

THE MIDDLEVILLE SUN.

VOLUME 28, NO. 52.

MIDDLEVILLE, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1896.

\$1.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

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Attorney at law. Real Estate and Insurance agency. Middleville, Mich.

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Attorney at Law, Real Estate and Insurance Agency. Middleville, Mich. Keeler Block.

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F. & A. M.—Middleville Lodge No. 231. Regular communication Tuesday evenings, on or before full of the moon. John Coats, W. M., G. W. Matteson, Sec.

K. O. P.—Crescent Lodge, No. 85, meet in Castle Hall, in Keeler Block, every Wednesday evening at 8 p. m. Visiting knights cordially invited, work in knight rank. C. C., W. H. Severance; K. of R. and S., Aaron Sherk.

K. O. T. M. meetings held on Friday eve each week. Members of Order are invited to visit us when in the village. R. K.—J. D. DITTRICH, G.—J. A. CALDWELL.

F. L. PHELPS,

Livery, Feed and Sale stables,

Middleville, Mich.

Strictly First-Class Rigs Furnished at a Reasonable Rate for Any Occasion.

DR. F. L. PHELPS,

Veterinary Surgeon and Dentist. Treats all diseases of domestic animals. Telegraph and telephone calls promptly attended.

HOTEL BARBER SHOP

FRENCH & KRAFT, Barbers.

LAUNDRY.

While we believe in the Protection of American Home Industry let us live up to it in our own town as true blood Americans, at the same time getting your money back in trade.

Laundry sent Wednesdays And returned Saturday mornings.

SHARPSTEEN....

23-27 MONROE STREET. (Wonderly Bldg.)

THE LEADING GALLERY IN Grand Rapids, elegantly appointed furnished with the very latest and most approved apparatus, backgrounds and scenic effects for making the newest styles and most artistic.....

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MINUTE TO LIFE SIZE.

The best Finished, Posed and Lighted Photographs in Grand Rapids.

No Better Made Anywhere.

See our new Enamel, Carbon and Platinum Finish.

OPEN SUNDAYS....

THINK OF THE MONEY MADE From inventions—novelties, or simple useful labor-saving devices. If you have made a discovery, or worked out a mechanical problem we'll give reliable advice as to its patentability. The "Inventive Age," illustrated magazine, 6th year. In interest of inventors, guarantees work of its Patent Department, and illustrates and describes useful inventions free. Complete, valid, strong and comprehensive patents; best terms; advice free. Address THE INVENTIVE AGE, Washington, D. C., or THE SUN, Middleville, Mich.



I have a few Coal Stoves Yet on hand Which I will close out AT COST. If you are in need of one

Call and see my line before purchasing elsewhere.

Complete Line of HEAVY AND SHELF HARDWARE, VEHICLES, HARNESSSES, ROBES AND BLANKETS.

FRANK D. PRATT.

The Bald Headed Tinner

Is 52 years of age and never saw a Christmas Tree.

But he wants everybody to read his new ad next week.

SPECIAL ORGAN SALE.

NEW AND SECOND HAND.

From December 1 to January 1, Only.

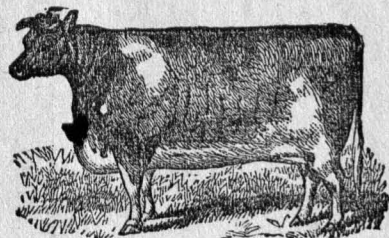
Never in the history of the world has organs been offered at such astonishingly low prices as they will be sold and now is your chance.

Organs \$25.00	Organs \$30.00
Organs \$35.00	Organs \$40.00
Organs \$45.00	Organs \$50.00
Organs \$60.00	Organs \$70.00

Stool and book will be furnished with each instrument, and freight paid. Don't miss the chance. Remember the sale lasts from Dec. 1 to Jan. 1 only.

Julius A. J. Friedrich,

30-32 Canal Street, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.



Persons having Fat Stock to sell will please leave word at the market.

Bring your Dressed Veal and Poultry to this market. Poultry must be feather dressed, heads on, crops empty.

C. CLEVER.

BARBER'S 1896... "IDEAL" ... OIL HEATER



FOR COAL AND LUMBER Go to J. R. COOK.

Only Heater having Cone and Tube Principle.

Beautiful Design. Greatest Radiating Surface.

No Smoke.

No Smell.

Economical.

Absolutely Safe.

Examine our Line of

Cooks and Heaters

Respectfully,

GARDNER & SONS.

Tin-Shop in Connection.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES.

BOWEN'S MILLS.

Yankee Springs treasurer comes to Mr. Armstrong's store every Tuesday to collect taxes and all you freeholders have to do is walk up to the captain's office and settle. Taxes and death have to be met.

One of our fellowtownsmen and his family were taken by surprise last Monday evening by over fifty friends loaded with goodies of this world's eatables, prepared by the ladies and the good housewives who always know just how to cook for the inner man, especially on such occasions. To say the least, our host was nonplussed to see so many friends from all over town walking in without leave or license. The evening was spent in mirth and visiting, then the hour came for grace, for the elder was there, 'oo, and after supper Judge Armstrong presented the worthy couple with two nice rockers, in a neat little speech hoping that in the downward walks of life these tokens of their many friends would be a reminder of this eventful evening when so many gathered at their residence to pay and to show their respects to them who so soon were to leave this town where duty calls them. With considerable emotion and with great effort our host responded and in his talk showed how much, in behalf of himself and wife, he should appreciate the tokens in life-long remembrance of his friends. After which the guests took their departure never to forget the visit to the residence of the incoming sheriff of Barry county, Mr. S. C. Ritchie.

Mr. James Robbins raised from one acre of corn of a new variety, one hundred forty-two bushels of corn. This corn was planted 4 ft. one way and drilled 14 in. apart the other way. Who can beat it?

Frank Culver dehorned eleven head of cattle for E. H. Bowen & Son.

James Robbins attended the poultry show which was held in Kalamazoo last week. He came off a prize winner with his Plymouth Rock birds.

Many men of many minds. Many birds of many kinds.

We hear of wedding bells in the near future. Long may they live and have good times And marry the man that carries the dime. Some of our buxom lasses have attractions for the Middleville boys. Who could blame them? None fairer in the land.

BOWNE BUDGET.

The diphtheria has broken out again in the northwest part of the town, at the home of Alfred Warner. The oldest son has been taken and another has come down with the terrible malady.

The dedication of the new M. E. church at Freeport, took place last Sunday. The church is very modern, costing \$3800; over \$1600 being raised at the dedication. It excels all in this vicinity in convenience and structure.

Ed F. Headworth will dispose of all his farm implements and stock at his place 1/2 mile south of Bowne Center Wednesday, Dec. 23d.

The revival meetings of this place are still continuing in the good work. Over thirty have decided to walk in the ways of right and many more are considering the matter very deeply. May the good work go on.

Mr. and Mrs. Rob't Johnson and son, Harry, expect to spend Christmas with R. M. Johnson and family of your place.

Lester Hatton and family have moved into their new home at last. Arthur Porritt and wife will move into the house vacated by Mr. Hatton.

Christmas will not be observed at this place on account of the revival meetings. The value of souls is deemed more precious than the good obtained from Christmas exercises.

CALEDONIA CULLINGS.

Mrs. C. E. Edgcomb of Grand Rapids is in the village the guest of her niece, Mrs. Clara Brown.

At the good roads meeting held in Caledonia last week the address of S. S. Bailey at the Grand Rapids convention and the propositions by him presented were discussed and criticized. The proposition to abolish the office of overseer of the road district and town-

A CASE IN POINT

Showing Lack of Knowledge in Treating Disease by Many Physicians—Also the Efficacy of

DR. WHEELER'S NERVE VITALIZER

It would be unjust to say all physicians are ignorant of the proper method of treating nervous diseases, but it is a fact that a large proportion of them are not qualified. This statement is based on facts presented every day. A recent case is that of Mrs. J. Blake, Shelby, Mich., who has been treated by over twenty physicians, extending over a period of a few years; they were unable to cure her, yet she was cured by the use of a few bottles of Dr. Wheeler's Nerve Vitalizer. Such instances of the remarkable efficiency of this great nerve builder are not rare; they can be found in every home where it has been used.

"Dr. Wheeler's Nerve Vitalizer has benefited my wife more than the twenty or more doctors who have treated her for years." These are the words of J. Blake, Shelby, Mich. He continued: "She had been an invalid for years, with a perplexing complication of symptoms, such as sleeplessness, headache, burning and painful sensations in stomach and heart and extreme nervousness. The physicians who treated her were unable to give her any relief. A few bottles of Dr. Wheeler's Nerve Vitalizer effected a complete cure."

Dr. Wheeler's Nerve Vitalizer can be taken with perfect safety by any one, as it is absolutely free from injurious drugs. It is a specific for sick nerves.

Sold by J. W. Armstrong, druggist.

ship highway commissioner also met with disapproval. The following resolutions were adopted by the meeting: "That we are in favor of adopting the most efficient means to secure good roads to all the people of the townships and counties of the state; that what we need is faithful enforcement of the existing highway laws and not a radical change in the laws relating to the construction of our roads; that the improvement of our roads in the past demonstrates that the inhabitants of each township are the best judges of their local general needs in the laying out and improvement of the public roads; that we are unalterably opposed to transferring the control of the roads from the people, who are the best judges of their needs, to officers not of their own selection, and not directly and personally interested in the improvement of the roads except in the locality where he may reside."

EAST CALEDONIA.

A. E. Dutcher and L. C. Rathbun were in Grand Rapids on business, Friday.

Misses Carrie Stiede and Carrie Sanborn were in Middleville, Saturday.

D. H. McWhinney and son, Boyd, are in Grand Rapids today.

Mr. Curtiss of Indiana is visiting his uncle, L. Baker, and family.

Len Schrader and Jim Sanborn, who have been working at Grandville, have returned home to spend Christmas.

Mr. Moses Teeple of Detroit is spending his vacation at Wm. Schrader's.

HARRIS CREEK.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Porritt are moving on their farm, purchased of Giles Hatton.

Mr. Lewis Kelley (saw-mill man) near Logan was on our street Saturday buying oak logs.

Morgan Boyce of the town of Lowell called on his cousin, J. S. Thomas, and family today.

The lyceum held at Lowe school-house is well attended and very interesting.

Mr. Reynolds of Chicago, nephew of George Salsbury, was delivering pictures on our street, Saturday.

Worthy Silcox, wife and son of Alto visited the former's mother, Sunday. Also Frank McNaughton and wife of Irving visited the latter's mother, Mrs. Charles Silcox, Sunday.

Our school closes Thursday for one week's vacation through the holidays.

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to the readers of the SUN.

John Goggins has returned home from Caledonia.

P. J. Sinclair is in the Valley City.

IRVING INKLINGS.

"One spiritual truth I have learned this year" is the subject for the Y. P. S. C. E. meeting next Sunday evening, Ps 90: 1-17. Let everyone be prepared to give the truth they have learned and thus help the interest of the meeting. Come.

Christmas exercises at the M. E. church this year. Great pains is being taken by the people to make this a most delightful entertainment for young and old. All the children of both schools unite in carrying a present for other children, which is to be sent to the needy in Grand Rapids. This is a new feature for our children, but a very good way for them to learn that it is more blessed to give than to receive at Christmas time. This thought will be carried out at the Congregational church next year.

Mr. M. Poff and son Dick have gone to South Bend, Ind., for a holiday trip.

Miss Daisy Baldwin has gone to Grand Rapids for a few weeks stay with Mrs. John Chambers.

Mr. Jack Holland has gone to visit his old home and friends in Canada.

Miss Jennie Cole is expected Thursday this week to visit her sister, Mrs. J. Holland.

Miss Pearl Hendershott will be home this week.

LEIGHTON LOCALS.

Miss Zina Wilson left Saturday for a couple week's visit with relatives near Hart.

A. C. Jones was in Hastings and Nashville the fore part of last week.

C. Herrington was in Wayland Saturday.

Mrs. Smith of Trowbridge, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Geo. Willson.

A small surprise party was given Miss Ada Steeby Friday evening, in honor of her twentieth birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Wiggins expect to leave Thursday for Chicago, where they will visit relatives.

Miss Matie Rumboldt of Hickory Corners, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Wm. Ham.

Mrs. A. M. Meyers of Litchfield is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Jones.

Mrs. A. C. Jones entertained her Sunday school class, of about twenty members, Friday evening. Refreshments, and a nice time was enjoyed.

The larger pupils of district No. 2 were royally entertained by their teacher, Mr. Harrington and wife, Wednesday evening. A jolly time was enjoyed.

John Sturgis lost a cow Tuesday from eating too much corn.

The wife of Mr. D. Robinson, a prominent lumberman of Hartwick, N. Y., was sick with rheumatism for five months. In speaking of it Mr. Robinson says: "Chamberlain's Pain Balm is the only thing that gave her any rest from pain. For the relief of pain it cannot be beat." Many very bad cases of rheumatism have been cured by it. For sale at 50 cents per bottle by J. W. Armstrong, druggist. 49-5

NORTH IRVING.

A Christmas tree at this place, and wedding, too.

Mrs. Cunningham and Mrs. C. Wing have been entertaining a sister and nephew from Ohio.

John Sherman and Will Page and wives visited their parents, B. Johnson and wife, recently.

Some of our young people attended singing school at Aunt Rhoda Wilcox school-house last week.

Mr. Roberts' people attended Rutland L. A. S. last Friday.

The lecture at Irving was well attended and all say "it was a literary treat." Surely all must have received some good from such a talk.

Scott Sherwood called on old neighbors last week.

League services Sunday evening. The last in the year, therefore, election of officers.

It will soon be, what did you get for Christmas?

ORANGEVILLE OUTINGS.

The township board of school inspectors, of Prairieville, Martin and Orangeville, met at the town hall Friday Dec. 12, to change the boundary of Dist. No. 3.

Mr. Pike has closed his jelly factory for the season.

Mr. V. Youngs and family who have been keeping house for Eli Nichols for the past year, have moved back to Carlton, their former home.

The Baptist S. S. have a Christmas entertainment Thursday evening. All are cordially invited to attend.

The Methodists have discontinued their revival meetings.

PARMELEE PICKINGS.

Our young people are busy practicing for the Christmas services Thursday evening.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Mason Cline Dec. 17, a son.

Mr. W. Beach of Chicago is here visiting his father, Mr. E. Beach.

Mrs. Skayen of Grand Rapids is spending a few days with her mother, Mrs. E. K. Parmelee.

Mrs. E. K. Parmelee spent Sunday with her daughter in Whitneyville.

Mr. Wilkins of Hastings will load cars with lumber Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

Rev. Mr. Boone, pastor of the M. E. church, was calling on friends in this vicinity, Monday.

Mr. George Burch leaves Tuesday on the evening train for Memphis, N. Y., where he will spend a few weeks with relatives.

The sick mentioned last week are improving.

Mrs. Henry Morgan, who has been very sick the past week, is some better at this writing.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Morgan were in Grand Rapids Friday and Saturday of last week.

School closes Thursday for a vacation of two weeks. "All hail with joy vacation time."

To cure all old sores, to heal an indolent ulcer, or to speedily cure piles, you need simply apply DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve according to directions. Its magic-like action will surprise you. Dr. Nelson Abbott.

Although fodder is plentiful, horses are too numerous at Sand Hill this state. Perrin Burgess gave away a good working team to escape feeding them all winter.

Absolutely pure, perfectly harmless, and invariably reliable are the qualities of One Minute Cough Cure. It never fails in colds, croup and lung troubles. Children like it because it is pleasant to take and it helps them. Dr. Nelson Abbott.

The girl who takes so much pride in learning to dust a room properly as she does in learning to draw; who broils a steak with the same nicety she embroiders a rosebud; who makes coffee as carefully as she crochets, is the girl who will make the economical, cherry wife, loving mother and delightful companion.—Ex.

Major C. T. Pieton is manager of the State Hotel, at Denison, Texas, which the traveling man say is one of the best hotels in that section. In speaking of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy Major Pieton says: "I have used it myself and in my family for several years, and take pleasure in saying that I consider it an infallible cure for diarrhoea and dysentery. I always recommend it, and have frequently administered it to my guests in the hotel, and in every case it has proven itself worthy of unqualified endorsement. For sale by J. W. Armstrong, druggist. 49-5

The public is not as familiar with its privileges about postal matters as might be supposed. Many times people would like to recall a letter after it had been mailed. This can be done, even if the letter has reached the postoffice of the destination. At every postoffice there are what is called "withdrawal blanks." On application they will be furnished, and when a deposit is made to cover the expense, the postmaster will telegraph to the postmaster at the letter's destination asking that it be promptly returned.

MRS. MAGGIE MYERS,

Williamsport, Ind., writes: "I suffered for months of severe stomach troubles, caused by indigestion and constipation. My trouble seemed almost unendurable. I purchased a bottle of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin of Armstrong and Swank and as soon as I had taken its contents I was like a new person, and I now feel better and weigh more than I have in years." It is sold in 10c, 50c and \$1.00 sizes at J. W. Armstrong's drug store. A

OLD YEAR, FAREWELL!



FAREWELL, farewell, the best of friends must part. And as a token of how dear thou art, How fond and dear, Old Year, Old Year, Here take a gift of gold from out my hair, A shade of rose from cheek and lip, and there Sprinkle a touch of snow before you go. Old Year, before you go.

Good-by, God-speed, all earthly things must end, One look into your fading eyes, my friend, So fond and dear, Old Year, Old Year, There's mild regret within my heart in place of pain. All that was sweet in thee shall once again In memory live and make me glad, Old Year, then why be sad?

Now that we're parting, I'm impelled to say, What I've in secret thought for many a day— Yet still I love you, dear Old Year, You've always worn a somewhat somber face. You've never had the winsome sprightly grace That I remember in your foregone kin, Old Year, that I have ushered in.

Your stay was shorter, too, it seems to me, Than that of former years was wont to be. Oh, fond and dear Old Year, Old Year, Mayhap for me all time is near complete, And toward the end you're hast'ning with glad feet. Then speed, no longer stay, Old Year, go swift thy way!

Hans Brynjulson's MORTGAGE

A Dakota night. The prairie, wrapped in mysterious shadows, rolls away to the south and vanishes among the ghostly stars. Through the sedges of the marsh the night wind sighs fitfully; and the frogs, from their reedy haunts, croak a hoarse accompaniment.

For Hans Brynjulson, smoking in the door of his "shack," and looking out over the moonlit plain and coteaux, there is but one word in the heart, one song on the lips of nature.

Christina! Well, indeed, did Hans remember her braids of golden hair—her sparkling eyes—the fair beauty of her northern face. They had parted—but that was long ago. "You will make your fortune in America, Hans. Be brave. I will come when you want me. God be with you, my dear one!"

Not a day passed but these words leaped from the memory to the heart of Hans Brynjulson. They were oftener on his lips than were his prayers.

The first year, the dreaded southwest wind scorched and withered a field almost ready for the reaper, but Hans saved enough grain to plant the land again. The second year, crops were backward, and the wheat was "nipped" by frost and shriveled and blackened in the husk. The third year crops were beaten to the ground by hail.

How had Hans contrived to keep body and soul together during these years of trial? By mortgaging his possessions. His claim, his horses, his farming implements—everything—had been laid under contribution to tide him over the hard times.

In his hands he had a letter. It was dark and he could not read it—but this was unnecessary. He had conned it word for word until he could have recited it by rote. The letter was from Christina. She told her lover, in simple words, that she could not remain away from him longer. A longer absence, for her, was worse than death. Surely, her willing hands would prove a mighty factor in his hard life. The meanest drudgery at his side and for him would be happiness for her. The Stockholm sailed on the 1st of December for New York. Could he not send her money to pay her passage? If so, she would come third-class all the way. God bless him for the faithful lover that he was!

Poor Hans! He had never written Christina of his heroic struggle with fate. What should he do now? Tell her all? No, no. His heart rebelled against such a course. Fair, loyal Christina! He would send her the passage money. But where was he to get it? He started suddenly to his feet. The moonbeams, striking his haggard face, wreathed it with a strange beauty.

"Ay shall do't," he murmured in his broken English; "ay shall see Messer Yonson in da mornin'!"

"Say, do you know what that 'ere crazy Swede from Pony Gulch has been up to?"

Chris Larkin, the blacksmith, dropped the head of his hammer on the anvil and supported himself on the handle with his bare, sinewy arms as he addressed this sentence to Cal Higgins, a farmer.

"What now?" asked Higgins. "What's the latest?"

"Gone an' mortgaged himself to Lawyer Johnson for \$100."

"Tain't possible!"

"'Tis, too—but it can't be legal."



LO'KIN' F'R LITTLE CHRISTINA.

"S'pose the Swede can't pay up when the mortgage is due?"

"Johnson'll foreclose, I s'pose."

"Then he'd own the Swede, hey?"

"More'n likely. Then he c'd hire him out by the day, ye see, an' git his money back in that way."

"When's the mortgage due?"

"New Year's Day."

"What did the Swede want the money for?"

"Dunno. He went over to the post-office, bought a money order an' sent away ev'ry plagued cent."

"Don't that beat all!" exclaimed Higgins, disgustedly; "that's jest 'ike them Swedes. Some fool spekeration, I'll bet a copper."

It was Christmas Day. In the nooks and crannies of Wells County there was a bare suggestion of snow. The white flakes were unusually backward, that year, in taking possession of the country and the settlers shook their heads forebodingly as they spoke of a "green Christmas" and a "fat churchyard."

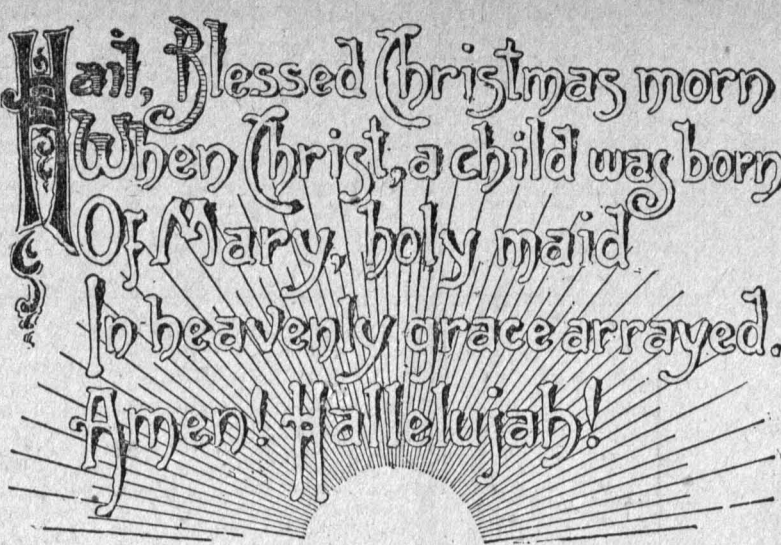
"Don't worry, Chris," remarked the conductor of the passenger train that had thundered up to the station, "we'll have a regular bender to make up for this. When the snow comes, it'll be on us all in a heap—see if it ain't. What's the matter, my man?"

The last words were spoken to Hans Brynjulson, who had touched the conductor on the arm.

"Ay been lo'kin' fr mae little Christina by dees train, but Ay can't see her, no place—" began poor Hans.

"Ah," went on the conductor, with a laugh, "some girl from the States that you're going to marry! No—there were no passengers for Sykeston."

Hans turned with a sigh. The postmaster was walking off with the mail-pouch, and the forlorn Swede followed. He had a vague thought that the mail-pouch might contain some news for him.



like so many spirits of peace, over the quiet village.

A man, reeling through the semi-darkness, heard the song and stopped to listen. As the last bar of the song died away, its cadence was broken by a discordant groan. A moment later as Lawyer Johnson with his wife and little daughter came out of the church, he nearly stumbled over the form of a man lying prone upon the ground.

ed in, will shake the stoutest confidence. Thus it was with the lawyer, and when, some moments later, his wife suggested that Hans be sent to the schoolhouse to see if Bessie were there, he consented. Hans was called in from the shed and given his commission. He bowed his head, buttoned his thin coat tightly around him and laid his hand on the door-knob. The lawyer was holding in his hands a great fur coat.

nothing is known. The lawyer's daughter could not tell. She started home, she said, was overtaken by the storm and finally grew bewildered. Struggling vainly for what seemed an interminably long time she had finally sunk senseless and exhausted into the snow.

When found she was snugly wrapped in the lawyer's fur coat while a pair of thin, rigid arms folded her close as though to protect her from the drifting flakes. And when the snow was brushed from Hans Brynjulson's icy face, congealed tears were found in the eye-lashes, and about the mouth—mystery unsolvable—there hovered a smile. Happiness crowned with tears!

Perhaps they were tears of joy; perhaps the boisterous winter winds became summer zephyrs in the ears of Hans Brynjulson and whispered to him the word, "Christina, Christina," perhaps this also was the burden of the snowflakes as they rustled down over him and wove their spotless wool into the web of his life.

Lawyer Johnson caused it to be duly known that Hans Brynjulson had cancelled his mortgage and that gave Mrs. Johnson's own hand that gave the document to the fire.—W. W. Cook, in Detroit Free Press.

A Christmas Surprise.
She asked her experienced father,
"Dear papa, tell me, I pray,
What shall I give my husband
To surprise him on Christmas Day?"
"A present for Clarence?" he murmured,



Half an hour later the letters and parcels had been assorted and the postmaster began distributing them to the waiting throng. There were Christmas presents and loving tidings from dear ones in the East and many a pioneer's face wreathed with happiness as the letters were read or the presents tucked snugly away in warm breast pockets.

"Here's something for you, Hans," called the postmaster, and the pale-faced man who had been lingering near the door, doubtful but expectant, started forward with a smile and an outstretched hand. That handwriting! The letter was from Christina!

The envelope was hastily torn open and a pair of happy blue eyes began perusing the text. Suddenly, the happy light vanished from the face. Hans Brynjulson's limbs grew rigid and he lurched over against the counter with a moan of anguish.

English words, even in a free translation, are powerless to catch the pathetic vein that ran through Hans Brynjulson's letter, but here are its contents, done into our own language:

On board S. S. Stockholm, Dec. 10. My Dear One:

When you read this, my faithful love, she who writes it will be with you—in the spirit. I am to die, the ship's doctor says, and I think God that I have the strength to send you this last word. I would that Our Heavenly Father had spared me to work for you, but since this is impossible, work doubly hard for yourself. Be brave, dear Hans, for my sake. Be patient and you will be fortunate. God tempers the wind to his stricken children and he will not forget thee, my darling. My strength ebbs fast—a last farewell.

CHRISTINA. As the shades of evening crept over the sky and brought out, one by one, the cold, clear-cut stars, the words of a Christmas carol floated through the doors of the little Sykeston church and settled,

"Why," he exclaimed, "it's Hans Brynjulson!"

"Let him lie where he is," said Mrs. Johnson; "he's drunk, no doubt."

"Well, drunk or sober, if he lies here he'll freeze. It means a hundred dollars to me," said the lawyer, grimly; "ah, he's reviving. Come, come, my man, don't you know where you are?"

"Messer Yonson?" returned Hans interrogatively.

"Yes, yes; get up and follow us. You'll freeze to death lying there. You mustn't freeze, you know. It wouldn't be treating me fair. You understand why, eh? You can sleep in my barn to-night."

The day after New Year's dawned with a calm that would have been foreboding, had not unusual weather so far marked the winter in Wells County.

Little Bessie Johnson went to school in the morning and she had been gone from home an hour when a black cloud, rifted with wind, appeared in the northwest. Like a great ominous banner, battle-scarred and brushing its ragged streamers across the sky, the cloud came on with ratcheter speed. And then came the blast in all its fury. Helter-skelter, here and there, blew the wild white flakes; rushing around the corner of Lawyer Johnson's house with an angry roar, the bits of snow played hide-and-seek among the eaves and then skurried away in the mad gambols of a whirlwind.

"Goodness me, Silas," said Mrs. Johnson, turning from the window, "I can't see a yard away. What will become of Bessie?"

"She'll be all right—don't worry. The teacher will not let the scholars leave the schoolhouse until the blizzard is over."

"Put this on," he said. Reaching the schoolhouse in safety, Hans found it occupied by the teacher and a few frightened pupils. But Bessie Johnson was not there. At the first appearance of the cloud in the northwest the girl had persisted in a determination to start home. The teacher had not made a very serious attempt to thwart

His mind with past years away, As he thought of his wife's dear presents For which he had had to pay.

"This is sure to surprise him, daughter, If there's anything that will— A gold watch and chain to give him— And include a receipted bill."

New Year Advice.
Don't wait for the wagon while the walking is good. Don't grieve over spilt milk while there's one cow left in the pasture. Don't say the world is growing worse when you are doing nothing to make it better. Don't tell the world your troubles. You can't borrow ten dollars on them. Don't let the grass grow under your feet. The cows can't get at it there.



"IT'S HANS BRYNJULSON!"

that resolve, feeling, perhaps, that she would have ample time to cover the distance before the storm came. Hans Brynjulson received the information without comment and once more vanished into the storm.

Of what he did after this absolutely

There is nothing distinctly new in the tree decorations. The fancy pendants are used in great profusion. Five hundred of assorted colors would not be too many on a good-sized tree. These are round, oval, frosted, brilliant and tinsel covered. Some represent birds, grapes, bells, fruit, horns and fish. Strings of brilliant colored balls add greatly to the appearance of the tree when draped from branch to branch. Frosted icicles of different colored glasses are effective, hung from the tip of each branch.

A fancy tree-top piece, either of bright red or silver, is indispensable. Then there are tinsel comets to hang through the branches, strings of tinsel and tinsel tassels. Something new is asbestos, which, when distributed over the tree, looks like snow. There should be lots of cornucopias filled with candy, and snapping mottoes with fancy colored caps or whistles and tiny horns inside. There are many decorations in the form of Brownies. These are not pretty, but they are the fad. Be sure you have plenty of candles. Six dozen won't be too many. After you are all through trimming, take handfuls of loose tinsel and spray it all over the tree.

A Christmas Scheme.
A lady who was shopping saw her husband examining pocketbooks at a showcase in another part of the store. When he had gone she approached the saleswoman in that department.

"Did he get the one I wanted?"
"Yes, the one with the silver horse-shoe. I told him it was the best and would just suit."

"You're a jewel. I feared he would get something I didn't want. Thank you ever so much."

The husband had gone to his favorite drug store, when he asked:
"Has my wife been here?"
"Yes," said the clerk, with a grin.
"Did she get a toothbrush or a box of cigars for my Christmas present?"
"She looked at cigars."

"Ha! I know the brand—\$2 a hundred. Well, if she buys a box change them to my regular brand, and I'll pay the difference—see?"
And the druggist—saw.

A New Year Song.
Who comes dancing over the snow,
His little soft feet all bare and rosy?
Open the door, though the wild winds blow,
Take the child in and make him cozy,
Take him in, and hold him dear;
He is the wonderful New Year.

Open your heart, be it sad or gay,
Welcome him there and use him kindly;
For you must carry him, yea or nay,
Carry him with shut eyes so blindly,
But whether he bringeth joy or fear,
Take him! God sends him—this, good New Year.

A Slight Delay.
Mrs. Pinkerly—"The boy has just come with that lovely Christmas present I got for you today, dear. He is waiting in the hall now."
Pinkerly—How kind (kiss) and thoughtful of you, dear. (Kiss, kiss.) I am just dying to see what it is. (Impatiently) Why don't you have the boy bring it up?
Mrs. Pinkerly (embarrassed)—The fact is—er—darling, it has come O. O. D.—Life.

A Small Boy's Complaint.
I don't like the month of December
As much as I possibly should,
Because when Christmas is coming
Small boys must be awfully good.
And while long division ain't easy,
And spelling is poky and slow,
This behaving for three weeks 'fore Christ-
mas
Is the hardest old task that I know.
—Harper's Bazar.

Measure for Measure.
"It's not the right sort of feeling, perhaps, but at Christmas I like to give just as valuable presents as I receive."
"So do I. My wife is going to give me a hundred-dollar dressing gown, and I am going to give her a hundred-dollar check to pay for it."—Life.

Is or Arc.
Ah, Santa Claus, come in, come in,
Your welcome is beyond all measure,
We're glad to have you come and stay,
Your Christmas presents are a pleasure.
Your Christmas {pre-ence is } a pleasure.

Watching for Santa Claus.

To the Children.
Hear Kris Kringle with his bells—
Christmas bells!
What a world of merriment their melody foretells!
How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,
In the icy air of night!
While the stars, that oversprinkle
All the heavens, seem to twinkle,
With their stockings full of light;
Keeping time, time, time,
In a merry Christmas rhyme,
To the tintinnabulation that so musically swells
From his bells, bells, bells, bells,
Bells, bells, bells—
From the jingling and the tinkling of his bells.

Equal to the Occasion.
"Oh, don't!" she exclaimed, as he attempted to take a kiss; "wait till Christmas and you can kiss me under the mistletoe."
"That's all right," he said; "I'll kiss you at Christmas under the mistletoe, but just now I'm going to kiss you under the nose."



A Christmas Tree.
THE Christmas tree should be carefully selected, and always be sure to get one which has been cut after cold weather has set in. Sometimes those who offer the trees for sale cut them down in the early fall. This is very well if there is no dry, warm weather afterwards. To determine how recently a tree has been cut insist upon seeing it shaken—if the needles fall don't take it. To trim well, a tree should be round and symmetrical in form, wide around the bottom, growing to a point at the top. Balsam pine trees are the prettiest and most expensive. A handsome one, about ten feet high, costs \$5. These trees come from Vermont, the Catskill Mountains, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. They have the largest and brightest needles, while the limbs grow closer than on any other, and are very thick up to the top. Spruce trees are the most used because, being plentiful, they are much cheaper, being half the price of a balsam pine. In color they are not so green. They come from Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine and the Catskill Mountains.

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THE CHANGE OF LIFE.

INTELLIGENT WOMEN PREPARE FOR THE TRYING ORDEAL.

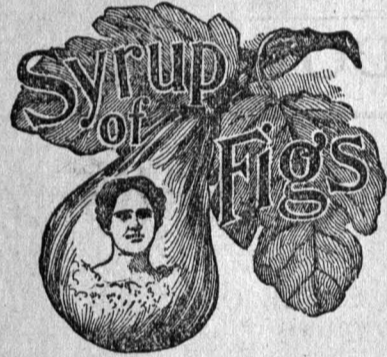
A Time When Women Are Susceptible to Many Dread Diseases.

The anxiety felt by women as the "change of life" draws near, is not without reason.

When her system is in a deranged condition, or she is predisposed to apoplexy, or congestion of any organ, it is at this period likely to become active and with a host of nervous irritations, make life a burden. Cancer often shows itself, and does its destructive work.

Such warning symptoms as sense of suffocation, headache, dread of impending evil, timidity, sounds in the ears, palpitation of the heart, sparks before the eyes, irregularities, constipation, variable appetite, weakness and inquietude, dizziness, etc., are promptly heeded by intelligent women who are approaching the period in life where woman's great change may be expected. Thousands at this critical time consult Mrs. Pinkham, and conduct their habits according to her advice, and with the Vegetable Compound go through that distressing time with perfect safety and comfort. Mrs. W. L. Day, of Bettsville, Ohio, says:—

"When all else failed, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound saved my life. It carried me through the change of life all right, and I am now in good health. It also cured my husband of kidney trouble."



Gladness Comes

With a better understanding of the transient nature of the many physical ills which vanish before efforts—gentle efforts—pleasant efforts—rightly directed. There is comfort in the knowledge that so many forms of sickness are not due to any actual disease, but simply to a constipated condition of the system, which the pleasant family laxative, Syrup of Figs, promptly removes. That is why it is the only remedy with millions of families, and is everywhere esteemed so highly by all who value good health. Its beneficial effects are due to the fact, that it is the one remedy which promotes internal cleanliness, without debilitating the organs on which it acts. It is therefore all important, in order to get its beneficial effects, to note when you purchase, that you have the genuine article, which is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only, and sold by all reputable druggists.

If in the enjoyment of good health, and the system is regular, then laxatives or other remedies are not needed. If afflicted with any actual disease, one may be commended to the most skillful physicians, but if in need of a laxative, then one should have the best, and with the well-informed everywhere, Syrup of Figs stands highest and is most largely used and gives most general satisfaction.

PENSIONS, PATENTS, CLAIMS.
JOHN W. MORRIS, WASHINGTON, D. C.
Late Principal Examiner U. S. Pension Bureau.
3 yrs. in last war, 15 adjudicating claims, atty. at law.

KIDDER'S PASTILLES. Sure relief for ASTHMA, Croup, Whooping Cough, Hoarseness, Sore Throat, etc. Price 50c. Sold by mail, Stowell & Co., 117 South Broadway, Lowell, Mass.

OPIUM HABIT DRUNKENNESS AND ALL OTHER VICES. Cured in 10 to 30 Days. No Pay till Cured. DR. J. L. STEPHENS, LEXINGTON, OHIO.

The Blue and the Gray.

Both men and women are apt to feel a little blue, when the gray hairs begin to show. It's a very natural feeling. In the normal condition of things gray hairs belong to advanced age. They have no business whitening the head of man or woman, who has not begun to go down the slope of life. As a matter of fact, the hair turns gray regardless of age, or of life's seasons; sometimes it is whitened by sickness, but more often from lack of care. When the hair fades or turns gray there's no need to resort to hair dyes. The normal color of the hair is restored and retained by the use of

Ayer's Hair Vigor.

Ayer's Curebook, "a story of cures told by the cured." 100 pages, free. J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

WHO WAS LORD OGILVIE?

A Mysterious Scotch Character Early in the Century.

Helen Everston Smith contributes to the Century a chatty paper about "A Group of American Girls Early in the Century." After describing Chancellor Livingston's beautiful home, Clermont, the author says:

To add to the pleasantness of this room, both the orangery and the conservatory opened into it, and it was in these surroundings that the young sons and daughters of Captain Livingston, and some of their cousins, had many a lesson in literature, elocution, and singing from the gifted and eccentric but courtly and kindly Scottish gentleman known as Lord Ogilvie, who, without money or price, devoted himself for many years to the instruction of young gentlemen and ladies in this new country, knowing that it could yet afford but few opportunities, and generously wishing that the scions of the young republic should lack none of the graces of a polite education.

"A strange man he was in many ways," said my grandmother, "but gifted beyond any I have ever known in his own favorite lines." He was always welcomed at Clermont, and made it his headquarters for several years, going and coming as he willed, sometimes appearing at breakfast, after an absence of months, as unceremoniously as if he had been only a few hours away, and disappearing again after months of sojourn as silently as an Indian brave. "Odd enough he was, but a most rare and lovable man; and though plain of face, endowed with remarkable manly beauty of form and grace of manner."

It is to be wished that we could gather more information in regard to this gentleman. Mrs. Smith thought it probable that his title of "lord" was bestowed upon him in this country, either through a misunderstanding of the Scottish designation of "laird," or in a sort of half-tender, half-ironical courtesy. At any rate, he always accepted it with great politeness, as if it were his right; and it may have been. If his antecedents were known to his host, the confidence was sacredly kept. My friend Miss Susan Hayes Ward, of Newark, N. J., tells me that her grandmother, Mrs. William A. Hayes, of South Berwick, Me., when Miss Susan Lord, heard Lord Ogilvie read the then new poem of "Marmion" in Portsmouth. She was enraptured with the poem, and the next morning hastened to the book store to buy a copy. Here she was heard by the reader of the previous evening, who, in grateful appreciation of her enthusiasm, begged to present her with a copy of the book.

A little later than this Lord Ogilvie took great pains to instruct Miss Lord, who was a fine musician for the place and time, in the proper pronunciation of the Scotch songs which she sang. Mrs. Hayes always loved to recall anecdotes concerning her voluntary tutor. Miss Ward has heard that Lord Ogilvie was at one time in Virginia and Kentucky, pursuing his original but highly valuable kind of educational mission work. Surely there should be more traces left of this remarkable man. Who was he? What led him here? How long was he in America? What became of him? At the time of his stays at Clermont he was, in my grandmother's estimation, "quite an elderly man;" but she was then so young that a man of forty would have seemed old to her.

He may have been the heir of the Lord Ogilvie who, with his "clan regiment of six hundred men from Strathmore and Airlie," was "out in Forty-five," at Prestonpans. In that case his estates would have been confiscated. He was certainly violently opposed to the house of Hanover, and endured his pupils with an exaggerated love of the "martyred" Queen of Scots and Charles I., while his affection for this country seemed to be rather an account of the humiliation it had inflicted upon England than for any sympathy with republican ideas.

Straw.

Bright and clean straw is very useful on the farm and should not be wasted simply because it is cheap. Cattle will sometimes eat it as a relish, even when they can get better food, and it is never too plentiful if straw is used more than once as bedding. Straw will greatly assist in keeping the stables clean, and is really valuable considering the uses to which it can be applied.

Little Benny—Mamma, please let me hold the baby for a minute. Mother—I am afraid, Benny, you might let her fall. Little Benny—Well, if she does fall, she can't fall very far.—Texas Sifter.

THE MAN OF THE HOUR

General Juan Ruiz Rivera.



General Juan Ruiz Rivera, who has been appointed to succeed General Antonio Maceo in the command of the Cuban forces in the province of Pinar del Rio, has achieved military reputation scarcely second to that of his late chief. He is a veteran of the ten years' war in Cuba, and a warm personal friend of Commander-in-chief Maximo Gomez. He enjoyed Maceo's confidence and esteem. General Rivera was born in 1847 in Mayaguez, Porto Rico. His father was a Spanish colonel. The son was a student in the university at Barcelona when the first Cuban war commenced in 1868. Although but 20 years old, he gave up his studies and at once sailed for Cuba, where he received a warm welcome from the insurgent leaders and was appointed an officer of General Gomez's staff. Afterward he was appointed secretary to General Garcia and later made commander of the department of the east. When the war was ended Rivera stood firmly with Maceo in his refusal to accept the treaty of peace of San Juan, and when the terms of the compact were finally accepted he departed in despair to Central America, where he became a planter. On the breaking out of the present war he at once left his home, returned to Cuba and headed an expedition in the western part of the island. He has since been closely connected with the Cuban chief. He is a soldier of great personal magnetism and Maceo's natural successor.

FEDERATION OF LABOR.

Sixteenth Annual Convention Held in Cincinnati.

The sixteenth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor was called to order in Cincinnati at 10 a. m. Monday by President Samuel Gompers. About 250 delegates were present and there were many visitors. Martin Fox, President of North America, had been selected by the labor organizations of Cincinnati to deliver the address of welcome. Owing to the death of a relative Mr. Fox was not present, and his address was read by E. J. Denny. In the welcoming address more effective action for the eight-hour law and other reforms were recommended. Special greetings were extended Delegates Samuel Woods and John Malinsson of England and Louis Vigoroux of France, who were seated with Secretary McGrath and Assistant Secretary Martin Walters on the stage.

President Gompers, in responding to the address of welcome, referred to attacks on the organization because it was merely a federation and not a more compact union. He showed how the fullest scope was given to individual opinions and rights in the American Federation of Labor and thus the affiliation of different labor organizations was possible in one general federation. He appealed for continued efforts for the cultivation of public opinion as well as for favorable legislation and for the most earnest cooperation of all labor organizations.

UNCLE SAM'S CASH.

Coined a Great Deal Since Commencing Business.

The total value of all coins authorized to be used as money and issued from the mints by this government since the enactment of the first measure of authorization, as shown by recent publication from official sources, drawn out, doubtless, by the recent campaign discussions of the "crime of 1873," is stated to have reached the enormous total of \$2,467,798,116.25, which amount, as a means of effecting exchanges, is, of course, but a part of the circulating medium with which the country is provided.

The coins are proportioned among the several metals as follows: Gold, \$1,755,813,703; silver, \$685,023,701.90; minor coins, \$20,960,711.35.

Telegraphic Brevities.

Martin L. Stevens, of Brooklyn, a prominent Knight of Pythias, is dead, aged 60.

Henry Fell Pease, Liberal member of Parliament of the Cleveland division of the north riding of York, is dead.

J. B. Labouisse, ex-president of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, and well known in every cotton market in the country, began coughing and within two hours expired from heart failure, brought on by the violent exertion.

Cardinal Gibbons has received from the Pope an official registered letter, informing him that his Holiness has appointed Rev. Thomas J. Conaty, of Worcester, Mass., rector of the Catholic university in Washington, to succeed Rt. Rev. Bishop Keane.

Mrs. Fannie Redding died suddenly at the house of her daughter, Mrs. Harry Burke, in Derby, Conn. She was 102 years old. She was the nurse of P. T. Barnum, the great showman, in his infancy. It is said that she saved Barnum's life when a boy by throwing away medicine prescribed for him while ill.

The Cause of Rheumatism.

The cause of rheumatism is lactic acid in the blood. To this acid are due the aches and pains, the swollen joints, the sharp, agonizing twinges. Rheumatism affects the limbs, arms, back and hips, causing misery day and night; stiffness of the joints, lameness, swellings, agony. Rheumatism can be cured only by purifying the blood. Do not waste money and time on liniments or other applications. Do not dally with unknown medicines. Cure rheumatism at once, surely, safely, promptly, permanently, by purifying the blood with Hood's Sarsaparilla. Thousands of cures of this and other blood diseases conclusively prove that Hood's Sarsaparilla has wonderful curative power. The great merit of Hood's Sarsaparilla has given it the first place among medicines. It is the reason for its wonderful cures. It is the explanation of its enormous sales. Hood's Sarsaparilla stands not only upon its record of cures in the past, though this is unequalled by any other medicine, but it is to-day curing thousands of cases of catarrh, rheumatism, scrofula, dyspepsia, and many other blood diseases. It is to-day the medicine which the people take to give them health, strength, pure blood, good appetite and digestive power.

The Horse.

The quality of farm help is more nearly tested by its ability to manage a team without abusing it than by any other one thing. The horse is a sensitive, nervous animal, and if abused, as it often is, it soon becomes restless and finally obstinate and vicious. A great many horses are ruined by the poor quality of farm help, which is now so common. If better help cannot be procured it may be necessary to do as is done by Southern farmers—breed mules, which will resent ill treatment so promptly that they will be less likely to be abused than is the horse.

Borne Down with Infirmities.

Age finds its surest solace in the benignant tonic aid afforded by Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which counteracts rheumatic and malarial tendencies, relieves growing inactivity of the kidneys, and is the finest remedy extant for disorders of the stomach, liver and bowels. Nervousness, too, with which old people are very apt to be afflicted, is promptly relieved by it.

For Insomnia.

One of the very latest cures for insomnia is three teaspoonfuls of sugar in a cup of boiling water. Some people can't take hot water "straight," but can take it with a teaspoonful of milk or the sugar.

You Want a Farm.

We have, fifty miles west of Houston, at Chesterville, the best tract in Texas. High prairie, well drained, abundant rainfall, good soil; low prices and easy terms. Write and receive our book "Fertile Farm Lands" free, and information as to cheap excursions and free fare. Address, SOUTHERN TEXAS COLONIZATION CO., John Lindholm, Mgr., 110 Rialto Building, Chicago.

A Masked Battery.

The sweetest, reddest lips whose praise a poet ever sung,
Were hers. They parted and revealed,
alas!
A woman's tongue.
—Detroit Tribune.

To California in 72 Hours.

The California Limited, via Santa Fe Route, leaves Chicago 6 p. m., Wednesdays and Saturdays, reaching Los Angeles in 72 hours and San Diego in 76 hours. Returns Mondays and Thursdays. Connecting train for San Francisco via Mojave.

Through vestibuled equipment of superb Pullman palace sleepers, buffet smoking car and dining car. Most luxurious service via any line.

Daily California express, carrying both palace and tourist sleepers, leaves Chicago 10:25 p. m.

For descriptive literature address G. T. Nicholson, G. P. A., A. T. & S. F. Ry., Chicago.

Victoria's Great Rule.

Queen Victoria now rules 337,000,000 people, a greater number than has ever before acknowledged the sovereignty of either a King, Queen, or Emperor.

Deafness Cannot Be Cured

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure Deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube gets inflamed you have a running sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed Deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

Sold by Druggists, 75c.

First Freak—My engagement ends next Saturday night. Second Freak—Does it? First Freak—Yes; next week I'll be what you might call an idle curiosity.—Puck.

On Nov. 30th the John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., the largest seed potato growers in the world, received an order for three thousand bushels of seed potatoes from one firm in Texas.

The famous dragon tree which formerly stood on the Canary islands, was estimated by Humboldt to be 100 years old.

Lane's Family Medicine

Moves the bowels each day. In order to be healthy this is necessary. Acts gently on the liver and kidneys. Cures sick headache. Price 25 and 50c.

There are 700 varieties of snakes known, of which number Europe has but thirty.

Piso's Cure for Consumption is our only medicine for coughs and colds.—Mrs. C. Beltz, 439 5th ave., Denver, Col., Nov. 8, 1895.

A man may wear religion as a cloak, and yet freeze his soul to death.

Why rub, and toil, and wear out yourself and your clothes on washday, when ever since 1855 Bobbin's Electric Soap has been offered on purpose to lighten your labor, and save your clothes. Now try it. Your clothes last it.

Mrs. Winslow's SOOTHING SYRUP for Children cures Colic, Wind, and all the Summer Complaints, always pain, cures wind colic. 25 cents a bottle.

Coughing Leads to Consumption.

Kemp's Balsam will stop the cough at once. Go to your druggist to-day and get a sample bottle free. Sold in 25 and 50 cent bottles. Go at once; delays are dangerous.

When He Looked at the Bill.

He—I wish I had been Noah.
She—Why?
He—I'll bet no seal would have been allowed to board the Ark.—Cleveland Leader.

If you desire a luxurious growth of healthy hair of a natural color, nature's crowning ornament of both sexes, use only Hall's Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer.

Hope

Returns to the heart of the victim bound in the chains of rheumatism, dyspepsia, scrofula, catarrh, when the blood is enriched and purified by

Hood's Sarsaparilla

The One True Blood Purifier. All druggists. \$1. Hood's Pills are the best after-dinner pills; aid digestion. 25c.

THE MAIN MUSCULAR SUPPORTS OF THE BODY WEAKEN AND LET GO UNDER

BACKACHE

OR LUMBAGO. TO RESTORE, STRENGTHEN, AND STRAIGHTEN UP, USE

HEADACHE this Morning.

Shows you did not take a tablet of Cascarets Candy Cathartic last evening. Cascarets prevent sour stomach, tone up the intestines, stimulate the liver, leave no chance for sick headaches in the morning. You eat them like candy, and they leave your breath sweet and fragrant. Better send out for a box right now, 10c., 25c., 50c., any drug store, or mailed for price. Write for booklet and free sample.

CASCARETS CATHARTIC
Cure Constipation.

ADDRESS
STERLING REMEDY COMPANY
CHICAGO; MONTREAL, CAN.; NEW YORK.

Important Notice!

The only genuine "Baker's Chocolate," celebrated for more than a century as a delicious, nutritious, and flesh-forming beverage, is put up in Blue Wrappers and Yellow Labels. Be sure that the Yellow Label and our Trade-Mark are on every package.

WALTER BAKER & CO. Ltd., Dorchester, Mass.

An intelligent matron, a resident of Ithaca, N. Y., makes it very plain to all her neighbors that she thinks there is no medicine like

Ripans Tabules.

She believes that they saved the life of her son, a boy of twelve, who had been taken sick with what the doctors called liver trouble and catarrh of the stomach. She says that after treating him a year, without doing him any good, the doctors gave him up to die. About that time his uncle, who had had experience with Ripans Tabules and found that they had done him much good for catarrh of the stomach, insisted that his nephew should try them. After they had been taken two months, according to directions, the boy was able to go to school and four months after he began taking them he replied to an inquiry: "Why, I am just as well as ever I was."

"A Handful of Dirt May Be a Houseful of Shame." Keep Your House Clean with

SAPOLIO

RADWAY'S PILLS,

PAYS FOR A 5-LINE advertisement in THE TIMES in 100 high-grade papers in Illinois, guaranteed circulation 100,000—or we can insert it 3 TIMES in 1,450 country papers for...

SEND FOR CATALOGUE.
Chicago Newspaper Union,
93 South Jefferson Street, Chicago, Ill.

PATENTS. TRADE-MARKS.
Examination and advice as to Patentability of inventions. Send for INVENTORS' GUIDE, or HOW TO GET A PATENT. Patrick O'Farrell, Washington, D.C.

SOFTEN EYES DR. ISAAC THOMPSON'S EYE-WATER
C. N. U. No 52-10

WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS please say you saw the advertisement in this paper.

PERFECT DIGESTION will be accomplished by taking Radway's Pills. Their ANTI-BILIOUS properties stimulate the liver in the secretion of bile and its discharge through the biliary ducts. So bile in doses of from two to four pills quickly regulate the action of the liver and free the patient from these disorders. One or two of Radway's Pills taken daily by those subject to bilious pains and torpidity of the liver, will keep the system regular and secure healthy digestion.

Price, 50c per box. Sold by all druggists, or by mail, RADWAY & CO., 55 Elm Street, New York.

PERFECT DIGESTION

PERFECT DIGESTION will be accomplished by taking Radway's Pills. Their ANTI-BILIOUS properties stimulate the liver in the secretion of bile and its discharge through the biliary ducts. So bile in doses of from two to four pills quickly regulate the action of the liver and free the patient from these disorders. One or two of Radway's Pills taken daily by those subject to bilious pains and torpidity of the liver, will keep the system regular and secure healthy digestion.

Price, 50c per box. Sold by all druggists, or by mail, RADWAY & CO., 55 Elm Street, New York.

TO THE AFFLICTED

This is the chance of a lifetime.

C. BOOTHROY GRAHAM, M. D.

The old and reliable specialist of over 48 years experience in the treatment of all Chronic and Blood diseases of ladies and gentlemen. We make a specialty of Rheumatism, Dropsy, Catarrh, Piles, Protrusion of Uterus, Nervous Debility, Lungs, Inflammation of Stomach, Inflammation of Liver and Kidneys, Inflammation of Heart, Fits, Spasms or Falling Sickness, La Grippe, Bronchitis, Influenza, Consumption and all diseases of long standing.

Cancers a Specialty.

The Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat a specialty. Eyes tested and lens fitted to them. After an experience of over half a hundred years, we offer our professional services to the afflicted of all the various forms of female diseases and weaknesses of the special organs of ladies and gentlemen. Consultation free.

Will visit once a month at Middleville 10-11-St. James Hotel. Bradley 15-16-Hotel Lee. Moline 17-22-Robert House.

C. Boothroy Graham,
General Delivery,
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

We carry a full and complete line of

STAPLE

FANCY GROCERIES.

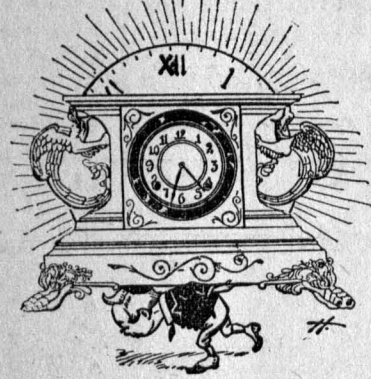
Fine
TEAS, COFFEES AND CANNED GOODS,

Cigars Tobacco and Confectionery. Also Mason

Fruit Jars All Sizes.

Yours truly,

A. M. GARDNER.



ON THE GO

They are, indeed, our clocks are going all the time; bound homeward, you know. That's because they're the finest clocks in town every way. As timepieces they're absolutely accurate. They are models of artistic elegance. Just drop in and get a clock you can depend upon anywhere from \$2.75 up. A trustworthy clock is a home necessity. Our prices make it needless for anyone to be without it.

C. E. STOKOE.

West Side Grocery

HODGE & LEE,

PROPRIETORS.

DEALERS IN

STAPLE and

FANCY

GROCERIES.

FISH

BY FOUND OR KIT.

FREE DELIVERY.

West Side

Grocery

Subscribe for the Middleville Sun.

PATENTS

Caveats, and Trade-Marks obtained and all Patent business conducted for MODERATE FEES. OUR OFFICE IS OPPOSITE U. S. PATENT OFFICE and we can secure a patent in less time than those remote from Washington.

Send model, drawing or photo., with description. We advise if patentable or not, free of charge. Our fee not due till patent is secured.

A PATENT, "How to Obtain Patents," with cost of same in the U. S. and foreign countries sent free. Address,

C. A. SNOW & CO.
OPP. PATENT OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE MIDDLEVILLE SUN

J. W. SAUNDERS, Publisher,
Entered at the Middleville, Mich., Postoffice as second-class matter.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1896.

The Senate Calendar seems in a fair way to become a legislative graveyard from which there will be no resurrection.

Bre'r Hanna shouldn't forget that it is the wise man who knows when to let well enough alone, or, as the gambler says, to "stand pat."

Senator Mills might compromise by heading those Texans who are spoiling for a fight, and going over to drive the Spaniards out of Cuba.

Two more farmers—in Kentucky this time—have gone to kingdom come by the old way of trying to beat a railroad train to a grade crossing.

The man who is daily tempted to brain some nagging nuisance, was astonished at the statement of an Episcopal bishop, that patience is the world's greatest need.

Ex-queen Lil., of Hawaii, may have gone to Washington for the purpose of trying to get Santa Claus Cleveland to even up things by filling her Christmas stocking.

If the newly organized paper trust will put the price of newspaper well up we predict that numerous editors will at once experience a change of heart on the subject of trusts.

The completion of the general treaty of arbitration between the U. S. and Great Britain, now almost at hand, will be a practical application of "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

No tariff bill of recent years has been passed in less than ten months from the time the committee started upon it. Of course, that doesn't make it certain that the one upon which the House committee is now at work may take that much time, but it is always safe to look up what Congress has done when making a guess what it will do.

The recent failure of the National bank of Illinois at Chicago, caused six more Chicago banks to close their doors and on Tuesday, steps were taken to prevent runs on other banks and at a conference of the savings banks of the city, it was unanimously agreed to stand upon the statutory rights and demand notice of 60 days in case of all withdrawals exceeding \$10. The cause of the latter failures are said to be caused by ignorant people who read of the first failures and were made overly anxious as to their deposits in other banks. It has also had its effect in the commercial world and cramped many firms.

The old lady was right when she said, the child might die if they waited for the doctor. She saved the little one's life with a few doses of One Minute Cough Cure. She had used it for croup before. Dr. Nelson Abbott.

Janitor Goodspeed of the school building don't propose to have any more wood stolen from the school yard than he can help for. He has the basement "chuck" full and the yard cleared of wood and rubbish.

Ninety-seven out of every hundred persons use Brant's Cough Balsam. We appeal to the three who don't.

"It cured me after all others failed."

Charles Gocha, Gaylord, Mich.

We warrant it—25 cents.

J. W. ARMSTRONG, druggist.

REDUCED RATES FOR HOLIDAYS.
Excursion tickets at reduced rate will be sold Dec. 24, 25 and 31, 1896, and Jan. 1, 1897, good for return until Jan 4, inclusive, by the Michigan Central Railway, to all points on its line.
51-3 J. E. GOGLE, Local Agt.

SOMETHING TO DEPEND ON.

Mr. James Jones, of the drug firm of Jones & Son, Cowden, Ill., in speaking of Dr. King's New Discovery, says that last winter his wife was attacked with la grippe, and her case grew so serious that physicians at Cowden and Pana could do nothing for her. It seemed to develop into hasty consumption. Having Dr. King's New Discovery in store, and selling lots of it, he took a bottle home, and to the surprise of all she began to get better from first dose, and half dozen dollar bottles cured her sound and well. Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption, coughs and colds is guaranteed to do this good work. Try it. Free trial bottles at J. W. Armstrong's drug store.

ADVERTISED LETTERS.
MIDDLEVILLE P. O., Dec. 19, 1896.
Letters addressed to persons named below remain unclaimed in this office and will be sent to the Dead Letter Office if not claimed by Jan. 2, 1897.

NAMES:

Mr. Joseph Wing
Please say "advertised" when asking for advertised letters.
DAVID MATTASON, Postmaster.

OLD PEOPLE.

Old people who require medicine to regulate the bowels and kidneys will find the true remedy in Electric Bitters. This medicine does not stimulate and contains no whiskey or other intoxicant, but acts as a tonic and alterative. It acts mildly on the stomach and bowels, adding strength and giving tone to the organs, thereby aiding nature in the performance of the functions. Electric Bitters is an excellent appetizer and aids digestion. Old people find it just exactly what they need. Price fifty cents per bottle at J. W. Armstrong's drug store.

MUNYON'S Improved Homoeopathic REMEDIES

Munyon's Rheumatism Cure seldom fails to relieve in 1 to 3 hours, and cures in a few days. Price 25c.

Munyon's Dyspepsia Cure js guaranteed to cure all forms of indigestion and stomach troubles. Price 25c.

Munyon's Liver Cure corrects headache, biliousness, jaundice, constipation and all liver diseases. Price 25c.

Munyon's Kidney Cure speedily cures pains in the back, loins or groins, all forms of kidney disease. Price 25c.

Munyon's Blood Cure eradicates all impurities of the blood. Price 25c.

Munyon's Pile Ointment positively cures all forms of piles. Price 25c.

Munyon's Asthma Herbs are guaranteed to relieve asthma in two minutes. Price 25c.

Munyon's Cold Cure prevents pneumonia and breaks up a cold in a few hours. Price 25c.

Munyon's Cough Cure stops cough, night sweats, allays soreness and speedily heals the lungs. Price 25c.

Munyon's Nerve Cure restores overworked and overstrained nerves to a healthy condition. Price 25c.

Munyon's Headache Cure stops headache in three minutes. Price 25c.

Munyon's Vitalizer imparts new life, restores lost powers to weak and debilitated men. Price \$1.00.

A separate cure for each disease. At all druggists, mostly 25c. a vial.

Personal letters to Prof. Munyon, 1505 Arch street, Philadelphia, Pa., answered with free medical advice for any disease.

A state farmers' institute for Allegan county is to be held in Allegan Jan. 11 and 12, 1897. A. A. Crozier of the Agricultural college will be the conductor. A woman's section will be conducted Tuesday afternoon by Mrs. Ella Rock wood of Flint.

The old way of delivering messages by post-boys compared with the modern telephone, illustrates the old tedious methods of "breaking" colds compared with their almost instantaneous cure by One Minute Cough Cure. Dr. Nelson Abbott.

A Niles girl bet her lover 1900 kisses that Bryan would be elected and they were getting along nicely toward the payment until a dispute arose as to inaccuracies in the tally and a recount is being taken.

BUCKLIN'S ARNICA SALVE.

The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilblains, corns, and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by J. W. Armstrong.

STOUT LADIES.

I am a trained nurse. Seven years ago my weight was reduced 36 lbs. by a harmless treatment; have not regained; health is perfect; will tell you how it was done. I have nothing to sell. Address with stamp Mrs. Kathron A. Wagner, 611 Wells St., Chicago, Ill.

IT GROWS.

As a cure for constipation and indigestion Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin grows rapidly in favor where introduced. Children love its taste, for it is so pleasant. Trial size 10c. Regular size 50c and \$1.00 of J. W. Armstrong, druggist.

FIFTY CORDS GREEN WOOD WANTED.

I will receive sealed bids for fifty cords 18-inch stove wood on and previous to December 31, 1896, at 6 o'clock p. m., all bids to be sealed and left with Aaron Clark, director. I reserve the right to reject any or all bids, the object being to buy wood for the school district from the party furnishing same for the lowest price, one-half of the wood to be maple and the balance second growth oak. Wood to be delivered at school-house. AARON CLARK, Director.



READ DIRECTIONS;

You can depend upon them absolutely if we prepare the medicine. Care and skill insure correctness, and our prescription department is conducted upon the basis of accuracy. To this we add purity and freshness of every drug we carry in stock. This fact explains the high confidence reposed in us by local physicians. You can ask for nothing in the drug line that we cannot supply. Our goods and methods of doing business form our double claim to public favor.

J. W. ARMSTRONG

THE NEW YORK LEDGER, AMERICA'S GREATEST STORY PAPER.

Always publishes the best and most interesting short stories, serial stories and special articles that can be procured, regardless of expense. The latest fashion notes and patterns can be found every week on the Woman's World Page. There is always something in the New York Ledger that will interest every member of the family. 20 pages—Price, 5 cents. For sale in Middleville at the News Stand.

Middleville Markets.

Wheat (white).....	83
Rye.....	28
Corn, per bu.....	25
Oats.....	20
Timothy.....	1 75
Flour (roller).....	2 60
Bran per ton.....	10 00
Middlings.....	12 00
Butter (creamery).....	13 14
Butter (dairy).....	18
Eggs.....	6 04
Chickens (feather dressed).....	6 10
Turkeys (feather dressed).....	4 5
Beef (dressed).....	5 6
Veal.....	4 00
Veal calves (live).....	4 00
Hogs (dressed).....	3 75
Hogs (live).....	2 75
Lard.....	6
Tallow.....	3
Hides.....	4 5
Pelts.....	15 30
Hay (timothy).....	7 00
Hay (clover).....	5 00
Wood (dry maple).....	1 25
Oil (retail).....	10 13
Gasoline.....	12
Salt.....	75
Lime per bbl.....	80
Land Plaster.....	4 50
Potatoes.....	15 20

Pavilion township near Kalamazoo has upwards of 50 cases of scarlet fever.

TRY
Lyon's Patent
Egg Beater
AND
Cream Whipper

Quickest, Best, Most Durable.

PRICE 25 CENTS.
Will beat 1 to 12 Eggs perfectly and produce more Frothing.
It will do more work and do it better than any 50 cent or \$1 Beater made.

For sale only by
B. A. ALMY.

Lumber : Wagon,

CALL AND SEE OUR

Extra Easy Running First-Class Wagon.

WE ARE SELLING AT BOTTOM PRICES.

Blacksmithing and Woodworking at Reasonable Rates.

DIETRICH & BRISTOW,
East Main St., Middleville.

PHOTOGRAPHS.

BERT PINNEY,
(Successor to C. H. Hayter.)

Invites the public to call and examine his work. Photos taken in the latest styles; have just received new background for

PLATINO & CARBON EFFECTS

Reprints finished from old negatives on short notice, in an artistic style.

Children's Photos a Specialty
Satisfaction guaranteed.
Your patronage is solicited.

HORSE-SHOEING A SPECIALTY

At C. Schondelmayer's.

Shop on West ain Street.
Watering Trough Corner.

For Wagon and General Repairing, call on

C. L. JOHNSON.

At C. Schondelmayer's.

WANTED—Reliable, energetic man in this vicinity to handle half wholesale business among large fruit planters. Part or whole time. Good profits. Must be responsible. Business-like farmer preferred. Address, with bank or merchant references, JACKSON & PERKINS CO., Nurserymen, Newark, New York. 50-4

WANTED—FAITHFUL MEN OR WOMEN to travel for responsible established house in Michigan. Salary \$750 and expenses. Position permanent. Reference. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope. The National Star Insurance Bldg., Chicago.

AGENTS WANTED For the most valuable contribution to the literature of the world since the production of the Bible. The Great Work of the Great Thinkers, Famous Orators, Renowned Scholars, Wise Writers and INVESTIGATORS of the 19th Century.

THE PEOPLE'S BIBLE HISTORY

In this book alone can be found the information sought by every Bible reader, whether old or young, scholar or unlettered. It is, indeed, a great work.

Recent discoveries in archeology have brought the world of today face to face with the men who lived and acted, and wrote during the early periods covered by Biblical History. These discoveries have resulted in the triumphant vindication of the sacred writings from the charges of being untrue. Every thoughtful person will order the book, for the matter contained in it is of vital importance and cannot be found in any other book on earth.

Write for descriptive and beautifully illustrated pamphlet free. Address

THE HENRY O. SHEPARD CO.
212-214 Monroe St. CHICAGO.

The Advantages of Prepared Mince Meat

should be honestly considered by every housewife. It has great advantages, as one trial of

NONE SUCH MINCE MEAT

will prove. You will find that it is clean—it could not be more so; that it is convenient—always ready and never spoils on the shelf; that it is economical—a 10c. package makes two large pies, fruit pudding, or delicious fruit cake. Get the genuine—take no substitute.

Send your address, naming this paper, and we will send you free a book,—"Mrs. Popkins' Thanksgiving," by one of the most popular humorous writers of the day.

MERRILL-SOULE CO.,
Syracuse, N. Y.

Who can think of some simple thing to patent? Protect your ideas, they may bring you wealth. Write JOHN WEDDERBURN & CO., Patent Attorneys, Washington, D. C., for their \$1.00 price offer and list of two hundred inventions wanted.

Wanted—An Idea

Christmas Greeting.

The great attraction and rush for Christmas Goods is at the store of M. F. Dowling. His brilliant and inviting stock consists of Watches, Clocks, Jewelry and Silverware, all new and nobby designs. Many goods of the above lines have advanced since these were bought but we will close them at the old prices.

We are making a large display in Crockery and fine China ware. These goods are about 1/2 less than last year and must be seen to be appreciated. Something for you all; the old, the young, the rich and poor.

We have a large and varied stock of Children's Toys, which we will open the 18th, comprising everything to please the little ones at half the usual price.

Come in and see us. We will have a warm fire and a warm welcome for you all.

Thanking you all for past favors we are
Yours for Business,

M. F. DOWLING.

...OLD SANTA CLAUS...

SMOLE A SMILE OF SATISFACTION

When he heard of what we are showing in the line of

Christmas Gifts,

SUCH AS....

- Men's
 - Youths'
 - Boys' and
 - Children's
- Moquet and Smyrna Rugs, Carpets, Lace Curtains, Mull Curtaining by the yard, Chenille Spreads, Linen Table Spreads, Bed Spreads, Bed Blankets and Comfortables, Linen Table Damask (in white and colors,) Linen Napkins, Fancy Linen Towels, Fancy Hdks' (in silk, linen and cotton,) Neck Mufflers (in silk, wool and cashmere,) Ladies' and Gents' Neckwear, Ladies' and Gents' Kid Gloves, Ladies' Kid Mittens, Ladies' Hosiery and Underwear, Gents' Hose and Underwear, Ladies' Knit Skirts, Ladies' Wool Skirt Patterns, Gents' Laundered and Unlaundered Shirts (plain and fancy fronts.)

And an endless variety of other gifts that space prohibits us from mentioning.



Yours for Useful Holiday Goods,

JOHN CAMPBELL.

Report of the Condition OF THE STATE BANK OF MIDDLEVILLE.

AT MIDDLEVILLE, MICHIGAN.
At the close of business, DEC. 17, 1896.

RESOURCES.
Loans and discounts.....\$ 44,127 20
Stocks, bonds, mortgages, etc..... 17,913 00
Overdrafts..... 212 25
Banking house..... 2,500 00
Furniture and fixtures..... 2,500 00
Due from Banks in reserve cities..... 10,879 50
Checks and cash items..... 1,073 35
Nickels and cents..... 15 10
Gold coin..... 1,625 00
Silver coin..... 314 00
U. S. and National Bank Notes..... 2,180 00
Total.....\$ 83,342 85

LIABILITIES.
Capital stock paid in.....\$ 25,000 00
Surplus fund..... 1,900 00
Undivided profits less current expenses, interest and taxes paid..... 657 80
Commercial deposits subject to check..... 18,571 95
Commercial certificates of deposit..... 37,213 10
Total.....\$ 83,342 85

STATE OF MICHIGAN, ss.
COUNTY OF BARRY, ss.
I, W. E. Keeler, cashier of the above named Bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
W. E. KEELER, Cashier.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22d day of December, 1896.
HARTLEY E. HENDRICK,
Notary Public.

CORRECT—Attest:
MINER S. KEELER,
R. T. FRENCH,
T. D. FRENCH, } Directors.

Buy crepe, tissue and all other kinds of paper at the News Stand.

INDEPENDENCE FOR CUBA!

One year ago we announced to our patrons that war with Great Britain was inevitable, unless her majesty accepted the ultimatum of Grover Cleveland in relation to her claims in Venezuela. That crisis has past and the Monroe Doctrine maintained and re-established for all time. Her majesty "arbitrates," but there is one greater question today exciting the Lovers of Liberty, and that is the struggle by that heroic band of Cubans for their independence. Their freedom must be secured, and to do that great sacrifices must be made. Americans are all willing to contribute something for the cause, some will send money, some will send arms and ammunition, some provisions, and some medicines, some will contribute clothing, boots and shoes.....

This I am about to do. I am going to sell these lines of goods so cheap, for the **NEXT THIRTY DAYS**, that anyone supplying Cubans or their families with Goods, can buy them cheaper of me today than they can from the factories or jobbing houses of the east. I can astonish the people of this vicinity, who desire prices quoted. Come into my store during these Low Down Sales, and examine my Stock and Prices.

**They Cannot be Duplicated.
I Cannot be Undersold**

By any firm in Michigan. Buy of me for Cuban supplies. Buy of me for yourself and your family. Buy of me because of my sacrifice on prices. Buy of me to save money and all will be happy and Cuba will be FREE.

..... Hear what I say about Prices.....

Look at This! I will Commence my

CLEARING SALE

- ON -

Friday, January 1st, 1897,

At 6 P. M., and Closing

Saturday, January 30, '97.

I will sell goods cheaper than you ever saw them sold before. Three thousand pairs of Shoes which must go. Cost don't cut any figure. To convince you I will quote you a few prices as follows:

Shoes	
Your Choice of Ladies'	
\$4.50 For	\$2.65
3.50 and \$3	2.25
2.50	1.75 to 2.00
1.50, 1.25	1.00

Shoes	
Boys' girls' and children's sold in same proportion.	

Shoes	
Your Choice of Men's	
\$3.50 and \$3	\$2.50
2.00	1.50
1.50	1.25
1.25	1.00

**No Shoddy Goods.
Everything Guaranteed.**

Pants	
Men's \$4 and \$5	\$3.25
" 2.50	1.75
" 2.25	1.65
" 1.50	.95
" 1.00	.83

Gloves, Mittens, Hats, Caps, Neckties, Collars, Cuffs, Suspenders and Hose at Cost.	
All Rubber Goods at Cost.	

UNDERWEAR	
\$1.00 per suit	.83
.70	.45
ALL SHIRTS AT COST.	

TERMS SPOT CASH.

John Schondelmayer,
Middleville, - Mich.

THE MIDDLEVILLE SUN
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY
J. W. SAUNDERS.
MIDDLEVILLE, MICHIGAN.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1896.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS.

The days are growing longer. Don't fail to read the supplement. Eight degrees above zero this a. m. Jaxon pure baking powder leavens best. Nearly all the stores will be closed Christmas.

J. B. Olney shipped a car load of turkeys, Thursday.

Ten degrees below zero last evening. Coldest of the season.

C. A. Banfield shipped two cars of stock east last night.

Judge R. Barnum of Hastings has been granted a pension.

We want that wood promised on subscription and want it bad.

Send a 2 cent stamp for a handsome set of Jaxon Soap pictures. 28*

Doughnuts and coffee will be served Tuesday evening at Ivy Temple.

To each and every reader of THE SUN we wish a merry Christmas.

The mercury crawled down to zero yesterday for the first time this winter.

The township board will meet at the clerk's office this week Saturday at 2 p. m.

Mr. Hill shipped four cars of hay and straw from this station during the week.

A gentleman 52 years of age who never saw a Christmas tree will attend at the Congregational church this evening.

J. R. Cook and the Keeler Brass Co., have each had large runs of job work from this office.

A few sleighs made their appearance Tuesday and Wednesday, but the sleighing is rather thin.

Monday of this week Wallace Stewart living southwest of Middleville killed two wild geese at one shot.

Kenyon Bros., the hay and straw balers, have been supplied with printed stationery from this office.

A Christmas tree will be enjoyed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. McQueen east of the village, tomorrow.

Mrs. A. M. Putnam has purchased a house and lot in Hastings, to which place she will move in the near future.

John Kachele has bought 54 acres on west county line, this township, from Fred Lane of Grand Rapids. Consideration \$1,800.

The people who throw broken glass, stones, ashes, and other rubbish in the street will have the village marshal after them if they don't look out.

The two young people's bible classes will give a 10 cent tea at the Congregational church parlors Friday evening from 5 o'clock until all are served.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE—Real estate in Grand Rapids for property in or near Middleville. Value \$2500.

NELSON ABBOTT.

The Russell annual reunion will be held at Geo. Sanford's tomorrow. Mr. Clifford of Detroit, C. Waldon of Greenville, Tenn., Mrs. Eva Boyd, son and daughter of Gray's Lake, Ill., Wm. Kirkpatrick and wife of Ionia, Ed Lynd and family and Frank Prindle and family of Charlotte will be among those present.

At the home of the bride's parents this evening will occur the wedding of Mr. Frank Trego and Miss Edna Brown. Miss Edna has been one of the most successful teachers ever employed in our village schools and has a host of friends in the village who will join with the SUN in wishing them a most felicitous wedded life. The happy couple will begin housekeeping in Mrs. Bissett's house on East Main-st.

About forty friends of Miss Ethel Russell tendered her a very pleasant surprise on Tuesday evening at her home two miles northwest of the village. A very enjoyable evening was spent with games, music and refreshments, after which all departed for their homes declaring that, so far as a general good time was concerned, the party was a genuine success.

We are in receipt of a copy of "Virginia Maud's Birthday Party," a charming little child's story, illustrated and published by the Michigan Trust Co. of Grand Rapids. This little book is very appropriate for the child's library as it is not only an interesting story for our little folks but it is so written that it is entirely within their understanding and the use of their vocabulary.

A copy of "The Sportsman's Magazine" has reached our table and on close examination we find that it compares favorably with high priced magazines in point of contents, workmanship, etc., and the engravings are especially fine. No lover of the rod and gun, the wheel and camera, can afford to be without it. Price \$2 a year, single copies 20 cents at the News Stand. Call and see a copy.

A very pleasant surprise party was given Miss Ora Stokoe at the home of her cousin, J. O. Pratt, four miles southwest of the village, in honor of the anniversary of her birthday, Thursday Dec. 17. Games, tricks and refreshments caused all to so enjoy themselves that no note of time was taken until an early hour the friends departed, wishing Miss Ora many happy returns of this joyous occasion.

A warrant was issued Tuesday out of the justice court in Grand Rapids for Robert Scott, the man arrested at Battle Creek last week, charging him with burglarizing the store of Charles Timm & Son of Caledonia on the night of July 15. Scott was arrested on suspicion of participation in the more recent burglary at that place, but evidence points more clearly toward his connection with the earlier job.

The Lyons Herald says the following of a former Middleville boy: It has just leaked out that F. H. Beach, of the Beach Mfg. Co., has been doing considerable hustling for a position as deputy factory inspector. He did a lot of hustling in November for "Ping," and is now looking for reciprocity. In fact, he is a hustler anyway. It goes without saying that anyone who is acquainted with "Fitch," will heartily endorse him for that position. As Mr. Beach is a practical machinist and millwright, and a thorough business man, we can compliment his superiors if he is enlisted under them. We only wish him the success he deserves.

USE **JAXON SOAP**
It loosens and separates the dirt, making washing easy, but does not injure the fabric.

MY WAGON SHOP
Is now located next door to Coats & Burr's blacksmith shop. For **SLEIGH AND WAGON REPAIRS** And general wood work give me a call.
GEORGE SANFORD.

Probate Order.
STATE OF MICHIGAN,)
COUNTY OF BARRY,) ss.

At a session of the Probate Court for the county of Barry, holden at the probate office, in the city of Hastings, in said county on Tuesday, the first day of December, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six.

Present, CHARLES W. ARMSTRONG, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of Manley A. Baldwin, deceased.

On reading and filing the petition duly verified, of J. W. Briggs, administrator of said estate, praying that his final account this day filed may be heard and allowed and he discharged from said trust.

Thereupon it is ordered, that Monday, the 28th day of December, A. D., 1896, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, be assigned for the hearing of said petition and that the heirs at law of said deceased and all other persons interested in said estate, be required to appear at a session of said Court, then to be holden at the probate office, in the city of Hastings, in said county, and show cause, if any there be, why the prayer of the petitioner may not be granted.

And it is further ordered, that said petitioner give notice to the persons interested in said estate, of the pendency of said petition and the hearing thereof, by causing a copy of this order to be published in the MIDDLEVILLE SUN, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county of Barry, once in each week for three successive weeks, previous to said day of hearing. CHAS. W. ARMSTRONG, (A TRUE COPY) 49-4 Judge of Probate.

Probate Order.
STATE OF MICHIGAN,)
COUNTY OF BARRY,) ss.

At a session of the Probate Court for the county of Barry, holden at the probate office, in the city of Hastings, in said county, on Wednesday, the second day of December, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six.

Present, CHARLES W. ARMSTRONG, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of Robert C. Talbot, deceased.

On reading and filing the petition duly verified, of Horace Hall, administrator of said estate, praying that his final account this day filed may be heard and allowed, and he discharged from said trust.

Thereupon it is ordered, that Monday, the 28th day of December, A. D., 1896, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, be assigned for the hearing of said petition and that the heirs at law of said deceased and all other persons interested in said estate, be required to appear at a session of said Court, then to be holden at the probate office, in the city of Hastings, in said county, and show cause, if any there be, why the prayer of the petitioner may not be granted.

And it is further ordered, that said petitioner give notice to the persons interested in said estate, of the pendency of said petition and the hearing thereof, by causing a copy of this order to be published in the MIDDLEVILLE SUN, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county of Barry, once in each week for three successive weeks, previous to said day of hearing. CHAS. W. ARMSTRONG, (A TRUE COPY) 49-4 Judge of Probate.

Probate Order.
STATE OF MICHIGAN,)
COUNTY OF BARRY,) ss.

At a session of the Probate Court for the county of Barry, holden at the probate office, in the city of Hastings, in said county on Wednesday, the 23rd day of December, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six.

Present, CHARLES W. ARMSTRONG, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of Myrtle Carlisle, a minor.

On reading and filing the petition duly verified, of Charles E. Harper, guardian of said minor, praying that his annual account filed on the 20th day of December, 1896, may be heard and allowed.

Thereupon it is ordered, that Saturday, the 16th day of January, A. D., 1897, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, be assigned for the hearing of said petition and that the heirs at law of said deceased and all other persons interested in said estate, be required to appear at a session of said Court, then to be holden at the probate office, in the city of Hastings, in said county, and show cause, if any there be, why the prayer of the petitioner may not be granted.

And it is further ordered, that said petitioner give notice to the persons interested in said estate, of the pendency of said petition and the hearing thereof, by causing a copy of this order to be published in the MIDDLEVILLE SUN, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county of Barry, once in each week for three successive weeks, previous to said day of hearing. CHAS. W. ARMSTRONG, (A TRUE COPY) 52-4 Judge of Probate.

Probate Order.
STATE OF MICHIGAN,)
COUNTY OF BARRY,) ss.

At a session of the Probate Court for the county of Barry, holden at the probate office, in the city of Hastings, in said county, on Wednesday, the second day of December, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six.

Present, CHARLES W. ARMSTRONG, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of Robert C. Talbot, deceased.

On reading and filing the petition duly verified, of Horace Hall, administrator of said estate, praying that his final account this day filed may be heard and allowed, and he discharged from said trust.

Thereupon it is ordered, that Monday, the 28th day of December, A. D., 1896, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, be assigned for the hearing of said petition and that the heirs at law of said deceased and all other persons interested in said estate, be required to appear at a session of said Court, then to be holden at the probate office, in the city of Hastings, in said county, and show cause, if any there be, why the prayer of the petitioner may not be granted.

And it is further ordered, that said petitioner give notice to the persons interested in said estate, of the pendency of said petition and the hearing thereof, by causing a copy of this order to be published in the MIDDLEVILLE SUN, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county of Barry, once in each week for three successive weeks, previous to said day of hearing. CHAS. W. ARMSTRONG, (A TRUE COPY) 49-4 Judge of Probate.

Now is the time to use

HANLON'S CREAM LOTION,

The best Skin Preparation.

AT **Abbott's Drug Store.**

EVERYBODY

WATCH NEXT WEEK

For a Full Page Ad.

of **BARGAINS**

— AT —

M. S. Keeler & Co's.

GREAT ANNUAL

BLUE MARK SALE,

Beginning Saturday, January 2, '97.

....A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL....

M. S. KEELER & CO.

WHOLESALE THEFT.

BOSTON MAN IS SHORT AT LEAST \$100,000.

Was the Trusted Treasurer of the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company—Action of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Defalcation in Boston. Frank C. Miles, for more than twenty years the trusted treasurer of the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company...

ALUMINUM TOO SOFT.

Treasury Officials Say the Metal Will Not Do for Pennies.

Experiments will be further conducted at the United States mint in Philadelphia to improve the quality of the smaller coins of the United States.

IN FAVOR OF CUBA.

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Would Recognize Her Independence.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, which is usually a very dignified and deliberate body, turned a double somersault Friday on the Cuban question...

THREE DESPERADOES LYNCHED.

Arch, Dink, and Eli Proctor Executed by a Kentucky Mob.

The mob that beleaguered the Russellville, Ky., jail all Thursday night early Friday morning took Arch, Dink and Bill Proctor out of their cells, hanged two of them and shot the other to death.

ROBBED THE TRAIN.

Alabama Highwaymen Break Open an Express Safe.

A Birmingham, Ala., special says: Train No. 35, west-bound on the Southern Railway, which left here Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock, was stopped at 7 o'clock in the evening in Fayette County, sixty-five miles from here, by two masked men...

Still Crying for Troops.

Four additional battalions of Spanish troops have embarked for the Philippine Islands, and Gen. Polavieja, the new captain general of that colony, has asked for reinforcements of ten additional battalions.

Snow Slide Causes Death.

At Ouray, Col., a Mexican in from the Telluride trail reports seeing three bodies in a snow slide. The men were crossing the range, which at this point is the steepest and most abrupt in the United States and where the least jar starts the fresh snow in motion.

Roswell G. Horr is Dead.

Ex-Congressman Roswell G. Horr died Friday night at Plainfield, N. J., after an illness of two weeks with bronchitis and Bright's disease.

WANT A TARIFF ON LUMBER.

Delegates to the Cincinnati Convention So Declares.

One hundred and fifty delegates, representing twenty-seven States, assembled in Cincinnati, when the national convention of lumber interests was called to order. Previous to perfecting a temporary organization, Messrs. Judson and DeFebaugh made elaborate addresses, explaining the purpose of the convention, the requests for the call, and the present condition of the lumber business.

GERMANY MAY HAVE A SUGAR TRUST.

Gigantic Syndicate is Planned to Regulate Production.

Unless relief can be had soon from the reichstag the entire sugar industry of Germany is likely to be organized for self protection into a gigantic syndicate or trust with the purpose of regulating production and controlling prices.

WESTERN STOCKMEN AT WAR.

Colorado Cattlemen and Wyoming Sheepmen Having Trouble.

The war between Colorado cattlemen and Wyoming sheepmen is again on. W. Edwards, principal sheep owner in the region, has received two letters from the cattlemen, giving him six days in which to remove his sheep from the disputed strip.

Like Fuyallup Indians.

Governor-elect Rogers of Washington has issued a copyrighted pamphlet entitled "Free Land." A copy has been sent to the members of the Legislature, which meets next month.

Enuffed by the Gale.

News of a terrible hurricane last week is reported by the officers of the three-masted schooner Bernard Hopkins, which has arrived. Not only was a great portion of the vessel's cargo lost, but two of her crew were swept overboard, one of whom was rescued, while the other lost his life.

Labor Leaders Meet.

One hundred and fifty delegates and four times that number of onlookers were assembled in the auditorium of the Cincinnati Odd Fellows' Temple Monday morning when Samuel Gompers called to order the sixteenth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor.

Eryan Gets South Dakota.

At Pierre, S. D., in the mandamus case to compel the issuance of certificates to the Republican electors on a partial canvass the court holds that the board has a right to adjourn and secure complete returns. This gives Bryan the electoral vote of the State.

Place Offered to Seeley.

William E. Seeley, President of the First National Bank of Bridgeport, Conn., has been formally offered the position of United States Treasurer upon the incoming of the McKinley administration. He is 55 years old and a thirty-third degree Mason.

Murderer Turns Souldier.

During a family quarrel at Wilkesbarre, Pa., Morris Pope shot John Keithline, fatally wounding him. When Pope saw his friend falling to the floor with a mortal wound in his head he placed the revolver in his own mouth and blew his head off.

To Help Free Cuba.

Prof. James Hightower, of Arkansas City, Kan., is organizing a company of young men to go to Cuba and join the insurgents. Mr. Hightower has had military training.

FARMS FOR CONVICTS

SAVATION ARMY PLAN PROPOSED IN NEW YORK.

Commander Booth-Tucker Wants Wood Yards and Favors Gov. Pingree's Potato-Patch Idea - Tariff Hearings Attract Business Men.

The international meeting of the Salvation Army at Carnegie Hall, New York, was attended by many dignitaries of the army, including Commander and Mrs. Booth-Tucker, Chief Secretary Higgins, Commissioner Higgins, and Brigadiers Richard Holz, William Halpin, William J. Cozens, George French, and Lieut. Col. Perry, all of whom occupied seats on the platform.

DEFEND THE WILSON BILL.

At the Tariff Hearings Democrats Will Offer Rebuttal Evidence.

Washington dispatch: The hearings to be given by the Ways and Means Committee on the tariff question promise to attract an even greater number of business men to Washington than usually gather during a revision of the tariff.

Carnage by the Fly.

The farmers in the great wheat-growing section of Southern Illinois are worried at the unfavorable appearance of the growing wheat crop. During the past two weeks the plant has turned yellow and shriveled up flat on the ground.

Pensions for Deserters.

There are several important rulings in the administration of the pension laws made in recent decisions of Assistant Secretary of the Interior Reynolds. One of them is that a deserter from the regular army under an enlistment subsequent to a service and honorable discharge from the war of the rebellion is not a bar to pension under the act of June 27.

Big Meeting in Rio.

A meeting to express sympathy for the Cuban revolutionists was held in Rio de Janeiro, attended by 5,000 persons. Senator Patrocinio spoke. There was great enthusiasm and a motion was adopted asking the government to grant recognition of the belligerency of the Cubans.

Cashier Taylor Discharged.

George A. Taylor, cashier of the defunct Argentine, Kan., bank, was discharged from custody, the charge of receiving deposits when the bank was in a failing condition being unsupported. Charges of systematic robbery were made against the bank officials.

Murderer Shot to Death.

Patrik Coughlin was executed in Sage Hollow, Rich County, Utah, for the killing of Deputy Sheriff Thomas Staggs of Echo, Utah, and E. A. Dawes of Evansville, Wyo., July 30, 1895. He was shot to death by five deputies under Sheriff Dickson.

Galveston Courthouse Burned.

The county courthouse at Galveston, Texas, was partly destroyed by fire, but it is believed that all the records are safe. The loss outside of records will approximate \$100,000; the insurance cannot be ascertained.

Over a Thousand Die.

It is officially announced in Bombay that there have been 1,511 cases of the plague in the city and 1,094 deaths up to date. The exodus from Bombay continues. It is stated that 200,000 persons have fled from the city.

Old Bank Suspends.

The First National Bank of Hollidaysburg, Pa., the oldest bank in that section of the State, and one of the original fifty-seven national banks in the United States, suspended business Monday morning.

Julia Marlowe's Brother Arrested.

George Brough, a brother of Julia Marlowe, the actress, while drunk at Cincinnati, went to his mother's home and assaulted the old lady. Her screams attracted a policeman, who arrested young Brough.

Hatfield is Hanged.

At Speedville, Ky., Marion Hatfield was hanged for the murder of Jones Trail. Five thousand people were present. Hatfield confessed.

MASSACRE IN LUZON.

Prisoners Revolt and Kill Spanish Soldiers, But Are Overpowered.

A dispatch received from Singapore says that the natives of Mindano Island, one of the Philippine group, have revolted, and that many of the native troops are deserting to the insurgents. It is further stated that the situation at Manila is full of anxiety. Bands of insurgents frequently approach that town at night time and fire volleys into the place. A dispatch to the Spanish Imperial from Singapore admits that there has been a general massacre at Cavite, the fortified seaport town of the Island of Luzon. It adds that 150 prisoners revolted, killed six soldiers, seized arms, and tried to raise the native inhabitants against the garrison.

HALF A MILLION IN ASHES.

Casino Skating Rink and Summer Theater at Pittsburgh Burned.

The Casino Skating-Rink and Summer Theater, a magnificent pleasure resort in Schenley Park, Pittsburgh, burned on Thursday morning. The loss will approximate \$500,000, on which the insurance is slight. The fire was caused by the explosion of an ammonia cylinder in the ice skating plant. Almost immediately the entire building seemed to be a seething mass of flame, and in less than three hours the beautiful structure was in ashes.

Salvini is Dead.

Alexander Salvini, son of Tomaso Salvini, the noted Italian tragedian, is dead. A cable message was received at New York Tuesday from Florence, Italy, where young Salvini had been ill with tuberculosis of the intestines for several months. The death of the young actor was by no means unexpected. When he took to his bed some time ago, his physicians said that the case was hopeless, and that the patient could not recover.

"O Promise Me" Case Ends.

The Bennett-Blough "O, Promise Me" breach of promise case, at Oregon, Ill., has been definitely settled by the defendant promising to pay all costs of the case. The case was based on the feeling manner in which Mr. Bennett sang that song to Miss Blough.

Ran into an Island.

The Hamburg-American line steamship Thuringia is ashore east of Point Curacao, Island of Curacao, about seventy-five miles from the Venezuelan coast.

California's Official Vote.

The vote of California for Presidential electors has been tabulated and shows the following totals: Republicans, 148,588; fusion, 144,766; Prohibition, 2,573.

A mass meeting of business men was held to protest against closing the United States army and navy hospital at Hot Springs, Ark., as recommended in the report of Secretary of War Lamont. It was decided to send a committee to Washington.

Carl Hurst, first consul at Prague, reports to the State Department that a marked change in the railroad tariff on sugar just made in Austria will probably stop altogether shipments of beet sugar from Bohemia to the United States via Trieste.

THE MARKETS.

Chicago—Cattle, common to prime, \$3.50 to \$5.75; hogs, shipping grades, \$3.00 to \$3.75; sheep, fair to choice, \$2.00 to \$3.75; wheat, No. 2 red, 76c to 78c; corn, No. 2, 22c to 24c; oats, No. 2, 16c to 18c; rye, No. 2, 38c to 39c; butter, choice creamery, 19c to 21c; eggs, fresh, 18c to 19c; potatoes, per bushel, 20c to 30c; broom corn, common green to fine brush, 2 1/2c to 5 1/2c per pound.

Indianapolis—Cattle, shipping, \$3.00 to \$5.25; hogs, choice light, \$3.00 to \$3.75; sheep, common to prime, \$2.00 to \$3.50; wheat, No. 2, 88c to 90c; corn, No. 2, 18c to 20c; rye, No. 2, 38c to 40c; clover seed, \$5.50 to \$5.40.

St. Louis—Cattle, \$3.00 to \$5.00; hogs, \$3.00 to \$3.50; wheat, No. 2, 91c to 93c; corn, No. 2 yellow, 21c to 22c; oats, No. 2 white, 18c to 20c; rye, No. 2, 36c to 37c.

Cincinnati—Cattle, \$2.50 to \$5.00; hogs, \$3.00 to \$3.75; sheep, \$2.50 to \$3.50; wheat, No. 2, 94c to 96c; corn, No. 2 mixed, 21c to 23c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 19c to 21c; rye, No. 2, 37c to 38c.

Detroit—Cattle, \$2.50 to \$5.00; hogs, \$3.00 to \$3.75; sheep, \$2.00 to \$3.50; wheat, No. 2 red, 90c to 92c; corn, No. 2 yellow, 18c to 20c; oats, No. 2 white, 20c to 21c; rye, 37c to 38c.

Toledo—Wheat, No. 2 red, 93c to 94c; corn, No. 2 mixed, 22c to 23c; oats, No. 2 white, 17c to 18c; rye, No. 2, 38c to 39c; clover seed, \$5.30 to \$5.40.

Milwaukee—Wheat, No. 2 spring, 77c to 79c; corn, No. 3, 22c to 24c; oats, No. 2 white, 18c to 20c; barley, No. 2, 31c to 34c; rye, No. 1, 39c to 41c; pork, mess, \$6.50 to \$7.00.

Buffalo—Cattle, \$2.50 to \$5.00; hogs, \$3.00 to \$4.00; sheep, \$2.00 to \$4.00; wheat, No. 1 white, 94c to 96c; corn, No. 2 yellow, 24c to 26c; oats, No. 2 white, 23c to 24c.

New York—Cattle, \$3.00 to \$5.25; hogs, \$3.00 to \$4.25; sheep, \$2.00 to \$4.25; wheat, No. 2 red, 86c to 88c; corn, No. 2, 28c to 30c; oats, No. 2 white, 21c to 23c; butter, creamery, 15c to 22c; eggs, West-ern, 18c to 22c.

CALL FOR ITS FUNDS.

PACIFIC LOAN AND HOMESTEAD ASSOCIATION ATTACKED.

Petition Filed by Four Stockholders to Appoint a Receiver - Clever Scheme of Illicit Distillers - Earthquake in England.

Grave Charges of Fraud. Charges of mismanagement and insolvency overhang the Pacific Loan and Homestead Association, whose officers are prominent in Chicago, and which has hitherto been regarded as one of the reliable institutions of its kind in the city. Applications for withdrawals have been refused by the association, and the delay has led four of the stockholders to apply to the Superior Court for a receiver. The petition charges that the funds of the association have been squandered and its affairs mismanaged. Hundreds of shareholders in the institution are of the middle classes, whose stock represents their entire savings. The association was organized and incorporated in June, 1888, with a capital stock of \$25,000,000, divided into shares of \$100 each.

ENGLAND SHAKEN UP.

Seismic Disturbance Jars the Island from Center to Circumference.

Great Britain has been in the throes of a genuine and unprecedented sensation. An earthquake, the most violent ever experienced in that country, has shaken every shire from Durham to Surrey and from London to the Welsh coast. The subterranean disturbance was first noticed about 5:30 o'clock Thursday morning and lasted from four to thirty seconds. At many points two distinct shocks were experienced. The most severe shocks were felt at Cheltenham, Ledbury and Dean Forest. The earth-shaking was accompanied by a loud, rushing sound. Buildings were violently shaken, furniture was shifted, doors were thrown open and pictures and other ornaments were upset. The inhabitants were panic-stricken and fled from their houses. The earthquake also visited Birmingham and various other points in Shropshire, and was violent in Worcester and the country surrounding that city. Houses rocked and furniture was overturned. The shocks were followed by a tremor of the earth and were accompanied by a rumbling sound. The greatest alarm prevailed everywhere. Chimneys were overthrown and windows, etc., were smashed. At Hereford one woman died of fright.

WHISKY IN CIDER BARRELS.

Revenue Agents Trying to Uncover Moonshine Swindle.

Revenue agents are at work in St. Louis trying to discover the operations of a gang of moonshiners who are shipping illicit whisky to interior towns in barrels labeled "cider." Under this harmless togetherness the tanglefoot evades the duty imposed upon the product of the still. A number of the barrels in which the moonshine was consigned to country dealers bear the brands of a number of well-known and reputable manufacturers of cider and vinegar, and the revenue agents hope to trace the customers of the St. Louis houses to whom cider had been shipped in the vicinity of where the swindle was discovered.

Convicts Making Fogus Money.

Warden J. W. French of the United States penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth has made the discovery that a gang of five convicts, four of them sent in for counterfeiting, were at work making spurious \$5 bills. The leader of the gang was J. C. McKibben, the prison photographer. Warden French secured written confessions from all implicated, and the convicts will be tried for counterfeiting.

Law Not Enforced.

The Kansas Attorney General, in his biennial report, says the State prohibitory law has not been enforced under his administration nor under that of any of his predecessors, notwithstanding their reports to the contrary. He asserts that the law cannot be rigidly enforced unless local public sentiment is in favor of its enforcement.

Not Stealable.

Electricity cannot be stolen in Germany, according to a decision of the Superior Court. A man who had tapped the current of an electric company to run his own motors was acquitted on the ground that only a material moveable object can be stolen, and the judgment has just been affirmed on appeal.

Great Magician Gone.

Herrmann, the magician, died in his private car near Salamanca, N. Y. He was on his way to Bradford. Herrmann completed an engagement at the Lyceum Theater in Rochester and had later been entertained at the Genesee Valley Club by a number of his friends. Death was caused by heart disease.

Vessels Go Down in the Storm.

The owners have received a telegram from Captain Andrew Ling of the fishing schooner Edwin Booth of Pensacola, Fla., dated at Port Eads, stating that the vessel was lost in the gulf. Three of the crew went down with the wreck.

Reduce Rates on Rails.

The Pittsburgh Post says it has authority to announce that as a result of the agitation in the steel trade generally steel rails will be reduced from \$28 to \$25 a ton. This cut is made to induce more business and to be in line with lower prices in other branches of the steel trade.

Many Seek Office.

Chairman M. A. Hanna has made the interesting statement that 8,000 Ohio citizens had applied for Federal office under the McKinley administration. He thinks the number will reach 12,000.

Death Rode with Them.

Percy Middlebrook, Frank Roe, and Patrick Powers, all sons of prominent citizens of Florida, Orange County, N. J., took a ride in a sleigh the other night. When Roe and Powers attempted to assist Middlebrook from the sleigh they found that he was dead and frozen stiff.

SENATE AND HOUSE.

WORK OF OUR NATIONAL LAW-MAKERS.

A Week's Proceedings in the Halls of Congress—Important Measures Discussed and Acted Upon—An Impartial Resume of the Business.

The National Solons.

Senator Morgan of Alabama held the attention of the Senate and well-filled galleries for an hour Tuesday by his earnest advocacy of a strong and decisive policy in dealing with the Cuban question. He asked for the adoption of the resolution presented Monday, requesting the Secretary of State for the papers in the Competitor case and in other cases involving the arrest of American citizens by Spanish authorities. The resolution was agreed to. The Senate took up the bill pensioning Nancy Allabach, which had been vetoed by the President, and passed it over the veto. In the House a bill to reorganize the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company was passed without division, after certain amendments had been adopted. The House then entered upon the consideration of the Lend bill to amend the law relating to the transmission of second-class mail matter. The bill met with the most intense opposition from certain quarters. It denies the right of serial novels to admission to the mails at the newspaper cent per pound rates; denies to newspapers the sample copy privilege; prohibits the return of unsold publications at pound rates in the present law, designed to correct existing abuses. It is estimated that the abuses of the law have cost the government \$240,000,000 in the last ten years. No final action was taken.

The session of the Senate Wednesday developed the most eventful and exciting debate that either branch of Congress has heard in a long time. It brought forward the recognized leaders of the various parties and elements, including such conspicuous figures as Sherman, Frye, Teller, Gorman, Vest, Aldrich, Platt, Mitchell (Ore.), Chandler, Hale and Allen in notable statements on the leading questions which have engaged the attention of Congress and the country of late. Not only were the lines laid down on tariff and finance, but the debate partook of all the pent-up feeling resulting from the recent national contest. Mr. Sherman closed the debate by saying that he felt the Dingley bill could never be passed. Mr. Bailey (Dem., Texas) created a ripple of excitement at the opening session of the House by asking for the immediate consideration of a resolution to investigate the construction of the battleship Texas. The resolution was referred. The House on motion of Mr. Hull, Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, went into committee of the whole for the consideration of the army appropriation bill. The House adjourned, leaving the bill unfinished.

The Senate Thursday passed the immigration bill known as the Lodge bill, with a new section providing that the exclusion shall not apply to persons arriving from Cuba during the continuance of the present disorders there. As passed, the bill amends the immigration laws so as to exclude from admission to the United States all persons over 16 years of age who cannot read and write the language of their native country or some other language, but an admissible immigrant, over the age of 16, may bring in with him, or send for, his wife or parent or grandparent or minor child or grandchild, notwithstanding the inability to read and write. The House passed the third of the regular appropriation bills, that for the support of the army, and entered upon the consideration of the legislative, executive and judicial bill. The army bill as passed makes no provision for the army and navy hospital at Hot Springs, Ark. The House also passed several bills relating to the District of Columbia and three resolutions for the use of flags of the war department, government reservations, etc., on the occasion of Mr. McKinley's inauguration.

Friday was private bill day in the House, but most of the session was devoted to the passage of the thirty-seven pension and relief bills favorably acted upon by the committee of the whole Friday. The bill to pay Flora A. Darling, the wife of a Confederate general, \$5,083 for Tennessee and Louisiana bank notes taken from her in 1864 while under a flag of truce, which was attacked by Mr. Dalzell Friday, was laid on the table. Only five bills were favorably acted upon. One of them, a bill to refer a claim of Thomas B. Reed, a Pennsylvania soldier during the war, to an unpaid balance of salary to the Court of Claims created some merriment owing to the fact that his name was identical with that of the Speaker of the House. The other bills were to pay the officers and crews of the United States gunboat Kinoo and Choera \$12,474 prize money; to pay William B. Isaacs & Co. \$16,987, the finding of the Court of Claims; to pay George McAlpin, the sutler of the Eleventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, \$6,996 illegally collected from him; and to repay Mathias Pederson of Spring Valley, Wis., \$500 paid by him for a substitute during the war, Pederson not at that time being a citizen of the United States. The Senate did nothing of importance.

Reflections of a Bachelor.

Lots of men think they ought to get their wives' affection on credit.

Men who are at heart most romantic always pretend to the last not to be.

Pretty teeth are very often at the foundation of a girl's reputation for jollity.

There are some women who never find occasion to bewail the passing of the days of chivalry.

When a man says that nobody cares whether he lives or dies, he isn't advertising himself very well.

When a woman gets an idea she must be economical she hunts around and finds an old skirt to rip up.

A man isn't likely to enjoy hearing his wife talk with a woman who remembers him when he was a boy.

There never was a woman who wasn't awfully conceited about the way she could love if she tried.

A man hurts himself more in his wife's estimation by being brutal to other people than he does by being brutal to her.

PERSONAL POINTS.

Mrs. Perry is on the sick list.
Glenn M. Clark is home from Detroit.
Theo Jamieson is clerking at B. A. Almy's.
J. E. Ackerson was in Grand Rapids yesterday.
Mrs. J. J. Stark is on the sick list—neuralgia.
C Don D. Putnam of Carlton will be home Xmas.
Jas. Williams is out after several weeks' illness.
Miss Genie Hill is the guest of her sister in Vermontville.
Mrs. J. W. Saunders, Harry and Bessie are in Grand Rapids today.
Mr. and Mrs. Hoskins are guests of the latter's sister, Mrs. N. Griswold.
M. S. Keeler and wife was in Grand Rapids yesterday.
Guy Putnam of Bangor will spend Xmas in the village.
F. L. Phelps was in the Valley City on business, Monday.
Geo. S. Bassett of Nashville is expected this evening.
N. C. Thomas and wife of Dorr, were in the village Friday.
John L. Broughton was in Freeport yesterday on business.
Will Carveth, who has been on the sick list, is improving.
Mr. Tolleson of Belding, is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Dexter.
Mrs. H. L. Moore and son, Earl are visiting relatives in Wayland.
Mr. Wm. Vieter is a new moulder in the Keeler Brass Co.'s works.
Dr. S. C. Rich was in the Rapids on professional business, Monday.
Miss Mable Hanlon is home for the holidays from Albion college.
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lane of Grand Rapids were in the village Tuesday.
Miss Anna Winters is spending the holidays with her mother at Dowling.
Barney Oberly and wife are spending the holidays with relatives in Bellevue.
Wm. Neargarth left last evening for Winslow, Ont. for a few months' visit.
Mrs. Eva Talbott and Miss Della Mattason were in Grand Rapids, Tuesday.
J. W. Saunders and family will spend Christmas with relatives in Charlotte.
Mrs. Appleton of Grand Rapids, is visiting her son, Rev. H. Appleton and family.
Miss Maude Pumphrey will spend Christmas with her mother in Grand Rapids.
W. C. Sackett and wife will spend Christmas with their parents in Vermontville.
Mrs. R. T. French and son, Sydney, go to Chicago to spend the holidays with her mother.
J. C. Otto, Walter J. Hayward and Bert Armstrong were in Grand Rapids yesterday.
Mrs. A. D. Thomas and daughter Ida and son Roy are in Lansing attending a family reunion at the home of her son.
E. J. McNaughton and family of Coopersville will spend Xmas at Chas. McQueen's.
C. G. Rounsville and wife of Fowlerville, Mich., are guests of G. E. Gardner and wife.
Mesdames J. R. Cook, E. F. Blake and W. H. Severance are in Grand Rapids today.
N. C. Kraft and family will spend Christmas with the former's parents near Caledonia.
G. L. Keeler returned from a western business trip Tuesday evening and reports trade as good.
Miss Maude Southwick went to Charlotte Saturday, to visit her sister Mable and other relatives.
Mrs. R. A. Polley of Delton was the guest of her sister, Mrs. J. J. Stark, the latter part of last week.
Miss Carrie Shoeman returned to Hastings last evening after a week's visit at H. E. Hendrick's.
Mr. and Mrs. Simon Heist are visiting their daughter, Mrs. J. S. Steininger at Ida, Monroe county.
Gertrude Baker returned from Big Rapids last evening accompanied by her friend, Miss Maude Curtis.
Misses Bessie Fullager and Nettie Southwick have been spending a few days with friends in Nashville.
Chas. Schleh left Saturday for Denver, Colo., where he goes to spend the winter with his daughter, Mrs. Jo Smith.
O. C. Tewksbury has returned from Georgetown, Ottawa Co., where he has been visiting old acquaintances and schoolmates.
Miss Minnie Furniss, teacher of the primary department of our schools, is spending the vacation with her parents in Nashville.
Mrs. Sim. Lawrence, having left her husband, has moved her family and household goods into rooms in Fred Teadt's house.
Messrs. Herbert M. Rich, Will R. Harper and Don A. Parkhurst are home from the University to spend their holiday vacation.
Mrs. A. O. Wilkinson and daughter returned home, Tuesday, accompanied by Mr. W.'s mother, who will spend the winter with them.
Mrs. Lillian Hale Jackson of LaBarge, a former teacher in our schools, with her two children were guests at J. E. Ackerson's Saturday and Sunday.
Mrs. Clarence Damouth was called to York State Friday to attend the funeral of her mother, Mrs. Eliza Clark, who formerly lived at Yankee Springs. Deceased was 58 years of age.
Mrs. Arthur Tewksbury is in the Rapids today to meet her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. LaBae, of Midland, who will spend the holidays in the village with their daughter and husband.
Mr. C. G. Putnam of Bangor, Mich. Mr. Don D. Putnam of Carlton Center and Mrs. Fio Buck and family of McCords will spend Xmas with their mother, Mrs. A. M. Putnam, of this place, who will also entertain other relatives at a large Christmas dinner.
Soothing, and not irritating, strengthening, and not weakening, small but effective—such are the qualities of DeWitt's Little Early Risers, the famous little pills. Dr. Nelson Abbott.

LONG JOHN'S

ELEVENTH ANNUAL

GRAND CLEANING SALE



We want to clean house next month—repair the building—paint it inside and out, and perhaps build on a kitchen (Work Shop) and don't want any more goods in the way than we can help. It won't do to throw the plunder in the street or set fire to it, so will do the next best thing and almost give it away. There never was a time since we started in business when we had such an overflowing stock of strictly Up-to-date High Grade Goods. We are actually full from cellar to roof, of the very best, choicest line of Horse Goods to be found anywhere. It will be just like finding money to buy these goods at this Great Sale.

LOOK OVER OUR PRICES. Then get here quick.

This...
is to be a Sale
of Your Life
and we don't
want you
to Miss it.

Commencing Saturday, January 2, '97, and ending Saturday, February 6, '97.

Horse Blankets and Robes

We have got more Blankets and Robes than some people have hay, and don't intend to carry any of them over to another season. We know what will move them and they have got to go. Our prices already are the **LOWEST** in Barry county and from these low prices we will still give you a further discount of 25 per cent. This brings many of them way below cost. Don't buy a Horse Blanket or Robe anywhere without first getting our prices.

LONG JOHN'S LITTLE ONE-HORSE HARNESS SHOP.....

Ask for
Our
Complete
Price List.

HARNESS

You know we make the best **Hand Made Harness** manufactured in this section. We use the best Oak Tanned Leather and No. 1 trimmings (*No Seconds Used.*) Our harness look the best, wear the best, and fit the horse the best, and the big trade we get from other towns proves that our prices have always been the **Lowest** for first-class work. We guarantee every strap, buckle and stitch in our own make of harness, and will replace free of charge anything that proves defective in one of them.

Here is Our Prices on Harness

	Former Price	During this Sale
Our Best Farm Harness	\$30.00	\$23.75
Our Best Double Harness Driving	35.00	27.50
Our Own Make Single Harness	20.00	15.00
Our Own Make Single Harness	18.00	14.25
Our Own Make Single Harness	16.00	12.50
Our Own Make Single Harness	14.50	11.00
Factory Double Driving Harness	28.00	19.50
Factory Single Driving Harness	12.50	9.50
Factory Single Driving Harness	11.00	8.50
Factory Single Driving Harness	10.00	7.50
Factory Single Driving Harness	7.00	4.85

These Prices Please our Customers--Our Competitors--"Nit."

Miscellaneous

13 cord Web Halters, rope tie only	18c each
Cattle Ropes, best heavy	10c "
German Snaps, up to 1 inch, per doz	18c "
Champion Snaps, best on earth, "	25c "
Heavy Sweat Pads, brown backs,	25c "
Extra heavy hand made five ring halters 1 1/4 inch top, rope tie,	62c "
Canvas Collars, leather backs,	75c "
Best Harness Oil in bulk, per gallon	60c "
Our make Men's Leather Suspenders	33c "
Bickmure's Gall Cure, per box	21c "
Nickle Plated Blanket Pins, large	04c "
Sleigh Bells --Almost your own price.	
Whips and Lashes	--25 per cent. off.
Trunks	--25 per cent. off.
Valises	--25 per cent. off.
Curry Combs and Brushes	--25 per cent. off.

Also

Headquarters
for
BICYCLES.
Bicycle Repairs
and
BICYCLE SUNDRIES.

We have printed a complete Price List of all Goods offered in this Sale. If you fail to get one send for it. We will be pleased to mail you one. Remember that these prices hold good during this Sale only, and for **Spot Cash Only.** Positively no goods charged. But on purchases of Ten Dollars or more any reasonable time will be given for Good Bankable Paper. We wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year and Trust you will visit us early and often.

J. E. Ackerson,

Middleville, - Michigan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Members of the K. of P. and Iyy Temple give a hop on the evening of December 31, 1896.

The young people of Mr. Appleton's and Mrs. Gardner's classes will entertain the Congregational Aid society New Year's day. A fine supper will be provided and elegantly served by these young ladies and gentlemen, who have the complete charge of every detail.

The congregations at the Baptist are steadily increasing and those on last Lord's Day were very gratifying. The senior B. Y. P. U. was crowded and the sitting accommodation was taxed to comfortably seat all who were present. It is frequently necessary to bring in extra seats in the week night meeting for prayer. All are invited.

The next annual meeting of the stock holders of the Cold Spring Creamery Co. will be held at Parkhursts hall, in the village of Middleville on Thursday Jan. 7 1897, at 10 o'clock a. m. This being a business meeting, our bylaws say, no one but stock holders will be in attendance.

A. C. JONES, Pres.
 F. G. CLARK, Sec.

Congregational church, H. Appleton, pastor. Services 10:30 a. m. and 7 p. m. Subject for morning, "The End of the Year." Subject for evening, "A Decision That All Must Make." Sabbath school at the close of morning service. Junior C. E., 3:30 p. m. Subject, "What Spiritual Truth Have You Learned This Year?" Y. P. S. O. E., 6 p. m. Leader, Miss Bessie Fullagar. Teachers' meeting, Monday, 7 p. m. Prayer meeting, Thursday, 7 p. m. Mission band, Saturday, with Jessie Beach. A welcome to all.

NOTICE.

Please call and settle your account without further notice as I need money.
 J. P. FERGUSON.

REPAIRING PROMPTLY DONE.

I will do repairing in the line of furniture, guns, revolvers, etc., at reasonable rates in first-class workmanship. Paper-hanging, painting, etc., promptly attended to. 51-2 SIM LAWRENCE.

FOR SALE OR RENT.—My house and lot with barn.
 ROBERT ALLEN

SPECIAL OFFER.

Our offer of The Michigan Farmer until January 1, 1898, and THE MIDDLEVILLE SUN for one year for only \$1.75 is certainly a bargain.

Most farm papers contain too much theoretical matter, but The Michigan Farmer is a decided exception to this rule, as the larger part of its reading is written by practical farmers who live on farms, and not in the city.

We give you an opportunity of getting The Michigan Farmer absolutely free until January 1, 1897.

Free sample copies will be sent to any address by requesting them of The Michigan Farmer, Detroit, Mich., or by calling at this office.

You had better take advantage of this opportunity while it lasts. 50-4

MUNYON'S RHEUMATISM CURE

Munyon's Rheumatism Cure is guaranteed to cure acute or muscular rheumatism in from one to five days. Sharp, shooting pains in any part of the body stopped by a few doses. A prompt, complete and permanent cure for lameness, soreness, stiff back and all pains in hips and loins. Chronic rheumatism, sciatica, lumbago, or pain in the back are speedily cured. It seldom fails to give relief from one or two doses, and almost invariably cures before one bottle has been used. Price, 25c.

A separate cure for each disease. At all druggists, mostly 25 cents a vial.

Personal letters to Prof. Munyon, 1505 Arch street, Philadelphia, Pa., answered with free medical advice for any disease.

MARRIED.

ECHTINAW—WARNER—In Middleville, Dec. 19, 1896, by Rev. B. Moore, Mr. John Ehtinaw and Miss Ada M. Warner, both of Wayland, Allegan Co., Mich.

SMITH—PURDY—At the home of Mrs. Purdy on Grand Rapids street, Thomas W. Smith of Chicago, Ill., and Miss Myrtle Purdy were united in marriage Wednesday, Dec. 23, '96, by Rev. W. A. Biss, pastor of Baptist church.

SCOTT—CLINE—At Middleville, December 23, 1896, by Rev. B. Moore, Mr. Corwin T. Scott and Miss Eila P. Cline, both of Middleville.

The length of life may be increased by lessening its dangers. The majority of people die from lung troubles. These may be averted by promptly using One Minute Cough Cure. Dr. Nelson Abbott.

FOR SALE—Three fine robes. Inquire at this office.

I will do first-class work at the following low rates:

Shirts.....8c 10c Under Shirts.....7c
 Collars.....2c Drawers.....7c
 Cuffs.....4c Half Hose.....4c
 Night Shirts.....8c Handkerchiefs.....2c
 49-4 LEE HING, Laundry.

Scaly eruptions on the head, chapped hands and lips, cuts, bruises, scalds, burns are quickly cured by DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. It is at present the article most used for piles, and it always cures them. Dr. Nelson Abbott.

When most needed it is not unusual for your family physician to be away from home. Such was the experience of Mr. J. Y. Schenck, editor of the Caddo, Ind. Ter., Banner, when his little girl, two years of age, was threatened with a severe attack of croup. He says: "My wife insisted that I go for the doctor, but as our family physician was out of town I purchased a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, which relieved her immediately. I will not be without it in the future." 25 and 50 cent bottles for sale by J. W. Armstrong, druggist. 49-5

"Excuse me," observed the man in spectacles, "but I am a surgeon, and that is not where the liver is." "Never you mind where his liver is," retorted the other. "If it was in his big toe or his left ear DeWitt's Little Early Risers would reach it and shake it for him. On that you can bet your gill-lamps." Dr. Nelson Abbott.

MICHIGAN CENTRAL

"The Niagara Falls Route."

Taking Effect November 29, 1896.
 EASTWARD BOUND.

STATIONS.	Det		N Y		Ngt		F. A	
	Exp	Exp	Exp	Exp	Exp	Exp	Exp	Exp
Grand Rapids Dep.....	a m	p m	p m	a m	a m	p m	a m	p m
Middleville.....	7 00	6 00	11 00	7 10	7 35	6 35	12 13	8 40
Hastings.....	7 52	6 57	12 40	9 30	9 30	9 00	3 40	5 20
Jackson Ar.....	9 30	9 00	3 40	5 20	12 20	11 30	7 10	...
Detroit Ar.....	12 20	11 30	7 10	...	p m	p m	a m	a m

WESTWARD BOUND

STATIONS.	Exp		M'il		G R		Frt	
	D'y	D'y	Exp	Exp	Exp	Exp	Exp	Exp
Grand Rapids Ar.....	a m	p m	p m	p m	a m	p m	a m	p m
Middleville.....	6 15	1 40	10 25	4 05	5 10	12 55	9 41	2 15
Hastings.....	4 40	12 30	9 19	1 05	1 30	10 40	7 40	7 10
Jackson Dep.....	1 30	10 40	7 40	7 10	a m	a m	p m	a m
Detroit Dep.....	11 05	7 15	4 45	p m	a m	p m	p m

Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad.

Schedule in effect Sept. 27, 1896.

NORTHERN DIVISION	Leave		Arrive	
	Going North	From North	Going North	From North
Trav. City, Pet'ky & Mack	+ 7:45 am	+ 5:15 pm	+ 7:10 am	+ 6:30 am
Trav. City, Pet'ky & Mack	+ 2:15 pm	+ 6:30 am	+ 5:25 pm	+ 11:10 am
Cadillac.....	+ 5:25 pm	+ 11:10 am	Train leaving at 7:45 a. m. has parlor car to Petoskey and Mackinaw.	Train leaving at 2:15 p. m. has sleeping car to Petoskey and Mackinaw.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.	Leave		Arrive	
	Going South	From South	Going South	From South
Cincinnati.....	+ 7:10 am	+ 8:25 pm	+ 7:00 pm	+ 7:25 am
Ft. Wayne.....	+ 2:00 pm	+ 1:55 pm	+ 7:00 pm	+ 7:25 am
Cincinnati.....	* 7:00 pm	* 7:25 am	7:10 a. m. train has parlor car to Cincinnati.	7:09 p. m. train has sleeping car to Cincinnati.

MUSKEGON TRAINS.

GOING WEST.			
Lv Grand Rapids.....	7:35 am	* 1:00 pm	+ 5:40 pm
Ar Muskegon.....	9:00 am	2:10 pm	7:05 pm
GOING EAST.			
Lv Muskegon.....	7:10 am	+ 11:45 am	+ 4:00 pm
Ar Grand Rapids.....	9:30 am	12:55 pm	5:20 pm

+ Except Sunday. * Daily.
 A. ALMQUIST, Ticket Agent, Union Station.
 C. L. LOCKWOOD, Gen'l Pass'r and Ticket Agent.

50 YEARS' EXPERIENCE.

PATENTS

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Anyone sending a sketch and description may quickly ascertain, free, whether an invention is probably patentable. Communications strictly confidential. Oldest agency for securing patents in America. We have a Washington office. Patents taken through Munn & Co. receive special notice in the

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, beautifully illustrated, largest circulation of any scientific journal, weekly, terms \$3.00 a year; \$1.50 six months. Specimen copies and **FREE BOOK ON PATENTS** sent free. Address
MUNN & CO.,
 361 Broadway, New York.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.



To the Congress of the United States: In obedience to a constitutional requirement I herein submit to the Congress certain information concerning national affairs with the suggestion of such legislation as in my judgment is necessary and expedient.

Outrages in Turkey.

At the outset of a reference to the more important matters affecting our relations with foreign powers it would afford me satisfaction if I could assure the Congress that the disturbed condition in Asiatic Turkey had during the last year assumed a less hideous aspect, and that either as a consequence of the awakening of the Turkish Government to the demand of humane civilization, or as the result of decisive action on the part of the great nations having the right by treaty to interfere for the protection of those exposed to the rage of mad bigotry and cruel fanaticism, the shocking features of the situation had been mitigated. Instead, however, of welcoming a softened disposition or protective intervention, we have been afflicted by continued and not infrequent reports of the wanton destruction of homes and the bloody butchery of men, women and children, made martyrs to their profession of Christian faith.

While none of our citizens in Turkey have thus far been killed or wounded, though often in the midst of dreadful scenes of danger, their safety in the future is by no means assured. Our government at home and our minister at Constantinople have left nothing undone to protect our missionaries in Ottoman territory, who constitute nearly all the individuals residing there who have a right to claim our protection on the score of American citizenship. Our efforts in this direction will not be relaxed, but the deep feeling and sympathy that have been aroused among our people ought not to so far blind their reason and judgment as to lead them to demand impossible things.

The Cuban Rebellion.

The insurrection in Cuba still continues with all its perplexities. It is difficult to perceive that any progress has thus far been made towards the pacification of the island or that the situation of affairs as depicted in my last annual message has in the least improved. If Spain still holds Havana and the seaports and all the considerable towns, the insurgents still roam at will over at least two-thirds of the inland country. If the determination of Spain to put down the insurrection seems but to strengthen with the lapse of time, and is evinced by her unhesitating devotion of largely increased military and naval forces to the task, there is much reason to believe that the insurgents have gained in point of numbers and character and resources, and are none the less inflexible in their resolve not to succumb without practically securing the great objects for which they took up arms. If Spain has not yet re-established her authority, neither have the insurgents yet made good their title to be regarded as an independent state.

The spectacle of the utter ruin of an adjoining country, by nature one of the most fertile and charming on the globe, would

engage the serious attention of the government and the people of the United States in any circumstances. In point of fact, they have a concern which is by no means of a wholly sentimental or philanthropic character. It lies so near to us, as to be hardly separated from our territory. Our actual pecuniary interest in it is second only to that of the people and Government of Spain.

These inevitable entanglements of the United States with the rebellion in Cuba, the large American property interests affected and considerations of philanthropy and humanity in general have led to a vehement demand in various quarters for some sort of positive intervention on the part of the United States. It was at first proposed that belligerent rights should be accorded to the insurgents—a proposition no longer urged because untimely and in practical operation clearly perilous and injurious to our own interests. It has since been and is now sometimes contended that the independence of the insurgents should be recognized. But imperfect and restricted as the Spanish Government of the island may be, no other exists there—unless the will of the military officer in temporary command of a particular district can be dignified as a species of government. It is now also suggested that the United States should buy the island—a suggestion possibly worthy of consideration if there were any evidence of a desire or willingness on the part of Spain to entertain such a proposal. It is urged, finally, that all other methods failing, the existing internecine strife in Cuba should be terminated by our intervention, even at the cost of a war between the United States and Spain—a war which its advocates confidently prophesy could be neither large in its proportions nor doubtful in its issue.

The correctness of this forecast need be neither affirmed nor denied. The United States has nevertheless a character to maintain as a nation, which plainly dictates that right and not might should be the rule of its conduct.

It is in the assumed temper and disposition of the Spanish Government to remedy its grievances, fortified by indications of influential public opinion in Spain that this Government has hoped to discover the most promising and effective means of ending the present strife with honor and advantage to Spain and with the achievement of all the reasonable objects of the insurrection. It was intimated by this Government to the Government of Spain some months ago that if a satisfactory measure of home rule were tendered the Cuban insurgents and would be accepted by them upon a guaranty of its execution, the United States would endeavor to find a way not objectionable to Spain of furnishing such guaranty. While no definite response to this intimation has yet been received from the Spanish Government, it is believed to be not altogether unwelcome, while, as already suggested, no reason is perceived why it should not be approved by the insurgents. Whatever circumstances may arise, our policy and our interest would constrain us to object to the acquisition of the island or an interference with its control by any other power.

It should be added that it cannot be reasonably assumed that the hitherto expectant attitude of the United States will be indefinitely maintained. When the inability of Spain to deal successfully with the insurgents has become manifest and it is demonstrated that her sovereignty is extinct in Cuba for all purposes of its rightful existence, and when a hopeless struggle for its re-establishment has degenerated into a strife which means nothing more than the useless sacrifice of human life and the utter destruction of the very subject matter of the conflict, a situation will be presented in which our obligations to the sovereignty of Spain will be superseded by higher obligations, which we can hardly hesitate to recognize and discharge.

Treasury Information.

The Secretary of the Treasury reports that during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, the receipts of the Government from all sources amounted to \$409,475,408.78. During the same period its ex-

penditures were \$434,678,654.48, the excess of expenditures over receipts thus amounting to \$25,203,245.70. The ordinary expenses during the year were \$4,015,852.21 less than during the preceding fiscal year. Of the receipts mentioned there was derived from customs the sum of \$180,021,751.67, and from internal revenue \$146,830,615.66. The receipts from customs show an increase of \$7,863,134.22 over those from the same source for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1895, and the receipts from internal revenue an increase of \$3,584,537.91. The value of our imported dutiable merchandise during the last fiscal year was \$369,757,470, and the value of free goods imported \$409,967,470, being an increase of \$6,523,675 in the value of dutiable goods and \$41,231,034 in the value of free goods over the preceding year. Our imports of merchandise, foreign and domestic, amounted in value to \$882,606,938, being an increase over the preceding year of \$75,068,773. The average ad valorem duty paid on dutiable goods imported during the year was 39.94 per cent. and on free and dutiable goods taken together 20.55 per cent. The cost of collecting our internal revenue was 2.78 per cent., as against 2.81 per cent. for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1895. The total production of distilled spirits, exclusive of fruit brandies, was 86,588,703 taxable gallons, being an increase of 6,639,108 gallons over the preceding year. There was also an increase of 1,443,676 gallons of spirits produced from fruit as compared with the preceding year. The number of barrels of beer produced was 35,859,250, as against 33,589,784 produced in the preceding fiscal year, being an increase of 2,269,466 barrels.

The total amount of gold exported during the last fiscal year was \$112,409,947 and of silver \$60,541,670, being an increase of \$45,941,466 of gold and \$13,246,384 of silver over the exportations of the preceding fiscal year. The imports of gold were \$33,525,065 and of silver \$28,777,186, being \$2,859,695 less of gold and \$8,566,007 more of silver than during the preceding year. The total stock of metallic money in the United States at the close of the last fiscal year ended the 30th day of June, 1896, was \$1,228,326,035, of which \$599,597,964 was in gold and \$628,728,071 in silver. On the 1st day of November 1896, the total stock of money of all kinds in the country was \$2,285,410,590 and the amount in circulation, not including that in the treasury holdings, was \$1,627,055,641, being \$22.63 per capita upon an estimated population of 71,992,000. The production of the precious metals in the United States during the calendar year 1895 is estimated to have been 2,254,760 fine ounces of gold, of the value of \$46,610,000, and 55,727,000 ounces of silver, of the commercial value of \$36,445,000 and the coinage value of \$72,051,000. The estimated production of these metals throughout the world during the same period was 9,688,821 fine ounces of gold, amounting to \$200,285,700 in value, and 169,189,249 fine ounces of silver, of the commercial value of \$110,654,000, and of the coinage value of \$218,738,100 according to our ratio. The coinage of these metals in the various countries of the world during the same calendar year amounted to \$232,701,438 in gold and \$121,995,219 in silver. The total coinage at the mints of the United States during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, amounted to \$71,188,468.52, of which \$58,878,490 was in gold coins and \$12,309,978.52 in standard silver dollar, subsidiary coins and minor coins.

National Banks.

The number of national banks organized from the time the law authorizing their creation was passed, up to Oct. 31, was 5,051, and of this number 3,679 were at the date last mentioned in active operation, having authorized capital stock of \$650,014,895, held by 288,902 shareholders, and circulating notes amounting to \$21,412,620. The total outstanding circulating notes of all national banks Oct. 31, 1896, amounted to \$234,553,807, including unredeemed but fully secured notes of banks insolvent and in process of liquidation. The increase in national bank circulation during the year ending on that day was \$21,099,429. Oct. 6, 1896, when the condition of national banks was last reported, the total resources of the 3,679 active institutions was \$3,263,685,313.83, which included \$1,893,258,839.31 in loans and discounts and \$362,165,733.85 in money of all kinds on hand. Of their liabilities \$1,597,891,058.03 was due to individual depositors and \$209,944,019 consisted of outstanding circulating notes.

Immigration.

The number of immigrants arriving in the United States during the fiscal year was 343,267, of whom 340,468 were permitted to land and 2,799 were debarred on various grounds prescribed by law and returned to the countries whence they came at the expense of the steamship companies by which they were brought in. The increase in immigration over the preceding year amounted to 84,731. It is reported that with some exceptions the immigrants of the last year were of a hardy laboring class, accustomed and able to earn a support for themselves, and it is estimated that the money brought with them amounted to at least \$5,000,000, though it was probably much in excess of that sum, since only those having less than \$30 are required to disclose the exact amount, and it is known that many brought considerable sums of money to buy land and build homes.

The War Department.

The report of the Secretary of War exhibits satisfactory conditions in the several branches of the public service intrusted to his charge. The limit of our military force as fixed by law is constantly and readily maintained. The present discipline and morale of our army are excellent, and marked progress and efficiency are apparent throughout its entire organization. With the exception of delicate duties in the suppression of slight Indian disturbances along our southwestern boundary, in which the Mexican troops co-operated, and the compulsory but peaceful return, with the consent of Great Britain, of a band of Cree Indians from Montana to British possessions, no active operations have been required of the army during the year past.

Sea Coast Defense.

During the last year rapid progress has been made toward the completion of the scheme adopted for the erection and armament of fortifications along our seacoast, while equal progress has been made in providing the material for submarine defense in connection with these works.

This improved situation is largely due to the recent generous response of Congress to the recommendations of the war department. Thus we shall soon have complete about one-fifth of the comprehensive system, the first step in which was noted in my message to the Congress of Dec. 4, 1893. When it is understood that a masonry emplacement not only furnishes a platform for the heavy modern high-power gun, but also in every particular serves the purpose and takes the place of the fort of former days, the importance of the work accomplished is better comprehended.

Fees of Federal Officers.

It is most gratifying to note the satisfactory results that have followed the inauguration of the new system provided for by the act of May 28, 1896, under which certain Federal officials are compensated by salaries instead of fees. The new plan was put in operation on July 1, 1896, and already the great economy it enforces, its prevention of abuses, and its tendency to a better enforcement of the laws are strikingly apparent. Detailed evidence of the usefulness of this long-delayed but now happily accomplished reform will be found clearly set forth in the Attorney General's report.

The Postal Service.

Our Postoffice Department is in good condition, and the exhibit made of its operations during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, if allowance is made for imperfections in the laws applicable to it, is very satisfactory. The total receipts during the year were \$82,499,208.40. The total expenditures were \$90,626,296.84, exclusive of \$1,559,898.27, which was earned by the Pacific Railroad for transportation and credited on their debt to the Government. There was an increase of receipts over the previous year of \$5,516,080.21, or 7.1 per cent., and an increase of expenditures of \$3,836,124.02, or 4.42 per cent. The deficit was \$1,679,956.19 less than that of the preceding year.

The average revenue from each pound of first-class matter was 93 cents. From each pound of second-class, 8½ mills. (Of the second-class, 52,348,297 was counted free matter.) From each pound of third-class, 13.1 cents. From each pound of fourth-class, 15.4 cents. The growth of weight of second-class matter has been from 299,000,000 pounds in 1894 to 312,000,000 in 1895, and to almost 349,000,000 in 1896, and it is quite evident this increasing drawback is far outstrip-

ping any possible growth of postal revenue.

The Navy.

The work of the Navy Department and its present condition are fully exhibited in the report of the Secretary. The construction of vessels for our new navy has been energetically prosecuted by the present administration upon the general lines previously adopted, the department having seen no necessity for radical changes in prior methods under which the work was found to be progressing in a manner highly satisfactory. It has been decided, however, to provide in every shipbuilding contract that the builder should pay all trial expenses, and it has also been determined to pay no speed premiums in future contracts. The premiums recently earned and some yet to be decided are features of the contracts made before this conclusion was reached.

On March 4, 1893, there were in commission but two armored vessels—the double-turreted Miantonomah and Monterey. Since that date of vessels theretofore authorized there have been placed in their first commission three first-class and two second-class battle-ships, two armored cruisers, one harbor-defense ram and five double-turreted monitors, including the Maine and Puritan, just completed. Eight new unarmored cruisers and two new gunboats have also been commissioned. The Iowa, another battle-ship, will be completed about March 1, and at least four more gunboats will be ready for use in the early spring.

About National Prisons.

The Attorney General presents a detailed and interesting statement of the important work done under his supervision during the last fiscal year. The ownership and management by the Government of penitentiaries for the confinement of those convicted in United States courts of violations of Federal laws, which for many years has been a subject of executive recommendation, has at last, to a slight extent, been realized by the utilization of the abandoned military prison at Fort Leavenworth as a United States penitentiary. This is certainly a movement in the right direction; but it ought to be at once supplemented by the rebuilding or extensive enlargement of this improvised prison and the construction of at least one more, to be located in the Southern States. I am thoroughly convinced that economy, humanity and a proper sense of responsibility and duty toward those whom we punish for violations of Federal law dictate that the Federal Government should have the entire control and management of the penitentiaries where convicted violators are confined.

It appears that since the transfer of Fort Leavenworth military prison to its new uses the work previously done by prisoners confined there and for which expensive machinery has been provided has been discontinued. This work consisted of the manufacture of articles for army use now done elsewhere. On all grounds it is exceedingly desirable that the convicts confined in this penitentiary be allowed to resume work of this description.

Interior Affairs.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior presents a comprehensive and interesting exhibit of the numerous and important affairs committed to his supervision. I agree with the Secretary that the remainder of our public lands should be more carefully dealt with and their alienation guarded by better economy and greater prudence.

The Indians.

The total Indian population of the United States is 177,235, according to a census made in 1890, exclusive of those within the State of New York and those comprising the five civilized tribes. Of this number there are approximately 38,000 children of school age. During the year 23,393 of these were enrolled in schools. The progress which has attended recent efforts to extend Indian school facilities, and the anticipation of continued liberal appropriations to that end, cannot fail to afford the utmost satisfaction to those who believe that the education of Indian children is a prime factor in the accomplishment of Indian civilization. It may be said in general terms that in every particular the improvement of the Indians under Government care has been most marked and encouraging.

The Secretary, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the agents having charge of Indians to whom allotments have been made strongly urge the passage of a law prohibiting the sale of liquor to allottees who have taken their lands in severalty. I earnestly join in this recommendation.

The condition of affairs among the five civilized tribes, who occupy large tracts of land in the Indian Territory, and who have governments of their own, has assumed such an aspect as to render it almost indispensable that there should be an entire change in the relations of these Indians to the general government. A commission organized and empowered under sev-

eral recent laws is now negotiating with these Indians for the relinquishment and the division of their common lands in severalty, and are aiding in the settlement of the troublesome question of tribal membership. The effort should be to save these Indians from the consequences of their own mistakes and improvidence, and to secure to the real Indian his rights as against intruders and professed friends who profit by his retrogression. As a sincere friend of the Indian I am exceedingly anxious that these reforms should be accomplished with the consent and aid of the tribes, and that no necessity may be presented for radical or drastic legislation.

The Pension Roll.

The diminution of our enormous pension roll and the decrease of pension expenditure, which have been so often confidently foretold, still fall in material realization. The number of pensioners on the rolls at the close of the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, was 970,678. This is the largest number ever reported. The amount paid exclusively for pensions during the year was \$138,214,761.94, a slight decrease from that of the preceding year, while the total expenditures on account of pensions, including the cost of maintaining the department and expenses attending the pension distribution, amounted to \$142,206,550.59, or within a very small fraction of one-third of the entire expense of supporting the Government during the same year.

The number of new pension certificates issued was 90,640. Of these 40,374 represent original allowances of claims and 15,878 increases of existing pensions. The number of persons receiving pensions from the United States, but residing in foreign countries, at the close of the last fiscal year, was 3,781, and the amount paid to them during the year was \$582,735.38. The sum appropriated for the payment of pensions for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, is \$140,000,000, and for the succeeding year it is estimated that the same amount will be necessary.

The Commissioner of Pensions reports that during the last fiscal year 339 indictments were found against violators of the pension laws. Upon these indictments 167 convictions resulted. In my opinion, based upon such statements as these and much other information and observation, the abuses which have been allowed to creep into our pension system have done incalculable harm in demoralizing our people and undermining good citizenship. I have endeavored within my sphere of official duty to protect our pension roll and make it what it should be, a roll of honor, containing the names of those disabled in their country's service and worthy of their country's affectionate remembrance. When I have seen those who pose as the soldiers' friends, active and alert in urging greater laxity and more reckless pension expenditure, while nursing selfish schemes, I have deprecated the approach of a situation where necessary retrenchment and enforced economy may lead to an attack upon pension abuses, so determined as to overlook the discrimination due to those who, worthy of a nation's care, ought to live and die under the protection of a nation's gratitude.

Pacific Railroads.

The Secretary calls attention to the public interests involved in an adjustment of the obligations of the Pacific railroads to the Government. I deem it to be an important duty to especially present this subject to the consideration of Congress. On Jan. 1, 1897, with the amount already matured, more than \$13,000,000 of the principal of the subsidy bonds issued by the United States in aid of the construction of the Union Pacific Railway, including its Kansas line, and more than \$6,000,000 of like bonds, issued in aid of the Central Pacific Railroad, including those issued to the Western Pacific Railroad Company, will have fallen due and been paid or must on that day be paid by the Government. Without any reference to the application of the sinking fund now in the treasury this will create such a default on the part of these companies to the Government as will give it the right to at once institute proceedings to foreclose its mortgage lien. In addition to this indebtedness, which will be due Jan. 1, 1897, there will mature between that date and Jan. 1, 1899, the remaining principal of such subsidy bonds, which must also be met by the Government. These amount to more than \$20,000,000, on account of the Union Pacific lines, and exceed \$21,000,000 on account of the Central Pacific lines.

The situation of these roads and the condition of their indebtedness to the Government have been fully set forth in the reports of various committees to the present and prior Congresses. In view of the fact that the Congress has for a number of years almost constantly had under consideration various plans for dealing with the conditions existing between these roads and the Government, I have thus far felt justified in withholding action under the statute above mentioned. In the case of the Union Pacific Company, however, the situation has become especially and immediately urgent. Proceedings have been instituted to foreclose a first mortgage upon those aided parts of the main lines upon which the Government holds a second and subordinate mortgage lien. In consequence of those proceedings and increasing complications added to the default occurring the 1st day of January, 1897, a condition will be presented at that date, so far as this company is concerned, that must emphasize the mandate of the act of 1887 and give to executive duty under its provisions a more imperative aspect. Therefore, unless Congress shall otherwise direct, or shall have previously determined upon a different solution of the problem, there will hardly appear to exist any reason for delaying beyond the date of the default above mentioned such executive action as will promise to subserve the public interests and save the Government from the loss threatened by further inaction.

Department of Agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture is so in-

timately related to the welfare of our people and the prosperity of our nation that it should constantly receive the care and encouragement of the Government. From small beginnings it has grown to be the center of agricultural intelligence and the source of aid and encouragement to agricultural efforts.

Under the present management of the department its usefulness has been enhanced in every direction, and at the same time strict economy has been enforced to the utmost extent permitted by congressional action. The Secretary reports that the value of our exports of farm products during the last fiscal year amounted to \$670,000,000, an increase of \$17,000,000 over those of the year immediately preceding. This statement is not the less welcome because of the fact that, notwithstanding such increase, the proportion of exported agricultural products of our total exports of all descriptions fell during the year. The benefits of an increase in agricultural exports being assured, the decrease in its proportion to our total exports is more gratifying when we consider that it is owing to the fact that such total exports for the year increased more than \$75,000,000.

In my opinion the gratuitous distribution of seeds by the department, as at present conducted ought to be discontinued. The professed friends of the farmer, and certainly the farmers themselves, are naturally expected to be willing to rid a department devoted to the promotion of farming interests of a feature which tends so much to its discredit.

The weather bureau, now attached to the Department of Agriculture, has continued to extend its sphere of usefulness, and by an uninterrupted improvement in the accuracy of its forecasts has greatly increased its efficiency as an aid and protection to all whose occupations are related to weather conditions. Omitting further reference to the operations of the department, I commend the Secretary's report and the suggestions it contains to the careful consideration of Congress.

Civil Service Reform.

The progress made in civil-service reform furnishes a cause for the utmost congratulation. There are now in the competitive classified service upward of eighty-four thousand places. A most radical and sweeping extension was made by executive order dated the 6th day of May, 1896, and if the fourth class postmasterships be not included in the statement it may be said that practically all positions contemplated by the civil-service law are now classified. Abundant reasons exist for including these postmasterships, based upon economy, improved service and the peace and quiet of neighborhoods. The civil-service rules, as amended during the last year, provide for a sensible and uniform method of promotion, basing eligibility to better positions upon demonstrated efficiency and faithfulness. The absence of fixed rules on this subject has been an infirmity in the system more and more apparent, as its other benefits have been better appreciated. Those who gain positions through the operation of civil service methods should be made to understand that the nonpartisan scheme through which they receive their appointments demands from them, by way of reciprocity, nonpartisan and faithful performance of duty under every administration, and cheerful fidelity to every chief. While they should be encouraged to decently exercise their rights of citizenship and to support through their suffrages the political beliefs they honestly profess, the noisy, pestilent and partisan employe, who loves political turmoil and contention, or who renders lax and grudging service to an administration not representing his political views, should be promptly and fearlessly dealt with in such a way as to furnish a warning to others who may be likewise disposed.

National Finances and the Tariff.

I desire to recur to the statements elsewhere made concerning the Government's receipts and expenditures for the purpose of venturing upon some suggestions touching our present tariff law and its operation. This statute took effect on the 28th day of August, 1894. Whatever may be its shortcomings as a complete measure of tariff reform, it must be conceded that it has opened the way to a freer and greater exchange of commodities between us and other countries, and thus furnished a wider market for our products and manufacturing. The only entire fiscal year during which this law has been in force ended the 30th day of June, 1896. In that year our imports increased over those of the previous year more than \$6,500,000, while the value of the domestic products we exported and which found markets abroad was nearly \$70,000,000 more than during the preceding year.

The present law, during the only complete fiscal year of its operation, has yielded nearly \$8,000,000 more revenue than was received from tariff duties in the preceding year. There was, nevertheless, a deficit between our receipts and expenditures of a little more than \$25,000,000. This, however, was not unexpected. The situation was such in December last, seven months before the close of the fiscal year, that the Secretary of the Treasury foretold a deficit consideration of Congress.

I believe our present tariff law, if allowed a fair opportunity, will in the near future yield a revenue which, with reasonably economic expenditures, will overcome all deficiencies. Meantime no deficit that has occurred or may occur need excite or disturb us. To meet any such deficit we have in the treasury, in addition to a gold reserve of \$100,000,000, a surplus of more than \$128,000,000 applicable to the payment of the expenses of the Government, and which must, unless expended for that purpose, remain a useless hoard, or, if not extravagantly wasted, must in any event be perverted from the purpose of its exaction from our people. The payment, therefore, of any deficiency in the revenue from this fund is nothing more than its proper and legitimate use.

The Currency System.

I am more convinced than ever that we can have no assured financial peace and safety until the government currency obligations upon which gold may be demanded from the treasury are withdrawn from circulation and canceled. This might be done, as has been heretofore recommended, but their exchange for long-term bonds bearing a low rate of interest or by their redemption with the proceeds of such bonds. Even if only the United States notes known as greenbacks were thus retired, it is probable that the treasury notes issued in payment of silver purchases under the act of July 14, 1890, now paid in gold when demanded, would not create much disturbance, as they might from time to time when received in the treasury by redemption in gold or otherwise, be gradually and prudently replaced by silver coin.

In default of this plan, however, it would be a step in the right direction if currency obligations redeemable in gold, whenever so redeemed, should be canceled instead of being reissued.

National banks should redeem their own notes. They should be allowed to issue circulation to the par value of bonds deposited as security for its redemption, and the tax on their circulation should be reduced to one-fourth of 1 per cent.

In considering projects for the retirement of United States notes and treasury notes issued under the law of 1890, I am of the opinion that we have placed too much stress upon the danger of contracting the currency and have calculated too little upon the gold that would be added to our circulation if lavited to us by better and safer financial methods. It is not so much a contraction of our currency that should be avoided as such unequal distribution. This might be obviated, and any fear of harmful contraction at the same time removed, by allowing the organization of smaller banks and in less populous communities than are now permitted, and authorizing banks to establish branches in small communities under proper restrictions.

The entire case may be presented by the statement that the day of sensible and sound financial methods will not dawn upon us until our government abandons the banking business and the accumulation of funds, and confines its monetary operations to the receipts of the money contributed by the people for its support, and to the expenditure of such money for the people's benefit.

Our business interests and all good citizens long for rest from feverish agitation, and the inauguration by the Government of a reformed financial policy, which will encourage enterprise and make certain the rewards of labor and industry.

Roast for the Trusts.

Another topic in which our people rightfully take a deep interest may be briefly considered. I refer to the existence of trusts and other huge aggregations of capital, the object of which is to secure the monopoly of some particular branch of trade, industry, or commerce and so stifle wholesome competition. When these are defended it is usually on the ground that though they increase profits they also reduce prices and thus may benefit the public. It must be remembered, however, that a reduction of prices to the people is not one of the real objects of these organizations, nor is their tendency necessarily in that direction. Their tendency is to crush out individual independence and to hinder or prevent the free use of human faculties and the full development of human character. Through them the farmer, the artisan, and the small trader is in danger of dislodgment from the proud position of being his own master, watchful of all that touches his country's prosperity, in which he has an individual lot, and interested in all that affects the advantages of business of which he is a factor, to be relegated to the level of a mere appurtenance to a great machine, with little free will, with no duty but of passive obedience, and with little hope or opportunity of rising in the scale of responsible and helpful citizenship.

Though Congress has attempted to deal with this matter by legislation the laws passed for that purpose thus far have proved ineffective. The decision of our highest court renders it quite doubtful whether the evils of trusts and monopolies can be adequately treated through federal action—unless they seek directly and purposely to include in their objects transportation or intercourse between States or between the United States and foreign countries. It does not follow, however, that this is the limit of the remedy that may be applied. Even though it may be found that federal authority is not broad enough to fully reach the case there can be no doubt of the power of the several States to act effectively in the premises, and there should be no reason to doubt their willingness to judiciously exercise such power.

In concluding this communication, its last words shall be an appeal to the Congress for the most rigid economy in the expenditure of the money it holds in trust for the people. The way to perplexing extravagance is easy, but a return to frugality is difficult. When, however, it is considered that those who bear the burdens of taxation have no guaranty of honest care save in the fidelity of their public servants, the duty of all possible retrenchment is plainly manifest.

When our differences are forgotten and our contests of political opinion are no longer remembered, nothing in the retrospect of our public service will be as fortunate and comforting as the recollection of official duty well performed and the memory of a constant devotion to the interests of our confiding fellow countrymen.

Henry Clay Long

In Russia the principals in a duel partake of breakfast together before going out to fight.