

EDITORIALS.

HOW TO SEE THE POLE.

THE New York *Republic*, after stating that the British expedition to the North Pole is expected to push, by steam, as far as 85 degrees north, or within 350 miles of the Pole, whence sledge travel will be in order, suggests that balloons be used to find out what kind of a region that part of the earth is, and enters into the following calculations—

"Now the great aim of Polar exploration is to see what lies beyond the ice-clogged ships. The mast-head and all accessible elevations of land or ice are taken advantage of. Then why not the balloon? Let us see what the mathematicians say about elevated views. They tell us that the square root of once and a half the height in feet represents the number of miles that one can see on a plane surface. For instance, if your eye is six feet from the ground, add three feet, and the square root of nine is three, therefore you can see three miles. Now, suppose you go up in an anchored balloon 15,000 feet, add one-half, making 22,500 feet. The square root is 150, therefore the observer could see 150 miles, and if there was a mountain 22,500 feet high 150 miles further, that is, 300 miles from his balloon, he could see the top of that.

"How far an anchored balloon can be usefully sent up is a question. When not anchored they have been sent up as high as 37,000 feet, which would give a range of vision of about 235 miles. At safest calculation we do not see why an expanse of 150 miles radius cannot be easily surveyed from a balloon. There is no lack of clear, warm and perfectly still weather in the northern regions, and we can imagine no obstacle to the use of this means of reaching far beyond the farthest point attained by a vessel, or even by sledges, if anchorage for a balloon could be found. The making of gas is by no means difficult in steam vessels."

THE POOR PECCANT PARSONS.—

The revd. portion of the community apparently is proving anything but divine about these times. One of the latest instances is of Rev. Joseph Stittim, of Westchester, Pa., who had been in the habit of visiting Miss Sarah Hall, a young lady of high social standing, the parents thinking his "visits were for their daughter's spiritual welfare." Now "the relations and friends of the young lady are determined to sift the matter to the bottom, and threaten that if the law will not punish him, they will, at the first opportunity, take the law into their own hands." The young lady has become temporarily insane, and such is the indignation of the community that the revd. gentleman has appealed for legal protection in order to escape from being lynched.

A contemporary pithily remarks that if the clergy continue to go on in this way, a clean "heathen" will soon be preferable to a high moral "Christian."

HOW A JURYMEN MADE MONEY.

—If any jurymen hereabout are anxious to save money out of their per diem, they may take a leaf out of Abaz Poxon's book, part of which is given this way by an exchange—

"Abaz Poxon may be called a miser. He lives near Buffalo, and is rich. Lately he was drawn on a jury in that city, and this is how he turned the event. The pay was a dollar and a half a day for four weeks, aggregating thirty-six dollars. He found lodgings at fifteen cents a night with a poor and needy family, the total bill being four dollars and twenty cents. He bought a tin pail for twenty cents more, and there his expenditure ended. How did he eat? Every morning he went to a free soup house, established for the feeding of newsboys and bootblacks, and had his tin pail filled. Clear profit for the month, thirty-one dollars and sixty cents. Abaz Poxon is a self-made man."

DISCRETION IN ASSOCIATION.

SOCIETY in our cities and settlements, most of them, is of a very mixed character now-a-days, some portions of the mixture being very objectionable, and consequently, as we observed last week, there is a necessity for the exercise of discretion in social associations, especially associations of a recreative character. The season for dancing and other festive and more or less public parties is already inaugurated. Some remarks were advanced in the News upon the necessity of prudence in regard to the characters admitted to such social reunions, and especially of a judicious watchcare being exercised over the younger and less experienced members of society in regard to the acquaintances they might make in attending these parties. Time was among our citizens when most of them knew each other, and in a social ward dance, or even city dance, everybody knew everybody there, or very nearly everybody. Such, however, is not now the case. On the contrary, many citizens may go to a social assembly now, and they be comparatively unknown, the majority of the assembly being also either entirely or comparatively unknown to them. Here a question arises, "Under these circumstances can old time easy social familiarity be advisedly practised in these more modern assemblies?" The answer may properly be, "Hardly." To all there may be courtesy and no unpleasant stiffness of bearing manifested, but the social freedom of old times can be scarcely wise under the present circumstances.

In consequence of the mixed condition of society here, and some of the peculiarities of that mixture, one cannot now rely so much as formerly upon the general character of the assemblies entire as being favorable to promiscuous acquaintance. In all good society anywhere some acquaintance, personal or by reputation, is considered a necessary preliminary to social acquaintance, and even actual introduction of a stranger by a known friend or acceptable acquaintance is considered essential, the implication being that such friend or acquaintance would not introduce for acquaintance and social recognition an unworthy candidate. These general established rules are worthy of regard and adoption in this community now, if not necessary in times bygone.

It may be urged that the managers of social reunions are supposed to be sufficiently careful as to who are invited to attend. True, but they are not always so careful as might be wished, as other considerations than the desirability of social acquaintance sometimes have weight in determining who shall or who shall not be invited.

The best safeguard against undesirable acquaintanceship in social parties is the cultivation of a proper self-respect, not haughtiness, for the greatest self-respect is perfectly consistent with the utmost courtesy to others. Juveniles and young people generally, only in exceptional cases, can be expected to possess discretion to manifest a sufficient degree of courteous self-respect, and thus arises the necessity for extra care upon the part of parents and guardians. One thing, however, may be accepted as a general rule, and that is, that though the attentions of a stranger, and prepossessing he may be, may be flattering, no one is under any necessity of accepting them when they may not be desirable, or when there may be any uncertainty concerning their true character, direct or indirect, present or ultimate. Any attentions of strangers may be courteously declined, if the person to whom they are tendered has no desire to accept them, and this under the general social rule that requires the introduction of strangers by a mutual friend, or acquaintance at least, besides other reasons.

LARGE ROOT CROPS FOR CATTLE.

SOME gifted people can see "good in everything," and it is very probable that nothing is without its uses. Elsewhere in to-day's NEWS

is a short account of a method of disposing of noxious sewer gas and causing it to contribute to street illumination.

Yesterday we gave a notice of the production of mangold-wurtzels, or cattle-beet, at the rate of 82 tons per acre, by good cultivation and the use of sewage water, by Mr. Tough, on the sewage farm of the Earl of Warwick, at Leamington, Warwickshire, England.

These of course would be English tons of 2,240 lbs. each, equal to 91 American tons and 1,680 lbs. or upwards of 91 and four-fifths tons of 2,000 lbs. each. Bringing this down to garden culture, the same rate of production would be 1,193 lbs., seven pounds less than twelve hundred, for a rod of ground. Ten such rods would furnish six tons of roots, less seventy pounds, sufficient to give the family cow a hundred pounds a day for 120 days, or four months of thirty days each. This with hay and a little bran or meal would keep her in excellent condition and afford a large amount of milk and butter all winter long, to say nothing of the mangel tops, which the cow would be glad to eat while good. On the continent of Europe beet tops are carefully collected and fitted for use as green fodder during winter, and are greatly relished by cattle. Mangels or cattle-beet are very superior cattle food, especially in the latter part of the winter.

A JOB FOR M. DE LESSEPS.

THE African canal scheme of M. De Lesseps, to connect the Mediterranean at Gabez with a long string of lakes south of Algeria, is pronounced void for the reason that an eminent French engineer has determined, by actual observation, that the lakes are higher than the sea, and therefore the canal would drain the lakes toward the sea, instead of the sea keeping them and the canal full.

The *Journal of Mines*, etc., suggests that if M. De Lesseps must have extensive ocean canal work to do, he should undertake to connect the Bay of Biscay and the Mediterranean by canal, and shorten the route between Northern and Southern Europe, also Western Asia and Africa and other parts of the world reached through the Suez Canal. This would make Spain an island. The Bay of Biscay in the Atlantic and the Gulf of Lions in the Mediterranean are separated by a 200 mile neck of land.

BURNING SEWAGE GAS.—Mr. T. Harding, of the firm of Colthurst & Harding, Temple-gate, Bristol, England, has patented a method of getting rid of sewer gas, which is so deleterious to human life. A one or two inch pipe is taken from the sewer upwards to where may be convenient. A ball is fixed at the top of the pipe, leaving an aperture of a quarter of an inch all round. A gas pipe is led up the outside of the sewage pipe, with a burner or set of burners underneath the ball. The flame from the burners spreads all round the ball, and draws up and consumes the sewage gas, adding greatly to the brilliancy of the flame. This method is thought to be excellently applicable to street lamps, the deodorising power being most complete, and the increase in the illuminating power in a densely populated city being enormous.

SLEEPING CARS AND DEAD HEADS.—A Chicago dispatch in a New York paper says the Illinois Central R. R. has reduced the fare on its sleeping cars to \$1.50 per night, and the Chicago and Alton is making arrangements for a similar reduction; that railroad men confess the Saratoga combination a complete dead letter, impossible of resurrection; that the anti-pass regulations have gone by the board too completely for any hope of their ultimate enforcement; and that it is probable that passes will be issued as of old, and the thousand mile ticket device be the exception rather than the rule.

MORE MARSHALS IN TROUBLE.

THE Chicago *Times* of Dec. 12 had the following in its telegraphic columns from Washington—

"Information of corruption in an unexpected quarter was brought forward in the house, by Mr. Cox, of New York. Mr. Cox has received a number of private letters from the State of Nebraska, alleging that the United States marshals were corruptly squandering the judicial funds in that State, the general charges being very similar to those proved against the Arkansas officials last year. These misdoings have come to the knowledge of several members, and among others to Mr. Crounse, the representative from Nebraska, but he did not wish to move the investigation. Mr. Cox's resolution instructed the committee on expenditures of the department of justice to make an investigation at once."

The Omaha *Herald* comments upon the above in the following manner, showing that there may be something in the charges—

"This, like a clap of January thunder from a clear sky, cannot fail to produce a profound sensation in this part of Mr. Grant's dominions. It is a blow aimed at Judge Dundy through U. S. marshal Daily and his deputies, and U. S. District Attorney Neville himself is involved by implication. This Congressional lightning seems to strike at the Court of Judge Dundy itself, and all its officers. Mr. Cox is the gentleman who brings the matter to the attention of the country, but it appears that Judge Crounse was a conscious and consulting party to the whole business. The charges emanate from Nebraska through private letters to Mr. Cox, and are said to be similar to those proven against Arkansas officials of last year."

"Complaints have come to us for years in regard to these judicial abuses, and last year we openly charged them upon Mr. Neville concerning the fees he charged in cases where, by inducing offenders to plead guilty, these fees were doubled. This was explained by him and by Judge Dundy in a way that seemed to render it defensible. It is but due to truth to say that, at that time, Judge Dundy assured us if any abuses or wrongs existed in his court, he was more anxious than any other man could be to correct them, and that he would thank the Editor of the *Herald* to point out any wrong that should come to his knowledge. He said Mr. Neville was blameless in regard to the fees, and that the practice of which complaint was made was in accordance with his own instructions given from the Bench. But let us have the truth about this matter. Let us hear from Marshal Daily particularly. We are not without solicitude for him. This Marshal's machine has been running in corrupt ruts for a long time, or else these functionaries have been most wickedly slandered. For more than four years we fought against corruption and clamor to relieve the people of its outrageous prosecutions and persecutions not without effect, we believe, although it all that is charged be true, only radical remedies can work the needed reforms."

TWENTY-FIVE OR FIFTY THOUSAND?

CONGRESS has been already invited, by one of its members, to consider whether it would not be well to reduce the salary of the President of the United States to \$25,000, as it was before the passage of what is termed the "salary grab law." Some people consider this action rather mean, arguing that the increase in the greatness and financial ability of the Union and the general advance in prices, since \$25,000 was first established as the annual amount of the presidential salary, fully warrant the doubling of that salary, making it \$50,000, instead of \$25,000 per annum.

On the other hand, there are serious considerations in favor of the idea of reduction to the old standard. The "salary grab law," excepting so far as it affected the President's salary and a few other

particulars, was repealed last session—its unpopularity had so soon become manifest. As to the propriety of doubling the salary of the Chief Magistrate, several pertinent questions may be asked. Is there any real necessity why his salary should be doubled? Has the present President proved so much superior to all his predecessors in that office as to deserve double the salary any one of them received? Why should his salary be doubled in preference to that of any other public officer in the land? Is the enormous public debt of the Union any reason why his salary should be doubled? Are the high taxes any reason why his salary should be doubled? Are the prevailing hard times, the dullness of trade, the financial depression, and the general privation and distress of the working classes any reason why his salary should be doubled? Are the Republican defeats and the corruption and decline of that party which voted the double salary any reason why it should remain doubled? Is the fact that President Grant signed the bill doubling his own salary any reason why it should remain doubled? Would it not have been a good thing for the nation to get out of debt and reduce the rate of taxation accordingly, before doubling the salary of the President? Would not a course of the kind indicated in the last question have demonstrated a greater regard for the public welfare than the salary-doubling course did?

Of all the Presidents of the U. S., President Grant is the first and only one to sign a bill doubling his own salary out of the pockets of the people, doubling the presidential salary during his own incumbency, or for the term of any other incumbent, doubling his salary at a time when the Union was \$2,000,000,000 in debt, and the taxes were correspondingly onerous upon the people. If he had signed the bill to take effect after the expiration of his own incumbency, he would have proved thereby his own disinterestedness and nobility of spirit in the matter. But a doubled salary was too good a thing for him to leave entirely to his successors to enjoy, public weal or no public weal.

If Congress should pass a bill reducing the presidential salary to its former amount, there is one thing the present incumbent could do to show his regard for the public good—he could sign the bill, and prevent the doubled salary being paid to any other President, except upon further action of Congress. It is true, this would not have a generous look as regards his successors, but perhaps it is all he is likely to do to make amends to the country for signing the original salary-doubling bill, and that would be something.

ROOT SHOW AND SEWAGE CROPS.

MESSRS. HARRISON & SONS, seed growers and sellers, of Leicester, England, have an annual exhibition of roots grown from seeds sold by them. At that for this year, according to the report in a local paper, there were productions from the Duke of Rutland, Earl Howe, the Earl of Warwick, Admiral Sir G. Brooke Middleton, T. T. Paget, A. C. Barclay, M. P., G. E. Paget, C. Ashton, W. H. Salt, W. Frith, Esqs., and many other eminent agriculturists in the Midland Counties, and also from all parts of the country.

Says the report—

"An extra first prize was awarded to Earl Warwick for ten Norman Globe mangolds, grown on his lordship's sewerage farm at Leamington, of which Mr. Tough is the eminent manager, and which were from the heaviest crop known, the product being 82 tons per acre. This is discredited by many, but the fact of them being grown 2 ft. by 1 ft. apart, and producing such roots as those now being exhibited, leave very little room for doubt. The swedes exhibited are really remarkable for the season, but the first and second prizes were both awarded to specimens from Yorkshire, where we understand the season has been more favorable for this kind of produce, although the local exhibition did our country