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EASTON, MD., SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1894.
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THE HILL OF GOLD.

The ragged rail Fence just loafed along
In a leisurely zigzag line,
Down the side of the Hill, and wandered out
To the murmuring slopes of pine.

And I had only to climb the Fence,
Or go through a crumbling gap,
To let gold spill down out of my arms,
And overflow from my lap.

And the Fence never cared a single bit,
For all it was there to guard,
And I might have doubled my golden spoils
Untroubled of watch or ward.

A careless old Fence, and yet the Hill
Broke splendidly on the eyes—
Gold clear out to the West, my dear,
And gold clear up to the skies!

And you needn't say: "Oh, it's a fairy tale!"
With that old, little scornful nod,
For it happens to be our own East Hill
Grown over with golden rod.

—Fanny K. Johnson, in Youth's Companion.

A Darning Combination.

"THERE isn't one thing that I know how to do thoroughly," mused curly-headed Jessie Power as she wrinkled her pretty white forehead into a dozen fine little lines, the result of the serious self-examination she was undergoing.

"Let me see," and she sat bolt upright among the numerous soft and downy cushions that made the window-seat her favorite retreat. "If I trim a hat I get along pretty well if I pin on the feathers and don't have to put in anything, but that would never do. People want their hats to look as though they came from a fashionable milliner's and not be botched together by a novice. It's all right for me," and she glanced over the table where a jaunty little velvet toque was lying with, it must be confessed, several pins showing amid the fluffy pompons that adorned the front.

"I know I have a taste in that direction, but I could not face a hat brim smoothly to save my life. If it needs a puffing or a shirring I can manage. Millinery is out of the question, for I would have to take a course of lessons, and that would take time, and what I do must be attended to at once."

The frown deepened on the girlish face as one after the other the little accomplishments on which she had heretofore prided herself were now, one after another, discarded as being unworthy to bring aid to her mother and herself in this most trying time of need.

She, like so many girls, had been brought up to do nothing really sensible that could be depended on to earn her a livelihood, and which she would now have appreciated far more highly than the smattering of music, the gay little French sentences or the meaningless sachets and banners painted with impossible roses and lilies that had heretofore been her pride and joy.

How she envied Emma Morton, who had a good position as typewriter and stenographer. "I suppose I can go in a store," she sighed, "but then there is mother," and at the thought of the delicate, fragile woman who seemed more like her child than her mother, the tears would well up until at last they overflowed all barriers, and Jessie gave herself up to the luxury of a good cry.

Poor little woman; hers was a sad and trying position, though to the casual visitor entering the room, with all its dainty knickknacks, low, easy chairs, well-filled bookcases and the one hundred and one little trifles dear to the feminine heart, it probably would seem as though she had no cause for tears; but how many homes could show the same sad history and the fatal mistake of bringing up its daughters to do nothing. Jessie was the child of the most indulgent parents. In all her life she had not known a care unless it were the protracted invalidism of her mother. Even this after a while ceased to affect her, other than that she looked to her father for all help, and he and she regarded the ailing wife and mother as their precious charge, from whom every unpleasant thing must be kept, and for whom all that made life sweetest and best should be done.

Jessie being a bright girl had gone through her school days winning prizes and receiving the congratulations of her friends, and the adoration of her father and mother until, it must be confessed, her pretty head was rather turned by all the flattering attention, and she began to think she was just a little bit superior to Emma Morton and other girls who were not in her set, and who did not wear New York dresses and have their shoes made to order. Also in her secret heart she believed that she was unusually clever, and had serenely pitied those poor girls who had actually learned trades or taken up professions. For she could do so many things well that really it seemed folly to apply herself persistently to one thing.

The awakening had been sharp and sudden when it came. Dr. Power, stricken down in the prime of life, passed away, leaving his business affairs in a tangle that took months to unravel, and which left to Jessie and her mother only the house they lived in and a small income not sufficient to pay the taxes.

Grief at her father's death had for a time bewildered and benumbed poor Jessie, leaving her in a half-dazed condition, until the lawyer explained matters to her—then her dormant faculties were aroused and she was forced to look the situation in the face. To-day's reverie was the result of this unpleasant knowledge, and in her pretty room had come the bitter but self-evident fact that with all her society accomplishments and the compliments of admiring friends, she was utterly unable to earn one dollar for her mother and herself. Wiping her eyes on the scrap of black bordered lines that served her for a handkerchief, she walked over to the washstand to try, if possible, to obliterate the traces of tears before she went in to talk to her mother, for must not everything unpleasant be kept from the dear little woman, who bore her great trial so patiently?

Jesse had learned that lesson well. With a deep sigh she twisted up the sunny curls and turning to the work-basket picked out a pair of silk stockings that needed darning sadly. For a moment she stood regarding the sorry looking hole in the toe, and then with a sudden flourish of the black banner and a merry laugh that startled the canary in his cage—so long had it been since he had heard anything like it—rushed out of the room pell mell into the sitting room, where Mrs. Power was taking a sun bath, with a weary face that touched Jessie to the heart.

"Mother, darling, I have it," she cried joyfully as she kissed her.

"Have what?" smiled bewildered Mrs. Power.

"Such a grand scheme, mother," and Jessie waved triumphantly the black stocking, from the toe of which two white fingers protruded. "And you are in it, too, dearest. You could never guess if you sat here all day and thought and thought until you were quite gray."

"I am quite consumed with curiosity," gently interposed Mrs. Power, the sight of her dear girl's happiness being enough to bring a brighter light into her own tired eyes.

"But what is it, daughter? I hope not boarders."

"Boarders," sniffed Jessie. "Do you suppose I would have a lot of troublesome boarders come here and worry the life out of us with their airs and graces? 'You won't object, Mrs. Power, to my just heating an iron, will you? and, of course, you will allow the use of your piano. My daughter is taking music lessons, and would like to practis a few hours every day.'

"'And if you will please change the bed in my room for the one in the third floor front, and oh! I forgot, my husband is likely to be detained at the office several evenings in the week, and would you mind keeping a little something hot for him'—which means a course dinner," rattles on Jessie. "I know them. No, ma'am; this is ours alone—just yours and mine, momsey—with all the profits our very own."

"But what is it, dearie?" Mrs. Power is by this time quite overcome by the flood of eloquence.

"A darning combine, madame."

"A what?"

"A darning combine; there are coal combines, iron combines, railroad combines, and why not a darning combine? But to be serious, mother, really I mean it. You see I just had a pretty hard think this morning in the seclusion of my 'boudoir,' as they say in the novels, and the end of it all was I came to the conclusion that I was about as useless a bit of humanity as you could find in a day's walk until this stocking, dear stocking," and she kisses enthusiastically that commonplace article of clothing, "put just the loveliest idea into my head, which, with your help, will be the grandest and most novel scheme of the nineteenth century."

"In what way am I to help, darling? You know, dear, your mother cannot be to you as other girls' mothers"—this with such a tender, wistful look at the pretty flushed face opposite.

"You are ten times sweeter and lovelier than any girl's mother I know, and I wouldn't exchange you for the biggest, stoutest and heartiest woman in the world, though I would gladly have you stronger for your own sake."

"Even yet I am in the dark as to the scheme," gently smiles Mrs. Power after the impetuous caress that her last remark had called forth.

"Now for the awful disclosure," laughs Jessie.

"Unfortunately for you and me my numerous accomplishments were not such as could be turned into solid actual cash, and having at last come to the conclusion that I would have to go into a store—"

"Oh, Jessie!"

"Yes, indeed, I had determined to swallow my pride and go right down in the village and apply from door to door for a situation, but thank goodness, this stocking came to my rescue. I can darn well, can't I, mother?"

"Yes, dear, it's really wonderful how well you can make a darn look, and as for picking up a thread you are almost my equal."

"Just so," goes on Jessie. "Well, in this town there are no less than 1200 mortals who would like to have their socks darned in the truly artistic style commended by Mrs. Ferris Power and daughter."

"The students, Jessie?"

"The students great and small shall be our patrons—you see, mother," wheedled Jessie, this is really the only one thing I can do thoroughly, and why not make it pay? What's the use of living in a college town if you can't make something off the boys?"

"What is your plan, dear?"

Mrs. Power is at last beginning to see daylight, and a dawning hope and confidence adds an unwonted sparkle to her eyes and a faint pink tinge for a moment flushes the pale cheek.

"That is only roughly outlined as yet, but you and I will talk it over and, together, I am sure we will make a success of it."

"You would have to have printed circulars," suggested her mother.

"Yes, and after a while a call and delivery wagon, but at present I will go after them myself."

"What are you going to charge?"

"I think about ten cents a pair would be fair, unless the holes were unusually large and numerous, and then say—fifteen."

"Don't you think that rather steep?"

"Bless you, no, momsey. You know yourself that darning makes a sock as good as new, and isn't it a great deal better to spend fifteen cents than thirty-five for new ones, and lots of the rich boys wear silk, I'm sure, and they cost heaps more."

"When are we going to begin?" goes on Mrs. Power, who by this time is quite as enthusiastic as even Jessie could desire.

"To-day—now—this minute—I will go right down to the village and lay in a stock of darning cotton and silk, and you may, while I am gone, compose the most taking circular your fertile brain can evolve."

A few days later Jessie, in her dainty black gown with all her pretty golden curls drawn into a most becoming fluffy knot under the black toque, with a bundle of circulars and an air of business unmistakable, made her appearance at the President's house, and after a little pardonable fear in the august presence laid bare their little plan.

The grave eyes of the Professor watched the earnest young face as Jessie warmed to the subject and a suspicious mist dimmed for a moment the keenness of the kindly eyes as the small hands trembled over the refractory knots in the string that tied the bundle of circulars. "My dear, I will help you in every way I can. I consider it a very sensible plan, and I am sure the boys will be only too glad to put work into such trustworthy hands. Your dear father was a great friend of mine and I am sure that he would feel very proud of his little daughter could he know how bravely she had set to work to be of real help to her mother," giving a fatherly pat to the golden hair. With a warm hand clasp Jessie left him and hurried home to tell the good news to the waiting invalid.

A very happy heart beat under the stylish sealskin coat and a tender little smile hovered on the sensitive mouth as she thought of the Professor's last words.

"Dear papa, I know he would approve, and somehow I feel as though he was very near and knew that I was looking out for the 'little mother.'"

Very fragile looked Mrs. Power as she sat in her easy chair with the afternoon sun shining on the soft brown hair just streaked with gray, and a wonderful longing in the motherly eyes that looked out toward the sunset as if to follow through that golden gate the spirit of the dear one that had gone before.

"My darling, how happy you look. I know you have been successful, for your eyes look all 'shiny,' as you used to say when you were a little girl. Was the Professor very stern and was the ordeal as bad as you anticipated?"

"Oh, no; he was quite polite and grasped my hand so tight when I went away that he made my ring cut me, see?" and she pulled off her glove and showed the wound.

"Poor little hand! to think that it is really all we have to depend upon," sighed Mrs. Power.

"Nonsense, mother darling, your hand is going to help, too, and with such a force as that we will get along, never fear. The Professor said it was a good plan and that he would help me in every way he could."

"He was an old friend of your father's."

"Yes, he said so," replied Jessie, but she did not add that he had said regarding her helping her mother, for it was a very sore point with Mrs. Power that her tenderly reared child should have to labor for them both because she was physically enfeebled so that such a labor of love would only end in her bringing on some greater and more serious trouble. It was a great joy to her that in this new venture she could in reality lend a hand and in the discussion of the plans for the "business," as Jessie would insist upon calling it, they both grew quite animated and for a time forgot their troubles.

"They've come," shouted Jessie, flying into her mother's room next morning with a dab of flour on one cheek and dough clinging to her hands, for in the excitement of the moment, I regret to say, she had neglected to remove these evidences of culinary occupation.

"Who?" ejaculated Mrs. Power, somewhat startled as she conjured up visions of visitors who under a pretense of condolence has swooped upon them to interfere materially with the advancement of their plans.

"The socks, momsey, the socks. Sarah is bringing them up, and, dear me, such a great package."

"The Professor's little grandson brought them in his express wagon. I verily believe those blessed boys were in crying need of just such a scheme. Great head, darling," and Jessie waltzed about the room until every little curl bobbed about like a cork on an ocean wave.

"I would suggest, as a senior member of this firm, Miss Power, that you go and remove the dough from your hands before we proceed to take account of stock."

"Just hear her ordering me about! Isn't it just too delicious!" soliloquized Jessie, as she retreated to carry out the order.

"Mother, I do not see what possible need any boy has for fifteen pair of socks of every conceivable hue. Just look at this bundle."

"Who is the young Crœsus?" laughed Mrs. Power, as she sorted and arranged according to the size of the holes.

"I can't quite make it out, but it looks like M. W. Chamberlain. Whoever he is, he writes fearfully," said Jessie, as she scowled over the slip of paper that had accompanied the bundle.

"Chamberlain," mused Mrs. Power; "I once knew a Jacob Chamberlain when I was a girl. I wonder if it could be any connection of his?"

"Now, dearest and best of mothers, don't go weaving any romances over these boys' socks, for from the number of them you and I will have all we can do to get through by Saturday night. I really don't believe they ever had any socks darned before."

This remark of Jessie's did seem reasonable, for after they were all sorted out they made a very formidable array, but if Jessie could have heard the warm, earnest appeal of the Professor to the students assembled in the chapel after her departure, and had seen the tremendous rummaging through bureaus and closets that followed this speech, while her little circulars were sown broadcast, she would not have been surprised.

"Can you realize that every pair of these means ten cents, madam, and some of them fifteen," smiled Jessie, with a comprehensive sweep of the arm that took in even those unsightly objects in the fifteen-cent corner, as she had laughingly dubbed the table strewn with the wrecks of many a struggle.

"Yes, dear, and I can also realize that unless we get to work we will never earn even ten cents—what is it, Sarah?" as this personage appeared in the doorway.

"Please, ma'am, the little boy that came with the work"—Sarah would not demean herself by saying "socks"—"said as I was to tell Miss Jessie that he would call for and deliver the bundles in his little wagon, so she would not have the trouble of that."

"Isn't that just splendid; every one is so kind to me," beamed Jessie.

"And why shouldn't they?" sniffed Sarah. "They know a real lady when they see one, even if she is obliged through unfortunate circumstances to earn her living by the sweat of her brow."

Sarah was an old and privileged servant, who had been with Mrs. Power since Jessie was a baby, and who indulged in flights of eloquence which were at times simply appalling.

"Of course, Sarah, we all know you think that I am perfection, but if you don't go down and stir up the furnace the 'sweat of my brow' will be cold, clammy beads of perspiration, for it is cold up here, and for mercy's sake take those cookies out of the oven," for a strong smell of burnt cake now reminded the young housekeeper that you cannot successfully carry on two distinct operation at the same time.

By Saturday afternoon the socks in great packages, with the owner's name and the bill on top, were carried by the little expressman up to the college, and in a short time he was back with the money carefully wrapped in a salt bag.

"You are my little express messenger," said Jessie; "but you must not let any highwaymen rob you. Now, suppose I employ you at twenty-five cents a week to carry the socks to and fro and to look after the money?"

This plan was hailed with delight, and there was never a more faithful little helper than the small man that trudged back and forth, taking the greatest pride in his business and keeping his accounts most accurately, carrying the money in a leather bag which Jessie provided, and of which he was intensely proud.

Every week the business grew, and pretty Jessie, with a new and unaccustomed feeling of independence, went about her daily task with a heart that had lost all the old feeling of repression, and even Mrs. Power appeared to grow stronger under the constant health-restoring process of constant occupation for thought and hand. One day, as Jessie was just about starting on one of the necessary shopping tours for silk and darning cotton, there came a ring at the bell, which she answered in person, Sarah being at that moment particularly busy below stairs preparing a certain dainty dessert of which her young mistress was very fond. Standing on the veranda was a tall youth, whom Jessie had prior to this discovered to be the owner of the many very holey, but very expensive silk socks. The M. W. Chamberlain, whom all the students called familiarly "Mac" and who voted him the best fellow alive. Having heard that Mrs. Power had been acquainted with his father, he made up his mind to use that as an excuse for calling. Jessie's sweet face having been secretly admired by him as he passed her frequently on the streets of the old college town. His first call was followed by many others, Mrs. Power heartily approving of his gentle manners and deferential attitude toward both Jessie and herself, until one day, he came to her and told her as was only to be expected, in a frank and manly way of his love for Jessie. Of course, graduation came. But at the end of two years the darning combine was broken up and a new partnership entered upon, the one stipulation being that Jessie should darn only those socks belonging to a certain M. W. Chamberlain.—Philadelphia Times.

A conductor on a Paterson (N. J.) trolley car has given up his position because he is short of stature. He was of such a small height that when he wanted to ring the bell he had to jump for the bell cord, and the remarks of the passengers were so insulting that he was forced to resign.

To the habit of burying gems with the owners we owe the preservation of many of the antique jewels.

THE NEWS.

"Dutch Jake," a farm hand, killed himself by hanging near Philadelphia.——The boiler of a thrashing engine on a farm near Lamourn, N. D., exploded, instantly killing John Lind and Louis Berg. The latter was blown one hundred feet and frightfully mangled. Four men were more or less injured.——A furnace filled with molten iron blew up at the Buckeye Iron and Brass works, in Dayton, O. A mass of 1,500 pounds of metal was thrown to the roof, breaking into a fiery rain, burning badly twelve moulders.——Three miners were drowned in a drift in the Glengarry mine near Butte, Mont.——James Campbell, a St. Louis broker, had a warrant issued for the arrest of Philip Rohan and his son, of St. Louis, on the charges of attempting highway robbery and abduction.——John T. Callahan was convicted in New Orleans of demanding and receiving bribes while a member of the City Council.——A mob tried to lynch Tom Johnson, colored, who threw his arms around Miss Daisy Jackson on the street at Nashville, Tenn.——N. C. Evans was nominated by the Tennessee Republican State Convention for governor.——A thrashing machine in Wm. Hayward's barn, at Forest, Ont., broke the cylinder shaft and fired the straw. Two men, named Searle and Greer, who were in the mow, were burned to death.

A letter was sent to Governor Altgeld, of Illinois, asking aid for 1,630 families of discharged Pullman employes.——Postmaster Heed, of Albion, Iowa is short in his accounts $2,700; cause supposed to be gambling.——Lord Randolph Churchill, in an interview in San Francisco, denied that he is an opium eater.——The street car strike in Denver, which lasted five days, ended. The company agreed to take back the men at their terms, $1.50 per day, and to employ men instead of boys as conductors.——A switch was thrown on the Cincinnati Southern road, near Lexington, and the Florida special derailed. The engineer and firemen were hurt.——S. Kurino, the new Japanese minister to this country, arrived in San Francisco and expressed his views upon the international aspect of the war.——The formal order drawn up by Judge Caldwell appointing Aldace F. Walker receiver of the Atchison system and its auxiliary, the Frisco road, to succeed J. W. Reinhart, resigned, was filed in St. Louis with the clerk of the United States Circuit Court. Mr. Walker's bond as receiver of the Frisco will be $50,000.——An ammonia tank in the Helderidge's Company's plat in St. Louis exploded, blowing Wilson Sanders, an employe, through the roof, killing him. Several others were more or less hurt.

Lizzie Lanning, a variety actress aged forty years, who formerly lived at Waterbury, Conn., died suddenly while visiting her mother, at the latter's residence in Norristown, Pa.——The room of Samuel H. Mensch, proprietor of the Farmer's Hotel, in Norristown, Pa., was entered and robbed of $1,200 in cash and diamonds. In order to do the job, the thief unlocked six doors and chests.——Ex-Governor Robinson, of Kansas, died in Lawrence, Kan.——Bank Examiner William Miller committed suicide in Altoona, Pa.——David Hall, of Jonesville, Va., was met in the road by Tim Denny, an eighteen-year old boy, who shot and killed him. Hall had had Denny indicted for abusing his child, and Denny took his revenge in the manner stated.——Frank A. Mansfield, an accident insurance agent, is wanted in Boston for forgery and bigamy.——The brig Indiana is a total wreck on the coast of Tasmania. The vessel was well-known as the Hawaiian brig Douglass.

Banker C. L. Nichoff, of Chicago, who disappeared a year ago, leaving a shortage of $109,114, was arrested in Brighton, Ill.——Herr Von Benthen, a Dutch baron, died in Chicago.——Elevator No. 7, of the Northern Elevator Company, in Minneapolis, was destroyed by fire. It contained 40,000 bushels of oats owned by a Winnepeg syndicate. The loss will be about $40,000. Kelly & Co.'s flouring mills at Brandon were also burned.——Webb, alias Hill, and three other inmates of the county jail overpowered the jailor in Keokuk, Iowa, and made their escape. Hill is the notorious forger recently arrested at Jacksonville, Ill., for swindling a Keokuk firm.—By the burning of the train of oil and other freight at Checktowaga, the New York Central Railroad lost nearly $100,000, and Brakeman Thed. J. Snyder nearly lost his life. He was blown from the top of a freight car and enveloped in burning oil. He will be disfigured for life.——After balloting all night the Republicans of the Seventeenth congressional district of Pennsylvania nominated Monroe Kulp, of Shamokin.——R. K. Kramfield, of Scranton, Pa., who was jilted by his sweetheart, committed suicide at Ithaca, N. Y.——John W. Baughman, member of the Ohio State Board of Pardons, died of heart disease at his home, in Wooster. He was seventy years old.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, in session in Brooklyn, elected officers, and decided to meet next year in San Francisco.——Henry Dangerfield committed suicide in Alexandria.——Milo H. Davis, one of the city school trustees of Detroit, who was recently arrested, charged with bribery, disappeared from the city, and his relatives have since had no trace of him. He started ostensibly to visit relatives in this state, but has not done so.——The interstate fair was opened at Martinsburg, W. Va.——The Delaware State Republican Convention nominated Joshua H. Marvil for governor and Jonathan S. Willis for Congress.——Mrs. Juliette Fournier and her lover, Julius Marcus, committed suicide in Central Park, New York.——The Northwestern Electric Light and Power Company, 60 and 62 Customhouse Place, Chicago, made an assignment. Assets are estimated at $66,450, and liabilities at $68,866.70. The corporation was organized in 1892 to supply light and power to private consumers.——Reuben H. Walters killed his wife and himself at their home in Reading, Pa.——Raphael De Pedro and Dominick Paschello, the latter a blind man, were convicted in the United States Court at Philadelphia of passing counterfeit money, and sentenced to state prison.——Dr. William Cecil Dabney, professor of medicine at the University of Virginia, died, at the age of forty-five years.——Dr. William Alexander Frazier, a prominent physician of Staunton, Va., died, at the age of forty-three years.

The Canadian Pacific steamer Empress of China, from Vancouver, which was reported ashore at Shanghai August 6, has been floated undamaged.

JAPAN BOLDER.

Torpedo Boats Cruising About Wei-Hai-Wei.

JAPAN HAS THE BEST OF IT.

The Chinese Stronghold May Be Attacked—Fortifications Being Strengthened Heavily Daily.

The Shanghai correspondent of the *Central News* gives dispatches of a gloomy view of affairs at Wei-Hai-Wei, the fortified city of the Shantung promontory. There is little doubt that the Japanese intend to attack this Chinese stronghold shortly despite the tradition of the Chinese that the place is impregnable.

The lights along the promontory have been extinguished, and the buoys have been removed, and the Chinese are constantly adding to the defenses by laying torpedos and submarine mines. Nevertheless, on three successive nights in the last week Japanese torpedo boats have entered the harbor and reconnoitered the forts.

The crews of the Chinese torpedo boats, which lie in the harbor, had no inkling of the nearness of the enemy until the Japanese vessels were leaving. The Wei-Hai-Wei forts then opened fire, but it was too late to accomplish anything.

The success of these three Japanese expeditions has shaken greatly the confidence of the army in the impregnability of Wei-Hai-Wei. The supposition is that the Japanese are preparing for a combined land and sea attack on the stronghold. The garrison is being increased to meet such an attack, and heavy guns are being added to the artillery in the interior line of defenses.

The foreigners who were employed in the Wei-Hai-Wei arsenal are leaving the place. Nearly all the Englishmen and Scotchmen have gone, and within a few days only natives are likely to be left in the shops. The feeling against foreigners is running high among the military of the city. The soldiers have fired several times upon foreigners who were leaving the shops, and have been checked only with difficulty by their officers. All the foreigners are reproached and insulted as they depart. None of them have been wounded as yet, but their escape has been due almost solely to the strenuous efforts of the officers, who have been charged with the responsibility for their safety.

The main Japanese squadron has been sighted again in the Gulf Pe-Chi-Li. The natives of the seaports have been forbidden to use Japanese coins.

LONDON.—A special dispatch to the *Times* from Shanghai says it is reported there that instead of a large Chinese army only a small force was routed at Yashan by the Japanese. The remainder of the army has, it is said, gone north to join the northern forces. Skirmishes are reported to have taken place at Ping Yang, in the Province of Shan Ze, and a great battle is expected to be fought there shortly.

Another dispatch from Shanghai to London says that the Chinese there are suffering from a spy mania that has developed among Chinese officials. All vessels arriving in the Woo Sung River are boarded by Chinese naval officers and searched for spies and contraband of war. Two prominent Japanese have been arrested within the French concession on an unfounded charge of spying. They are still retained for trial.

The dispatch further confirms previous news that a number of Englishmen and Scotchmen had been obliged to leave the arsenal at Wei-Hai-Wei, owing to the war. They had been fired at by the Chinese guards and some of them would undoubtly have been killed had it not been for the protection afforded them by Chinese officers.

ST. PETERSBURG.—It is stated here that Russia and other powers continue to endeavor to restore peace between China and Japan.

WASHINGTON.—The Japanese legation has received a telegram announcing that the Government of Japan has determined to issue a domestic loan of $50,000,000. The dispatch states that a strong outburst of patriotic feeling has been evoked by the proposition, and the people in all parts of the country are eagerly subscribing to the loan.

CABLE SPARKS.

Peruvian revolutionists are reported to be making headway in their fight against the government.

The Kaffir rebels at Joutpansberg, South Africa, have murdered large numbers of women and children.

An explosion occurred in the fireworks factory at Konigsberg, by which three persons were killed and seven injured.

A protocol has been signed uniting Guatemala, Nicaragua, San Salvador and Honduras into one republic, to be known as the Central American Republic.

A dynamite bomb was exploded in a London police station and it is thought the outrage was committed in revenge for the execution of recent anarchists.

The continued wet weather in England has done great damage to the crops. The potato blight, in its most virulent form, prevails in many districts of Ireland.

Upon the occasion of the annual celebration of the accession of Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg to the principality of Bulgaria, he Prince granted amnesty to all political offenders.

Mr. Beersford-Hope has sold the London Saturday Review, which was owned for forty years in the Hope family, to L. H. Edmunds, a barrister, who will edit it himself and who will not change its policy.

During the last few days over 400 anarchists have landed in London and the police force is kept very busy watching over the newcomers. There is much excitement and great activity in anarchist circles there.

Japan has announced an intention of seeking a modification of the foreign treaties, desiring to annul the provision which gives to foreigners the right of trial by consular tribunals. It is said that the Japanese army in Corea now numbers 50,000 men.

FIFTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

SENATE.

204TH DAY.—The United States Senate held a brief session, which was largely devoted to discussing the proposed appointment of Mr. White, of California, to the vacancy on the Finance Committee. The resolution, however, went over without action. The conference report on the last of the appropriation bills (the General Deficency) was adopted. Resolutions were offered and ordered to lie on the table as follows: By Mr. Murphy, declaring it to be the sense of the Senate that no further tariff legislation should be attempted at this session.

205TH DAY.—The resolution of Mr. Murphy declaring that it was the sense of the Senate that no further tariff legislation should be enacted at this session was adopted by a vote of 27 to 16. The resolution appointing Mr. White, of California, a member of the finance committee met with no opposition and was agreed to unanimously. Mr. Gray's resolution instructing the committee on finance to report the free-sugar bill immediately, with an amendment providing for a revenue duty upon sugar and with no differential on refined sugar, went over without action, owing to the lack of a quorum.

206TH DAY.—For fifteen or twenty minutes the business of the United States Senate was suspended while the Sergeant-at-arms was in search of an actual quorum. The Senate was eighteen short of a voting quorum, only twenty-five senators having voted on a non-political motion. The four supplemental tariff bills were all reported from the Finance Committee and sent to the calendar. Several bills were passed, among them the speedy prosecution of the claim of the United States against the estate of the late Leland Stanford.

207TH DAY.—The United States Senate was not in session to-day.

208TH DAY.—No business was transacted during the short session of the Senate. Attention was called to absence of a quorum within five minutes after the Vice-President rapped for order, and from that time until 1.20, when the Senate went into executive session, that body was in a state of suspended animation. The last of the appropriation bills—the General Deficiency—was signed by the Vice President, and now only awaits the President's signature to become law.

HOUSE.

204TH DAY.—The House of Representatives was not in session to-day.

205TH DAY.—The House of Representatives was not in session to-day.

206TH DAY.—The session of the House lasted less than an hour. A few unimportant bills were passed by unanimous consent. The House managers have decided not to permit any more legislation save by unanimous consent, and the regular program from now until the final adjournment will probably be the consideration only of such bills as encounter no objection.

207TH DAY.—Though there was not a quorum present the Senate bill for the exclusion and deportation of alien anarchists was called up in the hope that it would be considered by unanimous consent, but Mr. Warner, of New York, objected, and the measure was laid aside. Mr. Hartman presented resolutions adopted by the most powerful labor organizations of the country for the free coinage of silver.

208TH DAY.—The House of Representatives was not in session to-day.

PLOT TO BURN CHICAGO.

A Confession of a Man Under Arrest Implicates Anarchists.

A gigantic Anarchist plot of the Haymarket stripe has developed from the arrest of the anarchist arson conspirators at Chicago. Nine of the persons implicated are now under arrest, though the leader, John Baumann, has escaped. He is now believed to be in Philadelphia or Pittsburg, where it is known he had friends.

In the discovery of the plots of these men and women, the detectives employed by the fire insurance companies now see the reason for so many mysterious fires in Chicago and Milwaukee during the past year. That the recent disastrous fires in the lumber districts were caused by these Anarchists, the fire officials have no doubt.

They had organized a new society known as the "Black Hand" for the burning plan. It is an outgrowth of an organization of the same name which existed in New York some years ago. The leaders of the present body of incendiaries were members of the Eastern body, but when the latter was broken up by the police they came to Chicago.

In New York the "Black Hand" burned many buildings. Its work was only discovered through an investigation into the cause of a tenement house fire in which two persons lost their lives. This fire was traced to members of the "Black Hand," and the leaders of the order were given long terms in prison. Baumann escaped and came to Chicago, where he soon became identified with the local "reds." The ultimate intention of the society, it is declared, was to start several fires in the city, get the entire department out and then fire an unprotected section of the city.

The lumber district was to be the seat of the big fires, and the North side, the place to be attacked with fire brands when the North Side engines had been forced to go to the lumber district. This stroke was to be made some windy night, and it is now the firm belief that the second big lumber yard fire was part of the programme, as an immense business block on VanBuren street was set ablaze in some mysterious manner about the time the fire broke out in the lumber district.

The wind was blowing a gale that night too, and it is a miracle the city was not destroyed. This plan was to be carried out to create work for the unemployed, the members of the Anarchist society claiming that to burn the city would do away with the industrial depression. One of the prisoners has confessed enough to convince the authorities of the truthfulness of the foregoing statements.

FAMOUS BANDIT KILLED.

He and His Wife Fall Before Soldiers' Fire.

The killing of the famous bandit Luna and his wife by a troop of soldiers 40 miles from Mexico City, Mex., has caused great rejoicing at Tamalegis. The soldiers came unexpectedly on the notorious couple, who immediately took refuge behind some rocks and opened fire. The soldiers returned it and killed them both.

Luna's wife, as usual fought by her husband's side and only ceased shooting when killed. They have committed hundreds of robberies and six assassinations. The dead desperado was once imprisoned for two years in the Texas penitentiary, but making his escape has been a terror for several years along the Rio Grande.

Mlle. Chaminade, a well-known French composer, gave a recital of original piano compositions and songs recently before the Queen at Windsor. Mme. Albani was the vocalist.

EIGHT DROWNED.

New Brunswick's Yachting Regatta Ends in Disaster.

STRUCK BY A SUDDEN GALE

One of the Five Vessels Sent to the Bottom Carrying Most of Her Crew Including Captain Hatton of the Famous Paris Crew.

During the many years St. John, N. B., has had many sporting events of more than local importance and the great majority have passed off without serious accident, but Tuesday's yacht race for the Corporation Cup resulted in putting mourning into at least eight families.

The five yachts started out with a good stiff breeze. Nothing of importance happened until the yachts had rounded the last buoy and were homeward bound, when all were becalmed. To the westward plain indications of storm could be seen. The tug "Lillie" which had on board the referee, judges, timers and other officials, came to, off the point, where the yachts were becalmed. In a short time the storm came with rain and a high wind, followed a few minutes later by a hail storm. The yachts had their sails all set and when the squall struck them there was a scene which will never be forgotten by those on board the various yachts.

The "Lillie" remained at anchor, and in a short time the yachts were all out of sight with the storm raging furiously. It was felt on the judges' boat that serious results would ensue, as the yachts carried all the sail they had. The "Maple Leaf" was some little distance off from the others and was the first to receive the benefit of the squall. The crew made an effort to take in sail, but before they could accomplish this work, the topmast was carried away.

The "Primrose" was well in shore when struck and she listed but a few minutes. She was thrown on her beamends and in an instant she plunged bow first to the bottom. Samuel Hutton, the owner, had ordered all sails taken in, but the squall came up before the crew could obey his orders. Hutton stood at the tiller and told the crew to look out for themselves, and the next minute all were in the water, and the "Primrose" had disappeared from sight.

As the storm subsided, the people on the Lillie discovered one yacht was missing and immediately got up steam for a search for the missing yacht. After going about a quarter of a mile, four men, in close proximity, were found swimming about in the still heavy running sea. Life buoys were thrown out and each of the men begged the occupants of the tug not to mind them as they could swim, but to proceed along and search for the others. This the Lillie did, but only some hats and caps could be seen floating about, and the tug returned and picked up the four men who were still swimming about, after having been in the water over half an hour.

The tug then finding the other yachts were in safe quarters, steamed up to the city with the rescued men.

Hutton, one of the drowned men, was one of the best known oarsmen in the world. He was a member of the celebrated Paris crew, which won fame on both sides of the Atlantic a quarter of a century ago. The drowning of Hutton makes the first break in this crew, which although they have not sat in a boat since the Philadelphia Centennial regatta, hold to this day the world's record in a match six-mile race.

On the Seine, the Connecticut and Kennebec, Hutton helped to make the crew famous. Probably the Paris crew of St. John will be best remembered in the United States by old sporting men as having administered a severe defeat to the once famous Ward Brothers.

The four rescued men cannot tell anything about the sad accident. They were all seemingly bewildered while the crew of the Maple Leaf, which was but one hundred yards off the Primrose were so thoroughly panic-strickened that they do not know exactly what happened. The other four yachts sustained more or less damage.

THE FIGHT OVER AGAIN.

Tillman's Dispensary Law to be Dissected by a Changed Supreme Court Bench.

The decision that the dispensary law is unconstitutional by Judge Aldrich will bring the question before the Supreme Court again. Judge Aldrich is a Circuit Judge and was elected by the Tillman faction. He is holding court at Aiken, and the proceedings came before him there. The complexion of the Supreme Court has been changed politically by the election of Judge Gary, a reformer, who has already qualified.

The dispensary raids at Charleston were resumed. Two "blind tigers were raided and about twenty gallons of liquor captured. The raids were conducted quietly and not after the manner of those conducted by the previous constables. A crowd collected, but Chief Constable Holley made a conciliatory speech and the crowd dispersed.

BLOWN UP BY POWDER.

Three Lives Lost and Much Property Wrecked—Incendiarism Suspected.

Four powder houses of the Speer Company, located two miles from Fort Smith, Ark., on the Poteau River, exploded. The powder houses are total wrecks. A small cabin near by, the home of Mrs. Cook was blown to splinters. Mrs. Cook, her daughter and an infant were killed.

The powder house contained 100 pounds of dynamite and 330 kegs of powder. The shock was felt at places nearly twenty miles away. In Fort Smith thousands of dollars worth of property was destroyed. The opera house, Boston Store, Arcade, J. J. Little, Ayers & Co., Vaughn hardware store, Fagan, Bourland and Western Union buildings were severely damaged, while along Sixth street and Garrison avenue is a series of wrecks.

No explanation has been found for the explosion. It could not have been an accident, and many rumors are flying about.

MARYLAND STATE ITEMS.

The Latest Happenings in Various Parts of the State.

All the conditions of farming are now greatly improved in Harford county since the recent rains. The total rain fall at Fallston was 1.10 inches and the total for the week past 1.80 inches, more than 1 4-5 inches. Corn, tomatoes, pastures and gardens are all greatly improved. The farmers can now go at their fall plowing, impossible before.

Thieves entered Krider's Reformed Church, near Westminster, during the week and stole about $21 from the small banks in which the Sunday-school children put their contributions. The pennies were not taken, quite a number being left. There is no clue to the perpetrators of the crime.

Fire destroyed the large frame barn, 45 by 75 feet, belonging to Benj. P. and Wm. E. Schindel, the heirs of David Schindel, deceased. It was situated on the Antietam creek, three miles south of Funkstown. Nearly 2 000 bushels of wheat, along with three strawstacks, a big wagon shed and contents, several outbuildings, a lot of farming implements and two mows of hay. Mr. Chris. Reddig is the tenant on the farm. His wife discovered the fire when the men were away from the house and liberated a stable full of valuable horses. The total loss will amount to about $3,000. There was an insurance on the barn of $800, $1,300 on the crops and $400 on the implements. Mr. Reddig's loss is the implements and one-half the crop.

The plans submitted for the new public building of Somerset county, at Princess Anne, are by Architect Jackson Gott. The proposed building, as drawn by the architect, is 105 feet 9½ inches in length and 52 feet 4½ inches in width. The first floor contains the commissioners' office, size 17x30 feet; school office, 17x30; clerk's office, floor 20x39¾; treasurer's office, 12x23; Orphans' Court room, 20x27; register's office, 16x12, and sheriff's office, 18x17. The second floor has the courtroom, size 40x50 feet; petit jury room, 16x26; judges' room, 12x16; witness room, 12x17; grand jury room, 17x30 and committee room, 17x33. There are wide corridors on both floors. The cost is estimated at about $15,000.

At an enthusiastic meeting of the citizens interested in the Chevy Chase and Kensington Electric Railway, Mayor Thomas R. Martin presided, with Mr. J. H. Fishback, secretary. Engineer Clarde had previously gone over the route and estimated the cost at $12,000. Of this sum $9,800 had been subscribed and the remainder was promptly secured. The contract will be awarded and the road completed in two months.

Nearly all the packing-houses in Caroline county are now in operation. The tomato acreage th's year is unusually large, and the crop, notwithstanding the drouth, will probably exceed that of last year. It was only a few years ago when the tomato began to be so extensively cultivated in Caroline county, and now the acreage increases every year with profitable results. Every year the subject of trucking is discussed with much interest by the farmers as a better means of obtaining a livelihood than the growing of wheat and corn.

William T. Harriott, a well-known farmer residing at St. Augustine, Cecil county, was very badly injured by a ferocious bull. Having gone into the barn-yard for some purpose the animal took after him, and before he could escape he had Mr. Harriott down and was pawing him when some member of his family came to his rescue and drove the animal away.

Work has been commenced on the new Episcopal church at Andora, four miles north of Elkton. The edifice is of stone and will be known as St. Andrew's Church, in memory of Rev. Robert Lloyd Goldsborough, a former rector of Trinity Church, Elkton. The building will cost $2,000.

THE CROP BULLETIN.

Normal Temperature Prevailed Generally—Corn Improving.

The Weather Bureau in its report of weather crop conditions for the week says: During the week nearly normal temperature conditions prevailed in the Lower Lake Region, Southern New England and in the Middle Atlantic and Gulf States, although the daily averages in these sections were slightly deficient. From the North Pacific Coast eastward to the Upper Mississippi Valley and in the Lower Ohio Valley and South Atlantic States the week was warmer than usual.

On the South Atlantic and West Gulf Coasts and over portions of Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama, Missippi and North Carolina more than the usual amount of rains fell during the week. There was also more than the usual amount of rain in Eastern Massachusetts, along the New Jersey coast, and over small areas in the Ohio, Upper Mississippi and Missouri Valleys and Central Rocky Mountain slope.

Reports indicate that the general condition of cotton is less favorable than last week. The Boll worm and rust have caused considerable injury in North Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana and in portions of Texas, while complaints of shedding are reported from the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and the Mississippi.

In Arkansas the crop has stood the month well, and notwithstanding the unfavorable reports from portions of Texas, the general condition of cotton in that State is promising.

Late corn has improved in portions of Kansas, Missouri and Ohio, and encouraging reports are received from Indiana and Illinois. The reports for the Southern States, except Kentucky, where corn is faring badly, continue favorable, and an unusually good crop in that section is now assured.

Damaging effects from drouth are reported from New York, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Tobacco has improved in Maryland and Southwestern Ohio; in Kentucky it is firing considerably. In Pennsylvania early tobacco has been housed in good condition, and in North Carolina the crop is curing well.

THE oldest living soldier is said to be Nicolas De Savin, who has just celebrated his 126th birthday, and who was born in Paris on April 17, 1768, and in 1798 enlisted in the army formed at Havre by Napoleon for an expedition against the English. He is now living in Russia.