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(MORNING, EVENING AND SUNDAY.)

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REMOVAL OF THE BUSINESS OFFICE.

The business office of The Daily Times will be removed next week to the Hutchins Building, corner of Tenth and D streets and Pennsylvania avenue, for twelve years the office of the Daily Post, where, on the 30th of December, all the friends and patrons of The Times will be heartily welcomed.

The news, composition, art, and press rooms, newspaper delivery and carriers' and newsboys' quarters will remain at their present location.

Put Into Operation.

Reference has been made to the recently promulgated plan of the Illinois Central Railroad to enable its employes to acquire profit-sharing interest in the stock of the road. The plan is now fully worked out and in operation. It has attracted wide interest, and is being fully elaborated in the press of the country. From the New York World we learn that the plan was originated by M. Stuyvesant Fish, the president and the largest stockholder in the Illinois Central road, and that it was for the purpose of making his plan a reality, that Mr. Fish gave up his palace in Gramercy Square and moved to Chicago. He assumed the active management of the road. It was not long before his advanced ideas were felt.

More than 1,500 employes have already made application to the officers for stock. Applications are being received at the rate of 250 or 300 a month. They indicate a strong desire on the part of the workingmen to be in harmony with the executive department.

The Illinois Central employs 22,000 men. It is expected that half of that number will soon become stockholders. President Fish has offered to assist any who want to buy stock at the rate of a share at a time, the buyer paying for the purchase in installments of $5. On the amounts so paid interest is to be credited at the rate of $4 a year. When the sum to the credit of any one amounts to the figure at which the stock was bought he receives a regular certificate for his share. Then the stockholder can buy another share on the same terms, if he likes.

President Fish recently expressed himself as follows about the present suffering and discontent in the South and West, and explained the reasons for the great scheme made public recently:

> There is still a good deal of discontent in the South and West, he said; 'tis a great mistake to call these people "Anarchists." The majority are as true and earnest citizens as can be found in any part of the country. They have a great many things to contend with which many of us in the East do not take into account. The price of corn is low and that of cotton still lower. Wheat alone shows material advance.
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> Of course, when farm products are so cheap, there must be more or less suffering in the agricultural districts. Especially is it so when money commands as high as 12 and 15 per cent about the time the crops are to be moved. I remember, as far back as 1885, how Gov. Oglesby, of Illinois, said that agitation henceforth would not be so much between people and the railroads as between the "haves" and "have nots."
>
> We are confronted today with the communistic and socialistic tendencies which have long given trouble in Europe. These make it imperative that we continue our campaign of education. We have settled the 16-to-1 question, but there are a number of other important questions to be passed upon before the present popular discontent is allayed. Instead of calling the people of the South and West fools and fanatics, we would better correct our own errors.

These were well described by Mr. Henry Watterson, in a recent interview, as "suddenly acquired riches and vulgar ostentation."

The way to answer this Populistic clamor is to ascertain the cause of complaints, redress wrongs as far as possible, and show the West and South that their interests and ours in the North and East are identical and inseparable. It is within the power of the present Congress to take away the cause of much of the discontent and thus open the way for a return to prosperity. And it is our duty as citizens to see that they perform theirs as legislators.

Mr. Fish fails to explain just what he believes Congress should do in the way of taking "away the cause of discontent," which failure detracts considerably from his otherwise interesting expression of opinion.

It is gratifying to learn that it is no cheap stock that Mr. Fish is enabling the workmen of his road to buy—but that it is "gilt-edged." The entire stock of the road is worth $70,000,000 and pays an annual dividend of 5 per cent.

With an Eye to Business.

One of the curious attachments of the State Department is the Bureau of American Republics. It has a quasi-official status and it issues a monthly bulletin of greater or less volume replete with information, chiefly statistical, concerning some of the Central and South American States. This bulletin, which is generally a respectable octavo volume of some three or four hundred pages, with charts and illustrations, is printed at the Government Printing Office at the expense of the government, and circulated by and under its authority. The manager of this thrilling publication evidently has a sharp eye to business, for he has used the franking privilege of the State Department, not merely for soliciting advertisements from merchants, but afterward giving them circulation after they had made them a part of the bulletin.

But one view can be taken of this whole business. It is an outrage upon the legitimate newspaper publication enterprises which, not being favored by large government appropriations and unable to drum up subscribers by using the department frank, must have recourse to the usual and legitimate methods of securing subscriptions and advertisements. The bureau and its manager constitute a thrifty combination, for on the one hand they enclure the Post office Department of a considerable part of its legitimate revenues, while, on the other hand, they encroach upon the domain of the legitimate newspaper by obtaining advertisements which, under ordinary circumstances, would be wholly out of their reach.

If this use of the franking privilege is tacitly made permissible its extension to other government publications suggests itself. For instance, there are the Agricultural Reports, the Patent Office Reports, and the Congressional Record, three thrilling volumes of curious lore. There is no telling how many "ads" could be secured for these widely circulated publications. The field in which their respective manager could operate under the franks, respectively, of the Secretary of Agriculture, Commissioner of Patents and Public Printer, is simply unlimited. Subscriptions and "ads" having thus been obtained the volume could be sent out under the same franks. But it would be mighty small business, and would be stopped in a jiffy, just as the bulletin of the Bureau of American Republics ought to be stopped.

Insanity and Crime.

The frequency with which persons proven in the courts to be guilty of murder escape punishment through a successful demonstration by their counsel that they were "non compos mentis" at the time they committed the crime, points to the necessity of legislation on this point. The plea of emotional insanity in palliation of murder is nothing less than vicious, for it simply makes a fool of Justice, who must, indeed, be blind if she can't see through so transparent a device. It is no exaggeration to say that in hundreds of trials for murder the accused has gone scot free under this plea.

Some years ago a case of this sort came up in the local criminal court, and counsel for the accused set up the theory that his client was sane a moment before and a moment after he killed his man, but insane at the time he slew his victim. Expert testimony galore was produced in support of this theory, and the man was acquitted. Such a theory is the very mockery of justice, and neither law nor court should lend itself to its perpetration. No man that can measure the enormity and the consequences of such a crime just before and immediately after its committal, should be regarded as not responsible for what he did.

There is another class of cases, however, to be considered in this connection. It happens too frequently that a man who in a sudden fit of insanity commits murder, and is not morally responsible for his act, is acquitted and allowed to leave the court in the care of his relatives. This is a positive wrong to the community, for the homicidal impulse may return at any time and cause him to claim another victim. Such a man should be sent to the insane asylum and held there subject to the orders of the court. He should be examined from time to time, and his condition reported to the court, which tribunal should also determine the time of his release. An amendment is about to be offered to the code of criminal procedure of New York which, it is believed, will follow these lines, and if it is found to operate beneficially other States might well pattern after it.

Revision of the District Code.

Thorough revision of the laws, both criminal and civil, on the statute books of the District of Columbia is a prime necessity. Our code today is a conglomerate mass of good, bad, and indifferent components. It includes laws long since obsolete, and, in the light of modern thought in legislation, painfully absurd. For instance, there is no penalty for seduction save the payment of a certain number of pounds of tobacco, and there are other statutes equally ridiculous. The factors in the code are old Maryland laws, Congressional laws, ordinances of the common councils of Washington, Georgetown, and the levy court; acts passed by the District legislature of blessed memory; orders of the District Commissioners, which have the force of law; decisions of courts, whereby some of the foregoing have been nullified, and all these, mixed up with old English common law, have produced a labyrinthine condition which not infrequently puzzles court and lawyers.

It cannot well be avoided in such a state of affairs that all litigation is long drawn out and consequently unduly expensive. All these laws have been codified from time to time, but the legislative pruning knife has never been applied to them. This is what is needed and Congress would deserve the thanks of the people of the District if it were to pass a bill providing for the appointment of a commission of good lawyers, members of the District bar, to whom the task of revising the whole mass of material should be entrusted. They should have ample time given them for this work, which must needs be done with extreme care. They should also be instructed to eliminate all superfluous matter, giving their reasons in each instance; to supply deficiencies, and at last, put everything in compact form, subject to the approval of the supreme court of the District. This approval having been given, it would remain for Congress to give this revised code its sanction and make it take the place of the jumble of legislation we now dignify by calling it the District code.

The attention of Congress has been called to this matter more than once, but that body has never seen fit to pay heed to the wishes of the people of the District in this regard. There is no occasion for delay, for the work can be begun today as well as tomorrow, even better, perhaps, for the sooner it is begun the more quickly will it be brought to completion. It cannot be done any too soon.

Americans who hiss President Cleveland's name and burn Weyler in effigy are enjoying themselves a great deal and helping Cuba very little.

It is impossible to convince the State central committee of Tennessee that it is now "the late" election.

We fear that the London Times' warnings to America do not boom its circulation in this country.

McKinley is back from Chicago, and now Mr. Hanna thinks he will visit the same place January 10. Windy City bank depositors would rather see fewer advance agents of prosperity and more of the entertainment which they advertise.

Little Willie Leedy, son of the Governor-elect of Kansas, visited his father's office last week and afterwards said: "There was a lot of men who came into papa's ante-room and sat down a while, and then went into papa's office-room and commenced to recite to him." Come to Washington after March 4, Willie, and you'll see what a real big school of oratory is like.

There is a town in Nebraska without a lawyer. The statement saves itself from impossibility by adding that there are no inhabitants.

In spite of all he had heard about the bicycle stocking Santa Claus was unable to get one into it.

Enraged Chicago citizens tried to kill a motorman, but failed because they couldn't operate the trolley.

Society people in New York are disgusted with a reform movement that dares to trouble any one except the dwellers in tenements.

The size of today's Sunday-school attendance will depend on possibility of some overflow gift-giving on New Year's.

The esteemed Baltimore Herald says that the coming magnificent inaugural is by no means antagonistic to Republicanism. Just so. But isn't it rubbing it in on Democracy?

Six lynchings in one week is Kentucky's rebuke to these new fangled substitutes for effecting capital punishment.

Guess who is in love with Miss M. E. P. Little? G. B. W. says that M. E. P. is her sweetheart. Look out, J. W. F.—The Eufaula, Ala., Republican Headlight.

It is fair to presume that by this time J. W. F. has invaded the editorial sanctum and trimmed down the headlight.

Tammany Hall has a Poet Laureate. Mr. Croker will surely disrupt the solid Bowery with these English innovations.

The current usage which spells it "Xmas" is being aided and abetted by the lack of width in newspaper headlines.

The London Press will please take notice that the Springfield Union settles it all with "There is no danger of war."

In Russia one may marry only five times. Now we understand Lillian Russell's aversion to a foreign tour.

The Jack the Slasher epidemic is on again in Washington, but it will not reach the acute stage until the appointment of the new First Assistant Postmaster General.

PERSONAL.

William Doroczi, a Hungarian, declares that the tobacco plant is a perennial, not an annual, and therefore there is no need of sowing it anew each year.

A Boston biographer of the younger Salvini says: "No dark corners lurked in his character, which may be summed up in a single word—lovable. He was the most delightful and sympathetic of companions, the best of hosts, kind, courteous and considerate."

At the Schubert festival, to be given in Vienna in commemoration of the composer's 100th birthday, one of the performers will be Miss Caroline Giessler-Schubert, of London, a pianiste. She is a grandniece of Schubert, and has the name of being an excellent interpreter of her illustrious relative's music.

Sardou is of the opinion that Sarah Bernhardt talks too fast on the stage. "At the general rehearsal she recites divinely, at the first performance stupendously, but after that she runs at breakneck speed. It is worse when she performs out of Paris. I heard her once at Nice. She and all the others recited as if rattling off a lesson as quick as possible."

The Boston Transcript says: "A movement has been put on foot in all the large cities of the United States to memorialize the twenty-fifth anniversary of the reign of King Oscar II. of Sweden, by making the monarch a gift that shall fittingly show the high appreciation of his long and prosperous administration. Some of the most influential Swedes in Boston have organized a committee for the purpose of soliciting funds for this object, and subscription lists have been opened in various places." The anniversary will occur on September 18, 1897.

IS THIS "NEW" JOURNALISM?

A newspaper that will clip matter, editorial and miscellaneous, from a contemporary and then persistently and knowingly credit it to other newspapers, is worse than a journalistic kleptomaniac. And there are such alleged newspapers published.—Philadelphia Press.

Epitome of the News in Evening Times.

LIGHTS ON THE CAPITOL.—Mr. Elliott Wood, assistant architect of the Capitol, proposes a cheap and effective illumination for the 4th.

VICTIMS OF HYDROPHOBIA.—Conrad Eppers, a Baltimore boy, succumbs. Pasteur treatment fails. Another developed dread symptoms.

IN GEN. LOGAN'S TOMB.—Remains of Capt. George E. Lemon await the last reveille at Soldiers' Home burying ground. Many friends attend the funeral.

SIX LYNCHINGS IN SIX DAYS.—Judge Lynch makes a record in Kentucky. Alfred Holt, a murderer, the last victim. Hanged by a mob at Owensboro.

"QUEEN GOT A BOAR'S HEAD.—Emperor William's gift to Victoria. How royalty spent the holidays.

HARD FIGHT WITH THIEVES.—Determined pickpockets in Chicago give police a tussle.

HIS DEATH CAME UNSOUGHT.—Warren McCoy of No. 906 I street northwest accidentally asphyxiated. Loose stop-cock the cause.

ECKLES ANOTHER SLASHER.—Detective Lacey arrests James Eckles, alias "Jack the Slasher." Despoiled carpets and other furniture in Pennsylvania ticket office, at Fifteenth and G streets, and secured $150 in cash.

JURORS FOR JANUARY TERM.—List of the men to judge their fellows. One hundred and fifty impaneled for the six courts.

SHE WORKED FOR HER FAITH.—Mrs. Anna H. Dorsey, a prominent writer of Catholic literature, passes away at her residence, No. 2119 California avenue. Prominent churchmen to attend the funeral services at St. Paul's.

EMERGENCY MORGUE FULL.—Heavy death rate at the hospital, and many other patients who may die. Extra physicians on duty.

PLEA FOR STRINGENT LAW.—Efforts of the health department to prevent a spread of diphtheria. Herbert court under strict surveillance. The Worthington case.

HE RAISED CUBA'S FLAG.—Col. Prentiss Ingraham, author and sportsman, of Easton, Md., talks of Cuban affairs. Calls Weyler a hyena, and prophesies success for Cuba libre.

UPON A MOVING STAIRWAY.—An electrical tread-mill put in operation on the Brooklyn Bridge as an experiment. Officials pleased and may adopt it permanently.

GUESTS OF THE FRIDAY COTILLION CLUB.—Baltimore society folks entertain Washingtonians. Lehmann's Hall a dream of beauty. Fashionable functions throughout the city.

REFUGE IN THE WORKHOUSE.—Sad story of Frederick Weaka. With life wrecked by rum, he asks for alms from the city.

EIGHTY-THREE IN THE DOCK.—Judge Kimball faces a motley crew of Christmas revellers. Preferred cocktails to coffee. Many go down for a stay at the workhouse.

SUN SHONE CHEERLESSLY.—Judge Miller's courtroom filled with gloom and holiday lawbreakers. A potpourri of petty offenders and their punishments.

CHICAGO'S BANK FAILURE.

The financial world will not be upset over the failure of the Bank of Illinois. Unwise methods sometimes prevail where the utmost conservatism should be looked for.—Philadelphia Telegram.

What has happened in the case of this particular bank may happen any day with a dozen others of the remaining 3,678 institutions over which the Federal government exercises a paternal supervision, and for whose solvency it periodically vouches. Is it not time for the Federal government to give up this sort of banking business and turn it over to the individual States?—New York Sun.

It seems that the National Bank of Illinois had too much confidence.—Indianapolis News.

It is our opinion that the National Bank of Illinois would have failed whether we had a gold or silver standard, the Wilson law or the McKinley law, for the reason that its management, if not dishonest, was at least reckless and demoralizing.—New York Press.

OVER THE OCEAN.

Germany's decay in musical matters is beginning. It has been found advisable lately to provide analytical programs at Dresden concerts.

Mrs. Smith, a 100-year-old lady of Grantham, England, does all her own housework, nurses an invalid nephew, and sells potatoes, which she has planted and dug up herself.

The Marquis de Montcalm, the last male representative of the family of the defender of Quebec, died recently at Montpellier. He transmitted the name and title by legal process to an adopted son.

Prince Karl Egon, of Furstenburg, who died recently, left a fortune of $85,000,000 in cash and securities. The family had been sovereign in the principality before the French revolution; but was mediatized by the congress of Vienna.

A bankruptcy which occurred in 1811 has just been wound up in the London registrar's court by a payment that brings the total dividends up to 100 cents on the dollar. A recent bankrupt at about the same time offered to settle at the rate of 1-27 of a penny in the pound, or 7-10 of a cent to a dollar.

FACTS AND FANCY.

The next trouble will be to learn to write it "1897."

As things now look, if Mr. Choate is to be the next Senator from New York, Mr. Platt will have to elect him.

Congressman Money is showing the Senate Foreign Relations Committee how it might have made a nice little holiday junket out of that Cuban business.

A visiting English critic finds that the homogeneity which pervades the United States from New York to San Francisco is our distinguishing characteristic. After he has lived here long enough to notice more closely he will change his mind.

If everybody did not have a merry Christmas it was not the fault of the clerk of the weather.

The Bancroft is in evidence once more. It is now intimated that she is not to go through the Dardanelles until it is certain that she can come back again.

The sultan's troops seem to have found the only effectual way to coerce the sultan.

Mr. Bryan has been given a Kentucky thoroughbred saddle horse for a Christmas present. It is safer to ride on than a Georgia railroad.

If anybody has a shipload of rock from Juan Fernandez, he has a chance for a big speculation in souvenirs.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The city assessors of Boston have decided that the "temple" of the Spiritualists in that city is not a place of worship, and they have fixed its taxable value at $240,000. The Spiritualists have "raised Cain" over the matter.

Florists and gardeners have found a simple, and what is said to be an effective, means of ridding their greenhouses of devastating insects. Tobacco stems are placed on the heating pipes, and the heat brings out the odor of the tobacco, which destroys the pests.

It is a noticeable fact that this year Santa Claus, the patron saint of the holidays, was in many cases represented as making his annual mythical tour mounted on a bicycle. It spoils the illusion to separate jolly old St. Nick from his sleigh and reindeer team.

Wide-awake advertisers are always on the lookout to find some novel way of displaying their advertisements; but one progressive New York firm has succeeded in introducing its advertisement at purely social functions. An elaborate private dinner was recently given in the metropolis, at which each guest received as a souvenir a pretty calendar, on the back of which was printed an advertising card.

An article in the Psychological Review gives the results of some careful experiments on the best conditions for avoiding fatigue in reading. It seems that type less than 1.5 millimeters in height should be avoided as much as possible, since visual weariness rapidly increases in reading letters smaller than this. Size of type was found to be much more important than intensity of illumination, though, of course, the eyes are strained if attempts be made to read in semi-darkness. White light is better than yellow, and daylight best of all. "Leading," or space between lines, lessens the fatigue upon the eyes, and the form of the type is of less importance than the thickness of the letters.

A writer in the New York Press says of our immigrants: "The Irish land here as servants and laborers, wind up as politicians and contractors, with money to burn. Many become policemen, and develop into capitalists. The French immigrants arrive as waiters, and become boarding-house keepers. The Germans come as waiters, principally, but often as skilled artisans. They develop into small grocers and butchers, and are thrifty and live comfortably on small sales and vast profits. The Italians come to sell peanuts, blacken shoes, peddle gew-gaws and clean out sewers. They seldom advance in station, but return to Italy with fortunes. The English immigrants are usually divided into two classes, namely, those who come as butlers and coachmen, and those who come as adventurers. The latter class includes lords and dukelets."

POLITICAL OPINIONS.

They are making fun of Peffer because in seeking re-election he has published in this shape for Kansas consumption a resume of his work in the Senate:

Speeches, long and short	437
Bills and joint resolutions introduced	202
Amendments proposed	94
Reports submitted	87
Senate and concurrent motions and resolutions	62
Whole number of petitions presented	306

Peffer is all right. Peffer knows his business. He knows that these are the very things which his constituents value the highest.—Chicago Chronicle.

Senator Hoar must have been joking when he said, in reply to Senator Allen, that "the Senate was supposed to be above political parties, which, after the clamor and heat of political contest, settled questions on their merits, without reference to political tests." That the Nebraska Senator should introduce a political or party question seemed to him "inconsistent with the dignity and the character of the Senate." He must have been joking. Can we think of Chandler, Hill, Gorman and Quay in a Senate without party politics? Even Senator Hoar has played occasionally his party game in that august body.—Springfield Republican.

If Gen. Coxey believes that this government could elevate itself into prosperity by issuing non-interest bearing bonds, why doesn't he work up a little prosperity for himself by loaning money without interest? —Chicago Times-Herald.

The Hon. Elijah Morse continues his war on the barrooms in and out of the Capitol with unabated vigor. He should remember that he is doing a grievous thing in making committee work dry and uninteresting.—Cleveland Leader.

There is said to be a Cabinet place for Quay. He is a good fighter, and therefore he is slated for Secretary of the Navy. —Buffalo News.

A FEW NEW THINGS.

An electric roller for massage purposes is composed of plates of copper and zinc and generates its own electricity.

A newly-designed double-barreled gun has only one trigger, a lever being used to change the action to either side, as desired.

Blacking brushes for use with liquid blacking have a reservoir in the dauber, together with a tube running into the bristles through which the polish runs.

Pneumatic roller skates having one wheel on each skate are just out. In connection with the foot plate and heel and toe clamps, there is a brace running up to the calf of the leg to make it more rigid.

To remind a person that his clock needs winding a Wyoming man has a device consisting of a lever placed so as to touch off an alarm when the coiled spring has unwound sufficiently to move the lever out of position.

PROMOTION OF THE FITTEST.

The hostility to civil service reform manifests itself from time to time in a petty form in the House of Representatives by the familiar, but always defeated motion to strike out from the appropriation bills the item for the salaries of the Civil Service Commissioners. This very small potato proposition received twenty-nine votes in the House last Tuesday. Civil service reform is here to stay, and the fact that some Congressmen are willing to cut off the pay of the commissioners shows the need of the application of civil service reform principles—that is, the promotion of the fittest—to Congressional elections.—Philadelphia Press.

WHERE IS KOONER JOHN?

Southern Christmas Custom That Has Passed Away.

No folk Pilot.

Forty years ago, in some parts of Virginia, North Carolina, and other Southern States, "Kooner John," or "the Kooner," or "John O'Kooner," was still a feature of Christmas revels. Perhaps it was the last lingering relic of English Christmas revels brought by our forefathers from the old country. When we first knew John, he had a wife—John being a stout colored man, with a hideous false face, a cocked hat, and from hat to shoes bedizened with tinsel, ribbons, feathers and rags of all sizes, shapes and colors. In one hand he carried a small bell, which he rang continuously, and in the other he bore a staff, with which he threatened the children now and then, as he made a ferocious pretense of rushing upon them, slaying and devouring them. His wife was another colored fellow dressed as a woman, his bonnet being a battered old leghorn, of prodigious size, and awful scoop and scope. From head to foot he was ragtagged like John, and wore a mask even more horrible in aspect than that of John.

On the occasion referred to John and his wife were accompanied by drum and fife, with a chorus of singers and bell-ringers. The drummer and fifer wore scarlet coats, blue trousers (all much loaded with brass buttons), and each had a tall bearskin shako on his head. When the drum and fife were not sounding, the singers (including John and his wife) sang at the top of their voices and rang their bells with all their might. The song was all about John Kooner and his wife, and always asked for money, usually "one cent," though much silver was usually thrown to them from every house before which they stopped to sing and dance and perform other antics. They were at once the terror and fascination of all children; and a long procession of them, of both sexes and colors, and of all conditions and ages, generally followed them about.

This appearance of John was the grandest we ever witnessed; and it was a long time ago, in Fayetteville, N. C. Subsequently John fell into a decay, so to speak. He lost his wife; he lost his drum and fife; and the last time we met John he was a small negro boy, with a face smeared with soot and Spanish brown, with some parti-colored rags tacked about on his clothes. He was accompanied by another colored boy, who had a bell, and who helped John to sing; but, altogether, it was a tame and melancholy rendition of the grand performance which once entranced the children.

It is a question: Whence came John O'Kooner and his Christmas parade? Whence his masquerade, his rags, his bell, his song, etc.? We have looked into the matter a little, and we incline to think that John and his performances (as he and they became soon after importation here) were a parody, or a degenerate form, of some of the old English Christmas revels, brought over by our early colonists, and gradually transferred to the African slaves that soon began to take the place of the white laborers on farms and plantations.

In one of his recent Shakespearean articles in Lippincott's, the writer has made a brief reference to Kooner John; and this seems to be the only published mention of John extant. Yet there must be many persons in Virginia and North Carolina who remember John; and we shall be very glad if some of them would send us their recollections of him, his dress, songs, etc. It will be interesting to trace John's origin, his decline and fall, and we trust that we will hear about him from some who read this imperfect reminiscence of the defunct Christmas worthy. Or does he still linger somewhere?

BUSINESS FIRMS FAIL.

New York, Dec. 26.—George Heather, dealer in dry goods under the name of Heather & Co., today confessed judgment for $22,883. The liabilities are $50,000; nominal assets, $40,000, and actual assets, $30,000.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 26.—Dallas A. Wightman, a cloak manufacturer, made a general assignment this morning. His assets are between $20,000 and $25,000; liabilities $15,000.

Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 26.—Robert Herderborg was today appointed receiver for the Union Dry Goods Company of this place. Assets are $35,000; estimated liabilities, $20,000. Pressure brought to bear on other local dry goods dealers on top of the failure of the Parsons-Pelletier Dry Goods Company precipitated the failure.

CONTEST IN KENTUCKY.

Republicans Will Try to Have Solid Electoral Vote.

Richmond, Ky., Dec. 26.—Through A. T. Herd, secretary of the Republican State campaign committee, the Republicans this afternoon filed notice of contest on W. E. Smith, who received a certificate of election as Democratic Presidential elector.

J. S. R. Wedding and H. S. Howes, Republican electors from the Ninth and Fourth districts, are named as contestants. The notice charges fraud in the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Seventh, Ninth and Tenth districts.

This was the last day on which notice could be filed.

MISSION OF AN OLIVE LEAF.

Important Part It Played in Molding the Destiny of Europe.

Youth's Companion.

While Bismarck was Prussian envoy at Paris he made a short Pyrenean tour, and at Avignon made the acquaintance of a young couple, named Luning, who were spending their honeymoon in that romantic spot. One day the three set out together for a drive, but they had scarcely seated themselves in the carriage when a telegram was handed Bismarck. It was a message from King William, summoning him to return to Berlin and assume the post of minister president. The Prussian chamber had rejected the estimates for a reformed army, which was the first condition of other reforms, and the king was in despair.

Bismarck made no secret of the contents of the telegram, and frankly expressed a hope that he might succeed in reconciling the government and the chamber. But he would not interrupt the drive, and they went on along the bank of the Rhone until, reaching the vineyards and olive groves, they got out of the carriage for a little stroll. Suddenly Mme. Luning stopped, and, breaking a double twig from a young olive tree, offered it to Bismarck.

"May this help you to make it up with your opponents," she said.

"I will accept half of it," he said gallantly, returning her a part of the twig. "May the other half, with this rose, bring you, dear madam, constant peace in your happy marriage."

Four days later he was in Berlin, and there he found the king with his abdication signed and ready. He refused in those circumstances to take office, and when the king asked him if he were prepared to govern against a majority of the chamber he answered "Yes," without the slightest hesitation. The abdication was torn up and Bismarck accepted office. It was during this struggle that the king said:

"I can see far enough from the palace window to behold your head fall on the scaffold, and after yours, mine."

"Well," said Bismarck, "for myself I cannot imagine a nobler death than that of on the battlefield. Surely your majesty as captain of a company cannot think of deserting it under fire!"

"Never!" was the reply.

But the olive leaf had not yet fulfilled its dramatic mission. At his first speech before the budget committee, Bismarck urged military reform, but only to be met by the objection that it would be much better for the government to depend upon moral conquests by the aid of a liberal policy. He took out his pocketbook and produced from it a little withered twig.

"I brought this olive leaf with me from Avignon," said he, "in order to offer it to the radicals as a symbol of peace, but I see I am much too soon with it."

This assurance was met with a smile, and he roused himself to sterner speech. "Germany," said he, "does not look to liberalism, but to the power of Prussia, and Prussia must pull herself together so as not to miss the favorable moment. Not by speechifying and resolutions can the great questions of the time be decided, but by blood and iron."

THE BARBARY PIRATES

Facts About Their Warfare on Christian Nations.

Glimpses of Piracy in the Mediterranean 100 Years Ago—Americans Had the Small End of It.

New York Sun.

"The Barbary States for many years sent out cruisers, which captured vessels of all Christian nations and held their crews as slaves until ransomed. The United States, like the European nations, was accustomed to pay annual tribute to these pirates to secure exemption from these attacks.' That is what we were taught when we went to school. The instruction was continued with the information that the Bashaw of one of the States, sometimes called Algiers, sometimes called Tripoli, finally became so haughty that the United States had to [illegible] and a tribute in small type at the foot of the page says that Commodore Decatur distinguished himself. He was only a lieutenant at the time; but when a child's history of the United States gets so near to facts as is indicated above, no criticism should be permitted.

This story will not concern itself with the greater matters of history, but will take up some of the details of the haughtiness and naughtiness of the Barbary States.

In 1793 Washington, then President, sent Mr. Nathaniel Cutting of Massachusetts and Col. Humphreys to the Barbary States to arrange about the yearly ransom, and square things generally. Mr. Cutting joined Col. Humphreys in Lisbon, and a journal which he kept gives a clear idea of the way of traveling 100 years ago, and of what is meant by the remark in the history that "the Barbary States * * * captured vessels of all Christian nations." He sailed from Philadelphia in April, 1793, for England, and on August 1 left Falmouth in the King George packet for Lisbon, where he arrived on the 28th. His first illuminating entry appears on August 31: "Col. H. informs me Mr. Harrison has not been able to do anything decisive with respect to a neutral vessel for us to proceed to our destination."

On September 5, however, they procured a vessel, a Swedish brig, to convey them up the Mediterranean. On the 9th they learned by way of Malaga "that an American vessel and cargo has recently fallen into the hands of the Algerines. By the Cadiz marine list we find it is the schooner Laurel, Capt. John Daniels, from Philadelphia, laden with flour and copper, and was captured by an Algerian Corsair about the 25th ult.; the captain and crew, having abandoned her, had escaped safe on shore in their boats. The letter states those pirates are much more daring than ever, since the Portuguese squadron have ceased cruising about Gibraltar."

On the 18th day they got off in their "hired ship" called the Postillion, and on the 21st reached Gibraltar, too late in the evening to land. The next day the "Fratick boat came alongside about sunrise and took our papers out." After a time they landed and visited the Governor, Gen. Sir Robert Boyd, "a venerable veteran, near ninety years old." Col. Humphreys and Mr. Cutting stayed at Gibraltar for some time, dining with the officers of the garrison and enjoying themselves, but always on the lookout for a chance to move toward their destination. Mr. Cutting tells this interesting story:

"Mr. Mattra, the English consul at Tangier, related an anecdote of Gen. Arnold, that despicable traitor to American liberty, which I never before met with. It was this: Several years since, as early as 1785, when Mr. Mattra was in England, he became slightly acquainted with Arnold, who, knowing his situation in Morocco, solicited an opportunity of proposing to him a scheme of business that could not fail of being lucrative. Mr. M. at last gave Arnold a hearing. The plan he proposed was that Mr. M. should by his interest at the Court of Morocco procure commissions for sundry corsairs, which he (Arnold) would come and fit out from Tangier. 'But,' observed Mr. M., 'who would you cruise against? The emperor of Morocco has no maritime enemy nor does he wish to provoke a rupture with any of the European powers.' Arnold replied, 'But the Americans have as yet no treaty with Morocco. I would capture their vessels; I know very well the track to find them; by such an expedition we would soon acquire ample fortunes.' Arnold pressed the matter very seriously for some time, but finding that Mr. Mattra rejected the nefarious scheme and steadily refused to exert the smallest influence toward obtaining the commissions in question, the arch-renegade solicited that he would assist him in procuring Algerine commissions.

"Oct. 5—Two Dutch frigates and a sloop of war lately came down from Malaga, and are now at anchor in Gibraltar Bay, ostensibly waiting the arrival of a squadron from Holland, which is to convey a commissioner to arrange the articles of peace with the regency of Algiers, or to denounce vengeance against them for the depredations their corsairs have committed on the Dutch commerce on the Mediterranean Sea." On Sunday, October 9, the American commissioner attended services with the garrison. Mr. Cutting notes that he met Mr. Mace, British consul at Algiers, who had been at Gibraltar eight or nine months, waiting for the plague to subside in Algiers; Lord Hood would not send a frigate to take him to his post. He continues:

"We learn it is true that three Algerine frigates and two zebecks and an armed long boat last night passed out the straits. * * * We arranged an express for Cadiz and another to Malaga, and Col. Humphreys wrote to the American consuls at both these ports acquainting them with the intelligence, and requesting them to communicate it to every American commander of a vessel that was now or might arrive at their ports. October 8. This morning an Algerine corsair stood into Gibraltar Bay from the eastward. Soon after proceeded through the straits. * * * We finally engaged a small Spanish vessel to cruise of the straits, alias Gut of Gibraltar, with the mate of an American vessel on board, in order to speak any American vessel that might possibly have so far escaped the barbarians without knowing the hazard they had run."

Arnold seems not to have been the only person, not Algerine originally, who wished to do a little piracy under the Algerine flag. Mr. Cutting tells of an alleged American, calling himself Chapman, who passed through Gibraltar in July, 1792, and got to Oran. Later, calling himself an Englishman, he reached Algiers in the Gibraltar boat, but the British consul would not let him land. The man sent to the consul a letter for the Dey of Algiers, which he said he had brought from America. Chapman was not allowed to land, and learned only that the consul was displeased at the contents of the letter. Chapman was then taken to Gibraltar, and Mr. Cutting writes: "From all the circumstances there is room to suspect that the purport of the packet which Mr. Chapman has conveyed to Algiers was to obtain Algerine commissions, and thus give Mr. ——, his employer in Virginia, a pretense for capturing the vessels of such nations as have not a treaty of peace with the Regency of Algiers. Perhaps the American Indiamen were his object—perhaps their chief freighted Brazil ships. The whole commerce of America is at a risk!"

On October 11 this suspicious person called on Col. Humphreys to explain matters; he reported that there were only ten American prisoners at Algiers, as the plague there had killed two. He was an Englishman originally, but had lived long in America, and was in Gibraltar on a business attempt to get Algerine commissioners. Then the vessel that the commissioners had hired to warn American vessels of the Algerine fleet put back, and her master absolutely refused to go out again. "He reports that there is an Algerine zebeck constantly cruising in the straits; in the daytime he keeps on the Barbary shore and at evening back of the rock, where he lays with the view of intercepting any American vessel that may attempt running out of the Mediterranean.

"Oct. 14—A schooner arrived this morning after a narrow escape from the zebeck back of the rock. The vessel belongs to Ebenezer Parsons of Boston, N. E., and the captain's name is Gooch. In consequence of the dangers of seizure of our papers and persons, and on account of the weather, we have concluded to send our chartered brig, now under Swedish colors, as a neutral nation, to Alicant, in Spain, there to await our arrival by land."