# THE DAILY HERALD, FLATTSMOUTH, NEBRADAA, THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1888.

# LEAP YEAR LEGENDS.

#### A VARIETY OF PEASANT SUPERSTI-TIONS AND FOLK LORE.

The Year's Unpropitious Influence on Farming Operations-A Bit of Tuscan Superstition-Traditions in the Early Days of the Church-A Demon.

The break in the regular order of days is naturally a matter of awe and apprehension for the peasant mind. We accordingly find, in nearly all the old countries, a variety of superstitions clustering around leap year. The rural folk lore of England tells us how all the pens and beaus grow the wrong way in their podsthat is, the seeds are set in quite the contrary way to what they are in other years. The reason commonly assigned for this supposed eccentric freak of nature is "be-cause it is the ladies' year, they the pens and beans) always lie the wrong way in leap year."

In Belgium the pensantry maintain that in a Maiden lane jewelry emporium. "Yes. Has she changed her earrings?" this year is not only too frequently unpropitious for farming operations, but that throughout it the young of no domestic animal will thrive as at other times. A which it is affirmed invariably become either stunted in their growth or blighted. The same peculiar idea prevails in certain districts of Russia, and, in accordance with the time-honored and muchquoted proverb, the peasant is reminded how, "If St. Cassian (Feb. 29) look on a cowit will wither." Oh the other hand, there would seem to be exceptions to this rile, as in Sicily, where the former' is advisel to "set and graft vines in leap Sear."

The arcient Romans considered the bissextile, or "leap day," a critical season, reckoning it among their unlucky days. That this belief has not by any means lost ground s evidenced by the deep rooted son's speedy exit. But those, however, who chaice to be born on this particular day havelittle occasion to dread such unbered how leap years comes around again utter falsity of the many articles of belief attached to its anniversary."

four.

Referring to this month, Mr. Chambers remarks, in the "Popular Rhymes of God, the Misericordia has .- Will Carleton Scotland,' that "it appears to be consid- in New York Star. ered by some people as the most import-We have as many rhymes about

### Masks for Valuable Gems.

A richly dressed, handsome young woman attracted considerable attention in the box of a fashionable theatre one evening this week. It was not her unusual beauty-for there were other ladies present who excelled her in personal charms-that made her conspicuous, neither was it due to any unusual deportment on her part. The whole claim upon fame rested in the magnificent solitaire diamond carrings she wore. As they caught the rays of the electric light they almost dazzled the eyes of the audience.

There evidently was no paste about them. They were genuine stones and worth not less than \$2,000 each. When the play had come to an end, a reporter who had observed the lady during the performance, saw her as she was leaving the building. He looked for the diamonds, but they were not visible. The setting of the stones commined the same, but in the place of

"Looking for the diamonds?" asked the reporter's companion, who spent his days

"No; she still wears them. She has torely covered them up with those gold ma his. These contrivances are of recent similar fatility, they argue, extends to origin," he explained, "and are becoming every kind of young grass and shoats, very fashionable. They are cheap and neat. They fit over the stones and hide them from view. By this means a lady can wear plain gold ornaments on the street, and the moment she reaches the playhouse she can blosom out in the most for the canals is taken from the Rio correcous jewelry. She runs no risk of robbery, and offers no bait to highwaymen. It is safe and conomical."-New York Mail and Express.

#### The Miserleordia of Florence.

Here, as we turn a corner, we meet one f the queerest looking processions in the world. It is a small company of men, their heads perfectly covered with white mantles, with holes for the eyes and month. They look in the moonbeams like dislike prents have to a child being born a company of dead people, just resurrected on "leppday," it being a popular notion and walking about the streets, with that to ome into the world at such an shrouds still upon them. One of them, odd tingis ominous as signifying the per- met alone in an American town, would scare any girl into hysteries.

A feeling of indignation comes over us as we glance at this strange walking necessaryalarms, for "it must be remem- group, but when we know what they are, it turns into a sentiment of fervent love. and again only too truly to testify to the They are the Misericordia-an association formed to comfort and relieve misery wherever they can hear of it. They are A variety of this superstition prevnils | recruited from all classes of citizens, from on the ontinent, and, according to a the prince to the pauper. When a certain piece of "loscan folk lore, when a child is signal is struck by the bell of the big born in lap year, either it or its mother cathedral, it means that somebody is sufwill die before the year has expired. But, fering and needs their help. Those on apart fron considerations of this kind, it duty that week must rush to their rendezmust be acknowledged that it is somewhat | yous as village people do to a fire, and awkward to be born on "leap day," as a help the afflicted one. These masks conperson c.n only celebrate the anniversary | ceal their faces from bystanders and from of his bith once in four years. It like- each other. No one knows who they are wise also has its advantages, as in the -not even the person who is receiving case of those of the fair sex who like, as their help. Six of these men are bearing far as possible, to minimize their age, and a human body with them. If the stretcher hence lock with envious eyes on those is tightly closed they carry a corpse; this whose bithday comes only once to their one is open, thank heaven, and they are trying to save a life to its friends. If any association in Italy has the approval of

#### Burman's Indifference to Death.

# IRRIGATING LANDS.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BIG DITCHES OUT IN COLORADO.

Construction of Canals for Irrigation. Tapping the Piver or Creek-Flooding the Crops in a Dry Season-Surprising Results-Profits.

The great system of irrigating lands in dry sections for crops is as yet in its infancy, but wherever tried it has done well, and irrigating ditches have yielded a large return to the investors in them. Most of the largest ditches are in Colorado, where 3,000,000 acres of land are subject to irrigation. Of this vast body less than 500,000 acres, have been irrigated, leaving 2,500,000 to be watered yet. The canals in course of construction will water about 1,200,000 of the 2,500,000 acres. This is enormous when we consider that the whole system of irrigation has grown up almost within the past five years. The San Louis Park canal, watering 400,000 acres; State Land canal, 140,000 acres; Citizens' canal, 110,000 acres, and Del Norte and Suganche canal, 150,000 acres, may be mentioned as among the most successful Colorado ditches. These three canals cover 100,000 acres of government land, 200,000 acres of patented land, and 150,000 acres of state land. They will furnish homes for between 3,000 and 4,000 farmers. The water Grande river near the town of Del Norte. The largest canal is 120 feet wide at its head and gradually narrows down to twelve feet. Its depth varies from two to six feet. It has when full a capacity for watering 400,000 acres of land.

#### CONSTRUCTING A CANAL.

How do they make irrigating canals? Easy enough and quite rapidly. First is the construction of the main canal. The water is taken from a river or creek, the supply being regulated by a head gate. The canal may be ten, twenty or fifty feet wide and one, five or ten feet deep, according to the volume of water desired. Generally the canals are wide and shallow like a creek Indeed, they are merely artificial creeks, and when grass grown and planted with trees along their banks are hard to tell from the natural streams. A favorable place for tapping the river or creek having been found, the canal is carried forward to the high grounds. It is generally given about half the fall of the river or creek, so it soon reaches an elevation far above the natural stream and has the lands between it and the stream below its waters. At intervals as needed, small canals are taken out and carried to the farms. Each lateral has a head gate and measure for the water. The laterals are built so as to cover the greatest number of farms. At certain distances sublaterals are taken out from the main laterals, and these sublaterals too have head gates and water measures. The sublaterals are used by individual farmers. If before plowing time there has been rain enough to soften the ground the farmer does not resort to his ditch, but, if the season is dry, he opens his headgate and saturates the ground. The seeding is then done. Ten acres is about the allowance of land that can be irrigated in one day per man. Unless water is very plenti-

# HE BESTED MORRISSEY.

Led to His Success in Life.

C. N. White, chief paymaster of the New York, Lake Erie and Western railroad company for many years, has resigned. He is succeeded by Peter F. Donohue, who was Paymaster White's assistant. When Fisk and Gould were in coatrel of the Erie, Peter Donohue was Fisk's office boy. He was a slight-built boy, but his eye was always on the right side of business.

One day Fisk gave orders to Peter, who sat at the outside door of Prince Erie's office in the Grand Opera House building, that he would be engaged in some particular matters, and must be out to every applicant, no matter who it might be. At that time John Morrissey and Fisk were great friends, and Morrissey happened to want to see Fisk that day on some important business. Peter knew of the high regard Fisk had for John Morrissey, and the latter was in the habit, when he called at the Erie building, of waiking into Fisk's office unannounced and without ceremony. On this day he was passing, when the three-foot-and-a-half office boy rose up and told the congressman that he couldn't pass.

"How's that?" said Morrissey. "Mr. Fisk is busy and can't see anybody," replied Peter Donohue. "He'll see me," said Morrissey.

"No he won't," insisted Peter. The persistence of the boy rather nettled the ex-prize fighting statesman, and he said, testily, and taking a step toward the door:

"Do you know who I am?" "Yes," said Peter, coolly, "you're John

Morrissey." "Well," said Morrissey, "I guess Mr Fisk will see ma

With that he swept the diminutive office boy aside and strode toward the door. His hand was on the knob, but he did not turn it. Peter Donohue sprang on the broad back of the former athlete and climbed up it like a monkey. He threw his arm around Morrissey's neck and gave it a squeeze that shut the big man's wind off, and forced him to give all his attention to freeing himself from the determined office boy's grasp. He finally succeeded, but when the novel struggle was over the office boy stood again between the congressman and Fisk's door. "Mr. Fisk gave me orders to let nobody in there," exclaimed Peter, "and you can't go in. That's all there is about it " Morrissey's anger quickly gave way to admiration of the boy's pluck and faithfulness, and, laughing heartily over his defeat, he went away. He told Fisk next day about his encounter with Peter, and how the latter had "downed him." Nothing all Fisk's remarkable career ever pleased him as much as the "mill," as he called it, between Morrissey and Donohue. The boy was rapidly advanced by Fisk, and one of the direct results of this affair with Morrissey is his present place at the head of the most important branch of the Erie railway's financial department .-New York Sun.

#### Politeness of the Japanese.

Talking of politeness, the Japanese have that article in their composition to a very extraordinary extent. Men are always excessively polite to one another. They bend their backs and bow their heads and



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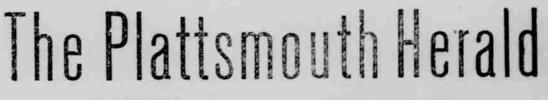
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Is enjoying a Boom in both its

DAILYANDWEEKLY

this docled month as about all the rest put together, many of them expressing either an open detestation of it or a profound sense of its influence in deciding the weather that is to follow."

tradition and legendary lore. St. Augustine, for example, writing of it, says: "The almighty made it from the beginof the year will be perversely altered, bereckoned! If you will not account it also to the moon, as to the sun, then you frustrate the rule for Easter, and the reckoning of every new moon all the year."

Hampsol, in his "Medii Evi Kalendarium," quotes the following quaint tradithat the lissextus comes through this, order for firing was given. that Joshua prayed to God that the sun might staid still for one day's length. as God granted to him. It is true that the sun did stand still for one day's went forward in the same manner as other days. And the bissextus is not through that, as some think."

pearance, whose "only pleasure is to be Star. displeased," His shape is not distinguishable in member, joint or limb. Nearly thirty years ago, M. Maurice Sand exhibited in the salon a powerful and graphic neeted with the progress of cold waves. picture of this mysterious being. "it is Many instances occur, says Lieut. Woodevening: the sun has just set over a waste run, where the temperature at a given country covered with marshy bogs and station, at the time of the appearance of fens full of stagnating water. The clouds the cold wave in the northwest, is lower are bloodstained by the last rays of the departing day star, and the dark red color is reflected on the spleeping pools. Out of the depth of one of them in the distance a marvelous monster has arisen, and is sippi valley divides, a part going northleaning against an old water worn pile. ensterly to the lower lake region and the Before him the frightened fishermen fly other part southward to the Gulf states. and fall. His form is not to definite as In either case the intensity appears to be could be desired, but still he is the ghost greatly diminished. This action seems of leap year."-T. F. Thistelton Dyer in generally to be due to the sudden devel-Home Journal.

#### What Say the Purists?

a claimant for public adoption. It evidently avoids the roundabout way in which, by several words of a sentence, we ta 'ned in the accepted word "postpone." in point of time. It is correctly formed from two La tin words, and, in a literary point of view, c.'n scarcely be objected to. It will be a more co.ndensed and a shorter such as "ante-pone," "ante-poned," "ante-poning" and "ante-poned," than to write, as heretofore, sentences stating that specified things which thad been fixed for a certain data more to allow mode of expression to use single words been fixed for a certain date were to c. wo off on a date prior to the one originally intended. One word will satisfactorily contain the whole idea .- Newport News.

#### A Small Boy's Modest Request.

"Grandpa," said Bertie, "you like to see young boys enjoy themselves, don't you?

"Why, yes," replied grandpa. "And you like to do all you can to help 'em have a good time, don't you?" "Why, certainly."

"I thought so, Well, me and the to play 'Life on the Plains' in the Clarks' barn for the next two afternoons, and I thought I'd ask you to let us take your wig to use for a scaip."—Chicago Inter Ocean. She—I hear that you have lost your valuable little dog, Mr. Sissy. He—Ya'as, in a railroad accident. I was saved but the dawg was killed. She (shocked) — What a pity1 — The Encel

Three Burmans were led out to suffer leath by being shot. They were perfectly apathetic, not seeming to care a bit, judging by the way they laughed and talked

and smoked the never absent cigar. One But again, leap year is not without its of them having been tied up, the other two squatted down and watched the sentence being carried out with intense interest. The volley was fired, and so true ning of the world for a great mystery, and had gone the bullets that the top of the Burman's head was riddled with five of them. Turning away in disgust, what was cause there is one day and one night not my horror and surprise to see the remaining two prisoners rolling on the ground, convulsed with laughter at the effect of the Sepoys' rifles. It was some time be-

fore they recovered sufficiently to be taken up for punishment, and when they were, one of them was smoking a cigar and tion from a Saxon treatise: "Some assert the other burst out laughing just as the

The Burman, it will be seen from this, is spathetic, apparently indifferent to when he swept the heathen from the land death. In spite of this quality, he is a coward in action and rarely fights in the open or stands his ground when attacked. length over the city of Gebaon; but the day They are not a tall race, and in many respects resemble the Chinese, having flat faces and small eyes. They wear their hair long like a women, and the greatest In France there is a popular tradition among the peasantry in the environs of hair cut. In daily life they are lazy, mak-La Chatre of a different kind altogether. ing the women do everything; thieves and of irrigated land, and myself measured It is said that every leap year a particular liars, and not to be trusted in any business sort of evil demon makes its dread ap- transaction .- Nevile Morris in New York

#### Tacts Concerning Cold Waves.

There are many other curious facts conopment of a storm somewhere in the southern part of the Missouri valley. Sometimes a storm of slight energy re-A new verb, to "ante-pone," has become mains in Kansas, Missouri and the Indian territory, and has the effect of retarding, or even totally destroying a cold wave. Again, when a cold wave is retarded in have been in the habit of expressing the this way, it seems often to gather force idea which is the opposite of that con- and intensity, and rush rapidly forward and spread over the entire country. An-This means to place after, in point of time; "ante-pone" means to place before, other frequent feature is that after a cold wave commences the temperature continues to fall in the northwest, and another wave is formed entirely distinct from the first, from which it becomes separatel by a warm wave. The warm wave is only a narrow beit, but the cold waves

In one respect the employment of females in the British postoflice is acting in a way not quite foreseen by the department-namely. In the promotion of mar-ringes. Especially has the "Control hall" suffered in this respect, four of its most valued lady clerks having lately resigned in order to enter the state matrimonial. But if the government is thereby inconvenienced all the girls in the department are pleased, for if they do not win the of promotion by the retirement of their fortunate sisters .- St. Louis Republican,

She-I hear that you have lost your

ful farmers are limited to eighty acres each to be irrigated in one season, but this does not include grass lands.

After the crops come up they are irri-gated or simply flooded. The quantity of water put on is about equal to what would fall in three days' steady rain. When the crop is half grown it is irrigated again. Two irrigations are considered enough for a crop in a season, unless the weather is very hot and dry, and then three irrigations may be put on. It will thus be seen that every farmer holds in his own hands the means of making a crop when he has irrigating ditches.

### EXPENSE OF IRRIGATION.

Root crops can always be kept moist, and require five or ten times as much water as cereals. The expense of irrigation, when compared with the benefits derived is very slight. Irrigation about doubles crops, and the cost of the water is never over \$2 per acre, and often as low as sixty cents per acre, per annum. Forty and fifty bushels of wheat per acre are often raised under irrigation. Potatoes frequently grow to five pounds, and yield 250 to 500 bushels per acre. Other root crops yield equally well, and barley will yield forty bushels per acre and oats often fifty and sixty bushels. I have seen seventy-seven bushels of oats cut on an acre 500 bushels of wheat cut from a ten acra field in Colorado, near Boulder. Wild hay, when well irrigated, will cut two tous per acre, and alfalfa four to six tons. All kinds of berries, such as strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, currants and such fruits, grow prolifically under irrigation, and yield nearly a double crop. From \$300 to \$400 is often

taken from an acre for small fruits. Ditching machines have been made for digging irrigating canals, but I never say one that worked satisfactorily. The best ditching machine is an Irishman and a wheelbarrow or a plow and a scraper. A ditch ten feet wide and two or three feet deep can ordinarily be made at a cost of \$1,000 per mile. The income from the water in such a ditch in a good locality is about 24 per cent. per annum on the cost of making. So it will be seen ditching is The little companies first profitable. ormed in Colorado had great difficulty in lacing their stock, but they throve amazingly and soon men of capital began to look into the matter. The Colorado Loan and Trust company was formed by Mr. T. C. Henry for the purpose of irrigating lands, and soon large ditches were under way. This company now controls many ditches and irrigates nearly 1,000,000 acres of land. There are many other companies, and I believe all are making money. -Gen. James S. Brisbin in New York Tribune.

#### Delicately Flattering the "Freshies."

A certain barber in this beautiful city has been vexed in spirit because some of his trade seemed in a fair way to slip away from hin. The manner of it is this: He has among his customers a large number of Yale freshmen of tender years. These frisky youths insist upon being shaved, although their chins may be as smooth as the surface of a billiard ball. The barber saw that in order to keep that class of trade he must convince it that it had hair on its face, so he bethought him-self of a scheme. He took a very fine razor and honed it down to a very fine This accomplished, he so manipulated the tool that when it was drawn along the smooth flesh it made a noise as if the points were being scraped off a barbed wire fence.

He tried it on the first freshman that came in, and the man went away looking as pleased as if his mother-in-law had just died. The tonsorial artist now flourishes and the freshman goes on his way rejolc-ing.-New Haven News.

put their two hands back to back between their knees and have a great time. But the most amusing thing is to see two old lalies in Japan meeting one another on the street. The street is empty, we'll say, and they catch sight of one another third, or four blocks apart. They immediately begin to make obeisance at one another, begin they keep bending and bowing at they been bending the together. when they make that peculiar hiss by drawing in the breath and keep on saying "Ohayo" for about two minutes. The young things, the "Moosmais," are very charming and graceful in their greeting of one another, but the old ladies are ornate and elaborate in their address.

And the language has been framed with a view to the necessities of politeness and of difference in rank. "Are," with the accent on the e, is the verb to be. If you are talking to a coolie, somebody very much below you, "are" is good enough for "is." If you are talking to one a little below you, or you wish to be polite to an underling, you use "arimas." If you are on formal terms with an equal, you say "gozarimas," and when you address a man high above you in rank you make it "gozarimasuru." It's an elastic language, and pulls out to almost any length,-San Francisco Chronicle "Undertones."

#### Germany's Army Commanders.

The emperor of Germany is the com mander-in-chief of the army, whose motto is "For God, King and Fatherland." The allied sovereigns, Bavaria, Saxony, etc., appoint their officers of the contingent which they furnish, but they have to be approved by the emperor. The minister of war is Gen. Von Schellendorf. He superintends the different commands for Prussia and the confederated states. Field Marshal Von Moltke is at the head of the general staff, which is made up of the officers of the different armies tempo-rarily detached. They form seven divisions. The first three study each a theatre of war, the fourth occupies itself with the railroads, the fifth devotes its time to military history, the sixth studies geography and statistics and the seventh geodosy and topography. Field Marshal Voi Moltke can call to his assistance the most distinguished civil engineers in the empire whenever he wishes. The general staff has a library, begun in 1816, which now comprises nearly 60,000 volumes .- Berlin Cor San Francisco Chroaicle.

#### Take Time at the Table.

Americans live at too high a pressure. No man has any business having functional dyspepsia. Organic dyspepsia is different. That is due to cancer or some other specific disease of the stomach or other internal organs. Rapid cating often grows out of the habit of eating Pleasant company at table and alone. good food are excellent preventives of rapid eating. Eat slowly, enjoy your food, take plenty of time between courses and let your teeth do their share of the work instead of putting the whole job on the stomach. If you don't enjoy your meals take vigorous enough exercise to make you hungry. Hunger is the best sauce. That is the way to prevent dyspepsia if you haven't it, and the way to cure it if you have,-New York World PLATTSMOUTH, Interview.

#### The Rule of Three,

First Medical Student-Aw-doctor, what is the subject selected for discussion at our next meeting of the Medico Scientifico society? D'ye know, doctor? Second Medical Student-Aw-let-me

-see, doctor. Aw-yes: "Resolved, That if a boy falls from a second story window and breaks one leg, wouldn't he break two legs if he fell from: I a fourth story window?"-The Epoch.

# EDITIONS.

Year 1888

Will be one during which the subjects of national interest and importance will be strongly agitated and the election of a President will take place. The people of Cass County who would like to learn of

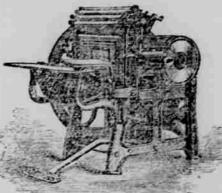
# Political, Commercial and Social Transactions

of this year and would keep apace with the times should



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