

Miscellaneous.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

The Newcastle (England) Chronicle says:—

"A most remarkable case of suspended animation has occurred in Newcastle. One night a boy, named Batey, about twelve years of age, went to bed after partaking rather heartily of some rhubarb tart. Next morning about six o'clock he awoke in great pain, and his father used some simple remedies to remove the pain, but his efforts were of no avail, and shortly afterwards the boy apparently died. Preparations were made for the funeral, and the father went to the register office to obtain a certificate for the burial, but this the Registrar refused to do, as no medical gentleman had seen the lad while he was ill, and there was nothing to show what had been the cause of death. The father was recommended to go to the Coroner and see if an inquest should be held; and thither he proceeded.

"Mr. Hoyle, after hearing the particulars of the death, ordered a *post mortem* examination to be made; and Mr. W. S. Rayne, surgeon, was sent for next morning. Mr. Rayne was, however, out of town; and as the case was represented to be urgent—the body would not keep this hot weather—Mr. Bush (Mr. Rayne's assistant) got Dr. Carr to undertake the duty of ascertaining the cause of death. Dr. Carr and Mr. Bush, with their implements of dissection, and accompanied by the father of the 'deceased,' proceeded—two days after the lad had 'died'—to the house of mourning, where had been left the body of the deceased lad, with all the symbols of grief around it. But conceive the astonishment of the father when he beheld his son, who had been dead, as he thought, two days, standing in the doorway, as if nothing had happened.

"There was nothing ghastly about him. He did not appear like one who had visited the other world, nor like one risen from the dead; but he stood with the utmost unconcern, and with every sign of health and life about him. The astonished parent could scarcely believe his eyes, and the doctors almost began to think that they were hoaxed. The lad, however, told his own tale. He knew nothing about his narrow escape from being buried alive. All he knew was that he had been asleep, and on awakening, as he found no one in the house—his father was looking for the doctors, and his mother was out, probably making the arrangements for the funeral—he got up, and feeling very hungry, looked about for something to eat. Finding some eggs, he cooked them, after which he went out, in happy ignorance of his narrow escape from the grave and the surgeon's knife. Mr. Bush told the lad it was a good thing that he had 'come to life' when he did; if he had been but half an hour later he would probably have been killed in the attempt to ascertain why he had ceased to exist."

A STRANGE STORM IN CHICAGO.—The Chicago papers give interesting accounts of what they, as well as we, call a strange storm, July 1, revealing peculiar natural phenomena, and dampening the joy at the great Sanitary Fair. On the North and South Division street cars all was wild excitement. The electric fluid took to the rails, and ran up and down the track regardless of stations, and far ahead of time. Conductors became frantic; passengers looked desparingly around for an avenue of escape. Without the crowded cars poured the descending river; on the rail ran the element they dreaded so much more. The scene became exciting. Some rushed from the cars into the street, and were drenched to the skin in a moment; others, more reckless of consequences, watched the zigzag lightnings play upon the rails. The philosophically inclined were in their elements; the practical people, who saw no beauty in the threatening lightning, had left the cars, and were enjoying free baths in the streets. Locomotion was an impossibility; the horses would not go. The lightning playing ahead of them on the rails was a novelty which they preferred to stand still and watch. Many persons have expressed the opinion that the rails of the North and East division railroads were greatly injured by the fiery element which embraced them during the shower.

When the storm came on people had just begun to flock into the fair. Floral Hall was well filled with promenaders when the rain commenced. Through every crack and seam ran the blackened water, falling upon white frocks and

dainty bonnets. It would not wash off; for the tar of the roof was an ingredient of the dirty dregs. A general rush was made for Union Hall, which fortunately proved a little more water-tight. The gas in Floral Hall ceased to burn in many of the fixtures.

The storm returned to the attack at eleven o'clock. The thunder was terrific; the lightning intensely vivid. At times the whole city was aglow with light; then would follow the deafening report of thunder. In this attack the elements did more damage than during the first shower. The street-cars stopped running, so that the course of the lightning upon the rails was uninterrupted.

With the telegraphic wires the lightning played strange freaks. The apparatus at the Armory Police Station was demolished by the electric current. At the Court House station the operators were treated to a strange reception, and permitted to witness some wonderful phenomena. The numerous wires reaching into the cupola were so many guides or tracks by which the lightning essayed to enter it. But the beautiful little mechanical invention called the "lightning arrester," small and insignificant as it appears, arrested the fluid in its rapid course, and hurled it back upon the wires with the most rapid concussions. In this manner the operators spent the night.

THE GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE IN MINNESOTA.—The grasshopper scourge in the counties of Renville, Brown, Blue Earth, Nicollet, Le Sueur and Scott, this season, in numbers and destructiveness, equals anything ever known in almost any part of the civilized world. The locusts of Egypt were nothing to compare with them in many localities. Thus far their ravages have been confined chiefly to the prairies, but they have recently commenced flying and alighting in the timber known as the "Big Woods," and there is every probability that they will pass through and beyond it, and sweep the southwestern part of the State. Although they have been the most destructive heretofore in the counties of Renville, Brown, Sibley and the western part of Nicollet, there are only too strong grounds for believing that in the six counties named there will not be an average of more than one-half the crops left to harvest, and there will hardly be enough vegetables left for seed. Corn has been less injured thus far than any other crop, and wheat has suffered most.

On Saturday last they commenced flying over St. Peter and vicinity about 10 or 11 o'clock, and in a few hours the air was a dense mass of them, flying in a southerly course. When they began to drop down the sight resembled that of a heavy storm of large snow flakes, and in less time than we occupy in writing this the earth in St. Peter, Kasota, and several miles around was a living carpet of grasshoppers. Those who have gardens taxed their ingenuity to the utmost—some building large fires to smoke them away, others attempting to drive them out with brush, and still others throwing water on the smaller vegetables; but wherever the plague tarried a few moments the destruction was complete. Cabbage and onions were a favorite dish, which fact will essentially lessen not only the indispensable substantial of German tables, but the wholesome variety of well regulated American and Celtic dinners.

Toward evening the sight was awful. Houses and fences, and every shrub and brush in gardens and on the prairie wore a sombre hue; all were covered with grasshoppers—so thick that many persons had to keep their houses closed until dark.

In Henderson there is hardly a plant or weed left, and the naked lots tell a sorrowful tale of the desolation of the plague. Currant bushes and young fruit trees and shrubbery of every kind have not only been stripped of foliage, but of bark also. One man attempted a little "strategy" by planting a few tomatoes in a bunch of weeds that had not been destroyed, but his work was hardly left when the little pests made a clean sweep. He then set a box of plants on a house roof, which, up to the time of their flying, was safe. Another family had kept a box of tomato plants in their house until they attained a good size, but one of the doors having been left open ten minutes, the destroyers invaded the sacred apartment, and left nothing but the box and earth. —[St. Paul Pioneer, July 8th.]

PERMANENT MILITARY DIVISIONS.—The War Department has promulgated its order defining the permanent military divisions which are to exist in the United States. They are five in num-

ber, and embrace a total of 36 states and eight territories within their limits.

Major General Meade is placed in command of the division of the Atlantic, embracing the Department of the East, Major-General Joseph Hooker; the Middle Department, Major-General W. S. Hancock; the Department of Virginia, Major-General Alfred Terry; Department of North Carolina, Major-General John M. Schofield; and Department of South Carolina, Major-General Q. A. Gilmore. Thus General Meade has military jurisdiction from Maine to South Carolina inclusive, except the District of Columbia, and the Counties of Anne Arundel, Prince George, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's in Maryland, and Fairfax Co., in Virginia—fourteen States.

The grand military division of the Mississippi is commanded by Major-General W. T. Sherman, and embraces the Department of the Ohio, Major-General E. O. C. Ord; Department of the Missouri, Major-General H. W. Slocum; and Department of Arkansas, Major-General J. J. Reynolds. General Sherman has military jurisdiction over Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Dacotah, Montana, Arkansas and the Indian Territory—eleven States and three Territories.

The grand military division of the Tennessee is under command of Major-General W. H. Thomas, and embraces the Department of the Tennessee, Major-General Stoneman; Department of Kentucky, Major-General John N. Palmer; Department of Georgia, Major-General J. B. Stedman; and Department of Alabama, Major-General C. R. Wood. General Thomas, therefore, has military jurisdiction over the States of Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia and Alabama—four States.

The grand military division of the Gulf is under the command of Major-General Phil. Sheridan, and embraces the Department of Mississippi, Major-General H. W. Slocum; Department of Louisiana and Texas, Major-General E. R. S. Canby, and Department of Florida, Major-General John G. Foster. Thus, Gen. Sheridan has military jurisdiction over Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Florida—four States.

The grand military division of the Pacific is under command of Major-General H. W. Halleck, and embraces the Department of Columbia, Brigadier-General G. Wright, and the Department of California, Major-General McDowell. This gives Gen. Halleck military jurisdiction over the States of Oregon, California and Nevada, and the Territories of Idaho, Washington, Utah, New Mexico and Colorado—three States and five Territories.

SEED CORN.—It is now satisfactorily proven that seed from the butt end of an ear of corn will ripen and produce, planted all at the same time, some three weeks earlier than seed from the little end of the same ear. Farmers are recommended always to break their seed corn ears in the middle, and use the butt end only.

STARVATION AT THE SOUTH.—The following is from the Augusta (Ga.) Transcript:

The system of plunder inaugurated in some of our Southern cities will, unless speedily arrested, bring the whole people to starvation. We recently mentioned the sad condition of the people of Camden, whose houses were subject to visitation by an armed mob, and who were allowed to have nothing save by the sufferance of abandoned and lawless men. Now we learn that the people of Columbia have been subjected to the like terrible visitation. The description is most piteous, reminding one of that plaintive appeal, entitled, "The Groans of the Britons," which the unhappy people addressed to the Roman General, when the barbarians were driving them into the sea. It appears that the mob begun with attacks upon the public stores; then private gatherings were sacked; then the supplies gathered at the depots, for the suffering and starving poor of the city were carried off; then the wagons, which conveyed there the charities of other cities, were emptied. Even the mules attached to those wagons, and the cows upon which poor widows and orphans depended for their support, were not spared. The Phoenix declares that there is no other prospect before the people but absolute famine and starvation. It says:—There are no less than ten thousand people here daily receiving rations, who have no other means of getting bread for themselves and children. See these unhappy destitutes at the ration-house, daily clinging to its porches, eagerly waiting for the doors to open and give them that daily bread for which they

are authorized and required to pay. The executive committee of relief has given notice that their resources are nearly at an end; that they will, in a short time, be compelled to close their doors—all supplies exhausted, and no means left any longer to supply the citizens with food. What remains? The prospect before us is too terrible for contemplation. We shall have need to make away from a community, which, thus plundered by man, may be fairly assumed to be abandoned of God.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION OF MISSOURI.—The new constitution of the State of Missouri, which, it is believed, has just been accepted by a majority of the legal and loyal voters, was opposed by many radicals as well as by the proslavery men, conservatives and secession sympathisers. The following synopsis of its leading features shows the secret of the fierceness of the hostility of those parties:

It declares Missouri a free state forever.

It establishes the equality of all men before the law.

It prohibits legislation interfering with the personal rights of men on account of their color.

It declares that Missouri shall ever remain a member of the American Union.

It excludes from the ballot box and from office traitors, rebels, rebel sympathisers, guerrillas, marauders, bushwhackers, and their aiders and abettors.

It, in like manner, excludes Knights of the Golden Circle, Sons of Liberty and O. A. K's.

It, in like manner, excludes those who enrolled themselves as disloyal, or as Southern sympathisers, to avoid militia duty.

It provides for an efficient registration of voters, thereby securing the exclusion of illegal votes.

It removes the rule requiring treason to be proved by at least two witnesses, and leaves it to be proved as any other crime.

It invites immigration from Europe, by extending the elective franchise to those persons of foreign birth who have, more than one year before an election, declared their intention, according to law, to become citizens of the United States.

It forbids private, local and special legislation, which for thirty years has cursed the State, and brings the State under a uniform system of general laws.

It prohibits lotteries.

It forbids the legislature making compensation for emancipated slaves.

It stops the creation of corporations by special acts, with enormous and dangerous powers, and requires all corporations to be formed under general laws.

It prohibits the creation, renewal or extension of the charter of any bank of issue.

It protects the interests of the people by imposing upon stockholders individual liability for the debts of corporations.

It secures an efficient system of common schools for the free education of the children of the State.

It gives increased facilities for its own amendment and allows the people a direct vote upon every amendment proposed.—[N. Y. Sun.]

TUSCAN HATS.—The hats and bonnets of *paille-d'Italie*, which enjoy such favor in the fashionable world, are all manufactured in Tuscany, and, according to official returns, their annual value is about eleven million francs. Tuscany is the only part of Italy which produces straw fine enough for those bonnets, and the finest of all is grown in the immediate vicinity of Florence. The attempts made to grow the same straw in the Marches, Romagna and Naples, have met with little success. The straw is the produce of a particular kind of wheat, the stems of which never exceed 15 or 16 inches in height, and bear very small ears, containing just enough seed for re-sowing. All the women in the district are straw-plaiters, and the finest specimen of the plait are frequently seen in the hats worn by the peasant women, who have them for their own use, and refuse to sell them at any price. The sewing or joining of the plait is a difficult and tedious operation, as a hat, to be perfect, must seem to be of one piece. At Florence, the number of these hats made yearly is about 530,000. In certain localities, as at Impoli, for instance, 4,000 women and girls are employed at this work, and at Sesto there are about 2,000.