THE LOUISIANA COTTON-BOLL.

DEVOTED TO THE COTTON PLANTING INTEREST, IMMIGRATION, EDUCATION, AND INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

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The Louisiana Cotton-Boll.

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J. Y. GILMORE, Editor and Proprietor,

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One inch....	$ 4 00	$ 6 00	$ 8 00	$12 00	$20 00
Two inches..	6 00	8 00	12 00	20 00	36 00
Three " ..	10 00	14 00	18 00	30 00	50 00
Four " ..	12 00	16 00	28 00	35 00	62 00

Longer transient advertisements in the same proportion.

Yearly advertisements charged $10 per inch additional for space used over four inches.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

SOUTH.

One thousand picked men have been enrolled for the navy in New Orleans.

The New Orleans Picayune was sold at auction for 200,000 on twelve months' time, Judge Alexander, of the Herald, being the purchaser.

A family of Moores, consisting of husband, wife, and child, en route for Texas, were murdered near Little Rock, last week, by unknown parties.

The stockholders of the Little Rock and Fort Smith railroad, at the annual meeting, held in Little Rock, agreed to disagree, and elected two boards of directors.

The senate has confirmed, among others, the following nominations:—W. W. Murray, United States attorney for West Tennessee; Mrs. Isona C. Johnson, post-mistress at Shelbyville, Tenn.

Information is received that a farmer living near Cambridge, in Saline county, Mo., sold a lot of hogs in that town recently, receiving therefor about $1,000, and that while returning home he was overtaken on the road by five men headed by a desperado named Tom Hanton, who shot and killed him and robbed the body of the money. Shortly after the tragedy a gentleman residing near by discovered the body lying in the road, and hearing an angry altercation in an adjacent thicket comprehended the situation at once. He quietly raised a number of neighbors, captured three of the murderers and hung them to a tree. They then started in pursuit of the other two, but at last accounts it was not known whether they had been captured.

WEST.

Lieut. Hudson, of the fourth cavalry, was recently sent from Fort Clarke with forty men to intercept a band of Indians raiding on the Lower Nueces. On the 10th inst. he struck the band, killed nine and wounding a good many more, and captured 111 animals. His own casualties were one man wounded and three horses killed. This occurred on the west fork of the Neuces.

The arrest of John M. Whitney, at Salt Lake City, and Joel Lawrence, at New York, was made upon complaint of E. B. Ward, of Detroit. It is claimed that about a year ago Whitney and Lawrence induced Ware to invest $200,000 in the stock of the Eureka silver mine of Utah, and that the mine was salted for the purpose of swindling. Ward understood that nearly $100,000 of Eureka stock was owned by other parties who had also been victimized.

EAST.

The owners of the steamship Ismalina, from New York for Glasgow, have given up all hopes of her safety. She had a crew of 45 men.

By the deed of endowment of the school at Penikez, given by Mr. Anderson, the tobacconist, Prof. Agassiz had the right to select his successor as president, and he chooses his son, Alexander Agassiz.

Prof. Louis Agassiz died at Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 14, aged 66 years. He was born in Switzerland, and had obtained some ascendence among European savans when he came to this country in 1847.

Orders have been received from Washington to cease all extra work at the Charlestown navy yard and to resume the usual working hours. The work of fitting out the Brooklyn will proceed, but as the emergency is over, a number of employes will be discharged.

FOREIGN.

It is reported that the king of the Ashantees is dead.

The Dutch troops have had an engagement with the Achinese army, and obtained the victory.

The surviving passengers and crew of the Virginius have been delivered to Commander Craine, of the United States steamship Juniata.

It is reported in Havana that the Virginius will be taken to Washington, where an investigation into her right to carry the American flag will be had.

Minister Sickles has announced to the secretary of state the conciliation of conflicting interests in the Spanish cortes and the establishment of the Castellar government.

GENERAL.

The secretary of the treasury is now changing bonds, loan of 1865, for new 5 per cents. of the funded loan at par.

Messrs. E. L. Hoar, Cox and Hazelton have received the appointment of regents of the Smithsonian institute for the next two years.

The treasury department is somewhat pressed for money, not only by the falling off in the revenues, but by the extraordinary appropriation of $4,000,000 or $5,000,000 for naval purposes, and the early approach of the redemption of the $20,000,000 loan of 1869.

Secretary Delano warns territorial or other officers that absence from their post without special permission will be considered as a resignation, and says any officer asking leave of absence will accompany his request with a statement of the cause for making such request.

A general order has been issued from the navy department informing all deserters from the navy that if they surrender themselves before Feb. 1, 1874, they will receive full pardon, only forfeiture of pay and allowances due them, and shall be restored to duty without trial or punishment on condition that they faithfully serve out their full term of enlistment unfulfilled at the time of desertion.

CONGRESSIONAL.

In the senate, on the 15th, a petition was presented, asking congress to take steps to provide for the settlement of foreign difficulties by arbitration. In the contested election case from Louisiana, a resolution was introduced, that the credentials of P. B. S. Pinchback are formal and he is entitled to a seat in the senate, having a *prima facie* case, which was laid over. A petition of ship owners, with regard to the German award, was presented and referred. They claim that during the rebellion they were engaged in commerce on the high seas, and that vessels belonging to them were destroyed by other rebel cruisers than the Alabama and those named by the Geneva tribunal, and therefore they were entitled to a part of that award. House bill to provide for the redemption of the loan of 1858, was passed with several unimportant amendments. The financial resolution reported on Wednesday last was then taken up. A substitute was offered, directing the committee to report such measures as would establish free banking, increase the volume of currency $100,000,000, and making the whole currency government issue. Laid over. A bill was introduced and referred to provide for the construction of the Ft. St. Phillip canal and its maintenance as a national highway. It is the bill recommended by the New Orleans chamber of commerce to the United States senate committee on transportation. Also, to repeal the tax of 10 per cent. on the circulation of bank notes, to take effect Jan. 1 1874. The bill to authorize the organizat on of national banks without circulation, was taken up. Without taking a vote, the senate went into executive session and soon after adjourned.

In the house, on the 15th, bills were introduced: To protect shipping on the Atlantic from destructive eastern gales, and for the better preservation of harbors, channels and lakes, for an issue of convertible bonds, and the reduction of interest on the funded debt; to put printing paper, type, etc., on the free list; to allow producers to sell leaf tobacco [illegible] for reciprocal free trade with the Spanish American possessions; to authorize national banks to withdraw bonds in proportion to their reduction of circulation; to grant a pension to the widow of Gen. Canby; in aid of the execution of the laws in Utah; for a survey for a ship canal from Lake Michigan to the Wabash river; for a survey of the Tennessee and Hiawassee rivers; for an issue of national currency; for a canal over Muscle shoals on the Tennessee river; for the relief of producers of leaf tobacco; for a survey and report of the cost of a double track railroad from Omaha to New York city, for transportation of heavy freight; for the improvement of the Missouri river; to prescribe the time for the election of representatives in congress; to impose a tax on incomes of $3,000 and over; to regulate commerce between the states, and to regulate reasonable rates of railroad charges for freight; for a trans-continental railroad; to transfer to the war department the management of Indian affairs; to establish a territorial government in Pembina. The total number of bills introduced to-day was over 300. A memorial of over 3,000 druggists and chemists was presented, asking for a repeal of the stamp tax on medical preparations, or a modification of the law, to confine the tax to patent or proprietary medicines. A resolution was adopted, instructing the judiciary committee to inquire and report whether action of the house is required concerning the official conduct of the judge of the United States court for the district of Alabama, and also whether the judge has held the terms of the courts required by law, and whether he has continuously and persistently absented himself from the state, and whether his acts and omissions in his office of judge have been such in a way to deprive the people of that state of the benefit of a district court therein and to amount to a denial of justice. A bill was reported to repeal the bankruptcy law. The first section repeals the bankrupt law and all its amendments. The second provides where there are bankruptcy proceedings pending the majority in value of its creditors whose claims have been proven to determine in what manner and on what terms and conditions the estate of the bankrupt shall be administered, and such resolution shall be immediately confirmed by the court. After various propositions and suggestions the bill was made the special order of to-morrow. A lengthy discussion was had on the recommendation of the secretary for an increase of taxation to the amount of $40,000,000, and a resolution was adopted, that the president be requested to cause a revision of the estimates made by the several departments and cause a report to be made to the house, if possible, as early as the 5th of January next, setting forth in detail what public expenditures for the current fiscal year and what estimates for the next fiscal year can be reduced, and the amount of such reduction, without serious detriment to the public service. Adjourned.

In the senate, on the 16th, bills were introduced and referred: To establish an iron ship-building yard on the waters of the Atlantic and one in the Mississippi valley, to afford facilities to the navy; to facilitate the assorting and redeeming of national bank note currency, and to authorize an issue of circulating notes to the amount of 92 per cent. now authorized by law. It authorizes the president to designate some one national bank in New York city, with a capital of at least one million dollars, to act as assorting or redeeming agent for all mutilated or soiled and worn out national bank notes issued by the banks, keeping an account therewith; and such banks as keep with this depository an average balance of 2 per cent. on their circulation shall be entitled to receive from the comptroller of currency notes to the amount of 92 per cent. on their United States bonds deposited in the treasury as security for their circulation. The resolution offered yesterday, in regard to the admission of Pinchback, was taken up and discussed, but no action was had thereon. Adjourned.

In the house, on the 16th, a resolution was adopted, instructing the committee on civil service and reform to inquire whether a reduction can be made in the cost of civil service, in the number of officers employed, and their compensation without impairing the efficiency of the service; and also the expediency of providing that all officials in the civil service shall receive as compensation only such salary as shall be fixed and determined by law. The bill to repeal the bankruptcy act was then brought before the house, amended, and passed—220 to 44. It consists of two sections, the first repealing the bankruptcy act of the 2d of March, 1867, and all acts amendatory thereof, and the second section enacting that all suits and proceedings now pending in the courts of the United States, wherein an injunction of bankruptcy has been made, shall be proceeded with and governed by the provisions of existing laws, which are hereby continued in full force, only for the purpose of closing up suits, and proceedings now pending; provided that from and after the passage of this act the fees, commissions and charges of officers and agents of courts in bankruptcy cases shall be reduced to one-half the fees, commissions and charges heretofore allowed. The select committee on salaries reported back a bill, the first section of which repeals all provisions of the act of March 3, 1873, which increases the salary or compensation of senators, representatives and delegates in congress, or of any officers or employes of the government, except so far as it relates to the judges of the supreme court and to the president of the United States during his present term of office. The second section provides that thereafter the compensation of senators, representatives and delegates to congress shall be in lieu of all allowances except their actual and necessary individual traveling expenses in coming and returning from the national capital once every session, which shall be paid to every senator, representative and delegate on the same being certified by him to the proper accounting officer, and the salary or compensation of all officers and employes of the government, subject to the exception named in section one, shall hereafter be the same as they were prior to the act of 1873. The third section requires the secretary of the treasury to cover into the treasury all sums that may remain undrawn, or that have been received as increased compensation which shall or may have come into his possession by the return thereof. An amendment was offered, providing that the senators, representatives and delegates of the 43d congress who had received their compensation since the 4th of March, 1873, in accordance with the act of 1873, shall hereafter be paid only such equal monthly installments as shall, in the aggregate, make their compensation for the whole congress equal to the amount fixed in this law. The amendment was adopted—172 to 77. Without making further progress with the measure the house adjourned.

In the senate, on the 17th, a resolution was agreed to, directing the committee on finance to report whether more efficient provisions of law are not required to restrain national banks from charging, receiving and taking a higher rate of interest than is allowed by law to be taken. A bill to reimburse West Virginia for losses caused by the federal troops during the late war was referred. It directs the secretary of the treasury to pay that state, upon the order of the governor of said state, the sum of $500,000, to be applied to rebuilding the bridges, courthouses, schoolhouses, churches, turnpike roads and other public property in said state, destroyed by federal troops by military orders during the late civil war. A resolution instructing the committee on finance to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the office of commissioner of internal revenue and other offices under him, and that internal taxation be collected by stamps, untaxed articles being liable to seizure and confiscation by any United States court, the law to be enforced under the direction of the secretary of the treasury, was passed; also, instructing the committee on pensions to inquire into the expediency of amending the pension law so as to allow the same pension for the loss of an arm above the elbow as for the loss of a leg above the knee. The house resolution to adjourn for the holidays was taken up, and it was decided to continue in session—37 to 27. The house bill to repeal the bankrupt act was referred. House bill making a special appropriation of four million dollars for the navy was passed, after some debate, and the senate adjourned.

In the house, on the 17th, a resolution authorizing the judiciary committee to send for persons and papers in the inquiry as to the official conduct of Judge Busteed, of Alabama, and a resolution instructing the same committee to inquire and report whether Judge Durell, of Louisiana, should be impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors, with power to send for persons and papers, was adopted. A resolution instructing the committee on foreign relations to inquire into the expediency of revising and readjusting the expenses of consular officers, was adopted. The amendments to the bill for the redemption of the loan of 1858 [illegible] for reciprocal free trade with the Spanish American possessions; to authorize national banks to withdraw bonds in proportion to their reduction of circulation; to grant a pension to the widow of Gen. Canby; in aid of the execution of the laws in Utah; for a survey for a ship canal from Lake Michigan to the Wabash river; for a survey of the Tennessee and Hiawassee rivers; for an issue of national currency; for a canal over Muscle shoals on the Tennessee river; for the relief of producers of leaf tobacco; for a survey and report of the cost of a double track railroad from Omaha to New York city, for transportation of heavy freight; for the improvement of the Missouri river; to prescribe the time for the election of representatives in congress; to impose a tax on incomes of $3,000 and over; to regulate commerce between the states, and to regulate reasonable rates of railroad charges for freight; for a trans-continental railroad; to transfer to the war department the management of Indian affairs; to establish a territorial government in Pembina. The total number of bills introduced to-day was over 300. A memorial of over 3,000 druggists and chemists was presented, asking for a repeal of the stamp tax on medical preparations, or a modification of the law, to confine the tax to patent or proprietary medicines. A resolution was adopted, instructing the judiciary committee to inquire and report whether action of the house is required concerning the official conduct of the judge of the United States court for the district of Alabama, and also whether the judge has held the terms of the courts required by law, and whether he has continuously and persistently absented himself from the state, and whether his acts and omissions in his office of judge have been such in a way to deprive the people of that state of the benefit of a district court therein and to amount to a denial of justice. A bill was reported to repeal the bankruptcy law. The first section repeals the bankrupt law and all its amendments. The second provides where there are bankruptcy proceedings pending the majority in value of its creditors whose claims have been proven to determine in what manner and on what terms and conditions the estate of the bankrupt shall be administered, and such resolution shall be immediately confirmed by the court. After various propositions and suggestions the bill was made the special order of to-morrow. A lengthy discussion was had on the recommendation of the secretary for an increase of taxation to the amount of $40,000,000, and a resolution was adopted, that the president be requested to cause a revision of the estimates made by the several departments and cause a report to be made to the house, if possible, as early as the 5th of January next, setting forth in detail what public expenditures for the current fiscal year and what estimates for the next fiscal year can be reduced, and the amount of such reduction, without serious detriment to the public service. Adjourned.

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In the senate, on the 18th, a petition was presented from a large number of citizens of New York, asking a general disarmament of federal forces, and the adoption of a provision to settle all difficulties by arbitration. The committee on house bill in relation to compensation of senators, representatives and delegates reported the same with an amendment, which will come before the senate Monday. The resolution to adjourn for the holidays, as passed by the house, was adopted, and the senate adjourned to Jan. 5th.

In the house, on the 19th, a resolution authorizing the judiciary committee to send a sub-committee of two to New Orleans to take testimony in the matter of the impeachment of Judge Durell, with power to send for persons and papers, was adopted. The supplementary civil rights bill was discussed, and the matter was laid over till after the holiday recess. A rambling talk was indulged in on various subjects, and the house adjourned to Jan. 5th.

The Weather in November.

The signal office weather review for the month of November contains the following items:

Twelve well defined storms traversed the territory of the United States during the month. The most violent of these originated in northern Georgia on the 16th, advancing rapidly to Wilmington, North Carolina, and thence northward along the coast to the mouth of the St. Lawrence river. The course of this storm was marked by extreme barometric depression, high winds and heavy rain and snow. Its violence increased as it progressed, the wind's velocity being forty miles an hour at Norfolk and sixty-four miles at Eastport, Maine.

The November temperature has been generally lower than usual over the country east of the Rocky mountains. The variation in the Ohio valley and Tennessee, from the monthly mean of this month of many years, is one degree two minutes below.

The photo-lithographic map giving areas of rainfall shows a deficiency, compared with the mean amount for November, in the Lower Missouri and Upper Mississippi valleys and the lake region, and an excess in Tennessee, Texas and New England.

SANTA CLAUS.

PART I.

'Twas a cold, wild night, and the ground was white
With the frostfleecers of the snow;
And the stars looked down on a noisy town
With its streets and halls aglow.

It was Christmas-time, and the merry chime
Of the evening bells rang clear
On the frosty air, as if to declare
T'was the happiest time of the year.

For jolly Saint Nick has a clever trick
Of filling his sleigh with toys,
And swift as a dream, with his reindeer team,
He visits the girls and boys.

Now I've heard it said that he has a dread
Of freezing his turn-up nose;
Well, it may be so, for fierce winds blow
And it's cold where he often goes.

But I think it a ruse, and a poor excuse
For wanting to smoke his pipe;
As every one knows that his pug nose glows,
Red as a cherry full-ripe!

But he's getting old, and we will not scold,
If we don't quite fancy his ways,
For we must depend on him as a friend,
Or what would we do holidays?

When I was a boy, with perfect joy
I used to hear dear mother say—
"We must keep out of sight, Santa Claus comes to-night,
And to-morrow will be Christmas day!"

And I thought the old spirite, when he came in at night,
Had to crawl down the chimney wide;
And that all little boys who wanted his toys
Must hang up their stockings inside.

Well, one night I slept where the stockings were kept,
All ready for Saint Nick to fill;
There I crept into bed and covered my head,
Determined for once to keep still.

The place for the fire was wider and higher
Than places are made nowadays,
And the fire felt good when the great logs of wood
Were wrapped in a bright, ruddy blaze!

PART II.

That night the fire was buried deep
Underneath the ashes—
Its flashing eyes were fast asleep
Under dull [illegible]

[illegible]
That good saint

But suddenly I thought
Footsteps coming near
I never moved nor said a word
Fearful he might hear me!

The sound increased and louder was,
That first was but a rustling;
Till I felt sure that Santa Claus
Was in the chimney bustling,

I knew he'd find the stocking there,
But feared he'd fill the wrong ones,
For I had borrowed sister's pair,
She wore such very long ones.

And so I thought to take a peep
While Santa Claus was near me,
For when he thought I was asleep
I knew he would not hear me.

No doubt you think his merry looks
You'd recognize instanter;
You've seen him in the picture-books
With reindeer on a canter!

That I should know him anywhere,
I felt profoundly certain,
So cautiously, while he was there,
I folded back the curtain.

And then I looked for Santa Claus,
Nor dreamed I'd seen another—
Now, who do you suppose it was?
Why, bless you, 'twas MY MOTHER!

She came and knelt down by my bed
When that sweet work was over—
"God make him kind and good," she said;
"Over him good angels hover."

I never told her that I knew
She was my Christmas giver.
For soon she went, as so must you,
Across the silent river.

And then a little heart was left
Without her love to shield it,
Of almost everything bereft
That happiness could yield it.

And many, many times I've thought
Of all the thousand others,
Whose little hearts have vainly sought
To find love like a mother's.

And I have thought of what she said
That night when she was kneeling
Beside my little trundle-bed,
Her tender love revealing;

Then I have vowed I would be true,
To all be kind and tender;
And so I hope at last with you
A good account to render.

To be a rich old Santa Claus
To all it is not given,
But we must all be good, because
'Tis that will make our heaven!

TURNED FROM THE DOOR.

You have known me—let me see—something like a dozen years; and you must have known Tuftsboro' and its neighborhood about the same length of time. It has changed very much, however, in the few years preceding. Twelve or fifteen years ago the whole region was wild, rough, bleak, and inhospitable.

The house which I now occu[illegible] been inhabited by my father [illegible] father. Where it stand[illegible] wood, just before the h[illegible] rise t[illegible] then a [illegible] miles on the Holdane [illegible] thing like a mile and a ha[illegible] other, toward Burn.

I courted and won a wife at Holda[illegible] I had my wedding day, or rather we[illegible]ding night, fixed, after two years of engagement. I suppose I must have been madly in love with Milly Golden. She was very young—even younger than myself; I thought her very handsome, and quite worthy of even all the affection that I could bestow upon her; I certainly thought I could give more of that security for wedded happiness than most men of my age.

Milly Golden was the oldest daughter of a partially-invalid widow lady, living at Holdane, pinching along a little, I was often afraid (though I did not dare insult them by hinting at assistance, or even making a direct inquiry), on a small life annuity left her by her deceased husband, a clergyman; and something of habitual sadness being connected with the family history and traditions, through the loss at sea, many years before, of no less than three of the brothers of Milly's mother, all seafaring men, and more or less scapegraces, perhaps remembered but the more fondly on the latter account. It is necessary again to be particular in saying that Mrs. Golden was not an old resident, but had accompanied her husband, some years after marriage, from the coast line, her family history being far less known, and her circle of visiting acquaintance much more limited, than they might have been in the event of her original residence in the neighborhood.

How is was that my wedding night was set for Christmas, I forget, if I ever really knew.

At all events, the marriage was fixed for Christmas night, in the room in her mother's house where we had so often sat hand-in-hand to talk over the love of the present and the hopes of the future. And never did expectant bride groom look forward to any one period with such certainty of happiness, as to that Christmas evening.

Nature meanwhile, was as gay as my hopes, and as pure as those of my bride; for the [illegible] lay deep over all the re[illegible] everything that might [illegible] sive. Then a [illegible] seemed to have set in lasting for many days, with o[illegible] the change of its gradually growing keener and keener, until at the verge of Christmas the atmosphere must have touched zero and gone far below it.

What was cold weather—nay, freezing weather, however, to a heart as young, as warm, and impetuous as mine? Was not Milly to be mine on Christmas night, and comfort my life thereafter? I well remember the warm, blushing kiss she gave me as I left her on Tuesday morning, after making the excuse of carrying her up a pair of shoes and some ribbons, while the fact was, I suppose, that I felt the impossibility of waiting two whole days without sight of her, the proprieties necessarily keeping me absent on the last night of unmarried life.

How fearfully cold that last night shut down! I remember its chill as if it had been but yesterday. The snow crunc[illegible] the foot with that peculiar mot[illegible] indicative of every flake [illegible] rozen anew; the stars [illegible] that seemed [illegible] northwest [illegible] sharp [illegible]

[illegible] was absent, [illegible] pected. I came out [illegible] found my step[illegible] and best of women, whom I loved quite as well as I could have done my own mother—standing at the yard-gate. Through the dusk, I could see that a ragged, uncleanly-looking old fellow was at the gate, and I could hear their conversation. He was asking the privilege of staying all night, and she was evidently hesitating, I knew why she was doing so. Within twenty-four hours our home would be full of visitors, attracted by the wedding and Christmas festivities; and how could she allow that uncleanly tramp to contaminate one of her snowy white and immaculate beds—perhaps infect a whole chamber.

I heard that doubt in her voice, and I echoed it—God forgive me! I was so much younger then, and so much less aware of the scares which crimes and follies make on our natures as well as our lives! Sometimes I think our love and our happiness make us for the moment harder and more selfish, just as at other moments they soften and refine us. I was so happy, just then, I think, that the world was nothing to me. Above all, I wanted no strangers, and certainly no dirty strangers, mingling with the family and my great joy.

The man was pleading even after the refusal, to be allowed to stay; and I heard him, in a voice that sounded foreign and outlandish, though he was speaking good English enough, saying something about "Holdane."

"Pshaw! mether, you have debated long enough with that old straggler!" I said. "He knows about Holdane, and no doubt can easily find his way there. Send him on, and come in out of the cold, with your bare head and no sha[illegible]"

"[illegible] d man, you hear what my [illegible] ys my mother, thus [illegible] weakened, by my [illegible] anythin[illegible] ublic road!" I could scarcely wait [illegible] ne of [illegible] purpose of [illegible] ction neither of us cared to think.

It was at nine when we left the house, and three in the morning when we returned to it. Such intense cold I had never before experienced, and have scarcely ever since felt its equal. Iron bands seemed drawn around our brows; the breath froze on our lips; our hands and feet grew lumps of ice, as up and down, first one road and then another, we tramped and struggled, slipped and slid [illegible]ur terrible way. All the way to Holdane and back; the other road, nearly the whole distance; side-road after side-road, wherever travel was possible or a human track showed itself to the light of the lantern. Not a clap-pit that we did not explore, not a dark object that we did not visit with fear and dawning horror.

I have said that hands and feet were ice; but my brain was burning fire. I can only remember a chaos of self-accusation and abject horror of myself, rather diminished than increased by coming upon the object of our search, at what afterwards proved to have been past two in the morning. We found him under a lee of the woods, in a bit of side-road, half-way up the hill toward Holdane, seated at the foot of a tree, his thin rags drawn close around his chest and throat, where the hands had stiffened that held them—dead!—stone dead!—and cold, almost as cold as the night and our pity!

Heaven would have been very merciful if that had been the worst—only a man murdered! But we brought him home in the gloomy winter morning, after returning for the wagon for that purpose—home, where entrance only a few hours before, which I had denied him, would have saved his life. I was half mad, and my stepmother little better, but some of them retained their senses, and a justice was called to act as coroner. When they stripped him, I was called into the room, to have my eyes blasted quite as fatally as ever the head of Medusa produced the effect. On the withered old arm there was a mass of tattooing, such as seafaring men are fond of subjecting themselves to; and from the midst of the stars and anchors gleamed out one terrible line—a single name—Jas. Holabird.

I think that I need scarcely enlarge upon what followed. It was only too plain that one of the long-lost brothers of Mrs. Golden, an uncle of my Milly, making his way, old, broken and penniless, from some scene of long suffering, to where he had dimly heard that his sister resided—had been turned from the door by me to die so miserably!

Of course you want to hear the rest—there is not much, and should not be, to end such a recollection. But the rest was important to myself; for thank God that I was punished! I say it reverently—thank God that He punished me, otherwise even than in the stings of conscience! I had expected to be the husband of Milly Golden on Christmas night; before that night came, her mother, fallen insensible on the body of her brother, who thus came to her only in death, had sunk under the blow, and all thoughts of marriage were as far away as then seemed happiness. It was a sad Christmas; and, before the spring flowers bloomed, Mrs. Golden lay beside her brother.

I suppose I need not say that neither Milly Golden nor myself thought of marrying over the body of her dead uncle, when I was so nearly his murderer, and with her mother lying a hope[illegible] same cause. And [illegible] blow came, and she was an orphan, was it much more likely that we could forget, now that a second body seemed to lie between our loves? No—the thing was impossible; it was madness even to think of it. She tried so hard, dear girl!—I know that she did—to think that I had not been to blame, or at least that I had not acted more thoughtlessly than any other young man would have done under the same circumstances. But what was that, even if she succeeded? We do not love much when we are driven to make excuses for the object that we believe we love; to be loved one must commend himself to the heart of the other, as infinitely better than all surrounding. She tried to exonerate me—I know and feel so much; but I knew and feel quite as well that, in spite of herself, she shuddered at me at times when the dreadful recollection came fresh to her. Was not that enough?

I do not say that we might not have been married, after a time, had I possessed the hardihood—may I not say the cruelty?—to insist. I quite believe Milly to have been capable of that amount of self-sacrifice—enough to have made her try to "love, honor and obey" a man at whom she shuddered! But I was not lost enough for that! We met seldom and constrainedly after the death of her mother. I think that we both wept, after those meetings, to think that what had been could never be again. People wondered whether the marriage, of which they had once heard as so nearly accomplished, and to which many of them had been invited, was never to take place—and if not, why not? I think that many of them called us "fools!" and applied even worse names.

There came a relief to all this one day—a relief, I think, to both of us, for it must have been that we were slowly breaking our hearts over those dead bodies. Another relative of Milly's made his appearance at Holdane, well-to-do, they said. She went away with him to some great distance—where or in what direction I do not know. We did not bid each other farewell coldly—only broken-hearted; and we have [illegible] each other since.

[illegible] this Christmas night, [illegible] miserable, am a lonely man among your revelers.

Steel Pens.

The errly history of the steel pen is curiously obscure. The most diligent search fails to discover the first maker or the earliest date of this implement. There were steel, or rather iron, pens—made, we believe, in Holland—as early as the middle of the seventeenth century. Toward the close of the last century, Mr. Harrison, an ingenious Birmingham mechanic, made steel pens for Dr. Priestly. One of them is nothing more than a tube turned out of a flat piece of metal, with the sides and points filed away into the shape of a pen. The first actual supply of pens, it is believed—the authority for the statement is no more than local tradition—was made by a Sheffield workman whose name is forgotten. From time to time, as far back as 1809, steel pens, hand fashioned, turned and filed, were made as curiosities or luxuries for presents; but it was not until about 1824 that such instruments were produced in considerable quantities, as regular articles of manufacture. Mr. James Perry was the first manufacturer, but the process was tedious and costly. The metal was steel, rolled out of wire, and for this Mr. Perry paid as much as seven shillings a pound. To the first person he employed he gave five shillings for making each pen; and even when the trade had become regular he gave for some years as much as thirty-six shillings per gross to his workmen. Now—thanks to machinery and modern improvements—pens, not very good perhaps, but good enough to write with, can be made and sold at a profit for 3½ cents per gross.

THEY tell this story of an old Scotch judge, who, when one of his colleagues failed to take his seat on the bench, leaving a brother to excuse his absence on the ground that he had lost his wife, exclaimed, "Has he? That is a good excuse, indeed; I wish we all had the same."

GRAVE AND GAY.

A WRITER wishes to know why people always spell finis without the h.

THE LATEST sentimental grangerism:

Oh, hump yourself, my lovely Poll,
And in the cause of Anti-monop,
We'll mulch the turkeys in the fall,
And graft the long clam on the hop.

INDIANA was rather disappointed in Lucca when they saw her pick up a piece of custard-pie in her hand and bite away like an old soldier.

A YOUNG lady in Indiana was rescued from drowning the other day, and she sent the young man four quarts of butternuts as a token of appreciation.

A BUFFALO compositor made the critic say that Carlotte Cushman was a "bloated actress," instead of a "beautiful" one, and the supply of free tickets didn't come around that day.

OUR valetudinarian being told by his medical adviser that he must wear thicker boots, replies that when a fellow has to walk through so much water, pumps would be more appropriate.

"I AM weary with life—bury me deep on the hillside," wrote a young man in Dubuque, but they pumped him out, and that same night he went to the circus and laughed till he cried at the antics