Daily Alta California

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Daily Alta California

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SAN FRANCISCO, MONDAY, JAN. 9

CITY ITEMS

Curious Electrical Phenomena.

Nearly every child old enough to take an interest in reading stories of travel in foreign lands, has read of the strange electrical storms which take place on the deserts of Northern Africa, when the air is filled with red dust brought from whence no one can tell, a prickly sensation is felt on the skin—making it difficult to stand for any length of time exposed to the full force of the hot, dry blast—and the hair and beard of the traveller, charged with an excess of electricity, stand out stiff and distinct "like quills upon the fretful porcupine." It is known that storms of a similar character, but generally of less violence, sweep at times over the desert plains of Southern California and Arizona, across the great Llano Estacado, or Staked Plain of Texas, and lap down upon the borders of the fertile regions contiguous to the Gulf of Mexico. But it is not generally known that such are ever felt with any considerable force in the latitude of San Francisco. It appears, however, that such is the fact, and that our electrical storms produce very serious results in some cases. The reason that the residents of San Francisco are unaware of the fact, seems to be that the sand storms to which we are accustomed are so much more irritating to the skin, eyes, and mucous membrane, that the electrical storm passes unnoticed, or is set down to the credit of the "pleasant weather" side of the ledger.

Early in November last the submarine telegraphic cable, laid across the straits leading up from the Golden Gate to the Bay of San Francisco, from Lime Point to Fort Point, suddenly ceased to work from some cause not then discoverable, and it was supposed that it had been caught by the anchor of some vessel and broken. Every possible effort was made for a long time to discover the break, but without avail. The line was in working order from Lime Point to Benicia, and from the shore at Fort Point to the office in this city, but send as much of the subtle fluid as you would into the cable running under the bay, none came out on the other side. Indications favored the conclusion that the break was nearest to Marin county shore, and as a last resort, Superintendent James Gamble determined to commence pulling up the cable from that side. After taking up about one-third of a mile of the cable, the boat party engaged in the work found a place where it was fast in the rocks at the bottom, and as it was impossible to dislodge it, they could go no further, and were obliged to cut it there. On applying the instrument it was found that the portion of the line still submerged was in working order as far as Fort Point, and on putting in a new section in place of that already recovered, the cable was relaid, last week, and that line is now in working order to Sacramento. Mr. Gamble was determined to find out where the trouble had been, and had the raised section of cable rolled on reels, and while the instrument indicated the spot where the damage existed, and the piece of the cable, where found defective, was unwound of the exterior covering of the wire.

The cable is constructed as follows: A small copper wire (No. 16) is encased in three successive coats or wrappers of gutta percha, the whole making a cord of about one-third of an inch in thickness; this cord is then "laid" or wrapped with tarred jute, and over all a layer of galvanized iron wire, consisting of twenty-four strands. If it is wrapped, the entire cable being over an inch in thickness when complete. The galvanized iron wire was first unwrapped, and the layer of jute was detached, the gutta percha coating and the small central copper wire only being left. The defect was now discovered at a point which would have been about a quarter of a mile from the Marin County shore. A small hole, about the size of a pipe stem, was found burned through the gutta percha coating, from the copper wire outwards, and so far into the jute covering as to allow the salt water to come directly in contact with the copper wire, which was also partially burned off, and of course the electric current was broken at that point. On referring back to the time and the other cables ceased to work, it was found that an electrical storm, such as we have referred to in the beginning of this article, was prevailing in this vicinity.

The lines on this day were so overcharged with surplus outside electricity, that it was impossible to work the line, and the helixes of the instruments were repeatedly reversed by the action of atmospheric electricity. Some idea of the force of the current of "volunteer" electricity with which the operators had to contend, may be imagined from the fact that the operator at Benicia was obliged to use sticks with which to disconnect the wires from the battery in his office, and, after the connection was broken, there was a continuous play of vivid electrical light between the points of the wires, the stream seeming to be of the full size of the wire itself. There is no doubt but that the overcharge of electricity caused the destruction of the cable at that time.

It has been suggested that the extraordinary amount of electricity applied to the trans-Atlantic telegraph cable caused it to give out, where it did, and the manner of its giving out is probably explained by the discovery of the break in this instance. The air, during this storm, was filled with red dust of a peculiar character, and in the high lands of the interior, the brick colored precipitation produced on the skin by the dry north wind was precisely what is felt during the prevalence of the simoon in Africa, and the corresponding "red dust storms" of the desert plains of the interior of our continent.

LEGISLATIVE MIGRATION.—If the migration of members of the Legislature to San Francisco and their settlement here is a fair indication of a movement general among the people of the interior, this city must be growing rapidly. Messrs. Rule of Nevada, Dow of El Dorado, Ludlow of Amador, Wiley of Humboldt, Lux of Tuolumne, Badlam of Sacramento, Sumner and Dr. Buffum of Butte, all members of the last Assembly; and Wheeler, Clerk, and Rider, Sergeant-at-Arms, of that body, are all here as permanent residents; and Boulware of Sutter, is at the Presidio as Lieut.-Colonel of a new regiment. The interior has sixty-eight members of the Legislature, and more than a tenth of the number have settled here within eight months.

SUDDEN DEATH OF AN OLD FIREMAN.—Ex-Foreman Leon Prudon, of Lafayette Hook and Ladder Company, No. 2, of which Company he was one of the original founders, died suddenly yesterday noon, from suffocation, caused by the breaking of an internal abscess. He was, to all appearances, in perfect health yesterday morning. Deceased was a native of Paris, and came to California in 1850. He was an exempt fireman, and had a host of friends in and out of the Department. The funeral will take place from Lafayette Hook and Ladder Company's House, on Broadway at one P. M., on Tuesday, and the entire Department is invited to participate in the ceremonies.

GLORIOUS DAY AND EVENING.—Yesterday was the first thoroughly pleasant Sunday since the winter rains set in. The air was mild and almost summerlike; the sky clear, and the wind *non est*, and everybody was abroad enjoying themselves. The macadamized roads leading out of the city were in excellent condition and perfectly thronged with teams, and the number of visitors at the Cliff and Ocean Houses was probably larger than ever before on any single day. The evening drives along the beach and home by moonlight were among the luxuries to be remembered for a life-time.

GIVE HIM A CHANCE. A young man, who signs himself Robert Henry Pitt, and may be addressed through the Post Office, sends us a very well written letter, asking us to help him obtain almost any kind of labor within his physical capacity to perform. He is a stranger in the country, without money, and being physically incapacitated from entering the army, is forced to offer his services to any one who will decently board and clothe him, having the best of references to show for his honesty and capacity.

ANNIVERSARY.—The second Anniversary of the organization of the Social Literary Society will be celebrated by a select entertainment at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association, 526 California street, on Tuesday evening, January 10, 1865, exercises commencing at half-past seven o'clock.

INSTALLATION.—The following officers of Excelsior Degree Lodge, No. 2, I. O. O. F., were installed, last Saturday evening: Edmund Laine, D. M.; Wm. Miller, D. D. M.; Joseph Luffkin, A. D. D. M.; Washington Taylor, V. G.; J. W. Angell, Secretary; John Phillips, Treasurer.

CONVALESCENT.—Chief Burke has so far recovered from his late severe illness as to be able to ride out on horseback, and in a few days will be himself again.

ROSE BUDS.—"Sloshing around"—as the phrase was defined by the Arkansas witness in a bar-room fight case: "John Smith, he had a derned big club, and he made it his business to go around and knock down every loose man thar war in the crowd; that's what I call sloshing around!"—would well describe the position and mode of prosecuting a campaign followed by detective Rose. One day last week the proprietor of the American Bakery, on Jackson street, complained to him that his eggs went off "beyond all account," and asked him to look into it. The only man there was any reason to suspect of sucking eggs about the establishment was one Jacob Stump, the proprietor of a pastry and fancy work bakery, on another street, who had been working at the establishment three hours per day for six months, but he could hardly be the thief after all, for he took nothing home with him at any time but a tin can, in which he carried yeast to his own establishment, every day. The next day Rose met Stump on the street—by accident, of course—and carelessly inquired, "What have you got in that can?" "Yeast!" said the slightly surprised baker. "Eggscuse me!" but I shall have to raise it for you," said Rose, and suiting the action to the word he turned up the long cylindrical can, and at the bottom found some $4 worth of eggs broken into the can, shells and all. "Jacob, stir your stumps, and tortle for the calaboose." Jacob tortled.

One evening last week, Ah Poon, a Celestial gentleman, not given to hard work, resident in China alley, in an unguarded moment so far forgot himself as to not only raise his hand, but a sharp knife, in anger, against a woman—a countrywoman of his at that—and to stab her repeatedly in the breast and limbs, and then fled, supposing her dead, which she was nearly. A description was furnished to Rose, and yesterday, on asking Ah Poon how he came to be inside the bars of the calaboose cell, he answered, in broken China, "Losey, he put a me in here. Me no shabbe any more."

On Saturday evening, between eight and nine o'clock, one William Henderson, whose profession, trade, or occupation is not given in the Directory—he may be none the worse for that—was walking through Gold street, a small alley, or *cul de sac*, which runs out of Sansome street, when he was set upon by two well-known jayhawkers, named Burke and David H. Baxter, *alias* Johnson, knocked down, robbed, and badly beaten. Yesterday they were taking a walk along the city front, when they met Rose, and we saw their names on the calaboose register of guests of the city and county of San Francisco, with the words "highway robbery" opposite them, last evening.

THE WRECK OF THE "ANN PARRY."—The wreck of the ill-fated barque *Ann Parry*, which went ashore, last week, a few hundred yards south of the Cliff House, at Point Lobos, was visited by thousands of people, yesterday, and was one of the sea-lions of that locality. It lays high and dry on the beach, some hundred yards from the water, at low tide, and presents a curious appearance, sadly suggestive of the fatal violence of the storm. The hull seems to have been broken entirely up, and the stout masts were snapped in pieces, and her timbers torn and splintered by the angry waves like so many straws twisted up and crushed in a man's hand. The bulk of the lumber lies in a single pile upon the wreck of the hull, fragments of the masts, the capstan and other heavy articles, lying on top of all. A portion of the lumber, and large pieces of the deck and sides of the vessel, were carried by the waves further in shore and scattered along the beach, and the ranch-men, from the country below, were busy yesterday in hauling off whatever could be claimed as "flotsem and jetsem." A gang of Chinamen, employed by the owners of the cargo and vessel, are saving what can be got at of the lumber and timbers of the wreck, and in a few days the last trace of vessel and cargo will have disappeared. There were one hundred and fifty sacks of potatoes, from Puget Sound, on board the barque, which are supposed to be still buried under the lumber, in the bottom of the wreck, and Foster, of the Cliff House, offered to buy them, yesterday, "unsight unseen," as you and we, gentle reader, used to trade our Barlow knives, with no springs and broken blades, in the days of our innocent childhood. The price could not be agreed upon exactly; seller wanted $60 for the chance of recovering the spuds, while buyer would offer but $50. It was finally agreed that S. W. Venup, Esq., should act as referee in the matter, and each party introduced six witnesses. The thirteenth witness was one Juan de Espadas, a gentleman in top-boots, who resembles Gen. McClellan in personal appearance, and as his testimony was on the side of the seller, Foster yielded the point and paid $60.

COURT RECORD.—His Most Serene Majesty Norton I, D. G., Emperor, etc., desires us to make known the fact that he made no calls on New Year's, for the reason that he could not possibly visit *all* of his lady friends, and to visit some and slight the rest would provoke quarrels and heart-burnings without number, if, indeed, it did not create civil war at once. His reasoning is sound and his deductions unanswerable. His paternal affection for his whole people is also the reason of his still remaining unmarried, anxious as he is not to depart from this world leaving the throne without an heir of the blood royal. If *all* the ladies will meet, and, by vote, decide who is to be the favored fair one to share the royal throne, he will marry at once; but rather than to inaugurate another War of the Roses, he will die unmarried, and let the Empire slide. Our gracious Sovereign is *never* wrong. We are also requested to state that the old bummer, with a red military cap about the size of an old-fashioned candle extinguisher, and a nasal protuberance which closely resembles a bologna of beef's liver hung against the side of a badly whitewashed outhouse, who has been staggering around town, is not the Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Bodyguard, as some unthinking people have imagined; nor has his Majesty ever authorized to recognize the government of his Imperial Highness Maximilian I, as reported. *Vive l'Empereur!* for some days.

ANNUAL SALE OF PEWS IN THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH.—The annual renting of pews in the First Unitarian Church will take place this evening, as will be seen by reference to an advertisement in another column of this morning's ALTA. As on the occasion of the first letting, the pews will be rated separately, according to location, each being marked with the amount of the annual rental, and the right of choice will then be sold at a premium to the highest bidder, Hon. D. C. McRuer acting as salesman. Last year the anxiety to secure seats in this Church was so general, that every pew was disposed of on the first evening, and many who were not present to bid, were disappointed in getting a seat. The same will probably occur this year.

SINGULAR DEATH OF A VALUABLE HORSE. A gentleman was driving leisurely along the road leading up from the beach below the Cliff House, along the creek to the Ocean House, with the "roan team" from the Fashion stables of Messrs. Porter & Covey, on Sutter street, yesterday afternoon, when one of the horses, a valuable animal, to all appearance in perfect health and condition, staggered as if struck a heavy blow, and falling to the ground died without even a single struggle within one minute after being attacked. The opinion of several well-known horse-men, who witnessed the occurrence, was that the animal died from heart-disease.

FIRE YESTERDAY.—About three o'clock yesterday morning a small shanty, formerly occupied by James McGinn, the newsdealer, which has been standing in the street, near the corner of Pacific and Larkin streets, near the Catholic Church, was set on fire by an incendiary, and burned to the ground. There is no policeman on that side of the hill, and the hose company on Union street, consequently, had no alarm. If there had been a breeze, the church would have been burned before neighbors could do the duty of policemen and firemen.

U. O. R. M.—At a regular meeting of California Stamm, No. 70, U. O. R. M., held at their hall on the evening of Jan. 6th, the following officers were elected for the ensuing term: A. Fenkhausen, O. Ch.; Louis Shulze, U. Ch.; Charles W. Lomler, B. Ch.; Ernest Lursmann, Secretary; B. B. Steinbrink, Financial Secretary; John Sohneider, Treasurer; H. Cline, Frank Beer and M. Mangels, Trustees. The installation will take place on Friday, January 13th, 1865.

A "MEETING HOUSE," to cost $80,000 to $100,000, is shortly to be built in "Brigham City," Utah Territory. The town is doing a prosperous business. The citizens boast of a school and theatre.

FROM the Marysville *Appeal* of the 7th, we learn that the watchman of a mining claim at De Oro, Butte county, was shot and killed by one Carr, on Wednesday last.

THE late floods have, says the Marysville *Appeal*, deposited immense sand-bars in the Yuba river, from the E street bridge to its mouth.

THE gang of thieves which have recently infested Napa county are mostly "in limbo." The remainder have mostly "vamosed."

Success of Grierson's Raid on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad.

GUERRILLA OPERATIONS IN KENTUCKY.

The Supremacy of the Federal Iron Clads Acknowledged.

The St. Albans' Raiders held by the Canadian Courts.

BRAZIL'S WAR ON URUGUAY.

From Kentucky.

NASHVILLE, TENN., January 7.—Taylor's rebel forces occupied Owensburg till Friday, conscripting the citizens and firing upon the steamers when they left for New Albany. The *Ledger* says the guerrillas have possession of Owensburg, Hayesville, Cloverport and Anderson. The Lebanon train was captured by a band of Magruder's guerrillas, near Lebanon Junction, yesterday afternoon. The passengers were robbed and the cars burned. The rebels brutally murdered four discharged soldiers of the Fifteenth Kentucky. Taylor has established his headquarters at Howesville, and citizens are fleeing across the Ohio river to avoid conscription.

From Grierson.

MEMPHIS, January 5.—General Dana has received information from his cavalry force, sent out from here on the 21st ult. They struck the Mobile and Ohio Railroad five miles below Corinth, and on the 27th utterly destroyed it to below Okolona. Twenty-nine bridges, a great deal of trestle work, thirty-two cars, three hundred army wagons, and four thousand carbines were destroyed, Forrest's camp of dismounted men at Verona was dispersed, six officers, and twenty men were captured. Gen. Grierson had orders to destroy the road as far as Meridian, and release our prisoners at Cassamba, if possible.

Miscellaneous.

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—The *Herald's* letter from Buenos Ayres, of the 22d ult., says: "The war pressure of Brazil in Uruguay was likely to effect the obliteration of the Republic, unless its Executive was aided by the strong foreign powers."

The Richmond *Whig*, in an article on England, says: "She has no ships that can encounter the Yankee Monitors with any prospect of success, although she might build such, yet the probabilities, they could not cross the ocean. She should not even break up the blockade, far less send an army or fleet here to assist us. We consider it hardly worth while to think of resorting to English vassalage."

MONTREAL, January 7th.—The Court decided, today, that it had jurisdiction in the case of the St. Albans' raiders, and the case will proceed.

WHALING ALONG THE COAST.—The ship *William C. Nye*, Captain Brighton, has come to anchor in the outer bay of San Pedro, for the purpose of catching whales. The ship *Hillman* is also in the same locality, and the shore party at Deadman's Island, with their schooner, complete the whaling force in the bay at present time. The season has commenced, the shore party, under Captain Kithcart, having captured two leviathans during the week. The *Hillman* has probably done as well, but lying some miles out, we have not been advised of her success. The shore party shoot their prey from small boats with bomb-guns.

Capt. J. L. E. Eddy, an old whale-fisher, gives us a few particulars regarding the grounds along this coast. The whales caught hereabout are known generally as devil-fish, and are called "California Grays" and "Ripsacks." The bull is small, yielding 18 to 30 bbls. of oil; while the cow is large, averaging 50 bbls., and sometimes yielding 80. Few, if any, cows are caught in San Pedro Bay; these are mostly bulls. The cows are found further south, where maternal cares keep them in a small compass, while the bulls go around loose.

The run of these animals is from the Arctic ocean to the Gulf of California, and back. When the cow gets with young, she leaves the cold regions of the north and goes south to about the 31st degree of latitude, and breeds in Margareta Bay, Bolinas Bay, Scammon's Lagoon, and Turtle Bay, which are located on the ocean side of the peninsula that helps to form the Gulf of California. These bays have been discovered lagoons, and the cows are found as far up as a ship can sail. The bulls come part of the way south with the females—sometimes the whole distance—but generally stop several degrees short, and are seen loafing about San Pedro Bay and other places in great numbers. When the calf gets old enough to endure a voyage, the cow starts back to the Arctic, weans her youngster and lets it go for itself.

The whaling skippers make up their minds, before starting, whether to go after bulls or cows. The young calves in Margareta Bay are not at first much larger than porpoises, and come to the surface to breathe and spout at very short intervals. When a sailor sees a calf spout, he counts to a certainty on catching the cow, for she is almost invariably under her young one, not allowing any hostile marine animal to intervene. The appearance of the boats being signs of danger, she comes to the surface to protect her young, and falls an easy prey to the rapacity of man. The young one is then slain to prevent its being a false sign to those on the lookout. But woe to the boats if they kill the young one first. The cow rushes at them with the utmost fury, staves them with her head, and smashes them up with her flukes. She is perfectly wild, and nothing suffices but the destruction of her enemies. Such is the female devil-fish; and Capt. Eddy says as many men are lost in catching them as in all the other whaling grounds put together.—*Wilmington Journal.*

MINING IN NEVADA COUNTY.—The Nevada *Transcript* says: "The Central Company, whose claims are located at Blue Tent, have been engaged, since August last, in running a tunnel into the hill. They have struck a gravel claim eighty feet in depth and of great richness. George W. Clay, on Gold Flat, has just struck some exceedingly rich rock in his claims. A specimen, at Meacham Co.'s banking house, is literally filled with gold. The ledge, at the point where it is so rich, is large, and will, in all probability, pay as it did in old times. The mill has been idle for some time, in consequence of the impossibility to get wood over the roads, but it has now started with plenty of good rock and splendid prospects of 'big pay.'"

In the case of Bowland *vs.* Morley, the Supreme Court, on the 6th inst., rendered a decision reversing the decision of the Court below, and ordering that the judgment stand in full force as a gold coin judgment. In this case a note has been given payable in gold coin. Judge Bondurant, of the Thirteenth Judicial District, Mariposa county, decided that the Specific Contract Act was unconstitutional, and that therefore the defendant was not bound by his agreement to pay in gold. The Supreme Court, in reversing the decision, sustain the Specific Contract Act.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES KEAN will commence their farewell engagement, in California, at Maguire's Opera House, this evening, in the "Merchant of Venice," supported by Messrs. Cathcart, Everett, Mayo, and the whole company.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The performances this evening will consist of "Don Cæsar de Bazan," in which Miss Fanny Brown and Mr. Courtaine will appear, and the new burlesque, "Scenes in Mormondom."

METROPOLITAN THEATRE.—This establishment, it is announced, will re-open on Thursday evening for minstrel, pantomime, burlesque and ballet performances.

MR. ERNST HARTMANN, a resident pianist of merit, will give the first of a series of concerts at Platt's Hall, on Thursday afternoon, January 19th.

A MASQUERADE BALL will be given at Turn Verein Hall on Saturday evening next.

EXHIBITION.—The Central M. E. Sunday School exhibition will be repeated at the Church, corner of Sixth and Mission streets, on Friday evening next.

PHILHARMONIC CONCERT.—The first concert of the San Francisco Philharmonic Society will be given at Platt's Hall on Wednesday afternoon. The orchestra numbers thirty of the best instrumentalists in the State, and the programme gives evidence of its capacity, as it is unusually select. Mr. G. Kopp itz has composed an inaugurative march for the occasion, and Miss Louisa Tournay sings two songs. The Society deserves the patronage of the public.

HIPPODROME.—With this evening several novelties are to be introduced into the programme for the week, among which is a grand act entitled "The Sports of Merry England." The Mechanics' Pavilion as a Hippodrome has become one of the most fashionable resorts in the city.

OUR BUDGET OF ATLANTIC INTELLIGENCE.

(From the Resident Correspondent of the ALTA CALIFORNIA.)

NEW YORK, December 18, 1864.

Matters in Washington, D. C.

EDITORS ALTA:—The dealers in the worst class of literature have never gotten up anything more debasing than a pamphlet just issued in Washington. It gives the suppressed evidence in the examination of Mr. Clark, of the Treasury Note Printing Bureau. Clark was charged with doing all manner of things with the female operatives, while his friends declare his perfect innocence. People who ought to know tell me the stories are all too true, and yet it seems strange that in spite of them Mr. Clark should still retain his position, and the almost unchecked control of untold wealth. The trial of Baker, the War Department detective, for opening a letter directed to one of Mr. Clark's friends, whom he had thrown into prison, comes off in Washington this week. Baker's character, which is said to be none too good, will doubtless receive a hard scalding.

The National Freedmen's Relief Association Has just received several thousand dollars worth of articles for the use of the freedmen, from persons in England, through the Birmingham and Midland Freedman's Aid Association. Further contributions are expected from the same source. Rev. Dr. Haynes—one of the Secretaries of the National Association, who has assisted to raise a large amount of money for the cause, both in California and the North—and his son are to go to England this month, as special delegates to the friends of emancipation there, in response to a request for the sending of such a delegation. The operations of the association are rapidly extending. There are now outside of the rebel lines, and within our own, about one and a half million of men, women and children who were formerly slaves. Central depots have been established in over twenty places, and the association has ample machinery for the distribution of supplies to a large proportion of the destitute freed people in the States and parts of States which have been reclaimed. Government brought the supplies to the various depots free of expense, and gives the association many incidental advantages. They are doing a good work, and need and should receive help, particularly in clothing and money.

Name Changed.

By order of the Navy Department, the name of the torpedo boat *Stromboli*, now in Hampton Roads, has been changed to "*Spuyten Twyfel*," after the creek of that name at the northern end of Manhattan Island—or, in good square English, "in spite of the devil." Of course, this is a wicked name, but as she is intended for wicked work, it must be all right. The new screw sloop-of-war *Contoocook* was launched at the Portsmouth Navy Yard on the 3d. She is one of the new "swift screw sloops," measures 2,200 tons, and will carry eight guns.

The Gold Bill

The following, from the *Post*, in relation to Mr. Stevens' new "gold" bill, is spicy and pointed:

"Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, signalized his return to Congress by a silly project for making water run up hill, and for turning the wind to a new point of the compass by shifting the weathercock. He wanted to regulate the price of gold, which is as much subject to the eternal laws of trade as the tide, in its rise and fall, is to those of nature, by an Act of Congress. Resolved, said Jack Cade to his admiring companions, that 'there shall be in England seven half-penny loaves sold for a penny; the three-hooped pots shall have ten hoops; and I will make it felony to drink small beer.' Mr. Stevens is not so ignorant as Jack Cade, nor does he live precisely in a time when so little is known of political economy; but his bill to bring gold down to par with an irredeemable paper currency is scarcely more preposterous than any of the schemes of Shakespeare's leader of the populace. The first effect of this plan to keep gold down, by catching it in a net and holding it down, was to send it up like one of those red balloons that the boys sell in the streets. If Congress had not promptly laid the mischievous scheme on the table, gold would have been at three hundred before next Saturday night. All other commodities would have gone up in proportion, and poor and rich alike would have been subjected to new extortions on the part of traders."

Miscegenation

Has broken out in our moral sister City of Churches. Some say there is where it should break out, simply because Beecher preaches there. Still, if I mistake not, Beecher does not advocate the new doctrine. Regarding it as a matter of taste, he says those who choose to marry a contrary colored skin may do so. It was brought to light in one of the Courts, where a white man, married to a black woman, brought suit for custody of his child. It appears that through incompatibility a separation had taken place, and the mother took with her, among her colored relatives, her child, a bright-eyed, olive-complexioned, sprightly little girl, of three or four years. The husband claimed that the mother was neither able nor a proper person to bring up the child, and therefore claimed custody. The mother rejoined that she was both able and proper. The mother was accompanied by her own mother, and other relatives, as "black as black could be," and it was a remarkable sight to see the little miscegenate nestle in the bosom of her sooty grandma. The father made a very respectable appearance, and holds the position of foreman in a factory in Brooklyn. The case was one which puzzled the Judge some, as the mother appeared entirely capable of caring for the child. He therefore took the papers and reserved decision.

A Cold Snap

Took us all by surprise Friday morning, or rather all who went to bed the night previous at seasonable hours. It was a real stinger, and reminded one of those clear cold days of mid-winter in New England—all but the snow. Blue noses, red cheeks and hunched shoulders, were met at every turn. Every body stepped off briskly to keep their toes and hands buried in overcoat pockets and heads out forward. Every now and then a collision occurred, as no one raised his head high enough to look six inches in advance of his nose. Still, everybody appeared good natured at the change. All appeared to like it—believing in the "eternal fitness of things." In their "mind's eye" they saw hot punches, rosy-cheeked girls on skates, moonlight flirtations on the ice, cosy parlor entertainments, etc. Winter, with its biting blasts and freezing storms, hath its pleasures, none the less enjoyable than balmy June, with its warm and mellowing sun.

Miscellaneous Items.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception was celebrated last Thursday in all our Catholic churches, as well as throughout the world. This festival, which was for centuries a voluntary observance and very popular, has been for some years obligatory. Solemn high mass was sung and sermons preached by the Catholic divines here.

It will remember the hard fights of olden time of the North and South End boys of Boston; but such things are now a mere memory of the past. Though the boys of Boston have reformed in this particular, the rising generation of this city appear to have taken strongly to it, for a few days since two gangs of boys belonging to the Twentieth and Twenty-second wards, and calling themselves respectively "Mars" and "Minutes," had a regular pitched battle. One of the "Mars" party was knocked senseless by a stone, and on recovering his senses drew a revolver and fired three shots among the "Minute" boys, one of which killed a small boy nine years of age. The police did not interfere with the disgraceful performance until a murder had occurred, when they were active in making arrests.

A "patriotic" ball gotten up in Brooklyn to raise funds for the relief of destitute families of soldiers in the field, came off on Friday night, and was a very enjoyable affair aside from the good to be done with its proceeds. Only about one thousand people were present, but nearly three thousand tickets were sold, and the net result will be the distribution of $10,000 or $12,000 among a worthy and needy class in the community. The success of the movement was an earnest that further efforts will be made in the same direction. Why not have another of the renowned "calico" balls this winter for this benevolent object?

The widow of the late Hon. Rufus Choate, the great Massachusetts lawyer and orator, died a few days ago in Dorchester, Mass.

Among the graduates of the Naval Academy is T. S. Wilson, of California, who with the rest of the class are gazetted ensigns in the Navy.

The great billiard match for the championship, and the golden cue, between Kavanagh and Goldthwait, comes off on the 21st inst. It excites much attention. Though confidence is felt in the success of the present champion—Kavanagh—yet it is well known that the task before him is no easy one. Goldthwait has challenged any other player for $2,500, whether he wins or loses the championship.

Another good joke is told of General Sheridan. Your readers have doubtless seen the story that on the morning of one of the memorable days in which he sent Jubal Early "whirling down the valley" of Virginia, at services held in Sheridan's camp the well known hymn commencing—

"Early my God, without delay,
I seek thy smiling face."

It is now stated that "General Sheridan was once a newsboy, and that there was where he learned to go to *press* Early." Men of the stamp of Sheridan always have stories told about them, but those so far applied to him are more appropriate than the general run.

The Memphis *Appeal* has taken another step in consequence of General Sherman's movement. It is now called the *Memphis-Hernando-Granada-Jackson-Enterprise-Morton-Atlanta-Griffin-Montgomery Appeal*. It is surely the fate of this paper to be always "on the rampage," and its printing cases ought to be established in wheelbarrows.

The milkmen of this city are about to raise the price of the lacteal to fifteen cents a quart. The figure has been raised from six to seven, seven to eight, eight to ten, ten to twelve, and now it is proposed to put it up to fifteen cents. For a portion of the rise the milkmen have a good excuse; but the extreme price of fifteen cents is characterized as clear extortion, and people are talking strongly of abstinence from milk for a period long enough to bring the milkmen to their senses.

The Brooklyn Gas Company have lost about 25,000 tons of coal by fire. The fire has been burning for about a week, having broken out anew several times from regeneration of the gas, after the flames were supposed to have been extinguished. The loss will reach $200,000, on which there is but $25,000 insurance. Little sympathy is felt for the company, which has been generally regarded as a veritable Shylock; but some concern is expressed that the company may make their loss an excuse for again raising their price.

Captain Winslow, of the *Kearsarge*, delivered an address at a meeting of the New York Port Society, held a few evenings since at the Academy of Music. His reception was enthusiastic.

The bail of Isaac Henderson, late Navy Agent at this port, charged with defrauding the Government to the amount of $125,000, has been raised from $10,000 to $20,000.

Twelve Brooklyn physicians were arrested the other day, for neglecting to report to the Health Officer every case of contagious disease they were called upon to attend, in accordance with a city ordinance. The penalty is $250 for the first offence, and $1,000 for the second. They are some of the best physicians in Brooklyn, and all gave security for their appearance for trial.

The station of the Hudson River Railroad, at One Hundred and Fifty-second street, in this city, is to be called "Audobon," after the famous naturalist, who, as long ago as 1837, fixed his home in an extensive woodland district in this vicinity, and here his widow and many of his descendants still live.

The navigation of the Hudson river by steamers is closed for the season. The weather is now very cold, and ice will soon render it dangerous for vessels to proceed up and down the river. Canal navigation is also suspended.

A movement is on foot to give the Mercantile Library Association a permanent endowment. Some ten thousand dollars have been subscribed already. The object is to pay off the mortgage on Clinton Hall building, occupied by the Library, and that the rents derived from the stores and offices in the building, which now go to pay interest and to form a small annual sinking fund, should be set free, and go directly to the purchase of books for the library. The Mercantile Library is one of the most useful institutions of the metropolis, and with its permanent endowment, will become still more valuable to the reading community. Success to it.

"Diogenes" must have been in search of the very man who, in the exercise of his profession as a locksmith, manufactured a key for a friend of mine, the other day, for *three cents*. He had previously furnished lock and key for *fifteen cents*. Such instances of honesty are rare.

Lieut. C. A. Stillman, U. S. Marine Corps, sails in the *Costa Rica* to-morrow to join the U. S. sloop-of-war *Cyane*, at Callao.

The County Committee on Volunteering are earnestly at work in correcting the enrollment lists of this city, which, it is thought, will be completed in ninety days. The only bad feature of the business is that another *barn* is to be erected on the City Hall Park, facing Broadway. One would think the Park Barracks, with their scenes of filth, would have been monument enough to the official stupidity which takes away from New Yorkers what few green spots there are, or ought to be, in the lower part of the city.

Admiral Farragut, in his renowned flagship *Hartford*, is hourly expected, and will have a reception worthy of his great name and deeds.

A Chicago paper announces that a pork-chopper there cut up one thousand and five hogs in one day lately; and adds that "he and his knife worked over eight feet. After keeping him half an hour, Mr. Pike opened the cage door and let him out. At first he did not fly, as he seemed out of breath with his exertions, but allowed himself to be driven fifty yards to a rising ground, where he took wing. Instead, however, of flying off at once, he remained poised over the eagle, but a great height, for ten minutes. These eagles build in the cliffs of Dooega, four miles off, in the face of a precipice which is about 1,000 feet high, and perpendicular. The tame eagle seems to be the attraction; the wild ones remain in sight of it about four hours each day. They chiefly prey upon hares, which are abundant in that locality. Their mode of pursuing them is curious. They almost always hunt in couples, and, when once the hare is started, one poises itself in the air to mark the game, while the other twists and turns about, like a greyhound, within a space of forty yards around. If by any chance the pursuer loses sight of the prey, he at once poises, and the other takes up the running, and so on till they kill.—*Dublin Express.*

EMPTY BOTTLES NAVIGATING THE OCEAN.—Captain Beecher, an English shipmaster, has compiled, within the last ten years, the following curious voyages of bottles thrown into the sea by unfortunate navigators: A good many bottles cast into the sea next to the African coast, found their way to Europe. One bottle seems to have anticipated the Panama route, having travelled from the Panama Isthmus to the Irish coast. An other crossed the Atlantic from the Canaries to Nova Scotia. Three or four bottles thrown into the sea by Greenland mariners off Davis' Straits, landed on the northwest coast of Ireland. Another made a curious trip—swam from the south Atlantic Ocean to the west coast of Africa, passing Gibralter, went along the Portuguese coast of France, and was finally picked up on Jersey Island. One bottle was found after sixteen years' swimming, one after fourteen years, and two after ten years. A few only travelled more than one year, and one only live days. This was sent off by the crew of the *Racehorse*, on the 17th of April, in the Caribbean Sea, and was found on the 22d, after having gone through three degrees of longitude, (210 miles,) western direction. Captain McClure, of the *Investigator*, threw a bottle into the sea in 1850, on his voyage to Behring's Straits. It swam 3,500 miles in 200 days, and was picked up on the Honduras coast.

THE ACTRESS AND THE KING.—In connection with the festival given at Versailles to the King of Spain, there was a comedy performed at the beautiful theatre there. During the morning of the day whose evening was to witness the performance, a rehearsal took place in the theatre of the palace. While Mademoiselle Augustine Brohan was rehearsing her part she discovered ensconed in one of the ground tier boxes a man. You know how dark theatres are in midday. She bawled at him in her sharp, insolent way (she has the most insolent voice I ever heard;) "I say, you! there! What in the deuce d'ye mean by putting your nose in here? Are you one of the actors?" She thought he was some servant of the palace who had slipped in to enjoy the performance. There was no reply. "I say, you! there! Didn't you hear me? Yes, I mean you! Are you deaf, eh?" "No, Mademoiselle Brohan. I should lose too much when you are playing were I so unfortunate," replied a courteous voice whose possessor at the same time leaned his head out of the box, bowed and smiled benignantly. Judge Mademoiselle Brohan's confusion when she discovered King Louis Philippe in the speaker! The next day one of the king's aides-de-camp carried her a magnificent gold eye-glass set in diamonds, as much as to say, "Use better eyes next time."

DEATH BY LI