

Barley has been extensively sown near Los Angeles, Cal.

Twelve Swiss guides lost their lives on the Alps last year.

Small-pox is reported as epidemic in Italy.

The Military Division of the South has been discontinued.

Indians are becoming troublesome on the Texan frontier.

The British have a monopoly of the carrying trade of the Lakes.

A chess club is to be organized in Portland.

The separation of Prince Teck and his wife is imminent—cause, unfaithfulness of the latter.

Rothchild's banking-house recently offered to take \$600,000,000 of the new United States loan.

A Scottish minister refused baptism to the child of a man who sells milk on Sunday.

Trenton, N. J., has one place of worship for about every nine hundred of her population.

The father of Jim Fisk has gone crazy from the assassination of his son.

It is reported that Henry Ward Beecher is arranging for a trip to California in the spring.

Russian priests of the Greek Church cannot officiate without being married.

Oregon has 95,274 square miles, fronts 280 miles on the ocean, and extends inland 340 miles.

The Chinese of California have petitioned Congress for a reduction of the duty on rice.

Gilford, Conn., has an old lady of ninety-three, who has cooked sixty-three Thanksgiving dinners under one roof.

The receipts of the Government of Russia during the last year have exceeded the expenditures by 400,000 roubles.

A bill before the California Legislature proposes to exempt editors, reporters and printers of newspapers from jury duty.

Washington and Oregon, on the Pacific coast, have the climate of Southern Virginia, with more rain and cooler summer nights.

A Mrs. Davis, wife but five weeks, living near Gasport, Ind., recently blew her brains out in a fit of jealousy, because her husband went to a spelling school.

The number of passengers that arrived in California by overland railroad during 1871, was 39,817, and by ocean route was 12,193. The arrivals exceeded the Departures 10,282.

Three boys, aged 17, 14 and 11, respectively, recently murdered an old man by the name of G. S. Dickenson, at Oroville, Cal., and then robbed his store of \$1,100. They are under arrest.

The Mexican Revolutionists were defeated, January 27th, in a fight between the towns of Camargo and Mier, and the revolutionary leader Pera, killed. His body was hung on a tree.

A new religious journal is to be established at Rome, Italy, which will oppose the doctrine of infallibility. Piero d'Hyacinthe is to be one of its contributors.

On Jan. 30th, the snow blockade on the Union Pacific railroad was reported worse than ever. A passenger train which left Omaha twelve days preceding was still four hundred and eighty miles from Ogden. There was no prospect of an immediate change in the condition of the road, for the better.

Spain was quiet on the 29th ult.

The Imaginative Faculty of Democracy.

The intellect of the Democracy seems to have arrived at that state of development in which the imaginative bump is most highly cultured. If to write novels or to indite love sonnets was its aim, no particular objection could be urged against such developments so far as such sonnets and compositions were intended to illustrate truth and virtue; but where such imaginative effusions are thrown out in prodigal extravagance as political facts, intended to be read and believed as such by the people; intended to mold and fashion the minds of men for political action; given as substantial food for political digestion, food upon which the body politic is to live and grow and flourish, their unreality and thinness and falsity render them too dangerous to be treated with levity. This highly developed imaginative faculty prompted Democratic journals and orators, in 1865, to lead down the political atmosphere with dire forebodings of evil to the country to be realized in the event of Grant's elevation to the Presidency. He was to proclaim himself dictator; his injustice and oppression were to cause the whole nation to wither and sicken, like vegetation before the simoon's breath, etc., etc. Well, Grant was elected—is not yet dictator—the nation has not yet withered, and the people said in the late elections that they liked his style, in the main, and wanted more of it. And now that Grant is likely to be a candidate again, Democracy begins to draw on her imaginative faculty with more than usual vigor. Grant is not aristocratic in his looks—she infers imbecility; Grant smokes and loves a fine horse—she infers extravagance; Grant goes to Long Branch—she infers neglect; Hodge commits a defalcation—Grant is to blame; Grant appointed seven relatives to office—Democracy draws up a list of twenty-five; Grant received some presents before he became President—Democracy charges them all, and more too, to his Presidential account; Grant asks earnestly for civil service reform—Democracy says he is insincere; at the same time she holds him accountable for all its evils, in fact, by implication, makes him an active sympathizer and participant in many of the mistakes and crimes committed by Government agents. In all of this, and much more, Democracy is almost entirely controlled and guided by the prompting of her immense imaginative vigor. In other vernacular, she can out lie and slander the very father of depravity.

Republicans in France.

It is now known that a plan existed for a Republican uprising over the whole territory of the south of France, in case the resignation of Thiers was accepted, and Duke d'Aumale or Marshal McMahon was appointed to the chief executive authority. The Republicans are determined to maintain a Democratic form of Government in France, and the peace will keep so long as that is done; but whenever any authorized attempt is made to restore monarchy, they will at once take up arms. Gambetta's recent voyage to Bordeaux was to induce an understanding with Republican leaders on the subject of supplies of money, arms, ammunition, etc., and to obtain a pledge that should civil war be determined on, the fight would be continued; also to hold themselves in preparation for future possibilities.

The Federal grand jury of Texas is reported to have found true bills against Gov. Davis and Secretary of State, Newcomb, on account of irregularities in the late elections.

5,850 Illinois soldiers were killed during the war of the rebellion, and 19,412 died of disease, making the proportion of deaths to the enlistments one to six.

Alderman Bayley, of Chicago, was acquitted on the 29th ult., of the charge of bribery.

The Plan.

The Herald-Washington special says a convention of discontented Republicans will be held at Cincinnati immediately after the Philadelphia Convention, and will prepare both a ticket and platform for the Democratic party. This will be followed by a Democratic Convention late in the summer, whose business will consist in ratifying the work of the disaffected Republicans. Trumbull seems to be the most popular candidate. We are very much afraid that our chivalric Oregon Democrats will have to vote for a "sore head" Republican, in spite of their opposition to the passive scheme. Prepare to pucker, gentlemen, you must come to it.

A young man who was killed by the cars at Wilton, Indiana, and buried in Chicago, was sent for by his mother, who lives in California. On opening the grave it was found empty, and it was suspected that the body had been stolen for dissection. Two citizens went to Iowa City, procured a warrant and searched the medical college. They found the body which was fully identified at Wilton.

Count de Chambord, of France, has issued a manifesto to the French people, in which he claims, as he always has done, the right divine to sit upon the French throne. In his manifesto he says:

"I shall never abdicate my claim to the throne of France. I shall never forsake the monarchial principles which I have preserved intact for forty years, and which is the best hope of France's greatness and liberties. Caesarism is anarchy in France, because her salvation is sought in personal questions and not in principles. I shall ever uphold the flag of France and aid in restoring the ancient prestige of her armies. Time presses, alliances and recognitions are urgent. The happiness of France is my only ambition, and I will never consent to become a revolutionist when I am legitimate King."

The Times publishes seven columns of figures derived from the investigation of the Committee of Seventy, showing in detail, fraudulent transactions of the Department of Public Works when under Tweed's management, in the purchase of supplies. It says thousands of dollars were thus obtained from the Bureau of Supplies on fraudulent vouchers approved by Tweed and certified to by his subordinates acting under his orders.

Affairs between the United States and Venezuela are reported to be in a critical condition. It is alleged that Venezuela refuses to carry out treaty stipulations, and is disposed to violate them. The matter now principally in dispute, is the seizure by Venezuela of the vessels belonging to the American Transportation Company. This act is claimed to be a wilful disregard of the rights of this company, which claims protection from our Government. Venezuela is becoming a very ill-natured, unreasonable neighbor.

Schamachi, a town of Asiatic Russia in Trans-Caucasia, was totally destroyed by an earthquake on the 28th ult. Many lives are reported lost.

Troubles are reported at Barcelona. There was a conflict in the streets and the military were guarding the streets on the 30th ult.

The Senate of the North Carolina Legislature elected General M. W. Ransom to the United States Senate by a vote of 69 to 13, on the 30th ult.

The Congressional Committee to investigate the troubles in Louisiana, began their work on the 29th ult. They occupy the U. S. Court room in the custom house.

Richard Duval of Marion county has received a letter from Senator Corbett announcing that a patent will issue for his improvement on wagon wheels.

Col. Norman Eddy, Secretary of State of Indiana, died suddenly at his residence in Indianapolis, on the 29th ult., of heart disease.

The Committee of Seventy have nearly established the fact that all supplies furnished the city from Tweed's department, except in a very few instances, were purchased under his personal direction. The total amount of supplies furnished under the exhibit published is \$1,666,525.

It is reported at London, England, that the ship *Alora*, of St. John, N. B., was burned at sea, and it is feared that all on board perished.

Henry Wilson, of Massachusetts, and James F. Wilson, of Iowa, are each talked of extensively for Vice President.

Religious services are being held in Salem on each evening by the Methodist and Christian churches.

Salem church-goers pick up their hats and stalk out before the doxology is spoken.

The railroad company is laying off an addition to the town of Oakland.

A Mr. Griffin fell on front street, Portland, last Tuesday, and broke his ankle.

A young girl was thrown from a buggy in Portland last Tuesday, and broke her wrist.

The French Government is incubating a lottery scheme to pay off its public debt.

Whaling is brisk and profitable in San Diego Bay.

There are thirty-five men in Petaluma, Cal., who weigh each over 200 pounds.

A Carson, Nevada, man has raised a squash weighing 155 pounds, and three apples, which turn the scales at 74, 110 and 155 pounds respectively.

It is reported that the Union Pacific Railroad is to pass into the hands of Vanderbilt.

Snow fell on the 25th ult. in New Orleans, La., and Galveston and Houston, Texas—the first for years.

Tweed's bail is to stand at \$1,000,000 and Connolly's at \$500,000.

Dayton is troubled with a gang of burglars.

Portland market is well supplied with venison.

The demand for real estate in Portland is on the increase.

Cholera has disappeared from Constantinople.

The population of Rome is 250,000.

The Pope is urged to leave Rome.

Stokes is to be tried in this month.

Tweed had not taken his seat in the Senate on the 30th ult.

The Colombian Government is officially announced as bankrupt.

The anecdote often told by Dr. Chapman, in regard to himself, when called to visit a little boy who had swallowed a silver twenty-five cent piece, is not bad. "Madam," said the renowned joker, in all solemnity, "was the piece good?" "Indeed it was, sir," replied the excited but surprised lady; "I got it at the mint." "Then my dear madam," he replied, "if the money was good give yourself no further uneasiness, for it will certainly pass."

Fun in the Family.—What a healthful thing to have one jolly person in the house, ready to laugh at anything ludicrous, or even able to create sport at any time. There are enough to reflect on the sad side of life, and its brittle side and its sober side. We need one or more to show the mirth that often trembles just below the surface of painful things. A real, impetuous laugh dissipates many illusions, sweeps the twilight out of our imaginations, and brings honest daylight. But it must be real. No dry, hacking laugh. It should be spontaneous, outbursting, irresistible, infectious. We have seen men fall to laughing, who had not heard the cause of mirth, but only had caught the contagion of other men's laughing. It is hard not to laugh with men who are in earnest about it.

New York has increased its colored population over 7,000 since the breaking out of the rebellion. Over 3,000 were formerly slaves.

Dr. J. B. Young (colored), is a candidate for Mayor of Knoxville.

Miscellaneous.

Long absence makes the heart grow fonder—of some one else.

Man's greatest enemy is the wine glass; woman's is the looking glass.

Forty-one divorces per diem is the last quotation from Allen county, Indiana.

Widowers seldom die of grief. However crushed they may be, if you only let them alone they will generally revive.

Why is a carpenter's wife an unhappy woman? Because her husband is always a jawin' 'er.

A negro girl in Selma, Alabama, skips ropes with a pall of water on her head, without spilling a drop.

The immense height of a woman's coiffure in the present fashion places her face as it were in the midst of herself.

The illustrious planet Venus is now visible in the wee sma' hours, and a great many young couples plan it to set up to see her.

"You don't think so highly of the hymeneal knot as I do," said a wife to her husband, "Yes I do," he replied: "It is only when you wish to make it a double knot that I object to it."

A gentleman who recently married, gave his bride as a present on her wedding day, instead of the traditional diamond ear-rings, a sewing machine.

A lady who was very anxious that her fiancé, a young student in college, should creditably pass his examination, had masses said in church daily for his success.

"Why," asked a disconsolate widow, "is venison like my late and never sufficiently-to-be-lamented husband?" "Because—oh dear! oh dear!—it's dear departed."

"Misfortunes never come single," And so, like birds of a feather, The marriages and the deaths Are always pruned together.

A young lady on her way to be married, was run over and killed. An elderly single lady savagely remarked, "She has escaped a more lingering and horrible destiny."

A pretty, rich young widow was regarding herself lately at a mirror in her chamber, while for the first time trying on her widow's cap. "Behold," she exclaimed, "the real cap of liberty."

A crusty old bachelor in Congress proposes to levy a tax of 25 per cent. on orsets, whereupon a down east paper remarks: "Since there is no tax on men getting tight, why should not the ladies have the same privilege?"

The New York Evening Post tells us that "old sailors are never so much at sea as when they are on shore." In this they are somewhat like hen-pecked husbands, who are never so much at home as when they are abroad.

A lady correspondent, in a letter relative to woman suffrage, takes this delicate view of one branch of the subject: "Many women who would gladly help this movement are bound closely by constant recurring cares from any public part if fitted for it."

"You are beautiful and I adore you," said a gentleman to the belle of the evening. "For my part, I hate you, and think you are frightful," she retorted. "I believe you, you frank girl. You do not tell polite falsehoods like me."

It is common to speak of those whom a flirt has jilted as her victims. This is a grave error. Her real victim is the man she accepts. A happy smile runs thus: "A coquette is a rose from which every lover plucks a leaf—the thorn remains for her future husband."

The latest style of ornaments for the hair are made of silver filagree work, in the shape of butterflies and beetles, with diamond eyes and wings studded with small diamonds. They are fastened to a silver band by a wire, and vibrate and glisten with every movement of the wearer's head.

Decidedly the cleverest matron in all Europe is the wife of the present King of Denmark. Just consider the fine "matches" she has managed to obtain for her children. One daughter is the future Empress of Russia, the other the future Queen of England. One of her sons is the King of the Greeks and now the son-in-law of a Czar.

Uncle Sam has 1,400,000,000 of land for sale after his donations, for the benefit of railroads, schools, colleges, etc.

A wild goose was shot at Cedar Lake, in the body of which the head of an Indian arrow was found, just back and under the wings, the ends projecting on either side. The arrow-head is of bone, six and a half inches in length. The wound caused by the arrow-head had entirely healed, and it was firmly imbedded in the goose.

The aggregate value of the church property of New York City is stated at \$200,000,000. The Trinity corporation alone is put down at \$50,000,000.

A consignment of 7,000 salted Kangaroo skins was lately received in San Francisco from Australia, and are to be made into leather at the Oakland tannery. The skin of the Kangaroo is quite thin, but exceedingly tough, and when tanned into leather is very pliable and soft, wearing a long time without cracking, and turning water better than calf-skin.

In a recent report issued by the Gazette of India the startling statement is made that the aggregate number of deaths by wild beasts throughout the provinces of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, the Northwestern provinces, Punjab, Oude, Central provinces, Coorg, Hyderabad and British Burmah, for three years, amounts to 12,554. The deaths from snakebites over the same area number 25,664 making a total of 38,218.

Paris has invented a lively political plaything in the shape of a guillotine a *coquer*, which can decapitate sixty men an hour. It is in steel and bronze, the knife moving up and down without ceasing. The body is to fall in a reservoir of lime, the head in a bath of oil.

The death rate of New York is greater than that of any city in the Union with the exception of New Orleans.

Republican State Convention.

Just as we go to press a telegram from Salem reaches us, announcing that the Committee has decided to call the State Convention to meet in Portland on the 20th of March next. The precinct convocations will meet on Saturday, March 2d, and the County Conventions on Saturday following, March 9th. We are indebted to the kind forethought of J. Barrows, Esq., for the above telegram.

Judge Filnu is again happy. It's a girl this time.

David Bushy, Esq., member of the State Central Committee from Douglas county, called on us Thursday.

LIVELY.—Business before the next term of Court promises to be quite lively.

GAME.—Ducks and pheasants are plentiful but a short distance from the city, in fat and plump condition. Now is the time for our hunters.

PLANT.—Now is the time to set out your fruit and ornamental trees. For first-class trees, shrubs or plants, go to H. W. Settlemeier's or John Millard's nurseries.

Financial and Commercial.

Gold in New York, 109 1/2.

Legal Tenders, 90 and 91 1/2.

The *Orfivance* is advertised to sail from Portland for San Francisco this P. M. The *California* sails for Victoria on the 6th—Thursday. The *Gustie Telfair* sails for Sitka and intermediate ports to-morrow—Feb 3d. S. F. markets report wheat dull at \$2 1/2 15 1/2 cental. Oats—Market nominal at \$1 00 1/2 85. Potatoes—Range from 60c to 90c 1/2 bushel. Portland market quote eggs at 55 1/2 0c 1/2 dozen.

Albany markets remain as last quoted, with the exception of wheat, now quoted at 90c 1/2 bushel, with downward tendency.

Bad for the Morale.

The Rochester Democrat says: "Either strict morality or tobacco will have to be abolished. The Fredericksburg (Va.) Star records the death of Mrs. Cio Flatford, aged 118, who had smoked and chewed for 100 years, and of Abby West (colored), who died at Humfries, aged ninety-nine, and whose "pipe was her constant companion." We meet such accounts almost every day; and they are truly disconcerting to the great and good people whose lives are devoted to argument against tobacco.

NEWS ITEMS.

Cattle are dying by thousands in the Utah valley. Peter Benninger, a wealthy old cloth manufacturer of New York, committed suicide yesterday. Inquiries are being made as to what became of \$20,000 contributed by Salt Lake City to the Chicago sufferers. Chicago hasn't heard of the amount. Madame Catcaazy takes coconut baths for her skin. Mr. Seward will visit Sweden and Norway next spring. Empress Augusta has invited Tenyson to come to Berlin. Samuel Hunter of Maine was married the other day at the age of 95.

Sunday Reading.

Well begun, half done. He that lives to learn may learn to live. Fair dealing is the bond and cement of society. Pleasure is precarious, but virtue is immortal. A quiet conscience sleeps during thunder. An hour in the morning is worth two in the afternoon. The virtue that parleys is near a surrender. Use your wit as a backler rather than a sword. Nothing begets confidence sooner than punctuality. Seek to become wise, that you may become better. All things are soon prepared in a well-ordered house. However little we may have to do, let us do that little well. Evil men speak as they wish, rather than what they know. He that would enjoy the fruits must not gather the flowers. The best way to condemn bad traits, is to practice good ones. Love is like a weapon that will conquer men when all others fail. A life of full and constant employment is the only happy one. A passionate man scourgeth himself with his own scorpions. Never open the door to a little vice, lest a great one should enter. The reproaches of a friend should be strictly just and not too often. The world is a workshop; none but the wise know how to use its tools. It is easier to suppress the first desire than to satisfy all that follows it. Early religion lays the foundation of happiness both in time and eternity. No one can pursue solid learning and frivolous pleasure at the same time. Praise not the vain child if you desire his spiritual well-being or progress. The rose its thorns, the diamond its flaws, and the best men their failings. Those are never likely to come to good who are undutiful to their parents. Few boys are born with talents that excel, but all are capable of living well. Act uprightly and fearlessly, as you would defy the devil and all his works. There is no joy like that which springs from a kind act or a pleasant word. The rude make enemies of their fellow-men; the deceptive make angels weep.