A NATIONAL CIRCUS.

Mr. Harter Says a Bill for Free Silver Will Create Laughter,

And Make a Howling Farce of Democratic Opposition to McKinleyism.

Demand for a Caucus to Relegate the Matter to Obscurity.

Farmer-Packer Allerton Is Not in Love With Anti-Option Bills.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The anti-free coinage men have again come forward with a demand for a caucus to relegate the silver question to the rear until after the presidential election. The following petition for a caucus is today being circulated in the house of representatives by Representatives Harter (O.), Hoar (Mass.) and other pronounced opponents of free coinage:

Hon. William S. Holman, Chairman—Dear Sir: We ask you to call a meeting of the Democratic members of this house for Thursday evening, at 7:30 o'clock, to consider two resolutions which will be presented. They are as follows:

Resolved, That we are in favor of the continued use of both gold and silver money, and that we are unalterably opposed to any legislation which will drive either metal out of general circulation.

Resolved, That in justice to the Democratic party, and with due consideration for the general business, industrial and financial interests to the nation, we deem it the duty of the Democratic members of the Fifty-second congress to defer any definite action on the subject of free coinage until the question of its wisdom and justice is distinctly made in the election of 1892.

We ask you further to invite the Democratic members of the senate to this conference. In reference to the call, Mr. Harter said: "Many of our Democratic members begin to see what

A Howling Farce

it is to declaim against the rascally class legislation of the McKinley act and then legislate to give the same class of advantages to the silver kings, especially as the consequences of the silver class legislation are certain to be disastrous to the country. It is easy enough to see that before the November elections come on every intelligent voter in the United States would be laughing at us and instead of a national election we should have a kind of a humpty dumpty show, say a national circus with the Democratic party in the very important character of clown. It is only natural that level-headed Democrats are not enamored by such an outlook and it is easy to see that the men who would bring contempt and disgrace upon the party would live to regret it to the end of their days. What the party needs now is an insurance policy, and if we down this free silver madness now it will never rise to plague its creators again. We had no trouble getting plenty of signatures to the call for a conference in the very short time devoted to it."

The Other Fellows.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The free coinage Democrats in the house have secured the signatures of a majority of Democratic members to a petition requiring the committee on rules to set apart an early day for the consideration of the Bland free coinage bill. The petition will not be presented until after the return from Boston of Representative Catchings, of Mississippi, a member of the committee on rules, it being desired to have a majority of Democratic members of the of the committee present when the petition is acted upon. The free coinage men contend that with the free coinage Republicans, the Farmers' Alliance men and a number of acknowledged free coinage Democrats who did not sign the petition, there will be no difficulty in passing the bill.

FARMER ALLERTON.

The Pork Packer Opposed to Washburn's Bill.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The subcommittee of the senate committee on the judiciary listened this morning to an argument made in opposition to the Washburn bill by Samuel W. Allerton, of Illinois, who stated that he had been a practical farmer for the past 40 years. The system of dealing in futures, he said, had not been inaugurated for gambling purposes. It had grown out of the necessities of the grain trade. The trading was not fictitious, but grew out of established opinion, based on intelligent thought, of what the world would need in the future. The prompter of this bill seemed to be the "mill combine" controlled by English capital. It was designed to destroy the Chicago market—the greatest center market in the world.

Legislation of this character had been enacted, and was further proposed, and if it were continued before congress got through, a citizen would not be able to breathe the fresh air of heaven without being surrounded by government spies and detectives. Individual rights were on the verge of destruction. He ventured that every congressman who voted for the pending bill would, in two years, be as dead politically as a dried Egyptian mummy.

Senator Washburn inquired what advantage the bill would give to the miller. Mr. Allerton replied that if the future trading in Chicago was limited and hampered by laws the market there would be destroyed and the millers of Minnesota could buy their wheat cheaper. Let the millers destroy the Chicago market and they will have the market to themselves. Senator Washburn stated that it was not in the interests of the millers to have cheap wheat.

J. H. Norton, a shipper of Chicago, argued against the bill. The board of trade of that city, he said, had no objection to the provision of the measure directed against "options," though it believed it was undignified and unnecessary for congress to adopt such legislation. What it did object to was a law to prohibit the free buying for future delivery of grain and hog products. The bill purported to be a revenue measure, but this claim was made only to cloak and cover up other objects. It was particularly aimed at the Chicago board of trade. It would not prevent the wealthy miller from selling flour for future delivery and it would place the wheat raisers at his mercy. The passage of the bill would prove the greatest calamity that had ever come to the farmer, and its advocates would receive the earnest curses of the farmers from one end of the country to the other.

D. B. Smith, of Toledo, O., argued at the bill, instead of proving beneficial to agriculturalists would have the contrary effect. It would strike a damaging blow to the great system of trading which had grown up from the necessities of the country and its matchless advancement. It would prove the most disastrous legislation ever inflicted on the business interests of the land. The future system was a great evener and regulator of market values, and prevented a fall in prices in times of depression.

W. C. Brown, a miller of Fostoria, O., told the house committee on agriculture that any anti-option bill should be made uniformly operative on all and should not discriminate. In his argument, Mr. Brown maintained that the "future" system gave the farmer a better market for his product and was not necessary for the protection of the miller. The miller, he said, by buying futures, knew what amount of capital he would acquire and the price which his material would cost for some months ahead.

P. Bacon, president of the Milwaukee chamber of commerce, on behalf of that body asked that legislation be delayed and that a congressional investigation of the subject of futures be made during the recess. He maintained that the system enabled producers to dispose of their crops more readily than would otherwise be the case. Several other gentlemen expressed their views upon the subject and this closed the hearings.

Mr. Hatch said today, at the conclusion of the hearing before his committee, that a bill would not only be reported but that it would be passed by a two-thirds vote. He declared, however, that legitimate future dealers need have no fear.

FOSTER'S REASONS.

He Informs Congress on the Bond Extension.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The secretary of the treasury has written a letter to the house in response to the house resolution calling on him for information "whether at any time since the 4½ per cent bonds became due there has been sufficient funds in the treasury to pay the same; and if so, by what authority he has assumed to continue any of such bonds at 2 per cent interest, and why the same were not all paid at the time said bonds due were due."

The secretary says the 4½ per cents are redeemable at the pleasure of the United States on three months' notice to the holders. He shows that there were sufficient funds in the treasury to pay the outstanding bonds, but says that it was deemed prudent and profitable to the government to continue a portion of them, and the authority under which the bonds were permitted to continue is contained in the act which authorized their issue. The secretary calls attention to the fact that the Forty-seventh congress approved the continuance of the 5 and 6 per cent bonds at 3 per cent.

Illegal Sealers Warned.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The regular annual proclamation by the president, warning all persons against illegal sealing in Behring sea, has been prepared and will probably be issued in a few days. The proclamation, it is understood, is couched in the usual terms. The question of continuing the modus vivendi for the protection of seal life, which was in operation last summer, had not been agreed upon up to a day or two ago.

BRICE NON-COMMITTAL.

The Ohio Senator Has No Presidential Choice.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—If the reports in circulation in Washington be true the alleged triple senatorial alliance may hereafter be referred to as the Hill-Gorman combination. It has been accepted in Washington all along—perhaps too unquestionably—that some sort of an understanding had been arrived at by the senatorial triumvirate, but the terms of the compact, if one existed, were left entirely for speculation.

Senator Brice returned from New York yesterday and took his seat in the senate. Reports had him in conference with Senator Hill on several occasions, but these dispatches did not excite more than passing comment, inasmuch as it was generally believed that the "agreement" was in practical operation. Senator Brice was in a communicative mood today. He demurred to replying to only one question, as to his opinion of Senator Hill's programme in New York. "I will say," said he, "that I had no conference with Senator Hill while I was in New York. My mission was not political. I went over simply to attend to some private business requiring my attention. Now, as to the existence of any understanding between Senators Hill and Gorman and myself, that is not so. I have denied before that such a combination, so-called, had been formed. At no time have I committed myself to Mr. Hill's candidacy. Nor have I made any pledge to any candidate. I am not prepared to say at this time whether Mr. Hill's nomination by the Democratic party will be advisable. I will say that I have no attempt to get the Ohio delegation instructed for Mr. Hill. The Democrats of Ohio are not prepared to decide as to which candidate should be indorsed. There is a Cleveland sentiment in my state, but how strong it is I am not prepared to say. The Hill sentiment, however, is not predominant. The Democrats of Ohio may go to Chicago in favor of Gov. Campbell, and then again they may go uninstructed. But I will repeat that I have made no effort to influence the opinion of any one who is likely to be sent to Chicago.

"I do not regard Mr Cleveland's nomination as an impossibility. He will certainly have a large number of delegates to the convention. If he can get the necessary two-thirds he will be nominated. This may not be an impossibility. I want it understood that I am championing the claims of no candidate. The convention will settle the problem. My term as senator covers the term of the next president and I have nothing to gain. I am content to serve the people of Ohio in the senate. I understand how all this talk of a combination has originated. It dates back to the speakership contest. The influence of the alleged alliance was said to have brought about the defeat of Mr. Mills, and in the heat of disappointment his friends gave currency to the report that such a combination was in existence. This was an erroneous idea. I believe Judge Crisp's personal popularity did more to effect his election than anything else. No presidential question, so far as I was able to discover, was involved in the contest. Now, as to my attitude, I think I have made it pretty clear that I have not committed myself to Senator Hill. I certainly am not disposed to mix up in the New York controversy, and I don't think Mr. Gorman is. Certainly no expression has been made, or action taken, to indicate anything to the contrary. The nomination will be made at Chicago."

NEGROES CONFERRING.

White Republicans of Alabama Must Hustle.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 18.—A conference of negroes is in session in Birmingham today to consider the relative rights of negroes and white men, especially with reference to accommodation on the cars and promotion in politics. The chief interest centers about the fact that the leaders propose to move as a body against the white Republicans and begin by capturing the chairmanship of the state executive committee. No action has yet been taken. About one hundred leading politicians compose the conference.

A Treat for Detroiters.

DETROIT, Mich., Feb. 18.—Things will be in a very lively way next Monday and Tuesday. Ex-President Cleveland will be here Tuesday and will be given a great non-partisan reception. The Michigan club, a Republican organization has been securing the country for counter attractions at their annual banquet, and Gov. McKinley announced today that he would come. Every inducement was made to Mr. Blaine to come to Detroit, but so far he has failed to respond.

New Kansas City Paper.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Feb. 18.—Articles of incorporation of the Kansas City World Newspaper company were filed today with the recorder of deeds. The capital stock is $50,000, half paid up in cash, and is divided into 500 shares of $100 each.

Albert Fink's Chance.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Feb. 18.—Ex-Commissioner of the Trunk lines Albert Fink has been offered the presidency of the great Richmond Terminal system after its reorganization.

A RASCAL SHOT DOWN

An American Banker Takes Summary Vengeance on a Frenchman.

He Found the Latter Scantily Clad in His Wife's Room at Midnight.

A Jealous Woman Gave the Tip That Uncovered the Intrigue.

Flight of a Crooked Financier Creates a Sensation in Iowa.

CANNES, France, Feb. 18.—The most intense excitement was caused in the large American colony today by the announcement that one of the most prominent visitors at the place, Banker Edward Parker Deacon, a native of the United States, had shot and killed a Frenchman named Abeille. Mr. Deacon and his wife had been sojourning for some time past at one of the fashionable hotels of this fashionable watering place. With them were their four children. There was nothing in the actions of Mr. Deacon to indicate that he had any suspicion that his wife was unfaithful to him; on the contrary they appeared to be as devoted to each other as is usual in the case of people who have been married for years.

They followed the usual round pursued by society people here, and up to the very moment of the occurrence there was no indication of the tragedy that resulted in the sudden death of the wife's paramour. It has transpired, however, since the shooting, that Mr. Deacon suspected that his wife was unduly intimate with Abeille, who was connected with the French diplomatic service, and he kept a close watch upon her actions. At midnight last night Mr. Deacon, who was in his room,

Heard a Noise

in his wife's room, which was immediately beneath his own. His suspicions were at once aroused and he descended the stairs and listened at the door of his wife's room. He heard her talking and then he heard the voice of a man replying to her. In a moment suspicion became a certainty and Mr. Deacon realized that his wife had betrayed and disgraced him. He dashed up the stairs to his room and procured a revolver. Then with a feeling of misery he bent over the bed wherein were sleeping his innocent little children and impressed upon their foreheads the last kiss of his happy days.

Leaving his children asleep, Mr. Deacon went to the room of the secretary of the hotel and, arousing him, told him of the condition of affairs and requested him to accompany him to his wife's room. The secretary agreed and together they went to Mrs. Deacon's apartment. Mr. Deacon knocked on the door, but no one came, neither was any answer made. Mr. Deacon then forced the door and entered the apartment. He found his wife alone, and though she made a desperate effort to keep calm, and asked him what brought him there at that time of the night,

He Was Not Deceived.

He at once proceeded to an adjoining room which opened from that in which his wife slept, and there he discovered Abeille, who was crouching down and attempting to hide himself behind a chair. Mr. Deacon at once leveled his revolver at the man and fired three shots. Two of the bullets struck Abeille, one taking effect in his arm and the other in his chest. The noise of the shots alarmed the people in the house, and for a time the greatest excitement prevailed. The wounded man was carried to his own room and doctors summoned. They, however, could do nothing for him except to alleviate his pain, and at 11 o'clock this morning he died. Mr. Deacon was arrested, but it is the general opinion among the Americans here that he did "just the right thing." Both Mr. and Mrs. Deacon are connected with some of the best families in the United States. Mr. Deacon after shooting M. Abeille sent several cable messages to the United States and Paris, and is said to have quietly submitted to arrest.

Rumor has it that Dr. Deacon's unexpected return to Cannes was caused by the receipt of an anonymous letter, said to have been written by a jealous woman, who notified the American banker that if he returned to the hotel at a certain hour, without giving his wife any warning, he would undoubtedly find her in a compromising position with one of his best friends. Deacon is said to have sent his wife a telegraphic message announcing his safe arrival here and to have started back for Cannes soon afterwards.

Later reports say when Mr. Deacon burst into his wife's bed room he found his wife in bed and M. Abeille standing, partly undressed, by her bedside, evidently having sprung out of bed with the intention of escaping from Mrs. Deacon's apartments when he heard the noise at the door caused by Mr. Deacon's unexpected return.

Wealthy and Aristocratic.

NEWPORT, R. I., Feb. 18.—The Deacons are well known here, as well as the Baldwins. Peter Parker, a wealthy, eccentric and well-known Bostonian, came here as long ago as 1854. He had a daughter, Mrs. Deacon, who, about the year named, came here as one of the most dashing and beautiful widows Newport ever knew, her husband dying but a few years after marriage. She brought with her to her father's house their two small children, Ida Deacon and Edward Parker Deacon, the daughter dying here within a very few years unmarried. Mrs. Deacon used to entertain with generous hospitality and was a very general favorite.

Society was somewhat astonished some few years ago by the announcement of the engagement of young Edward Parker Deacon to Miss Baldwin, the beautiful and accomplished daughter of Aldmiral C. H. Baldwin, U. S. N., and the heiress of an immense fortune. It was generally known that the match was not acceptable to the parents of the young lady. The young couple have spent several summers in Newport with Mrs. Baldwin of recent years.

A CROOKED BANKER.

Sensation Over Developments in an Iowa Town.

CARROLL, Io., Feb. 18.—This city has experienced a genuine sensation by the sudden disappearance of O. A. Kentnor, until yesterday president of the Citizens' State bank. Yesterday he disposed of his interest in the bank and this morning left with his wife for parts unknown. His finances are in a badly mixed condition. He owes the First National bank $5,000; E. W. Libbey, a stock raiser, $6,000; John McCarthy and Frank Brady, of Audubon, $10,000. This is for cattle sold and money advanced. He also sold a large herd of cattle, on which several chattel mortgages were given. Just how bad the Citizens' bank is involved cannot be learned. Kentnor has been a leading citizen of this place for fifteen years, and his downfall is a complete surprise. Officers will be sent after him, and he will be prosecuted for disposing of mortgaged property.

Actor Curtis' Trial.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 13.—In the Curtis case today the only testimony of importance was that of George Alfers, who stated that the officers pursuing the man running from the scene were ninety feet behind when the man turned the corner. This impeaches the testimony of the officers, who testified that they did not lose sight of the man while he was running away.

A MISSING HEIR.

Gambler in Priestly Garb With $50,000 at Call.

LOS GATOS, Cal., Feb. 18.—In November, 1891, a priestly looking man hired a room at a lodging house here. One morning he was found in his room with a flood of blood issuing from his mouth and a bloody razor in his hand. On examination it was found that he had cut off his tongue. Nothing could be learned from him about his identity. He had plenty of money and paid his bills without question. After his wound healed he disappeared. It now turns out that his name is George Wilson. He goes garbed as a priest, but he is a professional gambler. His family is wealthy and lives in New York. His father has just died and left an estate of $150,000, $50,000 of which goes to this man. The estate cannot be settled up until he has been found, and detectives from New York are now in this city looking for him.

PARKER'S DANGER.

Preparations to Alarm the Residents in Time.

PARKER, Pa., Feb. 18.—The great ice gorge in the Allegheny river has not yet broken, but as the weather is moderating rapidly it may come within the next twenty-four hours. The river is nineteen feet high and rising slowly. If the gorge breaks, and the water falls, it is thought the ice will pass off without doing much damage. The greatest alarm is felt, however, and arrangements have been made to notify the people when danger is imminent by ringing the town bell. The gorge extends from Redbank to Foxburg, a distance of twenty-nine miles. There is very little danger for the personal safety of the people, as there are numerous hills on each side of the river to which they can go. The entire business portion of this place, however, is on the river bank.

DETERMINED TO DIE.

Peculiarly Horrible Method of Shuffling Off.

GREENSBURG, Pa., Feb. 18.—George Grumbling, a prominent business man of Nineveh, while suffering from grip, arose from his bed, and going to a window, broke a pane of glass; then placing his neck in the hole, he deliberately sawed his throat over the edges of the glass. Blood spurted over his clothes and the walls, but he sawed his throat until he fell exhausted to the floor When found he was unconscious. A physicion was called, who sewed the wounds up, but while the physician's back was turned, the apparently dying man placed his head under the covers and tore out the stitches, lacerating the gaping wounds afresh. Before anything could be done for him he was dead

BIG CLEVELAND BLAZE.

Over Half a Million Loss on a Dry Goods Store.

CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 18.—One of the most disastrous fires that ever visited the business portion of this city occurred tonight. The dry goods store of the McGillin company was totally destroyed, involving a loss of at least $600,000, probably covered by insurance. The building was a five-story brick block on the corner of Superior and Senra streets and extending back to Long street.

New Orleans Losses.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 18.—The actual loss by the fire last night is estimated at $1,100,000; insurance, $750,000. The general opinion is that the fire was caused by an electric light wire. Chief O'Connor said: "It was the worst fire I ever saw. My men fought bravely, and some of them had their clothes burned off them. The heat was so intense that it was impossible to stand within 100 feet of the fire."

Starvation in Durango.

DURANGO, Mex., Feb. 18.—There is no decrease in the suffering among the poor people of the city. The drought has been partially broken, but the supply of food has become so low that hundreds of families are actually starving, a number of deaths having occurred recently from this cause.

Died for a Marble.

REYNOLDSVILLE, Pa., Feb. 18.—James Martin and Frank Farrell, aged sixteen years, were drowned in Sandy Lake creek today. The boys were playing marbles on the ice, and a marble went spinning over the frozen surface. Martin and Farrell chased it and ran into an air hole. Their bodies have not been recovered.

Eighteen Lives Lost.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 18. — The steamer Mariposa brings news from Honolulu this morning that the whaling bark Tamerlane was wrecked on the night of Feb. 2 on the rocks off the coast of Puna, Hawaii. Eighteen lives were lost, nineteen of those on board being saved.

Caddo Was Tanner.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 18.—Caddo, the horse that won the last race at East St. Louis yesterday, was a ringer. When put on the rack, Charles Quinn, the man who entered the horse, broke down and confessed.

Quinn got the horse from Nashville He says Brannon & Huff, of whom he got the horse, told him the horse was Tanner, and that he had beaten everything at Latonia. The horse had been painted to keep the turfmen from recognizing him.

Archbishop Feehan's Say.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Archbishop Feehan, of Chicago, chief of the organizing committee of the Columbian Catholic congress, tonight authorized the statement that the questions relating to the independence of the holy see and Catholic education have not been excluded from the programme of the congress. No change was made or suggested by the archbishops at the St. Louis meeting or by anybody else since.

Real Estate Convention.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 18.—The committee of real estate men on permanent organization made a report nominating the following officers: President, B. M. Neil, Milwaukee; secretary, M. M. Kline, Nashville; treasurer, E. W. C. Cutler, Buffalo. The report of the committee was adopted. Buffalo was selected as the next meeting place.

Ontario Finances.

TORONTO, Ont., Feb. 18.—The statement of the accounts of the province of Ontario for the year shows the receipts were $4,183,381 and disbursements $4,153,563.

Killed by a Falling Tree.

ANTIGO, Wis., Feb. 18.—Henry Spencer, a young man living at Bryant, was killed yesterday by a falling tree while felling timber.

The Ladies.

The pleasant effect and perfect safety with which ladies may use the California liquid laxative, Syrup of Figs, under all conditions, makes it their favorite remedy. To get the true and genuine article, look for the name of the California Fig Syrup Co., printed near the bottom of the package.

HIS FATAL MISTAKE.

Thrilling Experience in the Life of a Busy Train Dispatcher.

Two Trains Sent Rushing Together in the Inky Darkness of Night.

How the Accident Affected One of the Men Whom the Public Never Sees.

He Finished His Work, Then Suddenly Disappeared From View.

For five minutes the train dispatcher's office at X—— had been painfully quiet. It was shortly after midnight, and all the wires on the eastern and western divisions were momentarily stilled, says the New York Sun. A depressed feeling had freighted the atmosphere in the office. It had affected every one. Even the wires appeared to suffer from it.

When the sounder began to rattle off "os, os, os," which prepared the dispatchers for the report of some train passing a far-away station, they sounded frightfully loud. Several times Dispatcher De Forest had shuddered and screwed down the armature of his instrument so that it would not make so much noise.

At 12:15 the deep stillness of the room, only broken by the slow, monotonous ticking of the clock by which the watches of all the employes of the road were regulated once a day, echoed with the words of the telegraph.

The operator at F—— reported to Dispatcher De Forest that Conductor McGill of Extra 100, loaded with fresh beef, bound east, wanted to know if he could have ten minutes of the time of No. 1, the west-bound night express, to make J——.

"Old 19 just needs a little shaking up, McGill says, to take the kinks out of his joints," the operator added.

De Forest cast his eye down upon his train sheet, which told him at a glance where every train out upon the road was. Then he looked at the clock. J—— was fifteen miles from F——. If he did not allow McGill to use ten minutes of the express train's time the meat train would surely be delayed for an hour or more.

All the dispatchers had orders from the superintendent to give the meat trains as much show as possible, the road being bound by a contract to get them through in a specified time. So De Forest sent the following official order:

To Conductor and Engineer Extra 100: East-bound Extra No. one hundred (100) has until twelve-fifty (12:50) a. m. to make J—— against west-bound train No. one (1).

——, Supt.

Conductor McGill signed the order, and the operator at F—— repeated it back, according to the custom. Dispatcher De Forest "O K'd" it. A minute or two later the operator at F—— said "Os" three times to attract De Forest's attention, and then reported that Extra 100 arrived at 12:10 a. m., and departed at 12:15.

The dispatcher jotted down the time upon the train sheet, and then began calling the operator at T——, three stations east of J——, where the extra freight had orders to run. He wanted to send the duplicate of the order to the express train, so that it would wait at J—— for the freight.

The operator at T—— did not answer, and, after a minute or more of steady calling, De Forrest stopped. Dispatcher St. John, who worked the second trick from 3 p. m., was ill, and his work had fallen upon his two colleagues. And then, to make matters worse, Dispatcher Thatcher had been taken suddenly ill early in the forenoon, and De Forest was got out of bed to keep the road from getting clogged up.

There were three other dispatchers in the office, but they kept the western division of the road in operation. They were not familiar with the eastern division, and consequently were of no use. This necessitated De Forest's turning out.

He had sat at the desk since early in the morning, and, with the terrible strain of the position, was in no condition for duty that night. So, when he failed to raise the operator at T——, he dropped his head and stared at the train-sheet on the desk before him. He was not asleep, but there was a temporary lapse in his mind.

The night express had passed D——, and the operator there had reported it. This made it absolutely necessary to get the orders to T—— before it ran to that station, as there was no other telegraph office between that point and J——, where the freight train was to meet it, open at night.

Dispatcher De Forest sat motionless at his desk, while the big clock ticked off the seconds loudly. Finally the easters wire opened.

"Os, os, os, No. 1 passed on time T——," said the sounder slowly.

De Forest straightened up in his chair, his face wearing an expression startling and wild. He reached for the key of the instrument, and his fingers played upon it as he asked the operator at T—— to repeat the report. There had been no mistake. De Forest jumped upon his chair with a cry. Up and down the office he walked, wringing his hands and sobbing:

"My God, what have I done, what have I done!"

Intuition gave every one else in the office an idea of what had happened. None of them asked him. They merely gathered around the table and glanced at the train sheet and then at the book which contained copies of the train orders. One look told the story. De Forest continued to pace the room, crying as if his heart would break and glancing at the big clock at each turn.

The night was thick and black. It was perfectly plain that only a miracle could prevent the heavy meat train, running on fast time, and the flying night express from clashing together. If the operator at F—— had reported McGill's departure correctly, the others in the room heard De Forest arguing out loud, the two trains would meet on the flats several miles west of S——.

The engineers might catch a glimpse of the approaching headlights, which, upon a single track, are indicative of danger, in time to prevent a frightful accident.

But the chances were that McGill had not pulled out of F—— for five or ten minutes after he was reported. That was a common thing when the operators and trainmen were on friendly terms. It was called "stealing time." While the officials knew that it existed, they could never change it, because the trainmen protected the operators if they failed to make their runs quickly enough.

In such an event as that the coductor would report to the dispatcher that he had been detained by a hot box or some other imaginary trouble.

If McGill had stolen any time De Forest knew that the down trains would meet on the curve a few miles west without a moment's warning. Nothing could save them in such an event.

Dispatcher De Forest continued to pace up and down the office, his eyes fixed upon the clock and his mind upon the accident that he felt must happen. He did not pay the slightest attention to his colleagues in the room. He talked to himself, tracing the two trains, rushing on to their doom in the darkness.

"There goes McGill," he said in tones that made the others shiver: "there goes McGill down the grade this side of Calico Junction. Bill Brown's got old 19 wide open. God, but how he'll sail across the flats."

De Forest glanced at the clock again. It was 12:40. He sighed heavily and continued:

"Look at No. 1 sailing through J——. Why, she should stop! But it won't matter. Everybody knows enough to keep out of her way."

Then the poor fellow subsided for a moment. It was only for a moment, however. He was standing beside his desk, with his wild eyes upon the train sheet. Suddenly he became possessed of his mental faculties again, and sank into his chair all a trembling, and with sweat standing on his forehead.

"Look, look, boys!" he moaned. "There's McGill flying around the curve just beyond the flats, from the west, and No. 1 from the east. Don't you see them? My God! don't you see them? They should have met at J——."

A moment later he shouted: "Did you hear that crash? Did you see the fire?"

It was 12:50 by the clock. De Forest was all in a heap in his chair. He was laughing ironically. It was the laugh of a maniac. His companions were motionless. None dared to interrupt him for fear of violence. Various stations had been calling De Forest to get orders for other trains, but for a few minutes the sounder made no impression upon him.

But when the day operator at J—— called, De Forest pulled his chair up to the table instantly and answered. The operator at J——was exceedingly nervous, it was easy to tell by the way he handled his key. The message was this:

Extra East-bound freight No. 100 collided with West-bound express No. 1 on the curve just west of the big flats about 12:45. Both trains in the ditch and on fire. At least a dozen killed outright and many badly injured. Track completely blocked.

"MCGILL."

De Forest took the message without a break. He was as firm as a rock, and not a nerve in his body so much as quivered. He was De Forest of old again In a moment the wire was humming with orders. Wrecking crews were ordered out from all near-by stations, and orders were issued to the wrecking trains stationed at either end of the division to proceed to the scene of the wreck.

Physicians and surgeons were summoned, and a special train was made up started for the wreck, with orders to pick up the wrecking crews and assistance as it passed the various stations.

Sandwiched in between all these numerous orders came additional details from the scene of the disaster. Message after message came to De Forrest giving particulars, and each one increased the number of killed until they footed up an even fifty

Then the names of the victims, so far as could be learned, began to come in, and later a description of the unidentified dead. It was plain, however, that the dispatcher did not pay any attention to the names of the killed and injured. He received them mechanically.

De Forest remained all night with his hand upon the key of the telegraph instrument. From the time the official news of the accident came to him over the wires from J—— he never looked up from his desk, never spoke a word to his colleagues. He appeared to be totally oblivious to the presence of any one.

At exactly 7 o'clock in the morning Dispatcher Thatcher arrived to take his regular trick. The track had been cleared sufficiently to let trains by, and everything was running on time. De Forest arose when Thatcher entered, and put on his overcoat. The wild look returned to his eyes. He glanced at the clock, and passed out of the office.

He was never seen again, and not a word was ever heard of him.

Open Door Fiends.

New York Herald.

There are two occasions that are usually improved by the leave-the-door-open man. One is when he comes in with the intention of going out again; the other when he goes out intending to come right back again. It isn't because it is any particular trouble to close the door; it is the human instinct of providing the ready means of escape, of safety. The first thing a burglar does when he enters a house or a bank is to see that everything is clear for sudden exit. The wise general always plans the method of retreat and leaves an opening for getting away in case the battle goes against him. The wily savage and even wild animals have the same instinct. When a man enters your office and leaves the door ajar he is doing just what any other animal would do—providing for the possible contingency of being kicked out. This contingency is a little more remote than the comfort of society would seem to warrant.

Increased the Fee.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

A Paducah clergyman tells this: "I married a couple up in Allen county, and after I had pronounced them man and wife the groom took me to one side and asked me what the damage was. I told him that there was no fixed price. He might give whatever he chose.

"'Parson,' said he, 'I've got five hound pups down home, for which I am asking $5 apiece, and I'll let you have one for $3.'

"Of course, I declined so ridiculous a fee, as I had no use for the hound pups.

"When he got home he must have found his wife better than he expected, for he sent me one of the hound pups, accompanied with a letter saying that he was so happy with Maria that he would give me a dog for nothing."

He Got There.

Chicago Tribune.

"Waiter," said the facetious guest, "bring me some Hibernian potatoes."

The waiter was gone a long time, but returned finally with a plateful of black, charred, round, hard-looking objects about the size of a billiard ball. He placed the dish on the table with a flourish and stood waiting for further orders.

"What are these?" inquired the guest.

"Hibernian potatoes, sir," said the waiter. "Hi burned 'em myself. Anythink helse, sir?"

Prohibitionist Killed.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 18.—The municipal election at Warren, where the issue was prohibition and anti-prohibition, resulted in the killing of B. Williamson, leader of the prohibition faction, by a man named Kaley, a leader of the anti-prohibition party. Both men drew pistols, but Kaley fired first, killing Williamson. The coroner's jury charges Kaley with murder.

Hawaiian Elections.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 18.—Hawaiian election took place Feb. 3 and, according to news received here today by the steamer Mariposa, although Bush and Wilcox were elected as representatives for the third districts, the elections are considered to have resulted in the defeat of the Liberal, or Bush-Wilcox party.

Turpin Is Indicted.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 18.—E. B. Turpin, the wealthy Gallatin lawyer who shot and killed William Carter at this place yesterday, was brought here and jailed last night because of a rapidly growing sentiment in favor of lynching him. He was indicted today for murder in the first degree.

Italians on Strike.

ROME, Feb. 18.—Twenty-three workingmen's clubs have held a joint meeting here, at which a resolution was adopted to organize a general strike in all the trades tomorrow, and to abstain from work until the government starts the proposed public works to furnish employment for the men who are now idle.

Caprivi Is Wise.

BERLIN, Feb. 18.—The North German Gazette says that Chancellor von Caprivi is bending all his energies to get the educational bill passed during the present session of the diet, so as to prevent it being used for political capital in the elections to be held in 1893.

PRETTY THINGS.

Latest Fashions in Jewelry, Silver and Porcelain.

Cobwebbing is used like a ribbon to tie up the hair, says the Jeweler's Circular.

Leather jewel boxes are luxuriously mounted with perforated silver ornaments.

A spray of holly with coral berries is one of the new contributions to the season.

A silver box for playing cards is appropriately decorated by five cards, and the inscription below, "A good hand."

Manicure files, button-hooks and paper knives have silver handles, the surface of which are cross-hatched.

Square ivory handles, with incised lines for ornaments, are attached to the tea and coffee-pots in some of the new silver services.

Bread and cake dishes of silver are on low, plain stands, oblong in shape, slightly hollowed in the center, with flaring ends and a broken edge of ornament.

Lorgnon sticks of perforated silver masquerade in the shape of paper knives, and opera-glass holders take the form of the caduceus, Mercury's emblem.

A shrimp salad bowl is shaped like an old and slightly battered tin pan with wave-like indentations over the gilt interior, and shapes of sea monsters, dimly seen as if through water.

They Break Loose Again.

Chicago Tribune.

"Perhaps you can tell me," observed the exchange editor, grasping his shears and looking to see if his paper-weights were ready for instant use, "why Explorer Peary should be a good diplomatist."

"Certainly I can," said the real estate editor, placing his heavy cane within reach. "Because he's always up in the 'Chillyin' situation. And now perhaps you can explain," he added, raising his voice, "how he keeps himself warm."

"Anybody can answer that," snorted the exchange editor. "He puts his Arctics on and——"

"No, that isn't it!"

"It isn't?"

"No. He moves about in the highest circles."

"That wouldn't keep him warm."

"I say it would."

"And I know it wouldn't."

"Why not?"

"Because he would have to go in his bear skin."

And they sat and glared at each other defiantly.

Price of Drinks in Japan.

Portland Oregonian.

Four gentlemen surrounded as many bowls of punch in a cafe yesterday and were chatting about drinking in different countries and the prices paid.

"Yokohama, Japan, is the most uniform town I ever saw," said one who has traveled a great deal. "All drinks cost twenty-five cents, Mexican money. If you want beer, whisky, apollinaris sour, cocktail, toddy, a glass of champagne cocktail it is all the same. The champagne sold, which is the best, comes in small bottles. Of course the saloons lose money on champagne, but they make up for it on short drinks of whisky, brandy, etc. Japan beer is made by Germans and is as fine as any made in any place in the world."

Reduced Rates.

For the People's party convention at St. Louis, Feb. 22d, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway will sell, on Feb. 20th, 21st, 22d and 23d, round trip tickets at half rates. Passengers can leave St. Paul 8:15 a. m., or Minneapolis 9:05 a. m. Sunday morning, and arrive at St. Louis 7:30 Monday a. m. in ample time for the opening of the convention. For particulars apply to the Company's Agents, or to W. H. Dixon, A. G. P. A., 176 East Third St., St. Paul.

Justified in Holding Out.

Comic.

A story is told of a well-known jugde who is noted for his fondness in conveying to jurors in his charges to them his own opinions in regard to the merits of the case. In one case he had done so with great plainness, but, to his amazement, the jury remained out for hours without coming to an agreement. The judge inquired of the officer what was the matter, and learned from him that one juror was holding out against the other eleven. He sent for the jury at once, and, stating to the jury that he had plainly intimated how the case ought to be decided, said he understood the one juror was standing out against the other eleven. He proceeded to rebuke the juror sharply. The obstinate juror was a nervous little man, and as soon as the judge was done he arose and said:

"Your honor, may I say a word?"

"Yes, sir," said the indignant judge, "what have you to say?"

"Well, what I wanted to say is: I am the only fellow that's on your side."

A Woman's Letter.

New York Press.

"Mary," called the husband up stairs, "why don't you come down? Haven't you finished your letter yet?"

"I finished the letter long ago."

"What keeps you, then?"

"I am writing the postscript."

"Gracious me! Have I got to mind this baby two hours longer?"

Missouri Redistricting.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 18.—Chairman Turner, of the house committee on congressional districts, introduced his bill today. All the districts are Democratic except the Fourteenth, which is Republican by from 6,000 to 8,000.

Col. Simpson Arrested.

DALLAS, Tex., Feb. 18.—Col. James B. Simpson returned here today, and within an hour was arrested on a charge of embezzling $28,000 from the Scottish-American Mortgage company, of which he was agent. He secured bail and was released.

A Peculiar Bill.

ALBANY, N.Y., Feb. 18.—The bill for consolidation of New York, Brooklyn and other municipalities bordering on New York harbor seems to have been killed by today's action of the assembly. A motion to strike out Kings county was carried, and the friends of the bill, to prevent its being slaughtered at once, recommended it be committed. Even this was defeated, but the bill was laid on the table.

DISCREPANCY IN FUNDS.

Over Half a Million Shy on Cordage Stores.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—The Inter Ocean tomorrow prints statements said to have been made by the National Union company's secretary and treasurer, R. J. Spencer, to Dun's agency, declaring that $965,000 of the company's stock had been paid in cash, and that $747,000 of the amount had been invested in forty stores in various localities, chiefly South and West. The average price paid for the stores is said to be $3,000, a total of $120,000. This would leave an apparent discrepancy of $627,000 unaccounted for. The national union is the organ