

BRIEFS BY THE WIRE AND OTHERWISE.

Beaver Falls rolling mills at Beaver Falls, Pa., were burned. Loss \$15,000. Six men were killed, two of whom will probably die.

A meeting of citizens of Augusta, Ga., in the grand opera house endorsed Henry W. Grady for the United States senate against Senator Alfred Colquitt.

The famous Morris mansion, in the West End, St. Louis, burned on the 20th. The imposing structure, which cost in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000 was totally destroyed. The insurance is not more than one-fourth of that amount.

At Bridgeport, Conn., Mrs. Thomas Fitzpatrick attempted to light a fire with a parlor match. The heat of the glowing fire clothing. Her father and son tried to smother the flames and both were badly burned. Mrs. Fitzpatrick and her father were fatally burned.

A serious wreck occurred on the Union Pacific at Wilcox siding, fifty miles west of Cheyenne. A work train with two engines collided with a section of freight No. 23. Three engines and twelve cars were demolished. Engineer Montgomery and his fireman were seriously injured. Travel was delayed fifteen hours by the wreck.

The president has appointed the following postmasters: Kattie L. Scott, at Galena, Ill.; William J. Brennan, at Sidney, Neb.; John T. McAnney, at Isham, Dak.; Nicholas C. Stanton, at West Liberty, Ia.; E. Kearney, at Sheldon, Ia.; William C. Pawley, at Muston, Wis.

At the following named postoffices, which were recently raised to the presidential class, the president has reappointed the incumbents: Minot and Strizburg, Dak.; Austin, Chillicothe, Griggsville and Kensington, Ill.; Esherville, Correctionville and Marcus, Ia.; Ponce, Neb.; Rhinelander and Rice Lake, Wis.

A Butte, Montana, special says: At the old consolidation of the Boston & Montana Consolidated works, at Meadville, Mont., at 5 this afternoon the boiler exploded, killing M. C. Eminent, the engineer, W. O'Connell, carpenter; Jacob Kramel, pipe fitter; Henry Wintzer, laborer, and fatally injuring Richard Wing, machinist; George Heckman, pipe fitter; John Curtis, carpenter, and Jonathan Hank Pipefitter.

An Erie, Pa., special says that Mrs. Patrick Durkin quarreled with her husband at the supper table and in her rage she threw a tumbler of vitriol in his face. She then ran out of the house, but was arrested by an officer and taken back. When she was brought into the room her husband attacked her, and before the officer could interfere he almost beat her to death. The woman was taken to jail and her husband sent to the hospital. She claims that he was brutal to her and threatened to bring another woman into the house.

The department of state has received official confirmation of the reported condemnation and seizure by the Haytian prize court of the American steamship, Haytian Republic. The condemnation was pronounced November 3. The day after the United States minister protested against the proceedings, alleging that the prize court was illegally constituted, and appealed to a higher court. He also advised the captain of the seized vessel to refuse to surrender the craft. The United States man-of-war Boston arrived on the scene the same day to support the protest of the United States minister.

Panic in a School Room. New York dispatch: At 1:15 this afternoon a fire broke out in the first ward public school building at Long Island City. Over 900 children were studying at their desks in the various rooms of the building. When the children on the first floor saw the flames they raised a cry of fire. Instantly there was a panic in every room of the school building. The children rushed pell-mell for the narrow doors, crowding, jostling and striking each other in their efforts to get out. The children were piled up to a higher court, in heaps, and attempts to bring order out of the confusion were at first fruitless, but finally the police and firemen were able to check the children, although they had to contend with an excited mob of mothers that had appeared as soon as the news of the fire spread through the neighborhood. The fire itself amounted to little, and as soon as it was extinguished an examination of the injured was commenced. It was found that while hundreds were badly bruised and shocked, no one was seriously or fatally hurt.

Mr. Powderly Will be Chosen Again. The desire of the delegates to the general assembly of the Knights of Labor to continue T. V. Powderly as their chief has been expressed to him formally, says an Indianapolis dispatch. Seven delegates, who represent the Canadian assembly, have called on him and asked him to accept the office once more. He gave them to understand that he would do so, providing he were chosen his own advisors on the general executive board. Under any circumstances, Powderly will undoubtedly continue in office and will choose his own cabinet. Canada wishes to be represented on the general executive board. The south has a like desire, and a movement is on foot looking to the selection of some representative business man. It is reported that a proposition looking to the formation of a British empire constitution has been made to the general assembly and is being considered by the proper committee. As there is a strong feeling in favor of a radical revision of the constitution, it is thought that little doubt that the new constitution will have many supporters.

Dr. Upharp Spirit Asks a Favor. An Edinburgh Kirby, proprietor of a drug store in this city, says a Baltimore telegram, is a firm believer in spiritualism. He is a highly respectable gentleman, fifty years of age, a physician of prominence, and a medium. Of late he has had several laborers digging in the cellar under his store. At first he was mysterious about the matter and declined to tell what he was doing. However, he declares that he has been in communication with the spirit of a murdered man. The house he occupies has been a drug store for about twenty years. Previous to this a hostelry stood on the site, and it was the spirit of a farmer, the doctor declares, has communicated with him and told him that years ago he was murdered and that his bones rested beneath the building. The spirit asked to have the bones removed and properly interred. Dr. Kirby states that the scapula, two femoral bones, and other parts of the body have been found but the head is missing. The diggers have thus far excavated to a depth of ten feet.

England is booming the fact that the Prince of Wales has lost his skill as a marksman. At the imperial hunt in Austria, he missed four stags, much to the surprise and disgust of Francis Joseph.

THE NEW SECRETARY GOES TO WORK.

The Private Secretary of General Harrison at the Desk.

Indianapolis dispatch: Private Secretary Halford formally entered upon his new duties to-day, and occupies a desk in the library immediately to the right of the large table where the president-elect works. Both were busily engaged throughout the day with the accumulated correspondence. Secretary Harrison, like the president-elect, is a rapid and indefatigable worker. His appointment gives great general satisfaction here at his home, and numerous were the callers at the editorial sanctum of the Journal to-day, leaving cards of cordial congratulations. Many telegrams from newspaper and other friends also reached him.

Among General Harrison's callers to-day were Congressman Joseph G. Cannon, of Illinois, John F. Craven, of Dakota, and Attorney General L. T. Michener, of this city. General Harrison is gradually systematizing his work the better to accomplish his end, and also as an assurance to callers that they will find him at home he has set aside the hours from 2 to 4 o'clock of each day to see those having business with him or others who call merely to pay their respects. The observance of this request is necessary, not only that the president-elect may utilize his time to advantage, but also to enable him to secure neatly daily recreation. He had several callers this morning before breakfast. It is also announced that every Wednesday evening from 8 to 11 o'clock the General and Mrs. Harrison will be glad to receive all who may call. Mrs. Harrison will receive her friends from 2 to 5 o'clock on each Wednesday.

Congressman L. C. Honk of Tennessee arrived to-night. Congressman Cannon left this evening for Washington. The Journal to-morrow will editorially announce the severance of Mr. E. W. Halford's connection with that paper by his recent appointment as private secretary to the president-elect.

A Candidate for Speaker.

Washington dispatch: Representative Cannon, of Illinois, one of the candidates for speaker of the next house, if the republicans should have a majority of members and control the organization, arrived in Washington to-day. The Journal to-day of the United States press Mr. Cannon said this evening: "I stopped in Indianapolis to see General Harrison and pay my respects to him, but my visit had no political significance. In his conversation with me, General Harrison did not commit himself in any way. In fact I do not think he has had much time to think about his cabinet or anything else, and I doubt if he has reached any conclusion. I do not think he has considered the question of calling an extra session of congress, and as we may not organize the house for a year, it is a little early I think for the discussion of the speakership."

Results of Agricultural Experiments.

The new bureau in the agricultural department authorized to be established at the last session of congress, and known as the bureau of correspondence with agricultural stations, has been assigned quarters in the east end of the department building, and begun work under the direction of Prof. W. O. Atterbury. Bulletins will be published from time to time setting out the results of agricultural experiments in this country and abroad, which will be distributed among the experiment stations. The features of the work will be to engage the ablest specialist on the subjects about which information may be required for general distribution whenever the importance of the subject seems to warrant the expense. Still another function of the bureau will be to supply congress with information that may be found necessary to aid it in legislating upon agricultural matters.

The Largest Land Slide Ever Known.

Bond's Mill (W. Va.) dispatch: The largest land slide ever known here occurred a few days since on the side of the Cumberland mountain, where a slope of land, containing not less than twenty-five or thirty acres, slipped from the side of the mountain, carrying its load of pine, chestnut, oak and other immense trees along with it into a narrow valley below. The slide shot across the valley, completely damming it on the mountain side to a parallel ridge four hundred yards distant. The small creek which ran down the valley was dammed up, and formed a small lake from ten to twenty-five feet deep, and, perhaps, a half mile in length. The forest trees still stand on the slide, but at an angle of forty or fifty degrees. The mountain side is bare, with the rocks standing exposed in a line four hundred yards wide and half a mile long. Altogether it was a most peculiar freak of nature.

The Minister to Spain.

It has been said that Mr. Blaine will use his influence to prevent the confirmation of Mr. Belmont as minister to Spain. A gentleman who is familiar with the facts connected with the famous controversy between Mr. Blaine Belmont, which occurred some years ago, is quoted by the Star as saying that neither had cherished any ill will toward the other as would be expected in representatives of opposing parties. Both, he said, had since regretted the great publicity given the affair, and they have carefully avoided speaking disrespectfully of each other. From what he has heard, he was willing to bet that the minister to Spain would be particularly anxious to feel in this matter, he was confident that he would not for word or action oppose Mr. Belmont's confirmation.

Salvationists Knocked Right and Left.

A pugilistic ruffian, Mike Sullivan, created a great uproar at the Salvation army barracks at Helena, Montana, and came near exterminating the entire outfit. The meeting was just over and the audience was filing out when Sullivan commenced yelling at the top of his voice. Many amens and groans went up from the soldiers, who thought that Sullivan had been smitten with the power. They crowded around to offer consolation when he began striking out from the shoulder, and within a few moments he had the floor knee-deep in soldiers, who were waving through and party fought like brave men and women, but Sullivan escaped. He was afterward arrested, fined, and released.

It Was a Paralyzing Hand, Sure.

Judge Samuel Levy, a prominent aged citizen of Augusta, Ga., was stricken paralysis while participating in a social game of cards. The party was playing poker and Judge Levy was taking hazard on the game. His opponent in the jack-pot, when called, showed four aces. The judge was noticed to become suddenly ill, and assistance was offered. When medical relief arrived it was found that the judge could not talk nor swallow. Surprisingly, his opponent's hand is given as the prime cause of his illness, though he is very old and age makes the ailment more potent. He is not expected to live.

MR. POWDERLY HOLDS THE FORT.

As is Chosen by the Knights to Be His Own Successor.

Indianapolis dispatch: The election of officers took up the time of the Knights of Labor general assembly to-day. Daniel J. Campbell, of Scranton, Pa., nominated T. V. Powderly for re-election; Victor Drury placed the name of Martin Hanley, of New Jersey, before the convention, and an ex-delegate named Birch, from Ohio, was also proposed. The vote resulted: Powderly 114, Hanley 27, and Birch 1. For general worthy foreman, Morris L. Wheat, of Iowa, was elected. Before the vote was taken for general secretary and treasurer a motion for a recess for dinner was carried.

After the dinner had been concluded after dinner talking was proceeded with, resulting: Hayes, 84; Turner, 66; Mrs. Stevens, 3. Powderly having practically requested the election of Hayes, the result is a foregone conclusion.

When Mr. Powderly took through with his nominating speech, Turner read a letter sent to him by the general master workman, in which he expressed a hope that he (Turner) would again be a candidate as what he desired the most was to see Mr. Powderly re-elected. He explained that the letter was written before a combination of the two offices had been suggested.

Mrs. A. P. Stevens presented the name of Mrs. P. M. Barry as director and investigator of women's work, and she was re-elected by acclamation. General Master Workman Powderly was chosen to represent the order at the Paris exposition.

After the re-election to office, Powderly took the floor and stated that, although his salary had been left at \$5,000, he would accept only \$3,000, and at the end of his term the order could send him with the balance.

As candidates for members of the executive board the general master workman presented the names of A. W. Wright, of Toronto, Ont.; J. J. Holland, of Jacksonville, Fla.; John Costello, of Pittsburgh; J. J. Holland, of Detroit; J. N. Wright, of Philadelphia; T. B. McGuire, of New York; H. C. Trapnizer, of Cincinnati, and J. J. Crowley, of Charleston, Mass. On the first ballot A. W. Wright, J. J. Holland and John Costello were elected. Two more ballots were necessary to elect the fourth member of the board. John Devin was chosen.

The retiring general worthy foreman, Richard Wright, of Chicago, and Delegate Delwate, of Belgium, were presented with fine gold badges by the general assembly, the receipt of which was acknowledged appropriately. M. Delwate, being so in his choices, French. To-morrow morning the members of the executive board will be elected from four nominations of General Worthy Foreman Wheat.

FLASHES BY THE WIRE.

Chief Justice Armstrong, aged sixty-eight, chairman of the labor commission, fell dead on the street at Lora, Quebec, from apoplexy.

Jem Carney has deposited \$1,000 forfeit with the London Sporting Life for a fight with Jack McAniff for the championship of the world in the lightweight class.

The official figures from the secretary of state show Harrison's plurality over Cleveland in Kansas to be 82,192. The Harrison electors received 182,914 and Cleveland 102,728.

Governor Larabee has pardoned L. Lane, who several years ago was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in the Anamosa penitentiary. Lane was a resident of Webster county when the deed was committed.

The Fort Wayne (Ind.) Jenny Electric Light company's plant was entirely burned on the 23d. The loss on the building and machinery is \$250,000; insurance, \$150,000. Fully 300 workmen are thrown out of employment.

Burglars broke into the Boston & Maine station at Pin Point, Me., and blew open the safe. The station agent declines to say whether the robbery was a success, but it is said the burglars were well paid for their work, as the safe contained the wages of the section hands.

Mrs. General Harrison is the recipient of a handsome silk robe of crazy quilt sent by the ladies of the Episcopal church at Los Angeles, Cal., it having been voted by Mrs. Harrison as the most popular lady at a church fair.

The electoral vote in New York state, as canvassed by the state board of canvassers, is as follows: Republicans, 659,327; democrats, 635,996; prohibition, 30,281; socialist, 2,088; union labor, 626; justice labor electors at large, 2,668.

Chief Justice Horton was tendered the position of general solicitor of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad by the receiver of that road. The judge states that he prefers to remain upon the supreme bench of Kansas, and has declined the offer.

Foreign bankers who have ordered gold for shipment to Europe state that owing to the demand in London for gold bars for shipment, the rate on the South American banks on the other side are paying for gold a fraction over the nominal price. Kuhn, Loeb & Co. have just ordered \$512,000 in gold bars from the assay office for shipment to Europe. The bank's gold requirements so far this week amount to \$4,654,000.

Brigadier General Nelson A. Miles assumed command of the division of Pacific on the 23d. General O. O. Howard, the retiring commander, greeted his successor, who was then presented to those of the staff with whom he was not before acquainted. General Miles issued immediately a brief order to all military posts, setting forth that he had formally taken command, and stating that Lieutenants Gatewood and Dalry will act as his aides. General Howard and Lieutenant Greble started for New York.

Anarchism Again Coming to the Front. Chicago dispatch: An anarchist circular of the style made familiar by Parsons and Spies was well distributed to-day through the saloons of the west and northwest sections of the city. After asking subscriptions to defend the supposed dynamiters, Hronek, Chleboun and Sevic, whose trials are to begin Monday, the circular said: "The law has murdered a number of our brethren, this capitalist beast thirsts for more blood, and apparently will not be satisfied until it gets it. Workingmen of Chicago cannot tell nowadays what will happen. Any day they are liable to be taken away from their breakfast tables—torn from their families—and locked up in jail on account of some trivial complaint from a neighbor."

The paper goes on to say that capital must be crushed and claims that the only way to do it is for the workingmen to organize and fight for their rights. The circular is printed in German and Bohemian, and signed by Fritz Bentzin on behalf of the newly-organized Arbeiter Reichs Schutz Verein.

—A man named Coon was caught selling whiskey from a keg at the Weeping Water quarry the other day, and was arrested and sent to jail to await trial.

DEMOCRATIC DANA DISCUSSES POLITICS.

Giving His Opinion of What Caused Defeat of the Democracy.

Charles A. Dana, of the New York Sun, while spending a few days in Paris, was called upon by a correspondent and unbosomed himself thus on American politics:

"Mr. Cleveland was beaten in the recent contest for his simple reason that a majority of the people chose to vote against him. Many things contributed to the result. In the first place, the chances are all against the re-election of any man as president. Since 1832 only two men have been twice placed before the office of chief magistrate. These were Lincoln and Grant, and they both were kept in the white house under exceptional circumstances. The military record of General Grant made him a public hero, and Abraham Lincoln would never have been re-elected but for the extraordinary services he rendered during his first term, and he had the support of Jackson. Yet when he ran for a second term in 1840 he was overwhelmingly defeated. Therefore, on general principles, in order to insure a president a second term of office there must be something of special and unusual importance to commend him to public favor.

"Mr. Cleveland had no such element to aid him. On the contrary, he had no strong personal friends. He was cordially disliked by the leaders of the democratic party, and by the re-electors of the democratic press. Even before the election I do not believe there was a more unpopular person in the United States than he, and after he had won, when the game is all over, the nation would have been glad to see a man as Cleveland ever came to fill such a high position.

"During his administration he did nothing to win the confidence and support of his party. In fact, he did not care a copper for the real interests of the democrats. What he worked and schemed for from beginning to end was the welfare and advancement of Mr. Grover Cleveland. In his manner toward his supporters he was a friend and overbearing, and he never by any chance put himself out to be courteous or accommodating. He thought himself a man of destiny and so far above his fellow-men that he would not be trifled with by his negotiators, and he was never pleased. He has finally discovered his mistake. He was always trying to produce a sensation which would make people talk about him. He did not choose to do so in his choices, French. To-morrow morning the members of the executive board will be elected from four nominations of General Worthy Foreman Wheat.

"This last election has forever settled the free trade question. No party can succeed in the United States which wavers in its adherence to protection. California, in its production of a friend and wools and fruits, Alabama in its iron, and so will Colorado in tin. The whole west wants it for the manufactures and industries which are springing up there as if by magic. The east has always wanted it, and the south will follow suit. The democrats were beaten in a free fight because they deserved to be. There was never an election more just and orderly. There was never one so free from fraud and jockeying as this. His negotiators had been knifed in New York by Hill and Hewitt in non-sense. Those two men aided rather than injured the presidential candidate. The bitterness which arose in New York state, but which was probably the result in drawing out an enormous vote, which always helps the democrats. Furthermore, Hill gained thousands of votes among the republicans who were for the protection of the tariff, and many such men were thus induced to cast a straight democratic ticket. If the democrats had chosen for their candidate a man without Cleveland's host of enemies, and if they had excluded from their platform any man who might be construed as leaning toward free trade, I think there is no doubt they would have been successful. As it is they are set back where they were twenty years ago, and they have a republican majority against them in both houses.

Will Stand Up for Tariff Reform.

It is quite likely, says the Washington Evening Star, that Mr. Cleveland's message will possess some of the elements of clever retort that appeared in his last fisheries message. It is generally understood that he will stand up to the question of tariff reform as in his message at the beginning of this congress, and will make it the feature of the document. He will not yield one jot from his position before the campaign, but he will probably make more emphatic his declaration that it is a "condition, not a theory, that confronts us." It is likely that he will try to make it clear to congress that the necessity of checking the accumulation of surplus is so great that if the democratic plan cannot carry through congress they should yield under protest to the republican amendment, rather than have a reduction of the revenue to that of the former position, and no confession that the popular verdict has condemned tariff reform. Mr. Cleveland has said that he would sign any law that would result in a reduction in the revenue, whether as to tariff duties or internal taxes, unless there were something about it absolutely vicious. If the senate bill should pass, as it now is, it is almost certain that he would not sign it, probably with some remarks in explanation of his motives.

Deliberations of the Knights.

At the session of the Knights of Labor general assembly at Indianapolis on the 20th, the committee on law submitted a report amending section 15, article 3, of the constitution so as to provide that the elective officers shall be the general master workman, general worthy foreman, general secretary and treasurer, and general director of woman's work. The general executive board shall consist of four members besides the general master workman and the general co-operative board shall consist of two members besides the general worthy foreman. All except the general executive board and the general co-operative board shall be taken from the floor of the general assembly, and when elected shall serve two years. This action further provides that the general worthy foreman shall be ex-officio chairman of the general co-operative board and that he shall submit to the general assembly four names from which they shall elect two, who will constitute the board.

A prolonged session to-day consisted of four members besides the general master workman and the general co-operative board shall consist of two members besides the general worthy foreman. All except the general executive board and the general co-operative board shall be taken from the floor of the general assembly, and when elected shall serve two years. This action further provides that the general worthy foreman shall be ex-officio chairman of the general co-operative board and that he shall submit to the general assembly four names from which they shall elect two, who will constitute the board.

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Elizabeth Stuart Phelps' Romance.

From the New York Sun.

One lovely and illustrious old maid has become a wife. She is Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, authoress of many exquisite religious books, one of which is the famous "Gates Ajar." She also wrote "Old Maids' Paradise," and was regarded by her friends as confirmed by choice in single blessedness. Marriage had certainly been optional with her ever since her girlhood, but she habitually declared she would never wed. Nevertheless she is the bride of Herbert D. Ward. There is a little story to tell about that. The bridegroom is the son of Rev. William Hayes Ward, editor of the Independent. "Last winter Phelps' latest book carelessly," said this informant, "as he sat in his sanctum, and glanced over its pages. He immediately became interested, and kept on reading to the neglect of more important duties, until the time came for him to go home. He walked to the South Ferry with his mind still absorbed in what he had read, and he was so distracted with it that, in crossing the crowded street to get to the ferry entrance, he allowed himself to be run over by a heavy truck and very badly injured. Some of his ribs were broken and for a day or two his life was considered in danger. The driver who had run him down was arrested, but Dr. Ward declared that no blame attached to him.

"It was altogether my own fault," he said. "My mind was engrossed with something else than taking care of my body just then or it wouldn't have happened."

"When the season of outing came around, Dr. Ward was barely convalescing, and his son took him on a yacht cruise. They stopped at Gloucester, Mass., near which Miss Phelps had a summer residence and the neighborhood of which she had long before stirred up immensely by her story of 'Jack,' in which the people thereabouts were described and not altogether agreeably. The wards visited Miss Phelps, getting an introduction through a friend and at the earnest desire of Dr. Ward, who had become greatly interested in the authoress through a perusal of her works while recovering from the accident which she had indirectly caused. All through the past summer the wards hung about Gloucester, and it became apparent to observers that this was due to the son rather than to the father. Although the former was hardly thirty-five years old and Elizabeth Stuart Phelps is something like fifty, their relations look on an unmistakable aspect of courtship. The result was treaty and the extradition treaty did him much harm among the Irish and the fishermen. If he had not been politically dead already, of course his position on the tariff would have injured him."

Only a Juggler's Trick.

Japan Correspondence. St. Louis Globe. The lights were turned low, and while a rough cross of poles was being set up the general played wild discords on a weary old mellophone, and his orderly worked an ancient accordion. A rack was brought out, and later two women were brought on and bound, the one to the cross and the other to the rack. The general dosed them with something, apparently chloroform; played another weird tune, and then in the most professional way used the stethoscope. This scientific testing of the patient's heart-beats took the Japanese part of the audience. The excitement deepened. After that the general took a sword and apparently plunged it through and through the body of the prostrate woman on the rack, who writhed in such a realistic manner that it was hard to hold to the red-paint and spring-blade theory. Next the woman on the cross was stabbed with shears, but of that preceding the ladies of our party only heard, as, after the first horrible sight of the woman on the rack, faces were covered and faces turned from the sickening spectacle. The Japanese cheered wildly as the bodies were carried back and apparently thrown in a lake, but in a few minutes they came walking on the stage in bedraggled foreign dresses and wildly-leathered hats. The show left a most unpleasant impression on one, and, although I have seen a small boy put in a boiling cauldron and apparently cooked for ten minutes, and a woman held under water for a quarter of an hour at a time, none of them caused such sickening shudders as the crucifixion.

Her Beard Was Long.

From the Chicago Herald. A Chicago newspaper man, who went to Atlanta, Ga., to accept a position on the Constitution, recently came across a paragraph in a country exchange to the effect that a young woman named Littlejohn, residing at Jacksonville, Ala., had a beard five feet nine inches in length. The Atlanta scribe sent this to Kohl & Middleton, dime museum men. The museum man at once wrote letters to the postmaster at Jacksonville, asking about Miss Littlejohn and making her a big offer to appear at his museum if she really had such an abnormal growth of beard. A few days afterwards he received the following letter from Jacksonville in answer to his inquiries, and he is still laughing over it:

"Your favor at hand in regard to Littlejohn woman with beard five feet nine inches long. This is a local joke, which grew out of the woman's marrying a man named Beard. Yours, "L. W. GRANT."

The Traveling Salesman.

It may safely be stated that not one drummer in ten likes his situation. After the novelty of the life wears off, an intense loathing of the "road" grows upon him. There is something utterly repugnant to the average man in being obliged, willy-nilly, to hurry from place to place as if driven by an antique fury. To a married man it is especially so, and therefore most drummers are young and single.—C. L. Betts in the Epoch.

Something About Tobacco.

The botanical specific name and the common name come from tobago or tobacco, the native term in Santo Domingo for the tube or pipe through which the smoke of the burning leaves was inhaled. Tobacco is largely produced in China, Japan, Persia and other parts of the East, in some of which the plant has become so thoroughly naturalized that an Eastern origin has been sometimes claimed for it, but Alphonse de Candolle, after a thorough study of the subject, finds no satisfactory evidence that its uses and culture were anywhere known before the discovery of America. The first European cultivation of tobacco took place in Portugal in the early part of the sixteenth century; it was raised in France in 1572. The culture rapidly extended to other parts of Europe and Asia, in some cases being checked by severe laws or made useful as a source of revenue. Its production in England by a law of 1690 was restricted to a small quantity for medicinal purposes, and the prohibition still remains in force. The various kinds of foreign tobaccos are known by the countries producing them or the ports where they are shipped, such as Havana, Orinoco, Turkey, Latakia, Shiraz, &c. The Turkish and other kinds from the East are only used for fine pipes or in the so-called cigarettes. Manila tobacco is imported only in form of peculiar cut cigars called cheroots. Very fine tobacco is produced in Paraguay. A large amount of tobacco is used to manufacture snuff. Snuff is much more largely consumed in Great Britain and France than in the United States. Besides smoking, chewing, &c., tobacco is used for various medicinal purposes. Its power of causing relaxation to the nervous system is great. It is recommended in articular rheumatism and neuralgia, and the toothache is often relieved by smoking a cigar. The annual export of tobacco from the United States exceeds \$30,000,000.

Where The Colors Come From.

The cochineal insects furnish a great many of the very fine colors," said an artist recently to a reporter for the New York Mail and Express. "Among them are the gorgeous carmine, the crimson, scarlet, carmine, and purple lakes. The cuttle fish gives the sepia. It is the inky fluid which the fish discharges in order to render the water opaque when attacked; Indian yellow comes from the camel. Ivory chips produce the ivory black and bone black. The exquisite Prussian blue is made by fusing horses' hoofs and other refuse animal matter with impure potassium carbonate. This color was discovered accidentally. Various lakes are derived from roots, barks, and gums. Blue-black comes from the charcoal of the vine stalk. Lamp black is soot from certain resinous substances. Turkey red is made from the madder plant, which grows in Hindostan. The yellow sap of a tree of Siam produces gamboge; the natives catch the sap in cocoanut shells. Raw sienna is the natural earth from the neighborhood of Sienna, Italy. Raw umber is also an earth found near Umbria and burnt. India ink is made from burnt camphor. The Chinese are the only manufacturers of this ink, and they will not reveal the secret of its manufacture. Mastic is from the gum of the mastic tree, which grows in the Grecian Archipelago. Bister is the soot of wood ashes. Very little real ultramarine is found in the market. It is obtained from the precious lapis-lazuli, and commands a fabulous price. Chinese white is zinc, scarlet is iodine of mercury, and native vermilion is from the quicksilver ore called cinnabar."

The Fever Microbe Comes to Stay.

From the Washington Capital. "An illustration of the range fact is found in the experience with the Jamestown, now the training ship at Baltimore. On one of her trips a low fever appeared on board, and several deaths followed. Subsequently the vessel was thoroughly renovated and extensively repaired. Her woodwork was steamed. Then she remained in Northern harbors for several winters. She was finally ordered South again, and before she reached the fever district a case was developed, and the man died. Above his hammock was found a quantity of fifth. The woodwork was torn out, and the fever removed. But she is still a fever ship, and I would not like to go South in her. There again is the case of the Portsmouth. She once had fever on board. Long afterwards she was ordered to Norfolk for repairs. Naval Constructor or Hichborn had charge of the work. A number of his workmen died, and he himself was taken down with typhoid fever, and his workman died, and he himself was taken down with typhoid fever, and his life was despaired of. It is true that once a fever ship, always a fever ship."

Do Locomotives Cause Storms.

A correspondent of the Northwest-ern Railroad advances a curious theory for the increasing prevalence of floods and rain-storms. He says that there are over 30,000 locomotives in use in North America, and estimates that from them alone over 53,000,000,000 cubic yards of vapor are sent into the atmosphere every week, to be returned in the form of rain, or over 7,000,000,000 cubic yards a day—"quite enough," he says, "to produce a good rainfall every 24 hours."

Estimating the number of other non-condensing engines in use as eight times the number of locomotives, the total vapor thus projected into the air every week in this country amounts to more than 470,000,000 cubic yards. "Is this not," he asks, "sufficient for the floods of terror? Is there any reason to wonder why our storms are so damaging?"—Age of Steel.

Kissing the Bible.

The medical journals are agitating the danger which lurk in the greasy and worn backs of the Court Bibles. The practice of "kissing the book" comes down from the days of colonial custom, but it is at no time compulsory, although the uninitiated know no better, and even some of the most intelligent people, who know that it is optional with them, seem to lose their self-possession and at the command of the court bailiff, "kiss the book" they do so.

A New Jersey physician is reported to have refused to "kiss the book," but was compelled to comply with the requirements. Jersey law must be very old-fashioned and rigid, or no such ruling would have followed the refusal. In the courts of several States anyone may refuse to do so, but in many of the States the Bible is not used in the courts. The witness has only to hold up his right hand and solemnly swear that he "will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," and even then if he has any conscientious scruples against this form he may "affirm."

The practice of kissing the book is rapidly falling into disrepute everywhere. First, because the same book that is kissed by diseased lips is offered to the cleanly and self-respecting, and often the witness whose stomach turns against the osculation does not really go through the motion of putting the book towards the lips without actual contact. The man with the moustache apparently submits, but the book only touches the capillary substance and is passed on to the next witness or juror. In some instances, if the Bible is not by elastic bands, it is not uncommon for the one taking the oath to open the book and kiss some printed page. This is the Presidential custom, and Lync-eyed reporters watch closely and report that passage of Scripture which the Presidential lips have kissed.

The origin of the oath upon the Bible has been traced to the old Roman law, and the kissing of the book is said to be an imitation of the priest's kissing the ritual as a sign of reverence before he reads it to the people. Bouvier's law dictionary says: "The commencement of an oath is made by the party taking hold of the book, after being required by the officer to do so, and ends generally with the words 'So help you God,' and kissing the book, when the form is that of swearing on the evangelists."

The Mohammedans are sworn on the Koran and the Greeks and Romans swore by the souls of the dead, the ashes of their fathers, by their own lives or the lives of their friends, by their heads and by their right hands, while among Scandinavians and Germans it was customary to rest the hand upon some object while repeating an oath.

When it is considered that the lowest classes, diseased and dirty, kiss the Bible in our lower and higher courts with a reverencing smack, and that by this contact disease may be disseminated to the very sensitive organs, the lips, there is good reason for the medical journals to open war on the custom of "kissing the book."

The Medical Register of a recent date says: "The kissing of the Bible in any case is a form which might easily, without the sacrifice