

CURRENT COMMENTS.

Brazil is passing through a period of affliction. Just as the revolutionary throes were subsiding, yellow fever breaks out and spreads among the people.

It may now be taken as a demonstrated fact that three, if not four, of the back-drivers of this city belong to the army of hold-ups with which Salt Lake is at present afflicted. It is difficult to imagine what may be the next phase of criminality that will develop.

Ice one and one-half inches thick will support a man, four inches thick will support cavalry; five inches thick an eighty-four pound cannon, ten inches thick will support a multitude and eighteen inches thick will support a railroad train.

There is no discount on the immensity of the grain yield all over America this year. According to the report of the secretary of agriculture, the increased value of all cereals over that of last year, on the basis of November values, is not less than \$500,000,000.

The wool growers of Montana have formed a Territorial association. R. J. Morton is president and B. F. Shuart, secretary. About seventy-five sheep men were present at the meeting when the organization was effected. They represented 800,000 sheep.

While the mildest weather for the season that has been known for years prevails in our own Utah, news comes from various parts of the country of withering blasts laden with biting frost. In Iowa the mercury is down to fifteen below zero.

The story told in the dispatches that a Jesuit priest had been discovered as a servant in the house of Lord Salisbury, Prime Minister of England, acting as a secret agent or spy of the Vatican, makes very romantic reading, but before we could credit it the tale would have to be well authenticated.

A late order of the Russian minister of war—16,000,000 pounds of soldiers' biscuits, to be ready by January 1st—is evidently another of those steps which are usually announced as being taken in the interests of peace. The order has had no precedent since the last Russo-Turkish war.

The Tempe (Arizona) *News* states that President Charles I. Robson and a large number of other settlers intend planting orange orchards next spring. It is asserted that the climate of Maricopa County, which is mostly settled by Latter-day Saints, is admirably adapted to orange culture.

There have been eight national famines in Russia during the present century, in 1801, 1808, 1811, 1812, 1833, 1840, 1860 and 1891. In addition to these, there have been several provincial famines, which are as severe, if not as extensive, as those which affect the whole population.

Two more Berlin business men—Paarman and Cohn, watchmakers—have taken the short route to the other

life. A bank failure ruined them. Each of them took a "cup of cold poison," add, to make their exodus both speedy and certain, applied pistols to their heads.

The tools used by a blacksmith of the present day are almost identical with those used in the same trade over three hundred years ago. In a book on "Mining," published at Basle, Switzerland, in 1557, one of the illustrations represents a blacksmith shop, in which the anvil, hammer and tongs look like the tools still found in every shop.

The longest electric railway in the world is to be constructed in Russia. The very audacious project is being considered of constructing a line from St. Petersburg to Arkangel, a port of the White Sea, a distance of more than 800 kilometers (498 miles). The electric current is to be furnished by a series of generating stations, distributed along the line.

As usual the people are beginning everywhere to speculate upon what they imagine will be the main points of President Harrison's message to Congress. None of the newspapers are able to say more concerning it at present beyond the bare fact that the Chief Magistrate is busily at work on the document.

Although Bishop Phillips Brooks is overwhelmed with letters from all quarters, he endeavors to answer with his own pen every communication in the least deserving of attention. Mr. Gladstone follows the same plan, but very largely makes use of postal cards, while Dr. Brooks invariably makes answer in a neat and carefully written letter.

There is said to be a secret society in China, with millions of members, whose motto is "China for the Chinese," and whose principal aim is to prevent foreigners from living in that country. The organization is in advance, in the heroic character of its methods, of the society in the United States, whose object is to preserve "America for the Americans."

The race war scare seems to be epidemic. It blazes up in fitful flames in a number of localities in the South almost simultaneously. Gordon, Ark., is the latest part of the country where it shows itself. Whites and colored people are arming in anticipation of a conflict. The cause of the situation was a late lynching bee, in which a colored man was the victim.

Field and Farm says: It is bad policy to let sheep run in the fields until snow covers the vegetation. Frozen grass is detrimental to their welfare. They should be placed in winter quarters immediately after the first heavy frost and remain there until grass grows again in the spring. Once running out to graze gives them a distaste for dry fodder.

The application of George Albright to have the circumstances connected with the killing of Captain Parker investigated by the grand jury is quite proper. The case should be conducted to a point that will place it beyond the

legal possibility of being revived at any future time. Besides, it is due to Mr. Albright that his vindication be made as broad as practicable.

Caprivi, the German Premier, seems to be capable of making some mixed statements if the dispatches are to be credited. He asserts that no nation is in advance of Germany in her capacity to carry on a successful war. At the same time, he says that Russia's strength is so great that the Czar is in a position to make his will predominate in the councils of Europe.

There was a singular accident the other day at Medicine Lodge, Bingham Co., Idaho. David Collier and a boy started out for a horseback ride. Collier's horse bucked, backed and ran furiously. It collided with the horse on which the boy was mounted with such force that both animals were killed, while Collier was thrown and fatally injured by having his neck broken.

Mr. Archibald Forbes, the great war correspondent, holds himself at the command of his editor-in-chief at all hours. He has two entire equipments, one for cold countries, the other for the torrid zone. Firearms, clothing, saddles, are all ready, even to a purse full of gold and passports for every country on the globe. An order by telephone, and instantly he departs for Zanzibar or Moscow.

Yesterday at Florence, Italy, a number of American and English people unveiled a new headstone over the grave of the late Theodore Parker, the eminent theologian. The tribute was erected by a few admirers of the great thinker. He was a man of advanced thought. The book entitled "Ten Lectures by Theodore Parker" affords delightful reading and a great deal of food for reflection.

The advisability of establishing a starch factory in Utah has lately been agitated. A correspondent of a Colorado paper asks what a plant for that industry would cost. Here is the answer: "The size of the plant would largely govern its cost. A small one might be put up for \$40,000 or \$50,000. A good-sized one would cost \$150,000, while a big one might require \$300,000. Any local machinist may be able to give you this information."

A movement has been begun in this country that may have some effect in bringing the Irish factionists to their senses. A council of the National League, at New York, has taken steps to warn the disciples of Blackthorn that they need not expect any more moral or financial aid from this country until they cease their strife and bickerings and unite for the promotion of Ireland's welfare. Good for the National League.

A co-operative home has been started in Boston for young women students, which will accommodate about one hundred and fifty, at prices ranging from \$1.50 to \$3.50 per week. It is intended to be made self-supporting, and any student remaining over a year may become a partner in the concern. Most of the rooms are in