## FROZEN RUSSIA.

### Ion. Alphonso Taft's Description of Life in the Czar's Country.

Judge Alphonso Taft, of Ohio, Minster to Russia, gives some interesting information about that country to an nterviewer. About his late post at St. Petersburg as Minister to Russia, he said:

"It is a very pleasant place for dipiomatic service. The Czar and all ais court are very civil, polite and and candles in the palaces and houses, cordial with the representatives of toreign countries. I was happy to find in the diplomatic representatives of chandleliers, those metals being cheap. other Governments at St. Petersburg but men of cordiality and sociability, making the residence there very agreeable. The officials of Russia are wonderfully pleasant. The Czar is a man of exexceeding amiability and kindness. I met him often at Petershoff, where of Englishmen there, who have grown he expressed the highest admiration or American enterprise, industry and Government does not encourage them invention. The Empress is a model of a wife, devoted to her family, and from St. Petersburg to Moscow, and very useful in court society.

"Did you find the climate rigorous?" "The winter season, which is by many considered objectionable, is the glory of the year in St. Petersburg. I did not find the weather so cold as I expected, and actually suffered less citizens subject to the Czar. The Jews from that source last winter than I came to the United States and got out have from the same causes in other countries. Their houses are built air went back, began to trade, and soon tight. The windows are all double. In winter they are all sealed. Provision is made for fresh air by ventilation in the windows. It don't come in unbidden. The manner of heating contributes to comfort. The furnace does not give out a great heat, but a comfortable one, while stoves are placed in all the rooms to supplement the furnace, so you can have the temperature just as you desire it. There is no difficulity or trouble about ventilation. They provide wonderfully against the cold in their dress. You have a fur suit and overshoes to put on when you go out, and they are so perfect that you are as comfortable d \$500 at Worcester by passoutdoors as in. You never go out or come in without putting on or taking off your furs. Thus the weather has no impression on you. The people go to parties, receptions, balls and dinners regardless of rain, snow, sleet or zero. You would think the horses would be unable to stand it in cold weather, but they do. They have no blankets for horses. The best animals are black stallions. They will stay out in the cold all night. The drivers stay out, too. The drivers are all bundled up so the cold can not touch them. I do not think the weather is so much colder than our winter as generally supposed. It is certainly more even, and gives less discomfort."

"How about Nihilism?"

"Very little appears on the surface in Russia as regards Nihilism. My impression is that the government has been so persevering, and the police so resembled Dr. Parkman, and that he skillful in detecting the projects of that kind, that they have pretty much | the witnesses, and so the defendant annihilated Nihilhism. It may turn was acquitted without impeachment

duce a wonderful growthe of grain These plains rival an American prai-rie in productiveness. If we had not an advantage in so many railroads to collect and bring our grain to market cheaply, I think they would beat us. We have better transportation and communication in every way for our agriculturists. They have petroleum in greater abundance, I think, than we have. I think it is just as good as ours. But they are not as skillful yet in refining it. You can get it for half the price. They put on a big tariff to keep ours out. They burn petroleum and gas in the streets. The great light at the big balls is furnished by a host They not only protect petroleum, but all manufactured products, products, and are thereby getting a large manufacturing interest. There is not much American capital in the country now. Formerly there was some trade at St. Petersburg, but now it is all gone. There is a large colony wealthy in trade, but the policy of the and their numbers are lessening, Wi-nans, of Baltimore, built the railroad owned a large interest in it. But he sonally," said the General, "that you sold out some time ago. He made a great deal of money in the transaction. The Russian Government is inflexibly set against the Jews. They will not

owned whole towns. When called on to perform military service, they produced their papers.

### A Case of Mistaken Identity.

I am not sure whether the particulars of a most remarkable case of doubtful identity have reached you by telegraph or mail. They are so peculiar and so important in their legal bearing as to deserve mention my mother will ever reach her." Mr. even at the risk of repetition. Adam Lincoln's tears, his voice full of the W. Smith was tried at Fitchburg, ing a forged note. Ten unimpeachable citizens testified to his being the man who passed the note and two experts identified as his writing the indorsement on its back. But now came twice ten most respectable citizens of Dutchess County, N. Y., who swore he was in that vicinity driving a herd of cattle at the time the note was passed. His movements were all traced out and his lodging places estab-lished for every night. The alibi was throughly established and he was acquitted. It was clear that he had a double. It will be remembered by some that very respectable witnesses testified on the trial of Dr. Webster for the murder of Parkman that they saw the supposed victim in the streets of Boston after he was dead, according to the theory of the prosecution.

It was shown in rebuttal that Mr. George Bliss, of Springfield, closely was in the city the day mentioned by out differently, because the Nihilists are not likely to advertise publicly of the veracity of the opposing testi-mony. The mistake was one very like that just made and like that which has afforded Henry Irving one of the ing the stern seat laid aside his tackle best opportunities for the display of his dramatic powers.

### Lincoln on the Battlefield.

Mrs. General Custer in the Chicago Tribune. Our Ministers o the Argentine Republic has been telling me of a scene which has as yet been unpublished. Being the personal friend of the late President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, he asked the official to tell him the truth regarding an accusation against the President during the dark days of our war. A newspaper paragraph went the rounds attributing to Mr. Lincoln a want of solemnity in singing a frivolous song at the very outposts of our advance pickets. Mr. Garrett, who accompanied Mr. Lincoln on many a journey to the front, gave the true version of the story rom which the garbled account had been first evolved. General Mc-Clellan sent for the President in a critical hour, and he responded by starting at once. They had no sooner alighted from the car on reaching headquarters than Secretary Stanton approached General McClellan and rusquely addressed him by saying: 'Why are you delaying an advance? What keeps you from hurling this army on to the foe?" "I have asked the President and you to come perranks of our army, the broken ment has reduced us." Meanwhile the dead and wounded were being carried from the battlefield. The lantern of the men as they moved among the slain shone out like fireflies as they progressed. As one stretcher was passing Mr. Lincoln he heard the voice of a lad calling to his mother in agonizing tones. His great heart filled. He forgot the crisis of the hour. His very being concentrated itself in the cries of the dying boy. Stopping the carriers he knelt, and bending over him asked: "What can I do for you, my poor child?" "Oh, yeu will do nothing for me," he replied: "You are a yankee. tenderest love, convinced the boy of his sincerity and he gave his goodbye words without reserve. The president directed them copied and ordered that they be sent that night, with a flag of truce, into the enemy's lines. He only told the soldier who he was to convince him that his word would be obeyed, and when told that time was precious, as the distant outposts must yet be visited, he arose reluctantly and entered the ambulance. With sobs and tears he turned to Mark Lemon, his friend, and said: "Mark, my heart is breaking. Sing me something; sing the old song I love, 'Oft in the Stilly Night."

### Too Much for a Bass.

A bat flew into the billiard room of anhotel at Greenwood Lake the other evening, and was knocked down by one of the players who struck it with > billiard-cue. It fluttered behind some wine-cases, and was not found until next morning, when one of the boys pulled it from its hiding-place and tossed it into a boat, in which tors Cofair, the guide, who was about to and picked up the bat to examine it. He found that one of the creature's wings was broken, and in turniing it over got his finger too close to its mouth. In an instant, four needle-like scribed by the belle of Poplar City: "Oh, teeth were driven into his finger-tip, and with an exclamation of pain and Poplar City is celebrated all through anger he shook the bat loose and cast Iowafor its society-it's so exclusive it out on the surface of the lake. As and cultivated; and I don't think the maimed creature fluttered about there's a city in the world where you'd in the water the guide stopped rowing meet such high-toned, elegant people as to watch it, and his passenger sucked there was at Mrs. Blodgett's reception. his finger and muttered a few deep-It was the most dressy affair I've at-tended this year. All the gentlemen wore lavender silk neckties, and I had drawn imprecations. Suddenly, with a swirl and splash, a magnificent bass, fully eighteen on my new white satin brocade. inches long, engulfed the bat in his There were ever so many of my gentlecapacious jaws and shot full length manfriends there, and I danced every out of the water. "Served him right, time. Charley Cohen was my escort, said the victim of the creature's teeth, and half the girls would have given and, turning to the guide, he asked: their eye-teeth to have been his com-"What's the matter with getting some more bats for bait?" Price Clothing Emporium, and they Before the guide could answer the supposed, whatever may be the origin bat rose to the surface, crushed, but do say its the largest garment-store in the world. I know you can buy anystill gasping. Cofair smiled as he said: thing you want there, from a collar-"I thought that a black bass was hog button to an ulster. Oh, the Cohens are just gilt-edged! Willie Bracket was enough to eat almost anything, but I guess a bat is a little too strong even there, too, with a ladyfriend of his for a bass."-Philadelphia Times. from the Junction, a half-scared look-

## Things Condensed.

The newspapers of the world have just been reckoned up at about 35,-000, thus giving one to every 28,000 inhabitants A German society of Philadelphia is o erect a statue of Schiller, in Fairmount Park, at a cost of \$12,000.

A French scientific authority says a moderate drinker of 20 years of age may expect to live 15.6 years; at 30, 13; at 48, 11.6; at 56, 10.8; at 60, 8.9. The probability for a total ab-stainer is, at 20, 44.2; at 30, 36,5; at 40, 28.8; at 51, 21.25; and at 60, 15.85.

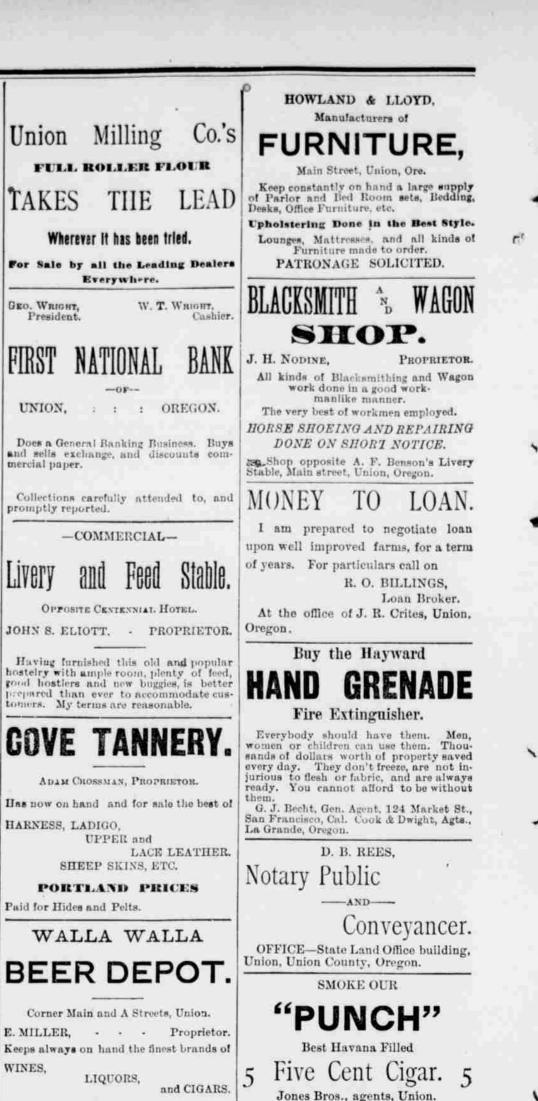
The Bank of England bas been guarded every night since 1780 by a picked body of soldiery. which consists of two sergeants, two corporals, a drummer and 26 privates, all under the command of a chosen subaltern. The guard goes on duty between 5 and 7 o'clock in the evening, according to the season. The officer is given a din-ner and a bottle of wine, each sergeant is given half a crown, each corporal 18 pence, and each private a shilling daily on going on duty.

Probably the fastest crusier afloat is the British vessel Mercury. She has attained an average speed of 181-2 knots an hour, while the average speed of the Chilian ram crusier Esmeralda s given at 18 knots, and that of the rench cruiser Milan also at 18 knots.

It is just fifty years ago that the construction of the first French railroad, that from Paris to St. Germain, was officially sanctioned. The late Emil Pereire undertook to make this line at his own expense. It had taken nearly three years to obtain the consent of the authorities, the contention of Thiers being that railroads could never be more than mere toys, while Arazo also doubted their utility. The financial difficulties were also great, and only surmounted when the Rothschilds and Davillers were won over. The road was opened in 1837, and became the nucleus of the western system.

One of the largest fruit farms in the world is situated in the southern part of Florida, and is owned by E. A. Osborn, of Middleton, N. Y. It comprises 2,500 acres, and is covered with over 200,000 cocoanut trees. So far the undertaking has cost over \$100,-000. As the cocoanut only thrives south of the frost line and near the coast, the owner of this farm has a practical monopoly of that trade in Florida.

The following is a dramatic criticism in an Arizona paper: A company of duffers gave a show last night at Barney Hill's. They played a dizzy snap called "Hamlet." We never heard of Keeps always on hand the finest brands of the drama before, and we never want | WINES, to see it again. It is the snidest thing in the way of a show that we ever fell up against. There ain't no horses, singing, fighting or dancing in the the market, at 25 cents a quart. Beer and whole blamed shebang. There was a lunch 25 cents. lively dog fight in the middle of the play that was agreat success. The ac- tion of customers. Drop in and be socianot killed, but the duck that



their purposes, if any had been formed. The government has been exceedingly dilligent in terreting out all their projects. I have seen no Nihilists and have had no opportunity for coming at the precise objects entertained by them. Really St. Petersburg is about the worst place to go to learn about Nihilism. There is not much recognition in Russia of any other liberalism than Socialism and Nihilism. One hears nothing of Republicanism. It is not obnoxious to public opinion as Socialism and Nihilism, and the government has no occasion to talk special point, namely, that certain about it. As the press is con-trolled by the government there is no talk about it. This is somewhat true of the entire continent. The people of Europe are not generally hostile to Republicanism. The Governments have no motive to promote it. But it does not profit them to discuss it. They do not care to censure it, because it is not obnoxious. Their censure falls on Socialism and Nihilism."

"What of Russian civilization?"

"It can be spoken of as improving. Can not say as to the general intellizence among the people, but materially there is improvement and that will eventually bring the other. An era of material improvement began with the emancipation of the serfs.

"The greatest attention is paid to the army and the improvements of the military force much more than to popular education. They have institutions for the education of the children of the better classes, but with tivity driven up from the earth itself, nothing like the advantages that are lavished in the schools of military education. They have a tremendous army. It is nearly as large as the armies of both Germany and Austria. All the Executive officers of the Em-pire are connected with the army. Russia is paying more attention to naval armament, a significant fact when considered in the light of recent events and her great military force. As to advancement, I have heard since I landed here that the Czar has decided to grant a constitution to the country. I heard nothing of it before I left. I have been surprised that it has been so long deferred. The Constitution will probably give the country a Legislature to enact the laws, subject to the approval of the Czar. At present the Czar is absolute for all Russia. It is the most absolute despotism in the world. The Czar has councilors who absurd to proceed with them with the endeavor to make it a reasonable government, just as they do in other countries. A Constitution would make a great change in that country, and a favorable one.

"Tell me something of the country." "It is a vast and wonderful country. It has fertile as well as waste lands. The northern part is barren and in some parts uncultivated. From Wirballen to St. Petersburg, a distance under his care, that the boy who must of five hundred miles, the coun- be bread-winning at twelve, shall not try is monotonously dreary. In be despoiled of valuable time in ascerand Southern the black lands are fertile, and pro- of the vowel "a."

# Shooting Stars and Meteorites.

## From the New York Sun.

Prof. Ball, the well-known astronomer royal for Ireland, makes a concise distinction between shooting stars and meteorites, which are popularly regarded as the same. In the case of the former Prof. Ball remarks one great showers are periodical, and always come from the same parts of the heavens-the inference from these recurring periods being that the orbit of the earth then cuts the orbit in which a mass of these is moving. With this fact of recurrence is another, viz, that certain comets are periodical, and, from a comparison of their supposed orbits with those of groups of these bodies, a connection between them is of comets, which is not yet known.

Meteorites, on the contrary, remarks Dr. Ball, are never known to come from the direction of a comet path, and, if carefully examined, are seen to be fragments of some rock or rocks, closely analogous, too, to our earth's volcan-

ic rocks. The professor thinks that, examining all the planets in turn, it seems improbable that the meteorites originate from any of them, it being much more likely that they were in former times of greater volcanic acand they again, after the lapse of ages, meet the earth in its orbit.

## Where Public Schools Fail.

From the Brooklyn Magazine.

It is a curious fact that many city boys reach the end of the school course without being able to tell what a monkey wrench is or describe a cross-cut saw, or define the uses of a turning lathe, while a piston, a steam box or a throttle valve are all far beyond their ken. They can, however, tell the number of elementary sounds in the language and the significance of the whole cluster of diacritical marks, all of which soon fade out of their minds. In the limited time that the state has the privilege of teaching children in the Twelfth Ward, it seems circumstance that marks the work in the schools on the Hill, where the children will stay twice as long; yet this is the present system. To change it means the risk of a demagogic cry of one school for the rich and another for the poor. Accordingly, the poor suffer. Some liberty should be allowed to a principal to suit the education he directs to the necessity of those Russia taining to a shade the fourteen sounda

# That Descending Dove.

A New Haven, Conn., dispatch says: While the Rev. Mr. Clark was preaching in east Haven Congregational Church, and had finished the prayer preceding the sermon, a dove alighted upon the center gallery, in full view of the congregation, and began cooing, When he had finished his prayer the dove perched on the gallery railing opposite the clergyman. When he read the first chapter of St. John's Gospel at the thirty-second verse-"I saw the spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode about him"-the dove flew to the desk and perched upon the open page of the Bible. The pasfor's text was from the fourth verse. It then settled upon the platform beow the pulpit during the sermon. At the conclusion the pastor engaged in acramental services and closed the Bible. The bird thrice stepped from the book and on again, and then bestled by its side. When he had confluded the pastor referred to the interruption and coincidence, and said that the winged visitor might be taken as emblematical of the spirit of the thurch. Then the bird perched upon the pastor's head. The effect was electrical, and many ladies were in tears. The pastor took the dove and held it to his breast and gave the benediction. It was Stephen Bradley's pet dove which had followed his sister to church. The rest of the family had tried to drive the little thing back, put it followed the young lady in, and lew by the way of the gallery stairs. Huch comment is made in east Haven, and it is regarded as almost miracuous .- Albany Express.

played Hamlet was tarred and feathered.

tion.

ing thing. I recken the high-tonedness

of the crowd dazzled her, for they're

not much on style down the Junction

way. Jennie Fulsom and her brother

go buggy-riding with him next Wednes-

day. He's a lovely little gentleman,

Henry is. Mr. Mecjimpsey was invit-

ed, but he didn't show up-they say

he's awful bashful-and lots of the

girls are just dying to know him. He's

looking. I believe he's just come from

Burlington. You remember little Tommy Needham, who used to be at

me this morning? It was awful sweet of him to do it."-Puck.

The Royal Horse Artillery will short-

ly be armed with a weapon which

gives the Gatling the go-by. The guns

are 12 1-2 pounder breech-loaders,

and are said to surpass anything yet

riages being fitted with brakes. The

projectiles are fitted in the base with

both accuracy of direction and great-

er length of range.

quickness of loading and firing.



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## Union, Oregon,

The very best Lager and Bock Beer in

A fine billiard table for the accommoda-

Fine turnouts and first-class rigs for the accommodation of the public generally. Conveyances for commercial men a specialty

The accommodations for feed cannot be excelled in the valley. Terms reasonable.

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-BLUE MOUNTAIN-Beer Brewer and Main Street, Union, Oregon.

pany. Charley's father keeps the One HENRY STRIKER, . . PROFRIETOR.

2 Orders from any part of the valley will receive prompt attention. I have on hand some very the BOCK BEER. Drop in and sample it.

-NORTH POWDER-

# Restaurant.

## PONY STEVENS, PROP.

Henry came late, and he asked me to The traveling public will please take nolice that, in addition to my saloon in North Powder, I have opened a first-class RESTAURANT, and respectfully solicit a share of the public patronage. The tables will always be supplied with the

BEST THE MARKET AFFORDS,

the new elerk in the Square Deal Shirt and no pains will be spared to make my and Cuff Palace, and he's real elegant- patrons comfortable. Call on me, cat, drink and be happy.

### Tonsorial Rooms Main Street Tonsorial Pagoda? Well, he's reporting for the Morning Tattler, and he came in just as we were going Two doors south of Jones Bros.' store, Union, Oregon.

in to the entertainment-I can tell you. Mrs. Blodgett set out a lunch bang up J. M. JOHNSON, -· PROPRIETOR. -Mamie Snelling and I corralled him

Hair cutting, shaving and shampooing done neatly and in the best style. in the front hall, and gave him all the names, and costumes, and everything, and did you see what he wrote about

CITY -:- MEAT -:- MARKET

Main Street, Union, Oregon. ROBINS & BENSON, · · PROPRIETORS

Keep constantly on hand BEEF, PORF, VEAL. MUTTON, SAU-SAGE, HAMS, LARD, ETC.

produced in accuracy, range, and The HOTEL range is up to about 6,000 yards, but GENTENNIAL the charge of powder is very large, viz -- four pounds. The naturally heavy recoil is obviated by the car-Union, Oregon.

DAN. F. MOODE, · · PROPRIETOR.

A well stocked bar in connection with the house, and none but the best brands a copper driving-ring, by which rota-tion is given to the shot, thus securing f liquors and cigars kept. LARGE SAMPLE ROOMS for the ac-

commodation of commercial travelers.

GROCERIES, CANNED GOODS, VARIETY AND FANCY GOODS,

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SMOKE THE

"ESTRELLA"

KEY WEST Imported Havana Cigar.

NONE BETTER.

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-AND-

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