

The Call

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UNSETTLED, BUT FAVORABLE.

As already remarked in this column, trade is presenting some curious conditions as the year draws to a close. Prices are showing more tendency to fluctuate, and there is more animation. Exactly what this shows is not easy to say. It certainly shows life, which is a good sign. But as there is no general tendency, either up or down, it is difficult to foretell the eventual result, though shrewd observers see in it a renewal of activity after the close of 1897.

The great staples, which comprise the bulk of trade, are very irregular. Some are firm and active, others are weak and dull. It is this irregularity which confuses. Then, again, the bank clearings, which are accepted by common consent as the most reliable barometer of trade, increase one week and decrease the next, and so on. But the failure barometer through all this uncertainty keeps steady, which is a good indication. The failures throughout the United States last week were 250 against 359 the same week last year, 315 in 1895, 325 in 1894, and so on. The defaulted liabilities in November were \$11,600,000 against \$12,700,000 in November, 1896. Collections are reported good and default small. Wages have been advanced for over 30,000 workmen in the woolen and iron trades. The exports of produce and merchandise from the country were never better than at present. Interior business is reported good in most localities, but speculation is dull throughout the whole country.

The New York stock market, which has been stagnant for some time, is showing renewed activity, chiefly on account of a general improvement in railroad earnings, which are 21 per cent larger than at this time last year. Enormous shipments of wheat to tidewater have materially assisted to swell these earnings. In view of these facts nobody can say that trade is dull.

On this coast there are few new features. There is more activity in farming than for a number of years, as the good prices for wheat and hay are impelling farmers to seed as much land as possible, and from present indications more ground will be turned over this year than ever before. Thus far the season has been exceptionally favorable for early operations, owing to the first showers and subsequent sunny weather, though rain is needed in some districts. The current quotations for cattle and hogs have attracted increased attention to stock-raising, and this business is also showing more life. On the whole the farmer has done better than the merchant this year, and none begrudge him that prosperity he so richly deserves.

Fluctuations in prices have been comparatively few of late, the principal ones being advances in lumber and hides. Wheat continues unsettled in the neighborhood of \$1.45, around which figure the market seems to stick. If it will only stay there the wheat-growers will be happy, for there is money in wheat at this figure. Barley is strong, owing to the late appearance of rains. Wood is dull, but there is no decline.

Hops are also motionless, though the growers have realized more than profitable returns this season. Provisions are quiet at the moment, but packers say that they expect a rush of orders for the Alaska mines in a few weeks, and are therefore not disposed to grumble. The market for dried fruits, nuts and raisins is the dulllest in the list, with a further decline in prices, which are being sold at low prices. Those growers who sold early in the season, however, got first-rate returns. Pork, after being stationary for a long time, has declined a fraction, but beef keeps steady. The wine trade is in a state of chaos, as the different interests do not seem to be unanimous as to prices, which are considerably lower than last year.

The above points give the commercial situation, both here and in the East. As said at the beginning of this review, the conditions are mixed. But on looking the field over it will be seen that the favorable conditions overbalance the unfavorable ones.

Since the Grand Jury has peered upon the wickedness that riots by night a few condemnatory words concerning the same may be expected from it, and the wickedness will go right on. It is accustomed to unfavorable remarks and heeds them no more than the Southern Pacific does a Coroner's censure.

There is reason to distrust the rumor that Russell Sage will leave \$50,000,000 to charity. In the first place Sage is a shrewd enough speculator to know that even this comfortable figure could not buy him a halo, and as to doing much for charity on general principles it is not Sage's way.

Durrant's attorneys are said to be undecided what to do next, but the simple method of permitting the law to be administered never seems to occur to them.

One estimate has it that a million people will go to the Klondike next summer, and such as get back with money will doubtless put on a million airs.

THE LETTER-CARRIERS' BILL.

ACCORDING to the Philadelphia Record there are inklings of the formation of a lobby at Washington to push a bill for the better payment of letter-carriers, and the Record in commenting upon the fact says:

The letter-carriers are a deserving body of public servants, and they ought to be fairly paid for their labors; but if they shall make any contributions to the Washington lobby to promote their interests they will provoke an opposition in Congress which will be very apt to defeat their aims. There is no need of a gang of hired lobbyists to inform Congress on this subject. A memorial properly stating the argument in favor of such a bill is all that is required; and that would cost very little.

Our Philadelphia contemporary is unduly disturbed about nothing. There is no reason why the letter-carriers should not have men at Washington to push their bill and urge action upon it. It is customary for all bodies of men interested in some particular measure to send deputations to Washington to look after it and see that it is not lost in some committee-room pigeonhole. Letter-carriers being but poorly paid and having little leisure can hardly go themselves to the capital, and have therefore good reason for employing others to guard their interests.

The letter-carriers' bill has been long before the public and has received the approval of the press and the people generally. There is no ground for suspicion that a new bill to be presented this winter will differ materially if at all from that which has been approved in the past. The measure is therefore one that Congress ought to enact, and anything helping to make the enactment sure is in itself good.

It is not at all likely the appearance in the lobby of advocates of the bill will arouse opposition in Congress. The average Congressman is not moved in that way. It is more probable that the bill would be forgotten and overlooked without the lobby than obstructed because of it. At any rate, the measure being a good one, the people will approve the letter-carriers in pushing it along by all legitimate means.

CONGRESS AND BUSINESS.

CONGRESS assembles this winter under circumstances so complex that even the most habitual prophets of politics hesitate to predict what it will do or undertake to do. Everybody waits for the President's message to be made public before venturing to estimate the probable work of the session, as it is generally recognized that the recommendations of the administration will be the main factors in determining the course of Congress on all important issues.

It seldom happens that the public mind is so much in doubt of the probable action of Congress as it is in this instance. Generally speaking the course that either house is likely to pursue is well understood throughout the country, and doubts exist only as to details of legislation. That is not the case at present. The country to-day is uncertain, not as to the method that will be adopted in dealing with the currency, the Nicaragua canal and other important subjects of the kind, but whether these issues will be dealt with at all.

Even the leaders of both parties in Congress are in doubt or differ in opinion as to the work that will be undertaken. Some of them assert the session will be quiet, uneventful and comparatively short. Others expect it to be stormy, exciting and prolonged until August. All that can be definitely predicted is that if an attempt is made to solve the currency problem the session will be a long one; but otherwise Congress may get through its work quickly and leave its members free to go home early in the summer to look after their fences before the coming elections.

The main reason for the doubt as to what will be undertaken is the prosperity of the country and the content of the people with existing conditions. At the present time there is not a single political issue that seriously disturbs business or agitates the popular mind. All sections of the country are well satisfied with the protective features of the tariff and with the monetary system that prevails. The general desire seems to be for more business and industry rather than for more politics, and there would be no discontent if Congress should decide to let well enough alone this winter and make no attempt to materially change any laws that affect either our financial, commercial or industrial systems.

If the disturbing question of the currency is postponed for the present, so as to leave the country free to pronounce judgment upon the tariff in the elections of the coming fall, there will be ample time during the session for Congress to consider the claims of various sections for public improvements. This will give California an opportunity to press her just claims for recognition. We have many important works long delayed that should be pushed forward, and there are others that should be undertaken.

A session devoted to consideration of internal improvements and the upbuilding of our commercial marine would be satisfactory to us, and probably to the rest of the Union. Possibly the President may take that view of it, and his message to Congress may be of a kind that will lead our lawmakers to avoid disturbing issues and make the session quiet and short, but none the less a useful one.

The Oakland woman who says that an "unseen force" impels her to the Klondike, there to acquire large sums of gold, should remember one thing—an "unseen force" may be capable of furnishing a sort of impetus, but it never attends to the supplying of the necessary grub stake.

The clash between Captain Lees and Police Judge Campbell is a matter of scientific interest. Heretofore the meeting of an irresistible force with an immovable body had been deemed an impossibility.

GERMANY AND HAYTI.

REPORTS from Washington to the effect that the Haytian Government has asked the United States to use its good offices to settle the controversy between Hayti and Germany, while not officially announced, are in all likelihood correct. It is natural that Hayti should look somewhere for assistance against possible aggression on the part of the great power that threatens her, and it is only from the United States that such aid can be expected or hoped for.

At the present time there is nothing in the issue between Germany and Hayti that seriously threatens the peace of the world. Certainly there is nothing that calls for active intervention on the part of the United States. The Germans demand indemnity for the alleged wrongful imprisonment of a German citizen by the Haytians and the demand has been refused. Hayti asks for arbitration, but the German Government seems to be under the impression that the affair can be settled by a man-of-war without troubling other nations.

Under such circumstances all that can be expected of the United States is to induce Germany to arrange for arbitration according to the Haytian desire, for so long as the Germans continue their demands upon the island to a monetary indemnity, and do not attempt to take possession of any portion of Haytian territory, the Monroe doctrine does not apply, and we have no ground upon which to interfere.

The incident is of interest mainly as an illustration that our powerful and dominant position in this hemisphere has its drawbacks as well as its advantages. When any of the small, ill-regulated, half-civilized countries to the south of us gets into any form of controversy with a European nation we shall have to take the issue up and conduct the negotiations. Our State Office will be kept busy, and probably there will be always enough quarrels of this kind on hand to enable the Secretary of State to hark defiance at some foreign power whenever he wishes to make a grand-stand play and set the eagle screaming.

In the meantime Hayti is perfectly right in asking for protection against the threatened aggression. Since it is a deed that great powers shall submit their differences to arbitration rather than to war, it is only fair that small nations should have the benefits of the new rule.

Massachusetts reformers who expelled George Fred Williams from their club on account of his free-silver views may think themselves broad-minded gentlemen, but they are in error. Had they lived a few hundred years ago they would have been piously hanging witches at Salem.

Yesterday THE CALL made a few remarks concerning a skulking scoundrel, but gave no name. However, if the person directly interested wants the name announced to the public, he should not have opened his campaign by being anonymous.

THE PURE FOOD CRUSADE.

ACCORDING to the Record-Union the warfare against adulterated food in San Francisco has resulted in the sending of spurious articles of food from this city to the interior where they are sold and consumed. Efforts to check the sales there have been less successful than here, it seems, for the Record-Union says:

Right here in Sacramento when it was proposed a few months ago to have inquiry made into the foods sold to people over the counters in order to ascertain if the same fearfully disgraceful conditions obtained here that investigation developed in San Francisco, there went up a howl that drowned out the demand for an inquiry, and since then nothing has been done. Nor have we heard of anything in the direction of reform of this character being carried on in any other interior town.

This evil was to have been expected. Manufacturers and dealers in adulterated foods who cannot sell them in one market will try another. Driven from San Francisco, they send their fraudulent goods to other cities in the State, and if driven from all parts of California they would make an effort to unload on the people of the neighboring States.

How to prevent the sale of fraudulent foods in places where the law is not enforced is a problem of some difficulty. It has been suggested, however, that much could be done if consumers refuse to buy such articles as are commonly adulterated unless the goods offered them are guaranteed, or at least distinctly represented to be pure, and then prosecute any dealer who deceives them.

The plan is certainly worth trying in localities where the consumers have reason to believe they are being supplied with adulterated articles. If a few resolute men would make the fight, they would do a great deal to put an end to the fraudulent food trade in their communities. They would, moreover, confer a benefit upon the legitimate food industry of California and we would not have to continue the shameful process of tasting tons of good fruit while consuming tons of glucose mixtures under the names of jellies, jams and preserves.

THE COAST PRESS.

The date of the issue of the Orange County Herald has been changed from Saturday to Thursday in order that it may be circulated over the county before the market day of the week.

A special edition of the Stanford Palo Alto will be issued next Friday by the women of the university. The aim will be to make the paper of that day as representative as possible of the interests of Stanford femininity.

One of the neatest and brightest weekly publications of the State outside of San Francisco is the Oakland Starling Press, edited by John T. Bell. Its original matter is exceedingly clever and its selections show admirable taste. It is handsomely illustrated with half-tones and on the whole is a credit to the Athens of the Pacific.

The Semi-Weekly Letter is the name of a new publication which comes from Santa Maria. Its editor and proprietor, J. Faunt Le Roy, declares that the paper is just a plain business journal and that it will be run on a strictly cash basis, as he "would rather give the paper to the people than be everlastingly dunning them for a dollar and a half."

A very readable paper is the Alameda Argus, which celebrates its twentieth anniversary to-day. The same personality is at the helm now that was in control when the initial number was struck off. The Argus has grown up in Alameda from a small weekly, published in the midst of cow-pastures, to a prosperous and influential daily in a beautiful and important city.

San Leandro is now in a fair way to secure the cannery it has long wanted. The Standard of that town believes that the plant will be ready for next year's crop, when not only canning but drying, evaporating and pickling of fruit and vegetable wastes for stock and meatime a substantial warehouse will be built to receive, store and ship products and issue warehouse receipts.

The Los Angeles Times has issued, under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce of that city, a publication in magazine form entitled The City of Promise: Los Angeles and Southern California. It consists of an eight-page large paper and a cover, and 100,000 copies of it will be distributed in the East and abroad. It is simply illustrated, and, according to the Times, "will furnish to seekers after information the best and most reliable data about Southern California that has ever been sent out under a single cover."

The Talara Register counsels its readers not to worry about the coming season, saying: "Wet years or dry the Register has completed fifteen years of life, and still lives and expects to live right along whether it rains or does not rain. It will not borrow money and other folks will be all the happier for it." The Register is published by the editorial department of the Register and will be printed next week in bright, new type that people can read easily, and we hope to keep the thoughts as bright as the type, and our adversity with moderation and our adversity with composure and hustling right along all the time. The man who has done his best generally sleeps soundly whether his ventures have planned out for, unfortunately or not."

In the course of an article booming a beet-sugar factory project and other enterprises for the city of Colusa, W. S. Green of the Colusa Sun delivers himself as follows: "It is a long distance back to 1850, when we linked our fortunes with Colusa, but never for one moment have we weakened in the belief that this was to be the city of the Sacramento Valley. It has been a long and a tedious way. The middle of the nineteenth century saw the birth of the town and its christening, and the end of the century is nearly here. Its fiftieth birthday will see the upward move. Love of locality, pride of place, ought to impel us to do our best, and we do not get tired. That is not all there is in life. If it were, how few of us could claim a successful life. We love the very soil of Colusa. We expect our ashes to rest in it, and if spirits are permitted to wander back we expect to look over a prospect of Colusa as follows: 'It is a little thing wherein we had a hand in its start.'"

NEWS OF FOREIGN NAVIES.

Delta metal, an American composition, has been adopted by the French Admiralty for fittings of high-pressure boilers, such as valves, cocks and gauges.

The Porpoise, third-class cruiser of 1770 tons, has just returned in the British navy and underwent a three hours' commission trial November 16. The horsepower under trial was 1200, and the speed 12.5 knots per hour, and she logged 15 1/2 knots. This is an improvement on her previous records under similar conditions when completed eleven years ago.

An armored cruiser building in France for the Japanese navy is of 9436 tons displacement, 453 feet in length and 60 feet 5 inches beam. Besides the four 10-inch guns in her turrets she will carry twenty-four guns, two underwater lance torpedo tubes and one above-water lance torpedo tube. The engines are to develop 17,000 horsepower and the ship is to steam twenty knots under forced draught.

In point of speed this cruiser has two knots less than the Brooklyn, her armor and armament will be heavier.

Colonel Mikhashevski's lantern for night-sighting purposes has been shown and successful series of trials on the Nevada. The lanterns were hung 100 feet above water at the marine telegraph station, and although the wind blew with a force of five to six miles none of the lantern lights were extinguished. The light was seen at a distance of 12 1/2 miles like vivid flashes of lightning, and could not be confused. They were seen and interpreted at St. Petersburg, at a distance of seventeen miles, whereas other lantern signals had proved ineffective at four miles.

The Nagasaki harbor works have received a temporary setback in their project, although the ceremony of commencement of work was held October 23. The foreign residents of the port have objected to having a pier built out from the fort along with the foreign settlement. The German and English residents object to the reclamation scheme on the ground that the present water traffic facilities would be lost and result in injury to the port.

The progress of the work, being considered a national necessity, is not likely to be long delayed, although a spirited correspondence is being carried on between the Japanese Government and the representatives of the foreigners.

Work on the Admiralty harbor at Dover is progressing with great dispatch and will no doubt be completed, as intended, in 1901. Its expenditure of nearly \$15,000,000. The present Admiralty pier is being extended 2000 feet and sea-walls of a total length of 13,370 feet are being built of huge concrete blocks faced above with granite. There will be two entrances to this harbor, each 600 feet wide and the total area within the sea-wall is 610 acres of which 315 acres are beyond the five-fathom depth and will accommodate twenty of the largest battle-ships besides quite a fleet of cruisers and smaller vessels. The height of the sea-wall to top of parapet will be 90 feet, 70 feet being the water. This great work was recommended as far back as 1844, but funds were not available until one year ago.

The action of Germany in taking possession of Kiaochow Bay on the east coast of China does not appear to have been an entirely unexpected event. The Sinwepo, a Shanghai newspaper, writes: "The German Government has announced that a German officer had had an interview with the Viceroy at Foochow last spring asking for the loan of the harbor of Tungshangkou in the event of war between Germany and Japan. On September 12 a German steamer, the Albatross, was sent to the harbor, and the commanding officer explained his presence, saying that in the near future a descent was contemplated on Formosa by Germany, and that he was reconnoitering with a view of obtaining the loan of four harbors, without which it was impossible to make a descent. The foreign papers in China have published this statement as being nothing less than a fake, but the events of last month prove that the native paper knew what it was talking about."

For throat and lung troubles use Low's horobound cough syrup, price 10c, 417 Sansome st.

ELECTRIC LAMP FOR PHYSICIANS.



The up-to-date doctor's office will now be equipped with an electric device, shown herewith, which at once answers the purposes of bracket lamp, forehead reflector and mirror. The lamp, which is one inch in diameter, is circular in form, flattened from before backward, and perforated by a center aperture about a quarter of an inch in diameter, the filament completely encircling this aperture. The back of the lamp is silvered and blackened around the central hole, and to avoid any unpleasant radiation of heat to the eye the back is further protected with non-conducting asbestos material. This lamp also comes with a hinged shade, so that it can be adjusted for either eye for use in ophthalmic examinations. The great advantage of the lamp is that the light is always in the line of vision and needs no reflection, the matter of the movement of the patient may be. It can also be used for the examination of the ear or nose.

THE MINT IS BREAKING RECORDS.

This is a record-breaking year with the United States Mint at San Francisco. There are two great features of interest in the story of its year's operations. One is that since August 1 it has been swelling the vast total of the coinage of the United States with a greater flood of gold than has ever poured from its busy stamps in its history. The other is that since that same date it has been unable to supply the vastly increased demand for \$5 gold pieces and subsidiary silver that the new prosperity has occasioned in the channels of trade.

The gold coined during the calendar year to December 4 amounts to over \$30,000,000, and the coinage for December will make the total over \$34,000,000. In 1895 the total gold coinage was \$23,920,000. Only twice in the history of the Mint has this year's record been exceeded. In 1878 the gold coinage was \$35,092,000, and in 1879 it was \$36,209,500. In 1878 and 1879, in 1877, was the \$30,000,000 mark passed. But this year the Mint has been in operation but eleven months as compared with twelve months in these banner years. Had operations not been suspended during all of July when the settlement of its affairs and its transfer to the new superintendent, Frank A. Leach, were in progress, the gold coinage for the present year would have exceeded that of 1879. As it is, the record is broken by the average monthly rate and by the output for September, which was the largest of any month in the history of the Mint, since its establishment in 1854, has coined more than half the total gold coinage of the United States in all its history. During the three months of August, September and October the coinage of double eagles alone was \$14,150,000. For some years the average monthly rate of the total coinage has been about \$2,000,000.

It is interesting to know in connection with this brilliant record that during those three great years in gold coinage, which were also the banner years for silver coinage, the Mint operations were conducted with two shifts of employees and the capacity of the Mint was thus doubled. There are now nearly 40 per cent fewer employees than then.

Silver coinage is also going on at a rapid rate and will approach \$7,000,000 for the year. During November 600,000 silver dollars were coined, and the total silver coinage for this month will approximate \$750,000. All this increase has come along with the new prosperity. In the four months from August 1 to December 1 over \$20,000,000 in gold and silver has been coined out by the busy coiner, A. T. Spotts. In October the number of coins struck was 1,264,000.

There are two reasons for the phenomenal output of coined gold during the last half of the year. One is the increase in the gold production on the Pacific Coast, and the other and chief one is the heavy imports of gold from Australia in payment for the heavy wheat shipments, and the general balance of trade in our favor. In one month \$3,500,000 in English sovereigns was received from Australia and about \$10,000,000 of her Majesty's gold coins have gone into Uncle Sam's melting pots on Fifth street in the past few months.

But with all its activity the Mint was unable to handle the orders of fall trade to supply the demand for small change throughout all the State, and all the Pacific Coast heretofore were large, business was brisk and the call for the smaller coins was great. The Mint felt this demand through the United States Sub-Treasury, through banks and through individuals who came to the Mint with sacks of double-eagles to exchange for smaller coins. At times there were long lines of men with these bags of gold at the cashier's window. Superintendent Leach left the crowding of the new era of prosperity from the moment he took his seat in his new office.

During August, September, October and November there was coined \$1,305,000 in five-dollar pieces alone. This was much more than double the entire coinage of that denomination during all of 1896, yet the demand for half-eagles was so great that it could not be supplied. There are now nearly three weeks behind the orders. The demand for these coins has now lessened, and there are a few cooling at the Mint.

The demand for half-dollars is still more than the Mint can supply. During the three months from August 1 the coinage of this denomination was \$257,000. They are still being coined rapidly, and go out as fast as they are made—mainly to the Sub-Treasury. During the three months mentioned they were \$70,000, or 700,000 pieces, and the public wanted more. The tale of the quarters is a similar one.

The total amount of silver coin given out at the Mint in exchange for gold during the four months succeeding August 1 was \$500,000, which is ordinarily the exchange for a year, according to Superintendent Leach, who sees therein another evidence of the greater prosperity that has come with the waning of the year.

PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT.

Septimus Winner, the composer of the popular song, "I'm in the Mocking-Bird," written in 1855, celebrated his golden wedding the 25th of November.

Joel Chandler Harris has sent a Jersey cow to young Richard Folsom, Cleveland. He raised the cow himself and hopes its milk will help to make the former President's son as big a man as his father.

Tamie David, the Hindoo convert, who is now in Chicago trying to "Christianize the Christians," lost his caste in India by entering the liquor business and becoming a saloon-keeper in Ceylon.

Charles H. Hackley, who has made gifts to his home city, Muskegon, Mich., is said to be about \$500,000 worth to that city when he was 15 years old and went to his pocket. When he started in business for himself he had a capital of only \$500.

The Prince of Wales has inherited from his mother the faculty of really interesting himself, not feigning interest, in whatever is current before his notice. It is said by those intimate with the Queen that she never allows herself to look bored. Whoever may be introduced to her has her very best attention for the time being.

Hon. Samuel E. Morse, ex-Consul-General to Paris, said, in speaking of city improvements, at a recent banquet in Indianapolis: "A city without parks is like a house without windows, and however admirable a city may be in all other respects it can make no pretensions to being a modern city until it has a model system of parks."

King Chulalongkorn of Siam was much interested in the eruption of Vesuvius, and his last pleasure trip on European soil was the ascent of the volcano. At the crater he had the guide throw in several gold and silver coins as an offering to the elements. The guide retained the pieces and substituted for them copper, whereupon the King had him arrested and wished to throw him into the crater himself.

The oldest person alive at the present date is Jane Liddy Carew, grandmother of the present lord, she is the house without windows, and however admirable a city may be in all other respects it can make no pretensions to being a modern city until it has a model system of parks."

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PERSONAL. G. Pacheco, a well-known horseman of Ignacio, is in town. W. A. Moody, a heavy wool dealer of Boston, is at the Palace. J. R. Caldwell of Los Angeles is registered at the Cosmopolitan. Ex-Congressman A. Caminetti is registered at a downtown hotel. James J. Brown of Benicia is among the arrivals at the Cosmopolitan. C. M. Hamshaw, a prominent lawyer of Amador, is staying at the Cosmopolitan. M. C. Pennington, assistant secretary of the Pullman Car Company, is at the Grand. Frank F. Dwyer, the well-known Sacramento merchant, registered at the Palace yesterday. Mrs. A. J. Fairbanks and Miss Ruby Fairbanks of Petaluma, are sojourning at the Palace. J. P. Plageman and wife of Chicago are touring the State. They are at the Cosmopolitan.

CALIFORNIANS IN WASHINGTON. WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—George C. Perkins, Riggs House; P. H. Fitzcarrald, San Francisco. Miss Helen Eaton, Los Angeles, Normandie Hotel.

CALIFORNIANS IN CHICAGO. CHICAGO, Dec. 5.—At the Auditorium Annex—P. M. Kemp, San Francisco; Auditorium—Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Cassell, Miss Bessie Cassell and Mrs. Fred Graham of Oakland.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS. DOLAN—O. A. S. The picture you have reference to was published on the 13th of December, 1896. You can see it by looking over the files of the paper.

MAIL MATTER—J. City. It is unlawful to send matter upon the envelope of which, or postal card upon which any declarations, epithets, terms or language of an indecent, lewd, lascivious, obscene, libelous, scurrilous, defamatory or threatening character, or calculated by the terms or manner or style of display, and obviously intended to reflect injuriously upon the character or conduct of another, may be written or printed. It is also unlawful to transmit by mail the transmission of any vulgar or obscene or threatening letter.

THE WILLIAM PENN.—S. City. There was a steamer called the William Penn, Captain Jacob Meyers, that commenced running in March, 1820, to Burlington, N. J., and to Bristol, Pa., up the Delaware, and was conceded to be one of the fastest boats on the river. She was sent around to New York and burned while on the way there December 16, 1820. Then there was a second William Penn, Captain Jeffries, double beam engine, built at Kensington, Phila., for the Baltimore Union Line, and she was burned on the 11th of November, 1854, when she was on the passage up the Delaware when above the mouth of the Schuylkill. Her cargo was lost, and she was water fronted and was run ashore on the Pennsylvania side below the navy yard. Five lives were lost, and the value of the vessel and equipment was \$70,000.

THE ODD FELLOWS.

Local Lodges Will Give a Reception to Their Friends in Odd Fellows' Hall Next Tuesday.

To-morrow evening the local lodges of the order of Odd Fellows will give a reception in the assembly hall of the Odd Fellows' building to their friends. This will be the first of a series of such receptions to be given in the interest of the order. The matter has been in the hands of a committee for some time past, and it is proposed to present an entertainment that will prove interesting and instructive to members of the order and to those who do not belong to it.

The stage will be occupied by Grand Master A. M. Drew, Grand Secretary Shaw and other grand officers and about forty of the most influential members of the order, including some of the most prominent past grand officers. The programme that has been outlined will include an address by the grand master, after an overture by the orchestra; musical selection by the Knickerbocker Quartet; an address by Rev. E. R. Dilke, P. G., on "Oid Fellowship and its Work for Humanity"; vocal solo by Miss Florence Gordon, pupil of Herr Anton Schott; "Remarks for the boys," M. M. Espinosa, past grand master; cornet solo, A. P. Black; vocal selections by a ladies' quartet; "The Patriarchal Branch of Odd Fellowship," an address by Grand Scribe W. H. Barrington; and an entertainment will close with a tenor solo by Herr Anton Schott.

This affair is to be strictly invitational, and admission will be by card only, which may be obtained at the office of the grand secretary or from the secretaries of any of the lodges. There have already been distributed a great number of tickets, and the indications are that there will be a very large attendance.

In the purpose of the representatives of the order to give a number of such entertainments with a view to drawing attention to the work that is being done by Odd Fellows in this city and State.

Died From Epilepsy. James M. Collins, 225 Stevenson street, was taken to the Receiving Hospital Saturday suffering from epilepsy and died early yesterday morning. His body was taken to the Morgue.

CALIFORNIA GLASS FRUITS, 50c lb. Townsend's. SPECIAL information daily to manufacturers, business houses and public men by the Press Clipping Bureau (Advt. Co.), 310 Montgomery.

He—It makes me a better man every time I kiss you, darling. She—Oh, Harold, how good you must be now!—Boston Traveller.

"Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" Has been used over fifty years by millions of mothers for their children while teething with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, relieves pain, cures the bowels, and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea, whether arising from teething or other causes. For sale by Druggists in every part of the world. Be sure and ask for Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. 25c a bottle.

CONVINO—Atmosphere is perfectly dry and mild, being entirely free from the mist common further north. Round-trip tickets by steamship, including fifteen days' board at the Hotel Coronado, \$60; longer stay \$20 per day. Apply 4 New Montgomery street, San Francisco, or A. W. Bailey, manager Hotel del Coronado, late of Hotel Colorado, Glenview Springs, Colorado.

Lord Rosebery's mother, the aged Duchess of Cleveland, is about to start for India for the