American Humor.

THE ladies of 1776 wore pinafores, while those of 1876 wear 'em pinned behind.—[Whitehall Times.

THE Emperor has gone, and a good many people who made his acquaintance may say domino.—[New York Herald.

IT is melancholy to think how many people in this broad land have no relatives in Philadelphia.—[Rochester Democrat.

DEACON SMITH, being asked what he was thinking about the other day shook off his revery and replied, "1776—John Bull; 1876—Sitting Bull."—[New York Graphic.

THE recklessness with which some people go in for green apples and debilitated vegetables shows that they have a remarkable confidence in their future state.—[Easton Free Press.

GARRY GAINES, a woman's rights' advocate, thinks the best young men are unappreciated. We have been painfully conscious of the fact for some time.—[Turners Falls Reporter.

IT's most too warm to wear an overcoat, but it's better to get a little sweaty than to allow a scrutinizing public to leer at the holes in the seat of your pants.—[Turners Falls Reporter.

THESE are the cholera mixture days, when the unripe watermelon makes its periodical visitation, and seems to forget that a man's stomach isn't a ballroom.—[Brooklyn Argus.

CONNECTICUT papers report the discovery of "a rich vein of silver" in Danbury. It's not improbable. A rich vein of humor was discovered there several years ago.—[St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A CANDIDATE for admission to Amherst College spelled juicy "gousy." As he disappointedly turned away he said he might have known that it was spelled "joozey."—[Norristown Herald.

THE Charity of the world may occasionally throw an old biscuit at you from the third-story window, but if you don't move on then it will turn the dog loose in the front yard.—[Brooklyn Argus.

DID you ever have a ten-pound cobblestone in the heel of your stocking? If you have you can imagine something of the enjoyment of getting a raspberry seed wedged underneath the plate of your false teeth.—[Whitehall Times.

DON CARLOS, the distinguished fugitive from Spanish justice, has been in Washington the last few days, and he says he can tell this is a great and glorious country, from the number of empty bottles lying around.—[Brooklyn Argus.

"CLARENCE, you've got a real kind heart," gratefully observed a young lady on the cars to a sallow-faced youth, as he dropped a prize package of pop-corn in her lap. "Yes, Mary, my heart's all right," he sadly replied, "what I want is a new liver."—[Brooklyn Argus.

APPEARANCES are often deceitful, but when a man who is engaged to a red-headed girl is seen at midnight with both arms around a street lamp telling it it is too sweet to live, it is usually safe to presume that a new kind of temperance bitters has been introduced into the neighborhood.—[Norwich Bulletin.

A SHARP old man, on James street, watched his daughter very closely on Sunday night, to prevent her from getting out to meet an objectionable beau, and when she sung: "Hold the fort, for I am coming," he never suspected that it was a signal waving still for that same depraved youth to wait for her at the corner.—[Rome Sentinel.

A YOUNG man wants to know why, when he walks out into the country with his girl, all the flies and other insects circle around his head and annoy him, and completely ignore the presence of the young lady. The insects certainly show very bad taste. It looks as if they prefer beer and whisky to honey and sugar.—[Norristown Herald.

THREE years ago he accompanied her home. She held a small parcel in her hand. "Let me carry it, darling," he said softly, relieving her of the three-ounce package; "your little hands were never made to work." They are married now. They are going home from a shopping excursion. "Please take this pail of lard, John," she says, wearily; "it's heavier than lead." "Oh, I guess you're good for it," he responds, thrusting his hands deeper into his pockets, and shuffling lazily along. Three years.—[Rockland Courier.

A Belle's Mishap at a Yacht Race.

A New York correspondent of the Chicago *Tribune* says: Mr. Trowbridge's comical story in poetical verse, in the July number of the *Harper's Magazine*, of a fashionable belle who lost her wig and false teeth overboard, which were recovered in time to allow her wedding to one of her suitors, had a counterpart in half the story last week in the experience of a party who attended the yacht race on a steamboat. The sufferer is a well-known society belle, who has more than once graced the deck of Col. Delancy Kane's Pelham coach, and is understood to be engaged to a Wall street broker. She is only nineteen, and has been noted for her wealth of blonde hair. Dressing in half-mourning on account of the death of a relative, the combination of black with mourning has given her a *distingue* appearance, well-known to the swells of the avenue. Last week, on the occasion of a yacht race, she was one of a private party on board a small propeller chartered for the occasion, and as the wind was gusty, and the sea made sad work with the stomachs of the party outside of Sandy Hook, there was an utter abandonment of all pretense of personal appearance. Our belle suffered with the rest, when she sought relief by removing her hat. A sudden puff of wind the next moment caught her hair, and stripped her head of its covering. In other words her mass of blonde head-rigging was blown overboard, and the poor girl was in a rage of despair. Her lady friends rushed her into the cabin and tried to console her, but half of them were delighted with her mishap, and the other half said to themselves that it served her right. However, they managed to arrange her remaining hair so that it looked passably well, and she returned to the city, if not crestfallen, at least bereft of her wealth of hair, and her reputation as a blonde beauty forever destroyed.

THE BEST LOVED WOMEN.—It is the womanly women who are so tenderly reverenced on earth, so lovingly mourned and missed when "life's fitful fever over, they rest in peace." The mothers whose life and memory are God's instruments for the salvation of their sons, the "believing wives who sanctify the unbelieving husbands," the sisters whose influence has power to win a brother from his evil ways or strengthen him in the path of light, the thousands of women who have been to men guardian angels in truth, all belonging to the class of womanly women.

Stanley, the Great Explorer.

A London special to the New York *Herald* says: Five letters from Stanley have just been received, being the first intelligence of him since June, 1875, and was written at Moyhiga Island, in Lake Nyanza, and describes the explorer's voyage from King Mtesa's territory, at the northern end of Lake Victoria Nyanza, where Stanley had been visiting the King, back to Camp Kayehe. In the course of their voyage across the lake Stanley and his party narrowly escaped from being massacred by savages and treacherous natives of Bumboyha, a large island on the western side of Lake Victoria. The exhibition was saved from destruction during the savage attacks only by the skill and courage of Stanley and

HIS FAITHFUL BAND OF FOLLOWERS,

Who, by the observance of discipline and the effective use of their superior arms, beat off the treacherous natives. While on the lake the expedition encountered several heavy storms which at times threatened their frail canoes with destruction. All the party, however, arrived safely at camp after experiencing the most remarkable adventures. The second letter from Stanley is written from Lake Shore, a town of Dumo in Uganda. It is dated August 15, 1875. Here the explorer had established his camp on the main land, but within easy access of the lake. From Mahyiga Stanley made an expedition across the Ukerew Island at its southern extremity, from whence he recrossed the lake again toward the region of Uganda, the whole expedition being transported in canoes. During the return voyage Stanley inflicted a sore punishment on the treacherous savages of Bumboyha for the attack made upon his expedition as mentioned in the first letter. The second letter narrates all the

INCIDENTS OF THESE EXCITING VOYAGES.

The next letter from Stanley is written from Kawango, and is dated January 18, 1876. The letter describes the march of the gallant explorer from King Mtesa's capital across the country to the southern shore of Lake Nyanza. The march was made at the head of a large army composed of spearsmen of Uganda. The army encamped on the shores of Lake Albert Nyanza at Unijampaka, and after some delay again recrossed the country to King Mtesa's, where Stanley arrived on the 18th of January. The day he arrived he wrote his fourth letter. All the letters contain particulars of the highest geographical and ethnological value. Stanley traversed the country of Kabbar and visited but did not navigate Lake Albert Nyanza. This land exploration by Stanley is in

HIS MARCH BETWEEN LAKES

And his short stay on the Lake shore explains why Gessi of Gordon's force, who sailed on Lake Albert Nyanza in April last, heard nothing of the expedition. Stanley is, therefore, the first explorer who has penetrated the unknown regions lying between lakes Victoria and Albert Nyanza, and the first to survey their mysterious recesses with the eye of a scientific traveler. Towering above this vast expanse is the remarkable mountain of Ganbarrayara, which Stanley thoroughly explored, and discovered among its high uplands a pale-face tribe who inhabit this wonderful region, forming a different kind of people to the black-skinned denizens of the plains. Stanley christened the large inlet of Albert Nyanza, on which he encamped with his army, "Beatrice Gulf," in honor of the Princess of England, of the Royal House. The next letter is dated March 26, 1876, from Kanifurro, and relates the story of his final departure from Uganda. It also gives the particulars of his exploration of Kageera river, which flows into Lake Victoria Nyanza on its west side. It further describes the exploration of Captain Speke of Likes Lake, Windermere and the hot springs of Naragique. Stanley forwards with this letter

SKETCH MAPS

Showing the hitherto unmapped portion of Victoria Nyanza. He gives the coast line from the mouth of the Kageera river on the west to that of the Shimeyn river on the south. The latest letter is dated from Ubagive, in Unyamace, April 24, 1876, and gives further details of the exploration of the interlacustrine region and of Stanley's southward march towards Ujiji. From Ujiji Stanley proposes to revisit Albert Nyanza by way of Lake Tanganyika, and make a thorough exploration of the former basin. Stanley's last letter was dispatched when he was within fifteen days march of Ujiji, where he doubtless arrived last month. He is amply supplied with men and means sufficient for him to solve the great problem still open to his undaunted courage and his splendid gifts as a traveler. Stanley mentions in his letter that his white friend, Frank Pocock, was well and that his own health was unimpaired.

A JOKING MINSTREL'S EXPLOIT.—Charley Backus, the practical joker, was in a small town in Connecticut the other day, and as he started for New York he stood on the rear platform of the last car of the train. Just as the whistle was blown, and the cars began to move, Backus espied a big fellow lounging in the depot, and shaking his fist at him in assumed rage, he shouted:

"Oh, there you are, you villain! I've been looking for you all over this cursed town! oh, you knave, you thief, you scoundrel!"

At this time the train was moving rapidly.

To the horror of the minstrel joker the train was stopped and backed into the depot. Backus made a rush for his compartment in the drawing-room car, and locked himself in, just as the brawny-fisted depot-lounger boarded the train and howled:

"Where is that Duffy who has been looking all over this 'ere town for me?"

Backus kept himself in his prison until he reached New York.

WHY HE TOOK IT DOWN.—We heard a reminiscence the other day worth repeating. In the camp of one of our Rhode Island regiments, during the rebellion, the tent of the chaplain was near the regimental postoffice, and the good man was frequently disturbed by soldiers thrusting their heads in and inquiring if the mail had arrived. To rid himself of this annoyance he one day put up a large placard bearing the legend: "The chaplain does not know whether the mail has arrived or not." On glancing at the announcement the next morning imagine the chaplain's surprise on reading this addition to it, evidently made by some disappointed seeker after letters from home—"and don't care a damn." He took down the placard.—*Providence Sun.*

KINDNESS is the music of good will to all men; and on this harp, remember, the smallest fingers may play heaven's sweetest tune on earth.

Dom Pedro II., of Brazil.

Among the most distinguished persons of foreign countries who have been drawn hither by the Philadelphia Exhibition, the Emperor of Brazil will be accorded by common consent a special prominence, as much, probably for the qualities which are his as an individual, as for the fact of his being the ruler of a vast domain. In person Dom Pedro is very striking. Over six feet by three inches in height, and possessing an athletic frame, with a face whose expression is gentle and winning, and manners that are simple and dignified, he reminds an observer of the knightly kings of romance. His large head shows considerable breadth of intellect, ability to appreciate causes, relations, principles. His view of a subject is not a passing, transient glance, but an inquiring, searching survey. He is practical in judgment, and his large firmness and rather broad lateral organization incline him to be emphatic and trenchant in his treatment of ordinary topics. The contour of his forehead shows excellent memory, and his eyes indicate ability to talk with precision and clearness. He has good mechanical ability, can understand the laws of construction, and the relations of physical force. He could have made a good engineer, or manufacturer of complicated machinery. He is well adapted to investigation in natural science, particularly a department requiring out-of-door effort and contemplation.

He is steadfast in opinion and appreciative of personal right, but not an unscrupulous dogmatist. He has too much benevolence not to be humane and sympathetic, and too much cautiousness not to be prudent and painstaking.

By blood he may be said to represent three royal European houses, Braganza, Bourbon and Hapsburg.

The existence of the Brazilian Empire may be said to commence with the advent of the royal Braganza family, which was driven from the throne of Portugal by the legions of Napoleon I., in 1807. Brazil was then a province of Portugal, and in its loyal arms the fleeing court was received with unbounded enthusiasm.

To Dom Pedro's father the independence of Brazil is mainly due, as in September, 1822, he renounced all allegiance to Portugal and was proclaimed "Constitutional Emperor of Brazil." A series of internal dissensions led to his abdication in April, 1831, when the present Emperor, then but six years old, was declared the successor under the title of Dom Pedro II. For awhile the government was administered by a Council of Regency, and then by a single Regent, and at no time during the critical period of 1831-5 was the constitution violated. In July, 1840, Dom Pedro II. was declared of age and assumed the sovereign power. In 1843 he married the Princess Theresa Christina Maria, sister of the late King of Naples, from which union were born two princes, who died young, and two princesses, one of whom died a few years since.

At an early period in his career as a ruler he determined to work for the abolition of slavery in his dominions. He began his scheme of reform by inviting European colonists, particularly those possessing a mechanical or industrial experience, and gave every encouragement for their settlement. By these means he attracted the attention of planters and large employers to free labor, and their support of his project was so strong that he felt fully justified in 1871 in decreeing the total, although gradual emancipation of all slaves in his empire. In 1862 a quarrel broke out between his government and that of Great Britain, during which he maintained a firm and judicious attitude. The matters in dispute being submitted to the king of the Belgians for arbitration, were settled in favor of the Emperor, which circumstance greatly increased his popularity at large and strengthened his government.

In 1865 he entered into an alliance with Uruguay and the Argentine Republic against Lopez and his Paraguyan supporters. The war opened in the following year. The Count d'Eu, a grandson of Louis Philippe, who had married the Emperor's eldest daughter, Isabella, in 1864, took command of the entire military force as Marshal of the Empire. For six years the struggle lasted, with varying success, and was closed March 1st, 1870, by the death of the Dictator Lopez, who was cut down at the head of a small body-guard that had remained constant to his fortunes.

In 1871-72 Dom Pedro made a visit of eight months to Europe, during which time he devoted himself with the ardor of a private student to the investigation of everything that could tend to the advantage of Brazil. He astonished specialists in every European country by his acquaintance with their own subjects, and everywhere made the strongest impression by his intellectual ability, his amenity, and his utter freedom from pretentions of all kinds. In London he was particularly liked. By eight in the morning he had usually taken his breakfast, and was in his carriage visiting all manner of interesting localities long before the English fashionable world had left the table.

Foreigners complain of his court as more than republican in respect to the absence of pomp, ceremony and display; but the Brazilians are well pleased with a sovereign who thinks more of bettering the condition of his subjects than of dazzling travelers at their expense. Few subordinates in a public office in Washington are so easily accessible as this ruler of ten millions of men.

His lack of pretension has been seen during the stay of the royal party with us, and it has made friends for him everywhere. In fact, he has always indicated a high regard for America and Americans, giving a cordial greeting when at home to all travelers from our nation with whom he may come in contact, and showing a special interest to those who go to Brazil for scientific purposes. The particular courtesy he showed to Professor Agassiz, and the valuable aid he rendered to that scientist in his Amazon expedition, must be long remembered.

The Empress, who is also a visitor in company with her husband, is a lady of modest and unassuming demeanor. Her health has not been good since the death of the princess, yet during her stay in America she exhibited much activity in the endeavor to become acquainted with American life.

Dom Pedro from his earliest years showed a rare passion for study, and made great progress, especially in the exact sciences, in military art, mechanics, and in natural history. He is a fine linguist, speaking and writing well French, Spanish, English, German and Italian, as well as his native Portuguese. In February, 1875, he was elected a corresponding member of the section of Navigation and Geography by the Academy of Sciences at Paris.

NEVER suffer your energies to stagnate.

The Alaska Commercial Company.

We have before us the report of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, to whom was referred the matters for investigation into the affairs of the Alaska Commercial Company; and we must say that we never before saw a result that furnished so complete a vindication of an association of honorable business men as the report in question. Founded upon malicious reports, jealousies and an attempt to compel the Commercial Company to accede to the blackmailing demands of unscrupulous men, Congress was compelled to raise an inquiry, which, upon a presentation of facts, has eventuated in a real benefit to the Alaska Commercial Company, and an utter discomfiture of those who endeavored to injure the men composing it, and to use it for their own ends. There is too much of that sort of work going on, and in this case, we opine a check of another kind than that anticipated has been received, which will be the means of putting an end to all similar attacks upon the Alaska Commercial Company. It is a California institution, and as a natural consequence Californians take a pride in its success; those composing it are old Californians, and having embarked their money and means into its uncertainties of profit, have a right to enjoy, unimpeded, all there is in it. Employment is given to a large number of deserving men, through the operations of the Company, and their pay roll each year, and for moneys expended in carrying on the enterprise, reaches a sum approximating $1,000,000. The Committee charged with the investigation, to which reference is made in this, were thorough in their examination of the many witnesses summoned to testify as to the subject matters contained in the resolution of the House, and who sought to abrogate the lease held by the Alaska Commercial Company. And they found that the lease was properly made by Congress; and that the powers granted in the lease were exercised in good faith by the Secretary of the Treasury, and *without the slightest shadow of fraud on the part of the company in obtaining the lease*; that the power to lease was clear and beyond dispute; and that in its issuance to the Alaska Commercial Company everything in connection with it was consummated and carried out in perfect good faith, actuated by the strictest demands of integrity and business honor. Of course in an article of this kind, and where as in an issue like this we are circumscribed for room, we cannot enter into the details of the report to which we refer as fully as we should like; but we cannot refrain from alluding to the perfect confidence which seemed to imbue each and every member of the Investigating Committee in the honesty and uprightness of those composing the Association under inquiry; and after four months of patient and careful examination into every fact and detail presented, throwing open the doors wide for all to enter and to make their case known, who knew or thought they knew aught of evil or corruption in connection with the lease and operations of the company spoken of. Yet not a fact was elicited that could justify or even excuse the charge of corruption, or of even partiality or favoritism. Nor was there the slightest evidence that the Alaska Commercial Company attempted, in any manner, shape or form, to practice any. In our judgment the gentlemen comprising this company should be delighted at the opportunity which was afforded them in this investigation by thorough examination to put an end to all such frivolous attempts at detraction in the future; for the Committee unanimously concluded that the company in everything appertaining to it in connection with the Government was acting fairly, faithfully and honorably up to the contract made with the Government. To receive such a verdict as this, and from those so high in authority, is certainly worth all the trouble, anxiety and inconvenience, to which those controlling the Alaska Commercial Company were put in reaching such a conclusion. Of course such things are always annoying, but they are better disposed of as in the case which calls forth this; and we do not know that we can close this better than by publishing the conclusion which the Committee reached after the testimony was all in.

Whereas, the Committee on Ways and Means, after a full and complete investigation into the law and facts relating to the granting of the lease to the Alaska Commercial Company, for the right to take fur seals on the Islands of St. Paul and St. George, report that they find that the lease aforesaid was made in accordance with the Act approved July 1, 1870, and has been complied with on the part of the lessees, and is for the advantage of the United States: Therefore,

Resolved, That in the opinion of this House there is no just ground of complaint against the Alaska Commercial Company, or the officers of the Government who were intrusted under the law with the power to make and see to the performance of the lease aforesaid, and that said Company is entitled to the enjoyment of the franchise so long as it faithfully performs all the requirements and stipulations of the law and contract under which it holds its rights, and so long as the Act shall remain in force.

This was unanimously adopted by the House.—*Centennial Spirit of the Times.*

The "Boudoir" Portrait.

So leading is the reputation of G. D. Morse as a photographic artist, that improvements from him are regarded as a matter of course; but he has just perfected a new style of portraits which will not fail to command special admiration. It is called the "Boudoir" picture, and is considerably larger than the cabinet size, while the finish is far more brilliant. It is impossible to imagine a more beautiful photograph, or one more entitled to universal favor. S. P. Wells is the leading operator in this gallery. This gentleman was for a long time head artist of the celebrated galleries of Sarony and Bogardus, New York.

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