THE CUSTOM-HOUSE.

Absolute Necessity for an Appropriation to Finish the Building.

Immense Amount of Government Business Carried on in This City.

The Post-Office, Internal Revenue, Customs Service, Courts, Marshal's Office, Etc.

Cost of the Present Quarters---Their Unhealthiness and Risky Nature.

Nearly six years ago, the square inclosed by Adams, Jackson, Dearborn, and Clark streets was purchased by the Government, as a site for the new Custom-House, at a cost of a million and a quarter. In the fall of 1872—a few months after the land had been acquired—work was commenced on the building. In June, 1874, the corner-stone was laid. The summer of 1875 was hopelessly frittered away by investigations of committees of experts and others, who explored the concrete foundations, and ordered a portion of the walls to be taken down and rebuilt. The winter of 1877-'78 saw the structure completed, so far as relates to the stonework and iron frame for the roof. A few mechanics are now engaged in putting on the latter, and the superintending architect, Mr. Burling, says it will not be finished until July. The appropriations already made have been almost exhausted. There is only a working balance of some $20,000 to the credit of the architect. Some weeks ago Congressman Aldrich introduced a bill asking that a temporary appropriation of $200,000 be made, and the money placed to the credit of the Custom-House, so that the architect could take advantage of the early spring, and put a larger force of men at work. The Committee to whom the bill was referred reported in favor of granting $100,000, which sum will be, if granted, deducted from the appropriation as specified in the general bill.

Supervising-Architect Hill, of the Treasury Department, has asked for an appropriation of half a million, to be expended this summer and fall. He has also asked for similar amounts for the Custom-Houses at Cincinnati and St. Louis. It has been pointed out to Mr. Hill that no should not rest content with an appropriation of $500,000. The necessity for completing the building is of the most urgent character, and he should at least ask for $1,000,000, though it is stated that that sum will not be sufficient to put it in condition for occupancy. To this it is understood he replied substantially that it would not do to ask more for Chicago than for either Cincinnati or St. Louis, as the local jealousies of these two cities would lead to the raising of a howl about favoritism and unjust discrimination. Such complaint on the part of these cities, when critically examined, will be found to possess no merit whatever. Of the present permanent offices in those cities, though in a measure insufficient for the accommodation of the various departments of the national service, are so far superior to those now used in Chicago as to render a comparison almost impossible. To give an idea of the difference, it may be stated that the one occupies a palace, the other a barrack.

THE GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN CHICAGO

is of a character and extent that imperatively demands, and that right away, facilities commensurate with its importance. Chicago pays more internal revenue tax than any other district in the country. Last year it contributed to the support of the Government nearly $9,000,000. The Sub-Treasury here stands fourth on the list in importance, and last year did nearly twice as much business as Cincinnati, and more than twice the business of St. Louis. Chicago's Post-Office for vastness of operations is exceeded only by those of New York and Philadelphia, and in economical management is only surpassed by the last named. As a port of entry its operations are exceeded by very few cities in the Union, and they only on the Atlantic coast. Last year there arrived here over 10,000 vessels, with a tonnage of over three and one-quarter millions. The business of the Federal Courts for the Northern District of Illinois, most of it arising here, is larger than that of any district in the Union.

AT THE PRESENT TIME

the business of the Government in this city is transacted in two buildings, which it leases, and for which it pays a large rental. The Post-Office is located in the north half of the Honore building, for the use of which Uncle Sam pays $22,500. For this sum it has the occupancy of twenty-nine rooms, including stores on first floor and basement. In the office there are 260 clerks and other employes, whose duty it is to sort and arrange the mails, keep the books, etc. There are in addition 157 letter-carriers. The rooms, as a temporary make-shift, are probably as good as could be secured, but they are far from being adapted to the wants of the service. There are no conveniences for receiving and dispatching the mails. The light is defective, and it takes a longer time to distribute and sort out the various kinds of mail matter than the needs of the service demand. The building is defective in another respect. It is far from being fire-proof, and its arrangement and surroundings are of such a nature that, should a fire break out anywhere within its walls, it would be impossible to save much more than the records of the office and the money-letter mail. The rest of the contents would mingle its ashes with those of the building. Next to New York, Chicago is the largest distributing office in the country, and on local business is exceeded only by New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. In its aggregate transactions it transcends Boston. The following figures show the postal business of the cities named:

	Car. Piece.	Pieces handled.	Local postage.
New York	420	146,120,137	$1,090,052
Philadelphia	247	109,481,020	360,040
Chicago	157	57,771,207	81,127
Boston	151	46,731,324	133,843
St. Louis	107	28,093,084	40,208
Brooklyn	80	15,613,485	53,738
Cincinnati	71	17,317,312	45,469
Baltimore	62	18,812,107	33,081
New Orleans	47	6,560,092	11,177

The cost of handling each piece of mail matter in the various cities is: Philadelphia, .208 of a cent; Chicago, .230; New York, .237; Baltimore, .255; Boston, .315; St. Louis, .333; Cincinnati, .359; Brooklyn, .493; New Orleans, .507.

THE OTHER BUILDING

devoted to the Government uses is the dark, dismal pile in rear of the Republic Life Block. It is owned by Mr. John V. Farwell, surrounded on the north and south sides by narrow, ill-paved, and rather filthy alleys. The rear end butts up against a machine-shop, and on the west it prolongs itself into the insurance building referred to. For this five-story edifice the Government pays $13,000 per annum, which is about 50 per cent more than it is worth. In most of the rooms the occupants are obliged to burn gas all day long, which is an additional tax of nearly $3,000 per annum. This building is occupied by the following departments: Customs, Revenue, Treasury, and Judicial.

The Sub-Treasury occupies one room on the ground floor, and from its windows is a cheerful prospect of an always muddy alley running north to Madison street. In this apartment, which is badly lighted and worse ventilated, are stowed away eight clerks, a small vault, three or four safes containing a balance of from five to seven millions, and all the books and records of the office. Gas is kept burning all day, and, as a rule, the atmosphere is very little better than that of the black-hole of Calcutta. The vaults and safes containing the treasure might stand a conflagration, but it is doubted. Two watchmen are constantly on guard during the night, and one during the day. Last year the office did a business aggregating $84,875,311, which was only exceeded by the Sub-Treasuries at New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. Compared with the other cities, the account stands:

Chicago	$84,875,000
Cincinnati	57,432,000
Baltimore	47,300,000
New Orleans	43,981,000
St. Louis	30,145,000

On this same floor is

THE CUSTOM-HOUSE,

which occupies seven rooms. Last year there were foreign goods imported to the amount of $3,264,921, on which duties were collected to the extent of $1,448,703. The tonnage dues and other fees were $23,681.74. There are owned in this customs district 389 vessels and 119 canal-boats, with an aggregate tonnage of 84,281 tons. There arrived at this port last year 10,263 vessels, with a tonnage of 3,374,333 tons. Of these, there were 101 foreign craft, with a tonnage of 34,543 tons. During the eight months that navigation was open last year there was an average daily arrival of forty-two vessels. The departures were about the same number. No port in the country has as many daily arrivals and departures. This enormous business is performed by eighteen employes, who are also obliged to do most of their work by gas-light.

The second floor is occupied by the District Attorney and his three assistants (two rooms), the United States Marshal, his five Deputies, two bailiffs, and one clerk (two rooms), United States Commissioner and clerk, and the Internal Revenue Department,—Collector, Deputies, and clerks, seventeen in all (five rooms). All these apartments are dark and badly ventilated. The water-closets are at the east end of the corridor running through the building, and continuously poison the atmosphere.

THE REVENUE DISTRICT

is now the largest in the country, and is approached only by those included in the City of New York and Cincinnati. There are 6,000 cigar-dealers, 3,000 retail liquor-dealers, 100 wholesale dealers, fifty rectifiers, eight distillers, twenty-five brewers, and 475 cigar and tobacco manufacturers sufficient to the Government in this district, and from them was collected last year nearly $9,000,000. In 1876 Illinois contributed 21 per cent of all the internal revenue, Ohio 15 per cent, Missouri 2.69 per cent, New York 13 per cent, and Kentucky 6.93 per cent. As showing the position of Chicago as a contributor to the revenue of the Government, the following table compiled from the Commissioner's report for 1876 is appended:

Chicago, total receipts	$8,950,777
Peoria, total receipts	8,001,700
Kentucky, total receipts	7,053,038
St. Louis, total receipts	2,215,033
San Francisco, total receipts	2,770,123
New York, total receipts	6,399,500
Cincinnati, total receipts	9,810,433
Milwaukee, total receipts	2,858,072

During 1877 Chicago manufactured 8,869,550 gallons of distilled spirits; Cincinnati, 8,494,258; surplus in favor of Chicago, 375,292.

In the office of the United States Marshal there is a constant growth of business. During the year 1877 there were 3,070 cases docketed, for which writs were issued as follows: Bankruptcy, 715; admiralty, 83; law and chancery, 1,527; United States cases, 745. Of executions, there were issued 375. There were summoned 237 jurors and 530 witnesses. Some 28,000 bankruptcy notices were served. The Northern District over which the Marshal has jurisdiction is composed of thirty-three counties. As appears from the report of the Department of Justice for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1878, the business of this district was equal to that of Indiana, Iowa, and Kansas, more than that of all the Eastern States, more than the three districts of New York combined, and equaled Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Missouri. Last year Commissioner Hoyne passed upon 250 cases of parties charged with violation of the United States laws.

The third floor is devoted to the use of

THE FEDERAL JUDGES, COURTS, AND CLERKS.

The passage a few years ago of acts of Congress enlarging the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts has greatly increased the litigation in these temples of justice. The papers and records which have accumulated since the fire exceed in number and importance all that were filed in the archives from the establishment of the district up to Oct. 8, 1871. There were on the docket Jan. 1, 1878, in the Circuit Court, 2,363 cases law and chancery; in the District Court, 1,139 law and admiralty, 80 criminal, and 803 bankruptcy cases. To take care of the records connected with this enormous mass of litigation thirteen clerks are employed. Their quarters are narrow and contracted. They perpetually breathe poisoned air, rendered more carboniferous by the burning of many gas-jets. The court-rooms are a disgrace. Small in size, low in ceiling, with ventilation only obtained at the risk of implanting the seeds of consumption,—in these miserable quarters Judges Drummond and Blodgett are compelled to spend the professional portion of their lives. The water-closets, which are at the end of each corridor, exhale a sickening smell, which forces its way through the open transoms into each of the rooms, poisoning the air and sowing the seeds of typhoid disease. In all the rooms on this floor gas is burning more or less during the day.

The fourth floor is made up of jury-rooms and minor offices. One is occupied by a Special Agent of the Treasury Department, in another the Inspector of Marine Boilers holds forth. The Revenue Agent, having his headquarters in this city, is the tenant of another. Some of the rooms are used for the storage of old records, documents, dilapidated furniture, etc.

One of the most important objections to the continued use of this building is the

ABSENCE OF FIRE-PROOF QUALITIES.

There are stored throughout the building tons of records and important documents. The books and papers of the internal revenue are of course in duplicate, one set being kept in the Treasury Department at Washington. The Custom-House and Sub-Treasury records are also mostly in duplicate. The records of vessel property, in which a large number of our citizens are interested, are kept in the Custom-House. In the court-rooms and court clerks' offices are stored an immense number of original papers, abstracts, writs judgments, etc., very few of which, if destroyed, could be replaced. The records in all the big railroad suits, patent cases, bankruptcy proceedings, etc., are of vital importance. There are countless evidences of title to all sorts of personal property, and the necessity of rendering these documents free from destruction by fire or otherwise is most imperative. This security to these diverse and important interests the building now occupied by the Federal officers does not afford. The vaults are comparatively small, and in the Sub-Treasury are being utterly inadequate to meet the requirements of the constantly-increasing business. Under the provisions of the Silver bill, parties having large sums in the "dollars of our daddies" can avail themselves of the privilege of depositing them in the Sub-Treasury, and receiving in exchange certificates which will in effect be a legal-tender. Already several of the National Banks deposit their greenback reserves with the Sub-Treasurer, receiving therefor certificates of deposit, which are used by the banks in the settlement of Clearing-House balances. On the resumption of specie payment at the first of next year, it is expected that there will be a large increase in this certificate business. The deposits of gold and silver coin will gradually increase, and the already overtaxed capacity of the vaults will be called upon to do double work.

For all these unsafe and inadequate facilities for the transaction of the Federal business

THE GOVERNMENT PAYS

almost $40,000 per year. This represents an interest of nearly 3 per cent on $1,500,000. If Congress were to now appropriate the million and one-half required to complete the construction of the new building and fit it up ready for occupancy and rush the work, it would save money by the operation. At the present snail's pace progress of the work there is an expense of $237 per day for superintendence, clerical help, etc. This amounts to over $11,000 per annum. Add to this the rentals for and extra gas consumed in the building now occupied, and there is an annual expense of $51,000, which will go on until the completion of the new edifice. A private corporation, if it owned the new Custom-House, would have it ready for occupancy by the first of next year.

There are now employed upon the building about 100 men, of whom about one-fourth are stonecutters, engaged in taking out rotten and worthless stones, and replacing them with good ones. This work will be practically completed in the course of a few days. The others are closing up the fronts of the building, laying brick, preparing mortar, etc. The contractor who has the job of putting on the corrugated iron for the under side of the roof has a few men at work. On this the Government has a small force putting the cement, which will be covered with copper sheathing, making a solid roof impervious to water and absolutely fire-proof. In the course of two or three weeks Mr. Burling, the Superintendent, hopes to have the slate contractor at work on the sharp peaks and gables which surmount the structure. It is not expected that the roof will be completed before July. Several months ago bids were received for furnishing the vault lights for the huge court, which, when finished, will be used as the distributing-room of the Post-Office. Brown Bros. put in a bid to do the work for some $20,000. Dailey & Co. offered to do it for some $17,000. The award has not yet been made, and it is hinted that sometime in the course of human events the contractors will be asked to bid again.

ON THE COMPLETION OF THE ROOF,

work will be commenced on the floors. The Government will build the first one of brick arches, which will be subsequently covered with cement, on which will be laid the tiling or checkered marble, or whatever else may be determined on. How the other floors will be constructed has not yet been determined on. Supervising-Architect Hill, being ignorant of the situation here, has shown no hurry. Some day in the dim future parties will be advertised to bid for the job of furnishing the iron laths requisite. Months afterwards the contract may be awarded, and after the lapse of several months more the plasterers may be set to work. Nothing has been yet done in relation to the contracts for gas, water, and steam-fittings. No contracts have yet been awarded for the doors and windows, nor has it yet been determined on what they shall be made. And as to the furniture, carpets, etc., it is needless to say anything. The whirligig of time will bring that subject up sooner or later, more likely the latter, if the tortoise policy be adhered to.

Up to the 1st inst. there has been spent on the building $3,231,638. And for this sum the Government has an unfinished pile of stone, which will remain useless until an appropriation of at least a million can be obtained.

An Inhuman Mother.

At Culpeper Court-House (Va.,) on the night of March 12, an atrocious act was committed by an inhuman mother on the north-bound express over the Virginia Midland Railroad. A woman got on the train at Livingston with a baby in her arms, and, as the train, running at a terrific speed, approached North Garden, the heartless mother raised the car window and dashed the sleeping infant out in the darkness. The mother got off and was arrested at Charlottesville. She is now in jail and refuses to give her name. The words "Sally Gay" were found on her clothing. Who she is is a mystery. The child, which was a few months old, was found in a dying condition by the track-walker, and has since died. The mother is young, beautiful, and evidently high-born.

CURRENT GOSSIP.

VESPER-HOUR.

Vesper, robed in veil-like shadows,
Day-obscuring, floateth down,
Broodeth over hills and meadows,
Shrouds from view the distant town.

One bright jewel on her forehead—
'Tis the only gem she wears—
Lightens up her visage pallid,
Visage pale as sorrow bears.

Softly falls her spell of sadness
On the thoughtful, feeling heart.
Who can see with joy or gladness
One bright day of life depart?

Sweetest hour to musing given,
Teach me wisdom, give me peace—
Stormy passions far be driven,
Busy cares awhile surcease.

Darker, thicker, shadows cluster,
Shutting out the world from sight;
But within my heart's still cloister
Beams a brilliant, fervent light.

Here I cannot bring another—
All without its gates must stand;
Dearest friend, below-ed brother,
May not pass its portal grand.

In this Holy Place I ponder
Ev'ry act and thought of life;
Here's a Home where'er I wander,
Here's a refuge from all strife.

In thy sacred moments, Vesper,
Self-communing here I rest;
Undisturbed by faintest whisper,
Not a care corrodes my breast.

Here I meekly make confession,
Sacramental rites perform—
Weep o'er foolish, wild transgression,
Humbly promising reform.

Fresh-baptized with oil from Heaven,
Strengthened with celestial power,
Thankful for the comfort given,
Thus thou leav'st me, Vesper-Hour.

ASH-WEDNESDAY, 1878. W. J. H. HOGAN.

MAMMY DOWNEY'S PIES.

Bret Harte in Scribner for April.

The pies and cakes made by the old woman were, I think, remarkable rather for their inducing the same loyal and generous spirit than for their intrinsic excellence, and it may be said appealed more strongly to the nobler aspirations of humanity than its vulgar appetite. Howbeit everybody ate Mammy Downey's pies, and thought of his childhood. "Take 'em, dear boys," the old lady would say; "it does me good to see you eat 'em; reminds me kinder of my poor Sammy, that, ef he'd lived, would hev been ez strong and big ez you be, but was taken down with lung fever at Sweetwater. I kin see him yet; that's forty years ago, dear! comin' out o' the lot to the bake-house, and smilin' such a beautiful smile, like yours, dear boy, as I handed him a mince or a lemming turnover. Dear, dear, how I do run on! and take those days is past! but I seems to live in you again!" The wife of the hotel-keeper, actuated by a low jealousy, had suggested that she "seemed to live *off* them," but as that person tried to demonstrate the truth of her statement by reference to the cost of the raw material used by the old lady, it was considered by the camp as too practical and economical for consideration. "Besides," added Cy Perkins, "et old Mammy wants to turn an honest penny in her old age, let her do it. How would you like your old mother to make pies on grub wages? eh?" A suggestion that so affected his hearer (who had no mother) that he bought three on the spot. The quality of these pies had never been discussed but once. It is related that a young lawyer from San Francisco, dining at the Palmetto restaurant, pushed away one of Mammy Downey's pies with every expression of disgust and dissatisfaction. At this juncture, Whisky Dick, considerably affected by his favorite stimulant, approached the stranger's table, and, drawing up a chair, sat unbidden before him.

"Mebbee, young man," he began gravely, "ye don't like Mammy Downey's pies?"

The stranger replied curtly, and in some astonishment, that he did not, as a rule, "eat pie."

"Young man," continued Dick, with drunken gravity, "mebbee you're accustomed to Charlotte rusks and blue mange; mebbee ye can't eat unless your grub is got up by one o' them French cooks? Yet we—us boys yar in this camp—calls that pie—a good—a com-pe-tent pie!"

The stranger again disclaimed anything but a general dislike of that form of pastry.

"Young man," continued Dick, utterly unheeding the explanation,—"young man, mebbee you onct had an ole—a very ole mother, who, tottering down the vale of years, made pies. Mebbee, and it's like your blank epicurean soul, ye turned up your nose on the ole woman, and went back on the pies, and on her! She that dandled ye when ye woz a baby,—a little baby! Mebbee ye went back on her, and shook her, and played off on her, and gave her away—dead away! And now, mebbee, young man—I wouldn't hurt ye for the world, but mebbee, afore ye leave this yar table, YE'LL EAT THAT PIE!"

The stranger rose to his feet, but the muzzle of a dragoon revolver in the unsteady hands of Whisky Dick caused him to sit down again. He ate the pie, and lost his case likewise, before a Rough-and-Ready jury.

A FAMILY THAT LAUGHS.

New York Sun.

On Sunday morning Bishop Littlejohn, of the Diocese of Long Island, administered the rite of confirmation to a number of children in Emanuel (Protestant Episcopal) Church, Brooklyn. Among the latter was Ada Lattin, a little mulatto girl, who had attended the Sunday-school of the church for two years or more. The children knelt outside of the altar rail with their backs to the congregation, and the Bishop, beginning at the right of the line, laid his hand upon the head of each, repeating at the same time the solemn words prescribed by the rubrics. As he reached little Ada Lattin he paused for an instant, his face wearing a puzzled expression, and then, without confirming her, passed on to the next candidate. The omission was noticed by the congregation, and the thought arose in the minds of some that the good Bishop had refused to confirm Ada because of her color.

The Rev. Dr. H. B. Walbridge is the Rector of Emanuel Church, and to him a *Sun* reporter applied last night for an explanation of why Bishop Littlejohn refused to confirm the child.

"It is true," Dr. Walbridge said, "that the Bishop passed the child by, but his action was eminently proper. He told me after the services that she exhibited unbecoming levity."

"Did she laugh, Doctor?"

"Yes, that was it. She laughed and giggled, and the Bishop naturally thought that she was in no frame of mind for confirmation. She is a nervous, excitable little thing, and has been in the colored class of my Sunday-school for two years, and it was on the recommendation of her teacher that I accepted her for confirmation. She is a good girl, and means well, but she will laugh at all times. She does not feel in the least aggrieved. The Bishop met her yesterday by accident, and spoke to her kindly, telling her to learn her catechism and be a good girl, and promising that she should be confirmed next year. She laughed while he was talking to her."

Little Ada was found at her father's house in Degraw street, near Smith. She is a bright mulatto, about 13, but well grown for her age. She comes by her laughing propensities honestly. Her father is a colored Mark Tapley, who couldn't help being jolly if he tried to. He is also a mulatto, and has a jolly, round face. Her mother is almost black, but she, too, is buxom and jolly, and the four little brothers and sisters grouped around the parents had little round faces and big laughing mouths that betokened illimitable enjoyment of life.

"So you laughed at the confirmation, did you?" asked the reporter.

A broad grin and a quick nod from Ada, a hearty "Ha! ha!" from Mr. Lattin, and simultaneous grins from Mrs. Lattin, and the little Lattins answered in the affirmative.

"What did you do it for?"

Another broad grin, another ha! ha! and a chuckle from Mrs. Lattin.

Then Mr. Lattin thought that politeness demanded a verbal reply, and as soon as he could compose his jolly features he said:

"That child's been alaughin' ever sense she was born. She can't help it no mo'n the flowers can help growin'. She's allus alaughin."

Nodding her approval of her husband's words, Mrs. Lattin laughed. Then Mr. Lattin laughed, and Ada and the pickaninnies chiming in, there was a little hurricane of laughter. As it closed, the reporter bade the laughing family good night. Passing through the narrow alleyway he heard the hearty ha! ha! of Mr. Lattin doing bass for the trebble cachinations of his wife and children.

PERPETUAL MOTION.

New York Journal of Commerce.

DENISON, Crawford Co., Ia., March 12, 1878.—*Editor of the Journal of Commerce:* We have here a person who has spent a moderate fortune in a fruitless attempt to discover perpetual motion. He claims that this Government, and also England, France, and Germany, have made open, standing offers of large rewards to the successful discoverer of practical perpetual motion. 1. Is there any such offer by any one or all of these nations, or any scientific society therein? If so, what amount? 2. Is not the idea contrary to natural laws, having to overcome inertia, gravitation, and friction, without any "capital," so to speak, to do so?

P.

Reply.—1. No such offer was ever made, as far as we know, by any Government in the world, or by any respectable scientific society.

2. The idea of perpetual motion is, in itself, quite in accordance with natural laws, the planetary world furnishing a visible illustration of it. But the scheme of a machine that shall expend a force and at the same time renew it has been considered impracticable. We believe it quite possible to employ natural agencies, like galvanism or electricity, and, possibly, gravitation, to produce continued motion, overcoming the lightest possible friction, but not to furnish any useful power.

Our readers may remember a machine moved by gravitation, which was placed in our office, and described in our columns nearly thirty years ago. It would not run except in connection with a pendulum or other clock-work that regulated its motion at a very slow rate of speed. It was ridiculed, but the writer of this had it under lock and key, and the motion continued. A committee of savans said there must be a spring concealed in the cylinder, and this, long wound up, gave the revolution. After we had satisfied ourselves of the honesty of the inventor, it was taken from our office to be exhibited at a fair in New Jersey. A professor from Princeton College, and one or two other very learned and benevolent persons, were indignant that the people should be so imposed upon, and, making the necessary affidavit, had the inventor, then an old man nearly fourscore, arrested for swindling, as he had taken money at the door from a few visitors. The man, the machine, and the avengers of the law were brought into the court. Upon their representation that the cylinder could not revolve unless there was a spring concealed in it, an ax was brought, and, in spite of the tremulous remonstrances of the inventor, it was split into a dozen pieces. As in a former celebrated trial (described in John, vii., 7) the accusers withdrew in silence, self-convicted. There was no spring in it; it had gone around of itself, but it was ruined, and so was the owner!

Conceding all that was claimed for it, no practical good could have come from the invention, as it barely overcame its own friction, could furnish no useful power, and if made strong enough to carry even the works of an ordinary clock, would have been too cumbrous to be tolerated.

ACONCAGUA.

It appears by the reports presented at the recent meeting in New York of the American Geographical Society, that the result of the recent geographical exploration and measurement of the mountains of South America shows (what was already known) that Aconcagua is the highest summit of the Andes. This giant peak, the loftiest mountain of America, is in the Andes of Chili, about 100 miles east of Valparaiso, and nearly in latitude 32 deg. 30 min. south. Its actual hight is not positively and accurately known, but the measurements made by M. Pissis and subsequent scientists make it certain that the elevation is between 22,400 and 23,000 feet above the waters of the sea. The French explorer made it 22,422, or four miles and 1,302 feet over, which would be 998 feet higher than the snowy summit of Chimborazo, as Humboldt measured the latter, when in 1802 the great German made his famous ascent of that mountain, with Bonpland, to a hight of 19,286 feet. Aconcagua, seen from the Chilian seaport of Valparaiso, is shown only as a peak towering above the other hights of the Andes, at a distance of a hundred miles or more inland, toward the sunrise. From the sea it presents, at a much longer range, a grand spectacle; but it is only from the east—from the upper country of La Plata, in the Argentine Confederation—that the vast hight of this mountain monarch, towering to the skies, is seen to the fullest advantage. From the town or city of Mendoza, fifty miles east of the mountain, the view must be as grand as that of any mountain on earth; for, owing to forbidding conditions, the highest mountains of the globe (in the Himalaya range of the East Indies and Thibet) are not seen to the best advantage from any accessible point of view yet attained. Aconcagua has been called an extinct volcano; but the best examinations yet made of its summit do not appear to bear out that idea. The recent observations, referred to on Wednesday at the meeting of the Geographical Society, make the hight of the Chilian mountain 22,386 feet, and "probably" over that figure. At 19,000 feet Humboldt found it hard to breathe and his strength failing him. Mr. E. G. Squier, the explorer of the mountains of the old Peruvian Incas, experienced similar sensations at an elevation of 16,000 feet, and his native companion dropped from his horse, bleeding at nose, ears, and eyes. From the sea Chimborazo usually presents a finer spectacle than Aconcagua. The elevation of Mexico's highest mountain—Popocatepetl, or "smoking mountain"—is nearly 5,000 feet less than that of the Chilian peak, and Mt. Shasta and Mt. Hood fall short to about the same figure. Pike's Peak is about 9,000 feet lower than Aconcagua.

QUIPS.

Failie is much worn for dresses. They should be trimmed with assets and liabilities.—*Boston Post.*

Clerk (giving change)—"Have you a penny, sir?" Swell—"Haw! Don't genewally cawwy coppers!" Clerk—"Then I'm afraid I must give you eleven of 'em, sir!"—*Punch.*

It is said that the next edition of Webster's Dictionary will spell chromo with a "k." The "k" will be pronounced hard, while any man seen lugging home a chromo will be pronounced soft.

Persons contributing spring poetry will be required to hand in the names of the friends whom they have selected as bearers, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.—*Worcester Press.*

The Detroit *Free Press* wipes a tear from its eye as it sobbingly remarks that, when the Akhond of Swat was in this country, he used to de light to come up to the office and paw over the exchanges from Swat. Every one up there, it adds, liked the old man.

The young man who has actually kept a diary over two years, right along, lives in this place. On Jan. 1, 1870, he locked it up in his trunk, and has kept it there ever since. He says there is no trouble in keeping a diary, if you only go the right way about it.

In the horse-car. A little boy whispers in his mother's ear something to which she says No. The child begins to whine and repeats his request, which is again unfavorably received. Thereupon there is crying and sobbing enough to carry the whole car. The gentleman opposite, a gentleman whose every feature beams with good nature and good fortune, and all the better that his teeth are cushioned in the purest gold, thinks he ought to interpose. "Dear little angel," said he, in a paternal tone, "why not give him what he wants? Is it impossible?" "Absolutely impossible," replied the mother. "And what was it, then, he said?" inquired the good man, unmasking still more of his ivories. "He said: 'I want Monsieur's teeth to play with.'"—*Paris paper.*

The Naval Battle of the Future.

Blackwood's Magazine.

The question of how a naval battle would now be fought is often raised, but is exceedingly difficult to answer. One thing is certain,—the hostile squadrons will be kept in rapid motion for the purpose of effecting as well as evading an attack by ram, which will be the first object sought after. Thus the distance of the enemy will be varying constantly, and a correct estimation of the range will be almost impossible; therefore, the chances of hitting a ship at any particular part will be very small. It will be seen that upon the judgment and nerve of the officer in command will now, more than ever, depend the issue of an engagement. The speed of the ships, the necessity of closely watching every movement of the enemy so as instantly to make the proper counter-move, the absolute need of prompt decision, will prevent a moment for reflection or consultation. The helm and the engines must be under the Captain's instant control. He and those by him on deck will alone be able to see the enemy at the frequent times when he is obscured by smoke from the battery below, and to distinguish between friend and foe; and his quick perception will be requisite to determine the proper direction and range for his guns, as well as to avoid firing into friends. The extreme importance of the life of the officer in command of the squadron, so long as the battle lasts, must also be apparent. In the old wars, the skill, judgment, and determination of our naval commanders were chiefly exhibited by the manner in which they sought out their adversaries and brought them to battle. Hostile fleets were sometimes in sight of each other for days—calms, light winds, or fogs preventing their approach—each commander endeavoring by skillful seamanship to gain the weather-gauge. But the action fairly commenced, there was little maneuvering—it was hard fighting; the ships were laid alongside an enemy, and the valor of our sailors settled the matter. If the Captain were disabled, the duty of his successor was simple and self-evident; if he were incompetent, his deficiencies could be made up by his principal officers; if he lacked courage, his men supplied the want. Nelson's genius had made all the necessary dispositions for battle both at the Nile and Trafalgar long before the battle commenced; the Captains had only to steer their ships for their allotted adversary, and the rest was done by the crew. Had Nelson been killed by the first shot fired at Trafalgar, the issue of the battle would have been the same. But how different now! From the beginning to the end of an action, rapid and constant maneuvering will be required; the ships must be kept firmly in hand and skillfully guided; all the best experience of the Admiral will be in continual request, and, should he be killed or disabled at a critical moment, the consequences would probably be most serious. It is not too much to say that the result of a naval engagement in these days will depend entirely upon the skill of the superior officers, in default of which the courage and discipline of the crews will avail little.

KEMPER COUNTY.

Letter from Mrs. Chisolm—The Cruel Mockery of Mississippi "Justice"—Mrs. Gilmer's Destitution.

The Washington *National Republican* of the 16th inst. prints the following correspondence:

CHARLOTTE, Mich., March 12, 1878.—*Editor National Republican*—DEAR SIR: In the interest of suffering humanity I send you the letter appended hereto. It speaks such a volume of itself that I forbear comment. But I wish to say a few words respecting Mrs. Gilmer, one of the sufferers in the same terrible tragedy, whose husband was brutally murdered that Sabbath day in the streets of De Kalb. It is true she did not lose so much as Mrs. Chisolm, neither had she so much to lose. Her husband and a little babe were her all. No home, no friends! They were both young, and had been married less than two years. Mr. Gilmer supported an aged mother, stepfather, and stepbrother, which absorbed nearly all his earnings. Mrs. Gilmer's relatives are Democrats, and a gentleman who is acquainted with the family says "Every one of them say it was best he was dead, and better that he was killed like a dog." She says: "They kept me from marrying him for four years, simply because he was a Republican, and for no other reason under the sun. I finally married him in opposition to them all." Deserted by her kindred, her means of support cut off, she lives alone with her babe in that land of slaveholders. Insults without number are constantly heaped upon her, and her little boy is never carried on the street but that some rufflan addresses him as "that little Radical." With what little means she had, and by a recent sale of some of her furniture, she has managed to live until now. How she is to obtain a living in the future God only knows. She and a few friends have done all they can to obtain employment for her, but thus far without success. She has a fair education, is a good penman, and is able and anxious to work. O that some kind, benevolent heart, who has the ability, could be moved with pity for that lonely, broken-hearted woman, and remove her from that cursed land and place her where she can earn a support for herself and child. Yours, etc., L. O. SMITH.

The letter referred to was written, as the reader will see, before the March term of the Kemper County Court, which Mrs. Chisolm attended as a witness; but even at this late day it is of interest, showing as it does the fulfillment of her prophecies regarding the administration of justice and the utter hopelessness of her case.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 1878.—I had a letter yesterday from a lady friend in De Kalb, asking if I did not wish to come and take my return to my beautiful home. "I have not been received," she says, "since you left, but am told it is beautiful, and the air is fragrant with the sweet odors of hyacinths and violets." I have been told you cannot recall an odor. Ah! I smell the roses, the lilies, the violets, honeysuckles, all, and I see bright forms flitting through the beautiful garden, which to me holds so many bright recollections. Is it strange that I should be unable to say, God forgive the demons incarnate who first violated that Eden and then drove me from it? I almost dare to curse them. Do you remember the pretty story in your mythology of Venus, how the rose first pricked her finger with the rose's thorn, and the blood, getting on the white petals, made the white rose red? Far deeper than the reddest rose from the blood of the gentlest goddess is the crimson sorrow which overwhelmed the beautiful and dear home influences of my once fond, joyous home! Oh I want to see it! Not now! It is to be sweetly placed in its coffin, and buried lovingly away with him who provided its comforts and adornments, and with the other dear ones who were its brightest ornaments. No, let the flowers grow above all their graves,—home, husband, daughter, and son! They will all be reunited in Heaven, and that Heaven will be the home for us all.

I went to Jackson, Miss., in answer to a summons of the Federal Court. The Ku-Klux were all cleared. What a good thing to have one's crimes wiped out so easily, and to so readily be able to begin anew! What need of priestly pardon, or of masses hereafter, with all the cowardly Ku-Klux lawyers of Mississippi, and with the witnesses from the mob to perjure their diminutive souls, and with the Judge and District Attorney to clear it! Then, through the heavens fall," as the old Circuit Court of Kemper County will take up a great blotter and wipe out Mr. Gilmer's, Mr. McLellan's, my three darlings' —my husband, son, and daughter's—blood! Wipe out little John Gilmer's orphanage, his poor mother's lonely sorrow! Wipe out Clay and Willie's bitter agony! Wipe out my broken-heart throbs, my loneliness, my want and woe! Wipe out where I found the servants time and again scrubbing here and there! One said, "Don't you know murdered blood will not be scoured up?" Neither will crime be wiped out by false juries, false witnesses, false attorneys, or false Judges.

I have wandered away from the facts which I set out to relate, but must now close. Yours, etc.,

E. S. M. CHISOLM.

ALL ABOARD FOR PARIS.

What It Will Cost to Visit the Great Exposition—Hints by One Who Knows.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

A gentleman who has been to France several times, and is now in a position to know whereof he speaks, ventures some valuable suggestions to citizens contemplating a visit to the big Exposition at Paris. He says that persons who propose visiting Europe this season naturally, among the first inquiries, ask what it will cost to make the trip, which is the best route, and how to provide for the voyage, and any practical hints on those points by one who has lately been over the ground may not be unacceptable.

The first question may be answered by stating several sums, and they would apply respectively to persons or families whose habits and tastes in matters of living differ. For those who always travel first-class and put up at expensive hotels, the following estimate may be considered as safe, if all extras and unnecessary matters are left out of the count. For a journey to and from Paris, and a sojourn in that city for three months, the fares would be about these:

From Louisville to New York and return, including meals and supper	$ 60
From New York to Liverpool and return by return ticket	180
One day in Liverpool, hotel and carriage	5
One day in Liverpool on return	5
Liverpool to London and return	14
Five days in London	25
London to Paris and return	27
Ninety days in Paris at first-class hotel	450
Total	$766

For persons who would prefer to travel and live in a more economical style, the following figures will convey an idea of what the usual traveler pays for a trip to Paris and back:

Louisville to New York and return, including meals	$ 50.00
New York to Liverpool and return, by return ticket, first-class, but not choice berths	144.00
At Liverpool	2.00
Liverpool to London and return, second-class carriage	10.50
Five days in London at $3	15.00
London to Paris and return via New Haven and Dieppe, second-class	12.50
Ninety days in Paris, at a good hotel, $2.50 per day	225.00
Total	$459.00

Three-fourths of those who travel alone do not expend more than say $500 for a four-months' trip, while the remaining one-fourth lay out $800 to $1,500 or $2,000 for traveling and hotel expenses. On the other hand, a very economical person traveling for study gets over as much ground, and perhaps sees and learns more than the stylish voyager, and is not out of pocket more than $300.

It must be understood that carriages, balls, operas, theatres, etc., are "extras." In order to travel cheaply it must not be forgotten that one should have traveled and should also understand the languages of the countries through which he journeys.

There are several first-class steamship lines from New