The National Republican

WASHINGTON, D. C.

A republican newspaper, whose editorial columns are devoted to national, political, and local matters, all subjects being viewed from a broad liberal party standpoint and treated independently without regard or favor to persons or factions.

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—Emma Abbott English Opera Company.
COMIQUE—"Baked Alive" and "Upside Down."
DIME MUSEUM.—Matinee and evening performance.

Auction Sales.

TO-DAY.

BY DUNCANSON BROS.—On April 21 and 22, peremptory sale of fine suburban property.

FUTURE DAYS.

BY DUNCANSON BROTHERS.—On April 23, pawnbroker's sale of gold watches, gold chains, &c.

MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1884.

MR. RICHARD T. MERRICK will not assist in the prosecution of ex-Senator Kellogg.

THE house of representatives on Saturday passed a bill creating a bureau of labor statistics. The head of the bureau is to receive $3,500, and the whole annual expense must not exceed $25,000.

EDITOR MCCLURE'S paper is sticking pins in the feelings of Mr. Blaine's Pennsylvania friends by all sorts of disquieting insinuations to the general effect that the delegation to Chicago is far from solid for the Maine statesman.

CHINESE GORDON is tightly fastened up in Khartoum, and El Mahdi is bottled up in El Obeid through a formidable insurrection of his late followers. If Ben Butler was over there he could give the unlucky dignitaries some valuable points about being "bottled up."

THE merciless character of warfare in the Soudan is thoroughly illustrated by the massacre of the fugitives from Shendy reported in our foreign dispatches. Of the 450 men, women, and children on board the grounded steamer not one was spared by the ferocious Arabs. It is ominous of the wild scenes of rapine and slaughter likely to follow the capture of the large Nile towns—events not likely to be much longer delayed.

KUKLUXISM is again rampant in Georgia. It would be highly creditable to the state authorities if they would put a dozen or two of these cowardly ruffians in the chain-gang and thus relieve the United States courts of the unpleasant duty of sending them to the Albany penitentiary. At present their murderous rage is directed against the persons who testified for the government in the kuklux trials of last year.

THE congressional district conventions held in New York city on Saturday selected sixteen delegates to the Chicago convention, of whom fifteen are warm supporters of the President. It is meet that the commercial metropolis of the nation should thus emphasize its approbation of the wise and statesmanlike administration of the nation's affairs through which President Arthur has justly won the confidence and support of the great business interests of the country from border to border.

AN election for state officers and members of the legislature will be held in Louisiana to-morrow. The crevasses and overflows have taken up so much attention in the parishes that the people have had but little time for talking politics, and the campaign has been spiritless. In the city of New Orleans, however, a bitter contest has been waged between the partisans of the regular democratic candidates and a citizens' reform organization which has set up an opposition ticket for municipal and parish officers. The republicans will, for the most part, support the reform ticket. An opposition ticket for state officers was put into the field by a convention of sugar planters, but there has been no effective canvass made in its behalf. The chairman of the democratic state central committee, apprehending that the opposition candidates in New Orleans will poll a heavy vote, has issued a circular calling upon democrats of the parishes to bring out every voter lest the republicans may be encouraged by the reduced democratic majority. There is a good deal of the bulldozing spirit in this proclamation.

MR. J. H. DUVAL, collector of internal revenue for the West Virginia district, has tendered his resignation to the President, but as yet it has not been accepted. On March 31 Mr. Duval asked permission of Commissioner Evans, by telegraph, to appoint an additional gauger at the Hannis distillery at Martinsburg. Mr. Evans replied by telegraph, telling him to use his own judgment in the matter. Later in the day, however, he looked over the records and found that the two officers at the Hannis distillery were only gauging twenty-eight packages a day, which was not sufficient work to employ their whole time. Mr. Duval was informed by mail that a gauger in his district ought to be able to do as much work as in any other district. The collector then came to Washington and had a personal interview with Commissioner Evans. He went back to Wheeling and sent a communication to President Arthur tendering his resignation, the reason assigned being a remark made by Commissioner Evans to the effect that if he (Evans) was not in full accord with the administration he would retire from office. Mr. Duval interpreted this as a hint that his own resignation was desired. The commissioner denies that he intended to convey any such intimation in his remarks. Secretary Folger has informed Mr. Duval that he is at liberty to withdraw his resignation if he so desires; and thus the matter rests.

From Gayety to Grief.

Somewhere about two years ago the democrats were an exceedingly merry set and looked forward to their magnificent seventy-eight majority in the house as a fair inkling of a tidal wave that should sweep all before it in the coming election of 1884. The merriment has subsided altogether, and the democratic minds are now soberly reflective and thoughtful. The two ablest men in the party have concentrated their thoughts upon the problem of an issue on which to conduct the campaign, and have arrived at results which have been given to the world through the Chicago Iorquois club. The conclusions differ, and the difference represents very fairly the state of mind of the party. The wisdom of Bayard sees in the Morrison bill the element of popularity that can save the party. The wisdom of Tilden sees the necessity of avoiding the tariff issue at the present time. It is the first time in the history of parties in this country that the confessedly longest headed man of any of them has written an important public letter on the situation just before the battle, and made no commendatory allusion to the vital measure which the representatives of his party in congress have concocted as a campaign issue.

The democrats have always been divided on the tariff, as they are now, but have got on well enough because they have not made the issue prominent. But the time has come when they could no longer subordinate it. The old subjects of contest about currency, internal improvement, nullification, slavery, resumption of specie payments, and the resolutions of '98 have all been settled. Not one of them is now contested, and their subsidence below the surface has left no object above the waste of waters but the tariff. Necessarily it became prominent, and the only thing that is prominent as a business question. To make the matter worse, there was the palpable fact that in the settlement of the great questions above enumerated the democrats lost their case every time. They meet year after year and quietly drop from their platform one by one the old planks on which they formerly sat and drifted, until it came to pass that acquiescence in what the republicans have done was regarded as a chief merit, and they began to put on airs for having the virtue to accept and be grateful for the good things their opponents have made them swallow by sheer force against their will. On all the great measures before the country in past years the democrats now know they were wrong and have been beaten. They give all up but free trade, and are debating among themselves whether their last pet lamb is to be surrendered or fought for and kept in the family as a consot for the amusement of the children and an object of affection.

The struggle excites commiseration. The cry went up, "For God's sake, leave us something!" and by the aid of five tender-hearted republicans the leaders protected their forlorn little ewe by a majority of two votes, and thus will be able to hear its plaintive bleating for a few weeks longer. It is a sad thought that so much effort has been expended by a great organization to prevent what they conceived was a wrong policy from prevailing. It is mournful to think of the number of prophets that have come to grief by results that have contradicted all their prognostications. The letter writers send out statements that Cox is a sad man and no more laughs. It is natural. How could he laugh when driven to vote against protecting the wool on the back of the last democratic sheep, as he was the other day by party necessity? Morrison is sad, too, and cannot help it. All democrats are sad.

One of the writers of the Chicago letters expressed his abiding faith that Providence would yet come to the rescue of the democratic party. Such faith borders on the sublime, for it is a long time since Providence has shown much inclination that way. Jeff Davis exhibited no less faith in Providence, and never gave up the lost cause until he found his wife's garments too short to hide a pair of pronounced cavalry boots; then faith died, and Providence has not since been much counted on as a support in the tribulations of democracy.

THE tests so far made of the new dynamite gun in New York seem to prove that it is likely to be an effective engine of war within certain limits. It is pretty well established that it will throw its projectile with a good degree of accuracy up to a range of perhaps three miles. The experiments so far have been confined to a determination of its effective range and the shells used have been filled with sand instead of dynamite. If, on further testing, it is found that the shells when filled with this dangerous material can be safely used it will at once be apparent that a terribly destructive force has been added to the grim resources of modern warfare. But it will take a great deal of experimenting to fix the degree of availability of the new weapon even after it shall have been settled that dynamite can be safely propelled from the new gun by the force of compressed air. Except under special conditions of proximity it does not seem likely the gun could contend with modern artillery on account of the far greater range of the latter. It is plain that a gun with a range of over five miles could demolish one with a range of but three miles, and as the longer distance is quite within the power of rifled cannon it would seem that the problem of devising a method of bringing the possibly formidable dynamite gun into a position in action where it would be on an equality with the longer range artillery will require as much ingenuity as any of the other questions yet to be solved in connection with this new engine of war.

AMUSEMENTS.

NATIONAL—EMMA ABBOTT.

The Emma Abbott Grand English opera company appears for this week at the National in a series of popular operas. To-night "Sonnambula" and the fourth act of "Trovatore" will be presented, with Abbott, Rosewald, Seguin, Castle, Tagliapietra, Campobello, Allen, and Fabrini in the cast. The sale of seats has been very large, indicating a large patronage, and the repertoire chosen for the season will in every way lead to satisfaction.

FORD'S—"THE QUEEN'S LACE HANDKERCHIEF."

"The Queen's Lace Handkerchief," Strauss's bright and sparkling opera, which has been the rage in New York for a long time, will be placed on the boards to-night at Ford's, and will run during the week. It will be presented by the Patterson New York opera company, comprising excellent artists, among them Miss Louise Searle, Louise Manfred, Fanny Redding, Hellen Cooper, Messrs. J. S. Greensfelder, Gustave Adolphi, and C. M. Pyke, all of whom have received merited praise in their respective roles. The well-trained chorus is made up of good voices. A lace handkerchief will be presented to each lady patron to-night.

"DESIREE."

An important musical and dramatic event will take place at the National theater in this city Thursday evening, May 1, when Sousa, Taber, and Morton's opera, "Desiree," will be produced for the first time on any stage by the McCaull opera comique company. The cast is an exceptionally strong one, embracing Lily Post, Rose Leighton, Virginia Evans, Mark Smith, Jay Taylor, Francis Wilson, and others. The designs for the costumes were obtained by Manager McCaull from Paris and have been made in the magnificent style which characterizes all his productions. Manager Albaugh is having new and elaborate scenery painted in Baltimore for the opera. The piece has been in active rehearsal for several weeks, and the concluding rehearsals will be under the personal supervision of Messrs. Sousa and Taber. The orchestra has been selected from the best performers of the Marine band, and upon the opening night will be under the personal direction of the composer. Messrs. Sousa and Taber being both residents of this city, there is naturally an unusual interest felt here in the success of their work.

REV. JOSEPH C. PRICE'S LECTURE.

At the Congregational church yesterday the Rev. Dr. Raukin read from his pulpit a notice that Rev. Joseph C. Price, of North Carolina, would lecture in that church, on Wednesday evening, April 23. Dr. Raukin said that he had heard all the great orators of this country, including Everett, and that Mr. Price was more remarkable than them all. He advised his congregation to be in attendance if they wished to hear a great oration. Hon. Tyre York, member of congress from the seventh district of North Carolina, will preside and introduce Mr. Price.

Arthur's Chances.

Philadelphia News.

There is no occasion for the friends of President Arthur to feel alarmed at the stories so vigorously manufactured and circulated by the friends of other candidates as to his being practically out of the race for the presidential nomination. He is to-day stronger than ever, and before the convention convenes he will be still stronger. Philadelphia gives the republican majority in this state, and Philadelphia is for Arthur. New England is almost solidly for Arthur, as against Blaine, although it now favors Edmunds. The south is unanimously for Arthur, although most southern republicans prefer General Grant to any one else. The western states are divided in their support, but could unite on Arthur, and the result in New York city yesterday shows that the President is the only republican who has any strength there, not counting General Grant as a candidate. There is, in fact, no weakening whatever in the President's cause, and he is to-day stronger all over the country than ever before. The waves of public opinion will advance and recede many times before the time for the convention, but it will be found at that time that the President's strength and popularity will then be increased instead of diminished. He is the only republican who has been named for the presidency except Gen. Grant who could possibly carry New York state, and if Mr. Blaine should be nominated he could not carry Massachusetts, which would be too big a defection to run the risk of encountering.

The President's quiet attitude and the fact that his friends are not claiming everything by wholesale for him should not be construed by his friends as an evidence of weakness. When the time comes for action and the counting of votes the results will show that loud claims don't settle results.

Responsibility of the House.

Cleveland Leader.

The democratic majority has shown itself opposed to a reconstruction of the navy, not caring a fig as to whether the country has the means of making its flag respected abroad or of defending itself at home. This is done under the pretense that the secretary of the navy is not to be trusted with the expenditure of money for the construction of new vessels. This is simply bosh, for the new vessels now under way are being constructed under contract and the superintendence of the naval advisory board. It is proposed to pursue a like course with additional vessels, and this explodes the democratic objection to Secretary Chandler "using the money to reward favorites." The house will undoubtedly kick against the senate amendments and refuse to agree. But the country needs an effective navy and it is to be hoped that the senate will stand firm in the position it has taken. If the house democrats insist upon striking out the amendments and the appropriation fails in consequence let that party bear the onus before the country.

A Cynical Piece of Politics.

Boston Traveller

If Chester A. Arthur is not nominated at Chicago next June his treatment by the republican party will be one of the most cynical episodes in the political history of the country. It is a certainty that the national convention will indorse his administration and praise his executive conduct. Then why not nominate him? The only answers that can be given to that question are full of cynical suggestions. Because the party is not enthusiastic for him, some will say. But if he is as good a President as the party in all its conventions says he is, what kind of a party does it confess itself to be by this explanation? What a sardonic situation it will be, to be sure, if we ever reach it, when the republican convention conducts Mr. Arthur to the door and throws him down stairs, with the remark, "You have been one of the best Presidents the country has ever had—now git!"

Living Down a Vile Slander.

San Francisco Post.

We regard the candidature of President Arthur as the only serious obstacle in the way of Blaine's nomination. Arthur has deserved well of his party and of his country. His administration has been at once honest, efficient, and conservative. Succeeding to the presidency under the most trying conditions that could surround any man, he won his way to public confidence and respect by a course of conduct at once discreet, patient, and gentlemanly in all its parts. He lived down all the vile slanders which partisan malice could invent, and is to-day a most universally respected executive.

Quay's Next Choice.

Philadelphia Times.

Quay says that he is for Arthur first and next for Blaine; but whether Quay will reach his "next" choice before the close of the Chicago convention, he forgot to say. When Quay is for a man first, his "next" choice is usually postponed indefinitely.

ON THE AVENUE.

Small Talk About Men and Measures.

A former resident of that section of the city where the new reservoir is to be located says: "We have been treated very badly by the government. Our land was condemned and our houses pulled down, so that we have been compelled to find homes elsewhere. We filed our claims in due form months ago, and each one of us was compelled to furnish an abstract of title and all the evidence necessary to sustain our right to convey the property. Well, these papers were transmitted by the attorney general to the United States attorney for the district for examination and verification, and now in the press of other business this work is either laid aside or given so little attention that it will be a year before we get our money. The district attorney insists that the chain of transfers of title shall be traced back to the days of the Calvert grant, and I believe the one man placed on the work has made a score of trips to Rockville, St. Mary's, and Baltimore to see if their land stands all straight from the grant of Charles I to the present time. We are all poor and need this money to provide homes for our families, and it would be a simple act of justice on the part of the attorney general to take some action looking to pushing our claims to a settlement."

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"For real, genuine, confiding, open-hearted trustfulness," said the colonel, "I reckon a bran new congressman can't be outdone. The one I saw said he came from Missouri and he gave the name of his town, but I'm not going to give it to you. I was not acquainted with him, but we were riding up the avenue on the same car. The car was full and when it stopped to let on a lady and gentleman up jumped Mr. Congressman to give the lady a seat. I noticed that the lady had a Washington guidebook in her hand and they seemed to be visitors to the capital. The congressman evidently noticed the same thing, for he immediately began a conversation with the strange gentleman. The first thing he did was to backcap the city as if it were the worst place in the country. He said it had no decent 'stores,' no business, no enterprise, no anything, except a lot of government paupers. Then he told the man who he was and where he came from; said this was his first term, and told what he expected to do; talked over the tariff matter and Morrison's bill, and informed the stranger how he was going to vote upon it. When I left the car he was beginning to tell that stranger about his family, how many children he had, and how old they were. I presume before he got to the capitol he had informed the stranger how many pieces of clothing he sent to the laundry every week. He was a very confiding man."

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In a communication of considerable length "J. H. C." makes a few points against the police department. One reason for the inefficiency of the department he finds in the fact that its chief, a man without experience in police matters, was appointed to his place by Commissioner Edmonds "for political reasons." He further remarks that Maj. Dye would do well to change his detectives and set the new ones to looks after "crooks" instead of policy and poker games. "There is doubtless more money for the district," he suggestively adds, "in raiding these games than in looking after crooks, but we are paying a tax to have our property protected, and when it is stolen we want the services of Maj. Dye's officers to recover it."

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Communications criticising the district commissioners for opposing the bill introduced in congress giving citizens the right to sue in the court of claims for damages to their property caused by street improvements are frequent and very long. In a considerable roll of manuscript "Square Deal" states that the present commissioners are trying "to defeat legislation which their predecessors, in reports to the president, have annually referred to as necessary to provide for the adjustment of a class of meritorious outstanding claims." "Square Deal" further states that "the commissioners willfully misrepresent the history of the claims legislation and assume to be true that which they have intelligence enough to know is false." He says that the board of audit was abolished because of payments made to contractors in violation of law and not because of its action in regard to these claims. He states that he is now paying taxes to pay bonds issued to settle his neighbor's claim for damages, and does not think his neighbor can now object to paying his claim of precisely the same character. He suggests the appointment or election of "honest, able citizens" in place of the present commissioners.

In another large roll of manuscript upon the same subject "R" writes that the commissioners should "mind their own business;" that their office is executive, and that they are much out of place in attempting to influence legislation. "The persons claiming damages for injuries," he says, "merely ask that their claims be heard by a competent court. If they have no valid claim the trial will be at claimants' expense. The counsel for the district is the proper person to make an argument when the claims are before the court. The duty of the commissioners is to execute the law, not to argue for or against claims." "R" makes the claim that the regrading of the streets was done without any valid authority, since a municipality possesses no power beyond that given in its charter and the charter of the district does not give it the power to regrade streets.

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Hon. John C. New arrived here last evening from the west. He says that all the arrangements for the accommodation of the national republican convention, which will meet in Chicago on June 2, have about been completed. Quarters have been secured for the delegates, and the work of preparing the exposition building for the occupancy of the convention will have been completed within a week or so. There will be no difficulty in visitors securing ample hotel accommodations as the various hostelries are arranging to increase their capacity to a point that will enable them to readily care for all who may visit Chicago during the session of the two conventions.

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"I don't understand," said the observing citizen, "how that same virtuous congress which boils over with indignation because so much public land has been given to railroad companies—or grasping monopolies, as members call them—can pass a bill giving the Baltimore and Ohio company the right of way under the capitol grounds, and the use, which for its purposes is as good as the ownership, of a considerable portion of the public land in the heart of this city. Suppose that land on Sixth street, near Pennsylvania avenue, is worth rather more money than land in the mountains of Oregon or Colorado, yet the same congress which considers the gift of mountain land to monopolies preposterous is asked to give a portion of the mall to a monopoly. It was a clever idea of the railroad companies to get a president of one company on the house district committee as chairman. I want to see a bill introduced to allow the Baltimore and Ohio to run through the basement of the capitol and to use so much of that building as it desires for depot purposes. Perhaps that will not be done but I want somebody to demand an aye-and-nay vote on the proposition that is now before the house. Next fall a member who is trying to be re-elected on his record of opposition to monopolies and land grants might find himself seriously embarrassed by the record of a vote to give enormous privileges, without any other consideration than the company's good will to him, to the Baltimore and Ohio company. Then I want Senator Morrill to amend his motion for a committee to wait upon the president of the Pennsylvania Railroad company to ascertain if he has any more orders for congress by including the president of the Baltimore and Ohio."

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Representative Lamb, of Indiana, was with the Pacific coast delegation upon the occasion of their recent pilgrimage to Gramercy park, and his impressions of the interview with Mr. Tilden were not too decidedly striking. He says that no unnecessary time was consumed, and that in his judgment the conference lasted fully one minute and thirty-five seconds. Just as it was about concluding Mr. Tilden came over to him and, in that peculiar and soul-thrilling whisper in which he usually converses, he said, "Mr. Lamb, sit down on those tariff idiots over in Washington." With this admonition burned into his brain, the Indiana statesman comes back to spit on his hands and club the Morrison bill out of all shape.

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"I want five shorthand writers quicker'n blazes" was the ejaculation of the brilliant, but somewhat erratic, correspondent of a metropolitan journal last night as he wandered into the lobby of an uptown hotel; "I've had a fo' column interview wizzer President, and wanter get 'em in shape."

A half dozen denizens of the Row rushed forward and began to ask questions. As the scribe went on with his remarks the interest began to subside, and, while he evidently imagined he was overflowing with facts that would paralyze the country, one disgusted quill-driver exploded the sensation by saying, "He's been interviewing the president of a brewery."

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"The district commissioners have given the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad company the use of the old canal bed," said a well-known citizen of South Washington last night, "in order, as they claim, to abate the nuisance of freight cars standing in the public streets. But to-day (Sunday) Virginia avenue, from Seventh street to the bed of the old canal, was one long line of dirty and unsightly cars. That was a fine contract between the railroad company and the district triumvirate, but the people don't see it in that light."

Practical Civil Service Reform.

Washington Special to the Commercial Advertiser.

A prominent republican editor of central New York, who has been disposed to ridicule civil service reform, and who has not looked upon the nomination of President Arthur with favor, in writing to a friend here relative to the appointment of Mr. Coon as assistant secretary of the treasury, says: "I would heartily thank the President for so marked a case of recognition of modest merit. Mr. Coon's case is a rare exception to the average rule. Unassuming gentlemen have not often been singled out and brought to the front. The noisy, clamorous, and showy people get in. His appointment is the most notable instance that has yet occurred at Washington of improvement and reform in the civil service. He has never been a heeler in politics, nor even a delegate in conventions. He has simply attended to his official duties, and those he has discharged in such a way as to command continual promotion. I bow to-day, as I never before, at the shrine of a new civil service, and respect with a hitherto unknown zest the theories I have heretofore been disposed to carp at. There has up to this date been so 'much talk and so little cider' on this much vaunted reform that I have not invested in any very large blocks of the issue. I know that some old-fashioned officials, like Secretary Folger, have practiced the reform, without preaching it a great deal, but now comes a president, without pretense, who carries on the reform with earnestness. And still there are in this state, thousands of sublimated purists who, while shouting reform from the housetops, hesitate about voting for President Arthur.

Soldiers' Home Entertainment.

An entertainment was given on Friday evening last at the chapel on the grounds of the Soldiers' home under the auspices of the Soldiers' Temperance union, recently established there through the Woman's Christian Temperance union of this city. The programme consisted of vocal and instrumental music, recitations, and speeches, and lasted two hours. It was largely attended by inmates of the home, families from the neighborhood, and gentlemen and ladies from the city. The membership of the Soldiers' union numbers 150 veterans, and is in a prosperous condition. The president, Mr. Foreman, opened the exercises with prayer and a brief speech. He was followed by Mr. Lee in a short address. The originator of temperance societies among the soldiers of the regular army, Rev. Mr. Matchett, gave his experience in the forts and barracks of the far west. Mr. Havel sang some fine solos, while Mrs. Pope played accompaniments on the organ. There was a recitation in verse by Mr. Green, of the home, detailing the sanguinary engagement between the Cumberland and the Merrimac, and recitations by Mrs. Walters, Miss White, and Miss Lee. Addresses were delivered by Mrs. Burris, Mrs. Chapin, Mrs. Roach, Mrs. Underhill, and Mrs. Wilkinson. Pleasing incidents of the occasion were the presentation by a veteran of a bouquet to Miss Lee, a girl of 10, who had induced him some months since to sign the pledge, and the presentation to Mrs. Burris of a handsome picture on account of the interest taken by her last summer in the welfare of the soldiers in camp at Gaithersburg. Votes of thanks were given to Mr. G. W. Knox for free transportation, and to Mrs. Wilkinson for obtaining it from him.

St. Patrick's Temperance Society.

The usual weekly meeting of the St. Patrick's Temperance society was held last night in the basement of St. Patrick's church, Rev. Father Thomas, spiritual director of the society, delivered a very interesting address. Among other business transacted, the society adopted a resolution to attend St. Patrick's fair in a body on Wednesday evening next. For that purpose the members will meet at their hall on that evening at 8 o'clock, and proceed thence to the hall of the National Rifles. It was announced that at the next Sunday evening meeting of the society there would be an interesting musical and literary programme.

For Robbing a Hat Store.

John Kelser, a well-known young man of Capitol hill, was arrested yesterday afternoon by Detectives Edelin and Mattingly on a serious charge. It is alleged that Kelser in company with several other parties broke into the window of Stinemetz & Son's hat store, on Pennsylvania avenue, near Thirteenth street, on Feb. 17, and stole a number of articles. After the occurrence Kelser left town and did not return until Saturday. He was captured in the woods near Glenwood cemetery after an exciting chase. The prisoner is held at the seventh precinct station.

To Wipe Out Polygamy.

Three members of the Utah commission were in the city yesterday and two more were expected to arrive last night. From the conversation of those members here it appears that there is a great diversity of views as to the general policy to be recommended, and it is expected that the commission will hold a meeting to-day, at which an effort will be made to reconcile the opinions of its members, and the preliminary steps taken for the preparation of their formal report.

CURRENT GOSSIP.

"SCOTTY."

Scotty's dead! Of course he is!
Just that same old luck of his!—
Every sluce we went cahoots
He's been first, you bet your boots!
When our schoolin' just begun—
Got two whippin's to my one;
Stole and smoked the first cigar;
Stood up first before the bar,
Drinkin' whisky straight—and me
Wastin' time on blackberry!
Beat me in the army, too,
And clean on the whole way through!
In more scraps around the camp,
And more troubles on the tramp;
Fought and fell there by my side
With more bullets in his hide,
And more glory in the cause.—
That's the kind o' man he was!
Luck liked Scotty more than me;
I got married: Scotty, he
Never even would apply
For the pension money I
Had to beg of Uncle Sam—
That's the kind o' cuss I am!
Scotty always first and best—
Me the last and ornriest!
Yet, for all that's said and done—
All the battles fought and won—
We aint prospered—him nor me—
Both as pore as pore could be,
Though we've always, up till now,
Stuck together anyhow—
Scotty always, as I've said,
Luckier, and now he's dead!

—*Jas. Whitcomb Riley.*

IN Milwaukee the other day Wilhelmina Maecker had Carl Steinert arrested, alleging that he had attacked her at a lonely spot on their way home from the theater. At the preliminary examination, however, the plaintiff fell in love with the defendant and they were married in jail, the bride paying the fee.

A CHINAMAN recently took an Indian squaw for a wife at Hawthorne, Nev., and the tribe to which she belonged have declared that they will either have the squaw or the pagan's scalp. The celestial has barricaded his house and hired a body guard, and is waiting a good opportunity to leave with his bride.

ARIZONA quail are very susceptible of domestication. Although very wild when first caught, kindness soon subdues them, and they may be handled with ease. A. G. Buttner, of Tucson, had a pair last season. These were easily tamed and afterward set free. Whenever frightened, they invariably seek the house for protection.

M. CLEMENCEAU, the distinguished leader of the left in the French assembly, acquired a good knowledge of English as a schoolboy in London, and later by three years' residence in New York city and in Connecticut. He tersely defines a snob as "one absolutely incapable of valuing moral or mental greatness unless it is first admitted by big people."

MR. MUDIE, of the celebrated library, began in 1840 in a small way. His success resulted from his ability in selecting books. As Carlyle said to him, he was the one who selected the sheep from the goats. The library has purchased for its subscribers 6,000,000 volumes. For one guinea a year, three books may be taken out at a time. Every week 700 boxes of new books are sent out to the country. At the counter there are 2,000 exchanges daily.

THE will of the late Thomas Chenery, editor of the London *Times*, has been probated. The value of the personal estate was sworn under $105,000. Legacies of $2,500 were left to each of the two executors. The residue of the estate remains upon trust for the maintenance of his sister, Miss Mary Baron Chenery, who is an invalid. On the death of Miss Chenery the residue of the estate, with any accumulations, goes to the children of his friend John McMillan.

ELDER GONZALES TREJO, a Spanish convert to the church of the Latter-Day Saints, fancies that he has found a new and promising Mormon missionary field in Mexico. He has translated the Book of Mormon into the Spanish language for circulation down there, and, funnily enough, he commends the book to expected converts as an authentic history of the ancient people from whom the native Mexicans are supposed to be descended.

SLATE HILL, near Middletown, N. Y., has a curiosity in the old Brookfield church, which was erected nearly 101 years ago. So substantial was the work of carpenters and masons in those days the church stands to-day just as it did the day it was completed. When it was built it was the largest and handsomest church edifice in that part of the state. The Bible and psalm book used by the first pastor of the church are still in use in the pulpit.

DURING this century the population of Denmark has almost doubled—from about 1,000,000 to nearly 2,000,000—although the increase for the past twenty years (1880-'80) has been smaller than in the decade of 1850-'60, on account of the greater emigration. In the eighteenth century the growth was very small. It is supposed that in olden times the country was, at several periods, relatively well peopled, and authorities state that in the tenth century it contained as many people as it does now.

THE Rugby School company, limited, of Rugby, Tenn., is about to engage in an important educational venture. This is the establishment of a school for boys at Rugby, Tenn., in connection with the University of the South at Sewanee, for the southern and central states of the union. It is intended that the schools will offer an opportunity to Americans, and to the nuerous English families, who are settling in these states, of obtaining for their sons an education such as is offered by the public schools of England.

THE cheap cab venture now being tried in New York seems to be a "go" this time. The company has plenty of capital, energetic management, and the good will of the public. It has been decided to make the rate for all cabs, whether four or two-seated, 25 cents an hour, in order to meet the cut in the rate of the Hackmen's association. It has also been decided to immediately place upon the street 100 more cabs, mainly of the smaller size, and to include among them a few hansoms, some of which it is proposed to at once put into use.

ONCE when an American officer was dining with Czar Nicholas and the empress, the old monarch entered the drawing room with a terrible scowl on his face, and when the empress instantly arose and, not regarding his black looks, offered him a cup of tea, he fiercely dashed it from her hand to the floor. With no sign of emotion she filled a second cup and handed it to him. Now the cloud had passed, and he accepted it with a charming smile, and bestowed a kiss upon the hand that offered it. The cause of his rude behavior in the former instance was a suspicion that the empress had been meddling with some political affairs.

THE proposed new city of Sheffield, Ala., on the banks of the Tennessee river, between Tuscumbia and Florence, is a big boom that is likely to continue. Seven hundred men are now working on the new railroad running from Sheffield to Birmingham through the iron and coal fields, and about 200 more are laying out the avenues and streets of the new city, preparing for the sale of lots to begin May 8. Extensive arrangements are being made to accommodate the crowd. Many persons are now at Tuscumbia from a distance waiting for sale day. The new city promises to rival Pittsburg in a few years, owing to its advantages for manufacturing and river transportation.

A CLEVELAND correspondent takes a hand in the "oldest horse controversy" now going on. He says: "In the month of October last, during a visit to Marshfield, the former home of Daniel Webster, I was shown a bob-tailed chestnut or sorrel horse which I was told Mr. Webster had brought from Washington, and that he was at the time of Mr. Webster's death, in 1852, 10 years old, which would make him 42, or seven years older than the New Haven veteran. This living relic of its distinguished owner wandered about the lawn and the grounds at his sweet will, seemed to be still good for several years more of life, and appeared to enjoy greatly the caresses and attentions of the visitors."

A MASSACHUSETTS Yankee went to California several years ago, got dead broke, and was on the point of starving to death. He then joined the Piutes at the Pyramid reservation. He remained there until he had fully mastered the language and habits of his dusky friends, and then painting himself and assuming the garb of the redmen went to Walker Lake, where, in consideration of his able advice in the councils of the tribe, he was elected a chief and allowed three wives. He says that, although he sometimes longed for news from the Bay State, he was perfectly content to remain where he was, as he found the roaming, independent life of the Piutes just the thing for a man tired of the busy scenes of civilization.