

"The Story of Johnstown," is the title of a book now in preparation by J. J. McLaurin and soon to be published by J. M. Place, proprietor of the Harrisburg, Pa., *Telegram*. Its title shows the nature of the work, which will be the only complete and absolutely correct story of that great catastrophe that will ever be written. This, however, is not its chief claim to public attention, but the fact that the net proceeds are to be devoted to the assistance of printers, orphan children and aged men and women who suffered by the flood. As this class received but little aid from the great donations made for their benefit by their generous-hearted countrymen, this new fund for their relief will accomplish much good. Mr. Place and his enterprise have received the endorsement of Governor Beaver and others, and there is every reason to believe that the fund will be properly applied, and not as was the general relief fund, be distributed upon the biblical theory that "to him that hath shall be given and he shall have abundance, while from him that hath not shall be taken even that which he hath." If ever that idea was carried out literally in this world it was in Johnstown, to the general disgust of the nation. In this new movement the rich will be set one side and the orphan, the aged and the infirm will be cared for. The book will be sold by subscription.

It is reported that many vessels are being fitted out to engage in sealing in Behring sea the coming season, upon the theory that the expiration of the lease of the Alaska Commercial company leaves an open field for everyone to slaughter seals who may choose. This is a mistaken idea, as the eager sealers will learn. The secretary of the interior will not permit the animals to be miscellaneously slaughtered in any event, and Behring sea will no doubt be more closely guarded than ever. There is, also, another little matter these sealers would do well to consider. A bill is before congress which, if passed, will make it unlawful for any person except a native of Alaska, to kill seals. The disposition of the government to preserve these valuable animals from extermination is manifest, and reckless sailors will find it anything but plain sailing in Behring sea.

Fearing possible legal complications, the Northwestern Exposition Co., of Tacoma has reincorporated, with a capital stock of \$125,000. If it be proposed to hold in that city an exposition approaching the one in Portland last year, and to erect a building as well suited to the purpose as that of the North Pacific Industrial Exposition, they will find that \$125,000 will have vanished long before that object has been attained. The experience of Portland might be studied with profit.

Senator Teller has introduced a resolution abolishing the secret session when considering the presidential nominations. The only senators who will oppose it are those who, under the guise of protecting grave affairs of state from public contamination, maintain these secret sessions because they are ashamed to let the people know for what frivolous or personal reasons they vote against the confirmation of nominees not agreeable to them. If the secret session be abolished there will be less foolishness and cantankerousness in that august body of millionaire politicians.

If it is true that England has called upon Portugal to apologize for the conduct of her agent in Africa, and Portugal has called upon German engineers to lay torpedoes in the Tagus river, it would be a good stroke of common sense for Portugal to apologize. Any nation that has to call upon foreign engineers to help her lay torpedoes would make but a sorry defense against an English fleet, and should not only apologize to the latter for her conduct but to the whole world for pretending to be a nation.

Representative Clark has introduced at Olympia a bill requiring the name of every writer of a paragraph in a newspaper to appear under the paragraph. This matter received a thorough discussion when California adopted her new constitution, and it would do Mr. Clark good to get some of the old newspaper files and read them.

A New York writer in the *Chicago Advance* says that twelve persons lost their lives in that city by electric wires and there is a great commotion about it; and that during the same time 2,000 lost their lives by reason of the saloon and nothing is being done about it. He says it is politics. Is it?

Having bulldozed helpless little Portugal, England may now take a position on the barnyard fence, and after looking carefully to see that there is no other rooster about, flap his wings and crow lustily.

The office seekers of San Francisco who were as eager as the tombstone agent who called on the widow of a few hours, received a merited rebuke from Governor Waterman.

In view of the financial experience the new states are having wouldn't it be well for Idaho and Wyoming to take a long breath before they make the plunge.

A bill is before the Washington legislature to encourage the destruction of blue jays; but the jay hawkers will still be permitted to run at large.