COAST NEWS.

The Arizona legislature has adjourned.

The Roseburg, Or., postoffice has been robbed of $1,200.

The total number of Indians in California is 15,283.

Malignant diphtheria has appeared at in Antelope valley, Cal.

George I. Holt, one of the California hundred, died at Santy Cruz.

Senator John P. Jones has been chosen to represent Nevada in the United States senate for the fourth term.

F. M. O. Holston, the Portland pension voucher forger, has been sent to the state prison for ten years.

Many of the settlers around Pixley, Tulare county, are setting out prune trees instead of planting wheat.

The Great Northern Railroad has filed with the auditor of Kittitas county, Wash., a mortgage for £6,000,000.

John R. Reaves of Spokane Falls, Wash., has been appointed to take the manufacturing statistics of Spokane Falls.

A number of San Francisco merchants have been swindled by a man ordering goods under the name of a Sacramento merchant.

Company G, First regiment, Oregon National Guard, challenges any company on the coast for a competitive drill for $1,000.

Southern Humboldt county, Cal., is much excited over the rediscovery of oil and gas and many claims have already been recorded.

The Pacific Insurance Union has been forced to lessen the high rates of insurance on Pacific avenue, the main street in Santa Cruz.

A train of eight cars loaded with cattle stolen from ranges in Oneida county, Idaho, was run into Oregon and the the beeves sold.

The Fruit Driers and Packers association of Santa Clara county, Cal., has adopted a uniform contract and system of grades for all varieties of fruits.

The first test to be made of olive culture at Banning, San Bernardino county, has been undertaken by Mr. Barker, who is setting out 100 of the Mission variety.

A young man of thieving propensities, but having respectable connections at Nevada city, is suspected of the theft of $1,500 from the safe of J. J. Ott of Nevada city.

A coal dealer in Vancouver, B. C., has been fined in the police court there for not complying with the new law, which requires that all coal be weighed on the public scales.

Five more damage suits against the Southern Pacific company have been filed at Salem, Or., for damages caused by the Lake Labish wreck. These make seventeen suits so far.

A. C. Witter, a member of the Montana assembly, died of pneumonia at his home at Dillon. His wife died two days before, but the fact was kept from him, and he died in ignorance of her death.

The Tintic railroad, with a capital of $1,000,000 has jurt been organized to run a line from Provo to Eureka, Utah, and the Tintic mining district via the south shore of Salt lake, a distance of fifty miles.

Ting Wing, a well known Chinese labor contract at Portland proposes to institute heavy damage suits against Pendleton and other Eastern Oregon towns for outrages committed on his countrymen in the recent raids.

Joseph Silk, who was charged with being an accessory in the murder of David F. Fee at Victoria, B. C., last Christmas was discharged by the court. This elicited an outburst of applause on the part of the people present.

Thomas Reagan of San Francisco, who has been "Lucky" Baldwin's turf representative in the East for some time past, has disappeared with about $8,000 in his possession, $2,000 of which belonged to the California millionaire.

Regular trains are now running on the Knight's Landing road. It runs through the finest fruit section of Sutter county, Cal., shortens the distance to San Francisco thirty miles, and the Oregon express trains will probably be put on it.

A bill introduced in the Oregon legislature aims to take the building of the city hall at Portland from the hands of the city council and place it in the hands of a commission. This has made the council-men very indignant and they have put on the war paint.

The Port Townsend Bar association has brought charges to the legislature at Olympia against Morris B. Sachs, a superior court judge. He is accused of visiting gambling dens and betting on faro; also sitting in judgment on cases in which he was personally interested.

The investigation by the congressional committee into the advisability of opening the Puyallup reservation, near Tacoma, has developed the fact that the Indians have sold or contracted to sell nearly one-third of the reservation, for which they have received some $25,000 in part payment.

The San Joaquin county board of supervisors have ordered District Attorney Bennett to proceed diligently to eject Superior Judges Budd and Smith from the two rooms in the new court house at Stockton, now occupied by them. They will be compelled to take the rooms which the board allotted them.

The rush of freight at Portland for San Francisco by the Union Pacific steamers during the past month has been unprecedented. Grain, potatoes, etc., have been pouring in from the Willamette valley until the dock is overcrowded. The company has found it necessary to stop receiving anything but strictly perishable freight.

The agency farmer, Mr. Thomas, is authority for the statement that there are at least twenty whisky-sellers located along Okahagon river, Washington, near the Colville reservation, who make a living selling whisky to the Indians. The agent asks for authority and funds to rid the country of these pests.

Chicago's Y. M. C. A. building will be sixteen stories.

Jules Meissonier, the famous French painter, is dead.

William R. Collins, editor of the Washington Star, is dead.

Charles Bradlaugh, the great English Radical, is dead.

The music at the recent Vanderbilt ball at New York cost $2,000.

Seals are appearing in Long Island Sound and New York harbor.

New York state stands well financially her actual surplus being $8,737,502.52.

The London Religious Tract society last year issued 77,000,000 publications.

Gen. Booth has launched his scheme for the redemption of Darkest England.

The woman suffragists are jubilant over the prospect of securing their rights in Kansas.

The safe in the office of ex-Mayor Roche of Chicago was blown open and robbed of $5,000.

The Chapin mine at Iron mountain, Mich., caught fire and eight men were burned to death.

About 20,000 unemployed men are now in Chicago, and some apprehension is felt over the situation.

Alphonso Taft of Ohio, at one time a member of Grant's cabinet, now 80 years old, is not expected to live.

Trouble between the French and English fishermen of Newfoundland is expected over disputed territory.

Two bogus divorce lawyers in New have been sent to the penitentiary, one for seven years and the other for five.

Milwaukee enthusiasts have issued a call for a whist congress to establish uniform rules and play a series of games.

Strawberries raised in hothouses are quoted at New York at $2.50 a cup, into which they contrive to pack ten berries.

Mr. Windthorst, the leader of the German Center party, fell down a flight of stairs at Berlin and was seriously injured.

It is stated that the German government does not intend to interfere with the present method of preparing Koch's lymph.

The memebers of the banking firm of Delamater & Co., at Meadville, Pa., have been again arrested and charged with embezzlement.

The library left by the late George Bancroft is said to be one of the best private collections of books in the country. It contains about 12,000.

George Graham Vest is the first senator in Missouri, since the days of Thomas Benton, to be honored with a third term. Benton served five terms.

The acquisition of the most extensive oil field in Ohio by the Standard Oil company for $1,750,000 has not helped to broaden speculation in the crude product.

The family of James Ball at Benson, Tex., consisting of eight persons, were poisoned by eating bread made with cotton seed oil. All of them are seriously sick.

Dr. Tanner, during a speech by Balfour in the commons, called the latter "a canting snob." He withdrew the expression after being warned from the speaker.

The sundry civil bill, as completed by the house sub-committee, carries the largest appropriation of any similar bill of many years, footing up more than $36,000,000.

Charges of attempted bribery in the South Dakota legislature are plentiful. As high as $100 have been offered, according to a committee's report, for a senatorial aspirant.

Alexander Vonein, who claims to be a Napa, Cal., millionaire, has arrived at New York from Europe. He claims to have been beaten and robbed in Italy and imprisoned as a tramp.

A huge mass of snow, ice and earth came down upon the town of Athamana, in Greece, and twenty-five persons were killed outright and many more injured. Eighty houses were destroyed.

Eight tramps had a fight with a train crew on the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton railroad at Lima, O., and a shooting affray followed. One tramp was killed and two fatally injured.

A father and son met on the street at Parkersburg, W. Va., after a separation of thirty-one years. The son was Rev. W. A. Hostetter and his father J. Hostetter, a wealthy rancher of Texas.

The Balloon Cable Railway company of Chicago has been incorporated for the transportation of passengers in balloons attached to cables between the different sites of the Columbian exposition.

Secretary Blaine states that no negotions whatever are on foot for reciprocity with Canada, and no scheme for reciprocity with the Dominion, confined to the the natural products will be entertained.

It appeared in the Kean trial at Chicago that the missionary funds misplaced by the wily banker were to have been used in purchasing little African girls at $30 each and transferring them to Christian homes.

A new law in Missouri provides that the fees of no executive or ministerial officer of any county, exclusive of the salaries actually paid to his necessary deputies, shall exceed the sum of $5,000 in any one year.

A body of Paris students, numbering 300, stormed the office of l'Egalite demanding the name of the writer of the article accusing them of Opportunism. Being refused the students abused the officials and upset all the furniture in the place.

The ice scenery at Niagara Falls is unusually beautiful just now. The trees and shrubs in the park and on the island are covered with frozen spray, which glistens like diamonds in the sun. An ice mountain has formed at the foot of the American falls.

At Bellair, W. Va., Pierson Meyers, the school principal, severely punished Maggie Long, 14 years old, for chewing gum. In the evening Maggie returned with her mother and they both attacked Meyers. Mrs. Long was knocked down in the melee, but at the end of the battle Long had lost most of his hair and his eyes were nearly gouged out of his head.

SECRETARY WINDOM DEAD.

He Succumbs to Heart Disease at a Banquet at New York.

New York special:

William Windom, secretary of the treasury of the United States, died in the banquet hall of Delmonico's, where he was the guest of the New York Board of Trade and Transportation. His had been the first toast of the evening. He had just finished his response and seated himself when he swooned and died almost immediately. Every effort to restore him was made but all in vain. He died of heart disease. The great assemblage at once dissolved. Mr. Windom responded to "Our Country's Prosperity Dependent Upon Its Instruments of Commerce."

The news of the secretary's death was telegraphed to President Harrison. The president drove immediately to the house of the postmaster general, where Mrs. Windom and her daughter were in attendance at a cabinet dinner. Mrs. Colgate, a guest of Mrs. Windom, induced the widow and her daughter to go home and there informed them of Mr. Windom's death. Mrs. Windom was prostrated by the shock.

William Windom was born in Belmont county, O., May 10, 1827. He received an academic education, studied law at Mount Vernon, O., and was admitted to the bar in 1850. He removed to Minnesota in 1855 and was soon after elected to congress, serving from 1858 to 1869. In 1870 he was appointed to the United States senate. He filled the unexpired term of Daniel S. Norton, deceased. He was subsequently chosen for the term that ended in 1877. He was reelected for the term that ended in 1883, but resigned to enter the cabinet of President Garfield as secretary of the treasury. He retired on the accession of President Arthur, in the same year, and was elected by the Minnesota legislature to serve the remainder of his term in the senate. His death is a severe blow to the administration.

BRIEF MENTION.

Ex-Governor Crawford of Kansas is dead.

It is reported that the ameer of Afghanistan is dead.

News comes from Chile that the revolutionists have been defeated.

The Scotch railroad strike is ended. The men have returned to work at the companies' terms.

It is probable that the French board of pardons will commute Eyraud's sentence to life imprisonment.

The general appropriation bill has been introduced in the California assembly. It foots up $3,359,950, against $4,209,410 in 1889.

An accumulation of firedamp caused a terrible explosion in the Mammoth mine at Youngwood, Pa. One hundred and fifty miners were killed.

John Hearts was chosen president of the Bricklayers International union at Toronto. The next annual meeting will be held at Indianapolis.

Jake Kilrain and George Godfey have signed articles for a boxing match before the California club at San Francisco to take place March 13.

A large ladle of molten steel in the Duquesne steel works, near Pittsburg, accidentally upset and the contents were poured upon four men, burning them to death.

Petaluma has appointed a committee to go to Sacramento and do all in its power to defeat Senator Ragsdale's bill to abolish the offices of city assessors and tax-collectors.

Gai Gam, a Chinese procuress, who has been confined in the Alameda county, Cal., jail, has been pardoned by President Harrison on condition that she leaves the country immediately.

Advices from Massowah, on the Red sea, state that a terrible storm, followed by floods, has caused enormous damage throughout the island of Massowah. Over 100 persons have lost their lives.

Frederick Stein, brother-in-law of the present mikado of Japan, died in the Charity hospital at New York of delerium tremens. He was 40 years of age and had a most romantic and checkered career.

Senator Quay is about to make public a reply to the charges of malfeasance in office which have been made against him for some time past. He will make his reply in the senate. His friends assert that it will make a sensation.

The approaching visit of the Grand Duke of Luxemburg to Emperor William is regard with alarm in France, as there is no doubt that the object of the visit is to discuss the adoption of a military convention between Prussia and Luxemburg.

Gladstone has introduced his bill to allow Roman Catholics to hold the offices of viceroy of Ireland and lord chancellor. Sir John Pope Hennessy submitted an amendment to permit the sovereign of Great Britain to be a Catholic if the sovereign desired to adopt that faith.

Senator Dolph has introduced an amendment to the naval appropriation bill making an appropriation of $600,000 for the maintenance of a coaling and repair station for the use of the United States naval vessels on the Pearl river, Hawaiian islands.

Among the recent suicides in Monaco none has created more surprise than that of M. De Gourlet, who for many years was sub-perf[illegible] and police commissioner of the notori[illegible] town. A part of his duty was to place money and notes in the pockets of suicides so as to discredit the theory of self destruction over losses at the gaming tables.

J. A. Mann, a prominent citizen of Minden, Neb., is a fugitive from a mob on account of terribly maiming a cow he owned. T[illegible] animal injured his little boy and in h[illegible] he placed the ani in a close sta[illegible] and sawed her legs off. A crowd of angry citizens chased the man from the town. The authorities are now lo[illegible]ing for him.

A NEW OLD SONG.

I pray as men have prayed since earth was young,
In varied voice or speech, a prayer of pain,
I sing—ah me! the song is ever sung,
And evermore as now, in vain, in vain
'Tis oh, to be a little child once more—
A little, lowly child, dear God, I pray,
I would give all my life has yet in store
Could I retrace my childhood's rosy way.

Oh, cruel questioning eyes, so keen and bright,
Oh, cruel, all revealing noonday sun—
How can I choose but shoulder at the sight,
When I have only wrecks to pass upon—
Oh, for the long sha lows of the morn
(The sun shone only on high places then)
To tell me or from joy or from scorn—
Would God I were a sinless child again.

How can I choose but mourn my lost estate
Of high emprise and white unsullied trust—
The palace of my dreams made desolate,
My king uncrowned, my treasures turned to dust.
Oh, tell me not that life has much in store—
Can it give back what once I cast away?
But oh, to be a little child once more—
A little, lowly child, dear God, I pray.

—Katharine E. Conway

Early Railroading.

When railroads were first introduced, the engineers, as we call them—or the engine drivers, as they are called in England—ran their trains almost as they liked, making up time when they had fallen behind, picking up such information as they could as to the state of the track ahead of them, and for the most part plunging ahead with their machines without much more than a surmise whether they should bring up at their destination or at the bottom of some high embankment.

Some of the results of this want of system would have been amusing if they had not been disastrous. Mr. Laurence Oliphant, an English traveler and author, tells in one of his books a rather grim story of a trip which he made by rail, in 1855, from Chicago to New York. Over a part of the distance the train made the extraordinary speed, for that time, of fifty miles an hour, and presently it ran off the track.

Fortunately, the cars were imbedded in a soft clay ditch, and no one was seriously hurt; and in the midst of the commotion, Mr. Oliphant says he heard the engineer thus admonish the switchman, whose carelessness had caused the accident:

"Now, Tom, this is the third time you've forgot to set that switch, and the last time there was twenty people went under and the rest was bruised. So mind what you're about, and dor[illegible] get that switch again, for if you [illegible] tell the boss!"

As She Is Spoke in India.

Native English in India still furnishes much amusement to the European traveler. When the governor of Madras lately made a tour one writer wrote to excuse his non-appearance at the railway station as he "had the pleasure of a scorpion in his left leg," but promised to "bring my invaluable lute to play before your excellency as an indulgent son." A railway official lamented that a panther invaded his platform, but he "met the attack by shutting himself in his office and ringing the station bell," while another complained that his postmen had been fighting, as the aggressor "threw a stone at Ram Bulish, which fortunately hit Ram Bokah's wife." He added that "unless both these men are scattered in different directions by opposing trains there will be murder and suicide, including to myself." On visiting a local hospital the governor was presented with a petition against the surgeon in charge, who, said the complainants, "had a string hose over his subordinates, and will never secure heaven. Quite the contrary will surely be his fate."—London Graphic.

Not to Be Bought.

The results of using big words in conversation with people who do not understand them are often laughable. In Boston there is a lady of literary aspirations who talks even with her servants in a sort of literary way. The other day an Irish servant girl employed in this lady's house entered a neighboring grocer's shop and asked:

"Do ye kape anny—anny delub—f what in the worrld is it, anyhow?—anny deliberation, is it, now? Do ye sell anny of that?"

"Any what?" exclaimed the grocer.

"Anny deliberation, I say."

"No, we don't."

"More's the pity, thin. Sure, my mistress told me to wash the cut glass dishes wid deliberation, and thin she wint away, and niver a drop of the shtuff can I foind in the house!"—Youth's Companion.

The "Still Christmas."

In the year 1555 the holiday time in England was known as the "still Christmas," for owing to the illness of King Henry VIII the singing of carols and the noisy hilarity peculiar to Christmas were prohibited. Some who have lain sleepless through nights of horn blowing, the explosion of firecrac[illegible], especially at the south, where many of the old English holiday customs are still observed, may understand and appreciate the royal mandate for a "still Christmas." With this one exception, carols and other joyous musical exercises were used at Christmas all through the Tudor reigns.—Harper's Bazar.

The specific gravity of gold is 19.50—that is, it weighs nineteen and a half times as much as its own bulk of water. The ductility and malleability of this metal are equaled by no other. By ductility is meant the property of allowing itself to be drawn out into a wire, and by malleability its property of flattening without splitting under the hammer.

Observations seem to show that a decrease in the earth's latitude is in progress, implying an alteration in the direction of the earth's axis. The fluctuation is thought to be due to a minute oscillation caused by some changes in the internal wars of the earth.

During the reign of George III his royal highness the Duke of York had a duel with Col. Lennox, and the worthy colonel succeeded in shooting away one of the duke's curls. Hence it became the correct thing to wear a curl on one side of the temple only.

The Victim.

He—Fanny Brown is engaged. Guess who to?

She—What! That stupid, snub nosed, common little creature? Who on earth is going to be fool enough to marry her?

He—Well—er—that ith—I am.—Life

Too Loud.

Tailor's Boy—Does Mr. Highstyle board here?

Woman—Yes, little boy.

Tailor's Boy—Well, here's a new pair of pants for him.

Woman—You can't leave those here, little boy. There's a very sick woman in the house, and we've got to be absolutely quiet.—Munsey's Weekly.

All Right.

"See heah, Cadley, did you call me a common ass?"

"No, Snubbutton, I said you was an uncommon ass."

"Aw, that's different. I cawn't stand having anybody call me common, y' know."—Epoch.

In 1755 a wave sixty feet high drowned 60,000 people at Lisbon, and in Scotland a boat on Loch Lomond was carried forty yards inland by a wave which was suddenly formed on the surface of the loch by the same cause.

MASON'S GLOOMY VIEW.

HE MAKES A PREDICTION WHICH IS IMPORTANT IF TRUE.

North and South America Will Eventually Be the Home of Savages—The Stars to Fall Out of Our Flag One by One, or So Says the Professor.

Otis Mason, of the bureau of ethnology of the National museum, has evolved a theory that the resources of the western hemisphere will, in a comparatively short time, be exhausted as a support for civilized man, and that North and South America will be depopulated, except by savages of a very low order. Professor Mason said:

"In order that this may be understood, it is first necessary to explain that this western part of the world, known as North and South America, is from the scientific point of view an inferior continent, as compared with the land masses of the other hemispheres. By that is meant that, while superior to Europe, Asia or Africa in point of vegetable productiveness, it is less adapted for the support of animal life. To show that this is so, make a little comparison for yourself between the beasts of this hemisphere and those of the other. The elephant of the Old World is represented here by the tapir. What we have as a substitute for the camel is the llama, which is just big enough and strong enough to carry what would be a load for a man. The lion and tiger of Asia and Africa are represented on this side of the earth by little more than big cats.

LOOK AT OUR MONKEYS.

"But to arrive at the most marked exhibition of this contrast you cannot do better than consider the monkeys, which are most highly developed of all beasts, approaching very nearly to man. What is there to be found in the Americas to correspond with the anthropoid apes of the Old World? The gorilla, which uses a club; the chimpanzee, which is easily taught to wait upon the table and to perform other domestic duties, and the orang, which presents so many likenesses to the human being, are represented on this side of the world by miserable little monkeys with tails.

"Thus it is that this part of the earth is termed an inferior continent, because it is not able to produce or support such high developments of animal life as are found in the other part. Civilized man exists here to day, not as a natural product, but as an importation."

Professor Mason then, in elaborate detail, described the lapse of wheat farming in one state after another until the field has been transported to the Dakotas and the very verge of the great desert; the rapid exhaustion of the soil and of the minerals; the tremendous drain in every way upon resources, which, newly developed as they are, must be nearly exhausted even within the next century; the ruinous cost of producing and transporting articles necessary to civilized life. He then concluded his remarkable forecast as follows:

"To put it plainly, the so called American people have camped over this continent regardless of their future. They have delved into the soil, chopped into the mountains and used up the land until there stares them in the face the almost immediate prospect of starvation. As for the state of Nevada, we have not been there twenty-five years, and its resources have been exhausted. In other words, it will almost immediately be unable to support a population. The people who inhabit it are obliged to go because they can no longer make their living there, and it is simply a question of a short time when it will become a dead state, and so lapse into the condition of a territory as impossible to revive into the living condition of a state as if it were a district on the moon.

PAINFUL REFLECTIONS.

"The painful reflection incidental to the subject is that other states, if not all of them, are destined sooner or later to follow Nevada's example. The population on this continent cannot necessarily survive the means of subsistence afforded it by the country. If what science says is true, the white man has got to go. There has been talk to the effect that the Chinese must vanish, but it must be confessed they are very much better adapted to continue existence on this hemisphere than ourselves, for the obvious reason that they will survive us here, and that they will continue in their own manner the civilization which we have made an attempt to start.

"But the Caucasian, if the scientific men are to be believed, will not be able to support existence on this hemisphere after the capital, in the way of agricultural and mineral resources, has been exhausted, as it must be soon. He will disappear. The natural question is by what process? It is very evident. When a superior race becomes poor, and thereby unable to maintain its superiority, it lapses into the condition of 'poor white.' The Caucasian does become thriftless, incapable of exertion, eventually approaching to the savage. In other words, he loses his status in the scale of creation.

"Through the progressive exhaustion of the resources of the country, state after state will necessarily become uninhabitable, because it will be incapable of supporting a population. Thus will come about the depopulation of one state after another—of course by a slow process through many years—and there will be presented the remarkable phenomenon of the dropping from the Union of these states successively, because they have come to be no longer entitled to representation under the law, by senators and representatives.

"Nevada will simply be the first state to succumb to the operation of this inevitable law. The outlook is melancholy. That is not to be denied. It is not pleasant to consider the frame of mind of the last civilized man on this continent a few centuries hence, standing on a sand hill, where once the maize luxuriously grew, and shedding a silent tear of affection on the past of a continent which is given up to savagery ever more."—Washington Cor. Pittsburg Dispatch.

A Costly Fan Without an Owner.

One of the prettiest things in the museum of the dead letter office is a lady's fan made of stork feathers, the plumes being rarer and richer than the finest ostrich plumes. It is most magnificent in appearance, and doubtless graced the costume of some court beauty in the Old World. It came to this country from Europe many years ago, but no clew to its owner or origin was ever obtained. In one of the cases there is a box of wedding cake, which came to the dead letter office six years ago as unclaimed. It is getting a little old and discolored, but by this time would probably be pretty dry eating. Considering its present characteristics it might be excellent "wedding cake to dream on." It certainly has all the elements necessary to produce a fanciful nightmare. Rosaries are quite common in the cabinet and crucifixes are also plentiful.—Washington Cor. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Lord Grimthorpe of London, who made the models for the big clock at Westminster, has finished a clock for the postoffice at Sydney, which is the largest ever made in England. It has a novel attachment emitting an electric light flash, lasting five seconds every hour during the night, so those a long distance away can ascertain the time.

How to Take Care of a Piano.

With proper care and attention a good piano should last a family a lifetime. If this is not given it the piano will in time become harsh and "tin-panny," and afford little satisfaction or delight to its owner. Ordinary practice, whether by a child or a grown up person, will not injure a piano in any way. It is not necessary to be a professional piano player and to know exactly with what force to strike the keys in order to keep the instrument in good condition.

Of course it will not be improved by thumping the case or by striking the keys with any hard substance. Neither does this remark apply to schools and institutions where playing is taught, and the instrument is used continuously for ten or twelve hours every day. In the latter case the felt portions will wear out sooner than if it was used in a private family.

The matter of tuning should not be neglected, and should never be intrusted to any other than an experienced person. Incapable tuners very often work irreparable injury to the most perfect and costly instruments. During the first year a new piano should be tuned every three or four months at least. After that it will only be necessary to have it tuned at longer intervals.

Dampness is the most dangerous enemy the piano has to contend against, and for this reason the climate must be considered. If the instrument is placed in a damp room, or left open in a draught of air, the result will be that the strings, tuning pins and the various metal parts will become coated with rust, and the cloth used in the construction of the keys and action becomes swollen. It is positively painful to play on such a piano.—Charles H. Steinway in Ladies' Home Journal.

Dress of New York's Literary Women.

The literary woman of the past was called a blue stocking. The literary woman of the present is a butterfly in dress. The gayest of colors, the richest of decoration, the extreme of the mode characterize her attire at the gatherings of Sorosis, where the literary element strongly predominates, and one is impressed by the brilliancy of the spectacle. The president, Mrs. Clymer, is as picturesque in her attire as she is dignified in her manner. Some combination of heliotrope and gray, with just a touch of yellow, make her seem like the original of some quaint old painting. Jennie June, now that she has laid aside her widow's weeds, appears in light golden brown dresses and mantles, with a bonnet in the same shade, trimmed with creamy lace.

Mrs. Dr. Lozier surprises every one with a new toilet at every Sorosis meeting as beautiful and dressy as the paper she reads is brilliant and unusual. Mrs. Collis, the Alaskan traveler and writer, is a very handsome and effective dresser. Mrs. Ravenhill (Katherine Kidder's grandmother and teacher) is as dainty and dressy in her attire as a girl, and the younger members, who do duty as ushers, among whom little Miss Demorest takes the lead, are as stylish as they are courteous. Even Grace Greenwood's dear motherly face was shadowed by a bird with most brilliantly gorgeous yellow plumage all one winter.—New York Letter.

A Cockney.

Bullokar, the lexicographer who gave the famous definition for "crocodile tears," was outdone by Minshen, another dictionary maker of London who, in 1617, issued the work which gave the following amusing account of the origin of the word "cockney:" "A cockney, or cocknay, applied only to one born within the sound of the Bow bells—that is, within the city of London, which terme came first out of the following tale:

"A citizen's sonne riding with his father out of London into the country, and being a novice, and merely ignorant of how corne and catel do increase, asked, when he heard a horse neigh, what the horse dide. His father answered, the horse dothe neigh; riding further, he heard a cock crow, and said, dothe the cock neigh too? And, therefore, Cockney, or Cockneigh, by inversion thus: Incoctus, i. e., raw or unripe in countrey-mens affaires.—St. Louis Republic.

Improved Roadbeds for Our Railways.

In correcting instability of roadbed we shall make wider embankments with longer slopes, using more solid masonry in places exposed to danger from floods. We shall avoid wooden bridges, build stone arches wherever they are practicable, and make steel bridges with a much larger "safety factor," having also a more rigid system of initial and periodical inspection. We shall abolish drawbridges wherever it is possible, and where this evil must be some automatic device will be used for absolutely stopping the cars in case the draw shall be open. But a railway should not cross a navigable river at grade any more than it should so cross another railway or a wagon road.—Oberlin Smith in Forum.

Talking Fishes.

A Paris scientist has published the result of his researches on the subject of talking fishes. He says that every fish in some way or other talks to a fish of the same kind. Herrings cry like men, roach grunt like pigs, and tench make a noise like frogs. Conger eels bark and codfish hiss. Lobster and crayfish scream when they are boiled, and Paris soles have a way of communicating the fact of their staleness to diners at restaurants.—London Tit-Bits.

Can't See It.

A butcher in Waterville, Wash., cannot understand what people see about his shop to make them laugh. Its sign is "The Live and Let Live Butcher Shop," and the butcher asks what is there about that to laugh at?—Boston Transcript.

Incontrovertible.

Customer—Look here, I asked you for something in gold, and you sold me these miserable plated studs.

Clerk—Well, they were in gold when you got them.—Clothier and Furnisher.

New Dress Shades.

Dress skirts are growing wider, particularly for evening dresses. Wasp gauze is a new material, although gauzes and tulles are not so much worn in the evening as formerly, except for young girls. There are charming new shades for dinner dresses. A peach flower is one of the most delicate and becoming. The pale reddish mauve is one of the best worn shades in foulards, particularly for yokes and sleeves with the spotted or ringed foulards.—Boston Transcript.

The cottage built by the actor Joseph Jefferson at Buzzard's Bay, and designed by him to be the home of his old age, is a picturesque building in the early colonial style, with wings, cupolas and gables both of wood and stone. Outside the house is a Virginia chimney of native stone and brick. The house stands on a Cape Cod sand bank and looks toward the Plymouth woods.

Theodore Weld, famous as an anti-slavery lecturer, is 88 years old, but remarkably vigorous for one of his age. Mr. Weld closely resembles the poet Bryant in looks, although Mr. Weld's eyes are always uplifted, while in the portraits of the poet the eyes are downcast.