MISCELLANEOUS.

Roos Bros
27-29-31-33-35-37 KEARNY ST.

DO YOU KNOW US?

DO YOU KNOW OUR WAY OF DOING BUSINESS?

WHEN WE SAY ONE THING WE DON'T MEAN ANOTHER!

OUR WORD IS VALUABLE AS GOLD TO US.

OUR REPUTATION IS WHAT MADE OUR BUSINESS!

WE TELL YOU THAT WE ARE OFFERING YOU BARGAINS!

WILL YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM?

Men's, Boys' and Children's Clothing, Hats, Caps and Furnishings are at Greatly Reduced Prices. Quotations of a few of the hundreds we give you to-day.

MEN'S ALL-WOOL SUITS. $4.50 Worth $7.50.
Suits that will give you service and satisfaction. Examine them.
Sizes 38, 39 and 40.

BOYS' LONG PANTS SUITS. $4.00 Worth $7.00.
Excellent goods, reliably made and all wool.
For ages 15 to 18.

JERSEY SUITS. $3.50 Worth $4.75.
A new style—worth seeing; worth buying; worth your immediate attention.

BOYS' KNEE PANTS SUITS. $2.50
These also are wool—the only kind you want. Dark and light colors and tasty patterns. For ages 4 to 14.

REEFERS.
THE VERY LATEST.
$1.95 and Worth Double. $3.50

1000 KILTS,
Zouave Style and 20 others, at
$3.50 Worth $5.50.

YOUR PURSE WILL PROFIT BY A PURCHASE AT

Roos Bros
27-29-31-33-35-37 KEARNY ST.

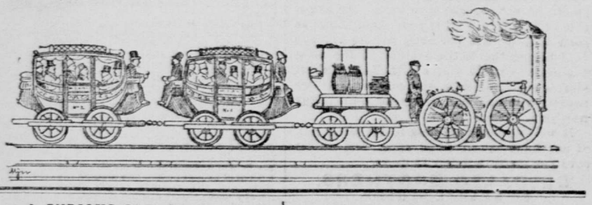
Send in MAIL ORDERS at once and profit by the above prices.
Samples, Catalogue and Rules for Self-measurement sent free.

A PRIMITIVE TRAIN.

An Interesting Exhibit to Be Made at the World's Fair.

Chicago Tribune.

The New York Central Railroad will make one of the interesting exhibits at the fair. It has decided to reproduce in exact details and full size the first railway train run in America. The old engine, the queer-looking coaches, and the track on which they ran may be seen in the Transportation building by visitors to the fair, space for this purpose having been secured.



A CURIOUS OLD CRAFT.

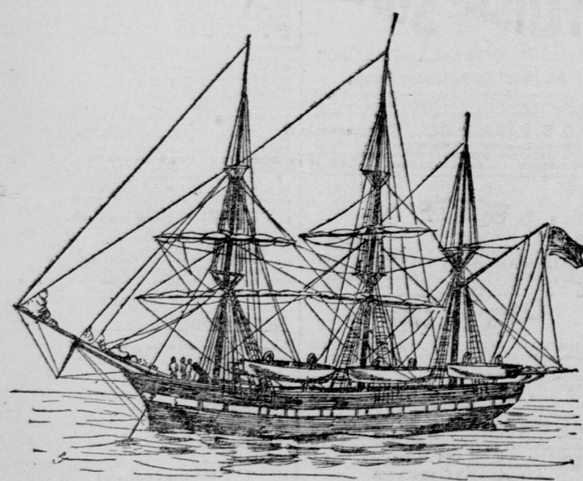
The Whaling Vessel Progress on the Way to Chicago.

Chicago Times.

One of the most interesting features of the marine exhibit at the World's Fair will be the timeworn and stormbattered whaling-ship Progress. This ancient bark is now on its way to Chicago, being in tow of the City of Berlin from New Bedford, Mass.

The Progress is manned by a crew of Portuguese sailors picked up at New Bedford, under charge of Captain Gifford of the same place. She is old style and bark-rigged; that is, on the fore and main mast she has square sails. On the mizzenmast is a fore-and-aft sail with a gaff topsail similar to some of our lake schooners. The vessel comes with bare masts, as all the sails are stored below, the ship being towed all the way from Boston. On her davits she carries six large whaleboats, all of which have seen actual service, and each one is provided with a full equipment of gaffs, spears and other paraphernalia used in hunting the giant of the sea. These boats are made sharp at both ends so they can be driven either forward or back, as emergency may demand.

This old ship has a history. She has made 17 successful trips around Cape Horn and 40 times she has crossed the icy waters of the Arctic Ocean. In 1869 the Progress joined the Arctic fleet and in the great storm of 1871 all met disaster except the Progress, which returned to New Bedford with 300 sailors, seven captains, five women and three children, the only survivors of the wrecks. The Progress is nearly half way to Chicago. At last account she was lying at Detroit.



THE FRENCH EXPOSITION.

Preparations for Holding a World's Fair in Paris.

According to the latest information, the Germans have practically made up their minds to let the French hold an international exhibition in 1900, if they wish to do so, and do their best to insure its comparative failure by opening their own in 1898, says the New York Evening Post. The mixed commission appointed to decide the matter has already adopted a resolution asking the Berlin municipality to vote 10,000,000 marks as a guarantee fund, and the imperial chancellor, the German Chamber of Commerce and the Berlin Mercantile Association have all been informed officially of this action.

A meeting of representatives of the commercial world has been held also at Munich, and there also a resolution was carried that an exhibition should be held in 1898, without any reference to the intentions of France. This, however, is a game that two can play at, and it is just on the cards that France may checkmate this scheme by selecting a still earlier date, 1897 for instance, although that would be perilously close after the Columbian Fair. She would incur risk gladly for the sake of the pleasure of disconcerting German arrangements. It is very difficult, if not impossible, now to decide which nation first thought of 1900 at an exhibition year, but the Paris correspondent of the St. James Gazette says: "This much is certain, whatever intentions they may have had back of their heads, the French did not begin to talk seriously of an exhibition in 1900 until they heard that the idea of holding one in Berlin in that year had taken root."

A Great Work.

Chicago Tribune.

"It won't go through that door!"

"Who said it would, madam?"

"And if you can't get it into that room what are you going to do with it?"

"You needn't get excited over it. What's the matter with taking the partition down?"

"Who's getting excited? It'll cost something to take the partition down, wont it?"

"Well, if you can think of any better way to dispose of it let us hear your plan, madam."

"There's no occasion for alarming the neighbors, anyhow. If you must have such a thing as this in the house why don't you build an addition expressly for it?"

"You know well enough that—"

"Or why couldn't you have it made so it would go through an ordinary door?"

"Madam!"

"Sir!"

"I am going to have it moved into that room if it takes a whole month and costs a thousand dollars!"

"Then you can have the premises to yourself, sir! I shall not stay here and see the house all torn up! I am going back to mamma's!"

The family disturbance, gentle reader, grew out of the circumstance that a copy of the new Chicago City Directory had been unloaded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Billiger McSwat.

OAKLAND AND ITS ENVIRONS

The Answer of the Water-Front Company Presented.

Pastor Liljegren and His Witnesses Unmercifully Scored by Ex-Judge Gibson. Hugh Slicer's Will to Be Contested.

In THE CALL of yesterday it was stated that the water-front company would send its long-delayed answer to the Oakland Board of Trade very soon. Before THE CALL was out of the hands of its readers, and before he had gone to his office at Fourth and Townsend streets, Harvey S. Brown, the company's attorney, sent a letter, of which the following is a copy, to M. J. Keller, president of the board:

OFFICE OF THE OAKLAND WATER FRONT CO., FOURTH AND TOWNSEND STREETS. SAN FRANCISCO, August 11, 1892.

To the Oakland Board of Trade, Oakland, Cal.—GENTLEMEN: Your letter of the 25th ult., embodying a resolution of your board, which embraces several questions that you request this company to answer, came duly to hand. While the nature of your queries must be regarded as unusual, we will take it for granted that the circumstances to which you allude may justify your board and this company in ignoring the customary rules of business.

We feel also that your letter with the resolution expresses the natural feeling of interest shared by every intelligent and honest man in your city on this subject.

Your first question is as follows: "Is it your intention to make improvements on the water front in the way of docks, piers and warehouses? If so, when?"

The water-front company has adopted no plan for improving the property directly. Some two years ago this company concluded that the proper time had come when it could pursue a vigorous policy in handling its property; acting under this decision considerable progress was made with satisfactory results, until we were confronted by the agitation to which you refer as "a feeling of unrest, etc.," the effect of which has been to deter investors from developing this property, although it has in no way disturbed our plans, other than to interrupt them, and in response to your question will say: It is our policy to secure occupants who will improve the water front by the erection of factories, foundries, warehouses, wharves, etc., thereon. We cordially invite the attention of such people to this property and hold ourselves in readiness to deal with them on a fair business basis.

Your second question is: "Will you offer for sale or lease without restrictions as to use, the water-front property in parcels to suit at reasonable prices fixed?"

We will lease or sell, lease preferred, in parcels to suit at reasonable prices to any who will improve the property, without restrictions as to use, other than that the property shall be improved.

Your third question is: "Will you remove the restrictions as to the use of property already sold or leased by you?"

We will.

In conclusion, permit us to say that the outcome of this property must, in a great measure, depend upon Oakland itself.

If your city will act in harmony with this company there can be no reasonable doubt about the future of the water front. Yours respectfully,

CHARLES F. CROCKER, President.

Mr. Keller made the letter public on behalf of the Board of Trade and expressed satisfaction that the board had attained its object of getting for the public a tangible statement from the company.

The matter relates only to the improvement of the property, the question of title being another consideration entirely.

GIBSON SCORES THE PREACHER.

Ex-Judge E. M. Gibson, the Abraham Lincoln of the Pacific Coast, vibrated with emotion yesterday as he recounted the cruelty, the despotism and the humiliation continually inflicted upon his client, the "Nightingale," by her heartless husband, the Swedish preacher. At length the arguments had begun. Mr. Chapman listened with a sardonic smile on his features and the husband plucked his red beard nervously under the unmerciful scoring he got.

Mr. Gibson scored everybody, even verging terribly near to throwing a little fling at the Judge for the latter's persistency in sustaining objections and ruling out testimony.

He reversed the testimony of the Swedish witnesses, beginning with Rev. Mr. Anderson, to whom he referred as "a lily of the valley who neither worked, wove nor spun," but who was side by side with Liljegren in a vain attempt to convict his wife, and whose testimony contradictions made worthless.

Dougherty, the detective, he branded as a craven and an escaped convict, accepting the money of a craven husband to plot in ruining the reputation of an innocent woman.

"And the Rev. Deacon Lindblossom," said Mr. Gibson, "aided and abetted the scheme of a husband to send his wife, ruined, penniless and friendless, into the world while he, the husband, returns to the pulpit to teach of Christ! And young Andrew Nelson and the other spotless lily of Sweden transplanted to America—what shall I say of them? Brazen, conceited, they mount the stand and talk of temptation. With the child in the throes of death with the mother worn out, weary-eyed, insane almost from watching and sorrow; then, they say, she tempted them. Shame on their prurient souls! Let them go back to Sweden! They are too pure for America.

"After the marplots, the treachery and the lies failed, then they fell back and blamed poor old man Hatch—70 years old and with his hair as white as the driven snow. Bah! They accused him of guilt, but they backed down and came into court with amended pleadings, saying, 'Your Honor, we exonerate Hatch!' But they made the accusations public and subjected a sensitive woman to suffering and unjust cruelty."

During his argument Mrs. Liljegren and the women with her began to weep. As he referred to the warm-hearted kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Waxel the defendant nearly became hysterical and began to caress Mrs. Waxel, sitting near. The attorney paused, however, and she soon dried her tears.

Mr. Chapman is getting ready to reply.

WITH A GRAIN OF ALLOWANCE.

The proposition of John L. Davie and others to build a ferry system to San Francisco from the foot of Webster street has called forth the following statement from a Southern Pacific official, who would not allow his name to be quoted:

"I am at liberty to say that the Southern Pacific Company is preparing now to make improvements at the foot of Broadway in connection with the creek ferry system that will involve the expenditure of from $80,000 to $100,000. These improvements will, I believe, be made in conjunction with and will constitute a part of the development of the electric-street railroad system the company is now developing in this city. I know that the plans for them are already prepared."

The same official has talked much of plans to have big industries located here, but says that it would not do to let James G. Fair or the Baden people know what they are. The latter statements have been made to the public as supplementary to the answers given the Board of Trade by the Water Front Company.

Having met with success in securing for Oakland the Fulton Iron Works, the Board of Trade will next make an effort to get the Risdon Works located here. The company is understood to be willing to come, provided satisfactory arrangements can be made.

HUGH SLICER'S WILL.

It has been announced that a compromise was likely to be made in the Hugh Slicer will contest, but this has proven untrue, as an answer to the grounds of opposition was filed yesterday. When the case comes to court it will be bitterly fought, according to the statement of one of the heirs interested. The contestants are Florence, Hugh, Walter and Clara Wilson against Charles Slicer and Harriet Carpenter.

The contest over the final account and distribution of the Walkerley estate occupied the day before Judge Greene yesterday. The matter of allowing the final account was continued till 9 A. M. to-day to have further testimony introduced about the value of the land.

ANGRY MISS MAMIE.

Miss Mamie Clear, an angry sister to Miss Maggie Frances Clear, has become the unwilling possessor of a brother-in-law whom she doesn't like. Miss Maggie eloped with him the other night. He is a horseshoer named Leonard Liermann and Miss Mamie says that he is not worthy to be her brother-in-law because her sister is a clerk in a dry-goods store. She declared to a reporter last evening that she is waiting for her "beautiful brother-in-law to get back, when there will be trouble." The lady was angry because the papers had said that she went into hysterics when she heard of the elopement. One reason of the elopement was because the family was opposed to the marriage, owing to religious differences.

Two little boys from Tulare are shedding tears behind the County Jail bars while their fond papers are hastening here at the summons of the Sheriff. The youngsters saw a jockey go round in his light-colored sash at Tulare one day and they started out in the world to become jockeys themselves. The cold, clammy-handed Sheriff caught them at the Oakland Trotting Park. They gave their names as Eddie Brannan and Terry Fritz.

THE NEW JURY.

Judge Henshaw yesterday afternoon impaneled the following jurors for the next term of the Superior Court: O. H. Burnham, A. W. Burrell, M. Rosenberg, Owen Lafferty, W. D. Boyce, W. H. Siedentopf, Louis Giese, Anthony Milton, William Leonard, D. Babsen, J. S. Gibbs, William McCutcheon, Frank Harding, H. B. Sears, M. B. Smith, W. F. Emery, H. Crowell, James Kinsell, C. G. Briggs, John R. Davis, E. R. Jensen, Peter H. Hoare, Charles H. Haile, Henry Kosher, Reuben Hunter, Herman Detjens, J. T. Fowler, A. S. Wright, Enoch Hughes, Joseph McLane, W. H. Mawer, J. T. Smith, Frederick Rahmstoof.

From among the above a jury will be selected to try the suit of the Water Front Company against John L. Davie and others.

ELECTRIC ROAD ACCIDENTS.

The only passenger that has been seriously hurt on the Haywards electric road, so far, is Joe Summer, who was thrown from a car Thursday night and had one of his legs broken. The car was going rapidly and jumped the track. Summers' wife and sister were also hurt slightly.

A car on the Berkeley road ran into a wagon at Tenth and Franklin streets. It was no longer a wagon when the brief catastrophe was over. The car was also badly damaged. Joe Bampton, driver of the wagon, saved himself by jumping.

TO TAKE A CRUISE.

Oakland Parlor, Native Sons, will take an excursion about the bay on Admission day, September 9.

Mrs. John W. Gregg, a well-known lady of Vernon Park, near Temescal, died suddenly yesterday of heart disease.

The Federated Trades have appointed a committee to canvass the city to raise funds for building a labor temple.

A quarterly report of the County Auditor shows that the outstanding indebtedness of school districts aggregates $81,000.

Alameda.

It is announced that the management of the Tucker property has consented to the widening of Everett street, between Webb and Santa Clara avenues.

Isidor Gutte, the 13-year-old son of Julius Gutte, was thrown off a bicycle yesterday and broke both his wrists.

A big audience assembled in Park Opera-house last evening to hear the concert given under the direction of the Encinal Republican Club. The proceeds will be used for the purchase of uniforms for the drill corps, which is striving to be the most handsomely uniformed political club in Alameda County.

Several young people connected with the Park-street M. E. Church have organized a lyceum. The officers are: President, E. K. Taylor; vice-president, Mrs. Watterson; secretary, Clement Bates; executive committee—Miss Elizabeth Westgate, Miss E. M. McLean, L. W. McGlauflin.

Berkeley.

George Kelly, accused of demolishing furniture in the house of an old woman named Mary Hawkes, has been discharged.

The Salvation Army will hereafter hold meetings in Berkeley every Thursday night.

Miss Maud Grindley of Lorin has been appointed temporary teacher in the new department of the Lorin school.

THE FEDERATED TRADES.

San Francisco and Sacramento Councils to Hold a Conference.

The Council of Federated Trades met last evening at their hall, 1159 Mission street, President McArthur in the chair. There was a representative gathering of delegates from the various unions.

A communication was received from the Council of Federated Trades of Sacramento stating that their committee appointed to act as mediators in a mutual effort to consolidate the central labor organizations of San Francisco having been notified of the consent of the Building Trades' Council had fixed Sunday, the 21st of August, as the date of the conference with the committee of the Council of Federated Trades of San Francisco.

The American Federation of Labor of New York authenticated a circular from the Homestead (Pa.) ironworkers appealing for aid. The circular was ordered sent to each union in the Federated Trades for individual action.

The Western Central Labor Union, San Diego Union and Sacramento Council of Federated Trades sent reports of routine business. The latter announced that Professor Moses of Berkeley University had agreed to make an address on Labor day.

A new finance committee was appointed to consist of Messrs. Rothschild, Harris and Harris.

The Coopers' Union reported that they still have a difference with two breweries. They have 110 men out on strike. The union wished the indorsement of the council on a circular asking financial aid from the various unions. Their expenses are $800 a week. They were recommended to send a delegate to each union and advised that, doubtless, the aid required would be extended.

The Harness makers' Union reported that they had decided to take part in the Labor-day demonstration.

The Coast Seamen's Union reported that a large number of non-union men were going out in ships for the Hawaiian Islands, the reason seeming to be that in the island trade there was a tendency to cut down wages.

The union also wished to advert to the recent lying reports in a sensational, unreliable contemporary regarding the present condition of things on the water front. Fake stories of kidnaping, loafing and general rowdyism there were strongly denounced. The fact was that there were no more than the usual number of idle men on the water front.

The Horseshoers' Union reported that they had scarcely any idle men.

The visiting committee reported having visited Bakers' Union No. 20, Coopers', Laborers' Protective and other unions, and that in all they had found much enthusiasm regarding Labor day.

The deferred question of Mr. Guilfoyle's resignation from the visiting committee was settled by laying the resignation on the table.

The council adopted the final report of the finance committee on the mass-meeting, showing a disbursement of $213.

Mr. Phillips, who stated that he was the delegate who first introduced the advisability of the Australian ballot system to the notice of the council, advocated the importance of the initiative, referendum and imperative mandate as legislative measures. After some discussion his motion that the legislative committee be instructed to indorse these measures in the strongest way possible was referred to the legislative committee to act upon.

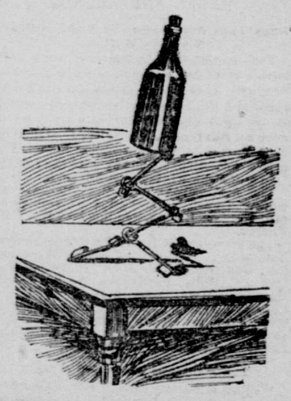
The committee on resolutions presented a report embodying a resolution vehemently denouncing the treatment of Private Iams in Pennsylvania and incidentally deprecating the calling out of national troops to solve a labor difficulty. Owing to some ambiguity of language the resolution was referred back to the committee for amendment.

The council then adjourned until next Friday evening.

OF MANY KEYS.

A Structure Which Can Be Built if One Has Much Patience.

Take six keys in descending gradations of size. For facility of reference we will call them (commencing with the largest) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, respectively. Place Nos. 1 and 2 with their bitts resting on the table and pass the bow of No. 2 through that of No. 1, as shown in the figure. The two keys will make a tolerably obtuse angle, and by pressing downward with the hand



on their bows it may be ascertained that they are solidly interlocked, and that neither of them is likely to slip on the table.

These two keys serve as a foundation for the rest. You now pass the bitt of No. 3 through the bow of No. 2, and then, in succession the bitts of Nos. 4, 5 and 6 through the bows of Nos. 3, 4 and 5, meanwhile making sure by looking down on them from above that they are all in the same vertical plane. If the successive interlockings of the bitts within the bows have been properly made, which you will ascertain by a gentle pressure on the key (No. 6) which crowns the edifice, nothing will be easier, especially to those who have studied lessons in the art of balancing, than to make the bows of Nos. 5 and 6 (the position of this last being all but horizontal) support a variety of articles of domestic use. To enhance the effect, the more fragile the article the better, say a plate, a soup tureen, a decanter or a bottle. If the bottle be used it should only be half full, so as to keep its center of gravity low down. This increases the stability (or perhaps we should say decreases the instability) of your rather precarious structure.

AN EXCELLENT remedy for dyspepsia—Simmons Liver Regulator.—C. Masterson, Sheriff of Bibb County, Ga.

DIED IN TOTAL DARKNESS.

Peculiar Suicide of an Aged and Infirm Copyist.

William A. Birch Hides Himself Under the Bedclothes and Sends a Bullet Through His Brain.

William A. Birch, secretary of the Tamalpais Land and Water Company, and a copyist at the San Francisco Savings Union, committed suicide yesterday morning by shooting himself in the mouth with a bulldog revolver. He was over 60 years old, a native of England, and a widower. Despondency caused by strokes of paralysis and other ailments actuated him to end his life. He was a cripple, being compelled to use a crutch and a cane while walking. During his fits of despondency he often told fellow-employes at the Savings Union that he would end his miserable life, but they did not pay any attention to the threats. For several years he had lived at the residence of Lovell White, cashier of the Union, at 1616 Clay street, and it was there that he sent a bullet through his brain. The remains were removed to the Morgue, and an inquest was held during the afternoon. Mr. White testified that he had known the deceased for five years, and that for three years he roomed at his house. "I saw him last alive Thursday," continued the witness, "when I returned from my summer residence at Mill Valley. Many times I have heard him express a wish that he was out of the world. Ill health and general despondency caused him to have morbid ideas, and his faculties were impaired. He did not come to his desk this morning. So at 10:30 o'clock I went out to my residence at 1616 Clay street to see if anything was the matter with him. I found him in bed, covered up. Even his head was under the quilts. When I threw back the covers I found him dead, with a pistol by his side, and the bed filled with blood.

William A. Birch.

"I received nothing from him in explanation of the deed. He has a tin box deposited at the bank. He had some means and property in Marin County."

"Did the deceased leave any relatives?" asked the Coroner.

"The only relative I know of is his son, Reginald E. Birch, who resides in New York and makes illustrations for St. Nicholas and Life. The son is quite a talented man in his line. I have telegraphed news of his father's death to him."

F. W. Jackson, a messenger and collector for the bank, testified that the deceased was a general favorite among the employes. Birch often complained of attacks that made life unbearable. Thursday afternoon he left the bank about 2 o'clock, saying that he would soon be back, but he failed to return. In answer to a message from Mr. White the witness went to 1616 Clay street, soon after the deceased was found dead. Birch had occupied a small bedroom on the lower floor. For some time no one else had been in the house, as all the members of the White family were at the Mill Valley residence.

William M. Bowers, assistant surveyor for the Savings Union, deposed that at times Birch appeared very much demented. "He often told me that some time I would find him dead. He was very despondent because he had had paralytic strokes that crippled his left side."

Deputy Coroner S. J. Bridgewood told about the removal of the remains to the Morgue. He said that when found the deceased held the pistol in his right hand.

After deliberating a few minutes the Coroner's jury returned a verdict that the deceased committed suicide while temporarily insane.

Among the effects left by the deceased was a gold watch that had evidently belonged to his father or a brother. It bore the following inscription: "To the Rev. George Birch, M. A., from a number of members of the South Ines Episcopal Church, Glasgow, 1863, as a token of their esteem for him as a minister and a friend."

HIS WIFE'S ASHES.

Carried About in an Urn by a Drummer in His Travels.

Chicago Herald.

A commercial tourist traveling in the interest of a fancy crockery and glassware house arrived at the Palmer Saturday morning with his large trunks filled with samples, which he arranged upon the tables in his room. After completing this work he took from his hand-satchel a large and handsome urn, which he placed on his dressing-case. It was a peculiar looking article, resembling the designs of ancient

times. He looked at it intently for a few moments, frowned and turned away, sighing audibly. He went about his samples with an air of melancholy, and every time his eyes rested on the mysterious urn he sighed. Dropping into a large chair he buried his face in his hands and was silent for some minutes.

At last he was aroused from his reverie by the appearance of one of his oldest customers and friends. His face brightened and the two entered into a brisk conversation. They had talked upon all subjects, when suddenly the Chicago man saw the urn on the dressing-case and exclaimed: "Why, old man, what a peculiar design? What price have you on that?" The knight of the gripsack frowned as he replied: "That is not for sale. That is one of my personal effects." The Chicago glassware man proceeded to examine it. "Mighty pretty thing. Oh, there ashes in here. I dare say you use it in your smoking set." The young man could not avoid an explanation. "You see," he said, with some feeling, "my wife requested before she died that her body be cremated and that I carry her ashes with me in my travels. I complied with her request and those are the ashes of my wife." The Chicago man suddenly thought of a previous engagement and left the room unceremoniously.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

Some Things Worth Knowing on the Part of the American Public.

Kate Field's Washington.

It is barely 50 years since this convenience was introduced into the United States. The stamp is a little older in England. When first introduced postage stamps were sold in solid sheets. Of course a great many were wasted in the effort to tear them apart when there were no perforations. Indeed the loss and inconvenience was so great that the Government offered a liberal reward for a patent which would overcome the difficulty.

The first machine submitted was one which cut the stamps nearly but not entirely apart. While the Postoffice Department was considering this machine the idea of perforating the sheets in rows each way was offered and promptly accepted. Nothing better has ever been sought.

There was a time when better paper and mucilage were used and when the printing was an improvement upon the present stamps, but since we have learned that a damp sponge is fully as good as the tongue in preparing the stamps for adhesion the quality of the materials used becomes of less importance.

The number of postage stamps used in a year is something enormous. For instance, the ordinary postal revenue for the year ending June 30, 1891, exclusive of the money-order business, was $65,065,293 87. Of this $41,432,129 50 came from letter postage. The bulk of this is, of course, in two-cent stamps, and it is safe to put the whole number of this denomination used at more than 2,000,000,000 per annum.

The issuing of postage-stamps, stamped envelopes and newspaper-wrappers all belong to one of the divisions under the care of the Third Assistant Postmaster-General. There is another division of the same bureau which looks after registered letters, and still another which attends to the system for the special delivery of letters. The classification of mail matter belongs to this bureau, and it is with the Third Assistant Postmaster-General or his clerks that newspapers and periodicals have to quarrel over their rights to official entry as second-class matter.

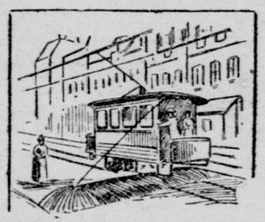
A 10-cent special delivery stamp on a letter is supposed to keep it in constant motion from the time the letter is deposited in the main or branch postoffice until it is delivered to the addressee. There is liable to be a little delay in the starting of a letter when it is deposited in a letter-box instead of a postoffice, but everything must make way for special-delivery letters after they once get into the vicinity of the mail-bag. The clerk hustles them out with the first mail leaving the office and puts them on the outside of packages, or in a bundle by themselves, so that the next official can see them at once. If the special-delivery stamp is put on a package of second, third or fourth class matter it has to be treated in a first-class manner—that is, it goes into a pouch instead of a sack, and is pushed through just as rapidly as a letter bearing the same stamp.

Last year there were over two and a half millions of pieces sent by special delivery, and it is interesting to note that the average time consumed in the delivery of each parcel after it reached the postoffice of the addressee was only 20 minutes.

STREET SPRINKLING.

The Use of a Special Car on an Electric Railroad.

The latest method of street sprinkling comes from Louisville, where the electric railway company has placed in service the special car shown in the accompanying



sketch. The exterior aspect of the car does not differ much from the ordinary cars employed on the line, but it is in reality a vast reservoir of water. As seen from the illustration the car is operated by two men, one of whom regulates the flow of water to suit the conditions of the street and the speed of the car, besides drawing the sprinkling pipe to the side of the car to escape any obstruction along the street.

This novel and ingenious scheme of sprinkling is found in practice to be both economical and rapid and more satisfactory than the ordinary method of laying the dust by carts.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Wooden sleepers on railroads last about 15 years.

The average man has 2,304,000 pores in his skin.

Circassia is said to be infested with huge swarms of locusts.

Ten pairs of twins are said to have been born to a woman in Tompkins, New York State.

A small vase of Sevres ware, only eight inches high, was recently sold in London for $7205.

The postoffice in Chicago does a larger registered-letter business than any other in the country.

California is about to order 20 carloads of special glass jars to hold her World's Fair fruit display.

Foreign physicians are now experimenting with frog lymph as a preventive of hydrophobia.

Chicago claims to have the only band in the United States composed entirely of letter-carriers.

The new railroad in the Holy Land is to be equipped with American locomotives made in Philadelphia.

The little moons of Mars are only from five to ten miles in diameter. The smaller of the two is the brighter.

Chinese paper currency is in red, white and yellow, with gilt lettering and gorgeous little hand-drawn devices.

It requires upward of 148,000 acres of rich land to produce the sugar yearly consumed in the British Islands.

The most important Japanese holiday is the Feast of the Lanterns from July 13 to 16. It is the Japanese Decoration day.

Three factories in this country that make the albumen paper used in photography use over 3,000,000 eggs every year.

While some choice fruit and other products are canned in France, the bulk of the world's supply comes from this country.

The first volume of poems by Alfred Tennyson came out when he was 24. He was 41 when "In Memoriam" came from the press.

Louisiana was named in honor of Louis XIV of France, and was formerly applied to the French possessions in the Mississippi Valley.

The first electric light was the invention of Staite & Petrie, in 1846, but scores of men have since made improvements and adapted it to popular use.

A recent novelty is a composite metal wheel made up of a skeleton of wire for the spokes, hub and rim, the whole being imbedded in cast iron.

The Romans used the first shaving brush and razor 300 B. C., and Plinius tells us that Scipio Africanus was the first individual Raman to shave daily.

Defoe was 58 when he began his "Robinson Crusoe." His literary career began at 20, and his best political works were written before the "Crusoe."

Glass type is now used for printing. The glass is of the malleable kind, and the type is said to make clearer work and last longer than that made from metal.

There are 15 national banks in New York City which have deposits exceeding $15,000,000 each, the largest amount being $33,000,000, in the National Park.

Indian newspapers tell of a schoolteacher in Lackharabod who was attacked by a lion and kept the animal at bay with a common broom until assistance arrived.

An English butcher, fishing in the Grand Surrey canal, caught with his hook and line a handbag containing 59 gold rings and gold and silver coins worth more than $100.

It is estimated by the leading railroads that they will need 40 per cent more trains and equipment to carry the expected travelers to and from the Columbian Exhibition.

John McDarby of Salmon Falls, Mass., has double teeth all around and a stomach which does not rebel when he chews and swallows glass, stones and other indigestibles.

Alfieri wrote "Cleopatra," his first tragedy, at 26. It was undertaken to relieve the tedium of a self-imposed confinement to cure himself of a passion for an unworthy woman.

At the foot of Mount Tacoma there are trees that by actual measurement by one of the best surveyors on the coast, Professor Fred G. Plummer, have been found to be 650 feet high.

The French flag was adopted during the revolution. The republic first took green, but gave it up, and blended the Bourbon white with the red and blue, the colors of the city of Paris.

As an indication of the thrift among the working classes of France, it is stated that there are now 6,000,000 depositors in the French savings banks, with accumulated capital of not less than £112,000,000.

The Cahokia mound, near St. Louis, is probably the largest artificial mound in the country, if not in the world. It is over 800 feet long by 500 feet wide at the base, 90 feet high and covers over eight acres of ground.

In 1774 Maskelyne, the astronomer royal of England, first calculated the weight of the earth. The weight, as estimated in Encyclopedia Britannica (ninth edition), volume 11, page 783, is 6,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 tons.

Envelopes were first used in France in the time of Louis XIV. In the Ezerton collection of manuscripts at the British Museum there is an envelope, something like those of the present day, which contains a letter written by Madame Pompadour in 1760.

At the funeral feast of Ya-ten-e-ouitz, in Oregon, the widow of the dead Umatilla chief distributed 82 ponies, 50 shirts, 100 blankets and a number of pipes and beaded articles among the Indians and others who attended. Fully 600 Indians were given a free dinner.

Miss Ella Ewing of Scotland County, Mo., is a coy damsel of 18 summers who measures eight feet two inches in height and is still growing. She is said to be retiring in disposition, but exhibits quite an amount of exuberant girlishness among her intimate friends.

About seven miles from Ash Grove, Mo., is a natural phenomenon known as "Boggy Mound." It is 90 feet in circumference and 10 or 12 feet in the center. It seems to be saturated with water, and the whole mound may be shaken as if it were constructed of jelly or indiarubber.

An enterprising English firm desires to put boardings along the banks of the Suez canal and lease these accommodations for advertising purposes. They have an idea that a considerable revenue can be derived from this novel source. The Egyptian Government is now considering the proposition.

THERE are many imitations of White's Yucatan Gum on the market. When purchasing be sure and see that the package is sealed with a yellow band and marked with the name of the maker, W. J. White, Cleveland, O., U. S. A.

HOT WEATHER ILLS.

With the hot weather there comes a feeling to us of lassitude that prompts us to say, "I'm all worn out"—"I'm all run down"—"I get up tired," etc.

These hot weather ills are due largely to restrained nutrition.

Now then there is a definite reason why Joy's Vegetable Sarsaparilla is better than all others for these summer ills, and that is that IT IS THE ONLY BOWEL REGULATING SARSAPARILLA. IT STIMULATES THE DIGESTIVE PROCESSES WHICH IS IMMEDIATELY FELT IN INCREASED STRENGTH AND AMBITION.

As there's more profit in Potash Sarsaparillas, you'll be told they are "just as good" or "just the same" as Joy's. But to get the bowel stimulating action INSIST ON JOY'S.

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THIS IS A HORRIBLE STORY.

Alleged Piracy and Murder on the South Seas.

The Brig Galilee Arrives From Tahiti With the News—A Captain and Crew Said to Have Been Poisoned.

The brig Galilee, Captain Paulson, arrived yesterday from Tahiti looking taut and trim. Very few vessels that come into San Francisco can sail with her, as she is about as fast as they build them. She made the round trip in 74 days, calling at the Marquesas.

Some weeks ago the Japan Gazette contained a story of alleged murder and piracy in the South Seas, said to have occurred aboard the schooner Undine, owned by Mr. Crawford of San Francisco. This story was contradicted as the schooner in question was wrecked on this coast several years ago. On July 17 the barkentine City of Papeete arrived here from Tahiti, but her captain denied that any murders had been committed, and said the story must have been exaggerated in the Japan Gazette from the fact that a couple of men ran away with the schooner Ninaloaiti, about $5000 cash and a quantity of goods belonging to Tahiti merchants. The schooner was just ready to sail, a gunboat was sent after them and they made good their escape.

This seemed the true version of the story until yesterday, when Captain Paulson of the Galilee brought news which renders it probable that the murders alleged were in reality committed, and that, moreover, the murderers and pirates have been captured. The story is as follows:

After the King of Tahiti died his yacht, Ninaloaiti, was sold, and she was loaded at Tahiti for a trading voyage. The mate was a young man named Roedque. From Tahiti the vessel went to the South Sea Islands. About the time the trading had been accomplished a brother of the mate went aboard as a passenger and the vessel headed for Tahiti again. The brothers took the cook into their confidence, and one night some poison was slipped into the food, and all hands but the brothers and cook were killed. The bodies were thrown overboard and the vessel headed to the southward again. One of the islands of the Kingsmill group was reached, and the cook, who was a Kanaka, got drunk. Then he went back to the vessel and asked the brothers for money, which was refused. He said he would inform the authorities of the murder. The men laughed at him, but there was a Spanish man-of-war in port, and half an hour later the brothers were on board of her loaded with chains."

The mate of the Galilee, however, says that the men who ran away with the schooner and who are suspected of the horrible murders were not taken in the Kingsmill group, but outside of Manilla. The story will probably be either authoritatively verified or contradicted by the next ship arriving from Tahiti. At present the reports are vague and contradictory.

The Ninaloaiti is said to have been built by Turner of Benicia, many years ago, for Captain Higgins of Raiatea, and was first named the Dolly. She was afterward sold to King Pomare of Tahiti and he used her as a pleasure yacht. After his death she was sold to her present owners.

FELL-STREET SEWER SYSTEM.

Meeting of the Buena Vista Club—The Fight Goes Bravely On.

The Buena Vista Improvement Club held its regular meeting in Frank's Hall, corner of Fillmore and Hermann streets, last night, President C. E. Dunshee in the chair. There was a large attendance of members.

John P. Dalton reported that the executive committee had been investigating about the assessment for the Fell-street sewer. They had found that the law required the assessment district to be laid out by the City Engineer, and the assessment based upon the superficial feet contained in the district, each lot being assessed pro rata for the construction of the sewer. Instead of that being done the assessment had been made per foot frontage. Thus a man on one side of a street may have a lot 25x137 and a man on the other side a lot 25x120; the latter would have to pay double what the other paid because his lot happened to run to a small street. On Oak street, from Lyon to Cole, they had knocked off 50 feet frontage from each lot, but had assessed the half at the rear, which was 17:6 feet wider than the front half. Property-owners, instead, therefore, of being benefited, are made to pay about $4 more than they are legally entitled to pay. Therefore the assessment was illegal. They had first to go before the Board of Supervisors and if the board decided in their favor that would end the matter. But if the contractors decided upon carrying it into the courts Attorney Mhoon would look after their interests till the case was finally decided. Property-owners would not be required to contribute more than $2 per 25-foot lot.

William Witts called attention to a defective manhole at the corner of Waller and Steiner streets. The top had been knocked off by a wagon when it was being constructed and some bricks had been put in. The defect was discovered on Thursday last by a wagon knocking off the bricks. This should be noted as showing scamp work and not according to specifications.

A delegation from the Upper Eureka Valley property-owners was present and stated that the committee appointed at the special meeting on Wednesday night had gone through the district, and a meeting had been arranged for to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock, on the corner of Seventeenth street and Corbett place. The majority called upon were favorable to fighting the assessment. The delegation asked that a committee from the club attend the meeting to-morrow afternoon.

The chairman appointed Mr. Dalton, Mr. Huston and Mr.