A POEM POSIPONED.

I WANT to tell you about my kitten,
The prettiest kitten that ever purred,
But I've looked my speller through and through,
And I can't discover a single word
That rhymes with kitten,
Excepting mitten—
And that's too old and too absurd,
So the only thing for me to do
Is just to send you what I've written,
And wait till she grows to be a cat—
There are ever so many to rhyme with that.
HELEN C. WALDEN, in St. Nicholas for April.

LADY TAMAR'S APPEAL.

[CONTINUED.]

"IT is superb!" she exclaimed. "May I try it on? It looks so well on your hand—"

"That it must be perfection on yours," he interrupted, gallantly, as he removed the gem.

"Thanks," laughed the actress. "I could live on compliments and jewelry! Really, it is exquisite," she continued, placing it on her tiny hand, and moving the latter so as to cause the gems to flash. "I must get one like it; the style of setting is unique. I positively could turn thief for such a jewel."

"I would not have you do so, if you will honor me by its acceptance," he said.

But why did his words sound so harsh, so forced, even to his own ears? They were not his natural tones.

Could it be he was discovering he had built up in his imagination a pure-souled idol, even the foundation for which never existed? Was this painted being before him the young actress whom the world lauded for her modesty and virtue?

"You don't mean, surely, that I may keep it!" exclaimed Helen Wardour in apparent ecstacy. "How generous you are! I am so much obliged. What must I give in return? This flower? No, it is too poor. Stay, Sir Launcelot, you may take one, just one little kiss." Bending her beautiful head slightly, she turned her cheek toward him.

For a second Sir Arthur drew back. The chill sense of disappointment increased. Was this woman actually she whom he had loved with so reverential a devotion?

"Be careful," laughed Helen Wardour; "actresses' complexions are treacherous." Stooping, he touched the rouged cheek so slightly that she turned quickly toward him.

"How pale you looked," she remarked with a forced smile. "Oh, the sweet modesty of youth! Dear Sir Launcelot, have I shocked you? Nay, you must not judge us actresses as other women."

"And yet," he broke in, earnestly and pained, the words escaping him involuntarily, "I had hoped from what I had heard, from what I had seen, that I might rank you, Helen Wardour, as among the purest of the latter."

A sharp spasm pierced the actress' breast. Her strength threatened to fail her. Oh! it was cruel to have to make the man she loved alone in the whole world think evil of her; but it must be. With a laugh as of pity, and toying with his ring, she said:

"And are you so very unsophisticated, Sir Launcelot, as to put credence in the world's on dits, or in what your own eyes behold upon the surface? Bah! I thought you more au fait in such matters." Then, her manner changing quickly, her speech becoming rapid, she continued, "What, do you think she who can personate the human passions on the stage—the heat of loveinfuriated hate—the despair of grief—the ecstacy of joy—can lead a humdrum woman's existence when the curtain has fallen on her triumphs? Do you think the lovers who kneel at her feet before the gaslights are to content her? Is all that is factitious to suffice one whose passions are being constantly wrought upon? What are they to do with all the excitement they arouse for the public's pleasure when the play is over?—crush it, and, dying of repression, cease soon to be actresses? Nay, nay, recollect they are but human, so let them act for your pleasure and live for their own. Let them have triumphs off as well as on the stage. Oh!" she continued, rising and beginning to pace the room, absorbed apparently by her words, "I should die without adoration, homage—without those charming petits soupers where mirth, wit and laughter vie with the sparkle of champagne—

"'The glorious vintage of champagne,'"

She hummed, with graceful abandon, raising her hand as if she grasped a goblet of the wine. "Ah! yes, that is existence—the lights, the flowers, the banquet—the eyes that look but to admire, the lips which open but to compliment! One is happy then," and in a clear, rich voice she sang a verse of a song in praise of the life she described.

Sir Arthur gazed with horror at this, his broken idol. Broken—nay, only revealed; for one who could so think and talk could never have been perfect, or worthy that pure love he had bestowed—a love which he felt with him was life. No, it was no more the same woman than the same face he had worshiped. The complexion he had heard and believed to be so natural he found was created by the combined aids of creme de l'imperatrice, lait virginale, blanc de perles and rouge vegetal; the soft bloom of her lips was indebted to rose de chine, and her dark lashes to fard indien.

His heart was heavy and sick within him. How bitterly had his eyes been opened! Could he have ever loved Helen Wardour? could he really have been so blinded, so deceived, as to believe her a divinity? Would he had died before he had learned his error! Sweeter to have passed from existence, trusting, than living with that cruel knowledge. His reverie was interrupted by the actress abruptly resuming her seat by his side and taking his hand in hers.

"Tell me—perhaps this life I describe is strange to you," she said. "Would you like to be introduced to it? There are not many upon whom I'd confer such a favor; but, Sir Launcelot, you have pleased me, and I will be your instructress. There—I give a supper to-morrow; you shall be one of the guests. I expect a dozen choice spirits, and will promise you so gay an evening that you shall laugh at both time and care."

At this moment Stephanie entered with the letter on a salver. On perceiving her mistress seated by the stranger, his hand in hers, she came to a dead halt, in astonishment. Helen Wardour, starting up, made a pretense to hurry for the letter.

"Idiot," she whispered, "you have nearly spoilt everything! Act indifference."

With an apology she tore it open and read.

"It is from Lord Pelham!" she cried, rapturously. "He invites me to a supper at House this evening, and will take no refusal. As if I should send one!"

Sir Arthur rose quickly to his feet.

"Lord Pelham!" he ejaculated.

"Yes, Sir Launcelot. Why this surprise?"

"Only—I have heard—and here I must believe—Lord Pelham's suppers are such that even some actresses, though not to be judged as other women, refuse to contaminate themselves by being present."

"Tut, tut! I repeat, you are too unsophisticated, mon ami. Why, you seem perfectly shocked!"

"It is no seeming, madam," he rejoined, bowing. "I am not the first who has discovered the feet of a divinity clay. With your permission I will withdraw."

"Most certainly, Stephanie, this gentleman has had enough of my society, as I of his. Do him and me the kindness of showing him to the door."

Sweeping him a derisive courtesy, she turned her back on her visitor, who—giddy, wretched, stunned—hurried, like one stricken for death, from her presence.

"No sooner had Sir Arthur gone than, with an agonized outburst of grief, Helen Wardour dropped upon a couch.

"I have succeeded!" she cried; "but oh, at what a price! May heaven in its mercy save me from such another trial! I have made the only man I can ever love not only hate but loathe my presence! Oh, it has been cruel—cruel to him and me!"

When Lady Tamar, issuing from the adjoining apartment, approached the actress, she found her in a deep swoon.

It was fully ten minutes before her ladyship, using the eau-de-cologne she found on a table, succeeded in bringing back consciousness. As it returned, and Helen Wardour's eyes rested on her attendant, a tremor ran through her frame—an expression of repulsion overspread her features. Checking both, she said, haughtily, rising up:

"Is your ladyship satisfied? Have I proved I can be grateful?"

There was no pride in Lady Tamar's bearing and tone now, as she answered. Bowing almost reverentially before the speaker, she replied:

"You have, Jane Goodeve. I ask—nay, I beseech—your forgiveness for the wrong in thought which I have done you? May I be your friend? It will be an honor."

"No!" was the quick rejoinder. "You know not what you ask. For my sake, as his—no!"

Lady Tamar, starting, looked keenly at the graceful figure with its averted face.

"You—you love him—my son?" she interrogated.

"As my life!" was the low rejoinder. "And—in gratitude to you—I have made him despise and loathe me!"

"Great heaven!" ejaculated Lady Tamar. She paused; then, abruptly taking the actress' hand, she lifted it to her lips. "Jane Goodeve," she said, "that which you have done this day is worthy the applause of angels. No woman but the purest and the best could have done it. I feel my meanness in your presence. But—compassionate and pardon—he is my pride—my hope—my only child."

"I do both," was the almost inaudible response. "He is saved!—only the trial has been a terrible one—more than I can support. I would be alone. Leave me, I entreat you!"

"I obey, Jane Goodeve. Well, I honored your mother much, but not so as I do you, her daughter. Farewell."

With her gaze full of admiration and almost affection fixed upon the young actress, the stately Lady Tamar withdrew.

When alone Helen Wardour surrendered herself a few moments to grief—then she mastered it.

"Henceforth," she exclaimed, "I live for my art alone. I will think of nothing else. Stephanie," she called, "bring me chocolate—and afterward to study my role for to-night. It shall be a great success, though"—and her voice shook—"his face will be absent."

With a resolution rare in woman Helen Wardour banished the past, and surrendered herself entirely to her profession. A month elapsed; her conceptions and acting increased in public favor, and she determined to reach the climacteric of her histrionic power by an original character, and that the heroine of the drama which had been forwarded for her approval. A few days after her interview with Lady Tamar she wrote to the author, bidding him favor her by an interview; but three weeks elapsed, she received no response, and the season was drawing to a close.

"Is he ill, or has he renounced hope?" self-interrogated the actress, running the MS. "What is it, Stephanie?" she asked, as her maid appeared.

"If you please, mademoiselle, it is a lady; the same who came about a month ago."

"Lady Tamar!" ejaculated Helen Wardour, half aloud, and rising quickly from her seat. "What can she require? Another sacrifice? Let her enter, Stephanie," she added.

The actress prepared to meet the unexpected and unwelcome guest with cold, calm dignity, and with a frigidity of demeanor, turned as she appeared. The expression of surprise that momentarily usurped by that of astonishment and pity as her gaze rested upon her visitor. Was this the haughty Lady Tamar? This elderly, humbly bowed, handsome woman, with a face so pale and sorrowful? Helen Wardour stood mute with amaze. Meanwhile the other slowly approached until within a few feet, then halting, slightly extending her arms, in a low, feeble voice, she exclaimed:

"Jane Goodeve, I deserve no kindness at your hands now. Not even gratitude; yet am I here again as a suppliant. Once more I pray you to save my son."

"Save your son, Lady Tamar? He is no longer in danger from me."

"You are mistaken—for he is dying."

"Dying!" repeated the actress abruptly.

"Yes, out of the love he bears you. Until two days ago he was dying from the shock his apparent mistake in your goodness had occasioned. The doctors gave him over. For long I remained firm; then, to save him, I confessed all, when—oh! Helen Wardour, let it move you to pity—he reviled me, his mother, and fell into delirium, raving of the cruel wrong that had been done you! You are a proud woman I know, and rightly so to me; yet I trust to win your forgiveness, even though I kneel at your feet."

Lady Tamar, suiting action to word, bowed her gray head before the actress, who was greatly moved.

"What would you have me do?" she murmured.

"Save him! Marry him! His life depends upon your mercy!"

"I—I consent to nothing, but I will see him," was the response.

"May heaven reward you!" cried Lady Tamar, grasping the other's hand and kissing it. "You are my son's preserver!"

"And," smiled the actress, coldly, "not his ruin."

"Oh, be merciful in your strength! I did not know you then. But come, come; my carriage is at the door!"

As she moved in much agitation across the room, her skirts swept the MS. drama from the couch to the floor. Picking it up, she cried in surprise:

"What is this? My son's writing?"

"Your son? No, you mistake," said Helen Wardour. "See, the signature is Arthur Conyers."

"Do you not remember, Jane Goodeve, Conyers was my maiden name and is Arthur's Christian one—Arthur Conyers Tamar? But what does it mean?"

Rapidly Helen Wardour explained.

"My son an author, and never dreamed of it! Come, your presence and your praise will prove the best of medicines."

Half an hour later Helen Wardour stood alone by Sir Arthur's couch; his hand clasped hers, his eyes were riveted on the fresh, handsome, natural countenance, no longer disguised and disfigured.

"And you really forgive the past, dearest Helen?" he whispered. "You will consent to be my wife?"

"Yes, Arthur, if Lady Tamar asks me," was the rejoinder.

"She does more, Jane Goodeve; she prays you so to honor her house!" exclaimed her ladyship, who entered at the moment. "There is one thing—she dares not make a condition; but she ventures on the request that Lady Arthur Tamar should quit the stage."

"Do you desire it, Arthur?" asked the actress.

"I do, Helen. I am selfish, and would have you mine alone."

"Then I consent, making one stipulation," she smiled, "that I appear once more, to take my farewell and play the heroine in my future husband's play."

"And thus make the piece," he laughed, putting his arm about her. "It is an arrangement that contents us all."

"My Lady Tamar, your last appeal was kinder and wiser than the first. N'est-ce pas?"

E. W. P.

HICKS LIBERATED.

A Decision Regarding the Forfeiture of Prisoners' Credits.

An important ruling was made yesterday by Judge Levy of the Superior Court in the habeas corpus case of William Hicks, who has been serving a sentence of a term of years in San Quentin for burglary.

Last May Hicks assaulted Billy Miner, a noted stage-robber, and cut his throat with an old shoe-knife. Miner did not die, and Hicks was examined at San Rafael, and the charge of assault to murder dismissed by the Justice of the Peace.

Hicks' credits were, notwithstanding, forfeited by the Prison Directors, but for which he would have been released last September, the Directors basing their action on the following rule: "Any wanton and unprovoked attack upon a fellow-prisoner with a deadly weapon of any kind whatever shall work a forfeiture of his credits." The decision of the court is as follows:

The prisoner in this case was not charged with making a wanton and unprovoked attack upon a fellow prisoner with a deadly weapon, but simply cutting a fellow prisoner with a knife. He pleaded guilty to that charge. He pleaded guilty to no offense, but simply admitted the cutting. It may have been in self-defense (which in this case it undoubtedly was), for after a preliminary examination before a judicial officer he was discharged. The cutting may have been accidental. The prisoner might just as well be charged with drinking a glass of water to quench his thirst and punished by being deprived of his credits as being charged with cutting a fellow-prisoner with a knife.

STATE BOARD OF TRADE.

Secretary E. W. Keeler Surrenders His Position to His Successor.

A. Caminetti of Jackson, Amador County, the newly-elected Secretary of the State Board of Trade, arrived in the city yesterday, and will assume the duties of his office immediately.

Mr. E. W. Keeler, who has filled the position temporarily since the retirement of the late Secretary Davis, will surrender the chair with the good wishes of everyone who has had business with the Board. His four months of service were very popular, and his resignation will be regretted by all connected with the association.

The board will to-day forward to California on Wheels celery, green peas, asparagus, new potatoes, strawberries and samples of building stone and marble. The cars were in Fairfield, Mo., yesterday, and will be at Brighton and Washington to-day, and at Columbus Junction, Mo., on Monday.

Music in the Park.

The following music will be rendered in Golden Gate Park to-morrow and Sunday afternoon:

1. "Masonic March"..... Suppe
2. Overture, "Pirates of Penzance"..... Sullivan
3. "Bolero Esmeralda"..... Levy
4. Selection, "Lurline"..... Wallace
5. "Irish Patrol"..... Puerner
6. Scena and aria, "I Masnadieri"..... Verdi
7. Overture, "Die Italiener in Algier"..... Rossini
8. Selection from "Fatinitza"..... Suppe
9. New "Del Monte Waltzes"..... J. D. Redding
10. Medley, "The Jolly Minstrel"..... E. Brooks
11. Erinnerung on R. Wagner's "Tannhauser," arranged by S. L. Burald
12. Grand galop, "Militaire"..... Herfurth

A Decided Improvement.

A generation or two ago, in the days of homespun clothing, when our forefathers began to save up their old-fashioned clocks for grandchildren to talk about, every spring it was the custom for whole families to take frequent and liberal doses of sulphur and molasses to "purify their blood." Fortunate are the people of to-day that they escape this nauseating mixture, and can take instead that agreeable and efficacious medicine, Hood's Sarsaparilla. This is a scientific preparation which goes to the right spot, thoroughly purifies the blood, and dispels "that tired feeling," an expression which accurately describes the condition of thousands who will not confess that they are sick, but yet have no enjoyment of food or occupation and just feel real miserable or "dragged out." Hood's Sarsaparilla imparts such strength of mind and body as to make one feel "like a new person."

McCann Rearrested.

Word has been received that Thomas E. McCann, who was arrested in this city on the 27th of last July by the agents of the Society for the Suppression of Vice for sending indecent circulars through the mails, and who, having been admitted to bail pending trial, jumped his bail, had been rearrested at Bloomington, Ill., and would probably arrive in this city next Wednesday in charge of a Postoffice Inspector.

SEA AND SHORE.

Custom Officials Seize Wine on the Bark Hope.

The Alameda's Departure Delayed Until Next Wednesday—Information About Ocean Currents—Oil on Troubled Waters.

The bark Hope was to have sailed for Alaska yesterday with supplies and over one hundred Chinese laborers, who will work in the various salmon canneries, but owing to the interference of the United States Revenue officers her departure will probably be delayed for several days, and it is not unlikely that her owners may find themselves in trouble.

It appears that the vessel has a crew of Italians, who, as the owners, Scotchler & Gibbs, say, demand to be supplied with claret wine. It is therefore necessary to carry some wine for their use. The Federal law prohibits shippers from importing liquor into Alaska, although small quantities may be taken for consumption on board.

Yesterday the Customs officials made a descent on the Hope and found among the cargo 20 barrels of claret wine, containing in all about 1000 gallons. They immediately seized it and proceeded to search for more.

NOT ON THE MANIFEST.

The wine did not appear on the ship's manifest. If more than $400 worth is found, the wine can be forfeited and the owners punished by a fine of not more than $500, or imprisonment for not more than six months.

While the Customs officials think that an attempt was being made to smuggle wine into Alaska, the owners of the vessel stoutly deny it and declare that no liquor was placed among the cargo with their consent. A quantity was carried, as is customary on vessels manned by Italians, for the use of the sailors, who drink it like water and in place of tea.

Collector Phelps soon after the seizure telegraphed to Washington that there were 2000 gallons aboard, valued at about $400, and inquiring what to do in the premises. The vessel will not be allowed to depart until definite instructions arrive.

A stevedore on the steamer Alameda felt from the freight-deck into the hold yesterday, and was cut on the head. He was attended to by the steamer's surgeon, and removed to his home on East street.

A VERY STORMY TRIP.

The bark Kitty, which arrived at Astoria on March 31st, had a very stormy trip from Hong-Kong. On March 11th the heavy gale carried away her fore-top gallant mast, and a Japanese seaman was washed overboard and drowned.

The Humboldt Lumber Manufacturers' Association has purchased the two tugs, H. H. Buhne and Mary Ann. The association has now three tugs, the Ranger being the other.

The weather at Point Lobos yesterday was changeable. At 6 A. M. the wind was blowing eight miles an hour; at 9 P. M. twenty miles, and the sky yet cloudy; at noon it was clear with the wind at twenty-eight miles an hour; at 3 P. M. hazy with the wind at twenty-four miles an hour.

The British schooner Ocean Belle, which put into this port, arrived at Seattle yesterday, making the run in the remarkably quick time of seven days.

OIL ON TROUBLED WATERS.

The following interesting reports regarding the use of oil at sea in stormy weather have been received by the United States Branch Hydrographic Office this city:

Captain Harrison of the British steamship Gothenburg City, running before a heavy hurricane from northwest, January 17th, latitude 45° 50' north, longitude 39° 30' west, with a tremendous sea running, used oil with marked success. Canvas bags, stuffed with oakum saturated with oil, were suspended from a spar lashed to the top-gallant forecastle, just dipping in the water (not being allowed to tow). Oil was also used from the closets, fifty gallons, and being expended.

Captain Marshall, coast pilot, Norfolk, sends in a very good report of the successful use of oil aboard the steam yacht Sybilla. Upon running close to the bar at the entrance of St. Augustine no opening could be discovered, owing to the high seas that were running. By pouring a can of oil on the water to windward of the bar, however, the buoy was clearly seen, and the yacht went in with perfect safety. Captain Marshall adds that this was his first experience in using oil when lying to in the trough of the sea, and he strongly recommends its use on board small yachts.

Captain Spray of the British steamship Mounts Bay and Cates of the American brig Arcot, and Webber of the British steamship Yedmandale, also report having successfully used oil at sea.

OCEAN CURRENTS.

The United States Hydrographic Office reports that two bottle-papers were returned during March, one by-bottle from the northeastern part of the North Atlantic, and are additional to the list published in brief on last month's chart:

The first was thrown overboard from the British steamship Sardinian, October 31, 1889, latitude 50° .05' north, longitude 17° 24' West. It was picked up February 9th, in latitude 69° 28' north, longitude 8° 30' east. Drift, north northerly, one-half E., about 1250 miles. Mr. Gerhard Gade, United States Consul at Christiania, Norway, says, in letter dated February 25th, forwarding this paper: "It was sent me from an editor at Tromso, who writes that the report was found in a bottle on the beach near the farm of Bo, Parish of Berz, Malangen Fjord."

The other paper was thrown overboard from the Spanish steamship Saturnina, June 27, 1889, in latitude 50° 15' north, longitude 34° 17' west. It was picked up February 13th about latitude 52° 23' north, longitude 6° 22' west. Drift, east one-half north (around five south of Ireland), about 1080 miles. Mr. Alex J. Reed, United States Consul at Dublin, Ireland, says, in a letter dated February 18th, that this paper was sent to him by Mr. John Samuel, Receiver of Wreck Customs, Wexford, and that it was picked up on Ballybaloo beach by John Curran, laborer. Both of these returns furnish interesting data regarding the general set of the surface drift-current.

ATLANTIC OCEAN ICEBERGS.

Ensign Hugh Rodman, U. S. N., secured, during a recent trip to Halifax and St. Johns, considerable new data regarding icebergs and field ice in the North Atlantic, which have been put in shape by the United States Hydrographic Office.

The report says that the past winter has been the most severe on both as to temperatures and winds, that has been experienced for years in Labrador and Newfoundland, and the formation of ice has been very extensive and heavy. Many of the northern bays of Newfoundland were frozen solidly from December till March, something rarely seen, and the shore ice was of unusual thickness. Even in the Gulf of St. Lawrence has rendered navigation little more than impossible, and the outflow to the southward through Cabot Strait has sent large fields of heavy ice in almost a continuous stream to the southward and westward since January.

It is still causing much delay and danger to coasting vessels. Much of this ice is for five feet in thickness, rough, rafted and closely packed. When it is remembered that most, if not all, of the field ice reported comes from the coasts of Labrador and Newfoundland the severity of the winter can be appreciated.

SURVEYING IN ALASKA.

The United States coast survey steamer Patterson will start on a trip to Alaska on Thursday next, and will make a survey of Lyon Canal, north of Chatham Straits. Attention will also be paid to Tacon Inlet and Jay Straits. The Patterson will then cruise from Juneau to Sitka, making surveys at important points.

The United States cruiser Marion, Captain Nicholas Dyer, will arrive here some time next week. She belongs to the Asiatic squadron and has been in the China seas for six years.

The United States man-of-war Alert, which has been out of commission for some months, will be refitted at Mare Island this summer.

No news has been heard of the bark Nellie May, which left Port Madison for this port on January 23d and has not been heard from since. Fears are entertained that she is lost.

THE ALAMEDA'S DEPARTURE.

The steamer Alameda, which was to have sailed to-day for Australia via Honolulu, will not leave until next Wednesday at noon, owing to the delay in receiving the English mails. The steamer Bothnia of the Cunard line has the mails, and she left Liverpool on March 22d, and is now four days overdue at New York.

The Point Conception Whaling Station will be removed to Pigeon Point within a few weeks. The steamer Yaquina sailed last night, carrying the outfit and paraphernalia to be used in the removal. The station has not been paying expenses at the present location.

When the cruiser Charleston comes down from Mare Island, probably some time next week, excursions will be run to her under the direction of D. B. Jackson, ticket agent of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company.

The steamer Coos Bay will go back on the Mendocino route to-day in place of the Yaquina, which has sailed for the north.

MOVEMENTS OF VESSELS.

The ship Palestine was towed from Fremont-street Wharf to sea.

The ship Linlithgowshire moved from Fremont-street Wharf to the stream.

The ship Alaska came over from Oakland to Beale-street Wharf.

The bark Stanmore was towed into the stream yesterday.

The ship Francis Fisher will drop into the stream to-day. She is laden with wheat.

The Nicholas Thayer and Annie Johnson are loading at Mission No. 1 with supplies for Alaska.

The barks Highland Light and the H. C. White are loading at Mission No. 2 with supplies for the Kodiak Packing Company.

The schooners Sadie F. Calhoun and the Helen M. Kimball have been chartered to load for Alaska with supplies.

The tug Sea King will go on the dry-dock to-day for repairs.

The steamer Empire arrived from Departure Bay yesterday with 810 tons of coal.

The ship General Butler sailed yesterday.

The schooner Eclipse went on the Merchants' Dry-dock for repairs.

NOTICES TO MARINERS.

The United States Hydrographic Office has issued the following notices to mariners:

Borneo—Northwest coast—Sandakan Harbor—Memnon Rock removed.

Japan—Gulf of Tokio—Saratoga Spit—The Japanese Government is about to erect a lighthouse on the spit, close to the buoy.

New Zealand—Middle Island—Tasman Bay—Nelson Harbor—The color of the lower beacon for entering the harbor, north coast of Middle Island, has been changed from red to white.

Australia—East Coast—Moreton Bay—Referring to the proposed alteration in the lights for the north channel, at the entrance to Moreton Bay, east coast of Australia, consequent upon the growth westward of the east bank, further notice is given that on and after February 5, 1890, Tangaluma light will be shifted further to the northeast, and vessels entering by that channel will keep the leading lights in line, or slightly open to the westward, when passing the east bank, and, as soon as it is passed, will be careful not to open them to the westward until they have proceeded a distance of one mile, when they can steer for Cowan Cowan as usual.

It is possible that the position of the Yellow Patch light may not be shifted on the same day, but the range of the red sector will in either case be the same, and the channel in that respect will be navigated as at present.

Australia—East coast—Burnett River—The action of the Commissioners of Burnett River, east coast of Australia, has been to close the cutting across the bar. With the leading beacons in line, the available depth at low water is now only 3½ feet. The old channel from red to white.

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OCEAN CURRENTS.

The United States Hydrographic Office reports that two bottle-papers were returned during March, one by-bottle from the northeastern part of the North Atlantic, and are additional to the list published in brief on last month's chart:

The first was thrown overboard from the British steamship Sardinian, October 31, 1889, latitude 50° .05' north, longitude 17° 24' West. It was picked up February 9th, in latitude 69° 28' north, longitude 8° 30' east. Drift, north northerly, one-half E., about 1250 miles. Mr. Gerhard Gade, United States Consul at Christiania, Norway, says, in letter dated February 25th, forwarding this paper: "It was sent me from an editor at Tromso, who writes that the report was found in a bottle on the beach near the farm of Bo, Parish of Berz, Malangen Fjord."

The other paper was thrown overboard from the Spanish steamship Saturnina, June 27, 1889, in latitude 50° 15' north, longitude 34° 17' west. It was picked up February 13th about latitude 52° 23' north, longitude 6° 22' west. Drift, east one-half north (around five south of Ireland), about 1080 miles. Mr. Alex J. Reed, United States Consul at Dublin, Ireland, says, in a letter dated February 18th, that this paper was sent to him by Mr. John Samuel, Receiver of Wreck Customs, Wexford, and that it was picked up on Ballybaloo beach by John Curran, laborer. Both of these returns furnish interesting data regarding the general set of the surface drift-current.

ATLANTIC OCEAN ICEBERGS.

Ensign Hugh Rodman, U. S. N., secured, during a recent trip to Halifax and St. Johns, considerable new data regarding icebergs and field ice in the North Atlantic, which have been put in shape by the United States Hydrographic Office.

The report says that the past winter has been the most severe on both as to temperatures and winds, that has been experienced for years in Labrador and Newfoundland, and the formation of ice has been very extensive and heavy. Many of the northern bays of Newfoundland were frozen solidly from December till March, something rarely seen, and the shore ice was of unusual thickness. Even in the Gulf of St. Lawrence has rendered navigation little more than impossible, and the outflow to the southward through Cabot Strait has sent large fields of heavy ice in almost a continuous stream to the southward and westward since January.

It is still causing much delay and danger to coasting vessels. Much of this ice is for five feet in thickness, rough, rafted and closely packed. When it is remembered that most, if not all, of the field ice reported comes from the coasts of Labrador and Newfoundland the severity of the winter can be appreciated.

SURVEYING IN ALASKA.

The United States coast survey steamer Patterson will start on a trip to Alaska on Thursday next, and will make a survey of Lyon Canal, north of Chatham Straits. Attention will also be paid to Tacon Inlet and Jay Straits. The Patterson will then cruise from Juneau to Sitka, making surveys at important points.

The United States cruiser Marion, Captain Nicholas Dyer, will arrive here some time next week. She belongs to the Asiatic squadron and has been in the China seas for six years.

The United States man-of-war Alert, which has been out of commission for some months, will be refitted at Mare Island this summer.

No news has been heard of the bark Nellie May, which left Port Madison for this port on January 23d and has not been heard from since. Fears are entertained that she is lost.

THE ALAMEDA'S DEPARTURE.

The steamer Alameda, which was to have sailed to-day for Australia via Honolulu, will not leave until next Wednesday at noon, owing to the delay in receiving the English mails. The steamer Bothnia of the Cunard line has the mails, and she left Liverpool on March 22d, and is now four days overdue at New York.

The Point Conception Whaling Station will be removed to Pigeon Point within a few weeks. The steamer Yaquina sailed last night, carrying the outfit and paraphernalia to be used in the removal. The station has not been paying expenses at the present location.

When the cruiser Charleston comes down from Mare Island, probably some time next week, excursions will be run to her under the direction of D. B. Jackson, ticket agent of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company.

The steamer Coos Bay will go back on the Mendocino route to-day in place of the Yaquina, which has sailed for the north.

MOVEMENTS OF VESSELS.

The ship Palestine was towed from Fremont-street Wharf to sea.

The ship Linlithgowshire moved from Fremont-street Wharf to the stream.

The ship Alaska came over from Oakland to Beale-street Wharf.

The bark Stanmore was towed into the stream yesterday.

The ship Francis Fisher will drop into the stream to-day. She is laden with wheat.

The Nicholas Thayer and Annie Johnson are loading at Mission No. 1 with supplies for Alaska.

The barks Highland Light and the H. C. White are loading at Mission No. 2 with supplies for the Kodiak Packing Company.

The schooners Sadie F. Calhoun and the Helen M. Kimball have been chartered to load for Alaska with supplies.

The tug Sea King will go on the dry-dock to-day for repairs.

The steamer Empire arrived from Departure Bay yesterday with 810 tons of coal.

The ship General Butler sailed yesterday.

The schooner Eclipse went on the Merchants' Dry-dock for repairs.

NOTICES TO MARINERS.

The United States Hydrographic Office has issued the following notices to mariners:

Borneo—Northwest coast—Sandakan Harbor—Memnon Rock removed.

Japan—Gulf of Tokio—Saratoga Spit—The Japanese Government is about to erect a lighthouse on the spit, close to the buoy.

New Zealand—Middle Island—Tasman Bay—Nelson Harbor—The color of the lower beacon for entering the harbor, north coast of Middle Island, has been changed from red to white.

Australia—East Coast—Moreton Bay—Referring to the proposed alteration in the lights for the north channel, at the entrance to Moreton Bay, east coast of Australia, consequent upon the growth westward of the east bank, further notice is given that on and after February 5, 1890, Tangalumba light will be shifted further to the northeast, and vessels entering by that channel will keep the leading lights in line, or slightly open to the westward, when passing the east bank, and, as soon as it is passed, will be careful not to open them to the westward until they have proceeded a distance of one mile, when they can steer for Cowan Cowan as usual.

It is possible that the position of the Yellow Patch light may not be shifted on the same day, but the range of the red sector will in either case be the same, and the channel in that respect will be navigated as at present.

Australia—East coast—Burnett River—The action of the Commissioners of Burnett River, east coast of Australia, has been to close the cutting across the bar. With the leading beacons in line, the available depth at low water is now only 3½ feet. The old channel from red to white.

THE STOCK MARKET.

In the regular morning session yesterday stocks fell off from 5c to 15c under decreased trading, but in the afternoon the whole market rose from 5c to 40c, the latter appreciation being in Potosi, which rose from $3 45 to $3 85. The recovery was attended by some increase in business, but there was little excitement.

After the board adjourned the upward tendency continued in some stocks, and the close was generally higher. Potosi closing at $3 90, Cholar at $3 90, Mexican at $3 60, Ophir at $4 30 and Best & Belcher at $3 20.

Local securities were quiet, with a drop in Spring Valley Water to $98.

The Union Con. assessment falls delinquent in board and the Eureka Drift assessment in office to-day.

BOARD SALES.

Following were the sales yesterday in the San Francisco Stock Board:

REGULAR SESSION—9:30 A. M.

700 Alpha...1.05 30 Confid...3½ 400 Potosi...3.50
400 Andes...60 100 Ophir...4.40 200 ...3.55
100 Baltimore...25 120 C Point...2.05 550 ...3½
100 Belcher...2.05 150 Del Mt...1.00 300 ...3.45
500 Bullion...1.00 50 H&N...9.00 50 Savage...1.95
100 B&B...3.00 200 G&C...1.65 40 ...1.90
100 ...2.90 250 ...1.70 200 ...2.00
100 Bullion...1.00 250 H&N...2.60 500 Scorpion...20
200 ...1.05 200 Justice...1.30 100 H&M...1.38
150 ...90 100 ...1½ 250 S Nev...2.35
50 Chall C...1.65 100 Julia...35 40 ...2.30
200 ...1.60 100 LadyW...35 250 S Hill...30
750 Cholar...3.60 500 Mexican...3½ 100 S King...45
600 ...3.55 100 Nev Q...65 500 Union...2.35
95 ...3.50 250 Occidental...60 250 Utah...60
100 Comth...2¾ 500 Ophir...4.05 50 Yjacket...2½
70 C C&V...4½ 10 ...4.00 150 ...2.20
150 ...4.45 400 Overm...1¼

AFTERNOON SESSION—2:30.

100 Baltim...25 200 Gold...30 250 Potosi...3¾
250 Belcher...2.10 150 C Point...2.15 300 ...3.80
50 B & B...3.10 100 ...2.20 250 ...3.85
200 Bullion...1.00 200 G&C...1¾ 100 Savage...2.15
100 Bulwer...20 300 H&N...2.95 150 ...2.20
50 Chall C...1.80 100 ...2.95 150 S B&M...1.35
150 Chollar...3.50 250 Gould...1.60 250 Utah...60
100 Comth...2¾ 500 Ophir...4.05 50 Yjacket...2½
70 C C&V...4½ 10 ...4.00 150 ...2.20
150 ...4.45 400 Overm...1¼

Following were the sales in the Pacific Stock Board yesterday:

REGULAR SESSION—10:30.

300 Alpha...1.00 100 G&C...1.80 100 Overm...1¼
400 Andes...60 100 ...1.75 250 Potosi...3.66
100 Belcher...2.00 300 H&N...2¾ 1500 ...3.65
100 ...2.05 200 ...2.65 200 ...3.45
900 Bullion...1.00 400 ...2.80 100 ...3.40
300 ...92 550 Justice...1.30 100 ...3.55
100 ...1.35 200 ...1.35 200 Savage...2.05
400 Chollar...3.70 200 Kentuck...85 250 ...1.95
200 ...3.55 100 Lady W...31 200 ...1.90
100 ...3.65 100 ...30 400 ...2.00
100 ...3¼ 200 ...28 200 ...2.10
250 CC&V...4½ 200 Mexican...3½ 200 S B&M...1.30
300 Emp...3.35 650 ...3.40 100 ...1.35
300 Con Y...30 250 Ophir...4.15 150 S Nev...2.35
200 C Point...2.05 150 ...4.05 150 Union...2.40
250 ...2.00 200 ...4.00 400 ...2.35
200 G&C...1¾ 200 Overm...1.20 100 ...2.45

AFTERNOON SESSION—2:30.

100 Alpha...1.00 300 G&C...1.80 200 Overm...1¾
200 ...1.10 200 ...1.85 500 ...1.30
100 Belcher...2.00 100 H&N...2¾ 250 Potosi...3.80
200 Andes...60 300 ...2.90 200 ...3.65
150 Belcher...2.00 600 ...2⅞ 750 ...3.85
400 ...2.15 400 Justice...1.30 400 ...3.80
500 ...2.10 100 ...1.35 200 ...3.90
500 Bullion...99 150 ...1⅜ 200 Savage...2.15
100 ...1.00 300 ...1.40 250 ...2.20
400 ...1.10 300 Lady W...35 450 S B&M...1.35
500 Chollar...3¾ 300 ...35 1500 ...1⅜
600 ...3.80 200 Mexican...3.35 500 S Nev...2½
100 ...3.85 100 ...3.50 100 ...2.60
300 ...3.95 250 ...3.60 200 ...2.65
150 C Point...2.05