Detroit Currency.

THERE's no such thing as a season of rest for a Detroit ice-wagon.

RUSSIA doesn't care to break the peace, but has 400,000 soldiers in camp.

BRONCHITIS has become England's standard disease. It takes her by the throat.

A MICHIGAN pottery man yearns for the time when he shall cast off this cold clay.

Too much camphor threw an old lady in North Carolina into fits. Beware of the bottle.

ONLY three cents for a St. Louis loaf of bread. People can afford to pick out the ends of old rope at that figure.

A CALIFORNIAN might quite appropriately canvass the subject of establishing a "hollow tree" inn in that State.

A ROMAN candle can be used to shoot a dog out from under a barn, but the barn should be located near an engine house.

FRAGRANT and spicy—The theft of $6,000 worth of spices in Old slip. Cannot the police get a "scent?"—*New York Herald.*

Now that the Centennial is a thing of the past the illustrated papers are bringing out some very good pictures of the exhibition.

THE Rochester *Chronicle* advises young men not to marry unless they can secure wives who can make a pumpkin pie and flop a pancake.

"No seat—no fare" is the motto on passenger trains in Indiana, and the conductor who puts a man off gets a lawsuit to attend to.

AFTER spending $600 and two months' time a New England professor has discovered the bones of a dog in one of the ancient mounds of Florida.

THE young lady who wants to drown herself about these days should be careful to bundle up warm and take along a hot brick, as the water is very cold.

No man in Michigan has seen any spring robins of late, and people have about concluded that the backbone of winter will endure for a week or two yet.

THE Boston *Journal of Chemistry* says that clothes-closets in a house are a great nuisance. The proper way of disposing of spare clothing is to hang it over chairs.

THERE are 7,000 more women than men in the District of Columbia, and yet if one woman falls into the canal and is drowned a great hullabaloo is made about it in the papers.

BRITISH butchers are as mad as hornets over the arrival of American beef, but still their customers continue to remark: "Hi'll take hanother steak hoff that Hamerican hox."

THE Rochester man who got his foot tangled up in a saw-mill and broke twenty-eight hundred dollars' worth of machinery should confine himself to agricultural pursuits.

AFTER fooling around for a whole week to open a big safe, a Dubuque merchant discovered that it hadn't been locked any of the time, and he called his head clerk a fool and discharged him.

D. D.—Domestic Difficulty.

It is all right for the Hon. Bardwell Slote to lug his "Mighty Dollar" around the country and say g. f. for good fellow, c. d. for cash down, and s. m. for sour mash, but such little eccentricities don't wear well in the family circle. A forward youth of fourteen, whose parents live on Myrtle avenue, entered the house the other day and remarked to his mother:

"Is dinner ready, and if not, why in t. (thunder) and l. (lightning) ain't it?"

"What do you mean?" she slowly inquired.

"I mean that you had better t. a. l. (tread around lively)," he answered.

She didn't say any more, but when the father came home to dinner, she quietly informed him that young Napoleon was picking up slang.

"Is, eh? I'll see about that," and he called the boy in and inquired:

"Napoleon, where were you last evening?"

"Oh, down at the c. g. for a little while."

"What do you mean by c. g.?" demanded the father.

"Why, corner grocery, of course. You see, I have g. t. h. (got the habit) of abbreviating my words."

"I see you have," mused the father, as he rose up. "You will p. a. m. (please accompany me) to the wood-shed!"

They had a little physical exercise out there, the father holding the balance of power, and the son doing all the high stepping and side dancing. When the show had adjourned, the father said:

"Now, d. l. m. (don't let me) ever hear any more of your slang."

"Not a. b. w. (another blessed word)," sighed the boy, and he sat down on a lump of Briar Hill and wiped his tears away."—*Detroit Free Press.*

Anecdotes of Crockett.

Col. David Crockett, remembered for his often-quoted saying, "Be sure you are right, then go ahead," was a backwoodsman until he was thirty-five years of age, when he first visited Nashville. He could neither read or write until the age of eighteen, his life having been passed in hunting and on a frontier farm. But he had a vigorous intellect and good sense, and the settlers in the backwoods of Tennessee looked up to him as a natural leader.

During these early days there was little law and less government in the southwest. But the settlers organized for mutual protection, and elected Crockett a magistrate. He filled the position with such vigor and impartiality as to satisfy the people. "Although my warrants for arrest," he says, "were never written, my word was enough, and the offender was taken, dead or alive; nor were my judgment ever appealed from, but stuck like wax."

In 1821, he was elected to the State legislature, and, going to Nashville for the first time, met Col., afterwards President Polk. "I suppose, Col. Crockett," said Col. Polk, when one day in company, "the legislature will make a change in the judiciary." "I suppose so," replied Crockett, getting out of the way as soon as possible. "For," he says, in explanation of his retreat, "at that time I really did not know what the judiciary was."

But his naturally strong intellect and habits of observation soon formed the backwoodsman into a serviceable legislator. His constituents re-elected him, and then sent him for three consecutive terms to Congress.

A WOMAN is visiting her parents in Newburyport, Mass., who is wearing the same bonnet she wore when she was married and went to Texas twenty-five years ago.

The O'Keefe Millions.

The O'Keefes are in great luck, says the St. Louis *Republican.* There's millions in it. They are poor, too—all except one, and he's dead. Died in Allahabad, India, possessed of $24,000,000 and no blooded heirs about him to claim shares or divide the spoils of grim mortality. Charles Robert O'Keefe was a Londoner by birth. He had one brother and one sister, both of whom died young His father and mother both died before he grew up. So the direct line of his ancestors and stock is disposed of. There couldn't be any more brothers and sisters. Charles Robert was apprenticed to a trade, and not liking it he ran away from his master in 1842, went to India, became a soldier and finally engaged in mercantile pursuit. The opium trade between India and China made him rich. He died last February, aged fifty-two, and left a fortune estimated at the above magnificent figures. The East Indian O'Keefe never was married and had no children, and not expecting to die so soon as he did, he left no will or any mention of his family. In fact, as he wandered off, so other branches of his family scattered, he knew not where. There was a colossal pile of savings to be disposed of, and no claimants near. O'Keefe's solicitors in Allahabad advertised for heirs. The advertisement found its way into the *Irish World*, of New York. Now, American heirs to big figures over the sea are about the easiest thing in the world to find. They never fail to turn up. Everybody in Europe, Asia and Africa seems to have an heir in America. America is the heir of all the ages and all the people. The Charles Robert O'Keefe's Indian millions stirred up the American O'Keefes in Danville and Georgetown, Kentucky. They are now getting ready to rake in their wealth.

This is the way it came to light among the O'Keefes in Kentucky: Michael Geary is of the Georgetown gas-works. His mother-in-law is a Mrs. Morrissey, who is a sister of P. J. O'Keefe, and all live in Georgetown. Some time ago Geary, who takes the *Irish World*, was reasing that paper by his humble candle-light, and was attracted by the family-name and its associated millions. He read out the item. His mother-in-law, Mrs. Morrissey, exclaimed, "That's my cousin! Charles Robert O'Keefe is my cousin, who ran off to India when a boy." Then she explained, and left no doubt about it. Michael Geary is one man who may reap the benefits of keeping a mother-in-law in his family. There were only four of them—brothers and sisters—and they were only cousins of Charles Robert and heirs of his millions. Two of them live in Georgetown as above stated, one, a brother, in Danville, and one, a sister, never left England, and she hasn't been heard from in eighteen years. She is supposed to be long dead and not troubling herself about earthly treasures. The Danville brother is now in Missouri somewhere, making preliminary arrangements to visit England and Ireland with the Georgetown brother, for the purpose of establishing their claims to the fortune. A pleasant postscript is that P. J. O'Keefe lately received a letter from the priest who married him in England, corroborating the death of his rich India cousin, and also referring to the great fortune he left. The people of the two Kentucky towns aforesaid are deeply interested in the fortunes of the O'Keefe's, but never thought them much worth cultivating before their foreign, far-off cousin died so suddenly.

Wall Street Fortunes.

Instances of the melting away of fortunes might be multiplied by the score. The riches accumulated in Wall street seem to be the most unstable of all. They come by chance and frequently go in the same way. The country is familiar with the case of Daniel Drew, who is now bankrupt, though his wealth a few years ago was so great that he hardly knew what to do with it. The popular estimate of it was $10,000,000, but popular guesses at individual wealth are usually very wide of the mark. Berdell, the ex-President of the Erie Railroad, who was recently tried for shooting his wife's brother, is another fallen monarch. Since his overthrow as a speculator he has had a succession of troubles. His wife sued for a divorce and got it. Shortly afterward he had the encounter which resulted in the death of his brother-in-law. A few days ago his daughter began a suit against him for the recovery of $100,000, out of which, she alleges, he defrauded her. Berdell is now on the list of bankrupts. Another case that may be cited is that of Woodward, the Brooklyn Sunday-school Superintendent, who got up the famous Rock Island pool some years ago, and went to pieces in the crash that followed. He got a discharge in bankruptcy last week. Capt. Stockwell, who ruled Wall street during the Pacific Mail excitement just before the panic of 1873, is also understood to be pretty thoroughly used up. Henry Clewes, the administration banker, has subsided so much that his name is no longer heard in the street. Likewise Jay Cooke, who outranked all the speculative nabobs till the smash came that brought down his house like a castle of cards. Perhaps it is creditable to the foresight and sagacity of all the fallen speculators that even when they become confessed bankrupts they manage to live just as well as they did before—that is, so far as actual personal comfort is concerned.

BLUNDERS.—It was a Hollander who said that "a pig had no marks on his ears except a short tail." It was an English magistrate who, on being told by a vagabond brought before him that he was not married, responded: "That's a good thing for your wife." It was a Scotchman who said that the butcher of his town killed only half a beast at a time; and although Dean Swift mentions that an Irishman once told him of two skulls of the same person, one of a man when a boy, and the other of the same person when he grew to be a man, yet it was reserved for an English reporter to say, when telling of the proceedings of an Ethnological Society, that they had "casts of the skull of an individual at different periods of adult life to show the changes in ten years." It was a Portuguese official who enumerated among the marks by which the body of a drowned man might be identified when found, "A marked impediment in his speech." It was a New York merchant who said that he "insured his life so that after death he could have something to live on, and not be dependent on his daily exertions;" and it was a Vermont lawyer who glowingly said: "When we look back on the trodden paths of the future, we behold the footprints of an almighty hand."

A MAN cannot run for office in Nantucket, says a New Yorker, unless he has an India ink anchor pricked into his arm.

The Eastern Complication—The Conference.

The war-cloud still looms ominously over eastern Europe. There is but one ray of hope, and that comes to us through the dull medium of the projected conference. There has been manifested a disposition on the part of the leading Powers to meet together for the purpose of exchanging their views; but we look in vain for any evidence of a willingness to come to an agreement, or to abide by the decision of the majority. Some of the Powers, it is evident, have prejudged the case; they are preparing for war while they profess to be seeking for peace; and it will not be wonderful if, in spite of diplomatic palaver and plenipotentiary wisdom, there should occur at any moment a clash of arms which will shake the world.

The situation has been unnecessarily complicated by the speeches of Lord Beaconsfield in London, and of the Emperor of Russia at Moscow. It was hoped that if caution were observed on the part of the representative statesmen of the Powers most immediately interested, a conference might be held under circumstances such as would encourage the belief that difficulties would be smoothed down, and the way opened for a peaceful and satisfactory settlement. The incaution or boldness of the Earl of Beaconsfield, on the one hand, and the daring utterances of the Russian Czar on the other, have sharpened the lines which separate Russia and Great Britain; and while they almost bar the hope of peace, they make it certain that, in the event of her ally being attacked, the last-named Power will not contemplate the struggle as a merely interested spectator. It will be a war in which will be put to the test the strength and endurance of three of the mightiest governments in the world. Such, at least, is the light in which we are justified in interpreting the facts of the moment.

A conference at last has been agreed upon, and it is understood that all the Powers interested in the affairs of the East have consented to be present by representatives properly accredited, and invested with the authority of plenipotentiaries. Turkey, for a time, was unwilling to take any part in the projected conference. In some quarters the Turkish Government has been greatly blamed for the stubborn attitude which it assumed. We think that Government has been blamed most unjustly. It is the first duty of any Government about to enter into a conference to keep its own counsel until the delegates have assembled and until the business which brought them together has been fairly entered upon. In this particular Russia has entirely failed in the discharge of her duty. She has allowed the world to penetrate the secrets of her council-chamber, and the demands which she is prepared to make in the conference have been made public in advance. We have no fault to find with these demands, in themselves considered. It is very possible that if the conference should be held, some such reforms will be agreed upon, and Turkey will have no choice but to give her consent. But they are reforms which naturally wound the sensibilities of a great people—reforms which can be wrung from the Ottoman Government only under the threat of dismemberment. It is not wonderful, therefore, that Turkey refused to take part in a conference the object of which, as her greatest enemy had declared beforehand, was to impose upon her conditions which would practically take out of her hands the government of the best portion of her European territory. Happily the objections of the Turkish Government have been removed. The conference would have been a mockery and a sham without a Turkish representative.

It is perfectly manifest that Russia has little hope of any great good being accomplished by the conference. She has evidently more faith in her army, and the extensive preparations which she is making abundantly shows that she is determined to push her purpose, even if it should be necessary to fight Turkey with all the power and wealth of England at her back. The Ottoman Government has but little reason to hope well from the conference. Its success can only mean her humiliation. In her present mood, she seems quite as willing to submit her difficulties to the arbitrament of the sword as to leave them in the hands of diplomatists, whose judgment, whatever it may be, must in some way redound to her injury. It may be that Russia is too strong for Turkey—that in the struggle the latter must succumb; that the armies of the Sultan are no longer the despicable things they once were; and we may rest assured that even if she is left to fight the fight single-handed, she will not go down easily or without making her powerful antagonist feel that victory has been bought at too great a price. Nor is the peace prospect encouraged if we look at the attitude which Great Britain is assuming. It is the conviction of the British Government that Russia means to insist upon claims which she believes the Porte will refuse—that she means to push those claims, if she should have recourse to arms; and the British army in consequence is already buckling on its armor, while British ironclads are moving to the point of danger. What shape British interference will take will depend entirely upon the action of Russia. It may be taken for granted, at the outset, that England will station her ships so as to protect all the avenues of approach to Constantinople. This in the first instance will be all, unless that power should be directly included in the declaration of war—a result which is not to be regarded as out of the list of possibilities.

Altogether the situation is full of gloom. The hope of continued peace is small indeed. The conference may be held; but we are not permitted to believe that the conference will prevent, a catastrophe which is imminent. War sooner or later must determine the question whether the Crescent or the Cross is to be the symbol of power in the finest portions of European territory. It may be deferred. It cannot be prevented. Should war break out now, it would be vain to imagine that it would be limited to Turkish soil. It would inevitably spread until it involved the whole of Europe, and not improbably the better part of Asia. A war in which the Crescent would be in danger would not leave undisturbed the millions of Mohammedans in India and Persia. So great are the questions to be settled, such are the interests at stake, and such is the terrible machinery employed in modern warfare, that we contemplate the outbreak of hostilities on the present questions with feelings of horror. Let us hope that the wrongs of the Christians in Turkey may be righted without a recourse to arms.—*Frank Leslie's.*

ACCUSTOM yourself to overcome and master things of difficulty; for if you observe, the left hand for want of practice is insignificant and not adapted to general business, yet it holds the bridle better than the right, from constant use.

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This Company is in a splendid condition. A fine business has been done during the year, and with comparatively little loss. The amount of capital stock of the company paid up in cash is $200,000; capital and surplus, $450,000. The COMMERCIAL, since its organization February 26th, 1872, not quite five years, has paid in losses $406,000, which is a creditable showing. The COMMERCIAL has been thoroughly conservative; has transacted a legitimate business in every way, and its present prosperity is owing to the care and attention given its affairs, by directors as well as officers. Mr. LATON, the Secretary, is a thorough underwriter, and manages the various departments of the business with thorough tact and clear intelligence. We are glad to chronicle the success of our local companies, among which the COMMERCIAL occupies a prominent position.—*Illustrated Christmas Spirit of the Times.*

What the Ladies Say

Must be true, and they do say almost universally that the Davis Vertical Feed Sewing Machine is decidedly the best, and adapted to the greatest range of work of any in use. Not only the ladies say this, but the Centennial Commission says substantially the same thing, and have awarded the *Grand Gold Medal of Honor*, and *Diploma of Merit* to the Davis. In the short time that this machine has been in use upon this coast, it has attained to an enviable popularity that is rapidly increasing as it becomes better known. Mechanical enterprise and development are making rapid strides, and the so-called standard machines that satisfied our wives and daughters a few years ago are now laid aside to give place to a machine worthy to stand in the front rank of inventive progress. See and try the Davis before making a purchase.

Webster on a Bridge.

We do not believe that so much benefit can be derived from the same amount of money in any other way as by purchasing a Webster's Unabridged Dictionary. Is a person at fault about the application of any particular word, or of the way it should be used, and its different meanings, he has but to look in his Unabridged, and he will find examples of all. Every thing that can be illustrated by figures or diagrams is so illustrated, (by the 3,000 illustrations.) It is a perfect cyclopedia, and we would advise any one who has no "Webster on a bridge," as Mrs. Partington has it, to do without an extra coat or dress and get one—they will never regret it.—*Hub. Advertiser.*

A New Attraction.

Among the many attractions to which the attention of visitors is directed upon reaching San Francisco, none perhaps will afford more pleasure or prove more attractive than Wood's Museum, recently opened at 522 California street. Mr. Wood claims to have (and we believe he has) the best collection of relics west of Philadelphia. The collection consists of curiosities from every department of nature and art, to the number of one hundred thousand. Visitors will find in Mr. Wood a pleasant, genial gentleman, thoroughly devoted to his business, who will spare no pains to please his patrons. Don't visit the Bay City without seeing the Museum.

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COLLATERAL LOAN AND SAVINGS BANK, corner Post and Kearny sts., S. F. The shares of this bank are offered for subscription at $12 per share during the month of December. In January the price will be advanced to $15 per share. Shares are now paying regular monthly dividends of 2 per cent.

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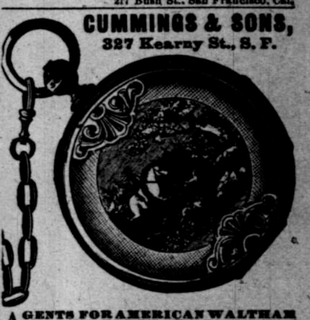

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