

CURRENT TOPICS.

Closing a school to let the scholars go to the circus is something novel, but that is what was done in a New Jersey town last week.

Holland, Switzerland, and Greece have notified their willingness to come into the silver conference proposed by the United States, but the great powers are silent.

The Mercedes head-dress is the latest novelty. The hair at the temples is waved and combed upwards; there is a fringe over the forehead only, and a triple band of light tortoise shell fastened around the head.

Edison permitted Gail Hamilton to speak into his new steel phonograph recently. There was a screech like a steam whistle; the cylinder made 742 revolutions in a minute, and the tin foil was rolled up into a bullet and shot through a window, killing seven head of cattle in a distant field.

It would be difficult to draw a moral from the career of the late Nevada silver mine king, O'Brien. He started in business as a barkeeper, became popular with his stock operating customers, got points from them and operated successfully himself.

The English are in high spirits over the report that Bismarck has once more declared Germany's intention to remain neutral, if war occurs between Russia and England.

The scene at the hanging of William Baldwin in Texarkana, Arkansas, a few days ago, is said to have resembled a camp meeting, the condemned man acting as chief exhorter from the scaffold, and a throng of about 3,500 persons listening attentively.

Some citizens of Ohio who say they are tired of reading the reiterated references of the Newspapers to the Ohio absorption of national office, have prepared a beautiful table, showing the whole number of salaried officers of all departments in Washington, the quota of each State on the basis of population, and the excess or deficiency of each State.

Improved devices for wholesale killing are now regarded with much complacency in England. A paper read to the recent annual meeting of naval architects described an apparatus for discharging 60 gallons of crude petroleum upon an ironclad in fifteen seconds, at a distance of three hundred feet, followed by rocket cartridge to ignite it.

THE WORLD'S DOINGS.

RIME AND CRIMINALS.

Serious rioting began at Blackburn, on the 15th. Thousands of the lowest class of operatives, including women, paraded the streets, making violent demonstrations.

A horrible murder occurred at Bangor, Me., on the 11th inst., which will result in the death of three persons. John R. Scribner, 36 years old, living three miles north of that city, while insane attacked his wife and three children in the kitchen of his house with a spade, instantly killing a girl three years old and mortally wounding two others.

A strange romance of crime is narrated at St. Louis. Six years ago Julia Leblanc, daughter of a farmer in Jefferson county, Missouri, mysteriously disappeared one evening and was never again seen alive.

CASUALTIES.

On the 8th inst., a storm passed over Memphis, partially unroofing a number of business houses and the Peabody hotel, and blowing down Meacham's cotton sheds.

A great tornado occurred at Canton, China, April 11th. Thousands of houses were destroyed or seriously injured by wind and an enormous water spout from the river, which broke over the city. Many lives were lost and the foreign settlement suffered severely.

On the 10th inst., at Kason, Dodge Co., Minnesota, a fire broke out in the wooden row on Main street, between Perry block and J. Leuthold's store, and in a very few minutes the whole row, consisting of five stores, was one mass of flames, and in less than an hour they were flat to the ground.

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

Chas Morgan, one of the oldest and best known steamship owners in New York, is dead.

Minister Bayard Taylor presented his credentials to the Emperor at Berlin on the 7th inst.

Murray Hoffmann, a well known compiler of law books, died at his home in Flushing Village, N. Y., on the 8th inst., aged 84 years.

There seems to be little doubt that Hon. John M. Binkley of Milwaukee ex-assistant attorney of the United States, who has been missing for some time, committed suicide by drowning in the lake near St. Francis seminary, at the south side of the bay.

Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Oregon, Nevada, and Colorado, five per centum on locations of military land warrants therein estimating the same at one dollar and twenty cents per acre; payment to be made in treasury certificates running twenty years and bearing interest at the rate of 3.65 per cent. per annum.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Almost all of the horses which will run at Lexington, Ky., during the races have arrived at the course.

It is rumored that the Evans Rifle company, of Mechanics Falls, is filling large orders for the Russians, on the steamer Cambria.

M. Halpenny & Co.'s woolen mill at Lewisburg, Conn., was totally destroyed by fire on the 7th inst. Loss, about \$43,000; insurance, about \$26,000.

The supreme court of Rhode Island has enjoined the Union Savings bank of Providence from further business transactions until otherwise ordered by this court.

The coal miners of St. Clair and Madison counties, Ill., opposite St. Louis, Mo., have published an appeal asking for provisions to keep their families from starving. They say they have been working for from one cent to 1 1/2 cents per bushel, at which they cannot make more than \$4 to \$5 a week, a sum totally insufficient to support them.

There is some basis for the reported Fenian movement. At Syracuse, N. Y., probably 250 men are engaged in it, claiming connection with a general movement along the frontier. Some money has been raised and men armed with pistols.

The Philadelphia Permanent Exhibition, which has been closed for some time to allow of thorough renovation was reopened to the public on the 10th inst. Senators Blaine Bayard, and Wallace were present and were met and escorted to the platform by the reception committee.

A correspondent of the evening Post, writing from Tokio under date of April 5th, sends the following: The famine in the north of China rages with increasing severity and most dreadful reports come from the afflicted regions.

Contracts have been let for grading, bridging and ironing the Central branch of the Union Pacific railroad, from Concordia to Beloit, a distance of 28 miles from the present terminus. This extension will take the road 182 miles west of this city into Solomn valley, and further progress will be made during the year.

The Toronto Leader says that private information from Buffalo amply confirms the truth of reports as to the Fenian organizations in that city, although the extent of these preparations has been greatly exaggerated as well as the number of men engaged in the business, and calls upon the government to strengthen the defence of the frontier.

The crop and statistical report of the Tennessee bureau of agriculture is just out. It states that the ravages of rust threatened to be very disastrous to wheat, but in the past ten days the prospect, has improved to some extent, and although a considerable part of the crop has been cut off yet a large increased average will make the yield probably about three-fourths of an average crop.

The bill introduced in the House by Mr. Schleicher, authorizes the secretary of the treasury to issue in sums, not exceeding an aggregate of \$40,000,000, coupons or registered perpetual bonds, redeemable only by purchase in open market, interest payable semi-annually in coin of the present standard value, at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, their proceeds to be applied to the purpose of erecting public buildings for use of the government.

A special Constantinople telegram states that in consequence of the peremptory demands of General Todeleben for the surrender of fortresses accompanied by a threat to occupy Constantinople, the cabinet council have decided to evacuate all their fortresses.

The House committee on public lands have decided to recommend the passage of the so-called five per cent. bill introduced this session by Representative Sapp, of Iowa. The bill provides for payment by the general government to the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Arkansas,

HOUSE, FARM, GARDEN

Farm and Garden Notes.

We think it pays to spread the coal ashes under the trees in the orchard.

Have a place to put all the bones that accumulate about the farm. They are worth money, and can readily be dissolved by wood ashes and chamber lye or be muriatic acid.

Don't plant till the ground is fit. As a rule you gain nothing by premature gardening. When the clouds crumble thoroughly under the pressure of your foot, the ground is dry enough.

In cases of caked udder in cows foment the affected part with hot water and rub with the hand several times a day. Proper feeding and a dry bed will, as a rule, obviate the necessity of any treatment for this complaint.

Do not cast aside the old favorites—sweet William, petunias, phlox, hollyhocks, lady slippers, verbenas, chrysanthemums, Canterbury bells—for any new fangled flowers. There are many new and desirable things in the floral world, but it will not do to discard these old jewels of the garden and the lawn.

Potatoes flourish well in heavily manured sod. The following is said to be a good formula for a fertilizer for this crop: Thirty pounds of wood ashes, thirty pounds of air-slacked lime, twenty pounds of fine salt, fifteen pounds of bone dust, fifteen pounds of plaster; the whole to be thoroughly mixed. An ounce of this compound in each hill of potatoes will tell a good story at harvest time.

The Uses of Millet.

Millet has often been recommended as a forage plant, for which it has special advantages as it can be sown late in the season when the other crops are out of the way. It may be successfully grown upon land too wet for putting in oats or other early spring crops, or it may be sown on land after a crop of barley or grass has been gathered, and mature sufficiently for forage.

The Golden or German millet is the best for a forage plant and resembles corn in its growth, as it throws out a corn-like leaf. The stalk is also soft and edible. This sort of millet requires nearly the entire season to mature its seed, and should, in a northern latitude, be sown by the first of June.

The bill introduced in the House by Mr. Schleicher, authorizes the secretary of the treasury to issue in sums, not exceeding an aggregate of \$40,000,000, coupons or registered perpetual bonds, redeemable only by purchase in open market, interest payable semi-annually in coin of the present standard value, at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, their proceeds to be applied to the purpose of erecting public buildings for use of the government.

Work for the Season.

The remarkably favorable winter has given an opportunity for doing much useful work in the way of improvements of the farm. Draining, clearing land, repairs of fences, drawing out manure, and similar labors, can now be performed as well, if not better, than at any other season.

addition to the farmer's wealth, and adds something to the aggregate capacity of the land to support the population. The greater the supply of food, the more encouragement is given to an increase of population, and every additional mouth clamors for more farm products. Unproductive land, besides being useless, is in addition a source of expense in taxes and interest on its cost; so that the owner would really be better off could his useless acres be sunk out of sight.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE, May 8.—The bill to prohibit the retirement of legal-tender notes, was referred to the committee on finance. A bill making the distribution of arms under the bill of July '76, 500 stands to each territory as well as State, passed.

HOUSE, May 8.—A committee on census was appointed with Cox, of New York, as chairman. The elections committee reported on the South Carolina contested election cases that the sitting members were entitled to their seats.

SENATE, May 9th.—The committee on printing reported the house bill to print 300,000 copies of the report of the commissioner of agriculture, with an amendment reducing the number to 200,000. The senate went into secret session on the Mexican award bill. It was amended by directing that the claims of Benjamin Weil and the Fabra Mining Company should not be paid for six months, and that in the meantime the president should investigate their justice, and passed.

HOUSE, May 9.—The joint resolution for the enforcement of the eight hour law in the executive department was passed. The bill to regulate inter-State commerce was discussed. The House then went into committee of the whole on the tariff bill, and was addressed by Messrs. Kelley and Harris, of Georgia.

SENATE, May 10.—The House joint resolution authorizing the expenditure of money to strengthen the foundation of the Washington monument was passed. Consideration of the bill to repeal the bankrupt law was resumed, and Mr. Thurman's amendment fixing the date of repeal on Sept. 1, 1878, instead of Jan. 1, 1879, agreed to. The bill was then passed by a vote of 26 to 21.

HOUSE, May 10.—Mr. Wood introduced a bill providing for the return of excessive customs deposits to importers. A bill introduced by Mr. Dunnell, relating to notices of contest in land cases, was passed. Committee reports were received and laid over for consideration.

SENATE, May 13th.—Mr. Johnson introduced a bill for the adoption of the Moffett punch system in the District of Columbia. At the expiration of the morning hour the post-office appropriation bill was taken up.

HOUSE, May 13.—Mr. Lapham offered a joint resolution authorizing the President to increase the army by the enlistment of volunteers during the recess of Congress, if such action should be required for the defense of the frontier. Mr. Potter as a question of privilege, presented a preamble and resolution directing the appointment of a select committee to investigate the election frauds in Florida and Louisiana.

SENATE, May 14th.—Mr. Mills gave notice that he would call up the Texas rail road bill on Tuesday of next week. Various committee reports were received and disposed of. The house amendments to the bill authorizing citizens of certain States and the Territories to fell timber on the public domain were concurred in, and the bill was passed.

HOUSE, May 14.—The regular order being called for, it was announced to be on seconding the Potter investigation resolution. The Republicans refrained from voting, leaving the house without a quorum, and, as enough Democrats could not be found to make one, on motion of Mr. Wood the house voted to adjourn. Before announcing the result of the vote the speaker laid before the house an announcement of the death of Prof. Henry, inviting the members to attend the funeral. A senate resolution for the adjournment of both houses on Thursday at 4 o'clock, for this purpose, was adopted.

Little girl (who loves to drive horses and play ball)—"I wish God would smash me all to pieces and make me into a boy."