

CURRENT COMMENT.

The aggregate receipts at the ports of the Philippine islands for the year 1899 were \$5,183,766.

The Baltimore Woman's Home society of the Methodist Episcopal church has given \$1,000 toward the support of the deaconesses in Puerto Rico and two in Hawaii.

Public curiosity never reached a higher point than in the desire manifested by the citizens of Washington to gaze upon the physical remains of the man who can live peacefully with three wives.

When Alderman Smith Robertson, colored, died at Jackson, Miss., the other day, the white mayor and aldermen of the city acted as pallbearers at the funeral, a tribute never before paid a negro in that town.

One of the first results of Gov. Wood's administration in Cuba is an invitation to bid on the supply of \$500,000 worth of school furniture. Education is all that is needed to swing Cuba into its proper place.

A humorous report comes to the effect that England will send President Kruger to the island of St. Helena. The first trouble will be to get him, as it is certain he will never follow Napoleon's example of voluntary surrender.

A Pennsylvania woman looked into a mirror and discovered that her hat was afire, and a contemporary concludes that in one case at least vanity was a good thing. Perhaps it was. Still, the woman would probably have found it out anyway.

The largest riding academy in the world is to be built near Central Park, New York. It will have 400 stalls, a ring 200x100 feet, and seats for an audience of 2,500. Instead of a horseless era, there will be one of more and better horses.

Brazil's minister of finance has been sued of \$50,000,000 has been consumed, money every week until an entire issue of \$50,000,000 has been consumed. This will be one of the largest practical applications in history of the old phrase, "money to burn."

A large Glasgow (Scotland) tea chest company has purchased 10,000 acres of forest land in North Carolina, with 75,000,000 feet of stumpage, to use the lumber for the veneering of tea chests. A factory to prepare it will be built at Wilmington.

A woman has sued a Chicago hospital for \$100,000 for the loss of her sense of taste, due, it is stated, to a mistake in administering medicine. The other four senses, to say nothing of the subliminal consciousness, must represent a good deal of money.

Notwithstanding Russia's large expenditures for the construction of the Transiberian railway and for increasing the strength of her army and navy, her ordinary revenues during the past 12 years have exceeded her disbursements by 790,000,000 rubles.

The enormous losses on the high seas are not always brought to the eyes of the reading world. During the past three months the Lloyds have records of a loss of 143 vessels, of 118,744 tons. In the preceding quarter the loss was 266 vessels of 251,253 tons.

The town of Kos, the capital of the small Turkish island of that name lying off the coast of Asia Minor, possesses the oldest tree in the world. Under its shade Hippocrates instructed his disciples in his methods and views concerning the healing art 2,000 years ago.

A project is on foot in Savannah, Ga., to purchase the big Spanish dry dock at Havana, Cuba, and tow it to Savannah, if it can be bought at a reasonable figure. It is said Spain refused an offer of \$250,000 for it. It was built in England, and is reported to have cost \$1,000,000.

At the battle of Spottsylvania, the union loss was 18,395, at the Wilderness the United States lost 11,666, at Chancellorsville the loss of our army was 17,287, and at Chickamauga our loss was 16,179. Talking about these days being war days, they are nothing but piping times of peace in comparison to the days when Americans met Americans in battle.

The Young Men's Christian association, which has long had its principal Manila station in a tent near the Bridge of Spain, has been granted by the naval authorities a building on Calle Colon, in close proximity to the Cavite naval station. The association there has 50 active and 28 associate members. Cavite is to be made it is said, the principal naval station in the Philippines.

ABOUT PRIZE MONEY.

The Attorney General's Answer Concerning Captures at Manila.

VESSELS FOR UNITED STATES NAVY.

A Supplemental Estimate for Armories and Signal Service—Kansas Supreme Court Sustained—Consus of Cuba and Puerto Rico—Roberts' Case.

Washington, Jan. 16.—Attorney General Griggs has filed answer in the supreme court of the District of Columbia in the proceedings for prize money for captures at Manila bay by Admiral Dewey. The attorney general asks that the case be referred to a commissioner and that Admiral Dewey, his officers and crew, and also the United States may have leave to take this money. The attorney general concedes that a state of war existed, but denies that the squadron under Dewey's command captured the Spanish cruisers Isla de Cuba, Isla de Luzon and Don Juan de Austria. These vessels, he says, were sunk during the engagement. He asks for fuller information in regard to other points and says although some captures of property were made, such capture does not authorize its condemnation as prize to Dewey and his men. The attorney general has also filed a similar answer in the case of Admiral Sampson and the destruction of Cervera's fleet.

Vessels for the United States Navy. Washington, Jan. 16.—There is no disposition upon the part of the navy department to make any change in the programme for new naval construction on account of the introduction of the German bill looking to the addition of 48 armored ships to the German navy. Attention is called to the fact that there are now already authorized 21 ships for the navy in addition to the fleet afloat. This number is as large as it is believed congress will authorize at this time and as the German increase is to be divided among 18 years, while ours is continuous in each congress, it is felt that the United States navy is in no danger of losing the position it now commands.

A Supplemental Estimate. Washington, Jan. 16.—Secretary Root has sent to congress a supplemental estimate of \$569,000 for Rock Island armory, \$299,718 for the Springfield armory and \$29,500 for the signal service. Gen. Greely writes as to the additional signal service funds that recent reports from the Philippines show that the amount will be needed for military telegraph and telephone connection in the southern islands of the archipelago. Gen. Bufington, chief of ordnance, war department, writes that the experiences of the civil and Spanish war shows the necessity of large plants for small arms, the number on hand being inadequate for emergencies.

Kansas Supreme Court Sustained. Washington, Jan. 16.—The United States supreme court yesterday decided the case of S. H. Clark and others, receivers of the Union Pacific Railroad company, versus the city of Kansas City, Kan. The case involved the constitutionality of the Kansas law authorizing cities to extend their borders so as to include some lands and not others. The opinion rendered yesterday sustained the law affirming the opinion of the supreme court of Kansas.

The Census of Cuba and Puerto Rico. Washington, Jan. 16.—Every effort is making to tabulate the returns as rapidly as possible of the census of Cuba and Puerto Rico, and it is probable that the general results of the work may be ready for public announcement in three or four weeks.

No Conclusion in the Roberts Case. Washington, Jan. 16.—The Roberts committee was in executive session throughout yesterday, but reached no conclusion and adjourned until Wednesday, owing to the absence of Mr. Miers and the sickness of Mr. Frear, of the committee.

Poisoned at a Wedding Feast. Chicago, Jan. 16.—Nearly 100 guests who assembled at 569 Canal street to witness the wedding of Morris Pollack and Annie Schan, were poisoned during a dinner which followed the wedding ceremony. In less than half an hour after dinner nearly every one in the hall was in a helpless condition. What article of food contained the poison no one has been able to learn, but the most popular belief is that it was the chicken, which had been prepared in a copper kettle. So far no deaths have been reported but many are seriously ill, including the bride and groom.

The Kentucky Coolest. Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 16.—The contest boards sitting in the contests for governor and lieutenant governor got down to work yesterday. Most of the day was taken up with sparring between the attorneys over legal technicalities and last night, when adjournment was taken till today, only two witnesses had been examined. The proceedings were conducted with the utmost courtesy.

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WHAT CONGRESS IS DOING.

Proceedings of Our National Lawmakers from Day to Day in Condensed Form—Resolutions and Bills.

Impressive tributes were paid in the senate on the 10th to the memory of the late Vice President Hobart, addresses being made by Senators Sewell (N. J.), Keane (N. J.), Daniel (Va.), Depew (N. Y.), Cockrell (Mo.), Cullom (Ill.), Davis (Minn.), Morgan (Ala.), Chandler (N. H.), Lodge (Mass.), Caffery (La.), and Allen (Neb.). Senator Butler (N. C.) introduced a resolution to control trusts. A bill was introduced by Senator Allison (Neb.) granting a pension of \$10 a month to every soldier and sailor who served in the civil war for three months or more. Business of minor importance occupied the attention of the house until one o'clock, after which an hour was devoted to eulogies upon the life and public services of the late Congressman Green (Neb.). The house then adjourned until the 12th.

At the conclusion of routine business in the senate on the 11th the resolution of Senator Pettigrew (S. D.) together with the substitute by Senator Lodge (Mass.), asking the administration for all information in regard to the insurrection in the Philippine islands, were taken up and debated. Senator Lodge suggested that both be withdrawn and the resolution offered by Senator Hoar (Mass.) be adopted, which was more sweeping in its call for information. To this Senator Pettigrew objected and then launched into an attack upon the administration. The debate was finally cut off by the expiration of the morning hour and the currency bill was taken up. Senator Stewart (Neb.) taunted the republican party for bringing in a measure "so utterly contradictory to the St. Louis platform." The debate was finally postponed until the 15th at the request of Senator Aldrich (R. I.). The measure conferring additional authority on the census director was then discussed and afterwards passed. After an executive session an adjournment was taken to the 15th. The house was not in session.

The senate was not in session on the 12th. Mr. Sulzer (N. Y.) introduced in the house a resolution for the appointment of a special committee of nine members to investigate the relations of the secretary of the treasury with certain New York national banks. He wanted it considered at once, but Mr. Dabzell (Pa.) objected. Mr. Richardson (Tenn.) objected to what he claimed was an infraction of the house rules by printing a partisan argument on the shipping bill. After some discussion it was decided that the bill should be reported without the argument. Mr. Lloyd (Mo.) introduced a bill to change the oath of a cadet of the military academy, making him swear that he will not practice hazing. Mr. Lacey (Mo.) brought forward a bill to set aside a preserve for the American bison. Several other minor bills were also introduced and the house then adjourned to the 15th.

A spirited debate occupied the attention of the senate for nearly three hours on the 15th. Senator Pettigrew (S. D.) in his address was very bitter in his attacks on the administration. At the conclusion of the debate Senator Rawlins (Utah) made an elaborate argument in opposition to the proposed financial legislation. Senator Butler (N. C.) gave notice of a substitute that he will offer for the financial bill. Senator Penrose (Pa.) reported the Lodge bill restricting immigration. Senator Mason (Ill.) reported a bill to create a bureau of chemistry in the agricultural department to inspect foods and drugs to prevent their adulteration. The session of the house was devoted to District of Columbia business. Mr. Cannon (Ill.) reported the urgent deficiency bill. It carries \$56,127,841. Mr. Needham (Cal.) introduced a bill for the inspection under the direction of the secretary of agriculture of trees, fruits, plants, etc., imported into the United States.

The Kansas Fly and the Spider.

A spider carefully wove his web in the corner of a room and waited for his victim. By and by, seeing a fly meandering along that way he invited him to chat awhile, casually offering to set 'em up as an extra inducement. "May I ask," said the fly as he brushed a brendrumb off his left eye-brow with his left foot, "why are you so blamed anxious to strike up an acquaintance with an entire stranger? So far as I know you never saw me in your life before." "True," replied the spider, "as I saw you I was struck by your appearance and determined that you were the individual I had been looking for to go into a great business venture. I can see in a minute that you have a head for business." But the fly simply said: "My fuzzy-headed friend, I might be caught with this glueose you are giving me if it wasn't for the fact that I see the remains of a friend of mine from Missouri hanging up there in the corner of your establishment. He had to be shown, I don't." And with a light "ta ta, I will see you later," the Kansas fly wended his way towards the bald head of a fat man who was slumbering on a neighboring couch. —Topeka Mail and Breeze.

Martin's Way.

Irishmen are inclined to word-perversion, but, the following description of slow speech which often degenerated into a stammer shows that occasionally they used the best words possible in explaining a thing. "It's a square sort o' way Martin talks," said Pat "It's as if he tuk the words out av his mout" an' loked at 'em before he gives 'em to yez." —Nineteenth Century.

Becoming Densely Inhabited.

Hiram—If I had any desire to explore around in the polar regions, I believe I'd try making a trip to the south pole. Siras—Why not try the north pole? "Oh! there's been so doggoned many others gone in that direction lately that a fellow wouldn't git very far without bein' overhauled by some relief expedition or other." —Puck.

THE WAR IN AFRICA.

Boers Draw Closer the Circle of Investment at Ladysmith.

KRUGER ISSUES A PROCLAMATION.

The Gallantry of the Ladysmith Garrison Depresses the Boers—Boers' Trenches on the Big Tugela Shelled—Dispatch from Lord Roberts.

London, Jan. 16.—Gen. Buller's latest authentic word as to what he and his 30,000 men are doing was wired from Springfield after his first forward step. Striving to think out the unknown, London is confused by surmise and rumor and disquieted by suspense. Spencer Wilkinson, the lucid military expert of the Morning Post, asserts that the Boer force in northern Natal is larger than Gen. Buller's and Sir George White's together, so that the Boers are able to leave a force around Ladysmith larger than that within the town and yet to oppose Gen. Buller with a force superior to his own. Reports from the Boer camps affirm that the circle of investment has been drawn closer by the occupation of some hills nearer the town, thus liberating reinforcements to oppose Gen. Buller.

Kruger Issues a Proclamation.

London, Jan. 16.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail, dated January 13, from Lourenzo Marques, says: "President Kruger has issued a proclamation ordering all burghers to the front. The Volksstem, the Transvaal official organ, suggests that the moment the British cross the border the gold industry should be irretrievably destroyed. President Kruger issued a circular, dated January 8, to Boer commandants and burghers, urging them to show more energy in the Transvaal cause. He quotes Psalm 23, verse 7, as God-given instructions to the burghers and says that the British have fixed their faith in Psalm 83. He also quotes Psalm 89, verses 13 and 14, and asserts that he has searched the Bible without being able to find any other mode which can be followed by the Boers, who must fight 'in the name of the Lord.' It is said that there are nearly 3,000 British prisoners in Pretoria."

Ladysmith Depresses the Boers.

London, Jan. 16.—The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at Pietermaritzburg, telegraphing January 11, says: "The gallantry of the Ladysmith garrison last Saturday appears to have depressed, if not actually demoralized the Boers generally. It is believed that they lost at least two if not three, killed as against our one. Many Boers are believed trekking northward. The magistrate at Nqutu, Zululand, telegraphs that scouts report having seen many Boer families with wagons proceeding north, via Zululand, while a European who formerly resided at Dundee declares that after the repulse at Ladysmith a number of Boer women, loaded with dead and wounded, passed through that mining township and that the Boers burned some of the public buildings as they departed. Five days have passed since then."

The Boers' Trenches Shelled.

London, Jan. 16.—The Standard gives prominence to the following dispatch, dated January 13, from Durban: "A man who had just arrived here from Springfield, says that a British column, proceeding to the relief of Ladysmith, has crossed the Little Tugela. When he left it was facing the Boer position on the Big Tugela and a Howitzer was shelling the Boer trenches. He also says that 270 wagons, laden with commissariat stores for Ladysmith, had left Free, and it was expected that the column would join hands with Gen. White Monday evening."

Dispatch from Lord Roberts.

London, Jan. 16.—The war office has published the dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated Cape Town, January 15: "French reports that a reconnaissance yesterday (Sunday) shelled the Colesberg road bridge. No casualties. Returned to-day. Methuen and Gatacre no change."

Attempt to Kill Judge Lochren.

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 16.—James Welch made a desperate attempt yesterday to assassinate Judge William Lochren, of the federal court. Welch had a damage suit against the Northern Pacific for being thrown off a train at Mandan, N. D. After a trial lasting three days Judge Lochren last Friday took the case from the jury and delivered a verdict for the defendant. Lochren was pension commissioner under President Cleveland.

The Denver Shooting Case.

Denver, Col., Jan. 16.—W. Anderson, who had been released from jail on a writ of habeas corpus, appeared before the criminal court yesterday afternoon to answer two informations filed by the district attorney, charging him with assault with intent to kill. Bail was fixed at \$10,000 in each case and bond was furnished. The cases were continued until Saturday when Anderson will plead.

STRUGGLING YOUNG AUTHOR.

No Big Demand for His Wares But He is Providing Against a Rush.

"I have just finished," said the struggling young author, "another storage warehouse for returned manuscripts, this being of the same dimensions as the other, 20x30 and four stories high, and, also like the other, fireproof. I find it cheaper to build that way and insure myself. It costs a little more, of course, to make the structure fireproof, but the interest on this additional cost is less than the insurance would be, and the difference I have set aside as a sinking fund from which to pay the taxes and repairs. "You might infer from this that there has been as yet no widespread general demand for the productions of my pen; and, if you should, your inference would be quite correct; indeed, such unanimity of sentiment as appears seems to take the form of rigidly observed neutrality, with the result that my second warehouse has already begun to fill rapidly. "But I have still no fear of the outcome; else, I should throw away these manuscripts instead of storing them; but as it is I think I am simply putting down a gold mine. Then why doesn't somebody see at least a color in these manuscripts now? Well, I don't know; you can't always tell about those things, but some day the gold is discovered; I've built both my warehouses on corners; so that when that discovery is made, and the publishers swarm around the buildings asking for manuscripts, I can deliver not only from doors but from windows, too."

Cow in a Golf Match.

Ed Tufts, of Los Angeles, was playing golf with a friend recently. When he drove from the third teeing ground, he sliced the ball badly and sent it away to one side. It stopped in front of a grazing cow, and Tufts came up just in time to see it disappear into the bovine mouth. When his opponent had made his stroke, Tufts untethered the cow, and, with many sounding thwacks of his club, drove the beast to the third hole. There he made her disgorge the ball, and, neatly hoing it, announced that he had made the hole in two strokes. His opponent calmly finished the hole in seven, and claimed the hole. "But I made it in two," protested Tufts, gleefully. "No, you didn't," declared the other; "you made it in 39. You hit that cow 37 times, for I counted every stroke," and Tufts conceded the hole.—San Francisco Argonaut.

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Advertisement for Northern Grown Farm Seeds, featuring a circular logo and text: 'NORTHERN GROWN SEEDS FARM SEEDS Salzer's Seeds are Warranted to Produce... 10 DOLLARS WORTH FOR 10c... Salzer Seed Co. La Crosse, Wis.'/>

Advertisement for Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup: 'Dr. Bull's COUGH SYRUP Cures Croup and Whooping-Cough Unexcelled for Consumptives. Gives quick, sure results. Refuse substitutes. Dr. Bull's Pills cure Biliousness. Trial, 25c for 5c.'

Advertisement for Carter's Ink: 'CARTER'S INK Just as cheap as poor ink.'

Advertisement for Pisco's Cure for Consumption: 'READERS OF THIS PAPER DESIRING TO BUY ANYTHING ADVERTISED IN ITS COLUMNS SHOULD INSIST UPON HAVING WHAT THEY ASK FOR, REFUSING ALL SUBSTITUTES OR IMITATIONS.'

Advertisement for Pisco's Cure for Consumption: 'PISCO'S CURE FOR CONSUMPTION CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS. Best Cough Syrup, Tastes Good, Use in Time. Sold by Druggists.'