

## REVISION OF TREASURY NOTES.

What Secretary Manning Says to the House on the Subject.

Washington Special: Secretary Manning to-day sent a long communication to Speaker Carlisle in reply to recent resolutions of the house of representatives respecting the release of treasury notes and the destruction of United States notes. The first of these resolutions inquired whether any money appropriated in the sundry civil bill or any other government money had been expended for the purpose of issuing treasury notes of large denominations in lieu of notes of small denominations cancelled or retired. Secretary Manning, after observing that he finds no authority to reissue treasury notes, says that if a more potent scrutiny of the statutes at large discloses such authority, he could not, except under fresh instructions from congress, conceive it a duty to expend money for such a purpose, and then adds that none of the appropriations referred to nor any other money belonging to the government has been expended for such purposes.

The secretary then goes into a long argument in favor of paying the greenback debt and a repeal of the compulsory silver purchase law, and says that another species of our outstanding indebtedness, namely, the legal tenders or greenbacks, known in law as United States notes, are equally with what the law designates as treasury notes beyond any need or excuse for release. That temporary notes, which are a debt of principal only, like notes which are a debt of principal and interest, should at once be cashed and cancelled from the abundant and superfluous coin on hand, not now capable of being used for any other purpose, is so obvious a principle of sound finance, such as a prudent citizen would apply to his private affairs, that any secretary of the treasury would be subject to just reproach for departing therefrom by release, were it not that the act of May 31, 1878, seems to require of him that fiscal misstep, and submits to the house the question whether, among many other reasons for its repeal, the contraction of the currency sought to be averted by that act, cannot in any other or better way be prevented than by its repeal. The fact that the \$346,681,016 of greenback debt is a greenback currency is so far from being a reason against its payment that it is the reason which makes payment and destruction necessary—not without a better currency to take its place, but such a currency is at hand. But also, a contraction of the currency should be avoided. The substitution of a better currency for the greenbacks runs no hazard of contraction. But the consequences of not using our coin surplus thus are serious. For in currency of some sort will the year's taxes be paid, and the excess of receipts over the authorized disbursements of the treasury would be the measure of the contraction of the currency. This contraction can be avoided by appropriations for an extravagant and reckless outpour and expense like that of war. It can also be avoided by the payment of debt. The first remedy need not be discussed; it is of course a remedy the most unworthy of the people's representatives. The second remedy is all that remains.

"What debt, then, shall we pay?" the secretary asks, and goes on to argue that it would be inexcusable extravagance to diminish the bonded debt not yet due by anticipatory purchase at a high premium when, under the operations of the sinking fund law, every dollar of the national debt, greenbacks included, can be cancelled by 1908. Anticipating payment of the funded debt at a high premium, the secretary says, "while successfully getting out of the treasury its currency tax surplus and so preventing contraction in that form, is that method, nevertheless, which would contract the currency in another form by too suddenly diminishing national bank circulation based on the funded debt. It is therefore necessary now not only to reduce taxation in order to prevent the surplus tax collections from being contracted again and again, but it is necessary also to employ the present and unavoidable tax surplus in the payment not of funded but of the unfunded debt. Great extravagance or needless expense or serious monetary troubles can both be so avoided. The people's representatives, by action before adjournment, can relieve the secretary of the treasury from a bad choice between these two present alternatives. The surplus coin and bullion which will remain in the treasury after all the bonds subject to call have been paid, and before the fifth congress will assemble, together with the proceeds of surplus taxation, which will flow into the treasury before any possible reduction of taxes by the present congress can take effect, constitute a sum which can well be got out of the treasury into the hands of the people, where it belongs, by the payment of the greenback debt. Certificates are a ready and superior paper money to the greenbacks. The substitution can be effected as a mere matter of treasury administration whenever two indispensable conditions are first fulfilled by congress. The report of the compulsory silver purchases is the first and indispensable condition, and the repeal of the compulsory redemption reissues United States notes as the next and only condition."

## WHAT THE VISIT IS MADE FOR.

Washington special: A writer in to-day's Washington Herald, in discussing Mexican matters in particular, and the management of the diplomatic branch of our government in general, says: "While I am upon the Mexican I would just like to ask one question of the president. Did he send Dr. George L. Miller, editor of the leading democratic journal in Nebraska, to Mexico upon public business, and if so, what was the cause for such extreme secrecy about his going? Members of the Nebraska delegation in congress—one branch at least—say that Dr. Miller came to Washington at the president's request. As Miller is a sound democrat, it was thought at first that he was to be consulted about the patronage of the state. This was not the matter. After three consultations Miller was sent to Mexico on business so confidently guarded that no human being excepting the president, Miller, and possibly the secretary of state, have the slightest idea of what it is. This is the story precisely as it was told to me. Perhaps the future may unveil this mystery, if mystery there be. Nebraskaans say there is one and seem to believe it. So we will wait and see."

## OFFICERS SHOT.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., Feb. 1.—This morning in Union township, a few miles south of here, Mann Sneed was arrested by Constable L. L. Smith and his deputy for unlawfully carrying a pistol. Soon after the arrest and as the officers were preparing to depart with Sneed his sister told them that his mother was very anxious to see him before he was taken away. The officers consented and accompanied the prisoner to the house of Wyatt Sneed, a short distance away. As they entered the house they were fired upon and Smith was instantly killed. His deputy returned the fire but was shot down and died immediately. The assassins, Wyatt and Dinky Sneed, escaped but are being hotly pursued and it is thought one of them is fatally wounded. The father of the Sneed is now serving a term in the penitentiary for murder.

Come what will, to be weak is only to be more miserable. The supports of sorrow are patience, activity and affection.—*Leigh Hunt.*

## RECRUITING THEIR RANKS.

The Strikers Joined by Workmen from Other Lines of Business.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—The extension of the strike to the freight handlers on the railroad piers of New York is the most serious blow to commerce that the union men have struck. The effect of it on one road—the Jersey Central—is the almost complete suspension of business. The men turned out so suddenly that the company was left at great disadvantage and its inability to deliver freight was the cause of much inconvenience to merchants. The next move on the part of the strikers will be to induce the train men to come out, and thus tie up the railroads centering on the Jersey shore. There is also some talk of getting the dock hands and firemen on the ferry boats to join the strikers, but these men are adverse to such a course.

The freight handlers on the Pennsylvania railroad piers Nos. 4, 5 and 6 North river, struck work at 1 p. m. They had sent an informal demand yesterday, but no answer had been received when they went out at dinner time, and when they returned they did not resume work, but sent a delegation to the office of Agent Bowman. He told them the company could not grant the advance in wages, but was willing to consider the question or any other grievances. The men decided to strike and marched off to the pier in a body. At 10 the men were still at work today.

The freight handlers of the Long Island railroad at pier 2, North river, numbering 150 men struck at 2 p. m. and joined the ranks of the strikers.

The freight handlers employed on the Erie docks in this city went out on a strike at 2 o'clock this afternoon. They marched in a body to Hamilton park, where they held a meeting. The men will hold another meeting to-morrow morning, at which it will be decided whether to return to work or not.

## TRANSFER OF THE WEATHER BUREAU.

Washington special: While officers of the signal service favor a transfer of the weather bureau to a civil department, they are desirous of placing the service on a footing similar to the revenue marine service in the treasury department. The enlisted men of the corps seem to be unanimously in favor not only of the transfer but of divesting the service of all semblance to a military organization. They think that if the service is organized like the revenue marine it would simply be a change from a military to a naval organization. An enlisted man of the service, in speaking to-day on the subject, said: "Just why the weather bureau, a scientific branch of the government, should be either a naval or military branch of the government, and not civilian, is not clearly understood at all. It can as well be operated under military rules and discipline as under naval, and vice versa. That it can be as well, and better, operated under a civilian organization is undoubtedly the opinion of our legislators and the opinion of the scientific public. The president, in his annual message, approved the position taken by the secretary of war in the latter's annual report, which was to the effect that no legislation should be had tending to further the military features of the signal service and intimating that the time was approaching when the signal bureau should become a civil bureau. The lieutenant general of the army positively opposes a continuance of the connection of the signal service with the army. The joint congressional commission appointed under an act approved July 7, 1884, stated in its report that the 'commission do not believe that this work is in any sense military work or that military discipline and law are necessary to its efficiency.' The statement which has been published that the men do not favor a transfer to a civil organization are opposed by a paper signed by a majority of the men on duty in the signal office, which is to the effect that they do favor a transfer to such an organization at this time. The paper has been signed by a large majority, with many more to be heard from."

## ANOTHER BIG TELEPHONE SUIT.

Philadelphia dispatch: A telephone suit involving the right to erect and maintain long distance telephone wires between New York, Philadelphia and various large cities was begun in the United States circuit court by a bill in equity filed this afternoon by the attorneys for the Brooks Telegraph Construction company. The defendants are part of the Bell telephone syndicate and have organized a corporation which has recently opened offices in various cities. The plaintiffs claim they bought the exclusive right under patent to make and use circuits throughout the United States for the transmission of signals from February, 1881; that they have expended large sums of money in perfecting the system, but that defendants are violating this exclusive right. It is claimed that the rapid application of the long distance telephone to modern business purposes renders the prospective value of ownership in the metallic circuit to be contested in the courts second only to that of the telephone itself.

## TALK OF AN EXTRA SESSION.

Washington special: As indicated several days ago it is the general impression in the house that all efforts to harmonize upon a revenue bill this session will fail, and that no measure will whatever pass through the house. The movement of the Randall men will go on until checked by some action of the house, but that it will lead to any legislation is doubted. What is expected to result in by some of those most interested in the question is an extra session of congress. A very well informed tariff reformer said to-day that he expected an extra session to be called to meet in October. Other members expressed the same opinion. Meanwhile it is expected that the surplus now in the treasury will be greatly reduced by the bill of bonds that may be redeemed and by payments on account of the Mexican and three months service pension bills. It is believed to estimate anywhere approaching the amount of these pensions has been made.

## MINT DIRECTORS REPORT.

The secretary of the treasury to-day transmitted to the speaker of the house an answer by the director of the mint to the house resolution relating to silver coinage. The director presents a table from which it appears that the cost of the amount of bullion delivered on monthly purchases during the past fiscal year was \$24,398,002, and the face value of the coinage was \$29,830,005. During the six months of the current fiscal year the cost of the monthly purchases of bullion was \$13,548,408, and the coinage \$15,960,361. In only one month (July, 1885) did the coinage fall short of \$2,500,000. The director says it will be seen from the table that the law has been complied with during the past fiscal year, as well as for the remaining six months of the calendar of 1886.

## PROSPECTS OF ITS PASSAGE.

The Committee on Indian Affairs and the Sioux Reservation Bill.

Washington special: She house committee on Indian affairs will to-morrow or next day call on the bill to open to settlement the Sioux reservation, containing about 11,000,000 acres of good farming lands. The Indians are more than willing to have it done, and the bill is likely to become a law unless the opponents of the following clause gain a stronger following than is now thought possible. This clause, the only one in serious controversy, relates to the contracts entered into between the Sioux Indians on the one part, and the Milwaukee & St. Paul and the Northwestern railroads on the other. Years ago it was stipulated by these parties that the two railroads should have the right of way through that reservation. The road-way is 150 feet wide. For seven miles ten acres were to be sold for station purposes, and each was to have a section of land on the west bank of the Missouri river, opposite Pierre and Chamberlain, D. T. For this the roads agreed to pay \$5 an acre. This agreement or contract was at the time proposed by the secretary of the interior, but it was found that that was not sufficient, and legislation is necessary. Several attempts to pass it proved fruitless, and now the agreement is before congress as a clause of the aforementioned bill in the committee.

This clause was fought long and persistently by La Follette, who thought the two roads should have only 100 feet of road each, and that they should pay \$10 an acre. Finally Senator Dawes, who has managed the bill in the senate, went to La Follette and told him he was certain the Indians would not give their assent to the bill as required by it unless the agreement with the railroads named was ratified by congress. He explained that the bill gives the Indians but fifty cents per acre for all the lands taken up under it, and that, of course, the land for the railroads would only bring them the same price, while if the clause is retained they will get \$5 per acre for the lands for all the time they occupy them. The Indians, he said, look at this difference as a great thing, and at the refusal to ratify their agreement with the roads as a plan to rob them, and would certainly not agree to the bill thus defeating the opening of the reservation to settlers. La Follette yielded to this argument, but "Snow" Vallentyne, the chairman of the committee, declares that he will move to strike out the clause, or to amend it by giving the railroads only the above mentioned usual roadbed, 100 feet, etc. The people of Pierre and Chamberlain oppose this clause because they fear that the railroads will use the two sections they would get under it to build a new city opposite theirs. If this be true, those two sections would serve a very profitable speculation. Nelson and Strait, of Minnesota, are earnestly favoring the bill with the contested clause.

## A CINCINNATI SENSATION.

Cincinnati dispatch: The attempt upon the life of Judge Fitzgerald, of the police court, last night, has produced a profound sensation. The judge for a long time has been a terror to evil doers. Only yesterday he had over one hundred cock fighters before him. The circumstances of the attack made last night, gives color to the suspicion that someone interested in the defendants had undertaken the desperate scheme of murdering the judge. The judge was greatly provoked by the attack, and he was about to go to the bench as usual this morning. He says he has no doubt he can recognize the voice and form of his assailant.

## WITTROCK'S END ACHIEVED.

His Mother's Home Relieved From Incumbrance. Wittrock, the chivalrous robber, has been an interesting study to psychologists. When his arrest revealed the fact that the Cummings letters had not been written to shield an accomplice but to clear an innocent man, the public while condemning his rashness applauded his generosity. The romance surrounding his criminal career was heightened when it became known that the incentive of the robber had been a desire to relieve his mother's home from a mortgage. The statement made by Wittrock and the additional one that before he would decide whether to return to the money provision must be made for paying off the incumbrance on his mother's property were implicitly believed, the public having been led to share the opinion of the detectives that Wittrock was as honest a man as ever robbed a train.

That this confidence was not misplaced is shown by the developments. Messrs. Jarvis, Conklin & Co., who held the mortgage on Mrs. Wittrock's place, yesterday received a draft for \$1,921, the full amount of the incumbrance. The history of the transaction forms an interesting chapter of the crime. The day after the robbery the money from Mrs. Wittrock's house, Pinkerton placed \$1,800 in bank to her credit to be used in paying off the mortgage. Mrs. Wittrock wrote to Messrs. Jarvis, Conklin & Co. stating that she had the money in her checking account, and that in order that the money might not be used for any other purpose, the first deposit was taken up and a draft for the full amount made out payable to the order of Mrs. Jarvis & Co. Wittrock. On the back of the draft, which was dated January 8, was the endorsement, "Pay to the order of Jarvis, Conklin & Co. for the release of a certain mortgage on my property at Miami, Ohio, heretofore held by Mrs. Wittrock." The endorsement was signed "Mrs. E. F. Wittrock" in a masculine hand and below the name was written "Mrs. Wittrock." The first signature was probably written by an officer of the express company. In any event the draft was not cashed and could be used for no other purpose than the one intended. This closes as far as Mrs. Wittrock is concerned the most remarkable criminal case on record. Although it was at the expense of a term in the penitentiary, Wittrock has accomplished what he started out to do.—*Kansas City Times.*

## Statistics of Blindness.

The world's blind are computed to number about 1,000,000, or about one sightless person to every 1,600 inhabitants. In Austria one person in every 1,785 is blind; in Sweden, one in every 1,418; in France, one in every 1,191; in Prussia, one in every 1,111; in England, one in every 1,037. The proportion is greatest to Egypt, where, in Cairo, there is one blind person to every twenty inhabitants; while in New Zealand it falls to one in every 3,550 inhabitants. Germany has the greatest number of blind, thirty-five; England, thirty-four; Austria, twenty; Hungary, ten; Italy, nine; Belgium, six; Australia, two; while America, Asia, and Africa together are said to possess only six.

He approaches nearest to the gods who knows how to be silent, even though he is in the right.—*Cato.*

People who have heard Mrs. Parsons talk understand how her husband can take the sentence of his death so philosophically.—*Pittsburgh Chronicle.*

## ALCOHOL AS MEDICINE.

A Case of Great Importance to Total Abstinence Societies.

Yesterday a case of great importance to members of teetotal friendly societies was heard by Mr. Yelverton (sitting as deputy for Judge Storer) at the Brompton county court. The plaintiff, Mr. Henry Gregory, sued the trustees of the Benjamin Hallfield lodge of the Original Grand Order of the Total Abstinence Sons of the Phoenix to recover the sum of £8. The plaintiff sued to recover the money as the legal representative of his son, who had been a member of the lodge for nineteen years, and who died in April, 1885. The defendants refused to pay the money on the ground that the plaintiff's son had placed himself out of benefit by taking alcoholic liquor, notwithstanding that it was in accordance with the orders of his medical attendant. Mr. Moyses was counsel for the plaintiff, Mr. Lyon for the defendants. Mr. Moyses said that the case had already been before the magistrate at Westminster police court, and he, in directing that the matter should be brought to the county court characterized the defense as monstrous. The plaintiff's son has been a member of the lodge for nineteen years, and had paid his subscription regularly. For some time he had acted as secretary to the lodge. In the early part of last year the plaintiff's son, Mr. J. J. Gregory, fell ill, and he was ordered by his medical attendant to take port wine as a stimulant. He did so. He was acting bona fide in the matter, and communicated the fact to the defendants. He might have concealed it if he had chosen. The plaintiff's son was removed to the hospital, where he died. When the plaintiff applied for the £8, which was the payment usually made upon the death of a member, he was informed that, having broken the twelfth rule of the lodge by drinking alcoholic liquor, his son had placed himself out of benefit, and that no money could be paid. That was a point which had never yet been raised. If the rule was to be so construed (and there were many other societies with the same rule exactly) that no member of society could take alcoholic stimulants under medical advice it would be a monstrous prohibition, and he submitted, against public policy. Dr. Gaven said he ordered the deceased son of the plaintiff to take port wine. It was a constant practice to put alcohol into medicine without specifying its presence. The use of opium, which was made from proof spirits, was often used; and that was stronger than brandy or port wine. Mr. Lyon said that rule 12, while it excluded a member from benefit who had violated his pledge, added that he might be readmitted as a new member after he had remained a total abstainer for one month. The deceased was treated by Dr. Gaven for dysentery, while death was certified to have resulted from scirrhus of the rectum—an illness for which port wine would have been the very worst of medicines. When it became known to the lodge that the deceased had been drinking port wine, Mr. Snowden, the secretary, called upon him, received his subscription and reminded him that he had placed himself out of benefit by taking port wine. He expressed the hope that the lodge would, under the circumstances, exonerate him. The lodge met but decided that the deceased had placed himself out of benefit by his conduct. Mr. Snowden again called on the deceased, communicated to him the decision of the lodge, and returned the subscription. The deceased said he quite expected it, and seemed quite satisfied. The judge said that the fact of the return, and acceptance of the return, of the subscription by the deceased, compelled him to find for the defendants, though his sympathies were entirely with the plaintiff. The popularity of the society would much increase if they had paid the claim. He should think that many of the present members would resign under the present state of the rules. He would give every facility to appeal. Judgment was then entered for the defendants.—*London Times.*

## A New Invention.

A coal-miner near Pittsburgh, Pa., has secured a patent on a coal-mining machine which is expected to revolutionize the coal-mining business. The machine consists in the operation of one or more circular saws, or disks, fitted upon one or more shafts. The whole is worked by means of a very small rotary engine, set upon a frame, which is placed on wheels, so that the miner can move it whenever he likes with ease. The machine is put in motion by compressed air or steam, or else it can be worked by hand-power. As soon as the power is turned on the saws commence to revolve, and will be forced gradually into and along the wall of the coal-vein. It will make an undercut of four and a half to six feet, as required, saving all the coal which was hitherto lost by the use of the pick. It weighs less than two hundred pounds, and can be manipulated by one man. Fifty tons a day can be easily mined. A saving of 20 per cent will be realized by the mine-owner, as there will be no waste, while the miner will augment his daily earnings by at least double the amount without half the exertion he has now. The working of the machine does not require any skill or practice in the handling of it. While by the use of the pick, the miners make now a great deal of waste, the saws of the machine by striking straight into the vein of coal will cut solid-blocks out of the vein and make every particle of the vein marketable coal.

## Five Hundred Million Lobsters.

The average catch of lobsters on the Maine coast has been 15,000,000 yearly, for thirty years, or nearly 500,000,000 during that period. About 200,000,000 have been used by factories at an average cost of one cent each. Doubtless they have paid \$2,000,000 to the fishermen. The market men have paid \$9,000,000 more to the lobster catchers in the last thirty years.—*Lewiston (Me.) Journal.*

## PASTEUR'S PATIENTS.

Many Americans Secretly Visit the Institute for Treatment.

Surgeon Charles E. Siegfried, of the United States navy, has returned from Paris, where he looked in on the Pasteur system of fighting hydrophobia with a view to its introduction into a government hospital in this country, writes a New York correspondent of the *Evening Enquirer*. He says that medical opinions in France differ as to the efficacy of its inoculations, but that the records of cases seem to establish the value of Pasteur's work. "The number of Americans who resort to Prof. Pasteur's institute," he adds, "is not suspected by their countrymen. Many make the trip privately, especially if they belong to well-to-do families able to pay the expense without public censure. Besides bitten persons are loath to admit their nervousness, and therefore go to Paris ostensibly for pleasure, while their real errand is to get inoculated. Pasteur humors their desire for secrecy, and permits them to register under assumed names even when he knows who they really are, which is by no means always. A note of introduction from the American minister is required, as a matter of form. No fee is charged, but voluntary contributions are accepted, and those go into a general fund for the maintenance of the hospital. Pasteur personally takes no pay."

"I saw a New York lady go through the process. Her case had not been mentioned in print. Her name was Maria Byrne, and she actually belongs to a rather rich and fashionable family. Her pet dog had bitten her, and then died in convulsions, so that she did not know for a certainty whether or not she was in danger of the dreaded rabies. She rode to Pasteur's house, at No. 14 Rue Vaquelin, which is an insignificant building in the midst of the various schools of the Latin quarter. She was accompanied by her father, who presented her credentials, and gave all the particulars of her case to a clerk, who recorded them in a big book. Then she was shown into an ante-room, and directed how to prepare herself for the operation. This consisted simply in arranging her attire so that, without delay, the surgeon could inject the virus under the skin. Then she was placed in a line with seventeen other bitten persons, all women or children, for this day was set apart for them—men having had the previous day."

"All marched into the room where Pasteur and his assistants were in readiness. One surgeon stood beside a table, on which was a glass jar containing the protective fluid. Over the top of this vessel was stretched a filtering paper. Beside it lay a hypodermic syringe. The man thrust the sharp, delicate nozzle of this instrument through the paper into the liquid, and filled it in that way, in order that by no possibility could it be vitiated by contact with the air. Having thus charged the syringe, he handed it to the principal operator, who deftly inserted it obliquely through the skin of the patient, in the region of the loins, and quickly injected the contents. It was like the puncture of a needle and not very painful. The girl bore it without flinching, but some of the children, as well as the more ignorant adults, cried and struggled. She had to return for additional injections during several weeks."

It is thought congress will be asked to appropriate money for the opening of a Pasteur hospital, either in this city or Washington—probably the latter.

## Handy Things to Know.

Here are some figures and rules very handy to know and have at hand, in the mind or on paper:

- A rod is 16 1/2 feet, or 5 1/2 yards.
- A mile is 320 rods.
- A mile is 1,760 yards.
- A mile is 5,280 feet.
- A square foot is 144 square inches.
- A square yard contains 9 square feet.
- A square rod is 272 1/4 square feet.
- An acre contains 43,560 square feet.
- An acre contains 4,840 square yards.
- An acre contains 160 square rods.
- A section, or square mile, contains 640 acres.
- A quarter-section contains 160 acres.
- An acre is 8 rods wide by 20 rods long.
- An acre is 10 rods wide by 16 rods long.
- An acre is about 208 1/2 feet square.
- A solid foot contains 1,728 solid inches.
- A pint (of water) weighs 1 pound.
- A solid foot of water weighs 62 1/2 pounds.
- A gallon (of water) holds 231 solid inches.
- A gallon of milk weighs 8 pounds and 10 ounces.
- A pint (of water) holds 28 1/2 solid inches (8.875).
- A barrel (31 1/2 gallons) holds 4 1/2 solid feet (4.211).
- A solid foot contains nearly 7 1/2 solid pints (7.48).
- A bushel (struck) contains 2,150 solid inches.
- A bushel (heaping) contains 1 1/2 struck bushels.
- A struck bushel contains about 1 1/2 solid feet.

## Too Attractive By Far.

In a school section in Northumberland county, where a young lady is engaged as teacher, says *The Toronto Globe*, there has been quite a dispute as to whether it would be prudent to re-engage her or not. It was claimed that she had too many admirers of the opposite sex, and that the section had thus been deprived of a portion of her time that should have been spent in the discharge of her duties as a teacher. Accordingly at school-meeting, the trustees had an agreement drawn up to the effect that she should not keep company during the coming year with any man during school hours, as her undivided time should be devoted to the school. Upon her refusing to sign this agreement it was decided to leave it to a vote of the meeting as to whether she should be compelled to sign it or not. A show of hands was taken, which resulted in a tie, when the chairman, being a young man, gave the casting vote in her favor.

## A Swamper's Camp.

A Louisiana swamper's camp consists of a lot of slabs from a cypress tree, here called pews. These are driven upright in the ground. A roof of the same material is added; bunks, benches and tables on the same primitive principle are soon constructed, and the camp is finished. "When we first arrived," writes a correspondent, "in one of these blissful bowers, things were dry and comfortable, but this condition was of short duration. The water rapidly rose; and was soon two feet deep under table and bunks. Then, at least, I became more intimately acquainted with the neighborly spirit that lurks in the bosom of the mossman. Upon awakening one morning the first thing that appeared to my horrified gaze was a mossman that seemed to me ten feet long (it was found to measure two) curled up in my blanket asleep. He seemed to be perfectly at home, and, though I felt confident he had mistaken his apartments, his air of perfect serenity and confidence in my understanding the awkwardness of the situation for him, in case I demanded an explanation, wrought on my nervous nature to such an extent, that rather than awaken him and demand his card, I determined to leave him in full possession. In fact, my sole rule for his feelings was such that in order to not disturb him, I scarcely breathed until I was safely on the floor. One day there and out of reach, I felt my courage and anger rise and demanded satisfaction. I accordingly dispatched him with a ramrod, and hung him by the neck to the under side of the bunk. Soon after we got a king snake in camp, and that settled any further visits from mossmen. King snakes are the particular pets of a swamper, and were to the rash stranger who kills one; for, if his performance is witnessed, a sound and conscientious laid on thrashing is the certain result. The only excuse accepted is ignorance, and it will not work a second time. This beautiful reptile well deserves the protection it receives. It kills every other snake that crosses its path, and all manner of vermin. It cannot by any provocation be induced to attack a man. I have seen a combination of toy and stick sufficient to strike terror to the heart of any thing less formidable than a rhinoceros, and the poor creature would content itself with hiding its head under its coil, and await with patience the departure of its tormentor in search of more stirring game. The meek and lowly spirit this thing exhibits under affliction, is touching to behold, and has been greatly neglected in pointing morals and adorning tales.—*Chicago Mail.*

## A Whimsical Reversal.

Writers of fiction rarely attain that grace and elegance which mark the pages of the best essays. The writer of romance begins his work very early in life, before his mind has had time to ripen; and it seems, that he is not disposed to put aside his own work to read the work of others. It is rare that a man of great imagination possesses a well trained mind. Dickens, though in many respects the greatest of English novelists, was, at times, crude in expression, and never ascended to elegance of diction. Thackeray wrote with more finish, but his style is marred by French expressions and a too frequent use of "prodigious." In "Vanity Fair" it occurs on nearly every page. Prodigious is an expressive term, but it is not in good taste to shun the society of simpler words and take it upon a favorite. The adoption of a favorite word in literature is no more to be advised than the adoption of a favorite word at court. Both eventually east reproach upon their benefactors. Some writers, and especially the admirers of George Eliot, fancy that ruggedness is strength. This is as fallacious as it is to believe that awkward men are possessed of more strength than men of symmetrical shape. Macaulay's smoothness has caused hundreds of thoughtful persons to regard him as shallow. A polished cane is harder to break than a rough stick.

The absorbing interest which we feel in the great narrative related by Hume, often leads us away from a just admiration of the magnificent manner in which the recital is made. There are, in the English language, few better sentences than the following summary of the character of Mary, Queen of Scots: "An enumeration of her qualities might carry the appearance of a panegyric; an account of her conduct might, in some parts, wear the aspect of severe satire and invective." In this sentence we see the character of that unfortunate woman. To name all her good qualities would be excessive praise; to speak of her faults would be undue condemnation.

In the opinion of the poet Whittier, Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote the best English, and all men must agree that he wrote with more purity than any other man of fiction. His style has all the pleasant humor of Addison and more quaint of gentleness than the prose of Goldsmith.—*Arkansas Traveller.*

## Deficiency of Polite Language.

"This eternal 'beg pardon' intimates that you have failed to hear is beginning to be tiresome," growled an old gentleman the other day. "What?" is too abrupt and "How?" is execrable, and yet some other form besides "beg pardon" could be used. Why not sometimes say "I didn't hear you," or "Please repeat that," or "Excuse my inattention." Then, too, the speaker sometimes talks in such an indistinct, inarticulate manner that he is the one who ought to say "beg pardon," and not the patient listener.—*Philadelphia Call.*

## Overheard at the Theatre.

Omaha Lady.—Oh, dear! I've forgotten my fan, and it's dreadfully warm in here.

Gentleman (in the next seat back).—I can't bear to see a woman suffer. Would you allow me to make a suggestion for your comfort?

"Certainly."

"Why not fan yourself with your hat?"—*Omaha World.*