preach the panegyric on St. Patrick at St. Joseph's Church on Tenth street at 10:30 o'clock, when a solemn high mass will be celebrated. Father Scanlan will also be the celebrant, and Father Doran will be deacon and Father O'Neill will be sub-deacon. An especially interesting and elaborate musical programme has been arranged by Professor Sullivan, who will be supported by an excellent choir of vocalists.

Rev. A. M. Clark, recently from New York, will deliver the sermon on St. Patrick at old St. Mary's on California street at 11 o'clock this morning.

Rev. Father Wyman of St. Mary's Church, and well known as a Paulist missionary, left for Santa Cruz yesterday, where he will lecture this evening.

At St. Mary's Cathedral on Van Ness avenue the services will be the same as on Sunday. The sermon will be preached by Father Gleason.

At St. Francis, on Vallejo street, St. Paul's, St, Peter's and the Sacred Heart the usual Sunday services will be held.

At St. Ignatius Church, on Hayes street, there will be a special solemn high mass in honor of St. Patrick.

On St. Patrick's night Father D. O. Crowley will deliver a lecture in Jackson, Amador County.

At St. James Church Father Mulligan will preach the panegyric on St. Patrick at last mass. In the evening Father Kierns of Sacred Heart will occupy the pulpit.

The Knights of the Red Branch celebrated the national festival with a ball at Odd Fellows' Hall last night.

The following is the toast list of the Knights of St. Patrick at Delmonico's to-night:

Address of welcome, Jeremiah Deasy, president.
Reading of communications, P. F. McCormick, secretary.
"The Day We Celebrate," J. J. Dwyer.
"United States of America," Frank T. Shea.
"State of California," W. C. Burnett.
"The Celtic Race," Thomas Price and D. R. McNeill.
"City of San Francisco," William Broderick.
The "Press," Charles M. Shortridge.
"Our Honored Dead," in silence.

PLUNDERING EMPTY HOUSES

A VILLAINOUS GANG OF THIEVES COMMIT DEPREDATIONS UNHINDERED.

THEY TEAR OUT PLUMBING, LOCKS, GAS AND ELECTRIC FIXTURES DAILY.

For some time past a gang of sneak-thieves and burglars have been committing depredations on a unprecedentedly large scale among vacant houses throughout San Francisco. Their wholesale plundering passes belief, and what is stranger still not one of them has been caught and the police are powerless to check them.

The gang or gangs that day and night go about the city looting unoccupied houses make no distinction as to locality. To-day they are busy in the Mission district, to-morrow uninhabited dwellings of the Western Addition or out by Golden Gate Park are visited. And the result is always the same: Globes are stolen, lead pipes cut away, gas fixtures and electrical appliances are torn out, and frequently locks and keys disappear in the general loot.

Within the last month or two this villainous work has assumed serious proportions.

At 614 Twenty-first street the lead waste-pipes were chopped off, window shades, gas globes and keys were stolen. While 622 and 624 Eddy street were vacant for a few days all the globes and keys were taken. At 528 Golden Gate avenue—a large house just two blocks from the Central police station—the elegant chandeliers and wall brackets were twisted and torn away, every globe was taken with the gas-fixtures, and the lead plumbing under wash-basins, etc., went with the rest. It cost $150 to make repairs.

A house at 110 Oak street was vacant for two weeks, and several locks and keys and all the globes were stolen, the locks being unscrewed from the doors. Every bit of lead pipe at 619 Mason street was cut out and stolen, leaving the house a wreck. While several of the new flats at Golden Gate avenue and Steiner street were vacant, globes, gas-tips, doorknobs, locks, electric buttons, bells and batteries were stolen. The house at 1111 Golden Gate avenue was vacant three days, but in that time the keys, globes, electric battery and buttons disappeared.

The thieves made a wholesale raid on the Irvington, a house of seventy rooms at 418 Ellis street, while it was unoccupied. The electrical apparatus, including a large annunciator and button board in the office, was carried away, with all the keys and everything else of a portable nature.

H. F. Fortman's flats at Buchanan and Turk streets were looted of the electric fittings, globes, incandescent lamps and the lead pipes in the kitchens, basements, bathrooms and under stationary basins in the bedrooms. A residence on Van Ness avenue, between Bush and Pine streets, was left without locks or keys, or electric lights, batteries, bells and buttons when the thieves finished with it. R. E. White had two flats vacant quite recently at the corner of Grove and Gough streets and lost many yards of lead pipe, all the globes, keys and gas tips.

On Folsom street, near Tenth, the same gang of thieves maliciously cut off the plumbing and ruined two houses. Three new flats at 821 to 827 Hyde street were shamefully plundered. The faucets were taken off, gas shades, electric globes and buttons, keys, etc., were stolen along with locks, doorknobs and mountings. The damage in each flat was $60.

Other places that have been robbed are 1713 Buchanan street, globes taken; 2215 Sutter street, globes and fixtures stolen; 1902 Green street, lead pipes, faucets and gas globes; 24 and 26 Tremont avenue, plumbing and gas fixtures; Van Ness avenue, near Bush, plumbing and gas fixtures; flats on Pine street, near Webster, plumbing torn out, globes, gas fixtures, electric batteries and bells stolen; 649 Willow avenue, globes and gas fixtures; corner of Ridley and Elgin streets, gas fixtures and lead pipes; Valencia and Quinn, plumbing, locks, keys, gas fixtures: Tenth and Natoma, in a row of houses, faucets, plumbing, globes and gas fixtures; northeast corner of California and Kearny, lead pipes and plumbing, including that of waterclosets; 22 and 23 Capp, flats, globes and lead pipes.

This list does not comprise one hundredth of the number of houses that have been despoiled in a most wanton fashion, though it is sufficient to give an idea of the thievery going on without hindrance. Globes cost 50 cents each, locks as high as $3 50, electric apparatus $10, often very much more, and plumbing bills average from $20 to $50 on every house or flat. The material is disposed of in fences for a few dollar or a few cents.

CONTRACT FOR RAILS LET.

THE JOHNSON-LOCKE COMPANY WILL SHIP THEM TO THIS COAST.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE MATTER OF SURVEYS.

There may be doubts in the minds of some people as to whether the Governor will sign the bill giving the valley road privileges for terminals on the bay, but it is evident that the board of directors do not share this feeling of uncertainty. They held a meeting yesterday and went right along with the work of getting everything in readiness for active operations, just as though the bill had already been signed and was now a law.

As a result of yesterday's action some very tangible evidence that the road will be built will soon be on the way out to this coast from New York in the form of 2000 rails which have been ordered, and the contract for bringing them here was also given out yesterday.

The Johnson-Locke Mercantile Company is the firm which received the latter contract. One of its members notified the board Friday afternoon that his firm had a ship in the East that would soon take on a cargo for this coast.

"You must make up your minds pretty quick," said he," for if you don't contract for the rails at once we shall load the ship with coal and start her for this coast immediately."

This necessitated quick work on the part of the bord and its members soon disposed of the matter when they got together yesterday. The contract specifies that the ship shall leave New York not later than April 1, and it is expected here about July 1.

The board refuses to divulge the name of the firm of manufacturers from whom the rails were purchased. When Vice-President Whittier was asked the question yesterday he said that that fact would not be made public just yet.

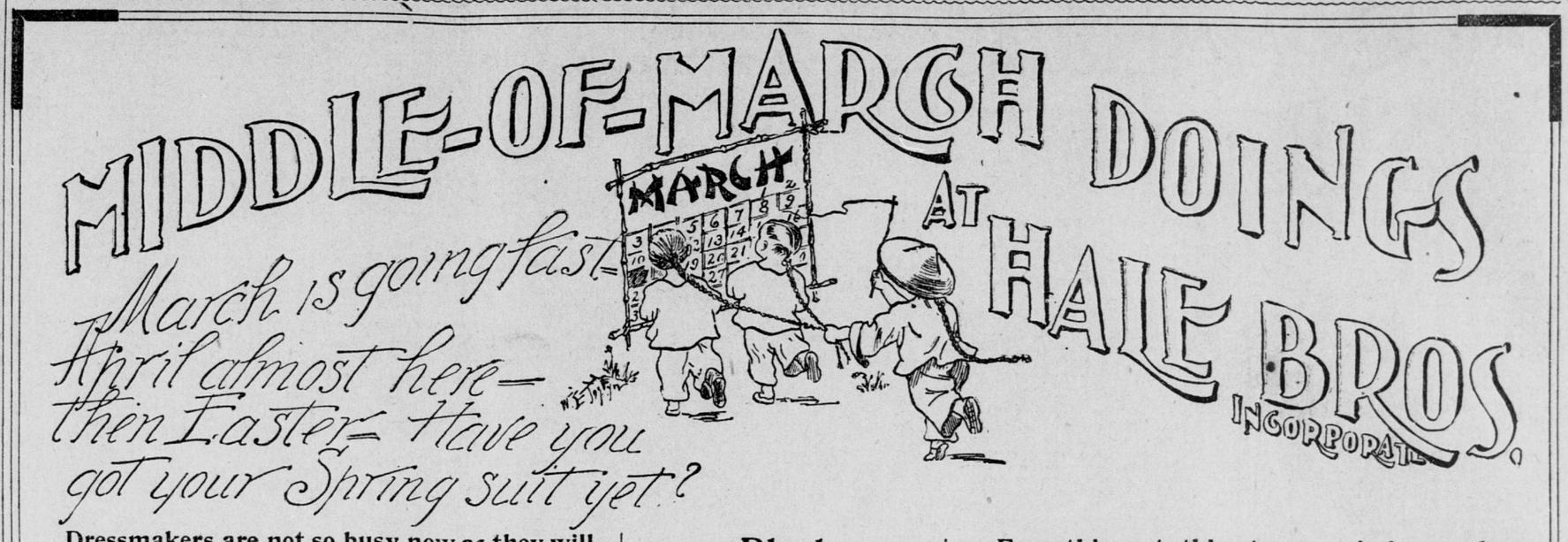
The steamship which will convey this first consignment of rails for the road to this coast is the Washtenaw. She has a capacity of about 4500 tons, and will carry a large amount of freight in addition to the rails.

Mr. Whittier said that probably three or four parties of engineers would soon be placed in the field. This matter of surveys was yesterday placed in the hands of a special committee, consisting of Messrs. Holbrook, Watt and Magee, and those gentlemen will press the work with all possible dispatch.

Arrested for Contempt.

B. W. Windhaus, saloon-keeper, of McAllister and Franklin streets, was ordered into custody by Judge Low yesterday for contempt of court. He was arrested on Tuesday for selling liquor without a license. When the case was called next morning he said he had overlooked the fact that his license had expired. The Judge fined him $20, and he promised to take out his license and pay the fine before yesterday. He did neither, and the Judge issued a bench warrant for his arrest, which was immediately served upon him.

NEW TO-DAY—DRY GOODS.



Dressmakers are not so busy now as they will be two weeks later. This week you can select from all of the kinds and all of the colors. The Spring and Summer stocks are almost complete. To-day we give some entirely NEW PRICE IDEAS ON WASH FABRICS, BLACK DRESS STUFFS, BLACK SILKS, Etc. Our Middle-of-March Bargain-Giving dwarfs all other attempts at cheap selling.

New Wash Fabrics.

TOILE DU NORD, the 12½c staple ginghams, in fancy checks, plaids and stripes, 1895 designs and color effects ..... 10c Yard

SCOTCH GINGHAMS, the 25c quality, full 32 inches wide, in handsome colorings, plain stripes and checks, also solid colors ..... 20c Yard

SCOTCH ZEPHYRS, you've paid 35c for this grade, 40 new patterns, color effects almost equal to the new silks, large checks and plaids, small dainty silk-threaded stripes. 25c Yard

DUCK SUITINGS, patterns in light medium and dark colors, also plain white, blue, red or black, new and perfect, the 15c quality .. 12½c Yard

FANCY DUCK SUITING, the new soft finish kind, falls in graceful folds when made up, stripes, plaids and solid colors ..... 25c Yard

FANCY PIQUE SUITING, dots, stripes, dark and light colors, will make very stylish outing costumes, bought to sell at 15c, but marked ..... 12½c Yard

CRINKLED SEERSUCKERS, in changeable stripes, large plaids, and the new stripe and check effects for '95, this year, only .... 12½c Yard

PRINTED SATEENS, black grounds with small colored flower effects, new patterns, new color tones, 15c grade for ..... 12½c Yard

FIGURED SATEENS, black and navy blue grounds, small choice patterns, a heavy and excellent quality worth 25c, for ..... 20c Yard

BROCADED SATEENS, black grounds with silky looking Jacquard figure and a dainty floral pattern in colors, it looks every bit as nice as India silk ..... 35c Yard

FRENCH FIGURED ORGANDIES, light and dark grounds, beautiful flower patterns, sprays, blossoms, etc ..... 40c Yard

BATISTE, the 1895 novelties in patterns of this beautiful, soft-finished, dainty-made German wash fabric. It looks like silk ..... 35c Yard

PERCALES, in three grades, all a full yard wide and fully 200 charming patterns, the best is 15c this year instead of 16⅔c, the next is 12½c, the next ..... 10c Yard

DOUBLE-FOLD FRENCH PERCALES, navy grounds, in many small and attractive patterns, heavy quality ..... 20c Yard

IRISH LAWNS, double fold, light or dark colors, 32 handsome patterns to choose from ..... 12½c Yard

HEAVY CREPES, a full line of beautiful evening shades, same as other stores charge 15c for ..... 12½c Yard

ART NOVELTY IN COTTON CREPE, has full effect of the new wool crepes, is close woven and will retain its crepe effect after hard wear, evening colors ..... 20c Yard

CHALLIE DE LAINE, a pretty material for summer dresses for the little girl, black and cream tinted grounds in small colored patterns. 10c Yard

COTTON CHALLIES, pretty patterns in sprays, leaves, stripes, etc., on light grounds ..... 5c Yard

CORDED DIMITY, 30 or 40 new patterns in latest color effects, two grades, 15c a yard and ..... 10c Yard

Black Dress Fabrics For Spring

FRENCH BLACK SERGE, 38 inches wide, every thread wool, close woven, a quality that has always sold for 50c or more, our price ..... 35c Yard

FANCY JACQUARD DRESS GOODS, 40 inches wide, all wool, 15 new patterns, perfect dye, should be 75c at this store, but we've marked it only ..... 50c Yard

FINE BLACK DRESS SERGE, 50 inches wide, heavy quality, no luster, an excellent fabric for mourning costumes, only ..... 75c Yard

SATIN SOLEIL, 45 inches wide, a superb quality, bought to sell at $1, but marked at ..... 75c Yard

FANCY BLACK MOHAIR SERGES, 45 inches wide, the best wearing and most popular fabric made, always in style, 40 new patterns to select from, this season only $1.00 Yard

Some Big Specials in Silks

From the great PEREMPTORY TRADE SALE held in New York last month.

ALL-SILK BLACK ARMURE, 19 inches wide. You know the pretty diamond-shaped pattern, the lusterless black. This special lot is worth 85c anyway ..... 60c Yard

ALL-SILK BLACK GROS-GRAIN, 24 inches wide, and French Gros-Grain at that, it's worth $1 25, we are going to sell it at ..... 80c Yard

ALL-SILK BLACK GROS-GRAIN, 24 inches wide, French make and a very heavy, desirable quality, the $1 50 kind ..... $1.00 Yard

ALL-SILK BLACK LUXOR, 22 inches wide, soft, heavy, well-nigh perfect, worth $1 50 at least, sale price ..... $1.00 Yard

ALL-SILK BLACK REGENCE, 21 inches wide, the ribbed pattern which resembles a Bengaline (only this is all silk), runs lengthwise of the piece, it is a magnificent fabric, worth at the lowest $1 50 ..... $1.00 Yard

Everything at this store precisely as advertised. If our prices are lower than elsewhere (and they are) there are good reasons why they should be. Here are some of them:

We buy for cash.
We buy for seven stores.
We sell for cash.
We lose no money on bad accounts.
We give no discounts.
We share our profits with you.

Price-Cuts Extraordinary.

Ladies' Underwear.

LADIES' GOWNS, heavy muslin, sailor collar, with ruffled-edge front and sleeves, well made garments, very special at ..... 40c Each

LADIES' GOWNS, good heavy muslin, tucked and embroidery inserted yoke, sailor collar, ruffled-edge collar and sleeves, the cheapest garment ever offered in this city at special price ..... 50c Each

LADIES' MUSLIN GOWN, Mother Hubbard style, sailor collar, full yoke, ruffled and embroidery trimmed, price only ..... 90c Each

LADIES' DRAWERS, extra fine muslin, six tucks, with hemstitched embroidery trimming ... 50c Pair

2 Dress Goods Specials.

ALL-WOOL PERSIAN DRESS GOODS, 37 inches wide, blues, browns, tans and cream, in beautiful color combinations ..... 39c Yard

WOOL CHALLIES, 28 inches wide, dark grounds, colored floral designs and light grounds, with satin stripes and floral effects .... 25c Yard

Ribbons.

ALL-SILK SATIN RIBBON at these marvelously low prices ....

12	16	22	40	60
7½c	10c	12c	16 2-3c	20c

BABY RIBBON, all colors, plain or fancy edge, in 10-yard pieces, only ..... 7½c Piece

Domestic Dep't.

BLEACHED TURKISH TOWELS, 16x36 inches, were a great value at 9c each, now one-third off, and a special tempter at ..... 6c Each

DAMASK TOWELS, 19x38 inches, knotted fringe, colored or plain white borders, regular at 25c or 30c each, special at ..... 15c Each

TURKEY RED DAMASK, 58 inches wide, the patterns attractive, color fast (boiled in oil) just the thing for breakfast and lunch cloths ..... 25c Yard

AMERICAN SHIRTING PRINTS, more than a hundred patterns to choose from, we sell 'em at ..... 4c Yard

PRINTED SATEENS, black and light grounds, tiny floral effects in colors, special value at 12½c, our new price idea for these ..... 10c Yard

BLEACHED CANTON FLANNEL, heavy qualities, nice and fluffy—you know the kind—two widths—27 inches, worth 12½c a yard, for ..... 10c Yard
29 inches, worth 15c a yard, for 12½c yard.

Various Temptation

LADIES' CALICO WAISTS, with laundried collars and cuffs, full front and sleeves, pretty patterns, special price only ..... 45c Each

BOYS' PERCALE WAISTS, good heavy quality, light or dark colors, ages 4 to 13 years, at the very special price of ..... 35c Each

LADIES' BLACK COTTON HOSE, fast color, high-spliced heels and double toes and soles, an extra value at special price, 3 pairs for .. 50c

MEN'S MERINO SOX, natural or tan color, high-spliced heels and double toes, fine quality, special at 3 pairs for 50c

Hale Bros. (INCORPORATED) 937, 939, 941 Market Street.

If correspondents neglect to give correct names and addresses they must not be disappointed if there is no answer to the communication. The names are not for publication, but for reference.

Questions will be answered as soon as possible after they are received. Sometimes an answer cannot be had sooner than three weeks after starting the inquiry.

Questions the answers to which will amount to an advertisement of any business or article will not be answered.

Questions asking for the standing of any individual or firm will not be answered.

No questions in arithmetic, algebra or geometry will be answered.

Material for debaters will not be furnished.

Religious questions respectfully declined.

STAMPS—S., City. The following is given as the language of stamps: When a stamp is inverted it means that the person written to is to write no more. If the stamp is placed on the left-hand upper corner and inverted then the writer declares his affection for the receiver of the letter. When the stamp is in the center at the top it signifies an affirmative answer to a question, or the question, as the case may be, and when it is at the bottom or opposite this it is a negative. Should the stamp be on the right-hand corner at a right angle it asks the question if the receiver of the letter loves the sender; while in the left-hand corner means that the writer hates the other. There is a shade of difference between desiring one's acquaintance and friendship. For example: The stamp at the upper corner on the right expresses the former, and on the lower left-hand corner means the latter. The learned in this language request their correspondents to accept their love by placing the stamp on the line with the surname, and the response is made, if the party addressed be engaged, by placing the stamp in the same place but reversing it. The writer may wish to say farewell to his sweetheart, or vice-versa, and does so by placing the stamp straight up and down in the left-hand corner. According to another interpreter of the stamp language, the left-hand lower corner may be called A, the left-hand upper corner may be called B and the right-hand upper corner C. A straight up and down position at A means "You are my first choice"; at B "I long to see you." Upside down at A "There is one person ahead of you"; at B, "When will you be home?" at C, "To-morrow." Slanting at A, "Cheer up, or you may hope"; at B, "Watch for papa or mamma," as the case may be, and at C "Never."

CALIFORNIA PRAIRIE GRASS—L. C. T., Batavia, Solano County, Cal. Relative to California prairie grass, a notice of which appeared in the CALL some time since, Professor E. J. Wickson, to whom the questions asked by this correspondents were submitted, writes:

The botanical name of this grass is Bromus unioloides and it has half a dozen common names. The name "California prairie grass" was given to it in Australia about forty years ago, because the seed was sent to Australia from San Francisco. They supposed it was a grass growing in California, but this was not the case. The seed came from Washington and was sent to Australia by some one who shared the impression common in those days that "Eastern grasses" were of no account in California. This impression was in the main, perhaps, correct, but there are notable exceptions, and if the seed mentioned had been tried here instead of being shipped to Australia it is probable that this grass would long ago have been acclimated here instead of being brought back from Australia as it was twenty years later. In answer to the correspondent I may say that the grass does not keep green through the dry season, though there are usually green blades continuously growing during the dry season in the center of the bunch or stool. It is not a grass with a running root and can be easily pulled out in the dry season. The reports of the agricultural department of the State University show that this Bromus is entitled to rank as one of the best grasses ever introduced. It does not, however, possess the ideal qualities for which California stockmen have been long looking, for there are situations too dry for it, and it is to a certain extent dependent upon volunteer seeding for its permanence. Still, it resists drought wonderfully, and under moderately favorable conditions the roots live from year to year. This perennial tendency, together with its free-seeding habit, render it permanent and progressive in most places in which it has thus far been tried.

"YANKEE DOODLE"—H. F., City. The history of the song "Yankee Doodle" is uncertain and the name of the author of the words does not appear in history. It was originally known as "Nankee Doodle," and is as old as the time of Cromwell, to whom, under that name, the doggerel words belonging to it seem to have had a reference. One writer says: "'Yankee Doodle' is remarkable as having been an old Dutch catch adapted to an old English chant and adopted with consciousness or unconsciousness by the American troops." Another writer says; "It is a lively and popular tune in 2-4 time, which has been for many years regarded in the United States, more particularly in New England, as the principal national air. It is of considerable antiquity, having been well known in England in the time of the Commonwealth, and, according to common tradition, was adopted for the first time as a military air by the provisional troops assembled at Albany in 1775 to take part in the expedition against the Canadas. It became popular during the Revolutionary War, and has since held its place almost undisputed as the universal melody of the country." Though this tune is not discarded as a national air, it yields precedence to "Hail, Columbia." The term "Yankee Doodle" is said to have been traced to the Persian phrase "Yanki douniah," which means "inhabitants of the New World."

SPRING—W. N., City. According to Whitaker's Almanack spring commenced this year in England March 20. Times of division and the duration of the seasons are entirely conventional and are adjusted in terms of the monthly calendar in accordance with the local climate. Generally in the United States and Canada spring is considered to begin with the 1st of March, but much depends on the locality and what definition is placed on the word spring. One definition is that spring is the first of the four seasons of the year, the season in which plants begin to vegetate. In California plants vegetate all the year round, and, according to that definition, it would be very difficult to say when spring commences. Astronomically the four seasons begin at the equinoctial or the soistitial points. The summer solstice is the meridian passing through the point where the sun touches the tropic of Cancer; the winter solstice is the meridian passing through the point where it touches the tropic of Capricorn, and the equinoctial points are the points at which the sun's path crosses the celestial equator. All these points shift according to very exact astronomical laws from year to year, so the precise time when the seasons begin is a matter of the nicest mathematical calculations.

EMBLEM OF FRANCE—Miss K., City. The violet is not the emblem of France. Prior to the revolution of 1798 the Fleur de lis was the emblem of France. Clovis, King of the Franks, who lived from 465 to 511, in 493 he married Clotilda, daughter of Chilperic, a Burgundian Prince. His wife, a Christian, earnestly desired the conversion of her husband, who, like most of the Franks, was still a heathen. In a great battle with the Alemanni at Tolbiac, near Cologne, Clovis was hard pressed, and there he invoked the God of Clotilda, offering to become a Christian on condition of obtaining the victory. The Alemanni were routed, and on Christmas day of the same year, 496, Clovis and several thousand of his army were baptized by the Bishop of Rheims. According to tradition, when Clovis became a Christian, an angel brought from heaven a Fleur de lis and presented him with it. In commemoration of the event he caused the flower to be recognized as the emblem of the French, and placed it on the flag of France, a pure white one. It remained the national emblem until the revolution of '98, when the tricolor was substituted. During the Presidency of Carnot the red pink was recognized as the national flower.

ABBREVIATED NAMES — Abbreviation, City. The following is the abbreviation of the names of States of the Union and Territories, as recognized by the postal authorities:

Alabama, Ala.; Alaska Territory, Alaska; Arizona Territory, Ariz.; Arkansas, Ark.; California, Cal.; Colorado, Colo.; Connecticut, Conn.; Delaware, Del.; District of Columbia, D. C.; Florida, Fla.; Georgia, Ga.; Idaho, Idaho; Illinois, Ill.; Indiana, Ind.; Indian Territory, Ind. T.; Iowa, Iowa; Kansas, Kans.; Kentucky, Ky.; Louisiana, La.; Maine, Me.; Maryland, Md.; Massachusetts, Mass.; Michigan, Mich.; Minnesota. Minn.; Mississippi, Miss.; Missouri, Mo.; Montana, Mont.; Nebraska, Nebr.; Nevada, Nev.; New Hampshire, N. H.; New Jersey, N. J.; New Mexico Territory, N. Mex.; New York, N. Y.; North Carolina, N. C.; North Dakota, N. Dak.; Ohio, Ohio; Oklahoma, Okla.; Oregon, Oregon; Pennsylvania, Pa.; Rhode Island, R. I.; South Carolina, S. C.; South Dakota, S. Dak.; Tennessee, Tenn.; Texas, Tex.; Utah Territory, Utah; Vermont, Vt.; Virginia, Va.; Washington, Wash.; West Virginia, W. Va.; Wisconsin, Wis.; Wyoming, Wyo.

The names of the counties of California are not as a rule abbreviated, although some people do use "Sac." for Sacramento and "Los Ang." for Los Angeles. The names of counties in any State or Territory should always be written out.

THE DRAKE CROSS — M. S. B., City. The Prayer-book cross, or Drake cross, as the cross in Golden Gate Park is known, is by far the largest cross in the world and is in many respects the most notable piece of stonework on the American continent. It is 57 feet high, standing upon a pedestal of solid stonework 17 feet 6 inches square by 7 feet in height. The cross is composed of sixty-eight pieces of stone aggregating 600,000 pounds in weight. The arms are formed of eight pieces, each weighing 24,000 pounds, making a total weight of 192,000 pounds. There are ten stones in this cross larger than the largest stone in the famous pyramid of Cheops. The stone used in the construction of the cross is blue sandstone from quarries in Colusa County, and it stands a crushing test of from 9000 to 12,000 pounds to the square inch. The cross—erected to commemorate the first use of the book of common prayer in this country, at a service held on the shore of Drakes Bay about St. John's day, 1579—was the gift of the late George W. Childs of Philadelphia, and was unveiled January 1, 1894.

VALUE OF COINS—H. B. P., Seid Valley, Siskiyou County, Cal., and A. A. W., City. Dealers in old coins do not make any offer for a dime of 1836, but they offer to sell such coin for 40 cents. An American dollar of 1798 with fifteen stars is sold by dealers at from $6 to $10. One with thirteen stars, with six stars facing Liberty, and heraldic eagle with shield on breast, head to left, holding in beak scroll with words "E Pluribus Unum" on it and stars and clouds above, is offered at from $5 to $8 50. For a dollar of that date with small eagle on the reverse dealers offer from $1 50 to $3, and for one with a large eagle on the reverse they offer $1 15. An American half-dollar of 1813 has no special value. There is no call for a half-cent of 1804 nor for a 2-cent piece of 1864. A Hongkong 10-cent piece of 1874 is worth in this country only its weight in silver. The description given in your communication of a half-skilling and of the other coin is too indefinite to place any value on the same.

DIGGING CLAMS—J. R. G., City. Any one who digs clams on the property of another without his permission would come under the following section of the Penal Code:

It is trespass to enter upon the land of any other person or persons wherever any oysters or other shell fish are planted or growing, or to injure, gather or carry away any oysters or other shell fish growing or being on such lands, whether covered by water or not, without license of the owner or legal occupant thereof, and such trespass is punishable as a misdemeanor.

In regard to digging in a public street there is an ordinance of this city and county which says:

No person shall in any manner or for any purpose break up, dig up, disturb, undermine or dig under, or cause to be dug up, broken up, disturbed, undermined, or dug under any public street, highway or place without consent of the Superintendent of Streets.

Such unlawful act is punishable as a misdemeanor.

PRIVATE DETECTIVE—J. R. B., West Oakland, Alameda County, Cal. A "private detective" has no more right than any other citizen to make an arrest, nor has he the right to carry a weapon concealed on his person unless he has a permit, that is in San Francisco from the Police Commissioners. A private citizen has the right to make an arrest for a crime committed in his presence or in a case where he has reasonable grounds to believe that a felony has been committed. For instance, if a citizen felt satisfied that a felony had been committed, and that the person who committed it was about to flee from justice, the citizen would have the right to arrest and turn the criminal over to the first peace officer, but in doing this he assumed all the responsibility that follows an unwarranted arrest.

EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS—S. E. C., City. The law of California provides that every parent, guardian or other person in the State of California having control and charge of any child or children between the ages of 8 and 14 years shall be required to send such child or children to a public school for a period for at least two-thirds of the time during which a public school shall be taught in a city, city and county or school district in each school year, unless it appear that the child or children is or are in such bodily or mental condition as to be unable to attend school or that the parents or guardians are extremely poor or sick or that the child or children is or are taught in a private school or at home in such branches as are usually taught in the primary schools of the State.

UNION HIGH SCHOOL—Inquirer, Elmira, Solano County, Cal. There is no provision in the law by which a union high school can be discontinued except to allow it to lapse by an average attendance of ten pupils or less. When the school has so lapsed the County Superintendent shall suspend the school and report the fact to the Board of Supervisors of the district in which it is located. The board, after declaring the school lapsed, shall cause the property to be sold and the proceeds to be distributed to the districts composing the high school district in proportion to the assessed valuation of property in the district.

CRIBBAGE—J. Z., City. The law of sequence or runs in cribbage is as follows, as laid down by Hoyle: To form a sequence in play it matters not which of the cards is played first or last, providing the sequence can be produced by a transposition of the order in which they fell; thus you lead the five of hearts, your adversary returns the three of diamonds, you then play the four of any suit and score three for the sequence; he then plays six and makes four, and so on as long as the continuous sequence can be made.

RECORD CLAIMS—J. C. S., Indian Diggings, El Dorado County, Cal. The instructions of the Land Department are that claims of mining land must be recorded. Copp in his compilation of laws relating to mineral lands, and which book is authority in the land offices, says: "Record of location notices should be made, in the absence of a district recorder, with the proper recorder of deeds for the county wherein the claim is situated. It is desirable to have the notices attested by witnesses, for locators cannot be too careful about their evidence."

FIRST DAY—Abbreviation, City. The majority of authorities recognize Sunday as the first day of the week. There are some who hold that Sunday is the seventh day, basing their opinion on Genesis ii:2: "And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made"; and verse 3: "And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because that in it he had rested from all his work which God had created and made."

SNAILS—J. T. M., City. Persons who have had trouble with snails in their vegetable or flower gardens say that if at night cabbage leaves are placed on the beds the snails will crawl under and cling to them until the sun rises; therefore it is necessary to get up before sunrise and collect the leaves which will be found to be covered with the garden pests. Another method is to cover the edging of garden beds with train oil and soot. It is said that snails will never cross such a border.

AMERICAN EMBLEM—Miss K., City. The emblem of the United States is the bald or white-headed eagle of North America. It is the one adopted as the national emblem for the coat of arms of the United States and is figured on some of the coins. The eagle was first used on American coins in 1788, when it appeared on cents and half cents issued from the Massachusetts mint. At one time it was suggested that the eagle appear on the national flag, but this idea was abandoned.

LICK OBSERVATORY— M. D., City. The cost of reaching the Lick Observatory on the top of Mount Hamilton in Santa Clara County from this city is the amount of fare to San Jose and the fare by stage from that city to the top of the mountain, or the fee charged by a livery-stable man for the use of a team. The observatory is open to visitors. The observatory is a gift of the late James Lick to the people of this State for the benefit of science.

VACCINATION—S. E. C., City. The State law provides that the trustees of the several common school districts of this State, and boards of common school government in the several cities and towns, are directed to exclude from the benefits of the common schools therein any child or any person who has not been vaccinated until such time when said child or person shall be successfully vaccinated. An exemption is made in cases where a practicing physician certifies that a child or person cannot be successfully vaccinated. Section 126 of rules of the Board of Education of this city says: "Teachers must require from all pupils before admitting them to school satisfactory evidence that they have been vaccinated."

GOLDEN GATE PARK—L. R., City. In Golden Gate Park there are about 800 acres under cultivation, including roads and walks; about 150 acres are in lawn cultivation; the largest width of Stow Lake is 250 feet; there are two aviaries and one squirrel-house; the aviaries contain about 3000 birds; the seating capacity around the bandstand is between 5000 and 6000. These figures are furnished by John McLaren, superintendent of the park.

FOSTER' FORECAST—C. T. W., White Plains, Churchill County, Nev. So far as known the Government of the United States has not offered any sum of money, or any other inducement, to Foster for his method of forecasting weather. If Foster proves that his forecasts are superior to those now used, they will be recognized by the authorities and no doubt will be given publicity in the public press.

WOOLEN MILLS—J. J. R., Alameda, Cal. The woolen mills in operation in California at this time are the Golden Gate, San Francisco, Marysville in that city, the California Woolen Mills, the Napa mills at Napa and the San Jose mills in the "Garden City." All manufacture woolens, but the last named is the only one that manufactures woolen goods for men. The others manufacture material that can be made up into men's wear.

THE INCOME TAX—G. A., City. What is commonly known as the income tax law exempts from taxation the sum of $3500. That is to say, if a person had an income of $5000 during the year 1894 he would have to pay tax on only $1500. A corporation pays taxes on its net earnings, but the individual stockholder has not, under the income tax law, to pay on the dividends he derives from such corporation.

CHANGE GUARDIAN—A. D., Ocean View, San Francisco County, Cal. If you have a guardian who is to pay you a stipulated sum of money every month he must be acting under an order of court. If he does not perform his trust as he ought to it is your duty to present yourself to the court that appointed him and draw the attention of the Judge to the same.

SUPPORTING PARENTS—H. F., City. The Civil Code of California declares that "it is the duty of the father, the mother and the children of any poor person who is unable to maintain himself by work, to maintain said person to the extent of their ability." The promise of an adult child to pay for necessaries previously furnished to such parent is binding.

A CONVICT'S RIGHTS—O. S. L., City. A man sentenced to the penitentiary who serves out his full term, less credits allowed for good behavior, is not after his release from prison entitled to vote unless he has been pardoned by the Governor and restored to his civil rights. Under the law, applications for pardons must be filed ten days before the term of sentence expires.

CITIES IN DENMARK—T. C. J., Oakland, Cal. The census for 1890 gives the following as the population of the ten largest cities in Denmark: Copenhagen, with suburbs, 375,251; Aarhus, 33,308; Odense, 30,277; Aalborg, 19,503; Horsens, 17,209; Randers, 16,617; Helsingor, 11,082; Fredericia, 10,044; Kolding, 9657, and Vejle, 9014.

THE UNION—L. S., City. The last eight States admitted into the Union, which is now composed of forty-four States, were: Nebraska, March 1, 1867; Colorado, August 1, 1876; North and South Dakota, November 2, 1889; Montana, November 8, 1889; Washington, November 11, 1889; Idaho, July 3, 1890, and Wyoming, July 11, 1890.

BALLOON POST—F. S. R. L., City. Letters that were sent by balloon post from Paris during the siege—1870-71—have no special value to stamp collectors, but are of value as curiosities of the siege. There is no market price for such, and they are worth only what a person desirous of possessing one would be willing to give for it.

KEROSENE—W. A. T., City. Paraffin oil obtained from distillation of cannel coals and bituminous shales is the name that is often applied to kerosene in England. Both are used for illuminating purposes. Kerosene, however, is produced by distillation from petroleum and has to a great extent displaced paraffin oil.

SCHOOL PUNISHMENT—O. S., Plainsburg, Merced County, Cal. The answer given in the Query Column some time since in regard to punishment in schools applies only to the schools of San Francisco. Each county board makes its own regulations for the government of teachers and pupils.

ASSESSING PROPERTY—G. A., City. In assessing city and county property in San Francisco a corporation is assessed for all its property, real and personal, but the shareholders are not assessed for their share of the same property, for that would be double taxation, which is prohibited by law.

NO FEES—M. D., City. Witnesses in police courts and in other courts of criminal jurisdiction in this city are not allowed any fees unless it appears that they come from a distance and are too poor to pay transportation and expenses while awaiting to be called to give evidence.

LAUGH—"A Teacher," Palo Alto. The poem in which are the lines

Laugh and the world laughs with you,
Weep and you weep alone,

Was written by Ella Wheeler Wilcox and is published in her "Poems of Passion."

CHARLES DE YOUNG—J. R. P., Represa, Sacramento County, Cal. Charles de Young was shot and killed in his office, on the corner of Bush and Kearny streets, in this city, on the night of the 23d of April, 1880, by I. M. Kalloch, son of the then Mayor of this city.

MINERAL LANDS—J. S. C., Indian Diggings, El Dorado County, California. The officers of the Land Office say that the Central Pacific Railroad Company is entitled to select other land, when the odd sections within the twenty-mile limit are mineral.

RHODE ISLAND—A. P., City. The State of Rhode Island has two capitals, Providence and Newport. The Legislature meets on the last Tuesday in May in Newport and holds an adjourned session annually in Providence; no limit of session.

A WRONG FIGURE—J. T., City. In a recent issue it was stated that the cornerstone of the new City Hall was laid on the 22d of February, 1873; the date should have been 1872. The stone was laid by Grand Master L. E. Pratt.

STATE FLOWERS—F. M. U., San Jose, Cal. All the States of the union have not adopted a State flower. The list of those that have selected such flowers was published in the Query Column Sunday, February 24.

EASTER POEM—M. E. C., Visalia, Cal. The poem entitled "Easter Lilies" is from the pen of Mrs. M. E. C. Wyeth. It is not to be found in any of the books of poems to be found in the libraries of this city.

SIERRA NEVADA—J. S., City. The highest price paid for Sierra Nevada during the year 1878