THE PURITANS.

BY OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

When the Puritans came over,
Our hills and swamps to clear,
The woods were full of catamounts,
And Indians red as deer,
With tomahawks and scalping-knives,
That made folks' heads look queer;
O the ship from England used to bring
A hundred wigs a year!

The crows came cawing through the air
To pluck the Pilgrims' corn,
The bears came snuffing round the door
Whenever a babe was born,
The rattlesnakes were bigger round
Than the butt of the old ram's-horn
The deacon blew at meeting-time
On every "sabbath" morn.

But soon they knocked the wigwams down,
And pine-tree trunk and limb
Began to sprout among the leaves
In shape of steeples slim,
As out of the little wharves were stretched
Along the ocean's rim,
And up the little schoolhouse shot
To keep the boys in trim.

And when at length the college rose,
The sachem cocked his eye
At every tutor's meager ribs
Where coat-tails wagged by;
But when the Greek and Hebrew words
Came tumbling from their jaws,
The copper-colored children all
Ran screaming to the squaws.

They had not then the dainty things
That commons now afford,
But succotash and hominy
Were smoking on the board;
They did not rattle round in gigs,
Or dash in long-tail blues,
But always on Commencement days,
The tutors blacked their shoes.

God bless the ancient Puritans!
Their lot was hard enough;
But bless[illegible] hearts make iron arms,
And tender maids are tough;
So love and faith have formed and fed
Our true-born Yankee stuff,
And kept the kernel in the shell
The British found so rough!

EINFACH.—ONE-FOLD.

BY BERTHA SCRANTON.

I.

And so the battle is nearly done
And the shield will be laid away,
For the golden bronze of the evening sun
Slants over the meadow gray.
'Tis a long, long strife to the end, sweet wife,
The end just a myrtle crown,
Two billows of green with a cross between,
Where we lay our crosses down.

II.

The way has been dark at times, and drear,
With the dripping of tears between,
When the steady clasp of your hand in mine
Has been all that has made it green,
But the sunlight broke when your smile
awoke,
And the valleys of rest were sweet
When the hills were passed and the earth at
last
Grew soft to our aching feet.

III.

One love, one home, one heaven before,
One fold in heart and life,
And the old love still, it will last us through,
To the journey's end, sweet wife;
And, reaching on when this life is done,
It will live, and thrive, and grow,
With a deathless flame, and a deeper name
Than our mortal loves can know.

IV.

The wayside guides upon life's broad track,
How oft have we read in fears!
We've traced the lesson with whitened lips,
When we could not pray for tears!
Some lie so small, and some so tall,
But all are green at last,
We hold them children in our hearts,
And keep them close and fast!

V.

As I some have heard life's sweetest tale,
And some its saddest song.
We leave them all to Him whose love
Can never be blind or wrong!
While we turned back, look o'er the track,
And wave of greeting send,
The paths lay wide, and the way beside,
But all lead to one end!

VI.

So, slowly, as for days or years,
We journey on the way,
And in the west the amber light
Proclaims a dying day,
And what, though life die out, sweet wife,
And its signal fire burns low?
For a glory white that against the night
Like a watch-fire seems to glow!

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

THE SNOW BLOCKADE.

CORINNE, U. T. Feb. 10.—A dispatch from Rawlins says a person returned from western-bound trains, who left there yesterday, says the first train west is five miles from Rawlins; snow drifting badly, and engineers shoveling snow into banks to keep alive. A dispatch from Bitter Creek reports no trains passed west yet, nor have any passenger trains passed between there and Rawlins. There is no prospect of getting through.

EASTERN NEWS.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 10.—The *Journal* this morning publishes a letter from Vice President Coltax referring to a telegram from this city to the effect that the effort being made to secure for him the Republican nomination for President, and saying that no such effort was being made anywhere by my wish or authority, publicly or privately, but by speeches and letters I have invariably declared myself in favor of President Grant's renomination. Have so written to every friend in Indiana who asked my opinion. He adds that he hopes his name will not be mentioned in the Indiana State Convention in this connection, and that the Convention will declare unanimously in favor of Grant's renomination, and takes occasion to say that he will not accept the nomination for Vice President, but will support any other candidate for that position.

OMAHA, Feb. 10.—Governor James, accepted as Governor since the impeachment of Butler, left the State yesterday P. M., going East on business. J. S. Haskell, President of the Senate, left this place also yesterday P. M. for the Capital, and this morning we have a proclamation from him as Acting Governor, convening the State Legislature. A call is made, among other things, for the purpose of taking action as to when any offices shall be vacated and the manner of filling the same; and also for the official investigation of conduct of army officers, and, if deemed expedient, their impeachment. It is claimed that this is sharp practice, with the intention of impeaching the absent Governor, who lately prorogued the Legislature, in which case Haskell would become Acting Governor of the State. The Legislature is called to meet Feb. 15th. Governor James will probably be back in two or three days.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 10.—Thirty five deaths from small-pox occurred last week.

Steps are being taken to invite the Japanese Embassy to visit this city.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—Connolly's bail will justify.

On Monday's indictments for conspiracies are embraced the name of Tweed, P. B. and James M. Sweeny, Ed Woodward and Hugh Smith, are charged with defrauding, through vouchers, for over $500,000 paid to J. H. Keyser. Warrants have been issued for the arrest of Smith, Woodward and James M. Sweeny, their bail having not been tendered. John J. Bradley is Peter B. Sweeny's bail.

Mayor Hall believes if he was disposed he could quash the indictments against him on the following grounds: 1st—The Grand Jury violated the law by transacting much of their business outside of the jury room. 2d—The indictment found against him was from testimony he furnished them. 3d—No opportunity was given him of challenging the jury, as he had a right to do, and the jury not being legally constituted,—they not being residents.

Peters B. Sweeney is at his residence. He returned to the city upon receiving intimation of the intention of the Grand Jury. His friends feel confident that he will be able to establish his innocence.

SIOUX CITY, Feb. 12.—The *Journal* of this city publishes a highly sensational report received from a teamster in the employ of John Smith, post trader on the Spotted Tail reservation, in the Black Hills. He returned from the Black Hills with Smith's train on Tuesday last. When about 200 miles from the reservation a party of Indians came up and reported that Spotted Tail with his band, then on their return from a buffalo hunt with Grand Duke Alexis, were overtaken by a terrible rain storm, and the whole party had perished. Rain froze as fast as it fell, and the whole country was covered with ice from four to six inches in thickness.

The storm was of several hours' duration. No living being unsheltered could have survived it. There is strong probability that the story has some foundation. Smith's train was in the same storm, although not as severe, being further south. They were obliged to seek shelter in a canyon in the mountains and remain there four days, during which time their sufferings were intense. Teams due at Fort Randall are expected to reach there tomorrow, when something definite will be known.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—A dispatch to the *Herald* from Quebec says that Mr. Lanwin, Minister of Public Works, denies the truth of the rumor as to the ready separation between Great Britain and Canada. Lieut. Gov. Betemu and Premier Canvean, also make the same denial.

A Washington dispatch says the answer of the Government to Earl Granville's note on the Alabama question was as little to the purpose as Granville's communication. The text of the latter document, however, is not yet received at Washington, or knowledge of its contents been founded on that sent by cable.

The Custom House Committee has examined during the five weeks' session, 153 witnesses. Fifty-six were summoned but not examined and 37 were on the list but not summoned. The entire expenses will be about $6,000.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—A special to the London *Dispatch* says that Minister Schenck communicated by note to the English Government on the recent language of Glad-stone which was deemed an imputation on the good faith of the United States. The note is regarded as a proper assertion of the dignity of his Government, and will, it is likely, be answered in the most friendly manner, deprecating our diplomatic application towards the United States in the heat of debate.

Bismarck has offered the Governments at Washington and London his good offices in effecting an agreement in relation to the Alabama claims.

The English Government is anxious to avoid any misunderstanding with the authorities at Washington, and a compromise is hoped for at an early day.

A Washington dispatch says the President expressed his gratification at the temperance of the Americans on the excited comments of the English press, on our case before the Geneva Conference. If the English Government withdraws he thinks the United States cannot agree with honor to any new negotiations.

A New York special says the Catholic Irish of this and adjoining cities are intensely engrossed over the trouble with England and seem confident that there will be war. They are very anxious that there should be and are delighted with the idea. Circles have been holding meetings, passing violent resolutions and pledging themselves to stand by their adopted country through thick and thin. They declare that they can raise at least 100,000 men in and about here within sixty days after war is declared, and half a dozen Americans familiar with the sea have made arrangements to fit out privateers from this port at once in the event of hostilities beginning. It is believed that fifty privateers would leave here in two months, there is any amount of capital and any number of sailors for such enterprises, which are extremely popular in this country.

WSHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Information has been received at the General Land Office of extensive frauds by land speculators in southwestern Kansas. The lands in question are open only to actual settlers. In order to evade the law a well organized system has been arranged by which the lands were entered by false representations of settlement by parties upon fictitious names and by manufacturing bogus testimony. The Government officials are prosecuting the offenders.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—There is no new development relative to the treaty. Our government is not disposed to modify its statement of the case. No reply can be made to Lord Granville's note to General Schenck until the exact text is received, which is expected here this week. There has been much interest manifested, but no unusual excitement up to the present; in facts or appearances, there is not anything to indicate that even should England recede from the treaty, results would follow more serious in their consequences than the situation before the treaty was negotiated. Nothing has even been hinted in official circles about strengthening our national defenses to meet a possible contingency, and no one has publicly expressed the opinion that such measures will be necessary.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

LONDON, Feb. 10.—The *Times* says it is morally certain that an attempt to settle the Alabama claims before the Geneva Board will be a failure. We must therefore make an effort to prevent angry remonstrances. If we are successful, the time is possibly near when we may settle all difficulties.

Great anxiety is manifested for the latest news from America relative to the Alabama claims. A special dispatch from New York and Washington to the press, is posted on the 'Change bulletin board and surrounded by large crowds. Yesterday's debate in the Senate on Edmunds' resolution is fully reported by cable together with extracts from editorials of leading New York journals.

SOUTH AMERICA.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—A recent outbreak of fanaticism in the town of Jundle, in one of the Argentine States, resulted in a fearful massacre. Gauches, excited to frenzy by a man named Silune, made a sudden attack on the foreigners. The latter taken by surprise, were unable to defend themselves, and before the authorities could stop the slaughter, thirty were killed. The assassins were then attacked by the troops. They fled, but were surprised and sixteen shot and twenty-four taken prisoners.

MEXICO.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—Matamoras dispatches says that Cortinas' forces have been so reduced by casualities and disturbances since leaving Camargo that he cannot keep the field, and is expected at Matamoras to-night with the remnant of his command. Many of his horses were starved to death.

Tooveans, Nargena and Guerra united their forces to 6,000 men to attack San Duis Potosi, held by Rocha with 2,000 Government troops.

UTAH.

SALT LAKE, Feb. 10.—There is said to be much sickness and suffering among passengers of snowbound trains. The distance separating them from Ogden is three hundred and ten miles and some of it bad road. It is snowing here to-day and a heavy storm this afternoon.

Minister DeLong explains that the visit to Brigham Young was not intended by him or the Embassy; that he and the Embassy were escorted by the city authorities, or a committee, and taken to Brigham's house, after visiting other places, not knowing where they were going, and had not thought of paying Brigham attention beyond what might be proper to any private citizen.

Brigham Young has been quite ill for the past two days. He is said to be failing in strength rapidly.

The election to-morrow for city officers promises to be exciting. The liberals are doubtful of success, but they are determined to show their full strength.

The total signatures of indorsement of Judge McKean are 5,000.

EUROPEAN.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—In the House of Lords, this evening, the Duke of Argyle announcing that the Government had received official information of the assassination of the Governor General of India (Earl Mayo), and with several other Lords pronounced eulogies on the deceased.

The *News* asserts that the public opinion in Germany is strong in condemnation of the course pursued by the United States Government in connection with the Alabama claims.

Gladstone, in replying to a question in the Commons to-day, stated that the case the American Government has submitted to the Geneva Board of Arbitration has not yet been printed, and it would therefore be unjust to publish the document at present.

BERLIN, Feb. 12.—Bancroft, the American Minister, has completed his reply to the British case on the San Juan boundary question, and will immediately submit it to the arbitration of Emperor William. A copy has been dispatched to Washington.

VIENNA, Feb. 12.—The *Presse*, in an article upon the claims of America before the Board at Geneva, says that England has probably learned that the opinion of the Board will be unfavorable. The conduct of that nation during the civil war in America, in the opinion of that journal, was reprehensible, and it fears the consequences of her course.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—Prayers were offered yesterday in all the churches at Sheffield for the prevention of war between England and the United States.

EASTERN NEWS.

CHICAGO, Feb. 13.—A Washington special says Gerry of Michigan announced in the Senate yesterday that he would offer a bill for the relief of Chicago, which takes away duty on building material, and a substitute for the appropriation of $4,000,000 from the Treasury for the benefit of that city.

NEW YORK, Feb. 13.—At the Susquehanna depot on Sunday last, three employes of the Erie Railway nearly burned a little negro boy to death by throwing kerosene over his legs, while he was asleep. They allowed the burning to continue until the boy's legs were roasted to the bone in several places. The fiends have not been discovered.

A London dispatch says at a meeting of the Anglo-American Association last night, to consider questions before the Geneva arbitrators for indirect damages, a resolution was adopted that it would not publicly discuss the Alabama difficulty while there was hope of its being settled in a friendly spirit.

CHICAGO, Feb. 13.—Both the *Times* and *Tribune* of this morning, condemn the action of Secretary Boutwell in the selection of a site for the Government buildings in this city. As it has been made in advance of the report of the committee appointed to condemn and appraise the former site, they intimate that the decision is in the interest of a ring of speculators. The site selected is in the second block south of the old Post-office and is bounded by Adams, Jackson, Clark and Dearborn streets.

At a meeting of the City Council last night, the following communication was received from the Mayor, and a committee appointed in accordance with the suggestions contained therein:

"GENTLEMEN.—I am advised that the Japanese Embassy, which left Yeddo on the 23d of December last, is now at Salt Lake, waiting a removal of the snow blockade to proceed eastward. They may be expected to be here within a few days, and will probably stop a short time to look at the city and exchange greetings with its officers and citizens. I therefore recommend that some preparation be made to show proper attention to the Embassy during their stay. It is unquestionably the most important delegation that has left the Empire of Japan. The Chief Embassador, Iwakura, holds a high official and social position in the Empire. He is reported to be third in rank in his country—the Mikado, or Emperor, and one other personage only outranking him. He is represented to be one of the ablest and keenest statesmen of Japan, and at the same time a convert to the principle of foreign intercourse and toleration. Iwakura is accompanied by five assistant embassadors of considerable rank, and all are said to be men of talent and ability. Two are members of the Council of State, one the Minister of Finance, one Minister of Public Works, and one Foreign Minister. With these are numerous secretaries, some of whom act as interpreters. There are also a score or more of Commissioners of various Departments in the Japanese Empire, one of them from the Board of Religious Rights, and others are in the capacity of servants to investigate and collect information of all kinds in the countries they may visit. The American Minister to Japan accompanies the Embassy. The special object of this Mission, as publicly avowed, is to study and scrutinize the political, commercial, religious, educational and social institutions of America and Europe, for the friendship and enlightenment of Oriental nations." [Here the wire broke.]

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 12.—Gov. Hoffman vetoed the bill recently passed by the Legislature for the protection of taxpayers on the ground that its provisions are disapproved by the Judges of the Court of Appeals, as they may defeat its very objects by divesting municipalities of all title to begin an action to recover their property.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 12.—The House of Representatives to-day, by a vote of 70 to 9, adopted a resolution demanding the resignation of Sawyer and Robertson, on account of their opposition to Sumner's civil rights amendments to the Amnesty bill.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Feb. 12.—The City Council elected Miss S. J. Williams City Physician.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—A *World* special from Tallahassee, Florida, says Gov. Reed has been impeached, and that Day, of Florida, Republican, has been appointed Governor.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—In the Senate, Sumner offered a long preamble setting forth the alleged manufacture and sale of arms and ammunition in the works of the Government for the French, to be used against Germany in 1870, and a resolution for the appointment of a select committee of seven to investigate what ordnance stores were made by the Government of the United States during the war between France and Germany, to what persons they were delivered, for whom they were made, the circumstances under which they were made, the real parties in interest, and the sums respectively paid and received for them. The committee is to have power to send for persons and papers, and to conduct the examination in public. The motion went over until to-morrow.

In the House, Perry offered a resolution that the Congress should not adjourn until it shall have passed a law to enforce reform in the civil service. Ordered printed.

The *World's* special from London says the conflict of opinion in England on the Alabama claims question increases. A meeting of workingmen will soon be held to oppose the course of the Government, and demand an immediate settlement of the claims—the sum paid to the United States to be subsequently recovered from the builders of the vessels which caused the damages.

A party in Parliament is preparing to move for the resignation of the present Ministry, on the ground of its blinding incapacity, and the formation of a Cabinet which shall propose the settlement of the American claims on a new basis.

CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 13.—The charity calico ball at Platt's Hall last evening was attended by 2,500 persons. Two hundred and fifty couples danced at once. Over $2,000 will be cleared.

The Woman Suffragists, generally designated the "Hen Convention," met this morning at Pacific Hall and organized by the election of Mrs. Snow as President, and Miss Collins Secretary. About forty delegates were in attendance. Mrs. De Wolf, Mrs. L. Lee, Mrs. Waterhouse, Mrs. Higby and Mrs. Whitney were appointed a committee for the nomination of officers for the ensuing year. A small gentleman, with his hair parted in the middle, name not heard distinctly, then made a speech.

Arrived—Steamer Pacific, Victoria.

Stocks are again on the rise. There was a large and exciting session at the new Board to-day.

The father of Frederick the Great, on his death-bed, was warned by M. Roloff, his spiritual adviser, that he was bound to forgive his enemies. He was quite troubled, and after a moment's pause said to the queen, "You, Feekin, may write to your brother (the King of England) after I am dead, and tell him that I forgive him, and died at peace with him." "It would be better," M. Roloff mildly suggested, "that your majesty should write at once." "No," was the stern reply. "Write after I am dead. That will be safer."

This may be another version of the story of a man who, supposing he was about to die, expressed to one who had injured him his forgiveness, but added: "Now you mind, if I get well the old grudge holds good."

History of Writing.

On the coasts of the Red Sea, and afterwards on the coasts of the Mediterranean Sea, opposite the Island of Cyprus, in a district surrounded by mountains, and scarcely one thousand miles in extent, there lived a remarkable people—the Phenicians.

In very ancient times—perhaps two thousand years before Christ—they were celebrated as a commercial people; to them, also, many useful discoveries and inventions are ascribed; but the most important gift that they gave to the world was the art of writing, which is supposed to have been invented by one of their number, named Taaut (called by the Egyptians, Thot), eighteen or nineteen hundred years after the creation of the world.

Before this art was known, various troublesome and inadequate means were employed to preserve the remembrance of events or other notable occurrences. Parents made past and current events part of the education of their children, but the means employed for that purpose were such that it was easily forgotten or perverted. These events were introduced into song, committed to memory, and from time to time publicly recited. Pictures were employed in order to give the thoughts and words a form and shape; these representations were gradually curtailed; arbitrary signs were added, and a single figure used to represent several things. All this carried great disadvantages with it, especially as such picture-writing had numerous signs, and some of ambiguous meaning. At length in writing with letters, a small number of signs were found, which, along with the sounds that are produced on reading them, are closely related to one another, and express, not things, but merely words; these, however, being put together in different combinations, made all things to be comprehended by the mind through the eye.

The art of writing probably descended from the Phenicians to the Assyrians, Israelites, and Egyptians; these nations shared it with the Greeks and Romans, who communicated it to the rest of Europe.

In the earliest times, men wrote upon stone, lead, wood, palm leaves, bark, cloth, and the skin and intestines of animals; ivory and sea-shells were also use for this purpose. At length the Egyptians introduced paper, which they made from the plant papyrus, found on the banks of the Nile; and finally our linen and cotton papers were introduced.

The instruments used in writing changed according to the nature of the material written upon. As long as the written materials were hard, the style was employed, which, in ancient times was made of iron, afterwards of bone. Men wrote on the Egyptian paper with the reed, which was our nearly as our pens are. Goose-quills were not probably used before the invention of linen paper.

The ink used for writing on paper was prepared from soot, which gave the letters a yellow appearance. Subsequently a very thick ink was used, prepared from tartar, charcoal and vitriol. Straight lines were drawn with a rule and pencil made of lead. Titles were frequently written in cinnabar; the lines were divided with vermillion or other red colors; hence the ancient derivations of the appellations "paragraph and "rubric."

Sacred and other standard works of import were written in gold and silver, which was the most beautiful and costly mode of writing known to the ancients.

At first either no marks of punctuation were used, or a point like our period was placed at the end of every word, and the words were all joined together as one; hence it was difficult to understand a book, and this was the cause of the many mistakes that were made by copyists. Under the reign of the Egyptian king, Ptolemy Epiphanes, several marks of punctuation were said to have been used. In the time of the Apostles a period was placed at the end of the word and at the top of the line, in the center or at the bottom. The first was equal to one period, the second to our colon, and the last to our semi-colon or comma. But this was useful only to the learned. At length, as many words were written together in one line as were necessary to form an intelligible sentence, or a blank space was left, or a period was made when the sense changed. Charles the Great, Emperor of Germany, who flourished in the eight century, contributed very much to the introduction of our present marks of punctuation.

The Hebrews, Arabians and Assyrians, wrote from write to left. The Phenicians wrote at one time from right to left, and then from left to right alternately. The Greeks at first adopted the same method, but afterwards, finding it more convenient to write from left to right, this became their practice, and in which they have been followed by all European nations. The Chinese and Japanese write perpendicularly, from top to bottom—*The Writing Teacher.*

Some rich and avaricious monks near Mudlebain attempted to wrest by force from a young man his family estate. He saw no hope of saving his land by legal or equitable means, so offered to relinquish the land after he had sown one more crop, and it was harvested when ripe. This the monks joyfully agreed to, and willingly signed a contract to that effect, and waited for the appearance of the crop, which they hoped soon to see removed, and themselves possessors of the land. They watched eagerly for it. When it appeared, was neither wheat nor any kind of grain; the ground was covered with the green leaves of young oaks. They were fairly out-witted; and the years that saw the oaks still in their sturdy prime, looked on the graves of the monks and at last the crumbling ruins of the monastery itself.

SULPHUR IN LOUISIANA.—The *Recent Creolinian* says:—"We learn that two companies are already at work developing the lately discovered sulphur bed of Louisiana. The bed, or layer of sulphur, commences at a depth of 428 feet from the surface of the ground, and terminates at 540 feet, the bed having thus a thickness of 112 feet. The proportion of sulphur is 60 per cent. at the top of the bed, the proportion increasing rapidly as we descend, being 90 per cent. at a depth of 483 feet. The proportion then gradually diminished. The sulphur appears in compact and amorphous masses, of a pale color, interspersed here and there with yellow crystals. It is surrounded by a calcareous, crystalline matrix of whitish color, and rather considerable hardness, but which, nevertheless, is easily reduced to powder under the stroke of the hammer. The general analysis of the deposit yields 77 per cent. of pure sulphur.

THE RIGHT PERSUASION.—In terrible agony, a soldier lay dying in the hospital. A visitor asked him, "What church are you of?" "Of the Church of Christ," he replied. "I mean, of what persuasion are you," then inquired the visitor. "Persuasion?" said the dying man, as his eyes looked heavenward, beaming with love to the Saviour; "I am persuaded that neither death, or life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor hight, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate me from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus."

The emperor of China is soon to be married, and has imported a pair of elephants to assist at the ceremony. His future consort is undergoing a careful training in the etiquette of court life. For three years looms of Naukin, Hongchou and Canton have been engaged on the silks and satins for her bridal trousseau, and just now they are announced as completed, at a cost of nearly half a million in our money. When the bridegroom, who has the sun for his emblem, goes forth in a car drawn by elephants, his bride, who represents the moon, is to be borne to her palace in a palanquin composed entirely of strings of pearls.

Hon. Geo. W. Julian has announced his continued adherence to the Republican party, and his determination to keep out of politics until his health improves. Mr. Julian has been much perplexed of late years by a certain class, where censures would be honorable, but it has not impaired his sterling sense.

OUR ARCTIC POSSESSIONS.

The Fur Seal Fisheries of Alaska.

The report of the Special Agent of the Treasury Department, on the Fur Seal Fisheries contains considerable interesting matter:

The past winter has been the most severe in long-continued cold weather in the memory of the oldest inhabitant of the Island. On the 5th of February large bodies of drift-ice came down from the north, enveloping the island on all sides, and did not finally disappear until May, a period of ninety days. Although no considerable ice formed along the shores of the island, huge sheets of this drift-ice three or four feet thick, were pushed by the tide high up on the shore and remained obstructing the rookeries until late in June before melting. Owing to this cause, the seals were a month later than usual in landing, and many landed in a crippled condition, exhibiting evidence of having suffered injury in washing through the large bodies of ice to the south of the island.

SKINS TAKEN DURING 1871, UP TO JULY 31ST.

On St. Pauls:	
May, for native food	418
June	20,052
July	24,705
Cut skins rejected	335
	45,510
St. George Island, as per report of Special Agent, Samuel Falconer, up to July 31st	17,000
Total on both islands up to July 31st, 1871	62,503

Beside the above 1 per cent. should be allowed for loss by heating while driving and otherwise; this will cover all seals killed at the Islands.

During the interval between July 1st, the date of the Act authorizing the lease and its promulgation at the islands, October 10th, there were killed on St. Paul's, 5,449; on St. George, 4,087 animals for food for the natives. These were mostly one-year-old seals, and their skins are not of prime value. Of these, there were reserved in accordance with plans stated in my report July 14, 1871, and salted on Government account, on St. Paul's, 2,040, and St. George, 1,500 skins. These are the same mentioned in my report of May 19, 1871, the necessary order for the shipment of which miscarried by mail, and I only received the certified copy at the date of my leaving the island, when no opportunity occurred for shipping them, the steamer being loaded to her fullest capacity with skins belonging to her owners. The remainder of these skins are in the hands of the Alaska Commercial Company; not being worth the tax, are left on the islands.

Philosophy of Tippling.

It's an old piece of advice, but it's worth repetition: Don't drink freely of spirits. Don't drink because you are despondent, because you are dull, because you want excitement, or because you feel gay and would feel gayer. Drink for despondency? For every blue devil so driven away ten will reinforce him. Drink against dullness?—For the few days of fleeting, baleful light so brought to you, there shall afterwards come clouds as thick and black as those which once darkened the heavens over Herculaneum and Pompeii. Three times out of four the blues means a torpid liver. Bad blood sent to the brain generates gloomy thoughts. The life current is not circulating through your body with sufficient power to keep the many and varied departments in proper action. Alcohol gives it a spasmodic impulse. The wheels of the machinery for a few moments are seen whizzing and spinning around; then comes reaction, and they turn more sluggishly than ever. The only good spirits in the world are resident in good blood, the purest source of life in health. "Tis that which sends fire imaginative, suspicious and despondences to the brain. Moderate tippling is the enemy of dyspepsia, but obstructions in any degree will cause you to overrate your power, and distort your judgment. The reaction causes you to underrate and sinks you in your self esteem. So the drinking man lives on a seesaw—now up in the false sunshine of vanity, now down in the gulfs of self-depreciation. So the devilish spirit of wine plays with insanity, and well it earns the title of "Mocker."

A rencounter during that Wharton trial on Friday between the attorney-general and Dr. Warren, a witness for the defence, relative to the demerits and failings characteristic of members of their respective professions, gave a spiciness to the otherwise dry proceedings, and was peculiary edifying to the laymen present. The attorney-general remarked to the doctor, that physicians ought to be able to give an opinion of a disease without making mistakes; to which the latter retorted that they were as capable as lawyers. The attorney-general continued the conversation by saying, "Doctors' mistakes are buried six feet under the ground, lawyer's are not," and the doctor aptly replied: "But they are sometimes hanged on a tree." If professional gentlemen will wash their dirty linen in public, they must pay the penalty for so doing, and not complain if outsiders give credit to their assertions. It is a pity that all three of the learned professions were not represented in this entertaining dispute. A triple *duel a la* Midshipman Easy would have combined amusement and instruction to a degree not often vouchsafed.

CULTIVATING CONVERSATION.—There is no reason, says the *Saturday Review*, why good conversation should be so rare, though it is not an accomplishment which comes by accident. Men and women will only really learn to converse when conversation, in the true sense of the word, is familiar to them at home. But to converse, in other words to find fresh subjects and treat them freshly; to preserve a tone of lightness and ease without falling into frivolity; to know how to avoid mere discussion and controversy, and yet to deal with topics of real interest and value; to perceive when a theme is sufficiently exhausted, and when the moment has come for a digression; how to check one member of the circle, or to draw out the other; how to give their proper place even to jest and repartee—all this is no easy matter. It requires forethought and trouble and a little organization. But we can hardly conceive anything which would contribute in a higher degree to the happiness of an evening at home.

Olive Logan writes to the *Tribune* to deny that she is at all "progressive" on the marriage question. She says: "I still think a happy home the best thing there is on this earth, and I still believe that the old-fashioned marriage is the basis of it. Therefore I, like my husband, do not stand in the front line of the ultra progressionists of the age with regard to marriage."

Biggs rises in his place in the House to say that Deleware is proud of the whipping post. There's no accounting for Deleware. By-and-by some one will say she is proud of Biggs. And, on the whole, Deleware being a small State, may put them together and point to them with pride. Delaware has but one member of Congress, but she means that he shall be Bigg's any of them.—*Hartford Post.*

A married man of Glenbeulah, Wis., who had been away from his loving wife for some months working in another State, was lately taken dangerously sick. He sent for his wife in Glenbeulah to come at once and care for him. Now, the wife's mother was sick, too, and she sent this dispatch to her languishing husband:—"Dear Tim, mother is sick: I can't leave her. Do the best you can. If you die, send your body home."

Senator Wilson is preparing a careful and extended speech reviewing and answering the charges against the present Administration, and showing by facts and figures that it is the most frugal and honest since that of John Quincy Adams. He will deliver it before the New Hampshire Convention which is soon to meet and inaugurate the first campaign of the Presidential year.

A New Orleans young man recently stole a young lady from a North Carolina school and married her. She had been placed there so that she would be out of his way.

STATE NEWS.

Portland.

We take the following items from the *Herald:*

During the past season there were erected in Holladay's Addition, East Portland, twenty-five or thirty dwellings, and there are fully as many more under contract, which are to be completed at an early day.

The steamer Hayward on Monday made a connection at the Cascades with the Idaho from the Dalles. The river is now clear of ice, and the boats commenced yesterday morning making regular trips.

Deputy Sheriff Van Buren, of Douglas county, yesterday delivered to the authorities of the Asylum an insane patient from that county. Mrs. McIntire, from Smyle's Island, was also taken to the Asylum yesterday.

The steamship Oriflamme is advertised to sail for San Francisco Tuesday, February 20th, at four P. M.

In the Circuit Court, yesterday morning, in the matter of J. S. Simmons, charged with embezzling certain sums of money collected by him as depot freight agent of the Oregon and California Railroad, the Grand Jury returned "not a true bill."

From the *Oregonian* of yesterday we learn the following:

We have found the genuine, original oldest man at last. As long ago as 1863, the *Oregon Argus* gave an account of him. His name is Stewart, and Thomas, a youth of 92 years (now 101), is his son. The latter took part in the battle of Perryville, and was complimented for his bravery and soldierly bearing. Thomas had then four sons, two grand sons, and three sons-in-law in the army. The old gentleman, Thomas' father was then a frisky young buck of only 122 (now 131) years, living in Connecticut. He thinks of coming out to Oregon and settling down. He says the sooner a man quits sowing his wild oats, the better. Should he come out here, he might do well and finally attain to a respectable old age.

The Territories.

Work on the Walla Walla railroad has been discontinued to wait for better weather.

The Port Townsend *Argus* presents a scheme for a railroad from Gray's Harbor to Port Townsend. It says that the route was surveyed last year.

A Walla Walla paper says it is estimated by those who have good opportunity to know, that during last summer and fall not less than two or three hundred families settled in Umatilla county, Oregon.

Some very valuable mines in Alturas, Idaho, have been sold at great prices to English capitalists, who will immediately put up large mills. It is believed that mining operations will soon be as extensive there as they are now at Owyhee.

A letter from Helena, Montana, dated January 24, written by a former resident of Portland, states that the storms in Montana this winter have exceeded in severity any that the writer had ever experienced. Wages were very low and common board twenty dollars a week. Everybody is advised to stay away from that country.

In the latter part of December a horrible murder took place at Silver City, Idaho. The murdered man was a colored cook named Solomon Pulling, and the murderer is supposed to have been another colored man named Robert Thomas. The place where the crime was committed was Boomer's restaurant, and the murderous shot was supposed to have been aimed at the proprietor, with whom for a short time before Thomas had trouble. Whoever perpetrated the deed took a dastardly advantage, creeping up under cover of night to the rear of the restaurant, and shooting in through the window. The coroner's jury say in their verdict that they believe the shot was fired by Robert Thomas, who is under arrest. Deceased was a native of New York, and about 35 years of age.

Portland.

From the *Oregonian* of yesterday we get the following:

We are informed that a young lady in Forest Grove one day last week attempted to commit suicide by placing a quantity of chloroform to her feet and then getting in and covering her head and ears. The smell of the chloroform attracted the attention of the family, who by dint of hard labor succeeded in detecting this little act of a tragedy. A note on the stand explained all. Her beaux had cut her acquaintance and courted with other girls in a manner not to be borne. There is to be a wedding soon, as the young man says that he is now satisfied that she is "stuck" after him.

The down train on the Oregon Central was over three hours late yesterday morning, and we learn that the cause of it was that the track is in some places sunk in the mud so deep that progress was almost impossible. The wheels of the cars and even the axles, gave evidence of having been deep in the mire. This sort of obstruction, of course, is temporary. The road has not yet been ballasted.

The barley, Halsey, who was arrested on Tuesday on a charge of rape upon a small girl was not examined in the Police Court yesterday, as the crowd of prurients had expected. The Judge, thinking it better that the matter should go directly before the grand jury now in session, very properly sent the man to the jail.

There are at the present time some seven hundred persons employed on the North Pacific Railroad, in ballasting that portion of the road already constructed, in building a bridge across the Cowlitz river near Pomeroy's landing, and in cutting and clearing the first ten miles north of the Cowlitz river.

We hear it related on good authority that Mr. Hort, the contractor on the Oregon Central railroad, left the city for the mines of Idaho for Yakima, and the general talk among his creditors is that he is not expected back again, which the same is why some of them are terribly profane.

The Territories.

A map named Maize, at Owyhee, has invented a snow plow which is said to be a great thing.

The Idaho *Boeist* (Democratic) is confident that the accounts of Judge Gray, Treasurer of the Territory, are all right, and will be so proven.

A Frenchman near Lewiston had his feet so badly frozen that they both had to be amputated. Five Nez Perce Indians were badly frozen.

A large band of cattle belonging to a man named Thompson, that were driven from the Willamette valley last summer to a point on Snake river beyond Walla Walla, have nearly all perished.

This is from a letter from Colville: "A city of ten thousand inhabitants—the commercial emporium of Oregon—that permits snow and ice to stop her mails for a month, is not worthy the trade of this side of the mountains."

A Walla Walla paper says: A stock-owner living in Yakima valley writes that out of a band of two hundred head of cattle, he expects to lose every hoof. This unless there is a favorable change in the weather, and that right speedily.

A Boise paper says:

The amount of rain fallen in this valley since last fall exceeds that of any previous winter since the settlement of the country. The wind has almost invariably blown from the south-east—something unusual during the winter months. Any one keeping a record of the number of inches of rain that have fallen this season should prepare it for publication as an item of interest.

Southern Oregon.

The Jacksonville *Sentinel* says that the late rains have furnished a new supply of water, and the miners are all busy sluicing.

W. C. Myer has returned to the valley with a lot of fine stock which he purchased while east.

The Jacksonville Dancing Club will give a ball on the 22d instant—Washington's birthday.

The editors of the *Sentinel* and *Times* still support a war of words through the columns of their respective journals. Interesting, indeed, to their readers.

It appears that the Jews nowhere suffer more vigorous persecution, and are nowhere in more wretched circumstances than in Jerusalem. There, as at Rome, they are shut up in a separate quarter, and that the darkest, filthiest section of the city. This quarter is a mere mud cave, lined with mud hovels. The Jews have no consul to interfere when they are unjustly treated; if injured, they have to bear it in silence; if plundered by Arabs they have no hope of recovery. Coming to the land of promise to die, many of them are robbed on the way, and all of them are robbed when they come. Help is continually sent them from abroad, but none too much.

Within five months the Rev. Mr. Brock buried his wife, engaged himself to three women, married one of them, was sued for breach of promise by one of the others, got a divorce and married the one who sued him for the breach of promise, was tried by an Ecclesiastical Council and suspended from conference, then went and joined the Campbellite Church, and he and his third wife were both baptised. It is almost unnecessary to add that this happened in Indiana.

A curious fact is related of the Maine woodchoppers, who, in the cold winter months, while felling trees, amid snow and ice, cannot wear close fitting boots, but very large sizes, that allow their feet to slip to and fro, thus causing friction and warmth. But from this they have their feet completely encrusted with corns. In the spring, when they raft their logs, they do not change their clothing or boots for weeks, until their arrival at the saw mills. All the while their feet have been saturated in water, and, when the boots are removed, the corns fall off like nut-shells from the kernel.

A list of postoffices just completed shows that there are $5,100 postmasters who receive over $200 per annum. When vacancies occur in these offices they