

THE FRONTIER.

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O'NEILL, NEBRASKA.

NEBRASKA.

Beatrice will entertain the state firemen next year.
J. R. Burke, a prominent citizen of Beatrice, died last week.
Ashland has a woman's club with regular weekly meetings.
An early closing movement has been inaugurated at Stromsburg.
Nebraska towns are going right along with building all winter.
The only store in Ocoee was burned down last week. Loss about \$2,000.
The Dempster mill manufacturing company of Beatrice reports a prosperous year in 1897.
Quite a number of farmers have lost cattle that were allowed to forage in the fields of cornstalks.
The Norfolk school board has been compelled to rent a building to accommodate the school children.
The Elkhorn Valley Poultry and Pet Stock association will hold its first show at Norfolk, January 26, 27 and 28.
Footpads are not all confined to Omaha. Grand Island has had considerable experience with them of late.
A couple of harness thieves in Polk county have at last been nabbed after long prosecuting their nefarious business.
Lem Parish and E. P. Burdick of Elmwood got into a friendly scuffle, which resulted in the breaking of Burdick's right leg.
W. A. Gilliland of Bedford precinct, Nemaha county, sold his 362-acre farm to Kansas parties for the comfortable sum of \$15,500.
The annual meeting of the Interstate Swine Breeders' association at Red Cloud has been postponed from January 11 to February 1 and 2.
The village board of Gibbon has ordered a fifteen-horse power gasoline engine, which will be placed in the fire house for use in time of fire.
North Platte will hold its western Nebraska irrigation fair again this year and the organization is already planning for special features and attractions.
Farmers of Buffalo county were arranging for spring plowing prior to the last snow storm, all the frost being out of the ground in that section of the state.
The business men of Lawrence, Nuckolls county, have petitioned the town council to pass an ordinance to compel all business places to remain closed on Sunday.
York county is arranging for one of the best of the many good farmers' institutes being held in Nebraska this winter. Prominent speakers upon agricultural topics will be present.
The stockmen held a meeting last Saturday at Pine Bluff to discuss the wolf nuisance. The bounty was raised to \$12, which it is thought will encourage the hunters to kill off some of the pests.
The business of the Beaver City station of the B. & M. showed an increase in 1897 over the previous year of 75 per cent. The number of carloads dispatched was 415 and the number of carloads received 247.
Clinton Grant, a 9-year-old boy of Hayes Center, was seriously injured by a horse falling on him. When found he was unconscious and is supposed to have been lying in that condition for several hours.
Burglars made a great haul on Clem Ziegler's store at St. James. They swiped the entire line of ladies' and gent's fine clothes, every bolt of fine dress goods, and completely gutted two large showcases which were filled with notions, trinkets and jewelry.
The C., B. & Q. railroad company, through attorneys, has secured a temporary restraining order on a petition for an injunction against officials in Otoe county in order to be relieved from paying the taxes on their bridge at Nebraska City for the year 1897, claiming that the taxes are illegal.
James Linville, who on the night of August 23, shot and killed Henry Carpenter, in a drunken row at Goodwin, and who was captured at Conda, S. D., in November and brought to Dakota City for trial, was last week declared a free man by a jury of his countrymen, they sustaining his plea of self-defense.
Hartington Dispatch: At a charivari last night at Glen, a 14-year old boy was shot and killed, it is supposed by the groom, Irvin Gilmore. Particulars further than Gilmore shut into the crowd with the above results are not known. The coroner and the sheriff have gone to the place of the killing. Gilmore has skipped.
Fulton's hounds, says a correspondent, did another fine piece of work at Oketo, Kas., one day this week. A \$100 shotgun and robe had been stolen from a cutter. When the dogs were taken off the cars at Oketo a fellow standing on the platform said: "If those dogs ever come to my house I'll kill them." As he was not suspected of the theft nothing was thought of the remark, but the dogs went directly to his place when given the scent. When the fellow opened the door he had an axe in his hand, which he brandished in a threatening manner, but was finally induced to quiet down. A search of the house revealed the missing articles.
A separator creamery plant is being put in at Sterling and it will be owned by a joint stock company. The promoters are meeting with success in their canvass for patrons.
John P. Stull, who recently died near Plattsmouth, established the first blacksmith shop in that place in 1856. Shortly after he took a claim two miles from Plattsmouth, where he lived until his death.
The Baldwin locomotive works has applied for 8,000 feet of space at the Omaha exposition, and will exhibit four of its most modern engines mounted so that they can be operated by steam.

WORK FOR THE WEEK

THE SENATE PROGRAM IS FULL OF UNCERTAINTY.

Its Plans having been somewhat upset by the Teller Resolution—Numerous Important Bills Pressing for Attention—Senate in a Quandary Which to Consider First.

The Senate Program.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The senate proceedings for the week will open with a speech by Senator Pettigrew, dealing with the Hawaiian question which will be delivered Monday. Beyond this speech it is very difficult to forecast the outlook for the week. The diversion occasioned by taking up the Teller bond resolution has left the senate in a somewhat disorganized and unsettled condition with no prearranged program.
Senator Pettigrew's speech will be made during the morning hour and the probabilities are now that at its conclusion, or at least at 2 o'clock, one of the general appropriation bills will be called up. The army and the legislative appropriation bills are already on the calendar, and the consideration of the agricultural bill has been completed by the committee, so that it will be reported on Monday. The probabilities are that the army bill will be the first of these measures to receive consideration, though there is some disposition to displace it with the legislative bill.
Senator Allison, chairman of the committee on appropriations, said that it was his intention to have the appropriation bills considered before other measures, and if he adheres to this determination the week may be largely taken up with them.
So far as can now be seen there are few features in the bills already reported calculated to arouse discussion. There is a feeling in certain quarters that the army bill should be amended by a provision for the increase of the army, and if such a change should be attempted it would give rise to a very spirited debate.
The census bill, also, will be pressed for consideration during the week, and Senator Carter, chairman of the census committee, said today that he was very hopeful of securing its passage in the near future.
The debate upon the civil service bill will be resumed when this bill is taken up, and the bill will be amended so as to give the secretary of the treasury to the secretary of the interior.
The bimetallist republican senators are still discussing the advisability of renewing the financial agitation in the senate by the introduction of some measure of their own, though they do not seem quite so intent upon this course as they appeared to be immediately succeeding the vote upon the Teller resolution. If they present a resolution it will probably be a declaration to the effect that the United States is not committed to the gold standard.
The resolution reported from the senate committee on privileges and elections declaring Mr. Corbett not to be entitled to a seat in the senate from Oregon is also on the senate calendar and there is a disposition in some quarters to dispose of this as speedily as possible. It is a question of the highest privilege and can be taken up at any time, displacing any other subject before the senate.
In view of all the possibilities for debate and delay involved in these various measures, it seems quite improbable that the Hawaiian treaty will receive much attention, at least in executive session, during the week. Still Senator Davis, chairman of the committee on foreign relations, announces it to be his purpose to move an executive session for the consideration of the treaty on Monday; but it is possible that he may be influenced by pressure from senators who have other measures requiring immediate attention to postpone this motion for a few days. He does not, however, admit such a probability.

Big Increase in Wheat Exports.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The monthly statement of the Bureau of Statistics shows that the exports of wheat during the calendar year 1897 aggregated 109,990,328 bushels, a gain of more than 26,000,000 bushels over 1896, and over 43,000,000 bushels as compared with 1895. Wheat flour, however, fell off over 2,000,000 barrels as compared with 1896.
The exports of corn in 1897 were unprecedented amounting to 139,127,570 bushels, an increase of 57,000,000 bushels over 1896, which itself was a very heavy export year.
The immigration into the United States during the last six months is shown to have aggregated 29,175, a falling off, as compared with the last half of 1896, of about 8,000.

Oppose Ceding Lands to the State.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The pensioner Horman of the general land office has made an advance report on the bill introduced by Representative King, granting and ceding to the state of Utah the public lands within its borders. The commissioner advances many reasons why he believes the proposed cession would be foreign to the best interests of the people. Probably 200,000,000 acres of public land have already been given to the state for various purposes and the use they have made of them, as he says, indicates that other cessions would be utilized for revenue only and not for the good of the individual.

Tennessee's senatorial deadlock remains unbroken.

Corbett Not Considered.
DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 31.—Fitzsimmons and Jullian declined to consider Corbett's final challenge today. Considine of this city, who had undertaken to have the fight pulled off for a purse of \$25,000, held an interview with Jullian and Fitzsimmons' class. The latter declared that Corbett was no longer in Fitzsimmons' class and would not be until he whipped Maher.

The bicycle manufacturers of Canada have asked the government for a specific duty of \$9 on each bicycle imported from the United States.

LEAVES UNION PACIFIC.

Chief Engineer Pegrum Tenders His Resignation.
OMAHA, Jan. 31.—The first resignation of a Union Pacific official since the election of President Burt is that of George H. Pegrum, chief engineer of the system, with headquarters in Omaha. His resignation was handed to President Burt a few days ago in New York and the news became known in Omaha this morning on the return of Chief Engineer Pegrum from the east.
Mr. Pegrum has accepted the position of consulting engineer of the Manhattan Elevated Railroad company of New York. In this position he will rank above the chief engineer of that company, and will hold, it is said, what is regarded as one of the most responsible engineering positions in the United States. It is believed that in a remunerative way his new position will be worth more than double the place he has just decided to give up. He has been in New York for several weeks past, and is said to have had the offer of his new position under consideration for some time. He will leave for New York this evening, though he will not remove his home there for some time yet.
George H. Pegrum has been chief engineer of the Union Pacific for about six years, having accepted the position under President Clark. He is well known in engineering circles not only in this country, but abroad, and since his connection with the Union Pacific he has brought up the engineering department until it has been regarded as one of the very strongest departments of the company, and as strong as the engineering department of any western railroad. As the inventor of the celebrated Pegrum truss he has achieved a widespread fame. One of the largest structures in which this truss has been used is the grand union depot at St. Louis. The new steel bridges of the Union Pacific in Wyoming, Idaho and Kansas have all been erected under his direction, and most of them include the Pegrum truss.
The announcement that Chief Engineer Pegrum had resigned created quite a stir in Union Pacific circles this morning. The officers of the road in the east have known of the matter for several days, but it was not generally known here. General Manager Dickinson is in the west and will not return until next week.

IN THE HOUSE.

What the Lower Branch of Congress Will do This Week.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—It is the intention of the house leaders to offset, so far as possible, the action of the senate in passing the Teller resolution by killing that declaration of the sense of congress regarding the payment of the government's bonds in silver on an aye and nay vote in the house this week. This will be the feature of the proceedings. While the republican strength in the house cannot be commanded against the resolution, no doubt is expressed by those who have made it their business to canvass the situation that the majority against it will be decisive.
As soon as the resolution is reported back from the ways and means committee, which may be today, the rules committee will bring in a special order for its consideration. The time allowed for debate is likely to be brief, as the leaders do not believe there is any necessity for protracted debate and moreover a long discussion will measurably decrease the very purpose they have in view—namely, a prompt and decisive negative reply to the senate's declaration.
The remainder of this week will be devoted to the appropriation bills. The District of Columbia is still under discussion and the fortifications bill is on the calendar. The house leaders intend to give appropriation bills the right of way in order to make an early adjournment possible. The moment the appropriation bills are brought in the new rules will be brought into effect and after that the contested election cases and the bankruptcy bill will be brought forward.

Aerial Road Over Chillicoet.
TACOMA, Wash., Jan. 31.—Hugh C. Wallace, president of the Chillicoet Railroad and Transportation company, has advised of the completion of the company's aerial railway over the Chillicoet pass to Lake Lindenman. This marks a new era for Klondike travel, as the time between tide water and the head waters of the Yukon river is shortened from a month to one day, besides removing the peril and hardships.

The President Touched the Button.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—In the presence of the entire California congressional delegation, Judge McKenna of the supreme court and Mrs. Leland Stanford and other women, President McKinley, at 11:08 Sunday night, touched a telegraph key at the white house and opened the jubilee at San Francisco.

Mining Deal Closed.
CHEYENNE, Wyo., Jan. 31.—A deal has been closed by Colonel E. P. Snow on behalf of Denver mining men, by which they obtain a deed to 800 acres of rich placer grounds on the Middle Fork of the Little Laramie river. The Denver men will commence work on their property as soon as spring opens up.

Colorado's Building.
DENVER, Colo., Jan. 31.—The committee in charge of the Denver exhibit at the Omaha exposition discussed plans last night for making a display in a building to be erected at a cost of \$5,000. The plan is to bring the building to Denver at the close of the exposition and place it in the city park. The plans call for a structure in the shape of a Maltese cross, surmounted by an artistic looking dome and ornamented with panoramic views of Denver and Colorado in glass.

END OF THE DEBATE.

THE TELLER RESOLUTION DISCUSSED IN THE SENATE.
Senator Stewart Leads Off in Favor of the Resolution—He is Followed by Mr. Jones of Arkansas—The First Speech in Opposition Given by Mr. Burrows of Michigan.
Close of the Silver Debate.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—In accordance with agreement the senate convened at 10 o'clock yesterday, chaplain being absent, the vice president opened the session without the usual invocation.
By unanimous consent the routine business was waived and Mr. Stewart (Nev.) opened the last day's discussion on the Teller resolution. In supporting the resolution Mr. Stewart maintained that money, whether it be silver or gold or paper, was a creature of law, the creation of money being inherent in all independent nations. He said that this statement had been upheld by the highest of tribunals and cited historical instances of such creation of money.
After a legal discussion of the money question, Mr. Stewart, referring to the speech of President McKinley in New York last night, that he regretted to see that the president had not studied this question more deeply and that he was utterly misguided. He quoted the following sentence from the president's speech: "Nothing should ever tempt us—nothing ever will tempt us—to scale down the sacred debt of the nation through a legal technicality. Whatever may be the language of the contract, the United States will discharge all of its obligations in the currency recognized as the best throughout the civilized world at the time of payment."
Referring to Secretary Gage, Mr. Stewart said he believed the secretary to be an honest man—a man who would not rob a bank, but he said it was difficult for Mr. Gage to look at this question, except from the standpoint of a banker. He thought it unfortunate that the president had placed the treasury department in charge of bankers, but he was glad the president had thrown off the cloak and made the issue directly with the people.
Mr. Jones (Ark.) began his speech in support of the resolution by criticizing the position taken by Mr. Allison (Ia.). He thought the resolution would squarely align those who held the various financial beliefs. He said the advocates of the resolution proposed to pay the full pound of flesh due, but absolutely not a bit more.
The first speech of the day in opposition to the Teller resolution was delivered by Mr. Burrows (Mich.). He said that the republican party was pledged to secure if possible international bimetallism and the president would do everything in his power to carry out that pledge. Meantime the existing gold standard would be maintained. Until the international agreement was secured the purpose of the administration was to continue the kind of bimetallism we have now, whereby 500,000,000 silver dollars were maintained at a parity with gold. Any proposition which looks to the abandonment of this position, which was likely to create a disparity between the coins of the country, was in violation of the public faith and in derogation of the rights of the public creditor. In conclusion Mr. Burrows said that the passage of this resolution fortunately could accomplish nothing. It might tend to alarm the business interests of the country and retard to some extent the advance of prosperity, but by the statements of the president of the United States last night the country was assured that the government obligations would be discharged in the best money in the world.
Mr. Wolcott followed in support of the Teller resolution. He thought any senator, whatever his financial views, could vote for the Teller resolution, as it involves nothing except the carrying out of the government's plain obligations. He thought tugging into the debate the rights of pensioners was entirely irrelevant. He could imagine, however, what sort of treatment the pensioners would receive from the Indianapolis convention or from the New York Clearing House association. He thought that the denunciation and abuse heaped upon those who supported the resolution was unwarranted.

Chinese Slay German Tar.
SHANGHAI, Jan. 29.—A dispatch from Che Foo to the Mercury of Shanghai gives details of the murder of a German sailor named Schultz, belonging to the cruiser Kaiser, while on out-post duty at Tsmo, the extreme post in Kaio Chou bay.
The crime, committed by the Chinese at Tsmo, the extreme post in Kaio Chou, was not discovered until three men of the corporal's guard were making the rounds, in order to relieve the sentries. Then Schultz was discovered, his head having been severed from the body.
The relieving guard was directly afterwards attacked by a hundred natives, and after a stubborn fight it is reported that all the sailors were killed.
Twelve natives were killed during the fighting. It is added that, in consequence of the outrage, the greatest excitement prevailed at Kaio Chou, and it is believed the incident will form the basis of further German demands upon China.
Paul Felix Tallade, the veteran French actor, is dead at Paris.

Visit of War Ships Will Do Good.
MADRID, Jan. 29.—A semi-official note just issued in relation to the visit of the United States battle ship Maine to Cuba says: "This necessitates Captain General Blanco sending a battle ship as well as the cruiser Vizcaya to visit American ports. The visit will be made the occasion for festivities in honor of the Spanish sailors and the different naval commanders will exchange visits. The forthcoming festivities are regarded here, as well as in Washington, as a pacific demonstration calculated to be satisfactory to both countries."

PENSION RULES.

Senate Committee Adopts a Set Governing Pensions.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—The senate committee on pensions has adopted the following rules, which will be of general interest to those concerned in pensions:
"First—Consideration will not be given to any bill which has not first been submitted to the pension bureau for adjudication unless conclusive proof is presented that the claimant has no pensionable status before the bureau. Claims passed upon by the bureau, whether allowed or rejected, will not be entertained by this committee until a period of at least one year has elapsed.
"Second—Where original pension or increase of pension has been allowed by special act, no proposition for additional pension will be entertained by this committee.
"Third—Bills providing for the payment of arrears will not be considered in any case.
"Fourth—Bills proposing to pension children of soldiers will not be entertained except in cases where the child has been idiotic, deformed, or otherwise mentally or physically incapacitated from birth or early childhood, and then only in cases of destitution.
"Fifth—Bills for increasing pension by special act which have been granted by the bureau at the maximum rate under the act of June 27, 1890, will not be given consideration, except in cases of actual destitution or extreme physical disability; provided, however, that where pension has been allowed under the act of June 27, 1890, and a rejected claim exists under the general law, the equities in the latter claim will be considered with a view to increase.
"Sixth—Bills proposing to pension men who were not mustered into service, except in cases where they performed actual military duty and were wounded, or unless some special or extraordinary service was rendered in connection with the army, are not admissible.
"Seventh—No widow's pension will be granted by special act in excess of the maximum rate allowed by law except in cases of destitution, to be substantiated by sworn testimony, including the claimant's affidavit; in no case will a higher rate than \$50 per month be allowed.
"Eighth—This committee will not give consideration to any bill which proposes to restore to the roll the name of a widow of a soldier whose pension was forfeited by remarriage unless she was the wife of a soldier during the war, and is now a widow in actual need.
"Ninth—Bills proposing to pension the brothers and sisters of soldiers will not be given favorable consideration.
"Tenth—As a rule bills for original pension will be given consideration in preference to those for increase.
"Eleventh—Bills will be promptly referred to a subcommittee upon request of any senator, but all bills referred to a subcommittee upon report back to the full committee for action before being reported to the senate.
"Twelfth—An authorized statement by a member of the committee, or by the senator introducing a bill, as to the circumstances of the claimant, will be required when satisfactory evidence does not appear among the papers accompanying the bill."

Fight Over Book Concern Bill.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Yesterday was private bill day in the house under the rules, but Mr. Grout (rep., Vt.), in charge of the District of Columbia appropriation bill, attempted to supplant the regular order with the consideration of that bill. This at once caused a renewal of the fight over the bill to pay the book publishing company of the Methodist Episcopal Church South \$288,000 for damages sustained by it during the war, which had already consumed the entire time of two private bill days. The friends of the latter measure, under the leadership of Mr. Cooper (dem., Tex.), rallied in opposition to the motion and defeated it on a rising vote—72 to 129. In continuation of the filibustering tactics begun last week Mr. Dazell secured the yeas and nays in order to consume time.

Church Bill Passes.
WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 29.—The bill to pay the book publishing company of the Methodist Episcopal Church South \$288,000 for damages sustained by that corporation during the war, after encountering an obstinate filibuster, which staved off a vote on the two private bill days, was piloted to its passage in the house today by Mr. Cooper of Texas, who was in charge of the measure.
The friends of the measure proved themselves in an overwhelming majority and the opposition today, finding it could hold out no longer, reluctantly yielded. The vote on the bill was 188 to 67.

Alger is Better.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Acting Secretary Meiklejohn, who visited Secretary Alger today on a matter of official business, said that the secretary was "doing nicely." He had not seen the secretary for about ten days, and was agreeably surprised to find him looking so well. The secretary is still a very sick man, however, and the very nature of his trouble—grippe and malaria—precludes the probability of a rapid convalescence. In order to expedite his recovery as much as possible he will be removed to the mountains of South Carolina.

Election Frauds in the South.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—An unusually severe arraignment of alleged election frauds is made in the report filed by house committee on elections No. 1, in the case of William F. Aldrich against Thomas S. Plowman, from the Fourth district of Alabama. Mr. Plowman is the sitting member, but the committee submits a recount of the vote giving Aldrich, republican and populist candidate, the seat.
The Salt Lake Herald predicts that the Union Pacific will not be turned over until March 1.

ARE YOU TO LIVE IN ALASKA?

Some Requirements That Will Be Found Indispensable.
The universal article of diet in that country, depended upon and indispensable, is bread or biscuit. And to make the bread and biscuit, either in the camp or upon the trail, yeast cannot be used—it must be baking powder; and the powder manufactured by the processes of the Royal Baking Powder Company, miners and prospectors have learned, is the only one which will stand in that peculiar climate of cold and dampness and raise the bread and biscuit satisfactorily.
These facts are very important for every one proposing to go to Alaska, and the Yukon country to know, for should he be persuaded by some out-fitter to take one of the cheap brands of baking powder, it will cost just as much to transport it, and then when he opens it for use, after all his labor in packing it over the long and difficult route, he will find a solid caked mass or a lot of spoiled powder, with no strength and useless. Such a mistake might lead to the most serious results. Alaska is no place in which to experiment in food, or try to economize with your stomach. For use in such a climate, and under the trying and fatiguing conditions of life and labor in that country, everything must be the best and most useful, and above all it is imperative that all food supplies shall have perfect keeping qualities. It is absurd to convey over such difficult and expensive routes an article that will deteriorate in transit, or that will be found when required for use to have lost a great part of its value.
There is no better guide to follow in these matters than the advice of those who have gone through similar experience. Mr. McQuesten, who is called "the father of Alaska," after an experience of years upon the trail, in the camp, and in the use of every kind of supply, says: "We find in Alaska that the importance of a proper kind of baking powder cannot be overestimated. A miner with a can of bad baking powder is almost helpless in Alaska. We have tried all sorts, and have been obliged to settle down to use nothing but the Royal. It is stronger and carries further at first, but above all things, it is the only powder that will endure the severe climatic changes of the arctic region."
It is for the same reasons that the United States government in its relief expeditions, and Peary, the famous arctic traveler, have carried the Royal Baking Powder exclusively.
The Royal Baking Powder will not cake nor lose its strength either on board ship or in damp climates, and is the most highly concentrated and efficient of leavening agents. Hence it is indispensable to every Alaskan outfit. It can be had of any of the trading companies in Alaska, but should the miner procure his supplies before leaving, he should resist every attempt of the outfitter to palm off upon him any of the other brands of baking powder, for they will spoil and prove the cause of great disappointment and trouble.

PEDDLERS IN MEXICO.
Why an Old Woman Wouldn't Sell All Her Honey at One Time.
"While traveling in Mexico a few years ago I had a funny experience with a Mexican vender which goes to show what little business ability the lower classes have," said E. F. Guignon of St. Louis. "I was en route to look at some mines away up in the mountains. At the station where we left the train to take the stage I saw an old woman selling some honey. She did not have more than ten pounds of it altogether and as it looked so good I wanted to buy it all to take along with me. I asked our interpreter to buy it. Much to my surprise the old woman would sell him but two boxes, claiming that if she sold it all to him she would have nothing to sell to other people, neither would she have anything else to do during the remainder of the day!"

FADS IN FLOWERS.
Florists' shops abroad are much different from the ones in this country. In London, for example, funeral wreaths and emblems are displayed in the windows, with their prices attached. Some are attractive, others very hideous. Lichen is fashionable there for crosses and wreaths, and from this grisly-gray background calla lilies and white roses peer.
Set pieces, the "gates ajar," broken columns and floral pillows, are always painful, for, in the first place, the natural grace and beauty of the flowers is destroyed, and in the next there is no excuse for the emblems. Flowers for the dead should be scattered in careless handfuls—then only are they comforters, with their graceful beauty unimpaired. The modern custom of adding to a death notice the words, "Friends will please omit flowers," may be traced to the reluctance of the survivors to be confronted with those ghastly set pieces which have raged so long.
The best artists have always recognized that flowers should be allowed to arrange themselves. Basketfuls, armfuls or great bunches of loose flowers are justifiable, but crushing their beauty into any systematized outline is unforgivable. Florists abroad have a frightful habit of "making up" boutonnieres for men's coats, and these bunches of three or four violets a spray of fern and a branch of forget-me-nots are seen on the lapels of the men who do not appreciate true fitness. A single gardenia tuberosa or a knot of mignonette is better than one of these horrible mixtures.