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THE HERALD.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Compiled from Telegrams of Accompanying Dates.

Monday, Jan. 4.

THE public debt statement Jan. 1 is as follows:

Six per cent. bonds	$1,157,085,100
Five per cent. bonds	556,525,200
Total coin bonds	$1,713,610,300
Lawful money debt	14,678,900
Matured debt	19,127,390
Legal-tender notes	382,072,317
Certificates of deposit	41,200,000
Fractional currency	46,390,508
Coin certificates	23,540,600
Interest	39,724,477
Total debt	$2,280,338,682
Cash in Treasury—	
Coin	$82,587,449
Currency	13,952,932
Special deposits held for the redemption of certificates of deposit, as provided by law	41,200,000
Total in Treasury	$137,740,381
Debt less cash in Treasury	$2,142,598,302
Increase during December	3,659,967
Decrease since June 30, 1874	488,939
Bonds issued to the Pacific Railway Companies, interest payable in lawful money, principal outstanding	$64,623,512
Interest accrued and not yet paid	1,938,705
Interest paid by the United States	24,325,396
Interest repaid by the transportation of mails, etc	5,601,838
Balance of interest paid by United States	18,723,558

IN the Pacific Mail investigation, on the 2d, Henry Clews, a Director, testified that no knowledge came to the Board of Directors, as a Board, of the money spent to procure the subsidy until after it became a law, and when they did learn the fact it was a matter of surprise to them. A. L. Phelps testified that Stockwell told him that money was being spent in Washington. Stockwell also said he supposed Irwin would have to be sent out of the country if an investigation into the matter should be instituted. Phelps thought that this was in September, 1872.

NEW ORLEANS dispatches say two Republican members of the Louisiana Legislature have been kidnaped by the Conservatives to prevent their being present at the organization of that body. Gov. Kellogg has submitted a letter to the Congressional Investigating Committee proposing that they decide the question of the disputed election of 1872, and offering to submit to whatever verdict they might render.

A LONDON dispatch says King Alphonso will be speedily recognized by European powers. He has granted amnesty to all Carlists and has been tendered the support of Castelar, Martos, Admiral Topete and other well-known Republicans. The blessing of the Pope asked for by the King has been sent through the Papal Nuncio in Madrid.

CAPT. E. B. WARD, a prominent and wealthy citizen of Detroit, died of apoplexy in that city on the 2d, aged sixty-four. His estate is estimated at $10,000,000.

SUBPŒNAS have been served on witnesses in the Tilton-Beecher suit, and a panel of 500 jurors has been drawn.

GARIBALDI has declined the national grant for his relief because of the condition of Italian finances.

Tuesday, Jan. 5.

GEN. SHERIDAN has issued an order at New Orleans stating that under instructions from the President he assumes control of the Department of the Gulf, consisting of the States of Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi, and the Gulf posts as far eastward and embracing Fort Jefferson and Key West, Fla., excluding the posts in Mobile Bay, which will hereafter constitute one of the departments of the Military Division of the Missouri. The General has also sent a dispatch to Secretary Belknap at Washington, announcing "the existence in this State of a spirit of defiance to all lawful authority, and an uncertainty of life which is hardly realized by the General Government or the country at large. The lives of citizens have become so jeopardized that, unless something is done to give protection to the people, all security usually afforded by law will be overridden. Defiance to the laws and the murder of individuals seem to be looked upon by the community here from a standpoint which gives impunity to all who choose to indulge in either, and the civil government appears powerless to punish or even arrest."

THE Michigan State Treasurer's statement for 1874 shows a balance in the Treasury Dec. 31, 1873, of $632,068.69; receipts during 1874, $2,152,811.38. Total, $2,784,880.07. Expenditures during 1874, $1,891,794.51. Balance, Dec. 31, 1874, $893,085.56. State bonded debt, $1,528,000; non-interest-bearing debt, $1,588,085.64.

A DECREE has been issued at Madrid suspending the jury system. The marriage of King Alphonso with the daughter of the Duke de Montpensier is favored by the Regency.

Wednesday, Jan. 6.

AT meetings in New Orleans on the 5th of the Cotton Exchange, the Merchants' Exchange and other gatherings, resolutions were adopted denouncing the statements of Gen. Sheridan to the Secretary of War as to the condition of affairs in Louisiana as false in point of fact and calculated to convey a wrong impression to the people in other sections. John McEnery sent a protest to President Grant against the acts of the United States forces in the State-House on the 5th. Some talk was had of a compromise of some sort in regard to the Legislature. Gen. Sheridan had sent another telegram to the Secretary of War, in which he expressed the opinion that "the terrorism now existing in Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas could be entirely removed and confidence and fair-dealing established by the arrest and trial of the ringleaders of the armed White Leagues." He suggests that if Congress would pass a bill declaring them banditti they could be tried by a military commission. Among the witnesses before the Congressional Investigation Committee on the 5th were ex-Gov. Hahn and Gov. Kellogg. In the course of his statement the latter said he did not think the State Government could support itself without the United States forces, he claiming that the great bulk of his supporters are in the country, while a large element opposed to his administration reside in the city.

THE Wisconsin State Grange met at Madison on the 5th, John Cochrane, Master, presiding. There were about 150 delegates present. The Master's address was well received. He reported 1,008 Granges in the State, against 304 a year since. He commended, in warm terms, the efforts making to improve the navigation of the Mississippi, Fox and Wisconsin Rivers, as tending toward cheaper transportation. The position taken by the Order in regard to railroad transportation he thought should be maintained. He urged the sending of help to the brethren in Kansas and Nebraska, and the formation of a permanent fund for the purpose of engaging in the manufacture of agricultural implements.

THE condition of affairs in Louisiana was discussed at the Cabinet meeting in Washington on the 5th. A protest against the action of the United States troops, received by the President from Mr. Wiltz, was read. It is said the Administration is well satisfied that Gen. Sheridan is in every way competent to carry out the ideas of the General Government respecting whatever participation it may be thought necessary to take regarding affairs in that State.

THE Bank of Spain has advanced the Government treasury 40,000,000 reals. All the great powers have authorized their representatives to enter into semi-official relations with the new Government.

HIRAM R. ROBERTS is the Democratic candidate for Governor of New Hampshire.

Thursday, Jan. 7.

GEN. SHERIDAN sent a dispatch to Secretary Belknap on the 6th to the effect that the city of New Orleans was very quiet. Idle threats had been made to assassinate him (Sheridan) but he was not afraid and would not be stopped from enforcing the Government orders. The Chairman of the Committee of Seventy has issued a card calling on his fellow-citizens to avoid by all means the troops sent into their midst, as their deliverance from political bondage depends on their prudence and forbearance, and a conflict with the soldiers or authorities will bring ruin to their hopes and the riveting of their chains.

SECRETARY BELKNAP has sent a dispatch to Gen. Sheridan, at New Orleans, saying that "the President and all of us have full confidence in and approve your course." A Washington dispatch says there is no probability that the President will issue such a proclamation as Gen. Sheridan suggested in his telegram of the 5th.

THE New York Assembly organized on the 5th by the selection of Jeremiah McGuire for Speaker and Hiram Calkins for Clerk—both Tammany Hall nominees.

CHAS. W. JOHNSON has been elected Chief Clerk of the Minnesota Senate and W. R. Kinyon Speaker of the House.

EIGHT jurors have been obtained in the Tilton-Beecher trial before Judge Neilson.

Friday, Jan. 8.

A CARD has been published at Little Rock, Ark., signed by the pastors of six of the churches in that place, protesting against Gen. Sheridan's statement that terrorism existed in that State, claiming that no such terrorism had existence there, and that there was no repression of public opinion or private action except that imposed by an ordinary code of laws.

IN consequence of a defeat upon a favorite measure the French Ministry tendered their resignations to President MacMahon on the 6th. The President refused to accept the tender until he could form a new Cabinet out of the majority in the Assembly.

A NEW ORLEANS dispatch of the 7th says both houses of the State Legislature were in session proceeding with business. The Conservatives remained together in caucus.

ACCORDING to the Master's report to the Wisconsin State Grange there are now 508 Granges in the State, as against 304 last year.

A FULL jury has been secured in the Tilton-Beecher case before the Brooklyn City Court, Judge Neilson presiding.

GOV. GASTON, of Massachusetts, was inaugurated on the 7th.

Saturday, Jan. 9.

THE following are the yeas and nays on the final passage in the House of the Senate Finance bill:

Yeas—Albert, Averill, Barber, Barrere, Barry, Bass, Begole, Berry, Bradley, Burchard, Burleigh, Burrows, Butler (Tenn.), Cain, Carpenter, Casson, Cessna, Chittenden, Clayton, Clements, Cobb (Kan.), Corwin, Cotton, Crooke, Crounse, Curtis, Danford, Dobbins, Donnan, Dwell, Eames, Farwell, Freeman, Frye, Garfield, Gunckel, Hale (Me.), Harmer, Harrison, Hathhorn, Hawley (Ill.), Hays, Hazelton (Wis.), Hazelton (N. J.), Hender, Hodges, Hooper, Haskins, Houghton, Howe, Hunter, Hines, Kasson, Kellogg, Kellinger, Lamport, Lansing, Lawrence, Loughridge, Lowe, Lowndes, Lynch, Martin, Maynard, McCrary, McDill (Wis.), McDill (Iowa), McDougall, McKee, McNulta, Merriam, Monroe, Myers, Negley, O'Neill, Orr, Orth, Packard, Packer, Page, Parsons, Pelham, Pendleton, Pike, Platt (N. Y.), Poland, Pratt, Purman, Ray, Richmond, Roberts, E. H., Robinson (Ohio), Rusk, Sawyer, Sayler (Ind.), Scofield, Scudder (N. J.), Sener, Sessions, Shanks, Sheets, Shoemaker, Small, Smart, Smith (Pa.), Smith (N. Y.), Smith (Va.), Smith (O.), Sprague, Staunard, Starkweather, St. John, Strawbridge, Taylor, Thomas (N. C.), Thomas (Va.), Thompson, Thornburg, Todd, Tremain, Tyner, Waldron, Wallace, Ward (Ill.), Ward (N. J.), Wheeler, White, Whiting, Wilber, Willard (Mich.), Williams (Mass.), Williams (Ind.), Williams (Mich.), Wilson (Iowa), Wilson (Ind.)—135.

Nays—Adams, Archer, Arthur, Ashe, Atkins, Banning, Beck, Bell, Berry, Blount, Bowen, Bright, Bromberg, Brown, Buffinton, Caldwell, Clark (Mo.), Clark (N. Y.), Clymer, Comingo, Cook, Cox, Crittenden, Crossland, Crutchfield, Dawes, De Witt, Eldridge, Field, Finck, Giddings, Glover, Gooch, Gunter, Hagans, Hamilton, Hancock, Harris (Mass.), Harris (Ga.), Harris (Va.), Hatcher, Havens, Hawley (Conn.), Hereford, Herndon, Hoar, E. R., Hoar, G. F., Holman, Hunter, Kelley, Knapp, Lamar, Lamison, Lawson, Leach, Magee, Marshall, McLean, Milliken, Mills, Morrison, Neal, Nesmith, Niblack, Niles, Parker (N. H.), Parker (Mo.), Perry, Pierce, Randall, Read, Robbins, Sayler (Ohio), Schell, Scudder (N. Y.), Sherwood, Sloss, Smith (N. C.), Southard, Stephens, Stone, Storm, Swann, Townsend, Vance, Waddell, Walls, Whitehead, Whitehouse, Whitthorn, Willard (Vt.), Willie, Wilson (Md.), Wolf, Ward, Woodworth, Young (Ky.), Young (Ga.)—98.

A BERLIN special says the German Bank Commission has passed a resolution that the Imperial Bank buy gold in lots at 1,392 marks 50 pennigs per pound, in order to compete successfully with the American Government and attract gold to Germany. This action is taken in view of the contemplated resumption of specie payments by the United States.

THE Cabinet discussed Louisiana affairs on the 8th. It is said the Administration was awaiting official information prior to the time at which Gen. Sheridan took command of the department before deciding definitely upon a report to Congress.

DR. LEIGHTON COLEMAN of Toledo, Ohio, has been elected Bishop of the Northern Episcopal Diocese of Wisconsin.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Congress reassembled on the 5th. In the Senate, a memorial of 10,000 soldiers was presented asking for the passage of the bill reported by the Committee on Military Affairs to equalize bounties....A resolution was offered by Mr. Thurman that the President of the United States be requested to inform the Senate "whether any portion of the army of the United States, or any officer, officers, soldier, or soldiers of such army, did in any manner interfere or intermeddle with, control or seek to control the organization of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, or either branch thereof, on the 4th inst., and especially whether any person or persons claiming seats in either branch of said Legislature have been deprived thereof, or prevented from taking the same, by any such military force, officer or soldier; and, if such has been the case, that the President inform the Senate by what authority such military intervention and interference have taken place." Considerable debate ensued on an amendment offered by Mr. Conkling to insert, after the word "requested," the words "if in his judgment not incompatible with public interest," and pending the debate the Senate adjourned.

In the House, John M. Thompson, of Pennsylvania, elected to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of McJunkin, was sworn in....On a renewal of the motion to proceed to the business on the Speaker's table for the purpose of getting at the Civil-Rights bill, several dilatory motions were made and considerable filibustering was indulged in by Democratic members to defeat the present consideration of the measure, and after a colloquial debate in which the course of the military in connection with Louisiana affairs was discussed, objection was made and sustained to further debate and the House adjourned.

In the Senate, on the 6th, a memorial was presented of the citizens of Wisconsin for the improvement of the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers....The resolution of Mr. Thurman in regard to the Louisiana troubles, the pending question being on the motion of Mr. Conkling to insert the words "if not incompatible with the public interests," was taken up, and a lengthy discussion followed, but without coming to a vote on the question the Senate adjourned.

In the House, on the 6th, a bill was passed giving ten heavy guns and equipments to the Soldiers' Orphans' Home of Illinois....The Fortification Appropriation bill ($850,000) was considered in Committee of the Whole, reported to the House and passed....A bill to provide for a temporary government of the Territory of Oklahama was introduced and referred....A resolution providing for a new election in Louisiana gave rise to a lengthy debate, and notice was given of a motion on the 11th to suspend the rules and adopt a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to report a bill providing for such an election, under such guarantees as will insure a full and fair vote and count....The contumacious witness, R. B. Irwin, was brought to the bar of the House, and said he was not ready to answer the questions he had refused to answer before the Investigating Committee. He claimed that he was not in contempt of the House, because the House had not ordered the investigation. By direction of the House the Speaker asked the witness to give the names of persons employed by him to aid in procuring the subsidy from Congress in 1872 for the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. This the witness refused to do. To the question as to what was the largest sum paid by him to any one person to aid in procuring such subsidy, he replied $275,000. A resolution was then adopted remanding Mr. Irwin to the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms to abide further orders of the House....Adjourned.

In the Senate, on the 7th, a bill was passed to remove the limitation to restrict the circulation of banking associations issuing notes payable in gold....A very spirited discussion was had on Mr. Thurman's resolution of inquiry regarding Louisiana affairs, in the course of which speakers on both sides were applauded by occupants of the galleries, and the Sergeant-at-Arms was instructed to station a sufficient police force there to preserve order....Without reaching a vote on the resolution the Senate went into executive session and soon after adjourned.

In the House, on the 7th, a resolution was offered and objected to thanking the "President for the prompt and efficient measures adopted by him for the prevention of violence and for the maintenance of law and order in Louisiana, and pledging him the hearty co-operation of the House in sustaining his efforts in that behalf"....The Senate bill to provide for the resumption of specie payment was taken up, the previous question was moved and seconded—100 to 90—and the bill was passed—yeas 136, nays 99....The resolutions of impeachment against Judge Durell, of Louisiana, were on motion laid on the table—128 to 38—the House having received official information of his resignation. The same action was had in the case of Judge Busteed, of Alabama....Adjourned.

In the Senate, on the 8th, Mr. Thurman's resolution of inquiry was further debated, and Mr. Conkling's amendment to insert the words "if not incompatible with the public interest" was agreed to—32 to 21—and the resolution was further amended and finally passed in the following shape: "*Resolved*, That the President of the United States is hereby requested to inform the Senate, if not incompatible with public interest, whether any portion of the army of the United States, or any officer or officers, soldier or soldiers of such army, did in any manner interfere or intermeddle with the control, or seek to control, the organization of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, or either of the branches thereof, on the 4th inst., and especially whether any person or persons claiming seats in either branch of said Legislature have been deprived thereof or prevented from taking the same by any such military force, officer or soldier, and, if such has been the case, then that the President inform the Senate under what circumstances and by what authority such military intervention and interference have taken place, and whether he has any information in regard to the existence in the State of Louisiana of an armed organization hostile to the Government of the State and intent upon overturning such State Government by force"....A bill was introduced and referred to aid the Washington & Ohio Railroad Company in the construction of its road to the Ohio River....An adverse report was made on the bill to repeal the law allowing Pension Agents thirty cents for each voucher prepared and paid by them....Adjourned to the 11th.

In the House, on the 8th, a bill was introduced and referred to provide for a legal and fair election in the State of Louisiana, and to guarantee to that State a republican form of government....A bill was passed providing that Sec. 19 of the act of the 22d of June, 1874, repealing moieties, shall not be construed to affect any authority, power or right that might thereunder have been lawfully exercised by any court, Judge or District-Attorney of the United States to obtain the testimony of an accomplice in any crime against, or fraud upon, the customs revenue laws by the discontinuance or dismissal of any proceedings against such accomplice....Bills of a private nature were considered....Adjourned.

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK.—*Cotton*—14⅛@14¾c. *Flour*—Good to choice, $5.00@5.60; white winter extra, $5.60@6.65. *Wheat*—No. 2 Chicago, $1.12@1.14; No. 2 Northwestern, $1.14@1.15; No. 2 Milwaukee Spring, $1.15@1.17. *Rye*—Western, 94@96c. *Barley*—$1.45@1.50. *Corn*—87@89c. *Oats*—Mixed Western, 68@71c. *Pork*—New mess, $20.50@20.62½. *Lard*—13½@13¾c. *Cheese*—12½@15¾c. *Wool*—Common to extra, 43@65c. *Beeves*—$10.00@13.00. *Hogs*—Dressed $8.87½@9.00; live, $7.0 @7.25. *Sheep*—Live, $5.50@6.75.

CHICAGO.—*Beeves*—Choice, $5.75@6.10; good $5.00@5.50; medium, $4.20@4.85; butchers' stock, $2.75@4.35; stock cattle, $2.60@3.75. *Hogs*—Live, good to choice, $6.90@7.30. *Sheep*—Good to choice, $5.00@5.75. *Butter*—Choice yellow, 30@37c. *Eggs*—Fresh, 24@2c. *Pork*—Mess, new, $18.65@18.75. *Lard*—$13.15@13.20. *Cheese*—New York Factory, 15@15¼c; Western Factory, 14¼@15c. *Flour*—White winter extra, $4.20@6.50; spring extra, $3.75@4.50. *Wheat*—Spring No. 2, 89¼@89¾c. *Corn*—No. 2, new, 65½@66c. *Oats*—No. 2, 52¼@53c. *Rye*—No. 2, 95½@57c. *Barley*—No. 2, $1.23@1.23½. *Wool*—Tub-washed, 45@57c; fleece, washed, 40@48c; fleece, unwashed, 27@36c. *Lumber*—First-clear, $52.00@55.50; second-clear, $46.00@50.00; common boards, $11.00@12.00; fencing, $12.00@18.00; "A" shingles, $3.00@3.25; lath, $2.00@2.25.

CINCINNATI.—*Flour*—$4.90@5.05. *Wheat*—Red, $1.05@1.08. *Corn*—New, 68@70c. *Rye*—$1.9@1.10. *Oats*—60@62c. *Barley*—$1.27@1.27½. *Pork*—$19.00@19.25. *Lard*—13½@14¼c.

ST. LOUIS.—*Cattle*—Fair to choice, $4.50@6.00. *Hogs*—Live, $6.50@7.25. *Flour*—XX Fall, $4.50@4.65. *Wheat*—No. 2 Red Fall, $1.06@1.06½. *Corn*—No. 2, new, 63@64c. *Oats*—No. 2, 56¼@56c. *Rye*—99½@$1.00. *Barley*—No. 2, $1.25@1.30. *Pork*—Mess, $19.25@19.50. *Lard*—12¾@13c.

MILWAUKEE.—*Flour*—Spring XX, $5.25@5.50. *Wheat*—Spring, No. 1, 95@95¼c; No. 2, 90¼@90⅝c. *Corn*—No. 2, 64¼@65c. *Oats*—No 2, 51¼@51¾c. *Rye*—No. 1, 95½@96c. *Barley*—No. 2, $1.26¼@1.27.

CLEVELAND.—*Wheat*—No. 1 Red, $1.11½@1.12; No. 2 Red, $1.05½@1.06. *Corn*—New, 71@72c. *Oats*—No. 1, 58½@59c.

DETROIT.—*Wheat*—Extra, $1.14½@1.15. *Corn* —69¼@70c. *Oats*—55@57c. *Dressed Hogs*—$8.00@8.10.

TOLEDO.—*Wheat*—Amber Michigan, $1.09¼@1.10; No. 2 Red, $1.08¼@1.09. *Corn*—High Mixed, new, 70@70¼c. *Oats*—No. 2, 57@57½c.

BUFFALO. — *Beeves*—$4.75@6.15. *Hogs*— Live, $7.00@7.25. *Sheep*—Live, $4.50@6.00.

EAST LIBERTY. — *Beeves* — Best, $6.20@7.00; medium, $5.25@5.75. *Hogs*—Yorkers, $7.00@7.10; Philadelphia, $7.50@7.70. *Sheep*—Best, 6.00@6.25; medium, $4.50@5.25.

Catching a Lunatic.

A FINE elm tree, which stood near the gold-fish pond directly before the Capitol, has been cut down, unavoidably, as it with others obstructed the view of the building. At one of the inaugurations of Mr. Lincoln—the first one, I believe—a crazy man clambered up into this tree, and going out on one of the branches till it swayed with his weight he began to address the assembled multitude at the top of his voice on slavery. The officials entreated him to come down, but he refused, and declared that if any one attempted to climb up after him he would jump to the ground, which would have killed or maimed him. And so he continued shouting away, although it was almost time for the President-elect to appear on the platform in front of the Capitol, and there deliver his inaugural. No one could have heard this had the lunatic continued to yell out his incoherent and blasphemous sentences so near him. What was to be done? Some shouted: "Shoot him!" but there was a general cry of disapprobation.

A mounted army officer conceived a plan for quieting the noisy fellow. Riding up to the tree on which he was perched, he said, in a commanding tone: "You, sir, up there! Mr. Lincoln desires to see you a few moments to consult you about his inaugural!" "Does Lincoln really want my sublime ideas?" said the interested lunatic. "He is waiting in the Senate Chamber," replied the officer. "I'll come right down," answered the crazy man, and he descended with great rapidity, but no sooner had he touched the ground than half a dozen detectives grabbed him. He struggled lustily, declaring that the President had sent for him, but he was carried bodily to the guard-house, and just as his ravings grew faint in the distance Mr. Lincoln came to the front of the platform and delivered his inaugural without interruption. I have never since seen the tree without thinking of this incident.—*Washington Cor. Boston Herald.*

A NOTED architect when asked "what was the best system of ventilation," replied: "Open fire-places in every room

NOW.

"There is a good time coming, boys;"
So runs the hopeful song;
Such is the poetry of youth
When life and hope are strong.
But when these buoyant days are passed
Age cries, "How changed are men!
Things were not so when I was young;
The best of times was then."

"There is a good time coming, boys;"
The truth we will allow;
But, waiting not for brighter days,
There is a good time now.
Why not improve the present, then,
Where'er the future lead;
And let each passing moment's page
Bear proof of thought and deed?

"There is a good time coming, boys,"
And many a one has passed;
For each has had his own good time,
And will have to the last.
Then do thy work while lingers youth
With freshness on its brow,
Still mindful of life's greatest truth,
THE BEST OF TIMES IS NOW.

KISS PRETTY POLL.

"Poll! Pretty Poll!" the parrot screamed,
And "Pretty Poll!" repeated I.
The while I stole a merry glance
Across the room, all on the sly,
Where Someone plied her needle fast,
Demurely by the window sitting;
But I upon her cheek beheld
A multitude of blushes flitting.

"Kiss pretty Poll," the parrot coaxed;
"I would, but dare not try," I said,
And stole another glance to see
How Someone drooped her golden head,
And sought for something on the floor
(The loss was only feigned, I knew);
And still "Kiss Poll," the parrot screamed—
The very thing I longed to do.

But Someone turned to me at last:
"Please, won't you keep that parrot still?"
"Why, yes," said I; "at least, you know,
If you will let me, dear, I will."
And so—well, never mind the rest;
But Someone said it was a shame
To take advantage just because
A foolish parrot stole her [illegible]

OLD FLAMES.

A Camp-Meeting Romance.

I.

"It's too aggravating, so it is! Dear me! I wish I never forgot anything."

"No, no! for mercy's sake, don't wish you never forgot anything; for then you'd always have to remember all the disagreeable things that ever happened to you in your life. Believe me, it's vastly better as it is. If we never forgot anything at all, then we'd have to carry down to our graves the vivid recollection of all the grief, or sorrow, or pain we ever suffered, of all the hateful things folks have said to us and about us, and, above all, of every time in our lives when we've made fools of ourselves. You will find that it's much to be thankful for if you can forget the occasions on which you've made a fool of yourself when you come to be an old maid like your Aunt Laetitia."

Alice Kildare laughed.

"Not much like being an old maid, is it, seventeen, and already engaged six months?"

"Well, I was engaged at sixteen, and have been engaged three times in my life, and yet here I am, an old maid in eye-glasses, and intend to die the same, please God. Think, now, what a budget of heart-breaking recollections I'd be obliged to carry about with me the rest of my life if I had to remember it all. Don't wish you never forgot anything, Alice. On the contrary, thank Heaven we do forget things."

Again Alice Kildare laughed.

"Sue and I are going to have our fortunes told, Aunt Laetie. Go with us, venerable mother, and see that it's done right."

"I can tell yours without looking into a globe of mesmerized water. You'll be an old maid; mark the prediction. You have the elements of an old maid in your soul—one sort of old maid, that is."

"What are the 'elements of an old maid,' Aunt Laet?"

"Oh!—of your sort of old maid—a high spirit, a bright mind, a sharp tongue, and an uncontrollable love of flirting. You'll be the sort of an old maid that takes to woman's rights and things—not the sort that takes to cats and religion. Once more mark the prophecy, Alice Esmerelda Kildare?"

For the third time Alice laughed her bright, spunky, ringing laugh, and then clapped on her gypsy hat and went with her friend Sue to see Mme. Minchauski, the great clairvoyante sibyl, who could miraculously see the shadow of coming events in a globe of mesmerized water—at so much a head.

Alice was betrothed to a slim, handsome, long-haired college student, who wrote poetry and had an Eolian harp in one window and a rose-geranium in the other, and meant to go into the literary line as soon as he was done college. He was very much in love, and Alice was—oh! dreadfully in love, but that didn't at all prevent this truthful young lady from flirting with a dozen other young men all at once, and telling no end white lies about her engagement. She was exceedingly attractive, but not so pretty as she was bright, piquant and spirited. At this very time, when she lay awake nights thinking of her betrothed, and never went to bed without tenderly kissing his photograph, at this very time she was flirting desperately with Tom Creighton, her lover's classmate, a rich man's son, who was home on a three months' leave of absence which had been recommended by the college faculty. Worst of all, she had allowed Tom Creighton, in the presence of a third person, to tell her a slanderous story about her lover, one which she knew must be false; and there she sat and listened to it without the faintest attempt to fight for her lover's good name, just for fear Tom Creighton would think she was engaged if she said anything. I don't defend her, mind you; I think such conduct was simply scandalous, and such a young lady don't deserve ever to have anybody fall in love with her, no, not if she lived to be a thousand years old.

Well, what does the sibyl say?" asked Laetie.

"She's a humbug," said Alice, savagely. "I'm sorry I went. It's real silly and wrong to encourage such wicked imposture, besides."

"This time Sue laughed. The sibyl didn't say Alice was to be married, and so she thinks the sibyl is a humbug," said Sue. "We went into a darkened room, and in one corner there sat a little, ghostly, waxy-looking old woman, with great, hollow, black eyes. She had a glass globe of water before her on a little stand. The water had been magnetized, she said, and she, being a clairvoyante, was able, by her second sight, to see in the water beautiful pictures and visions of events to come. Then she took Alice's hand and pressed it against her forehead, and began to wink and roll up her great, hollow eyes in an awful manner. It was real scarey, Aunt Laetie. By and by she bobbed her head about and mumbled something, and, still, with her eyes rolled back and half-shut, she began looking into the globe of magnetized water. Then presently she opened her ghostly-looking lips, and in a sort of sing-song said to Alice: 'My child, I see pictures of your future spread out here and there before my inward eyes, like a moving panorama. I see lovers, you will have plenty of lovers, but I see no picture of a wedding. Strange! There is no wedding-ring in the circle at the bottom of the globe. How is this, my child? I see one dim picture, a long way off in the future, it must be, because it is so dim, and in it you stand up surrounded by people—ah! let me see, they are children around you, and you are greatly changed, taller, paler, thinner, but there is no wedding, no wedding. The water is not clear to-day, you must come again. Mercy! what is this? Here is a great crowd; they are making a noise, and looking at two men—young lady, the two men are fighting, and, Heavens! the water turns red; it is blood, blood! But I see no wedding. I see blood, but no wedding.'

"She looked so weird and dreadful Aunt Laet, that I was afraid to have her tell my fortune after that. She told us to come again when the water was clearer; and then we came away, and Alice has been cross ever since. But I'm sure I wouldn't go back again for anything."

Whereupon and finally Aunt Laet had her laugh. "What did I tell you, Alice? Didn't I say you were to be an old maid? It was foreordained by the fates. Only, Alice, let me request one thing of you, yea, two things, come to think. Don't you ever go to petting cats, or dyeing your hair with vile-smelling sulphurous stuff when white threads begin to sneak in around your temples. I'll never will you my tea-pot or eye-glasses if you do that."

Aunt Laetitia, who liked to tease people, laughed again.

It was the season of peaches and melons, the roasting season when idle people hunt cool places, and devout people hold camp-meetings. Alice went to a camp-meeting with her father, mother and Aunt Laetitia. Is there anybody here, I wonder, who doesn't know what becamp-meeting is like? If there is, let her go to the next one and find out for a rself.

Father and mother sat up among the worshipers, close to the preachers' platform; Aunt Laet sat half-way back in the congregation, like one who was doubtful in her mind as yet whether to separate herself from the world or not, while giddy-pated Alice didn't pretend to sit among the congregation at all, but hovered away back on the extreme borders, where the preacher's voice could scarcely be heard at all. Their position in the camp-meeting audience was an exact barometer of the devotional states of these excellent people, namely: Father and mother, Aunt Laetitia, Alice. In point of fact, the young people on the outermost borders of that devout assembly were flirting with all their might. Alice Esmerelda Kildare was flirting with Tom Creighton. Her betrothed, the slim, long-haired student, was coming home to-morrow.

"When the cat's away the mice will play, and the mouse will play till the very last minute before the cat comes," Alice had remarked to herself as she admired her bright, brunette face in the glass that morning.

So she sat upon one of the rude wooden benches under a tree, and let Tom Creighton talk soft nonsense in half-whispers to her. Was all this wicked, of a Sunday, at camp-meeting? Yes, certainly it was, but two-thirds of the young people about them were behaving in the same wicked manner. Suddenly Tom Creighton's soft, lazy voice ceased, and Alice looked up, presently, to see why. She could hardly keep down a cry as she saw, approaching them, her own betrothed, the slim, handsome student, who had been gone a whole year. Somehow she felt dreadfully guilty as she caught his bright gray eyes. It was such fun to flirt, but—dear me!

The slim student passed her with a cold bow. His mother was on his arm, and he led her to a seat up among the devout people around the preachers' platform. Alice's heart beat a little queerly, and Tom Creighton watched her keenly. It wasn't pleasant, and Alice hated unpleasant things. Suddenly her betrothed came back toward them. He had seated his mother and left her. He touched his hat to Alice.

"I beg pardon, Miss Kildare; but I wish to ask you something, in presence of this person. I may not have the opportunity again. I may not see you again soon, indeed."

He took a paper from his pocket and unfolded it.

"Read that, if you please," said the slim student to Miss Alice, who by this time was beginning to be conscious of a powerful inclination to run away. The paper contained an exact copy of the slanderous statements which Alice had allowed Tom Creighton to repeat to her concerning her betrothed.

"I only wish to know," said the slim student with simple dignity, "whether you allowed this person to tell you the stuff that is on that paper?"

Alice did not answer. She wanted worse than ever to run away, but to save her life she could not have gone past that wrathful, gray eye which was fixed on her like a siege gun.

"A very short answer is sufficient, yes or no, Miss Kildare."

"I won't tell you," said Alice, pouting. "Do you think you can make me do anything I won't do?"

"I beg your pardon," said the slim student with icy politeness. "I would not for the world ask you to do anything which is disagreeable to you. Allow me to wish you good morning."

But as he strode away and left them Alice didn't