The National Republican.

VOL. XVIII---NO. 21. WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 20, 1877. FIFTY CENTS PER MONTH.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

DOINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES.

Information Gathered at the Capitol, in the Departments, and About Town by the Reporters of the National Republican.

Singular Return of Stolen Goods.

With the letters sent from Boston to the Dead-Letter Office on the 1st of August last was one on which no postage had been paid, addressed in rude capital letters, evidently to disguise the hand, to "Mr. Hall, Medford, Mass." The usual notice was sent out notifying Mr. Hall that such a letter was held for postage in the Dead-Letter Office. No response to the notice being received within the time fixed by law, the letter was placed with thousands of others in the hopper to go through the process of examination, &c. When it was opened it was found to contain valuables, and was subjected to a second and more thorough scrutiny, the result of which was the following correspondence:

OFFICE OF THE THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL, WASHINGTON, Dec. 13, 1877.

Postmaster, Medford, Mass:

The enclosed envelope, containing jewelry, pictures, &c., was received with the return of "held for postage" letters from Boston, August 1. The theory of this office is that it contains property which some thief has attempted to restore to the owner. You will please endeavor to deliver it and notify this office of the result. Respectfully

A. D. HAZEN, Third Assistant Postmaster-General.

POST-OFFICE, MEDFORD, MASS., Dec. 17, 1877.

To Third Assistant Postmaster-General:

SIR: In reply to the inclosed letter, I have the honor to say that the articles belonged to Mr. Horace D. Hall, of this place, whose dwelling was entered by burglars in June, 1876, and robbed of a large amount of valuables. Mr. Hall was very much pleased to recover them.

JAMES H. EVANS, Postmaster.

The Texas Salt-Pit Riot.

The following dispatches were received at the War Department yesterday:

Balance of State troops held as prisoners. These latter will doubtless share the same fate, unless rescued by United States forces, who were under your orders, marching to their relief. We have information of large bodies of Mexican citizens participating in this massacre.

R. B. HUBBARD, Governor.

Gen. Sheridan forwarded the following from Chicago:

Capt. Blair telegraphs at six p. m. to-day (18th) from El Paso: "All is over at San Elizario. Rangers surrendered yesterday morning. Howard, Atkinson, and McBride were shot, and all the rest of the ranger party disarmed and liberated to-day. All are now here. Blair is instructed, as soon as Company H reaches him, to move down to San Elizario. There seems little doubt it will require all the force that has been ordered there to arrest the ringleaders and participators in this outrage. Under the orders received, I shall instruct the troops to assist the sheriff in performing this duty. I regret that the small number of troops in New Mexico, and their dispersion at numerous points, made it physically impossible, in view of the shortness of the time since the Governor of Texas made his demand upon the President, to place a sufficient force at San Elizario to prevent this outrage upon the laws of Texas. From the best information we have here from the officer in charge at El Paso, the persons composing the mob were entirely Mexican-born citizens of Texas." There does not appear to be any help given them from the Mexican side of the river.

JOHN POPE, Brevet Major-General.

The Union Pacific Railroad.

Mr. Artemus H. Holmes, counsel for the Kansas Pacific Railway Company, had a hearing before the Attorney-General and Secretary of the Interior yesterday, at the office of the former, in relation to the resolutions offered in the Senate by Mr. Chaffee, and in the House by Mr. Crittenden, requesting the President to inform the respective Houses what legal impediments, if any, exist which prevent him from executing the laws in accordance with the obligations accepted and the agreements made by the Union Pacific Railroad Company and its branches with the United States, as stipulated and agreed upon in the acts of Congress referred to in the preambles.

The object of the argument was merely to show that the Union Pacific Railroad Company, from the year 1870 up to the present time, has operated its road in open and direct contravention of the requirements of the acts of Congress, and in violation of vested rights of the public, the Government, and the Kansas Pacific Company, to the manifest loss and injury of the public, the Government, and the Kansas company.

Magazine Gun Trials.

A general order issued from the War Department yesterday announces that, in conformity with law, a board will assemble at the National Armory, at Springfield, Mass., on April 8, 1878, to consider and recommend a magazine gun, should one be found suitable for the service, the Secretary being authorized to expend not more than $20,000 in its manufacture. Lieut. Col. J. G. Benton, Maj. F. H. Parker, and Capt. J. H. Rollins, of the Ordnance Department, have been detailed as members of the board. First Lieut. J. E. Greer, Ordnance Department, will report to the president of the board for duty as recorder. All persons interested in magazine guns are invited to submit samples, and appear in person under such rules as may be adopted by the board. The arms submitted must be of calibre forty-five and use the United States service cartridge.

The Centennial Safe.

The Centennial century safe, which was exhibited at the Philadelphia Exposition, and which has been prepared for the Capitol, to be placed in Statuary Hall, for the reception of treasures of history not to be revealed to the world until the recurrence of our centennial anniversary as a nation, has reached the Capitol, and workmen were engaged yesterday hoisting it into the building and placing it in position, where it is to remain undisturbed and unlocked for a hundred years. The idea was conceived and the work has been prosecuted to completion with much vigor by Mrs. C. F. Delhm, whose famous "Centennial Record" will form a part of the contents of the safe.

The Stockholm Prison Congress.

Dr. Wines, United States Commissioner to the International Prison Congress of Stockholm, and president of the Congress, had an interview with President Hayes yesterday, at which he took leave of him, in view of his early departure for Europe, and received the President's renewed assurance of his warm interest in his mission and his earnest wishes that he might have a prosperous voyage and great success in his labors. The Commissioner informed the President that the paragraph in his special message relating to the Prison Congress had been widely copied with approving comments in the leading journals of Europe.

Pardon of John A. Joyce.

The President yesterday signed a pardon for John A. Joyce, convicted of conspiracy to defraud the United States of taxes on distilled spirits. The pardon is full and unconditional. Joyce, it will be remembered, was sentenced to $2,000 fine, in addition to his imprisonment. He had served his term and was unable to pay the fine. His pardon was recommended in the early part of the present year by the District Attorney and Judge of the United States Court of St. Louis, before which he was tried, and were prayed by Joyce for restoration to citizenship.

A Dangerous Coast.

In connection with the findings of the naval court of inquiry into the Huron wreck, the following paragraph, adopted in the form of an amendment to the findings and contained in the proceedings subsequent thereto, appears:

"In conclusion, the court would state that the evidence shows that many well-found merchant steamers, wooden and iron, commanded by experienced navigators of our coast, have been wrecked near the point where the Huron was lost."

How a Cabinet Officer Can Assist Santa Claus

A correspondent, in grateful language, refers to an order issued by Secretary Schurz giving the employe's in the Widow's Division of the Pension Office a half holiday each day from the 24th inst. until the 1st proximo, inclusive. The correspondent thinks, that to make the thing complete the Secretary should allow the clerks to draw their salaries due for the present month, adding that "hundreds of little stockings will be hung up in vain, and taken down by sad hearts and tearful eyes, unless he does." The utility of six half-holidays with no money to spend on them is not very easily discovered.

Timber Depredations in Minnesota.

Commissioner Williamson, of the General Land-Office, received a telegram from J. W. Jones, his special agent in Minnesota for the suppression of depredations on public timber lands, announcing that the Government has obtained judgment in all the civil suits for the recovery of logs and lumber, and that all the parties, except one, have pleaded guilty in the criminal suit.

WOMEN AS NOTARIES.

Opinion of the District Attorney.

Mrs. Marrilla M. Ricker, having applied to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia for appointment as a notary public under the laws of the District, the question of the eligibility to the office of one of her sex was referred to the Attorney for the District, who has given his opinion on the subject to the Commissioners, as follows:

GENTLEMEN: I return the application of Marrilla M. Ricker, asking to be appointed a notary public. The name implies female sex, and my opinion is requested as to her eligibility, being a woman.

Section 62 of the Revised Statutes of the District authorized the late District Legislature to provide by law for the appointment of notaries public and prescribe their duties. It puts no limit on the power, and names no qualification of age, sex, or citizenship on the part of appointees. Under this authority the Legislature enacted the following statutes:

Chapter 2.—An act concerning notaries public.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the District of Columbia, That the Governor of the District of Columbia be, and he is hereby, authorized and empowered to appoint as many notaries public for the said District as he may deem necessary, the aggregate number not to exceed one hundred, to continue in office for the term of three years, unless sooner removed by the Governor for good and sufficient cause; and said notaries public so to be appointed shall qualify, discharge the duties, receive the fees, and be subject to the regulations provided for in the act of Congress approved April 8, 1864, entitled "An act concerning notaries public in the District of Columbia," except as to the appointment and removal of the same; but before any person shall be appointed a notary public under this act he shall pay to the proper officer to collect the taxes the sum of $5, and the same sum annually thereafter during his continuance in office, which tax shall be placed to the credit of the general fund.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That every person appointed a notary public under this act shall within sixty days from and after the date of his appointment, open and thereafter maintain a public office for the transaction of his business; otherwise his commission shall be revoked by the Governor.

Approved June 16, 1871.

It is seen that in neither section is there any prescribed qualification without which an applicant is incompetent for appointment. In the last clause of the first section and in the second the appointee is referred to by the pronouns "he" and "his." Notaries, under this act, are to be governed by the law of April 18 (8), 1864. On reference to that we find the same "he," "his" and "him" in sections 979, 980, 981 and 982, Revised Statutes, District of Columbia, dominating, as in "his" asserted right to dominate everywhere.

I am thus brought to face the apparent masculinity of the law, and find, if I may, its real meaning in the premises. In the statutes of Congress, where the male sex is not in some other way declared, the pronoun "he" is to be taken to refer only to a male? Is it epicene? Man, according to the dictionaries, always embraces women, and there is ample authority that "he" very often sustains the same relation to "her." May not this seeming male guise be worn by a woman without violation of law or the uncertainty of sex? I recur to Congress alone for a solution of my problem.

The third section of the act of March 3, 1863, declares "that no clerk shall be appointed until after he has been examined and found qualified." (10 Statutes at Large, 217 Revised Statutes, sec. 164.)

Under this provision hundreds of women have done the duties of clerks, nor was there any other warrant of law for it till 1870.

The sixty-third section of the act of June 8, 1872, provides for the appointment of postmasters. Section 64 declares that every postmaster shall reside within the delivery of the office to which he is appointed. Section 65 requires every postmaster to give a bond before entering upon the duties of his office. I have found no other existing law authorizing the appointment and defining the qualifications of postmasters.

It is matter of history that women have, and still do, fill the various classes of post-offices in the Republic, and it is striking and frequent evidence of the masculine form, I refer to the Criminal Code of the United States, and some of the many curious uses of the words "he," "him," and "his." The very first section limits the punishment of treason exclusively to males, unless "he" can be construed to mean "she." Also section 5392, Revised Statutes, page 1041. Nor can a woman be found guilty of criminal correspondence with foreign powers unless by the same rule. (Sec. 5335, *Id.*)

It is to be presumed that no woman will deal in immoral literature in this District, or sell drugs and medicines to interrupt the course of human existence within the first months of its inception. But if one class, she will escape conviction, unless "she" is legally "he," under the 5880th section, *Id.* 1049.

A woman who commits perjury should be punished; but the only statute in existence for that purpose declares that "he" alone shall suffer. Section 5392, *Id.* 1041. Does also if "he" does not mean "her" the will escape, no matter how much money she counterfeits or passes. Section 5457, *Id.* 1063. So she is not included in section 5464, *Id.*, unless by the same rule.

When it is remembered how many lady clerks ornament the Post-Office Department, it is curious that not a "she" is included in the law of embezzlement. Section 5467, *Id.* 1065.

It is melancholy to know that there is no law protecting mail matter from female invasion. Section 5471, *Id.* 1067. Nor can a woman, with all her invention, rob the mail, in contemplation of law, section 5472, *Id.* 1067, if she attempts it she will be sent to the penitentiary, under the next section. So let her steal post-office property, if she care to, (section 5475,) but let her beware how she cuts or tears a mail-bag, under section 5476.

It is well to know that she cannot with impunity invigle males to their ruin through the United States mail. Sec. 5480 offers her no immunity. It may as well be known also that if "he" stands only for male, no woman could be convicted for fraudulently voting for a member of Congress, or for inducing any other men to do so. Sec. 5510, *Id.* 1074.

However rich the acts of Congress are in specimens of this mode of using language, it is useless to extend this examination.

The statutes seem framed for a race of males. "She" shrinks from them, and one has to look long to find "her," and then only in the earlier laws. The courts, however, straightforward, true men, have construed these primitive laws to include women, and no one was ever known to escape a criminal statute because its language ignored her sex. Indeed, under an old dark day of centuries, the shadow of which is on her yet, women often suffered death because they were women, under the cruel fiction that a woman could not be a clerk, while the more guilty male escaped solely because he was not a woman.

Shall there be more than one rule for the construction of all our statutes on this important point? That the word "he" include woman in one set of laws and exclude her in another, or shall they all be expounded by one ruling? So that where there is nothing but the pronouns "he," "his," or "him" to indicate sex, it shall be taken to refer to males and females alike for fate or favor. I contend for the one rule for all. I know that instances judicial, can be found without going far or searching long, which, if continued to their logical consequences, would result in this. Whenever a penalty is denounced, or a disability imposed, masculine pronouns mean women also. When a benefit is offered or a privilege is bestowed man alone is meant by them. She is included for penalties and disabilities, excluded from favor and and privileges. I refer to rules of another aspect, found in the text of every writer on English law. Statutes imposing penalties are to be strictly construed, so as to exclude every body and thing not within their letter.

Statutes creating privileges conferring benefits are to be liberally construed so as to include every person within the reach of their spirit. I think we have reached a period when women are to have the benefit of both these rules to correlate each other.

I find nothing in the enacting clause of the statute authorizing the appointment of notaries public to exclude women as ineligible. There we should expect to find it. Failing there, we look for some direct declaration in some part of the law excluding them. I find elsewhere only the pronouns "he," "him," "his," which, even in the trial of criminals, the courts construe to mean females as well as males.

I hold that is the proper rule of construction to be applied to the law under review. I think the precedent of the President of the United States in the appointment of postmasters and clerks—of the Supreme Court of the District in the admission of members of the bar—are safe and wise, and should be followed in all similar cases. I think you have power under the statutes to appoint a woman a notary public. Respectfully,

A. G. RIDDLE, Attorney District of Columbia.

A Little Girl Accidentally Shot.

Yesterday afternoon, about two o'clock, a little daughter of Matthew McNalley, who resides on Eighth street, near I, southeast, was accidentally shot with a pistol by a playmate named Blum. It seems that the two children were playing in a room in the rear of Mr. Blum's store, when the little Blum girl picked up a small pistol which was lying on a table and pointed it at her companion. It was instantly discharged, the ball entering the upper part of the head of the McNalley girl, just above the right temple. Dr. Miller was called in and succeeded in extracting the ball, and expressed the opinion that the wound was not necessarily fatal. At a late hour last evening the little sufferer was doing as well as could be expected.

The Union League Dinner.

President and Mrs. Hayes and two sons and Secretary Evarts will leave for New York by a special car, over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, at half past nine o'clock to-night. Postmaster-General Key, who went to New York on Tuesday night, will join the party there to-morrow.

ALL SORTS.

WHITE flowers are in demand.

THEY have discovered petroleum in the Black Hills.

BLONDES are out of fashion; even dolls have dark brown hair and eyes.

SILK stockings, with lace medallions covering the instep, are sold at $30 a pair.

A NICE toilet set can be made by covering a pair of empty porter bottles with silk.

FINE oranges that grow near Tallahassee sell in the streets of that city for $1.50 a hundred.

IN a new play in London a farmer drives in on the stage seated on a load of wood. Of course he is on cord.

THE exports of meat and live stock to Great Britain this year are nearly double what they were in 1876.

THE season's catch of salmon in Oregon has been over 130,000, and 9,000 cases have been put up for the market.

HOLLY-BERRIES, bitter-sweet, straw flowers, and imported immortelles are used for flowering Christmas greens.

A BLUNDERBUSS or blunderbuss, made in 1660 for the celebrated traveler, Capt. John Smith, is on exhibition in Pittsburg, Pa.

A MURDERER has just been arrested in New York city thirteen years after committing the crime. Is justice as sure there as it is slow?

THE rules to govern the shipment of goods to those contemplating being exhibitors at the Paris Exposition, will be issued next week.

THE authorities of Memphis, Tenn., thought the number of marriages was falling off, and reduced the charge for a license to fifty cents.

THE grand Master of Kentucky has restored the charter to Confidence Lodge, No. 32, of Maysville, which had been declared forfeited.

DURING the present year the United States sent 105,000,000 yards of cotton goods abroad, ten times more than was exported the year before.

A GLASS company in Pittsburg is engaged on an order from Spain for 1,500 dozen goblets, which it will deliver at New York at forty-two cents a dozen.

THE mine rioters convicted at Wilkesbarre, Pa., have been sentenced to pay a fine of $500 and costs, and serve twenty-one months in the State prison.

IN connection with the Paris Exposition in 1878 there will be a range for rifle practice by such French or foreign competitors as may wish to contest.

SEVERE frosts on the 29th and 30th of November solidified the juice in the standing sugar cane in portions of Louisiana, and have caused immense damage.

OVER 15,000 boxes of oranges have been shipped this season from Sumter County, Florida. The dealers are kept busy day and night preparing them for market.

THE Mason County grand jury recommends that the whipping-post be re-established to check petty thieving, and reduce the expenses of keeping prisoners in jail.

ENTERTAINMENTS given soon after New Year's day will come "short home" for flowers, as the green-houses will be skinned to supply the receptions of January 1.

THE only reason why the people of this country oppose a war with Mexico is because there is no law compelling the politicians to go to the front and do the fighting.

IF evergreens are so placed that they can be sprinkled daily after they are hung they will retain their color and lively appearance, and throw out their woody, spicy odor.

A YOUNG girl in a theatre in London gets $500 a week for diving from a perch ninety feet downward to a net. She drops head first, turns on the way, and strikes on her back.

CHINAMEN have been destroying the fish in Napa river, Cal., by some poisonous compound which kills every form of animal life, and makes the water unfit for household purposes.

THE Georgia Supreme Court has compressed an unusual amount of common sense in the brief decision that a murderer, "to be too drunk to form the intent to kill, must be too drunk to form the intent to shoot."

CALIFORNIA wool growth is becoming one of her greatest industries, the export last year having been over 50,000,000 pounds, worth $8,000,000. There are several wool-growers who own from thirty to forty thousand sheep each.

THE first prisoner at the Joliet, Ill., penitentiary was received in 1858, and since that time about 12,000 prisoners have been committed. The largest count was on November 26 of this year, when the inmates numbered 1,865.

"IF I could only get elected cashier of a Chicago savings bank," soliloquized an experienced thief a day or two ago, "blamed if I wouldn't reform and be a better man, and go to Europe in a month or two with $60,000 in my pocket."

IT is computed that the grain used for liquors in a year in the United States reaches 70,000,000 bushels, which would make 1,050,000,000 four-pound loaves of bread. Great Britain has 80,000,000 bushels of grain used for the same purpose, and annually imports food to the value of nearly $400,000,000.

ONE hundred and nineteen pounds of powder were stored in different parts of a Nashville hardware store and the place set on fire in four places. The firemen succeeded in extinguishing the flames before the powder was ignited, however.

"COUSIN FRED, you're not at all nice now you are married. Why, you haven't paid me a compliment for ages. Have you forgotten how to compliment?" "My dear Clara, I've been married two years, and, of course, I'm awfully out of practice."

CONNECTICUT valley tobacco raisers have nearly stripped this year's crop, and report that it is an unusally good one, despite contrary opinions earlier in the season. Prices promise to be lower, the New York strike having had a depressing effect.

DRAGON, moss, olive, lizard, myrtle, seafoam, Nile, salad, bottle, bronze, and hunter's green are the various shades of this one color, now the favorite of fashion. The pea green and apple green, known to the last generation, are never mentioned.

VERY large buttons are all the rage. They cover ladies' cloaks and dresses, and when arranged in two parallel rows make their wearers look like walking games of dominoes. Fashion will next impress into its service Japanese and Majolica sauces for dress decoration.

THE Turkish Government is not prompt in its remittances for American cartridges. About three hundred workmen, employed in a New Haven factory, were discharged on Saturday, on account of a partial suspension of operations, caused by the backwardness of the Porte in settling the accounts.

A BEAR got away from its owner in St. Louis, and half a dozen police officers tried to throw a noose over its head. Bruin dodged it every time. At length two men held the lasso open and an officer got on the other side and held an apple in his fingers. The bear went for the apple and fell into the trap.

A THEOLOGICAL seminary is to be opened at Tokio, Japan, in connection with the recent union of the three Protestant missions, the American Presbyterian, the Duch Reformed, and the United or Scotch Presbyterian. The college will have a permanent staff of three professors, one nominated by each of the missions.

ONE who has visited the temple of the Three Thousand Gods in Kyoto, Japan, says that one thousand of them are life-size and hold the smaller ones in their hands. They stand in ranks like soldiers. Every one is richly gilded, and as the gilding faints of the greatest sample were thrown back and the sun shot its rays along the line it made a spectacle of dazzling splendor.

WHAT'S in a name? A Chinaman in San Francisco found there were thirty days. He stole a Frisco man's doorplate and fastened it on his own door as an ornament. He didn't know that the name would betray him, as he thought that was merely carved on for the beauty of the thing. The Chinaman now languishes in the Bastile, another victim to the mysteries of English orthography.

IN Mexico, Oswego County, N. Y., the merchants formed a protective society against persons who contracted debts and did not pay them. They published a list of the dead beats in the village newspaper. Thereupon the house of the secretary of the association was burned, the president's drug store was set on fire, and the editor was warned that he would have neither house nor office if he published the list again.

A DEPUTY SHERIFF recently set out to arrest two brothers who had farms a few miles from Waco, Texas. He found them at work in their fields picking cotton. He told them what his errand was. They stared at him, winked at each other, gently but firmly disarmed him, and ordered him to go to work in the field; and there he remained, picking cotton for dear life, until the officials in his own frontier county heard of the incident and rescued him.

AMONG the recent acquisitions of the British Museum is a small series of very beautiful gold ornaments found together in a tomb at Cyme in Aenis, Greece. The series includes two pairs of splendid earrings, formed of large disks, from which are suspended by fine chains inverted pyramids. Between the disk and the pyramid is a kneeling female figure draped. One of the necklaces is very elaborately enriched with filagree work. With these ornaments was found a gold statue of Alexander the Great, which determines the date of this jewelry as not before his time. It, in all probability, is contemporary with him.

A NIGHT WITH GHOSTS.

WHAT A REPUBLICAN REPORTER SAW AT A SPIRITUAL SEANCE.

Materializing Mediums at Work—Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, of Katy King Fame—Some of the Spectres that were Kind Enough to Appear Last Night.

Ghosts never have been considered as pleasant companions. Even men of the sternest mold have sometimes to confess an aversion or squeamishness upon entering a place said to be haunted by a ghost. So the spectacle of a dozen persons sitting in a circle, waiting and hoping for a spirit to show itself, is rather a strange one, and one characteristic of modern days.

Such a scene was presented last evening at a private residence in the city. The seance was given by Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Holmes, the celebrated Philadelphia mediums, whose names became very prominent in connection with the so-called Katie King fraud. This is the second week of the visit of Mr. and Mrs. Holmes to this city. Last week they gave seances to a select and private circle at the residence of a well-known gentleman. The sittings, spiritually speaking, were not successful. Spiritualists said that the conditions were not good; the mediums slept and ate in one house and gave seances in another, so considerable magnetism was lost; then the circles were too large, consisting of nearly fifty people. The special feature of the Holmes seances is the materialization of spirit forms and other more common physical manifestations. Last week they succeeded in producing only the forms, and that was very indistinct.

This week the mediums are giving seances in the same house where they are living, and according to spiritualists the conditions are good. The results have been seen in stronger manifestations. Monday night

SEVEN FORMS

were seen. A circle of ten, three of whom were ladies, was formed last night. A reporter of THE REPUBLICAN was permitted to be one of the circle. The room where the seances are given is the back parlor of the residence of a merchant of this city who could hardly be suspected of being in collusion with the mediums. No cabinet is used, but a closet or room about eight feet square is used for the purpose of a cabinet. The first part of the sitting was

A DARK SEANCE,

in which Mrs. Holmes was the medium. This lasted about an hour. The company were seated in the middle of the room, forming a semi-circle, stretching from one wall to the other, and their hands were joined. Mr. Holmes sat at one end of the circle. Mrs. Holmes, the medium, sat at a table in front of the company. On the table were a guitar, two tambourine-rings, a bell, and one or two other articles. The lights were put entirely out, and a few seconds afterward the manifestations began. A spirit or something, whom the company called "Rosa," took possession of the medium and wished the company good evening. "Rosa" was a child spirit, and prattled away at a very lively rate. The musical instruments on the table began to show signs of animation.

The guitar was borne about the room by some power and the strings were thrummed. The company assisted by singing in chorus. A voice which was said to be the voice of a spirit, called "Dick," carried on a conversation with members of the circle, sometimes talking from one part of the room and sometimes from another.

A TEST.

The following test was given: A member of the company was allowed to sit opposite the medium and take hold of both her hands. When the lights were turned up an iron ring, which was previously lying on the table, was encircling his arm. The gentleman to whom this test was given declared that he had held the hands tight all the time, had felt about the person of the medium to satisfy them that the ring was not on her arm, and had actually felt the ring on the table while holding the hand of the medium. In the dark seance there were many other wonderful manifestations. Invisible hands smoothed the heads of the company; their knuckles were rapped with tambourine rings; and a bell was placed on the head of one of the company, where it was found when the lights were turned up. One very beautiful manifestation was the appearance of

SPIRIT-LIGHTS.

A luminous body of some sort would appear in a corner of the room, float downward and then fade out. One of the spiritualists present said that sometimes a face appeared in the light, but the company were accorded no such pleasure last evening. The medium during the sitting was controlled by several different spirits, who conversed with the company. One of them was "Irish Ann." Under this influence the medium talked with a strong Irish brogue.

SOMETHING INTERESTING FOR WHISKY DRINKERS.

One of the questions asked by an investigator was whether spirits of those who had been drunkards in life didn't influence other people to drink. "Irish Ann" replied that she had known of cases where such a spirit had got into a drinking man and then the spirit absorbed all of the spirit of the liquor and it had no effect on the drinker. She had heard a barkeeper say "I'll be d—d if I haven't sold that man twenty drinks, and you wouldn't think that he had had one." The reason was that a spirit had absorbed the qualities of the liquor. "Irish Ann" claimed to have died from intemperance, and that her mission in coming back to the earth was to influence people to keep away from grog-shops.

THE CABINET SEANCE,

The materializing or cabinet seance was of course the most uncommon, and the results were startling to a person who had never before witnessed it. It was used as a cabinet. This was entirely bare and devoid of furniture. There was a window on one side, but to prevent suspicion of fraud from that source the blinds were nailed tight on the outside and the shutters on the inside were fastened. A member of the party stuck a postage-stamp over the inside shutters in such a way that they could not be opened without removing or tearing the stamp. Mr. Holmes, the medium, was placed in a sort of a box, the frame of which was made of wood, and the sides, bottom and top of mosquito-netting. A chair was placed in this for the accommodation of the medium. Then the door of the box was padlocked on the outside and the key carried from the room. Then the gas in the closet was put out, a black curtain let down over the door, and the door itself closed. The gas in the main room was turned down, so that the room was just dimly lighted. During the seance the company sang at intervals. In a very few minutes the door of the closet was opened. Mrs. Holmes sat near the door, but not near enough to touch it. The door was opened by some invisible agency. There was something horrible to one of a superstitious mind in sitting there waiting for the appearance of a spirit. In another minute the sombre curtain was pushed back, and something white could be seen inside the closet. Then it stepped upon the threshold. It was

A VERY DIM FIGURE,

a tall man, with a long, heavy, black beard, and robed in white. The figure made motions with its hands as if blessing the spectators. Then it disappeared, appeared, and disappeared again. It was said to be to be spirit of "Fighting Bishop" Polk. It is not necessary to describe all that followed. The next figure was that of a tottering old man, dressed in black. It appeared several times. Then came a female figure with

A LONG WHITE ROBE, LIKE A SHROUD.

It stepped out of the door two or three times. Mrs. Holmes, who sat near the door, said it wore a sash that looked as if it was made of satin. She said also that a little child was in the closet with her. The next form was that of the burly "John King," who always appears when the Holmes give a successful seance. John is very tall, and very large. He was dressed like a buccaneer, with a sash and belt, knee-breeches, and other garments that might have been worn by a pirate two centuries ago.

A GHOST THAT TALKED.

He had a thick, black beard and a deep, bass voice, for John talked to the company, and was much more accommodating than the other spirits. Toward the end of the sitting there was rapping inside of the closet, and the spirits, by means of the raps, communicated that they wanted Mrs. Holmes in the cabinet. Mrs. Holmes went in, and a few seconds after the spirits rapped again and wanted the REPUBLICAN reporter to come in. The reporter went in the dark room. He could hear Mrs. Holmes tell the company outside about a lady in Boston who had gone into a cabinet and came running out immediately afterward with a spirit running after her. With this encouraging future before him the reporter felt about him, but could feel nothing except the mosquito-net box, and hear nothing except the heavy breathing of Holmes, who was inside. Then there was a little rapping, and the reporter was glad to hear Mrs. Holmes say that that meant that the spirits wanted him to leave the cabinet. The spiritualist said that the spirits needed some strength to help restore the medium, so the reporter had been asked in.

A few minutes afterward, as there were no other manifestations, the lights were turned up. Everything was found in the closet just as they were before the seance. Holmes was rubbing his eyes, as if he had just waked from a sound sleep. The padlock was taken off and he was released. Thus the seance closed.

Another Boston Boy Murderer.

BOSTON, Dec. 19.—John Cronin, three years old, was shot in the head and killed by Henry Hickey, eleven years old, this afternoon. They were in an upper room at play, when the Cronin boy scratched Hickey in the face and started to run down stairs. The latter followed to the head of the stairs and fired the fatal shot with a revolver.

GORDON VS. CONKLING.

Letter from W. E. Chandler—The Senator from Georgia Reopens the Dispute and Says the Senator from New York Insulted Him.

To the Editor of the New York Tribune:

SIR: A striking instance of "Southern faith" is the course pursued by Senator Gordon's friends since the assumed settlement of the difficulty between him and Senator Conkling.

The paper relative to the "so-called misunderstanding" between Senators Conkling and Gordon, while stating that one party used the "first offensive words," decided that there should be mutually and simultaneously withdrawn all the remarks of both. This decision, if binding, was clearly a waiver of the right of the party to whom the first offensive words were spoken to require, in order to a settlement, that those words should be first withdrawn. Such waiver clearly left no right to the party who first offended to publicly insist that he was first insulted by the other, and was proceeding to notice and resent the insult and demand satisfaction when friends intervened.

Is not this being done by Senator Gordon or his friends? The Washington *Post* of Saturday asserts that the insults of Conkling, systematically given to Southern Senators for the deliberate purpose of stirring up bad blood, culminated in executive session the day before, and then gives an account of the transaction, which represents Senator Conkling as first insulting Senator Gordon, while the latter only "rebuked the insult" and "firmly and distinctly" repeated his remarks. Next, the Washington *Post* of Monday has an interview with Senator Gordon, who is represented as saying that the account in Saturday's *Post* was precisely accurate, and that a true account of the matter could be obtained from his friends; and then follows an account of an interview with a Southern Senator, who is represented as asserting that Senator Gordon was entirely right, Senator Conkling in every way wrong, and that had not the matter become personal Gordon would undoubtedly by a large vote have been sustained by the Senate in his position. "Senator Gordon felt that he was right; he also felt that Mr. Conkling's remarks could be construed in no other way than as an insult to him, and so his friends felt." This version of the facts is being spread over the whole South, and also, to a less extent, in the North. Now if it should be true, as I assert it is—

1. That Senator Gordon uttered the first offensive words,

2. That Senator Conkling replied in justifiable parliamentary language, and, therefore,

3. That Senator Gordon was all wrong and Senator Conkling entirely right—

Should not Senator Gordon, if responsible for the *Post's* utterances, or his friends, be requested to refrain from giving out untrue statements of the affair, and should not Senator Conkling be given to the world in as authentic a form as has the settlement, whereby Senator Conkling has waived that which was first due to him, namely, an apology from Senator Gordon?

It is of some importance to know whether this first attempt to renew plantation manners in the Senate is to be continued as based upon the old Southern plan: "First insult your Northern man. If he resents it in any way, insist that he first insulted you, and either knock him down, shoot him on the spot, or challenge him."

W. E. CHANDLER.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1877.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT.

A Man and Horse Killed on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Yesterday morning, as the train which leaves Baltimore at 10:30 o'clock neared Scagg's Switch, on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, about eight miles from Washington, it ran over and instantly killed a man named B. H. Wood, the proprietor of a hotel at Bladensburg, a few miles from the scene of the accident. From what could be learned, it appears that Wood, who was driving a spirited horse, attempted to cross the track, although he had been warned of the approach of the train by the flagman at the switch. The number of the engine was 297. The engineer in charge, John Stephens, stated that he blew the whistle to warn Wood of his danger, but his signal was apparently unheeded.

The buggy in which Mr. Wood was seated was immediately in the way of the cow-catcher, which threw horse and driver about fifteen feet in the air. So great was the speed at which the train was going that a distance of nearly a mile had been passed ere the engineer could stop his engine. The train was backed to the scene and the body of the unfortunate man found on the right side of the track, horribly mangled, his brains being spattered over the ground and his bones protruding from a mass in the stomach. The horse's legs were broken and his right side so crushed that it was found necessary to end his sufferings by knocking him in the head with an ax. The remains of Mr. Wood were placed in the baggage car and carried to Hyattsville, where they were turned over to his friends.

A later account received last evening states that Mr. Wood had just taken the animal in the morning for the purpose of breaking him to harness. As it was young and skittish, when the noise of the approaching train was heard it became unmanageable and dashed down the hill at the switch. When Mr. Wood reached the track he attempted to stop, but the engine reaching and plunging. The engineer states that he saw the driver strike the horse with a whip several times, but it would not move, and owing to the speed at which the train was going, it was impossible for him to stop before he reached the crossing. No blame can be attached to the engineer, who feels very badly about the matter, as he did everything in his power to avert the horrible disaster.

AMUSEMENTS.

The Thalian Club.

The Thalian Club, after several unavoidable disappointments in securing the theatre, have engaged Ford's Opera House for the evening of Wednesday, the 26th inst., when the comedy of "World and Stage" will be given as the first of a series of complimentary entertainments of the season. The following will be the cast of the play: *Sir Norman Guttlecrag*, Mr. Clarence Story; *The Hon. Harry Malpas*, S. W. Keen; *Leonard Ashton*, H. Morsell; *Buzzard*, J. Kimball, jr.; *Daniel Dewlap*, J. W. Gisburne; *Col. Gabble*, R. Kaufmann; *Lady Guttlecrag*, Miss Bella Elliott; *Kate Robertson*, Miss Minnie Frye; *Miss Lipglue*, Miss Lida Tullock; *Hesybeh*, Miss Lottie Swallow; *Lady Fanny Gabble*, Miss Agnes Kennedy; *Trimmer*, Miss Katie Frye; *Madame Moreau*, Miss Helen McIlhenney. The play is from the pen of the celebrated English dramatic author, J. Palgrave Simpson, and is under the able management of Mr. Thaddeus K. Taylor. The club is having a new scene painted for the first act, representing Westland Manor and grounds. An orchestra of twelve pieces has been engaged, and every preparation made by the committee of arrangements to insure a successful and enjoyable performance. The club opens the season under very favorable auspices, having a full contributing list of well-known citizens in public and private life at the capital, so the audiences are always the *creme de la creme* of Washington society people.

Opera-House—Texas Jack Combination.

The thrilling drama of the Black Hills continues to attract good audiences to see the famous frontier scout who has braved countless dangers in the service of the country. The cloggists, eight in number, who dance in perfect harmony, are a great additional attraction. No one should permit this opportunity to see this new wonder to pass unimproved. The whole combination forms a most gratifying entertainment with its varied and exciting programme. It is to be regretted that arrangements already made preclude this company from spending the holidays in Washington. Those who wish to see their performances must go this week, as the combination plays in Norfolk and Richmond next week.

The National.

Again the National Theatre was packed to overflowing last night by an immense crowd to witness the impersonation of *Rip Van Winkle* by Mr. Joseph Jefferson. Mr. Jefferson is sustained by an exceedingly fine stock company, including our popular amateur, Mr. Walter L. Dennis. Mr. Ford could not have selected a better person to take the part of *Mrs. Van Winkle* than Miss Octavia Allen. In every particular she is cut out for the part. Mr. Lanagan, as the old money-lender, sustains his role very creditably. On Friday night Mr. Jefferson will appear as *Bob Acres* in the glorious comedy of "The Rivals."

Joe Jefferson at Home.

Joseph Jefferson had an unpleasant experience in Troy. The theatre contained less than a hundred persons at the matinee performance. In the evening the attendance was better; but just as he was about to dress for *Rip Van Winkle*, two sheriffs seized his wardrobe. Manager Daly had refused to give back the money to a woman who had bought a ticket under a misapprehension, and she had brought a suit for damage. The curtain did not rise until nearly nine o'clock. The price of the ticket was thirty-five cents, and Mr. Daly's counsel fees and expense of subsequently returning to Troy have already amounted to over a hundred dollars. Troy people seem to be exacting as to their amusements. A Troy lawyer, while on a visit to Boston, bought a ticket for Heller's show, and could not get a seat. He has sued Jarrett & Palmer, the managers.

WHERE TO SPEND MONEY.

Our Merchants and Business Men.

THE REPUBLICAN, as in former years, makes a Christmas present in the shape of notices to those merchants who have contributed to its support by their advertisements. The list published consists of merchants, business men, and professionals who owe their success both to their own abilities in their different occupations and to their