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TIMELY TOPICS.

MR. MOODY, it is announced, will begin revival services in Augusta, Ga., May 1, to continue one week. The Charleston, S. C., Young Men's Christian association have invited him to visit that city.

THE Dresdren News insists that Prussia spends too much money on the army and too little on schools, and says: "In that kingdom (Prussia) are to be found 15,000 children who learn absolutely nothing, because no masters, not even bad ones, are provided for them. About one hundred and fifty thousand pupils are confided to women, for the most part ignorant, and to boys, and about two hundred thousand more are instructed by masters of other schools than their own, when time and circumstances permit. In a large number of the Prussian schools it has been found necessary to reduce the studies to half a day on account of the want of tutors, and the situation of these institutions becomes worse daily."

MISS EMMA PALMER is the last "medium" exposed—this time in Washington. She materialized flowers and extemporized poems. A sharp observer substituted another sheet of paper for one on which she had, before leaving home, extemporized a poem in pen and ink, and an assortment of flowers was found in a long pocket under her bustle. Then, without blushing, she declared that malicious spirits had surreptitiously built the pocket there on purpose to "give her away;" and then spiritualists were delighted and paid her more money! Exposures are of no more use to constitutional spiritualists than eyes are to a cave bat.

A NUMBER of German savans were lately taken in and done for by specimens of pottery manufactured in Jerusalem, and sold at a high price to the Berlin museum as genuine Moabitish antiquities. English and French scholars exposed the forgeries; but the clearer the imposture became the angrier the German savans got, like the professors who stood sponsors for the Cardiff giant in this country. Prof. Mommsen said of the controversy, the other day, in the Prussian Diet: "I know of no international scientific controversy which was ever fought upon either side in so ungentlemanly a way as this by the German professors."

A QUESTION concerning the origin of the phrase "Black Friday" elicits various answers from correspondents of the New York Evening Post. It was on Friday, the 8th of June, 1688, that King James II. sent the seven bishops to the tower. The day was long called "Black Friday" by nearly the whole English nation. Again, the London panic of 1866 was at its height at mid-day on Friday, May 12, and that day was named "Black Friday" by the London Times. Jim Fisk's "Black Friday" was the last, and fell in the month of September, 1869. It may be worthy of note that the panic of 1873 also broke out in the closing days of September.

IT seems that the London financiers have played a pretty sharp trick upon the Parisian Bourse and have unloaded immense quantities of English securities upon French capitalists. The English appear to have taken advantage of Mr. Cave's report, of which they first appreciated the significance; and by dextrous manipulation the Paris operators were induced to bite at the gilded bait offered by their shrewd English rivals. So enormous were the operations and so terrible the losses that real distress has been suffered by those interested, and an appeal was made to the French government to help them out of the scrape. But President MacMahon and his ministers could do nothing for them, and loud are the outcries against "perfidious Albion." This is not the first time that the English have showed themselves too smart for their continental rivals.

MUKHTAR PASHA has been badly whipped in his last attempt to succor the Turkish garrison of Niksiki, and the fate of those half-starved wretches is sealed. The Turks have rarely obtained any advantage in fighting the insurgents of the western provinces. It is a most difficult country for regular military operations, and as the insurgents fight after the fashion of guerrillas they have the advantage. The mountains of Herzegovina form deep hollows, at the bottom of which are frequently found streams, the banks being in many instances 3,000 feet nigh. The roads are mere bridle-paths, and riders have to dismount going down hill. In many places only two men can march abreast, and good sharpshooters, stationed among the overhanging rocks, can do deadly work. In certain places, as at Nevesinje, large plateaux are found, and to keep the Turks from operating on such vantage ground has been the aim of the insurgents. It is likely that Mukhtar Pasha has been forced into the fatal gulches, and the dispatch probably correctly states that his army will be annihilated. In the meantime the porte is hurrying forward recruits from Asia to continue the warfare against the "christian dogs."

LATEST NEWS.

SOUTH AND WEST.

Only one million dollars was the cost of the residence in San Francisco of Leland Sanford, president of the Central Pacific railroad.

The Atlantic and Pacific telegraph company will at once build new lines from Washington to New Orleans and Mobile, taking in several cities on the way.

Gen. Sabert Oglesby, who had command of the division of Andrew Jackson's army nearest the river in the battle of New Orleans, is still living in Texas. He was one hundred years old in February.

An English agent representing a capital of fifteen million dollars is in Charlotte, N. C., considering the expediency of establishing a smelting furnace for the treatment of sulphurets and refractory ores.

The City National bank, of Chicago, owing to a run, has suspended, and will go into voluntary bankruptcy. Liabilities, $800,000; assets, $130,000 over all liabilities. The other banks of the city are seriously affected by the failure.

John Bannock, while working in his field, near Forrest, Ohio, about a week ago, became enraged and killed his little son, in the presence of his little daughter. The latter told some neighbors, and on searching the field the body was found. Bannock was jailed.

Gov. Coke, in his annual message to the Texas legislature, in referring to the Mexican raids, says there is no hope of any better condition of affairs as long as the Rio Grande remains the limit to which the thieves can be pursued. He favors pursuit on Mexican soil.

Orders have been issued to commanding officers at Fort Laramie to, as far as possible, protect travelers between that point and Custer city, but their force is inadequate to the task other than occasional scouting parties. Serious trouble is apprehended from small bands of Indians, who will not attack large well armed parties.

Louisiana this year it is said will have the largest crop of native bananas ever grown. The winter has been so mild that the fruit continued to grow throughout the season, and while the leaves were badly burnt by the ice, the fruit was entirely uninjured, and large clusters of half-grown bananas can be seen upon many trees.

A dispatch received by General Sheridan from General Crook says the Indians at Red Cloud are on the verge of starvation, owing to neglect in forwarding supplies; that unless immediate steps are taken to supply them, they will all leave the reservation, and fears are entertained from their present temper, they will make a raid on the whites.

The latest reports from the agricultural districts of Louisiana indicate an improvement in the planting operations and the condition of the growing crops. The severe storms early in the season done much damage to outhouses and fences, and the cold snap immediately following killed a good portion of the corn and garden vegetables in a number of districts. The favorable turn in the weather during the last week or two has done much toward making good the damage done, but as yet seeding operations are a week or two weeks late. In the district in and around the parish of Plaquemines, sugar cane is again bearing leaves. Rice planters are plowing but as yet, but little has been sown. In the vicinity of Point Coupee farmers are actively engaged in plowing cotton and corn land, while sugar planting is nearly finished. Farmers in this district are planting more cereals than ever before, but the acreage of cotton will probably be up to the average. In other districts the condition of planting operations about the same as at the places named.

EAST.

Farm laborers in Vermont are engaging themselves at fifteen dollars per month and board, where last year twenty-five dollars was paid.

Besides the losses from the unparalleled falling off in immigration, New York has lost one-fourth of its import trade in four years, as the subjoined table will show:

1872-3	$325,015,000
1873-4	286,160,000
1874-5	279,467,000
1875-6	240,883,000

These lost imports were not diverted to other ports, nearly all the other importing cities in this country showing a proportioned loss.

The New York Herald publishes a list of church and other property in New York exempt from taxation. It shows that fifty thousand lots, valued at one hundred and twenty-six million one hundred and seventy thousand dollars, pay no tax to the city government. The cost of gas to the lamps kept burning before the churches at the expense of the city, is fifty thousand dollars. These figures and facts are grouped as a note of warning on the subject of church taxation, which threatens at no distant day to be one of the leading questions of the great political parties.

The New York Herald takes a cheerful view of the business outlook. It thinks the business prospects of New York are better now than many have anticipated. There has been a depreciation in the value of property, but owners of real estate prefer to hold their investments to selling them at panic prices. "Altogether," says the Herald, "we may feel that we are to have a better year than we have had for some years past. There is the centennial as an artificial impulse to help us as well as our plucky and well deserving city of Philadelphia. We shall have the election, also, in its way a stimulus to business activity and enterprise."

FOREIGN.

The plague in Mesapotamia is increasing. Since last report there have been five hundred and thirty-three new cases and two hundred and eighty-eight deaths.

A dispatch from Barbadoes says forty persons have been killed and wounded, and five thousand prisoners taken. Rioting is suspended, but the position is threatening. Confidence in the government is entirely gone.

The statistical office of the German railway lines has published the returns of the accidents which happened during the year 1875 on all German railways except the Bavarian lines. There were 755 runnings-off the rails and collisions of trains outside, and 1,376 runnings-off the rails and collisions inside the stations, and 1,350 accidents of divers natures by which the regular service was interrupted. These accidents have caused the loss of the lives of 509 persons; 1,545 persons were hurt. The proportion of accidents to the number of passenger trains was 1 to 5,394, and to that of goods trains 1 to 2,290.

The budget of Senor Sallivera, the Spanish minister of finance, does not appear very encouraging. He estimates the revenue for the financial year at 633,000,000 pesetos, or $126,000,000, and the expenditures at 654,000,000 pesetos, or $130,800,000. As Spain has a yearly deficit of from $25,000,000 to $50,000,000, Sallivera will probably find his estimated deficit for the present year far out of the way, especially as money has to be raised in unknown quantities to carry on the war in Cuba. The expenses of public worship alone, for this year, as announced by the royal decree last January, are $103,762,200. Senor Sallivera, however, proposes to cut down the salaries of the clergy as well as those of certain civil functionaries, a measure which will, doubtless, meet with opposition. Spain's total debt is estimated at nearly $2,000,000,000.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The postoffice appropriation has been agreed upon. The amount, thirty-three million dollars; about three million five hundred thousand dollars less than last year.

The New York World says: In view of the fact that the state of New York will exercise a powerful, if not a controlling influence in the election of the next president, the democratic party is more and more crystalizing about the name of Gov. Tilden.

The house committee on territories has agreed to report favorably on the senate bill for the admission of New Mexico. The only important amendment provides that an election for the adoption of a state constitution shall not be had earlier than June, 1877. The senate provides not later than January, 1877.

It is stated that the French minister of foreign affairs is considering the basis of a commercial treaty with the United States. It is proposed to place French silks and wines on an advantageous footing as to tariff in the United States, while France in return is to subject American cotton to only a small import duty.

At the beginning of the next fiscal year a large reduction will be made in the clerical force of the United States treasury department, which will render necessary the discharge of several hundred of the present employes. The amount of this reduction will depend upon the action which congress finally takes on the appropriation bill now pending in the house.

In order to cover the expenses of the centennial exhibition, it will be necessary to obtain $1,500,000 through the medium of admission fees, as that is the amount of the deficit, the total expenses having been estimated at $8,500,000, with the following resources:

State of Pennsylvania	$1,000,000
City of Philadelphia	1,500,000
Concessions, gifts and interest	500,000
Stock subscriptions	2,500,000
Appropriation by the United States	1,500,000
Total	$7,000,000

A Washington dispatch states that steps are being taken by the attorney-general to take possession for the government of the Hot Springs reservation, Arkansas. Judge Pierrepont will move for the appointment of a receiver for these lands. It is understood that threats have been made against persons attempting to take possession for the government, and in this event it is certain that troops will be brought into requisition to enforce the decision of the court.

Mr. T. S. Hunt, of Boston, has compiled some statistics concerning the mineral wealth of the country which are really interesting. He divides the country by a north and south line at the eastern base of the Rocky mountains, upon the Attantic side of which are coal, iron, copper, lead, salt and petroleum, and upon the Pacific side the more precious minerals. The grand total of coal for 1873 he finds to be about fifty millions of tons. In 1872, iron reached its highest figures of production, the total being two million eight hundred and eighty thousand and seventy tons. In 1874 the Lake Superior mines alone turned out seventeen thousand three hundred and twenty-seven tons of copper. The product of petroleum rose from five hundred thousand barrels in 1859 to ten million eight hundred and sixty-seven thousand nine hundred and thirty barrels in 1874. West of the Rocky mountains the official figures show that California, Nevada, Idaho, Montano, Utah, Colorado, Oregon, Washington and New Mexico yielded of the precious metals, $72,428,205 in 1874, and in 1875, $80,889,037.

Advices from Washington indicate that there is a temporary run on all of the sub-Treasuries from which silver is being paid out. Hence there is a growing scarcity of fractional currency and a slight premium attached to the latter. The government commenced paying on Wednesday with $16,000,000 of coin pieces in the vaults and a capacity of running off $3,000,000 a month all the time. In a month or two, if necessary, that capacity could be almost doubled. The amount of silver coin and bullion in the hands of the government is $20,000,000—possibly when all is coined $21,000,000—and payments during the rush have been about $1,000,000 a day, and it is estimated that the rush will be kept up for three or four days longer. It is said, however, that there is no danger that there will be any scarcity of silver for the redemption of fractional currency, because there are only $42,000,000 outstanding, of which $10,000,000 or $12,000,000 are lost or destroyed, and $10,000,000 perhaps will be floating around for some time. There is only the danger of hoarding, which is incident to any change in the system of paper money back to a coin system.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

In the senate, on the 24th, the bill to abolish the office of supervisor of internal revenue was discussed until the expiration of the morning hour, when the consideration of the bill to amend the laws relating to legal-tender of silver coin was resumed, and Mr. Jones, of Nevada, took the floor. He made a very long argument in favor of the double standard of gold and silver money, and when about half through his speech the senate adjourned.

In the senate, on the 25th, discussion of the bill relating to resumption of specie payment was resumed. Ordered printed. Senator Thurman presented a memorial from the Cincinnati board of trade, remonstrating against the reduction of the salaries of the officers in the postoffice and the diversion of any revenues thereof to any other purpose, and proposing that the revenues of said office be expended in its own proper business. Referred. The committee on finances reported back with amendments the concurrent resolution to secure a uniformity in gold coin, moneys and accounts between the United States and the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and recommended its adoption.

In the senate on the 26th, Mr. Sargent submitted a resolution directing the secretary of the treasury to inform the senate how many persons are now employed as revenue and internal revenue agents, giving the date of their respective appointments, the rate of compensation and expenses paid to each, and also to inform the senate whether in any cases special rewards have been paid or received by any of such agents, whether moneys have been disbursed by any such agents, whether any, and if so, which of them, have been or are under the direction of any person other than the secretary and not subordinate to the treasury department, and if so, by virtue of what statute or other authority. Agreed to. Mr. Cooper, from the committee on public buildings and grounds, reported favorably on house bill to further provide for building a custom house, postoffice and court-house at Memphis, Tennessee. Calendar. The senate resumed consideration of unfinished business, being a bill to amend the laws relating to the legal tender of silver coin. Mr. Sherman submitted an amendment to the second section, so as to authorize the secretary of the treasury to exchange subsidiary silver coin of the United States for an equal amount of United States notes, as well as to silver dollars authorized to be coined by bill, such notes to be retired and cancelled, and not be again replaced by other notes. Ordered printed. After the expiration of the morning hour Mr. Morrill called up the bill to establish an educational fund, and to apply a portion of the proceeds of public lands to public education, and to provide for a more complete endowment and support of national colleges for the advancement of scientific and industrial education. He made a speech thereon. At the conclusion of Mr. Morrill's speech, Mr. Maxey, of Texas, submitted an amendment in the nature of a substitute, and said it consecrates the net proceeds of the sales of public lands to the support of common schools, endowment of colleges, etc. It does not interfere with the pre-emption and homestead laws. It distributed the money raised among the several states and the district of Columbia, according to population, and it in no manner interfered with the management of schools and colleges, leaving that to the control of the states and territories. The bill and substitute were laid aside, and the senate took up the bill in relation to the Japanese indemnity fund. Without action the senate went into executive session, and soon adjourned.

In the senate on the 27th, the galleries were again crowded, two-thirds of the audience being ladies. At 12:30 legislative business was suspended and the impeachment trial began. Mr. Carpenter, for the accused, moved that the trial be postponed until the first Monday of December next, and asked that the time for discussing this motion be fixed at two hours for each side. The request was granted—yeas 48, nays 13; and Mr. Blair addressed the senate in favor of the motion. Then the senate, at 3 o'clock, retired for consultation, and returned to the senate chamber at 4:30, where the presiding officer announced that motion on the part of defense was denied, and that counsel on part of respondent would now be heard on the motion submitted by the managers, which is that evidence in question pending to plea of jurisdiction be given before arguments relating thereto are heard, and that if such plea is overruled, defendant should be required to answer articles of impeachment in two days, and that the trial shall proceed on the next day after joinhg issue. Mr. Blair, counsel for Belknap, rose to open the argument, but on motion of Mr. Anthony the senate, sitting as a Court of Impeachment, adjourned until to-morrow at 12½ o'clock. After executive session, adjourned.

HOUSE.

In the house, on the 21st, Mr. Knott introduced a bill to regulate the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in certain cases. Referred. It provides that the supreme court shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction to issue the writ of habeas corpus in all cases where the party shall be detained or restrained of his liberty by authority or under orders of either house of congress; that whenever it shall appear by petition that the party is detained or restrained of his liberty by authority of either house of congress, before a state or United States judge or court other than the supreme court of the United States, the writ shall be denied if not issued, or dismissed if issued; that if any such state or United States judge or court other than the supreme court award a writ of habeas corpus in such cases, the supreme court may award a writ of prohibition, and that if the supreme court shall not be in session at the time, any judge of such court may take such action with the right of appeal to the supreme court. Mr. Burchard reported a bill concerning corporations engaged in the business of distilling. After a good deal of discussion the bill passed. Consideration of the bill to transfer the Indian bureau to the war department was resumed. The bill then passed—139 to 94. It provides that after the first of July next the secretary of the war department shall exercise the supervising and appelate powers and possess the jurisdiction now exercised and possessed by the secretary of the interior in relation to Indian affairs; that he shall from time to time make details of army officers to administer the affairs of the Indian branch of the war department; that the commanding officers of the geographical departments shall be ex-officio in charge of Indian affairs in their departments, and shall make details of officers, including officers on the retired list, to administer the affairs of the Indian service, and that the inspector general of the army shall discharge the duties of inspector of Indian affairs. The act is not to be construed to authorize an increase in the number, rank, pay or allowances of army officers. All contracts for Indian supplies and transportation are to be made in the same manner and at the same time, when practicable, as those for the army. All religious denominations are to enjoy a free and equal right to erect and maintain churches and school buildings on Indian reservations. Individual Indians who have adopted the habits of civilized life may become citizens of the United States without forfeiting their right to their share of tribal property. Adjourned.

In the house, on the 24th, the following were among the bills introduced and referred under the call of the states: To reorganize the navy. It provides that there shall be on the active list six rear admirals, eighteen commodores, fifty captains and seventy-five commanders, and that the promotions in these grades shall cease until those numbers shall be reached. To permit the national banks to issue circulating notes equal in amount to one hundred per cent. of the current market value of the bonds deposited by them. Mr. Sayler presented a petition from the tobacco manufacturers of Cincinnati and Covington, for a reduction of tax on tobacco to sixteen cents per pound. Referred. Mr. Blaine took the floor, and proceeded to make a personal explanation in regard to the newspaper charges connecting him with the Union Pacific railroad. In refutation of the charge that he had received, in some indirect manner, the large sum of sixty-four thousand dollars in 1871, which allegation was based partly upon the authority of Morton, Bliss & Co., bankers, of New York, through whom a draft for sixty-four thousand dollars was said to have been negotiated for his benefit, Mr. Blaine presented a letter from the firm denying that any draft, note or check had ever passed through their hands in which he was supposed to have any interest, direct or indirect. Other documentary evidence was submitted to the same tenor, and in summing up the senator denounced the charges, each and all, as without a shadow of truth. The house then resumed consideration of the district tax bill, but without action adjourned.

In the house, on the 25th, the legislative and judiciary appropriation bill was resumed, but was interrupted to allow Mr. Lord, chairman of the impeachment managers, to present the rejoinder to the demurrer filed by Mr. W. W. Belknap. The paper was read, and is to the effect that the house of representatives, in the name of itself and all the people in the United States, says that, first, the replication to the plea of Mr. Belknap to articles of impeachment and matters therein contained, are in matter and form sufficient in law for the house to maintain its articles of impeachment, and that the senate as a court of impeachment has jurisdiction to hear, try and determine the same; and that as Belknap has not answered such articles of impeachment, or in any manner denied the same, the house of representatives prays judgment thereon according to law. As to the first and second subdivisions of the rejoinder to the second replication of the house to the plea of defendant, wherein defendant demanded trial according to law, the house in behalf of itself and of all the people of the United States does like; and as to the third, fourth, fifth and sixth subdivisions of the rejoinder, the house asserts it ought not to be barred from having and maintaining articles of impeachment against the defendant, because it denies every argument in such rejoinder, which denies or traverses acts or intents charged against the defendant, and it reaffirms the truth of the latter; and, therefore, the house of representatives prays judgment according to law. The paper was approved by the house, and the clerk was ordered to file it with the secretary of state. Adjourned.

In the house on the 26th, Mr. Gibson offered a resolution for the appointment of a select committee to make a thorough investigation into the conduct and management of the customhouse and other government offices, at New Orleans, and to suggest necessary changes and reforms, with power to sit in New Orleans, and to report at the present session, and that the proceedings of the committee be published. Adopted. The house then went into committee of the whole on the legislative appropriation bill, commencing with the appropriation for the war department. After progressing as far as page 59, leaving only eight pages to be disposed of, the committee rose. Mr. Wells, from the conference committee on the deficiency bill, made a report recommending that the senate recede from three of its amendments, and that the house concur in three others of its amendments, none of them of any importance. Report was concurred in. Resolutions were offered by Messrs. Banning and Randall calling for information as to the sale of commissary articles and as to the amount of post funds at the military academy at West Point. Adopted. The house then adjourned.

In the house on the 27th, Mr. Lapham introduced an amendment to the constitution authorizing the president to approve or disapprove of separate clauses or provisions of a bill. Referred. Mr. Turney made a conference report on the bill excluding Missouri from the act of May 10, 1872, to promote the development of mining resources. The report adds this clause: "And all lands in said states shall be subject to disposal as agricultural lands." The report was agreed to. After deciding to print all the testimony taken before the committee on naval affairs, the house went into committee of the whole, Mr. Cox in the chair, on the legislative and executive appropriation bill. Mr. Whitehouse offered an amendment to section two, prohibiting any employe of the government from giving to or receiving from any other persons, directly or indirectly, any money or thing of value for political purposes. Adopted. Mr. Hoar moved an additional section providing that whenever, in the judgment of the head of any department, the duties assigned to a clerk of one class can be as well performed by a clerk of a lower class or by a female clerk, it shall be lawful for him to dismiss the number of clerks of a higher to increase the number of clerks of a lower grade to the same extent. Agreed to. Mr. Glover moved to insert an additional section, prohibiting executive officers of the government from employing any clerk, agent, engineer, draughtsman, messenger, watchman, laborer or other employes in any of the executive departments in the city of Washington or elsewhere, except those for whom specific appropriations are made in the bill. Agreed to. Committee then rose and reported the bill to the house without voting on any of the amendments. The house then adjourned.

TWEED'S HIDING PLACE.—Superintendent Walling says that he believes that Tweed is living somewhere in Canada; that trustworthy information has been received that points conclusively to Canada as his present hiding place. Nevertheless, the superintendent admits Tweed may still be concealed in this city. He could remain here very easily, and none of the persons in pursuit of him could learn the least thing about his hiding-place. There were men connected with Tweed who would serve him to the death and never divulge his hiding place or say or do anything to attract the attention or suspicion of the authorities. If he were to be taken sick, he could find plenty of physicians who would be willing to attend to him and ask no questions. Where Tweed is, the superintendent concludes, can only be conjectured at best, but it is truly remarkable that nothing positive or definite has been heard of him since his escape from custody.—*New York Trib.*

NEVER marry a woman with a musical ear; they are fickle. A musical ear can be detected easily from the ordinary kind; it is four inches longer.

BETTING ON RACES.

The Respective Merits of English Books and American Pools.

The Louisville Ledger says: About two years since, Mr. George Wilkes, of the New York Spirit of the Times, introduced into this country the English system of betting on American race courses. It is true Mr. Wilkes did not himself open the books, but by repeatedly calling attention to the advantages which books offered, and by persuading John Morrissey first, and afterwards Kelly and Bliss, books were opened in a few of the leading stables at Jerome Park and Saratoga.

But notwithstanding the success which attended the venture, even to this day Saratoga, Jerome Park and Long Branch are the only courses whose stakes have been honored with a book. Louisville, New Orleans, Nashville, Lexington, Baltimore, and, in fact, all other courses, are dependent entirely on the old plan—the American pool.

There are many advantages in the English plan which ours does not enjoy; but on the whole, if we were to be deprived of either, we should be compelled to own a preference for the American pool. However, as there are many of our readers who have but a vague idea of English books, we explain the matter a little before saying anything of its advantages.

In England, the book-maker is the party who lays odds against the various horses entered for the stake, and so is the book plan as introduced among us. Say, for example, that Ten Broeck, George Graham, Volcano, Emilie Cobb, Jack Trigg, and Judge Wells are entered for a cup race, at 2½ miles. The book-maker would look at the recorded performances of each horse, what he could learn of his private doings at home, and then would set about making up his betting list, which is called the book. From the lot above, it would be almost a certainty that Ten Broeck would win the race; but then he might break down before the race took place, or he might not start, or might be scratched by his owner, or some of the thousand accidents which horse flesh is heir to, might overtake him; so the book-maker would say: "I will lay four to one that Ten Broeck does not win." Looking at George Graham with the above chances against him, added to the fact that if he and Ten Broeck came together all right, that George would certainly be compelled to take a second place, he would lay seven to one against him; about the same against Emilie Cobb, with ten to one against Volcano, and fifteen to one against Jack and the Judge—and thus would his book be complete. In this book he limits himself to a loss of ten or twenty thousand dollars. Of course only one horse can win, and as bets are against them all, every bet which is laid, excepting the one against the winner, is cash to the book-maker's pocket. So also is a bet which lays on a horse that breaks down or does not start, and this, in fact, is the chief profit reaped, for in a stake of forty horses perhaps only ten will come to the string, and of these ten but one can win, excepting in case of a dead heat when half is paid to each horse; and it is from the large amounts received from those which do not win that book-makers are enabled to lay such heavy odds against the different contestants.

The great advantages in the English system are—one knows exactly how much money he will win or lose by betting on any named horse; that he can bet as small or as large a sum as he may desire; that he has no per centage to pay on his winnings; that he can place the bet at any time during the season when he has the money to spare, and is not cramped all at once. But the greatest advantage lies, where properly it should, to the owner of the horse, the party who spends his money and time in creating sport. Say, for instance, that an owner has a colt which he has entered in various stakes as a two year old, and which has run unsuccessfully as did Calvin and Pennington, here the owner has run into great expense. When the three-year old stakes are announced very heavy odds are placed against his horse. In Calvin's instance thirty to one was given by the book-makers. But very frequently a colt shows wonderful improvement at three over his two year old career. Of course at home and by his owner is this first known. Again, recurring to Calvin, in this very manner was Mr. McGrath enabled to win $15,000 for $500, as Calvin won his three year old stakes right off the reel, while as a two year old he was worth nothing at all.

Under the pool system this would have been absolutely impossible, for as the colt had been galloped on the track, half the bummers of the town would be lying in fence corners catching his time and telling of the discovery made.

Still English books have many disadvantages, as we have already shown, and besides, to those who have no means of knowing anything about the horses, a personal observation is necessary to such as wish to place their money intelligently, and not altogether from chance; while in a heat race, one has a chance to hedge, which is something unknown to the English practice. Hedging, in fact, is always possible in pools if one will only take the time to wait his chances, as pools constantly vary during an evening's selling to so large a per cent. in fact that we would not like to name the figure for fear of not being believed.

But the greatest impost which is placed on the American pool is the per centage, a sum on a week's racing so enormous as to frighten anyone that will take time to calculate it. Three per cent. four times a day is twelve per cent., and on the six days is seventy-two per cent., provided one will bet on every race, and as every race has to pay the per centage, the pool-seller actually gets that amount during the week, and this is what enables Morrissey to pay the jockey club $10,000 a year and have a little to spare for himself.

"My boy, tell us what you know about 'rattan?' said the committeeman. "It is sometimes called the 'calamus rottang; comes from Penang, Samarang and Padang, and is used by the master in this school too dang often."

MISS EMMA SNYDER, a revivalist, who has been laboring with success in the towns of Southern Illinois, has adopted the original expedient of publishing in the local newspapers the names of the new converts.

FACTS AND FANCIES.

THE extreme height of misery is a small boy with a new pair of boots and no mud puddle.

NATURE is nature. You can't alter the crook of a dog's tail much and preserve the length of it too.

A HANDSOME time-piece, with a check for £15,000, is to be presented to Dr. Lindsay Alexander, Congregational minister of Edinbugh.

RELIGION is the dominion of the soul. It is the hope of life, an anchor of safety, the deliverance from evil. What a service has christianity rendered to humanity. What a power would it still have did its ministers comprehend their mission!—*Napoleon.*

BROKEN RHYTHM.—

My ears keep time to half a rhyme,
That slips and slides away from me;
Across my mind, like idle wind,
A lost thought beateth lazily.

Adream, afloat, my little boat
And I alone steal out to sea;
One vanished year, O lost and dear!
You rowed the little boat for me.

Ah! who can sing of anything,
With none to listen lovingly?
Or who can time the oars to rhyme,
When left to row alone the sea?

THE expenses of the late Alexander T. Stewart's funeral are not believed to be more than $12,000. Many persons thought they would reach from $30,000 to $50,000. The estimate includes the undertaker's bill, the music, flowers, attendance, etc. —*N. Y. Telegram.*

BRIDGET—"Sure, Maria and me was discushin over what was thim things in the pitcher over the mantel." Mistress—"Why, Bridget, those are Raphael's angels." Bridget—"Och, thin the both of us wuz wrong; I said they wuz twins and Maria said they wuz bats."

"MAY they always live in peace and harmony," was the way a Yankee marriage notice should have wound up; but the compositor, who couldn't read manuscript very well, put in type, and horrified the happy couple by making it read, "May they always live on peas and hominy."

ALADDIN.—

When I was a beggarly boy,
And lived in a cellar damp,
I had not a friend or toy,
But I had Aladdin's lamp;
When I could not sleep for cold,
I had fire enough in my brain,
And builded with roofs of gold,
My beautiful castles in Spain!

Since then I have toiled day and night,
I have money and power good store,
But I'd give all my lamps of silver bright,
For the one that is mine no more;
Take, Fortune, whatever you choose,
You gave, and may snatch again;
I have nothing 'twould pain me to lose,
For I own no more castles in Spain!

IF we look at a disappointment as a lesson, we soon take the sting out of it. A spider will teach us that. He is watching for a fly and away the nimble fellow goes. The spider runs round his net to see whether there be any holes, and to mend them with the pious ejaculation of "better luck next time."

St. Louis and the Cotton Trade.

The St. Louis papers tell of further efforts to be put forth by the mercantile interests of that city with a view to enlarging its cotton trade and describe a "new method" of handling cotton as one of the agencies to be employed:

It is proposed that on the arrival of cotton at warehouses it shall be subjected to a rigid inspection after the bagging and ties are removed, and two samples drawn from the bale and marked and numbered to correspond. Compression will immediately follow inspection, and one sample will be given to the cotton factor and the other carefully sealed and deposited with the secretary of the cotton exchange. The cotton thus inspected, sampled and compressed on arrival, will be stored away ready for shipment promptly to any part of the world, while under the present system of inspection and compressing after a sale is made, there is sometimes a delay of seven to ten days before shipments go forward. For the loss in weight by drying out after compression, the trade are expected to agree upon a certain per centage per month which will be established as the rule, and cotton will be sold by the weights on the certificates given after compression, less the per centage above mentioned. Of the advantages of this plan, that of lessening the cost of insurance is one of the most important. More than this, all classes of buyers will receive their cotton fully a week earlier than under the present system, and will also be relieved from the troubles now experienced to ascertain what portion of a lot of cotton is to be rejected. Interior shippers will be promptly informed of the exact condition of their shipments, and if any bales prove to be fraudulently packed the planter can be immediately advised of it. Water packed cotton, if promptly examined and picked over on arrival, can be saved from serious damage, while if it remains in the warehouses, under the present plan, perhaps for months before it is examined, the damage extends throughout the bale. The compress companies will be required to employ competent inspectors, for whose conduct the companies will be responsible.

THE MONGOLIAN INFLUX.—The following statement of Chinese arrivals at San Francisco since 1868 has been carefully compiled from the books of the custom-house:

	Male.	Female.	Total.
1868	10,024	256	10,280
1869	11,710	1,540	13,251
1870	9,666	645	10,311
1871	4,864	100	4,964
1872	8,812	566	9,377
1873	16,605	516	17,121
1874	11,743	307	12,050
1875	18,090	358	18,448
1876—			
January	1,170	7	1,177
February	1,197	...	1,197
March	1,872	...	1,872
Totals	95,753	4,296	100,049

The largest influx, it will be seen, was in 1873 and the smallest in 1871. The figures relate only to the arrivals direct from China, and have nothing to do with those, not a few, who came here from various South American ports. The number of arrivals of Chinese women in 1869 is phenomenal, and we know of no explanation of it. It may be remarked here, by way of comforting assurance, that the steamer Lotus is now fully due, bringing 387 more of the "thrifty" Mongols.