

# INTERESTING CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWO REPUBLICANS IN FRONT OF THE COURT HOUSE.

How are you, B? You have just been to the treasurer's office. Been paying your taxes I suppose.

Mr. B.—Yes I have been paying an amount of taxes which might be considered a good rent on my little place. Last year I worked hard, and as the result of my labor my wheat turned out a failure and what corn and pork I had fell so in price that it hardly paid me for the labor bestowed upon it; and then I had to pay the Government a per cent. per bushel for the privilege of raising corn, and a per cent. per head for the privilege of killing my hogs. And now, after paying my taxes, I will not realize anything for my labor. You are a very wealthy man, Mr. A., I have heard your wealth estimated at one hundred thousand dollars. You must have difficulty, in the scarcity of money, to raise funds to pay them.

Mr. A.—Oh! no; my taxes are light. They only amount to about fifteen dollars per year.

Mr. B.—How is that? I am not worth one-tenth the amount that you are, and yet my taxes are over \$100 per year.

Mr. A.—You see I had foresight. I knew that the enormous cost of the war would entail grievous burdens of taxation upon the people, and as soon as the Government put its bonds upon the market promising to exempt them from the State, county and township as well as National taxation, and to pay an interest in gold equal what my income was in greenbacks, I immediately sold my two farms, my town lots, collected in what was owing to me, and even sold my family residence, and invested every dollar of it in Government securities. I am worth about \$120,000, upon which I receive an interest which is an equivalent of eight per cent. in currency; and I don't pay a cent of tax for any purpose, except about \$15 on the furniture in my house.

Mr. B.—But don't you send your children to the common schools? Don't you ride on the public highways? Haven't you the benefit of protection from our State laws?

Mr. A.—Yes, but the whole thing is complimentary to me on the part of my neighbors. I never pay school or road tax, or for the support of the State Government.

Mr. B.—But how is the Government to be supported if this large amount of money is exempted from taxation?

Mr. A.—Very easily. My friends and neighbors who own farms and town lots, or who have merchandise, manufacturing establishments, farm products, or any kind of chattels, and all men of small or moderate means, who cannot afford to live on the interest of their little pittance, but must keep it moving to secure food and raiment for themselves and families, have the amount of tax which I am exempt from paying added to their own taxes, and they are compelled to pay the whole amount. The Government loses nothing. Persons who pay taxes are required to pay their own and mine also.

Mr. B.—I see the matter now in its proper light, and can easily comprehend why my taxes have been doubled within a few years. I have been paying my own taxes and part of yours also. I am opposed to this unjust discrimination, and shall help the Democratic party to bring Government bonds like other property, on the tax duplicate.—*Chilliothe Advertiser.*

**MARINE LOSSES.**—The marine losses reported for June are large for the season, being 1 steamer, 3 ships, 5 brigs and 14 schooners, the aggregate value of which is estimated, with their cargoes, at \$1,170,000. The large losses are the ship *Monarch* of the Sea missing, from Liverpool for New York, with 700 emigrant passengers, and from which nothing has been heard for so long a time that she has undoubtedly sunk with all on board. The ship and cargo were valued at \$400,000. The bark *Orani*, from Key West for Liverpool, with a cargo of cotton valued at \$300,000, has also been missing for several months, and is now included in the list of losses. The losses, since the commencement of the year, are set down as follows:—

Vessels.	Value.
Total losses for January.....	\$9
Do. February.....	3,170,000
Do. March.....	1,562,500
Do. April.....	2,707,500
Do. May.....	730,300
Do. June.....	1,170,000
Total losses for six months.....	\$15,081,800
Same period in 1865.....	12,003,000
Do. 1864.....	8,107,300
Do. 1863.....	7,275,500

—[N. Y. Sun.]

# AN ARTISTIC BUTCHER IN PARIS

None of your readers who has paid a visit to Paris within the last few years (writes the correspondent of a London journal) can have failed to notice the splendid *boucherie* of M. Duval, which astonishes all passers by, and many, I am sure, have relished one of those delicious cups of hot soup which the same individual sells in those numerous *etablissements de bouillon* he has created in the most frequented places of the metropolis. M. Duval, not satisfied with the reputation he has acquired as a first-rate butcher and *restaurateur*, is now in a fair way of making his name as a zoologist. This enterprising capitalist is now constructing on the Boulevard Montmarte a monster aquarium, in comparison to which the elegant construction erected in the Jardin d'Acclimatation by our gifted countryman, Alfred Lloyd, is a mere baby, and that of the London Zoological Gardens, of which poor Mitchell was so proud, a toy. The whole of the ground floor of the Hotel Frascati teems with architects, masons and decorators. A sub-marine cavern, which will present the appearance of being entirely hollowed by the action of the sea out of solid rock, is rapidly progressing towards completion. Tons of sea water have arrived, and among the rare amphibious animals and fish which are to inhabit this small ocean are a pair of fish-tailed walrus and some bright gold-colored cyprinus, sent from China, several couple of phoea, ursine seal and seal calves. We are promised a whale, but he is not to measure more than fifteen feet as there is no room for a bigger one. He was captured in Baffin's Bay by Captain Newton, of Baltimore, and by him transferred to a reservoir at Boston. Thence he was shipped on board the *Mormon*, in a tank of sea water, for France. The supply was so arranged that the water flowed in at one end and out at the opposite side, whence, by a rotary machine, it was propelled back to the upper end. Thus the water was kept in a fresh state, and never required to be renewed.

**REPORT OF NEVADA INDIANS.**—Commissioner Cooley, of Washington, has received a report from the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, H. G. Parker, dated Carson City, Nevada, June 8th, in relation to the condition of the tribes in his charge, and the progress made in the efforts of the Government to establish among these tribes an interest in agricultural pursuits. He states that the Indians are in good health, quiet and peaceable. The Washoes are now engaged in fishing at Lake Tahoe. The Superintendent has caused a tract of land to be plowed, situated on the Truckee Reservation, on which the Putes have planted potatoes and other vegetables. They seem to be well pleased with the idea, and work very faithfully. This has been done without any expense to the Government, and the Superintendent expects to create quite an interest in farming among these Indians when funds are provided for that purpose.—[Washington Cor. S. F. Bulletin.]

**CONGRESS AND ITS PAY.**—The New York *Tribune* gives utterance to its opinion of "Congress and its pay" in the following trenchant manner:

Congress did a very unwise, selfish, cowardly, unprincipled act, in increasing its own pay at the close of the late session. We say unwise; because there are not five men in the two Houses who would have dared, when candidates for their present positions, to declare that, if elected, they would seek and vote to raise their own pay from \$6,000 to \$10,000 each per Congress. It was selfish; for the members must have known, in so acting and voting, they were embarrassing and damaging the public cause which they profess to have at heart, in their greedy lust of private gain. It was unprincipled; for functionaries intrusted with power over their own recompense should therein set an example of moderation, in order that they may be in position to resist sternly and efficiently the rapacity of other would-be leeches on the body politics. It was cowardly; for they did not venture to enact this increase of pay in a distinct bill, and let the yeas and nays be taken and recorded thereon, but sneaked it in to the tail end of an appropriation bill, and juggled it through by the machinery of a Conference Committee, after the House had voted it down by 125 to three. It was a very mean performance, and we hope to see it repealed at the next session. It will be, if the people will only take the matter in hand and ask every candidate for the next Congress, "Sir, will you vote to put the pay of members back to \$3,000 per annum, and save all mileage charged by the most direct mail route?"

# RUSSIA.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London *Morning Herald* writes:

The inquiry into the affair of the (4th) 16th of April has resulted in a report presented to the Emperor by General Mouravieff, stating that there undoubtedly exists a wide-spread conspiracy for the subversion of the sovereign power and the established form of government. His Majesty, therefore, by an ukase dated July 10th, has ordered the establishment of a supreme court of justice, under the presidency of Prince Gagarine, to examine further into the matter and arrive at some definite decision.

City improvements of various kinds are being carried out. We have letter boxes in almost every street, which are cleared several times daily. Telegraph wires are to be stretched over the houses in all directions, and when the system is completed we shall be able to communicate with our town friends at the rate of forty copecs (about a shilling) for twenty words. We are to have electric clocks, too, at the new law courts and at the imperial library, and the mean time of the capital will be regulated from the observatory at Pulkova. A new company, the Agence Telegraphique Russe, has recently begun to supply news for the public; but the sources of information not being always indicated, its intelligence is received with caution. We have for some time been able to purchase the daily papers in the streets, and can now in addition procure the latest telegrams issued from the company's office, and sold in closed envelopes.

The Roumanzoff Place, formerly one of the dirtiest parts of the town, has been converted into a handsome square or enclosed garden, in the midst of which, on both sides of the obelisk, fountains are now in course of erection.

The spirit of progress, it seems, has reached even Moscow, where gas pipes are being laid down in all the streets. It is said that in turning up the soil to make the necessary excavations charred wood, ashes, bones, and many highly curious remains of the old city are perpetually coming to light.

**CURIOSITIES OF THE MARRIAGE SERVICE IN ENGLAND.**—A clergyman in Hampshire, England writes:

"If you had married as many couples as I have you would be aware that it is not only when German princes appear at the hymeneal altar in England that novelties in pronunciation occur and foreign matter is introduced in the marriage service. In my parish it is quite the fashion for the man in giving the ring to say to the woman, 'With my body I the wash up, and with all my hurdle goods I, thee, and thou;' to which strange trio he pertinaciously adheres in spite of all my endeavors to correct the text. One man who could not read, but had taken praiseworthy pains to learn his part beforehand, had perfectly mastered what he was taught, only unluckily his 'coach' had blundered upon the baptismal instead of the matrimonial service, so when interrogated as to taking the woman to be his wedded wife the bridegroom stoutly affirmed, 'All this, I steadfastly believe.' The women are usually better up in this part of the prayer-book than the men, but one day a bride (taught in a government school) startled me by making the extraordinary vow to take her husband 'to have and too 'old from this day forth' for better horse for richer power in siggornets else to love cherries and to bay.' What meaning this marvellous farrago conveyed to her mind it is beyond the power of mine to imagine.

**SEEING THE WIND.**—Take a polished metallic surface of two feet or more, with a straight edge—a large hand-saw will answer the purpose. Take a windy day, whether hot or cold, clear or cloudy, only let it not rain or the air be murky—in other words, let the air be dry and clear; it is better if the wind be steady, but this is not essential. Hold your metallic surface at right angles to the direction of the wind—*c. g.*, if the wind is north, hold your surface directed east and west, but instead of holding the surface vertical, incline it about 45 degrees to the horizon, so that the wind, striking, glances and flows over the edge (keeping it straight) as the water over a dam. Now sight carefully over the straight edge at some minute and sharply defined object, and you see the air flow over as water flows over a dam. Make your observations carefully, and you will hardly ever fail to see the air, no matter how cold; the result is even better when the sun is obscured.—[*Scientific American.*]

# WHY ORCHARDS DETERIORATE.

Fruit trees, like every thing else whose sustenance is derived from the earth, are subject to decay, but by improper management they are often killed before their natural productive power is half exhausted. This is not the fault of the variety planted, the locality, nor of the severity of the weather, except in rare instances, but of those who have the care and culture of them. The trouble generally arises from the want of thought or the stupidity of the owner. He plants an orchard, the trees perhaps twenty feet apart. In a few years, if they grow well, their branches will cover a large portion of the intervening space. But some ground is still unshaded; and the orchardist thinks it a pity that this should lie waste. The plow is introduced, and what is the result? Simply this: hundreds and hundreds of the small fibres, reaching out from the main roots in search of sustenance for the trunk, are severed; their absorbing and conducting power is destroyed and the tree and branches, sustained by their active functions, wither; ceases to yield its wonted burden of fruit, and, after a few years of languid life, prematurely dies. The truth is, the farmer asks too much of his soil; wants it to impart vigor and fruitfulness to from fifty to eighty trees to the acre, besides giving him a crop of corn or potatoes annually. To secure the last he cuts the thousands of fibres of his trees with the plow, and then wonders why his orchard decays and dies prematurely? This is bad policy and poor practice. Do not ask too much from the soil. Give it a chance to nourish and sustain one product to a full development, rather than by a multiplication of them, to secure stunted samples of immature ones. The earth, properly manured and tilled, is munificent in its gifts to man, but when overtaxed by a multiplicity of exactions its response to his labors will be feeble and unsatisfactory.—[*Rural New Yorker.*]

**THE STATURE OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS.**—Dr. B. A. Gould's paper on "The Stature of American Soldiers," read before the National Academy of Sciences, at Northampton, contained some curious and interesting facts. His statistics related to one million of men, and were obtained from the facts collected by the Sanitary Commissioner from adjutant-generals of the different States. The stature of the earlier troops, who are believed to have been a sturdier class of men, could not be obtained. From the figures obtained, it appears that the time of reaching maximum height is very much later than is generally supposed. In men born in America the average age for attaining this height is 28. Again, it is found that the height of men at 35 is not so great as at 29 or 30. The attempts to indicate a rate of growth have not been found very satisfactory. The age for maximum stature comes earliest in States where the height is found to be greatest—the men of foreign birth were considerably shorter than those of American nativity, yet the stature seems to depend more on the place in which they were reared than on that in which they were born. A Massachusetts man reared in Iowa is an inch taller. The average height of the first 50,000 of the New York troops was 67.4 inches, of the second 50,000, 67.5, and of the third, 65.8. An investigation showed that two-thirds of the men comprising this third count were enlistments in the navy, so that it seemed as if the shorter men preferred to be sailors. An examination of the books of the Navy Department confirm this result, showing that the sailors are two inches shorter than the soldiers, while the landmen enlisted in the navy were found to be of about the same height as the soldiers. The only explanation of these facts which is at all satisfactory is that the early life on shipboard hinders growth. The highest stature found in the books was 6 feet 10 inches. The number of men above 6 feet 4 inches reached several hundred; but these tall men did not wear so well as the shorter ones by a great deal.

**THE Woodbridge (Cal.) Messenger** says that never before in the memory of that very respectable personage, "the oldest inhabitant," has that section of the country been visited to such an extent with chills and other billious complaints as at present. The "Live Oaks" of San Joaquin county have generally been noted for the extraordinary good health of their citizens, but the present summer appears to be an exception.

**THE cattle running at large upon the commons below Portland, Ky., are dying by scores. The disease has become epidemic, and there are but few families who have not lost valuable animals.**