

ent, of the market value of bonds deposited, there was discussion but no conclusion was reached.

Biddeford, Me., 8.—The steamer *Kashin*, a coaster, is reported drifting at sea, having blown out her cylinder head. Six of her crew, it is said, landed in a boat at Cape Porpoise in an exhausted condition.

Liverpool, 8.—Dart & Rogers, fruit-ers, have failed. Liabilities, £100,000. Financial difficulties of other firms in the same trade are reported.

New York, 8.—Dr. H. P. Wakelec, of San Francisco, aged 70, fell on Broadway, receiving a concussion of the brain. The injury is considered fatal.

Washington, 8.—Representative George is preparing a bill to provide for the reduction of the tonnage tax on vessels engaged in the foreign trade of from 30 to 5 cents per ton. While reducing the tax George proposes it shall be collected at every entry port instead of annually, and this, he thinks, will prevent any lessening of receipts, while preventing discrimination against the Pacific coast.

James Stevenson, of the geological survey, reported to Major Powell as one of the results of last season's field operations, the discovery of several more ruined cave and cliff cities, offering in some respects from any he had before examined. The most remarkable was a village of 26 underground dwellings, situated near the summit of the volcanic foothills of the San Francisco mountains, San Juan County, Arizona.

Washington, 8.—Secretary Chandler making arrangements to have the bodies of Lieutenant-Commander DeLong and his companions appropriately received upon arrival in New York. He will direct the committee on naval affairs to receive the bodies, and they will be accompanied by relatives and friends of the deceased. Upon reaching New York the bodies will be taken to the New York navy yard, where a temporary vault will be erected in which they will remain until finally buried.

San Francisco, 9.—A telegram from Garrett, Cal., says: J. W. Deut, cousin of Mrs. General Grant, suicided at Alameda, on Saturday last. Poverty and sickness the cause. He leaves a wife and poor circumstances in the city.

Louisville, Ky., 8.—Strong and Crener, members of the Yale College Glee club, injured in the wreck at Charleston, Ind., are doing nicely. The Glee club wants \$1,200 from the O. & M. for delay and losses by missing engagements here and in Cincinnati. Individual damage suits will be filed in short time.

Washington, 9.—Brewster Cameron, general agent of the department of justice, tendered his resignation to accept the position of receiver of public moneys at Tucson, Arizona.

San Francisco, 9.—The steamer *Okto*, from Hong Kong, brought only twenty-one Chinese traders. They had probably seen the last of the famous Canton certificates.

Washington, 9.—It is understood that medical Director Gunnell, U. S. N., will be appointed Surgeon General of the navy, to succeed Wales.

Washington, 9.—In response to Senator Van Wyck's resolution of December 12th, Secretary Folger has sent to the Senate the item of expense incurred by the Department of Justice since March 4th, 1881. The document shows that for prosecuting the Star case, the persons named received compensation as follows: A. M. Benson, \$5,000; B. H. Brewster, \$5,000; J. H. Pinkerton detective services, \$674; W. W. Keiser, \$29,877; H. H. Wells, \$60; George Bliss, \$34,283; W. A. Cook, \$2,699; E. T. Merrick, \$17,500. Total, \$83,032.

THE FALSE PROPHET.

AN INTERVIEW WITH EL MAHDI.

An Austrian missionary, Father Kahl, who only left Khartoum last April, gives the following description of the Mahdi, which will be found to contain a number of interesting particulars hitherto unknown: Mohamed Ahmed, who was born at Dongolah, is about 40 years of age, tall, and of copper red complexion. For a long time he worked with his two brothers in the neighborhood of Khartoum at building boats for the Nile, but got tired of his life and aspired to become a Fakir, which is about the same thing as a dervish. He applied to the Sheikh of the island of Tuti, situated close to Khartoum, a little to the north of the junction of the White and Blue Niles. After a few years' study with the Sheikh, he succeeded in taking the order of Fakir. He then sought to become a Sheikh, and was again successful. Thenceforth he had but one object in view, namely, to assume the character of a prophet. He retired to the island of Abba, near Kana, on the Nile River, about 21 hours by steamer from Khartoum, and, taking up his abode in a dry cistern, he led the life of a Fakir in the strictest sense of the word. He remained there for six years, leaving his retreat on Fridays to go to the mosque. His reputation spread in course of time throughout the country, and when, subsequently, he came to be regarded as a prophet, he expounded his mission to a numerous assembly of Moslems at Khartoum. He told them that the Archangel Gabriel had twice commanded him to lead the sword of faith in order

to reform the bad Moslems, and to found a Mussulman Empire, which would be followed by universal peace. He held his mission from the Prophet, and would achieve what Mohamed had been unable to do. He therefore urged them to follow him; he was the Mahdi, and he would lead them to the kingdom founded by Allah for true believers. Abdel Kader, the ex-Governor-General of the Sudan, a man of high probity and ability, endeavored by theological argument to convince the people that Mohamed Ahmed was an impostor, but to little purpose. Not only the lower class but also the Government officials and many officers secretly believed in the Mahdi's mission. Reouf Pasha, at the time he was Governor-General, sent an emissary to the False Prophet. Father Dichth happened to be present when that emissary on his return rendered the following account of his interview with the Mahdi:—"On arriving at Alla I found Mohamed Ahmed surrounded by 500 or 600 followers, all of them naked, with iron chain belts round their waists and broad drawn swords. The Mahdi occupied a raised seat in their midst, and in his right hand he held the Prophet's staff. When I asked him what his object was he described his pretended mission. I answered that the Government and myself were as good Mussulmans as he. But this he denied, on the grounds that we allowed the Christians to have churches of their own, that we afforded them protection, and that the Government levied taxes. I advised him to abandon his plans and to surrender, adding that he could not resist a government which disposed of soldiers, Remington rifles, guns, and steamers. To this he rejoined: "If the soldiers fire on me and my followers their bullets will not hurt us, and as you advance against us with steamers they will sink with everything on board."—*London Paper.*

FROM THE FOUR WINDS.

Baltimore has the measles. Theodore Tilton is living quietly in Paris.

Jeff Davis says he will never visit the North again.

New York magazines pay \$10 a page for available matter.

Sergeant Mason will settle down in Washington as a shoemaker.

Baron von Bulow of Vienna is at the St. Nicholas Hotel, New York.

J. G. Saxe is nearly 68, and is an old man in his appearance and manner.

Several people were killed in a riot in the City of Mexico on Saturday last.

Fashionable sleighs this winter will be plumed and tasseled in Russia.

John E. Barres, of Cook's mill, Ill., while intoxicated was killed by his son last week.

Congressman Washburn of Minnesota is said to be the wealthiest man in the House.

Through trains from Paris to Constantinople now make the journey in 82 hours, with stops.

Lieutenant Governor Chauncey F. Black is to write the life of his father, the late Judge "Jere" Black.

Clouds of paper and leaves filled the air near Lebanon, Mo., several days after a cyclone had passed.

Bonanza Flood's daughter will inherit \$35,000,000. She will please remember that this is leap year.

Queen Victoria's Barmoral estate covers 25,350 acres, and is of the gross annual valuation of \$12,000,000.

Fanny Davenport's profits on the long engagement of "Fedora" in New York are said to approximate \$50,000.

On Russian railroads is a grievance book, in which travelers may inscribe their wrongs in any language.

Prisoners in the Wilkesbarre jail were starved into submission on the discovery of an intended strike against work.

The *Cleveland Leader* says: "Waterson, of the Louisville Courier-Journal, is likely to prove the El Mahdi of the democracy."

Senator Colquitt, of Georgia, and Congressman Miliken, of Maine, are said to resemble each other as closely as two the dromedaries.

Mrs. DeLong, wife of the Arctic explorer, will publish her husband's journal; and Noros, one of the survivors of the *Jeannette*, will canvass for it.

Gniteau's skeleton, which is hidden in a private room of the Army Medical Museum, has been polished and bleached until it looks like an ivory figure.

Mayor Lester of Savannah, Ga., sets an excellent example by voluntarily relinquishing \$500 of his salary to aid the city in her financial embarrassment.

Carloti Patti, who has been giving concerts with considerable success in London, will, it is said, make a tour in this country next spring and summer.

A Philadelphian owns a piano which Rubenstein once played on. It is split in only ten places, and the fall iron frame is not broken at all, only twisted a little.

Mr. Samuel J. Tilden, of New York, has arranged to start very soon for a trip in his yacht *Yosemite*, to pass the winter, like Mr. Fairman Rogers, in West India waters.

The cellars under Philadelphia's new City Hall are the largest in America, their area being 4½ acres. The first cellar is 13 feet deep and the cellar under that is of like depth.

They were about to bury a grandchild of General Turner, of Memphis, when some one insisted that it should be bathed and slapped on the back. It is now alive and doing well.

Pere Haycinthe's plan for his travels includes a tour of several months across the country to California, then to Canada, and afterwards to Athens, Constantinople and St. Petersburg.

Mr. Blake, inventor of the telephone transmitter so much used, lives in a palatial home in the suburbs of Boston, and amuses himself by working as an amateur blacksmith and machinist.

Oscar Wilde tells the few people who listen to his lectures on America that San Francisco was built by the Chinese, and his information on other American matters is equally accurate and important.

General Neal Dow says that a gentleman told him in St. Louis that he remembered the time when Alton, in Illinois, twenty-one miles away, was a more important place, and letters were sometimes addressed to St. Louis, near Alton, Ills.

Holloway, the millionaire pill man of London, who died recently, was a man who had spent his life manufacturing patent pills certainly owed it to the public to see that the hospitals were kept in good shape.

The Legislature of British Columbia has passed resolutions restricting the immigration of Chinese, and the chief reasons put forward for such a step are that there are now upon the mainland not fewer than three thousand destitute Chinamen who have begun to murder and steal; and that the Caucasian population is not large enough to absorb the alien and uncongenial element presenting itself in what seems ever-increasing instalments.

SICKS OF SPICE.

Not to hear conscience is the way to silence it.

This weather is about right for leap year. It keeps one busy leaping over the gutters of mud.

"I was only fooling one of your late bills," remarked a found father to his daughter, after kicking her sweet William out of the front yard.

In Minnesota the thermometer is only forty degrees below zero, and the people of that section are wondering if they are not going to have any winter the coming season.

"Yes, sir," said Jenkins, "Smithers is a man who keeps his word; but then he has to." "How is that?" asked Jones. "Because no one will take it."—*Oil City Derrick.*

The use of alligator leather has become so general that it causes the slaughter every year of 6,000,000 pigs.—*Peck's Sun.*

Detroit is the place above all others to hold both National political conventions next year. It is only a trip of five minutes into Canada in case anything happens.—*Detroit Free Press.*

The mistress of a fashionable boarding house can look about fifty uncomplimentary interrogations in one glance directed at the individual who has the temerity to dive into the pickle jar with the sugar tongs.—*Puck.*

A young wife, remonstrating with her husband on his dissipated habits, was answered: "I am like the Prodigal Son, my dear, I will reform by and by." "I will be like him, too," she said. "I will arise and go to my father."

It is the fashion to use one perfume only. Thus one girl always uses violet, another rose, etc. By this plan a young man's mother soon learns to distinguish at a smell which young lady her boy spent the evening with.—*Boomerang.*

A lady wants to know why the railroad companies do not provide special cars for tobacco-chewers, as well as for smokers. Bless your innocent heart! tobacco-chewers are not so particular as that. An ordinary passenger car is good enough for them.

A young gentleman was passing an examination in physics. He was asked: "What planets were known to the ancients?" "Well, sir," he responded, "there were Venus and Jupiter, and (after a pause) I think the earth; but I'm not quite certain."

It appears from the evidence that both the vessels sent by the government on the Greeley relief expedition were unfit for the service, and also imperfectly equipped for such a hazardous undertaking. It would have been more intelligent, humane and less expensive to have killed Lieut. Greeley before he started on the expedition.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

"I like to see a man come out flat-footed and speak his mind like a man and not try to dodge every issue that arises. As for me, you never find me hanging back. I'm always ready to give my opinion freely upon any subject." "Let me see," quietly remarked the little man in the corner, "things that are given freely are not generally considered worth much, are they?"

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

The earth is 74½ times smaller than Saturn, and its mean distance from us is 91,000,000 miles.

Japan produces 100,000 tons of dried sardines annually, according to the latest official returns.

In the forest beds near the delta of the Mississippi are found cypress trunks twenty-five feet in diameter and one containing 5,700 annual rings.

Nine bodies were cremated during last year in LeMoine crematory at Washington, Pa., making a total of twenty-five since the "oven" was built in 1876.

The largest farm in the world is probably that of Samuel Mackey, of New South Wales. His land runs seven hundred miles in one direction, and comprises five million acres.

The editor of the *Southern Clinic* certifies, along with Dr. Claridge and Dr. DeCalhol, to the abortive power of salicylic acid in variola, given in the ordinary doses. Dr. Bryce thus concludes: "I believe salicylic acid used early and freely will place small-pox in the category with measles, chicken-pox and other trifling complaints."

The weight of any bar of iron may be found by these rules: Flat and square iron—Multiply by the area of the end in inches by the length in feet, and the quotient is the weight in pounds. Round iron—Multiply the square of the diameter in inches by the length in feet, and the product by the constant 2.61; the quotient is the weight in pounds.

Professor Huxley's address to the International Fisheries Exhibition, was full of curious information. An acre of good fishing ground, he said, will yield more food in a week than an acre of the best land in a year. He drew a vivid picture of the moving mountain of cod 120 to 130 feet in height, which for two months in every year moves westward and southward, past the Norwegian coast. Every square mile of this colossal column of fish contains 150,000,000 of fish.

The *American Railway Journal* for September, contains a description and illustration of a device for preventing smoke and sparks from annoying passengers on railway trains. The smokestack of the locomotive is provided with an elbow near the top, which by means of a damper, conveys all the smoke and sparks into a tubular conductor, running back over the cab and tender. Similar conductors run over the roofs of the cars and are provided with funnel shaped enlargements at the front ends, into which the rear ends of conductors on preceding cars are inserted when the train is coupled up, thus giving it a practically continuous smoke pipe to the end of the train.

PHUNNYGRAPHS.

It is never the opinions of others that displease us, but the pertinacity they display in obtruding them upon us.

Rev. Mr. Beecher says that four-fifths of the inhabitants of heaven are women. Perhaps that is the reason it is called heaven. And perhaps not.—*Norristown Herald.*

Daughter—"Are all men brutes, mamma?" Mamma—"No, my dear; but some are." Daughter—"Which ones are the brutes, Mamma?" Mamma—"The married ones, my dear."

What a blot on the civilization of the age are the barbarous bull fights of Spain. Brutal, degrading, catering to the lowest instincts—and yet we would give five or six dollars to see one.—*Ex.*

"I don't believe it's any use to vaccinate for small-pox," said a backwoods Kentuckian, "for I had a child vaccinated, and in less than a week after he fell out of a window and was killed."

A negro baby was born in Georgia recently which weighed only one pound and a quarter, and a "litterary feller," hearing of the circumstance, remarked that it was funny how anything so dark could be so light.

There was a young man named De Le,

Who played a brass horn in the b&,
He blew such a blast
That as he went past
He blew all the fruit off a st&.

One of the robbers killed at Shelby Ohio, leaves a wife who is described as "very beautiful and having the carriage of a lady of culture." The lady of culture from whom that carriage was stolen should come forward and regain her property.

A wealthy bank officer, being applied to for aid by a needy Irishman, answered petulantly: "No, no, I can't help you: I have fifty such applicants as you every day." "Sure you might have a hundred without costing you much if nobody gets more than I do," was the response.

A New York paper speaks of the head varnisher in a piano factory. Has it come to this? Must the bald-headed man become heir to this additional ill? But if head varnishing is to become fashionable, the varnishers must take up their headquarters in a barber shop, for bald-headed men will not go to a piano factory to have their heads varnished.—*Oil City Derrick.*

"I believe I'll have to reduce your wages, John," said a miserly Boston employer to his help the other day.

"What for?" was the query. "Because things are coming down, the necessities of life are cheaper, and you can afford to get along on cheaper pay."

"I should like to know what of the necessities of life are cheaper?" said John. Beef is as high as ever, flour hasn't dropped a cent, and coal is as dear as ever."

"Well," said the employer, as he turned away, "at any rate the price of postage stamps has been reduced one-third."

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