

FRIENDS OF FREE TRADE.

A Largely Attended Convention Held in Chicago on the 11th.

Speeches by J. Sterling Morton, of Nebraska, Frank Hurd and Others.

Other Revenue Reforms Wanted.

The national convention of free traders and revenue reformers met at Haverly's minstrel hall, Chicago, on the 11th. Some 200 delegates from all parts of the country were in attendance. The conference was called to order by the president, the Hon. David A. Wells, after which Gen. I. N. Stiles delivered an address of welcome. Routine business was then transacted, after which the report and address of R. B. Bowker, honorary secretary of the conference, was read.

Bowker stated there were state organizations in behalf of revenue reform in thirteen states and local organizations in many other states. Most of these are in relation with the American free trade league, which is now organized as the national association. Bowker hoped this conference would select a man from each state who would become a promoter of the organization throughout the state, and its general representative in relation to the free trade movement.

The speaker urged upon the free traders the necessity of planning for a great campaign, and a step towards a trial is the raising of a fund of \$20,000, which will be needed this and next year of 1886. One-third of this sum is already promised. "We will show before New Year's day of 1887 such use of it that the country will then come to our support as England came to the support of Cobden and Bright." An address on "Tariff and its relations to farmers," was then read by J. J. Smith, of Ohio, which ended the morning session.

A prominent feature in the morning proceeding was the unanimous election of ex-Gov. J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska, as chairman of the convention. A committee of five on nomination to present names for consideration as the future officers of the league, and a committee on resolutions consisting of one member from each state delegation were appointed in the afternoon. On motion the committee on resolution was requested to remain and listen to an open discussion of the principles of free trade before retiring to draft resolutions. A lively interchange of opinion followed, in which the greater part of the convention participated. There was a decided difference of opinion in regard to the proper method of instructing the committee on resolutions, and before anything could be arrived at the business session of the convention adjourned for the day.

A large audience containing a fair sprinkling of ladies assembled in Central Music hall in the evening for the purpose of listening to the free trade speeches announced to be delivered by Henry Watterson, J. Sterling Morton, Frank Hurd, and others. A telegram was read from Henry Watterson, expressing disappointment that at the last moment he found himself unable to be present. Ex-Gov. Morton in the course of a short address stated that Chicago, by a special act of congress after the great fire, was exempted from duty on everything but lumber. The people of the city only wanted the right to buy where they could buy cheapest. If this was a good thing for Chicago, why not for Nebraska and the whole western country? Continuing he said the negroes in the South were once deprived of all their earnings. The farmer, who is now compelled to pay 25 per cent, only lacks 75 per cent of being a slave.

The concluding speech of the evening was made by Frank Hurd, of Toledo, who in eloquent words declared:

"Whoever owns his labor owns me. Whoever controls the wages of my toil is my master. Every dollar of increased price upon agricultural products means a day of slavery for me. Over 15,000 men," continued the speaker, "are said by Grand Master Powderly, of the Knights of Labor, to be able to work and willing to work, who are out of employment in the United States. Why? Because our mills are idle on account of no demand, the result of so-called overproduction. That word is only another term for 'no market,' caused by absence of freedom for trade and by ignorant selfishness—protected manufacturers."

NEWS NOTES.

Fire in Cherryvale, Kan., destroyed a big livery stable and thirty-five horses.

The Hon. Bradford N. Stevens, well known in Illinois politics, died at Tiskilwa, Ill., last week.

Knights of Labor at Victoria, B. C., resolved to wait on large employers and demand the discharge of all Chinese.

Thirteen Knights of Labor were indicted at Seattle, W. T., for intimidating Chinamen. Bond for each fixed at \$3,000.

The reported failure of M. Hausman to obtain a contract for a new Russian loan is supposed to indicate coolness between Russia and Germany.

There were twenty-six deaths from small-pox in Montreal Monday. The record for last week was 239 deaths, of which 158 were children under 5 years.

R. M. Pomeroy, a prominent Bostonian, who built the central branch of the Union Pacific railroad and was president several years, died in Boston last week.

Twenty-one shovellers fought in James Hennessy's saloon, Chicago, the other night. When the row ended, Cornelius Hanley's body was picked up with four bullets in his head.

A piece of the scaffolding fell from the Iowa state capitol building at Des Moines, a distance of 100 feet, on the head of John Hall, a workman, crushing his skull so badly that he will die.

Valentine Sanford, aged 14, murdered his mother, wife of E. E. Sanford, in Fanning, Clay county, Texas, by shooting her five times with a Winchester rifle. He intended also to kill his father, sell the plantation and become a brigand.

Irish-Americans met in New York and resolved to support the Parnell fund. Mayor Byrne said he would like to be one of 100 men to subscribe a fund of \$100,000. Eugene Kelly was made treasurer and the meeting adjourned to Wednesday.

While excavating for a building in the fourth ward in Brooklyn, the workmen unearthed thirteen human skulls within a small area and fourteen inches from the surface. There is considerable excitement thereabout, as no one can explain the mystery.

Mr. Purdy, alias McCormick, absconding agent of the New York Central railroad, from Batavia, N. Y., was arrested in Denver, Col., at the instance of the Canada Insurance company, his surety to the railroad company. Purdy has been a fugitive two years, and his defalcation is said to be nearly \$12,000.

Senator Vorhies, of Indiana, is said to have in course of preparation the greatest speech of his life. It will be on the civil service question, and its announced purpose will be to prove to the people the president unsound. The senator is expected to deliver it early in the coming session of congress.

The king and queen of Wurtemberg will pass the winter at Nice.

WOMEN IN DEMAND.

How They Are Married in Washington Territory.

When the census of Red Bend, Washington Territory, was taken last month, it was found that there was a population of 378, including 293 males, 60 married women, one widow engaged and the rest children. More than 200 of the men are bachelors ranging in age from 25 to 50. Red Bend is some distance from the railroad, and it has been a very difficult matter to get young women to locate there. Most of the girls who went there stopped at Yakima, or to the larger towns south of there.

When the school house was built the directors advertised in various Territorial papers for a teacher, and the first one who presented herself was employed. She had not been at the desk a fortnight before she was married to a storekeeper named Elverson, who was about the best looking young man in the town. She resigned her place, but consented to serve until her successor had arrived. One of the young women, with whom the committee had been in correspondence, was found disengaged, and in the course of a month she transferred herself to Red Bend and took charge of the school. She was a tolerably homely woman, somewhat advanced in years, but she, too, was led to the altar in less than a month, and gave up the school as her predecessor had done.

Once again the place was filled, and things went along smoothly for a while. About that time McGinn, the tavern keeper, imported a servant girl from Portland, and put her in his kitchen at a salary of \$6 a week. Mrs. McGinn was not very lusty, and her husband found that the only way in which keeping hotel was possible was for him to have efficient female help. He had had serious trouble in getting anybody to come, but the wages that he offered finally induced the girl spoken of to accept the job. She had no more than learned the ways of the kitchen before two or three young men began to hang around the back door of the tavern. McGinn was equal to the emergency. He watched matters for a day or two, and becoming convinced that the school house episodes were to have a repetition in his own kitchen, he got a gun, and just as a young man appeared at the back door the next evening after supper he jumped out on him.

"What do you want here?" he asked.

"Nothing," said the fellow, coloring up a little; "nothing much. I was just calling on the girl in there; she's an old friend of my family, and I look in once and a while to see how she's getting on."

"Well, I'm a friend of your family, too," said McGinn, "to the extent that I don't want to kill you, but if you don't keep away from here I'll murder you. Now, you go."

The youth slunk away. The next day the girl was missing from the kitchen, and late in the afternoon it was discovered that she had married the young man. The same day the schoolmistress announced her resignation, and McGinn was on the warpath with his gun, the leading citizens made up their minds that a crisis had arrived which would require a good deal of statesmanship to bridge over.

That evening when the school committee met to consider things, Mr. Elder, the chairman, said he had an idea which he thought worthy of the attention of his associates. He proposed that in the future all school teachers should be made to sign a bond not to marry before the end of the term. The idea was accepted, but fearing that the conditions might make it impossible for them to get women into the town, they said nothing about them to the one with whom they had opened negotiations. She came on, and after deciding to take the place was informed of the contract she would have to sign. To this she indignantly declined to accede. The school committee was inexorable, and so was she. She said she would leave for home in the morning. The committee members looked at one another to see if anybody was weakening, but no one appeared to be willing to give in; so it was decided she would have to go. This particular girl was young and vivacious, and when she started off with School Director Beebe of Yakima the whole town wished she would stay. An hour later Beebe drove into town with the girl still in his wagon, and to the people who gathered around the vehicle with questions, he said:

"The fact is we've decided to get married. She didn't want to go back, and I didn't want to have her go."

Everybody felt that Beebe had played roots on everybody else but there was nothing to say.

At the next meeting of the committee, which Beebe did not attend, Mr. Elder again had an idea which he wanted to submit. He said that in view of what happened, it occurred to him that Red Bend had greatness within its grasp.

"Now," he continued, "let us overstock this market with schoolma'ams and servant girls. Advertise for them everywhere, offer big wages and hire all that come. We'll get enough after awhile to go around, and when we do it, we may have a few on hand."

The suggestion was discussed at considerable length, and finally adopted. The school board decided to hire ten teachers, and twenty of the married men in town agreed to take twenty-five servant girls. The advertisements brought many answers, and in the course of time the town began to fill up with young women of every description. As they arrived they were assigned to different families, and before a week had passed there were more marriages on foot than the preacher could keep track of. The experiment has been found to work splendidly, and as the only schoolma'am in town is said to be on the point of marrying, it is thought that the same device will be resorted to again. Six girls have married out of McGinn's kitchen, and during the last twelve months there have been fourteen teachers at the little school. The

present incumbent is a grenadier from Michigan, and the committee think it will last some time.

WHAT WILL YOU HAVE?

Tippling at the Capitol—Webster and Clay's Tipple.

Washington Correspondence Cleveland Leader.

Many of these committee rooms at the Capitol contain during a session a choice article of spirits, and the present Minister to Berlin, Mr. Pendleton, was not averse to treating his friends of the Senate now and then. It used to be that there was a regular bar in the Capitol. This bar was known vulgarly as "The Hole in the Wall." It was situated between the House and the Senate, and at it Clay and Webster often drank. In deference to the temperance sentiment this bar has been long since abolished, but liquor is sold at the Capitol as much as ever, and you can get whisky straight in either the House or Senate restaurant by merely asking for "cold tea."

It is said that drinking is decreasing at Washington. I do not believe this to be so. Fewer people drink at the saloons, perhaps, but it has come to be that every public man has his cellars stocked with wines and brandies, and liquors are sold by the quantity instead of by the glass. All of the grocery stores at Washington keep large stocks of liquors, from Mumm's extra dry champagne down to a very cheap article of whisky, and you will find wine stores in nearly every block. In no city of the United States, except, perhaps, New Orleans, is there so much wine drunk in proportion to the population. Many families never sit down to a meal without having wine on the table, and at a Washington hotel, where public men stop, it is the rule to take a bottle of wine with your dinner. Within the last few years punch has become very popular at Washington, and you will now find a big punch bowl at almost every fashionable gathering. It is quite an art to make a fine Washington punch, and it takes very little of the regular article to cause the knees to quiver and the head to swim. One recipe contains the ingredients, whisky, rum, claret, champagne, sugar and lemons. A little water added to this, and you have a drink that will put an old toper under the table after half his usual allowance. Still this stuff is given to young men and maidens. Is it any wonder that some of them get too much, and we have such scenes as that of Stewart Castle last winter, what Congressman Holman's son, in a young lady, and the half of the party were affected by their tippling? It was such punch as this that started young Melrose on a spree in which he attempted to shoot one of the waiters at Welcker's, and it is this punch that will undoubtedly create a scandal or two the coming season.

A great deal of beer is drunk in Washington, and many of those who drink wine regularly at their meals prefer a light article, such as claret. The man who drinks such as beer and claret seldom becomes a drunkard, and in those countries where cheap light wines are staple, as Italy and France for instance, you will find much less drunkenness than in America or England. There is a good deal of difference in the United States as to drinking. Men from the North and East and from California drink wine while those from the West and South take whisky or beer. Kentuckians usually take whisky straight, and Wisconsin are fond of their own Milwaukee lager. Senators Frye and Blair are said to be the only Senators who are teetotalers. Attorney General Garland likes a good article of Bourbon. President Cleveland drinks beer sometimes, and of the members of the Lower House, few of them are averse to a dram on the sly. The Speaker himself is a good judge of liquors, and he often takes a bottle of wine with his lunch. Both Cox and Dorsheimer like good wine, and ex-diplomats, such as Hitt, of Illinois, seldom eat without a bottle of wine at their meals. Ben LeFevre drinks beer, and there are a number of members who are addicted to drinking hot water. There was a Congressman named Jadin in the Forty-seventh Congress who never sat down to a meal without having a teacup of hot water placed before him. He seasoned it with cream and sugar and drank it as other people do coffee. Congressman Hatch, of Missouri, is also a hot water drinker, and Breckenridge, of Arkansas, takes it with every meal. These hot water drinkers advocate the practice as a cure for dyspepsia and indigestion, and they say they become as fond of the drink as of tea, coffee or whiskey.

An Elizabethan Dinner.

In Elizabethan days the first course on great occasions would probably be wheaten flummery, stewed broth or spinach broth, or smallage, gruel, or hotpot. The second consisted of fish, among which wemay note lampreys, poor John, stock fish, and sturgeon, with side dishes of porpoise. The third course comprised quaking puddings, bag puddings, black puddings, white puddings, and narrow puddings. Then came veal, beef, capons, huckle pie, mutton, narrow pasties, Scotch collops, wild fowl, and game. In the fifth course all kinds of sweets, creams in all their varieties, custards, cheese, cakes, jellies, warden pies, suckets, sillabubs, and so on; to be followed perhaps by white cheese and tansy cake. For the drinks, ale and beer, wine, sack, and numerous varieties of mead or methelin, some of which were concocted out of as many as five-and-twenty herbs, and were redolent of sweet country perfumes.—Chambers's Journal.

General Simon Cameron, on his way home to Harrisburg, stopped in Philadelphia long enough to tell an interviewer that after fifty years' activity in politics he was tired and had stepped down and out.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

Farm Brevities.

The milk of the Holland cattle—a shorter name for Holstein-Friesian—is classed as of the same quality as the Shorthorn.

Hon. Samuel J. Tilden has the finest chicken houses in New York at Greystone. His hens and eggs are the wonder of farmers.

W. P. Dickson's sick cows died at Marshall, Mo., and in their stomachs were found clusters of sixpenny nails, gun caps and pins.

Robert Bonner owns two kings and one queen of the turf—Dexter, 2.17 1-4; Rarus, 2.13 1-4, and Maud S., 2.08 3-4. The investment cost him \$111,000.

To have a cool and dry cellar open its windows late in evening when the night air is coolest, and close them before sunrise; then if the room is tight and no ray of sunshine enters it, it will remain cool through the day. Warm air holds more moisture than cold air; so if warm air is introduced into a cool room the moisture is condensed and settles upon the walls and dampens all things in the room. A peck of fresh lime will absorb 7 lbs. of water from the air; so if lime is put in open boxes in a damp cellar the air is made much drier.

When any animal is kept short of food it goes back rapidly, and more food will be required to make up this lost ground, than would have kept the animal in its normal condition. This is especially true as regards swine, if these are permitted to fall off now, for lack of food, they will consume much more than the present gain in recovering the loss. Animals that are intended for fattening should be kept on full feed now, and those to be wintered over, should be kept in good condition.

Cornstalks.

I have fed the cornstalks that grow on my farm for fifty years, and often thought they paid well for the labor of raising the crop. Large coarse stalks are not best for fodder; the more tender and full of leaves the better. They must be cut while green and thoroughly well cured. After the grain is threshed and the barn empty there is room to store stalks, and if well cured and dry when put in they keep as well as hay and cost no more per ton. My stalks are fed mainly to cows and young growing cattle, in dry open yards, being properly distributed before the cattle are turned out. If the yards are dry there will be no waste if the quantity is suitable. Nothing should be fed in the mud. Stalks fed in mangers to horses, cattle or sheep, handle best, and the work is less, if cut. They are sometimes cut with corn on, unhusked, and used with good results to fatten cattle and sheep. But they cannot be cut without the expense of machinery and labor, which amounts to considerable; and when there are cows and young cattle with suitable yards for those of each kind and age to get exercise they supply a desirable change of food, keep them busy yet quiet and contented, while they grow and thrive better and get more strength and vigor than if fed on straw or hay of average quality.—Alonzo Sessions, Iowa Co., Mich.

Falling off of Hair of Animals.

The hair falls off in consequence of some disease of the skin which deprives it of the necessary nutriment to renew its growth. Hair grows from bulbous roots or glands called follicles, imbedded in the skin, and these draw the required nutriment from the blood. When the skin is diseased or inflamed, or the blood is seriously disordered, as in some fevers, the hair is deprived of its supply of nourishment and stops growing; sometimes it is wholly destroyed, and permanent baldness is the result. This is rare, however, and a simple treatment to remove the cause and stimulate the action of the follicles will usually restore the growth of hair. The treatment should be to give a laxative medicine, as a pint of linseed oil, to a horse, or eight ounces of epsom salts, and to apply vaseline, to which one-tenth part of tincture of cantharides is added, to the skin of the mane and the tail. A few applications of the vaseline mixture have quite removed the trouble and its accompanying irritation in many cases.

The Question of Manure.

This is a specially good time to think and study upon the question of manure. A southern farmer whose land is exceedingly rich, and whose corn crop the present year yields 80 bushels to the acre, remarked to the writer, who recently visited the farm: "I am busy gathering everything I can to make manure of. I am raking the woods for decayed leaves, mowing down weeds from the stubble fields and the creek bottom, and putting them in pens under the cows and horses. My corn makes a good crop, but with a little manure I can get 100 bushels per acre, and that is what I am aiming at. Good culture, the best I can give, brings me 80 bushels, and I can go on doing as well as that, but by and by it will be hard to keep it up. I find it is better and easier to improve good land than to bring up poor land, and I am going to manure the best land I have. Many a northern farmer will think this strange talk and work for a farmer and a tobacco grower in the south."

To a Busy Mother.

Illustrated Christian Weekly.

The human brain needs rest and change. The human mind needs relaxation. The human heart needs pleasant companionship. Deprive them of these requisites, and the result, in nine cases out of ten, will be insanity. Perhaps you imagine that I mean to frighten you. Why, to tell

the truth, if I could not arouse you to a sense of your condition unless I terrified you a little I would rather do so than see you an inmate of an insane asylum. You see this to be quite in accordance with the rest of nature's laws. The body cannot subsist on one kind of diet; it must have more or less variety; and behold how plentifully our Creator has provided for this great need in the abundant fruitfulness of earth, air and sea! How soon the palate tires of one article of diet! How soon the body starves when fed upon one thing! Dear friend, I beseech you give this subject your most careful consideration, for I perceive you are killing yourself with the constant strain brought to bear upon body and mind, and unless you consent to relax the strain you will suffer very seriously in consequence.

Your "nervous headaches" are sent, perhaps as warnings, which, if heeded, may prove your salvation from more serious trouble. I have found it exceedingly injurious to work during the evening. You have been busy all day with one duty or another; the night has come, you can find no warrant in Scripture for continuing your labors, but you can rest from them. So let the workbasket remain undisturbed, let the needle rest. You will be all the more skillful with it on the morrow. Spend the evening in reading, conversing, playing interesting games with your children or in visiting your friends; or, better still, if you feel able, in attending an interesting lecture or concert; then, when you retire, you will sleep sweetly and awake refreshed and equal to the performance of the day's duties.

Never eat heartily when "tired to death." Drink a cup of tea and eat a cracker or two, or beat up an egg in half a pint of milk, sweeten and flavor to taste and drink it. This will strengthen you, and will not make any demands upon your weary stomach or digestive organs. And another thing: Do not rise early in the morning and trot all over the house doing this and seeing to that for hours before you eat anything. Put on the coffee, if you use that beverage, or the tea, if you use that, as soon as possible, and pour yourself out a cup just as soon as it is in a condition for drinking, and add whatever light, easily-digested article of food you may like best. This done—and you must eat slowly, and at your ease—you will find that you can return to your work and fairly "make things fly."

You will catch yourself singing, perhaps, and when your husband and children come down fresh from their slumbers they will meet a smiling face and sit down to breakfast presided over by a cheerful hostess. Force yourself to try this plan once or twice and I know you will be pleased with it. I have the greatest faith in it, because I proved it in my own case, and this is true of all the suggestions I have given in this letter.

Tea and Coffee.

"One of the most marked differences between English and Americans in matters of diet," says the Evening Post, "is in their relative use of coffee and tea. In Great Britain tea has long been the favorite, while in the United States coffee is preferred. The difference becomes constantly more striking. For some years past the consumption of coffee per capita has remained stationary or fallen off in the United Kingdom, while that of tea has been steadily increasing. In the United States, on the other hand, the consumption of tea has of late fallen off rapidly, sinking from 1.54 pounds per capita five years ago to only 1.16 last year, while the consumption of coffee has increased only less rapidly, until it now reaches about nine and a half pounds a year per capita. The English now drink five times as much tea as coffee, while the Americans drink eight times as much coffee as tea."

Holding Infants.

Some very radical views are being advanced in these days by our physicians in regard to the management of infants. We cannot agree to all of these—such as, for instance, keeping a room at a certain temperature and then allowing little or no clothing on the tiny unfortunates who stay in it. But we wish to heartily second Dr. Page's ideas as to the holding in arms of young children. He insists that they are much better off with less "tending" than it is customary to bestow upon them. The busy woman who has a large family of children, yet whose means do not allow her to keep a servant, often manages, in some way, to get along, keep well herself and rear her children healthfully. She will tell you, if you ask her, that her baby gets "precious little tending." She holds him to feed him and dress him, but he rides in his little wagon, lies on the bed, or, if old enough, plays on a comfortable floor most of the time. This, Dr. Page says, is the proper, normal way of attending to babies. He argues that this continual holding, trotting and tossing make the muscles of the child soft and flabby, because it has no chance nor encouragement to exert its own strength; and that its mind is ultimately less intelligent, because, never having tried or learned to amuse itself, its powers also have not had opportunity for development.—Phila. Press.

Warning Against Autumn Diseases.

Philadelphia Ledger—"Creeps" is the term which is popularly applied to the chilly sensation which comes with autumn mornings and evenings. It is not pronounced enough to be cold, and yet is a skirinisher sent by the frost to put men and women on their guard. The grown folks can take care of themselves—if they will—though they are few that do so. But the children are supposed to be cared for by their elders. The mortality among infants is largely attributable to the facts that children can not take care of themselves, and that their elders do not take sufficient care of the chil-

ren. "Creeps" are an admonition which should be heeded if autumn diseases are to be avoided. The sensation of chilliness felt at morning and evening, though the mid-day sun may be oppressive, is the protest which nature makes against neglect. The daily change in the air from cool to hot is in itself an unfavorable condition. Unless it is guarded against by change of apparel it is a cause of physical derangement, if not of serious illness. It may be laid down as a maxim that the healthy condition of the body is found only in the condition of countout.

Mind What You Say.

The safest way, then, is to say nothing before children which you would rather they should not fully understand; for they comprehend far more than one would believe possible, did not one's own recollection prove the fact. A lady told us once that, so sure was she that children's capacity, for understanding the conversation of grown-up people was so universally underrated, that she has always made it a rule to send her own young daughters from the room whenever the conversation touched upon matters she preferred they should know nothing about, and she was confident much good had resulted from the practice. It could certainly do no harm, and could scarcely fail to keep them from much that, being too young to fully comprehend, might have been of lasting injury from the erroneous ideas, conversations, innocent enough in themselves, might have conveyed to their enticed minds.

How to Fry Oysters.

For this purpose each and every oyster should be as large, plump and fat—fresh, of course, not salt—as you can procure. Any small ones will serve for sauces, croquettes, soups, &c. Drain off their juice, put them in a bowl, cover them with ice-water, let stand a few minutes, then place them in a colander and drain them. Dry between two soft, thin towels, without pressing them, and lay upon a molding board lightly coated with cracker-dust, finely sifted. Beat up to a thick, rich custard as many eggs, and an equal measure of cream, as you need for moistening all the oysters, adding, at the last, a salt-spoonful of salt for every three eggs. Have ready a sufficiency of finely sifted bread crumbs, prepared by rubbing the heart of a stale loaf of white bread in a towel, and passing it through a sieve.

Dip the oysters one by one into the beaten egg, and roll them in the crumbs till covered in every part. By no means flatten them, but keep them as round and plump as possible; lay them on napkins, and keep in a cool place for half an hour; again dip, and roll in crumbs, and set aside for another half hour. Now lay them on the wire stand, not quite touching each other; set the stand into a deep frying pan nearly full of what-ever frying mixture you use, which must be boiling hot, and fry quickly to a deep yellow color, but do not brown them, or they will be tough and greasy. Lift the stand out of the pan, drain quickly and serve the oysters on a hot white napkin, placed on a hot platter, and garnish with twigs of parsley or water cress, stuffed olives and small bits of lemon. The daintiest condiment of all is the French mayonnaise sauce, either served with lettuce or finely-cut cabbage, made up with it as cold-slaw. Better still is to anoint each piping-hot oyster with a coating of the ice-cold mayonnaise—it must be fresh from the ice-box—and eat it on the instant.

The Greatest Diamond in the World.

From the Manufacturing Jeweller.

Our Amsterdam correspondent tells the story of the immense African diamond—weighing 475 carats in the rough—which is in process of being cut by Mr. Jacques Metz, one of the largest diamond cutters of that city. The stone is said to have a somewhat curious history, and, though its exact birthplace is only a matter of conjecture, it is known that it was found by somebody in one of the four mines of Kimberley, in the Cape Colony, South Africa.

It is said that in June or July of last year one of the surveillance officers of the Central Mining Company in the Kimberley mine found the stone, and, being exempt from search, carried it through the searching house unperceived and sold it to four irregular dealers for \$15,000. Before leaving the province the new owners had a night of drinking and gambling, which ended in two of them becoming its owners instead of four. The two owners escaped the secret police and reached Cape Town, where they found a dealer who readily paid them \$95,000 for the stone. There is an export duty on diamonds shipped from Cape Colony of one-quarter per cent., but it appears that this stone was smuggled out of the colony by a passenger on the mail steamer and brought to London, where its presentation at Hatton Garden created a great sensation.

A former resident at the Cape mines managed to form a company of eight persons, who bought the stone between them for \$225,000 cash, on condition that the seller or sellers should receive a ninth share of the eventual profits. The real value of the stone has been estimated at London at above \$1,000,000. According to the rules of valuation of the famous Tavernier diamond, its value would be \$1,166,980. The correspondent says that the art of diamond polishing existing in Amsterdam for more than three centuries has been brought to such perfection that it is expected that this stone, weighing in the rough 457 carats (and said to be whiter and purer than any of its historical predecessors), will lose in working much less than other famous stones; that it will be more rapidly finished, and it has every chance of remaining the largest and finest diamond of the world.