THE DAILY BEE.

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETORS. E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

THE surprise at the breaking up of the Transcontinental pool is not so great as

gether so long as it did. THERE is a great scarcity of good servant girls in Om aha. This dearth of domestic help may be due to the announcement of an enterprising Dakota journalist that he can supply ten thousand

SINCE the return of the predicted cold wave St. Paul newspapers are preparing to urge General Hazen for one of those vacant major-generalships. The preservation of the ice palace is the question of the season in Minnesota's capitol.

women with husbands.

THE sale of unlimited first-class tickets from the Missouri river to California points for \$60, caused by the breaking of the Transcontinental pool, is a big thing for the scalpers. They will invest every dollar they can raise in these tickets.

YSEULT DUDLEY has been released and O'Dynamite Rossa says that while he will not attach a dynamite bomb to her skirt, he will keep his eyes open and his trigger-finger ever ready to get in the first shot next time.

A GOOD good imitation of oleomargarine is now on the market. When the law is passed compelling manufacturers to tint bogus butter pink, a rider should be added to color the bogus oleomargarine blue. The public have a right to know what they are buying.

THE murderous Apaches have added eight more murders to their long list. It is about time to round up these butchers and start a graveyard with them, but the people of Arizona and New Mexico need not expect the United States troops ever to accomplish such a desirable result.

Now THAT the exposition building is open a grand gladiatorial combat betweeen the rival leaders of Nebraska's democracy has become a possibility. Let them hire the hall and fight it out in that arena. A crowd which would pack the building would be assured without further advertisement.

Kansas City is agitated over the rumor that John I. Blair is negotiating for cable line stock in that city and owners of those securities have at once doubled the price of their holdings. Kansas City neve underestimates the value of anything in Kansas City, from an energetic census taker to a broken down horse railway.

THE papers of Detroit are still vigorously carrying on the war against railroad dead beatism, and continue to refuse to publish time tables free of charge in their columns. Last week a coal dealer offered to the Free Press an advertisement which contained with his own announcement the time card of the Michitran Central railroad. The Free Press declined to publish it and suit has been begun against the paper in consequence.

OMAHA's stock yards have been of great advantage to this city during the year or more in which they have been in operation. They have added to our resources as a market for western producers, have increased our manufacturing facilities, and are to-day stimulating the growing and feeding of a better class of meat cattle throughout the section tributary to this city. During the past fall and winter, with markets everywhere depressed. the Omaha stock yards buyers paid higher prices than any of their competitors. The farmers and feeders of Nebraska are learning the advantages of patronizing home purchasers of cattle and hogs, and the coming season will show still greater advances in the business and sale of the yards than the past

It is not surprising to learn that the Pacific railroads have sent their attorneys to Washington to protest against the bill requiring those companies to pay the cost of surveying their unsold lands. The land grant roads have evaded so long taxation on the immense domain given them by the people that they are convinced that any action to place them on an equality in this respect with the poor settlers would be an injustice of large proportions. So far as Nebraska is con cerned, the Union Pacific is so rapidly disposing of the landed estate that a few years time will place the company beyoud any fear of the operation of such a law. Delay is what the tax shirkers are plending for, and that is precisely what ought not to be granted them.

FATHER BETTS, well known in Omaha, is once more in trouble with his ecclesiastical superiors. This time the offense is not connected with ritualism or rubries. The bishop of Missouri is offended at the vigorous tirade which Father Betts made at Father Jardine's funeral, and declines to confirm his communion class during the coming Lenten season unless the clergyman apologizes for the reflections east on the head of the diocese in that remarkable discourse. Father Betts has refused to retract his statements, and accuses the bishop of going out of his way in applying the term "priestly hands steeped in blood" to his episcopal self. As Father Betts is never more happy than when engaged controversial warfare, there are prospects of a rively interchange of civilities by mail in the diocese of Missouri. The question of ecclesiastical discipline is a tender one, but it is difficult to see how it can be avoided on the present

Inquiry Into Capt. Crawford's Death. Senator Manderson yesterday introduced a resolution of inquiry in the senate calling upon the secretaries of war and state for information as to what steps had been taken by the government in regard to the killing of Capt. Emmett Crawford. The murder of this brave soldier by Mexican troops, so called, while he was on Mexican soil, pursuing hostile Indians, demands prompt satisfaction and reparation from the Mexican government. The evidence is conclusive that the Mexican uniform was used to cloak the operations of a gang of conscienceless banditti who were masquerading as soldiers while actually engaged in plundering whatever came in their path. After talking with Capt. Crawford and listening to his explanations of the object of his expedition he was deliber ately shot down in cold blood by these Greaser highwaymen, and the determined stand of the scouts of Lieut. Maus alone saved him from sharing the same

Capt. Crawford leaves dependent relatives in reduced circumstances. He was the surprise caused by its holding totreacherously murdered by men wearing the uniform of a nation which is assumed to be on friendly relations with our own. His life was taken while he was commanding an expedition of the United States which was on Mexican soil, in strict accordance with the treaty stipula tions. Mere formal apologies and expressions of regrets should not be accepted as sufficient reparation for this outrage.

The Best is the Cheapest.

This paper is making no warfare on

any paving contractor or for any paving contractor. The bids are all in for the various materials which may be chosen by our property owners. The BEE has assured itself and it assures the people of Omaha that any wooden pavement is merely a temporary substitute for a substantial paving material. It reads in the experience of other cities which have gone blindly into wholesale paving with this material a lesson to Omaha, which, whether our people profit from it or not, will sooner or later enforce itself upon their good judgment. From the outset, we have declared that in certain portions of the city a wooden block pavement is the best under the circumstances. We refer to the steep hills in the residence streets where a plastic pavement would be too smooth and a stone block too expensive. But we have insisted and still insist that on any street where traffic is comparatively heavy or where gas and water mains have not been generally tapped by house connections a wooden block pavement will prove an unsatisfactory and a costly experiment. Its surface can never be brought to its original condition after it has been displaced and the wooden blocks once crushed, are porous, fibrous, retentive of filth and unhealthy. The advocates of wood blocks are urging the merits of cedar blocks upon property owners on streets now partly occupied for business, and which will shortly be entirely given up to the purposes of trade There is a tendency to cover the best portion of the new paving districts with this material because it is cheap. Without the slightest personal feeling or personal interest in the matter, the BEE is convinced that a mistake and a serious mistake will be made if permanency, solidity and utility in our public improvements are sacrified to cheapness. It is a mistaken policy. The best is the cheap-

THE city has won a substantial victory in the Peabody grading case which was decided this week against the plaintiffs. The verdict that damages by grade must be greater than the resulting benefits in order to form a good ground for recovery is a proper and an equitable one. It paves the way for the prosecution of much needed public improvements which have been hampered by the possibility of large verdicts for damages against the city. If property owners on streets which bid fair to be thoroughfares into and out of the city are wise they will cheerfully join in demanding that permanent grades suited to the requirements of traffic be established at once, and that the work, when done, shall be finished for all time A cut of five feet when fifteen is needed, toopen up a street to the approach of business is yery poor economy. Omaha has dallied and temporized too long with the grading question. The interests of individual property owners and of the city agree in requiring that there shall be a radical reform in the matter.

HAVING asserted its dignity in th resolutions about removals the senate should now buckle down to business. At the present rate of working neither branch of congress is earning its salt.

Another large wholesale lumber vard is to be located in Omaha. A brick yard with a capacity equal to all those that we have is the most pressing need of this

A GREAT many candidates are preparing to bloom with the flowers of spring. That's about all most of them will do-

simply bloom. TIBBLES has turned up again with the

Ponca Indian case in his pocket. Other Lands Than Ours.

Parliament has once more opened its doors and the responsibilities and cares of office have already begun to press upon the shoulders of the Gladstone ministry. The cabinet is fighting now for time. Discussion of Irish measures has been definitely postponed until some future date in March, when several remedial measures are promised. One statement of future policy by Mr. Gladstone is positive, and that is that coercion will not be renewed, and this is taken by the Irish party as an index that large concessions will be substituted for the blundering policy of former administrations. The whigs have not yet formally decided on the measure of the support or opposition which they will give to the liberal party. Mr. Morley's triumphant re-election to parliament from Newcastle-upon-Tyne will unquestionably have the effect of emboldening those liberals who have previously hesitated about following Mr. Gladstone in his search for home rule. Mr. Morley has been made secretary for Ireland be cause of his pronounced views on the Irish question. In speaking to his con-stituents he told them bluntly that what

he and his chief were after was a way to

meet the wishes of the home rule party,

and yet not sacrifice the union. By giv-

ing him an increased majority the New-

eastle liberals have done their full share

toward proving that the body of the Engish working people are willing to give the Irish a chance.

The home office is receiving general blame for the wretched handling of the late riots and Mr. Childers has been forced to defend himself by showing that the public failed to inform him of the occurrences until several hours after the first riot had broken out. A radical reform of the London public system is likely to be the result of the avalanche of indignation which is pouring down upon the home office through the columns of the press. Travelled Englishmen inform the ministry through this medium that a hundred New York policemen would have prevented all the disturbance which is now generally admitted to have been incited by the thieves and pickpockets who hung on the edges of the great crowd at Trafalgar square. This is a compliment to the New York squad which New Yorkers may be inclined to dispute,' but it shows the general feeling that the London force of "babbles" is unfit to deal with such emergencies as presented themselves last week.

Bismarck's complete change of front in his ecclesiastical controversy with the vatican has astounded Europe. The bill to reveal the provisions of the Falk laws which he has so long held were necessary to the independence of the empire completes the journey to Canossa which he boasted so loudly he would never undertake. The chancellor has discovered that the support of Catholic representatives in the Landing is indispensible in carrying out his schemes for maintaining the treasury of the empire. The passage of the bill giving the government a monopoly of the manufacture and sale of spirits is impeded in its course. The extension of the anti-socialist laws is a matter of doubt. To call to his aid the clerical party, representing a third of the citizenship of Germany, is the object for which the chancellor has been striving and the repeal of the Falk laws is the price which he is prepared to pay for such assistance.

Austrian discontent at Bismarck's Polish policy is increasing and has shown itself unmistakably in the reichsrath at Vienna, where a violent attack on the German chancellor was made by a delegate from Gallicia. The iron prince was denounced as more beast than man and as a habitual drunkard, and the statement was made amid loud cheers that the alliance between Austria and Germany was purely official in its character, and that it had no foundation in the sympathies of a large portion of the people of both empires. Dispatches state that Prussia's proposed expulsion of the Poles is causing the most intense excitement throughout the Polish portions of the Hapsburg domain. The Austian-Polish press is filled with attacks so bitter, and often so libelous against the German chancellor because of his recent policy that the German party in the Austrian parliament has indignantly and effectually protested against their continuance.

The Greeks are still insisting that Turkish territory or war are the only alternatives, and the efforts of the powers to prevent what seems a certain infraction of European peace have not so far been crowned with the desired success. A combined fleet of German, English, French and Austrian vessels are now lying in Suda bay to prevent the outbreak of hostilities between King George's ships and the Turkish iron-

The "scientific expedition" lately sent by the Russian government into Thibet was equipped after a fashion decidedly too warlike for purposes of pure or applied science, nor is it easy to connect the presumed objects of such an expedition with the killing of 400 natives. There is little doubt that interesting discoveries were made, nor that the reports by the leaders of the party will exhibit the country traversed in such a light that a burning desire will at once spring up in the Russian heart to possess it. This is generally the outcome of Russian scientific expeditions into territory contiguous to the Russian empire, and the government of China will look with little favor on exploring parties such as that which has just returned from Thibet.

It is not unlikely that Canada will be nduced by the prominence given to industrial arbitration in this country to take early steps to establish "courts of conciliation" for the benefit of her producers. The failure of English laws on this subject seems to be satisfactorily explained by the fact that they give enforceability to the findings of boards of arbitrators. Had it not been for this defect and the disappointments which have resulted from it, Canada might long ago have enacted a law of the kind now demanded by her artisans.

The London Economist shows that home rule would involve the addition of £2,000,000 to Irish taxation, and it asks advocates of disruption if they are prepared to pay the cost and how they will raise it. The solution of the problem is not difficult, Great Britain now disburses annually ten times two million pounds to support in idleness pauper peers and beggarly foreign princes. These vast sums might be saved and applied to the amelioration of the sufferings of the poor. The great tracts of land now held by the crown and absentee lords could be cut up into small holdings and sold on long time, enabling the poor cotters to earn decent livings and thus decrease the poor rates. There are no obstacles in the way of granting justice to Ireland that cannot be surmounted by the exercise of common sense, and it is useless for the tory press and statesmen to struggle. Home rule is

inevitable. One point in the arrangement between Prince Alexander of Bulgaria and Turkey, apparently insignificant from a European point of view, was the nature or the neaddress to be worn by the prince, because the red fez is obligatory on all Turkish officials, and the prince would not consent to adopt the fez on presenting his homage to the sultan. He is therefore to wear the uniform of a Turkish general of cavalry, which includes the same covering for the head as is worn by the Bulgarians, and the prince will be made a mushir of the empire, his name thus becoming in Turkish Iskander Pasha.

Mr. Labouchere makes bold to coin a word. Says he: "An interview with the name of the interviewee (the word re-quires coining in these days) left out is rather poor reading." PERSONAL POINTS.

Phil. Armour's pay roll amounts to \$3,000,

Ex-Senator Tabor, of Colorado, is a man of many mines. Jay Gould controls securities with a par value of \$439,000,000.

The empress of Japan speaks English with a sort of pigeon-toed accent. The estate of the late J. B. Lippincott of Philadelphia is valued at \$3,599,113.

Frank O. Dame, who died in Boston last week, had a life insurance of \$110,000. Congressman Glover, of St. Louis, has sued the Missouri Republican for \$100,000

It is said that Confucius never said a word at dinner. Perhaps the dinner was cooked

to suit him.

The duke of Edinburg refuses to forego his claim to the throne of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha for the £100,000 offered him by Bismarck. Oscar Wilde is contemplating another visit to America, and will be accompanied by his wife. They will "do" the mining districts. Senator Jones has built the largest quartz

mill in the world at his Juneau, Alaska

mine, which is yielding him much wealth. It is said that when Senator Edmunds wants to go toboganning he simply pours a pail of water on a hill and breathes on it. George W. Childs sent \$100 to the Baltimore fund for a monument to Francis Scott Key, the author of the "Star-Spangled Ban-

Col. Pratti, a natural son of the late King Victor Emmanuel of Italy, is living in New York on a pension from the Italian government.

Senator Vance remarked, on meeting Miss Bullitt of Philadelphia, "Ah, I heard you whistle during the war," and the New York Star calls this gallant.

Mr. Thaddeus Fa irbanks, the inventor of the Fairbanks scale, recently celebrated his ninetieth birthday, and still lives at St. Johnsbury, Vt. His long life is due to the correctness of his weighs.

Asked how he succeeded in business, Phil D. Armour replied: "I always made it a principle when the Almighty wasn't on my side to get on his." As Mr. Armour is many times a millionaire, we take it for granted that he has been on the Lord's side most of his life.

Rev. Dr. J. G. Armstrong, one of the most eloquent Episcopal clergyman in the southern states, having been convicted of drinking beer and visiting disreputable houses, was by Bishop Beckwith sentenced to suspension for ten years. He was formerly a Presby-terian minister at Sidney, Ohfo, and per-mitted rumors to be circulated that he was J. Wilkes Booth, the assassin of Lincoln.

Grant Could Talk, But He Wouldn't Gen. Grant set Sherman an excellent ex-

ample, and Sherman ought to know by this time how golden silence really is, particularly in a man who cannot talk. Fighting a Stone Wall.

Nebraska City News.
The editor of the Omaha Herald is still fighting the administration with about the same success as that achieved by the William

goat when he tried to "butt" down a stone wall. The Next U. S. Marshal. Papillion Times, Frank Ireland, of Nebraska City, who claims the honor of being the handsomest

ment that he will be the next United States marshal for Nebraska.

man in the state, is emphatic in the state-

A Succession of Brilliant Triumphs. Chicago News. Senator Sherman Invested in a 10-cent lottery ticket at a Hebrew fair in Washington.

eminent statesman's career is one long suc-

cession of brilliant triumphs.

Chicago Herald. On the crest adopted by Senator Ingalls, of Kansas, is a motto in Latin which, being interpreted, reads: "He wins who is awake," and it might be added that in securing a sen atorship in the state from which Ingalls hails he gets there who sees the boys.

The Modern Interviewer.

Chicago News.

As a matter of fact, the modern interviewer is one of the most useful and instructive, as well as best-abused, servants of the public. Through him we see into the minds and learn of the hopes, purposes, and deeds of all mankind-philosopher and laborer, misanthrope and trifler, elergyman and convict. He should not be impudent, although he may be persistent in doing his duty.

The Vicissitudes of Life.

Halley (Idaho) News-Miner. How uncertain are the vicissitudes of this life! A man may be shooting along on snow-shoes over the beautiful snow lying on the numerous hills about this city, exulting in all the vigor of youth, and overflowing with an abundance of animal spirits, and the next minute he may be in an adjoining county under twenty feet of snow, without hat or coat, waiting for the spring thaws to set in.

Philosophy of the Weather Bureau. Oh, I am the chief of the Signal Division. Of literature I am a light; The newspapers make me a butt for derision

But they print every line that I write! The people all yearn for my last lucubration They rush for the paper each day.
And before they have looked at the news of
the nation.
They must see just what I have to say.

Some ignorant fools dare to laugh at my At what the day's weather will be; But when a man once knows the key he

My predictions were right to a T. My secret? Oh, well, I would just as soon tell you; Whenever I say 'twill be warm Just get out your ulster; the cold will com-

pel you, For we're in for a howling cold storm. If I say 'twill be cold, you may know it's a Your light linen duster will do: In short, every time that I make a prediction Just the opposite's sure to come true.

Boston Herald

It was the American humbrist who said the best remedy for insomnia was a good night's sleep. The power to sleep when and where one wills is a gift of Providence quite as de sirable as memory, beauty, or any of the other nice things which are presumed to be heaven-sent. Men of the largest mental ability have been noted for the ease with which they could take those cat-naps, far more invigorating than hibernation, and which repair the nervous waste and allow them in waking hours to accomplish hereulean tasks with their brains. That insomnia is totally unknown to these ready sleepers would be assuming too much, for the disease if disease it is, falls alike on the cold-blooded delver and wiry, impulsive workers, raking them fore and aft with beautiful impartiality.

Preparing for a Love Feast.

Grand Island Independent,
The two hostile democratic brethren Morton and Dr. Miller, both busy in Washington after the spoils, have discovered, that government has been stingy in granting favors to Nebraska democrats, in order to compel them to keep the peace. Now in order to get the loaves and the fishes, arrangements are making for a love feast. Dr. proposes to shake, and it will be a beautiful sight to behold, when Miller and Morton embrace. Miller has sent a message to Morton, proposing a truce said to contain

the condition, that Collector Post be retired in favor of A. Crawford. In this way a place would be found for a democrat, and an opponent to run for congress against Laird. When after the patched up truce the spoils

are gathered in, the war may be re-opened. An Insurance Anomaly.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat. A year ago the insurance companies withlrew from New Hampshire on account of certain alleged unjust legislation, and it is now discovered that the number of fires in the state has decreased by 60 per cent. This seems to prove that property burns much nore easily when it is insured than when it is not-an anomaly that offers a new opportunity to the fluent and indefatigable insurance agent, who is never happier than when wrestling with such abstruse ideas.

BROWN COUNTY'S SEAT.

Cushioned With Vigorous, Push-Ahead People.

AINSWORTH, Neb., Feb. 16.-[Correpondence of the BEE.] .- This town, the county seat of Brown county, is located on the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley railroad, 278 miles west of Fremont. The country surrounding it is splendid land. One man last year raised 285 bushels of wheat from eleven acres.

The town was started in the spring of 1883, and in the summer following fortythree business houses were erected. The present year will probably witness a big change in Ainsworth, as the Union Pacitic from Ord is expected to come up the Calamus river and tap the Elkhorn val-

ley road at this point.

The population of the city is estimated. from 1,000 to 1,200 people. A \$1,000 school house and a \$4,000 church were erected here last year. We have an opera house 40 by 100 feet, and a court house the same size. The Bank of Ainsworth and Farmers' and Merchants' banks take ever of ear monors.

banks take care of our moneys, S. Backey & Co., Z. T. Funk, Woodward & Co., Z. Storey, and Munson & Ackerman each keep a general stock. Hoffmeister & Co. Lathrop & Co. and H. Warner are the draggists. Chaney, Smalls Bros. and Wiyel & Moyer, hardware; W. H. Oreutt and J. F. Burns, hotel keepers; Mrs. Landis, F. F. Merithew, Wm. Jones, M. V. Day and E. Stevenson, restaurants; Allard & Brubaker, bakery; S. P. Hart and Collins Bros. are our grain buyers; Leroy Hall and Finney & Williams sell lumber. The latter named firm call this their headquarters, they having yards at six other points.

They are all having a rushing trade

and expect the town to boom for the next

The Balky Horse.

New York Sun: "Before I experienced ligion and turned from the evil of my ways," said a man who had been quietly-sucking away at a corn-cob pipe, "I hada little joy of my own. It was that of re-tailing dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes, and Yankee notions around the country from a peddler's wagon. The particular little point in which I excelled vas in securing my goods at low prices. finally became so smart that I got most of them for nothing.

"One day as I was driving along a highway in Ohio, a farmer stumped me to trade horses. After some beating around we made an even exchange, and I got a handsome strong limbed horse in place of a spavined and broken down animal. It was my solemn belief that he was getting rid of a stolen horse, but not a scruple of conscience did I have. I had a heavy wagon, drove two horses be fore it, and calculated that I nad made just \$100 out of the trade. I drove sixeen miles after making the trade, and that horse proved himself a dandy.
"I had had my eye on a certain dry goods store in the village of P——for several months back. That night, after and drew a \$3 suit of boy's clothes. That

everything around the village hotel was quiet, I slipped out, harnessed up, and drove the wagon around back of the store. You see, I intended to make large purchase at bottom figures, and didn't want the proprietor around. had brouget along a half-inch auger, and twenty minutes was time enough to bore my way in through the back door. A boy about 16 years old slept in the store. first move was to capture him. Before he was fairly awake I had him tied, blindfolded, and gagged. Then I proceeded to make my spring and summer selections. The town was as quiet as a graveyard and in about an hour I had all the load the wagon would carry. I might remark right here that the stock was selected with

a view of giving my customers the ad-vantages of a falling market. The young man had been very quiet during my work, and as I was ready to go I went over to him and expressed my gratification at his conduct As it lacked only two hours of daylight, I asked him to be of good cheer and patiently wait for some early riser to come in and re-lieve him. He promised to remain quiet, and I got on the wagon and drove off with the feeling that I had made a good night's work of it. I was intending to lrive ten miles due west and then run he goods into a certain hiding place. About a mile beyond the village was a long hill, and as we came to it that new horse suddenly came to a dead halt. I out on the whip, and he began to kick. In about two minutes I was made to realize that I had been stuck on a 'professional.' I knew by his actions that he was a balker from way back, and not only mulish about it, but decidedly vic-

"Now, gents, in the language Shakespeare, here was a go. I got down and coaxed and flattered and scolded and pounded, but that horse had made up his mind not to move, and was ready to die in his tracks. I jabbed him in the hams with a brad awl, but he kicked the dash-board into splinters to pay for it. I started a fire under him with newspapers, but he backed out of it. I was in a box. Time was slipping past, and time was everything to me. That infernal beast would neither take the hill nor turn around. I unharnessed him to walk him around, and he rushed at me with a scream, knocked me over, and then turned and galloped off. My plan was to cut the other horse loose and take myself off, but before I could do it a dozen men piled on to me. That store clerk had worked himself loose and given the alarm. Being as I'm in a confidential mood this evening. I will inform you that a prosecuting attorney, a judge, and six jurors retired me to Columbus for the term of eight years.

The Turner's Hop.

subscription masquerade ball given in Germania hall to-night by the local Turn Verein, will be a most nteresting and enjoyable affair. from the dauce a programme of novel en-tertainments has been arranged. There will be a Mikado dance, a tight rope per-formance, a dog exhibition, a German museum and other things, one of which will be uproariously clever, but of which nothing yet can be said.

Bohemlaus Organizing.

The Bohemian citizens of the first and second wards held a meeting in Hoffman's hall on South Thirteenth street last man's hall on South Thirteenth street last night, preparatory to organizing for the spring campaign. K. W. Bartos presided. The meeting was addressed by Frank J. Caspar, John Rosicky, F. W. Bandhauer, Geo. Hoffman and Judge Berka. The name of Mr. Kaspar was mentioned as candidate for the city

Gen. Cowin says that the insane tax case will probably not be appealed to the supreme court, as the other counties in-terested do not show a disposition to terested back up Douglas in contesting the matter.

FIGHTING FOR A BIG FORTUNE

The Story of a Legal Contest or the Estate of a Negress.

A Mixed-up Affair in Which Appear Many Points of Interst.

The New York World of Feb. 10 says: Final argument will be heard to-day at New City, Rockland county, before Surrogate Geo W. Vincent in the famous contest for the possession of the estate of Edward Hesdra, late of Nyack. Besides. valuable property in that village it consists of half a dozen tenement houses in this city, and is worth altogether about \$150,000. The main issue of the present proceedings, however, which Judge ¡Vincent will have to determine is whether Mrs. Amanda Tordoff, a white woman, is a blood relative of Edward Hesdra, or the adopted daughter of the latter's deceased brother Solomon, who was regard ed as a colored man. The property has been in litigation ever since the death of Cynthia Hesdra, the wife of Edward, in whose name it stood. Although she was regarded as a white woman, and had a pure-blooded white mother, her father was black. Her dark colored nephews and nieces became her special charge. Many of them were employed in her laundry, and most of her patrons are said to have been inmates of disreputabla houses. On her death her husband claimed this property, but as they did not have any children it was said he had no right to it, as she died intestate. After a wnile he produced a will in which he was named as sole legatee. Cynthia's relatives declared the will a forgery. When it was offered for probate it was contested by Cynthia's relatives. The surrogate is said to have declared the will a forgery, but when the question was carried up to the supreme court and tried before a jury in 1884, it was de-clared genuine. Edward Hesdra became so elated that he went on a debauch and

died June 6, 1881. After the death of Cynthia, Edward in stalled the widow of Solomon Hesdra as his housekeeper. Her daughter, Mrs. Amanda Tordoff, was with her. When Edward died Mrs. Tordoff claimed the estate on the ground that as his niece and only blood relative she alone could in-herit, as no will could be found. Notwithstanding her holding and keeping the property she did not apply for letters

of administration. An application made by Constant Hesdra, an aged negro, of No. 242 Nassau street, Brooklyn, was withdrawn, and then Charles A. Dunham, a lawyer of Fairview, N. J., on April 8, 1885, petitioned to be appointed administrator, as he claimed to be a proditor for \$2,800, In he claimed to be a creditor for \$2,800. In his petition Lawyer Dunham alleges that Hesdra left no next of kin. A hearing the petition was set for April 29, 1885 and on that day Mrs. Tordoff also filed a petition to be appointed administratrix. Eleven days prior to that her mother There has been a singular fatality attending other witnesses whose testimony was very material. Charges of fou play and other suspicious circumstances connected with the death of Edward Hesdra, his sister-in-law Hetty, and others have been investigated after much talk on the part of the claimants to the estate, but nothing wrong was ever estab-

Judge Weiant had held several hearings, when Lawyer Dunham took a new tack and claimed that the property went to the state, because there was no legal heir to it. In a letter to Attorney General O'Brien Lawyer Dunham says:

"There is good reason to believe that the deceased left a will, which, it may be safely assumed, never will be discovered. Solomon Hesdra, about thirty-five years ago, took in from the street a foundling, or waif, or bright little girl, and being without progeny cared for and brought her up as her own child. This girl grew to womanhood under her protector's roof, married, and became the Mrs. Tordorff who claimed to be a niece and sole next of kin of her protector's brother. In her position of housekeeper Mrs. Torsoon acquired considerable influence over the intestate, and it was his intention, as I know from having been his legal adviser, to make her a legatee to the tune of \$5,000. Numerous friends and connections of the intestate through his first wife confidently believe that somebody, taking pity on the sorrows of the poor old man Hesdra, who was greatly troubled about his property, helped him to an euthanasia. It is certain that his sickness, death and burial were attended by circumstances calculated to excite painful suspicions.

"But, remarkable as was the intes tate's death, it was scarcely more so than the demise a few days ago of Solomon's Hesdra's widow, the woman whom Mrs Tordoff pretended to be her mother.

"This woman has been frequently urged by persons connected by marriage with the intestate to declare in the presence of Mrs. Tordoff herself whether or not the latter was her own child and daughter of Solomon Hesdra; but she almost invari ably gave evasive answers or refused to answer at all. On one occasion recently, when she was being severely pressed, Mrs. Tordoff, doubtless, anticipating a favorable response, joined in urging her to speak out. This seemed to nettle the old woman, and she broke forth: "Wha is the use of keeping at me? You allt know well enough that she is not my child, and I never said she was mine to any human being. Mrs. Hesdra is re-ported to have declared herself to this effect repeatedly when Mrs. Tordoff was

not present. "I have long been satisfied that the woman would not attempt on the witness stand to sustain Mrs Tordoff's pretensions, and that she could not do so if ever so well disposed to try. When my appli-cation for letters of administration made it apparent that the question of Mrs. Tordoff's pedigree was to be raised, and that her alleged mother would be com-pelled to take the stand, the old woman vas in her usual health. Three or tour days before the return of the citation she

Shortly after this the attorney-general designated Alexander Cameron, of No. 62 Wall street, to represent the state in the hearings before the surrogate and defend its apparent claim to the The proceedings have dragged along for nearly a year. Judge Weiant's patience has been taxed by the failure of Lawyer Dunham to produce witnesses when promised, and the case has been reopened four or five times. Fully twenty hearings have been set and two were held in Brooklyn, four in this city, and a num-ber in Nyack.

The founders of the Hesdra family are said to have been either natives of the West Indies or long residents there. Although it is alleged they were colored they held slaves of their race and were extensive land-owners. But they were ruined by revolution and removed to Virginia, and thence to New York, early in the twenties. When they ar-rived here they are said to have been

very poor. A reporter visited Nyack to learn Mrs. Tordoff's story. She resides in the old Hesdra residence with her 19-year-old son and a daughter a year younger. She is quite a pretty matron of 40, medium height, a little inclined to stoutness, large black eyes and straight black hair. While she might be mistaken for a Spaniard or Italian no one would think that a drop of negro blood flowed in her veins. Quiet and modest, she told her story in a staightforward manner. "My grandfather, Lyon Hesdra, was a

Hebrew, born in France, and was an offi-

cer in Napoleon's army," she said, and exhibited a picture of a very good-looking Frenchman with powdered hair. ing Frenchman with powdered hair, "My grandmother was also of that faith. They came to America and bought a plan tation near Norfolk, Va., where they owned many slaves. Solomon Hesdra, my father, was born in 1808, and Uncle Edward was three years younger. Among the slaves was one named Lucy, and when she was sold she begged so hard for my grandmother to take her lit-tle boy Constant that she did. He was educated with her two boys and was known as Constance Portlock, but he changed it to Hesdra and was induced to laim to be Uncle Edward's brother after his death and apply for letters of admin-istration on the estate. When my father was 10 years old, the plantation being sold, my widowed grandmother brought her two boys and Constant to New York. She gave them a little money and they learned the cabinet-maker's trade. My mother's maiden name was Hetty Day, and her folks were Orange county Quakers, but my father kept his Hebrew faith. After working as a cabinet-maker he started a cigar and barber shop in Spring street, above Wooster, and was there for thirty or thirty-five years. I was born there July 30, 1845. Afterward we moved to Mount Vernon, where he had a shop. They did not bring up the question about my not being their daughter until my poor moth-er died. I married a man who acted very badly and abused me, and my father took me home when my daughter was year old. I was afterward divorced, My

father died in 1880. 'Do you suppose a woman could make all the property Aunt Cynthia left by washing "she asked, "Uncle Edward made money in the cabinet business and invested it. He got into some trouble and deeded some of the property to his wife That is how so much stood in her name, but a good deal of it was actually his own. Thave received many blackmailing letters on account of this suit. The trouble with Mr. Dunham is that he wanted uncle to go and live with him just before he died."

How Lew Wallace Came To Write "Ben-Hur."

Cleveland Leader: Judge Huntchins occupied a seat beside Gen Lew Wallace at the banquet of the Loyal Legion in Cincinnati and during the general con-versation he asked the general how he came to write the remarkable book: "Ben-Hur," Gen. Wallace replied, "I was going down on the Mississippi river on a boat, and was enjoying myself in my state-room, when the door, which was slightly ajar, was opened, and Col. Robt. G. Ingersoll entered and said:

'Gen. Wallace, I want to talk with "Let me set the text and I'll talk," I

answered.
"'All right,' replied Ingersoll, 'what is "Is there a God?' I asked of the great unbeliever, by way of a text.
"I don't know, do you?"

"Is there a heaven?" I don't know. Do you?' "'Is Christ the Son of God and the Re-deemer of mankind?'

I don't know. Do you?' "Is there a devil?"

don't know. Do you?' "Is there a hell?" I don't know. Do you? "After a few more desultory remarks, asm and pathos as I have never

Ingersoll broke forth into such a conglomeration of blasphemy, irony, sar-He appeared to be almost inspired, and peautifully rounded sentences fell from his lips in quick succession. I saw at once the power of this man's eloquice and opinion and I began to think that I was not thoroughly conversant with the questions I had propounded to the great infidel. I began to study the Bible and kindred works thoroughly, and the result was 'Ben-Hur.' This is how I came to write the book."

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