

Sale of Land.
Yesterday, W. Willard Jefferson, of Salem prairie, purchased 150 acres of land, partly improved, three miles east of Brooks' station, from Uncle David Newsome for \$1,650.

Fire at St. Helens.
The residence of the Muckle Bros. at St. Helens was destroyed by fire yesterday forenoon, notwithstanding the greatest exertions to save. The loss is said to be \$2,500, and no insurance.

A Handsome Paper.
The last number of the Resources of Oregon and Washington shows marked improvement. It is an excellent journal, filled with valuable information and carries success and prosperity on its face.

A Mistake.
A few days ago a report was current that Mr. B. F. Burch, late superintendent of the penitentiary, had started a drug store in Independence. This, we hear, is a mistake, and that he will engage in the lumber business.

Ribs Fractured.
Mr. McLaughlin, proprietor of the Canyon milk ranch, fell on the sidewalk last Thursday and lay there until picked up and conveyed to his home. An examination of his person disclosed the fact that one rib was fractured in two places and the next one also broken. He suffers intensely, but is perceptibly improving.

Fencing the Enclosure.
Workmen are preparing the fence to surround the enclosure in which Johnson and Brown are to be executed on the south side of the courthouse. The lumber is being sawed the requisite length at the yard of the contractor in order to avoid noise near the building, and so that it can be constructed in a short time without unnecessary parade.

Executive Appointments.
His excellency, Gov. Thayer, has just made the following appointments: Notaries Public—P. C. Renfrew, McKenzie Bridge, Lane county; M. M. Melvin, Norfolk, Douglas county; and Jas. G. Chapman of Portland. Geo. F. Lincoln, Esq., No. 49 Nassau street, New York City, has been appointed Commissioner of Deeds for Oregon.

Pay Day.
Last Saturday something happened to the soldiers stationed at the garrison at Walla Walla which did not happen to them in seventeen years. They received their pay in gold and silver, and the sight of the twenty-dollar pieces filled some of the boys with so much "oil of gladness" that they didn't get over it for a week. Others again saved their coin for better purposes, but such is life.

Claims he was Robbed.
James Newambra (that's as near his name as we can get it) a Russian, went into Lafayette on Friday last and swore to an information before Justice Hembree, that he had been a victim of highway robbery at the hands of Joel Flannery, to the tune of \$40 gold coin. The Sheriff brought the prisoner Flannery before Justice Hembree on Saturday evening, when he gave bonds in the sum of \$300 for his appearance.

Broken to Pieces.
The Statesman says yesterday Captain Smith started to come down the river with a large raft of logs. All went well until the mouth of Eola slough was reached. Here the river was so shallow that the raft struck the bar and went to pieces. The Luckiamute Chief brought down part of the raft while the rest were left, which will be brought down tomorrow. The logs were for the Capitol Lumbering Mills at Salem.

Annihilate Them.
The Walla Walla Watchman says our friend and fellow granger, Mr. Thomas Eastman, informs us that myriads of squirrels are out, devouring everything that's tender, fresh and green. Wheat fields will suffer unless they are annihilated, by our county commissioners offering prize money for scalps and by the united efforts of our farmers in procuring squirrel poison, not by the pint but by the bushel, and those able to procure plenty must share with those who are poor. Use the poison with care, but kill the squirrels before they increase and multiply. One killed in February is equivalent to 27 in May and better than 500 in July.

Attempted Suicide.
On Thursday evening about 7 P. M. says the Harrisburg Nucleus, a daughter of Mr. Cady, about 17 years of age attempted to take her own life by shooting herself with a Colt's revolver. The facts as near as we could learn them, are as follows: She was out in the doorway, and the father hearing a pistol go off went to the door and met her coming into the house. "Who fired off that pistol?" said her father. "I have shot myself," said she, holding holding her hand over the wound, and walked on into the house. Dr. Williams of this city was immediately called, and he ascertained that the ball had entered just below the pit of the stomach, ranging downward and coming out at the side. Dr. Williams said it would be impossible to tell what the result might be. The cause of this strange act on her part is somewhat shrouded in mystery. Flying rumors are abroad as the cause of this rash act, but we know nothing definite about it.

Hard on Sheep.
The Astorian says: We are sorry to hear that the cold weather has worked against the sheep of Clatsop. It has frozen the grass, and some are dying because they don't know how to eat straw like an ox.

Didn't Take His Man.
A special deputy sheriff came to Lafayette from Baker City last Wednesday, and after getting his warrant signed by Justice Hembree, arrested Abel George on a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses in Baker City. After formally arresting his prisoner, the deputy allowed him his freedom until Thursday morning, when they were to start for Baker City together. During Wednesday afternoon, however, the bondsman of Abel George, who is under indictment here in a shooting scrape, surrendered him to Sheriff Kelly, who locked him up, so that the deputy sheriff from Baker City lost his prisoner while under arrest. The Courier says Abel is in the goal, and the Baker City man has gone home minus his prisoner.

The Columbia River Bar.
A dispatch of the 2d inst. from Washington says: Gen. Humphreys, Chief of the Engineer Department, has forwarded to Congress, through the Secretary of War, a report of Major Gillespie of the survey of the bar at the mouth of the Columbia river, made in compliance with the requirements of the river and harbor act of last year, with a view to its permanent improvement. Gen. Humphreys says: "The survey is completed as far as necessary to establish the condition of channels and bar, as existing at the time it was made, but prolonged and careful study of those conditions, as affecting the character of the harbor, is necessary in order to determine what artificial means may be requisite to maintain a permanent channel across the bar. I therefore concur with Major Gillespie's recommendation that \$5,000 be appropriated for the continuation of the survey and for further observations upon currents at the entrance of the river."

The Last of the Perkin's Murderers.
Mr. Sam Oppenheimer arrived in the city from Colville, W. T., and reports the capture of the last of the Perkin's murderers by strategy, and his incarceration in the Colville jail. His arrest was effected by Messrs. Phelps and Gregory, the last named being a brother-in-law of the murdered Perkins. Having learned that the savage was reposing securely in British Columbia they procured the services of a band of friendly Indians who crossed the boundary and represented to the fugitive their possession of a fine lot of old whisky, and provisions near at hand, in Washington Territory, and invited him to come and enjoy them with his friends, which he could do without danger. Suspecting no deceit, he availed himself of the offer, but no sooner had he touched republican soil than he was pounced on by the two white men in ambush and made prisoner. He was bound safely and brought to the prison prepared for his reception. This Indian was the first of the murderous gang to fire upon the unfortunate Perkins and his wife.

Supreme Court.
MONDAY, Feb. 3.
Emil Schutz, appellant, vs Dalles Military Road Co., respondents; opinion by Boite, Justice.

SYLLABUS.
1. Contractors to carry United States mails employ others to assist in transporting the mails.
2. The plaintiff, Emil Schutz, having received the mails regularly from the United States Postmaster, had a right to transport the same free from toll over the road of the Dalles Military Road Company.
3. In constructing their road the Dalles Military Road Company was required by the act of Congress and the act of the State Legislature and laws of Oregon, to construct their road 16 feet wide generally, and 10 feet wide where there were cuts six or more feet deep, also to bridge the streams not fordable.
4. If the plaintiff in carrying the mails was obliged to cross bridges not on the road in consequence of the want of proper bridges not on the road and pay toll therefor he can recover the same from the company. Judgment of the court below affirmed.
Ladd & Bush, appellants, vs T. Smith, respondent; appeal from Marion county. By order of court as per agreement of parties this cause was continued for the term.
W. B. Gilmore, guardian, respondent, vs H. C. Burch, appellant; appeal from Yamhill county; cause on trial.
Court adjourned till 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

MONDAY, Feb. 3.
In the case of B. F. Dowell vs. W. C. Griswold—Motion for a rehearing was denied.
W. R. Gilmore, respondent, vs H. C. Burch, appellant; appeal from Yamhill county—Argument concluded and submitted.
John Minto, respondent, vs Wm. Delany, appellant; appeal from Marion county—Argued and submitted.
Court adjourned till tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.
Suspicion dwells innate in every human breast. Even the word of George Washington would be doubted if he attempted to account for a black eye by stating that a stick of kindling wood flew up and hit him.—[Chicago Alliance.

Aurora Affairs.
From Hon. John Geisy, of Aurora, the Statesman learns, that business is prospering in the colony.

Mr. Geisy also informs us that the affairs of this colony and the parent colony in Shelby county, Missouri, are in a fair way to be amicably adjusted. Hon. Stephen Smith, Captain Henry Will and Judge Samuel Miller left on the steamer Oregon on her last trip to San Francisco, on their way to Missouri; going for the purpose of making the final settlement. These gentlemen are good at business, and will no doubt be able to discharge the trust committed to them to the satisfaction of all concerned.
The original projectors of the Aurora colony, on leaving the parent colony, left their interests undisposed of, which it is now proposed to settle. These colonies have been very successful in business, and have contributed quite a good deal to the prosperity of the country, and added nothing to the criminal docket.

School Laws.
The school laws have been published and are now ready for distribution. We note the following as the only important change effecting school districts. Section 34 of the act is as follows:

Section 34. Organized districts shall hold annual meetings on the first Monday of March, and shall elect one director every year for each district, who shall qualify as aforesaid, and shall hold his office for three years, so that the oldest director shall retire from office in order. The directors elected on the organization of a district, shall remain or retire as the vote of the first annual meeting may decide; the two getting the highest votes to retain their office until their next annual meeting, and the one getting the highest vote thereat shall serve until the next annual meeting thereafter; Provided, that in any district containing five hundred or more qualified voters, the annual election for directors and clerk shall be held at 3 P. M. till 6 P. M., of the second Monday in March; that such election shall be by ballot, and that the judges of such elections shall be appointed by the directors of such district, who shall sit at the time and place appointed to receive and canvass the votes, to report the result to the directors. But in such district the annual meeting shall be held on the first Monday in March for the transaction of business other than the election of director and clerk.

The law is not changed in regard to the time of making clerk's reports.

Woman at the Bar.
From the San Francisco Chronicle we clip the following paragraph relative to Clara S. Foltz, the first female lawyer on the Pacific Coast. She gave to a reporter the particulars of her previous history as appended:

"I was born in Indiana, near Indianapolis, a little over 28 years ago. I was married when a mere child, before I knew my own mind, and I have had troubles I don't wish to speak of. Eight years ago I went to Oregon, where I lived three years, after which I moved to San Jose, and have lived there ever since. My mother and brothers live there, and father, who is an attorney, is now in Arizona engaged in mining. I have five children, the oldest a girl 12 years, the youngest a babe of two. One is with my mother, one in Sacramento, and the others are here with me. Having to make a living for them, I took to the lecture field about two years ago beginning in San Jose. My first subject was 'The Political Emancipation of Woman.' Just think of it! [A merry peal of laughter] Isn't that a comprehensive subject for a beginner? I met with considerable success here and in Oregon, having a good natural command of language and some ideas, and was praised by the press beyond my deserts, as you can see by this scrap book of notices. In preparation lectures I looked into Blackstone regarding the legal position of women. That inquiry led me on to Kent's Commentaries, and so down to the statutes of California, and thus created the taste for legal studies which have become so entrancing to me. Following this new bent I began two years ago reading law with C. C. Stevens in San Jose. Several young men who began at the same time haven't passed examination yet. In September last, on my application, Judge Beiden, of the twentieth district court, appointed a committee of examination, consisting of C. C. Stevens, D. W. Herrington and F. E. Spencer. Before them I passed a good examination, and was admitted to practice in that court."

Striking a Balance.
Representatives of nearly every State and Territory in the Union assembled in Philadelphia on the 15th inst., to make a final settlement of the affairs of the Centennial. Although the exhibition did not financially come up to the expectations of its managers, the balance sheet shows that it was by no means a failure. The receipts from all sources amounted to over \$11,000,000, and the expenditures, up to the present time, including the return of the government appropriation of \$1,500,000, and dividends to stockholders, to about \$1,500,000 less than that sum.
A late minister of Biggar, who was a reader in the pulpit, closed his discourse with the words, "I add no more." "Because you cannot!" exclaimed old woman from her pew.

PURCHASING POWER OF GOLD.
English and European economists are discussing the question whether gold is worth more or less than it was, and conclude that the increased production of that metal for a time lessened its purchasing power. Professor Jevons, of Oxford, said in 1869, that within twenty years gold had depreciated; that with respect to fifty chief commodities prices had increased 18 per cent., which signified a lessened purchasing power of gold. The London Economist takes twenty-two leading staples as a guide, and shows that taking five years previous to 1850 as a basis, or as 100, there was a rise to 136 in 1857; a fall to 115 in 1859; a rise to 172 in 1864; a fall to 121 in 1869; various fluctuations until December 1878, when the purchasing power of gold was 104 as compared with 1850, not so very much discrepancy in twenty-eight years.

If we consider what changes have taken place in the world since 1850 we must see that prices have been regulated a great deal by the inventions of that period; by an improved system of production and introduction of labor saving machinery. It is simply impossible to calculate the effect of these influences upon prices. Also the law of supply and demand have had much to do with prices. Speculation has at times caused overproduction and produced revolutions. Some years have seen the harvests exceed the wants of the world and repletion has caused bread and other products to be cheap, while disastrous years have seen small harvests and famine prices. War has its effects on prices; commercial treaties and the opening or closing of avenues of trade all produce commercial fluctuations, and we must take in view the other fact of exchange of products and the employment of currency to a great extent as a token of value and means of exchange, gold being used more as a basis of value than as an active factor in commerce. All these things have to be taken into consideration in arriving at the truth as to whether gold gains or loses in purchasing power. As the world grows in population and civilization; makes progress in the arts and inventions, gold is required for other uses than as money, and if gold is the world's money, more of it is needed every year. The conclusion arrived at from the figures of the Economist, quoted above, is that at the present time gold gains in purchasing power, and has been so gaining for some years past, probably because the production of gold is less than for many years before.—Portland Bee.

DEATH OF PRESIDENT MARSH.
We regret to learn of the death of President Marsh, of Pacific University, who has been an invalid for several years. He has been identified from an early day with the institution of which he was President, was active and successful in securing its endowment and in its management, and deserves and will receive honorable mention in history as one of the early educators of our State, and one who did much to advance the cause of education here. He died in middle life, and is sincerely mourned by many who have been his friends and pupils. His decease has followed years of illness and caused his gradual relinquishment of active work, so that his death will not affect the success of the institution. We have heard it suggested that Rev. Dr. Atkinson will probably be invited to accept the vacant Presidency of Pacific University, and if he does, the institution will gain a capable and energetic head, as well as a friend who will be unremitting in efforts for its advancement.—Portland Bee.

Frozen to Death in a Fire.
"Talking about cold weather," suddenly broke in one of our oldest inhabitants, the other evening, "why you ought to have been out in the State of Minnesota in '36. I don't s'pose fourteen thermometers spliced together would have given the mercury room to drop as low as it wanted to go. One awful cold night—colder than two of our coldest nights consolidated—a hunter named Hosking built an extra big fire in his log shanty to keep warm, and he kept a piling on the wood until his shanty was all ablaze, and when a few persons living round there saw the light 'n' run to his assistance, they saw Hosking a-settin' in the midst of the flames a-shiverin' 'n' a rubbin' of his hands as though he couldn't get warm; and when the shanty was all burned to ashes they found him in the ruins a-settin' on a big hickory log frozen to death!" How the persons who went to Hosking's assistance managed to escape freezing to death is what excited the wonderment of the oldest inhabitant's listeners.—[Norristown Herald.

A bankrupt was consoled with the other day for his embarrassment. "Oh, I'm not embarrassed at all!" said he; "it's my creditors that are embarrassed."

CONGRESSIONAL.
Senate.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—McCroary from the joint committee appointed to inquire into the expediency of transferring the Indian bureau from the interior to the war department, submitted a report signed by four members of the committee in favor of transfer; ordered printed.
Hear from the committee on privileges and elections, presented a minority report in favor of a sixteenth amendment to the constitution proposing an amendment of six; ordered printed. The report is signed by Cameron of Wisconsin, Hoar and Mitchell.
Edmunds called up Senate bill to provide for ascertaining and settling private land claims in Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico Nevada and Colorado. The object is to settle titles to lands derived from the Spanish and Mexican governments. The bill was discussed and laid aside.

Consideration was then resumed of the resolution of Edmunds declaring the validity of the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the constitution and Morgan continued his argument in favor of the substitute presented by him.
House.
The speaker announced that the regular order of business was the morning hour, and pending bill to a bill for the relief of Maggie Barron.
The House refused, 77 to 112, to consider the army reorganization bill, and went into committee on army appropriation bill.

Senate.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.
Senator Voorhees took the oath of office to-day under the recent election to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator Morton. McCroary introduced a bill to transfer the office of Indian affairs from the interior to the war department. Laid on the table, to be called up hereafter by McCroary, who gave notice that he desired to submit some remarks.
Mr. Matthew introduced a joint resolution providing for a commercial treaty with Mexico.
Edmunds called up the bill which was partly considered last week, to provide for ascertaining and settling private land claims in the Territories of New Mexico, Wyoming, Arizona and Utah, and the States of Nevada and Colorado; passed.

Teller presented a petition of colored people of Louisiana complaining that they are not protected either in life or property, and that they were met by armed white men known as Democratic clubs, and that they were shot at and not allowed to hold meetings, and therefore invoke protection from the federal government. Referred to the select committee, of which Teller is Chairman.
Harris, from select committee on epidemic disease, reported a bill to prevent the introduction of contagious or infectious diseases into the United States, and to establish a bureau of public health. Ordered printed and recommitted.
Merrill gave notice that as soon as he could obtain the floor he would call up the bill to provide for taking the 10th and subsequent censuses.

The Senate then, on motion of Conkling, went into executive session.
House.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.
Macy from committee on post offices and post routes, reported an amendment to the post office appropriation bill establishing a steamship line between New York and Rio via Norfolk, and another between New York and Rio via Galveston, allowing a subsidy of \$150,000 per annum to each line; referred.
Cameron, of Wisconsin, from committee on privileges and elections, submitted a majority report signed by Republican members, declaring David T. Corbin elected Senator from South Carolina, and that he is entitled to his seat.

Hill, from the same committee, submitted a majority report, signed by Democratic members, in favor of the incumbent M. C. Butler; both reports ordered printed and placed on the calendar.
Matthews from the committee on foreign relations reported back a number of petitions in regard to claims of citizens of the United States against Nicaragua with a resolution providing for a committee of five Senators to sit during recess and inquire into claims for lives of relatives, imprisonment, etc., and to what extent Nicaragua should make compensation. Placed on the calendar.

Morrill from committee on finance, reported with an amendment House bill to authorize the issue of certificates of deposit in aid of refunding the public debt; placed on the calendar.
Edmunds gave notice that at the first opportunity he would call up the joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution prohibiting the payment of claims of disloyal persons for property injured or destroyed in the late war.
Windom gave notice that on Friday next he would call up his resolution in regard to the migration of colored people, and submit some remarks.
Coke spoke at length in favor of constructing a railroad in Texas to the Rio Grande, after which consideration was resumed of the resolution of Edmunds, declaring the validity of the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments.

Hayard declared that the first one to throw doubt upon the validity of the amendments was the Senator from Vermont—Edmunds.

House.
The House bill in committee of the whole rejected the amendments reducing the army to 17,000 and 20,000 men. The vote was 118 nays, 66 yeas.

In His Stocking.
They shined along on the window sill in the post office to give Wicked Jack room to sit down, and then resumed their conversation about Santa Claus gifts. One boy got a knife, another a pair of skates, and the third stammered a little as he stated that he received a diamond pin.
"And you traded it for a dog?" inquired one.
"Well, no; I gave it to the baby to play with and he swallowed it."
"Diamonds is good 'enuff for common butelacks," observed Jack as he cleaned his nails with a tooth-pick, "but you orter see the gold watch I got! I tell you the fourteen diamonds and twenty-one pearls in the cases made me scream right out when I hauled it from the stocking! I was weak in the knees I could hardly walk down town."
"And it is up home!" inquired a boy with a frost-bitten ear.
"Up home! Do you think I'm lassez candy?" scornfully replied Jack as he got down. "Not much! I rented it to a member of the Legislature at two dollars a day."—Detroit Free Press.

A Book of Mormon.
"The Book of Mormon," or Mormon Bible, which Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, claimed to have received direct from the angel of Lord, was, as he said, a record written upon gold plates nearly eight inches long by seven wide, a little thinner than ordinary tin, and bound together by three rings running through the whole. As this language was engraved in a language known as the Reformed Egyptian, it was not translatable to the literate Joseph, and so two transparent stones, anciently called the Urim and Thaurim, set in silver bows after the manner of spectacles, were handed down at the same time. These made the golden plates intelligible, and sitting behind a blanket hung across his room, to keep the sacred records from profane eyes, Joseph Smith read off the "Book of Mormon," or Golden Bible, while a disciple Oliver Cowdery, wrote it down. It was printed in 1830, in a volume of several hundred pages, and the signatures of Cowdery and two others appended as testimony of its genuineness. Later Smith and the three witnesses quarreled: the latter renounced Mormonism and avowed the falsity of their testimony. Another intimate of Smith's testified that the Mormon founder had acknowledged to him that the records and book were all a hoax.

The Smiths were known among their neighbors in Palmyra and Wayne counties, N. Y., where Joseph grew to manhood, as persons who avoided honest pursuits, and engaged chiefly in digging hidden treasures, stealing sheep and robbing their neighbors' henroosts, and were accounted false, immoral and fraudulent characters, of which Joseph was said to be the worst. Nevertheless, Mormonism grew, and flourished, though it was proven that the real author of the Mormon book was Solomon Spaulding, a quondam preacher and erratic literary genius who lived in Conneaut, Ohio, in 1790, and wrote a romantic account of the peopling of America, tracing the American Indians to the lost tribes of Israel. He entitled his work, "Manuscript Found," and further increased its interest by a fictitious account of its discovery in a cave in Ohio. He placed the manuscript in a printing office at Pittsburgh with which Sidney Rigdon, an acolyte of Smith's, was connected. Rigdon copied it, after mentioning the fact himself; and when the "Book of Mormon" made its appearance a comparison of the two revealed their almost exact likeness, with the exception of the pious expressions added to the latter.

The Mormon Bible traces the origin of the American Indian to Lehi, a Jew, who lived in Jerusalem about 600 B. C. In obedience to divine instruction, he found in America a New Jerusalem, and dying soon after his arrival, the dissensions among his sons resulted in the supremacy of the younger, Nephi, and the others for their rebelliousness were condemned to have dark skins and "become an idle people, full of mischief and subtlety, seeking in the wilderness for beasts of prey." Nephi became the father of a race of primitive kings, who kept their records upon golden plates; and finally one of their descendants, Mormon by name, gave his name to the religion which Joseph Smith left his sheep-stealing and treasure-digging to preach to the world.

Damp Rooms.
In damp houses lurk the causes of many grave diseases. Many a valuable life has owed its extinguishment to a damp bedroom. In the Southern States, and in California, where the Winter is a "wet season" this portion of the year, is that in which dampness is generally prevalent. In the parlor and the "spare-bedroom" the dampness sometimes becomes so great that it condenses in large drops upon the ceiling and walls. Mold frequently makes its appearance, adding to the chilling dampness another danger, that of germ poisoning. Vapors laden with organic matter ascend from the kitchen—arise from cooking vegetables—and, dispersing themselves through the dwelling, condense upon the cold walls of unwarmed rooms. Soon decomposition of the organic matter sets in and poisonous germs and gases are developed. Colds, croup, diphtheria, catarrh, consumption, rheumatism, neuralgia, goitre, cerebro-spinal meningitis, and numerous other diseases, originate in damp dwelling rooms.

During the damp season, which includes in most localities the Autumn, Winter and Spring months, every occupied room should be warmed and aired daily. When possible every room should be daily sunned. When there can be no stove in a room it may be warmed from an adjoining room; if a sleeping room the bed should be carried to the fire and warmed and aired. This should be done in the afternoon on damp days, so that the sheets may not become damp by absorption of moisture before the bed is occupied at night. When this plan is inconvenient or inexpedient the room and bedding may be quite easily dried by means of a small gas or kerosene oil stove, several very excellent patterns of which are now manufactured. A man could scarcely suffer greater abuse at the hands of a friend than to be put into a damp, musty, spare bed, in a damp, moldy, unwarmed, unventilated spare bedroom.—Health Annual.
"Ere's a pretty go, Bill! See this 'ere book! It's called a 'Life of Feararch,' the very 'oss as me an' I've bin a layin' off our money on so free! And blowed if I ain't bin a giv' 'arf-a-crown for it!" "Well, what then?" "Why, it's all about a bloomin' poet!"