## WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

DISPUTED POINTS OF OFFICIAL RANK.

HOW SENATORS, CABINET MINISTERS AND DIPLO MATS HAVE CONTENDED FOR SOCIAL PRECE-

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.-The latest edition of the Washington standard authority on the subject, Mrs. Dahlgren's "Etiquette of Social Life," makes an amiable effort to sett'e the controversy in regard to precedence at Presidential state dinners, and other great occasions. This social problem antedates the present century, and, indeed, is coeval with the constitution itself. It has various ramifications, and runs into numerous puzzling details. There was, no doubt, a woman at the bottom of it; and, indeed, so far as history throws light on the subject, the ladies have headed the forces on each side, in every one of the ninety and odd campaigns of this social war.

Among the radical causes of this ever-recurring controversy, the claim of superior rank on the part of Senators over everybody else except the President stands first. From the earliest times they have claimed precedence over the members of the Cabinet, over the Chief Justice and his associates of the Supreme Court, over all foreign Ministers of whatever grade, and over the Vice-President himself. At least, such was the ground originally taken by the Senators, under the lead of Aaron Burr. History shows that this highhanded assumption was made in secret conclave, and was not divulged, according to Mr. John Quiney Adams, for more than twenty years. He states in his diary that Mr. Gaillard, of South Carolina. then President pro tem. of the Senate, called with his colleague, Judge Smith, at the State Department, and inquired of him, then the Secretary, if there had been any new rules of etiquetie in regard to visi ing es ablished; to which Mr. Adams answered that there were certainly none to his knowledge. They then informed him that a rule was adop ed by Sena ors so long ago as when Burr was a member of the body, and drawn up by Barr, that the Sena ors should visit only the President of the United States, and that Mr. Rufus King had referred them to a book in which it was recorded.

This conversation occurred in 1818. Burr served in the Senate from 1791 to 1797; and yet Mr. Adams, who served in the same body from 1803 to 1808, had never heard of the secret resolve-writen in a "book." He could not mean that the senatorial code had not been observed. Or, it may have gone into desuctude during the radical era of Jefferson and Madison, and was now to be revived under the more aristocratic, if milder, sway of Mr. Monroe. Mr. Adams states that during his Senatorial term he invariably paid the first visit to each Secre ary at the commencement of every sessionexcepting to Mr. Galla in, the Secretary of the Treasury, who never returned his first visit. He never af erward visited him except on business at his office. It is said that Mr. Ga latin neither paid nor returned visits to any one, while he was at the head of the Treasury Department; from which it may be inferred has he was unsocial in disposition, and that he saw li tle society, unless other dignitaries were less exacting than the Massachusetts

The assumption by the Senate of a dignity superior to that of the Vice-President involves-it must

some malicious person put out the preposterous report that Mr. Adams was to stand proxy on the interesting occasion for the Prince Regent, as godfa her to the chi d. The story reached the cars of the President, Monroe, who, Mr. Adams says, was thrown into a s'a e of trepidation about it, and called on him-perhaps to protest against the proceedings-or at any rate to acertain what foundation there was for the report. The Secretary was not at all flattered by this mark of Executive confidence in his good sense and good taste. The result was that Mr. and Mrs. Adams excused themselves fo non-attendence at the christening, on the ground that they were for the time not in the habit of going out. The funeral eeremony which gave rise to a ques-

pices of the F ench Minister, of the death of Louis XVI. This was in 1818, when Charles X. was on the French throne. M. Hyde de Neuville, the Minister, hesitated about the property of inviting the members of the Government to be present at the service. The year previous he had invited Mr. Monroe, the President, ho did not attend, and assigned as a reason for his absence that there were certain circumstances in the feelings and sentiments of people in this country which might make his attendance improp-er. M. de Neuville said he was aware of this, and the efore, in inviting the Secretary of State, told him that if he agreed with the P esident that his attendance would under the circumstances be improper, he was to consider his invitation as "non Mr. Adams, without accepting the invitation, says he determined to go. He did so, and sation, says he determined to go. He did so, and sat in the same pew with Don Onis, the Spanish Minister. "The mass," he says "was sho t, but there was a funeral oration read by the Priest from the text, Eccles. i-2 'Vanity of vanities; all is van-

tion of official propriety was the commemo ation,

in the Catholic church of this city, under the aus-

the rew was a fineral oration read by the Friest vonthe text, Eccles. 1-2 'Vanity of vanities; all is vanity; the most extraordinary composition of Jacobinism, heresy, and priestly doctrine that I ever
heard. At the fo eign Ministers and their egations
were present, and all their gravity could not restrain
some of them from laughter."

The National Intelligence of the time has no reference to this ceremonial, neither before its occurence nor after and. There is neither advertisement
no notice of it in advance, nor report of criticism
afterwald. The Intelligence was considered as the
model newspaper at that date, and was conducted
on the sentiment which govens in well-bed
society, that nothing is to be said about the absent
unless it be favorable. It had no local department
and no report of events unofficial, unless they
were such as cave unalloved pleasure to the parties
conceined, and trenched in no degree upon the feetings and lasses of o hers.

and no report of events modelers, mines they were such as save una loved p easure to the parties conce ned, and trenched in no degree upon the feetings and takes of o hers.

The duplomatic dinners in that day became the fruitful source of official jealousies and heart-burnings. Not only were the Senators organized into a solid phalax to the assertion of their superiority over all other orders of society, but the Secretaries claimed precedence over the Diplomatic Corps; while the head of each department asserted his equality with every other. Prior to Mr. Monroe's Administration, the custom was for the President to invite the Secretary of State to be present at diplomatic dinners, and to take precedence of the entire corps of foreign Ministers. This, Mr. Adams informs us, was submitted to, inasmuch as there were no Ambassadors among them. It had not been the custom to invite the other Secretaries on those occasions; but Mr. Monroe, when he came in, had a notice served on him by the other heads of departments that they claimed entire equality with the Secretary of State, and that they would regard it as an offensive distinction in his favor if he alone were invited to be present at the diplomatic dinhers. But here came in another obstacle to the social harmony. The foreign Ministers were willing to yield precedence to the inmediate representative of the President, with whom all their official to yield precedence to the immediate representa-tive of the President, with whom all their official business was conducted, but they were not willing to take places behind the other Secretaries and their wives, at the foot of the table, and "below the salt."

To get out of this complication the President next adopted the expedient of dispensing with the pres-ence of the entire Cabinet on such occasions, and in order not to be entirely alone among the foreigners, he invited certain private citizens to the entertain-

ment; but this was little better than jumping out of the frying pan into the fire. The Ministers were not at all flattered by being invited to dine with persons of inferior rank, or no rank, and in the absence of the Secretary of State, with whom they were accustomed to meet on such occasions. The slight to the Secretary of State himself, became also the town talk, although, without his knowledge or participation. Thus discomfited, and at his wits' end, the President, on the next occasion when a diplomatic dinner was to be given, appealed to Mr. Adams for his advice. This was just after the death of Mr. Adams's mother, and on that ground he excused himself from being present. But the year following his advice was, that the Secretaries should be invited, one at a time, to be present. This suggestion vas taken, and became the practice. And thus harmony was restered. Mr. Adams appears to think that Mr. Crawford, the Secretary of State. Each of these eminent men was an aspirant to the Presidency, as successor to Mr. Monroe, and their love for and confidence in each other was not altogether like that of Damon and Pythias. Mr. Adams regarded his office as of superior real importance to any other, and adverts to the fact that two of his predecessors had been tranferred to the Presidency. These were Mr. Madison and the then President, Monroe, Mr. Jefferson had resigned the Secretaryship of State under Washington in December, 1783, and was elected President in 1800. That office had, indeed, come to be regarded as in the line of sure promotion to the Presidency. But it is now man-President in 1800. That office had, indeed, come to be regarded as in the line of sure promotion to the Presidency. But it is now manifest, especially since the close of the civil war, that the office of Secretary of State has relatively declined in importance, while that of Secretary of the Treasury has increased. The vast development of wealth and population has rendered the Nation less sensitive to the opinions and conduct of foreigners, while the same circumstances have greatly added to the importance of the financial department.

That the average United States Senator, in the year of our Lord 1818, should have claimed precedence over the Chief Justice when the illustrious John Marshall held that office, is one of the curious and laughable whimsicalities of Washington

Mr. Adams expressed his contempt of these controversies about questions of etiquette, but records the fact that in 1819 they became the special subject of a Cabinet meeting. The President informed him that Senators had made complaint "that the Secretary of State refuses to pay them the first visit." The President mentions the matter with much delicacy, but observed that it caused "uneasiness, heart-burnings, and severe criticism," and expressed a wish that the heads of Departments would meet and agree upon some rule as regards visiting. A Cabinet conneil was accordingly held on the following Monday. The President favored the Senatorial claim of precedence, and added that it would be proper, also, for the Secretaries to pay a first visit othe members of the House of Representatives, who might otherwise regard the preference given to Senators as mividous. In that day not one Senator or Member of the House of Representatives in fifty kept house in this city, and it would, on this principle, have been necessary for the heads of Departments to hant them down, two hundred and thirty in rumber, in their cheap lodging houses. The pay of members was then six dollars per diem, and not a few of them were wise enough to carry home the bulk of their wages. No agreement upon a common rule was come to. Messrs, Crawford and Caihonn, who were candidates for the Presidential succession, were willing to adopt the suggestion of the President. Up to that date Presidential candidates were nominated by Congressional cancuses; and hence the great importance of being on good terms with the members. Mr. Adams, however, though himself a Presidential aspirant, held out against the proposed rule, and persisted in the practice of visiting whom he pleased, without regard to official station, and he addressed letters to the President and Vice-President in vindication of the course which he had thus marked out for himself and family. Mr. Adams expressed his contempt of these con which he had thus marked out for him

# THE PLAGIARISTIC WILDE'S NEW LECTURE.

the behef that the sun daily rises in answer to his crow. Mr. William Morris's wall-papers and Messrs. Liberty & Co.'s exquisite fabries had gained popularity long before Mr. Wilde commenced his lectures, just as Holywell-st. existed long before Mr. Wilde published his indecent poetry. If there is a man notoriously behind the age it is this Mr. Oscar Wilde, who burns to communicate to the world things which the world understands very much more fully than Mr. Oscar Wilde.

### WOMEN IN A UNIVERSITY TOWN.

From The London Truth.

Cakes and ale out of the May Term at Cambridge is certainly an innovation since my time. The Au-tumn Term was never the busiest, but it was un-broken by the serious dissipation that has been tumn Term was never the busiest, but it was unbroken by the serious dissipation that has been invading the place under cover of the Greek plays at Grton and in the old rink transformed into a Greek theatre, near the post-office. Cousins, sisters, mothers, all over the place, and all got up moder the pretence of witnessing the Greek play to which not half of them go, and not half who do go understand what they hear, even with the aid of Hookham Frere's excellent translation. An old Don said to me, "What's the consequence of these Greek plays and other entertainments, which threaten to become chronic! The men waste a whole term. These men, for instance—some of them good scholars, who ought to be reading—have been dancing and fooling about in their character of birds ever since they came up, and the friskness thus begotten will last up to Christmas."

came up, and the friskiness thus begotten will last up to Christmas."
"You take a gloomy view," I said, "of what is after all the most severe and scholastic form of usement." Severe and scholastic! Rubbish! The ma n

"Severe and scholastic! Rubbish! The man incentive is the women."

"What do you mean?" I asked in astonishment.

"There is not a woman actor on the stage in 'The Birds,' and the Girton girls won't allow any men except their papas and tutors."

"Look at the women in the stalls, "growled the crusty old fellow; "I tell you they are at the bottom of it. They will have amusement, and they are disorganizing the university."

"Pray explain yourself," I said. "You don't surely mean that the presence of a few rosy-checked wide-eyed cousins and sisters, who come up for a day or two to peep into their brothers' college rooms, and soften their manners, disorganize the university?"

The oracle of the combination room laid his arm upon mine, and, lowering his voice more confidential than the process of a law or his arm fol-

The oracle of the combination room laid his arm upon mine, and, lowering his voice more confidentially as a young Don with a lady on his arm, followed by a nurse with a baby, passed by, said: "Listen. "Is not the outsiders: 'tis the local women have done it. There are two sides to these new-fangled marriages of Fellows. Do you see yonder row of red brick houses?" Hooked across Parker's-piece, and saw what is called St. Andrew's terrace. "Who lives there, and who lives further on, all the way up to the station—and who lives everywhere?"

"I understand." I said. "All these your building.

everywhere?"
"I understand," I said. "All these new buildings
have sprung up in consequence of the women?"
"Just so; directly and indirectly; the place
swarms with them; even the tirrion and
Newnham movement contributes to the confusion.
Where women are, men will flock; and where men
are, women will flock if they can get an excuse, regardless of their professing to despise mankind."

### HEAD-DRESSED DINNER-PARTIES.

Paris, it seems, has invented a new amusement: it gives what are called dinner parties as tête, at which each of the guests must come with his head made up to represent some historical person, or at least in the style of some picturesque period. Only the head is to be made up; the rest of the body may be clothed in the ordinary garb of the nineteenth century. As one reads of this strange custom, one cannot help thinking how very ludicrous a dinner party got up on this plan must appear to the more reasonable among its members, and how curiously appropriate in the mouth of each guest might be the words of the Athenian weaver Bottom—"What do you see the You see an ass-head of your own, do you?"

One asshete, who had amused two continents with the cut of his clothes, lately tried to carry out some portion of the new plan in London by going wherever he was asked with his head made up in what he fondly fancied to be the likeness of a Roman emperor; but it was not a great success. From The Whitehall Review.

Roman emperor; but it was not a great success.

A BIRD OF FREEDOM!-Scene--The Bird-A BIRD OF FREEDOM — Scene — Inmatts Per-Fancier's Shop on the Port at Boulogne. Dramatis Per-sonae—Bill and 'Arry.—Bill: "I say 'Arry, 'ere's a Nowil'—'Arry:—Tain't a Nowl.—Bill: "Then it's a Nawk!"—'Arry. "Tain't a Nawk; tell yer it's a Neagle; 'Nemblen of the blooming country!"—[Judy.

# WESTERN LAND-GRABBING.

HOW THE PUBLIC DOMAIN IS DESPOILED.

VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS OF EX-REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS, LAND OFFICE REGISTER AT WATER-TOWN, DAKOTA. FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.

WATERTOWN, Dak., Dec. 15 .- An interview with Special Agent Bickford of the Bismarck Land District, recently published in THE TRIBUNE, has attracted considerable attention in this locality in two particulars : First, as indicating the extent of the frauds committed in connection with the appropriation of lands, and, second, as evidence of a purpose on the part of the Government to meet and overcome the evils. The public lands of the Northwest, at the present rate of progress, will soon be exhausted, and how many thousands of acres have been stelen will probably never be known. The business seto have been conducted in the past with a view to getting rid of the land upon the slightest pretext of a claim. Great injustice has consequently been wrought to bona fide settlers, grabbers have everywhere profited. The worthy man, with his little family and limited means, settles upon his quarter section on the prairie. He endures the hardships of a pioneer life and suffers great privations in order to comply conscientiously with law respecting " continuous residence." Some morning he beholds an eight by ten shanty looming up on the quarter section adjoining, and he is flattered with the thought of having a neighbor. In a twinkling all signs of life disappear. The shanty alone remains. Some time, perhaps, during the succeeding six months, he sees a man walking about with his hands in his pockets, and espies a streak of smoke issuing from the stovepipe that projects from the shanty. Soon he learns that his 'neighbor" has "proved up." Impelled by carlosity he makes inquiry, and finds that the man is a saloo keeper, or a druggist, or a doctor, or a lawyer, or perhaps a minister in a distant town. The next thing he hears, the quarter section has changed owners in consideration of a few hundred dollars. If he were to examine the proofs he would observe that flat perjury was the original

price of the land. The action of the Government in appointing special acents is having the effect of terrifying the grabbers. The district land officers are themselves almost powerless. Exparte affidavits in proof are submitted and in the nature of things accepted. It is here that the work of the special agent begins. In any doubtful or suspicious case his services are required for investigation, and irregularity works forfeiture, and periury entails prosecution, when the law is effectively admininistered.

LITERAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW. Upon this whole subject the views of the Hon. C. G. Williams, late Representative in Congress from Wisconsin, and now Register of the United States Land Office at this place, may be interesting. Being asked whether he be lieved that a large amount of fraud had been perpetrated upon the Government in the entry of lands in his district, be replied:

law, a large number of entries would not stand the test Take, for instance, the question of continual residence on homestead and pre-emption claims. If the claimant is required to live continuously for six months on his claim, and not leave it more than the established farmer would leave his homestead, a very small proportion of claimants, even of those who make outh to continuous restfence, comply with the law. Many unquestionably do. But the question, as well as the situation, is a mixed one, depending largely on good faith and the reasonable en denvor of the settler.

It is easy to say that a man shall live on a claim six nonths, or five years, as the case may be; but the literal ulfilment of the requirement is quite another matter. Many honest settlers are poor. A large proportion of the first of that of the Vice-President involves—it must be owned—some paradoxes. For, in the first place, this whole social fabric of the Republican Coursisonly an imitation of hatof Grea Britain. Under a "strict construction of the Constitution" there is no place for it in the American system of government. Aualogy to British usage places the Vice-President side by side with the Prince of Wales. He is the heir apparant, and like the son of the British Sovereign, he ranks all other dignitaries, and stands next to the head of the Government. Another absurd consequence of the Senatorial assumption is the fact that it places the President of the Senator, above the Constitutional President of the Senator, and the Many honest settlers are 1800. A large proportion of them are young men from twenty-five to thirty years of age, and unmarried. They have accumulated means enough to get to Dakota. They enter a piece of land, break five or ten acres, or hire it broke, build a claim

Commissioner or the local offices dot We here in Water town are disposing of final proofs at the rate of twenty a day. To investigate would be equivalent to disposing of that number of small law-suits. But we can do nothing of the kind. All we can do is to examine the face of the papers. The policy of sending out special agents to go upon the land, if necessary, is a move in the right direction. Yet no sooner does the Department attempt to systematize the force and make it effective than the cry of 'economy' is raised, and the work of exsing fraud and protecting the Government is crippled. posing fram and processing the common anywhere in the amount of money voted for the use the General Land Office at Washington. It and must be, with the best of management, about a year behind in much of its work. about a year beined in mean of he work.

I never realized the great injustice thus done until I came where two poor settlers can be seen on the same claim, both making improvements, yet not knowing whether its stop or go ahead, waiting for a decision in the inatter of title. In the meantime all the available land in the neighborhood is being taken by others. The dovernment intends to give them the boon of a house, but instead it ands to give them the boon of a home, but instead it ex them a law-suit; but with the means at hand it is esseible for more speedy relief to be had.

THE WORK OF SPECIAL AGENT4,
"The special agents sent out should be men of experience and capacity. Under these ex parie investigations the grossest injustice may be done. The man who comes into this country in pressed with the belief that comes into this country in pressed with the belief that every man he meets is a land thief, is scantily equipped for his work. It requires a thorough knowledge of men and good capacity, not to be imposed upon on either side. Not unfrequently the very men who are ratsing the uproor against their nelgabors are the very ones who litted to steal the land if opportunity offers.

"As to the amount of land to which one man should be entitled, I don't think that 480 acres is too much for a long fide settler. In a country where capitalists and speculators acquire ten, twenty or fifty thousand acres in a hody, I do not regard it a bad policy to help the honest settler to the possession of three hundred, four hundred

a body. I do not regard it a bad policy to help the honest settler to the possession of three hundred, four hundred or even five hundred acres, on which to fortify and battle against these large estates, for in my opinion this Territory is destined to hold the largest landed estates in North America. To some extent, of course, these small holdings will be hought up by the larger owners; but with raw prairie running up to four, eight and twelve dollars an acre, as it is fast doing in this part of Dakota, and with the natural keenness and thrift of the new settler, we are not apt to have a pinched or poverty-stricken peasantry at these prices.

have a pinched or poverty-stricken peasantry at these prices.

In short I am of the opinion that safety lies in the direction of better guards and guarantees rather than repeal. But I think that instead of settlement before filling, filing should come before settlement in pre-emption as in homestead cases, or else the act of settlement should be such as to give notice to everybody, such as five acres broken, or a house bulk, or something that anybody can see. The practice of holding lami by digging a few sods or piling up a few stones in the grass, which the man himself only will recognize, is leading to inextricable confusion, and is productive of painful injustice, in many instances, to honest settlers. A public record, carefully kept, is the best evidence to claim or title to land.

ABUSE OF THE TIMBER CULTURE ACT.

With respect to the Timber Culture laws, I think that if Congress had sat up forty days and forty nights to frame a law which should utterly defeat itself, they could

frame a law which should utterly defeat itself, they could not more perfectly have accomplished that result than has been done by these laws. The practical result is that there are no trees. It has become a common saying that you might as well look for a settler in a claim shanty as for trees on a tree claim. While this is an unjust reflection on the hardy settler, it is an absolute definition so far as tree claims go. Trees are the exception rather than the rule, and al ways will be under this law. The enief defect is embodied in the single word 'relinquishment.' It works in this wise: You take a tree claim. The law requires you to break five acres the first year, cultivate that the second, and break five acres more. The third year you must plant the first five acres to trees. And here is where the difficulty arises. If you are living in New York or Wisconsin, and do not wish to plant the trees, the law allows you to 'relinquish,' which amounts to selling your claim. You relinquish to the Government, but in reality for my benefit, I paying you \$100 or \$1,000, as the case may be. I make a new entry on the land and commence just where you did. I am required to break five acres the first year, and so on. When I reach the third year I must plant trees or relinquish, and so I relinquish to some one clse. He commences where I did, and so It may pass on forever, and the Government gets no trees.

"Now this law I would amend in two particulars. Under the law there can be but one tree claim of 160 acres in each section, and this one when relinquished may be changed to a homestead, leaving the section without any a tree claim. I would provide once a tree claim is always exception rather than the rule, and al ways will be under in each section, and this one when relinquished may changed to a homestead, leaving the section without a tree claim. I would provide once a tree-claim is alwa tree claim. I would allow the claimant to assign claims and improvements at any time for just what could get for them; and I would allow the assignee to

the same, and so on, but always holding the claim subject to forfeiture to the Government, for failure to plant and cultivate the trees. At the end of eight years I would call 'time,' Under the law thus amended not only would the trees be growing at the end of eight years, but in less than three years these prairies would be dotted over with thrifty groves where now you see only rank weeds and grass called 'tree claims.' Under the modification I suggest, the motive of the claimant would be to grow trees, just as it now is the motive not to grow trees, just as it now is the motive not to grow them."

Mr. Williams is enthusiastic in his views of Dakota and its future. "The question of its immediate and permanent growth," he says, "has passed beyond the realm of opinion. The people are here; the crops are gathered. American homes are springing up on every side. Even the keen blasts of November searcely check immigration or issen the entries at the land offices. The spring will bring both with reloubled force. It matters not what I may tailuk, or what any one going East may write or say. Dakota is a fact, and a very large and and magnificent one."

PENNSYLVANIA HUNTING GROUNDS. FEATS OF SPORTSMEN AMONG DEER AND BEARS.

PROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. BRADFORD, Penn., Dec. 17.—The deer hunting season closed in this State on Saturday, and from all re-ports it appears to have been the most successful one in the northwestern tier of counties that the hunters have enjoyed in years. Bear hunting is now at its best, although usually by this time of year those animals have gone into their winter quarters; but the fall and winter thus far have been so mild that Bruin has not been driven to his long winter sleep, but has been able to find plenty of food, and to suffer no inconvenience from the weather, later this season than he has within the recollection of the oldest hunter. There has been one drawback to the mild fall for hunters, and that has the difficulty with which venison and other game have been preserved in good order. The warm weather spirited away many a fat buck's carcass this full Among the many old hunters that have distinguished themselves this fall on the deer trail are "Uncle Jake" Hamersley, Simon Plouts, Hugh Sudan, and others region in 1830, and have never missed a season's camping-out here since. They are each seventy years of age Hamersley uses a gun that was made over sixty years ago for his father, by Gunsmith Long, of Wheeling, West Virginia. It is a single-barrel, muzzle-loading rifle, and with it Uncle Jake has killed a grand total of nearly 2,000 deer, bear, elk, panther and smaller game. Plouts's record is not so large. Hugh Jordan of Kittle Creek, claims to have killed more than 300 bears in his career of fifty years in the Pennsylvania woods, and a perpertionately large number of deer and other game. He has been a more con-stant hunter than either of the above named, as they have divided the pleasures of the chase with much sober busi-

Several of the hunters who have camped in the wilds of Elk, Forest, Potter, Warren, McKean, Clearfield and other ounties for the past half century and more have met with tragic deaths during the past season or two, and their oss is greatly deplored among their old comrades who are left. The latest addition to the list of these unfortunate Is the name of Abram Downing, a native of Tioga County, and noted throughout the entire northern part of the State. He had gone with a man name! John Palsely to watch a deer-lick in the woods four miles from Leconia, Tioga county, at the headwaters Leconia. Tioga county, at the headwaters of Seepan Rum. This was a favorite resort for Downlinz, and he had built a platform in a free from which he could the better watch the approach of deer to the lick. He had shot one deer, when darkness came on, and the men concluded to to bome. Downling descended the tree, and Paisely was lowering him his run by a string, with the muzzle downward. On its way down the hammer caught on a branch, and when it was relieved fell on the cap and discharged the gun. The ball entered Downling's abdomen and came out below his hip. Pdaely run for assistance to the nearest house, a mile away. When he returned ance to the nearest bouse, a mile away. When he returne with others they found Downing's dead body lying nea

with others they found Downing's dead body lying near with others they found Downing's dead body lying near the like.

"Sile" Reeves, another famous hunter, was crushed to death by a beetree which he was felling. "Sil." Pettingill was killed by a wounded bock after having hunted for over sixty years, and with a record of handreds of dead deer, bear, elk and partier, many of them killed in hand-to-hand contests. "Sil." Cally was caught in one of his own bear-traps, and his house were found scattered about it five mouths afterward.

Among the extraordinary hunting feats that are reported from the different resorts for sportamen in this region, are those of Charles Cuider, the three boys, Grier, Oliney and lirsy, and the three lumbermen, Clein, Morsan and Gibts. Charles Cuider is from Philadelphia. While he was hunting in the Kingha region he came suddenly upon two bears. He shot one dead and wounded the other. This one attacked him and he was obliged to run for his life, and finally seek safety by climbing a small tree. The bear walked away into the woods and he followed it. While secking it, a bear sprans out of the bush pursued by a doc. Calder thought has was the lear he had wounded. He shot and kined it, but in going to where it lay was surprised to find the dead body of another one near by. Each bear had now ound, hence. Calder concluded that the one he found dead was the oute he had wounded and escaped from. John Grier, James Bray and Sannei Olay, neither one of whom is more than four con years of acc, while hunting foxes were surprised by a large she-hear and half-grown cub. The boys had but one gun, an old army musket. Young Grier carried that. When the bears appeared, he shot the old one, and then the three boys captured the young one alive.

Hugh Cleim, "Barney" Morgan and William Gibbs, the content of the complet of the policy of the carried that.

alive.

Hugh Clem, "Barney" Morgan and William Gibbs, employes of the Williams Lamber Company of Maryville, while eating their lunch on a pile of loose rocks near the loging camp, were suprised to see two large bears and two cubs walk leasurely out from among the rocks. The mon fired at the bears with their revolvers, which aggravated them, and the old ones showed fight. The men could not escape, and were obliged to resort to stones to defend themselves. They killed the two old bears with stones and captured the cubs.

### CHURCH ORGAN AND BATTERED BOX.

THE SHARP CONTRASTS OF A CITY NIGHT. Out in the street under the gas-lights, leaving behind the half-lighted chancel of St. Francis Xavier's with its unworldly maze of glowing marbles, cestation pictures, listening statues, and daintily sculptured Fugue in D minor, and the mystle, old-time, many-voiced Kyrie and Gloria of Leo Hasler, floating down from the far off choir, are not easily got rid of; and the rushing trains overhead, and perpetual rumble and tinkling of passing street cars, and the hurrying people homeward bound hardly interrupt the still small voices that haum the inner man. Here is a bleak corner in a dilapulated the inner man. Here is a break consisting and flexers in like searching gusts out of the north. There are not many people about. A gasping, half-sobbing sound is heard. Creaching at the foot of the lamp is a bundle of heard. Crouching at the foot of the lamp is a number of rags, well stricken in years, and more stricken yet is the skinny, skeleton-like woman hidden in them, with bowed head and abject look. A hand, withered and fluny like a claw, wearly turns a crank on the dings hox at her side, and now and then at odd intervals liberates a moan, or dying stretch of an old melody. It's more like the worried ghost of a time, dreary, unsarthly. And the old creature,

rags, who siyet another—a mere handful of bones an rags, who slinks away in a dark corner, turning very slowly another crank on a played-out box. A bit of canelle as stuck in the mouth of an old bottle, and its sway ing little flame sends the grouse awaling down the bottle sides, and a trembling dow-worm effect falls on the dirty box and the dull pence, and more gloomily yet on the poor old hag herself, who seems to have no belongings but her desolate poverty. Chastly organs and organists are these. rhaps. And there is yet another—a mere handful of bones and

### A TRAGIC PRACTICAL JOKE.

Springfield, Ohio, Letter to The Pittsburg Dispatch.

Henry F. Millward, a noted mechanical engineer and expert, committed suicide in this city on Saturday last. Some weeks ago Millward, who was of a joily nature and had a great reliab for practical jokes, assisted by a number of friends, constructed a dammy corpse out of a bundle of towels and pillows, and laid it on a bed in the Arcade Hotel in this city. The room was carefully darkened and the dammy covered with a sheet. A pasteboard head with grotesquely painted features was attached to the body so as to be in plain sight when the sheet should be removed. When all was ready the report was circulated through the city by the Jokers that a drimmor had committed saticide at the lookel after a protracted spree, and that his body was deposited in room No. 61 of the Arcade Hotel. The report attracted himdreds of etitizens, including the coroner, who were piloted up to the room one by one, and the grote-sque corpse exhibited to them. The sell lasted a whole day, and produced no end of merriment, generally ending in the person fooled treating she crowd.

A few weeks later Millward shot himself through the brain, after a week's absence on a drinking spell, in the Arcade building, the mack tragedy and real tragedy corresponding in every particular. The night before the deed Millward came nome very late, and after a few words with his roomnate, went to sleep. The latter heard him sobbing during the night, but thought nothing of it, and never saw him again until he entered the room the next day and found him gasping his last with a builet in his head. The surroundings showed that the man had gotten up, dressed humself, and after lying down on, the lounge, had deliberately shot himself in the head.

The remarkable part of the case was that the real suicide talled with that of the pretended suicide in every particular. The time of day was the same, the place the same, and the would the same. The coroner's jury decided that mental depression was the cause of the suicide, b Springfield, Ohio, Letter to The Pittsbury Dispatch.

NOT KNOWN BY THAT NAME. "Have you any portraits of ex-President

"Have you any portraits of ex-President
Davis!" asked a richly dressed woman of a vendor of
photographs in Pourteenth-st. yesterday.

"I—I—who was he!" asked the sidewalk salesman.
Astonished, she rephos—"Why, the President of the
Southern Confederacy, of course."

"Jeff Davis's pleture you mean, mam," said the vendor. "No, mam. We have so little demand for his picture we don's keep it in stock."

"That's strange," said the inquirer. "I see Grant
everywhere." She moved away evidently disappointed

#### SOLAR SURROUNDINGS.

BY PROFESSOR RICHARD A. PROCTOR.

THE LATEST SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES ABOUT THE SUN'S CORONA-PHOTOGRAPHS OF IT AT LAST-A GREAT SCIENTIFIC TRUTH SEEMINGLY ESTAB-LISHED-FUTURE OF THE INQUIRY.

KEW, England, Dec. 5 .- My friend Dr. William Huggins, the eminent physicist and astronomer, entertains the confident belief that he has succeeded in photographing the solar corona without the aid of a total solar eclipse. I am myself not quite couvinced that what he has photographed is really the corona, though I would fain hope so. And yet the evidence seems strong enough. His method is simple and probably well known not only to men of science in America but to most of that large population there which, without being scientific, takes interest in scientific matters. I therefore only sketch it, and that lightly.

He takes advantage of the fact that a large propor ion of the light of the corona belongs to the violet end of the spectrum, and uses absorptive media which allow this sort of light and this only to pass freely through. Then when the photographing telescope is jurned toward the sun and the coronal region, the violet light of the corona, which is relatively strong, only has to contend against the violet light from the sky around the sun's place, and has at least a better chance of making its presence known,-in other words, a better chance of recording a recognizable picture of the coronal streamers on the photographic plate, on which necessarily the light from the sky is combined with the light from the corona. It seems clear that if the image i taken first near the centre of the telescopic field and then near a side, any optical effects due to the structure of the telescope itself must be detected and eliminated. Streamers simulating a coronal appearance could not possibly be alike in both positions. So any other purely instrumental peculiarities can, it would seem, be corrected. As for any coronal streamers caused by our own atmosphere, they must be corrected if we take pictures on different days or at different hours. If, under such varying conditions, we find that still certain streamers remain which can be recognized as the same in all the different pictures, it certainly seems as though there must be true coronal streamers. This is what Dr. Huggins claims to have done, and it is what his pietures really seem to show that he has done. So that I scarcely know how to justify the doubts which yet I cannot help entertaining. These streamers are so faint and shadowy (though that of course they could not but be), it is so easy "to make believe a good deal," as Dick Swiveller puts it, in looking at appearances so delicate, especially when tas in my own case) we wish very much to believe that a great scientific triumph has been achieved, that an excess of caution comes over me, and despite the agreement of men so competent to judge as Dr. Huggins, Professor Stokes and Captain Abney, my mind in this matter " asks for more,"

still a little doubt were it not that the matter is one which can so very readily be tested. Dr. Huggins's method is one which can be applied under especially favorable conditions in the clear skies of America. There are also in America magnificent instruments for testing the method. I should be glad to learn that the mantle of my late most esteemed friend Dr. Henry Draper had fallen on a successor as zealous in the cause of science as ne was; nay, even that the instruments he employed so successfully had been directed again to the class of work for which h made them, but with a slight change of subject. Solar photography is making great progress in England; but we have not the favorable conditions which exist in America. It has even been said by a French author, who under the som de plume of Max O'Rell (impossible name!) has recently discussed John Bull and John's Island, that we photograph

Perhaps one would not be so ready to entertain

he corona has really been proved to be merely a dently and also so strangely asserted, the diffraction taking place at the moon's edge, then of course when the moon is not there to produce that diffraction corona it is idle to attempt to photograph what-in that case-has no existence even as an optical phe

It has been with not a little surprise that the news of this noteworthy discovery has been received by astronomers. An observation which if it prove anything proves only what everyone knew must be the case-viz., that light passing close by the moon in total eclipse undergoes diffraction-is astoundingly accepted as explaining the solar corone with its com plex structure, its long streamers, its faint extension along the zodiac even beyond the streamers five millions of miles in length seen by Professor Cleveland Abbe in 1878 and by General Myer in 1869. It is perfectly well known that diffraction could ac count only for a fine coronal ring of light, not even for the inner bright corona, still less for the structured corona near the sun, and least of all for the long streamers. Yet the mere circumstance that Dr. Hastings saw what it was practically certain beforehand he would see if he looked for it-viz., evidence of diffraction -is at once taken as full and complete evidence about matters with which it is not in the remotest degree connected. The theory that the corona is not a solar append-

age was not altogether an unreasonable, though it was a demonstrably wrong theory, fifteen years ago. It was clear even then to those who considered the matter attentively that none of the non-solar theories which had up to that time been advanced (including the diffraction theory discussed half a century ago by Baden Powell) were sound. Bu even the scientific world has been slow to accept the results of mere reasoning; so that in 1869, when the celebrated American eclipse occurred, astrono mers were beginning to hope that photography would dispose of the solar corona as it had already disposed of the solar prominences. There had been some who denied that the colored prominenece could belong to the sun, pointing to difficulties akin to those which Mr. Larkin urges, I see, in The Kansas City Review, against the doctrine that the corona is solar. Then photography, showing in successive views of the totality in 1860 how the moon passe athwart the colored flames, disposed definitely of the lunar and atmospheric theories of the garnets round a brooch of jet, as the colored flames had been poetically called. Photography in 1870 did the like for the corona. An American photographer at Xerez in Spain and an English photographer at Syracuse in Sicily showed in their views the same radiations, rifts, gaps and general structure in the corona,-which could never have happened if the atmospheric glare, the lunar explanation, or any other but the solar theory of the corona had been sound. In 1871, in India, six photographs taken at Baikul, close to the sea shore, and six taken at Octacamund, some 10,000 feet above the sea-level, showed the same coronal features, all twelve of them. This was not so much a demonstration as the first easy proof of the solar nature of the corona,-for even a schoolboy (not Macaulay's schoolboy, who knew everything, but a real one) could see that unless the corona were far beyond our atmosphere and far also beyond the moon, it could not possibly show the same features as seen not only from stations hundreds of miles apart, but also at the beginning of totality when the moon's castern edge is just niding the corresponding edge of the sun, and throughout totality to the last moment when the western edges of the globes are in apparent contact. Consider the mighty shadow of the moon sweeping along past and over the observer, remembering what the shadow in our air really is, a great cylindrical (really a frustum of a cone but very nearly)

THE HUMORIST oft To himself doth say, in language soft, "Plassing away!"

And then be mutters, and muttering, muts:

"Plassing away!"

And then did place so happy and gay! Plassing away, passing away!

The people who made my early day at building jokes so happy and gay!

Passing away!"

And then did place so happy and gay!

Passing away!"

The people who made my early day at building jokes so happy and gay!

Passing away!"

And then did place sot.

"Plassing away!"

And the limit jokes so happy and gay!

Passing away!"

And then did place sot.

"Plassing away!"

And then did the say.

The people who made my early day at building jokes so happy and gay!

Passing away!

And then did the corresponding early day and the corresponding place sot.

"Plassing away!"

And then did the corresponding early day and gay!

And then did the corresponding early day and gay!

And then did the corresponding early day and gay!

An knew everything, but a real one) could see that un-

cylindrical) region of darkness from fifty to a hundred miles or so in diameter; and see the impossibility that when the observer is on the extreme eastern side and on the extreme western side of that shadowed region he should see the same appearance in the air, or anywhere but in a region many millions of miles away, as around the sun. Add the impossibility that at stations two or three hundred miles apart the same appearances are seen, and not only seen but pictured by the unerring pencil of photography.

Yet it must be admitted that a certain interpretation of the corona as a solar appendage is so full of difficulties that one cannot wonder at its having proved a stumbling block to many. I mean the view that the corona is a solar atmosphere. The existence of gaseous matter in the corona does not any more prove, as some seem to imagine, that the corona is an atmospheric envelope, than the existence of gaseous matter in comets, demonstrated over and over again, proves that comets form an atmospheric envelope of the sun. The whole aspect of the corona seems to me to show unmistakably that the several parts of that solar appendage are as free from atmospheric association with the sun as are meteor streams and the heads and tails of comets. I doubt even for my own part whether what we call the visible surface of the sun indicates the extension of a continuous solar atmosphere to that distance from the sun's centre. And that the sierra (which some still call the "chromosphere," a word as correct and pleasing as "phograph" to a classical ear) is not really an atmospheric envelope, in the correct sense of the expression, seems clear when we consider its depth, and the inconceivable pressures which would exist at the base of such an atmosphere under the solar gravity, exceeding more than twenty-seven fold that at the earth's surface.

If Dr. Huggins's photographs of the corona are real, the doubts even of those not capable of understanding the photographic evidence already obtained will be dispelled; and to question the solar nature of the corona will be held as obviously absurd as it would now be in the presence of the daily study of the solar prominences to maintain that they are only phenomena of diffraction.

RICHARD A. PROCTOR.

THE "ATMOSPHERE" OF THE SUN.

A LETTER FROM PROFESSOR C. A. YOUNG. To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: An editorial in THE TRIBUNE of November 18 contains allusions to myself which seem to require a word in reply. I am criticised rather sharply for saying that " the atmo-phere of the sun (its coronal enveloper is not an atmosphere in the same sense as the earth's atmosphere." What I mean is simply this: Granting for the moment that the Corona is in part and largely composed of an envelope of exceedingly rare gaseous matter around the sun,-tuen I say we may call it an atmosphere, because being gaseous, and attached to a cosmical body, it bears to that body a relation analogous to that borns by our atmos-phere to the earth itself. So far the term is a proper one. But now, further, and on the contrary, the term " atmosphere" carries with it to most persons certain ideas as to ent parts, which are based on the fact that our terrestrial atmosphere is nearly quiescent and in static equilibrium under the force of gravity, with a temperature not more than two or three hundred degrees above the absolute zero, while the density of the portion accessible to human observation is very considerable. On the sun the conditions are immensely, and almost incon-ceivably, different, so that the term "atmosphere" becomes a very misicading one. There the equilibrium, so far as there is any, is dynamical, not statical, and the density, temperature and condition of the gaseous substance is far more nearly that of the residual gas in a Crookes's vacuum tube through which an induction coil is sending electrical discharges; so different from that of ordinary air that Crookes thought he had found a fourth state of matter, bearing some such relation to the gaseous state as the gaseous does to the liquid.

I submit that these facts justify my language. We are John Bull and John's Island, that we photograph the sun in England whenever we get the chance lest we should forget him. Without being quite so bad as that, our atmosphere is certainly not the best suited in the world for the very delicate and difficult problem attacked by Dr. Huggius. (Professor Daniel Draper has indeed shown that out of 4.449 possible hours of sunshine, New-York had 2.936 act and sunshine hours in 1878 and 3.101 m 1879, say in round numbers 3.000 hours; whereas at Greenwich with only two hours less of possible sunshine, there were but 1.245 hours of actual sunshine in 1878 and 977 in 1879, an average of 1.111 hours only.)

It may perhaps be thought by some who have noted the supposed discovery made by Dr. Hastings and Professor Holden during the eclipse of May last, that astronomy ought to assure itself that the corona exists, before attempting to photograph it. If the corona has really been proved to be merely a factors.

It most provided the world goes on to use old words in new or enlarged senses, and hence must keep careful watch to prevent the world goes on, to use old words in new or enlarged senses, and hence must keep careful watch to prevent the worlds from carrying with them more or less than they really made in the worlds from carrying with them more or less than they really made in the words from carrying with them more or less than they really made in the words from carrying with them more or less than they really mean in the premises.

A word as to Professor Hasting's observations certainly appear to prove that the surface art watch to professor Hasting and new or enlarged senses, and hence must keep careful watch to prevent watch to prevent watch to prevent at which it made to prevent the worlds from carrying with them more or less than they really made in the words from carrying with them more or less than they really made to prevent made to appear to extend the surface art watch to professor Hastings's observations of theory. It is observations and the previous made to the pr obliged continually, as the world goes on, to use old words

Hasting must be wrong at the fraction.

In conclusion I may say that as things stand I do not yet feel that the theory of the solar corona hitherto held has been made absolutely untenable in any of its essentials; while at the same time I should be far from willing to assert its correctness very postively. We want more light; and it will be sure to come in a few years.

C. A. Young,

Princeton, N. J., Dec. 17, 1883.

### FAMOUS FRENCH BILLIARD PLAYERS.

From London Truch.

Lonis Quatorze delighted to honor billiard players who could go on for any length of time making camous against brilliant players, but who, at the same time, professed inability to beat the King. Chamillart rose to be first Minister by suffering himself to be defeated each time he had the Grand Monarch for an eppenent. It was in the reign of Ludovico Magnus that billiards first rolled on green baize in France. His Majesty was a gluttonous cater, and as he wore high-heeled shoes and be-ribboned garments, he could not trudge over hill and dale, gun in hand, in the shooting season, the rode in a carriage when he followed a stag-hunt. Heavy eating and no exercise to speak of irritated his peccant hamors. Fagon did not dare to try the effects of his medicines on so illustrious a personage, and was afraid to tell him disagreeable truths. It would not have done for him to say "You eat too much, sire, and walk too little." But he had the ingenious idea to hand him a billiardene, and to tell him that it was "a lance of Achilles, which would soon vanquish bile and spleen." The King risked a pun on the occasion. "If what I am told," he said, "be true, I shall return to a state of nature and 'ne plus me séparer de ma quene." He was a man of his word. On rising frem the table, the first thing he dad was to seize his billiard-cae, and play interminable games with Madame do Montespan. Her eclipse was not so He was a man of his word. On rising from the table, the first thing he del was to seize his billiard-cae, and play interminable games with Madame de Montespan. Her eclipse was not so much due to the art of her rival, Madame Scarron, as to her own want of tact in allowing courtiers to judge of her superiority over the King at the billiard-table. His Majesty at hirst staked church livings, military grades, civil functions, against money. But when he found that his conriters preferred risking his displeasure to losing their stakes, he played for honor alone and gained easy victories. In his old age Louis XV, wielded the lance of Achilles against the Du Barry. The Nuncio god to look on while the King and his favorite played, and was observed to blush at the sayings of the latter when she had lost pationee. Louis XVIII. was also a billiard-player until his obssity hindered him from getting near enough to the table to be master of his one. Under the Empire, publicans were encouraged by Minis ers of the Interior to democratize what had been for nearly 200 years a noisy game. By its noisiness and the space the table and players occupied, it prevented villagers crowding into wineshops to talk politics. In old Court times, French ladies were among the best billiard players, I have seen, in an old currosity shop, a staymaker's sign-board, in which the tradeswoman who hung it on claimed to make corsets which did not hamper the action of the muscles in using the cne. "La be le Caramboleuse," or "pretty Cannoneer," figuring on the the board, held in her hand a be-ribboned cue, and had her hair drossed in the Du Barry style. Billiards are held in honor at the Elysée. Grévy's facility in calculating ricochets is phenomenal, and his hand is deft in striking a ball at the exact point at which he wants to hit it. He is one of the rare men who are first-rate players without having made billiards a profession, or entirely devoted themselves to them as amusement. The owner of the Café de la are instrate players without daving many are a profession, or entirely devoted themselves to them as amusement. The owner of the Café de la Régence used to maneauvre to keep him from the table there, because the length of his breaks was a cause of loss to the house.

THE WOES OF THE HUMORIST.

THE HUMORIST oft