THE LOCAL AND GENERAL MARKETS

INTEREST CONFINED TO A FEW STOCKS

General Market Dull, But With Less Selling Than Previously.

DAY'S NEWS NOT ENCOURAGING

Resignation in Steel Trust Taken as Showing Friction.

BUYING FOR INVESTMENT

Demand Proves a Boom for Colorado Southern — Cotton Oil and General Electric Enjoy a Season of Comparative Prosperity.

NEW YORK, March 5.—Chiefly on account of yesterday's purchase of Government bonds by the Treasury Department the associated banks were able to show a reduction of over $1,000,000 in the losses they have scored in their operations with the Sub-Treasury since last Friday. To-day's figures, however, still show a loss to the banks in excess of $2,000,000 and unless there should be further bond redemptions the figures are apt to be larger by the time Saturday's bank statement is compiled.

The postponement of a part of the week's exports of gold till Friday will, of course, by reason of the banks' employment of the average system in making up their weekly report, still further reduce their apparent losses.

Money Slightly Firmer.

The money market today had a perceptibly firmer tone for all periods, notwithstanding which sterling exchange was firm, advancing to the point where it stood prior to the announcement of this week's gold exports.

Dealings in today's stock market began under inauspicious circumstances, the most novel of which was the renewed evidence of the disposition of the Federal authorities to enforce strictly the existing statutes against railway and corporate combinations of all kinds.

The announcement of the resignation of one of the members of the executive committee of the United States Steel Corporation was likewise regarded as an unfavorable occurrence, as testifying to a want of harmony in the management of that great concern.

Less Liquidation.

Today's market did not show by any means such general liquidation as was noted yesterday and, in fact, such declines as were scored were as a rule limited to fractions. In the railway list extensive advances were scored in Colorado Southern shares and Iowa Central, and there was a fairly sensational advance in Chicago and Northwestern. Other comparatively firm features were Rock Island, St. Paul, and Southern Pacific.

The Reading and Erie issues continued rather heavy on uneasiness as to the upshot of the meeting of the United Mine Workers to be held a week hence.

There was nothing definite to be said in connection with the spirited movement in the Colorado Southern shares, although it is generally believed the control of the property is rapidly passing to other corporations, among which, it is believed, the Atchison Company will take a prominent part.

Buying for Investment.

Buying for investment account was effective in the case of Chicago and Northwestern, and was generally believed to foreshadow increased dividend payments on the stock. Little was done in the local traction shares, which, however, were fairly steady. There were also few movements of interest among the industrial or miscellaneous stocks.

Sharp advances were noted, however, in American Cotton Oil and General Electric, while the Car and Foundry stocks were steady. Rumors of larger dividend returns on American Cotton Oil attended the movement in that instance, and the stock has for some time past shown a constant absorption.

As Regards Cotton Oil.

The majority of the stock of the American Cotton Oil Company has for the last six months been deposited with a protective committee, but holders of the stock, in many cases at least, retained the right to withdraw it when they so desired. Recent rumors to the effect that the control of the American Cotton Oil Company was being acquired in the interests of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company are not believed to be well grounded at the present time, although the latter great concern might presumably be willing to take over the control of the cotton oil company at a satisfactory price.

General Market Dull.

At the same time the fact that the chemical company has a very large interest in the business of refining cotton oil seems to be the only present foundation for the rumors which have been current.

The general stock market continued dull throughout the business session, but developed a rather firmer tone with the course of the day.

Active interest, however, remained centred in the quarters already referred to, and there was no material increase in respect of activity.

New York Stock Exchange, March 5.

	High.	Low.	Last.	Ch'ge.
Amal. Copper	68¾	67¾	68⅝	— ¼
Am. Car & F.	30¾	29¾	30¾	+1½
Am. Car & F. pf.	88¾	88¾	88¾	+ ¼
Am. Cotton Oil	28¼	26	28¼	+2⅞
Am. Grass Tw.	50¾	49½	50	— ¼
Am. Ice	27¾	27¾	27½	— ¾
Am. Lin. Oil	22	22	22	—1½
Am. Lin. Oil pf.	52	52	52½	+3⅞
Am. Loco.	31¾	31½	31¾	+ ¼
Am. Smelt. pf.	98½	98¼	98½	— ¼
Am. Sugar	127⅞	126½	127	+ ¼
Am. Sugar pf.	118½	118¼	118¼	— ¼
xAnaconda	22¼	22	22¼	+ ¼
Atchison	75⅝	74¾	75½	+ ¼
Atchison pf.	96½	96¼	96½	+ ½
Balt. & Ohio	104⅞	103¾	104⅝	+ ⅝
Bkn. Rap. Trans.	63¾	63	63⅝	+ ⅛
Can. Southern	87⅞	87	87½	— ⅜
Can. Pacific	112½	112¼	112½	— ¼
Chic. & Alton	36¼	35½	35⅞	+ ⅜
Chic. & E. Ill.	154¾	151½	154	+3
Chic. Gt. West.	24¼	23⅞	24¼	+ ⅜
Chic. Ind. & L.	62¾	60¾	62¼	— ½
C. M. & S. P.	163¾	162	163¼	+1
Chic. & N. W.	229	221½	227½	+4½
C. R. I. & P.	165¼	163	165¼	+1⅜
C. C., C., & St. L.	100⅝	99½	100⅝	+ ⅝
Colo. F. & I. Co.	88¼	86¼	88	+1
Colo. Southern	25⅞	22⅞	25½	+2½
Colo. So. 1st pf.	70½	68¾	70½	+1¾
Colo. So. 2d pf.	40¼	37⅞	40¼	+3¼
Consol. Gas	217¾	217	217¾	— ¼
Del. & Am. pf.	38½	38	38¼	— ½
D. S., S. & A. pf.	24⅞	24¼	24⅞	+ ¼
Erie	27¼	26½	27	— ¼
Erie 1st pf.	68	67⅝	67½	— ¼
Erie 2d pf.	54½	54¼	54⅜	— ¼
Ev. & Ter. H.	68½	68	68½	+ ½
Gen. Elec. Co.	298	296	298	—1½
Gt. North. pf.	183	181½	183	—1½
Ill. Central	139¼	138¾	138¾	— ⅝
Iowa Central	49¾	47½	49¼	+1¼
Iowa Cent. pf.	83¼	80¼	82⅞	+2
Kan. C. & So.	23	22	23	+ ¼
K. C. & So. pf.	53½	51½	53½	+1
Louis. & Nash.	103⅝	103¼	103⅝	+ ¼
Manhat. Con.	131¾	130¾	131½	+ ⅜
Met. St. Ry.	167⅝	166⅝	167½	+ ½
Mex. Central	27⅝	27¼	27¼	— ½
Mex. Nat. ctfs.	17¾	17⅝	17¾	
Mex. Nat. pf., w. i.	41½	41¼	41½	— ¼
M. S. P. & S. S. M.	47⅛	46½	47	
M.S.M. & S.S. M. pf.	119	109	110	+ ½
Mo. Kan. & T.	24⅝	24	24⅝	+ ¼
Mo. K. & T. pf.	55	53½	54½	+ ⅝
Mo. Pacific	98⅞	97½	98¾	+ ¼
N. Y. Central	162⅝	161¾	162⅝	+ ⅝
N. Y., O., & W.	33⅛	32	33	
Nor. & West.	57¼	57	57	— ¼
Nor. & West. pf.	91	91	91	+1
Pac. Coast Co.	72	71	71	—1½
Penn.	150¾	150	150½	+ ⅛
Peo. Gas of Chi.	99¾	99	99½	— ¼
Pullman	225	220	224	+4
Reading	54⅛	53⅝	54⅛	— ⅛
Reading 1st pf.	80¼	80	80	— ½
Read. 2d pf.	66¾	65⅝	66¼	
Rep. Steel	16½	16¼	16¾	— ⅛
Rep. Steel pf.	71⅝	71½	71⅝	+ ⅛
Rub. Goods	20⅛	18⅞	19½	+ ½
Rub. Goods pf.	71½	70¾	70¾	
St. Jo. & G. I.	21⅛	18½	20	+1
St. J. & G. I. 2d pf.	33	32½	33	+ ¾
St. L. & S. Fr.	61½	60½	60½	
St. L. & S. F. 2d pf.	72	71½	71¾	— ⅛
St. L. Swn. pf.	56½	55¼	56½	+ ½
South. Pacific	64¼	63⅝	63¾	
Southern Ry.	32½	32¼	32½	
South. Ry. pf.	95¾	95	95⅝	+ ⅛
Tenn. C. & I.	68⅝	68	68⅝	+ ½
Texas Pacific	29½	29⅛	29½	+ ¼
Tol., St. L. & W.	22½	22	22¼	+ ¼
T., St. L., & W. pf.	40¼	29¾	40¼	+ ⅛
Union Pacific	99¼	98⅝	99	
Union Pacific pf.	87	86¾	86⅞	— ¼
U. S. Leather pf.	81½	81½	81½	
U. S. Red. & R.	44	43⅜	43⅜	— ⅞
U. S. R. & R. pf.	65⅞	65½	65⅝	— ⅛
U. S. Rubber Co.	16	15¾	15¾	+ ½
U. S. Steel	43	42⅝	42⅞	— ⅛
U. S. Steel pf.	94⅞	94½	94¾	
Va. Caro. Ch.	62¾	62½	62¾	+ ½
Wabash	24	23¾	24	+ ½
Wabash pf.	42½	42¼	42½	
West. Un. Tel.	90⅞	90¼	90⅞	

Total sales of stocks, 518,980 shares.
+Advance. —Decline. xEx-dividend.

Government Bonds.

	March 5. Bid.	Asked.	March 4. Bid.	Asked.
U. S. 2s, reg. 1930	106¾	109¼	108½	109¼
U. S. 2s, cou. 1930	106¾	110	109	109¾
U. S. 5s, reg. 1918	100	100¾	100	100¾
U. S. 5s, cou. 1918	100	100¾	100	100¾
U. S. 3s, S. R. 1918	100	100¾	100	100¾
U. S. 4s, reg. 1907	111¼	111¾	111¼	111¾
U. S. 4s, cou. 1907	112¼	112¾	112¼	112¾
U. S. 4s, reg. 1925	130¼	130¾	130¼	130¾
U. S. 4s, cou. 1925	130¼	130¾	130¼	130¾
U. S. 5s, reg. 1904	106¾	107	106½	107
U. S. 5s, cou. 1904	106¾	107	106½	107
D. C. 3-65s	124½	.....	124½	.....

Washington Stock Exchange.

Sales—Traction: 25@113¼; 100@113¼; 100@113⅜. Wash. Gas: 25@77⅝; 25@77⅝; 50@77½; 75@77⅝; 225@77¾; 25@77⅝; 25@77. Lanston Machine: 100@12, buyer 60; 100@11¾. Greene Copper: 5@23; 100@24. After Call—Cap. Traction: 140@-12⅝. Lanston Machine: 100@11⅝.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BONDS.

	Bid.	Asked.
Capital Traction R. R. Cs.	108	109¼
Wash. Trac. & Elec. Receipts	.....	68
Met. R. R. 3-6s, 1925	118½	119¾
Met. R. R. Cert. Indebtedness A	106	107
Met. R. R. Cert. Indebtedness B	106	107
Columbia R. R. 3d mort. 5s	121	123
Columbia R. R. 6s, 1904	106¼	107¼
Wash. Street Railway Co.	.....	83
Wash. Gas Co., ser. A, 6s, 1906-'27	112	.....
Wash. Gas Co., ser. B, 6s, 1906-'26	112	.....
U. S. Elec. Light, Deb. Imp., 1907	105¼	.....
U. S. Elec. Light, Cert. Indebt.	100¾	.....
Ches. & Pot. Tel., Con. 5s	104½	105¼
American Security & Trust 4s	100	.....
Wash. Market Co., 1st 6s, 1892, 1911, $7,000 retired annually	108½	.....
Wash. Mkt. Co. Imp. 6s, 1902-'27	108¾	.....
Wash. Mkt. Co., ext. 6s, 1902-'27	108¼	.....
Masonic Hall Assn. 5s, U. 1908	103	106
American Graphophone Deb. 5s	90	.....
SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANIES.		
National Safe Deposit and Trust	160	170
Wash. Loan and Trust	192½	196
American Security and Trust	2 5	225
Washington Safe Deposit	69½	.....
Union Trust and Storage	107¾	109
Washington Savings Bank	109	.....
NATIONAL BANK STOCKS.		
Bank of Washington	375	430
Metropolitan	755	800
Central	850	.....
Farmers and Mechanics'	200	.....
Second	169	.....
Citizens	175	.....
Columbia	185	.....
Capital	150	170
West End	124	130
Traders'	148	.....
Lincoln	125	135
Riggs	745	850
RAILROAD STOCKS.		
Capital Traction	113¾	115¾
INSURANCE STOCKS.		
Firemen's	25	.....
Franklin	49	52
Metropolitan	75	85
Corcoran	62	.....
Potomac	62	66
Arlington	26¼	28¼
German-American	200	.....
National Union	7¾	8¼
Columbia	10	12
Riggs	7¾	8
People's	5¾	6¼
Commercial	4¾	5
Colonial	102	115
TITLE INSURANCE STOCKS.		
Real Estate Title	84	.....
Columbia Title	4¾	5
Washington Title	2	3
TELEPHONE STOCKS.		
Chesapeake & Potomac	60	65
GAS STOCKS.		
Washington Gas	77	77¾
Georgetown Gas	74	.....
MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS.		
Jergenthaler Linotype	177¾	178¾
Lanston Monotype	10¾	11¾
American Graphophone	3¾	4
American Graphophone, pfd.	7¾	8¾
Washington Market	15	.....
Norfolk & Washington	190	210
Greene Copper	23¾	25
Col. Sand	50	.....

THE CHICAGO GRAIN MARKET.

Wheat Closes Higher; Corn, Oats and Provisions Decline.

CHICAGO, March 5.—There was a larger trade in wheat today and the market, during the greater part of the session, ruled firm, owing to light receipts in the Northwest, continued dry weather in the South, and bad crop reports from Kansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. Toward the close there was free realizing as well as selling by bears, which caused a set-back in prices. The market, however, closed steady, ⅛@¼c higher than yesterday. Foreign markets were generally steady. Liverpool closing ¼c higher for the day. There was a fairly good demand for cash wheat here by local millers, and seaboard reported a moderate business done for export.

Corn—There was a large trade in corn today, and the market during the first part of the day ruled strong on good buying by local buyers as well as by shorts, owing to the very light country offerings, but toward the end of the session free realizing caused a moderate setback. The close, however, was fairly firm, at ⅛@¼c higher than last night. Foreign markets were generally quiet. Liverpool closing unchanged from yesterday. Country offerings practically nothing. Cash demand fairly good.

Oats—There was a fair trade in oats and the market generally followed the course of wheat and corn. After advancing early, later sold off and closed quiet at ⅛c lower than yesterday. Country offerings were light. Cash demand fairly good.

Provisions opened weak on decline in hogs. The market received some support, but offerings by holders became very heavy and there was a bad break, closing at the lowest point yet on pork and ribs. The selling today was of such volume as to suggest the idea that the important holders and the bulwark of the trade were the ones unloading besides the outsiders who went out on stop orders. It is fair to presume receipts will increase on account of recent advance and delayed hogs.

The following are the quotations:

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.	Yest.
WHEAT					
May	76¼	76¾	76¼	76⅝	76⅛
July	76½	77 3-16	76½	76¾	76⅝
Sept.	75⅝	76 7-16	75¾	76⅛	75⅞
CORN.					
May	61⅝	62½	61¾	61⅞	61¾
July	61⅝	61⅝	61	61¼	61
Sept.	59	59 9-16	59	59⅛	59⅛
OATS.					
May	44¼	44⅞	44	44⅛	44⅝
July	35½	36	35⅝	35½	35½
Sept.	30⅝	30 11-16	30⅜	30½	30½
LARD.					
May	9.32½	9.35	9.27½	9.27½	9.35
July	9.47½	9.47½	9.40	9.40	9.47½
RIBS.					
May	8.32½	8.35	8.27½	8.27½	8.35
July	8.37½	8.47½	8.40	8.40	8.47½
PORK.					
May	15.25	15.35	15.10	15.10	15.30
July	15.42½	15.50	15.30	15.30	15.50

THE COTTON MARKET.

Sudden Renewal of Activity in Liverpool Spot Dealings.

NEW YORK, March 5.—Really the only striking new feature in cotton was the sudden renewal of activity in the spot market at Liverpool, where the sales jumped to 15,000 bales.

This of itself was largely the cause of a further advance here today. But it was re-enforced by higher prices there, both for futures and spots, by a rise of 1-16 to 3-16c in American spot markets, reports of a better enquiry at Manchester, favorable reports from Fall River, a small Houston estimate, some decrease in the New Orleans estimate, and a loss in stocks at the thirteen interior towns of 3,500 bales, making a loss of approximately 11,500 thus far this week.

Wall Street bought; spot houses were buying May, though selling July, and the speculation was active, both here and in New Orleans.

The market closed firm, with quotations 10 to 16 higher as compared with yesterday's closing prices.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.	Yest.
March	8.86	8.99	8.86	8.98@8.99	8.82
April	8.90	8.95	8.88	8.90@8.98	8.81
May	8.74	8.84	8.73	8.82@8.84	8.69
June	8.75	8.75	8.75	8.81@8.86	8.70
July	8.77	8.89	8.77	8.84@8.88	8.72
Aug.	8.62	8.73	8.62	8.72@8.73	8.57
Sept.	8.35	8.44	8.29	8.40@8.42	8.27
Oct.	8.12	8.20	8.12	8.20@8.21	8.08
Nov.	8.02	8.08	8.02	8.10@8.12	8.00

BALTIMORE PRICE CURRENT.

BALTIMORE, March 5.—Following are today's quotations in the local wholesale provision and grain markets:

Flour—The market was steady. Winter extra, $3@3.30; winter clear, $3.25@3.65; winter straight, $3.70@3.90; winter patent, $4@4.25; spring clear, $3@3.25; spring straight, $3.75@3.85; spring patent, $3.95@4.15; City Mills best patent, $4.90; City Mills high-grade patent, $4.80; City Mills high-grade straight, $4.40; City Mills choice family, $4.15; City Mills super, $3@3.10; Rio extra, $3.50@4.15.

Oats—Market dull. Stock in elevators, 185,818 bus; white, No. 2, 49@49½c; No. 3, 48@48½c; mixed No. 2, 47½@48c, nominal; No. 3, 46½@47c.

Rye—Market was firm. Stock in elevators, 44,263 bus; No. 2 nearby, in carlots, 66c; No. 2 rye, 62½c; No. 4 rye, 61c; No. 2 Western rye, 67@68c, in export elevators.

Hay—Market steady; No. 1 timothy, large bales, $15@15.50; No. 2 timothy, $14@14.50; No. 3 timothy, $12@13; No. 1 clover, mixed, $12@12.50; No. 2 clover, mixed, $11.50@12.00; No. 1 clover, $12@12.50; No. 2 clover, $11@11.50; no grade hay (unsound, musty, stained, etc), $8@9.

Straw—Market was dull. No. 1 straight rye, new, $12; No. 2 straight rye, $11@11.50; tangle rye, blocks, $6@6.50; wheat, $6@6.50; oat straw, common to prime, $8.50@9.

Butter—Market was firm. Creamery, separator, extra, 30@31c; extra first, 28@29c; creamery, first, 25@26c; do, imitation extra, 24@25c; Iowa and N. W. ladle, extra, 20@21c; do, extra first, 18@19c; Western store-packed, 13@15c; Ohio rolls, first, 17@18c; second, 14@15c; West Virginia rolls, first, 15@17c; second, 14c; Elgin creamery prints, ½-lb, 32@33c; do, 1-lb, 31@32c; do, 2-lb, 30@31c; Maryland and Pennsylvania creamery prints, ½-lb, 27@29c; do, 1-lb, 24@26c.

Eggs—The market is firm. Strictly fresh, 26@27c; Western, 26@27.

Fish, oysters, and terrapin—Market steady. Bass, per lb, 7@8c; rock, boiling, per lb, 12@15c; do, medium, per lb, 12c; do, pan, per lb, 10c; white perch, large, per lb, 7@8c; do, medium, per lb, 4@5c; perch, yellow, per lb, large, 5c; do, medium, 3@4c; mackerel, Florida, per lb, 12@15c; gray trout, lb, large, 6@7c; do, small, lb, 5@6c; flounders, per lb, 6@7c; salmon trout, per lb, 10c to 12c; shad, Florida, roe, each, 50@60c; do, buck, 20@25c; catfish, per lb, 3c; green pike, native, per lb, 10c to 12c; eels, per lb, 5c to 6c; lobsters, per lb, 25c; oysters, bulk stock, per bus, 90c to $1.25; choice raw box, per bbl, $4.50@5; prime, per bbl, $3.50@4; medium, $2.50@3; culls, per bbl, $2@2.50; terrapin, Chesapeake, diamond back, 7-inch, per doz, $45@50; do, 6-inch, $30@35; do, 5-inch, $16@12.

Green fruits and vegetables—Market was quiet. Apples, New York, assorted, per bbl, $3.75@4.50; do, No. 2s, all varieties, per bbl, $3@3.50; do, fancy Greenings, per bbl, $4.50@4.75; do, fancy Kings, per bbl, $4.75@5; do, No. 1 Baldwins, per bbl, $4.25@4.75; do, York imperials, per bbl, $3.75@4; do, fancy Ben Davis, per bbl, $4@4.50; broccoli, Norfolk, per bbl, 70@85c; cabbage, New York State, per ton, domestic, $18@20; do, large Danish, per ton, $20@21; do, small Danish, per ton, $16@18; do, New Florida, per crate, $1.75@2; carrots, native, per bus box, 40@45c; do, per bunch, 1½@2c; celery, native, per bunch, 2@3½c; egg plants, Florida, per crate, $3.50@4; grape fruit, Florida, per box, fancy, $5@6; horseradish, native, per box, $1.50@1.75; lettuce, North Carolina, per ½-bbl bas, 75c@$1; do, Florida, per ½-bbl basket, $1@2; onions, Maryland and Pennsylvania, yellow, per bus, $1.20@1.25; do, Western, yellow, per bus, $1.20@1.25; oranges, Florida, per box, as to size, $2.25@3.25; do, California seedlings, per box, $1.75@2.25; do, navels, per box, $2.50@2.75; oyster plants, native, per bunch, 3@5c; radishes, Florida, per bunch, long, 2@2½c; spinach, native, per bus box, 75@80c; do, Norfolk, per bbl, $1@1.50; squash, Florida, per bus box, $1.50@2; strawberries, Florida, per quart, refrigerator, 30@40c; do, open crate, 25@30c; tomatoes, Florida, per 6-bas carrier, fancy, $2.50@3; do, fair to good, $1.50@2; turnips, native, per bus box, 20@25c.

Poultry—Market firm. Old fowls, 11@11½c per lb; spring chickens, 15@16c; roosters, 20@25c apiece; ducks, 12@13c per lb; turkeys, old toms, 12@13c; do, young toms, 14@15c; hens, 16@17c; dressed old fowls, 11@12c; young chickens, 12@14c; turkeys, 15@16c.

Green coffee—Market firm. No. 7 (Rio grade), 6c.

Roasted coffee—Market steady. Bulk roasted coffee—Pure Java, 32c; Maracaibo, 22c; pure Laguayra, 22c; pure Santos, 18½c; African Java, 19½c; Rio blend, 17½c; Peaberry mixture, 17c; pure Mocha, 30c; Java-Mocha blend, 27½c. (These coffees are in fancy bags, paper-lined. If packed in cans or tubs, ½c higher.)

Package brands—E. L. C., 100-lb cases, 10½c; 60-lb cases, 10 6-10c; 36-lb cases, 10 7-10c; Lion coffee, in 100-lb lots, 10.18c; in 60-lb lots, 10.28c.

Cotton—The local market is steady; middling, 9c; strictly low middling, 8⅞c; low middling, 8¾c. Stock in Baltimore, 10,675 bales.

MR. WOODBURY CHOSEN.

Elected President of the Washington and Norfolk Steamboat Company.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Norfolk and Washington Steamboat Company was held yesterday. The following were elected to serve as directors for the ensuing year:

Messrs. John Boyd, William H. Butler, John Callahan, Daniel Fraser, Edward Graves, William Galt, Clarence F. Norment, George W. Pearson, and Levi Woodbury.

At a subsequent meeting of the board of directors the following were elected: Levi Woodbury, president; Clarence F. Norment, vice president; John Callahan, general manager; O'Neil S. Smith, secretary and treasurer.

STEALING A WELL.

The Misfortune That Befell a Family in Michigan.

"Underground robbery is a new variety, of course, but it is always the incredible that happens," remarked the last man who had found a chance to talk. "We've had a good many things stolen out of our backyard since we began to live on the old place where we are now—my father's old place—but the theft which grieved us most was that of well—our old well, that was dug about forty years ago. You can replace shovels, axes, hatchets, coal, wood, or kindling which is stolen from your premises, but you can't replace an old well."

The other men all stared, and one of them said that he didn't see how anybody could steal a well.

"That's true, too," said the other man. "It is astonishing, and we couldn't believe it for a long time. Our old well suddenly began 'acting up,' and we sent for the pump man, thinking the pump was out of order. He said we needed a new pump; so it was ordered and put in place—a $15 pump. Goodness! I wish I had that $15 back again.

"For a few days the water seemed to come all right, and then the well 'acted up' again; water wouldn't come at all. Sent for the pump man again, and told him his old pump wasn't any account—didn't bring up any water. He investigated the matter and returned the astounding verdict that there wasn't any water in the well, not a drop. We could hardly believe it, but had to accept it. Weeks and months went by, but the well never came back to business at the old stand. The whole family grieved over it, and the neighbors, too. That old well had been a local patriarch, so to speak. On a train one day I was telling another man about the unaccountable disappearance of our good old family well, and he asked me if any new ice factories had started up in the neighborhood. I told him that one had begun operation a block away from us just about the time we lost our well.

"'That's it,' he said, 'ice factories always sink very deep wells, and that ice factory has drawn off your well. That happened in cur town once, and five other wells in the same neighborhood went, too. By jimminy, what we need in this country is a society for the protection of wells.'

"This is a true story," concluded the speaker, "and our stolen well has never come back."—Detroit Free Press.

ALFIERI AND HIS DUCHESS.

Italy Preparing to Celebrate the Centenary of the Poet's Death.

Italy, and especially Asti, his birthplace, is already preparing great fetes for the one hundredth anniversary of the death of the celebrated tragic poet Alfieri, the author of "Saul." In these days he has been much talked of abroad because of the request of the town of Asti to the City of Montpelier to return the famous Italian's library, which came into their hands indirectly from the so-called Duchess of Albany, through whom Alfieri is connected with England. She was the wife of "Bonnie King Charlie," and was one of the most beautiful women of her day, tied (alas! that it should be said) to a brute who beat her when intoxicated and tried to choke her at intervals.

With the poet, to see her was to love her, and they became such friends that even the suspicions of the pretender, usually too sleepy to see anything, were aroused. Things went to such a pass that Charles Edward offered 1,000 sequins to anyone who would shoot Alfieri. Shortly after the legal separation of the pretender and his wife the former died, and his wife and her lover set up an establishment at Paris. That they ever married is doubtful, but they remained together until Alfieri was on his deathbed, with the countess by his side. Before this they even went to London, where he allowed her to be presented at court, an act so derogatory to dignity that they must both have sadly changed. Italy is now going through a revival of enthusiasm for one of her greatest poets, and Alfieri is on the lips of all literary people.—Pall Mall Gazette.

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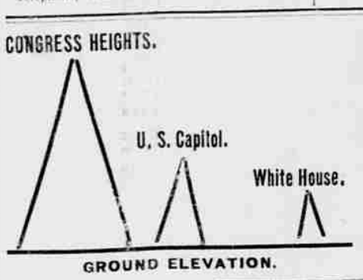

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