THE NATIONAL DEFENSES.

COMPREHENSIVE MEASURES UNDER CONSIDERATION IN CONGRESS.

A Great Gun to be Tested Near Washington—House Committees Actively at Work—Considering the Senate's Twin Ordance Bills.

The fortification board, in its report to Congress last session, stated:

The gun foundry board has estimated that it would require at least three years to establish proper plant for the construction of modern (steel) guns. It would, in all probability, require two years more to get out and prove the first 16-inch gun.

The board recommends an appropriation for the first year of $21,500,000, and for each succeeding year $9,000,000. Thus by the time the trial gun should be ready for test, as proposed by the board, $57,500,000 would have been expended.

An interesting feature of this important subject which seems to have been lost sight of (but which has been heretofore mentioned in the NATIONAL REPUBLICAN) is the fact that at this moment there is nearly completed at Reading, Pa., a gun which it is claimed will have longer range and greater precision than any other gun in the world—which conditions grow out of the mode of mounting, so that when the gun recoils it goes backward exactly in the line of the axis of the bore at all elevations, and therefore has no tendency to divert the shot from its aim. This great weapon was made by the conversion of one of the thousands of unserviceable iron guns which the government has had on hand for many years. In its converted and improved state it is said to be capable of delivering 18,000 pounds of projectiles in one hour of consecutive firing, with a velocity of 2,000 feet per second.

If this gun should be brought to Washington within a month or two of the approval by the President of the bill to encourage the manufacture of steel for guns, and, after being mounted on the banks of the Potomac river near this city, should be successfully tested in the presence of the President, the Secretaries of War and Navy, and many congressmen (including the chairmen of the committees on appropriations and military and naval affairs), it would throw the ranks of the ordnance ring into great confusion. Such a showing would undoubtedly cause the President to direct that the disbursement of the money appropriated for gun steel, and involved in the contracts now prepared for signature in the department, should be suspended until Congress could have an opportunity to take action, and the probability is that those laws would be repealed. Then would come from the steel contractors claims for damages amounting to an equivalent of the appropriations themselves.

COAST DEFENSE—COMPREHENSIVE MEASURES.

In accordance with the special order, Mr. McAdoo's bill appropriating $20,000,000 for the construction of ordnance and sea coast defenses was taken up yesterday by the House commitee on military affairs and fully discussed. Several of the members of the committee were in favor of reporting the bill immediately to the House with the recommendation that it pass, but a decided majority were of the opinion that the bill before the committee should be maturely considered, with a view to using it as a basis for a comprehensive measure to be reported by the committee, covering the whole subject of coast defenses. This view prevailed and the session was spent in the discussion of the matter, which will be further considered at another meeting to-day.

THE SENATE'S TWIN ORDNANCE BILLS.

The two Senate bills for the construction of ordnance, known as the "twin ordnance" bills, have been referred by the appropriations committee of the House to the subcommittee on fortifications, which is composed of Messrs. Forney, Randall, Butterworth, Ryan, and Holman.

THE FORTIFICATION BILL.

There was no conference on the fortifications bill (last year's) yesterday. The Senate conferees were present, but the House conferees, Butterworth and Forney, came one at a time, and Mr. Randall did not appear at all. Another attempt is to be made to hold a meeting this afternoon.

COMMAND RESPECT OF OTHER NATIONS.

Senator Hoar presented resolutions of the Massachusetts legislature in favor of coast defenses and the construction of a navy "that will command the confidence of the American people and the respect of other nations."

A NAVAL RESERVE FROM THE MERCHANT MARINE.

The bill introduced by Senator Whitthorne (a member of the Senate committee on naval affairs, formerly chairman of the House committee on naval affairs) authorizes the enrollment from the commercial marine of such vessels as may, after inspection by the Navy Department, be shown to be fitted for carrying two or more naval guns of modern construction and otherwise suitable for cruisers, and which shall be held by their owners subject on demand of the government, to be used or taken as a part of the regular naval force of the United States, upon such compensation as may be determined by a board of arbitrators mutually selected. For such construction and prospective use a bounty upon tonnage is provided to be paid.

The bill also authorizes, after inspection, the enrollment of seamen of American citizenship between the ages of 20 and 45 years as part of the naval reserve, providing for their instruction one month in each year at regular naval stations, receiving for each period the payment of seamen in the navy and according to their respective grades, and granting a bounty of $100 in five years' continuous service. Such officers and men upon demand to be mustered into the naval service of the United States.

MORE MILLIONS FOR THE NAVY.

Following is the text of Senator Hale's bill for the increase of the naval establishment, as it was completed and passed by the Senate yesterday by a vote of 46 against 7.

That for the purpose of increasing the naval establishment of the United States the sums of money hereinafter named are hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended by the President, in the exercise of his discretion, upon plans and specifications to be furnished by the Navy Department: For the construction of heavily armored vessels or armored floating batteries or rams, to be used for coast and harbor defense, $10,000,000; for the construction of light-draught gunboats, suitable for interior waterways and canal service, $1,200,000, said gunboats to be completed and tested within twelve months from the date of the signing of any contract for their construction; for the construction of torpedo boats of the highest attainable speed and efficiency, $600,000, said torpedo boats to be completed and tested within twelve months from the signing of any contract for their construction; for torpedoes and torpedo appliances to be operated from naval vessels, floating batteries, or rams, $600,000.

SEC. 2. That for the armament of the vessels hereinbefore provided for the sum of $3,000,000 is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 3. That the material used in all naval structures provided for in this bill, and the armament for the same, shall be furnished and manufactured in the United States, and all contracts made for their construction shall be under the provisions of the act of Aug. 3, 1886, "an act to increase the naval establishment."

SEC. 4. That the appropriations made by this act shall be available during five years from March 4, 1887.

Housing Sheep and Getting Shorn.

That the colored man is rapidly rising to the level of his white brother has been proven "at sundry times and in divers places." The latest on record is the "sheep trick." A colored man of countryfied appearance knocks at the door of a responsible citizen at night, and informs him that he has a number of sheep for a friend of his who cannot be found at present. Would the gentleman advance a couple of dollars to pay for the sheep's safe keeping during the night? The citizen has responded in more than one instance, and in some cases to much larger demand than a couple of dollars. So far no one has been caught but those who have invested their spare change.

Approving the Memorial Bridge Plans.

Capt. Symons has received a letter from Col. Fred Grant, which expresses approval of the plans for the proposed memorial bridge across the Potomac. Capt. Symons will appear before the House committee on appropriations to-day in the interest of the bridge.

EVERYBODY knows that the best remedy known for coughs, colds, &c., is Dr. Ball's Cough Syrup.

OUR NATIONAL GUARDS.

Their Uses and Their Worth—The National Reunion at Washington.

[Dakota (Grand Forks) Herald, Feb. 11.]

Every state in this Union is proud of and fosters its national guards or militia. The wise statesmen of the country foresee that at some time, we know not when, these may be the saviors of the nation. The nature of a republican form of government is repugnant to a large standing army, for the reason that in the hands of a modern Alcibiades or Cæsar it might be used to overturn the liberties of the people of the several states. The founders of this government had studied well the history of past republics when they determined that the national army should always be kept at a minimum, so that while not a source of great expense and danger, it might still serve as a nucleus around which the great reserve power of the country might rally in time of need. In this respect our republic is in splendid contrast with the effete monarchies of Europe, which can only be held together by trampling one-half of the people in abject slavery to maintain the other half in menacing arms. But while we have no need of a large standing army at any time, the statesmen of the several constituents of the Union have always recognized the necessity for a well regulated and trained militia. And this idea the national government has wisely fostered, by furnishing arms and equipments to the states, and introducing everywhere a uniformity of tactics and a sameness of discipline, with a view to call upon the states when the nation needs defenders. In harmony with this idea, Congress has just appropriated $400,000 for the use of the National Guards, and each of the states annually appropriates from $10,000 to $300,000 for the maintenance of its militia. For example, Pennsylvania, with three brigades, numbering about 10,000 well disciplined men, appropriates for armory rent, per diem at annual encampments or regimental drills, from $100,000 to $300,000. Other states of equal wealth and importance take a similar degree of interest and pride. It must be understood that under the national guard system there is no holiday or dress parade soldiery. It is a system of discipline as as rigid ever imposed by the great Prussian drillmaster, Frederick. The guards of the states are not only uniformed and drilled, but they are fully equipped, down to the canteen and twenty rounds of cartridges, so that if a call were issued by the governor of any state to assemble the militia, in forty-eight hours a small army would be ready for battle in every state. The men are not raw and untrained, either, in marksmanship, but on the contrary, at their tournaments, have developed the highest state of precision, and can be relied upon every time to pick their man. The spirit and morals, as well as the intelligence of these men are the highest in the world. Every bayonet would glitter and every bullet would be primed with patriotism. Whether the foe be from without or within, they can be relied upon to strike deftly whenever they may be commanded. In this respect the military force of this country is often overlooked. People who are really more patriotic than they appear to be, sneer at our little army as of no consequence. They overlook the national guards. They forget the history of our own war, which proved how soon the militia became veterans, when the war once settled down to business. At this very moment, by the least calculation the national guards number 150,000, as many as Grant had to conquer Lee. The organized militia of England does not exceed 50,000 men. The powers of Europe count up their few millions, but include every man between 18 and 45 as having been drilled at school, a necessary thing there. Doubtless some of the foreign powers which affect contempt for us as a nation of fighters have not observed the work that has been going on in every state and territory ever since the war. To undeceive them, it is hoped by every patriotic American, when the grand encampment occurs at Washington next May, every state and territory will send its national guards there to receive instruction in army maneuvers, and, while obtaining the extraordinary benefits of such a school, show the outside world that we are not altogether a mongrel race of money grabbers. Such a demonstration, even if only 10,000 men should be encamped around the nation's capital for a week, would of itself serve notice to the old world that our shores cannot be invaded with impunity. It is related that at the inauguration of President Cleveland, when the national guards filed down Pennsylvania avenue in campaign outfit, and were reviewed by old soldiers of the late war, it caused them to overflow with enthusiasm. The scene was one never equaled since the final grand review at the close of the war. And yet there was not more than one-third of the national guard in that pageant. The coming event will overshadow all the military past in its importance. No state or territory should be so unpatriotic, so selfish and impecunious as not to be represented there. It may be that we are not destined to have any war very soon. We all trust not. Yet it has been written "in time of peace prepare for war." And if war shall come, our strength, our reliance, is our national guards. They are the adopted defenders of the state and will become, for the greater reason, the defenders of the nation, because the liberty of the state is interlocked with and dependent upon the national liberty and honor. We can not believe that Dakota will fail to answer at the grand roll call, but rather will we trust that she will show those older brothers that we are no longer to be considered contingents like the slaves of Athens at Marathon or Myrmidons like the uncouth attendants of Achilles in the Troad. Every regiment, every company should be manned and drilled to the full requirement, and the legislature should not deal with parsimony, when it comes to pass upon the question whether the place of Dakota, in the van, where she belongs and dares to be, shall be vacant, in that martial review which will become memorable and the fear as well as respect of the world.

Amendments to Sundry Civil Bill.

The House committee on appropriations has acted upon the Senate amendments to the sundry civil appropriation bill—accepting 22, rejecting 236—and adding further amendments to four of them. The Senate amendment providing for an additional elevator for the Senate wing of the capitol has been concurred in with an amendment authorizing the construction of another elevator in the House wing for the use of the public. Senator Sherman's amendment, appropriating $2,000 for fencing the confederate graves at Columbus and Johnson's Island, Ohio, has also been concurred in with the following amendment: That the Secretary War is hereby directed to ascertain and report to the House at its next session whether the graves of any soldiers, Union or confederate, who were killed in battle, or died in prisons or hospitals are not embraced in any national, city, town, or village cemetery, or are unprotected by inclosures, or unmarked by headstones; and, if there be any such graves, what amount of money would be necessary to properly fence and permanently mark the same.

AN invaluable remedy. I have found Salvation Oil an invaluable remedy for chapped hands.—J. E. Estep, (painter,) 51 Robert street, Baltimore, Md.

Civil Service Examinations.

The following has been issued by the board of civil service commissioners:

It is directed that, commencing with March, 1887, there shall be held at the rooms of the commission, on the first Saturday of each month, an examination for the limited and general registers and also for all the special registers. In this connection it is directed that all persons who, after March 1, 1887, make application for the limited or general or a special examination, giving Washington as their post-office address, shall each be required to state at the time he files his application which one of the monthly examinations he desires to take. Persons who have not their postoffice address at Washington, but are temporarily in the city, may be examined at any time the commission may determine, upon each making a written statement and satisfying the commission that he is temporarily here, and that examinations for the departmental service are being held or have recently been or will soon be held in the state of which he is a resident.

Resigned and Appointed.

Official changes have been made in the Interior Department as follows: Pension office—Resignation: Charles R. Connor, of Ohio, clerk, $1,400. Patent office—Appointments: Miss Eda C. C. Fahrenbruch, of D. C., copyist of drawings, $900; Addis D. Merritt, of Illinois, copyist, $900; both under civil service rules.

WHAT IS IT?

A Pestilence That Walks in Darkness—A Destruction That Wastes at Noonday.

We have published in our columns from time to time different advertisements in regard to Bright's disease and its cures.

What is this terrible disease?

We have taken the trouble to make an investigation from the best sources and we give the results to our readers.

What astonishes us is the general indifference given to kidney disorders. The kidneys do not sound the alarm of their diseased condition, owing to the fact that they have very few nerves, hence few suspect that there is any disease in them. Irritation, inflammation, ulceration set in, and then the little tubes, of which the kidneys are full, are destroyed and thrown off, and from this fact are called tube casts.

As soon as this begins to take place it is only a question of how fast decomposition goes on before the disease results fatally. If the proper remedies are taken before final decomposition or waste of these tubes commences or becomes too far advanced, that is the only and last chance for relief. It is at this point or before that Warner's safe cure proves so beneficial, and may cure or stop the wasting away of the kidneys if it has not advanced too far.

The most remarkable thing of all our investigation is the fact that the patient with Bright's disease has no exclusive symptoms, but has the symptoms of every common disease.

First he may possibly feel a dull pain in his back, generally upon one side, which does not debar him from his usual business routine. After a time he may begin to feel neuralgic pains, or have a slight attack of what he may call rheumatism, or headache, with high or dark colored urine, with an unpleasant sensation in its passage, and after standing showing an unnatural condition. Later on, come tired feelings, loss of ambition or vigor, or loss of or failing eyesight, which is very common, with a distressed condition of the stomach. Any one of these symtoms is liable to occur.

This no doubt accounts for the proprietors of Warner's safe cure curing so many diseases. By regulating and building up the kidneys, symptoms of general ill health disappear. They justly accuse the medical profession of treating the effects and not the cause. Finally if this disorder is neglected the patient either dies of apoplexy, pneumonia, heart disease, blood poison, consumption, or any other disease that the system is most subject to.

It appears that Gen. Logan realized his condition, and "was well aware that his disease was of the kidneys, and expressed himself in indignant terms at the folly of the doctors in treating him for rheumatism when it was the kidneys that caused his attacks."

We have no doubt that very many people in this country have the same trouble as the general, but little importance is attached to this malady by the medical profession because of their inability to cope with it, either in its first appearance or advanced condition.

There appears to be some one cause for nearly every other ailment of the human system, but up to the present time no one has been able to fully account for this terrible malady. We understand that the people of Germany have become aware of its fearful fatality, and have offered 400,000 marks ($100,000) to any one that can satisfactorily explain the cause.

THE ELKS' BENEFIT.

The Entertainment Greatly Enjoyed and Enthusiastically Received.

The annual benefit of Washington Lodge, No. 15, of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, took place yesterday afternoon at the New National Theater, and, as was anticipated would be the case, the house was thronged with the friends of the order and those desirous of witnessing a superior performance. The larger portion of the audience was composed of ladies in handsome costumes, while the committee of the lodge, in full evening dress, and the profusion of flowers made the scene a most brilliant one. The programme was lengthy, and it was 5:30 o'clock ere the drop curtain finally descended. The popularity of those benefits comes from several causes. First, it is known that this order, which originated with the professionals, is more liberal and general in its works of charity than any other. When it discovers a deserving case there is no delay in the forthcoming of the relief. While it gives, and gives freely, still the outside world is not informed how, when, or to whom this help is extended.

Next its benefits in themselves are attractive and worth the admission fee exacted. The effort is made to provide an entertainment different from those generally offered for public favor. Instead of being confined to opera, drama, or comedy, there will be an admixture, so to speak, of all, and in addition the variety and minstrel are not forgotten. Then it is sought to secure the best talent in the respective parts referred to, so that the combined performance shall present an array of artists that cannot fail to receive patronage. This talent frequently can be found in the membership of the order, excepting the ladies, but they are so closely identified with their brothers of the profession, and know that the Elks are deserving of assistance, that they gladly volunteer their services to promote the success of these events. Festive these circumstances it can easily be understood not only why the order has become so popular, but the secret of the great success attending on their benefits. The packed auditorium at the National yesterday was a most flattering indorsement of the success of the committee under whose industrious labors so much had been accomplished. In order to accommodate the rush the doors were thrown open at noon, the entertainment commencing an hour later, this early hour to begin being requisite in consequence of the extreme length of the programme.

Fine looking gentlemen, elegantly attired, members of the reception committee, met the ladies on entering, presented them with a souvenir programme, a gem in its style, gotten up by Messrs. Gray & Clarkson, and conducted them to seats. The orchestra was under the leadership of Prof. Schroeder, and the stage under the management of Brother George W. Harrison.

The entire programme was carried out, and included Messrs. Sanford and Wilson from Gilmore's, Philadelphia; Mr. Robert Graham and Miss Elma Delano, of the Little Tycoon Company, Philadelphia; Prof. Abt and his Grecian Mystery from Tony Pastor's New York Theater; Miss Fortescue and J. Newton Gotthold and others of the Fortescue Company from Baltimore. The entire Erminie Company, Mr. Wilson Barrett and his company in "Chatterton;" Mr. Will S. Rising, Mr. Douglass Flint, and others, and the United States Marine band in a new composition entitled "The International Congress." Want of space precludes a more extended notice.

Retaliatory Bills—Minority Report.

Representative Rice, on behalf of the minority of the House committee on foreign affairs, submitted the following report:

"The minority of the committee, desirous of securing prompt action, and, if possible, unanimity of expression by both branches of Congress on the pending questions in dispute between this government and that of Great Britain concerning the fisheries, and believing that the bill which has already passed the Senate by a substantially unanimous vote, clothes the Executive with ample powers, are constrained to differ with the recommendations of the majority, that the House adopt a separate or new measure, which will necessarily be followed by delay, and recommend the passage by the House of the Senate bill."

The report is signed by Messrs. Rice, Wait, Ketcham, Phelps, and Hitt.

First Mexican Pension.

The first allowance under the recent act of Congress pensioning survivors and widows of the Mexican war was made by the commissioner of pensions yesterday to Senator John S. Williams, of Kentucky. The commissioner has furnished senators and members with blank forms for the use of their constituents who may be entitled under the new law to pensions.

Seed That Could Go to Texas.

Commissioner Colman, of the agricultural department, indorses the President's suggestion that senators and members turn their vegetable seed over to the department for the benefit of the sufferers. He says there are 1,228,000 packages of vegetable seed subject to their orders, and their distribution would do great good.

A FEVERISH MARKET.

Yesterday's Trading Much More Animated.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—To-day's stock market exhibited more animation than has been seen for a few days, which result, however, was attained at the expense of quotations. The market in general was quite feverish and irregular throughout most of the day, and though a few stocks were firmly held the majority of the list yielded readily to the pressure.

Some of the influential room traders caused a slight rally late in the day by covering their shorts, but the improvement was not maintained, and the decline was only stopped by the close of business.

Money on call has been easy, ranging from 3½ to 4, last loan at 3, and closing offered at 3. There was a good demand at 3 per cent., with plenty offering at 3½. The ruling rate for loans was 3 per cent. Sterling exchange is quiet and fairly steady, with free offerings of commercial bills at 484½ 484¾. Actual business at 483½ to 483¾ for 60-day bills, and 488½ to 488¾ for demand. Posted rates 486 to 489. Government bonds have been dull and heavy. State bonds have been dull and steady.

Treasury balances—Coin, $132,839,339; currency, $19,093,140.

Grain and Provisions.

Following is the range of prices in the Chicago market, furnished by B. K. Plain & Co., St. Cloud Building, corner of Ninth and F streets.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Clos.
Wheat—				
March	73⅞	73⅞	73⅛	73⅞
April	74⅞	74⅞	74⅛	74⅞
May	79½	79⅞	79	79⅞
Corn—				
March	34⅛	34⅛	34	34⅛
April	34⅝	34⅝	34⅜	34⅝
May	39⅛	39⅛	39⅛	39⅛
Oats—				
March	23¾	23¾	23¾	23¾
April	24	24	24	24
May	25½	25⅝	25⅝	25⅝
Pork—				
March	14 20	14 37½	14 30	14 30
May	14 25	14 65	14 17½	14 37½
Lard—				
March	6 85	6 97½	6 80	6 92½
April	6 85	7 02½	6 95	6 97½
May	7 02½	7 12½	7 02½	7 02½

Washington Stock Exchange.

The following list of the most active stocks dealt in on the Washington Stock Exchange is furnished by Messrs. Bell & Co., bankers, No. 1437 Pennsylvania avenue:

Feb. 17, 1887.	Bid.	Asked.
Permanent imp. 6s, 1891, coin	110	116¾
Permanent imp. 7s, 1891, cur	114	114⅞
Market stocks 7s, 1892, cur	116	----
Water stocks 7s, 1901, cur	131	----
Water stocks 7s, 1903, cur	132	----
Fifty-year funded 3.65s, 1924, cur'cy.	129	126⅞
Twenty-year funded 5 p. c. 1899, cur.	114	----
Twenty-year fund 6s, 1892, coin	111	----
Thirty-year fund 6s, 1902 coin	128½	129
Wash. and Georg'n stock	265	----
Wash. and Georg'n bonds	112	118
Metropolitan Railroad stock	97	98½
Columbia Railroad stock	50	60
North Capitol and O street	40	45½
Washington Gas Light Co	29	29½
Georgetown Gas Light Co	41	42½
Firemen's Insurance Company	20	43½
Franklin Insurance Company	20	47½
National Metropolitan Ins. Co.	68	----
National Union Insurance Co.	20	20½
Arlington Insurance Company	160	163
Corcoran Insurance Co	50	58
Columbia Insurance Company	5	15
German-American Ins. Co	100	148
Potomac Insurance Co.	25	59
Riggs Insurance Co.	5	8½
Board Pub. Works Green 8s	----	97
Masonic Hall bonds	101	----
Washington Market Co. stock	50	21
Washington Market Co. bonds	105	107
Wash'n Brick Machine stock	100	157
Nat'l Bank of Washington	100	200
Columbia National Bank	100	108½
National Metropolitan Bank	100	110
National Bank of Republic	100	151½
Farmers & Mechanics' National Bank, Georgetown	100	160
Citizens National Bank	100	113
Second National Bank	100	116
Central National Bank	100	185
Great Falls Ice Company	100	125
Real Estate Title Ins. Co.	100	115
Pennsylvania Telephone Co.	50	41½
Chesapeake & Potomac Tel Co	100	84½
U. S. Electric Light	100	----
Wash. Light Inf. 1st mortgage	100	83

Baltimore Produce Market—Feb. 17.

COTTON higher; middling, 9⅛@9¼c.

FLOUR steady.

WHEAT—Southern nominal and quiet; red, 90@92c; amber, 92@95c; western firmer and dull; No. 2 winter red, spot, 90@90⅛c; March, 89⅞@90c; May, 91⅛@91¼c; June, 91⅜c bid; July, 91⅝c bid.

CORN—Southern about steady and quiet; white, 47½@48c; yellow, 47@47½c; western firmer and quiet; mixed, spot, 47@47½c; February, 46⅞@47c; March, 46½@46⅝c; steamer, 46½@46¾c.

OATS quiet steady; southern and Pennsylvania, 34@38c; western white, 37@39c; do. mixed, 34@36c.

RYE firm; 56@58c.

PROVISIONS firm and quiet.

SUGAR—Copper refined dull, at 10@10¼c.

WHISKY quiet; $1.23@1.24.

Other articles unchanged.

BALTIMORE STOCK MARKET.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 17.—No bid to-day on bonds.

WEST POINT METHODS.

Overhauling and Perfecting the Executive Machinery of the Military Academy—Teaching Cadets How to Eat.

Following is an extract from a private letter received in this city from West Point:

During the dreary winter season at West Point the professional mind is more or less occupied in overhauling and perfecting the executive machinery of the academy, and quite naturally discussion pro and con as to existing methods finds room to ventilate itself among the members of the academic staff. Just now the periodical ambition to become the author of a new text book for the use of the cadets has broken out afresh among the professors. The epidemic has seized Prof. Mechie, who fondly hopes to release Bartlett's philosophy and mechanics to the shade, when up starts his amiable colleague, Prof. Andrews, with the declaration that optics and acoustics are obsolete, and have long been excluded from the course of scientific educational institutions throughout the country. He should have protested when a cadet. But by far the most interesting controversy which has cropped out at the Point is as to the relative merits of Capt. Spencer's method of messing the cadets.

It seems that this gentleman conceived the very proper notion that in the absence of napkin rings the cadets were apt upon leaving the table to get the napkins mixed one with the other, which was "bad form" if nothing else, and to obviate it and induce a greater military precision he contracted for silver napkin rings at the modest expense of $5 apiece to be deducted from the pay of each cadet—each one to have the cadet's name inscribed thereon. But as in everything that is progressive so are there cavilers and jealous criticisms. Therefore no sooner had the gallant captain inaugurated this reform than there were complaints of extravagance, and older officers harped on the fact that it was the Spartan diet and methods which in the earlier years of the academy produced such enduring soldiers as Grant, Sherman, &c.

However, it must be said that the captain has landed upon the safest side of the argument, as a large portion of the last report of the board of visitors is taken up in deserved and unstinted indorsement of the comprehensive plan he has worked out unassisted and single-handed to teach the cadets how to eat and the knights of the kitchen how to prepare their food.

"AS TRUE as steel, Dr. Ball's Cough Syrup. 25 cents.

Relief of John Roach's Assignees.

The bill for the relief of the assignees of John Roach, reported by Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, from the committee on claims, directs that George N. Quintard and George E. Weed, assignees of John Roach, be paid $38,840 in full compensation for extra work done by order of the Navy Department in enlarging the hull of the monitor Puritan, and $20,274.25 in full compensation for the care, towage, pilotage, and wharfage of the monitor Roanoke from March 7, 1877, to Sept. 9, 1883.

Nominations.

The President sent the following nominations to the Senate yesterday:

Samuel N. Aldrich, of Massachusetts, to be assistant treasurer of the United States at Boston.

John M. Mercer, of Iowa, to be surveyor of customs, Burlington, Iowa.

Owen McGlaughlin, of Iowa, to be surveyor of customs, Dubuque, Iowa.

Arthur K. Delaney, of Wisconsin, to be collector of customs for the district of Alaska.

Wm. W. Armstrong, to be postmaster at Cleveland, Ohio.

Charles E. Broyles, of Colorado, to be register of the land office at Del Norte, Col.

CITY ITEMS.

HOWLAND DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 211 Four-and-a-half street northwest, three doors north of Pennsylvania avenue. E. P. Howland, M. D., C. H. Howland, D. D. S., surgical, operative, and mechanical dentists. Extractions, under nitrous oxide, 50 cents each tooth, and only 50 cents extra for gas, whether one or a number of teeth are extracted at the same sitting. Have administered nitrous oxide to over 45,000 persons. Artificial teeth $7 per set. Gold, amalgam, and white fillings inserted in the best manner. All work warranted first class.

"ALDERNEY DAIRY WAGONS."—Fresh Alderney Butter churned every morning and delivered in ¼ pound "Ward" prints, at 45 cents per pound. Also cottage cheese, 5 cents per ball; buttermilk, 5 cents per quart, and sweet milk at 5 cents per quart.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, February. 50 cents; $5 a year. New York: 3 East Fourteenth street. Publishers.

A number full of thought, and therefore interesting and valuable. "Our King in Dress Coat," meaning the President; "Future Probation," "Specialists in Medicine," "Vulgarity," "The Condition of the American Stage," wherein the writer laments its degradation, as we do; "The Conspiracies of the Rebellion," "Life Among the Insane"—case of a lady imprisoned thirty years in an asylum, and then discharged with the unanimous declaration of an official board of examining physicians that she was not insane and never had been so—"Should women be hanged?"—these articles particularly attracted us and satisfied. We have not passed unread a single page of the *Review*, nor can we believe that another would willingly omit any.

THE ART JOURNAL. February. 50 cents. New York: International News Company. News company.

This, though supplied from New York, is a London periodical. Its contents are "A Foreign Artist and Author in England," "Bernardus Pictor," "An American Gift Book," "Michetti," "Old London Picture Exhibitions," "Sir Walter Scott's Country," "Caricatures of Wagner," "Van Dyck," and "Art Notes and Reviews." They are beautifully illustrated, on large pages. The frontispiece, besides its artistic excellence, is amusing. Its title is "The Last Bit of Scandal." Two sedans have met in a street of London. Both stop and rest on the ground. The top of each has been raised, and is held, wearily, at an angle, by a bearer. From one peeps a "perriwig pated fellow," an old gentleman with elevated hand, who relates "the last bit" to a dame, all attention, in the other. A small negro, turbaned, bearing the pet pug, stands near my lady. A maid, with basket of vegetables, pauses close by, listening. A gallant gentleman—broad hat, small clothes, stockings, buckled shoes, cane—is arrested on the sidewalk by the curiosity of the story. Just turning the street corner is a cumbersome coach, burdened by three decorated footmen.

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE. February. 25 cents. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Publishers.

Eighteen copies from busts and statues of Julius Cæsar scowl on mankind from the opening pages of this number of the magazine. Ugly and wolf-like every one. When will the world find a better object for its idolatry? When shall the warrior's name be a name abhorred? We are looking for the time when echo will not answer, "when?" At present, too, we would like to play the iconoclast among our metropolitan statues generally, whether equestrian or pedestrian. "The Residuary Legatee," part first, is thus far a most interesting tale, and full of promise for the future. "Half a Curse," treats acceptably of life in Florida. Ex-Minister Washburne's reminiscences of "The Siege and Commune of Paris" have historical value beyond common history, for minute details, printed from his diary, are given, which enable us to live and be alarmed as in the actual days of the terrible time. Its illustrations are fine, especially those of "The Three Hurzaras" and the scene of the "German Shells Falling in the Latin Quarter." "Seth's Brother's Wife," is resumed with chapter 6 and increased attraction. "Social Life and Character in the Paris of the Revolution," from the diaries of Gouverneur Morris, continues most agreeably. "The Story of a New York House," well told, will win ready listeners. "Our Naval Policy," "The Ducharmes of the Baskatongue," "M. Coquelin," and "Russian Novels" finish the list of contents—except three short poems, one of which, "After Death," should have been shorter, or not have been at all. It has rhyme, but no reason. The idea—if an idea—is revolting.

THE BROOKLYN MAGAZINE. February. 20 cents; $2 a year. New York: 130-132 Pearl street. Publishers.

The *Brooklyn*, as it approaches its last, like a summer-declining day, is dying in glory. Three months hence will see it rise with new form and name—then the illustrated *American Magazine*. Meanwhile, doubtless, its career will be luminous. Its stories, poems, and other articles at present are excellent. To mention only a few: "Social Life in Canada," "Young Women and the Stage," "My Beautiful Parisian Cousin," "Caught in His Own Snare," "Mrs. Beecher's Monthly Talk," and "Stories and Memories of Washington, No. 2," by Seaton Donoho. This latter paper cannot fail to interest citizens here, and will have general interest from the important national characters introduced. Under the heading of "Sirmagundi," various fine sketches appear. The "Editor's Table" presents three attractive topics, one of which records Gen. Logan as a poet, and gives a poem by him—which, however, isn't a poem. Other divisions of the periodical also furnish pleasant subjects, the whole concluding with the thoughful, original, and peculiar sermons by Henry Ward Beecher.

THE CENTURY MAGAZINE. February. 35 cents; $4 a year. New York: Union Square. Publishers.

A bold and remarkable engraving, being a portrait of James McCosh, LL.D., president of Princeton College, forms the frontispiece. Among the numerous portraits we can testify, from personal knowledge of the living men, to the correctness of those of Presidents Van Buren, Tyler, Polk, and Taylor, which, with others, illustrate the history of Lincoln. The representation of Col. W. W. Seaton also restores him to our memory as when he lived.

The many engravings throughout the number are interesting and most effective. Of course, the story of Abraham Lincoln attracts first notice, told as it is by his private secretaries, Nicolay and Hay; then readers will probably be especially pleased with "A Midwinter Resort," "The Oldest Church in England," "Recent Discoveries of Works of Art in Rome," and "Lee's Invasion of Pennsylvania." The whole magazine is certain to reward thoughtful attention.

HOW HE LOST HER, OR TRUE LOVE NEVER RUNS SMOOTH. By JONATHAN BARRETT, C. E. New York: G. W. Dillingham. Sale, A. S. Witherbee & Co.

Quite new in its line, being written by Mr. Barrett, a civil engineer. It is also amusing and interesting. Country life, in which city people participate, engineering, and adventures in the Allegheny mountains produce its incidents. Love scenes illuminate them.

THE ROMANCE OF A POOR YOUNG MAN. By OCTAVE FEUILLET, author of "Aliette," &c. From the French. By J. Henry Hager. New York: William S. Gottsberger, 11 Murray street. Sale, A. S. Witherbee & Co. 50 cents.

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