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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BY

A. V. GILMORE, ESQ., Proprietor,

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

EAST.

The pope has sent a letter to the Massachusetts Catholic temperance union, encouraging the members in their work.

Daly, the communist, who attempted to kill Maj. Hangboro, editor, in Jersey City, some time ago, has been sent to the state prison for one year.

Twenty mills and about two thousand operatives in Kensington, Pa., are idle owing to a strike for an advance of fifteen per cent. on the present rate of wages.

It is said that three thousand women in New York have offered their services to the conductors of the Union temperance prayer-meetings, to inaugurate war against King alcohol.

The panic has checked immigration. The number for January is smaller than for several years. In three steamers from Hamburg, Bremen, and Glasgow, only 137 steerage passengers in all arrived, whereas it is usual by hundreds to arrive by each vessel. It is expected that the immigration will revive again in May.

A formal report has just been made to the fellows of the college of physicians relative to the autopsy of the Siamese Twins. Dr. Pancoast explained certain physiological peculiarities of the respective bodies; prominent among these was the experience of what Dr. Pancoast called the "fatty cord," which extended from the mucus membrane of the stomach, to which it adhered, in the direction of, but not quite into the band of union. There were "peculiarities of umbilical and liver in each body," together with many other abnormal growths rarely found in human anatomy.

WEST.

The temperance epidemic has reached Winchester, Iowa, and Lincoln, Neb.

Petitions are in circulation in Chicago, praying congress for an increase in the volume of paper currency.

The St. Louis and St. Joseph railroad was sold for $100,000 last week, and bought by the interest of the bondholders by Chas. W. Fowler.

Three children of Mrs. Jos. Grey, living seven miles from Lincoln, Neb., were burned to death last Saturday, the house taking fire during the absence of the mother.

Petitions are in circulation in different parts of the Indian Territory, asking congress to give equal rights to negroes, and praying for a territorial government and against the proposed transfer of the Indians to the war department.

The journeyman shoemakers, of Chicago, belonging to the Crispin society, are on a strike, the only point at issue between them and their employers being that the Crispins refuse not to strike in a body whenever the employes of any one house strike.

At a meeting of the state grange, at Topeka, Kansas, last week, resolutions were adopted requesting the Kansas legislature to pass a prohibitory liquor law, and declaring to persons who retails liquor shall be admitted to the order; declaring that the greatest good and highest happiness of an enlightened, virtuous and prosperous people are the legitimate results of thorough and practical education.

The hostile movements of the Indians on the Wyoming frontier, which have been reported for the last few days, indicate, in Gen. Sheridan's opinion, that a general outbreak of the Sioux is at hand. He has communicated this view to Gen. Sherman, who orders him to repress the threatened disturbance with all the force that he can collect. Gov. Furnas, of Nebraska, seems to be very much alarmed. He states that some 12,000 or 15,000 Sioux are moving in a southeasterly direction from the Big Horn Mountain and Yeodoriver country, threatening the settlements on the Platte.

SOUTH.

Alex. H. Stephens is seriously ill at Washington.

A dispatch from Baltimore announces the death in Galveston of Senator Wigfall, of Texas.

Page McCarty, the Richmond duelist, has been pardoned on the score of physical weakness.

The monitor Dictator, for the safety of which much fear was entertained, has arrived at Key West.

An Atlanta, Ga., telegram states that Jesse Chisolm shot and killed Penn Bedell, both are gamblers.

Philip D. Corie, cashier of the Atlanta branch of the Freedmen's Savings Bank, was arrested last week for embezzlement. The defalcation amounts to $10,000.

Ex-Deputy Sheriff Conkling convicted of stealing $25,000 gold certificates from one Craft, of Virginia, while the latter was intoxicated, has been sent to the state prison for five years.

The war department has advices from Texas that Lieut. Col. Buell, with a command consisting of parts of companies D and G of the tenth cavalry and fifteen Tonkawas, struck a small camp of Comanches on Double mountain fork on the 5th inst., killed five Indians and captured all their stock, consisting of 64 horses.

Some unknown person fired three shots through a window at Rev. Mr. Fairchild, president of Berea college, Madison county, Ky., while that gentleman was sitting in the room, a few nights since. None of the shots took effect, and the assailant escaped in the darkness. No cause is assigned for the act, nor no suspicion as to the person.

The low boat Mohawk, with five barges, from New Orleans to St. Louis, struck a snag near the foot of Island 64 at 5:30, on the 20th, and within five minutes sunk so that only a portion of the hurricane roof was left above water. No lives were lost. The boat will doubtless prove a loss. The barges were all saved. The Mohawk was owned by the Mississippi valley transportation company and valued at $30,000. She was insured in Cincinnati and Wheeling offices for $20,000.

The Merchants' Exchange of St. Louis has unanimously adopted a resolution approving Capt. James B. Eades' plan, now before congress, for deepening the mouth of the Mississippi river, and recommends its favorable consideration to congress in the belief that its acceptance will secure to the government the earliest attainment of a convenient and reliable deep water channel between the gulf and the river. The plan of Capt. Eades proposes to secure a channel six hundred feet wide and twenty-eight feet deep at a total cost of $6,000,000, the channel to be maintained for ten years at a cost of $500,000 per annum. When the depth of twenty feet is obtained $1,000,000 to be paid, and which each additional two feet depth shall be secured an additional million to be paid; provided, however, that no payment whatever shall be made until four months after twenty feet shall be secured—uninterruptedly maintained—the payment of half a million per year to depend solely upon maintaining continually twenty-eight feet in the channel.

FOREIGN.

Ireland elects fifty-one home rulers to the new parliament.

The action of Disraeli in limiting his cabinet to twelve members is generally opposed by the press.

The southeastern portion of Europe has been visited by very heavy gales. Numerous disasters to shipping on the Black sea are reported.

News has been received of the surrender of Coomassie, the capital of the Ashantees, and the king and family are prisoners. Much sickness is reported among the troops in Ashantee.

The Duke de Broglie, minister of the interior, has a circular to prefects, directing them to keep a watch upon citizens who leave for Chislehurst on the occasion of the prince imperial becoming of age.

Political disturbances are apprehended in Japan. Minister Iwakura has tendered his resignation, but the Mikado refuses to accept. The people clamor for war against the Correans. This or a civil war is inevitable.

Robert Moffatt, the celebrated English missionary to South Africa, is still in doubt as to the correctness of the report of Dr. Livingstone's death. He thinks it hardly creditable that Livingstone could have reached the place at which he is reported as having died. He also says that the doctor's supply of provisions was ample.

A grand dinner was given last week by the czar, to his royal visitors. In a speech he said, the Emperor of Germany, the Queen of England, the Emperor of Austria and himself would preserve the peace of the world. The Prince of Wales bowed his acquiescence, while the Emperor Francis Joseph answered by reiterating the sentiment.

Dr. Beke, an English traveler, reports he has discovered the true Mt. Sinai. It is situated one day's journey northeast of the village of Akaba Arebis, at an altitude of 5,000 feet above the level of the sea. Dr. Beke says that he found the remains of animals that had been sacrificed. He also discovered Senaitic inscriptions which he copied.

Gen. Von Moltke, in the course of a speech in support of the new military bill, delivered recently at Berlin, said: "What we acquired in six months we shall have to protect by force of arms a half a century to come. France, notwithstanding a majority of her people are convinced of the necessity of peace, is imitating our organization." He concluded: "We have become powerful but remain peaceful; we require our army for defense, not conquest."

By the recent arrival of a steamer from Rio de Janeiro, news is received that Asiatic cholera is raging at Buenos Ayres with increased intensity, claiming from thirty to forty victims per day. The total number of deaths amount to 307. Fifty thousand persons had abandoned their homes in the city to seek refuge in the upper country. The president of the republic has also fled the city for a healthier residence on the island of Carapacha. This act of Saimento is unfavorably commented upon by the press.

A heavy engagement has taken place in the central department, of which the Havana journals give the following account: Gen. Boxomes with 3,000 men and four pieces of artillery attacked the main force of insurgents near Narrango. The latter were 5,000 strong, under Marquis Santa Lucia, the Cuban commander-in-chief. The battle lasted seven hours, and resulted in success for Boxomes. The Spaniards lost 50 killed and 180 wounded. The rebels took no prisoners. Their loss is not given. The insurgents in the central department are setting fire to farm houses in all directions. Garrell Burill has sailed for Spain.

The steamer City of Melbourne brings particulars of the death of the Hawaiian King Lurabilo, on the 3d inst. He was 39 years old, and died of a bronchical affection. His demise had been expected for several days. The members of the cabinet were called together at once, and ordered a meeting of the legislative assembly for the 12th of February to consider the condition of affairs. At a mass meeting on the 4th the people of Hawaii declared in favor of Dover Kalakua as the king's successor. Kamehanca is also named as successor, and there will probably be a severe contest in the legislature over the succession.

The following is a list of members of new British government: First Lord of the Treasury, Disraeli; Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Northcote; First Lord of Admiralty, George Ward Hunt; Secretary of State for Home Development, Richard Ashton Cross; Secretary of State for Foreign Department, Earl Derby; Secretary of State for Colonial Department, Earl Carnavon; Secretary of State for War, Gathorne Hardy; Secretary of State for India, Marquis of Salisbury; Lord High Chancellor, Lord of Cairns; Lord Privy Seal, Earl of Malmesbury; Lord President of the Council, Duke of Richmond; Lord John Manners is appointed Postmaster General.

A correspondent writing from Havana says: On the demonstration made there by the volunteers on Thursday evening, February 12, a large body of volunteers, unarmed, however, had assembled at the Plaza de Arms, in front of the captain-general's palace, and had demanded with loud cries, a change of the decrees regarding the draft, wishing to be allowed to go into the campaign by full battalions, and not be drafted into the service. In order to prevent riot, orders were given to clear the crowd, which was done by a squad of mounted civil guards, during which some persons were wounded and five killed. A strong force of armed volunteers was then rapidly stationed on all the streets in the city, opening in the square in which is the palace, and no one was allowed to pass. Pickets of cavalry were also stationed outside of Havana, and preparations made to put down any further disturbance. The day following the demonstrations, several arrests were made, the most notable of which is that of the excure of the cathedral, Father Castrio, who was distinguished in Havana for his fastidious habits and his radical republicanism. Senor Martinez, formerly editor of the Journal of this city, was also arrested. Both are accused of being concerned in the disturbances. So general seems to be the belief that it will go hard with them, that a report is current that Castrio and Martinez have already been tried and sentenced to death.

GENERAL.

Committees of the Catholic union are preparing for the pilgrimage to Rome and elsewhere by Catholics of this country. It is proposed to leave not later than the middle of May.

A Washington dispatch says there are rumors in that city that Mr. Schenck will retire from the London mission at his own request, and will be succeed by Mr. Fish, secretary of state. Mr. Bancroft is also said to have expressed a desire to retire from Berlin, and the Rev. Mr. Thompson, now in that city, is urged upon the president for his successor as the minister to Prussia.

The secretary of the navy has received a telegram from Commander Braine, commanding the United States steamer Juniata, dated Savannah, saying that he parted company with the monitor Dictator, which the Juniata had in tow, the night of the 14th inst. off Charleston, the weather being thick and the sea running heavy at the time, and that the Dictator had not arrived at Savannah on the night of the 15th.

In response to a resolution of inquiry, the secretary of the treasury has transmitted to the house of representatives statements in regard to captured and abandoned property fund, containing the following information: Total amount of money covered into the treasury as proceeds of sales of captured and abandoned property, consisting almost entirely of cotton, was $20,910,656. Of this amount there has been paid to claimants and awards of courts of claims $6,390,463; under judgment of the United States circuit court for New York, $97,734, and under awards by the secretary of the treasury, under act May, 1872 $97,734. The fund has also been diminished by $75,000 expenses of collection, leaving a balance in the treasury of $14,410,479. There remains unpaid judgments of the court of claims amounting to $1,834,011.

CONGRESSIONAL.

In the senate, on the 16th, a memorial was presented, signed by officers of national banks of Massachusetts and Rhode Island protesting against the passage of the bill for the withdrawal of currency from New England, which was laid on the table.... The credentials of E. R. Withers, senator elect from Virginia, were read and laid on the table.... The committee on claims reported a bill appropriating about two hundred thousand dollars to pay some two hundred and eight loyal citizens of Loudon county, Virginia, for their property destroyed by fire, in conformity with Major-Gen. Sheridan's order, dated Nov. 27, 1864.... A memorial of colored citizens was presented, stating that a number of them had applied to the American Colonization society for transportation to Liberia, and the society was unable to send them, and asking that the government detail a vessel to carry them to Liberia and bring back produce; also, asking aid of the government for the construction of a railroad into the interior of Liberia.... The chair laid before the senate a communication from the secretary of war, asking for an appropriation for a commission to establish a military prison, which was referred.... At the expiration of the morning hour, the senate resumed the conside ation of the bill to equalize the currency, and Mr. Cameron offered a substitute for the committee's bill, repealing all acts of congress which limit or restrict the amount of notes for circulation, and providing that all associations organized to carry on banking shall be free to establish national banks with a circulation subject to all limitations now provided by law, except the limit as to circulation, which is hereby repealed. The discussion thereon occupied the rest of the session.

In the house, on the 16th, bills were introduced: Imposing a duty of six dollars per ton on jute and jute butts imported; to abolish navy yards at Kittery, Charlestown, New London and Washington; to increase taxation on whisky; to abolish pension agents, and provide for paying pensions by postmasters and collectors of internal revenue, thus effecting an annual saving of $500,000; to amend and codify the laws in regard to pensions, so as to secure efficiency and economy.... A bill was reported, providing that moneys paid into the hands of any collector or into the treasury for custom duties in accordance with any decision or ruling previously made by the secretary of the treasury, shall not be refunded or repaid except in pursuance therefor, or in accordance with the judgment of the United States court, giving construction to the law, and from which the attorney general shall certify that no appeal or writ of error will be taken by the United States court, giving construction to the law. It was stated that a conspiracy of New York lawyers had been formed to procure the refunding of duties, who are to have one-half of all sums recovered, and that an enrolled bill in the state department had been tampered with to the change of a comma, in order to enable that committee of lawyers to secure a reversal of the decision, and this had cost just two millions of dollars. The bill passed.

In the senate, on the 17th, a bill was reported to increase the pay department of the army. It provides for establishing the number of paymasters at fifty, instead of sixty; said paymasters to have the rank and pay of majors of cavalry, and provides also for repealing so much of the 18th section of the act of July 8, 1866, as relates to persons from said paymasters to be selected.... A bill was introduced directing the secretary of the interior to place on the pension roll the names of all persons heretofore dropped therefrom, because of participation in the recent rebellion. Also, providing that fifty-three dollars be paid to every Cherokee Indian, now living east of the Mississippi river, who shall go west of said river, being an amendment of the act of July 29, 1848.... The committee on claims reported favorably on a bill to pay certain salt works destroyed in '62 by the United States troops in Clay county, Ky.... A resolution was submitted and agreed to, instructing the finance committee to inquire into the expediency of providing that hereafter all banks shall be organized or chartered by states; each state to decide the question as to the number of banks and capital required for its legitimate wants; each state to provide such guarantees to depositors as may be deemed proper; all banks to be organized under the provisions of the law requiring a deposit of bonds, as now provided for. The national banks and federal government are to have the keeping of such bonds and the issuing of currency, and to be responsible for the redemption of the circulation.... The morning hour having expired, the senate resumed the consideration of the bill to equalize the distribution of currency, the pending motion being to recommit the bill to the finance committee, which was discussed up to the hour of adjournment.

In the house, on the 17th, a bill was passed, transferring the military prison from Rock Island to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.... The house then took up the contested election case from the third district of Arkansas, and a resolution declaring W. W. Wilshire entitled to a seat was adopted—116 to 97.

In the senate, on the 18th, the chair laid before the senate a memorial from the Cincinnati common council, board of trade, and chamber of commerce, protesting against any reduction in the appropriation for work on public buildings in that city.... The senate resumed consideration of the bill to equalize the distribution of currency. An amendment was offered, providing that the secretary of the treasury shall retire or destroy a dollar of legal tender notes for each dollar in national bank notes issued. Several other amendments were proposed and discussed, but nothing definite was decided.

In the house, on the 18th, a bill was passed providing that any person who shall be convicted of the crime of manslaughter in any United States court in any state or territory, or in the District of Columbia, shall be imprisoned not exceeding twenty years and fined not exceeding one thousand dollars; with the proviso that the act shall not affect any prosecution now pending, or the prosecution of any offence now committed; also making the punishment of extortion by officers or persons acting under authority of the United States, a fine not exceeding $500 and imprisonment not exceeding three years. Also, providing that no person shall be prosecuted, tried or punished in any United States court for any offence not capital, or for any fine or forfeiture under any penal statute unless indicted, or information shall be found or instituted within five years, unless persons fleeing from justice.... A bill was reported to provide for the appointment of a commission on the subject of the alcoholic liquor traffic, said commission to consist of five persons, who are to serve without pay for two years, but to be allowed all necessary incidental expenses, and a secretary at $2,000 a year.... The bill to allow free transmission of exchanges, and of weekly newspapers in the county where published, was discussed but not acted upon.

In the senate, on the 19th, that body resumed consideration of the bill to equalize the distribution of currency. After several amendments were disposed of, the following was adopted: "That the committee on finance be instructed to report a bill providing for the convertibility of United States treasury notes into gold coin or 5 per cent. bonds of the United States, and also for free banking under the provisions of the national banking act." Pending discussion on motion to reconsider, the senate adjourned.

In the house, on the 19th, a bill was passed to provide for the election of two representatives at large for Alabama, unless the legislature shall otherwise provide by law by the time fixed for the election. Also, a bill requiring the United States marshals and the clerks of the United States courts, who have received fees and emoluments in excess of their legal compensation, to deposit the same with the treasurer of the United States. In case of refusal, suits are to be brought and future cases to be punished as misdemeanors. Special agents are to be appointed to examine the accounts of these officials, who are to be paid out of the fees and emoluments received, but their total compensation not to exceed $5,000 in any one year.... A vast amount of talk was multiplied on the bill for the distribution of public documents printed by the authority of congress, seeds furnished by the agricultural department, and for the free exchange of newspapers between publishers, and for the free transmission of weekly newspapers within the county where published, and without making any progress the house adjourned.

In the senate, on the 20th, the chair laid before the senate the message from the President, transmitting a resolution of the American Association for the advancement of science on the subject of cultivation of timber and preservation of forests; also a communication from the commissioner of the general land office on same subject.... Petitions were presented from citizens of Pennsylvania, against any restoration of duty on tea or coffee or any additional internal taxation; from the Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage association, protesting against the passage of the bill to aid in the execution of laws in Utah.... The senate then resumed consideration of the finance bill. Mr. Merrimon's amendment was adopted—31 to 23. It instructs the committee to report a [illegible] providing for the increase of national bank circulation, so that the whole volume thereof shall not exceed four hundred millions of dollars. Adjourned to Monday.

In the house, on the 20th, aside from sundry "personal explanations," and the consideration of District of Columbia affairs, the business done was of minor importance.

The Dead Twins.

The examination of the remains of Chang and Eng, which has been proceeding very quietly in Philadelphia at the college of physicians, has been heretofore confined to taking casts of the different important and curious formations of various parts of the bodies, photographing the remains, and daily injections of chloride of zinc, to prevent the bodies from decomposing.

Yesterday the autopsy commenced. The dreaded scalpel was first used on the connecting band between the two brothers. The abdominal cavities were entered for the purpose of examining the viscera. This investigation was attended with most gratifying success, and the physicians were rewarded in their efforts in finding that the lungs, heart, pancreas, liver, spleen, and alimentary canal were excellently developed in each, and that all the parts above-named resembled those of ordinary mortals.

Approaching the band, the lower portion of the ensiform cartilage, or breast bone, in each joins by doubling or bending out, making almost a long union with a distinct joint at the central point of union on which the bodies hinge freely. This joint is somewhat similar to, but not so complicated, as that at the elbow. The band at the smaller part has a circumference of nine inches, and when the link was stretched, and the twins were stood as far apart as possible, there was a space of eight inches intervening. Yesterday the skin of each body was cut through posteriorly, and thrown back from the band and adjacent structures, exposing superficial and deep facia or fatty tissues in the rectus muscle of each. The great question of whether they could have been separated in life was settled in the negative by various abdominal sections which were made. The peritoneum or membraneous lining of the belly in each was found to enter the band, and four pouches or *culs-de-sac* overlapped each other at the centre of the band. The most marked feature here was the presence of two such pouches from the body of the larger brother, Chang, the upper one shorter than the lower, but each lapping one from above and the other from below the single pouch of Eng. An almost exact idea of the arrangement of these *culs-de-sac* may be obtained by holding the first joint of the forefinger between the thumb and finger of the other hand. The astounding and curious fact was developed that a line passing down the centre of the band would sever all three of these prolongations and open the peritonital cavity of each liver. If the knife had been used in life, death would have therefore most probably, if not necessarily, resulted.

The examination yesterday and last night also showed that there was a portal or liner circulation through the heart, as was seen from the passage of the injecting matter used in embalming. The abdominal organs lie in close contact with these pouches, but are not continuous into them.

To-day most important investigations take place by making deep sections into the band, with the view of ascertaining the umbilic l connections, bearing on physiological manifestations in the foetal life of beings.—*Philadelphia Telegraph, Feb. 17th.*

THOUSANDS of men who toil ten hours a day for a dollar and a half will think seriously of turning their attention to music when they read that Nilsson received $2,300 in gold last Saturday, in Boston, for singing about thirty minutes at a matinee.

BARBARA BRAY.

In a little low cottage, just over the way,
Half-hidden by woodbine, lives Barbara Bray,
With a brow that is furrowed, and head that is gray,
Full three-score summers have brought their bloom,
And three-score winters have brought their gloom,
Since first to the light of that little room
Came Barbara Bray.

Day unto day, and night unto night—
Walketh by faith as well as by sight—
She toileth the light for the rake of the right,
Plucking some thorn from the pillow of care,
Lifting some burthen not easy to bear;
To the cot or the palace—no matter where,
Goeth Barbara Bray.

A child of God; yet her portion is small
In the broad estate and paternal hall,
For the "elder brother" had gotten it all!
And day by day, as he rideth by
In his gilded carriage, she wonders why
That never he turneth a kindly eye
On old Barbara Bray.

Patiently, cheerfully, all the same
Turneth the wheel of the ancient dame,
Stopping never for plaint or blame,
What cares she for the scornful dance
Of men at the shrine of circumstance?
Gold can never the wealth enhance
Of old Barbara Bray.

Wealth that never can turn to dust,
Wealth of faith, and a body trust
In him that giveth the daily crust,
Toiling away in the peaceful light
That shimmereth down from gates so white,
Cometh there never unwelcome night
For old Barbara Bray.

Little she knoweth of doctrine, indeed,
"God and her neighbor," is all of her creed;
Short enough, truly, yet large as her need.
Dry stalks may be gathered, and tares, it may be,
But God is the Lord of the harvest, and He
Will pay all His workmen, if faithful they be,
Saith old Barbara Bray.

Strange that she should be toiling alone!
Strange, indeed, that there should be none
To share in the light of that old hearthstone;
Yet one there was, but he went before
Through the church-yard gate and the marble door!
And he waiteth above, on the golden shore,
For old Barbara Bray.

Others there were, but they faded away,
Some at the dawn, in the twilight gray,
And some in the pride of their summer day.
Yet oft, when the sunset hath lost its bloom,
And the shadows take shape in the deepening gloom,
Sweet voices come back to that little room,
And to Barbara Bray.

And then, no longer alone, alone,
Old Barbara sits by her quaint hearthstone;
For the past with its treasures is still her own.
She dreams of love, and she talks with her mates;
She clasps her darlings and patiently waits
For the angel that cometh to open the gates
For old Barbara Bray.

Nor waileth she long; for already afar
Through the gloom of the night, like the glow of a star,
Is shining the light of her homeward car.
Whirling along o'er the track of the years,
Down through the valley of sorrow and tears,
Out from the field of the harvest it bears
Old Barbara Bray.

A moment, a breath! and the journey is o'er!
Her wheel at the window is in no more;
But the tear-drops shall fall while the lonely and poor
Lay their garlands of love at the friendly door
Of old Barbara Bray.

SARAH'S STORY.

Sarah's stories were wonderful things. To be sure, they were apt to be a little startling, and generally ended by scaring her listeners half out of their wits; but that only made them more delightfully exciting.

By this time the children, getting a hint of the coming treat, began to crowd around, and Sarah began:

"Now, all you young uns must sit 'mazin' still if I 'm gwine to tell a story."

Nimpo and Anna were already occupying the only spare chairs. Rush sat on the wood box, and the biggest Johnson girl on a keg, while the rest of the children squatted around on the floor, making a close semicircle about Sarah.

Sarah's virtue as a story-teller was in her face and manner. She was very black, with large rolling eyes, a very long face, a monstrous mouth, great white teeth, and long thin hands, which had an uncanny white look on the inside, as though the color were coming off.

Perhaps you don't think hands have much to do with story-telling, but they had with Sarah's, I can tell you.

Quieting her audience with threats of "claring 'em all out the house," she began in a low, solemn voice:

"Onct upon a time, way down in Ole Kentuck', there lived a *man!* He was a-w-f-u-l rich, and had heaps an' heaps o' nice things in his dark cellar. Bottles an' bottles o' wine, bar'ls an' bar'ls o' cider, an' lots an' lots o' hams, bar'ls and bar'ls o' bacon, an' bins an' bins o' apples, an' jars an' jars o' sweetmeats, an' boxes an' boxes o' raisins, an' O! piles o' good things to eat, in that dark cellar."

Sarah paused to see the effect. Rush smacked his lips, and the eyes of the whole Johnson family rolled in ecstasy at the delightful picture.

"But he was a-w-f-u-l stingy! Not a speck of all these yer goodies would he guv to a-n-y body. Lor'! he al'us kep' the key in his own pocket, an' if he wanted ham for dinner, he went down in that yer d-a-r-k cellar, an' cut a slice, nuff fur hisself. An' if he wanted wine, he jes went down an fotched a bottle, an' al'us locked the do' arter him, an' n-e-v-e-r guv Sam the fustest speck!"

"Who's dat ar?" asked one of the children.

"You shet up! I'll crack ye over the head, if ye don't stop cuttin' up sich shines!" Sarah replied.

The interrupter shrunk behind his mother, and felt snubbed.

"Well, now," Sarah went on, rolling her eyes, "that ar Sam was a po' nigga,—the only nigga the stingy man had; an' he was that stingy he never half fed him no way. He guv him a leetle cornmeal fur hoe cakes, an' onct in a great while a leetle teeny bit uv a thin slice o' bacon. So Sam got thinner an' thinner, till he was near a shadder, an' his fingers were long and bony."

And Sarah held up hers and clawed them in the air, till the children could almost see Sam and his bony hands.

"Well, one day this bad man had to go 'way off to the big city, an' he hadn't got nobody to leave in the house but jes Sam. So he done measured out jes so much corn-meal, an' he said: 'Now Sam, I shall be gone away three days, an' that'll have to last ye till I get back. I'll warrant ye'd like to jes eat it every scrap the fust day, an' ax fur mo',—it's jes like ye,—but not a snojen do you get till I come back, fur I've locked everything up. An' if I find anything out o' order, when I come back, I'll—I'll—wallop you; see if I don't!'"

"With that ar dreadful threat, the cruel mah'sr went off, an' left Sam all alone. Well, Sam went to clarin' up the house, an' when he went to hang up his mah'sr's everyday cloze,—fur in course he wore his Sunday ones to go to town,—he hars somethin' hit agin the wall, an' he thought to hissel': 'I'll see what that ar is. Mebbe mah'rs's done leff a penny in his pocket. Oh, golly! won't I buy a bun!' An' he put his hand in the pocket, an' what do you s'pose he found? *The cellar key!*"

Sarah, looking wildly at her listeners, said these thrilling words in an awful whisper, with a roll of the eyes and a dropping of the jaw, that made it still more horrible.

"'Oh, 'Lor', here's the key!' said Sam to hisself: 'what shall I do?' An' then he thought awhile. But, sakes! chillen, 'pears like the devil is al'ns waitin' fur chances, an' so he popped into Sam's head to jes go an' look at the good things. 'I won't touch ary bit,' said Sam, 'fur ole mah'sr'd find out if one apple stem's gone,—but I'll look.' That was the fust wrong step, chillen. Ye know how hard it is to defrain, if ye look at the things ye oughten ter. Well, this yer onneverent nigga crept down stairs an' unlocked the do', an' peeped in,—trem'lin', fit to drop. He more spected to see ole mah'sr behind a bar'l. But it was as still as the grave, so he crept in. There hung the long rows o' hams, so juicy an' sweet; and Sam went up an' thought to hisself, 'Now, I'll jes snuff of one.' So he snuffed of it, an' it was so nice seems like he couldn't help jes touch it with his finger an' clap his finger in his mouf, an' then he did it again. Ye know, chillen, how the ole devil stau's side o' ye an' helps ye on. Arter Sam had tasted onct or twice, he seen a teeny bit of a ham, way off in the fur corner, an' he said to hisself, 'I don't b'lieve ole mash'sr 'll ever miss that ar one,—'taint much 'count no way.' An', chillen, he was that hungry he couldn't help it, I do b'lieve. He snatched that ham, an' he eat an' eat an' eat, till he couldn't stuff another moufful, an' hid the rest behind a bar'l. Then he went on an' went on till he came to the apples,—bins an' bins o' beautiful red apples! And he smelt of 'em, an' then he eat an' eat till he couldn't stuff another moufful. Then he went on an' went on till he came to the shel o' sweetmeats, an' he looked at 'em an' smelt of 'em, and finally he snatched a jar, tore off the cover, an' eat an' eat an' eat till he couldn't stuff another moufful.

"An' then he couldn't eat any more, sure nuff, an' he went out an' locked the do'. But he never had so much to eat in his life, an' 'pears like he was stuffed so full he sort o' lost his reasons. He went out an' laid down on a bench in the sun, an' he said to hisself, 'Lor'! aint it nice to have nuff to eat for onct; there's poor Jim, I don't s'pose he ever had nuff in his life.' An' then a w-e-r-y wicked idea come into his head. 'So, byem by he got up an' went over to Jim's—he lived next do'—an' he tole him to fotch Sally. Sally was the house gal, a likely wench, an' Sam liked her. An' then he went to Tom's and tole him to come to; an' finally, chillen, he 'vited quite a 'spectable company. Then he went home, an' went into the woodshed an' fotched in big sticks o' wood, an' he made up a mose won'erful fire, an' swept out the big kitchen clean an' nice, tho' he wasn't extra neat now, Sam wasn't. 'Bout ten o'clock his company 'gan to come, the ladies all dressed up fine in some of their missis' things,—low neck an' short sleeves, an' ribbins an' white gloves. O, go 'way! yer don't see no sich things up har! An' the gemmen! Lor', chillen, if ye could see the fine long-tailed blue coats, with buttons shinin' like marygolds, ye'd laff fit to split y'r sides.

"Arter the company was all there, an' talked a little 'bout the weather an' sich topics o' conversation, he axed 'em, 'Wouldn't they like a little defreshment?' They was very polite, an' said, 'No, thank ye,' an' 'I'd rather be 'xcused.' But he went to the cellar, an' he took out great plates o' apples an' great pitchers o' cider, an' Tom helped him; an' they fotched out ole mah'sr's tum'lers, an' he filled 'em all up; an' he fotched out a whole jar o' sweetmeats, an' a great dish o' honey, an' pickles,—oh, Lor'! such heaps o' things! An' all the time Sam said, so polite, 'Ladies an' gemmen, hep you'self, there's mo' in mah'sr's cellar!'"

"An' they did hep theirselves, an' they eat an' eat an' eat till they couldn't stuff another moufful. An' while they was all stuffin', an' Sam was gwine round with a bottle of wine in each hand, sayin', so polite, 'Ladies and gemmen, hep you'self, there's mo' in mah'sr's cellar,' he happened to look up! *There was his mah'sr!*"

As Sarah said this she gave a horrible yell, and sprang forward, clutching in the air, as though to seize them; and her spell-bound listeners screamed, and some of them fell over backwards.

Delighted with the effect of her tragedy, she waited till they gathered themselves up, with awe-struck faces, to listen to the end.

She lowered her voice to a ghostly whisper.

"The mah'sr sprang to get Sam, but Sam let out a screech nuff to raise the dead, an' clared out thro' the do' 's tho' the debil was arter him. The rest of the company slunk out 'thout axin' to be 'xcused, an' was in bed every soul of 'em in two minutes, an' snorin' fit to raise the roof. Sam's mah'sr run till he got done tired out, an' then he dragged hisself home.

Sarah stopped. After waiting a few minutes, Rush asked, in a sacred sort of a voice, what became of Sam.

Sarah rolled her eyes, shook her head, dropped her jaw, and said, slowly:

"He n-e-v-e-r was heard of agin."

"Run away?" suggested Rush.

"S'pose so. Mebby up norf this very day, f'r all I know." And Sarah turned to her work.—*St. Nicholas for March.*

A Bark Attacked by a Whale.

The bark Kate Williams, Capt. Hale, of the regular packet line between Boston and Fayal, which arrived at Boston on Friday last, had a remarkable escape on her passage. The Boston Journal thus describes the incident: "About 7 o'clock one morning a seaman aloft cried out that there was a whale on the port bow. Capt. Hale stepped to the port quarter, and almost immediately could have laid his hand upon the upper jaw of a sperm whale, which had paid an unwelcome visit to the vessel. It was a cow whale, about sixty feet in length, which had set upon them, and had she struck the vessel a little further under, the Kate Williams would probably never have been heard from after leaving Fayal. As it was, the vessel received a pretty good shock, and lost a portion of her mizzen chains. This monster had seen the bark about the time the sailor discovered her, for she immediately sunk and came up with great force right at the vessel's stern. Capt. Hale thinks her mouth measured at least fifteen feet, and her under jaw was felt to scrape the bottom of the vessel as she glided swiftly away from her unexpected enemy. The whale fared as badly as the bark, no doubt, for the quarter-deck was covered with pieces of the leviathan's outer skin and the "mud" that is found between it and the tougher hide. The Kate Williams was sailing rapidly at the time, and in about fifteen minutes the fish was out of sight. While the latter could be seen, she appeared swimming about looking for the vessel, and evidently in a rage."

THE Indians have got a new dodge. When they are thirsty, which is said to be quite frequently, they go into a saloon in Depere, Wis., and ask "Schnapps haben?" Thus always brings the drink, as the saloon-keeper is bound to believe they are Germans.

Church-Going Dogs.

Everybody knows how the Ettrick Shepherd pleasantly tells of the dogs that used to accompany their masters to church, in the pastoral district in which he lived—how they lay quiet and patient during the whole service, till the last psalm was sung, and the minister and congregation stood up for the blessing, when their delight at the prospect of immediate emancipation could no longer be restrained, but expressed itself by joyous barking. In the pastoral districts of Scotland, the number of dogs present during divine service always very much attracts the notice of strangers. We heard from the minister of one of the most strictly pastoral parishes in Tweeddale the following curious anecdote. When he entered on his charge, being a stranger to the district, he was both surprised and annoyed at the presence of the numerous dogs in church, regarding it pretty much as the husband of Jennie Deans regarded the tobacco-pipe with which the Highland gentleman solaced himself during the service, and condemned it from the pulpit as unseemly, requesting the shepherds thenceforth to leave their dogs at home. The shepherds, perhaps wondered a little, but the request was generally complied with for a time. However, there was one spaniel collie that soon made his appearance again, and took up his place on the pulpit stairs, which he had long specially appropriated to himself, lying very quietly, unless some other dog ventured to set foot upon the stairs, an intrusion which he would not permit. One day, the minister met the shepherd, the owner of the dog, accompanied, of course, by his faithful attendant. The shepherd immediately referred apologetically to the subject. "Ye see sir," he said, "after what ye said to us, we tried to keep the dogs at hame; but this ane was ower gleg (too sharp) for us. We steekit (shut) him in for twa Sabbath-days, but ever sin' that, we ne'er see him on the Sabbath mornin', he just slips awa scme way on the Saturday nicht, and the next we see o' him is on the pulpit stairs, when we come to the kirk." The intelligence displayed by the dog in the anecdote just related implies a power of thinking such as we hardly expect to find in the lower animals, besides a remarkable strength of will, for the dog certainly lost a breakfast, and probably also a supper, to gratify his desire of occupying his place of honor on the pulpit stairs.

We once witnessed an extraordinary scene in which shepherds' dogs were the actors. An Edinburgh minister was to preach a sermon, on a summer evening, in an empty wool-barn in one of the most lonely dales of the southern highlands in Scotland, and the inhabitants of the dale, mostly shepherds and their families, were assembled to hear him. The wool-barn was in the upper story of a two-storied building, and the approach to it was by an outside stair without a railing. The congregation consisted of some forty or fifty people, but the barn would