POETRY.

RHODA.

BY JAMES H. MORSE.

A pleasant thing on a sunny day
  Has set her a-thinking,
As Rhoda merrily on her way
  Goes winking, blinking,
Thinking of Asa raking down
The hillside rowen outside the town.

Blue drop of the æther, sweet, serene,
  Is Rhoda's thinking,
Akin to the blueness sometimes seen
  Behind her winking
Wonderful lashes that conceal
More of her heaven than they reveal.

Asa, thinking the labor long
  Of the hot hay-making,
Wiles the hours with an old, old song
  Timed to his raking—
A wooing song of that pleasant kind
Which the soul sends out for an absent mind.

Into the meadow Rhoda turns,
  And hears the singing;
The blue drop under the blue deep burns,
  And soft gates swinging,
Spite of the maiden's art, reveal
More of her heaven than they conceal.

Flash of the silver dust of stars
  Is Rhoda's thinking,
Now that it shines beyond the bars
  Of her happy winking
Happily-blinking, lovelit-eyes
That cannot hide her sweet surprise.

Through the meadow into the wood,
  Now Rhoda, fleeing
With bounding feet, in the solitude
  Beyond his seeing,
Would disentangle a soul ensnared
That could not now be free if it dared.
—*Christian Union.*

MISCELLANY.

Fish Culture.

The problem of supplying the poorer classes in densely-populated countries with cheap and nourishing food, must continue to occupy more and more the attention of law-makers and political economists; and for this reason the artificial propagation of fish may now be said to have assumed a national importance all the world over. Among the many satisfactory results which have accrued from the legislative measures enforced on the subject with more or less success in the State of New York, the most prominent is that which established the hatching-houses or nurseries of the Commonwealth. No better evidence of this fact can perhaps be required than a few figures from the annual report of the Hon. Robert B. Roosevelt, State Fish Commissioner, in reference to the results achieved from stocking the rivers. At one nursery alone—that at Caledonia—no less than 5,041,000 shad were successfully hatched and turned loose last year, the greater part of them going into the Hudson. In the year 1872 over 7,500,000 young shad were turned into this river, which, in addition to the 5,000,000 put in in 1873, must eventually increase the supply, as the annual yield has hitherto been but 1,000,000.

While New York is thus gradually replenishing her fisheries, augmenting a great source of food, and developing a new industry, our own State is content with barren and depleted rivers. Yet we have good authority for saying that Illinois has all the elements needed to render her fisheries as productive and profitable as any of her sisters in the Union. "Around and within our borders," says a writer in the last "Transactions of the Department of the State of Illinois," "we possess rivers and lakes admirably adapted not only for the propagation of the fish already there, but for the introduction and breeding of many new varieties." The same writer is confident that trout can be successfully acclimated in many, if not in most, of our waters. Why, then, will our people continue to neglect these favorable capabilities which need only to be turned to account to largely increase our wealth and resources? Let the General Assembly of the State follow the example of that of New York, and establish a "Commissioner of Fisheries," with the same powers in the premises.—*Inter-Ocean.*

Trousers for Ladies.

Long white trousers for ladies are very much worn on the Continent. These trousers should be quite plain for wearing in the day-time and in the street; but those for evening wear should be made of fine cambric, or muslin ornamented with embroidery, lace insertion, or heavy rich lace frills or flounces, according to the taste and means of the lady herself. What could look prettier, or more modest, than to see a pretty, small trousered foot in silk stockings and a neat sandal shoe, appearing under the skirt of a muslin dress, the ankles buried, as it were, in several rows of the lace frills or flounces of fine cambric or muslin trousers? Surely, also, when a young lady of eighteen or nineteen is dancing, it is more modest, as it is certainly very becoming, to see the limb hidden in lace-frilled trousers of cambric than in the present fashion. As I said, this mode is very much seen on the Continent, among French, Spaniards, and especially Russians. When at Barcelona, a few years ago, I remarked that every lady wore trousers, some plain, some richly trimmed with lace frills or flounces. Two or four inches of the trousers were visible, setting off the small Spanish foot to perfection. I knew a pretty French lady who used to wear most becoming trousers in the evening, which were made of very fine cambric, or muslin, with rich lace frills up the calf of her leg, and insertion between each frill. The lace frills of her trousers just touched the instep, but the rest of the trousers was visible under and through the transparent skirt of white muslin.—*English Magazine.*

A Bark Attacked by a Whale.

The bark Kate Williams, Capt. Hale, of the regular packet line between Boston and Fayal, which arrived at Boston on Friday last, had a remarkable escape on her passage. The Boston *Journal* thus describes the incident: "About 9 o'clock one morning a seaman aloft cried out that there was a whale on the port bow. Capt. Hale stepped to the port quarter, and almost immediately could have laid his hand on the upper jaw of a sperm whale, which had paid an unwelcome visit to the vessel. It was a cow whale, about sixty feet in length, which had set upon them, and had she struck the vessel a little further under, the Kate Williams would probably never have been heard from after leaving Fayal. As it was, the vessel received a pretty good shock, and lost a portion of her mizzen channels. This monster had seen the bark about the time the sailor discovered her, for she immediately sunk and came up with great force right at the vessel's stern. Capt. Hale thinks her mouth measured at least fifteen feet, and her under-jaw was felt to scrape the bottom of the vessel as she glided swiftly away from the unexpected enemy. The whale fared as badly as the bark, no doubt, for the quarter-deck was covered with pieces of the leviathan's outer skin and the 'mud' that is found between it and the tougher hide. The Kate Williams was sailing rapidly at the time, and in about fifteen minutes the fish was out of sight. While the latter could be seen she appeared swimming about looking for the vessel, and evidently in a rage."

The Lapps and the Arabs.

The Swedish Government has on several occasions undertaken to bring up young Lapps, in the hope that they might at a future time facilitate the transition of their nomadic habits to the more advanced condition of the fixed population. But it has been lost labor; in almost every instance instinct has prevailed over education. A story is told of one of these young men who, by his piety and his application fitted himself for admission into the ranks of the Swedish clergy, and then, filled with patriotic zeal, rejoined his tribe that he might shed abroad among them the light of religion and civilization. But, far from his converting them, he abandoned the Bible for the wallet, and the preacher's surplice for the rags of the nomad. So it is with the native chiefs who are brought up in the Franco-Arab schools. Hardly are they installed among their tribes, than, with a few exceptions, they return to the manners, the prejudices, the vices, and the virtues of their people, as if they had never quitted the wilds of Ariba or the frontiers of Soudan. It must be acknowledged that after more than forty years of political subjection, the nomad system of Algeria has not been influenced in the least by contact with European manners. —"*Sahara and Lapland.*"

* * *

The ladies of the Mankato (Minn.) Aid Society have published a cook book, all the recipes being prepared by themselves, which sells for a dollar, the proceeds being devoted to charitable purposes.

The Holt County Sentinel.

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RACHEL MOORE'S MUSIC.

BY MARGARET LEE.

IT was a very comical room in which Rachel Moore sat crying. A cottage piano filled one recess, a sewing machine stood in another; the windows were furnished with Holland shades and hanging baskets of domestic manufacture, a cooking stove, and the pipe that disappeared through a round aperture above the smoky wall destroyed any chance of producing effects on the mantel-shelf; and the combined odors of food cooking, kerosene oil, and coal gas, rather detracted from a room generally very cosy and tidy.

It wanted one week of Christmas day, and Aunt Martha had gone out on a shopping tour closely connected with mince-pie.

"What's the matter now, Rachel?" asked a stout, easy-going looking, shabby man, coming in from the street and disencumbering himself of a little bag and a heavy coat. He drew a chair to the stove, lit a pipe that reposed in his pocket when not in his mouth, and surveyed Rachel through a cloud of smoke. It took her some time to say:

"Oh, nothing."

"You a'n't crying for nothing?"

Rachel stood up and lifted the cover off a sauce-pan, felt the vegetables, and put the tea to draw. Her compressed lips and brimming eyes showed the self-control she was exerting, and Uncle Jacob silently admired her for it. She had a stout little figure, short, decided features, bright black eyes, and some broad braids of dark hair twisted high over her low forehead, a style that gave character to her face and head.

"The society meets to-night, and aunt says I can't go."

"What's the matter?"

"She won't be home till near ten; she's going to see grandmother. Uncle James will bring her home."

"Oh!"

This word quite exhausted Uncle Jacob until he had disposed of his soup, his bread and cheese, several pints of tea, and an indefinite amount of tobacco. Rachel's face brightened at his evident enjoyment of the supper that she had prepared; and as she washed the dishes and put them in the closet, her returning peace of mind was signaled by a humming which became a *crescendo*, and ended in a clear, sweet anthem, the rich contralto tones filling the room with melody.

"Wait a minute!" cried Uncle Jacob, and springing across the floor like another creature, he threw open the piano and began the accompaniment.

Her work done, Rachel came and leaned on his shoulder, singing one after another the difficult solo anthems which Uncle Jacob's love of oratorio music had made as familiar to her as street ballads are to the majority.

"Go and get on your shawl, Rache; I'll keep house this evening."

When she came in from her little room in her old plaid shawl and shabby hat, Uncle Jacob was blind and deaf to all present concerns, and the "Hallelujah Chorus," from the "Mount of Olives," was satisfying the man's higher cravings. Rachel stopped a moment as she closed the outer door and wiped away some harder tears.

Poor Uncle Jacob! Would she ever be able to give him even one of the luxuries he silently coveted? A melodeon, or a new piano? Her mind never comprehended an organ; that was simply impossible.

As she went along in the cold, pulling her shawl still closer about her sturdy little body, she began to wonder, as she had done hundreds of times, how Uncle Jacob had ever married such a practical, every-day, matter-of-fact woman as her Aunt Martha. He loved music; it made Aunt Martha nervous; he tuned pianos for a part living; was always contemplating getting an organist's position, yet could not raise the necessary energy to take the first step in that direction. She made dresses—the machine flew under her determined feet; and had as much perception of the beauties of harmony as the machine needle had of the materials that it passed through. By this comical couple, whose points of agreement were frugality and good-heartedness, Rachel had been adopted when four years old. Her parents were blanks to her. Aunt Martha was her mother's sister, but the sisters had been very different in character; and Rachel had inherited from her mother a voice and a passion for music, together with the energetic, independent temperament of her American progenitors.

Aunt Martha rather made light of all this singing and playing, and was quite shocked at the idea of Rachel joining a musical society. However, Uncle Jacob took up the refrain that Rachel ought to have a chance, and moaned it until Aunt Martha withdrew her veto.

The one white day of the week for Rachel was Thursday. At eight o'clock on Thursday evenings the "Harmonic" met in a hall over a neighboring store. The leading members were professionals, church singers, worn out and fresh, operatic chorus people, and a sprinkling of teachers. The leader and organizer of this motley crowd was a well-known and most talented musician, and his name had drawn toward him several fine artists. These had undertaken the solo parts in the oratorio in preparation, and the public performance was already announced.

Rachel entered the hall just as the members rose to sing the opening chorus, and, somewhat abashed, she was about shrinking into a back seat when the leader's sharp eyes fell on her. A rapid nod brought her forward to her usual seat, the first in the row of contralto choristers.

This was Rachel's idea of perfect bliss, for right in front of her sat the solo contralto. Rachel could touch her handsome garments, watch her mobile features, and catch every sound of the marvelous voice. O what a wonderful creature, in Rachel's eyes, was this Miss Carpenter! A woman who sang in a fashionable church, with a salary of one thousand; who appeared at concerts in wondrous dresses, and trilled out pathetic little ballads, when encored after a heavy "*scena*," that literally brought down the house; who took the applause like a queen accepting homage; received fifty or seventy-five dollars for enjoying this triumph, and was sent carefully home in a carriage.

Rachel would give Uncle Jacob little imitations of this wonderful creature's surpassing style, and he would kiss his little niece, praise her voice, and declare that, for his part, he knew "Rache" could do as well if "she only had a chance."

Rache always felt worse than usual after this and similar remarks. The chance was so dim, so imaginary. She had no money to pay a good teacher; no influential friends to introduce her to the notice of prominent organists; no courage to put herself forward or try to attract observation.

This being one of the final rehearsals, the whole work was given, and Rachel, in company with several of the members, left the hall more than ever enchanted with Miss Carpenter's voice. Never had it sounded so clear, so pure, so rich, and resonant. It was the subject of conversation until Rachel parted from these good-natured escorts at her aunt's door.

From romance to reality is not far; and having soared with Handel above all temporal and earthly vanities, Rachel was recalled to earth by the high tones of her aunt's voice, evidently in hot dispute with Uncle Jacob.

"It's all stuff," said Aunt Martha, as Rachel went into the room. "If Rachel would give up her nonsensical music and learn dress-making, it would be better for all of us. Gallivanting out at night and leaving you at home to look after things! Why, everything in the room could be stolen, and you wouldn't be any the wiser, with your 'Creation' and 'St. Paul' and the rest of them in front of you! What's the good of it all, anyhow?"

"Why, Martha, as long as you don't like music, and don't understand it, I can't make you feel the good of it. It takes one right out of the world!"

"What's the use of that when you have to come back to it again, and go on with your work all the same?"

"Well, Martha, perhaps it serves me for the amusements that other men have."

"I know it keeps you at home; but ——"

She was going to say that his constant presence in the evening interfered with her trade, but thought better of the remark, lest he should understand by it more than she meant.

Rachel had slipped across the room, opened the pages of an oratorio, and was humming over one of the solos she had just heard. She stopped and raised her eyes as her aunt turned to her.

"You can just give up that society and attend to your work at home. You've been going there a year, and all it does is to fill your head with airs."

"O Aunt! And they're going to have a public performance, and we'll each have two tickets; so you and uncle can come to hear it!"

"I wouldn't give a penny to hear all the oratorios in the world! You've nothing fit to wear at a public concert, and I'm not going to have my own sister's child on the stage, disgracing the family."

"O Auntie!"

Rachel gave way to a burst of tears, too bitterly disappointed to speak, and Uncle Jacob shut his teeth on his pipe-stem and marched out of the house, his habit when his wife had a spell, as he called it.

Two days afterward a wonderful thing took plack—the postman left a note addressed to Miss Moore. It was from Miss Carpenter, asking Miss Moore to call and see her without delay.

Rachel, dressed in her best—a crimson merino suit, a cotton velvet sacque, and a hat with a cherry-colored feather asserting itself—started within an hour. She found Miss Carpenter in the front room, second floor, of an elegant house in a fashionable street. Miss Carpenter, in a becoming gray wrapper, was lying on a dark crimson lounge, and Rachel looked the sorrow she felt when the famous contralto spoke in a hoarse, weak voice:

"O thank you, Miss Moore! You see, I'm laid up; no singing for me, the doctor says, within ten days. I was in the greatest distress about my Christmas service until I thought of you. You see, Christmas coming on Sunday, all the good singers are engaged, and I want you to take my place in the choir."

"I?" cried Rachel, when able to speak.

"Yes, you."

"How can I?"

"Very well, if you'll keep up your courage. The part music is not any more difficult than what you have been singing; there are two or three duets and a trio; but you will have three rehearsals—one to-night, and the others on Friday and Saturday evenings. You read easily?"

"Yes, I can read." Rachel was sure she was dreaming.

"I'll send a note to the organist and tell him to consider you my substitute. Do you know where the church is?"

Rachel flushed.

"Oh, yes! I often go there with Uncle Jacob," to hear you sing, she might have added, but Rachel stopped short. Strange to say, Miss Carpenter read the motive in the tell-tale eyes, and felt a sensation of pleasure.

"The only thing is the anthem; our soprano is not too good, and I promised Mr. Mason, 'O Thou that Tellest.' Do you know it?"

"I can sing it, but not as it should be sung."

"Come and run it over for me. I can tell then whether you may attempt it. Now, don't get timid; just sing as if no one were listening; and let me tell you that is what you must always do in solos; throw your whole soul into the music; forget the choir and the congregation; the organist will follow you, and you'll be sure to make an impression."

Poor Rachel! This sounded like fine satire. However, Miss Carpenter had opened a Steinway Grand, and was playing the accompaniment with a strong, clear touch. Rachel sang, at first slightly nervous, afterwards thoroughly alive to the necessity of doing her best. Uncle Jacob must not be disgraced by his one pupil.

"Bravo!" cried Miss Carpenter. It will do. What a pure style! Just what Mr. Mason admires. You have a good teacher. Then your voice! How old are you?"

"Eighteen."

"Why, my dear child, your fortune is in your throat! Your tones are so even; now mine vary. I have to manage to produce effects, but you, you need only sing! Now I feel quite relieved. Be prompt at rehearsal to-night, and—well, you'll get along. Don't mind the chorus choir. They are young people of means, who volunteer their services for the sake of the instruction. They are what we professionals call stuck-up, but you needn't look at them."

As Rachel was going away, quite overpowered by this interview, Miss Carpenter pressed a ten dollar bill into her hand, saying she might want something for Christmas, and that was part payment in advance.

"Rachel's near crazy, Jacob; she's got a ten dollar bill in advance for some singing that she's to do on Christmas. Money must be plenty with some people!" was Aunt Martha's salutation that afternoon.

Uncle Jacob forgot his pipe and listened to Rachel's explanation with open mouth and eyes.

"It's your chance, Rache! You must make the most of it. I'll go down to the church with you."

"Yes, do; then I can get those dresses out. I think I'll put on my best things."

"No, you will not, Rache; they'll wear out time enough," said Aunt Martha, sharply.

So Rachel started in her shabby shawl, and having entered the church by a side door, followed some other people up a narrow stairs through a dark passage behind the organ, and emerged into a brilliant little gallery, with the organ on one side and rows of people in gay dresses on the other.

A bald-headed man sitting at the organ looked at her from head to foot as she stood before him, at first with surprise, then thoughtfully. Finally he drew a note from his pocket, read it, and again inspected Rachel.

"Are you Miss Moore?"

Rachel nodded. He pointed to a seat near him, and as she passed him to sit down she felt the suppressed titter that went round the gallery.

Uncle Jacob, who had ensconced himself in a front pew below, realized the ordeal his little niece was undergoing. Yet he fairly hugged himself at this wondrous chance; and as the tap on the organ called for attention, he strained his ears to catch the tones of the fresh young voice he had trained so long and patiently.

Meanwhile, Rachel at last raised her eyes to the tall music-rack before her, and gazed beyond it down the dimly-defined aisles and rows of pews, then up to the Gothic arches and graceful columns. What could be more delightful than to sing in this place! to feel one's voice ascending and swelling among such refining influences! Rachel almost believed that she could forget self and the world thus singing.

The organist broke the spell by handing her the music of the *Venite*. How simple it is! thought Rachel; then she put her copy on the rack, as she saw the soprano and tenor doing, and stood up.

The notes were four inches above her eyes. A large hand reached over from behind and lowered the rack to a proper level. Rachel turned gratefully and met the curious stare of a powerful, dark-eyed basso. He bowed, she colored, and the first chord was struck.

Rachel kept her eyes on her notes and sang away, overcoming with an effort the first hesitation and the oddity of having the heavy bass just at her ear. But for the steady drilling at the society she never could have held her own part so steadily.

It was over at last; the organist collected his copies, and handed round those for the "Te Deum." Evidently the service had been thoroughly rehearsed, and there was little or no talking to be done. Rachel made a few mistakes in her first duet with the soprano, but did well in the trio with the basso and tenor.

When the rehearsal was ended the members went silently away. No one spoke to Rachel, who had forgotten her shabby clothes, and felt, by reason of her talent, almost on an equality with them.

As she was going, the organist handed her a copy of the "Messiah," and said:

"Just run over your solo, will you?"

There was no one in the gallery but Mr. Mason and herself. Rachel was ignorant of the fact that the basso, the tenor, and a dozen or more of the volunteers came to a halt in the dark aisles as soon as the accompaniment informed them of what was in store for listeners.

So Rachel sang *con amore*, and Mr. Mason nodded when she finished, looked thoughtful as the end of her shawl disappeared round an angle of the organ, and the first ordeal was over. Uncle Jacob threw his arms around her in the semi-darkness of the vestibule, kissed her, and exclaimed:

"You've done well! I'm proud of you!"

This was reward enough, and even drew out the never absent thorns.

The other rehearsals were only distinguished by the fact that Rachel sang better and better. Mr. Mason never volunteered a word of fault or praise, and the others still stared rudely at the shabby little figure.

On Christmas morning Rachel put on her brilliant garments and dazzling feather, only too conscious of their vulgar appearance; but what could she do? When she took her place amid the odors of pine and hemlock, and began to admire the decorations and watch the crowds pouring through the deep vestibule, she again forgot herself. The change of scene from the warm room with its atmosphere of sausages cooking, to the quiet gallery with its lights, its crimson cushions, and its musical associations, was like enchantment. Now the white-robed priests came from the vestry, the rustle of silks and velvets increased, then subsided, the evergreens shone under the star over the altar, the organ notes gave the opening of Mendelssohn's sublime chorus, "There shall come forth a Star," and Rachel rose with the others, feeling as if in a new world, where all was beauty.

Uncle Jacob's face, turned towards her from an obscure corner of the gallery, nerved her to her task. For his sake she would do her best.

The trying moment came when she stood up alone to sing the anthem. She grew hot and cold, the perspiration stood on her forehead, the music seemed to come from a great distance, the score in front of her became suddenly illegible, in the dense maze beneath her heads turned and faces gazed up in expectation. Was she going to break down? It seemed very like it. The last bar of the prelude was in her ears, but her voice, where was that? A great lump had taken its place in her throat.

In that moment she looked out over the sea of heads and there was dear old Jacob's face, and he smiled at her and threw her an encouraging nod. It was electric. Out came the full young voice with a force and intonation that made Mr. Mason look around, and drew the gaze of countless eyes.

The words "O Thou that Tellest," were like an invocation, nor did the girl again falter. The sturdy figure stood firm, and the rich voice swelled and diminished and held the sustained notes as if incapable of fatigue, and when it was finished Rachel sat down and trembled at her own triumph. The service was over too soon for her. The past week with its culminating triumph was like another state of existence. The going back to the old round made the old life harder than ever. She knew this as she left the organ gallery Christmas night, and took Uncle Jacob's arm in the snowy street.

"Rachel, you've done well to-day. I wish Aunt Martha could have heard you." He sighed at the conviction of the absurdity of this fancy.

"Even if she had, Uncle Jacob, it would make no difference. She don't hear what we do in music."

The next week came a note of thanks from Miss Carpenter, enclosing twenty dollars for Miss Moore's services. Aunt Martha stared, and thought that some people must be mad to give a girl twenty dollars for just screaming a few hours on a Sunday. "For her part she wished she could earn money half as easily."

Of course, if Rachel was going to earn money at that rate why she might as well keep on at the society. However, when six months had glided away and no more chances had come to Rachel, Aunt Martha began to ridicule the whole matter. What was the good of money that came by fits and starts? Twenty dollars was soon spent, and a trade was better than a profession. A steady amount of wages was what Rachel needed, and as she liked nothing but singing, why dressmaking was as good for her to learn as anything else.

"But I'll have to give up my practicing. I can't sew and do my house-work and practice two or three hours a day," urged poor Rachel in despair, for her voice was developing, and her execution improving.

"Then give up your music," said Aunt Martha decidedly.

At this crisis who should walk into the room one morning but Mr. Mason. "I had such a piece of work to find you," he said; "Miss Carpenter gave me your address, but I lost it, and yesterday it occurred to me to apply to your leader."

"Do you want me?" asked Rachel, putting away her work.

"Yes. You're not engaged anywhere, I hope."

"O, no!"

"Miss Carpenter is about leaving us, going to Europe to pursue her studies. I want you to take her place. The committee has left the matter in my hands, and after last Christmas I know what you can do. If the salary suits you, we think it quite a good one, one thousand."

"Will I have it?" said Rachel, hardly trusting her ears.

"Certainly. You will have considerable to do, and if the people demand first-class voices, why they ought to pay for them. That is my theory. I know I don't work for a small salary, and I always look after the rights of my choir. Well, you'll let me know before Friday if you like my offer."

"I like it very well."

"Then may I consider you engaged?"

"Yes, indeed."

Mr. Mason was bowing himself out, hat in hand, when Aunt Martha returned from a marketing tour, and deposited her great basket on the nearest chair. "And who might that be?" she asked when Rachel came in from the door.

"That's the organist where Miss Carpenter sings," said Rachel, determined that Uncle Jacob should be the first to hear of her good fortune.

"O, I supppose he wants you to do some singing; another thirty dollars' worth." Rachel took up her work with firm-shut lips.

Not a word she said, but when the street door opened Rachel bounded out of the room, and a confused sound of mingled laughter, crying, and kissing, at length drew Aunt Martha from the machine to the hall. There stood Uncle Jacob in his great coat, crying like a baby, and Rachel with her arms round his neck, hugging him and laughing hysterically.

"I knew she only wanted a chance," he cried out. "Hurrah! hurrah!"—*Hearth and Home.*

ONE wet night in Boston recently visitors to a public hall found a man at the entrance holding a ticket-check, and saying: "Umbrella, please." People gratefully resigned their wet umbrellas to his custody, but when the entertainment was over both man and umbrellas had disappeared.

NEWS SUMMARY.

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

Hon. A. H. Stephens was seriously ill on the 16th, and his recovery was considered doubtful.

The President has nominated William A. Simmons for Collector of the port of Boston. The nominee is said to be a friend of General Butler.

A Washington special says that a careful canvass of the Senate leaves no doubt of a majority in favor of increasing the currency volume to at least $800,000,000, exclusive of fractional currency. In the House, the majority for expansion is said to be still larger than in the Senate.

The President has ordered that the Court of Inquiry in the case of General Howard be composed of Generals Sherman, McDowell, Pope, Meigs and [illegible]; Major A. B. Gardner, Judge-Advocate. The court will meet in Washington on the 3d of March.

Municipal elections were held throughout Pennsylvania on the 17th with the following result: Pittsburgh elects McCarthy (Rep.) for Mayor by 1,700 majority; in Alleghany City, Phillips (Ind. Rep.) has a majority of 34; in Easton the Republican Mayor is elected; and in Reading, Wilkesbarre, Williamsport and Altoona, the Democratic candidates were chosen.

The State Grange of Ohio met at Xenia on the 17th, 555 delegates being present besides a large number of visiting members. The Secretary reported that 555 of 600 granges in Ohio had been organized since last April.

Hon. H. C. Burchard of the Fifth Illinois district has returned his back pay, including his increased pay in the present Congress, amounting in the aggregate to $6,049.60.

Chief-Justice Waite called upon the President on the 17th, and was formally presented to the members of the Cabinet which was then in session.

At the recent municipal election in Philadelphia, Stokeley (Rep.) was elected by 10,860 majority. Two women were elected School Directors.

At a largely attended meeting of the Boston Board of Trade and merchants, it was unanimously voted to appeal to President Grant to reappoint Russell Collector at that port. Resolutions and petitions against the confirmation of Simmons were agreed upon, and will be forwarded to the President and the Massachusetts delegation in Congress.

The Missouri State Grange of Patrons of Husbandry convened in annual session at Boonville on the 18th. Representatives from over one hundred counties were present. Master Allen delivered his annual address in public in a large hall, which was densely crowded.

A mass meeting of citizens of New Orleans opposed to the Kellogg Government was held on the 18th, at which resolutions were passed as follows:

> *Resolved*, That we shall continue our efforts to remove the intolerable burden, reproach and shame which have been put upon us by the violation of law and the Constitution, and the abuse of power, until the hope of success shall be wholly destroyed.
>
> *Resolved*, That we claim now, at the hands of Congress, as we have in the past, the recognition of the Government elected in 1872, of which Gov. McEnery is the head, or in default thereof, that the present Government be suspended by military or provisional rule, and a new election ordered under Federal auspices, as the least that can be accorded us.

The Tennessee State Grange of Patrons of Husbandry met at Gallatin on the 18th. About five hundred granges were represented.

The Kansas State Grange of Patrons of Husbandry, in session at Topeka on the 18th, adopted a resolution requesting the State Legislature to pass a prohibitory liquor law, and declaring that no person who retails liquor shall be admitted to the order. Hon. M. E. Hudson, of Bourbon county, was elected Master of the State Grange.

A meeting was held at Topeka, Kansas, on the 20th, under the auspices of the State Farmers' Co-operative Society, for the purpose of taking steps toward the formation of a new party. Among those participating were Hons. John Roberson, Isaac Sharp, Senator Bronson and Col. York. A committee reported resolutions, declaration of principles, etc., the substance of which was the denunciation of the national bank system, favoring a tariff for revenue and favoring a new party. On the executive committee one from each judicial district was appointed to call a State Convention to perfect the organization of the new party.

The Louisiana Senate has passed a joint resolution limiting the city debt and prohibiting the issuance of warrants or certificates, except against cash in treasury; also, the bill, drawn up under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce and urged by Governor Kellogg, reducing city expenses to half a million a year.

The Kansas Senate has passed a joint resolution to submit the question of female suffrage to a vote of the people of the State.

A committee of the Kansas Legislature has presented a resolution for the impeachment of State Treasurer Josiah E. Hayes.

A Washington dispatch of the 21st says there are rumors in that city that Mr. Schenck will return from the London mission at his own request, and will be succeeded by Mr. Fish, Secretary of State. Mr. Bancroft is also said to have expressed a desire to retire from Berlin, and that the Rev. Mr. Thompson, now in that city, is urged upon the President for his successor as minister to Berlin.

The death is announced of ex-Senator Wigfall of Texas.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Gold closed in New York, on the 21st, at 112 3-4.

The New York Stock Exchange was badly victimized on the 17th, by the reading at the open board by the presiding officer of a communication purporting to be signed by Wm. Orton, President of the Western Union Telegraph Company, announcing the intention of that company to issue additional stock to the amount of some $0,000,000; also, at about the same time, another letter purporting to be signed by J. D. Cox, President of the Toledo, Wabash & Western Railway Company, announcing the intended issue by that company of 100,000 additional shares of stock. The reading of these letters caused the greatest excitement on 'Change, and there was immediately a general stampede to dispose of the stocks of both companies. Some 65,000 shares of the former and 20,000 of the latter stock were sold at a considerable decline from previous quotations before the discovery was made that both the letters were skillful forgeries. An investigation was at once set on foot to discover the authors of the forgeries.

The Supreme Court of Illinois has decided that bonds issued to the Paris and Decatur Railroad by the municipal corporations along its line, to the amount of $363,000, are illegal.

The St. Louis and St. Joseph Railroad has been sold for $150,000 and was purchased by Chas. W. Hassler in the interest of the bondholders.

The *National Crop Reporter* of the 21st published estimates in relation to the percentage of hay and Irish potato crops of 1873 in producers' hands on February 1, in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The following is an extract of the main features presented: The States named produced last year over 9,000,000 tons of hay, of which there was on hand, February 1, a little over 48 per cent., or about 4,500,000 tons. Illinois retains the lightest percentage—a trifle less than 45, and Wisconsin the heaviest—nearly 52 per cent. Of Irish potatoes, the States above mentioned produced in 1873 some 28,500,000 bush els. The amount on hand now approximates 10,000,000 bushels, or about 41 per cent. The relative proportion on hand in the several States varies considerably, running as low as 28 per cent. in Minnesota, and reaching 55 1-2 per cent. in Kansas. The average prices of wheat and potatoes in some of the States, relatively considered, are somewhat anomalous. In Illinois potatoes average five cents per bushel higher than wheat, in Iowa seven cents higher, and in Kansas ten cents higher. Prospects for fruit in Southern Illinois and Southwest Missouri are flattering.

Twelve mills and about two thousand operatives in Kensington, Philadelphia, are idle, owing to the strike for an advance of fifteen per cent. on the present rate of wages.

Following is the comparative cotton statement for the week ending Feb. 21:

	1874.	1873.
Net receipts for past week all U. S. ports..........	123,046	108,727
Total receipts from Sept. 1 to date all U. S. ports....	2,916,512	2,020,433
Exports for past week from all ports.............	98,282	58,229
Total exports from Sept. 1 to date from all ports...	1,616,854	1,527,516
Stock now on hand at all U. S. ports.............	839,333	557,455

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

Mrs. Joseph Grey, who lives seven miles from Lincoln, Neb., on the 14th left her three children at home while she went away for a short time. On her return she discovered the house on fire, and before she could get there the roof fell in, and all three of the children were burned to death.

Thomas and Simeon Sturtevant, and a maiden lady named Mary Buckley, were found murdered in their residence, in Halifax, Mass., on the morning of the 16th. No clue to the murderer.

A freight train on the Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad ran into a land-slide near Slate Dam Station on the morning of the 16th, killing the engineer and three of the train men, and injuring more or less severely every other man on the train. Nine cars were burned.

Evans Northwood was hanged at Concord, N. H., on the 17th, for the murder of his niece, Georgiana Lovering. He made a confession.

A dispatch from Atchison, Kansas, 18th, says: J. W. McNutt, one of the parties implicated in the murder of a man by the name of Seiver, at Wichita, a short time ago, was arrested Tuesday in Missouri, taken to Wichita, and to-day made confession of the horrible deed. The object of the murder was to secure a five thousand dollar insurance policy on McNutt's life, and have the body of the murdered Seiver] identified as that of McNutt. The murderer confessed that he and Winne, his accomplice, enticed Seiver from Kansas City, drugged him with laudanum, bound cords tightly around his body, saturated his clothing with kerosene and then fired the building, burning the unfortunate to a crisp. The populace of Wichita is much excited, and there is danger of summary vengeance being visited upon the murderers.

Mrs. Elizabeth Brownlee, wife of A. W. Brownlee, a wealthy farmer living near Davenport, Iowa, was brutally murdered by some man unknown, in her house, on the evening of the 18th. She was shot twice with a double-barreled shot-gun, and died instantly. Her youngest child, four years old, was also fatally shot. No clue to the murderers, and their objects are unknown, although it is thought they were intent on robbery.

A locomotive ran off an embankment seventy-five feet high on the Jefferson Branch of the Erie Railway, on the 22d, instantly killing Conductor John R. Harding, Engineer Cramer, Fireman Daniel Cramer, and Brakeman Thomas Rafter.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The temperance crusade has been inaugurated in New York City.

An Omaha dispatch of the 17th states that additional news from the frontier posts reports everything quiet.

The Mardi Gras carnival at New Orleans and Memphis was celebrated in an elaborate manner, in the presence of thousands of spectators, many of whom were from abroad. The day was also celebrated at Evansville and Madison, Ind., and Omaha, Neb.

A fire at Sing Sing, N. Y., on the morning of the 17th, destroyed property to the value of $115,000, comprising twenty-six places of business.

The War Department has advices from Texas that Lieutenant-Colonel Buell, with his command, consisting of parts of companies D and G, 10th cavalry, and fifteen Tonka scouts, struck a small camp of Comanches on Double Mountain Fork, on the 5th instant, and killed ten Indians and captured all their stock, consisting of sixty-four horses.

A Philadelphia dispatch says that a formal report has been made to the Fellows of the College of Physicians relative to the autopsy of the Siamese twins. Dr. Pancoast explained certain physiological peculiarities in the respective bodies. Prominent among these peculiarities was the experience of what Dr. Pancoast called a fatty cord, which extended from the mucus membrane of the stomach, to which it adhered, in the direction of, but not quite into, the band of union. There were peculiarities of the umbilical cord and liver in each body, together with many other abnormal growths, rarely found in human anatomy.

The temperance crusade has begun in Jersey City. On the evening of the 17th twenty-five ladies proceeded to a billiard saloon, kneeled in prayer and spent half an hour in exhorting. They were greeted with jeers by men, and left without seeming to have made the impression they desired.

The commissioners of the Catholic Union of New York are preparing for a pilgrimage to Rome and elsewhere, by the Catholics of this country. It is proposed to inaugurate the pilgrimage not later than the end of May.

A special from Xenia, Ohio, 19th, says: "Xenia is in a blaze of excitement. The most notorious of saloon-keepers, Phillips, who kept a place known as 'The Shades of Death,' made an unconditional surrender at 5 o'clock this afternoon. The women rolled out his barrels of whisky and wine and poured the contents into the gutter. Bottles were thrown into the street. The bells of the city rang out the news, and soon great crowds rushed to the spot. 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow' was sung till it could be heard a mile. The word was sent to the State Grangers' Convention then in session in the City Hall, and eight hundred farmers welcomed the news with cheer after cheer. The men on the spot unanimously passed a resolution to sustain Phillips in any honorable business in which he might engage. Excitement is greater than at any time since Sumter was fired on. Several hundred women, divided into separate bands, are now on the streets every day, and say they will persevere until the last dram-shop is closed. *Later.*—Three more saloons have just surrendered. A great praise-meeting is being held to-night."

The Georgia Senate has voted—fourteen to twelve—to abolish the death penalty in that State.

An Omaha dispatch of the 22d says that no further trouble from the Indians on the frontier is apprehended, the Indians who committed the recent depredations having gone north to the Tongue River.

The Iowa Senate has passed a bill donating $50,000 for the relief of destitute homesteaders, to be distributed by three commissioners, who give bonds in $40,000 each.

FOREIGN.

A dispatch from Rome states that the Pope will have a consistory in June, when eight Cardinals will be elected, Archbishop Manning to be one.

A London dispatch of the 17th says: The Ministry yesterday resolved to resign. Gladstone goes to Windsor to-day. The House of Commons now stands 348 Conservatives and 300 Liberals and Home-Rulers. The journals generally approve the determination of the Gladstone Government to resign. The *Times* says only one member opposed the decision.

A St. Petersburg dispatch of the 16th says: A grand dinner was given last evening by the Czar to his royal visitors. In his speech he said that the Emperor of Germany, Queen of England, Emperor of Austria and himself would preserve the peace of the world. The Prince of Wales bowed his acquiescence, while the Emperor Francis Joseph answered by reiterating the sentiment. The Czar is indisposed. In the meantime the Emperor of Austria is entertained with brilliant fetes by the Grand Dukes and other members of the imperial family.

A report comes via Key West, 16th, that seven thousand volunteers had taken possession of the city of Havana and compelled the Captain-General to take refuge on board the Spanish war-steamer Arapiles. The news was not confirmed from other sources.

A Berlin telegram of the 16th says: In the Reichstag to-day General Von Moltke, in the course of his speech in support of the new military bill, said: "What we acquired in six months we shall have to protect by force of arms for half a century to come. France, notwithstanding a majority of her people are convinced of the necessity of peace, is imitating our army of organization." He concluded: "We have become powerful, but remain peaceful. We require an army for defense, not conquest." The bill was referred to a committee. A deputy from Alsace moved that a plebiscite be taken in Alsace and Lorraine on the question of nationality.

Dr. Beke, the English traveler, reports that he has discovered the true Mount Siani. It is situated one day's journey north of the village of Acaba, Arabia, at an altitude of 5,000 feet above the level of the sea. Dr. Beke says he found the remains of animals that had been sacrificed. He also discovered Sinaitic inscriptions, which he copied.

King Lunalilo of Hawaii died on the 3d. The contest for the succession lies between Queen Emma, widow of Kamehameha, and David Kalakua, both of whom are strongly supported in the Legislature.

Gladstone was received by the Queen at Windsor on the 17th, when he formally tendered to her Majesty his resignation and that of his colleagues.

Havana news of the 17th is as follows: A heavy engagement has taken place in the Central Department. General Bascoms, with 3,000 men and four pieces of artillery, attacked the main force of insurgents near Naranjo. The latter were 5,000 strong, under Marquis Santa Lucia, the Cuban Commander-in-Chief. The battle lasted seven hours, and resulted in a success for General Bascoms. The Spaniards lost fifty killed and one hundred and eighty wounded. The rebels took no prisoners; their loss is not given. The insurgents in the Central Department are setting fire to farm houses in all directions. General Burriel has sailed for Spain.

The motion to permit a plebiscite in Alsace and Lorraine, to decide their nationality, was defeated in the Reichstag by an overwhelming vote. During the debate on the proposition for a plebiscite, Mr. Teutsch, Alsatian delegate, supported the measure in a violent speech, in the course of which he said that Germany had overstepped principles which should be binding upon civilized nations. He held that annexation to Germany was illegal. "We are seated here," he said, "to proclaim our affection for our French fatherland, and that your act of violence prevents us from regarding you as brethren."

A London dispatch of the 18th says that Mr. Disraeli has accepted the Premiership.

The reported death of Dr. Livingstone is not fully credited by many well informed persons in England.

A recent dispatch from Berne, Switzerland, says that Miss Brewood, an American lady has performed the perilous feat of attaining the summit of Jungfrau Mountain.

Capt. Merton, of the steamship Moro Castle, from Havana, reports that in an engagement about February 1, a column of Spanish troops, 1,200 strong, were utterly defeated by the insurgents, incurring a loss in killed and wounded and prisoners of 600 men. Intelligence that Capt. Merton regarded as trustworthy represented the Spaniards worsted in every engagement.

Three railway accidents were reported in England on the 20th. The most serious one happened to the Scotch mail train, which ran into a baggage train near Preston. Fifteen persons were injured, two of whom died. The cars were demolished.

A Paris telegram says that the Duke De Broglie, Minister of the Interior, has sent a circular to the prefects directing them to keep watch upon citizens who leave for Chiselhurst on the occasion of the Prince Imperial becoming of age.

Following is an official list of the members of the new English Cabinet: First Lord of the Treasury, Benjamin Disraeli; Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Northcote; First Lord of Admiralty, George Ward Hunt; Secretary of State for Home Department, Richard Ashton Cross; Secretary of State for Foreign Department, Earl Derby; Secretary of State for Colonial Department, Earl of Carnarvon; Secretary of State for War, Gathorne Hardy; Secretary of State for India, Marquis of Salisbury; Lord High Chancellor, Lord Cairns; Lord of Privy Seal, Earl of Malmesbury; Lord President of Council, Duke of Richmond. Lord Manners is appointed Postmaster-General.

A Paris telegram of the 22d says that the Alsatian deputies have withdrawn from the Reichstag and returned to Strasburg.

By arrival at New York on the 21st, of a steamship from Rio de Janeiro, the news is received that Asiatic cholera is raging at Buenos Ayres with intensity, claiming from thirty to forty victims per day. The total number of deaths amounts thus far to three hundred and seven. Fifty thousand persons had abandoned their homes in the city to seek refuge in the open country. The President of the Republic had also fled the city for a healthier residence on the island of Carapachay. This act of President Sarmiento was unfavorably commented on by the press.

A Madrid dispatch of the 22d says: Severe fighting has been going on in Biscay for several days. General Dorenazay, with 25,000 insurgents, holds the heights above Somerostro. The Republicans have taken the first height. Their losses are heavy. The wounded are coming into Santander. The fleet left that port to attack Portugalite, which was to have been simultaneously attacked by land forces. The fleet entered the river on Friday, and found that Portugalite had been abandoned by the Carlists. The Carlists have taken the town of Vinariz, in Valencia.

It is announced from Rome on the authority of the *Peopolo Romans*, that Cardinal Antonelli has sent a circular letter to all the bishops, asking them to come to Rome, as the Pope wishes to see them before he dies.

It is reported that Gladstone has determined to retire from active leadership in politics.

News has been received of the surrender of Coomassie, the capital of Ashantee, and that the king and family are prisoners.

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MR. JONES carries his money in his hat, and the other day when he saw the entire supply going off on the winds of heaven, he bitterly remarked: "That's what you get with your infernal inflation."

CONGRESSIONAL.

FEB. 16.—*Senate.*—Mr. Kelly of Oregon presented a petition of citizens in regard to charges against his colleague, Mr. Mitchell, asking that the same be investigated by the Senate. Mr. Kelly said he had known Mr Mitchell twenty years, but knew nothing derogatory to his character. Referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections....At the expiration of the morning hour, the Senate resumed consideration of the bill to equalize the currency, and Mr. Cameron offered a substitute for the committee's bill, repealing all acts of Congress which limit or restrict the amount of notes for circulation, and providing that all associations organized to carry on banking shall be free to establish national banks, with a circulation subject to all limitation now provided by law, except the limit as to circulation, which is hereby repealed. Considerable debate ensued, and the Senate adjourned. *House.*—Messrs. Stanard and Comingo introduced a joint resolution of the Missouri Legislature, asking Congress for such legislation as will secure to the people their equal advantages as to rates, time and transportation on the Union Pacific Railroad and the several branches thereof, which are reserved and guaranteed as the chief part of the consideration to be given by the company for grants of land and bonds made by Congress....Mr. Butler introduced a bill to amend and codify the laws in regard to the payment of pensions so as to secure efficiency and economy. It proposes to abolish the now existing pension agencies and make postmasters at each county seat ex-officio pension agents, and makes it the duty of postmasters to correct rolls and return them, noting deaths, removals, etc., whereupon checks or drafts for the amount due each pensioner are forwarded to the postmaster for distribution, for which service they are to be allowed a fee of ten cents each, to be paid by the Government.

FEB. 17.—*Senate.*—Mr. Schurz presented the petition of bankers and business men of St. Louis, deprecating any increase in the volume of currency and favoring a speedy return to specie payments....Bills were introduced: by Mr. Gordon—directing the Secretary of the Interior to place on the pension roll the names of all persons heretofore dropped therefrom because of participation in the recent rebellion; referred; by Mr. Buckingham—providing that fifty-three dollars shall be paid to every Cherokee Indian now living east of the Mississippi River, who shall join the tribe west of said river; being an amendment of the act of July 29, 1848....Mr. Bogy submitted a resolution instructing the Finance Committee to inquire into the expediency of providing that hereafter all banks shall be organized or chartered by States, each State to decide the question as to the number of banks and capital required for its legitimate wants, and each State to provide such guarantees to depositors as may be deemed proper; all banks to be organized under provisions of law requiring deposit of bonds as now provided for national banks, and the Federal Government to have the keeping of such bonds and issuing of currency, and to be responsible for the redemption of circulation. Agreed to.... The consideration of the Currency bill was then resumed, pending discussion on which the Senate adjourned. *House.*—The majority report of the Committee on Elections, declaring Wilshire, from the Third Arkansas District, entitled prima facise to a seat, was adopted—ayes 118; noes 96.

FEB. 18.—*Senate.*—The President pro tem. presented resolutions of the Legislature of Kansas, charging misconduct on the part of the Union Pacific Railroad Company by reason of discriminations against the Kansas Pacific Railroad. Ordered printed....On motion of Mr. Wright the Senate took up the bill to provide for the appointment of a commission on the subject of the alcoholic traffic. Mr. Ferry of Connecticut opposed the bill, and Messrs. Wright, Conkling and Tipton favored it. The bill went over without action....Consideration of the Currency bill was then resumed, the discussion of which brought about a sharp personal debate between Messrs. Schurz and Morton, the question at issue being as to the scarcity of money at the West—the former maintaining that no such scarcity at present existed, while the latter maintained that it did. No action on the bill was reached before the Senate adjourned. *House.*—A resolution was adopted directing the Secretary of the Treasury to inform the House of the amount paid since the first of January, 1866, for transportation of troops and property of the United States on each of the several railroads that have been constructed in whole or in part by aid of lands granted by the United States, conditioned that such railroads should be and remain public highways for use of the Government, free of toll and other charges....Mr. Wilshire was sworn in as representative from the Third Arkansas district. ... Bills were passed—providing that where an occupant of public land having color of title has made valuable improvements thereon and his title is found afterward not to be good, he shall be entitled to all rights and remedies as provided in such cases in their respective States or Territories; to provide for holding terms of the Western District Court of Missouri, one court to be held in Jefferson City and the other in Springfield....Mr. Butler of Massachusetts from the Judiciary Committee made an adverse report on the memorial for the acknowledgment of Almighty God and the Christian religion in the Constitution of the United States. Laid on the table.... The bill to provide for the distribution of documents printed by authority of Congress, and seeds furnished by the agricultural department; for free exchange of newspapers between publishers, and for free transmission of newspapers by the mail within the county where published was then taken up, pending discussion upon which the House adjourned.

FEB. 19.—*Senate.*—Consideration of the bill to equalize the distribution of the currency was resumed, the question being the amendment of Mr. Cameron to the instructions to the committee proposed by Mr. Merrimon. Mr Cameron's amendment repeals all acts of Congress which limit, or may be construed to limit or restrain, the entire amount of national bank notes for circulation, and provides that hereafter associations organized, or that may be organized, for carrying on a business of banking, shall be free to establish and organize national banks with circulation at any place within the several States and Territories of the United States upon the terms and conditions, and subject to all restrictions and limitations, provided by law, except limitation upon the amount of circulation, which is hereby repealed. The amendment was rejected—ayes, 26; noes, 32. Mr. Gordon then submitted a substitute for Mr. Merrimon's amendment, instructing the committee to report as soon as practicable a bill for free banking, and providing for the convertibility of United States treasury notes into low interest bonds or gold coin at the option of the Government, and bonds convertible into treasury notes at the option of the holder. Rejected—ayes, 26; noes, 30. *House.*—Mr. White from the Judiciary Committee reported a bill to provide for the election of the two representatives at large for Alabama, unless the Legislature shall otherwise provide by law by the time fixed for election. He stated that the necessity for the bill arose from the failure of the Legislature to redistrict the State, one house being Democratic and the other Republican. Passed....The bill for the distribution of public documents, etc., then came up, but without reaching a vote the House adjourned.

FEB. 10.—*Senate.*—The consideration of the Finance bill being resumed, the question then recurred on the motion to reconsider the vote by which the substitute of Mr. Cooper was adopted yesterday, and it was reconsidered—ayes 31; noes 23—Mr. Cooper's amendment being thereby rejected. The question recurring on Mr Merrimon's amendment, it was adopted—ayes 29; noes 25. Mr. Merrimon's amendment as adopted instructs the committee to report as soon as practicable a bill providing for an increase of national bank circulation, so that the whole volume thereof shall not exceed $400,000,000. An amendment instructing the committee to report so as to provide free banking under the present national bank law, was rejected without discussion....The Senate then went into executive session and soon afterward adjourned to Monday. *House.*—After some time being spent in committee of the whole, on the private calendar, the House took a recess, to give opportunity for the introduction of the Chief-Justice to the members of the House individually. The ceremony was performed by the Speaker....The House then proceeded to the consideration of business connected with the District of Columbia, but adjourned without accomplishing anything.

FEB. 21.—*House.*—Mr. Shanks from the Committee on Indian Affairs reported a bill confirming and ratifying the agreement by Felix Brunot with the eastern band of the Shoshone Indians for the purchase by the United States of one-third of the Shoshone reservation for $25,000, payable in cattle at the rate of $5,000 a year. Referred....A number of private bills were reported from the Committee of the Whole and passed, and the House then adjourned over to the 24th, in honor of Washington's birthday.

PITH AND POINT.

MEN of the time—Watchmakers.

Small boys in Boston are now called Hubbubs for short.

WHEN is the weather like the National Debt? When it's unsettled.

Druggists are not inappropriately termed the "pillers" of society.

A GENIUS is popularly said to be one who can do everything except make a living.

IF the Darwinian theory is correct, would a dry-goods clerk trace his origin from the tapir or the measure-worm?

A VETERAN observer says that "old friends are like old boots. We never realize how perfectly they were fitted to us till they are cast aside, and others, finer and more stylish perhaps, but cramping and pinching in every corner, are substituted.

ALANSON FREEMAN petitioned the Rhode Island Legislature to divide the land of the State among citizens in ten-acre homesteads. The idea of finding ten acres in Rhode Island for each person was so ridiculous that the petition was promptly tabled.

SENATOR SCOTT was talking to a Pennsylvania Sunday-school, a Sunday or two ago, and asked the scholars why Simon was kept in prison. One of the teachers quietly prompted a boy to say that it was for a hostage, and the youth, not quite catching the words, piped out: "He was detained for postage."

CITIZEN.—Well, you see how it is yourself, Mr. Plumber. The girl left the laundry-room window open, thermometer touched zero, water-pipe froze, then burst, and as no one knew how to shut off the plaguy thing, the water ran half the night. Plumber.—Yes, I see; very bad break; wants new plumbing throughout; miserable pipes throughout—wonder it didn't happen long ago. Citizen.—How much is it going to cost to plumb up in good shape, including tenders? Plumber.—Well, I don't know, but I think I will take the house in part payment.