duction of the vast military establishments that weigh so heavily upon many peoples in time of peace was communicated to this Government with an earnest invitation to be represented in the conference which it is contemplated to assemble with a view to discussing the means of accomplishing so desirable a result. His Majesty was at once informed of the cordial sympathy of this Government with the principle involved in his exalted proposal and of the readiness of the United States to take part in the conference.

The claims of owners of American sealing vessels for seizure by Russian cruisers in Behring Sea are being pressed to a settlement.

The recommendation made in my special message of April 27 last is renewed, that appropriation be made to reimburse the master and owners of the Russian bark Hans for wrongful arrest of the master and detention of the vessel in February, 1896, by officers of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi.

Immediately upon the outbreak of the war with Spain the Swiss Government, fulfilling the high mission it has deservedly assumed as the patron of the International Red Cross, proposed to the United States and Spain that they should severally recognize and carry into execution, as a modus vivendi, during the continuation of hostilities the additional articles proposed by the International conference of Geneva, Oct. 20, 1868, extending the effects of the existing Red Cross convention of 1864 to the conduct of naval war. The Swiss proposal was promptly and cordially accepted by us and simultaneously by Spain.

The newly accredited envoy of the United States to the Ottoman Porte carries instructions looking to the disposal of matters in controversy with Turkey for a number of years. He is especially charged to press for a just settlement of our claims for indemnity by reason of the destruction of the property of American missionaries resident in that country during the Armenian troubles of 1895, as well as for the recognition of older claims of equal justness.

The arbitral tribunal appointed under the treaty of February, 1897, between Great Britain and Venezuela to determine the boundary line between the latter and the colony of British Guiana, is to convene at Paris during the present month. It is a source of much gratification to this Government to see the friendly resort to arbitration applied to the settlement of this controversy.

Bureau of American Republics

I have the satisfaction of being able to state that the Bureau of American Republics, created in 1890 as the organ for promoting commercial intercourse and fraternal relations among the countries of the Western Hemisphere, has become a more efficient instrument of the wise purposes of its founders, and is receiving the cordial support of the contributing members of the international union which are actually represented in its board of management.

During the last year the important work of collecting information of practical benefit to American industries and trade through the agency of the diplomatic and consular officers has been steadily advanced, and in order to lay such data before the public with the least delay the practice was begun in January, 1898, of issuing the commercial reports from day to day, as they are received by the Department of State.

We desire, in common with most civilized nations, to reduce to the lowest possible point the damage sustained in time of war by peaceable trade and commerce. This purpose can probably be best accomplished by an international agreement to regard all private property at sea as exempt from capture or destruction by the forces of belligerent powers.

Condition of the Treasury.

The Secretary of the Treasury reports that the receipts of the Government from all sources during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1898, including $84,751,223 received from sale of Pacific railroads, amounted to $405,321,335, and its expenditures to $443,368,582. There was collected from customs $149,575,062 and from internal revenue $170,900,641. Our dutiable imports amounted to $324,735,479, a decrease of $78,156,630 over the preceding year, and importations free of duty amounted to $291,414,175, a decrease from the preceding year of $90,524,068. Internal revenue receipts exceeded those of the preceding year by $24,212,068. The total collected on distilled spirits was $92,546,999, on manufactured tobacco $36,239,522 and on fermented liquors $39,515,421. We exported merchandise during the year amounting to $1,231,482,330, an increase of $180,488,774 over the preceding year.

On the 1st of December, 1898, the amount of money of all kinds in circulation or not included in treasury holdings, was $1,836,879,594, an increase for the year of $165,794,966. Estimating our population at 75,194,000 at the time mentioned the per capita circulation was $25.09.

The provisions made for strengthening the resources of the treasury in connection with the war have given increased confidence in the purpose and power of the Government to maintain the present standard, and has established more firmly than ever the national credit at home and abroad. A marked evidence of this is found in the inflow of gold to the treasury.

I renew so much of my recommendation of December, 1897, as follows:

"That when any of the United States notes are presented for redemption in gold and are redeemed in gold, such notes shall be kept and set apart and only paid out in exchange for gold. This is an obvious duty. If the holder of the United States note prefers the gold and gets it from the Government, he should not receive back from the Government a United States note without paying gold in exchange for it. The reason for this is made all the more apparent when the Government issues an interest-bearing debt to provide gold for the redemption of United States notes—a non-interest-bearing debt. Surely it should not pay them out again except on demand and for gold. If they are put out in any other way they may return again, to be followed by another bond issue to redeem them—another interest-bearing debt to redeem a non-interest-bearing debt."

In my judgment the present condition of the treasury amply justifies the immediate enactment of the legislation recommended one year ago, under which a portion of the gold holdings should be placed in a trust fund from which greenbacks should be redeemed upon presentation, but when once redeemed should not thereafter be paid out except for gold.

It is not to be inferred that other legislation relating to our currency is not required; on the contrary, there is an obvious demand for it. The importance of adequate provision which will insure to our future a money standard related as our money standard now and to that of our commercial rivals is generally recognized. The companion proposition that our domestic paper currency shall be kept safe and yet be so related to the needs of our industries and internal commerce as to be adequate and responsive to such needs is a proposition scarcely less important.

Prompt Adoption of Maritime Policy.

The annexation of Hawaii and the changed relations of the United States to Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, resulting from the war, compel the prompt adoption of a maritime policy by the United States. There should be established regular and frequent steamship communication, encouraged by the United States, under the American flag, with the newly acquired islands.

Prevention of Yellow Fever.

In my last annual message I recommended that Congress authorize the appointment of a commission for the purpose of making systematic investigations with reference to the cause and prevention of yellow fever. It is my earnest desire that these problems may be considered by competent experts and that everything may be done which the most recent advances in sanitary science can offer for the protection of the health of our soldiers in Cuba and Porto Rico and of our citizens who are exposed to the dangers of infection from the importation of yellow fever.

Increase of Army Recommended.

The importance of legislation for the permanent increase of the army is manifest, and the recommendation of the Secretary of War for that purpose has my unqualified approval. There can be no question that at this time and probably for some time in the future 100,000 men will be none too many to meet the necessities of the situation. It is my purpose to muster out the entire volunteer army as soon as the Congress shall provide for the increase of the regular establishment.

In my last annual message I stated: "The Union Pacific Railway, main line, was sold under the decree of the United States Court for the District of Nebraska the 1st and 2d of November of this year. The amount due the Government consisted of the principal of the subsidy bonds, $27,236,512, and the accrued interest thereon, $31,211,511.07, making the total indebtedness $58,448,223.75. The bid at the sale covered the first mortgage lien and the entire mortgage claim of the Government, principal and interest."

This left the Kansas Pacific case unconcluded. By a decree of the court in that case an upset price for the property was fixed at a sum which would yield to the Government only $2,500,000 upon its lien. By a somewhat complicated transaction the Government secured an advance of $3,803,000 over and above the sum which the court had fixed as the upset price, and which the reorganization committee had declared was the maximum which they would pay for the property.

Department of Justice Building.

I deem it my duty to call to the attention of Congress the condition of the present buildings occupied by the Department of Justice. The building now occupied by it is pronounced unsafe and unsuited for the use to which it is put. A proper regard for the safety, comfort and convenience of the officers and employes would justify the expenditure of a liberal sum of money in the erection of a new building. In this connection I may likewise refer to the inadequate accommodations provided for the Supreme Court in the Capitol.

Growth of the Postal Service.

The postal service of the country advances with extraordinary growth. Within twenty years both the revenues and the expenditures of the Postoffice Department have multiplied threefold. In the last ten years they have nearly doubled. Our postal business grows much more rapidly than our population. It now involves an expenditure of $100,000,000 a year, numbers 73,000 postoffices, and enrolls 260,000 employes. The war with Spain laid new and exceptional labors on the Postoffice Department. The mustering of the military and naval forces of the United States required special mail arrangements for every camp and every campaign. This necessarily was met by the prompt detail and dispatch of experienced men from the established force, and by directing all the instrumentalities of the railway mail and postoffice service so far as necessary to this new need.

Under the same authority, when our forces moved upon Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, they were attended and followed by the postal service.

Increasing the Navy.

The following recommendations of the Secretary of the Navy relative to the increase of the navy have my earnest approval.

1. Three sea-going, sheathed and coppered battleships of about 13,500 tons trial displacement, carrying the heaviest armor and most powerful ordnance for vessels of their class, and to have the highest practicable speed and great radius of action. Estimated cost, exclusive of armor and armament, $3,600,000 each.

2. Three sheathed and coppered armored cruisers of about 12,000 tons trial displacement, carrying the heaviest armor and most powerful ordnance for vessels of their class, and to have the highest practicable speed and great radius of action. Estimated cost, exclusive or armor and armament, $4,000,000 each.

3. Three sheathed and coppered protected cruisers of about 6,000 tons trial displacement; to have the highest practicable speed and great radius of action, and to carry the most powerful ordnance suitable for vessels of their class. Estimated cost, exclusive of armor and armament, $2,150,000 each.

4. Six sheathed and coppered cruisers of about 2,500 tons trial displacement; to have the highest speed compatible with good cruising qualities, great radius of action and to carry the most powerful ordnance suited to vessels of their class. Estimated cost, exclusive of armament, $1,141,000 each.

Additions to the Pension List.

There were on the pension rolls June 30, 1898, 993,714 names, an increase of nearly 18,000 over the number on the rolls the same day of the preceding year. The amount appropriated by the act of Dec. 22, 1896, for the payment of pensions for the fiscal year 1898 was $140,000,000. Eight million seventy thousand eight hundred and seventy-two dollars and forty-six cents was appropriated by the act of March 31, 1898, to cover deficiencies in army pensions and repayments in the sum of $12,020.33, making a total of $148,082 892.79 available for the payment of pensions during the fiscal year 1898. The amount disbursed from that sum was $144,651,879.80, leaving a balance of $3,431,012.99 unexpended June 30, 1898, which was covered into the treasury.

The total receipts of the patent office during the last year were $1,253,948.44. The expenditures were $1,081,633.79, leaving a surplus of $172,314.65.

Government Lands Disposed Of.

The public lands disposed of by the Government during the year reached 8,453,896.92 acres, an increase of 614,780.26 acres over the previous year. The total receipts from public lands during the fiscal year amounted to $2,277,935.18, an increase of $190,063.90 over the preceding year.

The special attention of the Congress is called to that part of the report of the Secretary of the Interior in relation to the five civilized tribes. It is noteworthy that the general condition of the Indians shows marked progress. But one outbreak of a serious character occurred during the year, and that among the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota, which happily has been suppressed.

Dawes Commission Report.

While it has not yet been practicable to enforce all the provisions of the act of June 28, 1898, "for the protection of the people of the Indian Territory and for other purposes," it is having a salutary effect upon the nations composing the five tribes. I cannot too strongly indorse the recommendation of the commission and of the Secretary of the Interior for the necessity of providing for the education of the 30,000 white children resident in the Indian Territory.

Department of Agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture has been active in the last year. Explorers have been sent to many of the countries of the Eastern and Western Hemispheres for seeds and plants that may be useful to the United States and with the further view of opening up markets for our surplus products. The forestry division of the department is giving special attention to the treeless regions of our country and is introducing species specially adapted to semi-arid regions. Forest fires, which seriously interfere with production, especially in irrigated regions, are being studied that the losses from this cause may be avoided. The department is inquiring into the use and abuse of water in many States of the West and collecting information regarding the laws of the States, the decisions of the courts and the customs of the people in this regard, so that uniformity may be secured. Experiment stations are becoming more effective every year. The annual appropriation of $720,000 by Congress is supplemented by $400,000 from the States. Nation-wide experiments have been conducted to ascertain the suitableness as to soil and climate and States for growing sugar beets. The number of sugar factories has been doubled in the last two years and the ability of the United States to produce its own sugar from this source has been clearly demonstrated.

Washington Centennial.

In the year 1900 will occur the centennial anniversary of the founding of the city of Washington for the permanent capital of the Government of the United States. A movement lately inaugurated by the citizens to have the anniversary celebrated with fitting ceremonies, including, perhaps, the establishment of a handsome permanent memorial to mark so historical an occasion and to give it more than local recognition, has met with general favor on the part of the public. I recommend to the Congress the granting of an appropriation for this purpose and the appointment of a committee from its respective bodies.

The alien contract law is shown by experience to need some amendment; a measure providing better protection for seamen is proposed; the rightful application of the eight-hour law for the benefit of labor and of the principle of arbitration are suggested for consideration, and I commend these subjects to the careful attention of the Congress.

WILLIAM M'KINLEY.

Executive Mansion, Dec. 5, 1898.

THE FARM AND HOME

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

Wheat Is King—How to Destroy Grain Weevil—Small Farms Are an Advantage—Set Out Fruit Trees in the Spring.

You may tell of your armored cruisers,
And your great ships of the line;
And swift or slow may steamers go
Across the billowy brine.
Like thunder may the cannon boom
To greet their flags unfurled,
And for an hour they have the power
To rule the frightened world.

From ocean to ocean shore
Lie lines of gleaming steel,
And night and day, we hear alway
The ring of rushing wheel;
Though buffalo have left the plain,
And Indian tents are furled,
Nor steam nor hand at wealth's command
Can rule the busy world.

But where the hillside rises fair
In terraces of green,
And on the plain, where wind and rain
Sweep fields of golden sheen,
Where sturdy yellow stalks arise,
With bannered heads unfurled,
Here you may greet the great King Wheat,
The ruler of the world.

Oh, hills may shake and vales resound
Beneath the flying car,
And driven by steam and winds a-beam
Our ships ride fast and far;
Cities may crumble 'neath the guns
Which guard our flag unfurled;
Yet all shall greet—at last—King Wheat,
For hunger rules the world.
—Youth's Companion.

The Grain Weevil.

While there are several species of grain weevils, the same remedy will do for all. As these insects penetrate all through the entire bulk of grain, it is necessary to apply some substance that is equally penetrating in its nature. This is found in carbon bisulphide, which may be had at any drug store. The vapor of this substance is very poisonous, and will destroy all insect life with which it comes in contact. This material is also very explosive when brought in contact with fire. Keeping these two points in mind, it may be handled with perfect safety. In applying the material it is well to keep in mind the fact that it very volatile, and quickly passes into vapor, which diffuses itself throughout the entire mass of grain, and as the vapor is heavier than air it will have a tendency to settle. But in order to insure perfect results it is best to introduce the material well down toward the middle of the mass of grain by means of a gas pipe with a screen over the lower end, which will prevent the grain filling the pipe, and through which the poison may be poured. The pipe is then withdrawn.

One pound of the bisulphide is sufficient for fifty bushels of grain. One application will be sufficient unless the grain is to be kept over winter, when a second application may be necessary. The material does no harm to the grain in any way, as the poisonous fumes all pass away as soon as brought in contact with the air outside.—Indiana Experiment Station.

An Advantage in Small Farms.

I have noticed that in the townships where the farms are small in area the people are happier and the children better bred. Smaller farms increase the density of the population. This gives them better school facilities. The children feel the encouragement of numbers and are excited to greater efforts by the competition. Besides, their parents can afford to hire a better teacher and build for their use a better schoolhouse. Then, too, in a thickly settled region the roads are kept in better condition, for the land is of greater value and stand taxing to improve the highways. The people are brought close together and have more of social advantages. And social advantages are a great thing. Give a farmer's wife suitable company in the way of good neighbors and she will forget half of her troubles in talking with her neighbors. I believe there would be fewer disheartened women if they could have some chance to enjoy social life. I pity the women on the big farms, each a mile square, where the nearest neighbor is a mile away, and perhaps incongenial. When neighbors are so few and so far away one can not choose one's company as one would if the farms were smaller and neighbors plentiful. —Mrs. J. S., in Farmers' Review.

When to Set Out Fruit Trees.

All things considered, we believe one of the best plans of management with fruit trees is to purchase them in the fall in good season, heel them in carefully and then set them out in the spring. One of the principal objections to spring planting is that in a majority of cases the trees cannot be shipped from the nursery as early as is desirable for setting out. By securing them in the fall and heeling in, they are on hand ready for transplanting at the first opportunity. During the winter the ground may be plowed, and if necessary manured, stakes may be set where the trees are to be planted, so that when the soil is in condition for work the planting may be pushed along as rapidly as possible. On the majority of farms work is always pressing in the spring, and it is an item to make all preparations possible in advance.

Trees heeled in will be growing fibrous roots through the winter, and in this respect at least will be all the better for the work. In heeling in care should be taken to dig the trench wide enough to admit of all the roots without bending or twisting and deep enough so that when covered well the roots will be safe from freezing. Better lay them in a slanting position rather than to stand them up straight. See that the soil is fined and worked in thoroughly among the roots. This is essential, as allowing the roots to become dry, is certain death to the trees. Good drainage should be provided, as it is very detrimental to the health of the trees to allow water to stand around the roots.

The tree should be secured sufficiently early so as to be heeled in properly before freezing weather sets in.—N. J. Shepherd, in Farmer's Voice.

Wooden Plows.

One of the last of the wooden plows which preceded those with iron points is now exhibited with pardonable pride by a veteran farmer in Ashby, Mass. It was made by a Frenchman, who was one of the earliest settlers of that town. The plow is in an excellent state of preservation, though it shows that it has done service in plowing. All the parts of this old plow are wood, and wooden pegs rather than iron bolts are used in joining them together. It is pretty evident that such a plow must be used carefully, and would be ill adapted to any except level ground free from stones. Even the iron-pointed plow has been superseded by steel, or at least iron with steel surfaces, so as to be harder and less liable to clog in damp soil. If this old plow is preserved, it is likely to prove a greater curiosity than it is now, as there are probably few of them remaining.—Exchange.

Harvesting Parsnips.

The parsnip is usually grown on very rich ground, and when much manure has been used it often has a rank taste when gathered early. It is much better to let the parsnips stay in the ground until the soil around it has frozen once or twice. It may be gathered after the first thaw and housed, when it will be found that the rank flavor from the manure has passed away, and the parsnip will be tender and sweet. Some people leave the parsnip in the ground all winter. It does not hurt it to freeze while in the ground, provided it is thawed in contact with the soil. The greater danger in leaving parsnips out all winter is that they will be forgotten in spring until the warm weather has started the shoots for seed bearing. Then the parsnip becomes poisonous. But if dug as soon in spring as the ground is thawed, the parsnip will be better than if dug in the fall and wintered in a cellar.—American Cultivator.

Peach Tree Borers.

Dig away the earth around the peach trees to the depth of one foot and look carefully for borers. Then swab the trunk a foot below and above ground with thick whitewash, returning the soil to the tree and banking up six inches or a foot above the level of the ground, leaving the tree in that condition until next spring. As the moth lays her eggs near the level of the ground, she will begin where the earth is banked up, and when the embankment is removed the work of destroying the borers will be easier. Whitewash may be beneficially used on all parts of the tree.

Seed Corn.

It is a somewhat common practice to discard the tips and butts of the ears when shelling the seed for planting, but the practice is of doubtful benefit. A number of experiment stations in both the North and South have made repeated tests of the productiveness of seed from different parts of the ear, but these tests have shown no marked or constant differences in yield, even when the selections have been repeated through several generations.

Remedy for Cabbage Worms.

One of the cheapest, best and safest remedies suggested to prevent the ravages of cabbage worms is to dissolve one ounce of kainit in a pint of water and sprinkle over the plants. This is at the rate of one pound of kainit to a gallon of water, and it is said to be a remedy for cabbage maggots, green fly and plant lice.

Farm Notes.

After the first frost cut down the tops of asparagus and burn them on the bed, after which spread manure, about 3 or 4 inches deep, on the bed and allow it to remain all winter.

When foods are fed on the farm and sold in some other form the valuable elements of fertility are retained at home, and as long as this is done the farm may be cultivated to its highest limit of capacity, and becomes more valuable every year.

A gill of crude carbolic acid (which is much cheaper than the refined article) made into an emulsion with half a pint of strong soapsuds and a quart of cold water then added, will be sufficient for moistening a bushel of sawdust, which may be sprinkled in the stalls as a disinfectant.

Inexperienced persons who undertake the management of bees will find much to learn before they can succeed. The winter care is important, for the bees must not be kept too warm, and if exposed they may perish. A special house should be provided, which should be kept at a uniform temperature.

Long articles have been written on the importance of feeding liberally, but farmers are progressive and are disposed to go to extremes. It may be safely claimed that at the present day most farmers overfeed instead of curtailing the supply, which accounts largely for milk fever in cows, weak litters of pigs and diseases of the bowels.

There is a right way to use blankets for horses. If the stable is warm the best covering for a horse is a sheet made of coarse unbleached muslin to protect from dust, but when standing outside, where there is no protection from winds, a horse blanket should be used, removing it and substituting the sheet after the animal reaches the stable.

Dividing the Burden.

In the States in which a system of State aid has been inaugurated the urban resident bears his share of the expense of improving and maintaining the highways instead of leaving them, as heretofore, to be cared for by the rural population, says the L. A. W. Bulletin. Under the old theory that the maintenance and care of the roads should depend wholly on the districts through which they passed great injustice was done many persons whose interest in the roads was less than that of others who bore no expense. To remove this injustice and provide an equable system is the purpose of State aid.

Speaking on this subject recently, General Stone said that the farmers of Maine own one-fifth of the property of the State, and that one-fifth of the property has paid the entire expense of building and maintaining the roads of the State, which are just as necessary to the people who live in towns and the people of other occupations than farming as they are to the farmer. Concerning New York, he said that there the farmers own only one-fourteenth of the property of the State, and that every farmer has been making roads for thirteen other men to travel on, and he is getting tired of doing it. He is now about to stop it, and he finds the people of the cities and large towns, the manufacturing people and the commercial people, ready to bear their share of the expense of improving the country roads. The only drawback is that the farmers themselves have been afraid to let any change be made in the road laws of the country, for they have imagined that the people of the cities deign to impose heavier burdens on them instead of being ready to help them carry existing ones.

By degrees all classes of the people will begin to better understand each other on the subject and will get closer together. It was not strange at first that country people should be suspicious of city people who took the trouble to tell them how much they would be benefited by better roads. It was natural for them to think that such philanthropy was not wholly disinterested, but as it becomes daily more evident that all classes, trades and occupations will reap the advantages resulting from improving the highways, that the ultimate burden will not be increased, and that all are ready to share it, the movement will acquire an impetus that will insure its future success.

Old Roman Roads.

An authority on road construction says that the Romans made their main roads to last forever. They were composed of silicious and calcareous materials, and were far superior to the highest type of modern work. The large roads averaged four to four and three-quarters metres, the smaller ones three to three and one-half metres. In mountain regions the road was narrowed down to a single carriageway, one and three-quarters metres. The sidewalks were large near the cities, but reduced to six-tenths of a metre in the outer districts. They were built of cut stone, at least on the border. At every twelve paces mounting stones were placed, and at every one thousand paces milestones. Some of the best roads were paved with marble. The minor or secondary roads were not so carefully made, though of a solidity with which few modern roads can compare. A ditch was dug to the solid earth, which was tamped, rolled or staked; then on a floor of sand ten or fifteen centimetres thick a layer of mortar was spread. This formed the basis of the four courses which constituted the road. The first was a course of several layers of flat stones, bound by hard cement or clay. This layer was usually thirty centimetres thick, and twice that in bad lands. On this came a concrete of pebbles, stones and broken bricks, strongly rammed with iron-sheathed rammers. The ordinary thickness of this layer was twenty-five centimetres. In the absence of mortar, loam was used. Superimposed on this was a layer of thirty to fifty centimetres of gravel or coarse sand carefully rolled. The top layer, or crust, was convex, and ran to a thickness of twenty to thirty centimetres or more. It was made differently, according to the materials at hand. It was either paved with cut stone or laid with pebble and granite or metaled.

Growing Gold.

It is generally supposed that the nuggets which are found in the river gravels of Klondike and other auriferous regions have been brought down by the rivers direct from the reefs in which the gold originally lay.

Many practical miners and scientific men, however, have long been of opinion that this cannot be the case, for no masses of gold of so large a size are ever found in the reefs themselves. They believe, on the other hand, that the nuggets have grown where they are now found, just as a crystal of salt will grow in strong brine; but with so insoluble a substance as gold it was difficult to understand how such growth could take place. Experiments carried out in Australia have shown that decaying vegetable matter will cause the deposition of gold from solutions of gold salts, but these salts are not known to occur in reefs.

The mystery is now solved. A Slavonic chemist named Zzigmody has just shown that gold itself can exist in a soluble form. By acting on a slightly alkaline solution of a gold salt with formaldehyde and submitting the product to dialysis he has succeeded in obtaining gold in a colloidal condition, in which state it is soluble in water and may be precipitated by the addition of common salt. It is probable that some of the gold in quartz reefs exists in this condition. It is washed out by the rain, carried away in solution by the rivers, and deposited in the river gravels wherever there is anything containing salt to cause its precipitation. In the course of ages a large nugget may in this way be formed.—London Mail.

THE FAMILY BIBLE.

It Is Out of Date and There Are No Many of Them Sold Now.

The family Bible, which at one time played such an important part in most families, and was almost as important a part of the wedding as the ceremony, is now very much out of date. It is old-fashioned, and wherever it is seen as a window ornament, standing on a table where it is in plain sight of all passers-by, it may be taken for granted that the family which belongs to that house and Bible hasn't the least bit of style, says a Brooklyn woman in the New York Times.

The exodus of the Bible does not reflect, as some people might think, upon the morals and manners of the city or the religious tendencies of the individuals. It denotes rather an era of common sense for which this generation is noted in many ways. If there is anything more useless than the big parlor table Bible it would be hard to find. It is large, unwieldy and difficult to use. It is too large and heavy to hold in the lap, and reading from a big book on a table is neither comfortable nor convenient.

In the American Bible Society rooms, where an enormous number of Bibles are disposed of in the course of a year, the fact is borne out that large family Bibles are not in demand as they have been. There have been 20 per cent. less sold on an average during the last ten years, they say, than before, and those that have been bought have been taken by the grandmothers, old aunties, and occasionally the mothers, who feel that they cannot let the young people begin life without the big Bible.

But instead of the big family Bible there is a smaller size which has taken its place and which is really useful. This is a good-sized book, bound in dark Turkey morocco, and with references and maps. It has large, plain type (small pica), is not too large to hold, and is a serviceable book. It costs $5.25 and really merits the appellation of family Bible rather than the other which has its place in the company room.

Women are the chief purchasers of all Bibles sold, and at the Bible Society rooms they form perhaps two-thirds of the purchasers.

Artificial Eyes.

The Lancet publishes some curious facts with regard to the number of false eyes which are turned out annually by different factories in Germany and France. The number of these ornamental appendages made in the German empire is said to amount to the enormous total of 2,000,000 yearly; and, at the same time, one French factory, out of many, makes 300,000 in the same period. But we must not jump to the conclusion that these figures indicate in any way the number of human beings who have been deprived of the sight of one eye, for the artificial eyes include those used by wax-figure makers, by taxidermists, and even by the doll manufacturers. It is noteworthy that the totally blind never wear false eyes. The person who has been deprived of the sight of one eye sees his disfigurement whenever he looks into a glass, and his esthetic sense—or, perhaps, his vanity—leads him to make good the deficiency in the best way he can. In the case of the wholly blind such feelings die out, or are submerged in the immensity of their loss.—Chambers' Journal.

Train Lightning.

The lighting of railroad trains with electricity generated by the friction of the car axles when the train is in motion and by some of this same electricity, stored, when the train is at rest, will, of course, do away with the resort to the black bottle while the train is in a tunnel as well as with the osculatory performances of bridal couples, which, from time immemorial, have been a feature of railroad travel, for though the light may sometimes fail as it does on the trolley car when the trolley leaves the wire, not even the oldest patron of the road acquainted with all the tunnels can tell just when it will be flashed on again, making all sorts of inconvenient revelations.—Philadelphia Times.

Memory of Hotel Clerks.

The memory of a hotel clerk is cultivated along peculiar lines. Hundreds of names and faces have to be accurately memorized, and he must be able at a minute's notice to tell the number of the room in which any of the hotel visitors is quartered. If asked the number of the room occupied by John Smith, a good clerk can, without hesitation, put his hand in the proper pigeon-hole and extract the key. According to the New York World, the curious part of the operation is that he can rarely make it work backward. If asked who is in a given room he almost invariably has to consult his books before responding.

We have an idea that when a particularly wicked man goes to hell, he will have nothing in the way of fruit to eat except pawpaws, and nothing in the way of meat except 'possum.

The coming woman sometimes has her troubles with the going man about 11 p. m.

Base-ball is the one business in which an ocasional strike is necessary.