Little Falls Transcript.

H. C. STIVERS, Editor and Proprietor.

LITTLE FALLS, - MINN

CURRENT TOPICS.

While we are gaining steadily on Great Britain in the iron and steel industries, and, thus looking at the matter comparatively, have a right to feel encouraged, it is also true, as appears from the report of the American Iron and Steel Association, that in no other year of the panic has this trade suffered so greatly as in 1877, the average price of pig-iron for one month in the year being less than was ever before known, except in colonial times.

The eclipse of the sun to take place on the 29th inst. will posses the usual interest investing total obscurations of that body. The line of total eclipse will extend from Northeastern Asia through Bering's straits, Alaska, Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas to the Gulf of Mexico at Galveston. The fine mountain elevations in Colorado offer unusual advantages for observing and studying the phenomenon, and arrangments are being made by scientific parties to avail themselves of them.

A telegram to the Philadelphia *Press*, from Richmond, Va., says, John H. Collins, a colored man, has announced himself a candidate as Commonwealth's Attorney for that district, one of the most important offices in the judicial district. Collins is an intelligent colored man. He was educated at Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, graduated from that institution in 1872, and studied law under W. P. Solomons, of Halifax county, in that state. Collins stands a good chance of being elected.

The oil producing union, which is believed in some quarters to hold the balance of power in the coming Pennsylvania elections, seems to be looking to the advancement of its interests by other means than those which combination will give it in politics. It is proposed that all the oil produced shall be turned over to the central agency, and only so much put upon the market as the consumption of the world will demand, and for which a fair price can be obtained. The unused surplus will constitute a reserve, to be held until the market can stand it without depression. A check on overproduction and an assurance of a paying price for their product will thus be assured, by a scheme somewhat similar to that attempted by the coal companies, who were dubbed "conspirators" for their pains.

The stringency in business circles in this country and the hardest of the times among our laboring population, however severe, are nevertheless in wide contrast with what is witnessed in other parts of the world. There has been comparatively little absolute suffering for want of common necessities. The intelligence from China of the ravages of the famine is fearful. From a statement in the Liverpool *Post*, based on official reports, it appears that the number in China requiring gratuitous relief does not fall short of three or four million souls, equal to the entire population of the United States when its Government was formed. The roads are lined with corpses in such numbers as to render their interment impossible; while women and children, starving and in rags, know not where to look for the means of keeping body and soul together.

Can the north pole be found? Dr. Petterman, the distinguished German scientist, believes that it can. He believes that the energy devoted to the task of building a railroad over the Rocky Mountains would strip the ice mountains of the polar sea of half their terrors. He doesn't believe there is an open polar sea as Dr. Hayes describes it, but thinks the sea is more or less covered with ice mountains, which escape from it and float into warmer waters. If they do not, he argues that the new formation of ice each year would cause North America and North Europe to retrograde back to the ice ages. He believes that there is land near the pole crusted over or coated in ice, with ice mountains on its coasts, and crushing against each other in the seas about it. This land, he believes, is inhabited, and the people love their ice mountains as well as the negroes love their country.

Full official returns show that in the late election at San Francisco, if all the other voters, including Republicans, Democrats and non-partisans, had combined against the workingmen, the majority of the latter over the amalgamated vote would have been 103. The fact thus developed that in San Francisco the workingmen's party outnumbers all others combined, gives some indication of the marvellous growth of the infant party in the few months of its existence. Its victory in California places it prominently before the public view and puts it on trial. If it shall yield its guidance to the ugly and objectionable elements that exist in it as in all political organizations, its temporary elevation will resemble that of the eastern pashas, who are described by Marryat as men with their heads slightly raised above those of their fellows in order that they may be more easily decapitated.

Some interesting information about the German postal system has been received at Washington from N. K. Griggs, our consul at one of the cities of that country. There were 191 employes in the general post-office department at Berlin, in 1875, the post-master-general receiving $5,735 salary a year, and a house to live in; the director of the post and the director of the telegraph $3,570, and the clerks salaries which average $928. Only twenty-five received over $1,500 a year. In the forty-one chief cities the postmasters receive $1,904 per annum, except Berlin, where the salary is $2,500. Telegraph operators receive $385 to 392; women $214; and letter-carriers $128 to $275. In the railway service the superintendent's salary is $.581, and few employes receive over $1,000. Section hands are paid $144 to $174 a small sum in addition being allowed for clothing, and in a few cases employes being furnished houses and servants. Engineers are paid $535; fire men $300; conductors $444; ticket agents $609 to $728; and freight masters $571.

THE WORLD'S DOINGS.

CRIMES AND CRIMINALS.

Joseph Mason of Peoria has been arrested in Pittsburgh for forging a postal order.

James Daly, of Stamford, Vt., killed a scissors grinder in a quarrel, about the payment for grinding a couple of razors.

E. J. Oakley, who defaulted as cashier of the New York Merchant's Exchange National bank for $30,000 in 1870, who fled to Canada, was arrested on the 18th inst., and put in Ludlow street jail. He has been a wanderer since 1870.

James Toliner, book-keeper of C. H. Markley & Son, Pittsburgh, has been arrested at Buffalo, N. Y., charged with embezzling $10,000 from his employers. He absconded on 18th of May, with Annie Berry, of Steubenville, Ohio; $6,000 of the money was recovered.

Peter Bresniham, now confined in Canton, N. Y., jail for the murder of Daniel Their last spring, and who is to be hanged on the 26th inst., confessed the crime July 9th. He has since made a supplemental confession stating that he committed three murders previous to that of Daniel Thiers.

John G. Tappan, of Boston, Mass., a hitherto honored, and supposed honorable business man, Treasurer of the Belting company, has misappropriated to his own use over $600,000 of the company's money. He has held the position as treasurer since the organization of the company, thirty years ago.

Mrs. Sarah Sist, a wealthy young widow living in Nelson county, near Perry's Nutt, Richmond, Va., on the 21st inst., cut the throat of a servant woman on her plantation with a razor, almost severing the head from the body. Her victim died almost instantly. [illegible] this fiendish work the in[illegible] attention to the [illegible] of seven or eight years, who was close by. Seizing her she made quick work of her, cutting her throat and throwing her body in a mill pond. The reason for these fiendish and brutal murders can only be explained by the fact that it is believed that Mrs. Sist was at the time laboring under temporary insanity.

CASUALTIES.

There was a destructive fire at Defiance Ohio, July 20th.

There was a heavy fire at Grand Rapids, Mich., July 21st.

A destructive fire occurred at Kittanning, Pa., July 17.

Fanny McGroth, aged ten, was drowned in the river at Memphis, while bathing.

Gen. Sheridan has gone to the Black Hills. He will select a prominent location for a military post there.

During a heavy thunder gust, July 21st, at Gloucester, Mass., Miss Julia McPlee and Mrs. Byers were killed by lightning.

James Gordon Bennett, of the New York *Herald*, and his sister Miss Jeanette Bennett, reached New York, from Havre, on the 16th inst.

Two boys were drowned at Albany, July 17th. They were in a boat, and fearing they would be run down by a steamboat jumped into the river.

On the 17th inst., a scaffold at the new State asylum at North Warner, Pa., fell with eight men on it. All were severely, and two at least fatally injured.

Near Monticello, Indiana, a freight train of 28 cars went through a bridge, and fell into the stream a distance of 90 feet. The engineer and bridge tender were instantly killed.

The testimony on the part of Fitz John Porter, before the court martial at West Point has been all submitted. It is thought that the testimony produced bears favorably on his case.

Saturday night, July 20th, the yachts Coquette and Ina, containing a party of young men left Milwaukee, for Racine, when off South Point a squall capsized the Ina. One of the young men was lost.

On July 10th, lightning struck the new church, 57th street, New York, killing Edward White and Bernard Gray, who were at work laying brick. White fell to the street distance of sixty feet, and was terribly mangled

A cyclone struck North Albany Sunday, July 21st sweeping through West Albany, unroofing houses, scattering the contents of the lumber yards, and destroying cattle pens. The gas works were so badly damaged that North Albany was in total darkness.

Reports of the fatal effects of the great heat of the last few days continue to come in from numerous points all over the country. But the number of casualties reported are decreasing in number, as greater caution is observed, and the heat diminishes.

Elmwood, Ill., July 20th, as L. D Atchinson was making a balloon ascension, and when about 200 feet from the ground he lost hold of the trapeze bar and fell, killing him instantly. Deceased was an experienced aeronaut and acrobat. His home was at Burlington.

An Indianapolis telegram of July 18th says: As an east bound freight train on the P., C. & St. L. railway was passing over a bridge gave way, precipitating the engine and twenty cars into the Tipacanoe river, eighty-five feet, killing the engineer, Louis Bland, and the bridge watchman, Jerry O'Keefe.

In Chicago, on July the 16th there were 25 cases of sunstroke, more or less severe, and a number of deaths. Reports from all points throughout the Northwest give accounts of the the terrible effects of the heat. At Milwaukee on the 16th, 20 cases of sunstroke were reported, 3 fatal. At all points the thermometer ranged from 90 to 100, going as high as 105 in the shade in some places.

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

Hon. Charles Foster has declined a nomination in the Seventh Ohio district.

Miss Mary Wells, an actress in New York was reported dying, Tuesday the 16th, from a cancer in the stomach.

The Emperor William is able to ride out. He has recovered from the wounds inflicted by the murderous gun of the assassin, but is very weak

A Virginia congressman, Hunton by name, has challenged Columbus Alexander, of Washington, to mortal combat.

President Hayes will leave Washington July 19th, for Newark, Ohio, to attend the soldiers reunion to be held on July 22.

Archbishop Henni, of Milwaukee was prostrated by the heat, and his life was dispaired of but later reports say he is likely to recover.

Queen Victoria has conferred on Lord Beaconsfield, the Order of the Gorter. The investiture took place at Osborne, Monday morning, July 22d.

It is rumored that the Hon. I. Donnelly may enter the field as an independent candidate for Congress in the third Minnesota district, against Mr Washburn.

A telegram from the city of Madrid, of July 21st, says Mrs. Foster, wife of the Minister of the United States, is very ill, but her physicians are confident she will recover.

July 19th the President appointed Gen. Bodder, postmaster at New Orleans, in place of J. M. G. Parker, suspended. Parker is a brother-in-law of Gen. B. F. Butler.

Gen. E. A. Merritt, recently appointed Collector at the Port of New York, vice Arthur removed, has given bonds, qualified and entered upon the duties of his office.

The Potter sub-committee at New Orleans have consented to summons 73 witnesses moved by Secretary Sherman, and will summons any others, on either side that may be desired.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The amount of bullion in the Bank of England decreased the past week £354,000.

Several cases of yellow fever in the Brooklyn, N. Y. navy yard have been reported.

A Madrid dispatch of July 22 says Cuba is to be represented in the Cortes by 40 deputies and 10 senators.

The municipal affairs of East St. Louis are still in a disturbed state, and further riots and bloodshed are feared.

A Paris dispatch of the 18th inst., says, specie in the bank of France increased 6[illegible],000 francs during the past week.

A Constantinople telegram states that there is reason to believe that a peaceful settlement will be effected with Greece.

The Rocky Mountain *News* at Denver, Colorado, has changed hands, and will here after be issued as a Democratic paper.

A Washington telegram of the 18th says, subscriptions that day to the new four per cent loan, amounted to $1,191,900.

The trustees of the Jay Cook estate has realized nearly $2,000,000 from claims due the estate. A dividend is to be made on money in hand.

The Paris and Vienna newspapers generally comment favorably upon Lord Beaconsfield statement in explanation of the treaty of Berlin in the House of Lords.

The superintendent of the mint at San Francisco states that since the first of July 555,000 silver dollars have been exchanged at that mint at par for gold coins.

The Bear Paw mountain gold excitement is taking many restless gold seekers from Deadwood. A band of twenty men left the other day for the new El Dorado.

On Saturday the 20th inst, Hon. C. H. Kimball, general superintendent of the life saving service, established stations at Muskegon, Ludington and Kenosha. He is now in Chicago enlisting crews.

Gen. John McNeal is now engaged in removing Chief Joseph's band of Nez Perces prisoners from Fort Leavenworth to the Indian Territory about 18 miles south from Baxter Spring's, and adjoining the territory now occupied by the Modocs.

A London telegram of July 16th says: 10,000 nail makers in Oldhill, in Dunley, Rowley and Hales Owen district, have struck for an advance of thirty per cent. in wages. 10,000 more will join the strike at the end o the week.

An Auburn, N. Y., telegram of the 17th inst., gives a detailed account of the Cornell-Harvard eight oared, feshman race. Cornell was victorious, and the classic youth were, of course, put a great ways ahead in their studious pursuits.

On Monday, July 22, there were 20,000 persons present at the soldiers and sailors reunion at Newark, Ohio. The President of the United States, the General of the Army, and a great many other gentlemen of distinction were present.

It is reported from London that Mr. Gladstone, the leader of the Liberal party in England, in a late speech violently assailed the Berlin treaty, and called in question the wisdom and the statosmanship of Lord Beaconsfield, in assenting to it. Nevertheless the populac were with Beaconsfield.

The English steamer J. B. Walker was to sail from the port of New Haven, Conn., on the 18th inst., for Constantinople with arms and ammunition for the Turkish government. She has on board 20,000,000 cartridges, 47,000 rifles, 800 sabre bayonets, and 10,000 scabbards. The total value of the cargo is $1,035,000.

The great heat of the week ending Saturday, July 20th, greatly abated the day and night, and the deaths from heat prostration had nearly ceased. Several hundreds in the cities and country fell victims to sunstroke. Nearly two hundred died in St. Louis alone. But this was by far the most severely sunstruck city in the land.

The flouring mill in Florence township, Goodhue county, Minnesota, was destroyed by fire Thursday night, July 18. The mill had four run of stone, and was valued at $25,000. Insured for $20,000. It was rumored that $11,000 in money was in the mill. The fire was the work of an incendiary. Perhaps burglars secured the money, and then burned the mill to cover up their crime.

Lord Beaconsfield's appearance before the British Parliament, July 18th, caused great enthusiasm. He gave an account of his diplomatic action at the Berlin congress. The object was to save Turkey from partition as that would involve bloody wars. A division of territory, a loss of provinces, was not partition. A government might save provinces and should be powerful. Britain had lost colonies. Austria had lost provinces, and France was still a powerful Government, though she had lost territory.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

Investigating the Election of 1876 Under the Potter Resolution.—James E. Anderson and Secretary Sherman on the Stand.

MONDAY, July 15.—The Potter subcommittee met, and examined Isaac W. Potter, chairman of the Democratic State convention in 1876. J. E. Anderson made a proposition by which the Democrats could have two members of the Assembly from East Feliciana Parish. Further testimony was given about cashing scrip for Anderson. Witness agreed with McCabe to pay Anderson $150. Witness gave Jenks $50. Jenks said he would not take it as a bribe, but as a loan. Other witnesses were examined without eliciting much of importance.

TUESDAY, July 18.—Minor witnesses on minor points continue to be examined by the Potter subcommittee. Many contradictions of previous witnesses and denials of their statements are developed, but nothing of general interest produced.

FRIDAY, July 19.—The sub-committee in New Orleans examined, July 19th, Judge Morris Marks. He was a Republican elector; testified as to requiring certificates, and as to Anderson's going to Washington and having an interview with Secretary Sherman. He testified as to the Sherman letter; that the widow of D. A. Weber could find no such letter among her husband's papers; that Mrs. Weber contradicted Mrs. Jenks statements and denounced her as an impostor.

SATURDAY, July 20.—The Potter subcommittee are continuing their labors in New Orleans. Strange developments are made as to the veracity of witnesses, as persons testify that their own former affidavits were false, and made for political effect. The value and weight of such evidence will be duly considered.

MONDAY, July 22.—The sub-committee was in session at New Orleans, Monday, July 22d. Several colored men were examined who made affidavits before the returning board. They now deny the truth of the affidavits made by them, and say the affidavits were not read to them. Upon cross-examination by Gov. Cox, Green admitted the correctness of several important statements contained in the affidavits.

The mortuary reports from all parts of the South show that the colored race at the present rate of mortality is solving its future by the saddest of all remedies—extinction. Even in the District of Columbia, according to the May records, their death rate was two and a half times as great as that of the whites, or 49 per thousand, while the whites died only at the rate of 19 per thousand. During the days of slavery they multiplied at the rate of 25 per cent., every ten years. Now the deaths exceed the births. Freedom ought not to be fatal to them, and if they can be brought to see and improve their opportunities there is no reason why it should be.

"Schouvaleff," said the czar the other evening, as the two sat smoking ten cent cigars on the steps of the ducal palace, "what sort of a snide rooster is that Beaconsfield, anyhow?" "Sire," returned Schouvaloff, as he struck a match on the sole of his patent-leather boot, "I could pull the wool over the home secretary, I could close up the eye of the new secretary for India, and I might even get Salisbury where the hair is short, but Beaconsfield is a man who wont have any taffy." "Did you try him with sugar?" inquired the czar, as he smashed a spring-style potato bug that was straddling into the parlor. "I had not thought of that," said Schouvaloff. "Then try him," said the czar, "and if that won't do, I guess we'll have to buy a few more American shoes and scare the loud tocsin of war."

Minnesota News Items.

Tramps are getting numerous, hungry and saucy, in Dodge county.

Burglars have been visiting houses in Rochester lately, but without much success.

A man in Pleasant Valley, Olmsted county, was killed last week by the caving in of a well.

The chimney of the Norton house, Rochester, was struck by lightning on Sunday, July 14th.

A man in Pottsdam, Olmsted county, was seriously injured in attempting to stop a runaway team.

Mr. Crane, of Mantorville, says an immense number of bees are gathering honey from his onion field.

The Methodist camp meeting at Otsego, Anoka county, is closed. The meeting is regarded as a success.

The Owatonna cheese factory was burglarized the other night, and a box containing valuable papers stole.

Fairmount, Fillmore county, is under telegraphic as well as railroad communication with the rest of the world.

The assessment of personal property in Rochester, Olmsted county, is about $200,000 more this year than last.

A little child at Madelia, aged two years, drank some eye water the other day, the base of the preparation being poisonous. By the administration of proper remedies, she was saved.

Faribault has a good police and a well organized and well equipped militia company, and instead of feeding vagrant thieves and tramps, they propose to give them military salutes.

Some boys at Mankato, the other day, were playing with the hoisting apparatus in the Farmers' mill, when one of them fell a distance of fourteen feet, receiving very severe, but not fatal injuries.

Robert Cahoi, of Anoka, received a severe cut under the left eye, from a knot being projected from an edger saw. It made an incision about two inches in length, but will not result in any permanent injury to the eye.

Prof. D. W. Sprague has been appointed principal of the public schools in Anoka. He occupied a similar position in St. Charles for a number of years. He is favorably spoken of as a highly educated and genial gentleman.

The bigamist Scribner, examined before Justice Beddish, confronted by two wives, and several others to hear from, was bound over to the next term of the district court, and in default of bail, was sent to the Mankato jail.

The Hastings *Gazette* says the second trial of James McKay, for attempt to commit a rape in Empire, was concluded on Tuesday, the jury rendering a verdict of guilty. He was sentenced yesterday to State prison for fourteen months.

Two tramps in Rochester threatened to kill a woman who refused them food, unless she furnished it. They looked so savage and ugly that she, in her fright, gave them food. If she could have administered buckshot to them, it would have been for sure deserved.

Robert H. Foster, of Pleasant Grove, Olmsted county, attempted to ford Root river with two horses and a wagon. The current was so strong the horses and wagon were swept down the stream. Mr. Foster narrowly escaped drowning. The horses were drowned.

Great excitement was produced in Anoka by the report that a woman had committed a murder, and was burying the body of her victim in the eastern part of the town. A rush was made to the building indicated, and a crazy woman was found burying her own wearing apparel.

Shelbyville township, Blue Earth county, will vote in a few days on the proposition to issue bonds to the amount of $10,000 in aid of the north and south line of railroad which the St. Paul & Sioux City company have undertaken to construct from Blue Earth City to a point on their line.

The Mankato *Record* says the new iron bridge over Lyons' creek has been placed in position, and in a few days the approaches thereto will be completed ready for travel This will prove a great improvement over the old road, as the hills on both sides have been graded down, so as to make much easier grade than before.

Two drunken men in Anoka the other afternoon got into a quarrel about the ownership of a pair of horses and wagon. One owned the wagon and the other the horses and they swore out a warrant against each other, and then got into the wagon and drove furiously out of town together to avoid the officers of the law they had invoked against each other.

The papers everywhere are full of accounts of the incursions of immense numbers tramps all over the country. Altogether there is a great army of them, and a note of warning is being sounded all along the line to be prepared to give them a warm reception. No tampering with tramps—no temporizing—no blank cartridges—no child's play.

Sarah Knaack, of Mankato, who was sentenced last December at our district court to two years in the penitentiary for conveying a saw into the county jail, with the view of aiding certain prisoners to effect their escape, received a pardon from Gov. Pillsbury on Friday last on the recommendation of Judge Dickinson, Hon. Franklin Waite, and other citizens of Mankato.

Faribault *Republican*, July 17: A very heavy rain-storm, accompanied by high wind, visited this section Sunday afternoon, and must have added greatly to the damage already sustained by the growing crops. The weather during the past week, it would seem, has been very unfavorable for the wheat crop, being excessively hot and damp. Reports are conflicting, but all agree that considerable damage has been done by storms, rust and heat. Heavy grain is badly lodged, which will prevent its filling well. The corn crop is making very rapid growth, and is coming out in tassel. Potatoes in some places on clayey soils are beginning to rot, and much trouble is experienced with the bugs.

Waseca *Leader*, July 20: Philo Hall returned Thursday from Amireta (formerly known as Saratoga), Lyon county, where he has been looking after his farming interests. He reports crops looking finely, and that the wheat harvest will commence next Tuesday. But little rain had fallen there. It is reported from the southern part of the county that considerable damage has been done to grain by the heavy rains of the past week. Oats more especially have suffered, many fields, with a heavy stand, having been badly "laid out," with little prospect of recovering their standing. The excessive yield that has been anticipated, and which the indications a month ago promised, is now likely not to exceed an average crop, on account of the rust, blight, and damage by storm.

HOODLUM SPORTS.

How Young San Francisco Celebrated the Fourth—Torturing Dogs and Cats.

[San Francisco Chronicle, July 5.]

The details of the tricks resorted to by San Francisco hoodlums in the gratification of their fiendish propensities and the inventive talent displayed in the execution of their plans are such as might furnish good material for a yellow-covered romance, or would reflect credit upon the judges of the ancient inquisition. As a gentleman was meandering around town on the evening of the Fourth he was startled when at the corner of Market and Sixth streets by a howling dog coming around the corner, and a crewd of young ruffians following in hot pursuit, laughing and cheering boisterously. The astonished man turned to see what was the matter, and discovered the unhappy dog going through the most extraordinary contortions, his tail appearing to snap and flash in the dusk at every jump. The gentleman made a few steps toward the animal with the intention of smothering the burning punk which was attacked to the brute's tail, but the wretched dog had lost all faith in man, and once more started on his wild run. He soon disappeared around an adjacent corner, and was seen no more. On the afternoon of the same day, one of a gang of hoodlums hanging around in the neighborhood of Mason and Francisco streets, suggested the idea of sending up a sky-rocket with a cat attached. A sudden burst of joy rent the air, and all cheerfully assented, and rubbed their hands with delight at the idea. The expenses of the experiment being collected, they repaired to an adjacent store and purchased the largest rocket manufactured.

The captain appointed a committee of two to get the principal article, the cat, and they dispersed with the understanding that they would meet on the beach near Meiggs wharf, at 4 o'clock. At the appointed hour every one was ready except the cat, which had refused to be caught. After a short consultation, when the committee had made its excuses, the captain detailed about three-fourths of the crowd to search all neighboring back yards thoroughly and catch a cat. One unfortunate was soon secured, a slip-knot placed around its neck, the noose drawn tight, and the other end attached to a large rocket. Everything being considered in a satisfactory condition, the boy who seemed to be engineering the experiment, ordered the fuse to be touched off. A punk was about to be applied to the fuse, when the captain ordered all movements to stop. All eyes were immediately upon the captain, and the younger members of the gang gazed upon him with amazement, fearful that a touch of humanity was going to interfere with their sport. The captain said that he thought it would be a good idea to attach a Chinese bomb to the animal's tail. A boy was dispatched to purchase the article. He soon returned with a tremendous bomb. It was examined by almost every member of the gang, and after the majority had expressed their opinions as to the strength of the article, the captain with his usual imperious manner, pronounced it large and powerful enough and ordered it to be attached to the animal's tail. Work was recommenced. A strong piece of string was placed around the cat's tail, the other end made fast to the bomb. The string between the cat and the bomb was about six inches long. The order was given and the fuse to the bomb was set on fire, also the fuse of the skyrocket. The skyrocket started up with the rapidity of lightning. The cat could be seen struggling until the rocket had reached its highest altitude, and at this point the bomb burst, and the cat, like the dog, disappeared and was seen no more. The string, the stick, and a little piece of fur, which had glued to the string, were the only evidences of the ascension which had proved so disastrous to the cat.

Red Riding Hood—New Version.

Little Red Riding Hood
Patiently sliding, stood
Watching ma, hiding good
Dainties with care
Away in the basket,
Which Riding Hood's task it
Was—cruel to ask it—
To granny to bear.

Then heavily laden.
The dear little maiden,
So sweetly arrayed in
Her red riding hood,
Turned from the highway plain,
Past fields of waving grain,
Walked down the shady lane,
Through the dark wood.

Somehow or other,
She wished that her mother
Had sent her big brother,
Instead of herself;
Through dark thickets swishing
How vain was her wishing,
For he was off fishing,
The lazy old elf.

Now at her grandma's gate
Why does she hesitate?
There on the porch, elate,
Sits a big tramp.
"Now, dear, I'll trouble you
Pass or I'll double you
Up," said the scamp.

Now then I can't relate
Half that this tramp he ate;
Details and aggregate
Are too alarming;
Apples and sandwiches,
Pies in japanned dishes,
Boned turkey, canned, which is
Awfully charming.

Brown bread, asparagus,
Mutton with caper sauce,
Broiled ham, to taper off,
Cheese and a waffle!
Fried eggs, tomattises;
Baked fish, potattises;
"Gold," said he; "that it is;"
Oh, it was awful!

Onions and mutton roast,
Fried tripe and buttered toast,
Oysters, they suffered most;
Boiled turkey gobbler;
Muffins and celery,
Peaches, so "mellery,"
And how this fellow he
Went for plum cobbler.

When all the grub was done,
When there was nary crumb,
Silent he rose and glum,
With painful steps he
Walked out, as she'd kicked him,
As though some one had licked him,
Forever a victim
To chronic dyspepsia.

How Prof. Henry Missed Being an Actor.

Thurlow Weed has written a very interesting letter to the New York *Tribune* describing how the late Prof. Henry, the well-known scientist and secretary of the Smithsonian Institute, just escaped being an actor. He says:

My adquaintance with Joseph Henry commencing in 1815, ripened into a warm friendship. He was then an apprentice to John F. Doty, a silversmith, in State street, Albany. I was a journeyman in the office of the Albany *Register*, published by Henry C. Southwick. During the war with England, which had just closed, the Green Street Theatre, with a strong company, liberally patronized by the officers of the army stationed in Greenbush, awakened much enthusiasm among the young gentlemen of Albany, several of whom formed themselves into an amateur theatrical company.

They fitted up a hall formerly used for dramatic representations, then known as the Thespian Hotel, on the corner of North Pearl and Patroon streets. They attracted large audiences. Joseph Henry became a "bright and particular star." His young Norval, Damon, and even Hamlet, were pronounced equal in conception, and execution to the personations of experienced and popular actors. His friends, charmed with his talents and genius, urged him to adopt the stage as a profession. His own thoughts and inclination rendered him a willing listener. Soon the manager of the Green Street Theatre offered him a permanent engagement with a liberal salary. With that he young aspirant for dramatic honors was greatly delighted. But Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, principal of the Albany Academy, believed that there was a way opened to the young man promising greater usefulness and more enduring honors than the drama could confer. After consultation with the trustees, Dr. Beck invited young Henry to enter upon and complete a gratuitous academic course. While anxiously considering these conflicting offers three of his intimace friends, James Dexter, a law student, James Hunter, a printer, and myself, were called into consultation.

Hunter and myself saw for our friend in a dramatic career assured fame and fortune. Dexter, less enthusiastic, preferred academic honors to those of the "sock" and "buskin." He urged, calmly but forcibly, that if the stage was to be ultimately adopted as a profession, an academic education would increase our friend's chances for enduring success, and that after completing his education he would be quite young enough to become an actor. This argument, after a long and anxious mental struggle, proved effectual. The following day "Joe Henry" rejected Manager Bernard's dramatic offer and took his seat in the Albany Academy. Mr. Doty, when informed of his apprentice's desire to become a student in the academy, generously surrendered his indentures. It was only a few weeks before the "Young Roscius" became so absorbed in and delighted with his studies that the theatre with all its attractive associations was forgotten. Long years afterward, when we met in Washington or in his visits to Albany, while recalling the scenes of our youth, the grave Professor Henry, with a world-wide scientific reputation, remembered this episode in his life as partaking more of a dream than as a reality.

South Carolina supplies nearly half the rice produced in the country. Georgia is next, or 7,000,000 pounds ahead of Louisiana. Nearly all the rice comes from these three states.

Daily Dying.

The maple does not shed its leaves
In one tempestuous scarlet rain,
But softly, when the south wind grieves,
Slow, wandering over wood and plain.
One by one they waver through
The Indian Summer's hazy blue,
And drop at last on the forest mold,
Coral and ruby, and burning gold.

Our death is gradual like these:
We die with every waning day,
There is no wail of sorrow's breeze
But hears some heart-leaf slow give way:
Up and on to the vast To Be,
Our life is going eternally!
Less of life than we had last year
Throbs in your veins and throbs in mine;
But the way to heaven is growing clear,
And the gates of the city fairer shine:
And the day that our latest treasures flee
Wide they will open for you and me.

Who Knows?

The birds made such a racket in the honeysuckle vine outside my window that I couldn't sleep. The moon was still in the sky, but a veiled yet luminous splendor in the east told that the day was breaking—the day of June that began my twenty-seventh year. When I say that I was a woman, and add unmarried, and, worst of all, that I had lost for good the requisite energy that held forth any promise in that direction, it will naturally be thought that I shall make but a sorry heroine; and it is just because of these discouraging facts that I want to jot down this little experience of a day, as a sort of consolation to that suffering part of my sex who have latent hopes, long lingering, unfulfilled, at times at the last gasp, then flickering up again with a sickly tenacity most painful to contemplate. But who knows what a day may bring forth? Who knows?

I went about on tiptoe, not to awaken mamma; and I took it as a piece of ingratitude that when she came down to breakfast, and began to enjoy the toast I had so nicely browned for her, and the egg I had so nicely poached for her, and to sniff the fragrance of a bunch of honeysuckles that I had scrambled for at the risk of a sprained ankle and the cost of a shower of morning dew upon my clean calico—I thought it mean of mamma to begin about that church festival before the day had fairly begun.

"I'm so glad it's fine weather Jane," said mamma, with great urbanity of tone and manner. "I thought I'd get up early, so that you could reach the church in season; and I wouldn't waste any flowers in the house, dear—I'd keep them all for your table."

"You know very well, mamma," I replied, "that I'm not going to have a table. I've served my apprenticeship at tables. Long ago, when I was young and fair, I wore white, with my hair curling about my shoulders, and had the flower table, and enjoyed it. Later on, I put my hair up, and had a fancy table, and endured it with great resignation Last year I had recourse to a switch to eke out my scanty locks, and was comelled reluctantly to take the post-office. This year I shan't have any thing; in fact, mamma, I'm not going to the festival."

Mamma put down her bit of toast, and turned absolutely pale.

"Not, going to the feitival!" she echoed, mournfully.

"No, mamma," I said, beginning already to plead my case. "Can't I have one birthday to myself? I'm twenty-seven years old to-day."

"Oh, hush, Jane," said my poor mother. "You scream so, the Hunters next door will hear you and blurt it all over the place. I'm not deaf. If you choose to give up all chance of—of society, and neglect your Christmas duties, and refuse to help the church along, why, of course, I have nothing to say, only I must in that case go myself."

"You!" I cried, "You'll be sick for a month afterward; you haven't been able to do anything of the kind for years."

"I know it, Jane; but if you refuse to do these things, I must. I know I shall be protested with the heart, and my nerves will be shattered, and you are young and strong, and still attractive enough to compete with any young lady in the place, and might, I verily believe, if you were not so obstinate and headstrong, be surrounded and admired as you used to be, and you might, for my sake, Jane, at least attend these little entertainments."

Mamma put her handkerchief to her eyes, and I yielded; I groaned in flesh and in spirit, but I yielded. After I had tidied up the work and settled mamma in the cool shady sitting-room, upon her favorite lounge, with a nice book at her hand, and a palm-leaf fan close by—for the day was growing hot—I twisted up my hair before the glass, with many a sour mocking grimace at the dark, thin discontented face there in, put on an ugly brown linen dress, a calabash of a hat, and went off to the church.

My mother looked after me with such misery in her face that I called back to her I would wear something nice in the evening.

"Will you wear your rose colored crape?" pleaded mamma.

"Will I wear spangles, and jump through a hoop?" I said. "No mamma; I'll wear my black silk."

"And curl your hair?" she coaxed.

"There's a whole switch already curled for me in the bureau drawer," I replied. "It's nice this hot weather to have very little hair of one's own!"

"Don't scream so!" said poor mother, looking toward the Hunters' side windows.

As if the Hunters didn't know all about my failing charms, and no doubt took an inventory of them half yearly to send abroad to the eldest son, who had been away in China these five years and more, and would likely never come back again. At least he had written to me to that effect when he went away. I had the old letter yet in a secret recess of that same old bureau where lay the convenient switch of hair.

Time was when I needed no curls shorn from maidens across the seas or manufactured from home material. I had plenty of my own. Jack Hunter cut one of them off with his penknife that night when we parted.

"I don't know," he said savagely, "whether I most hate you or love you; but I'll keep this to remember the girl who flirted and fooled away the truest affection a man ever had for a woman."

He hacked the curl from my head with his penknife, and looked at me as if he was half tempted to do me further butchery; And God knows I didn't care then if he had drawn the knife across my throat; I should not have resisted him.

"Don't go, Jack!" I cried out at last, holding the edge of his coat. "Don't go, anyway, so far as China; if you do, I shall commence to dig a hole when you get there. They say that China is right under us, and I'll begin with a little pick and shovel as soon as we get news of your arrival. Then you can begin on your side, and we'll meet each other half-way."

He flung me from him with something like an oath. "You would joke and laugh over my grave," he said, and went away, not to come back again.

Who would have believed it possible? That the years could come and go, the sweet summers bloom and fade, the heart of the roses lose strength and fail and fall away, to come again as sweet, as strong, as fresh as ever, and Jack, *my* Jack, never come back to me? Yet he was not dead—nor wed. That was one good thing. And he was out there among those women with narrow eyes and stinted feet, and he didn't as yet know one word of the language. He was growing fat, he wrote home to his people next door, and bald, which didn't matter on the top of his head so long as he could keep enough to cultivate a pigtail. This was necessary, as he meant to set up for a Chinese mandarin, and was already embroidering a gown for the purpose on spare nights. And I felt, when they read me the letter, that it was Jack's turn now to make merry, when other hearts were sick and sad.

If he had only sent me one little line! He showered gifts upon other people—chests of tea and parcels of silk, lovely bits of decorated china, big soft beautiful shawls of crape. He sent gewgaws and gold to so many others; if he had only given me one little word!

They must have told him I had been sorely punished; that my mischievous gayety he had whiffed out like the flame of a candle; that even the beauty of which he had been so proud and fond was gone—every bit of it gone. Sleepless nights and useless repining, long wearisome days, and endless years filled with wild yearning for that which seemed forever hopeless, had robbed me of all. The old bloom of the heart took with it the crimson cheek, the laughing eye, and the light, elastic step. Even my hair fell out. Alas! poor me, the flesh fell from my bones. As I hinted before, it was not a very alluring object that greeted me in the glass on the morning of my twenty-seventh birthday. "Aroint thee, witch!" I cried, and wiped away with the hard-towel some salt tears that fell upon the dimity bureau cover, and upon the graves of sad sweet memories. Then I put on my ugly brown dress, and the hideous bonnet to match, and went off to the church, pausing at the portal to look longingly over at the cool, quiet graves of some of our old neighbors. A soft wind stirred the long grass there; a few birds hopped lightly and fearlessly about.

How calmly, calmly still the dead
Who do not therefore grieve!"

"The Yea of heaven is Yea," I said, and went on into the church, where the ladies were grouped around the strawberries that had just arrived. I took possession of a whole crate of these, sending the young pretty maidens home to recruit for the evening.

There were a few faint polite remonstrances when I declined to take any active part in the evening's entertainment. "We must leave that part to the young and attractive," I said, and there are abundant of acquiescence. I had the consolation of hearing several remarks upon my extraordinary good sense, and practical capability.

I was graceously allowed after I had hulled a whole crate of strawberries, to hold a step-ladder and some nails for Mrs. Smith, the apothecary's wife, while she hung some gorgeous drapery, and otherwise deformed the cool gray walls of our little chapel, so that I was pretty well tired when I went home at nightfall. Mamma met me at the gate, and looked at me so dolefully that I burst out laughing.

"Never mind, mamma," I said; "I won't look so cadaverous after I'm rested and dressed for the evening."

But I'm afraid I was rather a painful object for the gaze of a doting and once ambitious mother, even when I had donned my black silk, and was ready for the evening. My hair was neither crimped or curled. You see, I had depended upon that switch, which was bought for purposes of that kind, and failed me ignominously at the last moment. My head ached, and I could not bear many hair-pins thrust into my scalp: in no other way would the obstinate thing be induced to stay on. Mamma was heart-broken, and I was disappointed; but even inanimate articles become perverse at times. I thought perhaps the switch was grieving over a beloved and lost head of which it was once part and parcel, and I forgave it, and left it to its perverseness from that time onward.

When I reached the church I was immediately siezed upon for something they called "the grocery counter"—an innovation brought about by the advent of a well-to-do grocer in our midst, a widower, a stock raiser, and a man afflicted with many maladies, of which he loved to talk. He had generously sent down from the city, in pound packages and tin cans, samples of his available goods, and propos