

Speaking about house-cleaning—but, come to think of it, you'd better not if you are talking for publication.

Lenenbock and Humboldt both say that a single pound of the finest spider webs would reach around the world.

By their course in the Cretan affair several European nations have earned a sound thrashing, which they are likely to get.

Ram Pasha, commander of the Turkish forces on the Macedonian frontier, undoubtedly will prove a hard man to buck against.

The oyster is one of the strongest creatures on earth. The force required to open one is more than nine hundred times its weight.

One report from Athens declares there is "compromise" in the air. That is probably so, and the honor of Europe is being "compromised."

A Maine paper says that a man in Biddeford has invented a pencil sharpener that will sharpen pencils. How those New England reporters can prevaricate.

If the fellow who has been praying for rain lately will send his address to almost anyone in the lower Mississippi valley his case will receive prompt and careful attention.

Now Rev. Lyman Abbott intimates that Jonah lied about his voyage with the whale. This is taking a mean advantage of Jonah when he isn't here to give evidence in his own behalf.

A Pennsylvania jury the other day gave Anna Dickinson a verdict of 6 1/2 cents for false imprisonment in an asylum. And now it will be just like those fellows to try to cheat her out of the quarter cent.

The Atlanta Journal announces that "a splinter which had remained in the foot of Miss Babe Martin for forty-four years has worked itself out." This, we believe, is one of the longest infantile afflictions on record.

Dallas News: There are no floods in Texas but of sunshine and song, and there are enough of these to illumine the gloom of Erebus and to swell all silence with symphonies. Such is the situation in gleaming, gorgeous, grand old Texas!

Chicago within the last few months has had enough object lessons to prove beyond any question that it is impossible for the officials of banking institutions to bring about a restoration of general prosperity by loaning funds to themselves.

It is stated that 63 per cent. of the manufactured food products of the United States are adulterated, and yet the people of this country cannot consume all the pure foods they produce. It is clear, therefore, that we are 63 per cent. an unenlightened people and need a new illumination of some kind.

Phoenix, Ariz., rejoices because the introduction of the Gamewell fire alarm system does away with what a local newspaper calls "the time-honored system of giving notice of fire by a discharge of revolvers." As a municipal improvement this is decidedly noteworthy.

The historical "thin red line" so often mentioned by English writers in connection with their scarlet-coated army is becoming decidedly thinner. For, according to orders just issued by the War Department in London, the chest measurement for infantry recruits has been reduced to thirty-two inches.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: After much delay the grave and reverend seniors of the Supreme bench of Iowa have handed down a definition of the word "swipe." It means according to this unimpeachable authority "to steal," and is thus made an actionable epithet. Let this momentous definition be noted down by those whose passions are easily aroused to the abusive pitch.

A device is on trial in a Boston hotel which, it is hoped, will reduce the rate of deaths by asphyxiation. A small chamber of brass containing quicksilver is so attached to every jet in the house that unlighted gas escaping through a stop-cock will ring an electric bell in the office. One night recently two guests accidentally left the gas on unlighted, and a prompt alarm to the office proved the efficacy of the contrivance.

The promptness with which water runs from cleared lands is illustrated in the Adirondacks this year. On those mountains wherever the trees have been removed is not even a flake of snow. It has all been melted and rushed down to swell the rising streams. On the mountains where the trees are still left there is yet snow to a depth of eighteen inches which will gradually melt as the weather becomes warm, sink into the ground and through the springs of the adjacent valleys feed streams when they will need feeding.

In an Italian daily newspaper, the Roman Tribuna, of the 29th of January, occurs this extraordinary paragraph: "In San Francisco, California, there took place recently a terrific panic in a theater. During a performance a

lamp exploded, which caused a panic and wild rush for the door, during which three hundred spectators and thirty-six actors were killed." This is another illustration of the old saying, "Go away from home to learn the news." There certainly has been no such panic in a San Francisco theater of recent years, and we doubt whether there ever was.

"Excellencies," as all travelers know, are dirt cheap in Europe, for every liberal man is so called by all the servants and peasants in Italy and the other Latin countries. Only one American at a time, of all our seventy-odd millions, is entitled to be so called. That person is the Governor of Massachusetts. He is so by a constitutional provision of the Commonwealth. Not even the President of the United States is entitled to be so addressed. This matter was settled more than a century ago in the convention which framed our Constitution.

Paris is excited over an American style of robbery, which has just struck that town. The story is told by the Paris correspondent of the New York Sun: "The proprietor of a fine restaurant of a certain class was the victim of a third swindle, though 'twas more a joke than a fraud. A party of four young bloods dined one evening, not wisely but too well and too expensively, at his establishment. After a magnificent repast in a private room there was a dispute about who should pay and the proprietor was sent for. Each of the diners declared that he was there as the guest of the other three. The dispute went on in a jocosely fashion until the restaurant keeper threatened to call the police unless his money was forthcoming. The four young men were annoyed at this suggestion. 'Is that the way you treat gentlemen?' exclaimed one of the party. 'Now, see here, since we are out for a lark I propose that we blindfold you, Mr. Proprietor, and the one of us whom you catch first will pay for the supper and for two more bottles of champagne.' The restaurant keeper agreed. He was securely blindfolded, and he groped about the apartment in vain for a quarter of an hour. Then he pulled off the bandage to find that the four revelers had fled.

The collapse of a bank is always a public calamity, the evil consequences of which can never be measured in mere pecuniary loss. It requires something besides columns of figures to adequately represent the deplorable results of such a catastrophe as the wrecking of the Globe Savings Bank of Chicago. The damage to business in the resultant loss of confidence in banking institutions and the general demoralization of the credit structure upon which 90 per cent. of our transactions are based cannot be accurately calculated in figures. The failure of the Globe Savings Bank reveals a startling record of official perjury and dishonesty. Seldom does a mere business collapse disclose such a depth of moral rotteness involving such gross betrayals of trusts that men ordinarily hold sacred. The story of the wreck is black with the most corrupt political jobbery. The deeper it is probed the more offensive becomes the stench to the nostrils of honest men. The State of Illinois should probe the affair to the bottom to the end that the blame for the deplorable condition of affairs may be placed where it belongs and the culpable parties severely punished. The interests of honest banking, the interests of the State institutions whose funds were jeopardized, and the rights of those whose savings were engulfed in the maelstrom of political jobbery and criminal speculation, all demand that the investigation be made rigidly and promptly. The people desire to know if they have any protection in law from such flagrant betrayals of trust by those who have committed to them the savings of the poor and the funds of State institutions.

Washington Well Fortified. In view of the fact that the national capital was once taken and burned by a foreign enemy, it is reassuring to know that a calamity so humiliating is not likely to occur again, even in case of sudden war.

Washington is the best defended city in the country. A hostile fleet could not now ascend the Potomac, as was done in 1814, when President Madison and his wife were compelled to make a hurried escape across the Potomac to avoid capture by the British.

For military and prudential reasons little has been allowed to be made known concerning the new works and the heavy ordnance recently installed below the city; but for the past two years engineers have been busy at the river forts. Some very formidable guns are now in position there, and a system of torpedo defenses perfected which would render the approach of an enemy's warships, within twelve miles of Washington, practically impossible.

The defensive works are located at the "elbow," or turn, of the Potomac where old Forts Washington and Sheridan stood, and where at one point the channel for vessels of deep draught is but 300 yards wide. The guns are protected on the water side by emplacement walls of stone and concrete seventy feet thick, and on the land side by redoubts for infantry. The rapidly increasing wealth and importance of Washington, the grand new public buildings and the vast sums of money and bullion in the treasury render these protective and defensive measures a matter of national importance and necessity.

Discouraged. Jess—Why don't the Smith girls go out any more on their bicycles? Bess—They heard a man tell his little boy they were fat ladies from the museum out to advertise the show.—New York Journal.

PRESBYTERIAN MEETING.

One Hundredth General Assembly to Convene at Eagle Lake, Ind. The 100th general assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States will meet at Eagle Lake, Ind., May 27. It will be the first time the general assembly has met away from a center of population, and the experiment will be watched by a great many people.



Pres. Studebaker, Winona Assembly and Summer School, can have their way, Winona, beside the beautiful little lake, will become the permanent home of the assembly.

Three years ago the school was incorporated. It is denominational in the construction of its board of directors, two-thirds of whom must be of Presbyterian faith, but other denominations are admitted. It is in charge of Prof. John M. Coulter of the University of Chicago and John M. Studebaker of South Bend was recently elected president.

Four thousand representatives of the church are expected to be in attendance

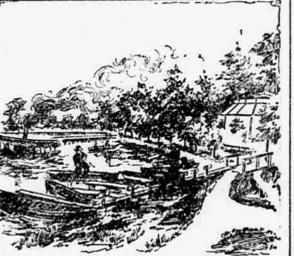


MAPLE GROVE. Cyclorama in which the assembly will meet in the background.

during the ten days the general assembly will be in session. The auditorium in which the meetings will be held is erected on the style of a cyclorama building, and is furnished with opera chairs. It seats 3,000 persons, and 500 more can be crowded into it.

The commissioners of the general assembly are elected by presbyteries and grouped into the convention by synods. There are thirty-one synods represented in the general assembly. These are the synod of Colorado, the synod of Indiana, the synod of Ohio, the synod of Michigan, the synod of Minnesota, the synod of Missouri, the synod of Iowa, the synod of Kansas, the synod of Nebraska, the synod of New Jersey, the synod of New Mexico, the synod of New York, the synod of North Dakota, the synod of Ohio, the synod of Oregon, the synod of Pennsylvania, the synod of South Dakota, the synod of Tennessee, the synod of Texas, the synod of Utah, the synod of Washington and the synod of Wisconsin.

The last general assembly represented 224 presbyteries, 6,942 ministers, 435 licentiates, 176 local evangelists, 1,508 can-



ALONG EAGLE LAKE. didates, 7,573 churches, 27,025 elders, 9,174 deacons and 943,716 communicants. The church has had great growth the last year, and it is believed this assembly will show more than one million communicants. There are 43,000 Presbyterians in Indiana, 65,120 in Illinois, 96,461 in Ohio, 30,416 in Michigan and 7,840 in Kentucky, so that the general assembly will meet in the midst of its friends.

FALL AT THEIR POSTS.

Fifty Firemen Are Overcome in a Fierce Blaze in New York. In New York, a deadly fire, attended with a loss of \$500,000, broke out in the basement of the cold storage warehouse, 161 to 165 Chambers street. One fireman was killed and fifty others were felled unconscious by the deadly fumes of ammonia which assailed them as they entered the building. The firemen's cry of danger was heard on the outside and other companies were ordered in to rescue their comrades. These in turn were also overcome, until Chief Bonner feared he would lose all of his men.

Extra calls were sent out for re-enforcements; surgeons and ambulances were summoned from the hospitals; engine company 27's house, almost directly opposite the blazing building, was turned into an emergency hospital and as fast as the unfortunate men could be located and dragged out into the open air they were carried to house of temporary relief and properly cared for.

Notes of Current Events. John Russell Young of Philadelphia is said to be slated as minister to Spain.

President McKinley Saturday received the new Chinese minister, Wu Ting Fang.

Overflows of the Juniata river in Pennsylvania have caused immense loss to growing crops.

The notorious Princess Chimay has given up her intention of appearing in public in European music halls.

Spanish land and sea forces have captured the port of Banes, held for about a month by the insurgents.

NATIONAL SOLONS.

REVIEW OF THEIR WORK AT WASHINGTON.

Detailed Proceedings of Senate and House—Bills Passed or Introduced in Either Branch—Questions of Moment to the Country at Large.

The Legislative Grind.

During the consideration of the "free homestead" bill in the Senate Monday Mr. Morgan proposed an amendment giving all public lands unoccupied by 1900 to the several States and territories. Mr. Hawley declared this to be a startling proposition, and Mr. Tillman sought to oppose it by a series of questions addressed to Mr. Morgan. Some of the questions referred to the amendment as a proposition to "gobble" and "steal" the interests in public lands. Mr. Morgan in turn made a sharp and sarcastic rejoinder and for a time Senators and spectators were interested in the animated cross fire. After Mr. Morgan had protested against the interruption as a breach of the privileges of the Senate the incident was closed by a statement from Mr. Tillman disclaiming any purpose of being discourteous to the Alabama Senator. The Morgan amendment was withdrawn. Early in the day Mr. Morgan endeavored to secure a vote on the Cuban resolution. It went over, however, at the request of Mr. Hale of Maine, in order that speeches in opposition may be made. The House, by a vote of 124 to 52, approved the postponement of committees until action by the Senate on the tariff. A Senate resolution appropriating \$50,000 for the congress of the universal postal union was adopted and Mr. Showalter, the Republican chosen at a special election to represent the twenty-fifth Pennsylvania district, was sworn in.

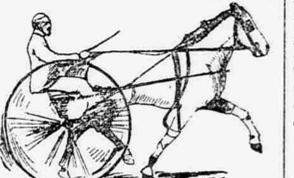
The tariff bill was unexpectedly reported from committee to the Senate Tuesday and the entire time of that body was taken up in listening to reading of the measure. Changes have been made in nearly every schedule since it was passed by the House. Consideration was postponed fourteen days. The House was not in session.

The Senate Wednesday by the vote of 43 to 26 refused to ratify the general arbitration treaty between the United States and Great Britain negotiated by Secretary Olney and Sir Julian Pauncefote. At the conclusion of the proceedings, all of which were in executive session, the Senate refused to authorize the publication of the details. The open session of the Senate was devoted to the sundry civil appropriation bill, which was not completed up to the time of adjournment. Mr. Deboe of Kentucky took the oath of office at the opening of the session and was cordially greeted by his Republican associates. The Senate in executive session confirmed the following nominations: Elmer J. Miller, surveyor of customs at Columbus, Ohio; Thomas R. Purnell, United States district judge for the eastern district of North Carolina; William H. Meyer, Indian agent for the Southern Ute agency, Colorado; John B. Wright and John W. Ross, commissioners of the District of Columbia; John McMullen of Maryland, to be an assistant surgeon in the marine hospital service.

The Senate Thursday agreed to an amendment to the sundry civil bill revoking the order of President Cleveland, made Feb. 22 last, establishing forest reservations aggregating 17,000,000 acres. Another amendment agreed to provides for a continuance of the investigation of the condition of the fur seals in Bering Sea. The sundry civil an aggregate of \$53,000,000. The House by a strict party vote, all the Republicans favoring and all the Democrats and Populists opposing, adopted a resolution providing that the House should meet only on Mondays and Thursdays of each week until otherwise ordered. It was announced to be the Republican policy to wait on the Senate's action on the tariff bill. Mr. Bailey (Dem.) of Texas made a strong but unsuccessful fight to have the order modified so as to give early and full consideration to the bankruptcy bill. The Republicans replied that they would call up the bankruptcy bill and hold daily sessions on it after Gen. Henderson's return, but until then the rule should stand. The House then adjourned until Monday.

JOE PATCHEN AT AUCTION.

Famous Pacer Goes to C. W. Marks on a Bid of \$15,000. Joe Patchen, the famous pacer, with a record of 2:03, was sold at auction for \$15,000 to C. W. Marks, a shoe manufacturer, Tuesday morning in the Dexter Park horse exchange at the Chicago stock yards. Nearly 5,000 horsemen and spectators packed the amphitheater and cheered the rival bidders in their efforts to win



JOE PATCHEN.

the prize. When David McFeat of Philadelphia, in charge of the Splan-Newsass sale, finally, after twenty minutes of auctioneering, knocked the horse down to Mr. Marks for a sum fully \$9,000 greater than that of any sale ever before effected in the stock yards district, the crowd lustily yelled its approval for almost five minutes.

Told in a Few Lines.

Justin McCarthy, the Irish parliamentary leader, who has been seriously ill, is improving.

A meeting at Rock Island, Ill., addressed by Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage, for the sufferers of India, realized almost \$1,000.

College students and athletic associations in Michigan are considerably agitated over a pending measure in the Legislature of that State to prohibit football contests.

Rev. C. O. Brown, who gained notoriety at San Francisco in the Overman scandal, has accepted a call to a Chicago Congregational charge. He has been preaching in Toronto.

Black coal operators and miners of the Brazil, Ind., district are in conference over the wage scale for the coming year. The employes propose a 10 per cent reduction, which is not likely to be accepted.

THE THAMES AT BLACKFRIARS.

A Picturesque Place in Days of Good Queen Bess.

"Master Skylark," the story of Shakespeare's time that is running as a serial in St. Nicholas, gives many interesting glimpses of old London.

Nick and the master player came down Ludgate Hill to Blackfriars landing in a stream of merry-makers, high and low, rich and poor, faring forth to London's greatest thoroughfare, the Thames; and as the river and the noble mansions along the Strand came into view, Nick's heart beat fast. It was a sight to stir the pulse.

Far down the stream the grim old Tower loomed above the drifting mist; and higher up, old London bridge, lined with tall houses, stretched from shore to shore. There were towers on it with domes and gilded vanes, and the river foamed and roared under it, strangled by the piers. From the dock at St. Mary Avelines by the bridge to Barge-house stairs, the landing-stages all along the river bank were thronged with boats; and to and fro across the stream, wherries, punts, barges, a water craft of every kind were plying busily. In middle stream sailboats tugged along with creaking sweeps, or brown-sailed trading vessels slipped away to sea, with costly freight for Russia, Turkey and the Levant. And amid the countless water craft a multitude of stately swans swept here and there like snowflakes on the dusky river.

Nick sniffed at the air, for it was full of strange odors—the smell of brewer's of pitchy oakum, Norway tar, spices from hot countries, resinous woods, and chilly whiffs from the water; and as they came out along the wharf, there were brown-faced, hard-eyed sailors there, who had been to the New World—wild fellows with silver rings in their ears and a swaggering stagger in their pitted legs. Some of them held short, crooked brown tubes between their lips, and puffed great clouds of pale brown smoke from their noses in a most amazing way.

Broad-beamed Dutchmen, too, were there, and swarthy Spanish renegades, with sturdy craftsman of the city guilds and stalwart yeomen of the guard in the Queen's rich livery.

But ere Nick had fairly begun to stare, confused by such a rout, Carew had hailed a wherry, and they were half-way over to the Southwark side.

Landing amid a deafening din of watermen bawling hoarsely for a place along the Paris Garden stairs, the master player hurried up the lane through the noisy crowd. Some were faring afoot into Surrey, and some to green St. George's Fields to buy fresh fruit and milk from the farm houses and to picnic on the grass. Some turned aside to the Falcon Inn for a bit of cheese and ale, and others to the play houses beyond the trees and fishing ponds.

And coming down from the inn they met a crowd of players, with Master Tom Heywood at their head, frolicking and cantering along like so many overgrown schoolboys.

A New Method of Disinfection.

The Antwerp correspondent of the Liverpool Journal of Commerce says: As in all large ports, the medical commission plays a very important and responsible part, and its duties have been all the more arduous in the last four years, since the United States has demanded such rigid examination of all emigrants, their baggage, etc. In connection with sanitary arrangements and regulations of the port some experiments of a most interesting character were made at the St. Pierre Hospital in the presence of the Antwerp Medical Commission. The subject of the experiments was the demonstration of a new and practical mode of disinfection and sterilization. The means employed consist of a gas obtained by the partial combustion of methylated spirits, which, while being perfectly innocent in its effect upon human beings, nontoxic and free from all corrosive action, is said to possess the property of destroying every trace of bacteria or microbes in the atmosphere of any inclosure. The experiments so far have been thoroughly successful. If such a system of disinfection can be proved efficacious it will be a blessing to steamship companies plying between Europe and the United States, for in time of contagion of any kind the United States Government demands fumigation by sulphur, which is a most disagreeable and unprofitable process. The question will be studied with a view to adapting it to the disinfection of ships, passengers, luggage and cargo.

Bad for the Eyes.

Among the sources of the greatest trouble to the eyesight are the excessive use of wine, spirits, or beer, and the indiscriminate use of quinine. Another source of falling vision may be traced to impeded circulation. The wearing of tight neckwear, such as collars which are too small, or shirt-bands or neckties tightly drawn, should be avoided, as they prevent the downward column of blood returning to the heart, and dilation and development of disease is likely to follow. The same rule holds good of constriction of other parts of the body.

Movements on Foot.

Jinks—There is a man who has a number of movements on foot for making money. Binks—Who is he? Jinks—I don't know his name, but he's a dancing teacher.—New York Advertiser.

Boundless Affection.

He—Sometimes I wonder if you really love me. She—As if I hadn't proved it. Haven't I called you "Dumpty Darling?" "Well?" "And that is a name which, until I met you, I had held sacred to dear little Fido."—Cincinnati Enquirer.



Greek and Turk.

The Turkish soldiers can fight, even if they do wear bloomers.—Boston Globe.

Greeks already has done enough fighting in a week to last Cuba about ten years.—Chicago Times-Herald.

The valorous Greeks have not given up yet. They still have a chance of killing their king.—Detroit Free Press.

Osman Pasha will get to the front in time to annex all the glory without any of the danger.—Pittsburg News.

Women are arming to fight the Turks and a long sigh of relief is going up throughout the Ottoman Empire.—Chicago News.

Some of the Greeks are evidently determined to get the better of something, even if it's only their own government.—Chicago Post.

King George's way of ruling his turbulent people is apparently simply to sit back and let them have their own way.—Buffalo Express.

A remarkable feature of the recent Greek victories appears to be that the following day the victors usually retreat.—Chicago Post.

If those Cuban correspondents will only stay away from Greece we can keep fairly well informed on the progress of Eastern hostilities.—Chicago Journal.

To Col. Ab Hamid and King George: Don't worry about food supplies. The United States has plenty of everything to sell.—Chicago Times-Herald.

Turkey says Greece started it. Greece says Turkey started it, but from this side of the water it looks as if the powers dropped the flag for the fighting to begin.—Baltimore American.

If those European fighters should ever run short of ammunition they might create havoc by breaking a few chunks off their names and hurling them at the foe.—Cleveland Leader.

A cable dispatch from Macedonia says that "many of the Greek irregulars lie in hiding during the daytime." The correspondents seem to be lying by day and by night.—Chicago Times-Herald.

If the Greeks could perform the apparently impossible by giving the Turks a terrific lambasting, Old Glory should be run to the top of every flagstaff, just on general principles.—Cincinnati Tribune.

Political Potpourri.

The Ohio man continues to keep his front feet in the trough.—Boston Herald.

The howl of a disappointed politician is about as effective as the challenge of a defeated prize fighter.—New York Journal.

If the Congressional Record ever starts a sporting department John J. Ingalls is the man to run it.—Cincinnati Commercial.

How much better everybody would be if people would think more of their push and less of their pull.—Harrisburg Star-Independent.

The new Kentucky teacher has been doctor, lawyer and school teacher. That is a hard combination to beat, and it leads naturally into politics.—Baltimore American.

We infer from David B. Hill's remarks that later on it is his intention to organize an expedition to rescue us from our over-governed condition.—Washington Post.

The majority of Americans sympathize with Greece just as heartily as does Senator Allen, but very few of them make such a mighty noise about it.—Scranton Republican.

Now that Roger Q. Mills has said over his own signature that Senators talk too much, we may expect a series of long and excitable speeches in denial of the accusation.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Secretary Long is getting ready to sell a few of the old-style, out-of-date war vessels of the navy. Here is a good chance for some of the ten-acre South American republics that are getting ready for another revolution to supply themselves with craft.—Savannah News.

Grant's Memorial.

Chicago got the World's Fair, but it didn't have the Grant Memorial Day.—Buffalo News.

Gen. Grant belonged to every State in the Union, and it was Grant week in all of them.—Boston Herald.

Sir Julian Pauncefote appeared in simple citizen dress while visiting New York. Once in a while even an Englishman likes to imagine himself a free born son of the republic.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Mayor Strong of New York called for the American flag on Grant Memorial Day—the flag everywhere. Across every flag that snapped in the wind that day a grateful nation saw in sunburst radiance: "Let us have peace."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

The Peach Crop.

If the weather sharps are not watchful the peach crop will get another bump on its solar plexus.—Pittsburg Times.

Speculations about the peach crop are like those about the weather—they do not always square with facts.—Baltimore American.

Reports from Delaware are worse than usual. It is feared now that the peach crop of 1898 is entirely destroyed.—Chicago Tribune.

The young men who furnish the frost for the Delaware and New Jersey peach crops have worked in their usual amount at space rates.—Washington Post.

This and That.

The voice of the rooster is now in full bloom.—Cincinnati Tribune.

The Philadelphia has been ordered to Hawaii. Now, Honolulu, will you be quiet?—New York Press.

The time may come when the phonograph and the magic lantern will be used extensively enough in the church to do away with choir wrangling.—Chicago Dispatch.

It is a peculiar coincidence that the man who "hates to see his name in the paper" is always the one to draw attention to the fact that it is there.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

A Kentucky widow has just raffled off a distillery. Widow, raffle, distillery; how this combination must have appealed to the gallant and thirsty Kentuckian!—Buffalo Express.