

A DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

Largest Jewelry Store in the World Destroyed.

MERMOD & JACCARD, IN ST. LOUIS

An Immense Stock of Costly Goods Lost—Another Bad Blaze in Grand Forks.

St. Louis, Dec. 21.—A fire started in the basement of the building occupied by the Mermod & Jaccard Jewelry Company, at the corner of Locust and Broadway, early this morning, and in an almost incredibly short time the five-story building was completely gutted. The total loss will reach \$335,000, fully covered by insurance. The fire had been burning some time before it was discovered at 4:40 o'clock, and at 5 P. M. the south wall and all the floors began falling, making one of the fiercest and quickest fires in the annals of the city. Next to the boiler room in the basement was a room used for packing. It is thought that the fire started in the boiler room, communicating to the packing room, and shooting up the elevator shaft, quickly spread over the building. W. A. Rutledge, the engineer, and his family, lived on the fourth floor. They barely escaped with their lives. The firemen dragged them, unconscious, from their beds and carried them down the fire escape. Five minutes later the floor fell. Several other tenants in the building had narrow escapes, but there were no fatalities.

The Mermod & Jaccard Jewelry Company is one of the largest in the world, and it being Christmas season, they carried an immense stock. One-half of the stock had been placed in the two large vaults and was saved.

The Model Clock Company, in the northeast corner of the building, was wiped out, sustaining a loss of \$50,000, on which there is insurance of three-fourths. The Mermod & Jaccard Company occupied two floors and basement of the structure. On the fifth floor was the repair shop. A large amount of the repair work had been finished, and most of it was saved by the salvage corps. The corps also saved a dozen or more grandfather clocks, ranging in value from \$500 to \$1,800 each, and many old Vienna vases and valuable pieces of pottery. The silverware, melted by the heat, will be found under the debris of fallen timbers. On the first floor, left out of the vaults, were clocks, silverware, china, art pottery, cut glassware and other articles, all of which will be a total loss. There were over 400 tenants in the building, whose losses range from \$500 to \$4,000. They were partially insured.

The jewelry firm carried insurance to the amount of \$400,000, which, if the stock in the vaults is found intact, will amply cover the loss sustained. The building was owned by the estate of the late Luther M. Kennett, 17, under lease to the Mermod & Jaccard Company. The firm estimated the value of the building at \$125,000, and which there was insurance of \$105,000. Late tonight the burned-out firm decided to continue in business, and tomorrow will take possession of the store and stock of another leading jeweler of this city, which they have bought. The firm that goes out of business is that of A. Kurtzberg & Sons.

Another Fire at Grand Forks.

Grand Forks, N. D., Dec. 21.—The business portion of the city was threatened by another fire tonight, which might have been more destructive than that of Friday, when the Hotel Dakota and the Mercantile Company and Nash Bros.' buildings were burned. Shortly after 6 o'clock, smoke was seen issuing from the floor of the department store of Benner & Begg, in less than 15 minutes the building was in flames, and the fire had crept into the Stanchfield clothing house and the H. A. Stone jewelry store, in building adjoining. After three hours work the fire was subdued. The damage to the building and stock of Benner & Begg will be \$55,000. Losses to the other firms will be small.

JACK DALTON'S ADVICE.

Says Horses Would Be Better Than Reindeer for Relief Expedition.

Seattle, Dec. 21.—Jack Dalton, the well-known Alaskan prospector, after whom the Dalton trail is named, in an interview tonight, speaking of the proposed relief expedition of the government to Alaska, said:

"The proposal to use reindeer teams does not strike me as being the right thing. Horses can be used to much better advantage. Instead of reindeer, the department ought to get together a large number of hardy horses, and sufficient food should be taken along to feed them. They can do much better work than reindeer. I would use sleds for carrying the food for the men and provisions for the horses. To handle a reindeer expedition successfully it would be necessary to have relay stations established a day's journey apart, with food for the animals at these stations."

Mr. Dalton, speaking of the best route by which to take relief, said that he would go over the Chilkoot pass and then down the lakes and the Yukon river over the ice.

Plate-Glass Strike Ended.

Kokomo, Ind., Dec. 21.—The plate-glass strike is over, the 1,600 men in the Kokomo and Elwood plants having accepted the company's proposition for polishes to be paid for piece work. Both factories will resume operations this week.

Determined to Die.

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—William Broad, 69 years old and a native of Holland, cut his throat in the almshouse late Saturday night, died of the wounds today. He had previously attempted suicide by stabbing himself with a pocket-knife 35 or 40 times in the region of the heart. These wounds are supposed to have been inflicted while Broad was an inmate of the city prison, where he was detained Friday before being sent to the almshouse. He was out of work and had no friends in this city.

NOT THE END OF IT.

Rejection of Hawaiian Treaty Will Not Settle the Question.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Ex-Secretary of State John W. Foster, who while a member of the Harrison cabinet negotiated the first treaty for annexing Hawaii to the United States, and who has since visited the islands and taken much interest in their acquisition, when asked as to the status of the annexation question, said:

"The opponents in congress of Hawaiian annexation will not have disposed of the question by voting against and defeating this measure. They must decide what shall be the policy and conduct of the United States toward the islands for the future. Having refused the application of the island government for incorporation into the Union, such an act necessarily carries with it the right of the former to determine its own political destiny, unimpeded by considerations affecting the United States."

"But such a course would present embarrassments to congress of no small moment. During the last administration of President Cleveland the house of representatives resolved that 'foreign intervention in the political affairs of the islands will not be regarded with indifference by the government of the United States.' During that session the senate went a step further and declared that 'any intervention in the political affairs of the islands by any government would be regarded as an act unfriendly to the United States.'"

"These utterances were in line with the policy of our government for half a century, but it is possible and competent for congress to change the policy of the government at any time. Its rejection of annexation would in effect nullify the declarations cited, but there would still be another serious embarrassment to be disposed of, to-wit, the reciprocity treaty. It would be easy to annul the commercial clauses of that convention, which would be in harmony with the views long cherished by many of our public men, but the political clauses of that treaty present a different question. They are two in number."

"First, a stipulation on the part of Hawaii not to lease, dispose or create any lien upon any port, harbor, or other territory to any other government, and, second, to grant to the United States the exclusive right to Pearl harbor as a coaling and naval station."

"The first of these political clauses might terminate with the treaty, and after the rejection of annexation it would be inconsistent on our part to insist upon its maintenance. The second clause, however, is held by the senators who ratified the treaty to be a permanent grant. The renunciation of the reciprocity treaty would still leave us with the grant of Pearl harbor. It is the only place suitable for a naval station in these islands or anywhere within a radius of 2,000 miles."

"Whatever may be the sentiment of the American people as to annexation, I doubt whether any considerable body of them would approve of the surrender of this very valuable station for our growing navy, and for which we have paid so dear a price in our reciprocity arrangements. And yet, with the rejection of annexation we must look forward to the certainty of its eventual surrender, as its occupation by us would be impossible with the islands under the domination of another powerful government."

"Even if the treaty is rejected by the United States, it will not be difficult for the present Hawaiian government to maintain itself against local opposition. The property interests, which are almost exclusively held by the white residents and foreigners, will control the government so long as it maintains its independence. But it is plain that the islands cannot long maintain their autonomy. The present most threatening danger is from Japan. That country may be perfectly sincere in its declaration that it does not seek the annexation of the islands, but the current events, if not checked, will lead inevitably to that result."

"But I do not think the islands will pass under the dominion of Japan. If the people of American origin now in control of the government are rejected by congress, they will, in my opinion, turn to their kinsmen, the English and Canadians. They have learned from the colonial history of Great Britain that wherever the British flag goes there follows taxation, just laws and honest government."

"While I have no information as to the purpose of the present Hawaiian rulers, I feel sure that when it is finally determined that they are not to be annexed to the United States, they will lose no time in opening negotiations with Great Britain, and the result of those negotiations will be neither slow nor uncertain."

"Mr. Seward, one of the most far-sighted of our statesmen, declared in the senate a quarter of a century ago: 'The Pacific ocean, its shores, its islands and the vast regions beyond will become the chief theater of events in the world's history.'"

Still Watching Rivers.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Dec. 20.—When General Rivera, the Cuban insurgent leader, who was recently released from Cabanas fortress by royal pardon, arrived here bound for Cadiz, he was not allowed to land. A tailor was sent for and went aboard, taking clothing for General Rivera.

Los Angeles, Dec. 20.—The relatives of Ira F. Hodson, the Mankato, Kan., man who has disappeared in Southern California, went to Riverside yesterday to settle the question of identification of the man found murdered there. They failed to identify the remains as those of Hodson, although several persons, who saw a photograph of the murdered man were positive it was Hodson.

Madrid Authorities Alarmed.

London, Dec. 20.—According to the St. James's Gazette, private letters received here from Madrid say that General Weyler's reception there was significant, and that the government is so alarmed at the menacing attitude of the populace that artillery has been stationed at concealed points commanding the main thoroughfares.

The man who discovered the American Beauty rose is worth \$50,000, all of which he made out of the peerless flower, which unites all the qualities of a perfect rose.

NEGLECTED WARNING

Cubans Hang Colonel Ruiz, a Spaniard.

HE CARRIED AUTONOMY PAPERS

Two More Filibustering Expeditions Are Safely Landed—Major Fernandez Was Murdered.

New York, Dec. 20.—A Herald dispatch from Havana says: Much anxiety is felt for the safety of Lieutenant-Colonel Joaquin Ruiz, aide-de-camp to General Blanco, who, it is said, has met death as the penalty for bearing a proposition for surrender to a rebel camp. It seems that Colonel Ruiz is a personal friend of Colonel Aranguen, who was employed by him before the war, when Colonel Ruiz was engineer in charge of the Vento water works.

Recently, under orders from General Blanco, Colonel Ruiz opened correspondence with Colonel Aranguen, with the object of arranging an interview. Colonel Aranguen wrote that he would meet the colonel if the latter only desired to talk on personal affairs, to which the colonel replied that he wished to talk about political matters. Colonel Aranguen wrote that he would absolutely refuse to receive him on these conditions, and called his attention earnestly to General Gomez' order that all persons entering insurgent camps to offer terms of surrender should be put to death. He assured Colonel Ruiz that he was prepared to carry out Gomez' orders to the letter, and that while he esteemed him highly as an old friend, he would hang him if he neglected the warning.

In spite of this, Colonel Ruiz started alone on Sunday for Colonel Aranguen's camp, determined to risk all in the attempt. On leaving he said if he had not returned by Tuesday night he might be given up as dead. So far nothing has been heard of him, and there is little room for doubt that the insurgent leader has put his threat into execution.

If this be true, much regret will be felt even in Cuban circles in Havana, where Colonel Ruiz was well known as a gallant soldier and an accomplished gentleman, but it is pointed out that his death will have a good effect as showing the indomitable spirit animating the insurgent leader.

Major Fernandez, better known as Pitore, the insurgent leader, who, according to official reports, was slain in combat with Spanish troops, was really killed while ill and helpless awaiting an opportunity to surrender to Thomas Garcia, recently autonomist alcalde of Guines, an old friend. Pitore being dangerously ill, applied to him to arrange terms for his surrender. Garcia caused him to be taken to the Canio estate, where he made him comfortable and arranged to have a detail of Spanish troops sent to bring him to the hospital in the town. Instead the troops went to the country and butchered the man. Senor Garcia is infuriated at this breach of faith, and has declared his intention of coming to Havana to lay the matter before General Blanco and demand the punishment of the officer responsible for the murder.

The battle of Guisa appears now to have been a more important insurgent success than was at first supposed. Advances received by the junta state that the insurgents captured 270 Mausers, 220,000 cartridges and 116 prisoners. General Calixto Garcia has sent word to General Pando that he will only release the prisoners under solemn pledge signed by General Blanco that they will be sent back to Spain. He complains that after the capture of Las Tunas the prisoners released on parole were sent back to the ranks.

The insurgents in Santa Clara province have more than 6,000 men well armed, and are confident of ultimate success. They are also well provisioned with medicine and other necessities.

General Gomez is at La Reforma, where he has been for nearly a year.

Within the last four days two large filibustering expeditions have safely reached Cuba, one landing in Matanzas province and the other at Baracoa, only five leagues from Havana. They brought clothing, medicines and dynamite. The rebels are now using large quantities of dynamite with considerable effect.

General Pando, who is operating in the east against General Garcia, has asked for reinforcements, which have been sent, several battalions being withdrawn from Pinar del Rio.

General Bernai has started across Pinar del Rio to Cape Antonio, where a large body of rebels is congregated.

Reports from Guira de Melena state that the rebels fired on the town almost every night.

Rebels under Colonel Colazo and General Rodriguez surrounded a Spanish column yesterday at the Carmen estate, Havana province. Spanish reinforcements arrived from Guines and a fierce engagement occurred. The rebels are suppressed, but the loss is admitted to be heavy on both sides.

Another engagement is reported to have occurred December 14 near Guira de Melena between Morrote and Colonel Arango's forces.

New York, Dec. 20.—The Herald correspondent in Rio Janeiro telegraphs that the government authorities have seized a letter written by Vice-President Pereira which proves beyond doubt that he was at the head of the revolutionary movement which led to the recent attempted assassination of President Moraes. Brazilian authorities still have cause to fear a revolution, and the government has requested Uruguay to prevent the gathering of revolutionary groups along her frontier.

A Fatal Collision.

Clinton, Ind., Dec. 20.—Tran No. 3, on the Chicago & Eastern Illinois, which left Chicago at 11:30 last night, ran into an extra here this morning. Three employees were killed and half a dozen others injured, but no passengers were hurt. Both engines were badly wrecked, the baggage car was thrown down an embankment, and the mail car smashed.

It is stated that the right hand, which is more sensitive to the touch than the left, is less sensitive than the latter to the effect of heat and cold.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

[Office of Downing, Hopkins & Co., Chicago Board of Trade Brokers, 711-714 Chamber of Commerce Building, Portland, Oregon.]

Light speculation was the dominating factor in the wheat market last week. Its force was felt more keenly than at any time since prices left 64 cents five months ago. The bear element is working on the idea that all the bullish influences have been discounted by the advance in prices of 36 cents from the low point in the spring. Wheat that cleared last week was all bought a month or more ago, and prices were advanced at the time. Now that the stuff is moving out, the bulls think that prices should continue to go up, because the stuff is being delivered to the buyers. The latter are not taking hold as freely, but export sales during the week were heavy. For three months the market has backed and filled around 90 cents for May, getting 5 cents above it recently, and has been 2 cents below it. The bears have been unable to maintain a break for more than a day or two below 90 cents. December sold 4 1/2 cents to 17 cents premium over May. The position of the bulls and their intention are as much of a puzzle as ever. They stand ready to pay for 5,000,000 bushels of wheat, and are very liable to get it before the first of the year. Elevator people, however, are not disposed to make any deliveries until navigation is closed, as they want to keep the wheat in their houses. The Leiter party have from 5,000,000 to 7,000,000 bushels bought. There are also scattered lines that will reach above 2,000,000 bushels held by parties outside of the pool. The claim is made that there is no shortage, except on the part of the elevator people. The latter have been bringing wheat down from Duluth. It is a deal that no one except rich men can afford to be in. The bulls claim that the wheat brought down from the Northwest by the elevator people has not shown any profit. If such is the case, it seems rather strange that two such shrewd business men as Armour and Weare should be so actively engaged in it. Government report gives crop of winter and spring wheat at 350,000,000 bushels. Visible supply of wheat decreased 101,000 bushels, and now totals 34,744 bushels.

Portland Market. Wheat—Walla Walla, 72@73c; Valley and Bluestem, 75@76c per bushel. Four—Best grades, 44.25; Graham, 43.40; superfine, 42.25 per barrel. Oats—Choice white, 34@35c; choice gray, 32@33c per bushel. Barley—Feed barley, 19@20; brewing, 20 per ton. Millstuffs—Bran, 17 per ton; middlings, 21; shorts, 17. Hay—Timothy, 12.50@13; clover, 10@11; California hay, 10; do, 11; Oregon wild hay, 10@10 per ton. Eggs—18 1/2@25c per dozen. Butter—Fancy native creamery, 50@55c; fair to good, 40@45c; dairy, 30@40c per roll. Cheese—Oregon, 11 1/2; Young America, 12 1/2; California, 9@10c per pound. Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 1.75@2.50 per dozen; broilers, 2.00@2.50; geese, 3.50@4.00; ducks, 3.00@4.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 10@11c per pound. Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 35@45c per sack; sweet, 1.40 per cental. Onions—Oregon, new, red, 90c; yellow, 80c per cental. Hops—8@14c per pound for new crop; 1896 crop, 4@6c. Wool—Valley, 14@16c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7@12c; mohair, 20@25c per pound. Mutton—Gross, best sheep, and ewes, 3.00; dressed mutton, 6c; spring lambs, 5 1/2c per pound. Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, 4.00; light and feeders, 3.50@4.00; dressed, 4.50@5.00 per 100 pounds. Beef—Gross, top steers, 32.75@33.00; cows, 22.25; dressed beef, 4@5 1/2c per pound. Veal—Large, 4 1/2@5c; small, 5 1/2@5c per pound.

Seattle Market. Butter—Fancy native creamery, brick, 28c; ranch, 16@18c. Cheese—Native Washington, 12 1/2c; California, 9 1/2c. Eggs—Fresh ranch, 30@32c. Poultry—Chickens, live, per pound, 16c; spring chickens, 16c; ducks, 3.00@3.75. Wheat—Feed wheat, 22c per ton. Oats—Choice, per ton, 19@20. Corn—Whole, 22c; cracked, per ton, 22c; feed meal, 22c per ton. Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, 22c; whole, 22c. Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef, steers, 6c; cows, 5 1/2c; mutton sheep, 7c; pork, 7c; veal, small, 7c. Fresh Fish—Halibut, 4@5c; salmon, 3@4c; salmon trout, 7@10c; flounders and sole, 3@4c; ling cod, 4@5c; rock cod, 6c; smelt, 2 1/2@4c. Fresh Fruit—Apples, 50c@51.25 per box; peaches, 75@80c; prunes, 35@40c; pears, 75c@81c per box.

San Francisco Market. Wool—Nevada 11@13c; Oregon, 12@14c; Northern 7@8c per pound. Hops—10@14c per pound. Millstuffs—Middlings, 20@22c; California bran, 17.50@18.00 per ton. Onions—New red, 70@80c; do new silverskin, 1.40@1.60 per cental. Eggs—Store, 23@28c; ranch, 37@40c; Eastern, 14@20c; duck, 20@25c per dozen. Cheese—Fancy mild, new, 12 1/2c; fair to good, 10@12c per pound. Citrus Fruit—Oranges, Valencia, 1.50@3.00; Mexican limes, 2.00@3.00; California lemons, choice, 1.75@2.25; do common, 50c@1 per box. Hay—Wheat, 12@13 1/2; river bar, 11@12 1/2; best barley, 10@12 1/2; alfalfa, 18@20.50; clover, 18@20.50. Fresh Fruit—Apples, 35@38c per large box; grapes, 20@40c; Isabella, 40@75c; peaches, 50c@1; pears, 75c@1 per box; plums, 20@35c. Butter—Fancy creamery, 26@27c; do second, 24@25c; fancy dairy, 23@24c; good to choice, 17@22c per pound. Potatoes—New, in boxes, 35@36c.

Cooking by Solar Heat.

The various experiments made with solar engines by the French in Algeria, where the sun is never overclouded and shines with great power, have been attended in some instances with marked success. The best apparatus is stated to be a simple arrangement of boiler and concave mirror, the steam generated being condensed in a coiled tube surrounded by water, this being intended merely for distilling water. But in India an inventor has contrived some machines with which more varied results are accomplished. One of these, says the Philadelphia Record, is what is termed a cooking-box, made of wood and lined with reflecting mirrors, at the bottom of the box being a small copper boiler covered with glass to retain the heat of the rays concentrated by the mirrors upon the boiler. In this contrivance any sort of food may be quickly cooked, the result being a stew or boil if the steam is retained, or if allowed to escape it is a bake. The heat with this device may be augmented indefinitely by increasing the diameter of the box.

Jacobsin Songs at Balmoral. Queen Victoria recently invited a Glasgow singing society to sing to her at Balmoral. Among the songs were "Wae's Me for Prince Charlie," "MacGregor's Gathering," "Bonnie Prince Charlie" and "Charlie is My Darling."

Knocked Out.

It knocks out all calculations of attending to business in the right way for a day when we wake up in the morning sore and stiff. The disappointment lies in going to bed all right and waking up all wrong. There is a short and sure way out of it. Go to bed after a good rub with St. Jacobs Oil and you wake up all right, soreness and stiffness all gone. So sure is this, that men much exposed in changeable weather keep a bottle of it on the mantel for use at night to make sure of going to work in good ix.

Long Distance Signaling. The Greenwich observatory has been put into telegraph communication with that of the McGill college, Montreal, and the signals can be flashed between the two places, a distance of 3,300 miles, in three-quarters of a second.

THE LAST MAN ON EARTH

To recklessly experiment upon himself with hope of relief is the dyspeptic. Yet the nostrums for this malady are as the sands of the sea, and, presumably, about as efficacious. Indigestion, that obdurate malady, even if of long perpetuity, is eventually overcome with Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, an appetizing and active, which cures constipation, fever and ague, bilious remittent, rheumatism, kidney complaint and feebleness.

An even cubic foot of average soil was weighed and analyzed at Cornell University. It was found that the soil in one acre one foot deep weighed 2,082 1/2 tons.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MOTHERS.

We are asserting in the courts our right to the exclusive use of the word "CASTORIA," and "FITCHER'S CASTORIA," as our Trade Mark. I. D. Samuel Fitcher, of Hingham, Massachusetts, the same that has borne and does now bear the fac-simile signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on every wrapper. This is the original "FITCHER'S CASTORIA," which has been used in the homes of the mothers of America for over thirty years. Look carefully at the wrapper and see that it is the kind you have always bought, and has the signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on the wrapper. No one has authority from me to use my name except "The Centaur Company" of which CHAS. H. FLETCHER is President. March 8, 1897. SAMUEL FITCHER, M.D.

Lightning rods may be valuable if large enough and insulated sufficiently to carry away a bolt of lightning. The common lightning rod is not of much use.

HOME PRODUCTS AND PURE FOOD.

All Eastern Syrup, so-called, usually very light colored and of heavy body, is made from glucose. "Ten Dollars Brand" is made from Sugar Cane and is strictly pure. It is for sale by first-class grocers, and can only be manufactured by the PACIFIC COAST SYRUP CO. All genuine "Ten Dollars Brand" have the manufacturer's name lithographed on every can.

In a recent lecture Professor Bergmann, of Berlin, stated that in 50 cases of perforating the skull for epilepsy, he knew of only one permanent cure.

"King Solomon's Treasure," only Aphrodisiac tonic known. (See Description.) See a box, weekly treatment. Mason Chemical Co., P. O. Box 76, Philadelphia, Pa.

Firelighters are made in Germany by twisting wood into a rope, cutting it into short lengths, and dipping the ends of the pieces into melted resin.

I believe my prompt use of Piso's Cure prevented quick consumption. Mrs. Lucy Wallace, Marquette, Kans., Dec. 12, 1895. Try Schilling's Best Tea and baking powder.

A Wolf Warning.

A Spanish woman killed her pug dog and died of hydrophobia last week. The retritions of Providence for lack of sense are often mysterious and severe.—Pomona Progress.

MRS. PINKHAM'S VICTORY

Mrs. Sidney Hamlet.

Cured by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

RED HOUSE, VA.—To Mrs. Pinkham: "My heart goes out in sympathy to all who are suffering with troubles peculiar to the female sex."

"I would like to express my gratitude for what your Vegetable Compound has done for me. I have been a sufferer since girlhood; did not then know the cause of dreadful sick headaches and other troubles. I could not take long walks, lift or carry anything heavy, and was very nervous."

"Last summer I was almost an invalid; could not walk across my room without pain. I sent for your physician. He pronounced my case a bad one of 'Prolapsus Uteri,' congestion and ulceration of the womb, and said I was to be abed. I was so distressed to find myself so helpless and useless to my family; I saw your Compound advertised and thought I would try it. I took several bottles, and used the Sanative Wash and Pills as directed, and now I am as strong as I ever was, and do all my own housework. I can walk more than a mile without any inconvenience. Oh! I am truly grateful. I cannot write the good you have done me. Words are inadequate to express it. May God bless you for the good you are doing."—MRS. SIDNEY HAMLET, Red House, Va.

PISO'S CURE FOR

GUARDS AGAINST ALL ELSE FALLS. Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in Time. Sold by Druggists. CROUP, BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA.

Last Chance!

The \$2000.00 missing-word contest closes December 31st.

Result will be announced about January 15th.

Schilling's Best baking powder and tea are because they are money-back.

What is the missing word?—not SAFE, although Schilling's Best baking powder and tea are safe.

Get Schilling's Best baking powder or tea at your grocers'; take out the ticket (brown ticket in every package of baking powder; yellow ticket in the tea); send a ticket with each word to address below before December 31st.

Until October 15th two words allowed for every ticket; after that only one word for every ticket.

If only one person finds the word, that person gets \$2000.00; if several find it, \$2000.00 will be equally divided among them.

Every one sending a brown or yellow ticket will receive a set of cardboard creeping babies at the end of the contest. Those sending three or more in one envelope will receive an 1898 pocket calendar—no advertising on it. These creeping babies and pocket calendars will be different from the ones offered in the last contest.

Better cut these rules out.

Address: MONEY-BACK, SAN FRANCISCO.

3061

POWER

...FOR...

PROFIT

Power that will save you money and make you money. Hercules Engines are the cheapest power known. Burn Gasoline or Distillate Oil, no smoke, fire, or dirt. For pumping, running dairy or farm machinery, they have no equal. Automatic in action, perfectly safe and reliable.

Send for illustrated catalog.

Hercules Gas Engine Works

Bay St., San Francisco, Cal.

Hercules Special

(2 1/2 actual horsepower)

Price, only \$185.

Boston's Old Elm.

The state of neglect into which the site of the old elm on the common, in Boston, has fallen is beginning to worry old Bostonians who pass the spot daily on their way to business. After a sale in February, 1876, brought down what was left of the old elm, a young elm was started on the site of the old one, and this tree is now one of the largest in that part of the common. Inside the enclosure is a rusty iron standard bearing two tablets, the lower one about three times the size of the upper. The lower tablet is the original one, put up in 1854, and bears the inscription: "This tree has been standing here for an unknown period. It is believed to have existed before the settlement of Boston, being fully grown in 1772, exhibited marks of old age in 1792, and was nearly destroyed by a storm in 1833. Protected by an iron enclosure in 1854." The upper tablet reads: "The old elm, destroyed by a sale February 15, 1876. This elm planted A. D. 1876." The little enclosure has an unkempt appearance. The fence is made of small rough wooden posts and two strands of twisted wire. These posts are keeled over. On one side the wires have fallen down. The tablets and standards are covered with rust.

Four-Million-Dollar Craft.

The French cruiser Jeanne d'Arc is estimated to have cost about \$4,000,000, of which \$2,000,000 was for auxiliary fittings, such as armor, gun mountings and mechanism, torpedo gear and special fitting.

Bonn's town authorities have established a tax on "the use of the columns of air above the city streets." A projecting window or balcony pays 60 marks a year and every additional balcony or projection over it 25 marks.

DEAFNESS CANNOT BE CURED

By local applications as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a humming sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

Sold by druggists, 75c.

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Germany and China.

The foreign office at Peking says that when the bandits killed the two missionaries it ordered the governor of Shantung to arrest the culprits, and the capture of four of them was effected, but meanwhile, indeed only one day before, the Germans landed troops and occupied the forts.

The Germans still occupy Kiao Chau, a place of great strategic and commercial importance, and show no disposition to abandon it, but, on the contrary, appear to have seized upon the murder of the missionaries as a pretext for obtaining and permanently occupying a very desirable