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The Easton Gazette.

THE OLDEST PAPER IN TALBOT COUNTY

The Purest in Politics, the Subscription Lists containing the most Bona fide subscribers.

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DISGUISED.

"'When poverty enters the door,' 'tis said,
'Sweet love from the window flies.'"
She laughed as she spoke, but he saw unshed
Bright tears in her earnest eyes.

"Proverbs," he said, "are a musty lore,—
Sweetheart, let us prove it so,
For a love that is strong can guard the door
'Gainst any and every foe."

Long years went by and they knew not, they,
As together they hoped and strove,
That poverty looked at them, day by day,
With the eyes and the smile of love.

—Madeline S. Bridges, in Demorest's.

A GIFT OF THE GODS.

EDWARD HARDY, an artist of much promise, and his friend, Alfred Moore, the art critic of the Planet, were smoking in the studio of the former. It was a delightful morning, with the sun streaming into the room, and through the open windows came the hum of the streets intermingled with the chirping of birds.

"By George, Hardy," suddenly Moore burst out, as he dropped upon a chair, with his eyes fixed in wonder on a painting in front of him; "surely this is a product of a master hand! I've never seen you working at it?"

"No," answered the artist. "I've done it in the strictest privacy; it's been a labor of love to me for the last three years; since, in fact, I commenced an artistic career. It's finished now, and I feel as if I had lost something out of my life."

"Anyhow, it shows that you're a painter of genius, old man," said the critic, with genuine appreciation. "I haven't seen such a work of talent for many a day. You must send it to the Academy; there are still three days left for submitting pictures to the Hanging Committee. I make bold to prophesy that it will be the painting of the year."

The picture in question was a rather large one hanging in the centre of the wall, immediately behind the artist's easel. When at work he had but to raise his eyes to catch sight of the rara avis, which he had christened "The Dawn of Love." It represented a beautiful girl, of tall and stately figure, seated, lost in thought, in front of the fire in her room, whither she had come from the ballroom, indicated by her flushed cheeks and the uniform of the dance in which she was dressed. Her sparkling eyes betokened the kindling of a flame within her heart to which it had hitherto been a stranger, and one did not need to look twice at her face to understand that Cupid had shot one of his arrows with unerring aim that night. In her imagination she was still tripping through the dance with her partner—the man who had brought "The Dawn of Love" to her soul.

After much persuasion the painter agreed to submit "The Dawn of Love" to Burlington House, and they proceeded to pack the precious work of art. A few hours later they personally delivered it at the Mecca of the knights of the palette and the brush.

May had again dawned on a waiting and thankful world, and all who were conspicuous in the worlds of beauty, brains and business crowded the galleries of the Royal Academy at the "private view." Progress amid such a throng became nigh impossible, and ever and anon one came across a block, round some particular exhibit, so that for several minutes all movement was completely stopped.

"Halloa, Hardy," exclaimed Alfred Moore, who just then ran against the artist, meandering through the showrooms—"you're the luckiest dog alive! You and your picture are the one theme of art talk. I got the merest peep at your gem awhile back, but it was so hotly besieged that I was forced to retreat."

"I never dreamed there existed such enthusiasm for art," murmured the painter, now evidently much excited; "surely it is phenomenal."

"Not more so than the phenomenal nature of the work demands," responded the other. "It's most fortunate that your personality is unknown, otherwise you would almost be mobbed and killed by kindness—one of the penalties of success."

"Jingo! it's hot in here," exclaimed Hardy, wiping his forehead; "we'll lunch at the Cafe Royal on the strength of what the gods have sent me—fame, and perhaps fortune."

And they left the Temple of Art for the more prosaic surroundings of the restaurant.

"Inclosed I beg to hand you cheque for £500 at the request of the purchaser, in payment for your painting, 'The Dawn of Love.'" So ran the formal letter from the Secretary of the Academy, and as he read it the young artist's heart beat wildly with legitimate pride.

"At last," he cried, "I have got over the barrier that ever has to be climbed ere genius receives its due acknowledgement. But who's my patron?" and he took up the cheque; it was signed "Henry Greet." "Don't know the gentleman," continued Hardy, pouring out his second cup of coffee.

Then he read his other correspondence—an offer of £1000 for his next picture, and three letters from "dealers" anxious to be his middlemen. The latter epistles he cast on one side, reserving the others for replies. Breakfast over, Hardy thought he would look Moore up, so, lighting a cigar and putting the two letters in his pocket, he set out for his friend's chambers in the Temple.

The journalist was writing an article on "Pictures and Painters of the Period" for the Week, a high-class paper, whose opinions were much prized by people of light and leading. Moore looked up smiling as the painter entered the sanctum.

"Just the man I wanted to see," said he, putting down his pen; "what do you think of this?" and forthwith read:

"'The present exhibition of the Royal Academy will ever stand out prominently in the annals of British art as the one that introduced to the world the greatest painter of genius since Sir Joshua Reynolds finally laid down his brush. This is no mere "high-falutin," but is simply placing on record the consensus of opinion of the most competent judges in artistic circles—the Academicians themselves. We refer to Mr. Edward Hardy, whose "Dawn of Love" has made such a sensation, and is attracting such vast crowds to Burlington House.'"

"I'm astonished with the success the picture has met with, though I felt it was the best bit of work I've ever done," rejoined the artist. "While it was in progress it enchanted me so much that it grew as though painted by Divine hands. And when in its presence the genius of painting always appeared to guide my brush on whatever work I was engaged. I begin a new picture to-morrow."

"I shouldn't, old fellow; why not take a good rest?" suggested the other. "Then you will have redoubled zest for your work."

"Yes, I think you're right," said Hardy, after a pause; "I'm feeling a bit seedy, and I can now run to it, especially after this," and he threw the letter containing the cheque across the table to his friend.

"It's all right so far as it goes, but you might get four times that sum for the picture before the Academy closes," was his comment. "Your patron, however, is worth cultivating—a South African millionaire baronet."

"Indeed! but I must accept his bid—money and I have long been anything but intimate acquaintances, and now it's inclined to be chummy I musn't say it nay," laughed the artist. "What should I say to this, chappie?" he went on, passing the other letter.

"That you will accept the commission, if he can wait—as you are going away for a month—those are your orders," said the critic, returning the letters. "I'm going to rest myself, and shall take you off with me to Paris for a month."

Having agreed to go by the express from Charing Cross the following night, they parted till then; the journalist to finish his article and the painter to answer his two correspondents.

It would surpass the wit of man to imagine a more miserable morning. All night long the wind had blown as though it meant to break its record, and with the daylight the rain came down in that determined manner it assumes when it intends to continue all day.

As the miserable hours of daylight waned, the gale was still undiminished, and as our travelers turned Strandward they thought the cab must be blown into nothingness; however, it remained intact, and they were soon racing toward the sea in the express. As they approached Dover the rain ceased and the wind dropped considerably, but there was still enough left to indicate a rough passage.

They were soon moving toward the gangway to board the steamer. The journalist was descending and the artist about to follow, when a sudden blow in the back sent him almost off his legs. Hastily looking around, he was surprised to see a young lady sitting in the middle of the gangway, and he at once assisted her up.

"May I offer you my arm?" he asked.

"Thank you; I must accept, else I shall never reach the boat!"

They were soon on board, and the lady sought the saloon. The artist and his friend paced the deck during the passage, and as the wind dropped the moon rose and the stars came out; so enjoyable became the scene that they were sorry when they arrived at Calais.

It was not till Paris was reached that Hardy again spoke to his fair assailant. As they were exchanging cards she suddenly exclaimed: "Oh, there's my father—I must introduce you." At that instant a tall, elderly, jovial looking man came up, and was introduced as Sir Henry Greet, and the girl told how Hardy had saved her from what might have been a nasty accident.

"It is an unexpected pleasure to meet such a famous artist," said the baronet. "You and your friend must dine with us to-night—we are at the Hotel de l'Athenee, Rue Scribe."

The dinner was a jolly affair, and at its conclusion they separated with buoyant spirits. Especially was this the case with Hardy, upon whom Miss Greet had made a deep impression. During the next few days they met repeatedly, and ere long their friendship ripened into something which the artist concluded must be love.

They visited the Salon together, and did all the sights in each other's society—had eyes and ears for nothing else but their individual selves. When the artist and the journalist left the gay city, the latter took it as a matter of course when he was told that the former was engaged to Miss Greet. The baronet and his family were to stay another month in Paris.

Hardy had just finished his morning pipe and was selecting a subject suitable for the commission he had to execute. His mind was brimful of ideas for paintings, so that it was no easy task to make a choice. At length he decided that the work should be called "Beside Still Waters"—a lady strolling in the twilight by the side of a quiet stream reading a letter from her lover.

"Now, Miss Nash, if you please, we will begin," he said to his model, and placed her in the desired position. Then the artist took up his palette and brush and seated himself in front of the blank canvas.

Then it was that his eyes missed a well-known sight, and they glared round the studio in bewilderment. With an effort and a sigh he pulled himself together and settled down to work. Dipping his brush in the color, he lifted it to the canvas and—made nothing but a smear upon the sheet.

Again and again he essayed to bring back his departed talent, but in vain. With intense and unutterable horror it dawned upon him that his artistic genius had been but an intellectual will-o'-the wisp. No sound escaped from him; he was at once transfixed, staring with wide-open eyes at the canvas bespattered with daubs without form and void, and—anon to the blank wall beyond his easel.

All the time the model had been an astonished witness of this remarkable scene, but as the brush fell from Hardy's grasp, and sinking upon a chair he covered his face with his hands in abject misery, she rushed up to him. "Are you ill, Mr. Hardy?" she asked breathlessly.

"Oh, it's nothing—only—only I can't paint—all conception of how to do it has completely gone—like a frightful dream when one awakes. It's awful!" And an eternal darkness seemed to gather over his very being.

Just then there was a knock at the door, and the baronet and his daughter were ushered in. They were deeply concerned at the phenomenon that had occurred to the artist.

"Now, you and Mary must marry, and then possibly," the baronet said, laughing, "your intellectual blight will disappear. You'll be all right financially; I've arranged that part of the business, so it won't matter if you never paint again."

A fortnight later the wedding took place; Hardy was too occupied to dwell on his lost genius. Three days only remained of their honeymoon in Scotland, when a telegram arrived announcing that Sir Henry Greet had died suddenly from paralysis. So, with heavy hearts, the young couple at once returned to London.

Six months had gone since the wedding, and the painter and his wife were living in the late baronet's house in Grosvenor square, which, along with all the other property of the dead man, had been left to them. But Hardy still hankered after his lost art, and continued to rent his old studio.

One morning he and Moore were smoking in the familiar room; everything had been kept exactly as on the day when the artist's genius left him. "Alfred," said Hardy, "I've a strange fancy, if 'The Dawn of Love' were placed again on the wall beyond the easel, I think I could paint a little. Let's act upon the idea."

A couple of hours afterward the famous picture was in its old position. Hardy sat before a clean canvas. The model posed for "Beside Still Waters," and after a steadfast look at "The Dawn of Love," the artist began operation. To his great surprise the old skill came back to him as quickly as thought, and with such a power as he had never known before, and once more the glow of inspiration shone in his eyes.

At the next exhibition at the Royal Academy "Beside Still Waters" was even more popular than the celebrated "Dawn of Love."

Ever afterward Edward Hardy's genius for painting was marvellous when "The Dawn of Love" was before him, but unless in the presence of his talisman he had not the remotest notion of his art. Cases are on record where by sheer force of will painters have given to their brain creations—the figures in their pictures—the power of hypnotizing their authors, the artists themselves. Hence it has now and again arisen that a painter has only been able to work at all while in view of one of his masterpieces. And thus it was with Hardy and his "Dawn of Love."

The magic influence of a product of the intellect, as our story shows, is but an indication that there is a genius and an inspiration imparted to some by ways that we cannot fathom, but which are the inscrutable designs of the Being Beauteous.—Tit-Bits.

An Unfortunate Gift.

A civil engineer who boards at a Capitol street house has just returned from a surveying trip. Immediately opposite him at the table sits a young lady, with whom the man of lines and figures is infatuated. She greeted him as he came in at noon from his trip:

"Oh, I am glad to see you. I know it must be horrid to have to sleep in all sorts of places, and such chilly nights, too. Now come right in with me and tell us all about it."

The young man, conscious of having had to sleep on the ground the night before, wanted to get to his room unobserved and change his clothing, but it was too late, so he concluded to go immediately to the dining room.

There the conversation was renewed, and the civil engineer having reached the poetic stage of love's young dream expatiated most eloquently upon the beauties of nature, the sense of peace and rest denied when lying upon the green carpet of earth under the blue canopy of heaven, and other touchingly pathetic and charming similes. Then he remembered that he had found an exceptionally pretty clump of moss, which he had brought home for the object of his adoration.

"While out in the woods I thought of my friends in the house," he said, "and have in my pocket a sample of nature's beauties, which I hope you will allow me to present to you."

Then, with a bow, he drew forth from his pocket the moss, also a small-sized snake that had crept in and curled up in the warm pocket. The reptile darted across the table, the young lady fainted, the other boarders jumped on the chairs, everybody screamed, while the reptile glided around, seeming to play hide and seek among the dishes. Finally one of the gentlemen present killed the snake with the carving knife, and after the landlady had bestowed a withering look upon the young man and told him that she was "in the habit of entertaining ladies and gentlemen only," and that "no gentleman would play such a joke," he was allowed to go, and he will never return.—Washington Star.

Humane Way to Kill Lobsters.

The question as to whether there could not be a more humane method of killing lobsters devised, than the boiling now in vogue, has been discussed in the London Spectator lately, and some one said they could be killed instantly by a penknife, and the Spectator comes down to details in reply by saying:

"Amateur lobster catchers off the Isle of Wight kill the creature by spiking it through the shell at what looks like the back of the head with a strong-bladed clasp-knife."

Probably in a few repetitions the executioners learn exactly where to strike, for the point is a limited spot known in human physiology as "the respiratory center"—i. e., the point which when touched inhibits any further breathing, and which was called by Flourens the vital knot. Cattle have long been killed by piercing it, and it seems the most humane of all violent deaths.—New York Independent.

Where the Presidents Are Buried.

Twenty-one Presidents of the United States are dead. They all lie buried in nine States. Virginia holds five—Washington at Mount Vernon, Thomas Jefferson at Monticello, James Madison at Montpelier and James Monroe and John Tyler at Richmond. In New York lie Van Buren at Kinderhook, Fillmore at Buffalo, Grant at Riverside Park and Arthur at Albany. In Ohio are William Henry Harrison at North Bend, Hayes at Columbus and Garfield at Cleveland. In Tennessee are Andrew Jackson near Nashville, Polk at Nashville and Andrew Johnson at Greenville. The two Adamses are buried at Quincy, Mass., and Taylor, Pierce, Buchanan and Lincoln are buried respectively at Louisville, Ky.; Concord, N. H.; Lancaster, Penn., and Springfield, Ill.—New York Independent.

Bicycles by Mail.

An American tourist is said to have recently sent his bicycle from London to Paris by mail at a cost of a few pence, and received it in perfect order. The English parcels post now carries mail packages not over twenty pounds in weight, and not of a higher value than $100, from any point in England to any place in France at what appears to be a ridiculously low tariff. The bicycle weighed just twenty pounds. The wheels and handle bars were removed from the frame and carefully wrapped in heavy paper, so as to make a compact bundle, before the postage was paid, and when the wrappings were removed at the tourist's hotel in Paris, the machine was in perfect condition.—Scientific American.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

Electrical propulsion has been contracted for on the Erie Canal.

The rarified atmosphere of the city of Leadville, Col., is fatal to cats, rats, mice, etc.

The distance to the nearest of the "fixed" stars, as computed by Astronomer Ball, is 20,000,000,000,000 miles.

The earthworm propels itself along the ground or through the earth by means of bristles projecting from each ring of his body.

The wheels of roller skates are now made of paper. The advantages claimed for the compressed paper tires are great toughness and flexibility.

Sensitive finger covers are now used. They are made of thin rubber film and protect the skin from chemical stains while retaining the sensibility of touch.

Lieutenant Peary told the American Geographical Society that he believed the North Pole would be ultimately reached by an American, and not in a balloon, either.

A dentist's battery is among the recent inventions. The idea is to obtain an electric battery which can be worn in the mouth of a person for its therapeutic effect, and also to give strength to the plate when false teeth are worn.

The latest magnetic invention is an improved compass, which has been presented to the Shahzada, in which case the needle points to the Eastern abode, Mecca, in preference to the North, in order that His Highness may ascertain the exact position for prayer.

A new smoke-consuming device for furnaces is an attachment automatically feeding a quantity of oil to the fire when fuel is added. As the oil burns it consumes the smoke, the injection of oil being adjusted at will to the amount of smoke expected at each fresh charge of fuel.

An electrical engineer finds the relative quantity of heat given off by different forms of light to be: Arc light, four; incandescence, fourteen; kerosene, argand burner, 331; gas, argand burner, 380; candle, 473; gas, butterfly burner, 551. In the matter of vitiating the air, electricity, of course, compares even more favorably with other sources of light.

In cultivating strawberries under glass of various colors Prof. Zacharewiez, of Vaucluse, France, has obtained the following results: Ordinary clear glass gave the best and earliest fruit; orange glass increased the vegetation, but injured the quality, size and earliness of the fruit; violet glass increased the yield, at the expense of the quality; red, blue and green glass were hurtful to all kinds of vegetation.

Caught By His Shoe Sole.

"A slight clue sometimes leads to large results," remarked Detective Ben Thornton to a crowd that was sitting about the detective's room at the police station. "A number of years ago a man who has since reformed and is accounted a good citizen, had a reputation as a chicken thief that was second to none in the State. An attempt was made to rob a hen roost in the north part of the city one night, but the robber was frightened away. There had been a good deal of that kind of work going on, and the superintendent was anxious to have it stopped. When I got to the place I found a push cart that had been left by the thief in his flight. In the cart was the new sole of a shoe. I put the sole in my pocket, just why I don't know, but thought that it might come handy some time, and then I started out to find the owner of the push cart. It was a couple of days before I learned that the push cart belonged to a well-to-do firm, and I was certain that none of them would be in the chicken business, so the cart must have been stolen. But who stole it? It must be some one familiar with the place, and so I continued at my hunt. Then a thought struck me. I took the shoe sole to every shoemaker in the city, and asked each man if he had made the repairs. At last one man said it was his work, but he could not remember whom he had done the work for. I asked him to try and think of it, and left the sole with him. The next day I called to see him, and he remembered the name of the man. Then to find the man. I finally located him, and found him hoeing cabbage about two miles in the country. I leaned over the fence and engaged him in conversation. Suddenly I said:

"'Candy, where is the sole of your shoe?'

"'I pulled it off the other day,' he replied, without changing countenance.

"'Well, I found it. Let me fit it on for you.'

"I soon had him covered, and marched him back to town. He told me the story. He stole the push cart and went to the place where he expected to get a lot of fine chickens. He tore the sole off his shoe on the street-car tracks and threw it into the cart, intending to nail it on again as soon as he got home, but when he was frightened away he forgot the shoe sole that resulted in his capture and a term in prison."—Indianapolis News.

A Conjuror's Mistake.

A French conjuror, doing a performance at the court of Madagascar, asked the Queen through an interpreter if she would taste a glass of wine. On her refusal the conjuror, with stimulated anger, emptied the glass over her, and the contents dropped in the shape of a rose into her Majesty's lap. The court functionaries were so indignant at his proceeding that they jumped up from their seats, insisted upon the Queen's leaving the apartment, and charged the performer with high treason. The unfortunate man had to be protected by the native troops from the fury of the populace, and was compelled to leave the capital by daybreak.—The Temps.

Fully Petrified Man.

At Savannah, Iowa, great excitement exists over the discovery of a petrified man in Harrison Figgans's field. It is now on exhibition at that village. It is perfect, even to the hair and mustache. He was evidently murdered, for his hands are tied crosswise at the wrists by a leather strap, which is also petrified, and there is a hole in the forehead as if he had been shot. It also looks as if he had been disemboweled by a skillful hand and then sewed up.

Speculation in Waterfalls.

In Norway there is at present considerable speculation in waterfalls, which are purchased for their water power rather than for scenic purposes. The fall at Rafos, for instance, on the River Kniva, was recently disposed of for $75,000. It will be used by an aluminum factory.—Detroit Free Press.

DIAMONDS

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THE NEWS.

The Flint and Pere Marquette line, of Milwaukee, has let a contract for the building of the largest steam car ferry in the world.——A deal has been completed by which all the zinc smelters of the country, except four, will unite under one management.——John Stubblebine, an old engineer of Easton, Pa., committed suicide. Three eleven-year-old boys were arrested at Bridgeport, Conn., for attempting to wreck a train.——Near Pittsburg a cable parted and an end striking a deckhand, killed him.——Safe-blowers entered the postoffice at Highland Park, Chicago, wrecked the safe and escaped with money and postage stamps amounting to between $1,000 and $1,300. It is believed dynamite was used, and the work appears to be that of professionals.——Chicago's beer war has been settled. The price of beer has been advanced to $5 a barrel. Some 2,000 saloons in Chicago will close in consequence.——The H. W. Ladd Company, one of the largest dry goods houses in Providence, R. I., made an assignment to James M. Scott.

There was a collision on the Burlington Road at Seward, Neb., which resulted in the death of P. A. Geisler and J. B. Jeffries, two firemen.——Porter Bros. & Co., the largest dealers in dried fruits on the Pacific coast, and doing business in San Francisco, announce that they are unable to meet their payments, and have asked their creditors for further time.——A handsome bronze tablet was placed on the house in which Joseph Jefferson was born.——The Hungarian and negro employes in Dunbar had a pitched battle, in which one Hun was fatally wounded and eight others seriously hurt.——A frightful explosion of powder occurred at Milnesville, Pa. Andrew Lawrence, Bart Tormey and William Girard were instantly killed.——The Peters Rubber and Supply Company, of St. Louis, has assigned for the benefit of creditors. The liabilities are said to be $50,000, and the assets about $47,000 worth of stock on hand and $10,000 worth of outstanding accounts.——The schooner Edna M. Champion, which sailed from Philadelphia for Port Tampa, Florida, October 12, has been given up for lost, with all of her crew.——A train on the Southern Railroad struck a wagon near Richmond, Va., containing three men, one of whom was killed and the other two injured.——The body of Harry Haywood, who was executed at Minneapolis for the murder of Catherine Ging, was cremated at Chicago.

Captain Robley D. Evans, who was ill with inflammatory rheumatism for some week, has sufficiently recovered to take command of the battleship Indiana.——Many more railroad cars and locomotives were built this year than last. The railroad extension for the year, however, was three hundred miles less than in 1894, which was 1,700 miles.——William Bartow, a white man, twenty-two years old, was arrested at Chattanooga, charged with outraging Mary Purdy, aged six years, the child's recovery being doubtful. The child's mother was also arrested, charged with being accessory to the horrible crime.——Three masked robbers held up Richard Clarke, a Pacific Jockey Club official in a San Francisco car, and robbed him of $3,000.——The steamship Strathnevis, which was given up for lost, arrived at Port Townsend in tow of the steamer Mineola.——Joseph Cook, the celebrated divine and lecturer, has arrived from China, broken in health, and almost an invalid.——John H. Husted, a well-known mining man, said to be worth $500,000, committed suicide at his home in Denver, Col., by shooting himself in the head. The suicide is supposed to have been occasioned by despondency, due to ill-health.——In a pistol duel between Robert Carey and Albert Adkins, jealous lovers, in Wayne county, W. Va., the former was fatally wounded.——At Volcano, W. Va., Jacob Farnsworth, who was impersonating Santa Claus at a Christmas entertainment in a church, was fatally burned, and his brother and a number of others badly injured.——Berlinda Lynn, aged eleven years, was suffocated in a fire which nearly destroyed her parent's home, in Scranton, Pa., and her father is under arrest on suspicion of having set fire to the house.

INDUSTRIAL SOUTH.

Contract for the Two Battle Ships Awarded to the Newport News Company.

The Manufacturers' Record in its weekly review of Southern industrial interests says that the decision of the Navy Department to award the contract for the two battleships to the Newport News Ship Building & Dry Dock Company, whose bid was about 20 per cent. less than that of the largest shipbuilding concern in the North, is regarded as a great victory for the industrial interests of the South. It illustrates the increasing magnitude of Southern industrial affairs and their ability to underbid competitors of other sections because of the natural advantages of this section for manufacturing. The opening on January 1st, of a $1,000,000 hotel just completed at Old Point, Va., following so soon after the one recently opened at Richmond, which cost over $1,500,000, emphasizes the growing importance to the South of the winter resort business. The number of Northern tourists who now spend the winter in the South is annually increasing and is a material factor in the growing prosperity of this section.

Among the industrial enterprises reported for the week were the consolidation of electric light and water plants at Sheffield, Ala., and the proposed expenditure of $50,000 in enlargement; a 3,000 spindle cotton mill in the same State; a $34,000 lumber company and a $50,000 mining company in Arkansas; Florida reported a sugar refinery and several large lumber companies; Georgia, a clothing factory at Cartersville, and large lumber mills in South Georgia; Kentucky, a chain manufacturing company and a cellulose factory; Louisiana, grain elevators at New Orleans, and a $50,000 lumber company and a $20,000 soap company; Maryland, an electric light company consolidation for the building of a new plant to cost about $1,000,000 at Baltimore; a silk factory to employ 250 hands, to be established at Hagerstown by New Jersey people, Texas, a large dredging contract for harbor purposes, and a $35,000 plumbing manufacturing company; Virginia, $300,000 gold mining company, the opening up of several iron mines; West Virginia, a $100,000 water company, $50,000 coal and coke company, $50,000 planing mill company and a number of miscellaneous enterprises in other States.

It is thought in London that Lord Salisbury had approved the fraternal message recently sent to this country by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York upon the Venezuelan crises.

THEATRE PANIC.

Terrible Disaster in a Baltimore Play-House.

CAUSED BY A CRY OF FIRE.

Three Thousand People Were Present in the Old Front Street Theatre—A Flaring Gas Jet Gave the Alarm, and the Calamity Resulted.

In a senseless panic, caused by a defective gas burner and a foolish cry of fire at the old Front Street Theatre, Baltimore, Md., twenty-three people were killed, two seriously injured and fifty more seriously hurt. Almost all of the victims were of Polish nativity and Hebraic faith, and many of the injured were taken to their homes by friends, rendering it almost impossible to get a complete list. The theatre, which is the oldest in the city, was filled from pit to dome with people who had assembled to listen to Hebrew opera, which has been given in the old house twice a week for the past month. The ticket office receipts show that over 2,700 tickets had been sold when at 8 o'clock the sale of tickets had stopped because there were no more left. General admission tickets were sold, however, after this, and it is supposed that there were at least 3,000 people within the walls when the curtain went up on the first act. As the capacity of the house is less than 2,500 the density of the crowd may be imagined.

Ten minutes after the curtain rose, one of the attendants went up to the second tier to light a gas jet which appeared to have been extinguished. As he turned the cock and applied a match the light flared up, and it seems that there was no jet on the burner. The jet was well down towards the stage on the left side of the house in plain view of the greater part of the audience, but as the glare from it showed against the wall some one in the gallery shouted "Fire, fire, fire."

In an instant there was a mad rush for the door, in which the whole audience took part. The vanguard of the terror-stricken multitude reached the entrance on Front street, push on by the howling, shrieking mob behind them. Those in the foremost rank were compelled to turn to the right and to the left to reach the double entrance way, built in the form of storm doors.

Passing through the doors they reached a flight of steps, leading from each door downward to a landing, whence a broad stairway of moderate height would have carried them into the street and to safety. The steps leading from the doorways are about but five feet high, but the landing at their bases is narrow. Down these the frightened people huried themselves in the frightful struggle to reach the open air and escape the certain death they thought was behind them.

As the crowds from the two doors, one on the right, the other on the left, reached the landing they met. There was a brief struggle and then some one lost his or her footing and fell. In a moment the crowd pushed with irresistible force from the rear, crowded upon the prostrate form and began in turn to stumble, reel and presently to fall prone upon the floor, under the myriads of feet coming like a herd of frightened buffalo from behind. In less time then it takes to tell it the landing was packed twenty to thirty deep with the panic-stricken multitude and hundreds behind them were struggling over them to reach the street.

The tumult attracted an immense crowd from the outside, many of whom tried to gain entrance to the theatre, thus adding to the confusion. A dozen policemen, also attracted by the shrieks of the frightened crowd, hurried to the scene, and, using their clubs on those outside, pushed through the doorway to the writhing mass on the landing. Among the first to reach the theatre was Officer E. J. Kelly, whose beat is but a block away. Forcing his way in through the main doorway he grasped a pair of arms, and pulling with all his might dragged a woman from under the surging crowd. A glance at her face showded that she was past all human aid—dead from suffocation.

Again he reached into the mass of humanity and pulled out a boy about seven years old. He, too, was dead, also from suffocation, with scarce a bruise upon his body.

The other officers by this time re-inforced by a dozen of their fellows, dragged out the prostrate ones, passing them to those on the sidewalk. Ambulances carried the dead to the morgue and the wounded to the city hospital wherever practical, but in many cases the more slightly injured and in a few cases those who were badly hurt were taken to their homes by friends.

When the mass on the landing had been cleared away the frightened crowd inside were quieted down sufficiently to enable the police to clear the theatre. Then it was found that there had been no danger, and that not a soul would have been injured had the audience but remained seated. Nine bodies were taken to the morgue, all of them dead from suffocation. Of those taken to the city hospital fifteen died. The confusion at both places was indescribable.

VIRGINIA GETS THE WORK.

The Battle-Ships Will Be Built at Newport News.

Secretary Herbert has practically concluded to award the contract for the construction of battle-ships Nos. 5 and 6 to the Newport News Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company of Virginia, and their bid of $2,250,000 for each ship. It was found that upon a careful inspection of the law authorizing the construction of the ships that the department could not go behind the face of the bids, so it was not possible to allow the other bidders to scale down their bids to meet the low bid of the Newport News Company save with their consent.

While it was the incention of the Congress to have one of the ships built on the Pacific coast if the terms were reasonable, in order to carry out this intent Secretary Herbert would be obliged to declare that the difference between the Newport News bid of $2,850,000 for one ship and the Union Iron Works of San Francisco bid of $2,740,000 for one ship was only a reasonable difference, which he could scarcely do in the face of the decision made by his predecessor, Secretary Tracy, that this difference should not in any case exceed three per cent.

Venezuela is endeavoring to form a union of South American republics to resist the demands of the British.

FIFTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

HOUSE.

EIGHTEENTH DAY.—The House responded to the appeal of the President by passing a tariff bill, the operation of which is limited to two and a half years, and which is designed to raise $40,000,000 for the relief of the Treasury. The vote was on party lines, with two exceptions. The special order under which the bill was brought to vote, after three and a half hours of debate, was ironclad in its character and compelled the members to adopt or reject it without opportunity of offering amendments.

NINETEENTH DAY.—The House entered upon the consideration of the bond bill, which aroused the united opposition of the Democrats and Populists, the gold Democrats being arrayed against it because they claimed it did not give the Secretary authority to issue gold bonds with which he desired to replenish the reserve, and the silver Democrats on the ground of their general opposition to bond issues. In the Republican ranks, also, there developed much bitter opposition to the bill as originally drawn.

TWENTIETH DAY.—The House passed the Bond bill by a vote of 169 to 136, and thus having discharged the task for which it has been sitting during the holiday recess, effected an agreement by which the House should adjourn three days at a time, in order to give members an opportunity to spend New Year's Day at their homes. The closing hours of the debate were lacking in spirit, and there was practically no excitement until the vote was taken. The bill, as passed, amends the Resumption act so as to permit the issue of three per cent. coin bonds, redeemable after five years, at the pleasure of the Government, and payable in fifteen years, with the specific proviso that nothing in the bill shall be construed to repeal the act of 1878 for the reissue of the greenbacks, and that the bonds shall first be offered for subscription at the sub-treasuries and depositories of the United States. The second section of the bill provides for the issue of three-year three per cent. debt certificates of denominations of $20 and multiplies thereof, in amounts not exceeding $50,000,000 to meet temporary deficiencies.

TWENTY-FIRST DAY.—The House of Representatives was not in session to-day.

TWENTY-SECOND DAY.—The House was in session only fifteen minutes and transacted no business.

SENATE.

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

NINETEENTH DAY.—The Senate was enlivened by a spirited and somewhat personal debate in which Mr. Hill, of New York, and Mr. Teller, of Colorado, were the principal figures. The New York Senator precipitated consideration of the bond question by offering a resolution directing that future bond issues to renew the gold reserve should have a provision that they would be payable in gold or silver at the option of the holder.

TWENTIETH DAY.—The United States Senate was not in session today.

TWENTY-FIRST DAY.—The committees of the Senate passed in control of the Republicans. The change in the political complexion of the committees were effected by the adoption of a resolution organizing the committees as agreed to by the Republican and Democratic steering committees. The Populists, with the exception of Mr. Kyle, of South Dakota, declined to vote, and the Republicans, having a plurality of the Senate, were thus enabled to adopt the resolution by a vote of 30 to 28. Mr. Kyle voted with the Democrats against the reorganization. A two-hour debate followed the adoption of the resolution, the purpose of which was mainly political.

TWENTY-SECOND DAY.—The Senate held a two hours' session today. A speech was made by Mr. Mitchell on the restoration of the McKinley duties on wool. A resolution was passed for the investigation by the committee on naval affairs of the prices paid by the government for ship armor. A resolution was offered by Mr. Sherman for the restoration of the gold reserve, which thereafter, it was provided, should be held sacred for the redemption of the greenbacks and treasury notes, the former to be reissued only in exchange for gold coin and bullion.

DISASTERS AND CASUALTIES.

Three boys were drowned at Morris, Illinois, by the breaking of ice on which they were skating.

John A. Slattery, a well-known lawyer of Cincinnati, fell down an elevator shaft in that city and was killed.

A train on the Metropolitan "L," in Chicago, fell into the street at the southern terminus of the road. The motorman, conductor and one passenger were seriously injured.

By the premature explosion of a blast in the drainage canal, one mile from Lockport, Illinois, three men were killed and seven injured. Of the latter several are not expected to recover.

Five workmen employed at the Dayton (Ohio) Malleable Iron Co.'s works were terribly injured by being caught between a building and a freight car—the track being so close to the building that the men had no escape.

Four persons were drowned at Lathrop Lake, near Arvada, Colorado, by the breaking of the ice on which they were skating. A 10-year-old boy fell through first, and his brother and sister and another young girl lost their lives in trying to save his.

Henry J. Newton, aged 72, was knocked down by a cable car in New York city and almost instantly killed. Mr. Newton was one of the best known Spiritualists in the United States, and was the inventor of the "Spiritualists' cage" and other devices used by Spiritualistic mediums.

The magazine of the Smithdeal Hardware Company, near Salisbury, N. C., containing 1500 pounds of dynamite and 50 kegs of powder, blew up. Two boys, George and Ira Weaver, were hunting in the vicinity at the time. It is thought that mischievously or accidentally a bullet from one of their guns struck the magazine. George was instantly killed and Ira probably fatally wounded.

A despatch from Newfoundland, received in Halifax, says it has now been learned there were in all 22 persons on the ill-fated schooner Victoria, believed to have foundered with all on board off Cabot Island, on the Newfoundland coast. Among them were a family named Noseworthy, husband and wife and five children. The stem of the Victoria has been picked up at Horse Island.

VENEZUELA ASKS FOR AID.

Wants Spanish-America to Help in Case of War with England.

The authorities have cabled to all of the South and Central American republics asking their assistance in the case of a war with England, and proposing that their forces be combined.

A great mass-meeting of citizens was held to pledge the support of the people to the government in resisting encroachments of Great Britain. The city was profusely decorated with American and Venezuelan flags. All the church bells rung, and the clergy of the city took part in the meeting.

The commercial warfare of Venezuelan firms against English houses and English goods is in full blast, and the leaders in the movement have called upon the general public to make suggestions as to the best methods to be pursued to make the warfare successful.

THE COMMISSION.

President Cleveland Names Five Distinguished Men.

JUSTICE BREWER A MEMBER

It Is Understood In Washington that All Will Accept and Enter at Once Upon the Work of Investigating the True Boundary Line.

President Cleveland announced the appointment of the Venezuelan boundary commission, as follows:

David J. Brewer, of Kansas, associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Richard H. Alvey, of Maryland, Chief Justices of the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia.

Andrew D. White, of New York, ex-president of Cornell University and ex-minister to Germany and Russia.

Frederic R. Coubert, an eminent lawyer of New York.

Daniel C. Gilman, of Maryland, president of the Johns Hopkins University.

All of the above-named persons will accept the places to which they have been appointed and are expected to assemble in Washington as soon as practicable with a view to their swearing in and entering upon their work.

The appointments are made in compliance with a resolution of Congress, passed at the request of President Cleveland, and the work of the commissioners will be to examine and collect evidence with a view to determine the true divisional line between Venezuela and British Guiana.

The conclusions reached by the commission will be reported to the President for his information in connection with any further representations and communications that may be made by this government to Great Britain in connection with the boundary line dispute between the latter country and Venezuela.

The commission is regarded in Washington among those who had an opportunity to see the list of names after they were made public as a very satisfactory one, whose opinions and conclusions will be received by the American public with that confidence which the standing of the members of the commission in the public eye inspires.

The two great parties are equally represented on the commission, with the fifth member having no outspoken politics. Justice Brewer and Mr. White are republicans, and Justice Alvey and Mr. Coudert are democrats. At the White House it is stated that President Gilman has no politics, but his proclivities are understood to be republican.

ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE.

Dean Farrar, of Canterbury, thinks it "perfectly erroneous to talk of the failure of missions, when they started with 120 despised Galileeans, and when now there are 120,000,000 Protestants and they have in their power almost all the resources of the world."

The Marquis de Bonneval will be married to the daughter of the Marquis de Haussonville in Paris in January. The Bonnevals are allied with the Bourbons through the house of Albret, the ancient royal family of Navarre, and the Haussonvilles are connected with the Broglis, the Segurs and many other aristocratic families of the Fauborg St. Germaine.

W. L. Brown, a Chicago shipbuilder declares that in case of war with England the United States could build thirty fully-equipped war ships for lake service inside of ten months. In an emergency armored vessels could be put together in ninety days. "On the other hand," he added, "Canada could do practically nothing in the way of armored vessels and would be obligted to get along with makeshifts."

Ex-Congressman Bland's views on the financial troubles are as follows: "My remedy for existing financial troubles would be the free coinage of silver as well as gold, and the redemption of all Government obligations in either gold or silver coin, whichever at the time was the most advantageous or convenient for the Treasury. I would not increase taxation. Better issue Treasury notes on warrants and coin free silver. This policy is good for peace or war."

Henry W. Denison, originally of Lancaster (N. H.), has received from the Micado of Japan the decoration of the First Class Order of the Mirror and a handsome sum of money for his services in the making of the treaty between that country and China, and also for distinguished services during the war. Mr. Denison went to Japan in 1869 as an attache of the American Legation when Hon. John A. Bingham was appointed Minister. Later he accepted a position from the Japan Government as legal adviser of the foreign office, which position he now holds at a salary of $10,000.

FIGHTING IN TURKEY.

Over 12.000 Druses Killed by the Porte's Troops.

Advices received in Constantinople from Beyrout report that a severe fight has taken place between the Turkish troops and the Druses near Suedich. The fight took place on December 21, and, according to the official report, the Druses lost 12,200 killed while only 70 Turks were killed and 50 wounded.

The representatives of the Powers entered a protest before the commission which controls the execution of the reforms, and Sir Philip Currie, the British ambassador demanded the immediate recall of the Kadi of Moush, who is accused of inciting the Mussulmans to disturbances.

It is reported from Marsus that disturbances have occurred there between the Mussulmans and Christians. The outbreak, however, was soon quelled by the authorities. The disturbance is believed to explain the arrival of the missionaries and Christian families at Mersina on December 17.

Advices from the Island Crete say there have been no fresh disturbances there.

Advices received in Rome from Aleppo say that the town of Zeitoun, 15 miles from Marash, which has been held by the insurgent Armenians for some time past, has been captured by the Turkish troops. It is added that the inhabitants of Zeitoun fled to the mountains.

EASTON BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

BRADY, JOHN T. Harness Maker. Dover Street.
COLLINS, GARRISON R. General Store. Dover Street.
DAVIDSON, WM. H. Paper Hanger, Painter, August Street.
DIXON, R. B. & CO., Coal and Lumber. General Ins. Agts., Moreland Building.
DAWSON & JENKINS, Druggists. Washington Street.
GRIFFITH, JOHN S. Grocer. Washington Street.
HARTNETT, W. J. Stoves and Tinware. Roofing and Spouting, Dover Street.
HUBBARD & BRO., Fertilizer. Cannery. Washington Street.
HOLLINGSWORTH, T. H. & CO., Dry Goods. Odd Fellows' Building.
HENRY, M. P. General Store. Market Space.
LITTLETON, W. C. Tailor. Washington Street.
MASON, JOHN & CO. Undertakers. Washington Street.
MYERS, W. H. Jeweler, Optical Goods, &c. Dover Street.
MARTIN, R. HERBERT, Atty. at Law. Dover Street.
MULLER, JOSEPH, Harness Maker. Market Space.
MASON, FRANK, Carriage Manufacturer. Market Space.
NORRIS, SAMUEL, Provision Depot. Market Space.
NICHOLS, M. B. Dry Goods Merchant. Washington Street.
NICHOLS & BRO. Stoveware. Dover Street.
SHANNAHAN & WRIGHTSON, Hardware. Washington Street.
SPENCE, JAS. Carriage Manufacturer. Washington Street.
STOOPS, W. G. Provision Market. Washington St. & Point Road.
STURMER, O. F. Jeweler. Washington St., Sangston's Old Stand.
TREGANOWAN, J. R., Crayon Portraits, &c. Cabinet Street.
WORKINGMENS' P. B. & L. ASSN., Loans. Moreland Block.
WRIGHT, M. M. Grocery. Odd Fellows' Building.
WOOTERS, W. J. H. General Store. Dover Street.

NOTICE.

The business formerly conducted by C. R. Leonard & Brother, will hereafter be continued by E. T. Leonard, member of the late firm. All business entrusted to my care will receive prompt and careful attention.

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The only wood preserver endorsed and in use by leading railroads for cross-ties and platforms.
Will make red or black oak last longer than white oak cross-ties. Can show the two, side by side for 12 years.
Tests extending over 12 years, that are astounding.
Valuable on wooden boats, bottoms of vessels, etc.
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Will produce good results on all wood above or under ground or water.
Will double life of wood of any kind wherever used.
Valuable for grape posts, fences and other kinds of posts.
For wood work about wells and dairy houses.
For wood work about hot houses.
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