THE QUERY COLUMN

A Word About the First Book of Poems.

THE OLD MAN ELOQUENT.

Value of Gold in a Twenty-Dollar Piece—The Alaska Boundary—A Question of Etiquette.

THE FIRST BOOK OF POEMS—"I have not been able to find anything that would throw any light on the first novel published in San Francisco," said Colonel A. S. Hubbard, the courteous and obliging secretary of the California Historical Society, to the Query editor a few days since, "but I have here the first volume of poems ever published in this city. That is, I am satisfied that no other book of poems was earlier offered to the public. Undoubtedly a number of poems were published in the periodicals of the times, but I am convinced that this is the first collection issued in book form." He then produced a book of 123 pages, on the fly-leaf of which is written in pencil, "To Miss E. H. Kelsey, from her friend, the author." On the title-page is printed the following: "Idealina and Other Poems. By Harry Quillem, San Francisco. Published by Cooke, Kenny & Co., Montgomery street, corner Merchant. 1853." Harry Quillem was Colonel E. J. C. Kewen, a pioneer of 1849, a writer identified with the early press of this city, who was also identified with the politics of the early days. He was the father of Perrie Kewen. The publication of "Idealina," which occupies the post of honor in the book above alluded to, and which was dedicated to the late Judge Delos Lake, was, as the author declares in his preface, "the product of boyhood fancy." It was frequently used against him when he was a candidate for the United States Senate. It was many times asserted that his was an "Idealina" campaign. This was carried on to such a degree that Colonel Kewen announced that he would challenge to mortal combat any man who twitted him about his poem. Among the many who took delight in annoying Colonel Kewen about "Idealina" was the late George Penn Johnston, one of the bright literary men of early days. On one occasion Colonel Kewen and Johnston met, and it was understood that Johnston would bury "Idealina" and never mention the poem in the author's presence. Not long after that Johnston was in the Bank Exchange, the then fashionable resort for those who patronized sample-rooms, when Colonel Kewen entered. As soon as Johnston saw him, he exclaimed, "Here comes the man who wrote 'Idealina.'" Colonel Kewen flared up in a moment, and was about to give Johnston a piece of his mind; but before he could do so Johnston, not in the least disturbed, added, as he tapped himself on the breast, "and here is the unfortunate man who read it."

ELECTRICITY—J. A. M., City. Electricity, which of late years has become such a powerful agent, is difficult to define. T. O'Connor Sloane, A.M., E.M. and Ph.D., the author of a very interesting work of reference entitled "The Standard Electrical Dictionary," published last year, says: "It is impossible in the existing state of human knowledge to give a satisfactory explanation of electricity." Another writer says: "It is the name used in connection with an extensive and important class of phenomena and usually denoting either the unknown cause of the phenomena or the science that treats of them." The name of the philosopher who first observed that amber when rubbed possesses the power of attracting and repelling light bodies has not been handed down for the benefit of this generation. Thales of Miletus, a Greek, son of Examyus, and Cleobuline, who lived 640-546 B. C., and was universally recognized as the founder of Greek geometry, astronomy and philosophy, refers in his writings to the fact that amber, when rubbed, attracts light and dry bodies, such as straw and dry leaves. This was the only thing that the ancients knew of electricity or of its force. Theophrastus, a native of Eresus, in Lesbos, the successor of Aristotle in the peripatetic school, who was born some time between 373-368 B. C., and the elder Pliny, the naturalist, born in Como and who lived 23-79 A. D., also mention a strange power that attracts very light articles. The science of electricity dates properly from the year 1600, when Gilbert of Colchester published a book entitled "De Arte Magnetica," in which he gave a list of articles that have the properties of amber to attract and repel, and presented speculations on magnetic and electric forces. He was the inventor of the word "electricity," which he derived from the Greek word "electron," amber. Otto von Guericke, burgomaster of Magdeburg, in his work, "Experimenta Nova Magdeburgica, 1672," describes among his other inventions the first electric machine ever made, which consisted of a globe of sulphur turned by a handle and rubbed with a cloth pressed against it by hand.

DEER, FRESHWATER FISH—Subscriber, City. The laws of California as amended by the Legislature which adjourned a short time since declare that:

Every person who, in the State of California, shall, within the two years next (except from September 1 to October 15 in each year) after the passage of this act, hunt, pursue, take, kill or destroy any female deer, or any mountain sheep or buck, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Every person who shall at any time hunt, pursue, take, kill or destroy any spotted fawn shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Every person who shall buy, sell, offer or expose for sale, transport or carry, or have in his possession any deer or deerskin, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

The clause last quoted refers to the time when it shall be unlawful to kill deer. (2) The general law is that it is unlawful to take trout between the first of November and the first of April of each year. In Siskiyou County trout may be caught at all times of the year, while in Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Monterey, Alameda, Marin, Placer and Nevada counties it is unlawful to take trout between the 1st of April and 15th of October.

"OLD PAP," FLOUR, BRIDGE, PRESIDENTS, "BRIDE OF THE SEA"—Subscriber, City. (1) General George H. Thomas was the general who, during the civil war, was known as "Old Pap." (2) Minneapolis is the city in the United States that produces the greatest amount of flour. (3) The largest bridge in the United States is the Brooklyn bridge across the East River. (4) The three men who were Presidents of the United States who died on the Fourth of July were: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, who died July 4, 1826, and James Monroe, who died July 4, 1831. (5) Venice is called the "Bride of the Sea," so called from the custom or ancient ceremony of the Doge marrying the city to the Adriatic by annually throwing a ring into it, at the same time pronouncing these words: "We wed thee, O sea, in token of perpetual domination."

A TWENTY-DOLLAR PIECE—E. H., City. It does not matter what the value of gold is per ounce when delivered at the mints of the United States. All gold is made 900 fine and the value of this per grain is .03876. In every twenty-dollar piece there are 516 grains of 900 fine gold, so that the intrinsic value of gold in a double eagle is $20.00016. In other words a twenty-dollar piece from the mints of the United States contains, exclusive of the alloy used to harden the coin, gold of the value of $20 and a fraction. The copper alloy used for the purpose of hardening coin is worth 2 cents per ounce, and the value of such alloy in a twenty-dollar piece is so small that it cannot be stated in figures that any but a master at figures would understand.

EXTRACTING ORE.—"Cino," Fish Rock, Mendocino County, Cal. The dry process used for extracting precious metals from rock is one by which the rock is pulverized and the product blown through sieves in such a manner that gold for instance is forced against mercury in receptacles. The mercury catches the metal and then it is recovered by the ordinary methods. In the past ten years there have been a number of improvements in the manner of extracting gold from ore. Experiments are being made with electricity for the purpose of separating gold from ore, but the several processes are still in the experimental stage.

OLD MAN ELOQUENT—F. M. P., City. Delvers into the misty past have discovered that the term "old man eloquent" was first applied to Isocrates, a celebrated Grecian orator, who was born in Athens 436 B. C. He was one of the noted representatives of the art of political or forensic oratory and the forerunner of Demosthenes and a friend of Plato. The fatal battle of Chaeronea broke his heart; he refused to partake of food, and after an abstinence of a number of days died in 338 B. C., in the ninety-eighth year of his age.

PERPETUAL MOTION—W. R., City. It has been asserted that the infatuation of perpetual motionists is due to two causes—one that the perpetual motion is a lost but recoverable invention, the other that some immense Government reward has been laid aside for many years for the successful discoverer. Both of these ideas are as fallacious as the grand delusion itself; and any one who, in the present state of science, wastes his time, talent and energy in the hope of attaining the end, loses all.

PARTNERSHIP—One Partner, City. When there is a dissolution of partnership of business through the intervention of a court the one against whom judgment is rendered must pay the costs. There are a number of grounds on which dissolution of copartnership can be asked, but if one partner wishes to retire from business and has no ground of complaint against his partner he certainly has no standing in court. In such a case he had better resort to a dissolution by mutual consent, or sell out his interest to some one who would prove agreeable to the remaining partner.

UNCLAIMED ESTATES—O. M., San Jose, Cal. If a person dies in Australia and leaves an estate for which no claimant appears, it is taken in charge by an officer of the crown, the next of kin is advertised for, and if in time there is no claimant the residue of the estate after it has been settled reverts to the crown. If heirs should appear after many years they can, after due proof, obtain from the crown the portion of the estate to which they are entitled.

THE ALASKA BOUNDARY—A. S., San Jose, Cal. No one engineer is in charge of the survey of the Alaska boundary line. Those in the survey are: O. H. Titmann, H. G. Ogden, E. F. Dickens and J. E. McGrath, assistants of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey office; address Fort Wrangel, Alaska, care of the steamer Bassler. Fremont Morse, sub-assistant, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey; address Sitka, Alaska.

A BOW IS SUFFICIENT — Belle, City. Works on etiquette say that upon a first introduction, whether to a lady or gentleman, and even until the acquaintance be intimate, a graceful bow of the head is all that etiquette demands. When a lady pays a visit of ceremony the visit should not last more than a quarter of an hour and the lady should not remove either bonnet or wrap.

BUTCHERS ON A JURY — O. M., San Jose. There is no law in the United States or in Europe that prohibits a butcher from being a juror upon a trial for murder. It is recorded in history of bygone days that at one time in England a butcher would not be accepted as a juror in a criminal trial, on the ground that he was "case-hardened."

DIRTY LINEN—Q., City. The use of the phrase, "Washing dirty linen," when used in the sense of airing a scandal, is attributed to Napoleon I, who when spoken to about some trouble in one of the first families of France, and asked to interfere, replied, "Il faut laver son linge en famille," the translation of which is, "Wash the linen in the family."

LETTER-CARRIERS — M. M., South San Francisco. The act providing that the eight-hour law shall apply to the carriers of the Postal Department went into effect in 1888. Under a recent decision letter-carriers who worked more than eight hours a day after the law went into effect are entitled to pay for extra work performed.

A TRAINING-SHIP—W. J. B., Nevada City, Cal. The matter of establishing a training-ship at this port is still under consideration and no definite plans have been marked out. As it is not a certainty that one will be established, it is impossible to tell what boys would be eligible or when it would be put in commission.

REPRESENTATIVES IN AFRICA—T. M. B., City. The representatives of the United States in Africa during Grant's term as President were Felix A. Mathews, Consul at Tangier; Michael Nidal, Consul at Tripoli, and G. H. Heap, Consul at Tunis. There was no such office as United States Minister to Africa.

THE FIRST CABLE-CAR—Mrs. J. M. G., City. The first cable-car for carrying passengers, used in San Francisco, was started on the Clay-street line at 4 o'clock on the morning of the 1st of August, 1873, and was in charge of A. S. Halidie, the inventor of applying the cable system to passenger-cars.

CURLEW—S., Alameda, Cal. The game laws of this State do not protect curlew, except on private property in certain counties, where the law declares shooting or killing of game is prohibited without the permission of the owner.

NORTHERN LIGHT—J. F., City. None of the war records mention any vessel on the blockade by the name of the Northern Light, nor is there any record of any vessel by that name having been captured during the civil war.

THE FENCE LAW—B. L. D., Laytonville, Cal. Your question involves a proposition of law that can be answered only by a lawyer after hearing all the facts of the case so as to determine your rights in the premises.

SEATING CAPACITY OF CHURCHES.—C. M. D., City. The seating capacity of the Howard-street Methodist Episcopal Church in this city is about 1100, that of the Central Methodist Episcopal Church is about 900.

BEST HOSPITAL—C. D. E., Watsonville, Cal. The Query Column will not recommend any institution, firm or person, nor will it advertise any such, and for that reason your question will not be answered.

FIRST-CLASS FARE—W. H. R., Vernalis. First-class fare to Honolulu and return is $125. To Hong-Kong, China, and return first-class fare is $337 50. In each case tickets are good for four months only.

AS THE TWIG IS BENT—M. E. R. Jr., City. The quotation:

'Tis education forms the common mind:
Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined.

Is from Pope's Moral Essays, line 149.

ARGUMENTS—City. If the writer of the communication signed "Arguments" will send full name and address an answer by mail will be sent.

A COIN OF '39—A half a dollar of the United States of 1839 is worth, if in good condition, just 50 cents. It is not classed as a rare coin.

LOCAL RAINFALL—John H., City. The total local rainfall to date is 21.57 inches.

KILTS AND TARTANS.

Developed When Highlanders Wore Only One Garment.

Up to Date.

The highly picturesque and distinctive costume of the bold Scottish highlanders is, if we may believe history, to a large extent the invention of the tyrannical southrons.

In the old days the wild highlander went about wrapped in a long plaid and considered himself sufficiently clothed. When dressing he stood up in a state of nature, took a thick woolen plaid four or five yards long and about three-quarters of a yard wide draped parts of it round his loins like a kirtle and twisted the ends over his back and shoulders and across his chest. He was thus warmly dressed in a costume of one piece. But when the restless English made their way into the rocky fastnesses of the highlanders and began to make the natives build roads for commercial and strategical purposes the road-building generals—some say General Claverhouse—found the mountaineer's costume somewhat awkward, so a piece of the plaid was cut off and fashioned into a short skirt, the kilt, which hung from the waist, and so left the upper part of the body free, which was duly covered with a jacket, the remainder of the plaid being used as a wrap when work was finished. Such, we are told, is the true origin of that manly and graceful national dress.

Many of these tartans are pretty, others quaint and some alarmingly startling. Among the last we must mention that of the Macmillans, which is bright yellow, with a plaid pattern in light red; the Macleods wear a yellow tartan, with black pattern and thin red line; that of the Buchanans is a very complicated small pattern with all the colors of the rainbow in it; the Macdonalds of Slate sport a terrible thing in red, with bright green patterns; the Macphersons have a pretty dress plaid in black and white, with a red, red stripe, their ordinary or hunting tartan being gray and black, with a little blue and a thin red stripe.

The Menzies tartan, red and white, is also picturesque; so are the Stuarts, of which there are several. The royal Stuart is bright red, with a pattern of green, black, blue and white stripes; the dress Stuart, generally made in silk, has a white ground with a variegated pattern; the hunting Stuart is green and black with black and thin stripes of red and yellow; the old Stuart is green with a close pattern in blue, black and red. The Gordon tartan is green and blue with black and a thin stripe of yellow. But the colors alone play a small part in the tartan; it is the wonderfully complicated arrangement of checks and stripes which give the distinctive peculiarities.

Spring Poem.

The cyclone and the violet
Are with us once again,
And promises of summer shyly
The hillside and the plain.
—Minneapolis Journal.

DRY GOODS.

THE LACE HOUSE!

D. SAMUELS,

123 to 129 Post Street, San Francisco.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

IN CALLING THE ATTENTION OF CUSTOMERS TO THE OFFERING OF NEW GOODS FOR THE COMING WEEK,

I feel satisfied of gaining the appreciation of all, as having imported the latest novelties in Silks, Velvets, Silk and Wool Dress Goods, Laces, Trimmings, Silk Underwear, Imported Dresses, Wraps, Capes and Fichus.

JUST OPENED—A new 48-inch EMPIRE SILK not shown by any other store on this coast.
RAINBOW VELVET—A fresh shipment of RAINBOW CHANGEABLE VELVET just opened.
YARD WIDE STRIPED TAFFETA, a very beautiful article just received—first arrival in this country.
48-INCH GRENADINE, the handsomest goods and the most suitable as well as rich for the Columbian Fair.
Assuring all Californians as well as tourists visiting this coast that the latest novelties are always first received by the Lace House and sold at reasonable prices. This week will offer some special bargains that must be seen to be appreciated.
Offering of LADIES' 4-BUTTON KID GLOVES, dressed and undressed, every pair warranted, my regular $1 50 gloves, for the week only at 90c. This is LESS THAN PARIS PRICE.
500 pieces 26-INCH PONGEE, all silk, full pieces, at $5 50 a piece.
Sale of LADIES' UNDERWEAR—French hand-made underwear; the only importer of these fine goods on the coast—at greatly reduced prices.
For 3 days only—50 pieces VERY HEAVY JAPAN AND INDIA SILK, in white only, by the yard or piece, at a reduction of 33⅓ per cent.

JAPANESE CREPE, EXTRA HEAVY QUALITY, FOR 3 DAYS.

50 pieces WHITE JAPANESE CREPE at special reduced rate for this sale only.

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IMPORTED DRESSES, ULSTERS, TRAVELING SUITS, the most elegant, appropriate for all occasions.
MISSES' GINGHAM SUITS at a great bargain; come and see them.

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ELY'S CREAM BALM
Cleanses the Nasal Passages,
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EPILEPSY OR FITS.
Can this disease be cured? Most physicians say No—I say, Yes; all forms and the worst cases. After 30 years study and experiment I have found the remedy.—Epilepsy is cured by it; *cured*, not subdued by opiates—the old, treacherous, quack treatment. Do not despair. Forget past impositions on your purse, past outrages on your confidence, past failures. Look forward, not backward. My remedy is of *to-day*. Valuable work on the subject, and large bottle of the remedy—sent free for trial. Mention Post-Office and Express address.
Prof. W. H. PEEKE, F.D., 4 Cedar St., New York.
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Original and Only Genuine. SAFE, always reliable. LADIES, ask Druggist for Chichester's English Diamond Brand in Red and Gold metallic boxes, sealed with blue ribbon. Take no other. Refuse dangerous substitutions and imitations. At Druggists, or send 4c. in stamps for particulars, testimonials and "Relief for Ladies," in letter, by return Mail. 10,000 Testimonials. Name Paper. Chichester Chemical Co., Madison Square, Philada., Pa.
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THE STOCK MARKET.

Last week was a lively one. Prices fluctuated under active sales and the brokers were kept busy. No news of any great importance was received from the front, but the market is now in such a sensitive condition that should a development of any kind take place the lively times of 1886 would be re-enacted. That the general public is anxious to trade in mining shares is only too plainly shown by the increased attendance at the stock exchanges, and the crowds around the public indicators. An advance of a few cents in any stock is received with shouts of approval, and public attention is held until long after 4 P. M., at which hour the exchanges have been closing of late. Considerable interest is being attached to the crosscut about to be started from the bottom of the winze below the 1650-level of Ophir. The vein at this level is now in a good grade of ore, and the pitches toward Mexican.

Consequently that stock has shown a firm tone all the week. At present no special effort is being made by the managers of the north-end stocks to advance prices, but when the proper time comes they will have all the help necessary from the public, who are eagerly awaiting any news that may take place in these stocks. Mr. Mackay will soon visit the Comstock. Mr. Eckart will present his report, the feasibility of the plan to drain all the mines and resume deep mining. And if all the private reports of good developments as yet not inside public prove true, we will have a good market.

The market I opened firm and fairly active yesterday. Prices did not show any change. The demand for the north-end and Mexican stocks continued. Sales were made in Ophir at $2 65, Mexican at $1¾, Con. Cal. & Va. $2 50, Sierra Nevada $1 35, Potosi $2 80, Chollar $1 25, Savage $1 25 and Norcross $1 10. After the call prices were pretty well sustained and the market closed steady and fairly active.

NOTES.

Silver continued steady yesterday, selling in New York at 8⅝ cents and in London at 38 5-16d.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Justice Mining Company takes place to-morrow.

The assessment on Belle Isle is delinquent in office to-morrow.

Herman Zadig, the broker, returned from the South yesterday.

The delinquent assessment sales of Ophir and Sierra Nevada will be held to-morrow.

Local corporations disbursed the following dividends during the past month.

	Rate ⅌ cent.	Amount.
*Nevada Bank	1½	$45,000
*Sather Banking Co.	1½	15,000
*Firemen's Fund Ins. Co.	3	30,000
Oakland Home Ins. Co.	¾	1,500
*Pacific Surety Co.	2	2,000
Sunderland Ins. Co.	2½	2,500
State Investment Ins. Co.	1½	2,000
	Rate ⅌ share.	
*Bank of California	$3 75	112,500
*Capital Gas Co.	10	10,000
Oakland Gas Co.	20	6,000
Pacific Lighting Co.	40	8,000
Pacific Gas Improvement Co	33	13,000
S. F. Gas Light Co.	35	35,000
Contra Costa Water Co.	50	15,000
*Marin County Water	75	3,500
Spring Valley Water Co.	50	55,000
Atlantic Dynamite Co.	40	12,000
California Powder Co.	50	5,000
California-st. Cable	50	5,000
Omnibus Cable Co.	25	5,000
Pacific Coast Borax	1 00	15,000
*Alaska Treadwell M. Co.	37½	75,000
Champion Mining Co.	10	10,000
Daisy Mining Co.	25	12,500
Homestake Mining Co.	10	12,500
Idaho Mining Co.	3 00	6,300
*Napa Con Quicks'r M. Co.	20	20,000
Total		$572,800

*Quarterly.

Summarized, the dividends for the month compare as follows:

	1892.	1893.
Banks	$127,500	$112,500
Insurance Companies	43,000	43,000
Gas Companies	76,000	74,000
Water Companies	74,500	74,500
Powder Companies	27,000	19,500
Street Railroad Companies	18,000	10,000
Mining Companies	323,612	164,300
Miscellaneous Companies	17,500	15,000
Total	$707,112	$572,800

Following Are the Highest Prices During the Past Week.

Stock.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thrs.	Fri.	Sat.
Alpha	15	.....	.....	20	.....	20
Alta	20	.....	15	15	.....	.....
Andes	55	50	55	60	50	50
Belcher	1.25	1.20	1.20	1.25	1.25	1.20
Best & Belcher	1.70	.....	1.60	1.70	1.60	.....
Bullion	45	50	50	60	.....	55
Bodie	30	.....	30	.....	45	50
Benton Con.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Belle Isle	.....	.....	25	25	.....	.....
Bulwer	.....	.....	25	25	.....	.....
Con. Cal. & Va.	2.70	2.60	2.65	2.75	2.60	2.50
Confidence	1.60	1.80	1.70	1.75	.....	1.60
Chollar	80	90	1.10	1.30	1.25	1.25
Challenge	55	55	55	55	.....	.....
Crown Point	1.00	95	1.00	1.00	1.00	.....
Colodonia	15	15	.....	.....	.....	.....
Con New York	15	.....	15	.....	.....	.....
Con Imp.	05	.....	05	.....	05	.....
Exchequer	15	15	.....	15	.....	15
Gould & Curry	80	80	85	80	80	80
G. Frize	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hale & Norcross	1.20	1.20	1.25	1.25	1.15	1.10
Justice	.....	.....	.....	15	15	.....
Julia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kentuck	45	35	30	35	35	35
Mexican	1.75	1.70	1.75	1.85	1.70	1.75
Navajo	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nevada Queen	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
N. Belle Isle	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ophir	2.70	2.60	2.65	2.85	2.65	2.65
Overman	35	35	.....	35	35	30
Occidental	.....	20	.....	.....	25	.....
Potosi	2.25	2.40	2.60	2.95	2.75	2.80
Peer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Peerless	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Savage	1.30	1.30	1.35	1.40	1.30	1.25
Sierra Nevada	1.35	1.35	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.35
Silver Hill	10	.....	.....	.....	05	10
Scorpion	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Seg Belcher	30	30	30	30	30	.....
Union	1.20	1.20	1.25	1.25	1.20	.....
Utah	20	20	25	25	.....	.....
Yellow Jacket	1.30	1.20	1.20	1.25	1.20	.....

BOARD SALES.

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

REGULAR SESSION—9:30 A. M.

100 Alpha....16 | 100 Chal'C....50 | 100 Mono....62
350 Belch'r..1.20 | 180 Chollar..1.20 | 200 Ophir....2.70
150 ..... | 100 ..... | 100 ..... | 100