WHAT 1897 HAS SEEN.

RECORD OF THE IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

Græco-Turkish War and the Cuban Insurrection—The Great Strike in the Coal Fields—Political Changes of Twelve Months.

A Chronological Table.

The year 1897 has been, it might be said, almost a commonplace one, since its commencement, that is, no events of overwhelming moment have taken place, but there has been no death of important occurrences. The war between Turkey and Greece, the struggle for freedom in Cuba, the costly and long-drawn-out strike in the Ohio and Pennsylvania coal fields, the change of national administration, the enactment of the Dingley tariff law, the disastrous spring floods in the Mississippi valley and autumn fires in the West and Northwest, and the epidemic of yellow fever in the Southern States are clearly not matters of small importance in the history of the world. The year has been an unusual one from the fact that but few men of really great reputation have passed from the stage of their earthly labors; their number can be computed upon the fingers of the two hands.

The most important events of the year are recorded below in the order of their occurrence:

JANUARY.

1—Thirteen miners perish at Pachuca, Mexico....Extremely high temperature and heavy rains in Northwest....Pingree inaugurated Governor of Michigan.
2—W. A. Hammond, wrecker of Illinois National Bank, commits suicide....Fatal storm in Southwest....Nashville, Tenn., has $400,000 fire....West and Northwest deluged by rains.
3—Snow and frost succeed rain.
4—Furious blizzard in the West....Gov. Scofield inaugurated at Madison, Wis.... Three St. Paul banks fail.
5—Gov. Altgeld pardons 10 criminals....St. Stanislaus parsonage at Bay City, Mich., sacked by warring church factions....Four children die by fire near Westfield, Wis.; three near Babcock, Wis.
6—Illinois Legislature meets....Seven Ursuline nuns perish by fire at Convent of Our Lady of Lake St. Johns, Roberval, Quebec.
11—Tanner inaugurated Governor of Illinois with much pomp and ceremony.... Mount inaugurated Governor of Indiana with very simple style....House kills Pacific funding bill....American-British arbitration treaty signed.
12—Five children drown, skating, at St. Louis....Four die in powder explosion at Shamokin, Pa.
13—Five killed in a Pottsville, Pa., coal shaft.
14—News of capture of Santa Clara by Cuban insurgents....Bombay, India, a city of death and terror because of ravages of bubonic plague (black death) and famine; thousands dying, and city being depopulated; dead lie unburied, and vultures hover over the town and country; sky ablaze by night with funeral pyres; Europe greatly alarmed.
19—Wm. E. Mason chosen Senator from Illinois....Three negroes lynched in Louisiana.
21—Nine sailors drown off Long Island.
22—Mercury falls 30 degrees to zero at Chicago....Death of Sir Isaac Pitman at London.
24—Widespread cold wave; Chicago temperature 17 below zero....$500,000 fire loss at Northwestern stove repair works and C. J. Barnes' residence in Chicago.
25—Twenty below zero at Chicago.
26—Fourteen below zero at Chicago; 700 poor families aided; relief measures adopted over entire city....$2,500,000 fire at Philadelphia....$350,000 fire at Chicago.
27—Continued cold weather in Northwest.
28—Lyman J. Gage of Chicago accepts treasury portfolio.
31—Family of seven die by fire in Hoboken, N. J.....Cruiser Brooklyn on the rocks.

FEBRUARY.

2—Pennsylvania State capitol burned; loss $1,500,000....Venezuelan treaty signed.
8—Admiral Bunce's squadron in a storm off Hampton Roads; three seamen swept away, several injured....$200,000 railroad shop fire at Princeton, Ind.
10—Bradley-Martin ball at New York costs $500,000....Phenomenal drop in price of steel rails.
13—Ald. O'Malley acquitted of murder at Chicago....Death of J. Randolph Tucker at Lexington, Va., and Gen. J. O. Shelby at Adrian, Mo.; both noted Confederates.
14—Greeks bombard Canea, island of Crete, under Turkish rule.
15—Appeal of Jos. R. Dunlop, convicted of improper use of mails at Chicago, to Supreme Court fails.
16—Millionaire Duestrow hanged at Union, Mo., for wife murder; Peter Schmidt and Sam Foster hanged at Clayton, Mo....Greeks capture Turkish fort at Crete.
17—Powers of Europe protest against action of Greece.
18—Two thousand Moslems slain in Crete by Greeks....Big shortage of State officials discovered in Nebraska.
21—Canea bombarded by the powers.... Baby girl at the Harrisons'.
22—General observation of Washington's birthday....Floods in Ohio Valley.
25—Powers decide Greece must evacuate Crete.

MARCH.

4—McKinley inaugurated....Six killed at Boston by gas explosion.
5—Extensive floods in Mississippi Valley, and in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana.... Greece defies the powers.
6—Foundering of steamer Ville de St. Nazaire off Carolina; 65 lives lost.
9—Tremendous rainfall in central States.
10—Six killed in a wreck near Princeton, Ind.
12—Blizzard sweeps the Northwest—$400,000 wholesale grocery fire at Chicago.
15—$1,500,000 fire at St. Louis....Floods in Mississippi Valley make thousands of negroes homeless.
17—Pitzsimmons whips Corbett at Carson City, Nev....78 lives lost by foundering of French steamer off Carolina.
21—Powers blockade Cretan ports to Greek ships.
22—Cyclone kills eight and injures 23 school children at Arlington, Ga.; family of five killed in Henry County, Ala.
23—Heavy fall of slushy snow in Northwest.
30—Forty-five killed by a cyclone at Chandler, O. T.
31—House passes Dingley tariff bill.... Powers bombard Cretans.

APRIL.

6—Carter H. Harrison elected Mayor of Chicago by 75,000 plurality....Alarming floods in Mississippi Valley.
8—$1,000,000 fire at Knoxville, Tenn; 17 people killed.
9—Snow storm in Central States.
10—Daniel W. Voorhees, former U. S. Senator from Indiana, dies at Washington.
15—Riots in Indianapolis over 3-cent car-fare....$500,000 fire at New Orleans.
17—War between Turkey and Greece.
18—Fierce windstorm in Chicago; $150,000 fire.
20—Desperate fighting in the Levant.... First execution by electricity in Ohio.
23—Osman Pasha assumes command of Turkish troops, which have met severe reverses.
24—Turks capture Larissa....Vast floods in Missouri and Mississippi Valleys.
26—Hundreds of families at Ottumwa, Iowa, and Quincy, Ill., homeless by floods.
27—Dedication of Grant's tomb at New York....$2,000,000 fire at Newport News, Va.
28—Greeks at Athens riotous because of army reverses....Flood at South Guthrie, O. T., kills over 70.
29—Zaiti heads new cabinet of Greece.... Wild gale with loss of life and vessels on Lake Michigan.
30—Greeks win a big battle....Seven negroes lynched by a mob of negroes in Texas.

MAY.

1—Snow at Chicago.
2—$4,000,000 fire at Pittsburg, Pa.
4—One hundred die by fire in a Parisian bazar.
7—Brutal murder of the Harris family, near Waukesha, Wis., by Wm. Pouch.
9—Sixteen die by fire on Mallory Line steamship Leona, off Sandy Hook....Greece asks intervention of powers.
14—Snow at Chicago.
18—Czar intervenes to stop war in the Levant.
31—Severe earthquake shock in Cincinnati and southeast....Five of a picnic party killed on Long Island.

JUNE.

2—Spanish cabinet resigns.
3—Two of a mob of lynchers killed at Urbana, Ohio, and nine wounded, by militia under command of Sheriff McLean.
7—Six killed in a wreck near Hudson, Wis.
9—$200,000 fire at Carlinville, Ill....Death of Alvan Clark, famous lens-maker, at Cambridge, Mass.
11—Wife murderer French hanged at Rockford, Ill.
12—Mayor Richards killed at Bunker Hill, Ill., by Editor Hedley.
13—Attempt to kill President Faure by a Paris bomb-thrower.
14—Suicide of Barney Barnato at sea.
15—Temperature of 98 in Chicago; 40 prostrations.
16—Northwest suffers from awful heat.
18—Storm kills four children at Lincoln, Ill....Cyclones in many Western localities.
21—Victorian Jubilee celebration commences at London.
24—Cyclone in Kansas kills three; hail bombards Topeka.
25—Lynching at Crystal Springs, Miss.... Race war at Key West over attempted lynching....Cornell defeats Yale and Harvard in college boat race....Four legal executions at St. Joseph, Mo., Fayetteville, W. Va., Atlanta, Ga., and Houston, Texas.
26—Seven killed in a wreck at Missouri City, Mo.
29—Three killed in wreck of a Christian Endeavor train at West Chicago; 15 hurt.... Five men drowned at Chicago while bathing to get relief from terrific heat....Northwest scorched.
30—All districts report many fatalities from heat.

JULY.

1—Continuance of fearful heat....Close of Victorian Jubilee.
2—One dead and 16 prostrated by heat at Chicago, in a temperature of 95 degrees.... Cornell Boat Club defeats Columbia and Pennsylvania.
3—Awful heat in Chicago kills six and prostrates 40; 13 die at Cincinnati....Snowstorm in Colorado....Deluge at Duluth does $1,000,000 damage.
4—Heat and fatalities continue east of Mississippi Valley; thunderstorm at midnight relieves Chicago, after eight have died.
5—Twenty die at Chicago from previous exhaustion by heat, though temperature did not exceed 78 degrees....Celebration claims five deaths there, and scores of injured victims....H. B. Stone of Chicago killed at Nonquitt, Mass.
6—Ten killed by cyclone at Lowry, Minn. ....Nine killed by boiler explosion at Hartsville, Tenn....Coal miners' strike becomes general in the East.
7—Continuance of extreme heat and consequent fatalities—Senate passes tariff bill. ....Six killed at Bay City, Mich., by street car plunging into an open draw.
8—Chicago and Alton freight house burns at Chicago; loss $250,000....Heat and death roll increases....Death of Senator Harris of Tennessee.
10—Drop of 35 degrees in temperature at Chicago; change general.
12—Death of Millionaire Columbus R. Cummings of Chicago.
15—Negro lynched for assault and murder at West Point, Tenn....Illinois and Indiana coal miners go out.
17—News of fabulous gold finds in Alaska.
19—Tariff bill passes the House....Snowstorm in Chicago.
22—Logan monument unveiled at Chicago.
23—Four killed by explosion of naphtha on steamer at Bridgeport, Conn....$1,000,000 grape sugar factory fire at Peoria, Ill.
24—New tariff law enacted; Congress adjourns....Cloudburst at Boston.
30—Seven killed by cyclone at San Jose, Ill.

AUGUST.

6—Elevator fire at Chicago kills four firemen, hurts 20 more, and does $500,000 damage.
8—Assassination of Premier Canovas of Spain.
15—Orleanist Prince Henri seriously wounded by Italian Count of Turin in a duel at Paris.
16—Great boom in wheat....Cold wave at Chicago.
17—Snowstorm in South Dakota....Wheat touches 98c at Chicago.
19—Unknown man killed by farmers near Chicago, for assault....Four killed by glucose factory explosion at Davenport, Iowa.
21—Wheat reaches the dollar price in several cities and occasions great excitement.
23—Three hundred Sepoys massacred by Afridis in India.
28—President of Uruguay assassinated.
29—News of a great tidal wave in Japan.
30—Steamer Portland arrives at Seattle with Alaskan treasure.
31—Yellow fever breaks out at Ocean Springs, Miss.

SEPTEMBER.

2—Crops reported greatly damaged by long continued drought.
7—Railroad collision near Emporia, Kan.; several killed....Lake St. Clair yacht capsized, drowning six.
9—Terrible head-end collision near Newcastle, Colo., kills 30 people and mangles many others.
10—Twenty-two striking coal miners near Latimer, Pa., shot dead by deputy sheriffs; many others wounded.
11—Miners' convention at Columbus settles the great coal strike.
13—Tidal wave along the Texas coast took many lives and did great damage to property.
15—Five alleged burglars taken from jail by a mob at Versailles, Ind., and lynched.
16—Anarchist assaults President Diaz of Mexico; death of the assailter at the hands of a mob.
20—Outbreak of yellow fever in New Orleans.
21—President Ratchford of the United Mine workers declares the coal strike ended.
26—Nine men killed in a bloody riot at Girardville, Pa....Mrs. John Becker and five children slaughtered near Carroll, Iowa. ....Railway hold-up at Moorhead, Minn.
29—$1,000,000 fire in Washington, D. C.... Fall of Azcarraga ministry in Spain.
30—Resignation of the Rafi ministry in Greece.

OCTOBER.

1—Five bandits held up a train in Indian Territory....Thirty persons hurt in railway accident at Medford, Mass.
3—Death of Gen. Neal Dow.
4—Sagasta ministry assumes control in Spain....Austin, Pa., almost entirely destroyed by fire.
5—Connecticut votes an educational test for voters.
6—Alton train held up near Kansas City, Mo.....Thousands of lives lost and much property destroyed by a typhoon in the Philippine Islands....$117,000 fire at Chicago stock yards....Large fire in Detroit....Six girls burned to death at Plankinton, S. D.... Disastrous fire at Medora, Ill.
7—Two prisoners roasted in Opelika, Ala., jail.
8—Gen. Weyler recalled from Cuba.... Death of ex-Senator McPherson of New Jersey.
12—Bandits rob a train near Austin, Texas....Death at Detroit of ex-Senator Chas. W. Jones of Florida.
14—Four people killed in a railway accident at Stittsville, Ont.
15—Four persons killed and many injured by caving in of a theater roof in Cincinnati.
16—Steamer Triton sunk in Caribbean Sea and 150 lives lost.
17—Windsor, N. S., fire-swept and 3,000 people left homeless....Death of Chas. A. Dana of the New York Sun.
19—Death of Geo. M. Pullman of Chicago.
21—Jury in Luetgert murder case in Chicago disagreed.
24—Twenty lives lost in New York Central accident at Garrisons, N. Y.....Bank wrecked at Blairsburg, Iowa.
27—Wabash Railroad offices in St. Louis burned.
29—Henry George, single-tax advocate, died of apoplexy at New York.

NOVEMBER.

1—Sale of the Union Pacific Railroad.
2—Thirteen firemen injured by a gasoline explosion at a fire in Philadelphia....Election day: New York elected Van Wyck (Tammany) Mayor; Ohio, Pennsylvania, Iowa and Massachusetts went Republican; Maryland, Nebraska, New York, Kentucky and Virginia Democratic; Colorado was carried by silver men, and in South Dakota Republicans and Democrats won over Populists.
4—Chesapeake and Ohio train wreck at Charlottesville, Va., in which four people are killed and many injured....Five men badly burned by molten iron in Milwaukee, and two die from their injuries.
6—Train robbery near Grants, N. M.... Fourteen lives lost by the sinking of the steamer Idaho on Lake Erie.
11—Yellow fever quarantine declared off in New Orleans....Thieves steal $14,000 in money and jewelry from a Silver Creek, N. Y., bank.
12—$50,000 fire at Fostoria, Ohio.
13—Three Indians lynched by a mob at Williamsport, N. D.
17—Three people injured in a railway wreck near Cleveland, Ohio....Panic in a Cincinnati school caused the injury of four children....Rozel, Kan., sinks into the prairie in a night.
19—Three miners killed in railway wreck at Coal Bluff, Ind....Great fire in London, England; loss $25,000,000.
20—Masked negro, attempting to hold up a Kansas City street car, shot conductor and motorman.
21—Fire at Melbourne, Australia, in which $5,000,000 of mercantile property was destroyed....Two motormen killed in a collision in Baltimore, Md....Fire at La Grange, Ohio, in which $25,000 worth of property was destroyed.
23—F. A. Novak found guilty of murder at Vinton, Iowa.
25—Capt. Lovering found guilty by court martial at Fort Sheridan, Chicago.
28—Resignation of the Badeni ministry in Austria....Three men asphyxiated in the Grand Trunk tunnel at Port Huron, Mich.
30—New cabinet formed in Austria.... Eleven persons killed in a railway accident at Warraw, Poland....Martin Thorn convicted of the murder of Wm. Guldensuppe at New York.

DECEMBER.

1—Thirty-seven miners killed in Homburg, Bavaria, by explosion of fire damp....Furious riots at Prague, Bohemia.
4—Three men killed and several persons injured in a collision of trolley cars near Detroit, Mich.
5—Resignation of the Italian ministry.
6—Congress convenes in regular session at Washington.
11—Two men killed in railway collision at Oakland, Cal.....Haytian cabinet resigned.
13—New Haytian ministry formed.
14—Resignation of Chilian cabinet.... Rudini cabinet reconstituted in Italy.
16—Three men killed in C., E. & I. wreck at Clinton, Ind....Death of Alphonse Daudet, noted French author....William Terriss, English actor, assassinated in London. ....Ratification of peace treaty between Greece and Turkey....New Chilian cabinet formed.
17—Six lives lost in fire at Ottawa, Ont.... Three persons perish in an $850,000 fire at Grand Forks, Dak.
18—Zero weather in Chicago....Death of Hon. Washington Hesing, of Chicago.
20—Five train wrecks—at Castle Rock, Colo., two persons killed; at Pontiac, Ill., five persons injured; near Benson, Ariz., one man killed; near Ripton, Ala., four men killed; at St. Louis, one man killed and two injured.
21—Suicide of Miss Leila Herbert at Washington, D. C.....Three skaters drowned at Tonawanda, N. Y. ...Three skaters drowned at Gardner, Mass.

What's this! A dispatch from Maine states that "this season's importation of French sardines will be light, owing to the small catch of young herring off the Maine coast." Can it be?

Charles Ewald, aged 65, while switching cars with his team at Daggett, Mich., fell across the track, the carwheels passing over him, killing him.

The Government of the United States owns in the city of Washington 1,600,000 volumes of literature. Of these about one-half, or 787,715, are in the congressional library. The remainder are scattered through the various executive departments. The daily number of readers in the congressional library averages 3,320. About 700 persons, including the members of both houses and high officials of the Government, are entitled to draw books and take them away from the building, and the average number loaned out in such a way is 1,446. It is a favorable commentary upon the honesty and care of our public men that during a period of thirty years the number of books lost or not returned was only five in a thousand.

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Large numbers of petitions, supported by many signatures and uniform in their phraseology, are being presented to the House of Representatives. They ask the passage of a series of laws to protect the morals of the public. For example, to prohibit gambling in stocks, produce, racing pools and other forms of speculation by telegraph, to prohibit the transmission of stock quotations for speculative purposes, and the transmission in the mails of newspapers containing pictures or descriptions of prize fights, to prohibit the exhibition of kinetoscope reproductions of prize fights and other brutalizing spectacles, and to prohibit the transportation from State to State of materials for such exhibitions.

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The ladies of the cabinet are decidedly put out by the edict that forbade their New Year's receptions and the dinners that were to precede and follow. They do not see any occasion for it. The President did not ask or even suggest a suspension of social affairs. He told the members of his cabinet he should close the White House for thirty days, although he did not think it was necessary for them to follow his example, but without consulting their wives, they agreed to do so. The husbands have since had an unhappy time, and the Washington social world has offered them no sympathy.

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The opposition to the ratification of the Hawaiian treaty has simmered down almost entirely to the sugar trust, the Louisiana planters and the beet-root sugar manufacturers. There are a few Senators who oppose the treaty on principle, as they believe it inexpedient for the United States to assume the responsibility of governing any detached territory, and several on the Democratic side have joined the opposition because they regard annexation as a Republican measure.

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Chairman Loud of the House Committee on Postoffices has been working during the recess on the report of the committee on the Loud bill, and has practically completed it. He believes that the measure will effect a saving of at least $10,000,000 annually, and will wipe out the enormous deficit that confronts the Potsoffice Department every year. Mr. Loud believes the bill is much stronger this session than last, and, while not absolutely confident, thinks it will finally carry.

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The agents of the Cuban junta in Washington justify the assassination of Col. Ruiz as necessary to intimidate the cowardly and corrupt men in their ranks who are likely to be allured into making terms with the Spanish authodities either through fear or bribery. They say that hereafter no Spanish agent will dare approach an insurgent camp, and that it will be dangerous for any stranger to do so.

* * *

The distressing death of Miss Leila Herbert has caused a shock to her many friends and acquaintances in Washington. She was a young woman of beautiful character, gentle, amiable and generous, and was generally beloved and admired. Those who knew her best believe that her suicide was due to fear that she might be a permanent cripple.

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The pension certificate of the Rev. L. J. Keith of Vincennes, Ind., will be canceled, because the holder has informed the bureau that he does not consider himself longer entitled to a pension, his disability having disappeared, and has asked that his name be dropped from the rolls. There is only one other such case on record.

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Secretary Wilson is greatly interested in legislation for the establishment of postal savings banks because he believes they are necessary to the prosperity of the farmers. It is sometimes an all day's job, he says, for a farmer to go to the town where the nearest bank is situated, while there is a postoffice in every village.

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The copyright department is a most important branch of the Government, and indicates an enormous increase in literary and musical compositions and in designs which are susceptible to copyright. In 1870 the number of copyrights granted was 5,621; in 1880, 20,686; in 1890, 42,758; in 1896, 72,470.

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The recent report of the Comptroller of the Currency shows that the savings banks of the United States are mostly confined to the northeastern section of the country. Nearly 80 per cent of the number of banks and amount of deposits is represented by New York and New England.

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The committee appointed by the Society of the Army of the Tennessee to secure the erection of a monument to Gen. George B. McClellan at Washington has held its first meeting and elected Adjt. Gen. Ruggles chairman.

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Ink erasers are not allowed in either the War or the Navy Department except under the direction of a chief of bureau, and no one is allowed to erase an entry in any official record book without explanations and express permission.

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Dr. Sheldon Jackson, the Alaska expert, says that there is so much gold in Alaska that persons who go there ten years hence will have as good a chance as those who go next spring.

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Postmaster General Gary and Secretary Gage have promised to assist in laying the corner stone of the new postoffice building in Chicago on the 4th of next July.

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There is a very favorable outlook for the passage of the bankruptcy bill, and even the opponents of the measure concede their conviction that it will pass both houses.

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The sale of postage stamps for the last quarter of the year 1897 was the largest in the history of the country.

Telegraphic Brevities.

The town council of Mankato, Kan., intends to stop by ordinance the singing, humming or whistling of the song, "Hot Time in the Old Town To-night."

The destructive cigarette may be sold in packages of ten in Tennessee. Judge Clark of the United States Court in Chattanooga held that the term "Original package" could be applied to the smaller boxes.

A serious freight wreck occurred on the New York Central Railroad near Poughkeepsie, N. Y. Several hundred pounds of rock had fallen upon the track from the wall of a cut. The engine and sixteen cars were derailed.

CLAIMS TO BE 140 YEARS OLD.

Georgia Negro Who Says He Remembers the Revolution.

Samuel Andrew Gibbons is an old negro, who, if his claims are true, is the oldest living native of Chatham County. Gibbons says that he is 140 years old and that he was 17 years old when the revolutionary war began.

A reporter met Gibbons on Bay street yesterday and had quite a little chat with him. He does not begin to look as old as he claims to be, but he gives circumstantial details which go to prove him a very old man. A peculiar feature of his story is that he says that up to a month ago, when he returned here, he had not been in Savannah for seventy years. The old man is not in his dotage by any means, and uses pretty good English.

"I was born on a Fairlawn plantation, over that way (west of the city)," he said, "and I belonged to William Gibbons. The Gibbonses owned a whole lot of property here then. I s'pose they own some of it yet. I used to run a barber-shop right over on that corner," pointing to the corner of Bay and Montgomery streets.

"I don't know the names of the streets now, 'cept one or two. They didn't have all these streets when I left here. That street they called South Broad used to be the common where the soldiers mustered. They had a market here then, but it was a wooden building. I don't know whether it was the same square the market is now on or not.

"Yes, sir, I was here when the first revolution in the United States of America took place. I was 17 years old then."

"You saw General Washington, of course?"

"Yes, sir; I saw him. All the people turn out to see him, and they fired guns."

"Did you see Lafayette?"

"Yes, sir. He was the man they put down carpets in the streets for him to walk on. They had a big gathering in Monument Square and a whole lot of soldiers. They don't treat Presidents now like they used to."

The old man was evidently under the impression that Lafayette was a President.

"I was sold away from here seventy years ago," he said, "and brought $600. I have been living all about in Florida and Alabama ever since. I remember the falling stars. That was seventy years ago"

The old man was positive in all his statements, and could not admit that he might be mistaken in any of his facts.

"I left a daughter in Florida when I went to Alabama," he said. "She was just big enough to tie in a napkin. I went back there the other day and found her, and her hair was whiter than mine."

This statement, if true, would appear to be pretty good evidence of very old age. If the old man was, as he says, 17 years old when the revolution began, he would be 139 years old to-day, so that his statement that he is 140 would not be much out of the way. His statement that the "falling stars" occurred seventy years ago is not far wrong. The great meteoric shower occurred in 1833; that is, sixty-four years ago. He gives a circumstantial account of this event, which is not remarkable, however, as, according to his own account, he must have been an old man then.—Savannah News.

The Mysterious Assassin.

One night, shortly after the celebrated battle of Fontenoy, its hero, Marshal De Saxe, arrived at a little village in which was an inn with a peculiar reputation. It was said that in this inn there were ghosts who stabbed or strangled all who attempted to pass the night in a certain room.

The conqueror of Fontenoy was far from being susceptible to superstitious terrors, and was ready to face an army of ghosts. He dismounted, ate his supper, and went up to the fatal room, taking with him his arms and his body servant.

His arrangements completed, the Marshal went to bed, and was soon in a profound slumber, with his sentinel ensconced in an arm chair by the fire. About 1 o'clock in the morning the watcher by the fire, wanting to get some sleep himself, approached his master to awaken him, but to his call he received no response. Thinking the Marshal soundly asleep he called again. Startled at the continued silence, the man shook him; the Marshal did not stir.

As he lifted his hands from the form in the bed, the frightened servant saw that they were red. The Marshal was lying in a pool of blood! Drawing down the cover the soldier saw a strange thing. An enormous insect was fastened to the side of De Saxe, and was sucking at a wound from which the blood flowed freely.

The man sprang to the fireplace, grasped the tongs, and ran back to the bed. Seizing the monster, he cast it into the flames, where it was instantly consumed.

Help was called, and the Marshal was soon out of danger; but the great General, who had escaped fire and steel for years, had barely escaped dying of the bite of an insect. He had found the ghost.

An Ingenious Boy.

A little boy dropped his drumstick into a well, says the London Telegraph. In vain he entreated his parents, the footman, the gardener, the coachman, the cook, the housemaids, to go down into the well to recover his drumstick. In his distress a brilliant experiment occurred to Master Tommy—he secretly carried off all the plate from the sideboard and threw it into the well.

Great was the consternation when the plate was missed, and active search for the robbers took place. In the midst of the alarm and confusion Master Tommy ran with the news that he had found the plate. "Where?" was the cry. "Down the well," replied Tommy. "I saw it quite plain shining on the bottom—spoons, ladles, bread baskets, salvers, and all." The housemaid hurried to the well, at the bottom of which, sure enough, the plate was seen.

A ladder was produced, a servant descended, and the plate was brought up. Just before the last article was fished up Master Tommy whispered to him: "John, please bring up my drumstick when you go down for the soup ladle."

A Coin in the Bottle.

There have been patented all kinds of schemes devised for the purpose of securing a bottle that cannot be refilled after having once been emptied of its contents. A great deal of fraud is said to be perpetrated by filling the bottle of some standard liquor with an inferior grade, and palming it off as the original bottling. An ingenious Philadelphian proposes to accomplish this by blowing a coin in the body of the glass bottle, and he thinks this will be tempting enough to induce someone to break the bottle as soon as it has been emptied.—Philadelphia Record.

TOPICS FOR FARMERS

A DEPARTMENT PREPARED FOR OUR RURAL FRIENDS.

Don't Attempt to Fatten Shoats in the Pasture—Give Milk Cows Good Care—Beans Are a Profitable Crop—Fowls Should Be Fed Slowly.

Fattening Shoats.

The shoats for butchering should be brought in out of the clover and woods pasture and put in the pens for fattening. It is a great waste of feed to try and fatten them in the pasture with the sows and pigs. Clean the pens out; then, if possible, give them a good coat of whitewash. Put four shoats into an eight-by-ten pen; this will give them plenty of room to exercise in, and also plenty of room at the trough. If they are lousy, pour a little coal oil down the back over the head and behind the ears, and down the legs. One good sprinkling and rubbing will answer. Give the shoats thick millfeed slop night and morning—all they will eat up clean, and no more. Then give a few ears of soft corn to each; commence with a little corn at first, but gradually increase the amount until they get all they will eat. At noon give cabbage leaves or boiled pumpkin and small potatoes. They should have a little hard coal to eat every second day. Bed with leaves, keep the pens clean and dry. A half peck of flaxseed meal added to each barrel of slop after the meal has been well scalded, will increase the fattening process. It is very nourishing. By four weeks of feeding the shoats will be fat enough to market. It is best to send them to market in a large covered wagon, instead of driving them on foot.—Exchange.

Care of the Milk Cows.

When there is heavy frost on the grass, keep the milk cows in until the frost is dissolved by the sun. Young cattle and cows that are left out at night should have a rough shed built for them to go under at night and when the weather is stormy. A roof made of poles and covered with two feet of straw will answer. If the pasture is abundant, the young stock may be left out until after Thanksgiving. After two or more hard frosts, there is not much substance in the pasture; the cows should be grain-fed night and morning, and at night give to each one an armful of corn fodder. An excellent grain ration for large cows in milk is eight quarts of bran, four quarts of corn chop and one quart of linseed meal. Divide into two feeds and give half in the morning and the remainder at night. During mild weather mix this feed with cold water; when the weather becomes cold mix with warm water, and add one tablespoonful of salt daily.—Baltimore American.

Beans a Profitable Crop.

Beans are a profitable crop, as much so as any raised; almost every farm has land well adapted to bean culture. I have raised beans on a small scale, and found them very profitable. They have not proved very difficult to grow than most other crops, and were readily sold to private customers at ten cents per quart. In harvesting they will not bear much delay; a wet spell will spoil many. They should be treated to the fumes of carbon, as the weevil is apt to destroy them. Peas, green or marrowfat, may also be made a special crop, as large quantities are consumed in all cities, and but very little produced near some. Few farmers raise what they themselves use, preferring to buy, yet retail dealers pay $1 per bushel. This season I have been very successful with a novelty in the bean line; it is New Kidney Wax; beans are pure white and firm; the stalks hold up from the ground well while young; pods are of a rich golden yellow, buttery flavor and a novelty of decided merits. I also raised the Lazy Wife; these are very nice. I salted a half barrel down. They are also white and firm when ripe, and are equally useful as a snap, shell or soup bean. For dry peas for winter, I like the Earliest of All, a smooth pea; it cooks done when dry in half an hour, and has a pleasant flavor. I have never had any to sell, but could have sold five or six bushels at home. As a green pea, they are profitable, as they are so very early, bear well and ripen even. The ground can be cleared for some other crop.—Farm and Home.

Apple Trees by Roadsides.

The owner of land through which a highway runs is also the owner of the land, and is entitled to make any use of it that will not interfere with the right of the public to travel on it. It is not generally practicable for farmers to crop land beside the roadbed, though sometimes a patch of corn or potatoes beside a road not much used will give paying crops. Perhaps the best use such land can be put to is to plant it with apple trees or other fruit trees, protecting the young trees while small from attacks of wandering stock. Isolated trees, planted where they have plenty of room to spread and plenty of sunlight, often yield more fruit than do apple trees in closely planted orchards.

Feed Fowls Slowly.

One of the difficulties in feeding fowls is that, as given by the poulterer, the food is in a mass and can be gobbled down far too quickly. In its natural state, the fowl hunting for food is obliged to eat slowly, one grain at a time. Usually, after each mouthful, the hen is obliged to scratch for more So ingrained is this instinct that a hen with chickens will scratch and cluck when she comes to a pile of grain. One of the reasons why corn is a bad feed for fowls is that the grain is large, and if shelled and thrown out by handfuls, the fowls eat it much too fast for their good. The true way to feed hens is to mix their grain with chaff or straw, so that they must scratch for it. If covered with mellow earth, it will be still better, as the dust thus raised will rid the fowls of vermin.

Chestnut Trees Profitable.

Those who have a chestnut grove and keep it free from depredators may find it a source of profit. We know of one or two such groves which are only natural fruit, but which yield returns with no labor except for gathering the nuts better than could be got for usual farm crops. But to secure profitable returns the public must be excluded. Men and boys who club the trees while the nuts are green to bring them down will disfigure and injure the trees, so that after a few years the trees will yield little or nothing. Chestnut trees, if the fruit is of good quality, are valuable property, and their fruit should be protected. There are several improved varieties of chestnut, some of which will begin bearing when three years old. These should be chosen if new plantations of chestnuts are to be made, or scions of the new varieties should be grafted onto native stock.

Foot Rot in Sheep.

Sheep naturally thrive best on dry uplands. On wet grounds, or in a wet summer, their feet treading wet grass and soil become soft and easily bruised. This, if not cared for, will develop into foot rot. It used to be the practice of good shepherds to dress their sheep two or three times during the summer, by applying blue vitriol to those of them whose feet were in any way sore. This was done long before the doctors had begun to talk learnedly about microbes and germs. It is known now that foot rot is a germ disease, and blue vitriol, which is a sulphate of copper, is one of the best germicides known. It is a curious fact that the practical cure of foot rot was discovered through experiments made by farmers long before the scientists had found out what caused the disease, or could devise any theory whereby it might be cured.

Relative Cost of Beef and Butter.

Prof. T. L. Hacker of the Minnesota experiment station has been testing the comparative cost of making beef and butter. So he fed four steers along with his herd of cows, giving them, however, a ration for making beef, while to the cows was given the feed appropriate for milk and butter production. After six weeks feeding he figured the cost of the butter at three cents per pound, while the beef was 3 4-10 cents per pound, as nearly as he could estimate it from live weight. It is fairly to be presumed that in the cost of butter the labor required to make it was not estimated. It is probable also that the cows experimented on were in full flow of milk, and therefore could, for a short time, produce butter at very low rates. But the animal has to be kept twelve months with much less product of milk, in order to enable it to make this low record.

Fattening Yearling Lambs.

Both sheep and lambs are much higher than a year ago. Hence there is less inducement for farmers to buy sheep and lambs to fatten. With so good prospects for wool it is likely that sheep and lambs will be dear for some time to come. Still those who like spring lamb will have it, no matter what the price, and the fattened lamb a year old is quite as good as that dressed when only three or four months old. It requires more careful feeding to keep these yearling lambs in fattening condition than it does three or four year old sheep. But the lamb when well fed will gain twice as many pounds per week as the sheep, and the gain in price per pound will be considerably higher.—American Cultivator.

Care of Seed Corn.

Probably no better place for the braids of corn saved in the ear for next spring's seeding can be found than to hang them beside the chimney, where the heat from the stove or fireplace will protect them from freezing until fully dry. About as good a place as this, and some think better, is in the smoke house, where the hams and bacon are cured. But in either case the braids should be visited often to see that nothing gets at them. The squirrel is the worst enemy of sweet corn, because he only digs out the chit or germ of the very soundest and best corn. He will leave an entire corn cob full of corn more or less damp, and feast on that which has been thoroughly dried for seed. The germ of sound, dry corn has a flavor much like a nut, and it is very nutritious.

Test New Varieties.

Every season the farmers receive solicitations or temptations to purchase seeds or plants of some new variety, and yet if they will read the circulars and descriptions, as well as the claims, in favor of the new varieties of the past, they will find wonderful claims in favor of some that are barely recognized now. This is because something better comes every season (though some new varieties are worthless), but the production and quality of all kinds of fruit have been improved by the introduction every year of new candidates for favor. No farmer or fruit grower should accept the claims in favor of a new tree or vine, but should test it himself by procuring only one or two for that purpose.

Linseed vs. Cottonseed Meal.

Both flax and linseed meal are now so cheap that there is no reason why cottonseed meal should be brought North to feed. No young animals nor hogs of any age should be fed cottonseed meal. It is very difficult of digestion. The loss of animals killed by cottonseed meal more than counterbalance the gain from feeding it where it does not prove injurious. Of course linseed meal must be fed in small quantities, but it is not so dangerous for young stock as cottonseed meal, which for calves and pigs is often fatal in very small doses.

Warm Stalls for Cows.

Take two cows and give one a warm stall, with clean bedding, allowing the other a stall in which there is a crack in the wall, which lets the wind come through. The cow that is comfortable and warm will give more milk than the other, because she has warmth in her favor.

Burn Field Refuse.

Wheat stubble and refuse may be the harboring places of chinch bugs and other enemies. As soon as it can be done rake up all refuse and fire the pile. The fall of the year is a good time to fight the enemies that do the most damage in spring and summer.

Uses of Porpoise Skin.

Everybody knows that porpoise skin makes good shoe strings; good, at least, as far as durability is concerned. It is not so well known that porpoise leather also makes good shoes, and that there is quite a demand for them. A porpoise leather shoe, if made well in the first place, always fits well; for, while it is very stretchy material, it can never be made to cover more surface, no matter how much it is stretched. What it is extended in one direction it loses in another. This peculiarity makes it very close fitting, and at the same time soft and pliable, on the foot. It is used chiefly for shoes by people anxious to keep their feet dry, as it is absolutely impermeable to water.

More Ancestral Heirlooms.

At the marriage of a daughter of Carroll D. Wright to John Bruce McPherson of Gettysburg, Pa., the bride wore a veil made by her great-great-aunt, Miss Duncan, a beautiful pattern of old-time lace. The bride's silver shoe buckles were a pair worn on his wedding day by her paternal great-great-grandfather, Colonel Jacob Wright, a revolutionary soldier and a New Hampshire pioneer.

Inquiring Willie.

Willie—Ma, can people leave parts of themselves in different places?

Ma—No; don't be ridiculous.

Willie—Well, Mr. Jiggs said he was going to Arizona for his lungs.—Philadelphia Record.

Live and Let Live.

City Physician—How in the world did you happen to become such a pronounced vegetarian?

Country Doctor—That's the way a majority of my patients pay