we found out that he composed it on a fast day during the yellow yever in 1821 and had been using it ever since.

San Francisco Examiner: A Missouri minister has been swindled out of $2,000 by the antique gold brick method. This chastening and educating experience will teach him the futility of laying up treasure where bunco men talk smoothly to his undoing. Also it will impress upon him the wisdom of subscribing for his county paper.

Philadelphia Record: General Howard, who was a passenger with Mr. Moody on the steamer Spree, told a New York interviewer yesterday, in response to a query as to his views on the efficacy of prayer: "I cannot presume to interpret the actions of the Almighty." At this point he was checked by his worldly wise son. But what more was to be said? And what sharper commentary could the general have uttered on the temerity of his evangelist shipmate?

Kansas City Star: The clergymen who are saying Gould was a thief could have given proof of their courage had they said so before he died. It doesn't take much of a man to say that a dead lion wore false teeth—but the accusation is seldom made against the live animal. The ministers are doubtless well meaning, but they have got into the bad way of waiting until after a man dies and then calling him all manner of good things or all manner of bad things. It would take a great deal of courage to say as much either way about a live man, but it might do some good.

BLASTS FROM RAM'S HORN.

A starving man won't find fault with the table cloth.

A successful hypocrite is never a success at anything else.

Love never has to be watched to see that it does a full day's work.

Some men tire themselves almost to death looking for an easy place.

It is much easier to be contented without riches than it is with them.

Don't look for much growth in grace as long as you keep your hands in your pockets.

If we had no troubles but real troubles there wouldn't be a round shouldered man in the world.

There isn't a poor man in the world who would be willing to carry a millionaire's load for the pay he gets.

This is a great country. A smoker can make a nuisance of himself on a street car platform for a nickel.

If poor men knew how hard rich men have to work, and how little pay they get, they would be better satisfied with their own lot.

Some of the most disappointed people in the judgment will be those who could have had more religion, but thought they had enough.

People whose feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace will not be found stamping them with delight at a theater.

NEBRASKA AND NEBRASKANS.

Miss Julia Snively won the Sanborn prize at the Doane college contest.

Nels Sorenson, a Valley county farmer, was found dead in the road near Ord Wednesday night.

Frank W. Dean will represent Doane college as the orator at the state annual contest to select a representative to the interstate contest.

William Wright, a well known resident of Superior, was found dead in bed with his 3-year-old daughter's arms around his neck. Heart failure was the cause of death.

After eating a hearty supper Rudolph Johnson of Nehawka fell dead as he was playing with his baby. He had just complained of a fluttering of his heart. He was 23 years old.

Mary Bartling, the laundress in the institute for the blind at Nebraska City, met with a most painful accident, which came very near depriving her of the use of an arm, if not of her life. She was engaged recovering the heavy rollers of a mangle, a machine used for ironing, when her hand was caught, drawing her arm into the terrible machine. Her screams were heard by the engineer, Mr. Brinkmeyer, who was in the boiler rooms below, and he promptly stopped the machinery, and so saved the poor girl's life, but her arm was crushed in a frightful manner.

THE JOKERS' CARNIVAL.

New Orleans Picayune: Tip the waiter if you want him to lean over you and be attentive.

Yonker's Gazette: A switchman is not to be commended for unflagging zeal.

Baltimore American: When a railroad man undertakes to remedy a steep grade he should do his level best.

Binghamton Leader: A Columbus (O.) baker fell under a train and had both arms cut off. What will the poor man do in his hour of kneed?

"Margaret" was the way her name
Appeared in her youthful copybooks neat;
In society columns we see the same
Girl figures quite gayly as "Marguerite."

Philadelphia Record: Gussie Gander (coyly)—I would like to find a $700 piano in my stocking. Willie Wander—Hum, I did not suspect you were from Chicago.

At Sunday school: Teacher—Willie, you've not been here since last Christmas. Willie—Oh, yes, ma'am, I have; I was here the Sunday the picnic tickets were distributed.

Atchison Globe: If a man is at church when the fire bell rings, he is more apt to think it is his house, and rush home, than if he is at a dollar entertainment.

Chicago Inter Ocean: Miggs—Why do you suppose it is considered bad luck to open an umbrella in the house?
Milton—I suppose there is danger of disclosing the owner's name.

Pillsbury Chronicle: "Hello, Dinwiddie!" exclaimed Shingles, when the two met on Fifth avenue. "I haven't seen you in an age. What do you do for a living now?"
"I breathe," replied Dinwiddie, languidly.

Chicago Mail: Mr. Borrowem—I say, Charlie, lend me $5, will you.
Mr. Funnieman—I haven't a cent, but if you'll wait a minute I'll go down to the bank and draw my breath.
Mr. Borrowem—Great Scott! What a draft that will make.

"I dess those biscuits mamma made was dest wight, wasn't they?" said little Mary to her papa.
"Yes; they were delicious."
"I didn't eat any, but I know zay was."
"You did? How?"
"Cause you didn't say a word about 'em."

TOO LATE.

I gave my laundryman five shirts;
But when they were returned
There were but four; I was enraged—
With inward wrath I burned.

And straightway on that laundryman
I paid a speedy call,
Alas! they said he was not in—
He'd gone out to a ball.

THE MOTHER'S PRAYER.

William Cullen Bryant.

Starting forth on life's rough way,
Father, guide them;
Oh, we know not what of harm
May betide them;
'Neath the shadow of thy wing,
Father, hide them;
Waking, sleeping, Lord, we pray,
Go beside them.

When in prayer they cry to thee
Do thou hear them;
From the stains of sin and shame
Do thou clear them;
'Mid the quicksands and the rocks
Do thou steer them;
In temptation, trial, grief,
Be thou near them;

Unto thee we give them up;
Lord, receive them;
In the world we know must be
Much to grieve them—
Many striving oft and strong
To deceive them;
Trustful in thy hands of love
We must leave them.

SISTER JONES' CONFESSION.

James Whitcomb Riley.

I thought the deacon liked me, yit
I warn't adzackly shore of it—
Fer, mind ye, time and time ag'in,
When jiners 'ud be comin' in,
I'd seed him shakin' hands as free
With all the sistern as with me!
But jurin' last revival, where
He called on me to lead in prayer,
An' kneeled there with me, side by side,
A whisper'n' "he felt sanctified
Jes' tetchin' of my gyarment's hem—"
That settled things as fur as them
There other wimmin was concerned!
And—well!—I knowed I must a-turned
A dozen colors! Flurried?—la!—
No mortal sinner ever saw
A gladder widder than the one
A-kneelin' there and wonderin'
Who'd pray? So glad, upon my word
I railly couldn't thank the Lord!

SECRETARY FOSTER'S PLANS

Why He Has Resigned the Portfolio of State.

FEATURES OF THE PRESENT SITUATION

It Was Understood That He Would Have Resigned Before the Conclusion of the Term—Speculation as to Cleveland's Cabinet.

WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE BEE, 513 FOURTEENTH STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24.

The resignation of the secretary of state next February causes no surprise here, as it has been known from the outset that he would hand back to Mr. Harrison the state portfolio before the close of this administration. It must be remembered that sometime prior to his appointment as secretary of state, to succeed Mr. Blaine, Mr. Foster had been selected by President Harrison to be the United States agent in the Bering sea controversy. During Mr. Blaine's illness last winter and during the summer of 1891, Mr. Foster acted as legal adviser and practically as secretary pro tem, having charge of the details of the various reciprocity treaties then being arranged as well as of the Bering sea negotiations. At Mr. Harrison's request Mr. Foster arranged all the delicate and intricate details and the arrangements for the arbitration.

The office of a United States agent was created so that the arbitrators for the United States, Justice Harlan and Senator Morgan, might be able to have Mr. Foster with them as their counsellor. He made all his arrangements to that end. When Mr. Blaine's resignation was announced Mr. Foster was naturally appointed to succeed him. The arbitrators meet on February 23, 1893, and Mr. Foster therefore resigns his office on the first of that month in order that he can immediately thereafter sail for Paris and enter on the vast work preliminary to the meeting of the arbitrators. A large office of clerks and translators will be needed and there is a very lively scramble among the gifted young gentlemen who hold down seats in the state department for appointment to the work at Paris.

Mr. Foster's Probable Successor.

As already stated, the first assistant secretary will act as secretary for the short period intervening before Mr. Cleveland names his premier. Mr. Foster's resignation has naturally turned the drift of gossip to speculation on his successor. The impression in Washington as well as New York seems to be that Mr. Cleveland will select Mr. E. J. Phelps of Vermont, if ex-Secretary Whitney persists in his refusal. Unquestionably Mr. Phelps is competent and his appointment would be wise in view of his perfect mastery of the Bering sea question, which will be the principal matter to confront the state department of the new administration, but Mr. Phelps is cordially detested by the Irish element of the democratic party and it is recalled now that when Mr. Cleveland was considering the name of Mr. Phelps as a possible chief justice of the United States there was a prolonged howl from the Irish all over the country. General Pat Collins of Boston warned Mr. Cleveland that to select Mr. Phelps would be to alienate the Irish vote and would make his renomination and his reelection impossible. Mr. Cleveland reluctantly yielded, but this time Mr. Cleveland, it seems, feels that he is greater than any part of his party and will choose Mr. Phelps in spite of the Irish. At the same time he will, it is understood, make them concessions by tendering to General Collins the portfolio of war. Intimate friends of General Collins here say they doubt if General Collins will consent to serve in the same cabinet with Mr. Phelps.

As to Other Elements.

Mr. Cleveland having thus remembered the mugwump and the Irish, the speculators point out that he will remember the "practical politicians" by appointing Isaac Pusey Gray to the postmaster generalship, the free traders by appointing Mr. Carlisle secretary of the treasury, the pioneers of tariff reform by appointing William R. Morrison secretary of the interior, the south by appointing Randolph Tucker to be attorney general, the farmers by appointing Farmer Bill Hatch to be secretary of agriculture. Having thus considered everybody else, Mr. Cleveland will please himself by appointing to the secretaryship of the navy his most faithful and useful friend and ally, Dan Lamont, so that on this Christmas eve the Washington cabinet makers have arranged for Cleveland the following slate: Secretary of state, E. J. Phelps of Vermont; secretary of war, Patrick Collins of Massachusetts; secretary of the navy, Daniel Lamont of New York; secretary of the treasury, John G. Carlisle of Kentucky; secretary of the interior, William R. Morrison of Illinois; secretary of agriculture, William Hatch of Missouri; attorney general, Randolph Tucker of Virginia; postmaster general, Isaac P. Gray of Indiana.

Western Pensions.

Nebraska: Original—Frederick Biehle, William H. Adams. Additional—Charles S. Sanborn, Herman L. Small, James Liggard, William J. Henderson, Davis M. Leland, William M. Millard, Sidney R. Lounsbury, Lindsey Ables. Reissue—John S. Wood. Original widows, etc.—Catherine Hatfield, mother, Mary M. Johnson, mother.

Iowa: Original—Henry W. Fields, David Billington, Jonathan J. Watts, William Cole, Thomas W. Vance, Lewis N. Ashtenam, Simeon Triplett, James P. Laughery, Daniel Moore, Addison Brown, Cibins Bolton, Lockhart G. Duff, William J. Anderson, James M. Sturgeon, David L. Breckenridge, Silas Rucker, Benjamin B. Cravens, Walter S. Barton. Additional—George R. Carney, Farner E. Shaw, William L. Hollar, George Tomlin, David Lockridge, James McQuade. Increase—William Bacon. Reissue—Harry C. McCoy. Original widows, etc.—Laura Johnson, Isabel Olson, Buhanna T. Luddusaw, mother, minors of Josiah McCoy.

South Dakota: Orginal—Carter Sweeney, Almon S. Pinney. Additional—Edward Barnes.

Miscellaneous.

Captain and Mrs. Steadman of Fort Robinson, Neb., are in the city to spend the holidays.

THIRTY-SEVEN INDICTMENTS.

Result of the Grand Jury Investigation in the Asylum Case.

LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 24.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The long looked for developments in the grand jury's investigations of the alleged frauds in the management of the state asylum for the insane at this place, were sprung on the public this afternoon and as a result four well known citizens are under arrest upon very serious charges. Other arrests are to follow and may perhaps be made yet this evening.

The grand jury made its final report this forenoon and a stack of warrants was placed in the hands of Sheriff McClay. The jury had returned thirty-seven indictments and some of them contained three or four counts. Of course the public was not taken into the sheriff's confidence and the only thing that could be done was to await developments.

Shortly after 1 o'clock W. D. Sewell, who has had the contracts for supplying the asylum with flour, walked into the sheriff's office to collect some witness fees. He was served with a warrant of arrest. He took the matter as complacently as possible and sent for J. A. Buckstaff, who went on his bonds and made him again a free man.

Soon after J. Daniel Lauer, the much advertised steward of the asylum, was served with a warrant by Sheriff McClay. He came to the court house accompanied by W. H. Reed and D. G. Courtney.

John T. Dorgan was the next man to come into the sheriff's office. He was with his attorneys, C. O. Wheedon and Walter Leese. He was soon followed by his brother, W. H. Dorgan.

At 2:30 this afternoon Judge Hall opened court, and the cases against the men already arrested were called. The charge against W. D. Sewell was obtaining money under false pretenses. He gave bonds for his appearance at the February term of the district court, his bail being placed at $1,000.

W. H. Dorgan is charged with embezzlement in connection with his contracts with the state at the penitentiary. His bond was also fixed as $1,000, and it was signed by C. O. Wheedon.

J. T. Dorgan is charged with obtaining money under false pretenses, and he was also liberated on a bond signed by his attorney, C. O. Wheedon.

J. D. Lauer is charged with forgery, uttering and publishing forged transfers of property. His bond was signed by W. H. Reed and D. G. Courtney.

It is known positively that four and possibly five more warrants are out. One of them being for Frank Hubbard, the farm boss at the asylum. Inasmuch as he has disappeared it is not likely that the arrest will follow very soon. A deputy sheriff was heard to remark yesterday, however, that Hubbard would be found if the warrant was issued. Of the other men indicted it is believed that one formerly occupied a high position at the asylum. The others were contractors.

The arrests already made have occasioned neither surprise nor excitement. They have been expected all along. The facts in connection with the frauds at the asylum have been repeatedly published in the daily press ever since the investigation was set on foot. The only deals not fully exposed were those at the state penitentiary, and the particulars of these will not be fully developed until the trial of the men indicted come up in the next term of the district court.

Governor Dawes Comes Into Court.

Ex-Governor James W. Dawes came into the district court this afternoon with a law suit that promises to puzzle the lawyers and the court for some time. He alleges in his petition that several years ago he purchased from John Cadman a tract of land in the southwestern part of Lancaster county, paying for it the sum of $36,000. A mortgage was given in part payment, but a default was made in the payment, and foreclosure proceedings commenced, and the land finally ordered to be sold. Mr. Dawes alleges that Cadman assigned the judgment to his wife and that the sale was hurried through without his knowledge, the property selling for a comparatively small sum and not for anything like its real value. In consequence of the sale a deficiency judgment was entered up against Mr. Dawes and his partners in the amount of $12,000. He claims the property is really worth $30,000, and asks that the sale be set aside.

Shipped Vogel's Remains East.

Coroner Crim empanneled a jury this afternoon and held an inquest over the remains of Raphael Vogel, the traveling man who dropped dead at the Lincoln hotel last evening. It was learned this morning that the deceased had a family at Philadelphia. The firm for which he traveled was notified of his death last night and they telegraphed back their regrets and stated that the family would be notified this morning. The remains were placed in charge of Louis Cohen of this city and shipped to Philadelphia over the Burlington at 2:40 this afternoon.

Will Walk with a Cane Now.

A rumor of serious trouble at the headquarters of the fire department took Mayor Weir to the city engine house in a hurry this forenoon. When he arrived there he was surprised to find all the men gathered in the building. Water Commissioner Percival stepped forward and before the astonished mayor could find out what was going to happen presented him with a handsome ebony cane with a gold head appropriately inscribed. The mayor thanked the boys in his usual happy vein.

Wants Several Thousand.

John Anderson, a former employe of the Missuri Pacific railroad, has commenced suit against that company for $30,000 damages on account of the loss of both eyes while in the employe of the company. He alleges that he was sent into the cinder pit with a fellow employe who struck him in the eye with a steel bar with a sharp point on the end of it. Three months latter he lost the other eye while at work in the same cinder pit. He bases his claims for damages from the company on the ground that he was compelled to work with incompetent men.

Heard in Lincoln Court Rooms.

District court adjourned this afternoon until early in the month of February.

Mrs. C. O. Strickland has finally secured her divorce, together with alimony to the amount of $3,500.

W. H. Warner received a Christmas present today in the shape of a temporary injunction restraining the sheriff from selling some property that he very much desires to keep in his possession.

Mrs. Brown asks the court to set aside the default in her divorce case entered yesterday, on the grounds that she had been led to believe that it was unnecessary to file any more papers. She alleges that the default throws her out of a home.

The district court has refused a new trial in the case of Florence Dole against Theodore Stratton. The latter gives notice that he will appeal the case to the supreme court.

Mrs. Ida Alexander was today given a divorce from her husband and the custody of their only child.

Lincoln Brief.

Not a single vagrant or drunk appeared before Judge Walters this morning and police court stood adjourned until after Christmas.

Sarry Roe, the girl who promised to marry Walchter Isaacson, a Swede farmer living in York county, and who mulcted him out of $25 on the strength of the engagement, was arraigned before Judge Foxworthy this morning on the charge of obtaining money under false pretenses. The Swede failed to appear and the case against the girl was dismissed.

Beverly Fields and Jim Smith, the two fellows arrested last night for flimflamming a $20 bill out of T. C. Jones, were discharged late last evening, as Jones declined to prosecute.

The employes of the street cleaning department this morning presented a handsome upholstered rocking chair to Street Commissioner McKenna.

DEEP AND WET DIGGINGS.

First Reliable Reports From the New Utah Placer Grounds.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., Dec. 24.—The first thoroughly reliable reports that have come from the new placer diggings in the southern part of Utah have just been received through the return of a party of old California miners, who were among the first to go into the new district and have prospected it thoroughly. They think there is gold there and it will eventually become a good camp, but all those who are now rushing in expecting to gather up the gold by handsful will be seriously disappointed, and very hard times are in store for them. To work the new placers requires heavy machinery and the outlay of a good deal of capital. There is little or nothing on the surface and to reach bedrock you have to go down an unknown depth through quicksand in which you must plank up the shaft all the way and keep steam pumps constantly at work to keep out the water of the river.

There are at least 1,000 men already in the new camp, and practically nothing is being done, except by the Arizona and Utah Mining company, which has located all the best ground and is now tunnelling the hill to change the course of the river so it can work its lands. The weather is cold, provisions are enormously high, and although a color can be found anywhere in the sand a man cannot pan out half enough to pay his board. Hundreds of those now there are anxious to work for the company, doing the most disagreeable kind of labor, at very low wages, to get enough to take them home.

RIGHTS OF HALF-BREED CHILDREN.

Decision of an Oklahoma Judge Which is of Great Importance.

EL RENO, O. T., Dec. 24.—In the case of Morrison vs. Wilson in the United States court here, Judge Burford held that a male child born to a white citizen of the United States who had married a female member of the Arapahoe tribe, might still be a member of that tribe of Indians and entitled to an allotment under the treaty as a member of the tribe and that the laws of descent in Oklahoma applied to Indians and that the administrator of an Indian descedent was entitled to a portion of the lands so allotted.

The decision was rendered in an ejectment suit involving 160 acres of land adjoining El Reno, of great value, and is of great importance, as similar questions are pending in all the courts of the west, where allotments have been made. The decision is contrary to the decisions in the northwest under a similar treaty with the Lioux.

Judgment Against the Oregon Pacific.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Judge Lawrence in the supreme court has given judgment against the Oregon Pacific company for $38,809.47 in favor of Harrison Purdy, Jacob H. Halstead and James M. Halstead, as executors of the will of Jacob Halstead.

UNFRIENDLINESS OF CANADA

Concessions and Favors Granted Her by the United States Unappreciated.

DISCRIMINATING AGAINST THIS COUNTRY

Privileges Granted Canadian Railroads Not Enjoyed by Our Own Lines—Plans Proposed to Meet These Evils—War Ships on the Lakes.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24.—The president has called upon the executive departments for all information in their possession relative to freight coming into this country over the Canadian Pacific railway. Attention was directed to this subject by the president in his annual message to congress, and since then the subject has been a live and interesting one in the Treasury department. The unjust discrimination against the United States made by law, or rather by its construction, in favor of the Candian Pacific road by means of the consular seal system has long been a source of complaint at the Treasury department. This law was passed in 1864 and its substance is incorporated in section 3102, revised statutes.

Favors Shown Canada.

Under this law freights are shipped from Canada to interior points in the United States under the consular seal system. The United States consul certifies that the manifest is correct; that he has sealed and closed the car and that certification carried the freight through without inspection at the border, thus saving from one to two days delay and the cost of rehandling the freights, etc. When the law was passed the traffic was small. It is also contended at the Treasury department that the freights entitled to the privileges of consular seal were originally confined to the products of Canada and that traffic between 1867 and 1870 being thus limited, the United States consuls could and did give personal attention to inspecting the shipment of freight, making of the manifests and sealing of the cars, as the law specifically directs they should do. But gradually the business has grown and the law has been perverted and more goods having their origin in Japan and China are shipped over the Canadian Pacific for the United States than goods or products of Canada. Nearly all the raw silks and Chinese and Japanese goods that come into this country are brought in under the consular seal system. They can come through in bulk, quicker and in better condition than over the American routes by the very reason of the consular seal system, which the law does not apply to American goods.

Discriminating Duties.

Enjoying this superiority over American roads, the Canadian Pacific caused to be put into the Canadian tariff a discriminating duty of 10 per cent on all coffee and tea imported into Canada from the United States. From all other countries except the United States, coffee and tea can come into Canada free. The effect of this has been to divert this traffic from American ports and have coffee and tea come over the Canadian Pacific from Vancouver, B. C.

These evidences of unfriendliness are regarded at the Treasury department as justifying some drastic measures.

It is pointed out that as the traffic over the Canadian Pacific has become so great that it is impossible for United States consuls to personally perform the duties required of them under the provisions of the consular seal law a due regard for the revenue would warrant the suspension of section 3102, revised statutes, until such a time as congress makes provision for its perfect enforcement. Should this be done, it would, in the opinion of treasury officials, put a stop to discrimination against American roads and also be a retaliatory measure against Canada for her unfriendliness of conduct toward us.

English War Ships on the Lakes.

It is not probable that the senate will take any action on the alleged intention of Great Britain to strengthen her armed force on the great lakes with war vessels under the pseudonym of revenue cutters. Senator Frye of Maine, chairman of the committee on commerce, and a leading member of the committee on foreign affairs, who is a recognized authority in marine matters, and who is noted for his interest in affairs relating to Canada and this country, will have much to say as to the policy of the United States in the matter of protection on the lakes, and his opinion will have weight in deciding the matter one way or the other. Senator Frye places no credence whatever in the allegations that Great Britain is contemplating the construction of a strong armed force on the great lakes in violation of the agreement between England and the United States forbidding such action.

"There is no necessity," he said today, "for the people of this country to be alarmed over the construction of these Canadian revenue vessels. Even if they are to be what is claimed—war vessels under the guise of revenue cutters—there need be no fear in the event of hostility, for I am positive that I can select twenty-five vessels on the great lakes that could, within a very short time, be armed and equipped better than the Canadian cutters are, and that they could sail right around the latter. The finest vessels in the world are built on the lakes and it would reqire very little time and expense to make some of them first-class fighting ships. I believe that great Britain has not the slightest intention of turning her new revenue vessels into war ships."

Some Alarm Felt.

Senator Frye acknowledges that there has been some alarm, even among high officials of the government, over the construction of the revenue vessels by Great Britain, but he has not allowed this feeling to influence him in the matter.

Officials at the State department have no official information regarding the application of the International Navigation company to the Canadian Parliament for a charter, authorizing the company to connect Lake Erie with Montreal and New York by a system of canals, the Hudson river and the St Lawrence and Richelieu rivers and Lake Champlain.

GREATLY IMPROVED.

Mr. Blaine's Condition Such as to Give Hope for His Recovery.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24.—Blaine rested comfortably last night and was better this morning. The patient is now getting along so comfortably that his physician, Dr. Johnson, thinks there is no longer any occasion for himself and Dr. Hyatt to make early morning visits. The members of the family are out today doing Christmas shopping.

"Mr. Blaine is getting along very well, indeed," said Dr. Johnson at 7 o'clock this evening. The physicians regard the condition of their patient better than it has been at any time for the past fortnight. The maintenance of his strength is one of the most encouraging features of his case, and gives the members of his family ground for renewed hope. So much improved is Mr. Blaine that a few callers were received at the house today.

The Washington papers have ceased to publish extended reports of Mr. Blaine's condition.

DOWN WITH SCARLETINA.

One of President Harrison's Grandchildren Stricken with the Disease.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24.—President Harrison's grandchild, Martena Harrison, has been stricken with scarletina. The disease is in a mild form, but the doctor says that unless great precautions are taken it is liable to attack the other children in a more virulent form. The little sufferer has been isolated, and will have to remain in the white house until well, as the laws of the district forbid her removal. The white house is therefore closed to the public. The little one is the daughter of Russel Harrison.

The McKee children were allowed festivities and a Christmas tree in a modified form this afternoon.

Lawlessness on the Rio Grande.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24.—Secretary Elkins had a conference with General Schofield at the War department today with regard to the best method of effectually suppressing the apparently increasing lawlessness along the Rio Grande. No official reports in regard to these troubles have been received for the past two days.

CHRISTMAS AT THE CAPITAL.

How the Day Will Be Passed by the Families of Cabinet Officials.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Dec. 24.—The holiday of the year will be an unusually quiet occasion in official circles this year. There is no inclination among the cabinet families to make any display, in view of the gloom that envelopes the white house. There will be no dinner parties, aside from those comprising members of the families and their visitors.

Vice President Morton will have with him five of his daughters. Miss Helen is with her mother in New York, under treatment by Dr. Sayre.

Secretary of State and Mrs. Foster have with them Mrs. Foster's mother and brother, Mrs. McPherson of Evansville, and the young children of Dr. Charles Bacon of Goshen, N. Y., the nephew and niece of Representative Bacon.

Secretary of the Treasury Foster has gone to Fostoria, where he will eat Christmas dinner with his daughter Mrs. Myers, and bring her and her son to the capital with him in time for New Year's day. Mrs. Foster and Miss Foster will be alone tomorrow at their residence on Vermont avenue.

Secretary of War and Mrs. Elkins have a house full of children and young folks for the holidays. Tonight there was a Christmas tree, and tomorrow a dinner will be partaken of by the relatives of the family in the city, forming, altogether, a large circle.

The Attorney General and Mrs. Miller will have their family party increased by the new daughter-in-law and Miss Miller's fiancee. Miss Jennie Miller is home for the holidays, accompanied by a friend.

Secretary of the Navy Tracy will dine with his daughter and granddaughter, Mrs. and Miss Wilmerding.

The Postmaster General and Mrs. Wanamaker will spend Christmas at their country house near Philadelphia. Dr. Penergas of Paris is expected to arrive in this country Sunday and will dine with the postmaster general's family on Monday, when they will celebrate Christmas. Dr. Penergas will then continue to be their guest until after the New Year.

Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Noble will have, in addition to the Missgs Halstead, several friends who are visiting Washington to dine with them.

Secretary of Agriculture and Mrs. Rusk will dine quietly with their son and daughter to keep them company.

PROTECTING THE FISH.

Alaska Waters and Islands Set Apart for Public Use by Proclamation.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24.—The president has issued a proclamation reserving for timber and fish culture purposes the island of Afgonak, Alaska, and its adjacent rocks and territorial waters, including the sea lion rocks and sea otter island.

The secretary of the interior and the commissioner of fish and fisheries, under the direction of the president, have investigated this subject, and finding that the president had the authority by law strongly recommended that the action should be taken.

The commissioner of fish and fisheries has selected Afgonak river and Afgonak lake and the tributaries thereof, with a mile of land from the shores of the river and lake for the purpose of fish culture under the statute authorizing him so to do, and this is included in the proclamation of the president. The whole comprises a national reservation and all trespassers are required to remove therefrom. There is a cannery on the island that will have to be vacated, but those of the former subjects of Russia there, few in number, will be protected in whatever rights they might have under the Russian treaty. This reservation is one of the most important yet made. The salmon and trout crowd the river at the breeding season, so much as to actually press some out on the shore, and there is no doubt that by preserving it it will become a breeding place for all the other waters of Alaska and the different rivers of the United States in the future, whereas, if it had been left to the depredations already committed upon it, the fish there, as they have elsewhere in the United States, would become utterly exterminated.

There is a prospect that the sea otter may also be preserved there, and it may be there are other animals.

This is a beginning of a series of reservations in this direction that will preserve the fish and animals of the sea.

Senator Peffer Talks.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24.—Senator Peffer says that no political party has a mortgage on the populists; that wherever they can elect a United States senator they will do so; where, by combining with another party, they can elect, they will choose the one most advantageous to the populists without sacrificing their principle.

WILL EXTEND ITS WORK.

Episcopal Church of Omaha to Open an Energetic Mission.

That Episcopalians are not asleep and do not propose to submit to the charge of indolence in caring for souls is evinced by the ten days mission which is to be held at Trinity cathedral early in next Lent. Almost ever Episcopal church in the city is ack of it. There is an even dozen of them and they propose to push the work with all the energy that they possess. Insuperable difficulties prevented the Episcopal churches in the city from officially uniting with the Mills meetings, radical differences in doctrine, in liturgies, in manner and in method of work interfered with any corporate action with any other denomination.

At any rate since their laws forbade them from joining in with the Mills meetings, they propose to have meetings of their own, which they call a mission.

It is to be conducted by Rev. A. S. Crapsey, a well known missioner and a fine preacher. Rev. Mr. Crapsey is from Rochester, N. Y., and will find a field ripe for more work.

A mission differs somewhat from a revival inasmuch as the hortatory preaching is supplemented by careful and regular courses of instruction in an intellectual treatment of religion. The aim of a mission is to reach the whole man, first to quicken his conscience, to convert him, to preach to him the old cry of repentance and next to guide and train his intellect toward an appreciation of the truths which follow after repentance all of which is accompanied by the spiritual food which is given in daily celebrations of the holy communion held at an early hour and attended by carefully prepared meditations of a devotional or purely spiritual character.

There is bound to be good music, good preaching and good will manifested throughout, and its influence for good in this city will be largely dependent upon the interest and good will manifested by citizens toward it.

Among Religious Workers.

The Mills meetings have resulted in a number of accessions to the Young Men's Christian association.

The New Year's reception to be given by the Omaha Young Men's Christian association, will probably be the most successful in the history of the association, for the efforts being put forth in preparation indicate that kind of a result.

The field of usefulness opening up before Rescue hall seems to indicate that the institution will be of vast importance and great assistance to the poor and neglected of Omaha.

The noonday prayer meetings at the Young Men's Christian association are attracting good sized audiences of business men.

The Catholic churches of the city will present the usual fine programs of music for Christmas day.

The Ministerial union will not meet on Monday, December 26, as intended. The members will await notice of meeting from the secretary.

The Women's Baptist Mission quarterly of Omaha will hold the regular meeting with the Immanuel Baptist church, corner Twenty-fourth and Binney streets, Friday afternoon, December 30, at 2 o'clock. The program is on home missions. Ladies of any of the Baptist churches are cordially invited. Tea will be served at the close of the meeting.

Methodist union revival services next week as follows: Tuesday, 2:30 p. m., Trinity Methodist Episcopal church; Thursday, 2:30 p. m., Seward Street Methodist Episcopal church; Friday, 2:30 p. m., First Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Bishop Newman is expected to talk at each of these services. All are cordially invited to attend these meetings. Meetings will be held in these several churches in the evenings.

There will be a union prayer meeting for ladies at the First Baptist church, Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The meeting will be led by Mrs. Dr. Duryea.

Negroes Asphyxiated.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 24.—Four negroes were found dead in their rooms this morning at the negro home for the aged. Two were women, named Annie Ward and Maria Jones, who were asphyxiated by coal gas. Annie Ward's nude condition and torn clothing indicated a struggle for life. Both the women had been slaves and had been inmates of the home for a number of years. Two children were also found dead.

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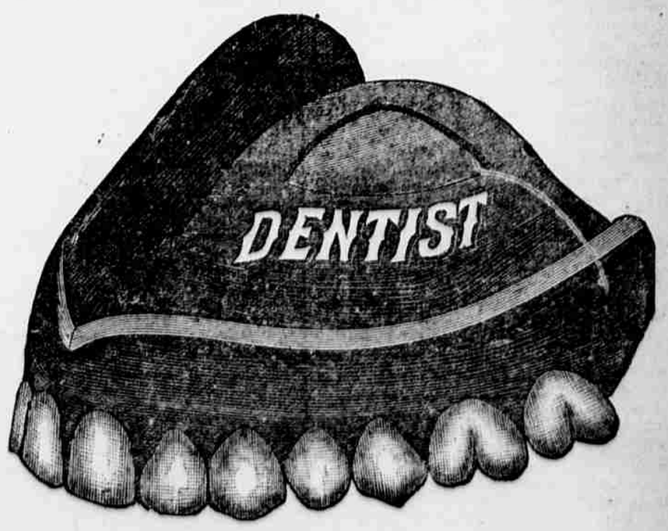
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