

CURIOUS CUSTOM.—The Paris correspondent of the London Court Journal mentions a singular "sale" that has just taken place at the Palace of the Tuileries. The custom is a singular one, established by the royal ladies of the Tuileries long before the great revolution, acceded to by the Empress Josephine, continued under the Restoration, maintained by the Princesses of the House of Orleans, and kept up with great spirit under the present reign. The writer says:

A long gallery, which runs along the basement story of the Palace, looking into the garden just opposite the Prince Imperial's winter walk, is fitted up from one end to the other with oak wardrobes. This is called the defroque of the palace. It is here that the refuse dresses and cast-off wearing apparel of the royal and imperial ladies, who have succeeded each other for the last hundred years in their occupation of the Tuileries, are invariably borne when rejected from the floor above. These wardrobe cupboards, numerous and extensive as they are, get generally well filled during the year, and when the four seasons are considered thoroughly over, a sale is made of the whole, when every article is priced beforehand, and visitors are admitted to view and purchase without the observance of further ceremony than the presentation of an invitation card from one of her Majesty's attendants, to whom the privilege of granting them belongs.

The sale is called in the present day the "Retour de Compiègne," but has been known under other appellations during former reigns—"Sacrifice de Fontainebleau," "Caprices de St. Cloud," "Joies de la Malmaison"—according to the place whence the court returned to spend the winter in Paris, and which has varied with every sovereign.

The sale of the regal wardrobe of the Tuileries is conducted on the strictest principles of equity.

WHY THREAD IS DEAR.—In the old times, before the day of prohibitory tariffs, the price of spool-cotton was as low in this country as in England. "Coats" was sold at four cents a spool. Notwithstanding the advance in cotton, the retail price in England is still twopence a spool for the best threads, or only four cents in American coin. Making due allowance for the rise in exchange, a spool of thread would not cost us more than nine cents, if it were not for the excessive tariff. The other six cents which we pay when we give fifteen for an American thread is the profit of our spinners, for that is about the amount which the foreign maker pays into the United States Treasury.—*New York Evening Post.*

In the Boston police court recently, a man arraigned as a common drunkard, put in a peculiar plea in defence. He said that he believed that the world was coming to an end within a year, and meditating upon this momentous event "staggered" him. The court did not see it in that light, and sent the staggerer to the House of Correction for five months.

Hair brushing by machinery, which originated in Bristol, England, has now become so common in London that any hair-dresser who wishes to retain his business must put up machinery, which costs about £70.

Among the signs of progress in the Empire of Mexico is the formation of companies for running horse-railroad cars in the cities of Vera Cruz and Mexico.

The manner of advertising for a husband in Java is by placing an empty flower pot on the portico-roof, which is as much as to say "a young lady is in the house. Husband wanted."

Seven Protestant places of worship were open in Paris on Christmas last.

PROF. LOUIS WUNDRAM'S
BLOOD PURIFYING
AND
PURGATIVE HERBS,
(In Pills and Powders,)

THE BEST BLOOD PURIFYING agents as yet known, have been most successfully used for over a quarter of a century in Europe, and for the last 3 years, also, in this country, and are particularly efficient in the cure of all chronic diseases. No one should despair of being cured without first trying them. No family should be without them, for by their timely use much sickness can be prevented. They are imported direct to this port by the undersigned, and their purity, efficacy and safety can be relied upon with perfect confidence.

The following are some of the diseases which have been permanently removed by their use:

- Tetter,
- Inflammation of the bowels,
- consumption in its early stages, headache, asthma, cough, sore eyes, lockjaw, ruptures, rheumatism, cramp cholera, catarrh, pain in the breast and sides, deafness, nervousness, spotted fever, chills and fever, ague, open wounds, pneumonia, dyspepsia, salt rheum, cancer, scrofula, jaundice, tapeworm, biliousness, eruptions of the skin, bowel complaint, langour, gout, dropsy, erysipelas, worms, cholera, piles, diarrhoea, hoarseness, swellings, bloatings, bloody and white flux, dysentery, costiveness, measles, &c.

Full directions accompany each remedy. Imported and for sale by.

JULIUS DIENELT, Dentist,
145 Prince st., nearly opposite the Post Office.
between St. Asaph and Washington sts.,
jan 3—tf Alexandria, Va.

PHILADELPHIA HOUSE,

NO. 32 SOUTH ROYAL STREET,

GEORGE W. FORTNER, Proprietor,

The best **PHILADELPHIA ALE, LAGER BEER** and **PORTER.**

OYSTERS IN EVERY STYLE.

FREE LUNCH from 8 to 10 o'clock, P. M., every evening. Meals at all hours during the day and evening. Excellent **LODGING** also furnished.

Persons will find this one of the best and most admirably conducted Saloons in the city. jan 3—1m

SUTER'S HILL BREWERY,
WEST END, ALEXANDRIA, VA.

The undersigned would inform his old friends and customers that he has by considerable expense enlarged his old establishment, and is prepared to make first rate

LAGER BEER, which he will be pleased to supply to all who will favor him with a call. jan 3—3m **JOHN KLIEN.**

E. M. WALTON & CO.,
NO. 38 KING ST., CORNER OF WATER ST.
Sole Agents for the Sale of
J. H. BALENTINE & SONS
CELEBRATED NEWARK ALE,
To which they invite attention.

jan 3—tf

FREDERICK PAFF,
FASHIONABLE
BOOT AND SHOE MAKER,
No. 230 King street.

jan 3—1m

DAVY & HARMON,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
Grocers, Feed and Flour Merchants.
Corner of Prince and Royal Sts.,
jan 19—1y ALEXANDRIA, VA.

GAS AND STEAM FITTING ESTABLISHMENT.

C O G A N,

PRACTICAL GAS AND STEAM FITTER,

No. 15, North Royal Street,

ALEXANDRIA, VA.

Is now prepared to do

GAS FITTING

in all its branches. Stores, dwellings, machine shops, and public buildings fitted up on the most approved plans, and at reasonable terms **FOR CASH.**

Steam pipes, guages, cocks, and globe valves, of the most recent approved plans, and of superior workmanship and quality, constantly on hand. Contracts will be made for work, and fixtures of any kind supplied at the lowest rates.

Likewise has on hand **CHANDELIERS, PENDANTS, BRACKETS, DROP LIGHTS, GLASS GLOBES, MICA and PAPER SHADES, &c.,** of all the new styles and beautiful patterns, at prices that cannot fail to please.

Also, has on hand, and is constantly receiving, at wholesale and retail, the most extensive and best assorted stock of

LAMP GOODS

ever offered in this market, comprising everything connected with the trade.

LANTERNS of every size, kind and color, from the smallest to the head lights of a ship.

KEROSENE OIL

always on hand of the purest and best quality. Dealers supplied at a small advance on factory prices.

The public are invited to call before purchasing, and examine my stock, as it is purchased expressly for this market. jan 12—3m

GOOD NEWS FOR ALL!!

Having just finished an inventory of my stock of Goods, I would inform my customers that I have several

LOTS OF BARGAINS,

to purchase which I offer great inducements. Among them are:

Remnants of De Laines and Calicoes, half price.

Cloaks and shawls, at less than cost.

Bonnets and Hats at 25 per ct. less than cost.

Woolen Goods, such as Nubies, Hoods, &c.,

at prime cost, and in fact all articles in proportion, as I am determined to reduce my stock.

Purchasers from me will find that they can save from 20 to 30 per ct. Come and see, and ask for the Reduced Prices.

H. SCHWARZ,

jan 12—tf No. 132, King street.

W. H. DEVAUGHN,

CUPPER, LEECHER AND INJECTOR.

No. 165, King Street,

R. H. Stablers Drug Store.

Residence No. 209, Cameron Street, half square east of Washington and Alexandria Railroad track, where Sunday and night calls will be attended to

NEW WOOD YARD.

I WILL KEEP A SUPPLY OF **PINE AND OAK WOOD.**

At my yard on **PRINCE STREET, BETWEEN PITT AND ROYAL,** which I will sell at the lowest rates. **E. A. DAYTON.**

jan 3—tf

A CARD.

DANIEL SHAY,
MERCHANT TAILOR,

HAVING taken the stand formerly occupied by W. & A. Murray, No. 19, North Fairfax street, is prepared to fill all orders entrusted to him, and promises to keep up the reputation of his predecessors. jan 3—tf

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

WANTED at No. 17 King Street, any amount of **RAGS, OLD IRON, COPPER and BRASS,** for which the highest market price will be paid at all times.

jan 3—tf