Oregon Weekly Statesman

SALEM, WEDNESDAY DEC. 27, 1871.

FROM SEA TO SEA.

The following ringing lines are from Joaquin Miller's poem "From Sea to Sea," in Scribner's for November:

Shake hands! Fling hands in haste to the sea,
Where the sun comes in, and mount with me
The matchless steed of the strong New World,
As he champs and chafes with a strength untold—
And away to the West, where the waves are
And kiss white pinions to the feet of gold!
A girth of brass and a breast of steel,
A breath of fire and a flaming mane,
An iron hoof and a steel-clad heel,
A Mexican bit and a massive chain
Well tried and wrought in an iron rein!
And away! away! with a shout and yell
That had startled the legions of old with fear,
That had stormed the dead in their graves
Where!
And stamped the damned in Hades as well.

Stand up stand out! where the wind comes in,
And the wealth of the sea pours over you,
As its health floods up to the face the wine,
And a breath blows up from the Deleware
And the spicing breezes of Southernwood
Of armies in ambush and blossom through
The trance with a fresh and keen delight
As the Alleghany blows through the hair,
With a kiss behind for through the rush and din,
By the cedars sure and through boughs of pine.

O! seas in a land! O! lakes of mine!
By the long Logan, and the songs I bring,
By glad shallows that ripple ways, singing
A song in the reeds that surround your isles!
A song in joy for this sun that smiles
For this land I love and this age and sign;
For the peace that is, and the perils past
For the hope that is, and the rest at last!

O! lee [illegible] Look up! look out! There are fields of kine,
There are clover fields that are red as wine;
And a world of kine in the fields take rest,
And ruminate in the shade of trees
That are [illegible] with blossoms, or brown with bees.

* * * * * * *

A rush of rivers, and a roar of trees,
And a breath blown far from Mexican seas,
And over the great heart-vein of earth!
* * By the [illegible] Green Okeon,
By the scalp locks of the tall Pawnee,
And up the [illegible] With a swart death
Of the homes of men! What a wild delight
Of [illegible] Where
breeze!
What dust and taste of quick alkie!
[illegible] green, brown, then black,
like night,
All fence and defiant against the sky!

COURAGE.

Because I hold it sinful to despond,
And will not let the bitterness of life
Blind me with burning tears, but look beyond
Its tumult and its strife;

Because I lift myself above the mist,
Were the sun shines and the broad breezes blow,
By every joy and every rain-drop kissed,
That God's love doth bestow;

Think you I find no bitterness at all,
No sorrow to be borne, like Christian's pack?
Think you there are no ready tears to fall
Because I keep them back?

Why should I hide this with cold reserve,
To cure myself and who knows how long?
A thousand times more good than I deserve
God surely knows!

And in each one of these rebellious tears,
Kept bravely back, He makes a rainbow shine;
Great [illegible] gifts; no tears
Nor [illegible] mine.

Dark skies must clear, and when the clouds are past,
Our [illegible] redeems all weary years;
Patient I listen, sure that sweet at last
Will come the voice of God.

Then vex me not with chiding—let me be;
I am so sad and grateful to the end;
I grudge you not your gold and darkness—the
The powers of light, perfected.

To Whom Shall we Give Thanks?

A little boy had sought the pump
Front whence the sparkling water burst,
And drank with eager joy the draught
That had [illegible]
The gracefully he [illegible]
I thank you, Mr. Pump, he said,
For this nice drink you've given me!
(This little boy had been well bred.)

Then said the pump: My little man,
Very true am to what I have done;
But I can not take the thanks—
I only help the water run.
Oh, then, the little fellow said,
(Polite boys are so nice)
Cold Water, please accept my thanks;
You have been very kind to me.

Ah! said Cold Water, don't thank me;
[illegible] Spring
That sends me forth with generous hand
To gladden every living thing.
I'll thank the Spring, then, said the boy,
And gracefully he turned his bride
Oh, don't think me, my little man,
The Spring with silvery accents said.

Oh, don't thank me—for what am I
Without the dew and summer rain?
Without them I'm [illegible]
Your thirst, my little boy, again.
Oh, well, then, said the little boy,
I'll gratify that the Rain and Dew.
Pray don't thank me—without the Sun
We count not all one cent for you.

Then, Mr. Sun, to thank thanks
For all this, yet have one for me.
Stopping the Sun, with shining face,
Said little fellow, don't thank me;
I'm less than the ocean's mighty storm
[illegible] the tempest's rage to thee.
Oh, Ocean, then, he said the boy,
It echoed back, not unto me.

Not unto me, but unto Him
Who formed the [illegible] in which I lie,
Go, give thy thanks, my little boy,
To Him who will thy wants supply.
The boy took off his cap, and said,
In tones so gentle and subdued,
Oh, God, I thank Thee for this gift,
Then art the Giver of all good.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—The budget of the Minister of Finance, Poucier Quertier, shows a surplus of fourteen million francs.

A bill for the partial renewal of the Chambers has been rejected by a Committee of the Assembly by a majority of one.

BERNE, Dec. 16.—The Federal Assembly has passed a bill interdicting the establishment of the Order of Jesuits in Switzerland.

EASTERN NEWS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—The Executive Committee of the Union Pacific Railroad Company met at a meeting in this city to-day, in consideration of the donation of Douglas county bonds and depot grounds at Omaha, on the 1st day of January, that city resolved to make that place the actual terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad.

The Internationals this evening made arrangements for a parade tomorrow.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—A weather report says a rain storm, probably accompanied with high winds, is apparently threatening the coast of California.

BOSTON, Dec. 16.—In Lynn, this morning, William Brown killed his wife, by stabbing her with a dirk.

Colonel Lawrence, who jumped from the window of a house yesterday, in a fit of insanity, died to-day.

RICHMOND, Dec. 16.—Governor Walker has pardoned ex-Mayor Calhoun, heretofore twice convicted of complicity in the Hannestin forgeries.

SAVANNAH, Dec. 16.—Collector Robb vetoed an appropriation to pay interest on gold bonds.

The Ku Kluxists were discharged to-day, except one from Dade county.

BY STATE TELEGRAPH.

ALBANY, Dec. 16.—Last evening at 8:40 o'clock flames were discovered breaking through the roof of the photograph gallery of J. A. Winter, situated over the harness and saddle manufactory of Thomas Moore, being on First street, between Washington and Ferry. The fire having such a headway [illegible] streets being full of mud and snow, some time elapsed before the engine could be [illegible] and then it was impossible to save the building, which, with every article in the gallery, was entirely destroyed. By the exertions of the Fire Department, and the benefit of snow on the roofs, of the adjoining buildings, they were saved, and the fire prevented from spreading. Thompson & Irving, with the help of citizens, succeeded in saving most of their stock in good condition. Total loss about $5,000; mostly secured by insurance. Winter's loss is $2,000; insured for $1,500 in the Union Insurance company. Thompson & Irving have $1,000 on the building and stock. This fire leaves Albany without a photograph gallery.

The weather for the past few days has been extremely cold—snow lying on the ground to the average depth of [illegible] inches, but from appearances this morning there is a good prospect for a thaw, and the snow going off in a freshet. Yesterday sleighing was all the rage, and about a dozen sleighs were made to order.

[illegible] 19.—It commenced snowing Sunday morning, and by noon the ground was covered to the depth of six inches; in the evening it commenced raining, and has continued almost incessantly to the present time, and is now raining hard.

Notwithstanding the storm, Hallet is pushing along toward Oakland with the railroad. The grade is nearly ready for the iron.

The stages are making good time.

One death from small-pox.

The line has been down on the Siskiyou Mountains since yesterday.

CALIFORNIA.

YREKA, Dec. 20.—It has been storming hard ever since Sunday evening. South of this they have had unprecedented gales, doing considerable damage. Stages are running from 12 to 18 hours behind time. It is still raining, but unusually warm. The thermometer has not been below thirty-one degrees since Sunday morning.

SAN FRANCISCO Dec. 17.—It commenced raining heavily at six p. m., wind fresh, southeast; barometer very low and still falling.

The steamship Great Republic arrived this morning from China and Japan with a large cargo, mainly of teas.

Yokohama advises are as follows: The American Minister De Long has returned from a trip overland through Japan, and will return to the United States by the next steamer to confer with the President and Congress on the revision of treaties.

The Japanese War Department has issued order for Diamos to transfer all arms and ammunitions of war to Government.

The Mikado is willing to open the interior for foreigners throughout the empire, but the question must be joined in by all the foreign powers to have effect.

Private letters from Japan says the Embassy which will sail on the Great Republic, to arrive here about January 18th, consists of the highest officials who ever composed an Embassy from the Oriential Empire to America or Europe. Its head will be Twakan, late Minister of Foreign Affairs, now Prime Minister of Japan, assisted by Kido, Chief of the Emperor's Privacy. These, with the Chief Minister of Public Works and Chief Minister of Finance, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, compose the Embassy. They will be accompanied by eight secretaries, twenty-one officers of the second rank and twenty-one young noblemen not charged with Ministerial functions, but traveling for information. They will go overland to Washington, and then, after visiting New York and other cities, to Europe, and continue on around the world. Minister De Long will accompany them around the world. The Embassy goes out on the order of the Japanese Parliament and the Mikado, that the higher classes may see foreign civilization and not be compelled to trust to the report of inferiors, as heretofore. There was a great contest between the different Embassys as to whether they should first visit America or Europe, and their final decision in favor of America is remarked as a great triumph for us.

UTAH.

CORINNE, Dec. 17.—No trains have passed Corinne as yet. Snow is drifting badly between Corinne and Cheyenne.

A telegram from Medicine Bow says forty or fifty Chinamen working on the train struck on account of cold weather. They will probably be set on the side track and left to shift for themselves. Weather continues extremely cold. Two inches of snow fell this morning.

Physiology.

Mr. Walter D. Lyman, favorably remembered by many residents of this city, has been giving a course of lectures on physiology in the lecture room of Dr. Chapin's church, New York. The concluding lecture of the course was on the diseases of women and children, and is reported in the New York *Herald* from which we extract the following: "The subject was ably and clearly presented and finely illustrated with manikin and oil paintings. The lecturer said:

"The destiny of woman is to become a wife and mother; it is the duty of every woman to fit herself, both physically and mentally, to perform that mission wisely and perfectly. To produce harmony there must be equal development of mind and body. To the neglect of this harmonious development may be attributed to much of the lamentable decay of our American families. The early training of our women grows out of our imperfect system of education, both at home and at school. Thousands of beautiful and accomplished women die annually because they cannot meet the demands of nature and fulfil the holy office of motherhood. One-fourth of all children born annually die before they arrive at the age of ten. The world today groans under its burden of disease, deformity, insanity, suicide and murder, that we cannot, or will not trace it to its fountain head. Perverted ideas so widely prevalent among our women in regard to customs and habits of dress and living. Much of the mental and nervous excitement is due to the perverted sensational literature scattered through the whole length and breadth of our land, giving false ideas of life and duty. The speaker said nine-tenths of the crimes committed were the result of a diseased condition of body and mind. For 1,800 years men have been striving to evangelize the world. Is it not time for woman to do her share in this glorious work, and so hasten the millennial dawn?"

Handy to Have in the House.

Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, in an article on the "Handy Man," in the *Hearth and Home*, says:

"A handy man is so practiced in the regulation of the little utilities in the house he inhabits, that by a slight touch here and there—a screw loosened there, and a nail driven in time—he keeps all working smoothly, and averts those domestic catastrophes of which *Punch* makes so much capital in his pictures.

The handy man knows how to use every sort of tool that keeps his house in order. They are neatly arranged, in his own private drawer, sacred from the meddling of the careless. Is a pane of glass shivered on a cold day, the handy man first stuffs it with a bundle, or pastes it over with a newspaper, and then rushes to a glazier's, who of course is not at home, or who says he will come immediately, and doesn't come—meanwhile the wind blowing in gives the baby the croup and the mother a severe cold.

The handy man, on the contrary, has his diamond, his measuring-rule, his putty, all in readiness to a moment's notice, and the replacing of a pane of glass is the affair of a quarter of an hour before he goes to his office or store.

There springs a leak in the joint of a hot-water pipe. The handy man has his soldering tools and kettle, and it is stopped in a moment, while the unhandy man is running up town after the plumber.

The handy man has no small bills to pay to any kind of mechanic, for he stops every leak in its commencement, and replaces every screw the moment it is loose.

A Bad Show for the State.

The *Herald* has a statement furnished from Salem which shows that under the administration of Gov. Woods the five per cent. received from the General Government out of the proceeds of the sale of public lands within the State was duly paid to the constituted authorities, but that the State lost the cash through the peculation of Sam. May. This is bad. But there is this difference between the administration of Woods and that of Grover, so far as public lands and money are concerned: Under Woods the State lost the five per cent. on lands sold by the General Government—a sum total of $5,400, for four years—while under Grover, [illegible] has lost nearly all its vast wealth of school lands, and other lands as well we fear. In brief, under Woods, the State lost its small change but saved its lands; under Grover, it has lost all its lands and has only small change left. If we must be fleeced pray restore to us Woods, with all his imperfections on his head. But we confess we prefer that the State shall yet have an honest Governor, who will neither misappropriate the cash, nor bestow upon his Ring favorites all the public lands. As things have gone and are going, the State has stood and now stands a wofully poor show.—*Bulletin.*

The Poor White Ku-Klux.

Last evening the dull routine of taking down confessions of her lesser sinners, who had been inactive members of the klan, or had only helped to whip two or three negroes, was varied by the appearance of a murderer from the jail, who came over to have a talk with Major Merrill. He was a lank loose-jointed, unwholesome-looking youth of 21, with a feeble, piping voice, and a dull, simple countenance, that showed little capacity for good or evil intentions. "What did you want to see me about?" asked the major. "I wanted to know what you'd got agin me, major that's all. I'm a pore man, and I've got a wife and two children, and if I don't get to go home I don't know where they'll get bread to eat." "You know what I've got against you as well as I do," said the major. "No, don't jest know what it is," replied the kuklux, after hesitating a while. "You are one of the men that helped kill Charley Goode." There was a long silence. The man fumbled his hat between his knees, changed his position in his chair, and kept his eyes fixed on the floor. Finally he said, in a weak, whining tone, "Major, I never laid a hand on him." "What is the use of lying about it," answered the officer: "I don't ask you to say a word, but if you do say anything, I want it to be the truth. You and three other men killed Charley Goode. You know it, and you know I know it." Then the man told the whole story, or his version of it. "I was a-workin' for Wesley Smith," he said; "and one day Wesley Smith he said to me as how he'd got orders from four chiefs to kill a nigger. And I must go with him. We went out to the road, and met William White and another man, and went down the road together. We met a nigger coming, and Smith he said it was the nigger we was to kill. Then they tied him and took him into the woods, and shot him and pounded his head with the butts of their guns. I jest stood off as far as from here to the hall, and never laid a finger on him. I said, 'Boys don't kill the pore nigger.' I'd nothing again the nigger. I never saw him in my life before, and I don't know why they killed him. They told me if ever I opened my mouth about it they'd kill me too."

Nothing better illustrates the diabolical character of the kuklux order than this murder. Neither of the murderers appear to have had any special animosity against their victim. His death was ordered because he was influential with the colored people, and the men selected to do the deed believed themselves bound to obey the order of their chiefs. The man who made this confession appeared to have no consciousness of guilt or appreciation of the horror of the crime. One of the other men engaged in the murder had previously confessed, and according to his statement this fellow crushed the head of the victim with a rock to make sure he was dead. This he denied, however, and repeated that he "never laid a hand on the nigger—never touched him no way." The fact that he had been ordered to help kill the man, under penalty of death if he disobeyed, appeared to fully justify him with his feeble conscience, for whatever part he had played in the affair.

Life Insurance.

The science of Life Insurance is one in which many are interested, and which comparatively few understand; and yet the theory is perfectly simple. A number of persons associate together and agree to contribute each an annual sum, that will in the aggregate amount to a much larger sum upon the death of any individual of the association. The science of Life Insurance consists in ascertaining, with accuracy, how small a sum may be received as premium and how large an amount may be paid on death. The first thing to settle is the average duration of life—how long has a person to live whose age is known? This is settled by fixed rules, which are the result of experience. There are various tables calculated for different localities, those known as the "Carlisle Tables" are most approved in this country. Out of the money paid in as premiums there must be set aside first a certain sum for expenses, and the remainder must be sufficient to provide for the losses which are certain to occur. Of course the company desire a certain advantage from insurances for short terms, when the term expires without a loss, and from the laps of policies upon which persons neglect or refuse to continue the payment of premiums. The money in the hands of an insurance company increase at the rate of compound interest, the funds being generally sufficient to admit of the interest being invested as soon as received. If, then, a Life Insurance Company receives premium, sufficiently high, to admit of the needful accumulation, and their affairs are otherwise prudently managed, they may go on forever, and be the means of doing an immense deal of good, by furnishing a provision, at the time of all others, when a provision is needed. If, on the other hand, the desire for business or any other cause, induces the company to accept premiums, at too low a rate, or otherwise afford undue facilities to insure, the result, though slow, is certain and well known. The company must, in the end, find itself in a position of inability to meet its engagements. Many companies in accepting risk take note for a portion of the premium, which notes are charged with interest against the policy when loss ensues. It must be manifest that the increase of the note is not so great as would be that of the cash, and therefore the company practicing this system must either receive larger premiums or lose in the same proportion in future security.

Of our American poets, Bryant is now one of the oldest, for Richard H. Dana, Sr., is 10 years older, having been born in 1787. Emerson was born, May 25th, 1803, in Boston; Longfellow was born in Portland, February 27th, 1807. On the maternal side he is descended from John Alden, whose amatory achievements he has celebrated in "The Courtship of Miles Standish". He graduated at Bowdoin college in 1825, having for classmates, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Franklin Pierce, and John S. C. Abbott. Whittier was born near Haverhill in 1808. He spent his youth on his father's farm and in 1829 became editor of a tariff paper in Boston. In later life he edited a paper at Hartford, Ct., succeeding George D. Prentice. In 1840 he removed to Amesbury, where he has since lived. His first book, "Legends of New England in Prose and Verse," was published in 1831. William Ellery Channing was born in Boston in 1818; James Russell Lowell was born at Cambridge, February 22d, 1819, and graduated at Harvard in 1838; Dr. Holland was born at Belchertown in 1819; Bayard Taylor in Chester county, Pa., in 1825.

The *Alta California* ridicules the idea of building a new whaling fleet, as has been suggested, to take the place of that lost a few days since in the Arctic seas. The *California* states that the lost fleet was made up of second-hand vessels, none of which would exceed $15,000 in value. Old ships are always used in the whaling business. Most of the old sailing packets between New York and European ports were put to this work after steamships supplanted them. Many vessels have fallen out of service in the past five years, and could be purchased at prices varying from $5,000 to $6,000. These would answer every purpose whaling demands, as well as new ships. Shipowners will not send a forty thousand dollar ship whaling, when a ten thousand dollar one will answer equally well.

FUN IN THE FAMILY.—What a healthful thing to have one jolly person in the house, ready to laugh at anything ludicrous, or even able to create sport at any time. There are enough to reflect on the sad side of life, and its irritable side, and its sober side. We need one or more to show the mirth that often trembles just below the surface of painful things. A real impetuous laugh dissipates many illusions, sweeps the twilight out of our imaginations, and brings honest daylight. But it must be real. No dry hacking laugh. It should be spontaneous, outbursting, irresistable, infectious. We have seen men fall to laughing, who had not heard the cause of mirth, but only had caught the contagion of other men's laughter. It is hard not to laugh with men who are in earnest about it.

We have had in this country our flash of enthusiasm over the discovery of the Open Polar Sea by Lieut Payer, and our return spasm of doubt and incredulity. As the details of Lieut. Payer's report come to us we are in danger of returning to the first line. Lieut. Payer made this discovery in the Harald Haarfage, a small Norwegian vessel chartered merely for the trip. Lieut. Payer reached the 79th degree north latitude, and states that nothing prevented further progress but want of supplies. He marks out the course between 40 and 42 degs. longitude, through the Nova Zembla Sea to the north, and gives such particulars as to the condition of atmosphere, water, ice, as lead the geographers to see proof of the correctness of the theory that the course of the Gulf Stream extended to the far north, and that this marked out the natural channel to the Polar Sea. The Germans claim that the little vessel was the first to break through the North Pole ice belt, as Ross and Weddell broke through the ice belt of the South Pole. This discovery is announced very modestly. As to how much there is in it, we can soon have abundant evidence. If nothing more is accomplished than the marking out of a new course to the Polar regions, and the discovery of an open sea, where all the charts place a great ice territory, much has been done.

ORDERING TO BE "INTERVIEWED."—"Here's yer nice roast chick'n!" cried an aged colored man, as the cars stopped at a Virginia railroad station. "Here's yer nice roast chick'n taters, all nice and hot," holding his plate aloft and walking the platform.

"Where did you get that chicken, Uncle?" asks a passenger.

Uncle looked at the intruder sharply, and then turns away, crying: "Here's your nice roast chick'n, gentlemen, all hot, hedn't go into the house for dat."

"Where did you get that chicken?" repeats the inquisitive passenger.

"Look-a yer!" says Uncle, speaking privately, "is you from de nort?"

"Yes."

"Is you a friend of de cullud man?"

"I hope I am."

"Den don't you nebber ask me whar I got dat chick'n. Here's yer nice roast chick'n, all hot."

The question of how old a cigar should be before being smoked is often a disputed one. Cubans like a green cigar. The workmen, who ought to know, smoke the cigars as they make them. If you go to a certain well known cigar store in New York, already quite celebrated for its Cuban cigars made in the city, and buy a cigar there, before handing it to you the very courteous Cuban will, with great deliberation, first apply the cigar to his ear. You ask, "What is that for?" "To see, or rather hear, how dry it is. If too dry it will snap very short. I can hear it. A green cigar is soft and makes no noise." "How old ought a cigar to be?" "In two or three weeks in this climate a cigar is dry enough—longer than that does not improve it."

GLUTTONOUS CHRISTIANS.—Morbid conditions of body will inevitably insure darkness of mind, and many of the sins that men fall into may be said to come from morbid conditions of the body. I speak of the irregularities that, though they do not prevent business, yet blunt the sensibilities and hinder perfect development. A violin need not be stringless, yet if the strings are injured the violin is injured. It is not common to find a real sound man—thoroughly healthy. By ignorance and immoderation in diet, men raise more difficulties than they can help with their prayers. I think men overeat their prayers. A man can't eat dyspeptic and live grace. Over-eating makes too much blood that keeps the body lovers in and tending downward. Many men make a practice of eating themselves into stupidity every day. Can a man cultivate the fruits of the spirit when he gormandizes every day till he can scarcely see? How are these traits of peace and joy exist with gluttonous stuffing? Every day the clarity of mind is obscured by overeating. Every man ought to be put into exact knowledge of what his system needs. I find many persons who suffer by under-nutrition. They are white and long, and limp and cold. They need more animal. They are too heavy for the beast they ride. More food would be to them a means of grace.—*H. W. Beecher.*

AUTHORS' JUDGMENT OF THEIR OWN WORK.—There is no greater error than the popular one which attributes to authors an incapacity to determine the comparative merits of their own works. Between them selves and others, their judgments may well be taken with great reserve; but if a writer is also a reader, and a man of anything like liberal culture, he is usually the best judge of the comparative excellence of the work he has done. He alone knows the labor, the fire; the clear-purged vision with which he has wrought. An author will sometimes perversely insist that a piece which has been condemned by the public is his best; but he does not think so any more than a mother really thinks her half-witted child is "the brightest of the family." Bellini knew very well that "Norma" was worth all his other scores. Gounod knows the same of "Faust." When Dr. Holmes is asked for his best poem he sends the collector his "Chambered Nautilus." Dumas said of the "Three Guardsmen" that he never read it without pleasure and profit. Dickens was sure he had touched the ultimate expression of modern fiction in "Barnaby Rudge" and "The Tale of Two Cities," those masterpieces of construction so widely separated in time and purpose. A book is now preparing which is to give what each American poet considers his best verses, and it will probably be a better collection than the best critic could have made.

The skins of the sea-otter and fur-seal are at present so much appreciated and valued for ladies' furs that a few words concerning the animals may not be amiss. The otter is called by the Russians the sea-beaver; and the seal, the sea-cat. The otter's skin is valued from $80 upwards. The fur is soft and black, with numerous white-tipped hairs. It is rare; hence its costliness. The fur seals are more abundant, being found in great numbers among the Aleutian Islands. The skins are smaller than those of the otter, and are valued at about $7 in a raw state. It is stated that they have advanced twenty per cent. in London, recently, on account of a sudden demand which has been made for them. Seal is said to be the leading article in fur in the New York market. A complete set comprises a jacket, muff, boa, cap and gloves. A plain jacket may be obtained for $80.

They have introduced a novel method guard against certain railroad accidents on one of the Michigan lines. This consists simply in placing a bell in front of the boiler of the locomotive, either under or over the headlight, where it is arranged in such a manner that, at each revolution of the driving wheels, it is struck by a hammer, and, therefore, when the train is in motion keeps up a constant din. This, it would seem, must be derogatory to the tympanums of the engineer, fireman, and passengers generally; but people who have traveled on these ringing trains assert that they experience no annoyance, as the bell, under ordinary circumstances, cannot be heard on board of the train, owing to the rapid motion which throws the sound forward, from its position in front of the locomotive, so that it can be heard a considerable distance in advance of the train, thus giving timely warning. The general Superintendent of the road thinks that some recent accidents would have been certainly prevented by the use of this melodious arrangement.

It is related by a foreign paper that four murderers in Russia were recently placed, by way of experiment, in four beds in which cholera patients had lain. They did not know the character of the beds, and did not take the disease. They were then compelled to sleep in new and clean beds, which they were led to believe had been occupied by persons who had died of cholera, when three of them died within four hours. It is a curious instance of the power of the imagination, and, in view of this success, we urge it upon our friends and countrymen to imagine hard all winter that this terrible plague will not visit us next season.

Surface Movements of the Earth.

The old geological theory that from time to time the surface of the earth has been changed by grand catastrophes, which, destroying plants and animals, were, on an immense scale, similar to the local catastrophes produced by volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, has been abandoned by reason of our more correct knowledge, founded on careful observations which investigators have been making for many years. These observations have proved that sudden catastrophes are always merely local; but that all the great changes in the surface of our earth, as the upheaval of mountain ranges and the depression of valleys and their ultimate change into lake and oceans, are gradual and go always on, even at the present day. The mountains bordering the Pacific Ocean, in fact the whole coast of California, are perpetually rising, and have probably been doing so for half a million of years, while all the land containing in its bosom our great American lakes is slowly sinking, with a probable corresponding upheaval of the state of Kentucky, of Southern Indiana and the surrounding countries. Geological investigations prove that once our lakes had their outlets south, till by depression at the north a new outlet was first formed, about forty thousand years ago, through Niagara to the St. Lawrence River. The division line of the lakes and the Mississippi Valley has been slowly traveling southward since that time; and when the city of Chicago recently turned the waters of Lake Michigan up the Chicago River into the Mississippi Valley, she simply re-established the old stage of affairs, which, if the motion in question continues, will be more difficult to maintain in the future than it is now. Fortunately, this motion is very slow, and only a very remote posterity, some thousands of years hence, will meet with the difficulties we now foresee, when the bed of the Chicago River becomes lower and lower at its junction with Lake Michigan.

It appears, further, that the State of New Jersey is sinking, and this is even participated in by the City of New York, Brooklyn, Long Island, &c., at the rate of some sixteen or seventeen inches per century. This is insignificant to be sure, but let it only go on for a thousand years and it is some fifteen feet, so that the new stone docks now commenced in New York City at that time will be totally submerged; but then they will probably not last so long, and the soil of the lower part of the city may be very easily raised half a foot every thirty years. It is evident that the most correct data may be obtained at the sea-shore, as the main height of the ocean possesses a perfect stability. This main height is, of course, obtained by continual observation of the tides under different circumstances, and if anywhere the highest tides reach a higher level then they did one hundred or two hundred years ago, it is a proof of depression or sinking of land.

This depression is going on along the coast of Northern France, Belgium, Holland, and north-west Germany, while the coast of Sweden, along the Baltic, is slowly rising, including the Capital of Sweeden, the city of Stockholm.

The latest scientific journals report two very striking contemporary upheavals in Spain, entirely authentic. The most curious fact is that the short time of scarcely a quarter of a century was sufficient to produce an effect which has surprised every inhabitant who observed the circumstances formerly, and compared them with the present condition. In the province of Jamora, it is observed that from the village of Villar Don Diego, it is now possible to see the upper half of the church steeple of Reniforzes, in the province Valladolid; whereas, twenty-three years ago, the summit of this steeple could only just be perceived. The same thing occurs to the same degree and under the same circumstances in the province of Alva, where from the village of Salvatiera the whole of the village of Salmende can now be seen, while in 1847 the vane of the church steeple could hardly be perceived. These four points are on a line parallel to the system of the Sanserrola Mountains, while the extreme points are one hundred and forty miles apart.

All the movement we speak of here have nothing to do with volcanic eruptions; they are, of course, caused by changed conditions of the interior of the earth's mass, which these facts is proved not to be solid, the opinion of some modern geologist notwithstanding; the earth, if not liquid inside, must at least be soft and plastic, in order to make depressions in one place with simultaneous elevations in another.

One other interesting fact we must mention in this connection; it is that the highest mountains are not the oldest, as one would naturally suppose, but belong to the system last elevated; so the high Swiss Alps are much younger than the lower Shawangunk mountains.—*Monograph on the Rhine.*

The *Nation* contends that the famine in Persia is caused by the absence of trees. Man has stripped the soil of trees, the absence of trees has brought droughts; droughts have slowly diminished the productive powers of the ground, and finally destroyed them. The population, in the meantime, dwindling in numbers and vitality. The extent of the famine in Persia, and the helplessness of the people are not to be understood unless we consider that the country is almost a wilderness, that there has been a three years' drought, and that there are no means of rapid transportation to render a state or prompt available, as in a country with a net work of Railroads. Understanding the extent of the misery of two millions of people, and admitting the possibility that the destruction of forests had some influence in bringing this about, how feasible becomes the argument of our scientific men against the destruction of forests. The people are slow to accept theories. Terrible facts, however, strike down opposition as though they were well aimed bullets.

At the election on Tuesday last in New York City, a woman named Margaret Mailer claimed her right to vote. The ballot was received by the Inspectors, and after she had seen it safely deposited she took her triumphant march homeward amid the cheers always bestowed upon the conquering hero. The Mrs. or Miss (the dispatches fail to tell us if Margaret be matron or spinster) has taken the wind out of the sails of the firm of Woodhull & Claflin, and stands forth as the veritable champion of the Woman's Rights movements. The "lords of creation" may as well prepare to knock under gracefully, consoling themselves with the old adage respecting feminine determination, that

When she will, she will,
You may depend on it;
And when she won't she won't
So there's an end on't.

In one of the Ohio towns a citizen had rendered himself obnoxious to the rest of the community, so he was placed in the hands of a vigilance committee for treatment. The chairman of the committee made the following report: We took the thief down to the river, made a hole in the ice, and proceeded to duck him, but he slipped through our hands and hid under the ice. All our efforts to entice him out failed, and he has now retained his point of advantage some hours.

Four ladies of Galesburg, Ill., who were out collecting for the Chicago relief fund, came upon a venerable copperhead who said their whole story was an abolition lie, but finally remarked that he had a patch of potatoes, that, "if they had a mind to dig them, they could have all they wanted." Not at all daunted, the ladies got some shovels, dug twenty bushels that afternoon, and came back next day and finished the patch, to the old man's intense disgust.

Gone Back on Woman Suffrage.

The law of the Territory of Wyoming, permitting women to vote, has finally been repealed. The act of repeal passed the House some days since, all the Democrats voting Yea, and all the Republicans Nay. In the Council the vote stood five Yeas to four Nays—politics of the voters on either side not mentioned. The Democrats originally took the lead in giving women the suffrage, in the hope of winning their votes; but being disappointed in this, they have now voted to expunge their own work.

A girl called to apply for a place in Boston. The lady of the house asked for her reference. "I have lived for five years at my last place," said the girl; "if you want to know any more about me ask Father Hawley." The lady was favorably impressed with a girl who have lived five years without changing her place, but she concluded to call on Father Hawley. "Do you know a girl named Miss So-and-So?" "Yes;" All correct so far; but as the lady turned to go Father Hawley said: "Do you know where her last place was?" "No, she did not mention that." "It was in the State Prison."

Strangely do people talk of getting over a great sorrow; overleaping it, passing it by, thursting it into oblivion. Not so. No one ever does that—at least no nature which can be touched by the feeling of grief at all. The only way is to pass through the ocean of affliction solemnly, slowly, with humility and faith, as the Israelites passed through the sea. Then its very waves of misery will divide and become to us a wall on the right side and on the left, until the gulf narrows and narrows before our eyes, and we land safe on the opposite shore.—*Miss Mulock.*

Gambling has been prohibited by law in the great German Empire. A decree has gone forth to the effect that after a certain date all the gambling saloons must be closed. Switzerland follows the example, the authorities of the city of Berne having determined to revive and enforce the laws against gambling. Whether these measures will tend to correct the morals of those countries or not, remains to be seen. They are, certainly, proper steps to take, and the public conscience will now be clear of responsibility in the matter. So long as these institutions are sanctioned by the popular voice, so long will the public be measurably responsible for the evils which result therefrom.

"Fighting Joe Hooker" is as brave in speech as he was on the battle field. At the recent reunion of the army of the Cumberland at Detroit he was called on for a speech. In the course of his remarks he had occasion to speak in the highest term of General Thomas, saying that as a General he was always at the front, and always successful, but of General McClellan it was different. Of him, he said: "You might have fastened a locomotive to him and you could not have drawn him to the front." Gen Hooker's opinion is entitled to consideration.

At about the time of the Rosenzweig-Bochioki excitement in New York, the veteran editor of the *Tribune* seemed to have got somewhat extravagant in his denunciations of all physicians whose names suggested themselves to his mind. Among other doctors who were thus summarically damned was Wm. Paine Dean, of the Philadelphia Medical University. Dr. Dean resented the impeachment, the other day, by bringing a suit against the *Tribune* for $30,000 damages. Shall we hear from Mr. Greeley next on "What I know About Libel Suits"? A friend at our elbow suggests that we may, unless he is anticipated by the editor of the *News.*

El Tato is the celebrated matador at Valencian who lost his leg last year. When King Amadeus attended the bull fight at that place the crippled hero sat next the King. On rising to go the King gave him some cigars and a piece of money. During the tumult of applause which followed, one man shouted, "Long live the democracy!" then hearing no response, cleverly added, "of our King," which pleased the multitude immensly. Latter in the day the King attended a secondrate "people's theater."

Mont Cenis having been tunneled for the purposes of trade and travel, a like enterprise is now suggested in relation to Mont Gothaan. The construction of a tunnel here will involve much greater difficulties than at Mont Cenis, not only on account of the length, which will be twice that of the latter, but because of the rivers whose channels must be passed under. The company in charge of this grand undertaking, in addition to their own capital, expect to receive from Switzerland a large subsidy.

A DEPOPULATED COUNTRY.—In Ireland three fourths of the arable land is said to be in grass. This has so decreased the demand for labor that the amount of wages paid on a farm of two hundred and fifty acres is often only one hundred dollars. This amount pays a man and boy to herd the cattle. No wonder that this country is the land of promise to poor Pat.

A little five-year-old boy was being instructed in morals by his grandmother. The old lady told him that all such terms as "by golly," "by jingo," "by thunder," etc., were only little oaths, and but little better than other profanities. In fact, she said, he could tell a profane oath by the prefix "by." All such were oaths. "Well, then, grandmother," said the little hopeful, "is 'by telegraph,' which I see in the newspapers, swearing?" "No," said the old lady, "that's only lying."

Dr. Mary E. Walker recently attended the Republican town caucus at Oswego N. Y., and cast her ballot, objections to her doing so being overruled. She voted against Judge Churchill, of that city, upon whom she has declared war, because he did not collect for her from the Government a claim of $40,000 for spy service, which the Doctor claimed she had rendered.

General Grant has directed the Postmaster-General to investigate charges made against Mr. Prosser, ex-member of Congress from Tennessee and Postmaster of Nashville, to the effect that he accepted pay for getting certain claims through Congress.

Indian Joe, a Piute medicine man, was lately stoned to death by his tribe for having failed to cure two sick Indians. Among the Indians the rule seems to be: No cure, sure death.

Mr. Thomas Hughes is at the head of a movement in London to replace the Chicago Library, which was destroyed by the recent fire. There is fair prospect that a large sum of money will be raised.

A Frenchman cannot pronounce "ship." The word is "sheep" in his mouth. Seeing an iron-clad, he said to a boy, "Is dis a war sheep?" "No," answered the boy, "It's a ram."

Olive Logan, it is said, will wed some "nice young man" on Christmas day. In anticipation of the happy event, she has purchased a hand-some residence in New York. Who is the lucky individual?

A gentleman of Herts has a favorite pig, which he has called Maude. His explanation is that he did so because she is continually "coming into the garden."

Mr. Gladstone, though distinguished as an equestrian, is no less so as a pedestrian, and when returning from his recent official residence at Balmoral Castle, he walked the distance from the castle to Clove, a distance of 26 miles.

An English woman, resident of Algiers, has married a Bedouin Arab, stating that she did so in "the interest of science."

Rev. Robert Collyer has presented to the Boston Young Men's Christian Union his original anvil, and it is now on its way from Chicago.

Brick Pomeroy and Sunset Cox are the two largest contributors to the Lee Monument fund in New York, though the former only gave $10.

It may sound strange, but yet it is a fact that, until within a fortnight, dog-butchering, for food purposes, was carried on in Paris, and only put down by force of law.

It is difficult to understand why some people concern themselves about their lungs, when their lungs take air of themselves.

Jim Fisk thinks that the devil is in all women. "For instance," says James "there is Helen Josephine Mansfield."

The floor of a New Hampshire stable fell out lately, and three cows that were hitched to the stalls were hanged.

LIST OF LETTERS REMAINING Uncalled for in Salem Postoffice, Dec. 20, 1871:

Ashby, Mrs Nancy A

Bronson, Linneas
Beckett, J W
Bell, Mrs Anna
Bewley, Mrs Isaac