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THE NEW YEAR.

Like a young maiden, comes the year.
Bright with youth's first glory:
Here's the golden pen to write
Her life's yet-hopeful story!
Gladness waits on all her steps,
Crowned her brow with flowers:
Mirth and music, sisters gay,
Wings the pleasant hours.

Ah! young year, thou'lt yet grow old,
Thy steps will leave its foot-prints,
The coronal which decks thy brow
Will miss its bloom and sweetness:
And shadows dark will fill the sky,
And dreams, so fondly cherished,
Will go to light the funeral pyre
Of hopes that early perished.

Yet blessings on thee, thou New Year!
We will not cloud thy promise:
By shadows of the loves and hopes
Which in the past went from us:
But count each year a precious gain,
'Till our life's crown is given,
A golden chain which lengthens out
'Till it reaches heaven.

WASHINGTON LETTER

[From our Regular Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 22, '83.

We are having just now a pretty fair illustration of the sincerity of the politicians of either party on the subject of civil service reform. Each side is scoring the other for doing precisely the same thing. The Democrats in the Senate lecture the Republican majority for turning out the old officials who are Democrats, while their friends on the House side have already made a clean sweep of the Republican officers of the last Congress. The Senate Republicans put on a virtuous air and talked of civil service reform at first, when in fact those who were on the inside knew that the only reason the Senate officers were not changed at once was the fear of trouble on account of Gorham and one or two absentees. So it is. Neither party has any regard for civil service reform. What the politicians want is the offices, and they will have them when they get a chance. The enactment of the present law was forced upon them by public sentiment and they are most heartily sorry for it. In the departments Congressmen are not as potent as they once were, and while a few are glad to be relieved to some extent of the annoyance and pressure, others regret the loss of their influence in this direction. Before the civil service law went into effect, it was a common thing in the departmental circles to hear a clerk who wished to be promoted, transferred or appointed to some other department, say: "Well, I'll just fix that when my member Congress returns to the city." Such remarks are not indulged in now, but a Treasury official informs your correspondent that Congressmen are daily endeavoring to secure appointments on individual account, as though they were totally ignorant of the civil service barrier. Of course those able applicants are regularly referred to the commission, "and" said my informant, "if they get an appointment through without complying with the law, it is a frigid day. Just now there is a great deal of scheming going on in Congressional circles to evade the civil service law in the matter of departmental appointments, and although the movement has not yet fully developed it will become apparent enough after the holidays, when Congress is regularly in session."

Whether the country will hail with profound satisfaction the advent of another National bankrupt law, depends some upon the kind of a law it is. The principal bill now before Congress simply revives the law which was repealed by act of June 7, 1878, the only modification being that the compensation of the assistants in the district courts shall be fixed salaries instead of fees. This is a good amendment, provided the salaries are not placed too high. It will be remembered that the fees paid to the court officers under the old law, constructive and otherwise, generally absorbed the poor debtor's estate, nothing to be divided up between the creditors. If we are to have a bankrupt law, this bill is as likely to go through as any other because it has been subject to the scrutiny of the courts in all its parts, and has been the instrument by which more than one thousand million of dollars has been saved to the debit side of the business men of the country.

The Democrats in Congress are very playful, and there is a good deal more of the atmosphere of relaxation about their cloak-rooms than there is to be breathed in the retiring rooms on the Republican side. When a Republican Senator gets tired of business he goes over to the Democratic side to have some fun. The Democratic Senators play practical jokes on one another, and perhaps the most persistent

law and stricture and force is a Puritan.

pure and simple. Every man that wants to exterminate a belief who has such faith in humanity and in reason and conscience that he is willing to leave it to time and wait to let it be accomplished by this higher means—he is a Pilgrim. [Applause.] I am not a stranger.

The lines are being drawn between the advocates of free liquor selling and absolute prohibition. In the last state election in New York, the liquor interest combined and defeated Mr. Maynard, the Democratic candidate for Secretary of State. All the other Democratic candidates on the same ticket were elected by good majorities. Mr. Maynard's offense was that he favored a license law. He was not a prohibitionist at all, but the advocates of unlicensed rum scratched his name on the ticket all over the State. Yet it is very clear that if the issue in the State. Yet it is very clear that if the issue in the State of New York was between absolute prohibition and unrestricted liquor selling the former would win. In Ohio, the votes in favor of prohibition were enormously in excess of those cast against it; but the amendment failed, because in that State a majority of all the votes polled is required to alter the constitution. Hence the votes cast for any candidate, were counted as against prohibition. There is no doubt but this temperance question has entered upon a new phase. The fight hereafter will be between unrestricted liquor selling and absolute prohibition. We believe most fervently that the latter will win in the long run.

Abraham S. Hewitt, a well known manufacturer and member of Congress, whose wife was a daughter of the late Peter Cooper, returned recently from a visit to Europe. He thinks better of his own country now that he has seen other lands. In his judgement we have the most enduring and conservative of any known form of government. We have more checks upon legislation than has any other country. In some nations despotic authority has no limit in the exercise of its power. Then again a single chamber or parliament is supreme, with no restrictions in the way of president or court. With us the rashness of a house of representatives is held in check by a senate very differently constituted. Then there is a supreme court that can say that a law is unconstitutional, even after a president has approved it. Every country in Europe, says Mr. Hewitt, is in danger of communism, for there is no restriction upon the party actually in power, but in this country there is no danger of any war on property, because the latter is so widely distributed.—*From Demorest's Monthly for January.*

The work of destruction goes steadily on. Every few days a car load of heifers and calves is shipped from here thus destroying the very seed of prosperity. Hay will rot in the meadows upon which these animals could be wintered. They go to Kansas and other sections in which creameries are located, to the detriment of the dairy interest here. It would be better for farmers to mortgage their farms for money at a double rate of interest than to thus rob themselves of the very foundation of wealth. This country must be sorely pressed when the people will make such a sacrifice.—*La Plata Press.*

Spider Life Wonders.

In a lecture at the Lowell Institute, Professor Wood dealt with the phenomena of spider life. The female is larger and much fiercer than the male, who while paying his addresses is in constant peril, frequently losing some of his legs. In one tribe the female is 1,000 times as large as the male. The spider's thread is made up of innumerable small threads or fibers, one of these threads being estimated to be one two millionth of a hair in thickness. Three kinds of threads are spun: One of great strength for the radiating or spoke lines of the web. The cross lines, or what a sailor might call the rattlines, are finer and are tenacious, that is, they have upon them little specks or globules of a very sticky gum. These specks are put on with even interspaces. They are set quite thickly along the line, and are what, in the first instance, catch and hold the legs or wings of the fly. Once caught in this fashion the prey is held secure by threads hung over it somewhat in the manner of a lasso. The third kind of silk is that which the spider throws out in a mass or flood, by which it suddenly envelops any prey of which it is somewhat afraid, as, for example, a wasp. A scientific experimenter once drew out from the body of a single spider 3,480 yards of thread or spider silk—a length a little short of three miles. Silk may be woven of spider's thread, and it is more glossy and brilliant than that of the silk worm, being of a golden color. An enthusiastic entomologist secured enough of it for the weaving of a suit of clothes for Louis XIV.

The lovely brides of a season or two back," says a New York gentleman, who has just returned from a two-years' visit to Europe, "are now sturdy and middle aged looking matrons, and the girls who have got married, and whom I left in the perfection of the loveliest type of female beauty, are either shrunken, lined and withered, or grown stout, coarse and almost portly. There must be something wrong in the life they lead to produce such a premature decay. A woman ought to be beautiful up to 35, and lovely and lovable for twenty years longer."

A Fan Song.

Fan me to rest, for sleep-time sweet is coming
And, oh! so tired I, and of so restless
The grateful opiate of your serene smiling
Only can charm me into thoughts distress-
Fan me, love, fan me, love, daylight is dead,
Love,
Dear to dark sorrow, dead its wild jest;
Into the land of old bygone 'tis led, love:
Fan me to rest!

Love, do you hear the last lone bird-brood solo
Drifting this wayward from the grim great
breast?
Render it over to me, and sing it low—
Low as a lip of wind o'er dark wood
trough:
Fan me, love, fan me, love, gone is the day's
love—
Come its wild hatreds—yet I'm distressed!
To-morrow I've got fifteen dollars to raise,
love:
F-f-fan me to rest!
—Edward Wickes, in Puck.

MONTANA.

A Glowing Account of the Territory from Gen. James S. Brislin.

Rapidly Filling Up—A Fine Grazing Country—Room for the Million—Rich Resources.

Gen. Jas. S. Brislin in a recent letter from Fort Keogh, Montana, says: "If any one had told me a year ago that such a change could have taken place in one short year in Montana I would not have believed him. The growth of all our Western country is rapid, but the growth of Montana is something simply wonderful, and, as I think, unprecedented. In 1880 Montana had barely 40,000 people, and to-day, three years later, she must have fully 100,000. The people from all sides seem to be flocking in and occupying the Territory that Gen. Sheridan said was 'the best piece of land Uncle Sam owned.' In this opinion of the Mountain Territory Gen. Sheridan was quite correct, but I did not think the people of other localities would so soon find it out. Shut in by walls of almost impassable mountains, until three years ago the Territory did not have a single mile of railroad, and now she has over 1,200. With the railroads came the people from outside, and, as they roamed over the tall mountains and through the beautiful valleys they were filled with astonishment, and not only soaped themselves but wrote letters to their friends to come and join them in this paradise of the West. I had long known of Montana—its beautiful valleys, that red mountains, great coal-fields, silver and gold mines—but, although I had ridden all over it on horseback, I hardly appreciated it until the last year. It was so immense, so vast, and lonely, that one felt oppressed by the very greatness of all he saw, and was glad to get away to where people dwelt. Now all is changed; the settlements are, of course, yet sparse, but one is hardly ever out of sight of a house, and camping out is no longer a necessity.

THE YELLOWSTONE VALLEY.

Take for example, the Valley of the Yellowstone—the newest part of Montana. Six years ago there was hardly a settler between Buford and Bozeman—500 miles—and now there are not only cities and towns, but every two or three miles a nice farm. Glendive, on the Yellowstone, has 1,000 inhabitants, Miles City 2,500, Forsyth 400, Big Horn 300, Billings 1,200, Livingston 3,000, and Gardner 400. The whole Valley of the Yellowstone is 620 miles long, and in places reaches a width of ten miles. I am inclined to think it is the handsomest valley in the West, and some day it will team with people. The river resembles the Hudson and is navigable for 400 miles from its mouth. It is skirted with a heavy fringe of timber and there are immense groves of giant cottonwoods everywhere. Some of these trees are so large that the limbs would make a good-sized tree, and I have seen cottonwood logs eight to ten feet in diameter. A few years ago I saw an entire company of cavalry on a hot day encamped in the shade of one of these trees. The river has a rocky bottom, and the banks are stationary, in which it differs from most of our Western rivers. It hardly ever overflows its banks, and the houses can be built close to its waters. There are natural parks and green lawns ready to receive the houses, and the view up and down the river from one of these natural parks is grand and magnificent. Such beautiful spots for beautiful homes could hardly be found anywhere else in the United States.

TRIBUTARIES OF THE YELLOWSTONE.

The Yellowstone has many tributaries almost as fine as itself, and among these I may mention the Powder River, 200 miles long; the Tongue, 180; the Rosebud, 180; the Big Horn, 180; the Little Horn, 150; the Big Horn, 150; the Stillwater, 150; the Sweet Grass, 150; the Boulder, 150; the Big Timber, 100; the Shields River, 100; and many smaller streams. The Powder River is not much settled, being a grazing country; the Tongue River is settled almost to its headwaters; the Rosebud is also well settled; the Big Horn is settled for seventy-five miles up from its mouth; the Little Horn is a stock country; the Boulder is a mining and stock country; the Clarke's Fork, which I forgot to mention above, is on the Crow Indian Reservation, as also is the Big Horn and Stillwater; the Big Timber is a stock country; the Sweet Grass is settled up about seventy-five miles; the Shields River is a stock country. Until this summer Custer County, in which the Yellowstone lies, was the largest county in the world, being 390 miles long by 137 wide, and containing over 45,000 square miles of land. Yellowstone County, of which Billings is the county seat, was cut off the upper end of Custer. Custer County is still as large as a good sized State and has Miles City for its shiretown. In time Custer will make several counties and Forsyth and Big Horn will become county-seats.

MAMMOTH GRAZING AND FARMING LANDS.

The Valley of the Yellowstone, with its tributaries, contains 125,000 square miles. Of this vast area 30,000 square miles is mountains, rocks, and timber; 76,000 square miles the finest grazing land in the world; and 19,000 square miles good farming lands. If we subdivide again we find 19,000 square

miles of agricultural land contains

12,160,000 acres, or 76,000 farms of 160 acres each. The Valley of the Yellowstone will, therefore accommodate 60,000 farmers with good big farms. Of these only about 1,000, or one in fifty has yet been taken. Here is room for the million. As to the character of the land in the Yellowstone Valley I will say that as fine vegetables and grain as I ever saw have been grown there. One farmer last year raised 4,000 bushels of oats on ninety acres, and another 400 bushels of oats on twelve acres. The average yield of wheat in Montana is twenty-five bushels per acre, though thirty, forty, and fifty are often raised. In the cases given irrigation was not used. Irrigation is not an essential, but crops can be about doubled by irrigating the land. The numerous streams and low banks of the rivers, with their rapid fall, make irrigation a comparatively easy and cheap process.

VARIED INTERESTS.

Of the whole of Montana it may be said that no other State and Territory contains such vast or diversified interests. The great Territory contains 93,000,000 acres of land, of which 20,000,000 are susceptible of being cultivated, 34,000,000 are grazing lands, 12,000,000 timber, 5,000,000 acres, contain gold, silver, coal, copper, iron, and lead, and 22,000,000 are mountains and timber. It would be impossible to conceive of a state more evenly balanced, or one better equipped for future usefulness. I put the yield of Montana ultimately second to no other State in the Union, not even Illinois. The gold and silver mines of Montana will yield, when fully developed, \$25,000,000 per annum; the grazing lands, \$25,000,000 in beef, agriculture, \$25,000,000; timber, coal, iron, lead, zinc, salt, fish, and furs, \$25,000,000; horses \$2,000,000; sheep and wool, \$10,000,000. Enormous as this estimate may seem, it is perfectly practicable; and when we remember the vast size of Montana it will no longer be a wonder. I expect to see Montana producing \$50,000,000 of wares annually before 1900 comes in. The yield of gold and silver this year will be not far from \$5,000,000 or about one-fifth of her capacity; and when we remember that Montana since 1868 has produced \$20,000,000 in precious metals, we will no longer be astonished at an annual production of \$25,000,000 in 1900.

WONDERFUL GROWTH OF THE CATTLE BUSINESS.

Three years ago there were not a dozen head of beef cows on the Tongue River. Last year there were 30,000 head and this year 93,000. Next year there will be 150,000 and the year following 250,000 head. The capacity of the grazing-grounds tributary to Miles City at the mouth of Tongue River is about 500,000 head.

MILLIONS IN MINES.

It is probable that the richest mines yet discovered on this continent will be found in Montana within the next five years. I think there is more gold and silver on the head of Clark's Fork alone than was found in the whole of Nevada. These mines are as yet undeveloped, but there is a lode there richer and more extensive than the famous Comstock. Mining and stock-raising in Montana have hardly yet begun. Wait a few years and see what we shall see in that direction. I am always enthusiastic about the West, you will say. Well, so I am, but I will say this for the West: I never yet made a promise for her that she did not redeem twofold. So of Illinois, so of Iowa, so of Nebraska and Minnesota; and I am not afraid to speak out for Montana, for she is richer in resources than any of her sisters, and will redeem almost any promise made for her. If I were a young man this is the Territory where I would put down my stake and grow up with the country. I think the growth will be more marvelous than in any other section of the United States, and a man in no matter of what kind of business will have to grow and develop himself mighty fast to keep up with the growth and development of the country.

LITERARY NOTES.

Vick's Floral Guide.—Here it is again, brighter and better than ever; the cover alone, with its delicate tinted background and its dish of gracefully arranged flowers, would entitle it to a permanent place in every home. The book contains three beautiful colored plates, is full of illustrations, printed on the best of paper and is filled with just such information as is required by the gardener, the farmer, those growing plants and every one needing seeds or plants. The price, only ten cents can be deducted from the first order sent for good. All parties any way interested in this subject should send at once to James Vick, Rochester, N. Y., for the Floral Guide.

Money and the Mechanism of Exchange. by Prof. W. Stanley Jevons. F. R. S. complete in two parts, 15 cents each, post free. J. Fitzgerald, Publisher, 20 Lafayette Place, New York.

This valuable and most timely treatise, from the pen of one of the foremost contemporary writers on finance, should be perused by every thoughtful citizen. It throws a flood of light upon every one of the great questions of finance, such as Metallic money, Gold coinage, Bi-metallic, Bank issues, Bank reserves, etc., which are destined to receive thorough discussion in Congress this winter. The account of the Mechanism of Exchange here given is singularly full and instructive.

The January Century. General Sherman's retirement from the army lends timely interest to the frontispiece of the *January Century*, and is evidence to the eyes that General Sherman has been retired by law before his bodily and mental powers have even begun to decline. His life, his character, and

his services to the country are discussed

by E. V. Smalley in a fresh and authoritative paper, which contains several good anecdotes. General Grant has assisted in making the paper exact and valuable with reference to war history by giving important information and by reading the proofs. "Garfield in London" is an account, in the main, of President Garfield's experiences and impressions while in the British capital, being extracts from his journal of his trip to Europe, in 1867, in company with his wife. His views on English politics and on prominent men like Bright, Disraeli, Gladstone, and Spurgeon, have a strong autobiographical interest. "In Wordsworth's Country" is an English prose pastoral by John Burroughs, who says that "Shakespeare is the universal genius, but Wordsworth's poetry has more the character of a special message, and a message special and personal to a few readers." In the "Log of an Ocean Studio" is described a vacation voyage to Europe of seven New York artists, who amused themselves with decorating one of the steamer's cabins. The illustrations, taken for the most part from the cabin pictures, are by Wm. M. Chase, J. Carroll Beckwith, Frederic P. Vinton, Robert Blum, Arthur Quartley, A. A. Anderson and F. H. Lungen; C. C. Buel contributes the "Log." "Husbandry in the Colony Times," is perhaps the most popular of Dr. Edward Eggleston's studies of colonial life. Nearly every one of the chief staples of the country has a romantic history. Many curious illustrations add to the interest of the paper.

In fiction, the January number is notable for the conclusion of "The Bread-winners," the third part of Mr. Cable's romance "Dr. Sevier;" the second part of Robert Grant's New York story, "An Average Man;" and a humorous story by Frank R. Stockton, entitled "His Wife's Deceased Sister."

"Topics of the Time" contains editorials on "The Difficulty of Political Reform," "Religious Snobbery," and under the title "Minister and Citizen," on the consecration of Assistant-Bishop Henry C. Potter. In "Open Letters," W. H. Bishop comments on H. C. Bunner's recent essay in the same department on "New York as a Field of Fiction," and Mr. Bunner offers a brief rejoinder. Other contributions are "Our Jury System," by Eugene Lewis "Some New Inventions," by Charles Barnard, "Free Trade in Canada," by J. Fred Harvey, "Joseph Jefferson, as Cateb Plummer," by J. Ranken Towse, "Jefferson Davis and General Holt," by "Loyalist," and "The Influence of Christ," by Prof. George P. Fisher.

St. Nicholas for January makes its New Year's call with a bright tale of contents and a brilliant list of contributors. Louisa M. Alcott begins her promised series of "Spinning wheel stories" with a sketch of "the good old times" of seventy years ago, showing how Grandmother's wheel spun a tale of fun, war, love and wolves, to suit the tastes of all her hearers. The frontispiece is by Mary Hallock Foote, and H. H. opens the number with a complete and timely story of Colorado mining life, entitled "Christmas in the Pink Boarding-house." Julian Hawthorne finishes his fanciful allegory, "Almion, Aura and Mona"; and Rose Hawthorne Lathrop contributes a merry tale of child life in holiday times, called "Fun Beams." Mayne Reid's serial, "The Land of Fire," continues to grow in interest, and is full of instruction in regard to the many peculiarities of that far away region. H. H. Boyesen ends the first of his "Tales of Two Continents with an exciting encounter; and W. O. Stoddard entertains his readers with the second installment of "Winter Fun." Among the poems are a fable in verse by Joel Benton; some jolly New Year's verses by Helen Gray Cone, with pictures by A. Brennan who also illustrates a quaint little verse of his own, entitled "Lucy Lee from High Dundee"; and "The Ballad of Good Sir Urgan," by E. Vinton Blake, a medieval poem, with spirited illustrations by Alfred Kappes. An entirely new feature, inaugurated in this number and to continue throughout the year, is the *St. Nicholas Almanac*, which will give to young folks, in simple and popular form, the more important phenomena of our earth's relations to the heavenly bodies, and, in addition, some entertaining bits of fun, fable, and allegory relating to the various months and seasons.

Demorest's Monthly for January, 1884, is an unusually entertaining number, and exceedingly rich in illustrations. Among the articles of interest may be mentioned "On the Thames," "Sentiment and Science in Philanthropy," by the Rev. O. B. Frothingham; "How We Live in New York," by Jenny June, and "The Home of Dorothy Vernon." The interesting serial "The Shores of Nothing," is continued, and "The World's Progress" and other departments are full, useful, and varied. The frontispiece is a fine steel engraving of Sir Frederick Leighton's celebrated painting, "Wedded."

R. R. Arnold sold to Rodgers & Vaughn of Monroe county 25 head of fine high grade cows at \$62 per head and one Hereford bull at \$350.

The station-house at Poplar Bluff was burned to the ground Monday night, the 17th. The fire was caused by the explosion of a coal oil lamp.

Beecher on the Mormon Problem

At the New York celebration of Forefather's Day, Dec. 21st, Henry Ward Beecher was one of the speakers. During the course of his remarks he alluded to the "Problem of Mormonism" in the following characteristic language:

We are tempted in another case, which is like briar and thorns at the present day. We are called upon to limit in some way and to exterminate the moral leprosy of Mormonism. God forbid that I should say one word that would encourage them! It is not a question to-night, nor anywhere, as to the moral character of a system which is substantially a priestly aristocracy of the most compact and closely organized kind.

There can be no question that, after the experience of 5,000 years, polygamy is not the outcome of civilization, nor the revelation of the experience of the human race. But how are you going to handle it? By restrictive law? If there be any law that, without doing violence to higher laws, can give us a fair foundation on which to stand, in the name of humanity let us enact such laws! I know not what they may be; but let me tell you that you cannot surround a great community of a quarter of a million of men who believe as firmly as you do—and I suppose a little more firmly than you do in your religion [laughter]—you cannot litter them out of the soil by the mere leverage of law—of law, I say. It is proposed that polygamy shall be made a crime, as it is already a vice, but how are you going to convict? It has been tried with signal disaster. How are you going to get hold of it? Did you ever see a cat try to eat a wasp? [Laughter.] That represents the government at Washington trying to eat the Mormon question. [Laughter.] She mumbles at it; she darts at it; but, on the whole, she doesn't chew it. [Prolonged laughter.] It is proposed to send a commission there, such as governs in the District of Columbia. [Laughter.] The first of such government has not been such as to greatly charm me; but if there be any advantage in it, in the name of humanity, let us have a commission! A commission, however, is nothing but a mechanical force brought to bear against the intellectual and moral convictions of a quarter of a million of men. I see no way—I am open to conviction by any suggestion—but this I do say: That this question, like every other moral question, has got to be treated by moral means and not by the law of violence. Every man that wants to extirpate any form of mistaken belief in politics or in religion by

the law of violence, every man that wants to exterminate a belief who has such faith in humanity and in reason and conscience that he is willing to leave it to time and wait to let it be accomplished by this higher means—he is a Pilgrim. [Applause.] I am not a stranger.

The lines are being drawn between the advocates of free liquor selling and absolute prohibition. In the last state election in New York, the liquor interest combined and defeated Mr. Maynard, the Democratic candidate for Secretary of State. All the other Democratic candidates on the same ticket were elected by good majorities. Mr. Maynard's offense was that he favored a license law. He was not a prohibitionist at all, but the advocates of unlicensed rum scratched his name on the ticket all over the State. Yet it is very clear that if the issue in the State. Yet it is very clear that if the issue in the State of New York was between absolute prohibition and unrestricted liquor selling the former would win. In Ohio, the votes in favor of prohibition were enormously in excess of those cast against it; but the amendment failed, because in that State a majority of all the votes polled is required to alter the constitution. Hence the votes cast for any candidate, were counted as against prohibition. There is no doubt but this temperance question has entered upon a new phase. The fight hereafter will be between unrestricted liquor selling and absolute prohibition. We believe most fervently that the latter will win in the long run.

Abraham S. Hewitt, a well known manufacturer and member of Congress, whose wife was a daughter of the late Peter Cooper, returned recently from a visit to Europe. He thinks better of his own country now that he has seen other lands. In his judgement we have the most enduring and conservative of any known form of government. We have more checks upon legislation than has any other country. In some nations despotic authority has no limit in the exercise of its power. Then again a single chamber or parliament is supreme, with no restrictions in the way of president or court. With us the rashness of a house of representatives is held in check by a senate very differently constituted. Then there is a supreme court that can say that a law is unconstitutional, even after a president has approved it. Every country in Europe, says Mr. Hewitt, is in danger of communism, for there is no restriction upon the party actually in power, but in this country there is no danger of any war on property, because the latter is so widely distributed.—*From Demorest's Monthly for January.*

The work of destruction goes steadily on. Every few days a car load of heifers and calves is shipped from here thus destroying the very seed of prosperity. Hay will rot in the meadows upon which these animals could be wintered. They go to Kansas and other sections in which creameries are located, to the detriment of the dairy interest here. It would be better for farmers to mortgage their farms for money at a double rate of interest than to thus rob themselves of the very foundation of wealth. This country must be sorely pressed when the people will make such a sacrifice.—*La Plata Press.*

Spider Life Wonders.

In a lecture at the Lowell Institute, Professor Wood dealt with the phenomena of spider life. The female is larger and much fiercer than the male, who while paying his addresses is in constant peril, frequently losing some of his legs. In one tribe the female is 1,000 times as large as the male. The spider's thread is made up of innumerable small threads or fibers, one of these threads being estimated to be one two millionth of a hair in thickness. Three kinds of threads are spun: One of great strength for the radiating or spoke lines of the web. The cross lines, or what a sailor might call the rattlines, are finer and are tenacious, that is, they have upon them little specks or globules of a very sticky gum. These specks are put on with even interspaces. They are set quite thickly along the line, and are what, in the first instance, catch and hold the legs or wings of the fly. Once caught in this fashion the prey is held secure by threads hung over it somewhat in the manner of a lasso. The third kind of silk is that which the spider throws out in a mass or flood, by which it suddenly envelops any prey of which it is somewhat afraid, as, for example, a wasp. A scientific experimenter once drew out from the body of a single spider 3,480 yards of thread or spider silk—a length a little short of three miles. Silk may be woven of spider's thread, and it is more glossy and brilliant than that of the silk worm, being of a golden color. An enthusiastic entomologist secured enough of it for the weaving of a suit of clothes for Louis XIV.

The lovely brides of a season or two back," says a New York gentleman, who has just returned from a two-years' visit to Europe, "are now sturdy and middle aged looking matrons, and the girls who have got married, and whom I left in the perfection of the loveliest type of female beauty, are either shrunken, lined and withered, or grown stout, coarse and almost portly. There must be something wrong in the life they lead to produce such a premature decay. A woman ought to be beautiful up to 35, and lovely and lovable for twenty years longer."

A Fan Song.

Fan me to rest, for sleep-time sweet is coming
And, oh! so tired I, and of so restless
The grateful opiate of your serene smiling
Only can charm me into thoughts distress-
Fan me, love, fan me, love, daylight is dead,
Love,
Dear to dark sorrow, dead its wild jest;
Into the land of old bygone 'tis led, love:
Fan me to rest!

Love, do you hear the last lone bird-brood solo
Drifting this wayward from the grim great
breast?
Render it over to me, and sing it low—
Low as a lip of wind o'er dark wood
trough:
Fan me, love, fan me, love, gone is the day's
love—
Come its wild hatreds—yet I'm distressed!
To-morrow I've got fifteen dollars to raise,
love:
F-f-fan me to rest!
—Edward Wickes, in Puck.

MONTANA.

A Glowing Account of the Territory from Gen. James S. Brislin.

Rapidly Filling Up—A Fine Grazing Country—Room for the Million—Rich Resources.

Gen. Jas. S. Brislin in a recent letter from Fort Keogh, Montana, says: "If any one had told me a year ago that such a change could have taken place in one short year in Montana I would not have believed him. The growth of all our Western country is rapid, but the growth of Montana is something simply wonderful, and, as I think, unprecedented. In 1880 Montana had barely 40,000 people, and to-day, three years later, she must have fully 100,000. The people from all sides seem to be flocking in and occupying the Territory that Gen. Sheridan said was 'the best piece of land Uncle Sam owned.' In this opinion of the Mountain Territory Gen. Sheridan was quite correct, but I did not think the people of other localities would so soon find it out. Shut in by walls of almost impassable mountains, until three years ago the Territory did not have a single mile of railroad, and now she has over 1,200. With the railroads came the people from outside, and, as they roamed over the tall mountains