THE MORNING CALL

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GROCERY STORE.—By Chas. Levy & Co., at 1135 Market st., at 11 o'clock.

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WEATHER PREDICTIONS.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
WEATHER BUREAU.
SAN FRANCISCO, May 16, 1894.

Official Forecast for Twenty-four Hours Ending Midnight Thursday.

San Francisco and vicinity—Fair; warmer weather; fresh to brisk westerly winds.

B. S. PAGUE, Local Forecast Official.

THE CALL CALENDAR.

May, 1894.

Su.	M.	Tu.	W.	Th.	Fr.	Sa.	Moon's Phases.
		1	2	3	4	5	May 5th. New Moon.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	May 11th. First Quarter
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	May 19th. Full Moon.
27	28	29	30	31			May 27th. Last Quarter.

The Morning Call.

THURSDAY.....MAY 17, 1894

NOTICE!

Any of our patrons who fail to find THE MORNING CALL for sale by trainboys will confer a favor by notifying this office of the fact, naming the date and train.

A GOOD BEGINNING.

The conviction of Leonard, the financier who looted the Santa Clara Bank, is a step in the right direction. A second step will be the execution of the sentence. The evidence upon which he was convicted was so conclusive that a failure to punish would arouse the community. There are too many people in this city with sore hearts over losses through the Leonard method of financiering to permit of trifling with justice. It is time to teach the smooth rascals who take to bank-plundering as the safest form of robbery that the line they have chosen is especially dangerous. While crime is crime and robbery is robbery, there are crimes and robberies that are worse than others. The worst of all is that which involves a betrayal of confidence. The honored guest who plunders his host is more contemptible than the bold burglar who forces his way into the house. There are no grades in crime lower than that reached by the man who converts to his own use money entrusted to his care. While there may be crimes which call for a little tempering of justice with mercy, there is no justice too stern for the purloiners of the savings of poor men, widows and orphans.

CHINESE TRICKS.

Good Mr. Secretary Carlisle has discovered that the ways of Chinese are indeed dark. It appears that the number of certificates of registration issued is nearly equal to the number of Chinese the census shows to be in the country. Now, as there are several thousand Chinese who do not need to register the horrible suspicion has entered Mr. Carlisle's mind that the Chinese have tricked the registration officers. People on this coast think that Mr. Carlisle's suspicion is well founded. Some Chinese have smuggled themselves in since the census was taken, and some have registered a number of times with the intention of selling one or more sets of certificates. It is not in the nature of a Chinaman to do just what the law requires him to do. He would suffer in his self-respect if he should fail to beat the law at some point. When they made up their minds to register they made up their minds to register as often as possible. If one certificate was good for the person who registered another would be equally good for some other person who had not registered. The fact that a certificate of registration would be a good thing to have handy in the case of Chinese smuggling themselves in through Canada or Mexico into the United States could not fail to impress the Chinese understanding. But, after all, registration is a distinct gain. Unless forgery is resorted to the number registered limits the number who may lawfully remain in the country.

TIRED OF LIFE.

It is reported that somewhere from 10,000 to 15,000 sheep perished in the late storm between Sonoma and Strawberry Station. This large mortality among sheep may be accepted in some quarters as an indication that sheep are disheartened. They may not consider life worth living. They may, through a certain sheep instinct, have received the impression that they are no longer a valuable product. They may have reasoned—if sheep may be supposed to reason—that as their fleece is now nearly worthless a period of hard times for them is about to set in. A sheep is an observing animal and its conclusions must be that animals are cared for somewhat in proportion to the profits derived from them. What, then, is the outlook for an ordinary, everyday sheep under a Democratic administration? Gloomy indeed. A friendly storm came on and 10,000 to 15,000 embraced the opportunity to die without incurring a suspicion of suicide.

REACHING OUT.

Cincinnati is too near Chicago to gain much reputation for enterprise. St. Louis, a nice quiet city by the way, has suffered from the same cause. The fact that Chicago has greater social power than others of its one-time rivals is overshadowed by the more important fact of its achievements. Chicago brags a good deal, but it does a good deal also. Cincinnati now is stealing a quiet march on Chicago. The members of the Board of Trade have sent one of their shrewdest men to South America to study its markets with a view to supplying them with Cincinnati goods made exactly to suit South American tastes. The fact that the Atlantic coast cities of South America are being worked in this way does not necessarily prevent a little of the same kind of exploitation of Pacific Coast cities by San Francisco merchants.

THE NEW SOUTH.

Senator Patrick Walsh of Georgia has just written a paper predicting that the development of the Southern States is only just beginning, and that in a few decades the most prosperous portion of the United States will be the section lately in rebellion. He bases this opinion on the fact that besides a cotton crop worth $300,000,000 the South has more iron ore than the North, and can convert it into merchantable iron at two-thirds the cost; that its forest area, which is more than half the total forest area of the country, is practically virgin, while the forest area of the North is approaching exhaustion; that the coal beds of the South are larger than the total coal beds of Great Britain. He draws attention to the development of manufacturing industries at the South, and notes as an illustration of the independence of the South that throughout the recent depression in the North the large Southern mills running on cotton goods were running on full time during the dullest year in the history of the country. With these bright prospects he announces that land in Georgia convenient to railways and waterways and capable of producing cotton, corn, wheat, vegetables and fruit can now be bought at from $5 to $10 an acre.

If these things are so, it is, of course, a mere question of time when a share of the drift of European immigration will set to the South instead of to the West, and a domestic migration will begin from the overcrowded places of the Northern and Eastern States to Georgia and the cotton belt. But it must always be borne in mind that the material advantages of the South are not new. They have always existed. All through the period when the Northern, Eastern and North Central States were filling up with citizens, it was perfectly well known that the South offered superior advantages in point of soil, climate and diversity of resources. It used to be said in those days that people would not migrate to the South because free labor declined to enter into competition with slave labor. That objection was disposed of by the decree of emancipation. But the negro still remains, and his presence at the South no doubt tends to deter the emigration of white laborers who will have to compete with him in the open labor market.

To demonstrate his proposition, Senator Walsh should have shown that a new influx of whites, pouring into the South from New England and the Middle States, as well as from Germany, Ireland, Italy and Hungary, would find the South as attractive as the West in other respects than in the matter of soil and climate.

It is not soil or climate or physical geography which builds up great States. It is men. At the time of Braddock's expedition to Fort Duquesne Virginia was a far more promising colony to settle in than Pennsylvania, Maryland appeared to have a brighter future than Massachusetts, and as between South Carolina and Connecticut there was no comparison, the Southern State was so much the finer of the two. Later, when immigrants began to pour into the country after the Revolution, they mostly chose the North because they found more favorable social conditions there, and because already under a policy of protection the North had begun to develop varied industries, while the South under slavery clung to the production of a few agricultural staples. The practical question of the hour is, Are the causes which governed their choice still in operation?

Persons who remember Albion Tourgee's "A Fool's Errand" by "One of the Fools" may have an opinion on that question. At first sight it seems too plain for argument that a man will prefer excellent land that will grow everything at $10 an acre to poorer land that will only grow wheat or corn at $50 an acre. But in choosing a home in which a man expects to spend his life and to bring up his family, he looks for something besides fertility of soil. And if he finds that in the richer country there are no divisions of political parties, he suspects that opinion is not free there and that life is only endurable on condition that a man sides with the majority. Such regions may be very tempting, but men of our race will prefer others with less glowing prospects but in which there is mental elbow-room.

CONGRESSIONAL SALARIES.

A controversy is going on in Eastern papers over the proposition to withhold from members of Congress pay for days of absence without leave. The sergeant-at-arms of the House has declined to go behind the certificate presented by each member when he draws his salary, holding that it is a matter between each member and his own conscience. On the other side it is contended that the sergeant-at-arms should ascertain whether or not their account is honest. Mr. Snow, the sergeant-at-arms, has the best of the argument as it stands. He says the law does not require him to question the certificate of any member of Congress, and that he does not propose to go out of his way to make trouble for himself. This seems conclusive as to Mr. Snow's duty in the case, while it leaves the value of the law an open question. Honest members will present an honest account, and consequently the law as it stands favors members whose sense of honor is less delicate.

Docking members for a day's absence is rather small business. It would be unpleasant for the sergeant-at-arms when an eminent member approaches for his month's salary to ask the member to raise his right hand and solemnly swear that his account for services was correct. Such proceedings do not comport with the dignity of the office. Congressmen are paid by the year, and much of their work is done when Congress is not in session. Some are worth more than their salary and some less. In all such cases it is better to even up than to even down.

NOT RIPE YET.

Mr. H. E. Huntington is reported as saying that the Southern Pacific Company intends to give a single fare rate to the beach, but does not think the time ripe yet. Possibly energetic action by the people might help time to ripen. The Southern Pacific Company is in better condition to wait than people who have to pay an extra five cents to ride from Seventh avenue to the Cliff. The Sacramento-street cable-road runs along Sixth avenue to the park. If at Lake street it should continue along toward the cliff a distance equal to its line from Lake street to the park it would take passengers within a stone's throw of the Cliff House. It is true that travel is greater toward the park than toward the cliff, but a five-cent fare to each place might turn the tide of travel from the park to the ocean. There is no finer view in this city than that presented in the last mile of this ocean route. But comparatively few people enjoy this view. It is too expensive for families who throng the park every pleasant day. It is not supposed that the Southern Pacific will reduce the fare for the benefit of the people, but a prospect of competition might induce that company to reduce it for their own benefit.

OPENING FOR CITRUS-GROWERS.

It seems to be worth while to inquire whether there are not untested possibilities in our citrus fruit industry. On referring to the trade tables we find that the United States imports an average of about $1,500,000 worth of essential oils each year. With the exception of oils distilled from flowers, which come chiefly from Turkey and Southern France, these essential oils are drawn from Sicily and Calabria, and are derived from the lemon, orange, bergamot, mandarin or bitter orange. The State Department has lately instituted inquiry into the subject and the results are instructive.

The manufacturers and shippers of essential oil at Messina in Sicily generally concur in stating that the United States takes larger quantities of pure essential oils than any other countries, though shipments are made to Paris also. Still considerable quantities of adulterated essences are shipped to this country to be sold at low prices in competition with the genuine oils. The great bulk of essences which are put up by the wholesale grocers in small phials are adulterated—chiefly with oil of turpentine. Some of the Sicilian houses report that the American demand for pure essential oils is declining, while the demand for adulterated oils is increasing, the cheapness of the latter commending them to American consumers. Cases are reported in which the spurious article has been preferred to the genuine, a morbid taste for it having been engendered by use.

The prices realized in Sicily for essential oils which are genuine, or which are sold as genuine, vary with demand and supply. In the returns before us, whose quotations are in English money, we observe oil of bergamot quoted at 7 shillings and 5 pence per pound, 7 shillings and 2 pence, 6 shillings, 7 shillings and 6 pence, 9 shillings; sweet orange, 4 shillings and 4 pence, 4 shillings and 8 pence, 4 shillings and 6 pence, 4 shillings and 5 pence, 4 shillings and 9 pence; bitter orange, 7 shillings and 2 pence, 6 shillings and 7 pence, 4 shillings and 6 pence, 12 shillings, 7 shillings and 6 pence; lemon, 4 shillings, 4 shillings and 3 pence, 4 shillings, 3 shillings and 10 pence, 4 shillings and 6 pence; mandarin, 19 shillings and 7 pence, 12 shillings and 9 pence, 14 shillings and 2 pence, 40 shillings, 12 shillings and 10 pence. The prices evidently vary with the reputation of the maker and fluctuate from week to week, as orders increase in the market or fall off. In order to guard their customers against frauds by adulteration, the English importers have lately established, at Messina, a bureau of analysis which gives certificates of purity at the request of manufacturers. It is expected that this step will have a tendency to impede the sale of adulterated products.

On this statement of facts, the question arises why the growers of citrus fruits in Southern California should not give some attention to the manufacture of essential oils? What the Sicilians can do we can do. The soil of Southern California if properly treated will grow as fine citrus fruits of every grade as the soil of Sicily, as the success of the Washington navels proves. And by the same methods which have enabled the Santa Barbara olive-growers to produce the finest olive oil in the world, our citrus-growers may make oils which would soon drive out of the market the adulterated essences which are exhibited in every grocer's window? Why should not the experiment be tried?

Nature has done much for this happy land, but man has done little. We keep on growing Mission grapes to sell at $10 a ton, when in the same neighborhood, on the same soil, fine wine and table grapes are grown which are worth $30 and $35 a ton. We kept on growing oranges which barely paid the cost of picking until Riverside taught us how to grow an orange which competed with the fruit of the Azores. We are to this day growing tons upon tons of lemons of which it takes a dozen to make a glass of lemonade. All because we would not learn that perfection could not be attained without effort, ingenuity, learning and will. Now there is an opportunity of turning some of our citrus orchards to increased account by the manufacture of essential oils. Who will be first to develop a new industry in this line?

A WILLING SACRIFICE.

The Missouri Democrats offer their ablest man as a sacrifice for the sins of the Cleveland administration. Although Mr. Bland is in the House, he cuts a larger figure in the public eye than either of the Senators from that State. He was put at the head of the Coinage Committee by an administration opposed to Mr. Bland's silver views for the reason, mainly, that Bland was too large a man to be pulled down. Bland's silver record commenced pretty soon after the passage of the act of 1873 demonetizing silver. In 1878 he got his free-coinage bill through the House, but some amendments offered in the upper house by Senator Allison caused the bill to be known as the Bland-Allison bill. Bland wanted a clean-cut free-coinage measure, but took what he could get. By this act all obligations, public and private, in which the medium of payment was not specifically stated in the note or bond, were made payable in gold or silver coin. Bimetallism would then have been established in spite of the limitation of the amount of silver to be coined had not the treasury exercised its option to pay in gold. The nomination of Bland by the Democratic national convention is only a remote possibility. It would be the surrender of New England, New York and New Jersey to the Republicans. What States could be added to the Southern States to secure a majority of the electoral vote cannot at the present time be discerned.

AROUND THE CORRIDORS.

"A piece of railroad bridgework was recently completed in the South which, I believe, is without a parallel in its uniqueness of conception in this country," said F. H. Cobb of Chattanooga, Tenn., yesterday. "It was that of reconstructing the structure on the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia road over the Tennessee River at Florence, Alabama. The bridge consisted of thirteen spans, and carried, besides the railway track overhead, a roadway underneath. The terms of the contract under which the work was undertaken required that the old structure should be removed and the new one substituted without material interruption of either the railroad or wagon traffic. To secure this end and to promote convenience, rapidity and economy, and, above all, to avoid the dangers incident to false work from the very high floods of the Tennessee River, it was determined to build the new trusses directly above the old ones, and then to rapidly lower the old span as a whole down to the water, simultaneously replacing it by the newly constructed span, which was dropped in position and immediately received the traffic. As the old spans were not considered strong enough to support the dead weight of the new ones, a device was arranged in the shape of a warder, or regular Howe truss bridge span, to carry it. This span was slightly longer than the distance between the piers and was mounted on rolling towers which were operated on a special track laid outside the railway track. The operation of thus lowering the two spans was performed by steam power and only occupied about one hour, involving an interruption of traffic of perhaps three or four hours until the track was again opened. After the first new span had been put into position rails were laid upon it and the traveler was advanced to the next pier, where the operation was repeated."

C. W. Dexter, who for some ten or twelve years was connected with the immigration service at Castle Garden and Ellis Island, in New York's harbor, is in the city. "The Bureau of Immigration sustained by Uncle Sam is the largest in the world," said he yesterday, "but notwithstanding its magnitude the department works like a nicely adjusted piece of machinery. At the beginning of each week all the large steamship companies which carry passengers regularly send in a statement of all vessels expected by them to arrive during the ensuing week. These lists are used for reference, and the inspectors, who usually number about five and are stationed out at quarantine, meet each incoming ship and examine the manifests. They are required to note all suspicious-looking cases among steerage passengers and may detain cabin passengers also if the case warrants such action. American citizens, whether in the steerage or cabin, if their identity be clearly established, are allowed to land without going to Ellis Island, and those who are sent there are transferred to a vessel especially provided for that purpose. On arrival at the island a careful inspection is made of each individual by surgeons and matrons, and any suspicious cases from a medical standpoint are set aside and taken to a private room. If really diseased or sick they are sent to the Government Hospital until well again, when they take their examination. The duties of the boarding officers end with the surgeon's examination, and then the gatemen, who are in charge of the entire floor, which is divided off by wire screens and gates into different detention pens, take charge of the immigrants and marched them in groups of thirty in the aisles facing the clerk or registrar, who quickly determines to which class each immigrant belongs. Each immigrant is questioned in his own tongue as to his eligibility to admission, and if he does not come under the inhibited classes he is allowed to go. Many pitiful scenes are witnessed, but the Government, on the whole, treats each incoming stranger with great consideration."

George O. Bowen, who is connected with the United States Internal Revenue Service in St. Louis, is in this city and has just made an extensive trip through various portions of Kansas. "There are some parts of that State," said he yesterday, "which appear to have been struck by the blight of decay, from which there is no apparent hope of recovery. It is said that there are twenty-two counties in Western Kansas which in 1888 had a population of 102,669, but which now are able to muster only 54,663 people. Along the line of the railway in this section there are deserted towns which once were full of promise as the probable centers of rich and prosperous agricultural districts. Kanopolis is one example. If I remember aright, it was laid out by a party of wealthy Ohio capitalists, among whom was ex-Secretary of the Treasury Foster and several other gentlemen of prominence. It was planned to be the very center of the State and much money was spent in improving the site and in advertising its advantages, but the town stood still in a commercial point of view for a time and then went steadily backward until now the railroad company scarcely recognizes it as a station. I don't believe any of the towns in the southern central portion of the State which enjoyed such a boom a few years ago have sustained their prosperity in even a moderate degree. In Wellington, for instance, I recollect, some seven or eight years ago there were six daily papers published, while now I believe one struggling representative is all she can support. South Hutchinson, some miles to the north, which once had a brick hotel, churches, schoolhouses and a streetcar line, is now almost a wilderness, its buildings uninhabited and at the mercy of the elements and its lands tenanted only by jackrabbits and prairie dogs."

W. J. Crittenden, Vice-Consul-General to Mexico, yesterday gave a CALL reporter some additional information to that published yesterday regarding the peculiar country and people in which and among whom he has made his home for some time. "In the interior," said he, "the great mass of the people are very poor indeed and purchase nearly all their food in very small quantities, usually by the cent's worth. In the stores they have very high counters and no goods outside of them for fear of the natives stealing. The storekeepers, like the market-place dealers, have corn, beans, sugar, etc., put up in 1-cent packages ready for the noon or evening rush of customers to purchase their food and fruits. Frequently on going home at night one runs across what appears to be a bundle of rags, but close inspection will show it to be a woman with, perhaps, a baby strapped upon her back, crouched into as small a space as possible to keep herself warm. Men and boys are also found in this position and are never troubled by policemen unless they are drunk or disorderly. The custom of the policemen there is unique, to say the least. Each one carries a lantern while on duty at night, and as soon as he reaches his station or beat he sets his lantern down in the street and takes a position on the sidewalk near it, and there he remains all night. You can locate every policeman by his lantern, and it makes it very easy for the law-breaker to keep out of his way. Still the system has its advantages as well, for if you happen to need the policeman's help you know just where to find him."

"Among the quaint old villages of the South which I have visited few have impressed me more that the little Tennessee town of Rogersville," said G. L. Sawyer, an Omaha commercial man, at the Occidental yesterday. "The town is just 100 years old; it has the oldest Masonic lodge in the State, and the house in which General Jackson was sheltered for months still stands in a state of almost perfect preservation. The first newspaper ever published in the State was issued there, and within the corporate limits of the town are the graves of the parents of Davy Crockett. The only ebbing spring in the United States is but a short distance from the public square. It has regular ides and ebbs, and flows every two hours with unvarying uniformity, and the water is always intensely cold, but never freezes."

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS.

Another lady composer has come to the front, one who, as an Italian journal practically puts it, "came to Florence from far-away Scotland to receive her artistic baptism." While Queen Victoria was at Florence an opera—"Ethelinda"—was given its first performance at the Pergola Theater, and was a splendid success. There was a certain interesting mystery about this work that enhanced its attractiveness. It was said to be composed by a Miss Marion, whom the Italian papers called "a Scotch genius." Miss Marion was eventually discovered to be Lady Mildred Marion Lyon, the youngest daughter of the Earl of Strathmore, the wife of Mr. Jessup of Torquay, who wrote the libretto of "Ethelinda." On the night of the dress rehearsal the critics several times burst out in unanimous applause. The opera has been got up without sparing expense, the best singers having been called from Milan; the costumes were splendid and the staging perfect. Not only does the mythical "Miss Marion" possess great talent, but also great daring, as the Florentine public has no scruples, and even some of Verdi's operas have been hissed at Florence. The critic of "La Scena Illustrata," a paper more given to blame than to commend, says of "Ethelinda": "It does not constitute a high and potent manifestation of exalted genius, but it reveals in 'Miss Marion' a brilliant aptitude for composing melody and a genial invention. These gifts are joined to musicianly and original powers of orchestration. In 'Ethelinda' the composer has given more than a promise of greater things."

In fashionable European circles it is becoming more and more the custom not to employ professional talent for receptions, but to rely entirely upon musical amateurs. To this end some of the most distinguished women, and even men, study till they almost acquire the proficiency of professional musicians. Indeed, if report is to be trusted, the Viscountess Tredern, one of the most exclusive women in Paris, gave a "soiree musicale" a few days ago that bids the men and women of music look to their laurels lest they presently be eclipsed by the dilettanti. The Viscountess' magnificent mansion was thrown open to over 500 of the cream of Parisian society. All the performers were amateurs, the choruses being sung by women, scarcely one of whom was without a high-sounding title. The programme performed embraced works by Wagner, Gounod, Bohne, Saint-Saens, Ambroise Thomas, Verdi, Mozart, Rossini and B. Godard. Everything passed off brilliantly, and the hostess won an especial success in the third act of "Aida."

In "The Snow Man," recently produced at "Les Bouffes Parisiens," H. Chivot and A. Vanloo have hit upon a somewhat extraordinary plot, even for a comic opera. The scene is laid in Flanders, where Fritz, a young student, is in love with the beautiful Edwige, daughter of the rich burgomaster Van Gluten, who proudly repulses the studious suitor. "You shall never have my daughter," declares Van Gluten, "never, until you animate that block," and railingly he shows the student a snow man that the children have made in the square. It is then that Mephistopheles, disguised as a young and pretty servant, appears on the scene and gives Fritz the means of animating the frozen image, which becomes the greatest nuisance in the world, freezing everything and every one that comes in its way. Happily the thaw comes at last and he melts. The composer, Antoine Banes, has succeeded in warming this cold libretto by very gay and amusing music.

Chicago somewhat damned Massenet's "Werther" with faint praise, but in Russia the work has met with a very different reception. The subjects of the Great White Czar still cling to operas resembling those of the old school, like Mozart's and Rossini's, and they do not expect very magnificent staging or effects of calcium light. The Russians have agreed in comparing "Werther" to Rossini's "Barber of Seville," and that is the highest praise they can give it. Perhaps it is not generally known that one of the most admired airs in "The Barber of Seville" is based on a Russian folk-song. When Rossini was composing the opera he asked the famous Countess Samoilaw, then living in Milan, to give him a theme of her native land. She sang him "Pochol kosel Vogorod," and Rossini Italianized it and used it in "The Barber of Seville."

Maestro Verdi is one of the most discreet of men. When recently asked his opinion of Ambroise Thomas' "Mignon," the thousandth performance of which is about to be given, the man of music replied: "My opinion is that the opera is about to be played for the thousandth time. That's all." When pressed by the interviewer to say more, Verdi answered: "With the help of Heaven, I will never judge other composers or their works. Has not the criticism of the duets in Gounod's 'Romeo and Juliet' been attributed to me, because I once simply said that if I wrote a Romeo I should conform more closely to Shakespeare, whom I consider more tragic, more pathetic, in not terminating his work by a final duel? Reporters," added Verdi warily, "are very charming people, but sometimes their imagination carries them — a little far.

The new dispute between the now often-disputing Gilbert and Sullivan seems to be sorely exercising some of the London dailies. Gilbert has just indicated that his latest breach is due to the fact that Sir Arthur demanded as a condition to his composing the music to his new libretto that he (Gilbert) should hand over to Manager d'Oyly Carte's "unrestricted control" all the London rights of the fourteen operas which he (Gilbert) and Sir Arthur Sullivan have written in collaboration. Gilbert objected to this proposal and its terms as "inadequate and unreasonable." All this is doubtless one very good reason for this unhappy dissension, but as a popular San Francisco comedian says, or rather sings, "There are others."

Never was such an interest displayed in the old folk-songs of the peasantry as now, and it appears that it is barely in time to save many of them from the oblivion that is overtaking the old peasant costumes and customs. In Russia an expedition that has been sent out by the Geographical Society reports that the old tunes are fast dying out. Only the oldest inhabitants recall them. In France some of the folk-songs have been rescued by Julian Tiersot, who has just published a very interesting collection of them under the title of "Les Types Melodiques dans la Chanson Populaire Francaise."

A noteworthy feature of a recent Philharmonic concert at the Queen's Hall, London, was Dr. Hubert Parry's overture bearing the singular title "To an Unwritten Tragedy." The work, which had been produced at the Worcester festival last September, was performed for the first time in London. As the composer neither gives the story he seeks to illustrate nor labels his themes his music had to be regarded on its abstract merits, which are great. It is a virile, masculine work, perfectly clear in outline and worthy of the hand that penned it.

Edward Grieg is still being feted and applauded in Paris. At a recent concert there the performance of his picturesque pianoforte concerto in A minor gave rise to an almost interminable ovation for Grieg, who conducted, and was also a triumph for Raoul Pugno, the pianist. A suite for orchestra, in the antique style, entitled "In the Time of Holberg" ("The Mollere of the North"), created a furor, the prelude and the gavotte being particularly applauded. A number of Grieg's songs were also received with delight on account of their poetical charm.

The encore nuisance seems to have reached the latest stage of its development in Russia, where the great Italian barytone, Battistini, has been openly insulted by his admirers. At the Italian opera in Moscow the gifted singer created an astonishing furor in the role of Demon, by Rubinstein. The insatiable public demanded encore after encore, till Battistini, worn out, refused to respond again. Then the audience fervently hissed the artist, an insult to which he responded by letters published in all the newspapers.

A Pittsburg composer, Homer Moore, has just produced an opera based on the historic voyage of Christopher Columbus. Although only given in concert style the work is spoken highly of by the Pittsburg Press. The Dispatch says: "It is a serious earn st work, this yet un-named music drama. It will stand or fall by the highest standards. Almost every element that could be determined from this partial hearing is an element of power and promise."

When Verdi's "Falstaff" was produced a few weeks ago in Paris there were large numbers of persons who were unable to obtain even entrance to the crowded opera-house. Thanks, however, to the "theatrophone," that magic application of electricity, they were enabled to hear the performance as well as if they were occupying the best seats in the parquet.

The death is announced at Nice of Victor Elbel, the Alsatian composer. He wrote an oratoria, "The Ocean," a military mass, and a descriptive symphony, all produced at the Strasburg. His reputation, however, rests on his oratorio, "The Munsterban."

Rubinstein lately played in Vienna for a charitable object. Although the price of tickets was double that of ordinary concert tickets, all were sold in an hour. After the concert Rubinstein said, "I shall now retire. I have had enough."

Lili Lehmann sang at the Bulow memorial by the Philharmonic Society in Berlin. At the close she received a check for $250, which she handed over to the pension fund of the society.

Vladimir de Pachmann has sprained his arm so severely that he will be unable to play any more this season, and has consequently canceled his engagements.

The death of Dr. Spitta, the great musical historian, is announced at Berlin.

PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT.

Francis Drexel, the founder of the Philadelphia firm of financiers, was killed by a streetcar. Since then his friends always walk to and from their homes, never riding on a car. The late George W. Childs, to please his friend, A. J. Drexel, did likewise.

Miss Tompkins of Kentucky, a very clever young woman who has been acting as purchasing clerk for the United States Supreme Court, has been appointed assistant marshal of the court, a position never before held by a woman.

The wife of Crispi, the Italian Prime Minister, is a confirmed smoker of cigarettes. Her husband does not use tobacco in any form.

The Duchess of York has a pair of opera glasses that cost $600. They are of gold studded with turquoises and pearls. The Princess of Wales owns one of platinum, set with sapphires, turquoises and splendid rubies, that is valued at $12,000.

Rev. Dr. A. T. Pierson, whose name was mentioned as the successor of Dr. Spurgeon, is to become pastor of the Salem-street Congregational Church of Worcester, Mass.

Dr. Addison Hills, "the father of the Lake Shore Railway," who is now the assistant president of the road, is hale and hearty, though he is 87 years of age.

THE SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Since Mr. Olney has had no information and no opinion about the liability of Central Pacific stockholders the House Judiciary Committee would confer a favor on a waiting country by looking into the law. The Government has not so much the better of the Pacific railroads that remedies can be permitted to lie around without a glance at their merits.—St. Louis Republic.

I do not think that women have shown themselves as capable as men in intellectual work, neither in art, literature, science, nor music.—Walter Besant in the Independent.

No? But there is one thing certain, and that is that, judging from this sentence, many of them can write better English than Mr. Besant.—New York Sun.

At the women's mass-meeting in New York a woman proposed three cheers for Elizabeth Cady Stanton, but it seems that none of the ladies knew how to hurrah three times. They fluttered their handkerchiefs and made what noise they could, but it wasn't three cheers.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Croker did not make Tammany, but Tammany made Croker. If we get rid of the creature and suffer the creator to survive our condition will not be improved. But when we put an end to the thing from which bosses grow we shall have no more bosses.—New York Mail and Express.

Senator Mills evidently did not intend to let Senator Hill have all the fun gunning for cuckoos. But Mills is not in earnest. He will swoop down and vote as the President orders, whereas Hill won't. Mills has a string to his scold.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Henry George comes out for woman suffrage, too. He gives his wife a slightly ambiguous compliment, however, by remarking that he has been a married man for a good many years and is not disposed to dispute the superiority of women.—Boston Herald.

The word "statesmanship" is made to cover a great many different grades of idiocy.—Washington Post.

The above statement could be applied most anywhere just now and it would be found to fit.—Indianapolis News.

If the police were not so particular about closing the doors on reporters more criminals who are hiding in and about the scenes of their crime might be discovered before they were compelled to commit suicide.—St. Louis Star-Sayings.

An international settlement of the silver question would be extremely grateful to this country in throwing a number of loud-mouthed statesmen out of their jobs.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

It is not the Wilson bill any longer, but the Gorman-Brice bill, and there is no telling how many more times its name will be changed before its final passage.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Senator Hoar's remark that in the Wilson bill the Senate is asked to enact into law a spasm that the people have got over puts the case succinctly and vividly.—Boston Journal.

Andrew Carnegie has taken a beautiful seat in Sussex, the cable tells us. Did it cost as much as a seat in the United States Senate does, Andrew?—Chicago Times.

When one's friends begin to declare just how dearly one loves the people you may look sharp for one's announcement for the fattest office in sight.—Galveston News.

"Liberty, thy name is Dennis!" cries Carl Browne, dramatically. If Browne keeps on he will rival Browning in the hearts of the Bostonese.—New York World.

The woman suffrage movement shows strength in all parts of the country. It was never so formidable as it is to-day.—Memphis Appeal-Avalanche.

Peanut politics are not specially associated with shelling out, but rather tell in a nutshell, as it were, how small some things are.—Philadelphia Times.

Statistics show that only 55 per cent of the blondes marry. This may put a new complexion on the hair-bleaching business.—Albany Press.

The United States is the only country in the world that can boast of four cities with over a million inhabitants.—Newark Journal.

One more "compromise" in the Senate and the McKinley law may be re-enacted.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Boss McLaughlin, like Mr. Croker, is now reported to be suffering from "that tired feeling."—New York Tribune.

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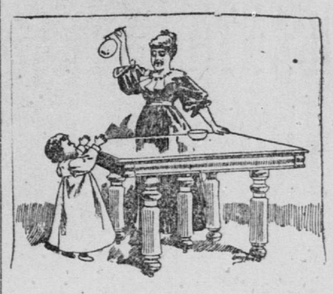

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