THE RED CLOUD CHIEF.

R. L. THOMAS, Publisher.

RED CLOUD, - - NEBRASKA.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Personal and Literary.

—Mrs. Scott-Siddons has obtained a decree of separation by mutual consent from her husband in England.

—Mr. Herbert Spencer is said to have lately almost suddenly recovered health, and is better than he has been for 15 years.

—Bret Harte is likely to resign, on account of the effect of the climate of Cufield, Germany, upon his health. Like James Russell Lowell, he does not find the position of a diplomat abroad agreeable.

—Edwin Arnold, who is becoming well known by his Hindoo poem, "The Light of Asia," which Oliver Wendell Holmes honors with lavish praise, is 48 years of age and one of the editors of the London *Telegraph*.

—Miss Mary A. H. Gay, a Georgia lady, complains that Mark Twain has been making liberal use of the contents of a book published by herself in 1858, under the title of "Prose and Poetry" in the preparation of his own "Tom Sawyer." To make good her charge she is about to bring out a new edition of her book.

—Mr. Thomas Littleton Holt, the English journalist who has just died, is reported to have been the original of queer, shabby Montague Tigg, in "Martin Chuzzlewit," though so overdrawn as to be barely recognizable. Mr. Holt was a kindly and genial man, and, rich or poor, never without friends.

—Stuart Robson says Bret Harte is not lazy, but slow, fastidious, self-critical and frightened. Even when Harte was a reporter on San Francisco newspapers at hack work, he would labor over a little paragraph for hours. While Harte was writing "Two Men of Sandy Bar," Robson and Barrett had hard work to keep him at his pen, and he would be two or three days fashioning a little speech.

—The Cincinnati *Commercial* says: Mrs. Margaret Sullivan, of the editorial staff of the Chicago *Times*, draws $45 per week. Mrs. Emily V. Battey, of the New York *Sun*, has a large income from that paper. Journalism offers one of the most practical and lucrative professions for women. The steady work, unbroken as is teaching and many other employments, by the tedious summer "vacation;" the change, vivacity and exhilaration of it; its constant developing and educating power make it one of the most delightful of professions to the woman whose capabilities run in this line. The opportunities it affords for the culture and improvement of every faculty are unlimited.

School and Church.

—In Georgia there are over 100,000 colored Baptists, connected with 28 associations.

—It is proposed to organize a national association for the inspection of the religious instruction in the public schools of Scotland.

—The year 1880 will complete a semi-millennium of the English Bible, the translation of the New Testament by Wyckliffe having been issued in 1380.

—In connection with Spurgeon's church in London are 80 colporteurs. They visit 75,000 families every month. The visits last year numbered 926,290.

—The Methodist pastor at Oconto, Wis., has informed his congregation, officially, that he will not preach again until they pay him enough of his past due salary to buy a suit of clothes fit to wear in the pulpit.

—It is estimated that over 200,000 colored people have been added to the Methodist Church since the war. They have caused more than a thousand churches to be built, and more than 3,000 colored young men are in their aid schools in the South.

Science and Industry.

—Professor Gray, it is announced by the New York *Tribune*, has been recognized as the original inventor of the telephone, and is to receive 20 per cent. of the profits from the rental of the machines in America.

—Dr. D. L. Phares of Wilkinson County, Miss., it is said, has discovered a process by which he can make sorghum sirup equal to finest Louisiana sirup. It is claimed, also, that from good sorghum cane 200 barrels of molasses, or 8,000 pounds of sugar, can be made to the acre.

—A striking illustration of the commercial changes that have taken place during the last few years is afforded by the leather trade. Formerly the best grades of leather used in this country were imported from abroad. Now there is a strong foreign demand for American red sole leather, and it is developed by our commercial reports, to-day, that oak tanned leather is being exported to Europe from Allegheny County tanneries.

—A new oil region has been discovered in Trumbull County, O., and one of its peculiarities is a well of the finest lubricating oil, near West Mecca, flowing five barrels a day, refined and ready for use on the nicest machinery. Speculators have leased 2,000 acres in the vicinity at enormous prices, for the oil brings $16 a barrel, while that of the Pennsylvania oil region brings less than 70 cents.

—Fire-arms frequently burst when the muzzle has been accidentally closed with earth, snow, etc. Prof. Forbes's explanation of this fact is very simple. If the charge moved slowly a very slight pressure of air in the barrel would be sufficient to clear the muzzle, but, as the charge actually travels with a speed more than the velocity of sound, the resistance offered by the obstacle becomes excessive and the gun bursts. It has been demonstrated mathematically that the pressure generated by a plug of the density of air is seven and a half tons.

—It would certainly be a great boon, says Prof. John Trowbridge, if the general level of scientific education could be raised, so that each young man or woman when he or she leaves school should have enough definite knowledge of the great laws of the physical universe to instantly denounce blue-glass theories and attempts at perpetual motion, not from the pride of knowledge, but from the feeling that error, credulity, and superstition should be combated with truth.

Foreign Notes.

—"I have searched for truth, and nowhere could I find it, not even in myself; therefore I die." This singular note was found on the body of a Russian nobleman who recently committed suicide with a pistol.

—Dr. Falk has been nominated as a candidate for the Prussian Landtag in more than a dozen constituencies, the people not having forgotten that while he was Education Minister the teachers increased by 4,000 and the pupils by 400,000.

—Much interest has been felt in Florence at the discovery of over 600 paintings belonging to the masters of the sixteenth century, laid away to rot and perish in Government buildings; the authorities intend placing them in the royal gallery of the Uffizi.

—Eastern Siberia is menaced by famine; the prices of grain are higher than were ever known before, and the poorer classes are suffering severely. The harvest is extremely poor and the cattle plague has increased the evil, there being in many villages not one beast left alive.

—The French Embassador to Germany had a long private conversation with Emperor William at Baden-Baden. The circumstance is much remarked upon and is regarded as special and striking evidence of the good relations existing between France and Germany.

—A young Nihilist girl, named Gobieslawska, made her escape from the police of Moscow in a novel way. The officers had discovered the house in which she was concealed, and were about to make the arrest, when to their surprise they saw a balloon rising from the garden. It was soon ascertained that it contained the object of their search and two men, who rapidly disappeared, leaving the officers to gaze helplessly and disconsolately after them.

—An English newspaper, the Liverpool *Daily News*, has for a year past used four type-setting and seven distributing machines, at a saving of about $2,000 per annum, as compared with the same amount of work by hand. The compositors working the machine earn better wages than their fellows at the case, while the saving to the establishment is over 30 per cent. The machines are used for every kind of composition except tabulated and displayed work, the matter being set, spaced and justified with greater accuracy than by hand labor. Each machine costs $750, and the average speed is 6,000 ems per hour.

Odds and Ends.

—A brass band—A dollar-store bracelet.

—"This world is but a fleeting show," and it is the same way with the circus.

—"Alas! this is a drop too much," said the fellow who was about to be hanged.

A RIDDLE.

Between a thick-set hedge of bones
A small red dog now barks, now moans.
"Guess, guess!"
The answer—Tongue.

—Here lies a girl whose brief, brief days were briefer still from wearing stays.—*Syracuse Times.* Here lies a girl as one forgotten, who lost her shape with the rise of cotton.—*Oswego Record.*

—The trouble with a young fellow in love is that he imagines that every body else is in love with his girl too, while if the truth were known, as likely as not no one but himself ever looks at her.—*Salem Sunbeam.*

—Two members of the Irish bar, Doyle and Yelverton, quarreled one day so violently that from words they came to blows. Doyle, the more powerful man of the two, knocked down his adversary, exclaiming most vehemently, "You scoundrel, I'll make you behave yourself." To which Yelverton, rising, answered with equal indignation, "No, sir, never; I defy you! I defy you! You can't do it."

—Many a man sits up nights five weeks at a stretch, Sundays included, composing a communication for the press on a slate, and then having spent another week copying it until it might be mistaken for a piece of engraving, he walks into the editor's office and remarks, with very badly assumed carelessness that wouldn't deceive a wooden cigar sign Indian: "There's something I just scratched off that I thought you might use."—*Albany Evening Journal.*

—The following is a copy of the letter to his client in Colorado of a prominent attorney who has just succeeded in procuring for him a divorce: "The Judge has removed *all* disabilities, and you can now marry a squaw, elope with an heiress, woo a widow, sue and be sued for breach of promise, send bouquets to damask-checked school-marms, write poetry to the cook and make a fool of yourself generally, without regard to race, color or previous condition of servitude. Very truly yours," etc.—*St. Louis Republican.*

THE EARLY BIRD AND THE WORM.

"Come, little pet," the old bird said,
In most endearing term,
"You must be early out of bed
If you would catch the worm."

The smallest of the feathery herd—
A puny little thing—
Outsprang that tender baby-bird
To grub for worms and sing.

And, lo! she found an early worm—
It was a monster, too—
She chirped, "Oh, you may writhe and squirm,
But I will gobble you."

That birdling's chirp, the rest affirm,
Was never after heard,
And it 's surmised it was the worm
That caught the early bird.

What Should be the Legal Standard of Kerosene?

There are two widely prevalent errors in regard to the use of kerosene. One is that kerosene explosions are always the result of carelessness; the other, that the use of kerosene is necessarily attended with more danger than accompanies the use of animal or vegetable oils; in other words, that it is impossible to make an illuminating oil from petroleum which will not be more or less risky under ordinary household conditions. Both these errors are due to popular ignorance with regard to the nature and properities of the mixture of petroleum products properly denominated kerosene, and the conditions under which low grade or adulterated kerosenes explode.

Crude petroleum, from the complexity of its composition, has been aptly compared to a book; the products given off at successive temperatures being the leaves, each showing more or less pronounced characteristics. Its more volatile parts are given off at a temperature as low as the freezing point of water. At summer heat appears rhigoline, which boils at 65° Fah.; at temperatures below 170°, gasoline is given off; and between that and 300°, the product is called naphtha. The naphtha distilled at a temperature above 280° is distinguished as benzine. All these products are without oily properties; are volatile at common temperatures; take fire readily; and, when their vapors are mixed with from seven to nine times their volume of air they burn with an explosion, even when not confined.

Between 300° and 400° kerosene is distilled, a mixture of products ranging in character between benzine and the heavy paraffine oils, too thick for use in lamps. According to Professor Chandler, 100 parts of crude petroleum yield, by distillation, 1 1-2 parts of gasoline, 10 of refined naphtha, 4 of benzine, 55 of kerosene, 17 1-2 of paraffine (lubricating) oil, 2 of paraffine, and 10 of coke, gas, and loss. Benzine is worth about half as much as kerosene; naphtha and paraffine oil about one third as much.

The temptation of refiners of petroleum is to mix their oils with the lighter and cheaper naphtha, then bring up the product to the appearance of kerosene by an admixture of paraffine oil, also lower in price than pure kerosene. It is the naphtha, with its low flashing point, that causes all the mischief.

The legal standard for kerosene in this and many other States is 100° fire test; the United States standard is 110°. In Michigan all oils are forbidden which flash at 140° or below. Obviously if the law is enforced in the last named State, kerosene accidents are quite impossible there.

An effort is being made in Boston to have the standard raised from 100° to 110°; some insist that it should be made as high as 135°. Professor Chandler, President of the Board of Health of this city, asserts that the standard of 135° should be adopted everywhere; in which case there would be an end of kerosene explosions, provided, of course, that the law be rigidly enforced. Should the standard be so raised, the actual cost of the oil, he says, would not be increased more than a cent or two a gallon.—*Scientific American.*

The Quincy Experiment.

The experiment in common school education made at the Massachusetts town of Quincy is worth the attention of all teachers. Quincy is the home of the Adams family, and that is a family fond of looking after public affairs and reforming things about them. Therefore Mr. Charles Francis Adams, Jr., has taken interest in the improvement of the Quincy schools, and according to his report they are unquestionably better for what has been done to them within four or five years past.

When the School Committee put the pupils to the test to see just how much they were getting from their instruction, which was furnished them at a cost of more than $19 a head annually, they found that the knowledge acquired was only superficial, that the scholars were set to learn certain cut-and-dried tasks, and the measure of their proficiency was their ability to give parrot-like answers to questions on them. They got training of the memory, but so far as concerned any real understanding of their studies and the capacity to use what they had been taught, they were shamefully deficient. The teachers performed their work in a perfunctory way, following the precedents of many years, and the youngster committed facts, rules, and exceptions to memory without any great interest in what they were doing, and without any proper idea of what it all meant. Their time was spent in cramming their heads with undigested and indigestible facts gathered from an armful of school books covering a wide range of subjects of study. Poor boys and girls! No wonder they sometimes played truant and went to sleep on warm days over their monotonous tasks.

The School Committee's reform began in the primary schools; but first they succeeded in engaging as Superintendent of Schools a young man of enthusiasm in teaching, who had carefully studied the German methods, for in Germany pedagogy has been elevated to the rank of a special science. Instead of being drilled in the alphabet after the old fashion, the children were taught to read before the blackboard almost without knowing it, getting their knowledge by practice. When their interest flagged they were turned out to play games and to stretch their legs. School going under such circumstances became a delight instead of an odious task.

In the higher schools the number of studies was reduced from seven to three—reading, writing, and arithmetic, the two former including, naturally, not only grammar and spelling, but also geography and history. They were taught by incessant practice, not by the old way of imposing on the pupils lessons to be learned by rote. Instead of the Reader of ancient memory, the teachers used as practice-books geographies, histories, and articles in the current periodicals. The pupils were so in the habit of writing that they grew to write as readily as they spoke, and, incidentally and in the way of practice, the art of spelling correctly was taught, and taught in the only way in which it can be acquired. A boy may stand at the head of an oral spelling class, and yet when he comes to write words he may fall in his orthography, as he does in his command of language when he is set to the new task of setting down in black and white what he can talk about glibly enough.

The results of the experiment, as Mr. Adams details them, have been most gratifying. The scholars during three years under the new system have made steady progress; they approach their studies more willingly, and show that they really know what they have been taught. The new plan, Mr. Adams says, is "a complete negative of the whole present common school system, founded on a faith in the infinite capacity of children to know at an age a little of every thing." That this method of teaching is the sensible one we can understand, not only from the results attained at Quincy, but also from a knowledge of the manner of the working of the childish mind, its quickness in learning by practice, and inability to grasp abstract ideas or general principles. While grammar, the old bugbear of all youngsters, may seem to them dry and incomprehensible babble when taught out of the text books, they imperceptibly to themselves acquire the habit of writing their language grammatically, as they learn the habit of speaking it with propriety, when they are taught by practice to express themselves logically and with clearness and are corrected in their errors.

All this improvement has been effected at Quincy, and yet the cost of public education has been reduced from $19.25 annually per child to $15.68.—*New York Sun.*

Irrigation of Colorado Farms.

There is no doubt that nearly every one who visits this region for the first time, even if partially informed about it beforehand, is grievously disappointed at the arid aspect of the plains, and finds it hard to believe in the power of that great beneficent agent, Water, which can make every inch of these tablelands and valleys, or the sage-brush wastes of the Humboldt region, or the Egyptian desert itself, literally "blossom like the rose." This is a comparatively rainless area, the "barren and dry land, where no water is," of the Psalmist; and yet a means has been found of not only supplying the place of the rains heaven, of but also of making such supply constant and regular. An intelligent and experienced writer says: "Irrigation is simply scientific farming. The tiller of the soil is not left at the mercy of fortuitous rains. His capital and labor are not risked upon an adventure. He can plan with all the certainty and confidence of a mechanic. He is a chemist whose laboratory is a certain area of land; every thing but the water is at hand—the bright sun, the potash, and other mineral ingredients (not washed out of the soil by centuries of rain). His climate secures him always from an excess of moisture, and what nature fails to yield, greater or less, according to the season, the farmer supplies from his irrigating canal, and with it he introduces, without other labor, the most valuable fertilizing ingredients, with which the water, in its course through the mountains, has become charged."

Water is thus both for the farmer and the herder—and the ranchman, who is both farmer and herder—the *sine qua non*, the prime necessity; and just here did one see how well Uncle Pete had chosen his situation. He had nine miles of water frontage on the St. Charles Creek, and the same on the Muddy. Just where the former comes out of the Wet Mountain range, and where no one could take water above him, he had tapped it for his broad irrigating ditch, which, after a tortuous course through the estate, empties again into the stream from which it came, not a drop of its precious contents being thus wasted. Along the upper side of the fields lying on this gentle slope before described run smaller ditches. Then during the season does the skillful Mexican laborer dig little channels leading down through these fields, and, making little dams for the purpose, turn the water into them. The result is simple: Uncle Pete has raised 10,000 bushels of wheat, 6,000 of oats, and 2,000 of corn, and had a market for the whole on the spot, it being one of the charms of Colorado farming that the "honest miner" is both hungry and liberal, and that the farm produce has ready buyers. Suppose, however, that for our present purpose we call farming a side issue, and come to the cattle which this ranch would support all the year round. It is said that when Kentucky cattle men, fresh from the "Blue-grass Region," see the plains, they are entirely incredulous as to their fitness for stock; but the experienced stockman smiles, well knowing that the nutritious qualities of the grass are simply unsurpassed, and that the food for his cattle for the whole year is ready at a minimum of cost. For their water, again, Uncle Pete's splendid creek frontage more than amply provided.—*A. A. Hayes, Jr., in Harper's for November.*

A Female Heavy-weight.

While traveling through one of the adjoining counties of Maryland the other day, writes a correspondent of the Hartford (Conn.) *Times*, I met a couple of giants—"John Powers and his sister"—who have exhibited themselves in most of the cities of this country. Powers is about 30 years of age, and has exhibited himself for fifteen years of that time. He is about seven feet in height, and weighs, he says, 655 pounds. He is even more of an attraction as a fat boy than he is as a giant. The lady who travels with him as his sister is the well known fat woman who was lifted by derricks out of Barnum's Museum, in New York, some years ago, when that establishment was on fire. She is about 50 years of age, and says she weighs 786 pounds. I am pretty well satisfied she is about that weight, for she is, beyond doubt, the largest piece of humanity that now exists. Her arms are so large that they would almost fill a flour barrel. She is so big that she is unable to walk, or even move without help. She told me that she had not walked ten yards at one time in the past five years. This pair travel about the country in large wagons, into which they are raised and lowered by a kind of derrick arrangement or elevator. It is run by horse-power. Accompanying them are an Albino and a "Circassian girl," the latter being also a snake-charmer; a man with an iron jaw, who lifts stoves with his teeth, and allows men to smash hundred-pound stones with sledge-hammers on his breast; an educated pig, and several cages of monkeys. They live a kind of gypsy life, and camp wherever night overtakes them. John Powers told me that although he had been in hundreds of cities, he had never seen the sights in any of the first, because, of his immense size, he could not travel about the streets much if he desired to; and second, because it was "not business" to allow himself to be seen free. Since he has been "on the road," as he expressed it, he had seen actually nothing except the people who came into the tent or building in which he and his combination were exhibiting. They made plenty of money to live on, besides putting by a dollar for the rainy day every now and then, but are far from being satisfied. "I would give that cage of monkeys and that bunch of snakes, which cost me over a thousand dollars," said the giantess, "if I could walk about this tent." It is only very seldom that she is able to stand up, so as to let her audiences see how high she is. I did know how many yards it took to make her a show dress, but I have forgotten the exact figures, though it was between 75 and 90. Her foot is about 14 inches long and nearly nine inches wide. The Albino girl had pink eyes, and was the only one in the party who was happy. The "Circassian girl," it appears, has been losing her hair steadily of late. Heretofore it stood up as erect as the quills of a "fretful porcupine," but now it is breaking away and rapidly disappearing. These "Circassian girls" are, like the Albinos, a kind of a negro. To some extent the straightened hair is natural, but it is usually worked up for the business by the aid of certain acids, which kill the hair and make it hard, stiff and straight, so that it will stand up. All of them are billed as beautiful, though a beautiful one has never been seen. The day I met the party the "man with the iron jaw" and the fellow who stands outside of the tent and who does the "blowing," got into a fight about some trivial matter. Although John Powers sat about 10 feet from them he would not get up to separate the belligerents. Another apparently strange thing about these fat giants is, that they eat less (and have always eaten less) than an ordinary person. Powers told me that often one of his small monkeys would eat more in a day than he did, and, judging from the lunch I saw him take, I believe it.

The Origin of Machine-made Pens.

Joseph Gillott, the first to employ machinery in the manufacture of steel pens, was originally a maker of buckles and other "steel toys," working alone in a garret in a Birmingham "slum." At this time he was engaged to a young woman in his own rank in life, whose two brothers were working, in about the same style as himself, on hand-made pens. Gillott thought he could better the processes employed, and worked secretly in his garret until he had made a press and other appliances, by which he could make twenty times as many pens in a day, and better pens, than was possible under the old methods. He found ready sale for them, and soon the demand outgrew his power of production. At this juncture his sweetheart agreed to his proposal that they should marry and work together, little dreaming of the ultimate issue of their enterprise. In after years Mr. Gillott used to tell how, on the very morning of his marriage, he began and finished a gross of pens, and sold them for £7 4s., before going to church.

The Stupid Man.

They were complimenting Francois Arajo once upon a time upon a scientific lecture which he had delivered, but the remark was made that he had elaborated his explanations almost to prolixity.

"Oh, yes, I know," replied Arajo, "but that isn't surprising. You see when I am lecturing I always make a point of selecting the stupidest looking man in the audience and lecturing at him, explaining and re-explaining till I see that he understands me. Now to-day the man I lectured at was the stup——"

Enter a gentleman, who rushes up to the astronomer and shakes hands warmly.

"My dear M. Arajo, what a splendid lecture yours was to-day—not a word of it that a child could not understand. You saw how interested I was, I hope, because I noticed you were looking over in my direction from first to last."—*French Paper.*

—Miss Tincker, the author of "Signor Monaldini's Niece," upon the death of her father, her mother being already dead, fell to writing for her livelihood, and some of her early stories were published in Harper's and Putnam's magazines. Much of her work appeared under a pseudonym. During the war she was sent to Washington by Gov. Andrew, and there she nursed the soldiers in the Columbia Hospital, and at the barracks in Judiciary Square. Several of her other works have appeared in book form, among which are "The House of Yorke," "Grapes and Thorns," and "Six Sunny Months."

—Superintendent Elliott, of the Boston public schools, condemns school exhibitions as they are too often conducted, and says that "all the paraphernalia of rewards and punishments, ranks, per centages, extras, merits, checks and the rest are among the chief hindrances to moral and intellectual life."

—Mrs. Hemans never went to school, but picked up an education. She began writing poetry at 7.

THE SOUTHERN WAR RECORDS.

Ex-Confederate Generals Turning Over Their Official Papers to Gen. Wright.

[From the Washington Star.]

A reporter of the *Star* this morning dropped into the large building on G Street, corner of Twentieth, where the official records of the war are being compiled. Gen. Marcus J. Wright, who is engaged in collecting the records of the Confederate side, was found in his office. He said: "Very many of the most valuable official papers of the Confederate army were lost or destroyed in the general break-up and surrender. Our purpose is to get copies of all such papers, and thus make complete the official record of that side. Such of the papers as were preserved were obtained by the Government, and I was appointed to procure duplicates of those that were lost."

"But how do you get these duplicates?"

"From the officers of the Confederate Army. They preserved copies of every report, every official paper they sent to Richmond, and many of them kept copies of every official letter they wrote."

"Do the ex-Confederate officers give their files up to you?"

"Oh, yes. As a general rule they give them to us, but where any of them have papers they wish to keep they allow us to make copies of them, and we return the originals. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston turned over to us his entire records, containing all his reports, official letters, and reports of his subordinate officers. I have also all of Gen. Pemberton's papers, and that gives us a complete official record of the Vicksburg campaign as conducted on the Confederate side."

"Did they turn over their papers entirely to the Government?"

"Yes. We preserve the papers, and they are accessible at all times to those gentlemen, if they should wish to see them or make copies. They give them to us very willingly, as it relieves them of the trouble and care of keeping them, and does not deprive them of any use they would want to make of the papers. We take every precaution against loss by fire or otherwise of the papers we get. We have printed copies of each one made, and 18 or 20 copies are distributed around among as many of the departments and other Government buildings, so that in case of fire we are certain not to have them all destroyed."

"General, these records are to be published by the Government, are they not?"

"Yes, sir; that is what we are collecting them for. The purpose of the Government is to make up a complete official history of both armies of the Civil War. The record for the year 1861, of both sides, will be ready for publication about the time Congress meets. The volume will be printed by the Government as any other public documents, and the usual number distributed among the departments and members of Congress. Then the law provides that the work shall be stereotyped and sold to the public at the cost price of printing, so that any any one can obtain the work at comparatively little cost."

"Will the records of the two armies be printed separately?"

"Yes; separately, and in consecutive volumes."

"Will the records be edited?"

"No, not at all; simply compiled so as to present, in the order in which they were issued, the official reports, letters, orders, etc., of the War. The compilation is in charge of Col. R. N. Scott of the Third Artillery, U. S. A., and a man better qualified for the work could not have been selected."

"How long will it take to finish up the entire work?"

"It will require several years more to complete the work for all the years of the war."

"Haven't you recently returned from a collecting tour in the South?"

"Yes, sir; I got back a few days ago, and I obtained a number of very valuable papers. I first went to see Gen. Joseph Wheeler, in Alabama, who commanded the cavalry of Bragg's army. He gave me his entire file of papers and reports, covering the time from his entry into the Confederate service until the close of the war. I next visited the Indian Territory, and got a set of papers covering the military operations of the Confederates in what was called the District of the Indian Territory. The district was commanded by Gen. Albert Pike, Maxey (now United States Senator from Texas), and D. H. Cooper. These records are quite important. I also got all the official papers of Lieut.-Gen. R. S. Ewell (since dead), who held an important command in the Confederate Army. I next visited Gen. E. Kirby Smith, who commanded the trans-Mississippi Department, and got his records. During the war his department was, for a long time, pretty effectively cut off from Richmond, and the records there were incomplete as to his military operations. I found his files very complete, though. Col. Richmond of McMinnville, Tenn., promised to send me the official files of Gen. Leonidas Polk (Bishop Polk), who was killed during the War. These papers will cover some very interesting military movements. I have many of the papers of Gen. Beauregard, and he has promised me the remainder as soon as his book, now in press in New York, shall have been printed. He held, as you know, very high commands, and his files will cover some of the most important operations of the War. This winter I shall make a trip to New Orleans, Memphis, and Mobile, where I will get papers of interest from ex-Confederate officers residing at those points. The printing of these is equivalent to the publication of an official history of the War. The reports of battles from officers on both sides, and other official documents, will thus be preserved, and they will speak truthfully and impartially of the great events of the War. I had undertaken, on my own account, the collection of Confederate records, with the view of publishing them, when Congress passed the act authorizing them to be compiled. I had procured very many valuable papers, and I immediately turned them over to the Adjutant-General of the Army. Subsequently it was decided to appoint an ex-Confederate officer to collect the papers of that side, and the position was tendered to me."

Curiosities of Invention.

As has already been noticed, there is a vast difference between scientific discovery and the practical application of such discovery. Scientific discoverers may be considered the most practical men in existence, but it was 300 years before the form of pin introduced for the benefit of the infant portion of the community was invented, after the ordinary pins were introduced.

No one would imagine that this infantile pin—a wire pointed at one end, and cunningly twisted, so that one end serves as a shield for the point of the pin—involved invention, and yet, although the need always existed, it was not until some happy thought brought it to the mind of some lucky inventor that it was brought into the world. Again, there were once 18 operations to be performed in the manufacture of pins; 12 pounds of pins were made in a day, but invention has produced a machine that turns out 160 pins a minute, and puts them on papers without the aid of human fingers. Again, go through the streets of a city like Boston, and it will be seen that clocks are cheap by the bushel. Those clocks will keep good time, are tasteful in appearance, and serve all the purposes of the domestic clock. Price $1.25.

America, by the way, is seizing the watch manufacture of the world. Switzerland went home from here in 1877 in dismay at the prospect that this industry of hers would be swept from her hands. The chronometer, the result of a prize offered by the British Government of $100,000 for any means by which the longitude of a vessel could be determined within 10 miles, is an invention. Harrison worked at it for 40 years, and in 1767 he won the prize of $100,000. It is recorded that he made one so perfect that it varied but one second and a quarter in 10 years.

An unlimited number of inventions can not be made by means of a limited amount of scientific knowledge; and in consequence of the lack of new knowledge, manufacturers and others continue to suffer losses which might be avoided. Improvements are wanted in processes, employers of steam engines want to obtain more power from the coals, iron peddlers want to economize heat; manufacturers in general want to utilize their waste products, and prevent their polluting the streams and atmosphere; and so on without end.

Inventors are continually trying to supply these demands. For instance, a machine for completely converting heat into mechanical force can not be invented until more scientific knowledge is discovered. Yet generic inventions, like the Crompton loom and the machinery used in the manufacture of plain cotton sheetings, have produced enormous results. There has been no radical change in the process of manufacture of these goods since 1805; the gain has been by adding a little improvement here and there.

In one of these mills, 90 hands, working 60 hours a week, in 1878, turned out as much cloth as 231 hands, working 76 1-2 hours per week, in 1858; and in another concern there were turned out 23,300 yards per year per operative, against 9,574 yards in 1835; while each Crompton loom in a certain mill turned out 12,191 yards last year against 7,766 yards in 1835, and the cost of labor has been reduced almost one half.

We might pursue this project in this line of thought almost indefinitely, but we think we have obtained enough of scientific discovery applied in a practical manner to demonstrate the national importance of the former and the utility of invention as applied in these latter days. As we intimated in the beginning of this article, some of the greatest practical realities of this age had their origin in search after pure truth instead of after utilities.—*Commercial Bulletin.*

Turkish Hammams.

The Turks are generally healthy and free from many of the maladies common to other countries. Dyspepsia, gout, rheumatism, neuralgia, and affections of the liver and kidneys and of the cutaneous surface are quite uncommon. Consumption is less known, and is even more dreaded than the plague, and is considered so infectious that all clothing worn by the deceased is burned. Aside from the advantages of the climate, the cleanliness of the people, through the universal employment of Turkish bathing, is no small factor in securing immunity from disease. The hammams in Constantinople, as well as throughout the empire, are open at dawn, and, as the habit of early rising prevails, they are thronged by those who seek their invigorating benefits. The bath before breakfast is found to be the most salutary and strengthening. It is, in fact, the best possible preparation for the duties of the day, however arduous. By this means cleanliness, comfort and contentment are secured, and the duration of life greatly enhanced. The small cost places this luxurious necessity within the reach of every citizen.

Mohammed made ablution a part of religion; his followers, therefore, feel it incumbent upon them to endow bathing establishments for the good of the public. As these institutions are charitable, no fixed price is demanded; and it is left to the option of the bather to contribute what he chooses to the current expenses. Although these baths seem to have existed from time immemorial in the East, their introduction into this country marks little more than a single decade.

The finest baths of the Orient, though more costly, are less effective than the best American structure. There is much relating to the administration as well as the construction of baths which the Orient might wisely learn of the Occident.

Cleanliness and health are the primary objects sought in all bathing, and those who have submitted to immersion, fumigation, steaming, or vaporation have only to employ Turkish baths to find not only that they can bathe more agreeably, more comfortably, more effectively, more luxuriously, but that hitherto they were not clean; that they belonged to "the great unwashed." This recalls with new force what was said of Turkish bathing by that distinguished American, Edwin Forrest, who declared, with almost tragic emphasis, "The man who has not taken a Turkish bath has never risen to the moral dignity of being personally clean."

The greatest offenders against cleanliness and intelligence are those who pretend to give Turkish baths in a sort of sentry box, sometimes excluding and sometimes including the head. Only those without brains can escape cerebral congestion. It may be enunciated that an atmosphere unfit for the head is unfit for the body. The skin, as well as the lungs, has its part to perform in the function of elimination as well as respiration; and in these boxes the effete elements evolved from the surface are retained in contact with the body, and as they can not escape they are reabsorbed, rendering benefit as impossible as injury is inevitable. To call this Turkish bathing is no less a libel upon the Turks than a reflection upon the good sense of those whose indiscretion permits them to be deceived and injured.—*Sanitarian.*

A Woman Killed With a Sky-rocket.

A shocking and fatal accident occurred at about nine o'clock last night, at No. 305 Hudson Avenue, the victim being Mrs. Margaret Jennings, aged 60 years, who, with her husband and two grown-up children, occupied the second floor of the premises. The manner in which the unfortunate woman lost her life was singular and truly distressing. A Chowder Club of the Fifth Ward was returning after spending the day at Sheepshead Bay, and just as they were passing her door in three large stages, and amid the noise and din which usually attend such gatherings, a number of young men who belonged to another Club gave a discharge of sky-rockets and Roman candles, for which privilege they had received a permit in the afternoon from the Mayor. Mrs. Jennings and her aged mother were sitting at an open window at the time, and naturally took an interest in the noisy pyrotechnic display. The sky-rockets flew into the air with startling rapidity, the object being to send off as many of them as possible and make a big show when the chowder boys were passing. Mrs. Jennings, it would appear, raised her head for the purpose probably of witnessing the bursting of the rockets in the air, and while in that position one of the sharp ends of the shaft or stick of the rocket, struck her just below the left eye, imbedding itself in the base of the brain and killing her instantly. The poor woman fell back beside her mother and expired without a groan.—*Brooklyn (N. Y.) Eagle.*

SPIRIT of the press—Cider.

FROM SITTING-BULL'S CAMP.

Interview With Skunk Horse, Recently from "White Mother's Country."

[Correspondence of Sioux City Journal.]

PINE RIVER AGENCY, D. T., October 7.—Last night the Captain of the Police informed the Agent that Skunk Horse (Northern Sioux Indian) who left the old Red Cloud Agency on the Missouri River, in the fall of 1878, with Big Road's band, and went north and joined Sitting-Bull, has just returned, and was fresh and hot from the hostile camp. The gentleman was sent for and brought to Dr. Metillicuddy's office without delay. Mr. Horse is about 30 years of age, 5 feet 11 inches in height, broad-shouldered, light complexion (for an Indian), round chest, full face, bright, black eye, good natured and rather a jolly-looking countenance, wears a blanket, calico shirt, abbreviated pants, slouch hat, cartridge-belt, knife, gun and revolver. He told his story substantially as follows: In 1878 we were living with the Ogalallas at the forks of the White River. One day our band concluded that we did not want to get beef any more, but would rather go north, live in a big country, hunt buffalo and be free to do as we pleased. We then went direct to Sitting-Bull's camp on the Milk River. I have been there ever since that time. Last fall a large party of Nez Perces came among us, and they are up there now; said the soldiers took all their hounds and every thing they had, and would have taken them had not they escaped and fled into the "White Mother's" (Canada) country.

Sitting-Bull is not chief of the North ern Indians. Black Moon is head chief. Black Moon is President; Sitting-Bull, Secretary of War; Iron Crow, General; and Big Road is Brigadier-General. I was with the Northern Indians when Gen. Miles got after them this summer on Milk River. We came over here to hunt buffalo. Did not intend to fight. Did not want to fight. Black Moon and Sitting-Bull promised the White Mother if she would consent to let us come over into this country to hunt we would not molest any body. The White Mother said that if we did any thing bad we would not be allowed to come back into her country. We knew that Gen. Miles was coming after us several days before he made the attack. Three thousand Indians with guns and cartridges stood on the banks of a canyon and saw his command pass through. The temptation was great, and some of the Indians wanted to repeat the Custer massacre, but the head men would not allow it. The Indians were excited, and had there been a shot fired, accidentally or otherwise, the whole command would have been exterminated. Not a man could have gotten out of the canyon alive. We then tried to avoid meeting Gen. Miles, but could not keep out of his way, so we ran back over the line, and thereby kept our promise with the White Mother. The army got too close on to us just before crossing the line and fired at us, killing five of our men. None were wounded. Many of the Northern Indians would come into the agencies if they could, but it is almost impossible to get on this side of the line without running on some of the soldiers and getting killed.

We three left there about the middle of last month and traveled in the night and kept hid in daytime, and in that way managed to get through. Were 21 days coming down. Did not see a white man until we arrived on Cheyenne River. There we saw three, and I attempted to go to them, but they stood as off and said they were afraid of us. We expect to go back in about a month and tell the Northern Indians how Red Cloud and Spotted Tail are getting along. The half-breeds captured by Gen. Miles had ammunition, but only for the purpose of hunting buffalo. Could have rescued them from the army, but knew the army would not harm them, only take them down on the Yellowstone and feed them. There are plenty of buffalo in the North. They move from one place to another. When they come into the White Mother's country we have plenty to eat, but when they leave and go over into this country we can not get them. The great father got mad about the unpleasantness we had with Gen. Custer, and drove us out of our own country, and will not let us hunt our own buffalo. We did not want to fight Gen. Custer. He made the attack on us to compel us to go and live on a reservation and eat beef, and we want to live in our own country and subsist on buffalo-meat.

We heard that white men and soldiers were trying to take the Ute Indians' country. Black Moon and Sitting-Bull sent them word, by courier, that if they desired to they could come and live with us the same as White Bird and the Nez Perces. If the White Mother would let us fight we would come over and hunt buffalo in spite of Gen. Miles and his army. Black Moon's tribe is about as large as Red Cloud's, 800 lodges of 6,400 persons, not including members of other tribes who are living with us.

Dead Men's Shoes.

There is a great deal of crystallized wisdom in the proverbs of every nation, the accumulations of centuries of observation; but we think in few is there more to be found than in the brief saying that "it is ill waiting for dead men's shoes."

How few feet do these shoes fit! How few feet, after years of waiting, get the shoes, anyway! how few ever walk in them with ease after they do get them! and in half of the cases, by the time they get them, with how many is the power of locomotion, to carry out the parable, about lost!

One is sometimes almost tempted to ask who ever gained any thing by the expectation of a legacy? The young heir who awaits his father's death, and in the meantime discounts the event with debts, would, it is to be presumed, have been much better off by the time of his father's death had he known from boyhood that that death was not to enrich him by a penny. Every energy he had would then have been put forward to improve his affairs, to secure his future, and naturally to keep himself in condition to enjoy that future, while too often, in the other case, the anticipation of a plenty not earned has hindered the exercise of any faculty of earning till even the power to earn is hampered, and the habit of debt has demoralized. Of course it is not impossible that the heir in expectancy may have cherished every virtue during the period of his waiting; may have run up no indebtedness; may have retained and used every faculty and power; may be ready for the benefaction if it comes, and can do without it if it does not; but he is to be considered rather remarkable and an exceptional case, on the whole, if he has done so, for the tendency of all the circumstances is not in his favor.