NEWS OF THE DAY.

GENERAL ITEMS.

—Application has been made for a new trial for Mrs. Cobb.

—Great uneasiness exists in Europe concerning the plague in Russia; the sanitary conference has concluded its deliberations. The German delegate is said to have declared his Government ready to place an army of 80,000 men on the border to preserve the quarantine.

—J. D. Walker was elected United States Senator in Arkansas.

—R. L. T. Beale has been elected to Congress in Virginia.

—It is stated positively by New York papers on information from the most direct sources, that A. T. Stewart's body has not been recovered by Mrs. Stewart, Judge Hilton, or any of their agents.

—The Spanish government has ordered a man-of-war to be dispatched to Puerto Plata, St. Domingo, to demand reparation for the insult offered to the Spanish flag by the authorities of St. Domingo in seizing two insurgent generals who had taken refuge on board a Spanish steamer and shooting them.

—A Princeton College student named Vaughen was blown from the platform of a railroad car near Linwood and instantly killed.

—Three well-known prize-fighters were arraigned in a Philadelphia court charged with conspiring to engage in a prize-fight. For the defense it was urged that the State could not well interfere in a proposed breach of the peace in Canada, and the prisoners were bailed pending decision.

—The Sheriff of Palo Pinto County, Texas, was shot and instantly killed in a street fight at Austin.

—The mutilated remains of James Ross, an aged tailor, of Columbia City, Ind., who disappeared several weeks ago, were found in the woods in the suburbs. When last seen he was suffering from delirium tremens, and evidently fled to the woods and was frozen to death. Hogs had partially eaten the body.

—The London *Times* in a financial article says: "On account of the dearth of good investments people are beginning to look towards the United States four per cent. bonds. We believe the syndicate has already sold to jobbers and others here a considerable portion of the amount it has just contracted for."

—Mail advices from Jamaica say that no further tidings of any survivors of the lost steamer Emily B. Souder have been received.

—The Soldiers' and Sailors' Home has been formally opened at Bath, N. Y.

—Upon the arrival of a train at Fort Wayne, Indiana, a trunk was put out from the baggage-car which emitted a horrible stench. As no one called for it, it was broken open and found to contain the nude corpse of a young man. There was a deep wound in the left side, indicating he had been fatally stabbed. The trunk was put on at Waterloo, Indiana.

—The disreputable scenes at the hanging of Benjamin Hunter has caused the introduction of a bill in the New Jersey Legislature to prevent their recurrence. It limits the number of persons to be present at executions. There are to be twelve citizens liable to Grand Jury [illegible] whom two shall be physicians. [illegible] view and report to the [illegible]mstances of the hanging, [illegible]es of all persons present. [illegible] Sheriff is empowered to employ only twelve deputies. The sufferer may have three persons present and two clergymen.

—Roscoe Conkling was re-elected to the United States Senate in New York; General James Shields was elected for the short term and Colonel George G. Vest for the long term in Missouri; Daniel W. Voorhies was elected for both the short and long terms in Indiana; J. D. Cameron was elected from Pennsylvania; O. H. Platt in Connecticut; Wilkinson Call in Florida; Z. B. Vance in North Carolina, and General John A. Logan in Illinois.

—The boiler in Hahn & Rand's Portable Saw Mill, at Chase, Mich., exploded, killing three men and injuring three others. The mill and machinery are a total wreck.

—Nine prisoners sawed their way out of the jail at Clarksville, Tenn., Sunday night.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

—President Hayes has signed the bill granting pension arrearages. Commissioner Bently has prepared a circular, which will be mailed to all pensioners, in which he cautions against the payment of any fees to claim agents or attorneys for making collections of back pensions. Applications must be sent directly to the Pension Office, by mail. All payments will be by check payable to the pensioner's order.

—It is claimed in favor of the proposed new general topographical survey of the United States, that it will show that nearly all the prominent interior lines and supposed locations of prominent places are out of place in all present maps. Thus it is said that Columbus, Ohio, is about a mile from where it should be on an accurate map, and that Salt Lake is several miles out of place. It is also claimed that some portion of the present boundaries of nearly all the States are inaccurately located, and that the same is true in a lesser degree of nearly every county division. It is also claimed that the geodetic survey has already demonstrated the fact that the United States is a full mile wider between the oceans than has been supposed.

—A Washington newspaper says:—An illustration of the loose way in which important legislation is rushed through in Washington is afforded by the Supplementary Pension bill. No one appears to have the least idea how much money it will take out of the Treasury, while its provisions are so vaguely drawn that it is susceptible of half a dozen different interpretations.

—The President has decided not to veto the bill providing for the payment of arrears of pensions. It will become a law, and as nearly as can be estimated, $50,000,000 will be required to settle all the claims which may be presented under it. Senator Morrill in debate placed the figures at $80,000,000. The President will send a message to Congress recommending the adoption of some plan to meet the deficiency which the operations of the act will create in the revenues, either by increased taxation or the issue of bonds.

—Gen Butler says the cipher investigation is to be conducted fairly, at least as far as he is concerned. All the dispatches in his possession are to be photo-lithographed, and each member of the Committee will have one or more copies for his use. The gentleman who made all the translations for the New York *Tribune*, Prof. Holden of the United States Naval Observatory, has been named by Gen. Butler as the expert of the Committee to make the translations.

—Representative Finley, of Ohio, has submitted to the House Committee on Public Expenditures his report with reference to the Government Printing office. After charging general extravagance, Mr. Finley recomends the entire abolishment of the printing office, and that the printing of the Government be let out by contract to the lowest bidder. The report proposes that only *The Congressional Record* and new bills be printed in Washington. It is understood that there are only one or two members of the committee who will give the report their support.

—The Senate Finance Committee reported unanimous approval of the bill to facilitate the refunding of the national debt. It has also passed the House. It authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, in the process of refunding the national debt under existing laws, to exchange directly at par the bonds of the United States bearing interest at four per cent., authorized by law, for the bonds of the United States commonly known as 5-20s outstanding and uncalled, and whenever such 5-20 bonds shall have been redeemed, the provisions of this section, and all existing provisions of law authorizing the refunding of the national debt shall apply to any bonds of the United States bearing interest at five per cent., or a higher rate, which may be redeemable. In any exchange made under the provisions of this section interest may be allowed on the bonds redeemed for a period of three months.

—It was stated at a meeting of the Cabinet, that Sitting Bull has recrossed the frontier with 5,000 lodges, and that he is anxious to have his people distributed throughout the Indian country. The subject will receive the immediate attention of the President and the Secretary of War. Telegrams will be sent to officers of the War Department, requiring them to give the authorities here all the information they can obtain on this matter.

—Assistant-Secretary of the Treasury French has reported that H. L. Williams, Special Agent of the Treasury Department, has not been guilty of smuggling or swindling as recently charged, and that he has been faithful and true to the Government, and has fairly accounted for all the money intrusted to him, and has not made, directly or indirectly, one dollar of profit beyond his fixed compensation.

SENATE.

In the Senate resolutions which had been agreed on in a caucus of the Democratic Senators were offered as a substitute for those introduced by Mr. Edmunds regarding the validity of the three last amendments to the Constitution. The bill to revise the Patent laws was taken up, amended and reported as from the Committee of the Whole. In executive session Mr. Edmunds offered a resolution, which Mr. Dawes seconded, looking to the abrogation of those clauses of the Washington treaty which relate to the fisheries. Mr. Grover (Dem., Oregon) reported a bill to ascertain and report the losses of citizens of Oregon and the Territories of Idaho and Montana on account of the destruction of property by hostile Indians during the year 1878. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. A bill was introduced to provide a uniform National currency; to retire the notes of the National banks, and provide for the exchange of the new Treasury notes in coin.

The Senate discussed a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to deposit moneys held by him for various Indian tribes in the Treasury, the Government to pay thereon 5 per cent. interest. The Naval Appropriation bill was reported to the Senate and the committee's amendments agreed to. Mr. Blaine gave notice of important amendments looking to a reorganization of the navy.

The Senate passed the House bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury, in refunding the public debt, to exchange directly at par the bonds of the United States bearing interest at four per cent., authorized by law, for the bonds of the United States commonly known as five-twenties, outstanding and uncalled; and whenever all such five-twenty bonds shall have been redeemed, the provisions of this section, and all existing provisions of law authorizing the refunding of the national debt, shall apply to any bonds of the United States bearing interest at five per cent., or a higher rate, which may be redeemable. In any exchange made under the provisions of this section, interest may be allowed on the bonds redeemed for a period of three months. The Senate also passed the Naval appropriation bill. During its discussion Mr. Blaine (Rep.), of Maine, made a speech which attracted much attention. He said Congress had limited the number of men of the navy to 7,500, and for that 7,500 men we had a total of 2,020 officers, or one officer to a little over three men. We had 91 vessels and 38 in commission. The British navy which has 320 steam vessels and a total of 494 vessels, had 4,990 officers with something over 60,000 men. That Government had in commission about 243 vessels, and available for service quite five times as many as we have. It had nine or ten times as many sailors, and five times as many ships, but only about two and one-half times as many officers as we have. The French navy had 1,529 line officers, and in point of number of vessels that navy was almost as large as the British navy. Of course, all knew it was not so effective. For the great navy of Great Britain, the largest and most effective in the world, there were two great navy yards and two subordinate ones. France had three great yards and two subordinate ones; while we, on six degrees of coast latitude, had seven navy yards. The pay of the officers of our navy on the active list amounted to over $3,822,000 annually; for those on the retired list $645,000, while the pay of petty officers and seamen amounted to but $2 300,000 per annum. We stood today furnishing almost as much ocean freight as any two countries in the world, and gaining nothing from it, or so little that it only served to point the moral. We paid in one year $85,000,000 gold for freight, and he (Mr. Blaine) said to the Chairman of the Committee on Finance (Mr. Morill) that it would not be a possible thing for this country to maintain specie resumption with that draft upon its resources. He spoke of the resumption of specie payments in 1857, and said we resumed upon freight money which laid to the credit of American commerce in Europe. In the last ten years we had sent and brought between $11,000,000,000 and $12,000,000,000 worth of products, and the freight, with the passengers attached thereto, paid over $1,100,000,000. Out of that the European nations got $900,000,000, yet we continued appropriating for our navy to protect a commerce which did not exist. He asked that Congress would give to the revival of commerce some part of the sum now being wasted on a navy. He believed $4,000,000 or $5,000,000 could be taken from the navy without impairing its efficiency, and this $4,000,000 or $5,000,000 would turn $50,000,000 into our coffers. What advantage was given to a man by issuing to him an American register for a foreign-built ship. Mr. Vanderbilt was now establishing a line of steamships to run to Europe in connection with his road. They were foreign vessels, manned by foreign men, and should we give American registers to foreign-built ships it would establish just such lines. A ship of 3,500 tons cost about $500,000, and there was not a thing that went into that ship, from her keel up, which was not produced in this country. When the ship was ready for sea she represented $5,000 worth of materials and $495,000 worth of labor. He then referred to the legislation of Congress to aid in building railroads, and said from 1845 to 1875 the Congress of the United States had passed ninety-one acts endowing railroads with land and money to the extent of $500,000,000. In his judgment, Congress acted wisely, because it cheapened freights. We had a system of railroads ahead of the whole world, but when we reached the ocean it seemed we no longer took any interest in transportation. From Chicago to Liverpool was one direct line. Take the New York Central Railroad, put foreigners on it for brakemen, conductors, and engineers, have all its locomotives constructed in England, and it would be no more injurious to the welfare of this country than for that railroad to turn all our freight over to foreign ships as soon as it reaches salt water. From Chicago to Liverpool is 4,000 miles. We operate 1,000 miles, and turn the other 3,000 over to foreigners. He then referred to events after the war of 1812, and said our commerce then ran ahead of Great Britain so much that absolute alarm seized the country. In 1817 we passed an act that the products of no country should come into the United States except in American vessels or the vessels of the country furnishing the produce. He would like to see such a law passed now.

Many bills were reported and placed on the Calendar; the Senate was informed that its amendments to the Consular and Diplomatic bill had been agreed to in conference; the bill was passed and sent to the President; the bill with reference to patents was passed and sent to the House; the House bill for contingent expenses was passed, several items being added by the Senate.

Mr. Saulsbury's resolution calling for information in regard to the commissions on the sales of bonds was adopted by the Senate. An amendment to the Post-office Appropriation bill was discussed at length, a committee finally being provided for to adjust a question at issue between the House and Senate in regard to the constitutional right of the Senate to originate a measure which admitted books into the country through the mail free of duty.

HOUSE.

Mr. Potter called up his resolution directing an investigation into the cipher telegrams. Speeches were made by Messrs. Potter, Hale, Conger and Hewitt in favor of the resolution and by Mr. Butler against it. Mr. Potter's speech was in the nature of a personal explanation. He flatly denied that he had had any bargain or understanding with Mr. Tilden, or had sought to prevent investigation. Gen. Butler spoke next. He denied that the House had the right to overhaul this private correspondence, and opposed the investigation as a waste of money and—what was more important—of time. He explained how some of the cipher dispatches had become public, and told the House he had a bundle of them in his possession, not one of which had been published. He intimated that it was for the interest of both parties to let the matter drop. Eugene Hale and Conger of Michigan indulged in considerable sarcasm, after which Mr. Abram S. Hewitt took the floor. Repeating his denial that he had had anything to do with the compromising cipher dispatches, he declared, "by authority," that Mr. Tilden was equally innocent in the premises, and would make his innocence appear beyond controversy. The investigation, he said, would be a vindication. The resolution was adopted.

The House had an exciting debate over the pending war claims. Mr. Bragg, (dem.) of Wis., opposed the bill granting the claims as a precedent which would open the doors of the Treasury to an evil which would bring bankruptcy on the government. He declared that loyal men in the South had been very few, and the evil done by letting them stand as they were bore no comparison to the great evil that would be done if Congress opened the door and allowed millions to be appropriated under the plea of loyalty. Mr. Ellis, (dem.) of Louisianna, replied, saying that the South and Southern men had been loyal to their country and to their God, and considerable excitement took place, confined to the Democratic side.

In the House, two bills for taking the census were reported; the Post Office and Army Appropriation bills were reported; debate took place on the bill to devote the proceeds of land sales to public education. The bill provides that the proceeds of the sales of public lands should be devoted to the education of the people. It declares that after five years one-half and after ten the whole of said proceeds shall be invested in United States bonds, the interest on which shall be apportioned to the several States for educational purposes. Children, without regard to color will be benefited by the bill.

The House adopted the Senate's amendments to the bill making appropriations for the transportation of gold coin and bullion, and considered private claims, one of them being the now famous case of Private Hines, whose burned trousers and blanket once gave rise to so much official correspondence. Mr. Bragg, of Wisconsin, objected to all the war claims. A number of bills from the Judiciary Committee were passed.

How it Grew.

The following illustration of the contortions of a story is said to be founded on fact: The servant of No. 1 told the servant of No. 2 that his master expected his old friends, the Bayleys, to pay him a visit shortly, and No. 2 told No. 3 that No. 1 expected to have the Bayleys in the house every day. No. 3 then told No. 4 that it was all up with No. 1, for they couldn't keep the bailiffs out of the house; whereupon No. 4 told No. 5 that the officers were after No. 1, and that it was as much as he could do to prevent himself being taken in execution, and that it was nearly killing his poor wife. Thus the story grew till it reached No. 32, who assured No. 33 that the police had arrested No. 1 for wife murder, and that he would probably be executed.

THE Canadian government is considering the proposal of the agent of a Swedish colony of 15,000 persons, for the purchase of land,

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—Life on the canal is a study of itself. In all the States, about 28,000 men find employment in this way. A large number live on their boats not only in summer when the boats are in service, but in winter when the boats are tied up. They generally begin on the tow-path, and get promoted by degrees until they are captains. Then, as soon as they can, they buy a boat of their own. Some of them go on shore for the winter, but they don't like it, and are generally glad to get back to their boats. First, a good boat is worth about $5,000. It takes most of the captains some time to get their boat. A boat will hold more than a dozen freight cars. It's true that twenty-five miles a day is a good run for us, said an old canal-boatman, who gives us our information, but if we go ten times as slow, we carry ten times as much. You can keep your horses some time on what it costs to run a locomotive during one day.

—Prices at hotels in our large cities are now generally, considering their accommodations, such as few reasonable men should object to, although the many have to pay at houses on the American plan for a good deal which the few get and they do not want. One charge, however, made at all the hotels—the charge of fires—is undeniably disproportioned to other rates, and may, indeed, be called exorbitant. The usual price, to transient customers, is one dollar a day. A ton of coal sells ordinarily in the city for about five dollars, and a bushel—there are about 100 bushels to a ton—commonly suffices for an average daily fire, making the material for the fire cost but five cents. Then the manner of managing, or mismanaging, fires at most hotels is as peculiar as it is unsatisfactory. The occupant of a room, having neither poker nor coal at hand, is forced to ring the bell more than once when he wants the fire replenished or improved. Generally, it taxes time and taxes patience to get the fireman again; and, if the occupant be a bachelor or alone, and ordinarily irritable, he grows disgusted, and goes off. When he returns the fire is out, and he is not apt to make any effort toward the rekindling. But he pays his dollar precisely as though he had had a good fire all day and far into the night.

—There are a great many men in this world who really believe that if they could draw a prize in a lottery they would be made. It is this feeling which enables so many sharpers to live sumptuously each month feeding the confiding lottery-ticket buyers with hope, and drawing from them dollar after dollar. Occasionally, not very often, however, somebody gets a prize from these lottery-ticket venders. Here is a story in an Indianapolis paper of a young man who did well enough until he drew a prize of $5,000 in a Louisville lottery. The money was wasted in riotous living, and when it was gone gambling and drinking had become passions with him. His debts have been settled by his father again and again, and his embezzlements have been kept out of sight, but he is now lying in a county jail in Illinois. Another young Hoosier, who drew a prize of $7,000, squandered it in a few years, and is now as worthless a vagabond as can be found in the west.

—The story of the recovery of the body of A. T. Stewart is thus told: The thieves were five in number. As soon as they put the body in a safe place they left for Canada, leaving a middle man to look after their interests. Judge Hilton refused to agree not to prosecute them, and it is now understood that Judge Hilton has two special detectives in his employ who are at work to find out their whereabouts. The parties are represented to be men of respectability, well-known in New York city, and on whom no suspicion rested. The amount of money which changed hands was between $35,000 and $45,000, but no agreement was entered into to protect the thieves. The body is now in Greenwood Cemetery, safely confined in a vault, where it will remain until the crypt at Garden City is finished. Permission was with difficulty obtained to place the remains in Greenwood temporarily without a certificate. Directly after the robbery the body was taken to a house not many blocks away from St. Mark's churchyard. The coffin-plate alone was produced as evidence of the identity of the body. Mrs. Stewart did not know that the body was recovered until ten days after it was removed to its present resting-place. The reward was increased to $50,000 shortly after, as a "blind" to destroy the rumors which were then in circulation.

—The venerable Peter Cooper of New York city, was on the witness stand lately and testified in clear and distinct tones that he was eighty-eight years of age. Before he was twenty-one years of age he learned the trades of a hatter, a brewer, and a carriage-maker. It was fifty-one years since he was first aroused to aid the laboring classes, and the idea of founding the Cooper Institute was suggested to him by the Polytechnic Institute of Paris. The witness expressed his views at length on financial subjects, and was especially severe on banks. During sixty years of business life, he said, he could not remember a week or a month when all the people who worked for him could not get their money if they wanted it. This, he thought, was due to the fact that he did not depend on banks. Mr. Cooper said that when he was first nominated for the Presidency by the Indianapolis Convention, he declined to accept, but subsequently consented reluctantly to do so. He had no expectation of being President, but thought that if he carried one State, and the election was thrown into the House of Representatives, there might be one chance in a thousand of his being President.

—For the nine months of the year 1878 England was obliged to import 42,182,102 hundred weight of wheat, amounting to 78,000,000 bushels. Of the 42,000,000 hundred weight over 25,000,000 hundred weight came from the United States, thus opening a most important market for this country. Russia furnishes over seven million hundred weight; Germany four millions; Canada about two millions, and the balance was divided among various countries of the old world. What a wonderful change is going on in the matter of trade. Formerly England took little besides cotton and provisions from us, and sent us back almost everything we used in the way of iron, steel, &c. Now we not only send cotton, provisions of all kinds, grains, &c., but we are competing successfully with England in the manufacture of the very goods that we had to purchase from her. What the final result of all this will be for Great Britain is a subject creating most serious thought on the part of her statesmen.

—The liquor traffic is so immense that its statistics are interesting, although a times mortifying. It is said by those who know that the grog shops (we believe they are called "hotels" now) of New York city, if placed side by side and two stories high, would fill both sides of Broadway from the Battery to Central Park. In Great Britain last year there were consumed 88,436,654 gallons of spirits, wines and beers, and in the United States 73,032,976 gallons. As the people of the United States drink more spirits and less ales and wines than do those of Great Britain we consumed (reducing ales and wines to alcohol) 30,429,835 gallons of alcohol and they 22,822,272. The quantity of "domestic wines and brandies" consumed in the two countries cannot be included in the above, as the quantities are not stated, but the Americans spend nearly three times as much money on these liquors as they do in England. It is a sad story of money squandered and health wasted.

—The London *Telegraph* is one of the most successful newspapers in existence. The office is valued at $5,000,000, and gives its proprietors a net income of $500,000 a year. Its first number was issued in June, 1855, and it was and is a penny paper (two cents), while the established papers were then sixpence (twelve cents) each. The originator of the paper possessed but a few hundred dollars, and this was soon exhausted in his new enterprise. He was in debt to his partner and to his ink maker, and was obliged to turn the paper and its good will over to them to pay his debt. Both were doing a limited business with a limited capital, and looking upon the paper as something of an elephant, were disposed to sell it. The fact that nobody would buy made them keep it, and the result was a fortune for both. It took some little time to educate the people of London to a penny paper, but they finally forgot their prejudices, and the paper is now the most profitable of any in the world.

Arrears-of-Pensions Bill.

Following is the full text of the Arrears-of-Pensions bill, as it passed the House and Senate and was approved by the President:

An act to provide that all pensions on account of death or wounds received or disease contracted in the service of the United States during the late War of Rebellion which have been granted or which shall hereafter be granted shall commence from the date of death or discharge.

Be it enacted, etc., that all pensions which have been granted under the general laws regulating pensions, or which may hereafter be granted in consequence of death from a cause which originated in the United States service during the continuance of the late War of the Rebellion or in consequence of wounds, injuries or disease received or contracted in said service during said War of the Rebellion, shall commence from the date of discharge from said service of the person on whose account the claim has been or hereafter may be granted, or from the determination of the right of the party having prior title to such pensions; *Provided*, That the rate of pension for the intervening time for which arrears of pension are hereby granted shall be the same per month for which the pension was originally granted.

SEC. 2. That the Commissioner of Pensions is hereby authorized and directed to adopt such rules and regulations for the payment of the arrears of pensions hereby granted as will be necessary to cause to be paid to such pensioners, or, if the pensioners shall have died, to the person or persons entitled to the same, all such arrears of pensions as the pensioner may be or would have been entitled to under this act.

SEC. 3. That section 4,717 of the Revised Statutes, which provides that no claim for pension not prosecuted to a successful issue within five years from the date of filing the same shall be admitted without recorded evidence from the War and Navy Department of the injury or disease which resulted in the inability or death of the person on whose account the claim is made; *Provided*, that in any case on which the limitation prescribed by this section bars the further prosecution of the claim the claimant may present through the pension office to the Adjutant General of the Army or the Surgeon General of the Navy evidence that the disease or injury which resulted in the disability or death of the person on whose account the claim is made originated in the service, and in the line of duty, and if such evidence is deemed satisfactory by the officer to whom it may be submitted, he shall cause a record of the fact so proved to be made and a copy of the same transmitted to the Commissioner of Pensions, and the bar to the prosecution of the claim shall thereby be removed, and the same is hereby repealed.

SEC. 4. No claim agent or other person shall be entitled to receive any compensation for services in making application for arrears of pension.

SEC. 5. That all acts or parts of acts so far as they conflict with the provisions of this act be and the same are hereby repealed.

SOME of the new styles of Mason & Hamlin Cabinet Organs introduce a style of finish with embossed gold bronze ornamentation, by a new process; at once the most elegant and chaste finish yet employed on such instruments. Prices are very low for such workmanship.

For Upwards of Thirty Years Mrs *Winslow's Soothing Syrup* has been used for children with never-failing success. It corrects acidity of the stomach, relieves wind colic, regulates the bowels, cures dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes. An old and well-tried remedy. 25c. a bottle.

Worse than Death.

A correspondent tells us what he saw while traveling in Russia, as follows:—Six soldiers conduct a score of convicts, of whom some are heavily chained. These latter, it appears, are assassins condemned to the mines, because in Russia the death penalty does not in point of fact exist. The condemned are sent down into the mines, where the robust do not hold out for more than two years; it is a death penalty after all, but by a long term. All the convicts wear gray overcoats, something like those of the soldiers. In the center of the back these coats are dotted with yellow marks, of which the form, square or triangular, indicates the penalty of the condemned. Above the marks are letters telling the government from which he comes. Thus the prisoner carries a resignation of his civil condition on his back. One of these convicts still wears his civilian attire. His wife has obtained leave to accompany him, along with their children, four or five years old. He will pass months in the midst of these strange surroundings, for several months are necessary to reach Siberia, the journey being made almost entirely on foot. What a singular beginning of an education!

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FOR 1879.

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THE SUN has been, is, and will continue to be independent of everybody and everything save the Truth and its own conviction of duty. That is the only policy which an honest newspaper need have. That is the policy which has won for this newspaper the confidence and friendship of a wider constituency than was ever enjoyed by any other American journal.

THE SUN is the newspaper of the people. It is not for the rich man against the poor man, or for the poor man against the rich man, but it seeks to do equal justice to all interests in the community. It is not the organ of any person, class, sect or party. There need be no mystery about its loves and hates. It is for the honest man against the rogue every time. It is for the honest Democrat as against the dishonest Republican, and for the honest Republican as against the dishonest Democrat. It does not take its cue from the utterances of any politician or political organization. It gives its support unreservedly when men or measures are in accordance with the Constitution and with the principles upon which this republic was founded for the people. Whenever the Constitution and constitutional principles are violated it speaks out for the right. That is THE SUN'S idea of independence. In this respect there will be no change in its programme for 1879.

THE SUN has fairly earned the hearty hatred of rascals, frauds and humbugs of all sorts and sizes. It hopes to deserve that hatred not less in the year 1879 than in 1878, 1877 or any year gone by. THE SUN is printed for the men and women of to-day, whose concern is chiefly with the affairs of to-day. It has both the disposition and the ability to afford its readers the promptest, fullest and most accurate intelligence of whatever in the wide world is worth attention. To this end the resources belonging to well-established prosperity will be liberally employed.

The present disjointed condition of parties in this country, and the uncertainty of the future, lend an extraordinary significance to the events of the coming year. To present with accuracy and clearness the exact situation in each of its varying phases and to expound, according to its well-known methods, the principles that should guide us through the labyrinth, will be an important part of THE SUN'S work for 1879.

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