CARMEN'S CUBAN CHANGES.

A German Critic Says Bizet Adapted the Opera From "Habanera."

CHOICE CHASTE CARICATURES.

A Reform in French Illustrations-The Artists of To-Day-General Boulanger's Panegyrie - Irish Wake-American Spree.

PARIS, Dec. 30 .- [Correspondence of the BEE.]-Among the many literary topics which have been discussed with more interest and energy than any political ones at this closing period of the old year, is one which has its moral and pesthetic interest for all authors and composers througout the world. A German critic rose up the other day to accuse Bizet, the immortal composer of Carmen, of having taken bodily from a Cuban musician the matchless refrain of the "Habanera," and placed it in the opera without modifying it in any manner, or without crediting it. This happens not to be true, since George Bizet was careful to publish in the first edition of the Carmen a statement that the "Habanera" was imitated from a Spanish song. The accusation of plagiarism may, therefore, be dismissed, and the French critics have roundly abused the German, both because he is a German, and because he attacked Bizet. Yet, the imitation is almost Chinese in its fidelity, and the talk over it raises the question whether a composer, be he a genius or a mediocrity, has the right to appropriate to himself even the note, the vital spark of another's musical composition. There is no sort of doubt that the "Habanera" furnished

INSPIRATION FOR "CARMEN." It set to work in the composer's mind the crystallizing influences which finally brought forth the perfect poem, taking for its story the light and deftly-sketched nouvelle by Prosper Merimee. The "Habanera" being itself enough to make a musician immortal, it seems hard that it should attain its own immortality simply through the medium of a brilliant French setting. Second rank only, it seems to me, must be accorded to composers who take for their inspiration a song, a refrain, or a musical theme which they did not create themselves. There are, among the French comedy writers of the last fifty years, a hundred or two whose works will not be found even in the repertories of the twentieth century, and nearly every one of these takes text and the skeleton of his story from some foreign author. Read Lavergne on the extensive stealing done by French dramatists from the immense Spanish collections, if you wish to be enlightened on this point.

FRENCH HOLIDAY BOOKS.

Delicacy of sentiment and absolute perfection of expression are the distinguishing traits in the illustrated books which figure upon the Christmas and New Year lists of the Paris publishers Not for years have there been so many beautiful books, so richly, I had almost said magnificently, illustrated. To take up an edition of a classic like Bernardin de Saint-Pierre's "Paul and Virginia," and to look over the exquisite pictures which have been Turnished for the well known and pathetic story by Maurice Leloir, is to get a refined and renewed pleasure out of the book. Here is an artist who knows how to enter directly into the sentiment of an author, and who has teh knowledge and relinement necessary. Go back to the abominable drawings which disfigure the early editions of Chateaubriand and Victor Hugo, and then compare them with these fine bits of work. We find almost majestic conception of grouping in the pictures illustrating the closing scenes of the story. There is one little gem, showing

"VIRGINIA" UPON THE SHIP. which alone is enough to make the reputation of a draughtsman. M. Leloir has touched the chief vote of the book-a rare poetic simplicity, full of what our French friends are so fond of calling distinction. Another volume by a writer who sketches birds and fields, and their winged and four-legged as well as human inhabitants, with capital skill, is called "Our Birds," and has no less than 110 compositions by Giacomelli. Nowhere has Andre Theuriet been more delightful than in the little poems for this volume; but perhaps the climax of the luxurious is reached in the delicious book illustrated by Octave Uzanne, called "The Women of the Nineteenth Century, This is like some of the illuminated works of the Middle Ages-a book to con over and turn again and again; one which is not easily exhausted after a whole season's attention. The artist has dealt, of course, with the women of his own country, and has shown them in the varying phases of fashion from the closing days of the revolutionary period at the beginning of this century down to the present moment.

THE CHANGE OF COSTUME has been so great, and yet so impercepti ble, that we are amazed in contemplating one of the pictures of a court assemblage under Napoleon III.; and the question rises to our lips: How could these people have been such guys, and is it possible that our wives and sweethearts dressed like that? France is easily at the head of all nations in this fine and praise worthy art of varied and artistic illustrations, and in this domain, as in so many others, the progress and change, swif and enormous as they are, can only be realized by a careful retrospect out of fashion seem the pictures of Dorel How many good men there are who, while they do not possess a tithe of his imagination, do better pictures, more natural and more human, than he was wont to do! It is pleasing also to note the gradual departure among the painters from the domain of the semi-obscene, the forbidden nude, and the suggestively h centious, for the higher works of complet purity and the unlimited reatms of imagi nation. Twenty years ago, I question whether a painter or draughtsman in rance, except Dore, and he had radical faults, could have adequately illustrated Shelley. To-day, there are a dozen men who could do it. With the increase of individual liberty, and the unloosening, as it were, of

CERTAIN MORAL FACULTIES, heretofore dormant, produced by the war, has come a development of the imagination which will yet be accounted as one of the most felicitous results of the French revolution tendency in sentiment is observable as well in opera-bouffe as in pictures for books, and it is slowly making its way in. to the world of painters who depend for their publicity upon the publicity Of children's books what shall be said? It is the custom of many foreigners, more especially the English and Americaus, to speer at French childhood, and

to say that the baby of the Gauls is hardly out of his swadling-cloths before he be gins to look like a little old man, a cutdown pattern of his papa. The primness and precision of French children may seem laughable to strangers. It is odd to hear an infant say immediatement or infatigable; but the joyous spirit of childhood is there all the same, and nonadore and respect the vagrant pranks of infancy, of boy and girlhood, more than the French. Witness this good house of Hetzel in the dull and gloomy old Rue Jacob, in the Latin country beyond the Jacob, in the Latin country beautiful Scine. Here is a colossal establishmen the geniu founded almost entirely upon the genit of two men: Hetzel, who, as P. J. Stah has amused and instructed the babies of two generations; and Jules Verne, who needs no qualification here. Wonderful has been the progress of

WOOD CARVING IN AMERICA since 1870, and the purveyors for the ju venile world have been more audaciou in their enterprise, more skillful in their work, than houses like Hetzel's can today claim to be. But in text, in matter, France takes the lead. For airy fancy, brightness and simplicity of die tion, splendor of form now and then, and abounding grace, French writers for juveniles are justly celebrated. There is a whole little world of French literature of this kind, which the children of our nation would delight in could it be opened to them. The French children are rol licking in the "Adventures of Huck Finn" and of "Helen's Babies," of the "Princesand the Pauper," and of many another American set of young heroes and scamps. Why should not our publishers give American youth some glimpse of what is so entrancing in French love for children.

I have left myself no room to speak of the wonderfully good caricatures and caricaturists who are springing up all over France, and this must be the subject of a future article. The old rudeness and what I should call maliciousness of touch, has vanished. There is a satirie sweep to all the new work which commands attention, and has great power but of this more anon. Let us go back for a moment to the

LEADING TOPICS OF THE DAY, to General Boulanger declaiming and disclaiming with his usual energy at one of the public annual festivals, and to the fetes of Christmas-tide and to general gossip. How Boulanger doth protest that he abominates war, nor would like to see the nation draw its sword; how the whole country seems infected with the same spirit! One of the leading journals of Paris ventures to question the sincerity of General Boulanger's panegyric to peace, and reminds him of the of war. In another journal, M. Cornely, who has a good audience whenever he chooses to come forth, declares in favor of immediate war. "Either let us disarm and take the chance, or fight now," he says; but his voice is that of one preaching in the wilderness. The many striving millions do not want war, and do not believe that Germany wants it. They hope probably against hope that Russia will put off her march towards the Bosphorus, and that, in short, the clock of destiny will rnn down, and not be wound up again. charity festivals have been extremely bright, and frequented by scores of thousands. Such great halls as the Hippodrome, the Palace of Industry, and the rocadero, have been crammed with the

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MIDDLE CLASS here applauding the evolutions of firemen or well drilled troops, and there laughing at the anties of the fabled Dragon of Provence, the great Taras-que, followed by the dancing and laughng bands of merry makers in the legendary farandole, and here listening to classical music. Money flows freely in Paris at all times, and the working class and the bourgeoise seem never at a loss for a twenty-franc piece to throw into the eash box of a theatre, a concert or a mu-

seam. Speaking of museums reminds me that called the Galliera, after the generous lady, who gave it to the city of Paris. The great building for this museum has stood untinished for ten or twelve but now will be quickly completed, and is to have grouped in its three vast halls he arts, the sciences, and the industries. In front of each section will stand a coossal statue symbolizing the department Hustrated within. The new museum will have cost about three millions of francs

A word about the reveillon, which, as you may gather from the sound of its French name, is an all-night session, a kind of combination of an Irish wake and an American spree, regulated variously according to the gentility of those engaged

THE NOTED CAFES on the boulevards each have their reveillon festivities, and perhaps, there is no contrast greater in the world than that to e got by peeping first at 12 o'clock night into the Cafe Americain, on the grand boulevards, and then hastening way to form one in a throng of hushed and reverential auditors of the Christmas music at the Madeleine. One of the most curious of the reveillon gatherings was that given by the faster Succi, who ushered in the the morn of Christmas day with a ball given in his huge apartment. Among the guests were members of the press, the medical committee, the surveillance committee and a host of curiosity seekers Succi is the man who has now fulfilled his promise that he would live thirty days on nothing more solid than a liquen or cordial of his own invention, all the time keeping up vigorous exercises, such as riding, driving, fencing, swimming, and doing work which usually requires on the part of those who do it a generous diet. Although towards the end of this fast on this Christmas evening Succi danced all night and was among the freshest of the company when the morning chimes sounded.

EDWARD KING.

Words in the English Language, By actual enumeration of the words contained in the best dictionaries, it has been ascertained that 13.330 Englishe words are of Saxon origin and 29,354 of classical origin. In consequence of the popular nature of the Teutonie words in the language, the Saxon element largely preponderates in the works of our greatest writers. The pronouns, numerals, prepositions, and auxiliary verbs, the names of the elements and their changes, of the seasons, the heavenly bodies, the divisions of time, the features of natural scenery, the organs of the body, the modes of bodily action and posture, the commonest animals, the words used in earliest childhood, the ordinary terms of traffic, the constituent words in proverbs, the designation of kindred, the simpler emotions of the mind, terms of pleasantry, satiire, contempt, indignation, invective, and anger are for the most part of Saxon origin. Words indicating a more advanced civilization and complex feelings, and most of the terms employed in art, science, mental and moral phiphy, are of classical origin. The Eng-lish language, which is now spoken by nearly one hundred millions of the carth's inhabitants, is in its vocabulary one of the most heterogeneous, that ever existed. There is, perhaps, no language so full of words, evidently derived from most distant sources, as English. Every country of the globe seems to have brought some of its verbal manufactures to the intellectual market of England Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Celtie. Danish, French, Spanish, I Spanish, Italian.German hinese words are mixed together in the

English dictionary.

PLEASURE'S PUNISHMENTS.

Regardless of Gout and Rheumatism Capitoline Society Still Gay.

CRAZY TO SEE MRS. CLEVELAND.

Opera-glass Views at a Funeral-Ros coe Conkling's Magnificent Presence-Sons of Great Mon-White House Receptions.

Washington, Jan. 13 .- [Correspondence of the BEE.]-Society seems to be running at right angles at present, and with the crisp cold winter weather, people move as lively as though on pleasure bent-and some of them are bent-out of all shape. So much happened during the past year to chill the foudest dreams of future glory, we shall make most of the short space allotted us and go in for a good time—that is if going to lunches, eas, receptions and balls, with theatre and opera thrown in, every day in the week and having gout, rheumatism and toothache all day Sunday as a just recom pense, is having a good time then Washington society is having just a lovely time. O, my! isn't it though? And the market value put upon stocks invested in this mine of happiness is way up out of sight. When the time comes for paying dividends, who will figure up most in the final easting of accounts? Be that as it may they are in for a good time.

The white house has been as gay as could be since the dawning of the new year-a year so full of promise of social

honors to THE YOUNG AND HOPEFUL MISTRESS. She wears well her honors and who shall say the bright light beaming from her beautiful eyes is not a love-light from a happy heart. At any rate, as the president's rheumatic pains decrease, Mrs Cleveland's smiles increase, and people stand on tables, chairs and on their heads to get one of those smiles. Said one of the officials of the executive mansion: 'In all my experience and I have been in the white house since Grant's time, have never seen women so crazy to look at a woman." Being a man, he did not say anything about the men who have lost their heads in the scramble for a place in the line. Even at poor General Logan's funeral, staid, gray-headed senators, generals, and the like, would le their eves wander from the flower crowned coffin before them; yes, and when the most eloquent words were fall-ing from Parson Newman's lips, to the sweet, sad face of Mrs. Cleveland, sitting in the gallery, opera glasses from all di rections were leveled at the president's pew in the reserved gallery. But the ovely young wife seemed wholly unconscious of the ill-timed attention paid her and looked the sympathy, no doubt, she for the grief-stricken wife of the dead hero. There are times for all things. Strange that people attending funerals in the United States senate chamber can't act accordingly, and not have the appearance of being at an opera or theatre For fear of a public sensation, I will do full justice to the staid, dignified senators on that sad, solemn occasion, and say I did not see a pair of opera glasses in

their hands (many of them wear glasses, and on special occasions double the power of the lens) Before I go back to the gaities of the

season, let me speak of EX-SENATOR CONKLING, as he appeared in the senate chamber, one of the distinguished men who acted as pall-bearers. Walking in with General Sherman, he looked a grand king among men, and in strong contrast to General Sherman, who, did we not know that he is a war hero, would think him most insignificant in appearance. He certainly looked so beside Roscoe Conkling. In physical strength and health Mr. Conkling never appeared at better advantage, grand and hand some. His hair, while not so abundant as of yore, is now snow white and carefully combed becomingly-perhaps worn a little more carelessly-and not the preeise eurl on the top of his head. His face is fuller; the lines of care seem to have been ironed out; has more color. and altogether a more healthful, contented expression, and yet the same haughty poise of the head, the same aristocratic curve of the hos and the same cynical expression of the nosealthough it is a very pretty nose. As usual, he was dressed with the utmost care-a suit of black fitting him to perfeetion. He has a weil-rounded figure to fit clothes onto, not in the least 'pussy'

about the stomach. JUST A MAGNIFICENT PICTURE which he knows well how to manage to the very best advantage. His attitude during the ceremonies was sad and thoughtful. He seemed to pay little or no attention to people about him, save when some reached a hand forth to greet him. A shade of annoyance passed face now and then, though his bearing was most respectful, while General Sheiman carried on a whispered conversa tion during the address. He simply He simply bent his head to listen without replying. Roscoe Conkling is always polite to his inferiors. As this was Mr. Conkling's first appearance in the senate chamber since he resigned his seat, all eyes were upon him as he entered. I could not help wonder what his thoughts were as he sat with his eyes cast down.

"Will he ever be in the United States senate again?" asked a gentleman of a New Yorker at my side 'Yes, if we can get his consent.'' re-ed the gent. "And what is better still,

plied the gent. we expect to make him president of the United States.' Just then our eyes fell upon the "representative of his father.

WALKER PLAINE, who still looks as he always did, as though he had just been fished out of a puddle of water. He nodded to everybody about him, and seemed tickled to death, when in the senate where people could see him and know he was the of Jim Blaine. He is a ghostly looking fellow, if he has any red blood in his veins it does not show itself in his face And what his powers of greatness are, his personal appearance does not show, There is a twinge of the father about his face, the nose, or something I hardly know what, and yet, if his name wer not Blaine, no one would accuse him of it. But then all things are possible in this free land of ours. This unpromising looking chap who seems to enjoy speak ing and acting for his president-diseased father, may be something or somebody some day, who knows? And still another who claimed our special interest was

How like his father in personal appearance he is growing, or, at least, he so appeared in the senate chamber that day The same poise of the head, the same stolid look, the same unmovable tures, the same modest bearing. I don't believe he took his eyes from Dr. Newman's face while he listened-his whole figure seemed to listen-to the address. None gave so close attention to the proceedings as did he; and there seemed age as did he; and the him. He a genuine sadness about him. Only was dressed in the deepest black. a few short years ago he brought his eautiful young bride to the white house. How lovely and gracious she was. Said a friend: "Somehow there is a some-thing about Mrs. Cleveland that reminds me of Mrs. Fred Grant, especially at Mrs. CLEVELAND'S RECEPTION

Saturday afternoon which was prononced perfectly delightful and the young hos tess perfectly lovely. One of the pleasant features of the afternoon was the dropping into line, just before the closing hour, of the grim old fellow himself. Mrs. Cleveland did not notice him till she extended her hand to shake, as his name was handed along just like any

other man. A surprised, pleased expression passed over her tace as she said: I am glad to see you, Mr. President, and then he did look so happy and contented as he passed by. No doubt the same con-tented look was on his face as he walked along with his first pair of red top boots in the days gone by. President Cleveland never put in an appearance at his sister's Saturday afternoon receptions last winter, not be, but I guess the old coon though he might as well see what the little lady was about, and who lin-gered longest by her side." Tis well to be vigilant in these days of free trade folly. President Cleveland will be a proin earnest ere the winter is over, I am thinking. CON.

REPORTORIAL DARING.

How a Plucky Scribe Exposed a

Swindling Mining Scheme. New York Star: In 1879 I was the mining correspondent of the San Francisco Evening Post, and, in the spring of that year, I was ordered by my chief to report the condition of the Grand Prize more at Tuscarora, a flourishing mining camp in the northwestern part of the state of Nevada. My letter of instruc-tion informed me that although the Grand Prize was regulary paying dividends there was something crooked about it and that the bottom facts must be got at It also informed me that the mine had been closed to outsiders, and that, at whatever risk or cost, I was expected to gain an entrance, and to explore the situa-

Upon my arrival at Tuscarora I found that a boom of more than ordinary interest had been initiated. All along the lead of the Grand Prize mine after mine had been located, and the stock of each was eagerly bought. None of the "prospects" had been opened sufficiently to determine their values, and altogether the ex-citement had a wildcat suggestiveness about it. Yet the cabins of locaters and miners uprose like fabrics of frost, and the creaking of the windlass and the chek of the telegraph were speculative

All my efforts to gain admission to the Grand Prize mine were unsuccessful. On the second evening after my arrival I met a miner whom I had known well in another section of the country. I went with him to his cabin and passed the remainder of the evening with him. He was working in the Grand Prize in the night shift, which went on at midnight "Working wet in the 250-foot level;" said, as he donned a rubber suit com-plete from hat to boots, and glanced at the clock, the hands of which marked 11:30.

Here was my opportunity. My friend was a happy-go-lucky fellow, and did not stand upon ceremony when coin was

"Bill, I said, "there is a cool hundred dollars for you if you will let me put on that rubber suit of yours, and let me me take your place to-night." "I'll do it, old man," he replied, after a moment's hesitation; "but you can bet that I will skip the camp in the morning,

and if you care for the color of your hide you'll do so too."
I slipped on the full suit which he handed me and hurried to the Grand Prize. In my borrowed outlit and in the semi darkness of the hoisting works, I had no difficulty in passing the foreman and descending the shaft with the other men of the shift. I knew how to handle a pick or shovel and did my turn without

being detected. In the morning I wired my paper as follows: "The lead of the Grand Prize has been running east and has turned at the 250 feet level, and is now tending north and south. The mines lying east and west are worthless and buyers of shares are being swindled. When this is known the collapse will be a disastrous one. Managers of the Grand Prize are foremost in the deal and locations by the score are being made on the quiet by those in the pool, both to the north and south. Full report

by mail." I had given the camp a terrible black ye, and completely foiled the plans of he knavish manipulators. Many of them would be heavy loosers, and not a few becuniarly rained by the expose when it

ecame known. Well aware that my life would not be worth a nickel when it was known that I and capped the game, and, having no faith in the trustworthiness of the telegraph operator as to keeping the sending of my dispatch a secret, I was away by 10 o'clock in the forenoon. My friend Bill ad preceded me at daylight by stage. I rode eighty miles without stopping save to eat, and to change my borse once, and arrived at Battles Mountain, my place of destination, some time after midnight

The following afternoon as I entered the barroom of my hotel I was halled by Expert Charley, a man-killer and bully of Tuscarora. He had just arrived from there, and by the look of his eyes I knew that the telegraph operator had betrayed me. I had carelessly left my revolvers in my room and stood, with my bare hands to defend me, before a bloodthirsty desperado, who, without doubt, had been sent to kill me. "You liar and coward!" he hissed

through his conched teeth and advanced threateningly toward me. To strike him for his insulting words or to retaliate if he struck me, was but to give him an excuse for shooting me down in my tracks. It was a time for nerve and bluff. Quietly folding my arms behind me, and facing my man erectly and defiantly, I said:

You know that I do not fight with my fists! If you wish anything else, pull and

It was an act of pure bravado, but it gave me time, and my words were scarcely uttered when a revolver was pressed into my hand by some friend among the group of miners that had gathered around. Quick as a thought, and before my enemy could reach back for his weapon, I had covered him with the one so opportunely given me. I had the drop on him sure, and, with a muttered curse, he turned and left the place

I was safe for a time, but I felt that the unt for the game had not ended, and, as I did not wish to kill or to be killed that night, I boarded unobserved an outgoing train for San Francisco. To meet some business engagement I stopped over at Reno. The hotel and the railway station there are connected and trains stop twenty minutes for meals. The train ollowing the one on which I had just arrived brought in Expert Charley. He was hunting for me, and, ascertaining that I was in the hotel, signified his in tention of remaining over- I was in the private office of the priprietor of the hotel and overheard the harsh tones of my would-be murderer without being seen by him. I quietly stepped out of the office by a rear door, and, gaining the street, succeeded in boarding the bound train just as it got well under way

I chuckled all the way to Sacramento over the cleverness with which I had eluded my Nemesis, and complacently argued that the gentleman from Tuscarora would not leave his stamping ground to follow me further. From Sacramento I made a running trip to the Black Hill vineyards, and upon my return, was not a little annoyed to find upon the hotel register the name of Expert Charley. How he kept so well informed of my movements I never knew. Neither did I inquire or stop to meet him, but took he next boat to San Francisco.

My pursuer was there before me, hay ing taken the quicker route by rail. Seeking my rooms at San Francisco, upon my arrival there, I found a proclamation, signed by Expert Charley, forming me with a flourish of oaths, that he would kill me upon sight, and that if necessary he would wait until the hottest kind of a place froze over in order to fill me full of lead. He also referred to the fact that I had done him up eral friends of his'n," and offered to gamble that after we had met my reportorial I

nose would never get me into trouble

again except in hell The affair had become a perplexing and serious one. The Tuscarora exmining sharps who were losers were ready to throttle me. To call upon the aw to protect me was tantamount to reigning my position. The ethics of a ining camp maintain that it is no place for a scribe who cannot take care of unself, either at tistienffs or in a street light with pistols. So I carefully loaded old fashioned pair of derringers, and, that they might be handy, placed one in each of the two side pockets of my

Then I hunted my foe even as he had hunted me. I searched for him tirelessly for hours and was unsuccessful, but upon returning to my home late in the evening I found him. He stood at the entrance, caning against a doorpost, and awaiting my coming. The night favored me, and I was close upon him before he was aware, and sprang upon him before he had time to think. Clutchiag him by the throat, I placed the muzzle of a derringer against his very breast, and pulled the trigger. It missed fire.

I loosened my grip upon his throat, and drawing my second derringer fired wildly with my left hand, just as his revolver circled in the ain to bear upon me. My adversary fell to the ground with a shattered thigh, and the bullet from his weapon fell harmlessly upon a neighborhousetop. As he limps through life, Expert

Charley is more and more convinced that the average newspaper man in pursuit of his legitimate business of obtainig news usually "gets there.

It is needless to say that I did not again visit Tuscarora. The scrub oaks and nut pines are handy there, and the suspending of a refractory reporter in air is but the work of a moment.

THE THIMBLE.

Curious and Interesting Things About

it That are Not Generally Known. "There is a rich family of the name of Lofting in England," said a dealer in fancy articles, "the fortune of whose house was founded by such an apparently insignificant little thing as the thimble Two hundred years ago thimbles were unknown in England. The thimble is claimed by the Dutch as an invention of that country, but it is known now that it was in use by the silk manufacturers of China hundreds of years before it was used elsewhere. The first thimble ever seen in England was made in London less than 200 years ago by a metal worker named John Lofting, the founder of the family named. The usefulness of the article commended it at once to all who used the needle, and needle, Lofting acquired a large fortune and great fame in the manufacture of the new accessory to the needle-worker's art. The implement was then called the thumb bell, it being worn on the thumb when in use. This clumsy mode of utilizing it was soon changed, however, but when and why the name thimble was given the article does not appear. Lofting's thimble's, and, in fact, all thimbles, were made either of iron or brass, and specimens of them extant, many of which are preserved as heirlooms, are crude clumsy-looking things compared with the commonest thimble of to-day, although their cost was many times as "To-day, gold, silver, iron, ivory, steel

sometimes glass and even pearl, and celluloid are utilized in making thimbles. Since art needle work became the fash ionable craze in this country, thimbles of most elaborate workmanship and great value, to accompany the rich and costly implements and materials wealthy needle workers affect, have found a large sale. Solid gold thimbles, elegantly carved, and frequently set with diamonds, have been found none too good for many of our fashionable decorators. Thimbles to be made to order, with the monogram or initials of the person for whom they are intended set in precious stones, are not by any means objets d'art, in the fashioning of which the skill of our artistic metal workers is taxed. I know a rich young lady in this town, whose enthusiasm for art work was so great a year ago that nothing but a gold and diamond set thimble that cost \$100, with other embroidering implements to match, would enable her to reproduce those fearful and wonderful buttercups, daisies and bluebells that one sees blooming in such prodigal profusion on foot stools, banners, tidies and bureau covers in all homes of culture and retinement. "In China the ladies of high class are

very dainty of their thimbles. carved from enormous pearls with bands of fine gold, on which are engraved all sorts of fantastic things, the etchings of which serve for catching the needle as the holes of the outside barbarian thimbles do. The thimble always has a mother of pearl case. With the thimble the Chinese lady always has a delicate pair of scissors of the finest steel, in a sheath of pearl, and a pearl needle case. The articles are all enclosed in an exquisitely inlaid case of the purest motherof-pearl. A New York lady, whose hus-band was in the China trade, has one of these Chinese needle-work 'kits,' so to speak, which she values at \$2,000.

"The way thimbles are made in this country and England is simple enough Dies of the different sizes are used, into which the metal, whether gold, silver or steel, is pressed. The hole punching, finishing and polishing or tempering are done afterward. Celluloid is moulded, The best thimbles are made in France, where the process is made more thorough. Strange as it may seem, French consider durability in their gold thimbles as the first requisite.
The first step in the making of a
Paris gold thimble is the cutting into a
disk of the desired size a thin piece of sheet iron. This is heated to a red heat, placed over a graduated hole in an iron bench, and hammered down into it with a punch. This hole is the form of the thimble. The iron thus formed is removed from the hole, the little indenta-tions to keep the needle from slipping are made in it, and all the other finishing strokes of the thimble's form put on it. The iron is then made into steel by a process pecu-liar to the French thimble maker, is tempered, polished and brought to a deep blue color. A thin sheet of gold is then pressed into the interior and fastened there by a mandril. Gold leaf is at-tached to the outside by great pressure. the edges of the leaf being fitted in and held by small grooves at the base of the thimble. The article is then ready for use. The gold will last for years. steel never wears out, and the gold be readily replaced at any time. where else in the world are gold thimbles made in that way. I have heard of many curious thimbles

The queen of Siam has one which was a present from her royal husband. The thimble had never been in use in Siam until a few years ago, when the noticing English and American ladies visiting the court using thimbles, had one made for his queen. It is made of gold in the form of a lotus bud, the lotus being the royal flower, and is thickly studded with diamonds; so arranged as to form her name and the date of her marriage. This presentation was equal to an order that the ladies of Siam should use thimbles, and they have used them ever since. A lady in Boston has a thimble made from a piece of wood taken from the old Washington elm at Cam-bridge, the tree under which Washington stood when he took the oath of comman-der-in-chief in 1775. The wife of a well known clergyman of a neighboring city has a thimble carved from a peculia stone she found on the shore of the sea. A lady in this city has one made from asphaltum, with which the secred from asphaltum, with which the secred professional. He is very talkative and the stone she found on the shore of the Dead

INTERVIEWING INDIRECTLY,

Presidents Only Talk to Reporters Through a Third Person.

GRADY A GREAT FACT FRESCOER.

Reviving Tilden's Coast Protection Plan-Congressional Billiard Players-The Cue Keeps Them From the Cock-tail-Public Busts.

Washington, Jan. 13 .- [Correspondence of the BEE. !- "Interview the president as to the probability of an extra session, and reasons therefor," Such was the arbitrary command, telegraphed, from the managing editor of one of the leading newspapers of he country, the other day. The correspondent who received this senseless command simply answered:

"President refuses to be interviewed on any subject."

And the managing editor, thinking he knew more about it than his correspondent, wanted to know if the latter had attempted to get a hearing, and entered into a controversy of some length about it.

When the celebrated Nutt-Dukes murder trial was terminated at Pittsburg a few years ago, and Nott was acquitted a prominent Pennsylvania newspaper management, believing that the city of Washington was absorbed with the trial, telegraphed its representative here:

"Interview President Arthur, his cabinet, and the principal diplomats of Washington, about termination of Nutt trial."

The correspondent was stunned for a few

seconds. He hardly knew whether to accept the contents of the dispatch as the work of a funster about the office, or one of the arbitrary and senseless freaks of an editor. Relection convinced him that the demand was given in sober earnestness. The absurdity of it was apparent at a glance. Neither the president nor members of his cabinet would express an opinion on the verdict of a jury, even though they had kept trace of the trial sufficiently close to do so intelligently and justly. The diplomats knew nothing about the matter, and if they did would scrupulously refrain from making any comment, because juries in the countries outside of this settle questions and the public swatlow the result unmurmuringly, Presidents of the United States never suffer themselves to be interviewed for publication upon any subject. The memory of the present generation of correspondents does not run back to the time when a president has authorized a person to quote him in the prints, or even talk for general information for the press. Occasionally a cabinet officer is interviewed, but almost invariably it is upon personal matters, as it is considered undiplomatle to be interviewed on imper sonal matters, or in reference to subjects for official action. Frequently there are interviews published and credited to the president; but they are bogus. The only way in which the president can be quoted on current matters is through the third person. GRADY THE GREAT.
"If Henry W. Grady, the editor of the Atlanta Constitution, who is talked of as the

successor of Senator Jo Brown, was inclined to be as productive of news in the senate as ie was at Charleston during the earthquake we would all be in favor of his election a well-known newspaper correspondent, to day, who spent a week at the seat of the seismatic disturbances. "Grady is the most productive writer I ever saw," continued the correspondent, "and I must say he is a model of the fabricating genius. He arrived at Charleston the second day after the destruc-tive quakes of August 31, and left the day following his arrival. But he got in his work on the great newspapers wanting space matter from his pen. For a very short time after he arrived in Charlestou—come to think of it he did not stay over night, but left the same day on which he arrived—he looked around a little, then got into a room with a stenarymer and because to work the stenograper and began to work. He wrote and then tens ofhousands. He loaded down the wires with vivid descriptions of wreeks, fright, despair-scenes and incidents which he never saw, and matters he never heard of. He comed them out of his imagination. His de-scriptions of the disaster were annualling. He scriptions of the disaster with there was so much excitement that nobedy cares to correct him at the moment, and no one thought of them after the the terror subsided. Then the the terror subsided. when Grady got to Atlanta-a long distance away—he continued to grind out column af-ter column, and page after page of news from Charleston—all from his mind—till he became an authority on earthquake matters, and the fact is he knew less and saw less of hem than any correspondent who visited Charleston. Yes, Grady ought to be senator, then the vice-presidential candidate. He then the vice-presidential candidate. He could make issues and manufacture facts at will.

FAVORING FORTIFICATIONS "PresidentCleveland is much more likely to all an extra session of the Fiftieth congress for the purpose of securing legislation on the for the purpose of securing legislation on the subject of fortifications, than tariff, internal revenue, finance, or the dozen other subjects sugrested," said a democratic senator this morning, "The president," he continued, "is beginning to appreciate the wisdom of the advice given him a couple of years ago by Mr. Tilden, and he realizes that the people of New York are very greatly in carnest in demanding something in the direction of coast defenses." coast defenses."

"Has the president said anything to lead you to think he is considering an extra ses-

sion?"
"Yes," was the terse reply. "More than a week ago I talked over with him the subjects week ago I talked over with him the subjects. ent session, and I observed that he dwelt with special emphasis on the necessity of coast protections and fortileations. He said they were demanded by the whole country, and that the citizens along our eastern shores were worrying him a great deal about the matter, and he did not blame them; that the matter, and he did not blame them; that they were defenseless against assault, and were liable to be attacked by some fishing smack and made the subjects of a foreign power. He referred to the chunks of wisdom in Mr. Tilden's letter as a prophecy, and I am positive he is in earnest about it. He doubtless would include that in his proclamation, were he to call an extra session, which I think is not improbable. Of course, if an extra session were called to consider fortifications, it would arouse suspicion that the administration feared trouble picion that the administration feared trouble with a foreign power, and there would be rumers of war, and all that, which would be undesirable, as it would produce a depression in certain values, but that ought not to be considered if we are in any unnecessary exposure. CONGRESSIONAL CUE-ISTS.

It was feared by the congressional billiard sts when Tom Ochiltree departed from pub lie life that they and the other prominen knights of the che would suffer a relapse and their amusement would deteriorate. For time after Tom, who used to spend hours al-most every night in the billiard rooms, left the halls of legislation for the clubs of New York, but few prominent men, were seen, at billiards. Colonel Fred Grant, used to afford Tom company, principally and when he left Washington the fairy-haired Texan, was put to his wits' end to hunt up a companion nightly, for he was very fastidious about his company, and always preferred to play billiards with a stranger, when he could not get a man of known distinction. Tom didn't like to mix with the "common here."

During the present session Representatives Burns, of Missouri, William Walter Pheins of New Jersey, Wilkins, of Obio, Tom Payne of Pittsburg, and a few others have formed a coterie and are often seen playing three York, but few prominent men were seen a

a coterie and are often seen playing three ball billiards or pool at one end of the promi-nent rooms. Mr. Burns is probably the most expert of the quartette. He learned at home, and knows how to handle the balls. Tom Ochiltree he nurses them when at bil-liards, and tosses them around delily when the game is pool. He talks much more than does Mr. Pheirs when to is playing, for the well-known Jerseyman seems a little bored when he is making an exhibition of himself in a pool room. Colonel Payne is known as a good all-around the table billiardist, and he a good all-around the table binardist, and he enlows the surroundings during a contest, and likes the excitement when the game is evenly matched, whereas Mr. Pholos seems to wander off in his mind to legislation or the prospects for the "Plumed Knight" in and likes the excitement

Beriah Wilkins is the latest addition to the

boys say he seems to think he can play as well with his tongue as with his cue. J. Hart Brewer, of New Jersey, the well-known potter, who took such a prominent part in the tariff discussion in the Forty seventh congress, was an habitue of the billiard parors here, and used to round up Wilkins fre-

quently.

Robertson, of Kentucky, often sticks his head into bullard rooms, but he never cared as much for dailying with the cue and balls as Senator Beck, who, but for the work he has to do and the lack of dignity about it, would be about the bullard room much of his time. Few of the southern senators or representative. time, few of the southern senators of representatives are ever seen in billiard rooms. They come from the east and central states mostly. And strange as it may seem, the public men who play billiards most drink the least. There are those who would turn up their noses at the suggestion of playing billiards, but would drink to excess and never think it would.

There is the greatest abandon among the sixty or seventy five logislators who fre-quently play billiants. Sometimes, on a hot night, they take of their coats and work like night, they take off their coats and work like woodsawyers. Senator Vest, it is said, can make more work around a billiard table than a section hand on a railroad can at his work. Senator Ranson moves around and restawhile he plays. Senator Voorhees never plays because, they say, he has not the pastience if he had the time. Senator Palmer likes billiards, but he likes them at the quiet home, away from the noise and confusion of the crowd. For some unknown reason this amusement has taken a boom of late.

At the time of the death of the late ex-President Arthur the architect of the capitol was negotiating for a marble bust of him, to be placed in the marble room or elsewhere about the senate. A letter was received from about the senate. A letter was received from General Arthur only a couple of days before his death in reference to the matter. It was especially desired that a line piece of workshould be made of his bust, on account of his prominence and because he was of fine form. It was the purpose of the artist to make plaster work from life and have the marble bust as near perfection as possible. Now, it is feared, a bust will not be obtained. A resolution was passed by the senate some time ago, authorizing and directing the architect of the capitol to have busts made of the vice-presicapitol to have busts made of the vice-presidents, dead and alive, and place them in proper places about the senate. A great many public men, I am told, nave busts of themselves already made, rendy for erection whenever they have passed beyond the vale of life. They can be made to make greater of life. They can be made to much greater advantage while the subject is alive, and some artists insist on the subject sitting like one does for a good painting. There have been impressions made of some of the mem-bers of the supreme court of the United States, whose busts are mounted after death, They are placed in the court room. Those of the departed are now represented in marble busts before the very eyes of the justices on the bench. It must be a refreshing reflection to sit on the bench and contemplate one's self in a marble bust after death, and in mind taney what position in the room his bust will have, how it will look, etc., as no doubt all of the justices have done a housand times, in looking at those P. S. HEATH.

ALAN ARTHUR'S SWEETHEART. After Many Days He Returned to a Washington Belle,

Baltimore Sun: The presence of Mr. Alan Arthur in Washington at this time has revived the subject of his engagement to a well known West End Telle. According to social gossip Mr Arthur is here for the purpose of renewing his engagement, provided the young lady is willing. As the story goes, young Arthur came to Washington during the first winter his father occupied the white house to spend the Christmas holidays. He was at that time nothing but an overgrown, awarkward college youth, his father allowing him \$50 per month spending money, The young society men of this city received him with open arms, and an ambitions young naval officer, who desired a pleasant detail from the president, was particularly friendly to young Arthur, and expended large sums of money for his amusement. In the course of his social ramblings young Arthur became infatuated with one of the acknowledged belies of society, and it was soon whispered about that Alan Arthur was engaged to be married to Miss Beach. The two young peonie were frequently their fondness for each other's companionship appeared to be mutual, found the excitement of social life in Washington more fascinating than "boxing" at college, and he spent most of his time here, professing to be too delicate to keep up with the yearly course of study mapped out for him by his in-structors. The following winter it was structors. observed that the two young people re-ferred to appeared indifferent to each other, and Alan was frequently seen out driving with other young ladies well known in social circles. Then followed an announcement in the local society papers that Alan Arthur's engage-ment with Miss Beach was off. and the young lady soon afterward departed on a European trip. Her beauty; grace and numerous accomplishments made her a great social favorite abroad, and the American letter writers coult not sound her praises too highly. months ago she returned to her home in this city, and in the meantime her string of admirers is almost numberless. She has an exquisite figure, graceful neck and shoulders, beautiful brown hair and eyes and a lovely complexion, and is the life of almost any party or gathering in which she participates. It is said young Arthur has greatly improved in many qualities, and during the past two years has devoted himself assiduously to his studies, and his present visit to this city is for the purpose of winning back his first love. The naval officer referred to above secured the command he was working for, and afterward young Arthur had to pilot himself through the rough seas of Washington society.

FOR SALE.

I have this day placed on the market eighty (80) acres of choice land adjoining the South Omaha Stock Yards and Packing Houses, lying along the B. & M. Ry. Co's line on the new Ashland Cut-Off, for which I will receive bids for the next five days. There is a fortune in this tract for anyone desiring to plat an addition . --Plats of land fur-

nished on application. J. H. GIESON. 218 So. 15th St.

Resolved. That the following be the estimate of expenses for the year Eighteen Hundred and Eighty Seven Cours and court expenses.

Jail expenses, including board of pris 8 40,000 Oners Assessors and county officers Cannty poor farm, measured and supplies City poor Books, blanks, stationery and supplies Schries, county countissioners and superintendent public instruction, junitors, engineer, surveyor, ste. Coronar, on oner's juries, witnesses, instance board, gas and fuel for court house, water, repairs, printing and transportation. ounty poor farm, including fuel Finishing retaining wall, grading, pay-ing and sidewates Adopted fundary lith, A. D. 1887.
Adopted fundary lith, A. D. 1887.
By order of the board of county commissionsers.

BEO. F. TIMME, Chairman,
B. O'K ERFFE.
W. J. MOUNT.
W. J. MOUNT. Attest: C. P. NEEDHAM, County Clerk