## THE TARIFF QUESTION.

### The Statesmen at the Capital All Discuss the Matter.

Washington special: The skirmish lines of the two parties are well advanced on the tariff question. Mr. Morrison says he will endeavor to bring up his bill at the earliest possible moment. That means that he will do so as soon as he discovers that his forces are all here. At present there are some absentees. There have been a number of private conferences to endeavor to determine upon a policy, and the latest conclusion is that it is expedient to force the vote at once. So far as can be ascertained from a preliminay survey of the situation it cannot be discovered that there has been any change since the vote was taken last June. Then Mr. Morrison was unable to succeed in his motion for the reason that he did not have votes enough, and that a considerable number of his own party declined to support him. The protectionist leaders who have been canvassing the situation with a good deal of care during the last few days say they cannot discover that there has been any change in the views of the protection democrats. The only difference is that two democrats who voted with Randall and against Mr. Morrison are dead. The views of the successor of the other have not yet been ascertained. Meanwhile Mr. Randall has not been inactive. He declines to accept any "olive branch," although it is reported that several have been tendered to him. One of the stories of the day, in fact, is that Secretary Lamar and Congressman Hewitt have undertaken to act as intermediaries between the two tariff factions in the democratic party in the hope of being able to come to an agreement upon some bill. Mr. Randall has his sundry civil bill and will use it as a club to ward off the blows of the revenue reformers from whatever quarter they may come.

While it is quite certain that an effort will be made to bring up the tariff question, it still seems probable that no tariff bill will pass. Expressions within the last day or two in the senate, however, on the part of some leading republicans have created the impression that some of the prominent republican leaders are of the opinion that it is expedient to take some action upon the tariff at this session. Those who have been the most conspicuous in advancing this idea thus far are Senators Sherman and Dawes. The speech of Mr. Dawes, which is expected next week, is awaited with a great deal of interest. His view is that the $100,000,000 surplus can be reduced by a reduction of taxation without injuriously affecting the protective interests or interfering with the wages of home labors.

Colonel Morrison, referring to the report that the house would immediately proceed to the consideration of the tariff question, said: "I think it quite possible that the subject will be under discussion next week. I can't tell whether our people will all be there or not. We expect to call up the bill next week. The preliminary situation of the bill is this: The bill is the first on the calendar of revenue bills. The motion will be to proceed to go into a committee of the whole to consider revenue bills, and if that shall pevail the question of consideration can be raised against the first bill; should the house vote to consider, the bill will be before the house. There have been a good many wild stories about my intentions and the prospects of the bill. For instance, I saw it recently stated in one dispatch that fifteen of the democrats who voted against the consideration of the bill at the last session will vote for consideration now. That may be the fact, but I don't know anything about it. I have certainly said nothing of the kind. Viele, of New York, said to me he should vote for the bill, but none of the others, who voted against the bill, have said a word to me. I don't know what anyone intends to do, but I shall call the bill up and if it gets up, there will be some talk. Somebody will have to do something before long. Everybody can't sit on the top rail of the fence always; the fence won't hold them. Both sides of the tariff question will have to define themselves before long. If they don't discuss the question this winter they will have to do it the next. I shall do my best and the result can take care of itself. It is not my funeral. I have already had mine."

## MURDERED BY NEGROES.

### Horrible Butchery of an Old Woman by Two Black Fiends.

BALTIMORE, MD., Dec. 12.—The case of supposed body snatching reported last night turns out to be one of the most brutal murders on record. The ghastly wounds found upon the body which was brought to the Maryland university for dissection puzzled the physicians and aroused suspicion of foul play, so great that they notified the police. The police and detectives worked upon the case all night and to-day, and this afternoon they arrested Anderson Perry, colored, the assistant janitor at the Maryland university, merely as a feeler. He became frightened and imparted such information as to cause the arrest to-night of John T. Ross and Albert Hawkins, both negroes.

The three men were placed in different cells at the western station, and late this evening Ross made a full confession of the whole affair to Chief of Police Frye. The facts are as follows: The woman whose body was brought to the Maryland university on Friday night was Emily Brown, a respectable white woman 55 years of age, whom dire necessity compelled to take lodgings with a colored woman on Pig alley. The men who brought the body to the university were T. Ross and Albert Hawkins, who lived in the same house with Emily Brown. Ross met Anderson Perry, the university janitor, on the street last Monday and told him that he was out of work and had no money. "Well," said Perry, "you needn't be out of money; kill the old white woman up at your house and bring the body to the university and I'll give you $15." At first Ross was horrified at the idea, but the $15 was too great a temptation. He was afraid to attempt the job alone, so he let Hawkins into the secret, who assented to the plan proposed to deliberately murder a poor helpless old woman for $15.

The two fiends watched their chance. The colored woman who owned the house left home Friday morning to be gone until Saturday and Friday afternoon Ross and Hawkins went to Emily Brown's room. Ross struck the woman on the head with a brick and Hawkins stabbed her. Ross continued to beat her on the head with a brick and Hawkins pounded her chest with his heel until she was dead. They then went to the university, and after telling Perry what they had done, got a sack from him in which they brought the murdered woman's body to the university that night.

Perry at once took the body to the pickling room where he shaved off the hair from the woman's head, washed the body and so disfigured the face and head as to give out the idea that it had been eaten by rats. The three men, Perry, Ross and Hawkins, are locked up to-night at the western station and will be transferred to jail to-morrow.

## A CONGRESSMAN CORNERED.

New York special The Tribune's Raleigh (N. C.) special says: "The air is full of talk concerning the criminal conduct of Congressman James W. Reid. Before election Reid was publicly charged with obtaining money from the Machevia bank in Winston by using an order of Rockingham county, of which he was treasurer, when in fact the order was issued for the purpose of paying the county debt. It is known that Reid raised $30,000 on property not worth over $8,000, and that he has pledged his salary as congressman until March to more than one person and raised money in this way. He is reported to have gone to Canada.

## THE INDIAN TRIBES.

### Report of the Committee Appointed to Negotiate With Them.

Washington dispatch: A commission consisting of Bishop H. B. Whipple of Minnesota, Colonel John V. Wright of Tennessee, and Major C. F. Larrabee, of the Indian office, appointed under an act of congress to negotiate with certain tribes and bands of Indians in Minnesota, Dakota, Montana, Idaho and Washington Territory, have submitted to General Atkins, commissioner of Indian affairs, a report of their operations up to Dec. 1, 1886. The report says that two separate and distinct agreements have been effected as the result of their negotiations, one with the Indians of White Earth, Leech Lake, Cass Lake, Lake Winnebigoshish and White Oak Point reservations and the Gull River band, and the other with the Indians of the Red Lake reservations. By the terms of the agreement with the White Earth, Lake Winnebigoshish, and other scattered bands of the Chippewas, concluded August 11, 1886, the unoccupied lands of the White Earth reservation are thrown open for all of the tribes and bands of the Chippewas in Minnesota; the Indians now occupying the reservation, which contains about 800,000 acres, being first permitted to make selections for themselves. The quantity of land each Indian will be entitled to receive under the agreement is as follows: Each head of a family, 160 acres; each single person over 18 years of age, 80 acres; each orphan child under 18 years of age, 80 acres; each other person under 18 years of age, 80 acres. The Indians are to have the benefit of, and be subject to the criminal laws of the state in all offences the penalty for which is death or imprisonment in the state penitentiary. A provision is made for the support of Indians removing to White Earth, to be continued until they are able to take care of themselves, but in no event to exceed two years. Each head of family and each male Indian over 18 years of age, when he becomes a permanent resident from his allotment, will be provided with a comfortable hewed log house, cook-stove, yoke of oxen, a plow, wagon and cow, an axe and other implements of husbandry. Each Indian shall have five acres of land broken for him and be provided with seed for the first crop. Industrial and district schools are to be established for all children on the reservation. To enable the government to carry out these designs the Indians cede a large tract of land belonging to them north of Leech lake, which is to be sold upon the most advantageous terms possible. The agreement contains several other provisions intended to protect persons and property and improve the moral condition of the Indians.

By the terms of agreement with the Red Lake band of Chippewas, concluded Aug. 23, 1886, about two-thirds of their reservation, or an area estimated to contain over 2,000,000 acres, is ceded to the United States, to be sold for the benefit of the Indians. The portion ceded embraces a vast timber zone, said to be of almost incalculable value.

The report says that these Indians require immediate help, and it was agreed that the United States should advance $10,000, to be expended in the building of an agency, a saw and grist mill, and in the erection of comfortable houses and the purchase of certain needful implements. Schools are provided for, as in case of the White Earth Indians. As with the White Earths, the criminal laws of the state of Minnesota are extended over the reservation in certain cases. These agreements cannot become operative until they are approved by congress.

## STANLEY CALLED BACK.

### King Leopold Requests Him to Return at Once.

New York special: While lecturing at Amherst, Mass., Saturday night, Henry M. Stanley received a dispatch from King Leopold summoning him to Belgium at once. It is supposed the king wants to confer with him about the reported destruction of the military station at Stanley Falls on the Congo. Stanley came at once to this city and cabled for further information. A reply will decide whether he will sail immediately or continue his lecture tour, including England and Australia. To a Tribune reporter he said last night concerning the trouble at Stanley Falls: "I cannot speak definitely, but I could hazard a guess. Stanley Falls is 1,400 miles from the mouth of the river. There are fifty black soldiers there under three Belgian officers. The station is cantoned on an island below the falls. Above the falls on an island only two miles from the station is a camp of an organized band of cutthroats, 150 strong, under an Arab chief, Hamid El Mohamed. The natives have nicknamed him Tippu Tib from a sound drum which he usually carries with him. Probably Tippu Tib, from long impunity, has concluded that he is able to descend the Congo and wipe out all evidences of civilization. Probably an imprudent and over zealous action of some young foreign officer has provoked a breach of peace and led to the attack on the station by Tippu. The gang is splendidly armed with new rifles. They doubtless had easy work destroying the station." Stanley thinks the Arabs will endeavor to travel down the Congo to Stanley pool, plundering and burning on the way unless stopped by fighting or negotiations. It may be his duty to return and check them. The journey from here to Stanley Falls takes two months.

## AS TO MONTANA'S ADMISSION.

Washington special: Delegate Toole, of Montana, presented to the house committee on railroads to-day additional arguments favoring the admission of Montana to the union. Mr. Toole's argument was based largely upon the results of the last election in the territory, which showed 3,500 more votes than were cast before, indicating an increase of population of about 17,500. The total vote cast last fall was 32,300, indicating, Mr. Toole says, a population of about 165,000, there being considerable of the population so far from the voting centers that it is never heard of in the elections. The committee on territories held a meeting at the close of Mr. Toole's address and although the formal vote was laid over until next Monday the indications are that a majority will report favoring the bill to the house for passage.

Chairman Hill hopes, if this is done, to gain the same favor for Dakota. Springer, of Illinois, who persistently opposed the admission of Dakota last winter, has signified this session a willingness to settle upon some plan by which the territories above mentioned may be admitted. He proposed to-day to the friends of admission on both sides of the house that enabling acts should this session be passed for Washington, Dakota, Montana and New Mexico, and expressed a willingness to further bills for that purpose, provided all these territories were included. The admission of these territories would add to the Fiftieth congress two republican and three democratic members of the house, and, as the legislatures now stand, four republicans and four democrats to the senate.

A Jewish rabbi, named Rappaport, claims to have been robbed of $48 by a Mexican policeman at Chihuahua, after being arrested as a revolutionist.

## REPORTS CONCERNING THE CROPS.

Washington dispatch: The crop report of the department of agriculture says: December returns on the average farm prices by counties show the material reduction as compared in the values of the crops of 1883, in wheat, rye and barley. Corn made an advance nearly equivalent to the percentage of the reduction in quality, and oats are in sympathy with corn rather than with the small grains used for human food, and averages slightly higher in value than last year. The farm value of corn was 33 cents a bushel in December last year and it is now 37 cents, and 1 cent higher than the crop of 1884. The average for the previous five years was 44.7 cents, and for the ten years prior to 1880 it was 42.6 cents. The prices in the surplus states are: Ohio, 35; Indiana, 32; Illinois, 31; Iowa, 30; Missouri, 31; Kansas, 27; Nebraska, 29. This is an increase over last year of 1 cent in Nebraska, 3 in Kansas, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, and 6 in Iowa and Missouri. The average is 56 in New York, 47 in Pennsylvania, and 40 in Virginia, or 2 cents lower in each than last year. The prices in South Carolina are 60; Georgia, 60; Alabama, 58; Mississippi, 55; Louisiana, 55; Arkansas, 49; and Texas 6, or an increase of 11 cents, due to the disastrous drought.

The average price of December wheat is 60 cents, a reduction of 8 cents from the average value of the crop, and 4½ cents above the price of 1884. The average in New York is 86 cents, 12 cents lower than last year.

Last year in Pennsylvania it was 83 cents, or 18 cents lower. The reduction is still greater in some of the western states. The average of Ohio is 74 cents, Michigan, 73 cents; Indiana, 70 cents; Illinois, 69 cents; Wisconsin, 68 cents; Minnesota, 61 cents; Iowa, 60 cents; Missouri, 63 cents; Kansas, 58 cents; Nebraska, 57 cents; Dakota, 52 cents. There is little decline in the southern states, in some of which prices are higher than last year. The average in California is 73 cents.

The average value of oats is 29.9 cents against 28.5 cents last December.

Rye averages 53.1 against 57.9 last year.

Barley, 53 cents last year; 56.3 cents this year.

Buckwheat, 54.4 cents, a reduction of 15 cents per bushel.

Potatoes, 46 cents, 1 cent higher than last December.

Hay averages nearly $8 per ton.

## NOT THE LIBELLER.

MILWAUKEE, WIS., Dec. 13.—A letter was read in court this afternoon from Edward Loew, Anarchist Grottkau's private secretary and the city editor of his paper, stating that he alone was responsible for the libelous articles directed against Judge Sloan and that Grottkau had not written them. Judge Sloan dispatched the sheriff in quest of Loew who had been in court all forenoon and it was ascertained that he had taken the next train to Chicago. The case against Grottkau was adjourned until next Tuesday.

## ARCHBISHOP ELDER'S ORDER.

CINCINNATI, O., Dec. 12.—Archbishop Elder in an interview today explained that his recent order forbidding members of the Catholic church to sing in Protestant churches was in obedience to the laws of the church in which the general public had no concern. He added that he wished success to all Catholics desiring to sing at charitable entertainments and public concerts or in private houses, saying that his admonition applied solely to those now singing in Protestant houses of worship. This order will go into effect January 1.

## DARING STREET ROBBERS.

FORT WAYNE, IND., Dec. 13.—Robbers tonight broke with a large boulder the heavy plate glass of the show window of Henry C. Graffe's jewelry house. There was fully $10,000 worth of diamonds in the window, but owing to the glass breaking in a peculiar manner the robbers succeeded in getting but one case, containing a set of small diamond earrings with which they escaped in the darkness.

## The Whaling Industry.

During a flying trip through old Nantucket recently a friend of the observer dropped into the village blacksmith's shop and found in a junk heap there a splendid collection of various kinds of harpoons, spears, etc., his choice of which he bought for 2 cents a pound. On the rafters of an old house in the village are still to be seen in chalk such memoranda as "Whaler Tarboy, Capt. Smith sailed July 6, 1801," and "Whaler Tarbor returned May 4, 1804 5,000 barrels." Nantucket and New Bedford were world-renowned seaports when the whale-fishing industry was at its height. The American merchant marine covered the oceans of the world, and the chase of the whale was the leading maritime industry. At these two ports the ships were built, rigged provisioned, and commissioned, and upon their return after the cruise, which lasted from two to four years, the work of unloading, clarifying and storing the oil gave employment to thousands of men, so that the ports were busy hives of industry. The voyages were made upon a sort of co-operative plan, all of the crew from the captain of the ship to the cabin boy receiving percentages of the net receipts in lieu of wages. The business developed a fine race of American skippers. What killed this great industry was not the disappearance of the whales, which are now more numerous than ever, but the discovery of the petroleum fields of Pennsylvania. Now Bedford still sends out a few whalers, but they are not the old style vessels. Many of them are steam, and all carry improved explosive harpoons, guns for throwing bombs, etc. Many interesting relics of the whale fishing are still to be picked up in Nantucket. Indeed the whole place is a relic, with its great sperm ware-houses standing empty and its jutting wharves deserted.—*New York Graphic.*

## Frauds on the Indians.

A correspondent of *The New York Times* in discussing the removal of the Chiricahua Apaches to Florida takes occasion to review some of the most flagrant cases of land grabbing under the pretext of exchanging reservations. He criticises sharpely the Maxwell grant of the old Navajo reservation at Bosque Redondo, and we are disposed to think that his judgment is sustained by the facts in the case.

He points out that a moving cause of the Apache troubles was the change from the fertile Tularosa reservation to Ojos Calientes, which he rightly styles one of the worst places which could have been selected. He calls attention to the frauds practiced in the "purchase" of lands from the Pueblos, Zunis, and other Indians, and asserts that the Zunis at Nutria Springs will soon be homeless unless the government interferes. It certainly behooves the department of the interior to watch such attempts closely, and, in particular, to keep an eye upon the property of the Jicarilla Apaches at Fort Stanton.—*Boston Advertiser.*

## The Turkey.

Our goddess of birds is the turkey,
As the bald-headed eagle is king,
And now when the weather grows murky
With politics out of the fling,
Other gods we may look at and long for,
While our hearts are with thankfulness puffed;
But the bird of our hearts is all ready
An' waitin' poor dear, to get stuffed.

—*New York Journal.*

All the miners in the Seventh Ohio coal district have struck because refused an increase of 5 cents per ton for mining.

## [illegible]

### The Latest Step in Their Development—Conditions Which Limit Their Usefulness.

The latest step in the submarine torpedo boat is a novelty. Lieut. Zalinski, who has divided his studies and experiments at Fort Hamilton between submarine torpedo boats and the dynamite shell-throwing guns, proposes to so arrange matters in his under water boat that in case it should from any accident get permanently sunk in reasonably shallow water—say ten or fifteen fathoms—the crew could escape to the surface with their lives. The detail of his plan he is not yet ready to disclose, but in general he proposes that in case he finds that the boat can not be raised to the surface the men will dress themselves in some sort of a diver's suit, which of course will be as light and contain as much air as possible. Then they will open a valve in the side of the boat, and let it fill with water. This done the manhole on the top of the boat can be opened, and the men will crawl out and rise to the surface. Divers say that this is practicable, for in diving in the ordinary diving suits it is necessary for divers to weight themselves heavily before they can reach the bottom. To prove the efficacy of his devices Lieut. Zalinski proposes to run his boat into a dry dock, and there submerge it with the men (himself included), after which he will fill it up and come to the surface. That the men might save their lives even if in battle the boat should be sunk is apparent, provided the new devices should work as they are expected to do. But the chief value of the proposed improvement is the influence it will have on the crew in working their vessel. Feeling confident of escape in case of accident, they will have less hesitation in making experiments, and in time of battle would attack the enemy with greater bravery.

Lieut. Zalinski thinks, however, that the influence of the submarine torpedo-boat, in its present state of development, in time of battle has been greatly overestimated. The speed of the boat with the best known appliances is very limited, three or four knots being all that the best boats can continuously attain. Even with a speed of ten or twelve knots their efficiency would not be so great as the uninformed believe it would be. Once under water, especially in such water as flows in New York harbor, the navigators are in darkness compared with which the blackest of fogs on the darkest night at sea is daylight. It is easy work to light the interior of the boat with the electric light, but that does not aid the pilot in finding the enemy; in fact, it might hurt the chances of finding her, for pilots do not want lights in the pilot house. Only such lights as would enable the men to work the machinery would be wanted. The power of outside electric lights to light up the water around the boat, and thus enable her to find the enemy, is so limited as to be scarcely worth mentioning. Besides a light powerful enough to illuminate water would disclose the location of the submarine boat to the enemy, and thus enable him to drop a dynamite bomb on it and entirely destroy it. The submarine boat must get the bearings of the enemy before it goes below the water. If the enemy happened to be at anchor, something not likely to happen in the case of a fleet blockading New York, for instance, the submarine boat might work with fair success. The tide, however, might upset the calculations by drifting the boat out of its course, particularly as the tidal currents usually run in one direction on the surface while running in the opposite below. To find the exact position of a body, at most 60x100 large, even when at rest in slack water, would be a matter of no little difficulty for the submarine navigators, who would have to take their departure from a point several miles distant. It would require several trips to the surface to renew their bearings, and at such times they would have to rely on the smallest of the pilot-house to escape observation. In case the enemy was steaming about, especially if the ship had a modern speed of say eighteen knots an hour, the submarine boat would be of no more value than a torpedo at anchor, if the submarine navigators proposed to blow the enemy out of water by attaching a torpedo to his keel.

Lieut. Zalinski thinks that the submarine boat must use some sort of a torpedo throwing gun like the ones used by the ordinary torpedo-boat. Very naturally, he thinks that the pneumatic gun which he has developed will answer the purpose, throwing, as it does, an immense charge of the explosive for two miles through the air better than the Whitehead method with a range of six hundred yards. Besides, the recent British experiments in Portsmouth harbor on a condemned ironclad showed that a steel netting at thirty feet from the ship effectually stopped a Whitehead torpedo. It is apparent that the chief value of a submarine boat is in its ability to sink unobserved within easy range of the enemy, and then rise to the surface and discharge the projectile. It can then sink out of sight, if necessary, and either escape or prepare for another attack.

The pneumatic gun which Lieut. Zalinski is building for the new torpedo cruiser ordered by the navy department will throw a project le with four hundred pounds of nitro-gelatine in it. The contract calls for a two-hundred-pound projectile, but the larger one is furnished in order to more effectually demonstrate the efficiency of this method of discharging large quantities of high explosives.—*New York Sun.*

## Not Changed.

"Well, it seems good to see you after ten years, Brown!"

"Do I change much?"

"Not at all—look just the same as you did at school."

"I feel the same, too. You remember how I was always in trouble, and getting licked?"

"Yes."

"Well, it followed me through life."

"Indeed!"

"Yes; I was always strapped then, and I'm always strapped now!"—*Chicago Ledger.*

## The Corn Supply.

The understanding of the trade in corn seems to be undergoing a radical change in regard to the question of supply. There was a considerable excitement early in the summer, due to the belief that the crop of this year would prove to be a very short one, but it gradually died out with an increasing conviction that the surplus from the last crop would be amply sufficient to make amends for the deficiency. Now the sentiment is again changing. The disposition is to think the crop has been considerably overestimated by the statisticians, and that it is really poor all over the corn belt except in Ohio and Indiana, which states have been shipping very freely to the east for the last few weeks.

The receipts at this point were light, with very little prospect of an increase at present prices. The figures now offered are not attractive to the holders in the country, especially not to those who can obtain several cents per bushel more by selling to feeders near home or farther west than by sending it either. The surplus of Kansas and western Nebraska is going to Texas and the cattle ranches of the west, unusually large quantities being wanted to supplement the lack of grass feeding to the dryness of the summer season. It is now reported that a buyer's option during November was purchased on vast quantities of corn in cribs along the western roads, and that in most cases the buyers have elected to take the corn, which accounts for the extra demand witnessed in this market within the last few days. People who have surveyed the situation with experienced eyes express the opinion that the four states which have in other years stood at the head in regard to corn-raising will be found this year to have a little more than enough for home needs. No one can deny that the recent weather has been favorable to the marketing of corn freely, or that what there is of it is generally cured into fine condition for the season. If holders wanted to sell at the prices offered they have not lacked the opportunity.

It will probably be found that the country as a whole has enough corn to tide it over till the time comes round for gathering another crop. If the latest government estimate is considered too large by as much as 250,000,000 bushels, it will still leave a quantity raised this year equal to that which used to be allowed in the estimate for the current consumption of the United States during twelve months, with the surplus from 1885 as a reserve fund to be drawn upon for extras. But those extras appear to be much larger this year than the average of past seasons. There are more live stock to be fed, and all the more as a great many cattle and hogs were kept back on account of the strike, while they were already fattened up to a stage from which they would rapidly deteriorate unless kept well supplied with corn. The two sides of the question would there appear to be evenly balanced around the conclusion that the country has corn enough and very little to spare. Whether or not it is worth while, under such conditions, for holders to keep on selling it at prices which pay little more than the freight to the shipper is for the parties concerned to decide.—*Chicago Tribune.*

## What a House Will Cost.

There is an old saying that fools build houses and wise men live in them. Whenever a man of moderate means decided to have a home of his own, planned to meet individual requirements and fashioned according to his tasts, he is reminded both by cautious and by envious neighbors of this disagreeable proverb. If he turns to the pages of any standard "Great Truths by Great Authors," he will find recorded such warnings as this: "Never build a house after you are 45; have five years' income in hand before you lay a brick, and always calculate the expense at double the estimate." His acquaintance, giving him the benefit of their own experience in building, will assure him that the actual cost invariably overlaps the original estimates. If a candid architect be consulted he will confess that nobody can tell what a house will cost until it is built, since there are unknown quantities in the problem that cannot be ascertained except by actual experiment. Shrewd contractors will even go so far as to say that the same house cannot be built a second time for the same money. Indeed, so numerous are the warnings, and so dense is the uncertainty respecting the final cost, that the prudent householder is not to be blamed if, after a careful survey of the field, he decides against taking the risk of playing the fool for the benefit of the wise man who may ultimately succeed to his castle in the air.—*New York Tribune.*

## Mormon Wives.

One of our neighbors, a wealthy and influential representative of Mormonism, is a gentleman who always has an eye to business, even in his love affairs. It was his custom for years to hire an attractive servant girl, keep her until her wages amounted to $30 or $40, and then make her an offer of his hand and heart in lieu of a cash payment. If she accepted she remained in the kitchen doing the work of the family, without wages, until her children become troublesome, when she was turned out to make room for a fresh importation. I have seen one of the wives of this man, one of the women who are "highly honored and tenderly cared for," out in the field on a bitter November day husking corn on shares to earn a little food for her children.

Some years ago I hired the second wife of a farmer near by to assist me in household duties. She was a very capable woman, an excellent housekeeper, and could have commanded a good salary anywhere in that capacity. She used to go home at night, after finishing her day's work, walk to town, a distance of four miles, to do various errands for her husband, then get up in the morning and feed and water his cattle and horses before coming over to get the breakfast for our family. The husband always collected her wages, and he soon told me I must pay him more than I had done for her services.—*Boston Bulletin.*

## Marriage and Divorce.

The question of marriage and divorce is again occupying the attention of many of the Protestant denominations. Of these denominations the Episcopalians appear to have the strictest marriage law, but they are not satisfied with it, and in their recent general convention an effort was made to pass a more stringent canon on the subject, but the effort failed for want of time. It is said, however, by many Episcopalians that some of their clergy ignore the provisions of the present law, and while this state of affairs is allowed to exist they think it would be useless to enact any more laws. The Congregationalists are also anxious to do something in regard to this matter, but they don't appear to know just what to do. The same is true of the Presbyterians and other sects which have passed resolutions emphasizing the need of doing something. On the one hand it is not deemed proper, even if it were possible to take the Roman Catholic ground in regard to marriage and divorce, although it is admitted by many Protestants that this would be the strongest possible ground to take. And on the other hand it is not deemed safe to take the ground that marriage is purely a civil contract; for the logical outcome of such a view is just the very evil which it is desired to correct. Protestantism is compelled by the logic of its position to take a middle course. The church, it is held, should throw the safeguards of religion around marriage, but the state may be permitted to regulate it. It is a holy rite, but it is also a civil contract. It should indeed be solemnized by the church, but it may be dissolved by the state. This view of marriage, however, does not seem to have worked as well as its originators hoped and now the tendency apparently is to make the state laws in regard to marriage as stringent as the laws of the church ought to be. A national divorce law is talked of in some quarters, and the clergy are asked to use their influence to have the question brought up in various state legislatures. In the meantime the Roman Catholic church professes to follow literally the divine law on this subject, and is calmly indifferent to the excited discussion that is going on in regard to it.

## A Lapp Wedding.

Down the room was a large table, covered with coarse cloth, perhaps, if for grand folks, but not much more likely in its native bareness. Upon the arrival of the wedding party the feast began. Boiled meat was brought in a large dish, or just as likely piled upon the table till it was full. On the top of this came dirty bowls full of grease. Round this savory and appetizing repast gathered the hungry Lapps, ravenous as wolves, and fell upon it with appetites that would astonish any western dweller in a cultured land. They came to eat, and they did eat! Lumps of meat were seized by nature's forks—fingers as black as coals, innocent of water for unknown periods, clad in ancient grime—plunged into the grease, and then, all luscious and dripping, conveyed to the cavernous mouths of the assembled. After this came the dessert—reindeer cheese cut into pieces, dipped into the grease, and eaten with a horn spoon or fingers. Huge draughts of corn brandy washed all down. Right diligently was the bottle plied, with ever and anon a quaff from the grease bowl to keep the brandy from taking too much effect, the grease leaving its traces on the drinkers' faces, till at last they shone in their fatty coating. Now began the "real wedding joy"—guests singing and shouting with all the vigor of powerful and healthy lungs. Songs, were improvised, generally senseless, because the improvisor was so. Soon some of the guests fell asleep on the table, and were shoveled on to the seats—or under them—against the walls by such of their comrades as were able to take part in the next proceedings, i. e. dancing, if such it should be called. Afresh rose a tempest of shouting and jumping—a wild scene, we are told, our ears cannot conceive. Fiddlers scraped and scraped, and were encouraged to scrape yet louder, while some Lapp, more musical than the others beat time with a pothook on the kettle bottom. Soon the floor was dotted with the forms of those who were too drunk to jump any more, and there they lay snoring, while their comrades hopped and roared over them till they, too, fell amid the slain. The general ending was that the whole party slept together on the floor.—*Notes and Queries.*

## The Latest Invention.

The latest invention is said to be a machine that sews on buttons, and will perform the work of four or five girls. It is a very honest machine, putting twelve stitches in every button, thus giving each an equal chance. The news of this invention will probably be welcomed as glad tidings by husbands, who are in the habit of sewing on their own buttons. It has always been argued that one reason why a man should marry, if for nothing else, is to have some one to sew on buttons for him. This, however, like a great many other ideas that originated with the ancients, is a mistaken one and is fast going out of existance. The married man of today, on losing a button, calls the attention of his wife to the fact, and then, not finding a new button in its place, tries to cause a blush of shame to mantle her cheek, by using a safety pin or a nail to hold up his pants with. For some reason or other she doesn't shame worth a cent and time goes on, as time is wont to do, till he finds his pants completely buttonless, and that he is carrying enough nails about his person to build a good sized barn with. Finally in a moment of desperation he grabs the button box, and after more or less swearing, sews on the buttons himself. The inventor of this great labor saving machine should be made an honorary member of every male secret society in the country, and at his death a monument should be erected to his memory that will eclipse anything that has ever been attempted in the monument line.—*Peck's Sun.*