The Military History.

Our readers know that the editor of this paper is not in the habit of devoting much space in its columns to matters personal to himself, in any capacity. The following article, however, from the Rutland *Herald* of February 10th, contains so much of general interest, and so much that is due—if they need any vindication—to the governors, legislators and soldiers, who must share with the historian, the responsibility for the certainly not excessive expense of the Military History, that we copy it without hesitation. It is not necessary to say that it was wholly unsolicited; but we may say that its source lends especial value to its statements, for Mr. Bigelow knows what he is talking about; and the public knows that he cannot be hired to lie for, fawn on or flatter any man, high or low:

The Montpelier *Argus* in a recent editorial described the forthcoming military history of the part taken by the Vermont soldiers in the war of the rebellion as a "fat job" and in proof cited the fact that Mr. Benedict, who was appointed military historian by Gov. Proctor in 1879 had already drawn some five thousand dollars for his services and expenses in the preparation of this work. We have made some inquiry concerning the justice of this charge of the *Argus*, and feel satisfied that Mr. Benedict has done nothing in the matter that calls for any denunciation. As we understand it, Gov. Proctor took counsel of the soldiers of the State in 1879 and appointed Mr. Benedict to prepare this important record upon the ground that no other ex-soldier combined the literary quality, the experience of military life as a Vermont volunteer, and the enthusiasm for the work necessary to carry a man through the peculiar drudgery inseparable from the preparation of such a publication. We say drudgery, because we know something personally of the toil and pains it takes to prepare even a short paper concerning a single battle or campaign, like that of the "Seven Days" fighting before Richmond from June 25, 1862 to July 2, 1862. To collate the material, compare testimony, verify dates from both Confederate and Federal accounts of that campaign, cost the writer a week's steady reading of official reports and documents; as it did of private letters and soldiers' diaries, to produce less than a column of facts and collections for a Vermont newspaper concerning two day's fighting at Savage Station and White Oak Swamp. Of course had he felt the official responsibility of an historian by State appointment he would have taken double the time, pains and care. General W. Y. W. Ripley, in his monograph concerning the Vermont sharpshooters, learned to appreciate the extraordinary difficulty of such work, as he once told us in conversation. So much valueless testimony has to be read; so much chaff has to be sifted to get a few kernels of wheat; so much testimony is contradictory even when obtained from men of intelligence and veracity. To illustrate, take the battle of White Oak Creek, June 30th, 1862, where the Vermont Brigade were awakened from profound sleep on their arms by the roar of thirty rebel cannon that Stonewall Jackson's chief of artillery, Colonel Crutchfield, had succeeded in planting in position unobserved by the careless Captain Mott of Mott's Battery. On the simple question of the time of day when the Brigade was briefly stampeded by this artillery fire scarcely two intelligent witnesses agree, probably for the reason that it was an hour of panic and threatened disorder, like Bull Run, when no man stopped to look at his watch until hours after the day was restored. The writer has heard a dozen brave, cool men estimate the hour of this attack variously from 10 a. m. until 2 p. m. This illustration will serve to show how wearily slow, and hesitating must be the march of a military historian, through the heap of testimony which is slowly gathered, after constant appeal from witnesses of all grades of intelligence, veracity, and capacity for accurate observation and candid, clear statement. Mr. Benedict's work, if not as disgusting, must have been quite as toilsome as that of a city ragpicker who sifts over a barrel of garbage to find nothing better than dust, oyster shells, and old hoopskirts to reward his patient search. Of course he could not assume the responsibility of this work without proper provision for something like adequate remuneration. Mr. Benedict has exacted nothing of the State for which his contract with the State did not provide, and we have no doubt had he foreseen when he made the contract what a vast amount of depressing, thankless drudgery it would involve, in comparison with what he has any sort of prospect of getting out of it, he would never have accepted the office of military historian.

We have no doubt that the military history will be all that Mr. Benedict's industry, literary ability and good taste will be sure to make it, and even if it is disappointing in fullness and accuracy, the intelligent Vermont soldiers who have been invited to furnish material, will be to blame, for where one soldier, like General Ripley, has answered the appeal with promptness, care and ample fullness, nine have failed to furnish a line of fact or illustration to the debate over a disputed point of historical importance. The writer and Mr. Benedict are frequently found opposed in public opinion, but we always believed that Governor Proctor made the best appointment possible when he made Mr. Benedict historian. There were soldiers of longer, but none of more gallant service: there were none of equal literary skill and patience for the work, that would have been persuaded to attempt it; and in our judgment the State is exceedingly fortunate in getting such exceptionally good service for very small pay. The work when completed cannot hope to command much sale beyond those who have worn army blue, or have family representatives in the phantom ranks of Vermont's contribution to the Army of the Union. So that there is no "fat job" about it; it is hardly fair wages for years of hard work, and every cent of it has been fairly earned and squarely drawn, as everybody who knows Mr. Benedict knows would be sure to be the case. Mr. Benedict's own answer to this unjust attack is marked by a natural reserve and moderation of language, but nobody who knows him, whether he is friend or his foe, will believe that he is party to a "fat job" of any sort, in any unworthy understanding of that term.

While omitting expressions from other quarters, highly complimentary—some of them like the above too highly complimentary—to the historian—the following is appended from one of the most substantial and sensible journals in the State, the Woodstock *Standard*, to show that the *Herald* is not alone in its judgment concerning the matter.

It is of vastly more importance that the work Mr. Benedict is assigned to do should be well done than that it should be completed within a given time or speedily. Reliable history is not written in a moment, and in fact the most laborious and time consuming part of the work is the research that enables the author to sift the true from the false. Mr. Benedict has devoted little enough time to this important work, and his character and ability are a guaranty that his history will be accepted as conclusive.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF VERMONT.

Eighth Annual Banquet in Chicago.

We have received the announcement, programme and menu of the Eighth Annual Banquet of the Chicago Sons and Daughters of Vermont, held at the Palmer House, on Jan. 29. The programme and menu are printed on extra heavy tinted card board, with a fine steel engraving of a mountain and lake scene. The list of officers of the association is printed as follows: President, John N. Hills; vice-presidents, Norman Bridge, E. P. Sherman, Albert D. Hagar; secretary, Franklin Dennison; treasurer, H. H. Nash; executive committee, Norman Williams, Wm. H. Gleason, A. B. Case, E. G. Keith, A. N. Waterman. A reception committee of twenty-two members had special charge of the banquet. We reprint from the Chicago *Inter-Ocean* of Jan. 30 a full account of the occasion:

Thousand of miles away from their native State, the sons and daughters of Vermont have here in Illinois established a social organization, the sole aim and object of which is to keep alive their love for the land that sheltered them in early days, the old Green Mountain State, enduring as the rock-ribbed mountains of Vermont; so they aim to cement the friendship for one another—these people who have come out into the new Northwest to join in with others from all parts of the country in infusing spirit, energy, and enterprise into the Western country, and leaving their children to take up the work where they left off. Thus it was that the sons of Vermont gave their eighth annual banquet at the Palmer House last evening. Some one hundred and fifty sat down to the banquet table about 9 o'clock, and shortly afterward the banquet was out of the way, and the entertainment began. E. G. Keith said it was incumbent upon him to give an account of his stewardship and introduce the new president. The sons and daughters of Vermont have prospered and continued their affection for their native State. Under the new president the association would continue its prosperity. John H. Hills, the president of the association, expressed his doubts of the wisdom of the association in looking around for a president to abandon the men who were mountains in the association and take up the lesser hills. [Laughter.] The quartette then rendered in an admirable manner a stirring song entitled "New England and her Granite Hills." E. J. McGaffey recited a poem called "Ticonderoga."

Letters of regret were sent from the Hon. R. S. Williamson, Thomas J. Wilds, J. H. Worcester, L. B. Ray, Gordon S. Hubbard, E. J. Phelps, Norman C. Perkins, Governor-elect Ogilvie, O. Lyman, Mr. Kilbourne, the Hon. George Hunt, Charles Blanchard, A. C. Barthell. The quartette then sang in an effective way, "Ise Gwine Back to Alabama."

The Rev. Arthur Little of the New England Congregational church, delivered the address. He said that but few things awakened tenderer memories in his mind than the name of Vermont. While not born in that State, he was very near it. He had had two years' association with the boys of Vermont during the late war, and he admired the State for sending to the front such noble boys. Vermont, it had been said, was not only full of rugged mountains and rocks, and a good State to emigrate from, but he believed it was a good State to live in. It was a State of high-minded men, who knew their duty. It was a good State to build up noble manhood and womanhood. It had every advantage to those who thus aspired. Vermont was not so provincial as some supposed, and it was right on all moral questions. Its statesmen, such as Foot and Collamer, were enough to give lasting honor to any Commonwealth. Those assembled did well to meet and revive memories of the grand old State of Vermont, and this would continue so long as men could be got together who had ever breathed her native air. Bishop McLaren made the closing speech. He said he was born in New York, but after last night he was sorry he was not born on the other side of the line. The lesson from these gatherings showed it was desirable to keep up State feeling and old memories, but it would not do to forget that we are all citizens of one land, bound together by the sisterhood of States. When he was South he found State feeling, but nothing so strong as it was twenty years ago, and there was pride in the fact that all belonged to a united Nation. He wished the association all prosperity.

The following were present: George W. Newcomb, H. F. White, A. D. Langworthy, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Scribner, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gleason, D. W. Nickerson, A. C. Potter, John M. Hubbard, O. B. Knight, Dr. F. L. Pond, H. B. Maxwell, E. W. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Butler, Miss Carrie Wolcott, Dr. R. W. Bishop, Miss Bigelow, the Hon. Mark Skinner, M. A. Sattley, M. E. Stone, C. W. French, A. W. Bates, F. H. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. George M. Moulton, C. F. Keeler, David L. Look, J. B. Barton, Miss Maggie Barton, Miss Emily Barton, Messrs. Wm. F. Carpenter, G. C. Jackson, William M. Hoyt, Joseph Morris, Miss Morris, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Morse, H. Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Leonard, B. F. Morse, David Oliphant, Miss Jameson, F. Denison, the Rev. L. N. Freeman, Major J. M. Southworth, Miss S. E. Southworth, Mrs. A. W. Fuller, H. C. Eames and family, Mrs. Wolcott, Mr. and Mrs. S. Boutell, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Hagar, Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Drew, Mrs. A. M. Flint, J. J. Luther, Miss F. Young, Mrs. J. N. Hills, Miss Laura Hills, J. N. Norton, Seymour Morris, W. M. Hoyt, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Kent, H. H. Nash, J. A. Conant, Mrs. Alice Brittelle, S. E. Bliss, Norman Williams, Arthur Caton, Mr. and Mrs. George Chandler, F. V. Dewey, Miss Eva M. Sykes, Fred B. Tuttle, Miss Grace E. Kissell, Bishop McLaren, Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Cameron, Mrs. A. B. Cleghorn, Burlington, Iowa; Miss Alice Jameson.

Charles Dickens With His Children.

[Dickens's Eldest Daughter, in the Cornhill Magazine.]

His study, to us children, was rather a mysterious and awe-inspiring chamber, and while he was at work no one was allowed to enter it. We little ones had to pass the door as quietly as possible, and our little tongues left off chattering. But at no time through his busy life was he too busy to think of us, to amuse us, or to interest himself in all that concerned us. Ever since I can remember anything I remember him as the good genius of the house, and as its happy, bright and funny genius. He had a peculiar tone of voice and way of speaking for each of his children, who could tell, without being called by name, when was the one addressed. He had funny songs which he used to sing to them before they went to bed. One in particular, about an old man who caught cold and rheumatism while sitting in an omnibus, was a great favorite, and as it was accompanied by a sneeze, coughs and gesticulations, it had to be sung over and over again before the small audience was satisfied.

I can see him now, through the mist of years, with a child nearly always on his knee at this time of the evening, his bright and beautiful eyes full of life and fun. I can hear his clear, sweet voice as he sang to those children as if he had no other occupation in the world but to amuse them; and when they grew older and were able to act little plays, it was their father himself who was teacher, manager, and prompter to the infant amateurs. These theatricals were undertaken as earnestly and seriously as were those of the grown-up people. He would teach the children their parts separately; what to do and how to do it, acting himself for their edification. At one moment he would be the dragon in "Fortunio," at the next one of the seven servants, than a jockey played by the youngest child, whose little legs had much difficulty to get into the flying boots—until he had taken every part in the play.

As with his grown-up company of actors, so with his juvenile company, did his own earnestness and activity work upon them and affect each personally. The shyest and most awkward child would come out quite brilliantly under his patient and always encouraging training.

At the juvenile parties he was always the ruling spirit. He had acquired by degrees an excellent collection of conjuring tricks, and on Twelfth Night—his eldest son's birthday—he would very often, dressed as a magician, give a conjuring entertainment, when a little figure which appeared from a wonderful and mysterious bag, and which was supposed to be a personal friend of the conjuror, would greatly delight the audience by his funny stories, his eccentric voice and way of speaking, and by his miraculous appearances and disappearances. Of course a plum-pudding was made in a hat, and was always one of the great successes of the evening. I have seen many such puddings, but no other conjuror has been able to put into a pudding all the love, sympathy, fun and thorough enjoyment which seems to come from the hands of this great magician. Then, when supper time came, he would be everywhere at once, serving, cutting up the great twelfth cake, dispensing the bonbons, proposing toasts and calling upon first one child and then another for a song or recitation. How eager the little faces looked for each turn to come round, and how they would blush and brighten up when the magician's eyes looked their way!

Cookery as a Home Art.

[Martha Howe Davidson, in The Current.]

A writer in a recent English paper complains that, with the general advance in the useful arts that cookery has remained in the hands of careless and unskilled workers, almost entirely undeveloped. "If it were not so," he says, "they would have left an art so important entirely to traditionary teaching, would have developed it in a way they have not done; and would have combined to secure pleasant meals in a way they carefully avoid." A consideration of this matter recalls some recent discussions of the questions of combination and co-operation, which have thus far failed to give any practical solution of this complex problem. Until some more effectual means of general advancement in the knowledge and practice of cookery can be devised, the matter seems to rest, as it has for ages past, solely in the hands of the housewife, and upon her comes the weighty responsibility of preparing the daily food, on which the health, happiness and usefulness of her family so largely depend. In the knowledge which is necessary to an intelligent and easy handling of the matter, either in the way of direction or actual work, the American housewife is sadly deficient, often leaving the preparation of food entirely to an untrained and unreasoning servant, and more often doing it herself with an ignorance and lack of interest which make it the most irksome drudgery. There is more than a grain of truth in the remark of a German physician that American women never think of dinner until half an hour before it is time to eat it, and then they have something fried. There are thousands of intelligent women who are willing to devote a large part of their time to some branch of art-study in which they can never hope to become anything more than imitators or commonplace amateurs, who regard the practice of cookery as a menial employment, instead of a fine art which is so worthy of careful and intelligent study.

"I am born for something better," disdainfully asserts the ambitious or the incompetent woman when the subject is presented to her. Doubtless, for something better than the drudgery of dish-washing and similar merely mechanical work which can be done, under direction, by an unskilled domestic. For something better, also, than the routine methods and traditions without reason which make up the sum of many a housewife's culinary education. But the wise and enlightened development of an art which, in all the centuries past, has scarcely advanced beyond the bare gastronomic necessities of a race that must eat to live, which has not yet outgrown many of the mistakes of its earliest experiments, and which holds possibilities for physical growth and well being, without which a higher and more harmonious moral and mental growth are well-nigh impossible, opens a field where any woman may become a royal benefactress, not only to the few who make up the little kingdom of her home, but to many yet to live in this growing and wisdom-gaining world.

And this knowledge is not difficult to attain. Thought, intelligence and interest will solve many problems and achieve many results which will bring their "own exceeding great rewards," rewards without a suspicion of drudgery or degradation. With the newly-found knowledge of cause and effect, of reason and fitness, which a general interest in this art will diffuse, will come a recognition of the necessity of sunlight and pure air, of cleanliness and method, and of improved and convenient appliances for kitchen work. Perhaps, even the modern parlor, with its confused and ill assorted decorations, and its uselessness for honest family comfort, will become of less importance than a bright, cleanly, well-appointed kitchen, where the housewife, be she rich or poor, will not find it a punishment to spend the time necessary for the wise direction, or even manual work required. The woman who, because she does not like housework remains in willful ignorance of the truth that upon the diet of a people its health, its character and its power for usefulness and attainment almost wholly depend, is not fit to assume the responsibilities of a housewife. In replying to some poetic masculine yearnings suggested by a remark of Dr. Johnson's, made in the days when the classic tongue was in higher favor than it is at present, to the effect that a man would rather see a good dinner on his table than have his wife speak Greek, a witty woman poetically expresses the belief that, if such wild fancies were to become facts, the world would be full of "starved brutes making love to tired cooks."

But to know the properties and uses of different kinds of food, and the best methods of cooking to obtain nutriment for brain, bone and muscles, will add pleasure and interest to the manual labor, and, at the same time, make it much less complicated and tiresome.

It is the haphazard fashion of taking up the duties of daily life, the doing what she can, that makes the life of many a housemother one long, dreary task, barren of acquisition for herself, or of beneficial results for others.

Wholesome food, well prepared and daintily served, whether it be coarse or delicate, will materially lessen the number of starved brutes, tired cooks and exacting gourmands.

Until the time when the science as well as the art of cookery becomes generally understood, and the work can be honestly and economically done for the people by trained professional workers, "the separateness in cooking," which the English writer deplores as being "pushed everywhere to preposterous limits," is the best means which the world has at command, and should be made as influential for health and consistent development as knowledge, interest and careful thought on the part of the individual housewife can make it.

Cold contracts. That is why February has but twenty-eight days.—*Boston Transcript.*

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL NOTES.

Senator Gorman of Maryland is said to consider himself the first and most influential adviser of the President-elect.

Senator Slater of Oregon says that the cause of ex-Senator Nesmith's insanity is the rupture of a small blood vessel in his brain. This causes such a great pressure upon that organ as to produce violent derangement. None of his physicians give any hope of his ultimate recovery.

The Dakota House has passed the Woman Suffrage bill by 29 to 19, and it is believed the measure will go through the Council. Speaker Rice advocated the principle, but fears that it may impair the efforts to secure a division of the Territory.

The illness of Speaker Carlisle will not permit him to resume his duties for some time. Mr. Carlisle's sufferings are at times most excruciating.

The Springfield *Republican*'s Washington correspondent says that General Gordon and Mr. Barbour of Virginia would make about the same sort of a Postmaster General as would Governor Smith of Vermont, Rayson Tucker of Maine or any other able railroad man in New England. That is saying a great deal for the Southern men and is enough to satisfy one that either would make a better Postmaster General than the Southern politician who is nothing but a politician.

The Colleges in Congress.

[From the Collegian.]

By far the greater majority of Senators and Representatives in this Congress are college men, although Messrs. Edmunds, Bayard, Pendleton, Wilson of Iowa in the Senate, and Carlisle, Curtin, Kelley, Randall and Reagan in the House never went to college. The University of Virginia, it appears, has graduated more men in this Congress than any other institution of learning. It was the Harvard of the South before the war, and its graduates are mostly all to be found on the Democratic side of the House. Harvard comes next to it in point of numbers. It has fourteen graduates, one in the Senate, Mr. Hoar, and thirteen in the House, namely: Messrs. Collins, Davis, Long, Lyman, and Sowe of Massachusetts, Adams of Illinois, Covington of Maryland, Hunt of Louisiana, Burns of Wisconsin, Weaver of Nebraska, Tillman of South Carolina and Dorsheimer and Belmont of New York.

Its rival, Yale, has two Senators, but only four Representatives—Messrs. Dawes and Gibson; Davis of Missouri, Seymour of Connecticut, Beach of New York and W. W. Phelps of New Jersey. Among the remaining colleges Union has one Senator, Mr. Miller of New York, and five Representatives. Princeton also has five graduates to represent it. Brown follows with four; Hamilton, Dartmouth and Williams with three each; Amherst, the Western Reserve college, Miami University, the Transylvania University of Kentucky, Kenyon college, Dickinson college, and old William and Mary college one each. Four men in the present Congress were educated at West Point—Senators Maxey of Texas and Camden of West Virginia, and Gens. Rosecrans and Slocum. In the Cabinet Harvard has two Representatives—Secretaries Lincoln and Chandler. The latter was graduated at the law school, Rutgers imparted learning to the Secretary of State. Attorney General Brewster acknowledges Princeton as his *alma mater*. Mr. Teller apparently did not enjoy a college education; and where the new postmaster general was graduated is past finding out. It is assumed that he cut his wisdom teeth in a newspaper office. The President is a graduate of Union college.

Personal.

Rev. Dr. Edward W. French, aged 56, pastor of the Bergen Presbyterian church, Jersey City, died on Wednesday. He was born in Barre, Vt.

The Rev. Mark Hopkins, D. D., Wednesday passed his eighty-third birthday. He was born in Stockbridge, Mass., February 4, 1802. Among the scholars and thinkers of the country he holds a high position. The debt of gratitude owed him by Williams college can not be overestimated.

Miss Laura De Force Gordon of California, was admitted to the bar of the United States Supreme court, Tuesday afternoon.

The Bishop of Mississippi, Dr. William Mercer Green, is in his 88th year, yet on a recent visitation he preached nineteen times, baptised eight and confirmed thirty-three persons.

Rev. S. M. Newman, who has been chosen pastor of the First Congregational church, Washington, to succeed Rev. Dr. Rankin, is a native of Maine and a graduate of Bowdoin and Andover. He is thirty-eight years old, and has been in the ministry thirteen years at Taunton, Mass., and Ripon, Wis.

A very rich old lady went to hear Mr. Moody in Washington. She was so pleased with him that when she went home she changed her will and provided that $10,000 should be given to him upon her death.

Mr. O. B. Bunce is finishing a novel of contemporaneous life in New York entitled "Adventures of Tinias Terry-stone." According to *Harper's Weekly* "the hero is a painter who, in the freshness of youth, is set afloat upon the current and borne along to his destiny without misery, tragedy, or crime. Several of the situations are idyllic and the treatment is picturesque in low tones."

Rev. Joseph Marsh, Congregationalist clergyman of Thetford, Vt., died Thursday morning at the age of eighty-eight. He was a graduate of Dartmouth college and Andover seminary.

A correspondent of a New York paper, writing of the late Gen. John W. Phelps, says: It was my good fortune to have been ordered to his command at Newport News, Va., soon after the breaking out of the Rebellion in the spring of 1861. When I reported to him with my regiment, I was given to understand that we were engaged in a most serious undertaking, involving as it did the national life, and that we could only hope to overcome our foes by taking advantage of all our resources and moulding our raw material into a well disciplined army; that the accomplishment of the latter was the immediate work in hand; and work he made of it, such as many of us had never dreamed of before; but we saw the necessity for labor and the good sense involved in his orders and criticisms, and all worked with a will, men and officers, to reward the great industry of a commander who had won our affection, admiration and deep respect. We went to him as children go to a school, and left him after three months' tuition a thoroughly well-disciplined regiment, of whose after record he was justly proud. To that kind-hearted, quaint, honest old man, with his perfect sense of justice, the men and officers of my regiment owe a debt of gratitude, which can only be effaced from their memories when the last survivor of that command shall have passed away.

Mr. Edmunds's Position.

[From the Boston Journal.]

The remarks with which Mr. Edmunds coupled the declaration of the Electoral vote were so unexpected that it was quite natural that they should be misunderstood. Some of the Democrats were at first disposed to think that it was a subtle way which the Vermont Senator had chosen to discredit the result. Many Republicans, on the other hand, were disturbed because it seemed to them that Mr. Edmunds had gone considerably out of his way to enunciate a theory which was at variance with that held by many Republicans. Probably the truth is that Mr. Edmunds had no sinister designs in either direction, but that he simply availed himself of the opportunity which offered for a bit of constitutional interpretation. It may be said to have been unnecessary. Yet it may serve a useful purpose if it directs public attention anew to the absence of explicit provisions regulating the methods of counting and declaring the Electoral vote. It is a reflection upon American statesmanship that a point so critical should be left unguarded.

Convention of the Spel Barzel at New York City.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—The annual convention of grand lodge order Kesher Spel Barzel, district No. 1, was called to order in Pythogoras hall this afternoon. About 130 delegates from Canada, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey and New York lodges were present. Officers for the ensuing year were elected. During the past year $50,000 has been paid out to the families of 56 deceased members and $12,000 for other charities. The Sinking fund amounts to $80,000. There are 5,000 members.

Death of Francis A. Drexel.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 15.—Francis A. Drexel, the senior of the two brothers at the head of the famous Drexel banking house in this city, New York and Paris, died this afternoon of pleurisy after two weeks, illness. Mr. Drexel was a Philadelphian by birth, born in 1824, and as a boy entered the counting house of his father, Francis M. Drexel, the founder of what has since grown into the Drexel bankers. Since then the history of these establishments constitutes his biography, except as to his charitable work, which has been carried on by gifts of large sums of money, but in the most unobtrusive ways and by many manifestations of the kindliest nature to a large number of persons.

Serious Discontent Among Laborers at Wheeling.

WHEELING, W. Va., Feb. 14.—The lack of employment during the past six months for hundred of workingmen in this city, and the consequent deprivation and suffering to their families, has resulted in a decided feeling of discontent among the laboring classes, which crystalized last night in a secret meeting of the worst element of the class referred to, presided over by a Hungarian named Tamana, an accredited organizer of the American anarchists. The preliminary steps looking to the formation of a lodge of revolutionists were taken. Those taking part in the movement are very reticent, and nothing definite can be gleaned from them.

Found Frozen to the Ground.

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 15.—Thos. Conlon, a man 56 years of age, was found dead this morning in a gutter near the Farren house, Fairhaven. The body was frozen to the ground and covered with ice. In the back of the head was a deep wound. On the previous evening Conlon was ejected from the barroom of the Farren house for quarrelsome conduct.

Trouble at New Orleans—The Managers of the Exposition Denounced.

The New Orleans exposition managers had another conflict with the exhibitors Wednesday, which culminated in a riot, and personal violence would have been offered, to the sub officials if they could have been found. A few days ago it was decided to change the admission tickets, and Tuesday the managers called in all the season tickets, promising to issue a new series. The tickets were not forthcoming, however, and all who entered were obliged to pay. Wednesday morning hundreds of exhibitors applied at the gates for admission, but were informed that they must pay, whereupon they broke down the gates and the whole crowds urged into the grounds. An indignation meeting of exhibitors was held, and it was decided to call upon Congress, in case more money was appropriated, to place it in the hands of a commission, partly military, to be appointed from Washington. The exhibits are to be covered up until the trouble is settled.

Action of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Protective Association.

BOSTON, Feb. 13.—At a well attended meeting of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Protective association to-night, it was resolved that a duty of one cent per pound be put upon all fish coming from any foreign country, and that in the opinion of this association the Canadian reciprocity should not be renewed.

The American Iron and Steel Association.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 13.—The executive committee of the American Iron and Steel association at a full meeting of members, held here yesterday, issued an address to all iron and steel manufacturers in the United States. It congratulates the American manufacturers of iron and steel, and the country generally, upon the prospect that the depression in business which has continued for about two years, is apparently nearing its end. The address counsels confidence in the incoming administration of the general government and in the stability of our protective system and our existing financial system.

Bloody Affray at a Dance.

FORT SMITH, Ark., Feb. 12.—Another bloody affray is reported to have occurred at a dance in Indian Territory last Friday night, at which whiskey flowed freely and nearly everybody got drunk. Two men engaged in a fight, the friends of both interfered and the fight then became general. F. F. Craig and several strangers were killed outright and a number of others were wounded.

Two Murderers Hanged.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 13.—Elijah Parks, who murdered Lewis Fox in December, and Rust Johnson, who murdered John C. Wall in August, were hanged here to-day. On the scaffold Johnson declared that he was innocent.

A Young Lady Buried Alive.

SPRINGFIELD, W. Va., Feb. 13.—Mary Cox, a popular young lady, was buried alive a few days ago. She was taken violently ill with neuralgia of the stomach, and two doses of morphine were administered. Her death was announced, and the night after her burial the dogs set up a fearful howling at the grave. Next day the grave was opened, and evidences of a fearful struggle were found. The lady had torn the linings from the coffin, and the clothes from her body. Her arms and head were also disfigured.

Fashion Points.

Gloves are very long, reaching almost to the elbow.

In Paris brooches are superseded by dog collars or necklets.

Gold thread wide braids are used in spring millinery.

The grays of this season are not in the cold tones of those of the fall.

The linings for cloaks are of plain satin; quilting is no longer fashionable.

A pretty dress is made of cardinal tulle, with gold moths scattered over it.

Skirts pleated in plain perpendicular lines are a popular wear for young girls.

Braid is worn *ad nauseam* on jackets, costumes, wraps, and hats and bonnets.

For the incoming season China silks bid fair to take precedence of foulards and taffetas.

Dress collars are worn very high, cut on the bias, and are stiffened with wigan or buckram.

Front draperies must be either very long or very short; those of medium length are not in style.

Green, mastic and gold are the admired combination in many dressy spring hats and bonnets.

Among new cotton dresses are found China crapes that imitate silk China crape remarkably well.

Judging from the display on the counters, plaids will be more worn in the spring than for years past.

The foundation of dresses is of silk or cotton twill to match the expensive materials on which they are made.

Plastrons of tulle, embroidered with glittering beads, adorn many evening toilets of veiling and etamine gauze.

Mastic and gold are combined in spring hats, the straw being in mastic shades, the trimming of mastic and gold braid.

Solid gold and silver bangle bracelets with medal designs that lap one over the other on the arm are very fashionable.

A new silk material has appeared in Paris. It has a ground of dull twilled satin, with a stripe of brocaded flowers.

Short evening dresses are made very full, and have two loose breadths puffed so that they are no longer than the skirt.

New styles of putting on braid this spring mark the difference between last and this season's cloth and flannel suits.

Braid is no longer worn in floriated or foliated patterns on dresses, but in geometric forms or simple but ingenious design.

The plain material to combine with damask or other design in two or more colors must match the predominating hue.

Braided and plaited hair is more fashionable for the chignon than coiled, and this is rule whether the hair is worn high or low.

Very little ornament is worn in the hair. Matrons wear a small feather fastened with diamonds; younger persons an artificial flower.

Shot silks are produced only in small quantities for the American market next spring, but they will be in demand in Paris and London.

Millinet, horse hair and wigan bustles in two, three or several rows of double-box pleats, are, next to the hair cushion bustles, most in favor.

Black velvet and black satin are worn with trains by persons past the prime of life. The black satin is trimmed with jet and Chantilly lace flounces.

The importers of silks just returned from Paris say that satins, rhadames, merveilleux, and surah will again be the leading silk dress fabrics in the spring.

The most elegant balmoral skirt is of poppy red tricot cloth, trimmed on the inside as well as outside with many rows of Valenciennes or Moresque lace.

There is an effort to make steel-gray kids take the place of the ever popular tan-colored gloves, but the tans retain their hold on fashionable favor as yet.

The artistic colors and half shades of colors termed artistic are no longer seen in dress fabrics, but retain their place in millinery goods, ribbons, and accessories of the toilet.

A black tulle dress strewn with crimson moss-rosebuds has a drapery of black tulle, and is trimmed with crimson and moss colored ribbons. The bodice is of black satin.

An extravagant fancy, which does not result in a pretty costume, is the use of a cashmere shawl to form the waistcoat and front and side breadths of a dress, the other parts being of fine real India cashmere or chudda cloth.

Birds are a favorite trimming for ball dresses. They are made of chenille, silk, velvet or beads, so that the tenderest heart may wear them without a pang. A gray tulle, with bright breasted robbins, is very charming.

Half *écharpes* of satin ribbon, six inches wide, are worn with *matinees* and princesse-modeled robes. These begin at the side seams of the bodice, the flowing ends and loops reaching often quite to the foot of the dress in front.

A black velvet reception dress has a plain skirt. The overdress is of black and white striped velvet, with scarf drapery in front, the back being long and full. The waist is cut position fashion, and shows a vest of white velvet.

All shades of brown, beige, ecru, and cream, full shades of sapphire and turquoise blue, wine reds, and black will be found in spring silks, but no more terra cotta, brick, or artistic half shades of sage and cress green, or other so called esthetic colors.

Fine gauzy canvas, called etamine, is much worn for ball dresses in Paris. On the etamine are *appliqué* motifs of various kinds in chenille, velvet and tinsel, thus forming a very effective dress fabric, and, when taste fully utilized, a very elegant toilet.

New lady's cloth in fine soft finish come in the new shades of mastic, which are tinted green, rose or heliotrope, or simply putty colored; in reseda green, fawn, golden brown, tan and pearl shades, and, when not simply tailor stitched, the favorite trimmings are steel, silver and gilt braid put on sparingly in tasteful but effective geometric patterns and vermicelli or zigzag lines, or in rows or in clustered rows.

An exquisite tea gown of London origin is of dark heliotrope plush, opening over a point, extending from the neck to the feet, of pale blue China crape, forming a plastron and long much-gathered fallier. The revers of the robe are lined with satin duchesse of the same sky-blue tint. The ribbons forming the decorative parts of this gown are of heliotrope velvet, backed with pale-blue satin. Heliotrope flowers form the corsage bouquet.

An inexpensive and exceedingly effective silk costume can be made of American silk and broche combined with American machine-embroidered lace, thus: The skirt of dark green gross grain silk, with two box-pleated flounces at the bottom. The fallier reaching from the hips to the top of the flounce is composed of one wide volante of white embroidered Moresque lace, over which fall pointed paniers of the silk, looped under a gracefully draped back breadth of red and green satin broche matching the color of the green silk, but very lustrous, the red broche flowers a very vivid shade between scarlet and crimson. The bodice is of the broche, with a triangular Modjeska puff on the front defining a square Pompadour outline across the bust, the triangle bordered with Moresque lace, the high collar and cuffs with the same. The sleeves are of greenish silk, slashed at the elbows and in the arm hole with the broche. The entire cost of such a dress needed be more than $6.50 or $8.00, including the making