

CURRENT TOPICS.

THE following is stated to be the text of England's note to Russia: "Her Majesty's Government begs to inform the Emperor that the Porte is ready to open peace negotiations. The Emperor's wisdom and repeatedly expressed love of peace justify Her Majesty's Government in the hope that he will lend a favorable ear to the Sultan's request." Russia's reply to England's note is stated to be substantially as follows: That while the Czar wishes peace and is ready to conclude the war on such terms as Russia would consider acceptable, yet no steps can be taken until Turkey is willing to give preliminary guarantees of her desire for actual peace and not merely for delay. The course suggested is for Turkey to make a proposition for armistice directly to the Russian Commander-in-Chief in the field, so that the first steps may be arranged on a military basis.

WELLS, FARGO & Co.'s statement of the production of precious metals in the States and Territories west of the Missouri River, including British Columbia and the west coast of Mexico, during 1877, shows an aggregate yield of \$98,500,000, being an excess of \$7,500,000 over 1876, the greatest previous annual yield. California gives \$15,250,000 gold and \$1,250,000 silver; Nevada, \$460,000 gold and \$44,320,000 silver bullion. This so-called silver bullion, however, is about 45 per cent. gold. California also gives \$1,750,000 base bullion, and Nevada \$6,750,000 of the same, which contains about 28 per cent. gold. Arizona gives for the year \$2,390,000, of which \$123,000 is gold, \$500,000 silver bullion, and the balance ores and base bullion. Exports of silver from San Francisco to India, China and the Straits are given approximately at \$19,000,000.

THE Hot Springs Commission have completed their investigation of claims, 950 of which were filed. The Hot Springs Mountain, embracing 245 acres, was reserved from sale, and the Commission recommend the reservation also of Whippoorwill Mountain (500 acres), on the opposite side of the valley, for a public park, the land being unavailable for building purposes, and covered with a thick growth of evergreens.

THE New York Tribune announces that the British and American Mortgage Company and the Mercantile Trust Company have issued orders to their agents in Western cities not to loan any more money on mortgage, unless those receiving the loans agree to have a clause inserted in the bond for the payment of the principal and interest in gold. It is further stated, that the banks of that city are pretty nearly a unit against making any loans on bonds of Western and Southern cities except on a gold basis, until the Silver bill should be either passed or defeated.

THE loss of property on Western rivers during the past year is set down at \$5,330,000. This includes the ice and coal-boat disasters on the Ohio River, amounting to \$4,000,000. The number of lives lost during the same time was 70, more than two-thirds by explosions and burning of steamers.

A COMMISSION composed of two army officers designated by the President and a third member to be selected by Gov. Hubbard, of Texas, is to investigate the affair at San Elizario, with power to summon witnesses and take testimony as to the part borne in that bloody business by citizens of Mexico.

THE Washington Post and Herald, both Democratic papers, say that all the Democratic Senators, with the possible exception of Eaton, will hereafter vote for the confirmation of such appointments as may be sent to the Senate by President Hayes, unless the nominee should be personally objectionable.

EX-QUEEN ISABELLA, of Spain, has written to the Paris Figaro, protesting against the expulsion of Don Carlos, and repudiating the accusation that she was conspiring with him against King Alphonso. The London Times's Paris correspondent says it is rumored the Spanish Government is likely to take a very serious step to mark its displeasure at Isabella's conduct.

NEAR Negaunee, Mich., on the 2d, a box-car was being loaded with nitroglycerine at the Jackson mine, when the whole mass exploded, instantly killing seven men and demolishing the car. The locomotive was lifted into the air

and thrown 50 feet, and landed in a confused heap of wood and iron. Of the killed, S. A. Wheeler and son and Walter and Ira Hinchley were employed at the Nitro-Glycerine Works. These three were blown to atoms, no piece larger than two pounds being discoverable. The other four were railroad employees, and were in the cab of the engine when the explosion came. Their blackened and mangled remains were found with the flesh stripped from their faces and limbs and their bones broken. Their names are Wm. Myers, Wm. Tallman, Charles Ruiller and Jerry Foley. Ishpeming, three miles away, plainly felt the shock, and the damage in Negaunee was probably \$2,500. Several persons there were reported seriously injured by the concussion.

THE public debt statement for December shows a decline in the debt for the month of \$71,623, and the following balances in the Treasury: Currency, \$5,498,844; special funds for redemption of fractional currency, \$100,000; special deposits of legal tenders for redemption certificates of deposit, \$328,300; coin, \$139,518,405, including coin certificates of \$33,424,900; outstanding legal tenders, \$349,943,776.

A NEW Pacific Railroad bill will be presented to Congress at an early day. The eastern terminus is to be at Memphis, thereby forming a connection with the present railroad facilities to all points north, east and southwesterly. The proposed route is from Jefferson, Texas, by the International and Great Northern Railroad to San Antonio, thence in a northwesterly direction to El Paso and Del Norte, to connect with any road or roads to the Pacific Ocean, now or hereafter to be built, thus affording communication with various military posts on these lines and the Valley of the Rio Grande. The projectors of the road ask for \$13,000,000, all to be refunded to the Government as rapidly as money may be earned by the transportation of mails and Government supplies.

THE Cincinnati Price Current estimates the number of hogs packed up to Jan. 1 at 3,020,000, against 3,635,000 up to the same time last season. Estimates for the entire season indicate a total of 5,800,000, against 5,100,000 packed last winter. Weights are heavier than last year. Generally farmers are packing more than for several years.

AT Ferndale, Northampton County, Pa., on New Year's night, John Haddock, an unsuccessful suitor for the hand of Miss Lizzie Davis, in a fit of insane jealousy killed that lady and then took his own life. The murder was committed at the residence of the young lady, where Haddock had gone fully prepared for the deed. He first attacked her with a butcher-knife, but not being immediately successful in killing her on account of her desperate struggles, he fired three shots at her, one of which proved fatal. The maniac lover, after satisfying himself that his victim was dead, proceeded to his own home, where the fourth shot from his revolver terminated his own life. The murderer left behind no words of explanation, but on the paper collar which he wore he had written in a bold, legible hand these words: "Forgive me, mother."

AN enthusiastic Silver meeting was held at Bloomington, Ill., on the evening of the 2d. Senator Davis, though not present in person, authorized the announcement of his entire sympathy with the objects of the meeting; while Judge Tipton, Representative in Congress from the Bloomington District, and several other prominent gentlemen made speeches strongly favoring the re-monetization of silver.

MUCH significance is attributed to a recent speech by the Earl of Carnarvon, one of the British Ministers, in which he said: "I hope sincerely that the Russian Government and people will remember that many of the questions arising at this moment are questions not for the belligerents alone. They involve European interests. They are European questions, and we, as members of the European family, have not only the right to be heard upon them, but it is very important that we should have a distinct voice in the final decision of them."

G. P. KIRKLAND, Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue at Spartansburg, S. C., makes an official report that a posse of United States officers in Union County were recently resisted by a company of 200 armed men, some of them uniformed, and compelled to release two prisoners who were under arrest charged with violating the revenue laws. Jasper Gibbs, a Trial Justice, and B. A. Gregory, his Constable, are said to have been the principal parties engaged in the affair. The authorities at Washing-

ton say that the malefactors shall be brought to justice.

THE Knights of Liberty, a new secret political organization, composed mostly of workmen, held a session at Reading, Pa., on the 1st, at which delegates were present from several States. The object of the order is said to be the formation of a new national party. The organization insists on the re-monetization of silver and the payment of the debt in silver coin, not in gold.

QUITE a serious Indian fight is reported to have taken place recently on the south side of the Red River, in the pan-handle of Texas, caused by the attempt of the Cheyennes to drive the aggressive Pawnees from off their hunting grounds. Thirty Cheyennes and 12 Pawnees are reported killed, beside a number of Arapahoes, but what part the latter took in the fight is not known.

A REPORT has been received at St. Petersburg that the Chinese have massacred 15,000 men, women and children at the Kashgarian town of Manas, committing most frightful atrocities.

THE Chicago Tribune Washington correspondent learns that a plan is in contemplation at the Treasury Department to send to the Senate a bill intended as a compromise for the Bland bill. The proposition will be to so amend the Bland bill as to make the silver dollar equal to a greenback, and a legal tender to the same extent as the United States notes are. This movement, however, will not be made if the amendment prevails in the Senate restricting the legal-tender limit of the dollars. Another proposition of the opponents of the Bland bill is to coin a dollar of the same value intrinsically as the gold dollar on the basis of the present price of silver. It is manifest, from the fact that these different expedients are being considered in official circles, that the President is anxious to avoid a veto, and does not desire to break with Congress upon the silver question.

IT is reported that a bill is now in course of preparation, providing for the issue by the Government of a bond of low denomination for the purpose of funding the public debt. The idea is to adopt, as near as possible, the French system, and make the denomination of the bond as low as \$5, in order to bring it within the reach of small depositors in savings-banks. It is estimated the \$900,000,000 now in the different savings-banks would be immediately withdrawn and invested in such a loan, and the loan will be accepted in place of National savings-banks. It is proposed that the Government shall issue the bonds directly and not employ a syndicate or other outside agency. It is believed a loan of this description would be very popular.

DISPATCHES received by Lieut.-Gen. Sheridan from department commanders in the Northwest confirm the report that the renegade Indians belonging to Spotted Tail's and Red Cloud's bands had gone north to join Sitting-Bull. These Indians, it will be remembered, broke away during the march of the tribes from the old to the new agencies, a couple of months ago. They numbered about 200 lodges, and consist of San Arcs and Minneconjons.

HON. A. H. STEPHENS, it is said, will introduce in the House a new project for the equalization of our bi-metallic currency, in the shape of a bill providing for the coinage of a metal dollar of 258 grains, to be composed of 222 grains and a fraction of a grain of silver, 25 grains and a fraction of a grain in copper, and 9 grains and a fraction of a grain in gold. The gold value of such a dollar would be at the present figures a fraction over 94 cents. Mr. Stephens has written a letter to Dr. Lindermann, the Director of the Mint, requesting him to have dies prepared and some specimens struck off of this gold dollar. This request has been complied with, and orders have been sent to the Philadelphia Mint to have the dies prepared at once.

LATE NEWS ITEMS.

John Bonner & Co., a well known firm of New York brokers, failed on the 21st, with liabilities amounting to some \$400,000; no assets. The suspension also brought down the Bankers' and Brokers' Association, with whom they had large dealings.

The Legislatures of New York and Pennsylvania convened on the 1st.

A charivari party who were serenading a newly married couple, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Metz, at Monroeville, Allen County, Ind., the other night, were fired upon with buckshot, several of the party being badly wounded.

Jacob Harness was hanged at Clinton, Tenn., on the 29th, for the murder of Isaac White, committed more than 14 years ago. The German Savings Bank of Lafayette, Ind., has gone into liquidation, but promises to pay all depositors in full.

The old Bull's Head Bank of New York City is to be wound up. Its capital is said to be impaired to the extent of \$50,000, but depositors will be paid in full.

Henry Underwood, said to be one of the Union Pacific train robbers, known as Thomas Nixon, was recently arrested at his home, 72 miles west of Sherman, Texas, and lodged in jail at Omaha. There appears to be some question as to his identity.

Marshall Jewell, President of the Charter Oak Life Insurance Company, informs policy holders that unless they consent to the scaling down of their policies 40 per cent. the company must go into bankruptcy.

The banking-house of Jacob Bunn, Springfield, Ill., suspended on the 2d. Liabilities about \$900,000, and assets sufficient to pay all debts, it is said, if time is allowed and property not sacrificed. The large amount of unproductive real estate held by the house is said to be largely the cause of their failure.

A frightened team backed a wagon, containing Mrs. Morris Goodloe and four children, off the bridge over Obion River, Tenn., on the 2d, resulting in the drowning of the four children.

The State Savings Bank of Indianapolis has petitioned and obtained authority from the Auditor of State to surrender its charter and go into liquidation. The assets are sufficient to cover all liabilities. Twenty-five per cent will be paid to depositors at once, and the balance within six months.

The Rollinsford Savings Bank, at Salmon Falls, N. H., has suspended, with \$750,000 of deposits. The assets are said to be amply sufficient to pay all claims, if time can be had to realize their value.

The banking-house of I. N. Thomas, at Des Moines, Iowa, closed on the 3d. Depositors are promised to be paid in full.

Virginia experienced an earthquake shock on the 2d.

There was a fraternal gathering of Mexicans and Americans at a ball given by the Mexican officers at Matamoros, Mexico, on New Year's night. A large number of officers of both armies were present, and the most cordial feeling was exhibited.

Steam-boiler explosions in the United States during 1877 caused directly the death of 131 persons and the maiming of 123 others.

At Montpelier, Blackford County, Ind., on the 4th, J. J. McGrew, a merchant, shot and killed Kitter Kreutzner, a farmer. The latter was known as a dangerous character, and the shooting was the result of a threatened attack upon McGrew by Kreutzner.

At Wheeling, West Va., on the 3d, Henry Daub, a well known citizen, once wealthy, shot himself on his first wife's grave, after a quarrel with his second wife, in which it is said she turned him out of the house.

A number of Fenian prisoners who were sentenced to life-long penal servitude in 1866 have been released on ticket-of-leave. Among these are Color Sergeant McCarthy, Corporal Chambers and Private O'Brien.

The Panama Star and Herald has further particulars regarding the loss of the steamer Atacama, from Valparaiso to Callao, which went to pieces on a rock near the Chilean coast on the night of Nov. 30. Out of 124 persons on board, only 30 were saved.

The old established banking-house of Peddicord and Burrows, Decatur, Ill., suspended on the 5th.

The Pottsville (Pa.) Bank suspended on the 7th. This is the fifth banking-house that has suspended there within 18 months.

The New Orleans Clearing-house Association have passed a resolution protesting against the passage of the Bland Silver bill.

WAR NEWS.

A dispatch from Bogot, 31st, says: After an exceedingly difficult passage over snow-covered mountains and frozen foot-paths the vanguard of a Russian division has occupied the Balkan passes between Arabakonak and Sophia, and cavalry has already been stationed on the Sophia road. The Turks were taken by surprise, consequently the Russian loss was small.

A dispatch from Bogot, 3d, says: Gen. Gourko fought a severe battle on the 31st of December, at Tashesan. Before securing the Turkish entrenchments, the Russians lost 700 men in killed and wounded. The Turks retreated at nightfall toward Sofia, pursued by the cavalry. After a halt for rest and reorganization, Gen. Gourko resumed his advance upon Sofia.

The Turkish forces have evacuated Sofia. The Russians have occupied Hilda, thus completing the cordon around Erzerum.

An official dispatch, received at St. Petersburg on the 6th, says that Sofia was entered on the 3d inst., after a skirmish in which the Russians lost only 24 men. A telegram from Gen. Gourko announces a desperate engagement on the 2d, near Bogrov. The Turks attempted to surround five battalions of Russian infantry and a brigade cavalry, but were defeated, leaving 1,000 dead on the field; the Russians lost 200. The Russian detachment under Gen. Dadeville, which supported Gen. Gourko in his movements over the Balkans, had 53 men frozen to death in one night, and 329 frost-bitten. An official dispatch states that the Russians lost on crossing the Balkans, however, was not so great as it was first supposed. The Turks suffered enormously, and immense numbers of killed and wounded were found on their positions on December 31. The whole plain of Kamarii was strewn with Turkish corpses.

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD boy in Middletown, Conn., smokes and swears, just like his papa.

WIT AND WISDOM.

A BRILLIANT scene—Kerosene. This story about the Hon. E. M. Stoughton is from the Arcadian: He was recently introduced to a prominent gentleman of the West interested in pork-packing, very stout and very wealthy. Said the latter gentleman: "Delighted to meet you, Mr. Stoughton. I have seen your name in print often enough. I use your bitters myself."

WHEN Washington was carving his way into the hearts of his countrymen, do you suppose he ever leaned upon his sword to ponder that the day would come when his portrait would look down benignantly from over a bar upon two red-nosed snoozers putting away bad whisky, and jamming their noses into each other's eyes, as they discussed, in mangled English, the boons and blessings of freedom?—Cincinnati Breakfast-Table.

A FARMER, having been terribly annoyed by drummers, put up a sign, "No sewing-machines wanted here; got one." It was no use. The next drummer wanted to see the machine, "and perhaps he'd hitch a trade." So the farmer put up, "Got the small-pox here." That worked well for a little while, but then came along a drummer "frightfully pitted with the small-pox, who smilingly said: "Seem' you've got it bad here, they've put me on this route."

HALF of a house was cut off in Napa, Cal., and moved away. The family that continued to reside in the remainder temporarily stretched muslin across the open space. That evening a crowd gathered to see the shadow pantomime that the inmates unconsciously made for public amusement. The supper table was close to the curtain, so that the movements of the eaters were seen in grotesque silhouette on the cloth. Then the husband kissed his wife, and that sight made the spectators laugh so loud that the show was instantly broken up.

THERE are times in the life of an editor when all is not dark and dreary; when he is reminded that there are but few persons who feel that cheerfulness should occasionally flash across his dismal physiognomy; that an editor has feelings which can be made to vibrate with the enjoyments of this life, and their endeavors to brighten his life are as an oasis to the weary traveler across the dreary desert. We refer to the old lady who sent us in a squash.—Brockville (Pa.) Graphic.

HE bought a guitar and practiced for six long weary months. But at the end of that time a smile of joy lit up his wan and weary face, and his brow grew radiant with joy, as he inspected the corns on the thumb of his right hand. The hour was 10 p. m., and he wandered through the stilly night to the boarding-house where she lived, and directly under that window which had been so often sanctified by her presence, he commenced to toot: (Twang, twang, bim). "I wandered b-i-i the brookside (kling, clang, boo), I wandered by-i-i the mill"—and the sash was gently raised with a crash, and a deep bass voice yelled out: "I wish as you fall into your brook off your brookside and drown yourself in dose mill, oder I plow my vissil and call a polizeidiener." It was cruel of her to have changed her room without letting him know.

Marrying His Father's Wife.

The special dispatch to the Evening News yesterday, announcing the elopement of a Kentucky gentleman with his step-mother, and their marriage at New Albany, has proved substantially true. Mr. Thos. H. Ellis, the junior proprietor of the Ellis House, Bardstown, Ky., and Mrs. Mollie E. Ellis, are the *dramatis personae* of this little sensation. Whether the elder Ellis is alive or not we can not presume to say, and if he is, we would just like to know his opinion of women in general and sons in particular. "The parties seem apparently well-to-do people, and the unnatural son lavished considerable money on his wife, who, no doubt, liked him better as a "dear hubby" than a cold-hearted stepson. When a News reporter called on the elopists at the Central Hotel, New Albany, yesterday, they were coolly eating their dinner in a manner of perfect indifference, and on stating our mission we were received with a kind of caustic cordiality, Mr. Ellis remarking that he was a kind of printer himself, and didn't want any thing in the paper about his running off; and, furthermore, if we did print it, he would make cold meat of us. To show him how badly scared we were, we went directly to the telegraph-office and sent that dispatch. Father Kline, of the German Catholic Church, New Albany, performed the ceremony making them man and wife, after which they crossed the river to return as much-mixed relations.—Louisville News.