The purpose of the Query Column is to furnish information that is of general interest.

Questions, the answer to which will amount to an advertisement of any individual, firm or thing, will not be answered through this column.

Questions, an answer to which would be an opinion of the standing, commercial or social, of any individual or firm, will not be noticed.

Questions in arithmetic, problems in algebra and in geometry and catch questions will not be answered.

The Query Column will not furnish material "to enable the writer to answer a party on the other side of a debate in our institution of learning."

Every question to which an answer can be obtained will be answered as soon as practicable. Often it happens that the information desired is not obtainable in this city and the inquiry must be made through the mail at distant points.

The name and address of the person asking a question should accompany the letter of inquiry, as the editor of this column may desire to communicate with the writer, or may elect to send an answer by mail. The name and address is not for publication.

All questions should be plainly set forth so that there can be no misunderstanding as to the intent of the writer.

MOKELUMNE—A. F. G., North Branch, Calaveras County, Cal. A close search of all the works on California and of all the works on the Indians of the country failed to reveal the meaning of the word Mokelumne, the name of a river and hill in this State. Mr. W. W. Elliott of San Francisco, Mr. W. J. Davis of Sacramento and Mr. J. C. Heyman of the same place, who for years have devoted much time and attention to California nomenclature, have sought in vain for the meaning of the word. Mr. Davis said: "I doubt if it can be ascertained. It is undoubtedly an Indian name, that of a tribe of Indians who lived on the banks of the river of that name." Fremont in his dairy of exploration, under date of March 25, 1844, wrote, after a reference to the Cosumnes River: "We traveled for twenty-eight miles over the same delightful country and halted in a beautiful bottom at the ford of the Rio de los Mokelumnes, receiving its name from another Indian tribe living on the river." Tinkham in his history of the city of Stockton says: "The Mokelumne River, which forms the northwest boundary of San Joaquin County, empties into the Sacramento River. The origin of this name is doubtful. A tribe of Indians that formerly lived near the river were known as Mokelkos, and that may have given a name to the river. The Spaniards had three ways of writing the name Moquelomos, Moquelumne and Mokelumne. The latter form is the one generally accepted." In his quest for the meaning of the name Mr. Heyman discovered that Mokelkos was the name of a line of chiefs of the Mee Woc family of Indians, who inhabited the State in the very early days. On one occasion he met a descendant of the family and asked him about the name. The reply he received was, "Mokelumne all same Mokelkos." "And what is the meaning of Mokelkos?" asked Mr. Heyman. To his intense disappointment he received a reply that made him no wiser than he was before. It was, "Mokelkos all same Mokelumne." Mr. Elliott, in his history of Fresno, says that Major J. D. Savage, in 1851, made a report of the number of Indians in California, and in his report appears the name of the tribe of Mokelumne. In 1850 this and other tribes united against the whites and the whites pursued these Indians. A company of volunteer soldiers met an Indian, who told them of a wonderful valley in which he declared was the stronghold of those being pursued. The soldiers were very anxious to see this place and pushed on to the unknown valley. This was in March, 1851, and when they reached the place to which they were directed they found themselves in the now famous Yosemite Valley, and they were told at that time that they were the first white people who had ever been in the valley. This scrap from Mr. Elliott's history goes to confirm the belief that the river and the hill were named from the Mokelumne Indians.

MEDICAL COLLEGE—C. G. B., East Oakland, Cal. In the announcement for 1895 of the Medical Department of the University of California is set forth the following in regard to the admission of applicants: Students who present certificates of having successfully passed the examination for admission to the College of Letters or the College of Science of the University of California, or some other recognized university or college, or applicants who present diplomas or certificates of graduation from the University of California or of some other recognized university or college, from recognized high schools or academies, or from a State normal school of California, or of any other State or Territory, may be admitted without undergoing an examination. Applicants who do not present any such credentials will be required to pass a satisfactory examination in the subjects embraced in a thorough English education. A knowledge of physics and elementary Latin will also be required. Students deficient in Latin will be allowed one year to make up the condition. The examinations will cover the following subjects: Arithmetic, algebra, plane geometry, English, civil government, universal history, physics, chemistry, botany and Latin. The fees are: Matriculation fee (paid but once) $5, demonstrator's ticket for each of two years $10, fee for each course of lectures $100, and graduating fee (paid but once, but not returnable) $25. The candidate for the degree of medicine must have attained the age of 21 years. He must give satisfactory evidence of possessing a good moral character, which includes an exceptionable conduct while at the college. The faculty reserves the right to terminate the connection of any student with the institution, at any time, on the ground of what it may deem moral or mental unfitness for the profession. He must have studied medicine for four full years, and must have attended four regular courses of lectures in separate calendar years, the last of which must have been that of the University of California. He must have passed the required examinations, written and oral. He must have pursued the study of practical anatomy during at least two sessions, and must present certificates of having dissected every part of the cadaver. He must have paid in full the college fees, including the graduating fees.

BICYCLES IN THE PARK—A. W., City. The following is the new law laid down by the Board of Park Commissioners to regulate bicyclers in Golden Gate Park. It was adopted at a meeting held on the 7th of December and went into effect fifteen days later:

Section 1. Bicycles, tricycles, velocipedes and vehicles of similar character may be ridden or driven over any and all the driveways in Golden Gate Park and on and over the boulevard or great highway, except the driveway around Stow Lake and the driveway leading up Strawberry Hill and the carriage concourse adjacent to the concert station and the speed road. The exclusion from the carriage concourse aforesaid is limited to the afternoons of days when there is music at the established concert station.

Sec. 2. All persons are prohibited from riding or driving any bicycle, tricycle or velocipede, or over any of the lawns or footpaths in Golden Gate Park, except said vehicles may be led over the short walk leading from the Page-street entrance to the south drive, and also over the walk leading from the corner of Fulton and Stanyan streets to the North Ridge road.

Sec. 3. Not more than two bicycles, tricycles or velocipedes going in the same direction at the same rate of speed shall be ridden abreast.

Sec. 4. All vehicles named in this ordinance must be driven in a straightaway course as nearly as possible and must not run or be driven crosswise, curving to and fro. Wheelmen must conform to the customary rules of the road. In meeting a vehicle going in the opposite direction they must pass on the right-hand side. In passing a vehicle going in the same direction they must pass on the left hand side.

Sec. 5. Wheelmen may ride their machines on the walk running along the south side of the speed track; also on the walk commencing at or near Thirty-fifth avenue if extended on the north drive and terminating at about Forty-eighth avenue if extended.

Sec. 6. On days on which music is played in Concert Valley the speed of bicycles on main drive between flagstaffs and Sixth avenue shall be limited to six miles per hour.

Sec. 7. After sundown each and every bicycle, tricycle or velocipede, or vehicles of similar character, ridden or propelled in Golden Gate Park shall carry a lighted lantern or continuous ringing bell. The bell must be of size to be heard at least 150 feet distant.

FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR.—H. H., and others, City. At the date of the declaration of war in July, 1870, by France against Prussia, Napoleon found that instead of the grand army which the official reports told him he could have in the event of war, the active army numbered only 427,000 men; there were 87,000 regular reserves in addition and a further force, chiefly on garrison duty, of 15,700. Germany had at her disposal immediately after the declaration of war an active army of 447,000 men, a first reserve of 188,000, a second of 225,000 and the landwehr. From their active forces the belligerents assembled their armies as follows: France—Army of the Rhine; First corps under McMahon, near Strasburg; second, General Frossard, toward the Prussian frontier near St. Avold; third, Marshal Bazaine, near Metz; fourth, General L'Admirault, near Theonville; fifth, General Failly, Palatinate frontier, near Bitsche; seventh, General Douay at Bellefort and, the reserves under Generals Bourbaki and Canrobert at Nancy and Chalon.

McMahon's forces numbered 35,000 infantry, 3500 cavalry and 90 guns; Frossard's, 26,250 infantry, 2600 cavalry, 72 guns; Bazaine's, the same as McMahon; L'Admirault, the same as Frossard; the command of Failly was equal to that of Frossard. Canrobert, including the cavalry reserve, had 35,000 infantry, 9750 cavalry and 126 guns. Douay had a command similar to that of Failly. The Imperial Guard, which formed part of the reserve under Bourbaki, numbered 16,650 infantry, 3600 cavalry and 60 guns.

This brought the whole strength of the army gathered for the defense of the frontier to 246,650 infantry, 30,750 cavalry and 644 guns—all that could be gathered out of the 400,000 supposed to belong to the army of France. The African (Algerian) army, about 50,000 men, had been ordered to the front, but had not arrived at the time these forces were assembled.

Germany—First army, General von Steinmetz as right wing, near Treves; second, Prince Frederick Charles in the Rhenish Palatinate, near Bitsche; third, Crown Prince Frederick on the Baden frontier from Mannheim to Rastadt.

Steinmetz's forces numbered 50,000 infantry, 6600 cavalry, 192 guns. The force of Prince Frederick Charles was 190,000 infantry, 23,000 cavalry and 672 guns. The Crown Prince had, infantry 122,000, cavalry 10,900 and 576 guns.

This formed a grand total of 362,000 infantry, 40,500 cavalry and 1440 guns. The North German confederation, together with the armies of the allied South German States, had a force comprised as follows: Field army, 555,634 men and 1584 guns; reserves (Landwehr), 201,207 men and 234 fieldpieces; garrison troops, 192,450 men and 234 pieces of artillery. Grand total, 949,291 men and 2052 guns.

CABLE-CARS—A. S., City. A history of the cable-car system gives the following account of early cable-cars: "As understood at this time, a cable railway is a line of steel rails along which carriages are drawn by a cable made of the best crucible steel wire. Twenty years ago the only roads operated by cable traction were comparatively rude affairs, for the most part provided with chains or hempen ropes. These tramways originated in England early in the last century and were mainly used for the haulage of coal. The first English patent was issued to William Chapman in 1808. The patent distinctly foreshadows the present system. An endless rope passes around a friction-drum revolving on a vertical axis at one end of the line, and at the other end is a grooved wheel around which runs the lower blight of the endless rope. In 1812 E. K. Chapman proposed to stretch a chain along over the tramway and provide each car with a friction-wheel turned by a crank. The chain was to be wound around the wheel, and when the crank was turned of course the car would move. Then came direct traction, by what was known as the 'tail-rope' system, by which the cars were attached to a moving rope or chain which was wound around a drum at the top of an incline. The cars were drawn up loaded and descended empty, either by the force of gravity alone or aided by a tail-rope which was attached to the main rope and was only strong enough to overcome the inertia of the descending train and cable. In 1834 William Jaines proposed to employ hollow rails as receptacles for a moving chain and to attach carriages thereto. In 1846 E. W. Brandling devised a rudimentary grip, by which two boards were closed upon a moving rope and the carriage was hauled along. These three inventions were of English origin. In 1858 E. S. Gardener, an American, proposed to inclose the moving rope in a tunnel provided with fixed sheaves and a slot along its length. The problem of attaching the cars to the rope is dismissed in his claim as immaterial, any mode of connection being permissible. This appears to be the germ of the present system of cable street railroads."

A great many patents were issued for improvements, but the one great difficulty was a proper grip to connect the car with the moving rope. It was not until a grip pulley was invented by Andrew S. Halladie of San Francisco and patented in 1870 that the problem was solved. In 1873, in the month of June, he commenced building a road on Clay street, from Kearny street west, and on the 1st of August of that year it was put in operation. This was the first passenger railway operated by means of an underground steel cable.

THE DOLLAR MARK—L. P. C., City. J. E. Norcross of Brooklyn, N. Y., gives the following as the origin of the dollar mark ($) now in common use in the United States: "Before the establishment of the United States each province had its own paper currency in pounds, shillings and pence. The metallic currency was Spanish dollars. These dollars, from being of the value of eight reals, were called pieces of eight, by which name De Foe writes of them as appears from the following extract from 'Robinson Crusoe': 'As to my boat it was a very good one, and that he saw, and told me he would buy it of me for the ship's use, and asked me what I would have for it. I told him I could not offer to make any price for the boat, but left it entirely to him, upon which he told me he would give me a note of hand to pay me eighty pieces of eight for it in Brazil.' Accounts in the southern part of North America were kept in dollars and reals, and as a distinguishing mark in the books a canceled figure of eight was used, or sometimes the eight was put between two slanting lines, thus /8/. A period or full stop separated the digits representing the reals or 8's from those representing the dollars. When the United States adopted the dollar as the money unit it was found convenient to continue the old mark in the South and adopt it in the North. The present symbol ($), therefore, is this conventionalized form of the old canceled figure 8 representing the coins of eight reals."

Two other origins have, however, been contended for: The first traces them up to the Mexican "pillar dollar," on the reverse of which is the representation of two pillars or columns connected by a scroll. There is a rude resemblance in this to the present dollar mark. The other theory is that the mark is the union of the capital letters U and S, meaning United States. There is little doubt, however, that the mark originated in the manner Mr. Norcross points out.

SEPARATE PROPERTY—E. M. R., City. This correspondent asks the following question, which is of interest to all married women:

I am a married woman—since marriage have purchased a piece of real estate with my separate money, which property I have recorded in my married name. Have some more money, a gift from a friend, and this money I want to invest in other property, and have the deed made out in my married name. Can I hold that property independent of any claim by my husband? Can he claim it as community property?

Property purchased by a married woman with her separate money is her separate property. Money acquired by gift is separate money. Property purchased with the separate funds of the wife is not community property and cannot be successfully claimed by the husband as his. Prior to March 19, 1889, property conveyed to the wife by a grant, bargain and sale deed for a money consideration expressed in the deed was prima facie presumed to be community property. (Moore vs. Jones, 63 Cal., 12.)

In March, 1889, an act was passed by virtue of which property conveyed to the wife by an instrument in writing is now presumed to be her separate property (Stats. 1889, page 328), and this presumption is conclusive in favor of a purchaser or incumbrancer in good faith. Under the act of March 3, 1893, husbands are barred from commencing after July 1, 1894, any action to have any real property acquired by the wife prior to May 19, 1889, and conveyed by her, declared to be community property (Stats. 1893, p. 71-73).

It follows from the foregoing, first, that the correspondent can hold the property independent of any claim by her husband, and, second, that he cannot now claim it as community property.

WEST POINT—E. L., City. Appointments to the Military Academy at West Point are made as vacancies are created. There is no fixed time when such vacancies are to be filled. Those who wish to enter the academy should communicate with the Representative of the Congressional district in which they live, and when the time for examination comes they will be notified. The Representative whose turn it is to fill a vacancy generally gives notice through the public press in his district that at a certain time a public competitive examination will be held, generally within the district, and at such time the branches in which the applicants are to be examined are announced. Sometimes Congressmen make appointments without a competitive examination. The Government does not defray the cost of transportation of successful candidates from home to the academy. While in the academy the Government furnishes clothing to cadets. An applicant can also, by letter to the Secretary of War, ask to have his name registered for submission to the proper Representative in Congress when a vacancy shall occur. The full name, date of birth and residence of the applicant, with the number of the Congressional district in which he lives, must be furnished. The applicant must be between 17 and 22 years of age, not less than 5 feet in height, physically free from deformity, and must be in good health. He must be well versed in reading, writing, including orthography, arithmetic, must have a thorough knowledge of the English grammar, of descriptive geography, particularly of the United States, and must be well versed in the history of the United States. Cadets are allowed but one leave of absence during the four years' term, and that is at the close of the second year. The pay of the cadet is $450 a year, and upon graduation the cadet is commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States army.

SAN FRANCISCO STREETS—G. W., City. North of Market and east of Larkin the streets running east and west are 49:1½ feet wide, between Broadway and California; all others are 68.9-12 wide, except Broadway and California street. Broadway is 86 6-12; California is 85 feet wide east of Kearny and 82 6-12 west of Kearny. City Hall avenue, from Market street to Park avenue, is 200 feet wide. North of Market and east of Larkin, running north and south, the streets are 68 9-12 feet wide, except Powell, 66 9-12; Stockton, 66; Dupont, north of Bush, 45 5-12; Dupont (Grant avenue), from Bush to Market, 74 feet; Kearny, south of Broadway 75 feet, north of Broadway 45 5-12; Montgomery street, 62 5-12; Park avenue, from McAllister to Larkin, 80 feet.

Streets north of Market and west of Larkin, running north and south, as far west as First avenue, are 68 9-12 feet wide, except First, Parker and Masonic avenues and Baker street to Turk, each 100 feet wide; Broadway, California and Devisadero, each 86 6-12 feet; Van Ness avenue is 125 feet wide and Market street 120 feet wide.

In the Western Addition, from First avenue to the ocean, the streets are 80 feet wide and the avenues 70 feet, except Point Lobos avenue, which is 125 feet wide.

South of Market, between East, Channel and Ridley, streets are 82 6-12 feet wide, except Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth, each 80 feet, and Thirteenth 50 feet.

South of Channel, Ridley and Market, streets running north and south to and including Castro on the west and Harrison on the east, are 82 6-12 feet wide, except Dolores, 120 feet; all other streets as far south as Thirtieth street, 64 feet.

Southeast of Channel, northeast of Eighth and north of South, streets running southeast and northwest, 82 6-12 feet, except Hudson 60 feet and George street 100 feet; streets running northeast and southwest 70 feet; South street, 137 6-12; Center street, streets running east and west, 80 feet.

Streets south of South and Center streets, running north and south, are 80 feet wide; Pennsylvania avenue is 90 feet and streets running east and west 66 feet; Potrero avenue is 100 feet wide.

South San Francisco—Honduras street is 150 feet wide, streets south of Honduras running northwest and southeast 64 feet, India street 150 feet, streets running northeast and southwest 80 feet, Railroad avenue 100 feet.

Mission and ocean beach road 60 feet. These figures refer only to main streets.

THE MAID OF MONTEREY—Captain W. S., Victoria, B. C. "The Maid of Monterey" was written and adapted to a Mexican melody by J. H. Hewitt in 1860. The words are as follows:

The moon was shining brightly
Upon the battle plain;
The gentle breeze fanned lightly
The features of the slain;
The guns had hushed their thunder,
The drum in silence lay.
When came the Senoretta,
The Maid of Monterey.

She cast a look of anguish
On the dying and on dead;
Her lap she made the pillow
Of those who groaned and bled;
And when the dying soldier
For one bright gleam did pray
He blessed the Senoretta,
The Maid of Monterey.

She gave the thirsty water,
And dressed the bleeding wound;
And gentle pray'rs she uttered
For those who sighed around;
And when the bugle sounded,
Just at the break of day,
We blessed the Senoretta,
The Maid of Monterey.

For, though she loved her nation,
And prayed that it might live,
Yet for the dying foeman
She had a tear to give.
Then here's to that bright beauty
Who drove Death's pangs away,
The meek-eyed Senoretta,
The Maid of Monterey.

The last four lines of each verse are the chorus.

STORAGE BATTERY—S. W., Oakland, Cal. To make a storage battery cut out of thin sheet-lead a number of plates, say 10 centimeters by 15 centimeters, having on one end and side an ear 2 centimeters by 8. Cut out of cotton flannel twice as many rectangular pieces 14 by 20 centimeters. Make a thick paste out of red lead and sulphuric acid and apply it with a brush to each side of each lead plate, also to the nap side of the flannel, to a depth of at least one millimeter. Then build up a battery as follows: Lay down a piece of flannel, then one of lead, then one of flannel, then a piece of blotting-paper of the size of the flannel, then a lead plate with the ear on the reverse side of the last plate, then flannel, and so on. Always place the nap side of the flannel next to the lead, and be careful to have as many plates with the ear on one side as there are plates with the ear on the other, consecutive plates having their ears on opposite sides. When a sufficient number have been put in place, bind them together with a cord, strips of thin board being placed on the outsides. Wire together the ears forming the two poles and place the plates in a glass vessel containing diluted sulphuric acid. To charge the battery connect the poles to those of a strong battery for an hour or so. On disconnecting the poles and joining them to an electric motor, even after the lapse of several hours, a rapid motion should be obtained. There are several other methods of making storage batteries on which there are patents. The formula for these the Query Column is unable to furnish.

LUMBER ADRIFT—George, City. Whenever any lumber drifts upon any island in any of the waters of this State, or upon the bank of any such waters, the owner of the lumber may remove it on payment or tendering to the owner or occupant of the land the amount of the damages which he has sustained by reason thereof and which may accrue in its removal; and if the parties cannot agree as to the amount of such damages either party may have the same appraised by two disinterested citizens of the county, who may hear proofs and determine the same at the expense of the owner of the lumber.

If the owner of the lumber does not claim it within three months the owner or occupant of the land must deliver a bill of his charges and appraisement of damages, together with the lumber to the Sheriff of the county, who, if it is not claimed within a year, must dispose of the same by public auction, pay out of the proceeds the amount of salvage, which in no case must exceed half the value of the property, and turn the balance, if there is any after paying all necessary expenses, into the State treasury.

THE TAMMANY TIGER—Subscriber, Irvington, Alameda County, Cal. The badge of the Tammany Society of New York is the head of a tiger, having around its neck a blue-buckled strap. About the time of the exposure of the Tweed ring, Bill Tweed, who was the chief of the political society named, Harper's Weekly had an artist, who, taking his cue from the badge of the association, represented Tammany as a gaunt tiger seeking whatever it might devour, and ever since that idea has been adopted by the press and the people of the United States to represent pilfering from the public treasury and the obtaining of money by illegitimate means under guise of authority.

TAMALPAIS SUMMIT—E. A. W., Angel Island, Cal. The shortest route to the top of Mount Tamalpais is the trail or path from Mill Valley. The ascent on a cool morning has been made by a good mountain climber in fifty minutes, but the time usually taken by those who do not desire to over-exert themselves is an hour and a half. If a party does not wish to tramp to the summit, he may ride there on a burro. Tamalpais has no accommodation for travelers, and those who go to the top have to carry lunch and water. There is a spring, almost at the summit, on the north side, distant about 150 feet from the zigzag road that leads from Ross station to the top of the mountain. By that road the time taken in making the ascent is generally two hours and a half. In summer this road is in fairly good condition, but in winter it is horrid. The trail from Mill Valley is not such a one as a person in winter would select as one on which to take a constitutional.

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TUGS—A. S., Oakland, Cal., and H. L. M., City. The tug Fearless was built in San Francisco in 1892. Length, 145 feet; beam, 26 feet; depth, 16 feet; gross tonnage, 400.03; net, 200.02; nominal horse-power, 350; indicated, 1200.

The Monarch was built in San Francisco in 1875. Length, 109 feet; beam, 26 feet; depth, 12.7; gross tonnage, 195.47; net, 97.74; nominal horse-power, 450.

The Alert was built in Benicia in 1885: Length 86.2 feet, beam 20 feet, depth 9.5 feet, nominal horse-power 40, indicated 260. The cost of engines, boilers and steam machinery for a tug like the Fearless would be about $75,000. No public test having ever been made the Query Column is unable to give any information as to the relative merits of the tugs. The purpose of this column is to give facts and not to express opinions.

ENGLISH PROSE—A. A., City. Sir Thomas More was one of the earliest writers of English prose. The earliest good English prose is said to be found in More, a history of Henry the Fifth, which appeared in 1515. "The Difference between an Absolute and a Limited Monarchy," written by Sir John Fortesque in 1483, is, despite its wretched orthography, good English and contains but few words that are not now in use, but the prose style was much improved by Roger Ascham, who is known as the "Father of English prose." He was born at Kirbey, Yorkshire, in 1515, and died in London, December 30, 1568. He was tutor to Princess Elizabeth 1548-50 and Latin secretary to Mary and Elizabeth, 1553-68. His chief works are "Toxophilus," a treatise on archery, 1545, and "The Schollmaster, a plaine and perfite way of teachying children to vnderstand, write and speak in Latin tong."

MEXICAN DOLLAR—M. H., San Mateo, San Mateo County, Cal. The Secretary of the Treasury, in preparing a table fixing the value of foreign coins in the United States, has declared that the Mexican dollar is worth 57.7 cents, but in the San Francisco money market it is rated at 50½ cents. A dollar of the United States is worth from 97 to 98 cents. The reason for this is that in Mexico the currency is silver, not redeemable in gold. The United States silver dollar can be exchanged at the treasury for gold. The intrinsic value of a Mexican dollar is a fraction over 50 cents. If a person comes to San Francisco from Mexico with 100 silver dollars of that country he can obtain but $50 50 for them, but if he goes to Mexico with fifty United States dollars he will receive $97 or $98 in Mexican money for them.

PARK LABOR FUND—Several correspondents, City. Rolla V. Watt, who was secretary of the Citizens' Committee that received funds last winter for the relief of the unemployed poor of San Francisco employed in Golden Gate Park, says: "The amount collected and disbursed by the Citizens' Committe was $92,045 10. All of this money was paid out for actual labor except a small sum for teaming. The printing of tickets and circulars was donated by a number of printing-houses and the other expenses were paid by members of the Citizens' Committee. A map of the work performed in Golden Gate Park was made at the expense of the committee, and it now hangs in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce.

STAMBOUL—W. F. C., City. If, as you say in your communication, you declared that Stamboul has a record of being the fastest running horse and backed your declaration, you had better bid a long farewell to your money, for Stamboul is not a running horse, but a trotter. His record is: Two years old, 2:37; 3 years, 2:26½; 4 years, 2:23; 5 years, 2:17; 6 years, 2:14¾; 7 years, 2:12¼; 8 years, 2:11; 9 years, not trotting; 10 years, 2:10¼, 2:08½, 2:09½ and 2:07½. The horse that holds the record for fast running, one mile, is Salvator. That record is: Salvator, four-year-old, 110 pounds, Monmouth Park, August 28, 1890, against time, straight track, 1:35¼.

CONFLICT OF AUTHORITY—Seamen, City. If in the event of a conflict of authority between a United States Shipping Commissioner and a United States Consul at a foreign port, the captain of an American vessel should be put to annoyance, delay and loss, he has a remedy by appealing to the Court of Claims at Washington, D. C. In regard to the matter of securing copies of statements made by sailors before a United States Consul at a foreign port, you should lay the facts of the case before a reputable attorney, who will advise you how to proceed in the matter.

MANZANITA—J. W. L., City. There is no way to preserve a piece of manzanita cut for a cane with the luster that it has just after being cut from the tree. The reason is self-evident. After the stick has been cut, before it can be used for the purpose of a cane it must dry, and in drying the outer coating or bark is bound to shrink and lose some of its luster. But after the stick is dry the bark may be polished lightly until all the color comes out, after which a coat of varnish will preserve that color.

HOMESTEAD IMPROVEMENTS—M. L. B., Summit, Calaveras County, Cal. The right to tax lands of the United States, entered under the homestead laws, does not accrue to the State until the expiration of the period of residence and cultivation, and until the final proof required by law shall have been made and approved and the final homestead certificate issued. Improvements on such lands are, however, subject to assessment for taxation by the Assessor from the time such improvements are made.

MUNICIPAL BAND OF ROME—R. P. J., City. The Municipal Bands of Rome are organized by the municipal council. There are several and the members are paid by the Government. Three grades of musicians are recognized. Those of the first grade are paid 1000 francs a year; those of the second, from 600 to 800 francs, and those of the third 500 francs. The appointments are for life and vacancies occur only through death, resignation or dismissal for cause.

BARRELS—M. S., Mendocino, Cal. Several of the most prominent coopers of this city say that at this time very few barrels are made by coopers direct from the rough staves; that since 1888 they are made from dressed material. When the men did make them from the rough a first-class cooper could make from one and a half to two thirty-gallon beer barrels during a working day. During the same time he could make from three to four fifty-gallon wine barrels.

CENTER OF POPULATION—Subscriber, Williams, Colusa County, Cal. The question asked is involved, but it is probable that the correspondent wants to know where the center of population is in the United States. The census report for 1890 places the center of population in north latitude 39 deg. 11 min. 9 sec.; west longitude 85 deg. 32 min. 9 sec. The approximate location by an important town is twenty miles east of Columbus, Ind.

OLD COINS—Mr. C. J. Dealers in coins do not make any bids for half-dollars of the United States coined in 1807, 1810 and 1883, nor for quarters coined in 1835. They offer such coins for sale at the following rates: Half-dollar, 1807, from 85 cents to $1 75; 1810, from 85 cents to $2 50; 1833, from 75 cents to 90 cents. A quarter of 1835 sells for 50 cents and 75 cents, according to state of preservation.

NO COMPENSATION—"St. Martin," Reno Nev. The Query Column has not been able to find that Alexis St. Martin of Canada in 1822 received any compensation for the light his case threw on medical science. St. Martin, by reason of a gunshot wound, had a fistulous opening leading from the exterior to the interior of the stomach, and through this Dr. Beaumont observed how food is digested.

HOLDING OFFICE—W. A., City. No one who is not a citizen of the United States can hold a public office in the State of California. If an alien should be appointed to the office of Deputy Sheriff, and you have proof of the fact that he is not naturalized, you can take legal steps to have him removed, in case the Sheriff who appoints him, after a proper representation of the facts, refuses to oust him.

TWO HOTELS—L. P. C., City. Jones' Hotel or Tehama House which stood on the site now occupied by the Bank of California was built by Colonel J. L. Folsom in the latter part of 1850 and was opened toward the close of the year. The Oriental which stood at the junction of Market, Sansome and Bush streets was opened in 1851, only a short time after Jones' Hotel was built.

LINEN GOODS—H. H. L., City. It is impossible to give the approximate value "of the annual sale in San Francisco of linen goods, including thread and twine," for the reason that there are no statistics kept. To obtain the figures would necessitate a visit to every jobber and retail dealer, but life is too short to engage in such an occupation.

REGICIDE—A. A., City. Francois Ravaillac, born in Angouleme, France, was a regicide. He killed Henri IV of France by driving a dagger into his heart on the 14th of May, 1610. Thirteen days later he suffered death for his crime under circumstances of great cruelty, his body being torn asunder by horses.

SCHOOL CHILDREN—S. P. W., City. Children born in the United States of alien parents, are, in this State, entitled to the benefits of the public schools the same as children of native born or of naturalized parents. In the city of San Francisco special provision is made for the children born of Chinese parents.

PETTICOAT LANE—W. T. B., City. Middlesex street, in Whitechapel, London, was at one time known as "Hog lane" and is now commonly known as "Petticoat lane." It derived this last name from the large number of women who lived on and who transacted business on that street.

REPRESENTATIVE IN PERU—M. H., San Mateo, San Mateo County, Cal. The postoffice address of the United States Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Peru, South America, is Lima, Peru.

ALL THE LETTERS—A. A., City. The verse in the Bible that contains all the letters of the alphabet except J is the twenty-first verse of the seventh chapter of Ezra.

MRS. STEVENSON—A. C., City. The widow of R. L. Stevenson, author, was at one time the wife of Samuel Osborne, who was the official shorthand reporter of the Fifteenth Judicial District Court, over which the late Samuel H Dwinelle presided.

THE STEAMER MORO—W. T. B., Requa, Del Norte County, Cal. The dimensions of the gasoline steamer Moro, recently built for J. S. Kimball of San Francisco, are: Length 100 feet, beam 22 feet. Her draught is 10 feet and her speed eight knots an hour.

A FIVE-DOLLAR PIECE—J. A. G., City. Dealers in coin charge from $7 50 to $8 50 for a five-dollar gold piece of the United States bearing the date of 1836, but they do not purchase any, as they have enough to supply the demand.

A NICKEL OF 1883—M. P., Alameda. Dealers in coins do not purchase nickels of 1883 "with the words 'E Pluribus Unum' on the bottom." Any one anxious to buy such coins can obtain them from dealers for 15 cents apiece.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATES—Graduate, City. The communication you sent was on a postal card. Rain fell on it and so obliterated the writing that it is impossible to make out what information is desired. Write again.

PEOPLE'S PARTY—T. C. R., City. The postoffice address of Louis Luckel, who was candidate for the office of Attorney-General on the People's party ticket at the election held last November, is Los Angeles.

A ROADBOOK—A. W., City. You can obtain a good roadbook from any first-class dealer in books. It is not the province of the Query Column to recommend any particular publication.

A FRANC—W. D. W., City. One franc, French money, is worth in the United States a fraction over 19 cents. Four hundred dollars in United States coin would purchase 2100 francs.

HOUND AND HORSE—B. M., City. The speed of a hound on flat ground is a little inferior to that of a racehorse, but on hilly ground it is superior.

THE RUSH—H. J., Oakland, Cal. The Richard Rush returned from sea to San Francisco on last Thursday.

IS A DEMOCRAT—W. J. B., Navarro Ridge, Cal. Senator Morgan of Alabama is a Democrat.

SAXONY'S FLOWER—A. A., City. The national flower of Saxony is the mignonette.

Seventy-one cities of England have associations striving to improve the homes of the poor.

DRY GOODS.

TO-MORROW WE FINISH

The business intrusted to us by Santa Claus. Here are a few LAST DAY SUGGESTIONS, the best of their kind to be had, and for the least prices.

Books.

In our big basement bookstore an immense stock of standard works of fiction, biography, travel, philosophy, children's holiday books beautifully illustrated in colors, poetic works, etc., at prices far below the publishers'. Books make useful, instructive and entertaining holiday presents. Here's an idea of assortments and prices:

WAVERLY NOVELS, complete, 12 volumes, cloth....$4 50 Set
CARLYLE'S COMPLETE WORKS, 10 volumes, cloth....$7 75 Set
CARLYLE'S ESSAYS, fine edition, 4 volumes....$3.25 Set
WORKS OF THE DUCHESS, 10 volumes, cloth....$3.50 Set
PRINCE OF INDIA, cloth, 2 volumes....$2.50 set
BEN HUR, cloth, standard edition....$1.40
LONGFELLOW'S POEMS, complete....$1
DICKENS' WORKS, 15 volumes, cloth, profusely illustrated edition, issued to sell at $27 50....$15 Set
WANDERING JEW, 2 volumes, cloth....85c Set
LES MISERABLES, cloth, gilt edges....90c
UNDER TWO FLAGS, Ouida, 600 pages, cloth, fine edition....90c
ELSIE STORIES for girls, in pretty cloth bindings, profuse and beautiful illustrations, publishers' price $1.25, our price....85c Each
DICKENS' CHILDREN STORIES, illustrated in half tones and many lovely colored pictures, publisher's price $2, our price....$1.25
ARABIAN NIGHTS, a child's edition with wonderful colored pictures, published at $2 our price....$1.25
ROBINSON CRUSOE, cloth binding, beautifully and profusely illustrated, complete and unabridged edition....$1
OLIVER OPTICS' books for boys....95c Volume
HORATIO ALGER'S books for boys....95c Volume
TOM SAWYER, by Mark Twain....85c

Hale Bros
[INCORPORATED]
937, 939, 941 MARKET STREET,
San Francisco.

Men's Neckwear.

FOUR-IN-HANDS, light or dark colors, the latest New York fads, selected especial for the holiday trade....25c to $1.25 Each

MEN'S TECK SCARFS, wide range of patterns and colorings to choose from. The newest shapes...25c to $1.25 Each

Lace Scarfs.

HAND-RUNSPANISH LACE SCARFS, all pure silk, beautiful patterns, a very special line for the holiday trade:
1¾ yards long...$2.90, $3.50, $4, $4.50
2¼ yards long....$4 and $4.50
3 yards long....$5, $6.50 and $7
3¼ yards long, 22 inches wide....$8 to $9
Others from....$10 to $22.50

BLACK SPANISH LACE SCARFS, a pretty line of moderate-priced goods, ranging in price from....45c to $3.50

Ladies' Gloves.

No nicer or more useful present for a lady. If you don't know the size and prefer to let the lady select the color and style to suit herself, buy a glove order.

TREFOUSSE GLOVES, the beautiful, perfect-fitting product of the most famous glove factory in France. All sizes, styles, materials and colors, and guaranteed to fit...$1 50 to $2.25 Pair

JOUVIN GLOVES, 4-button lengths, the genuine make, with new Paris-point stitching on backs, opera or street shades....$1.50 Pair

ALICE KID GLOVES, 4 large pearl buttons, thin kid, elastic, well-fitting, popular street colors, a superb glove for....$1 Pair

GREY LOCK KID GLOVES, 4 large buttons, finest kid, silk stitched, same color as glove, regular $1 50 value....$1.25 Pair
Other gloves from....85c to $2

Hale Bros
[INCORPORATED]
937, 939, 941 MARKET STREET,
San Francisco.

Fancy Aprons.

LADIES' FANCY LAWN APRONS, lace and ribbon trimmed, a beautiful holiday stock, neat and tasteful presents, 10 grades, ranging in price from....65c to $2 Each

Shopping Bags.

LADIES' SHOPPING BAGS, in all grades and sizes, from the small imitation leather, sateen tops, to the aristocratic real seal, with Russian leather pocket-book on outside, black satin tops, etc., prices from....50c to $3.50 Each

Pocket-Books.

If you want a sure thing to please your wife give her a pretty purse with a gold-piece inside. We'll furnish the purse in seal, alligator, lizard skin or Russian leather, with or without sterling silver ornaments, at from...50c to $5
We have pocket-books for 25c.

Albums.

Several hundred to choose from—plush, wood, celluloid, metal and leather covers, newest and most artistic styles, prices range from....95c to $4.50

Bazaar Goods.

ATOMIZ