BETTER AND WORSE HALVES.

A Grist of Matrimonial Stories and Sketches.

A Marriage With Legal Phraseology—A Bride's Misfortune—Made His Sweetheart His Mother-in-law—Connubialities.

A Sad Romance.

A complaint that could be utilized as the basis for the plot of a novel was filed in the county clerk's office recently, says a 'Frisco special to the New York World. The plaintiff is Mary E. Bailey and she asks that her marriage with S. M. Bailey be declared null and void. She represents that on December 13, 1887, a marriage ceremony, purporting to unite her to Bailey, was performed in Florence, Ari., by B. J. Whitehead, justice of the peace. Her consent to the union was obtained by deceit and fraud, she claiming that Bailey represented to her that a man named W. E. Guild, who was a legal guardian of the estates of her two minor children, was about to and in fact, had applied to the probate court to have her children taken away from her and placed in his custody, and that he would certainly deprive her of her children unless she immediately consented to marry the defendant. She was given the alternative of marrying Bailey or being separated from her offspring.

Both men also informed her that if she resisted the application for the custody of her children Bailey would appear as a witness and procure others to appear against her and testify to her unfitness to have the care and custody of the children, and would surely ruin her reputation. Plaintiff declares that the "representations, statements and threats" of the defendant so distressed and worried her that she consented to go through the marriage ceremony, and when it was performed she was acting under duress and fear. Immediately after marriage she separated from her husband and has never lived with him.

An Amusing Incident.

There was a bridal couple coming in on the Bay City train the other day, says the Detroit Free Press, and the passengers in that particular car were on the grin most of the time over their antics. The bride had got the man she loved, and she didn't care a copper who saw her pillow her head on his shoulder. The bridegroom had got a farm with his wife, and if he wanted to feed her gumdrops or squeeze her hand whose business was it? A little old man, dried up and bareheaded, sat directly in front of the couple, and he looked around so often that the young husband finally explained:

"We're just married."

"I knowed it all the time," chuckled baldhead.

"And we can't help it you know."

"No, you can't—I'll be darned if you kin."

"I presume it all seems very silly to an old man like you," continued the husband.

"Does it! Does it!" cackled the old fellow as he bobbed around. "Wall, you just bet your life she doesn't. I've been right thar three times over, and I'm now on my way to Canada to marry a fourth! You orter see me a week hence. I'll hug and squeeze and fondle at the rate of forty miles an hour, and darn the skunk that laffs at me! Silly! Why, children, its parrydize biled right down."

A Mormon Wife.

The first question asked by the stranger in Salt Lake City is this, says a Salt Lake City letter: "Do the Mormons still practice polygamy?" They claim that they do not, but their asseverations are taken cum grano salis by the Gentiles there. The Edmunds bill disfranchises women living in polygamy and fines the man $300, with imprisonment for six months. The women are "allowed"—compelled would be a more appropriate term—"to testify against their husbands." Despite this it is extremely difficult to secure convictions. A woman is called on the witness stand and a colloquy something like this occurs:

"Are you married?"

"I do not know, sir."

"Is not the defendant your husband under the Mormon law?"

"I cannot say, sir."

"Is this your child?"—showing an infant of two or three months' age.

"Yes, sir."

"Who is its father?"

"I cannot say, sir."

This is no uncommon occurrence the attorneys tell me. And after all, one can scarcely blame the woman for testifying thus if they believe in the "divine sanction of polygamy" as taught by the church. No less celebrated a lawyer that the late Jere S. Black has said: "To compel husband and wife to testify against each other is to change every rule of evidence; a contemptuous defiance of the great principles which protect the sanctity of the family and lie at the basis of civil society."

He Might Get Whipped.

In an excursion on which some half dozen couples recently arrived in the city, says the Washington, D. C., Star, there was one pair in which the was about twenty-five and the young young man about eighteen. The procured a license and were married. Some time before the train was to leave the bride walked into the depot alone. She was asked: "Well, you are married?" "Yes," she replied, "but I wish I wasn't." "Is it a runaway?" was asked her. "Not so far as I am concerned," she said, "for I'm old enough, but his mother may raise objection. I ain't thinking about myself, but I wouldn't be surprised if his mother whipped him. I wish I hadn't married him. We'll have to face the music, but I don't know how it will come out. It is too late now, however, and we must take the consequences." "You ought to be ashamed of marrying that chit of a boy. He isn't eighteen yet," remarked a bystander. "Well, I am," she answered, "but it is too late now. He is nineteen, and I'll have to make the best of it." Subsequently the boy husband joined her and each wore a look of anicty as they took their seats in the train.

An Embarrassing Romance.

Miss Delia Doughty, a well-known young lady of Fair Haven, a minister, a feast, and a large assemblage of friends waited in vain on Sunday night for Mathew Riley, who was then to have wed Miss Doughty, says the New York Sun of the 19th instant. Mr. Riley belongs at Keysport. For several years he has been visiting Miss Doughty. Several times it was reported by friends that they were to be married, and at last the marriage was to have taken place about noon on Sunday at the residence of Miss Doughty's parents, but Mr. Riley said he wanted to see his mother before the marriage and succeeded in getting Miss Doughty's permission to postpone the ceremony until after church in the evening. The Rev. Lupee of the Methodist church agreed to be on hand then, and Mr. Riley then hired a team and started for Keysport.

A great supper was prepared and all the intimate friends of the couple were on hand, but the hours slipped away Mr. Riley did not return, Mr. Lupee and the guests, at 10 o'clock Monday morning, left the was-to-have-been bride to her sorrow.

Miss Doughty went next day to Freehold to see Mr. Riley, and says she found him at the American hotel, where he explained that after arriving at Keysport on Sunday he was attacked with heart trouble, and sent a man back to Fair Haven with the team, and told him to let Miss Doughty known that it would be impossible for him to get out in time for the wedding. Miss Doughty also says that the wedding will positively take place on Sunday next. It turns out that the man who was sent with the team forgot to deliver the message.

"Mother-in-Law."

A romantic story comes from Clayton county, Georgia, says the Pittsburg Times. Back in '69 one Mann fell in love with a local beauty, and all arrangements for their wedding were made; but subsequently the father-in-law interposed an objection to the young man because of his politics. The bride, too, suddenly became adverse to marrying him on that account, and so on the day of their wedding she was united with another suitor. The rejected groom at once disposed of his property in the county and removed to Texas, where he has since lived, and is said to have grown rich. About a year ago he visited the scene of his country days to find that his sweetheart had a daughter, aged eighteen, who bore a striking resemblance to her mother. He lost no time in proposing to her. She accepted, and this week is set for the wedding—which will make his old-time love his mother-in-law instead of his wife.

A Little too Soon.

A couple from across the border came to the city recently says the Binghamton (N. J.) Republican, and stopped at one of the best hotels. The young lady was plainly but neatly dressed and was a handsome brunette. The young man stepped up to the clerk after having escorted the lady to the parlor, and asked where he could find a minister, as he wanted to get "spliced." Upon being informed, the clerk handed him the pen to register.

"I don't want to register now," said the young man; wait until after we get married, then I can write it Mr. and Mrs.——"

"That don't make any difference," said the clerk, "as long as you are going to get married."

The youthful swain stepped up to the desk, took the pen, looked it over carefully, and then at the register. His face grew red, and he hesitatingly inscribed "Joseph Link" upon one line, and upon the next, Mrs. Lottie Link, all of Scranton."

"I wonder what she would say if she knew it," he said in an awe-struck voice, and then hurried out in search of a clergyman. The inscription was soon legalized.

Then She Wept.

A recent Bismarck bride had "bad luck" on her wedding day. She had almost reached the church when she discovered that she had forgotten her bridal veil. She went back after it. On the way to the church again she sneezed three times and split the satin bodice from belt to shoulder. The carriage stopped at a millinery store, needle and thread were procured and had the rent repaired. As she stepped from the carriage to the church door the lace bodice of an underskirt caught and the underskirt at the waist gave way. As she walked up the aisle the skirt began to slip down, but she managed to grab it through the side of her dress-skirt so hung on until she was safely married and back in the carriage. Then she wept, you bet!

Man and Wife.

A newly elected justice of the peace, who had been used to drawing up deeds and wills and little else, was called up to marry a couple in haste. Removing his hat, he remarked: "Hats off in the presence of the court." All being uncovered, he proceeded: "Hold up yer right hand. You, John Makin, do yer solemnly swear to the best of yer knowledge an' belief that yer take this woman to have and to hold for yerself, yer heirs, execyrters, administrators and assigns, for yer yer and thir use forever?"

"I do," answered the groom promptly.

"You, Alice Evans, take this yer man for yer husband, ter have and ter hold forever; an' you do solemnly swear that yer lawfully seized in fee simple an' free from all incumbrance, an' have good right to sell, bargain an' convey to said grantee, yerself, yer heirs, administrators an' assigns?"

"I—I do," said the bride, doubtfully.

A Lunatic Romance.

Judge Lawler listened recently to the beginning of a case which, for singularity, equals anything that has been revealed by the courts of this city for many a day, says the San Francisco Chronicle. The case was that of Julia G. Cheney against Forest Cheney, and the prayer of plaintiff was for annulment of marriage. From the testimony given it appears that the following is the story of the case:

"The wife, a young and beautiful girl, has always had a passion for music. She could sit for hours listening to the sweet strains of the flute, violin, and bassoon.' She was romantic, and in her picture of the future a very large share was given to the satisfaction of this craving for music. In September last, only a few weeks before her marriage, she met Forest Cheney. He was much older than herself, and was by no means her complement in grace or attractiveness. In fact, he was short and homely. But he played the violin, and this to her made up for all other deficiencies. So, after a courtship of two weeks, the romantic girl and the violinist were married. She, however, never lived with him, for on the very day of the ceremony the groom was taken very ill and became so bad that it was necessary to remove him to the hospital. There the young wife spent her honeymoon, tending to the sick man's wants. During this illness she discovered the appalling fact that the man whom she had married was not a sane man. He was subject to the greatest lapses of memory, and would do and say the most ridiculous of things. He thought himself a veritable Paganini on the violin. If any one should criticise his slightest mistake he would grow furious. He would make the most unearthly noises, scraping his bow across the strings in imitation of Wagnerian music, and would declare that sweet voices from the south were whispering to him. He vowed that he could produce a half dozen different tones from the same string, and each one of these had its significance to him. To touch some notes, would set him crazy with childish delight while the faintest suggestion of others would make him start like a man with delirium tremens. Some notes, he said revealed human faces to him, beautiful and gay, others brought before him monsters, gorgons, imps and devils. When the young girl realized the character of the man to whom she was attached by legal cords she was almost paralyzed with grief and overcome with chagrin. She, however, refused to live with him when he became well enough to leave the hospital, and she has since refused to recognize him as her husband, because she feels assured that he was insane when she married him, and being so, the marriage, she claims, is void.

Married a Rajah.

"At the studio of a young portrait painter," says a London correspondent, "I saw yesterday a picture which was very curious in its subject. It contained two upright figures—one, that of a swarthy Indian rajah covered with jewels and wearing the star of India upon his breast, the other, a tall and lovely English girl of about eighteen, in a pink dress, her hair gathered behind by a ribbon and falling loose again. The rajah is smiling the smile of proud possessorship, and the girl is looking with a somewhat bewildered air at her future lord. They are two real people. She is the daughter of an English chemist, and her parents have consented to her marriage with the Rajah, who, after the ceremony, will take her out to his dominions. One instance of such marriage between christian maid and pagan man is very well known and has turned out a decided success. A Miss King, the daughter of a governor of an English jail, married about thirteen years ago "the Shereef of Oran," who is the spiritual head of the empires of Morocco. The Shereef, who is a descendant of of the Prophet, on marrying Miss King, renounced all his other wives, whom he lodged in an asylum at Tangier, which it is a part of his duty to keep up for the refugees from the secular power, and he moreover gave to his son by his christian wife, the Sacred Stick, the possession of which at the time of the Shereef's death determines the succession amongst his children to his sacred office and great possessions.

CONNUBIALITIES.

A record of 341 divorce cases in one day entitles Boston to a smile of recognition from Chicago.

The president and Mrs. Cleveland celebrate the second anniversary of their marriage on June 2.

An exchange speaks of a "southern girl who eloped with her lover on a mule dressed in boy's clothes."

There are 21,000,000 widows in India. This may explain the reason why English officers consider India such a dangerous station to be assigned to.

Two years' imprisonment is all that an Ohio man got for marrying ten wives. The jury took into account that five of them were red-headed.

One of the games at social parties in Pennsylvania is kissing through a khot hole. It is not wholly satisfactory any more than courting by telephone.

A lady who died at Marseilles requested that her heart might be placed in the tomb of her second husband, but her body in her first husband's tomb in America.

Mrs. L. L. Sherman (white), of Great Falls, Mont., secured a divorce from her husband, Morgan Sherman (colored), the other day and immediately after married her lawyer.

A Maryland widow named Halletts set a bear-trap at her smoke house door, and the first catch was a man who was courting her. He had packed up 100 pounds of bacon to carry off.

There appears to be very little doubt in New York about the duke of Marlborough having set his heart upon marrying the beautiful Widow Hammersley who has a little dot of $5,000,000.

It is said that in all London there are but six really happy couples. The only strange thing about this statement is the extravagantly optimistic view the statistician takes of the situation.

The latest "victim of tobacco" is a sad case, indeed. He is seventy years old, has smoked for sixty years, and last week he married a woman four years his senior. Tobacco smoking affected his brain.

Another marriage of aged ones is to be added to the rapidly growing list of such events. This last couple hail from Atchison, Kan. The groom is almost a nonogenarian, and the bride is in her sixtieth year.

In Harrisburg, Pa., whenever a young man belonging to a club gets married to one older than himself he is made the recipient of a gold watch. All the young men of late have availed themselves of the opportunity.

Maggie Hughey, a Pittsburg woman of forty, was married Friday to her third husband, just five hours after her lamented No. 2 had joined the silent majority—an unusual intermingling of crepe and orange blossoms.

Miss Alice Pollock, daughter of a Pittsburg millionaire, ran away from the Boston Conservatory of Music and was married to Frank A. Roake, a young clerk with the brain of a dude and fifty-two pairs of trousers.

There are queer people in this world. A young woman in Mahaney City refused to marry her lover, but when he had proved his devotion by blowing up her house with dynamite she wanted to marry him to keep him out of jail.

Ishmael Weaver, a colored man who died recently at Barnesville, Ga., was the father of seventy-two children, of whom fifty-two sons were able-bodied farm hands when he died. At least this is the tough story told by the local paper.

A sensitive man out west, according to a newspaper paragraph, is trying to get a divorce from his wife on the ground that she did not "manifest sympathy for him and appear in his behalf" during his recent trial on a charge of murder.

The maddest woman south of the line is that Georgia she who sat up till 1 o'clock awaiting her husband's return from "the lodge," and upon going upstairs found the supposed culprit safe in bed, where he had been snoring away during her hours of vigil.

A California ex-governor has married his housekeeper and surprised all his friends. The governor is to be congratulated. Many a man who thought he was marrying a housekeeper has merely surprised himself, discovering his mistake when it was too late.

"John," said the wife tenderly, "promise me that if I should be taken away you will never marry Nancy Tarbox." "Certainly, Maria," replied the husband reassuringly, "I can promise you that. She refused me three times when I was a much handsomer man than I am now."

A West Virginian has just made a match betwixt a rich widower of seventy and a mature maiden of forty by the singular expedient of not allowing them to see or speak to each other till they did so at the altar, though they corresponded freely for the space of three years.

P. B. Sperry was married to Miss Kittie Downs, of Woodbridge, Conn., recently, and the remarkable thing about it is that Mr. Sperry is the forty-fifth member of the Woodbridge church choir to be married since the present leader, C. T. Walker, assumed control. Whether Mr. Walker is to be blamed is a question.

One of the colored applicants for a marriage license was unfortunate enough to forget the name of the girl that he was going to marry, and he had to tramp back six miles into the country to find out what it was. Upon being questioned as to how he called her, he answered "Gallie," and he couldn't tell any more. "Dat's all I know," he said.

For Feigning Misfortune.

London Daily News: For the contemptible fraud of feigning misfortune, a young man named Frank Johnson, or Pickford, was justly sentenced at Westminster to six months' hard labor. The victims and attempted victims were ladies and members of parliament. The members seem to have fallen easy prey to the swindler; while to one of the ladies—Lady Knutsford—belongs the credit of handing him over to justice. The prisoner's plan of campaign was to provide himself with a "Parliamentary Companion," to set remarks in it against the names of members on whom he had designs, and then to call upon them in turn with some more or less plausible story, the end of which was his urgent need of a loan. He had been robbed of his purse and wanted his railway fare home, or some other temporary misfortune had befallen him. The man was not in want. He had "a regular allowance" from his father—sufficient, apparently, to leave him free to exercise his wits in this petty rascality.

THE NATION'S DEFAULT.

A Record of Persistent Injustice to National Creditors.

CONGRESS AND PRIVATE CLAIMS.

How the Government Has Treated the Soldiers of the Revolution and Their Heirs—A Chapter of Instructive History.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—[Correspondence of THE BEE.]—The fact is remarkable—however to be accounted for—that whilst, as colonists, the Americans were notably faithful and prompt in the payment of their public obligations, the "fine gold became dimmed" almost as soon as independence loomed bright. Dr. David Ramsay, in his history of the United States, shows how favorably colonial integrity operated for the earlier events of the revolutionary struggle. Speaking of the impossibility of the Americans procuring gold and silver, he says: "Paper of no intrinsic value was made to answer all the purposes of gold and silver, and to support the expenses of five campaigns. This was, in some degree, owing to a previous confidence which had been begotten by honesty and fidelity in discharging the obligations of the government. From New York to Georgia, there never had been, in matters relating to money, an instance of a breach of public faith. In the scarcity of gold and silver, many emergencies had imposed a necessity of emitting bills of credit. These had been uniformly and honestly redeemed. The bills of congress being thrown into circulation, on this favorable foundation of public confidence, were readily received. The enthusiasm of the people contributed to the same effect."

But with a continuation of the struggle much longer than the generality of the people had estimated, and the impoverishment of many who had been in favorable circumstances, besides well meant but injudicious enactments of congress which produced disastrous effects, popular enthusiasm abated and extraordinary exertions had to be made to keep up the contest. An army for the war, end when it might, sooner or later, must be created. So said Washington; so concluded congress. The officers already in the service must be retained as far as possible and new ones, for the war, secured. That could not be done upon the basis of any present pay or emolument, for the country was unable, and had been for some time, to find a sufficiency of money or supplies. The army, and particularly the officers, said, make us no more promises which it is out of your power to fulfil, but guarantee us that whenever the war is over, independence gained, and you are in a condition to make your promises good, that you will give us something that will be of benefit to us as long as we live. Washington proposed for this half pay for life. Congress and the army accepted it, and on the 21st of October, 1780, an act was passed guaranteeing half pay for life to every officer that should serve to the end of the war. The fall and winter of 1782-3, following the British surrender at Yorktown, brought the desiderated peace.

In the meantime, as the period was plainly approaching when the pledges to the army at large, and especially to the officers, must be redeemed, a popular ferment was excited, particularly in one or two of the eastern states, the object of which was to prevent the fulfillment of the act of October, 1780. An agrarian and seditious spirit was aroused, and the army, then mainly quartered along the shores of Newburgh bay on the Hudson river, was profoundly exercised, and only quelled by the firm and judicious management of the beloved chieftain. Appeals were made to congress, then at Philadelphia, which terminated in a new arrangement, whereby the parties concerned agreed that the officers entitled should yield the life half pay and take instead of it five years' full pay in cash down, or securities of equal face value, with interest at 6 per cent per annum untill the securities were wholly paid. Thus the officers gave up a life-time guarantee for a five year one.

Did the government at length comply with this much reduced boon to the officers? It did not. It did not pay any cash—down, but handed to the officers certificates of indebtedness for their respective amounts with 6 per cent interest to date of payment. This took place under an act of congress of date March 22, 1783. When in 1784 the time had come round to make the first year's payment of interest, a provision for which had been inserted the year before in the annual estimate, it was found that the provision had been secretly erased from the face of the estimate so that the officers might get nothing! General Edward Hand, a gallant officer of the late Pennsylvania line, moved to reinsert the item erased and his motion was seconded by Thomas Jefferson of Virginia. Thirteen members voted with Hand and Jefferson and nine the other way, but the nine were victorious, for whilst there was a numerical majority for reinsertion, a constitutional majority (according to the then regulations of congress) had not voted affirmatively; so Hand's motion was defeated and the officers were denied even the interest of the reward guaranteed to them so sacredly and repeatedly! What a falling off was here from the honesty and punctuality of colonial days! The case would have been reversed if the delegation of Massachusetts, on April 22, 1784, had voted consistently with the delegation of the same state on March 22 of the previous year. But the Shays spirit was out, and it came to a head in the rebellion of 1786.

The result was that the officers were, to repeat the deliberate language of Colonel Pickering, quartermaster general of the revolutionary army, "cheated." Even to this day the officers of the army of the revolution, to whom promise after promise was made in the most solemn form known among men, have never been paid—directly to themselves or indirectly to their heirs and descendants—the recompense they earned. Do we not, then, hold by a tenure not honest—and perhaps not sound in the sight of the judge of all—a great domain and property bought with blood! Would that the nation had more of the spirit of royal David who refused to appropriate to his own use the costly refreshment brought by the three mighty men from the well of Bethlehem.

It is true that after forty-five years of refusal to acknowledge the wrongs perpetrated upon the officers of the revolution, congress was induced in 1828 by the herculean exertions of Webster, Van Buren, Harrison, Buchanan, Hayne, and perhaps altogether the brightest galaxy ever convened in our national legislative halls, to assist, though not to remunerate, the residue of revolutionary officers then surviving. Efforts have since then been made, now that our means are superabundant, to wipe off the pecuniary obligations yet undischarged. In such efforts, commenced in 1838 and continued to 1875, the names of the following legislators stand prominently forward: Senator Evans of South Carolina, Walker of Wisconsin, Seward of New York, Shields of Missouri, Broom of Pennsylvania, Marshall of Kentucky, Smith of Virginia, Washburne of Maine, Foster of Connecticut, Comegys of Delaware, Crittenden of Kentucky, Butler of South Carolina, Hale of New Hampshire, Bell of New Hampshire, Fenton of New York, Cragin of New Hampshire. To these names should be added, by reason of their report of April 5, 1852, highly favorable to the claims, the names of Senators James of Rhode Island, Sumner of Massachusetts, Foot of Vermont and Chase of Ohio. The prominent opponents were Senators Slidell of Louisiana, Pettit of Iowa, Craige of North Carolina, Jones of Tennessee, C. C. Clay of Alabama, Brown of Mississippi, Fitzpatrick of Alabama, Pugh of Ohio, Bayard of Delaware, Stuart of Michigan, James M. Mason of Virginia, and more determinedly than all, Robert Toombs of Georgia.

The last time the subject was under any full discussion was on the 14th of January, 1857, in the senate, adjourned from time to time from the 23d of December, 1856. The bitter opponents of the bill, with Toombs as their leader, were at length compelled to acknowledge the justice of the claims and expressed a desire to pay them, under the stingiest possible conditions. But by a vote of 24 to 23 on the 16th of January, the whole subject was postponed to the first Monday of December, 1857, and never again considered with any heart, the Kansas question having intervened and presented a party bone of contention that absorbed all other topics. On the 21st of January, 1857, Senator Evans, chairman of the revolutionary claims committee of the senate, asked to have his committee discharged from the further consideration of a large number of petitions and memorials from heirs and legal representatives of deceased officers, together with memorials from the Cincinnati society of Maryland, representing members of the old Maryland line; of the Cincinnati societies of Virginia, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, and of certain resolutions in behalf of the claims from the legislature of the state of New York. Leave was granted accordingly. Mr. Fenton, of New York, introduced a bill which was favorably reported back from the proper committee of the house of representatives on March 5, 1858, and placed upon the calendar. He addressed the house on June 11, 1858; again on May 18, 1860, but nothing practical came of it. "Kansas" was all the go, and effectually drowned the "still small voice" of justice and right. So far, then, the honor and conscience of the American people have never recovered from the effects of the subtle poison administered through the secret erasure made in the annual estimate sometime between the promulgation of the report of congress on the 25th of September, 1783, and the proceedings of April 22, 1784. That seems, indeed, to have been a fatal potion. Can we recuperate from it?

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During the forty-ninth congress several bills were offered and some reports made on the weighty subject of national responsibility for private debts owing by the government, the which, if they were owing to the government, the most stringent methods would have been, if necessary, resorted to in order to collect. Among the ablest of these reports was one from the house committee on claims by Mr. William Warner. It declares that the action of congress in passing upon private and domestic claims is most unsatisfactory. It estimated that the number of claims likely to come before that committee alone prior to the close of that congress would reach 1,800. Some are for very small, others for large amounts. Not more than 1 per cent of private claims ever pass congress, whereby is effected a practical denial of justice to the honest creditors of the country. Judging from the disposition made of private claims in the past, there were more of such before that committee alone than at the present rate of procedure would be disposed of in the next fifty years. That is a humiliating statement for a country provided with ample means for honest payment, and which, in times past, pleaded its poverty as the only reason for not punctually paying its debts.

The average claimant, says the report, comes and goes and dies, leaving his claim against the United States to his children, for, if the claimant does not belong to the favored few, an ordinary life-time is far too short to get a claim, however just, through congress. The report regrets that this republic of ours should refuse to open its courts to any of its citizens having just demands against the government. Other great nations far exceed the United States in the dispensation of justice to citizens, and the fact is judicially established that of nearly all governments the United States holds itself least amenable to the laws. Russia and Spain approximate us the closest, whilst the great empire of the German states sets all mankind a noble example of national and public justice.

In England the subject of the sovereign is provided with redress under what is called the "petition of right," and his case is tried like a suit between one subject and another. The respectable governments of Europe never shirk from a full and fair investigation of claims against them, and submit to a decision adverse to the government when rendered by their courts. We alone stand back from so righteous and noble a policy. Why! Most probably because our long train of delinquencies has accumulated a mass of claims that terrifies, and so the mass gets bigger and bigger with every passing year. Why not brace up our moral energies and resolve upon some expedient by which the constant cries of justice and truth might be properly stopped!

If the present court of claims is choked with business, as is also the case with the supreme court, an additional court of claims should be instituted without delay. The organization of the present court furnishes an example to be imitated.

In referring cases of claims from congress and its committees the so-called "Bowman act" of March 3, 1883, should be extended, in principle, to all claims. It should be that all claims preliminarily approved by a committee of either house might be open to investigation and report by the court of claims. The questionably legitimate and very wholesale enactments of limitation which past fears excited, ought no longer to control sensible and just legislation. Such an act of limitation was passed and approved March 3, 1863, when every available dollar had to be appropriated for the purposes of the war then flagrant. It barred most just and honest claims which, but for it, would undoubtedly have been determined long before now. Limitation acts are arbitrary and one-sided at the best, and ought not to be continued in operation one hour beyond the pressure of urgent state necessity. Even the narrow circumstances of the earlier years of the republic did not justify or approve such acts when no longer pressingly needed. Thus on the 6th of January, 1807, a committee of the house of representatives resolved: That all just and equitable claims growing out of the revolutionary war, which are now barred by any law of the United States, ought to be provided for by law. Later on, viz., January 14, 1828, a committee reported its opinion "That it would be as dishonest in the government of the United States to shield itself against the payment of a just debt under the statute of limitations, as it would for an individual to do so. A claim of long standing, if provably just, ought to be paid irrespective of statutes of limitation." Still later, viz., February 27, 1830, a committee argued elaborately against not only the injustice but the essential unconstitutionality of limitation acts, and on January 19, 1832, it was said, "That when a claim is clearly proved to have been originally just, and never to have been adjusted or discharged, the moral obligation still exists, and the debtor cannot conscientiously avail himself of the protection of an act of limitation." In the consideration of the claim of Colonel Francis Vigo (recently settled and paid) the committee, though not allowing the claim, make the declaration (February 24, 1835) that they "do not insist that the United States are exonerated by lapse of time from any obligation to admit claims" if proven sound and just.

These testimonies suffice to show that acts of limitation ought not to impede the administration of what is in itself just and right, and that every claim now before either house of congress is entitled to a fair and impartial consideration and decision. For the future it should be the especial care of the government in its every branch, to pay as they go, or, at least, to disallow claims from acquiring the hoariness of the age. The limitation in the tenth section of the act of March 3, 1863, should be removed forthwith, and all claims be submitted to an impartial adjudication. Thus the relief to congress and claimants furnished by the Bowman act of 1883 would be universal to all claims.

GREATEST OFFER EVER MADE.

29c.

Blue Angola Shirt and Drawers; shirt made with fine trimmed neck and pearl buttons. Drawers well faced down with white corset jeans, and in every respect a first class shirt and drawers for summer wear, at the trash price of

29 CENTS. 29 CENTS. 29 CENTS.

Daylight Clothing Store, S. L. ANDREWS & COMPANY

This genuine Summer Angola Shirt and Drawers, of the best fine light blue or grey color, requires no second thought to appreciate its gooeness as well as cheapness, for every person ought to know that there has been a great struggle by several merchants, this season, to place them on sale at 50c each, but

S. L. Andrews & Co. have Struck the Bottom Price on Them, 29c.

Monday! Only Monday!

We sell to each person one suit at this price, the bargain of the season. Mail orders from the country hold good till Wednesday.

DAYLIGHT CLOTHING STORE,

S. L. Andrews & Company,

S. W. Corner 15th and Douglas St.

A Familiar Story Told in Five Languages.

ENGLISH.

Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow,
And everywhere that Mary went,
That lamb was sure to go.

FRENCH.

La petite Marie had le june muttong,
Ze wool was blanchee as ze snow,
And everywhere la belle Marie went,
Le june muttong was sure to go.

CHINESE.

Wun gal named Moll had lamb,
Fleecee all samee whitee snow,
Evly place Moll gai walkee,
Ba-ba hoppee long too.

GERMAN.

Det Mary haf got ein leedle schaf,
Mit hair shust like some wool,
Und all der place dot girl did vent,
Dot schaf go like ein fool.

IRISH.

Mary had a little shape,
And the wool was white entirely,
An' whenever Mary would sthir her sthumps,
That young shape would follow her completely.

SINGULARITIES.

An alligator nest, found in Rick Creek, Fla., last week, contained forty-three young saurians.

An Italian beggar, arrested in New York, confessed that he had not washed himself in fifteen years.

A striped bass weighing fifty-three pounds was caught at the mouth of the Croton river the other day.

A calf was born on the farm of Michael Gibbons, Cambria county, Pennsylvania, without the remotest sign of a tail.

A spike-nosed pike was caught in Lake Ulysian, Wisconsin that weighed 192 pounds and measured 6 feet 2 inchef in length.

James Hunt, of Catoosa county, received a pair of rabbit ears from Texas Monday, that measured six inches from end to end.

A nugget of ruby ore, weighing 1,000 pounds and estimated to be worth $10,000 was taken from a mine near Elko, Cal., a few days ago.

Men employed in the Idaho mine at Grass Valley, Cal., report that the recent earthquake in that vicinity was felt below the 1,600-foot level.

Joseph Davis of Wayne county, W. Va., has a daughter aged six years who weighs 230 pounds. This is believed to be the largest child of its age in the world.

M. Jovis, a French aeronaut, is making a balloon, nearly two hundred feet in height, in which he proposes to sail through the air across the Atlantic next autumn.

"Nig," a black bench-legged fyce, way down in Georgia, has just died of grief for loss of his playmate, a big bob-tail cat, who some days ago got to the end of his nine lives

The surgeons of Erie, Pa., are watching with interest a man who had some five inches of skull carried away by the explosion of a circular saw, yet threatens to get well in spite of it.

A queer flower which grows in Yucatan is the manito (little hand) of the guarumo. It is in the exact shape of the human hand, with four fingers, thumb, nails and knuckles, all complete.

A ranchman at Sayara, Colo., has a pig that has a perfect dog's head, with dog's hair covering the head and neck. Excepting this and a short bushy tail the rest of the animal is like a pig.

H. H. Kirkpatrick of Hawkinsville, Ga., made a raid on the rats that had invaded his corn crib a few days ago, and when the battle ended it was discovered that 215 of the rodents had met sudden death.

An animal having a head and forefeet like a squirrel and hind feet like a coon has been killed near Augusta, Ky. Several hunters of that section, when shown the carcass, declared they had not seen one like it before.

Mr. Scott, of Vanceburg, Ky., having at last made up his mind and body to quit moving, has buried the embalmed bodies of his three children, which he has carried from place to place for the last seventeen years.

A horse stolen from an Ohio farmer two years ago came home the other day by himself, having a saddle and bridle on. He was traced back for over forty miles to the inn where he broke loose, but no one came to claim him.

Martin Mewborn of Hartwell, Ga., says a chicken just two days old, in his presence just after he had fed it, straightened up, flapped its winds and crowed as clearly and distinctly as any rooster, though not so loud of course.

A human skull was disinterred by well diggers in Haskell county, Kansas, recently at a depth of 135 feet beneath the earth's surface. Remains of fish and sea reptiles have been found on several occasions at various depths in the same neighborhood.

At Charlotte lightning struck on Lawerence Sexton, just as he had put his hands in a tub of water, and knocked that gentleman down, tore off his right shoe and cut a hole in the tub's bottom, but beyond paralyzing him for some fifteen minutes did no physical damage.

A few days since A. Bolton, of Malabar, Florida, found a fine large deer tightly wedged in a deep sluice used to drain the muck beds a few rods back of his residence. The drain was only about two feet wide, but very deep, and the animal had been unable to extricate himself.

An old lady living at Ryde, England, died recently, and in due course her furniture was advertised for sale. On the day before the sale one of the executors carefully examined an ancient bureau, and discovered a secret drawer and a false bottom, in which were upward 1,000 sovereigns, closely packed together.

William B Jones, of Dublin, G., caught two young rabbits in his garden a few days ago. He had an old Maltese cat which had a family of kittens, and from some cause the kittens died. The old cat has adopted the rabbits, and happiness reigns throughout the household. The cat cares for the rabbits as tenderly as she did for her own offspring.

Wesley Talbert, of Shelbyville, Ind., while making some repairs upon his house, found two hen's eggs enclosed within the walls which were laid fifty years ago. While not exactly fresh, the eggs were in a fair state of preservation, and if not utilized in the meantime to make a restaurant omelet, they may come in play during the coming campaign.

A remarkable case is reported from Michigan. Three years ago Miss Hattie Cotton of Constantine, lost her voice and surgical treatment for its restoration was of no avail. She went to western Iowa and her voice returned. Going back to Michigan her voice again failed. This experience has been repeated three times, Miss Cotton's voice failing at home, but coming out strong in Iowa.

Concord, Fla., has a fine specimen of wild man, who is described as "tall and muscular, with long, flowing, pure white hair hanging about his shoulders in wild profusion, and snow-white beard reaching nearly to his waist." He is clad in tattered clothing, wears a coonskin cap, carries an old-fashioned flintlock musket, and is so wild that "whenever any person comes near him he runs like a deer and hides in the dense swamp near by."

LINCOLN'S MOTHER.

The Neglected Grave in the Woods of Indiana.

The Centryville, Ind., correspondent of the St. Louis Globe sends the following to his paper: In a neglected piece of woodland on the outskirts of Lincoln City, is the grave of President Lincoln's mother. A marble slab four feet in height, and almost buried in a dense growth of weeds and dog wood, bears this inscription:

NANCY HANKS LINCOLN,

MOTHER OF

PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

Died October 5, A. D., 1818, aged 35 years. Erected by a Friend of Her Martyred Son, 1879.

At the foot of the grave is a small marble foot-stone with the letters "N. H. L." engraved upon it. Surrounding this grave are the graves of seven other persons, but there are no stones or monuments to identify the occupants of any of them, and all are sadly neglected. The deserted spot is but a short distance from the highway, but is so situated that it can be reached only by crossing cultivated fields. With the proper efforts the place might be made very attractive, however, and there is some talk among the people here of beautifying it and erecting a more costly stone over the Lincoln grave. The place is seldom visited by strangers and rarely by the people living hereabouts.

Not more than 200 yards north of the grave is the spot upon which stood the house in which lived President Lincoln while a young man. It was made of logs, of course, and was situated on a small rise of clayish looking ground. Not a vestige of the old structure remains.

The writer frequently visited the house before it succumed to the ravages of time and the elements, as his uncle lived on and cultivated for years that which has passed into history as the Lincoln farm. Just back of the spot where the house used to stand runs the Cannellton branch of the road.

Time has nearly obliterated all traces of the Lincolns here, save the lonely grave in the deserted wood.

Lincoln City is so named because it is situated on the site of the old homestead. It had a population of about two dozen families, and is the junction of the Evansville, Cannellton & Rockport division of the Louisville, Evansville & St. Louis railroad. Some eastern capitalists, a few years ago, made an attempt to boom the place, but, despite the magnetism of the name, the boom was not successful, an it is very doubtful if the place ever grows in population, as the land surrounding it is of a very poor quality.

Some of the old inhabitants of this vicinity tell how, in 1844, when Lincoln was an elector-at-large on the ticket with Henry Clay, he visited the home of his boyhood, squared his back up against the old stone school house and talked to his old friends and neighbors.

A man near Vienna lost three wives, by each of whom he became possessed of a child and a mother-in-law. He was on excellent terms with all. These ladies used to meet frequently at his house, where they came to see his children, but the meetings finally culminated in a grand pitched battle, and they all three subpoenaed their son-in-law as a witness.

"When Adam delve and Eve span,
Who was then the gentleman?"

This conundrum antedates our prerogative in matters of polite society, but we do know that in the present age and season, our

Prince Albert Coats,

In light weights and colors, are the correct thing for gentlemen's business suits, while the same style in fine black worsted is the "sine qua non" of an elegant wardrobe. In these goods, as in each department of our trade we are offering bargains suited to the times.

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