The National Republican

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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The news columns contain full and accurate reports of all matters at the capital, together with general telegraphic news, special letters from a large corps of correspondents at home and abroad, reports being made without color or bias, the sole aim and object being in every case, from the smallest to the greatest, to give THE FACTS in the most convenient and attractive shape for all classes of readers.

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THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN,
Washington, D. C.

Amusements.

NATIONAL—"Black Flag."
FORD'S—Mlle. Rhea.
COMIQUE—"That's Right" and "Night Hawks."
DIME MUSEUM.—Matinee and evening performance.

Auction Sales.

TO-DAY.

BY WALTER B. WILLIAMS & CO.—Catalogue sale of steel-plate engravings and oleographs.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1884.

THE "good men" of Danville, Virginia, had another day to themselves in Senator Sherman's committee room. The poor little darky, Hence Lawson, who was so mercilessly beaten by Captain Noel, was proven to have pawned a pistol for a pair of shoes on the night before the riot.

WHEN members of both the senate and house committees on the District of Columbia are directly interested in the prosperity of the railroads which enter the city congress may well, without at all reflecting upon the character of those members, act with much care and deliberation in accepting the recommendations made by them.

from the district committee ought to be entitled "A bill to confirm the encroachments upon private and public property already made by the Baltimore and Ohio and Baltimore and Potomac Railroad companies, and to grant them further privileges at the expense of the citizens of Washington."

THE chairman of the house committee on the District of Columbia, who is also the president of the Virginia Midland Railroad company, can scarcely be expected to wear himself out opposing measures which directly benefit that company or the Baltimore and Ohio, each of which intends to be a feeder for the other when they succeed in forming a junction in the city of Washington.

THE discussion in the house yesterday was extremely discouraging to the friends of the free bridge project. There first appeared a great difference of opinion as to the best place to put the bridge, and the discussion seemed to awaken strong opposition to the entire project. The most remarkable feature of the debate was the constant reference by members opposed to the bill to the district commissioners as its most earnest foes. It has been generally understood heretofore that the commissioners agreed with the citizens of the district upon one point, at least, and that was the necessity for a free bridge.

TO-MORROW the Pennsylvania republican state convention will meet at Harrisburg. The friends of Mr. Blaine having carried a large majority of the districts, the delegates selected to represent the party at the national republican convention may possibly be instructed to urge the nomination of Mr. Blaine for president. No state officers are to be chosen in Pennsylvania this year, and the nomination of a candidate for congressman-at-large is the only work before the convention beside the selection of delegates to Chicago. Hon. L. F. Watson, at present a member of the house of representatives from the Erie district, is spoken of as the probable nominee for congressman-at-large.

UP to this time the buds in the peach orchards on the Delaware and Maryland peninsula have not been injured, and a full crop is expected. There has been no warm weather to bring out the blossoms before their season, and they now stand a good chance of escaping the sleet storms which sometimes ruin the blooming peach trees. The outlook for fruit in all parts of the country is reported to be promising. There is a very general belief that when spring weather sets in there will be no relapse to winter. A full peach crop on the peninsula aggregates something like 10,000,000 baskets. The growers, however, prefer a crop of 5,000,000 baskets, because an extraordinary crop knocks prices down to a figure that scarcely pays for the gathering and transportation.

HON. A. HERR SMITH, member of the house of representatives from the Lancaster (Pa.) district was one of the republicans who voted for the Fitz-John Porter bill. Mr. Smith's constituents have expressed their opinion upon the vote by nominating John A. Hiestand, editor of the Lancaster *Examiner* to succeed him. Nominations are made in Lancaster county by the people at primary elections, and Mr. Smith ran some 3,000 votes behind his competitor. He is now serving his sixth consecutive term, and was very anxious to be returned for the seventh time. There are a few other Porter republicans who will most probably be dealt with in the same way. While the debate on the Porter bill was in progress its opponents frequently declared that they would appeal from the action of the house to the people. In Mr. Smith's case the appeal has not been in vain.

The Amended Naval Bill.

The senate yesterday completed the consideration of the naval appropriation bill, and it now goes back to the house for concurrence in the amendments, which cover important matters that were not provided for in the original bill. The appropriation for miscellaneous expenses, such as the rent of buildings and offices not in navy yards, the expenses of courts martial, examining boards, and courts of inquiry, the relief of quarantine vessels, &c., was increased from $375,000 to $410,000.

The clause permitting officers of the navy to be credited with the actual time they may have served as officers, clerks, or enlisted men in the regular or volunteer army or navy, and to receive all the benefits of such actual service, as if it had been continuous in the regular navy, has been stricken out. The appropriation for the bureau of navigation has been increased from $80,000 to $100,000; the appropriation for the general expenses of the ordnance bureau has been increased from $105,000 to $140,000, with $100,000 added for the manufacture of modern guns; $75,980 for machine cannon, Gatling guns, &c., and $53,000 for a torpedo boat.

For the general expenditures of the bureau of equipment and recruiting the appropriation is increased from $707,000 to $850,000; for the bureau of construction and repair, from $1,020,000 to $1,500,000, and for the bureau of steam engineering, from $760,000 to $1,050,000. The clause reappropriating the unexpended balance of $1,000,000 provided by the act of March 3, 1883, for engines and machinery for the double-turreted ironclads has been stricken out. The sum of $500,000 has been added to complete the ordnance outfit of the three steel cruisers and the dispatch boat now in process of construction.

The principles of the bill recently passed by the senate authorizing the building of two cruisers, one dispatch vessel, four gunboats, one cruising torpedo boat, and two harbor torpedo boats, and appropriating $2,500,000 therefor, have been added to the appropriation bill. The sum of $2,000,000 has also been added for the purpose of continuing work on the double-turreted monitors. A provision is added requiring the secretaries of war and the navy, with the assistance of the gun foundry board (which it revives), to report to congress on the first day of the next session a plan for the erection of a gun factory, with estimates of the cost of the same. The secretary of the navy is required at the same time to submit estimates of the cost of building a war vessel of 8,500 tons displacement.

The senate has stricken out the provision of the house bill for reducing the officers of the marine corps by prohibiting all appointments except by promotion to fill vacancies until the number of officers shall be reduced below seventy-five. The clause providing that no officer on the retired list of the army, navy, or marine corps shall hold a civil office has also been stricked out.

A Worthy Measure.

In the house yesterday Hon. Mr. Dorsheimer, of New York, introduced a bill to restore Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont to his rank in the army and place him on the retired list. A similar bill was introduced in the senate by Senator Sherman. Thus New York joins with Ohio, through two representative men of the two great political parties, in proposing a measure of justice to Gen. Fremont. It is fitting that a leading democrat and a distinguished republican in the two houses of congress should unite in doing honor to one who has served the country so honorably under both democratic and republican administrations, for Fremont received his first commission in the regular army from President Van Buren, and his last one from President Lincoln, and between these two administrations he rendered services the importance and value of which it is impossible to overestimate. The east and the west should unite in generous recognition of those services, for more than any other one man Fremont opened the way for the settlement of the great west and for binding it with iron bands to the east. He first conquered California, and then pointed the way for the Pacific railroad. The south can unite with the north in doing him justice, for although a southerner by birth he became a northerner by adoption, and his services shed equal luster on both sections. As long ago as 1846 the citizens of Charleston, S. C., presented him with a splendid sword, silver and gold mounted, bearing the inscription, "Presented by the citizens of Charleston to Lieutenant Colonel John Charles Fremont as a memorial of their high appreciation of the gallantry and science he has displayed in his services in Oregon and California." And the people of the north vied with those of the south in doing him honor. This was nigh forty years ago. Now, old and poor, this man, who was once the foremost figure of his time, lives in retirement near New York. His deeds are part of our history; it should not become history that in his old age congress disregarded an appeal for a just recognition of his services.

MR. COMMISSIONER EDMONDS is of the opinion that a newspaper reporter has no more right to be admitted to a meeting of the district commissioners than to a meeting of the president and his cabinet. Mr. Edmonds is mistaken. The district commissioners represent the local government of the city, and every citizen has a direct personal interest in their deliberations. The president is an executive officer, and the members of his cabinet are his confidential advisers. For reasons of state policy their meetings are held with closed doors, although, as a rule, no effort is made to keep secret the matters that have been under consideration. If congress should attempt to hold its legislative sessions in secret the whole people of the nation would enter an angry protest. The district commissioners bear a much stronger resemblance to a legislative than to an executive body, and when Mr. Edmonds puts himself and his associates in the position of cabinet officers he shows that he has no proper conception of the relation which they ought to maintain to the people of the district.

HON. JAMES O. BROADHEAD, sitting member of the house from the ninth district of Missouri, has obtained a temporary leave of absence. If Mr. Broadhead would urge the committee on elections to make a report on the contested case of McLean against Broadhead, he might obtain an indefinite leave of absence without leaving his seat vacant. He claims to have been elected by a majority of two votes, but this result was arrived at by rejecting twenty-five ballots which were offered by legally-qualified voters. The proof offered upon this point by the contestant, Dr. McLean, appears to be absolutely conclusive. The only ground left for Mr. Broadhead to stand upon is the allegation of fraud at one of the St. Louis precincts, where the judges and clerks were Mr. Broadhead's political friends, and where there could have been no fraud unless it was perpetrated for his benefit. The testimony shows that no fraud was committed, but Mr. Broadhead now hangs his case on the assumption that his partisans committed a fraud for the benefit of the other side, and asks that the returns from this precinct be rejected. It is not surprising that Mr. Broadhead is anxious to delay the final determination of the case. The house in the case of Manzanares against Luna unseated the contestee in his absence. Assuming that the evidence presented in Dr. McLean's brief is true, no injustice would be done Mr. Broadhead if he was dealt with in the same way.

COL. CHARLES W. WOOLLEY seems to have a sort of patent right in the absurd story that Mr. Conkling intended to make a speech against the counting of the electoral vote of Louisiana for Hayes and Wheeler in 1877. Several versions of this fiction have appeared at various times, and some two months ago Mr. Conkling took the trouble to say that it was false in every detail. Since this broad denial an attempt has been made to give currency to an amended edition of the story by citing ex-Senator Kernan, Hon. Abram S. Hewitt, and David Dudley Field as persons familiar with the facts. Mr. Kernan and Mr. Hewitt have each denied in the most emphatic manner that they had any information on the subject. Mr. Field never saw nor heard of the speech which Mr. Conkling is said to have prepared. He thinks the "western senator" to whom Woolley mysteriously refers as being familiar with the facts is Senator Jones, of Nevada. Mr. Jones may or may not think it incumbent on himself to sit down on Col. Woolley.

WOMAN is struggling upward. Miss Mary [illegible] of Geneva, N. Y., has reached an $1,800 clerkship in the internal revenue bureau of the treasury department.

AS OTHERS SEE IT.

How "Queer" Detectives are Enabled to Shield Themselves from Punishment.

Philadelphia Press.

The trial of the detectives now in progress in Washington city has a special interest for Philadelphia, the defendants being closely associated, both in respect to men and methods, with our own corrupt detective service, which the *Press* exposed and overthrew. The testimony, with a change of time, place, and names, is but a little more than a repetition of the accounts given in this paper concerning the former detectives of this city, the truth of which was fully established as soon as those in authority saw fit to make an investigation. The detectives in this Washington case planned the crime, assisted in its execution, and then divided with the professional thieves the liberal reward which was offered for the return of the stolen property.

The United States treasury building, with its rich store of wealth, was the first object of the cupidity of this combination of thieves and detectives. Finding the treasury too well guarded, they turned their attention to the Metropolitan bank of Washington, and obtained possession of a quantity of bonds. Flinder, a private detective, and McDevitt, then a police force detective, entered into negotiation with the bank for the return of the bonds. Flinder received $5,000, which he represented to the bank officers was necessary for the recovery of the securities. Of this he distributed $3,000 among the thieves, and delivered the bonds to the bank with his own hands, and charged the modest sum of $100 for his services' concealing the fact that he had pocketed $2,000 as his share of the fruits of the robbery.

Judge Wylie, of star route trial fame, who presided at this trial, informed the prosecution on Thursday in effect that, in proving the above facts, they had not made out against Flinder a case of receiving stolen goods, knowing them to be stolen, as charged in the indictment. It was not enough to prove that Flinder was a bad man, and had cheated the bank. It was proven that he had manual possession of the stolen property, as he returned it, but in this the court was of the opinion that he was acting as the agent of the bank. If his agency in returning goods which he had induced others to steal will protect him when charged with receiving stolen goods, knowing them to be stolen, it is hard to see how that class of detectives are to be punished at all. They do not themselves commit robberies, but they prompt others to their commission, obtain possession of their goods, charge their own price for their return, and deal out to the thieves only enough to purchase their silence and afford inducement to other crimes on terms equally advantageous to the detectives.

Experience shows that conspiracy is a difficult thing to prove, while its punishment is altogether inadequate for such a grave offense as this. The detectives keep clear of the actual crime. They plan its execution and hover near to gather its fruits. Their object is not the property stolen, but the reward for returning it; and if their fraudulent assumption of agency for the victims of their crime will shelter their possession of the property which the thieves have obtained for them, their business will receive an unneeded stimulous from this judicial determination of its immunity from serious risk.

A Few Malcontents.

Buffalo Commercial Advertiser.

These manipulators of Robertson's machine do not support Blaine so much from love of him as from intense dislike for Mr. Arthur. He has maddened them by winning public confidence as an able, faithful President. They would have rejoiced had he been a failure; as he has conducted himself with honor, and to the nation's credit, they can never forgive him. Such men do not represent the really "independent" republicans; they speak and work for a faction only. And as a faction only do they declare that President Arthur cannot carry New York.

Mr. Dana's Musical Ostrich.

New York Sun.

Mr. Keely, of Philadelphia, has, as usual, postponed the exhibition of his alleged motor. Mr. Keely and his apparatus have a vastly diminished interest for the public compared with the Keely stockholders, who, for blind, unreasoning, and preposterous credulity, are not surpassed by the ostrich, which thrusts its head in the sand and from that secure retreat whistles shrill defiance at its ferocious pursuers. If Keely's motor is ever made to go, it will be propelled by the faith of the stockholders.

AMUSEMENTS.

FORD'S—RHEA.

M'lle Rhea opened a week's engagement at Ford's opera house yesterday to a brilliant and fashionable audience. The rather unusual experiment of holding a Monday matinee with a double play was in this case attended with complete success. At the matinee "Les Jurons de Cadillac" was presented in French, and M'lle Rhea's own translation into English of Dumanoir's comedy, "A Terrible Woman." "The Oaths of Cadillac" is a charming petite comedy, in which Capt. Cadillac, a naval officer (personated by Mr. Wm. Harris) is in love with the Countess, M'lle Rhea. Capt. Cadillac is a terrible swearer, and the lady refuses to marry him unless he breaks this habit. He agrees to do so, and she tries him for an hour, teasing him to the best of her ability, and finally gets him talking of a battle where his best friend was killed. And then he burst into terrible oaths. The lady, however, marries him. Mr. Harris was a splendid Capt. Cardillac, acting the part with all the attention to detail, the earnest, natural manner so necessary to make such characters a success. It speaks well for the culture of our Washington society, that but few persons in the audience yesterday but understood and appreciated the charming breeziness of "Les Jurons de Cadillac." The full house which greeted the rendition of the "School for Scandal" last night was a tribute both to the reputation of the distinguished artiste who took the leading role and to the abiding popularity of Sheridan's masterpiece.

Of course the chief interest last night pertained to the appearance of Mlle. Rhea in the character of Lady Teazle. This has always been a favorite part with English comediennes, and is justly regarded as a strong test of the ability of an actress. In this country it is remembered as a leading part with such actresses as Mrs. Mowatt, Laura Keene, &c., when at the height of their fame. Of course the accomplished actress who essayed the role last night, did so with great charm, as well as with signal ability. Her beauty, her splendid figure, her graceful bearing and carriage could not fail to produce an attractive Lady Teazle. Her art is very finished, showing thorough training of the best French school. Her knowledge of stage business is accurate and almost intuitive. The mobility of face and mien, in playfulness, scorn, and grief, were very satisfactory. Nevertheless it will hardly be claimed that Mlle. Rhea, in the present state of her English pronunciation, is fitted for this part. It is a part requiring great spontaneity and vivacity, and the use by the artist of what is to her a foreign tongue hinders from both. Then there is in the play a racy flavor of a by-gone English time which the foreign accent spoils. Further, the wit, continually sparkling, depends so much on a happy choice and clear-cut use of words that the point is obscured by any defect in delivery. Thus, while Mlle. Rhea is undoubtedly a great actress, she hardly does herself or the character justice.

Mr. Harris and Mr. Sullivan were satisfactory in their several parts as Charles and Joseph Surface. The Sir Peter of Mr. Wilson was excellent, as also the Maria of Miss Hall. The minor parts, with two exceptions, were well filled. Mlle. Rhea was called before the curtain at the end of the fourth act and made the recipient of a magnificent floral tribute.

THE NATIONAL—"THE BLACK FLAG."

At the National theater last night a play of [illegible] by a company decidedly above the average in ability. "The Black Flag" was the play, which was given with all the identical scenery painted by the great artist, Voegtlin, and the appointments used in the Union Square theater, New York, complete in every detail. The realistic effect obtained is very decided. The play is founded upon the modern melo-dramatic theme, where a man secures the imprisonment of his brother in order to obtain his bride and his money. The victim is sent to Portland prison, upon which, when a prisoner escapes, they hoist a black flag.

Mr. Edwin Thorne takes the part of Harry Glyndon, of the coast guard, the victim of brotherly duplicity. Mr. Thorne's acting is in every sense artistic, every attention being paid to details, and the result is a charming representation. He is ably supported by a company each member of which is a painstaking, conscientious artist. Mr. T. J. Morton as Jack Glyndon and Mr. Russell Bassett as Sim Lazarus are specially noticeable. The ladies of the cast are to be particularly mentioned for the clever presentation of their roles. Master Harry Woodruff as Ned, a cabin boy, carried off the honors of the evening. He carried the audience with him enthusiastically. Something is due to his extreme youth for the favor with which he was received, but most of it was fairly won by natural and earnest acting that would be creditable to far older actors. "The Black Flag" will run all the week.

MR. GEORGE W. CABLE.

This gentleman, who is by far the most conspicuous writer of fiction before the American public at present, will give a series of readings from his own works in this city Wednesday evening, at the Congregational church, and in view of his advent among us the following sketch of his literary career will be of interest: Mr. Cable came before the American public in 1875 by the publication of his tale, "Jean-ah Poquelin," in *Scribner's*—now the *Century—Magazine*. His subsequent career in the literary field has been one of the most remakable and brilliant known to our annals. His two published books, "Old Creole Days" and "The Grandissimes," were accepted throughout the breadth of the land as revelations of new power, and their author was hailed as the long-expected American writer who was to draw his inspiration from his native soil. So remarkable was the effect produced by these unique books, in which we were suddenly introduced to an entirely new set of people, and made to laugh and thrill and weep over scenes that were as fresh as they were graphic, that Mr. Cable one morning found himself famous. Criticism hailed him as a genius; the publishers importuned him. But he was a modest, sincere man, and he chose to move in his own orbit, and do what was in him to do, in his own way. Whoever has read "Old Creole Days" or the "Grandissimes," must have been struck with the quaintness, the naif originality of the characterizations, and the sweet charm of human nature that runs like a golden thread all through. The dialect is wholly new; the types of personality are absolutely fresh, and the mingled superstition, heroism, and beauty of creole life burn forth with a distinctness and charm that attest the torch of genius. The idea of himself entering the field of lecturers and readers, and giving selections in public from his own works, only recently occurred to Mr. Cable. It was a hazardous experiment. Not one reader in 500 succeeds in being anything but dull. The power to put into action and articulation that which the author has put upon paper is a very rare one in the author himself. Dickens possessed it in a remarkable degree. Singularly enough, Mr. Cable in this experiment achieved a success which was as instantaneous and as brilliant as has been his literary achievement. He appeared at Chickering hall in Boston with very little heralding, and the result was one of the most remarkable that has been recorded. It is true his fame as an author had preceded him, and there was a widespread curiosity to see the man who had written "The Grandissimes." But literary fame was entirely insufficient to account for the unanimous verdict of delight which greeted his modest attempt. To the charm of the subject matter was added a charm of personality in the man that made the entertainment a novelty. Nothing so new, so naive, so piquant, and so fraught with all the tones of humor and pathos had ever been heard in the literary capital. The audience of highly cultivated people listened with amusement and delight, and when Mr. Cable had finished there was a sigh of regret rippled over the entire assemblage. The fact is that a fresh man had arrived, and such is the fascination of originality, either of thought or person, that the world will forgive a thousand defects in its behalf. The special features of Mr. Cable's reading were dramatic intensity, pictorial color, a protean fancy that passed into each character and animated it, and a joyous, bubbling humor that was infectious. So empthatic was the success of the reading that he was immediately besieged with applications. When he returned to Boston he produced a still greater sensation in that literary center. The audiences at Chickering hall, in that city, fairly crowned him with the bays of genius. The press with unanimous voice hailed him as a conqueror in the platform field. "No one since Dickens," said *The Transcript*, "has succeeded in so holding an audience breathless, while every emotion and sympathy was played upon." Mr. Cable is about 38. He is short and slender; has thick black hair, a long, dark, silky beard and drooping mustache. His face is animated with intelligence and feeling, and his eyes are bright, frank, and electric. His voice is of a most pleasant character, capable of every modulation, exquisitely sympathetic, vibrant, and at times powerful. In the dramatic scenes he becomes identified with the character and the observer is swept along as at a play.

THE MENDELSSOHN QUINTETTE.

The Mendelssohn Quintette club, of Boston, will give a concert at Lincoln hall to-night. There are several eminent artists numbered with this popular organization. Madame Cora Giese, a distinguished soprano, will assist. The programme is well arranged, and comprises several numbers from such well-known composers as Mendelssohn, Thomas, Beethoven, Schubert, and others.

TWO MEASURES.

To Facilitate the Business of the Supreme Court.

The senate committee on the judiciary reported adversely yesterday the bills introduced by Senators Bayard, Mitchell, and Lapham respectively, to provide for the relief of the supreme court, and submitted instead the Davis bill to provide for the establishment of a court of appeals, as it passed the senate last year, with some unimportant amendments.

The bill provides for the appointment of two additional judges in each United States judicial circuit for the holding of a circuit court in every judicial district in the United States, whose terms shall be held at the same time and place as those of the district court, and that these circuit courts shall have no jurisdiction in cases of appeals, or writs of error from the district courts, except as to reviews in bankruptcy cases.

It provides for the establishment in each of the judicial circuits of the United States of a court of appeals with appellate jurisdiction of all cases arising in the several circuit and district courts within said circuit, these courts to consist of the justice of the supreme court, assigned to the circuit of the circuit judgest hereof, and of two of the district judges, to be designated by an order of the court at each term thereof, and the same for the succeeding term, any four of whom shall constitute a quorum; *Provided*, That no circuit or district judge, before whom a case or question may have been tried or heard in the district or circuit, shall sit on the trial or hearing of such case or question in the appellate court.

It fixes the times for holding terms of the proposed court of appeals for the second Tuesday in May, 1885, and the second Tuesday in May and first Tuesday in November thereafter, and the places as follows: In the first circuit, Boston; second circuit, New York; third circuit, Philadelphia; fourth circuit, Richmond; fifth circuit, New Orleans; sixth circuit, Cincinnati; seventh circuit, Chicago; eighth circuit, St. Louis, and ninth circuit, San Francisco

A bill of Representative Poland to facilitate the disposition of causes in the United States supreme court provides that the review of equity causes in the supreme court on appeal shall be limited to the determination of questions of law arising upon the record and to such rulings of the court below, excepted to at the time, as may be presented by a bill of exceptions.

Hush! A Hen On.

"We have been holding cloak room caucuses all day," said a democratic legislator last night, "fixing up things to make a fight for the consideration of the Morrison tariff bill to-morrow. This morning we had grave doubts about our ability to take up the bill, and to-night we are afraid we'll have too many votes in favor of it. The fact is we've heard that there is a republican hen on, and it looks now as if some trouble for the bill is to be hatched out before adjournment to-morrow."

Rumored Rescue of the Greely Party.

The navy department has been informed that a rumor prevailed at St. John's, N. F., that the Greely party had been rescued from a mass of floating ice by the crew of a whaling schooner. In a communication on the subject the United States consul at St. John's says that the report is not believed there. He adds, however, that he will promptly advise the department of whatever information may be received on the subject.

The Reliance Wrecked With Minister Osborne on Board.

Secretary of State Frelinghuysen yesterday received from Thomas A. Osborne, United States minister to Brazil, a telegram announcing the wreck of the steamer Reliance, on which he was a passenger on his way to the United States. He telegraphs from Bohia, and says passengers, crew, and mails are saved.

The District of Columbia Appropriation Bill.

The District of Columbia appropriation bill, as completed yesterday by the house committee on appropriations, appropriates $1,675,251, a few hundred dollars less than the appropriation of last year.

Eighty-Three Years of Useful Life.

Mr. R. J. Meigs, clerk of the supreme court of the District of Columbia, celebrated his 83d birthday yesterday.

Admirable Conduct of His Public Duties.

Ohio State Journal.

Mr. Arthur has avoided the fatal error of Tyler, Fillmore and Johnson, in that he has had no policy of his own in opposition to the clearly defined policy of his party. It has been objected that his administration has been uneventful. This is true, and it is creditable that it is so. He is evidently a firm believer in the sound doctrine that a country is governed best that is governed the least, and he has done nothing sensational or startling because there was nothing of that kind to be done. He has performed the duties of his office with a becoming dignity and withal an absolute fidelity that has disarmed his enemies, and, what would not have been deemed possible two years ago, he made himself one of the possible candidates for the succession. And this has been brought about purely through his admirable conduct of his public duties, and not by any organized effort of his own, nor because of any expressed desire on his part to be considered a candidate.

CURRENT GOSSIP.

WHAT TWO OF THEM SAID.

Said Bertie
To Gertie:
"Do you love
Me above
All others?
Have brothers,
Or sisters,
Or misters
Greater part
In your heart
Than is mine,
My divine?"

Said Gertie
To Bertie:
"How stupid!
Young cupid,
You know well,
Holds a spell
O'er my heart
By his dart.
You I love
Far above
Any man.
So you can
Be at ease,
And don't tease
Me again,
And give pain
To your love,
And your dove,
As you say
Ev'ry day,
E'er to you
I'll be true,"
Said Gertie
To Bertie.

Now doth the husband wield a club
And send the carpet dust in air,
And as he beats the rub-a-dub,
Great goshamighty, don't he swear!
The dust piles up within his ears,
And penetrates his itching nose;
His cheeks are damp with muddy tears,
As each successive sneeze is sneeze.

MR. RODNEY WALLACE, of Fitchburg, Mass., has given that city a lot of land on Monument square valued at $20,000, and will build upon it at his own expense a free public library, reading room, and art gallery to cost $40,000.

A GUEST at a Zanesville restaurant called sharply to the waiter: "Take these fried oysters away; they are spoiled." "I guess you's right, boss," he replied. "I gave 'em to three other chaps before you, and they said the same thing."

A SPORTSMAN hooked a salmon in the North Esk river, Scotland, the other day which he played for twenty hours in the effort to tire it out, and then had his trouble for his pains, the fish snapping the line at the last. It was estimated to weigh at least sixty pounds.

EMMA ABBOTT says the acoustic properties of the Mormon Temple are better than those of any other building she ever sang in; so good, indeed, that once she stood at one end of it and "heard one single pin dropped into a man's hat" at the other end. And it wasn't a rolling-pin, either.

EDWIN BOOTH says he will never go "on the road" again, but will confine himself to playing in a few of the large cities of the east. His health is not good, and he does not care to exert himself to his utmost. He is more popular in Brooklyn than in any other city; Boston next, and probably Philadelphia third, though he has to play there at lower prices than elsewhere. He is now worth about $1,000,000, and long ago paid all his debts in full.

"OF what did your father die?" asked the insurance examiner. "Dropsy," replied the young man, in faltering tones. "H'm," said the examiner, "hereditary?" The young man said he hoped not, and nervously tried to change the subject, but was at last cornered and compelled to admit that his father had the dropsy out in Arizona, and that when he dropped he didn't get all the way down and there was nothing for him to light on. But the insurance man seemed to be greatly relieved, and said there was nothing in hat to stand in the way of his getting a policy.

A CURIOUS accident took place at a funeral at Wabash, Ind., Tuesday last. While the remains of a young man were being lowered into a grave the coffin suddenly collapsed, and the body fell six feet to the bottom, striking violently on the hard ground, and doubling up. The corpse was removed and once more put in the casket, and just as the attendants were letting it down a second time the coffin split in twain, and the body, head first, pitched into the grave. On the third attempt the patched-up coffin held together until it reached the bottom.

A GENTLEMAN living at Aiken, S. C., owned a pair of ponies which the family had driven for years. Recently the roads became so bad that he sent the ponies out to his plantation to pasture and bought a team of stout horses. When the ponies went to the farm the old family coach dog, which had run with them for years, accompanied them. They had been there a week when the dog trotted back to town to see his master. He hovered around the new horses for a few minutes and then put off briskly for the farm. In an hour he came back, followed by the two faithful old ponies, whose places had been usurped by the horses.

NOT long since Dr. Bull Run Russell, the famous war correspondent, was married to an Italian lady in Paris. Their friends sent them lots of elegant presents, which they left in charge of a friend in London until they finished their wedding tour. Shortly after they had gone, a porter, rigged out in fine livery, called at the house with a cart and told the lady that Mrs. Russell had returned and he had been sent after the boxes left in her care. She handed them over, but wondered why they had not sent a card announcing their return. The next mail brought her a letter stating they would be back in a fortnight, at which time they would have the boxes removed. The chap in livery was a thief.

A couple of reliable astronomers, Profs. Hough and Burnham, of Dearborn observatory, have been making some careful micrometrical measurements of the planet Sirius and his moon. This planet is the brightest in the whole firmament, and its distance from the earth is estimated to be 1,375,000 times greater than the distance of the sun or about 123,750,000,000,000 miles. Or, to measure its distance in another way, its light, traveling at the rate of 180,000 miles per second, would be more than twenty-one years in reaching the earth. In other words still, the astronomer who turns his telescope now on that star sees it as it was more than a score of years ago. The dimensions of the star must be enormous, even as compared with our sun, for it is quite twice the brilliancy of any of its companions, while our sun at that distance would probably appear like a star of the fourth magnitude.

GEORGE SMITH, owner of a fine plantation near Macon, Ga., says that during a recent cyclone one of the negro cabins, in which were two negro babies, was blown to atoms and the debris set on fire. When the storm had abated somewhat the mothers of the children rushed out of the storm pit, expecting to find them dead, and when the sight of the dismantled and blazing cabin met their eyes they both fainted, supposing of course that the picaninnies were both dead. Mr. Smith hastened to the wreck, and to his surprise he found both of the babies uninjured. One of them was picking the dirt out of its eyes as though just awake, while the other was still asleep. When the little black things were returned to the distracted women they danced and cried for joy. Debris was piled all around them, but nothing of sufficient weight to produce an injury had touched them. The preacher took this as an evidence that the Lord was in that neighborhood, and a revival was started at once.

In Germany the young man who thinks a certain young lady's father would make a good father-in-law, puts on his best clothes, calls on the old gentleman, and asks for the hand of his daughter. He never thinks of appealing first to the young lady. That would be almost as great an offense against good morals as it is for the young lady to receive gentlemen callers without her mother being present. The old gentleman sizes up the young man's pile, his prospects, and the standing of his family. If these are satisfactory, he is then introduced to the girl as her affianced husband. Having a mortal dread of being an old maid, she at once falls in love. They now go out together and act just as spoony on the streets and in public places as they are allowed to without fear of exciting special remark, whereas, had they been seen on the street together before the engagement, she would have been dropped from the rolls of good society, and he would have been twitted and teased by his friends until life would have become a burden. They go very little on love, the whole matrimonial scheme in all classes being regarded as a business affair.