RUSSIA ON A GOLD BASIS

New Minister of Finance Preparing to Pay in the World's Money Metal.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE EMPIRE

Interesting Exhibits of the Cenr's Monetary Methods... Huge Volume of Paper Indebtedness to Be Paid in Gold.

legation in Washington nor to financial studenta who are familiar with the condition of affairs in the empire. The step just decided upon by M. Witte, the minister of finance, is but the culmination of a series of steps taken during the past three years to bring the paper currency of the empire to a stable value, to accumulate a large gold reserve. and to resume gold payments at the Bank of Globe-Democrat, and the Immense gold reserve now available for the restoration of gold payments has been in process of accumulation for many years. There has been the resumption of gold payments has been delayed by the wars in which the empire has been from time to time engaged. One of, the earliest of the wars with Turkey (in 1786) was the occasion for the undue expansion of the paper circulation which had previously been issued and the decline of paper more than 30 per cent below eliver. On four different occasions—in 1817, in 1839, in 1860 and in 1881—the imperial government made scrious efforts to reduce the mass of super-abundant paper and bring it back to parwith gold. The last attempt came soon after the Turco-Russian war, during which 491,-099,000 credit rubles (\$249,000,000) were issued to meet the expenses of the war. The project of reform embodied in the ukase of January 1, 1881, involved the immediate reduction of the debt of the treasury to the Bank of Russia, annual payments of 50,000,-000 rubles (\$25,000,000) by the treasury to the bank, and the destruction of notes falling into the hands of the bank. This policy was relaxed for a variety of reasons, and notes paid into the bank were kept on hand and reissued instead of destroyed. It remained for the administration of the present ener getic minister of finance, M. Witte, to adopt a policy which has been resolutely carried out, has given fixity to exchange and en-abled the empire at last to attain the goal so cagerly striven for by successive admin-THE STORE OF GOLD.

The statutes of the Bank of Russla were thoroughly reconstructed in 1894, with a view to protecting its circulating notes by te combined gold supply of the bank and the treasury. The funds at that time set aside to cover the circulation of the bank were 351,939,000 gold rubles (\$250,000,000) and the authorized circulation was 1,121, 282,000 credit rubles. Credit rubles wer-worth only about two-thirds of gold rubles so that the gold value of the circulation was only about \$650,000,000, although nominally equivalent, at the gold parity, t \$880,000,000. The metalic coverture of th bank notes has been increased by the trans-fer of gold from the treasury to the bank until it now amounts to 425,000,000 gold rubles, in addition to 75,000,000 gold rubles deposited as the guarantee of a special base of notes in 1891. This assregate of about \$375,000,000 in gold is not nearly all the gold of which the treasury and the bank are now able to dispose, as will apir hereafter. The government during course of the past two years has taken pear hereafter. several other steps designed to familiarize the public with the use of gold and to strengthen the position of the paper or credit ruble. The free coinage of silver was suspended on July 16, 1893, without any very violent protest on the part of the silver party, customs duties have been for some time collected in gold, and provision was made by two important decrees for gold contracts and the issue of gold certificates. The ukase of May 8, 1896, de clared that written contracts might be made payable in Russian gold rubles, and that such centracts might be settled in gold or in rubles of equivalent gold value at the rate of exchange prevailing at the date of payment. Public depositories were authorized to receive gold at its exchange value in the payment of excise under regulations framed by the minister of finance. Another important step was taken by the ukase June 6, 1895, which authorized the bank to receive deposits of gold coin and bullion and foreign bank notes and commercial bills payable in gold and to issue certificate therefor redeemable in gold on demand. These certificates are receivable as th quivalent of gold at the treasury and the bank, but are not a legal substitute for gold between individuals except with the consent of the creditor. They are receivable at branches of the bank for gold obli gations due at other branches and the exchange is furnished free except for the cost of telegraphic service. These importan acts were followed on July 26, 1895, by the promulgation of rules permitting the creafrom of special gold accounts at the bank for the reception of gold and gold certifi-cates, and the issue of check books repre-senting payments exclusively in gold.

REGULATING EXCHANGE. Another long stride toward the resumption gold payments was the adoption of fixed rate of exchange for the credit ruble. The quotations on foreign money markets have ranged for several years in the vicinity of three credit rubles for two gold rubles, making the gold value of the credit ruble in United States currency about 52 cents, instead of 77.2 cents, which the gold ruble represented. The government has employed several means of giving fixity to exchange, which have been subjected to criticism, but the method adopted by the act of August 10, 1896, is in the nature of a practical resumption of specie payments At the current rate of exchange. This ac provided that until December 31, 1897, gold superials of ten rubles and half imperial of five rubles should be received by al public depositories and by the public rail way companies as the equivalent respec-tively of fifteen and seven and a half credit rubles, and that until the date named the Bank of Russia should buy and sell im-perials and half imperials at the same price. This means that the holder of the paper credit ruble can have it exchanged for gold at the bank for two-thirds of its face value. or that he can obtain credit rubles by surrendering gold to the amount of one and a half times the value of the gold. Ex-change under such a rule cannot vary more than a small fraction, and business transac with foreign countries can be tran sacted with a degree of certainty in al calculations which has been impossible under a system of fluctuating exchange. The Rus sian government did not disclose positively until within the last few months that i proposed to make this new basis of ex-change the permanent basis of the new coinage. This appears to have now been decided upon and the new gold coins con-forming to the existing rate of exchange will substituted as rapidly as possible for

PREPARED TO RESUME. The equipment with which the government and the bank confront the obligation to re-sume specie payments is the afrongest with which any government or bank has ever faced a like obligation. M. Paul Leroy-Beaulieu, the eminent French economist, in an article in L'Economiste Français of October 31, 1896, sums up the gold boldings of the banks and the treasury at a total of more than \$600,000,000. He points out that the Bank of Russia on August 1 held 565. 000,000 gold rubles in actual coin and bulli or in credits on foreign countries. Then credits are always counted by the European banks as the equivalent of gold, because they represent a gold obligation and car sold for gold in the exchange market The government possessed on August 112,500,000 gold rubles in bullion and 107, 500,000 gold rubles in foreign credits, make 500,000 gold rubles in foreign credits, max-ing government gold holdings equivalent to 220,000,000 rubles, or \$165,000,000. The holdings of the bank being equivalent to \$425,000,000, the aggregate gold standing be-hind the credit of the credit rubles is \$590,-000,000—a larger amount by \$200,000,000 than the gold holdings of the Bank of France on October 29—the next largest holder of gold in the world. M. Leroy-Beaulieu points couple on their honeymoon.

out, in the article just cited, that the popula-tion of Russia, which is largely rural, has been habituated for so long to the use of paper money that it is almost certain that the greater part of the circulation of 1.014,-000,000 credit rubles will remain in the hands of the public, and will not be presented for redemption in gold. There are only 420,000,000 credit rubles (\$210,000,000) in notes of 5 rubles or less (\$2.50), and 620,609,000 or of 5 rubles or less (\$2.50), and 620,609,000 credit rubles (\$310,000,000) in notes below 25 rubles (\$42.50). Even if half of these should be presented for redemption, Prof. Leroy-Beaulieu points out, the gold reserve of the bank and the treasury would remain above \$400,000,000, or as large as the great reserve of the Bank of France.

THE GAIN IN GOLD.

Turning to the question of the loss of gold The announcement that the Russian empire is about to place its monetary system upon the gold basis is not a surprise to the Russian "Bulletin Russe de Statistique" for May and June gives an official table showing that the excess of imports of gold for the nine years ending with 1895 was 962,656,800 francs (\$190,000,000), and that a production plightly larger than this made the total gain of gold for nine years 2,059,476,500 francs (\$400,000,000). The production of gold has rapidly increased in recent years, and amounted in 1895 to 37,400,000 rubles (\$29, and to resume gold payments at the Bank of 000,000). The opening of the Transsiberian Russia and at the imperial treasury. Such railway and the operation of French comsteps, indeed, began much more than three panies in the Lena Delta are expected to years ago, writes Charles A. Conant in the largely increase this production in the near future. Russia is attracting foreign loans for the development of her agricultural and manufacturing interests, and these loans are likely to increase with the adoption of the gold standard and the resumption of specie payments by the Bank of Ruszia. The exportations of the country exceeded the importations for the three years ending with 1895 by an average of 140,000,000 credit The essential question to be determined in the rectoration of specie payments in Russia was whether silver or gold should be the

standard and whether resumption should take place upon the basis of the nominal value f the credit ruble or its actual value for a series of years on the Bourses of Paris, of Berlin and Vienna. The imperial govern-ment, not being disturbed by the existence of a Bryan party or a demand for "the free and unlimited coinage of eilver, independen of the action of any other nation," promptly lecided to adopt the standard of other civil ized states and to bring its paper notes into fixed relations with gold. A plausible argu-ment might have been made for silver, from he fact that this was the metallic standard f Russia when she had a standard, and that he credit rables had never been at par with gold, unless at a time when gold was dereclated in relation to silver. This state of affairs led the government to adopt the ectual rate of exchange value for the credi uble in gold rather than to undertake to aise the credit ruble to the value of the old gold ruble. It could not be said that this in colved the repudiation of a gold obligation, ince gold was never the standard of the emorestore specie payments. The Russian emoire, in accepting the existing rate of exhange as the basis for the new coinage, fol-ows the example of the government of Austria-Hungary in 1892 and the more recent example of the government of Chili, in creat-ing a new gold coinage based upon the actual value of the circulating paper. Russia has been coining eliver for subsidiary coinage, which is considerably below the quoted value of the paper ruble, and large quantities of iese new silver coins are now reaching St. Petersburg and being put into circulation The smaller paper notes are being withdrawn somewhat to the disgust of some of the people who have become accustomed to them, and mall silver coins are being put in their place. The adoption of a coinage based upon the existing rate of exchange will not involve any impairment of obligations held abroad, because these are stipulated in the old gold ables, worth exactly 4 francs, and interest and principal will be discharged upon this basis. Russia, whose government has been taking so many steps in recent years to bring her within the circle of modern comsercial and civilized states, thus plants her elf firmly alongside the countries of western Europe and the United States in the adoption of the single and fixed standard of gold.

A MODOC ASSASSIN.

Death of One of the Band Which Mussacred General Camby.

"Scarface Charley," whose death in Indian need was the last sur ivor of the small band of Modoe warriors whose cruel massacre of Brigadier General Canby and Rev. Dr. Thomas, in the lava eds of Northern California in 1873 shocked he civilized world. General Canby Thomas and Indian Inspector A. B. Meacham, acting as a peace commission to treat with the hostile Modocs, under Captain Jack, met the Indians at a point agreed upon, unirmed and without military escort, and, after t few moments' conversation, were set upon by the savages. General Canby and Dr. Phomas were instantly killed and Meachar was left for dead upon the spot, but he was subsequently rescued and recovered. Four of the Indian chiefs who instigated the massacre—Captain Jack, Scouchin, Black Dave and Black Jim-were afterward car tured by General Jeff C. Davis' command, and, after trial by a military commission, were hanged at Fort Klamath, Ore.

Though a leading warrior of the t carface Charley was not then a chief. always claimed that, though present at the scene of the massacre, he was in no way rsponsible for it. He was generally believed by the white people of the lava-bed region, to whom he was well known. Scarface was not a wild or blanket Indian—in fact, he was not a Modoc Indian at all, but a refugee from the Rogue River Indians, who had taken a Modoc wife and settled down with people. He was a very intelligent Indian, spoke English passably well, and had associated a great deal with the whites up to the time of the Modoc outbreak. After the execution of the leaders in the massacre the remnant of the tribe was shipped to the Indian Territory, and there being none of Captain Jack's descendants left, or none of Scouchin's, Scarface was chosen chief, or

rather installed as such by the government authorities. Scarface took his name from a long deep gash on his right cheek, which he had got in some fight while with his own tribe in Oregon. He was about 65 years old at the time of his death.

Something to Know.

It may be worth something to know that he very best medicine for restoring the ired out nervous system to a healthy vigor Electric Bitters. This medicine is purely egetable, acts by giving tone to the nerve centers in the stomach, gently stimulates the Liver and Kidneys, and aids these organs in throwing off impurities in the blood. Electric Bitters improves the appetite, aids digestion, and is pronounced by those who have tried it as the very best blood purifier and nerve tonic. Try it. Sold for 50c or \$1.00 per bottle at Kuhn & Co.'s drug store.

YET THE CAPTAIN TOLD HIM.

But, Being an Englishman, He Could Not Understand It.
An Englishman, touring through America.

went on board a steamer late one night, relates Judge, and on the following morning, after walking on deck and looking around him, he stepped up to the captain and said beg parden, but would you kindly tell me what lake I'm on?"

"The Lake Huron," replied the captain, and turned away. The Englishman looked puzzled for a mo ent, and then, following the captain, began ain: "I beg your pardon, you said—"
"It's Lake Huron," roared the captain,

thinking the man was deaf,
"Yes, I know," persisted the passenger. but what's the name of the lake I'm on? 'The Lake Huron!" shouted the captain ncensed at what he thought gross stupidity and he turned away to relieve himself by railing at one of the hands. The Englishman looked more puzzled than ever.

'The lake you're on is the lake you're on. Of course it is! The lake I'm on can't help being the lake I'm on. Let me look in my guide book; perhaps that

It did tell him; and then the humor of the situation suddenly dawned upon him. They Are Foud of the Theater.

M. and Mme. Jules Verne, now living quietly at Amiens, never miss attending the Grand theater twice a week. On the two venings they dine at a restaurant fust across the way from the place of amusement. The entire evening, dinner and play, is enjoyed by the great author and his wife as thor-oughly as, to quote his own words, a bridal

An English Lithographer Tells How Rebel

Money Was Made.

SOME \$200,000 IN NOTES STOLEN

Paper, Presses and Workmen Obtained in England and Run Through the Blockade-Narrow Escape from the Scabrook.

"In July, 1861," in the words of Jefferson Davis, "the confederate leaders realized that they had entered on a desperate struggle and the plan then adopted was to issue treasury notes convertible at the pleasure of the holder into bonds." More than 600,000,-000 of these treasury notes were issued within the next two years.

Before the work could be begun on any large scale, relates the New York Sun, it was necessary to smuggle the paper and presses, the outfit for a large lithographing establishment, and the men to run this establishment, through the blockade. Like most of their other supplies, the confederate leaders got these from England and brought them in by way of the West Indies. How the tsk of turning out from \$60,000,000 to \$100,000,000 of paper money every week, which the confederacy had set for itself, cas carried out forms an interesting chap ter in the unwritten history of the confed erate movement, and is here set down for the first time in the narrative of John Hodge, one of the few survivors of the group of young English printers and lithographers brought to Charleston, S. C., in 1862 for the express purpose of making confederate money. Mr. Hodge is now an American citizen, the manager of a lithograph com-pany in New York City. His story follows: "In April, 1862, when I was in my twentyourth year. I was working in London for Straker & Sons, a large lithograph

ing establishment. I had then been eight years at my trade as a lithographer, and was considered a fairly good workman. All England was greatly interested American struggle, and, therefore, we looked with curiosity at a man of distinguished appearance, plainly an American who visited our shop one day, and who was reported to be an agent of the confederate states, engaged in purchasing supplies. Our nterest was greatly increased when the story got about that the gentleman had pur-chased the machinery for a large lithographing plant from our firm, and was looking about for a number of young fellows to man this establishment, which was to be de-voted to printing money for the confederacy. "The prospect of large pay and lively ad-

venture was as attractive to me as it is likely to be to a young fellow of that age, and I went to the head of the firm with the request that he should recommend me to our American visitor. As a result I was in-vited to visit Major Evans of Charleston, S. C., at his hotel, and went to see him in company with ten other workers at my craft. We found the major a very agreeable person, and the upshot of our interview was that we agreed to go to Charleston to work for the confederate government. promise of \$20 a week in gold and a liberal rate of piece-work pay, and each man, on signing his contract, received from £40 to £60 to pay the expenses of the journey.

"We left London on May 19, 1862, on the ship Leopard of Glasgow. We were the only passengers except three southern officers and Major Evans, who joined us at Cardiff, where our ship stopped to make some additions to her cargo. We stopped again at Queenstown, and from there sailed Brectly for Bermuda, in the West Indies. At all these places more cargo was brought aboard, but although we were pretty cer-tain that it consisted of military stores, we vere not allowed to know anything about that, and were kept under military discip-

there we were told that both our party and the ship's cargo would be divided into two, and would proceed by separate boats for the short but dangerous part of the journey Evans and six of our men, was put on the Autonica, a regular blockade runner, and the rest of us went on the W. M. Scabrook. an American river boat, commanded by Captain Dan Vincent, who was known as one of the most daring of the Charleston pilots. As we sailed out of Nassau harbor, with the palmetto flag and the half crescent the South Carolina revenue flag, at our mastshore and saluted by the other versels in he harber, for the object of our journey was well known.

The Scabrook was a light-draught boat, and the captain's plan was not to sail directly into Charleston harbor, but to slip in through an inlet with which he was acquainted. Unfortunately, he made a slight miscalculation as to the tides, and proved his undoing. One morning as we were bearing in close to the South Carolina coast we saw a United States cruiser loom-ing up close at hand. The Seabrook sped away up Bull's Inlet, the little stream which Captain Vincent had been making for, where the cruiser could not follow us. although she chased us as far as she could and fired a shot or two across our bows. But as I said before, the captain had mis-calculated the tide, which was further out than he supposed, and presently we found ourselves stuck fast in the mud. The Yankees were aware of our plight, too, and presently our lookout announced that two boats were putting off from the cruiser, each carrying a howitzer, and were coming

isurely along to capture us.
"When we heard this announcement we sungsters, the confederate officers, and most the crew dropped quickly over the ship's side into the two boats and rowed away, I he captain stuck doggedly to his post. The stars and stripes had soon taken the place of the palmetto flag on the Seabrook, but we were out of sight by that time, and were trying to make our way through a mixture and and water, dragging ourselves along and ushing the boats ahead of us.
"We were twenty miles from Charleston,

lost in a wilderness of swamps, and we spent two days tolling through mud with nothing to eat and little hope of ever getting out alive. During that time we heartly wished ourselves back in old England, but at the end of the second day we came upon a small encampinent of confederate troops, the San-tee Mounted Rifles, and found that we were safe within the confederate lines. From here we had to walk to Charleston, a distance of twenty-two miles, over a heavy sandy road, and by the time we reached the city we were as worn and bedraggled speciens of humanity as it would be possible to

"We were warmly welcomed by the people of Charleston, who insisted on regarding the men of the Seabrook as heroes, and by Major Evans, who had arrived before us. ter advanced us money for our immediate needs, for what we had had been lost in making our escape from the boat. We were set to work almost immediately in the printing office of Evans & Coggswell, which still stands in Broad street, Charleston, but after short time we were removed to Columbia the capital of the state, where most of the work of making confederate paper money was carried on for the remainder of the

There were - three - establishments Columbia devoted to this business. One was that of Evans & Coggswell of which firm their office, and printed notes of small denominations, ones and twos, besides the thousands of 'cotton' bonds which the con-federacy issued. The second was that of Keatings & Ball, where ten presses were kept busy running off copper-plate impressions of the large denomination notes—one hun-dred and five hundred. The third establish-ment was that of Colonel Blanton Duncan, where seventeen lithograph presses turned out the notes of the middle denominations five, ten, twenty, etc. The total capacity of all these previous per week, including the printing of bonds, came close to the one handred million mark, and during the latter part of 1862 and all of 1863 they were kept going at nearly top speed. Colonel Duncan's office, being the one with which I am most familiar, will perhaps serve to illustrate the

whole work. "Each press was manned by three workers-one printer and two negro slave helpers. The printers of whom there were about seventy-five in the town, were nearly all Englishmen, as were the designers also. The paper was all manufactured in England, and was stamped at the manufactory with the mark of the confederacy, a small palmetto encircled by the words, Treasury Department, C. S. A., but the stones from which the bills were printed were prepared in Co-

One form of laxness which cost the confederates a large amount of their paper notes was their carelesses in handling the unsigned notes in the offices. The printers were allowed to take these notes in any quantities they liked while at work, and one of the men got in the habit of carrying off five or ten sheets of ten, twenty, or fifty-dollar notes every day. Of course, it was necessary for him to commit forgery in sign-ing them, but there were so many different signatures on the notes that it was not easy to detect a spurious one, and this enterpris-ing individual had taken some \$200,000 of notes before he was found out. Then he was promptly sentenced to be shot, but this was n 1865, when Sherman was close at hand, and the sentence was never executed. After that, however, detectives were set to watch the men while at work, and a strict ac-

ounting was kept.
"When the confederacy began to get into desperate financial straits, it adopted a curi-ous shift to pay the printers, and instead of giving them its own notes, it allowed them o print notes bearing their own name and edeemable in confederate bills, and the exredeemable in confederate bills, and the ex-tent to which these private notes might be printed was practically left to the firm itself. But down to the very day when Sherman's men marched into Columbia the workmen who had been brought from England were paid in gold as their contracts called for, and in the last death the contracts called for, and n the last days they were almost the only ersons in the employ of the confederacy who did receive their pay in gold, so that en every pay day they were besieged by brok-ers who offered them appalling premiums for

'In April, 1865, when the confederacy was in its death throes and Sherman's legions were close at hand, the presses had turned out nearly a billion dollars, but on that day he whole output would little more than have paid for the three printing establishments. Then I got a pass from General Lovell putting me beyond the confederate lines, and made the best of my way to New York to make money more slowly but in more durable form."

MONEY IN TREE CULTURE.

Experiments Going Forward on Long Island that Promise Well.

The owners of large tracts of land in the vicinity of Westbury, L. I., are making experiments in tree culture, says the Brooklyn Eagle, and will redeem much of the waste lands by planting them with valuable timber. This has been found to be more profitable in the long run than perble timber. mitting the natural growth of cedars and pines to come up on the fields not cultivated. It is a well known fact that the late The chief obstacle in the way of the re-demption of the waste land was the fact that it is owned for the most part by men who do not live on it, and who take little take such a turn. or no interest in its development, except as it may be cut up into building lots. The abandoned lands in the more fertile island, which may be purchased at from not a \$25 to \$100 per acre, may be made to pay a days.

proportion of this land has been cleared and cropped, but long since abandoned, be-cause it would not pay for tilling, mowing or even fencing for pasturage. Much of this land is covered with a scanty growth of shrub oak, pitch pine or in the more fertile section with cedars and oaks, with oc-casional chestnut. The natural growth is usually cedar or pine, and it takes many years for it to become of any considerable

An experiment has been made at Brentwood to ascertain whether white pine, the most valuable timber growth in New England, could be cultivated to advantage the plains of Long Island. The land was plowed very deep and sowed with oats, then the seed of the white pine was sowed broad-cast over the surface at the rate of two Long Island. While the experiment was in progress an officer of the state experiment station visited the plantation, and it was his opinion that nothing more valuable than common pitch pine could be successfully grown on the great shrub oak plains, unless they were first cleared up, plowed and cultivated, and that this would cost more than the land would be worth for timber

North and south of the plains or shrub oak section the land is more fertile, and a valuable timber growth is common, and an valuable timber growth is common, and an effort so long that I was completely unnerved, and now that I had found him I felt my-experiment station to induce the farmers to plant trees in their abandoned fields. Lo-cust, chestnut walant and an effort so long that I was completely unnerved, and now that I had found him I felt my-self relaxing and verging upon hysterics. I tried to control myself and get him to

may be relied upon to increase the value of left in a savings bank. GOLD BY THE YARD.

How the Gilding Used in Ornamental

Decoration is Prepared. The beating of the innumerable little square pieces of gold which are used to cover lomes and signs and so on forms a distinct

The long, low building in which the work is carried on is filled throughout the day with the sound of hammers. On every side little boxes containing tiny rolls of gold are to be seen, which, although only measuring an inch and a half in length, are each worth about \$50. The gold is received in bars oneeighth of an inch in thickness, an inch in width and weighing 240 pennyweights. This

is rolled out into a ribbon thirty yards in It is then given to the workmen in strips measuring seven yards, each of which is out up into 180 pieces. These are now ready to be beaten out by hand. They are that of Evans & Coggswell of which firm (protected by fine skins) in a tool known our friend. Major Evans, was the senior as the "clutch," and are thoroughly bounded out on a great granite block set in the ground in such a way that there is ab-solutely no vibratory movement. The process is repeated several times, the gold as It spreads being continuously subdivided un til it is of the exact dimensions required.

The skins in which the gold is beaten are so delicate that they will tear as easily as paper, nevertheless they are of so fine a quality that they will withstand the con-tinual hammering for several years. The 00th of an inch, is rubbed with "brine fore being placed in the skins, in order that

it shall not adhere to them. Easy as this work of beating out the gold may seem, it is in reality an art of a very delicate description. The workman must know to a nicety precisely how hard or genle the blows of his hammer must be, and also the exact spot on which they fall. Accordingly, a very superior class of men are employed in the business.

STORY OF A PRETTY WIDOW

Unfolds Her Soothed Heartaches to the Admiring Major. lumbia by the men throught over for that

HE COULD NOT GET A WORD IN

How a Tragedy at the Hands of "Dear George" Was Averted by the Timely Arrival of the Family Doctor.

The widow was not wearing weeds, neither

was she plunged in a gulf of dark despair, or did she show any signs of those other dreadfully woe-begone conditions which are ometimes attributed to the state of widowheed, not only in America and its environs, but pretty generally over the entire carth's surface. On the contrary, she was as bright and

vivacious as a summer girl, relates the Washington Star, and she was talking to the major in seventeen languages all at once At least, it so seemed to him, for he hadn't the slightest opportunity of introducing a word into the conversation sidewise, even much less introducing it, according to the ordinary rules of colloquy.

"Do you know, major," she was saying as fast as she could, and with little gasps for breath between, as women do when their conversational locomotive begins to "run wild," that I had a perfectly dreadful expe-rience once in my life?"

The major wanted to say that he could ot understand how such a charming woman ould have any kind of an experience that was not as lovely as she was, but he wasn't ick enough. "Well, I did," she ratiled away, "and, you

"Well, I did," she ratified away, "and, you know, it was during dear George's lifetime, and it was perfectly awful. My, my," this with a half sigh, "you wouldn't think I had been a widow ten years, would you?" "Very few people do," she twittered. "Do you think I look very old?" and she canted her head to one side, and looked at the major as a bird looked at a the major and looked at the major. a bird looks at a bug it wants for din

The major was about to say that he thought she was a summer girl before some one told him she was a widow, but, as before, he was left at the post. "But, as I was saying," she continued, "I had this perfectly awful experience. You

know that dear George, during the last two years of his life, was suffering with some peculiar brain trouble that quite changed him. His hallucination was that he was some other person, and that while I was his wife, I was not the same wife he had Austin Corbin took a great interest in the known in his sanity. This seemed to be subject of tree culture and hoped in time to the only peculiarity of his madness, for on induce the owners of the so-called barrens all other points he was quite sane enough to to substitute valuable timber for the shrub deceive even experts. Of course, I had to cake and pitch pines which now cover them. watch him all the time, for the physician said his disorder might develop at any mo ment, and he might do something desperate though it was not probable that it would

"One morning he slipped away from his attendant and escaped to a train that was just leaving the station. The man had grown careless, because George was so rasections of the island are like waste lands grown careless, because George was so ra-which have never been cleared up; they are tional all the time, but when he lost him he them or by old men who are ending their days in the homestead while the boys are employed elsewhere. The rising generation, who alone is likely to take an interest in crops that take thirty or even more years just waited for me. When he lost him he realized that he had been neglectful, and them or by old men who are ending their at once came after me to know what to do. I was not at home, and did not come in for two hours, and the man was so silly, or somewho alone is likely to take an interest in crops that take thirty or even more years just waited for me. When he told me of o mature, has abandoned the old farms and George's escape I sent for the physician and uld hardly be induced to return under a private detective, and as soon as possible any circumstances. The lands are, however, the detective followed my husband. The passing into the hands of wealthy men and physician encouraged me greatly by saying associations, who are acquiring large tracts and converting them into plantations or of himself, that he had no suicidal tendency game preserves. These owners of large and that he would very probably find him at tracts have found that ordinary farming some of the nearby resorts, as it was sumtracts have found that ordinary farming some of the nearby resorts, as it was sum-should come lands on the north or south side of the mer, and the hotels were all open, if he did not be late. not return of his own free will in a few

A considerable no success in his search and at the end of two weeks I determined to sound a general alarm, so to speak, and give the story to the newspapers, when, on one of my expeditions, I unexpectedly found him in a re note little town, where there were very few summer visitors. He had been there since his departure from home, and I soon discovered that he was on excellent terms with every-body. He was very glad to see me at first and took me around to meet his new friends to call first, but I was thinking about George and not social usage, and would have done anything he asked me.

"The townspeople were extremely fond of him, and he had been so generous in his charities that he was looked upon as a public benefactor. To have told them that quarts to the acre and harrowed in. The planting of the cats with the pine seeds was to protect the young plants from the sun. during the afternoon of my arrival I kept to protect the young plants from the each. The seed came up all right, but the experiment was not a success. The white pine for the physician and the attendant. No train was due till next morning, and all train was to wait and keep quiet. I could do was to wait and keep quiet. There was no trouble with George until just after we had taken our supper ittle hotel where he stopped, and had gone to his room. There something I said must have indicated to him in some way that I had some designs against his liberty, something, I don't know what, and gan to act queerly, and show that he was spicious of me. "I had been under such a dreadful strain

cust, chestnut, walnut and white oak are thinking about something else, but suddenly the sorts of timber recommended. The rapid and without any warning he caught me and growth chestnut is said to be the most profit-able. Its trimmings furnish stakes, rails and screamed with all my might, and in a able. Its trimmings furnish stakes, rails and screamed with all my might, and in a and posts for fences, and railroad ties, and the the larger trees may be relied upon for a crop of nuts, long before they are ready for the saw mill. Instead of a straggling growth of valuable trees judicious planting will secure a valuable timber crop, which may be relied upon to increase the value of another to a fretful or frightened child, may be relied upon to increase the value of and doing all he could to soothe me. the land from year to year considerably by this time I was so wrought up that I faster than the money would increase if could not keep still, and when George very quietly told them that I was demented and became extremely violent at times lasting for months, they believed him and asked what could be done.

'He asked that a physician and a police man be sent for, and a messenger went fly ing and soon came back with them. They held a council over me and upon George's domes and signs and so on forms a distinct suggestion that I be put in a safe place for industry in the gold trade, which employs the night, I was taken to the woman's cell a large number of hands and requires no in the town prison and locked up in charge small amount of skill. services, as she had had experience with lunatics. Wasn't that perfectly awful? I, a sane woman, to be locked up on a charge of lunacy, brought by a lunatic?"

The major was anxious to say that he ha never heard of such an outrage perpetrated in a civilized land, but the widow ran over him and went on.
"Well, it was awful, and the more I tried

to convince the woman that it was my hushand who was crazy, the more she shook her head kindly and told me she knew it. and that I was put in there only to protect me from him. That made me worse, and I would go off into hysterics again, and I never slept a wink all night. When morning came I was more nearly a raving maniac than the real lunatic was, and when George the razor, hardly felt, and the whole thing start is to see the razor, that it is taken to take to take the razor, hardly felt, and the whole thing the razor has time than it takes to tell it. came in to see me his emotions were painful the nurse all the time trying to cheer him over your face two or three minutes. He shook his head sadly and went away

to return in an hour with the physician. They talked over me as if I could not un-derstand anything they were saying, and on George's earnest recommendation the ting is from 2 to 4 cents. The barber is physician agreed that the best thing to be also the village surgeon. He performs bleeddone was to commit me to an asylum ing, cupping and undertakes surgical opera-until it was thought safe to release me. tions. There was a private asylum not far away, and it was decided to take me there at It was now 9 o'clock, and George's physician and attendant would not reach the town until 16, by which time I would be on my way to the asylum, if not on my way to permanent lunacy, for the strain was then all I could bear. I told the phy- round trip.

## Bee, December 26, 1896. A Prize Poem

(To be concluded later-maybe.)

'Tis the day after Christmas, and all through the street not a soul with a bund'e or box can you meet. The shops are all empty-the clerks are all tired, and the counters and shelves look decidedly weird (pronounce it wired for this occasion.) The women-God bless them -they haven't a cent; all their change they have cheerfully, lavishly spent, And the little ones-well, wo haven't the time, to depict their elation in banglesome rhyme; but we think, or we guess, or we know, or we feel, that the dear little cherubs are happy as ..... Anybody who can supply the right word to finish this alleged poetry will confer an everlasting favor on our adman and can have his or her choice of what few holiday goods we have left over at exactly the same price that they were marked last week or last month, which is guaranteed to be a lower price than they can be bought for in any of the stores where they are so busy right now marking their Christmas things down, The Nebraska doesn't have to mark things down.

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and with little or no adornment, are rarely found in the stock of an ordinary furniture store. They can always be procured of us, however, and at about half the price you would pay for building them to order.

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sician to wait, and tried to explain to him the situation, and all he did was to say he understood perfectly, and that we were only going for a drive into the country to visit some of George's friends who were anxious to entertain us for a few days. Al this time the nurse was getting me ready for my trip and I was doing all I could to gain a delay of an hour until should come, and I prayed that it would

"Despite all my efforts to the contrary section for the investment by tree good income upon the investment by tree culture on a large scale, besides affording amusement as game preserves and golf could meet all his expenses, and knew very me out to it. There was quite a crowd with him, and I felt easy on that score, for he door, and they picked me up and carried me out to it. There was quite a crowd with him and I felt easy on that score, for he door, and they picked me up and carried me out to it. There was quite a crowd with him and I felt easy on that score, for he door, and they picked me up and carried me out to it. There was quite a crowd amusement as game preserves and golf links.

It is estimated that there are 200,000 acres of waste, idle land on the island. This looking for him. The detective line of the place of the p cian. George and the nurse got into the car riage after me, and we started away horrid asylum. I composed myself for whatas we turned into the open space at the rail road station, which we had to pass, my own physician and George's attendant. In a second I had smashed the carriage win dow, and thrusting out my head screamed for help, calling the doctor by name. They were only the width of a street away, and as the driver of the carriage did not know anything about what was going on, stopped to see what was wrong, and the next minute I was out of the carriage and had fainted in the physician's arms. The major was about to remark that the that physician, but the widow had her mine and her tongue on her story, and once more

"Of course, explanations were in order and it was not long before the true state of the case was made known, greatly to the astonishment of everybody except George He took it as a matter of course, and laughed over it as a great loke, without ap-parently understanding what he had done and he went back to town with us as sub-missively as could be, never losing his temper in the slightest degree. Within a couple of months after that he grew rapidly worse and death soon brought him a blessed relief." Here the widow hesitated and sighed "And, I may say, a blessed relief to me as well, for I would have lost my mind, I am

At this point the widow stopped lonenough to give the major an opportunity to make a few remarks, which he did advisedly seeing that the major, on general principles regards widows pretty much as did th

father of the late Sam Weller, Six-Thirty P. M. Train. of the CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE & ST. PAUL RY. Best service ELECTRIC LIGHTS, Dining car City office: 1504 Farnam. BURLINGTON ROUTE

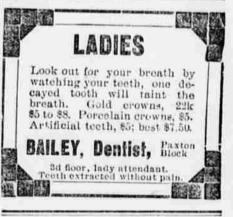
"Fast Mail" Discontinued Sundays. Commencing Sunday, Dec. 27, the Bur ington's 2:55 p. m. train for Lincoln will ot run Sundays.

Personally Conducted Excursions Leave Omaha every Friday via the Union Pacific. No change of cars to Ogden, San Francisco or Los Angeles. Tourist sleepers fally to San Francisco. Special attention paid to ladies traveling City Pass, and Tkt. Ager 1302 Farnam St.

The Barber in India.

The barber of India has no shop and does not solicit customers by signs or symbols. He visits certain families regularly every morning early. The servant announces his presence and he comes in with a salaam and a "morning habit." You sit down comfortably out on the veranda. Hot water is rarely used. He carries no brush for latherthe razor, hardly felt, and the whole thing is done in less time than it takes to tell it. After shaving he rubs the palm of his hand up by telling him that I had been quiet most this manner he polishes your face to such of the night and would soon recover from the fit. would make a fairly good looking glass for some other person. For his daily services he receives 70 cents a month. A single shave is 1 cent, and the charge for hair cut-

The Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Ry., will sell excursion tickets Dec. 24th, 25th and 31st, 1896, and January 1st good for return until January 4th, for one and one-third fares for the 1897.



IN THE LINE OF A HINT.

The Progressive Girl Playing the Role of a Good Fellow. It was evident that he was ill at case while she was looking over the bill of fare, relates the Chicago Post, but she didn't seem to notice it, and he continued to urge her to order whatever she wished.

It isn't necessary to enter into all the destails of the order here, but in the seclusion of his own den, with his chum as his only auditor, he would have designated it as a

He was nervous while the waiter was geting it, but again it did not seem to attract her attention. As a matter of fact, she had discovered a dish on the bill of fare for which she had had a lingering longing for a long, lingering time, and she was princi-pally interested in the fact that she was

about to get it at his expense.

And she claimed to be a new woman, too "I read a story a short time ago," he said finally, with some trace of nervousness in his manner, "of a girl who was so progresive that she insisted upon treating just like

'Where did you read it?" she asked "In a newspaper," he answered, "Oh. well," she returned, "you know you

can't believe all that you see in the news-He sighed and showed some evidences o being just a little more distressed than be-fore, but he said meekly: "Of course not." She talked gayly about one thing and another until the waiter had returned with the order, but he was strangely silent.

"I read in a paper devoted exclusively to

women a day or two ago," he ventured a little later, "that Dutch treats were all the rage now in the swagger set. "They're always springing absurd stories like that," she returned. "Any one who didn't know better would be deceived a hundred times a day. Then, in desperation, he leaned across the table and said:

"Say! be a good fellow, can't you? All my money is in my other clothes and I never knew it until we were in here." She was so tickled at being addressed in that masculine fashion that she not only paid for both, but refused to let him make it good later, although she did intimate that, ew woman or not, she did not wish to es-

tablish that kind of a precedent. A Perplexing Problem. Whether to take "Northwestern Line" No. 2 at 4:45 p. m. or No. 6 at 6:30 p. m., Chicagoward, "No. 2" arrives at Chicago at 7:45 a. m. and "No. 6" at 9:30 a. m. Both trains are models of modern art, skill and luxury. NO EXTRA CHARGE ON EITHER ONE. Call at the City Office, 1401 Farnam street, and talk it over.

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