Key, Kee, Kay.

Professor Skeat wishes to know when the pronunciation of key as kee can first be clearly detected. It occurs in Milton, "Comus," line 13:

> To lay their just hands on that golden key
> That opes the palace of eternity.

And a little later in Marvell's "Fleckno:"

> Now as two instruments to the same key
> Being tuned by art, if the one touched be,
> The other opposite as soon replies.

These instances are curious, for both before and after this time the prevailing pronunciation was evidently kay. Herbert rhymes the word with way. In "The Secrets of Angling" (1613) culverkeys is rhymed with rays. In Wither's "Mistress of Phil'arete" (1622), key with day. Dryden, too, and Swift have the same pronunciation, and not till I come to Green's "Spleen" (1737) do I, after an hour's search, find the other. There pleas rhymes with keys. This pronunciation must, however, have become common soon afterward.

In Duncombe's "Imitation of Gray's Elegy" it is rhymed with me, and Garrick rhymes it with flea, which would, I suppose, be pronounced then as it is now. Nares, in his "Elements of Orthoepy" (1784), says of the diphthong ey, "its proper sound should be that of the long e. This, however, is given to it only in the word key, for ley—a field—is constantly written lea."—Notes and Queries.

"More Sociable."

A lady who has recently returned from abroad had a curious experience at the little town of Dinant, in Belgium. She was traveling in a party of three, including another lady and a young man. They sought accommodation at a hotel and were shown a room in which there were three beds and on a deal table three basins and jugs about as big as slop basins and milk jugs.

The ladies explained that one room was quite insufficient for their needs, but it was a long time before they could get the hostess to understand why. They were then shown another room with three beds, three slop basins and three milk jugs and were told that they could have that, too, if they liked to pay for the six beds. It was therefore arranged that the man should have one room and three beds and the ladies the other room and three beds.

"Do you always sleep in threes?" said one lady to the hostess.

"Yes," was the reply; "it is much more sociable."—Madame.

Funny Men.

The jests of Heliogabulus were very practical. He was fond of inviting people with some physical deformity to dinner and making jokes about them. At times he would invite a dozen hunchbacks or a score of squinting ladies or an equal number of baldheads. Once he put a large number of excessively fat people, all very hungry, into a small chamber where dinner was waiting. There was no room to eat it. Another diversion of which he was fond was that of placing his guests on air sofas, so that when they were about to drink he could let the air out and have both sofa and guest collapse.

It is said that Nero, the Roman emperor, liked to "shy" nuts at the bald heads of the praetors who sat below during the performance at the theater, and they were expected to maintain their baldheaded dignity and refrain from "shying" them back at him.

Heaven Twice Found.

Now she suffers him to print a kiss upon her brow.

"This is heaven!" he says.

Two years pass now. His baby has just ceased crying.

"This is heaven!" says he.

Here we see how a man's ideals change with the lapse of time.—Detroit Journal.

Too Much Time Wanted.

"If you will get my new suit done by Saturday," said a customer to a tailor, "I'll be forever indebted to you."

"If that's your game," replied the tailor, "the clothes will not be done at all."—Ohio State Journal.

TRIES BRITAIN'S NERVES.

Continued Silence Broken Only by Laconic Reports of Casualties.

LONDON, Feb. 22.—According to general expectations today will surely bring a message from Field Marshal Lord Roberts explaining the fighting of the past few days and giving the eagerly awaited status of the conflict with General Cronje.

All the official information is said to point to General Cronje's escape being impossible and it is now generally taken for granted that Lord Roberts has him surrounded.

But, the continued silence tries the nation's nerves. All the critics of the afternoon newspapers urge rushing reinforcements to Lord Roberts so that he may be able to risk much in endeavoring to inflict a decisive defeat, before the Boer forces, gathering from every quarter, strengthen Cronje's threatened force.

General Buller's apparent tardiness and failure to prevent the Boers from slipping round to assist General Cronje creates no little comment. The relief of Ladysmith is taken to be a matter of course, but it is quite within the probabilities that severe fighting will occur previous to the relief, while the detachments to be sent by General Buller to reinforce Lord Roberts are likely to meet with tremendous resistance in the passes of the Drakensburg, in which fairly powerful burgher forces remain.

Boer reports say General Joubert's nerves are unstrung, and that he no longer exercises the chief command of the army.

Alabama Bonds.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Feb. 22.—There is considerable activity in the sale of Alabama bonds and other securities in this state. The best class of Alabamas has been selling as high as $1 12. Alabama bank stocks are also bringing good prices, as are the stocks of the manufacturing concerns in the Birmingham district.

About Well Known Women.

If you ask Mrs. Margaret Sangster her pet recreation or diversion—whether music, reading, the opera, etc.—she replies, "Writing essays." Her first work was a collection of religious essays and poems and was published without a thought of pecuniary gain, but simply as a means of enabling her to make a few holiday presents.

Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth used to declare that her chief claim to distinction was having been born in a house in which Washington had lived and in the very room which had been his. Her first story, "Retribution," published in 1840 in The National Era, is said to have been the first novel published serially in this country. In public libraries her novels are rebound oftener than other works of fiction.

A New Occupation For Ladies.

To a woman who is fond of horses there can be no greater pleasure than to be constantly among them. And for women who combine means with a love for horseflesh we commend the new and very fashionable idea of pony farms. Two ladies have already become farmers and breed a special kind of Shetland on a farm managed by themselves, and now that ponies of all kinds have become so fashionable for driving such a venture is sure to be a very paying one, provided money and knowledge are combined with personal supervision.

What Women Lack.

One great fault with women is lack of individuality. Despite the many styles of hats and wraps and gowns the first ten women you meet after leaving your home in the morning will present practically the same appearance. If a particular style is becoming to one woman, the other nine must have it without regard to features or other points. And so it is with hairdressing and ornaments and the many little accessories of the toilet.—Buffalo Enquirer.

Anti-Imperialists In Session.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 22.—An "eastern conference" of anti-imperialists began here today and will remain in session two days. The conference is said by its promoters to be another step in the movement to bring the war in the Philippines to an end. The leaders say that a show of hands in Philadelphia a few months in advance of the Republican national convention will have some weight in inducing the delegates to recognize their claims. They have contended that the conference in Chicago last October resulted in a great boom to their movement in the west. Former Senator George F. Edmunds is honorary president of the Philadelphia league.

Canadians Regret Loss.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—The news of the heavy losses of the Canadian battalion created a profound sensation throughout the dominion. No details of the action have come to hand, except that it was fought by the Canadians on Sunday, while pursuing Conje's army at a drift on the Modder, to the east of Jacobsdal. Seven of the light companies were engaged and the Canadians lost in killed, wounded and missing 89 men, being about 10 per cent of the force engaged. The newspapers in their comments agree in saying that the blood thus shed will cement the union of Canada with the empire.

Fatal Mine Explosion.

MONONGAHELA, Pa., Feb. 22.—Two miners were killed by an explosion of giant powder today at their camp near here, Robert Pezzoni and Joseph Dorsay. Peter Lorsi was fatally injured. Mrs. Pezzoni was also seriously burned while tearing the burning clothing from her husband. The building was completely demolished and the three victims were burned almost beyond recognition.

Governors Will Attend.

CHATTANOOGA, Feb. 22.—Governors Candler of Georgia, Johnson of Alabama, and McMillin of Tennessee will attend the annual banquet of the Bryan birthday club of this city, to be given March 19. Covers for 400 will be laid.

New Georgia Appointments.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—Georgia postmasters appointed today: J. L. Gratum, at Nicholasville, Miller county, and J. H. Grant, at Pinia, Dooly county.

Medical Society, Attention.

There will be a regular meeting of the Pensacola Medical Society at the Board of Health office at 8 o'clock p. m. Tuesday, Feb. 27.

Visiting physicians are cordially invited to attend.

D. W. McMILLAN, M. D., President.
E. F. BRUCE, M. D., Secretary. 25mt

CONTRAST IS HUMILIATING.

War Has Killed Political Bitterness In Canada.

LONDON, Feb. 22.—The Globe says: "The spirit in which a brave, strong nation should meet trial is admirably illustrated by the temper displayed by Canada. The war, if it has done nothing else, has killed political bitterness and mere party strife in all the colonies. The contrast between Ottawa and Westminster is painful and humiliating."

General Buller reports that his casualties Monday, Feb. 19, were:

Killed—Captain Thoburn of the Royal fusiliers.

Wounded—Two officers and 14 men.

Attempt to Relieve Cronje.

LONDON, Feb. 22.—3:27 p. m.—A special dispatch from Paardeberg, dated Wednesday, Feb. 21, says: "Commandant Botha has been attempting to relieve General Cronje. There has been severe fighting. General Botha's force is scattered, with heavy losses."

Another Kopje Captured.

PAARDEBERG, Feb. 21.—6:20 p. m.—A Boer kopje has been captured with 50 prisoners. General Cronje's position is unchanged.

At the Theater.

Fuddy—What do you laugh at that old joke for? When I told it to you three months ago, you didn't even smile, and now you laugh at it as though you would die.

Duddy—Yes, I know; I paid to get in here, and I'm bound to make the most of my money's worth.—Boston Transcript.

Abusing His Privileges.

"Dauber says he is wedded to his art."

"He evidently thinks he is, or he wouldn't mistreat her so shamefully."—Chicago Record.

Their First Steps.

"A man goes wrong," said the social sage, "from pure cussedness; a woman out of mere curiosity."—Philadelphia North American.

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSE ENgineer, Mobile, Ala., Feb. 15, 1900.—The modern two-masted schooner Clover, about two hundred and fifty tons burden, will be sold at public auction in Mobile, Ala., on March 21, 1900. For information apply to Lieut.-Col. A. N. Damrell, Lighthouse Engineer, Mobile, Ala. 16f-eod-4t

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that creditors, legatees, distributees and all persons having claims or demands against the estate of Helen Fisher, deceased, are required to present them within two years, this February 19, 1900.

A. A. FISHER,
Executor of the estate of Helen Fisher, deceased. 19eoawsw