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The Messenger.

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HOME FROM THE FIELD.

[illegible] as if wings of a storm
[illegible] of snow on the fleld';
[illegible] red at the edge of the
[illegible] wine congealed;
[illegible] called the light thistle-
[illegible] twittered anon,—
[illegible] trudged up the lane grow-
[illegible] to cease working came on.
[illegible] dreamed in the thicket
[illegible] chirped out in the wheat;
[illegible] lowing beside the farm
[illegible] our rose faint and sweet;
[illegible] told of roses that grew
By the farmhouse whose gable loomed wan;
And mother would meet us in welcome, we knew,
When the time to cease working came on.

We are toiling on still, though on different ways
From the ones where we labored when young,
And not with the carelessness known in the days
When Hope her sweet melodies sung.
The hours are longer, it seemeth, than then;
But the tolling will some time be done;
Then peace will again smile upon us as when
The time to cease working came on.
—Will T. Hale, in Chicago Times-Herald.

THE ROZELLE DIAMONDS.

BY HELEN FORREST GRAVES.

[illegible] evening, with the [illegible] in the [illegible] a scent of growing [illegible]—just the magic [illegible] daylight and dusk when [illegible] to be done, and no [illegible] do anything; and in the [illegible], where the satin [illegible] rustled mournfully [illegible] faded to a dull [illegible] young girls were playing "[illegible] buff," their voices [illegible] hushed into a sort of [illegible] they feared to disturb [illegible]

[illegible] they rushed to and [illegible] their merriment, cut [illegible] tinkles of silvery [illegible] gathering dusk, until [illegible] peal of a bell [illegible] adjourning ball. Then [illegible] fell on the rejoicing [illegible]

[illegible] asked Kate Godfrey.
"[illegible] Dixon!" whispered [illegible] "She does giggle [illegible]
[illegible] knocked over the [illegible] retorted Margery, the [illegible] know it was!"
[illegible] said Mary Mellen, [illegible] of the occasion, [illegible] home, Kate and [illegible] business to be [illegible] a noisy game. Emily, [illegible] the fire—the logs [illegible] beautifully against the fire-[illegible]

[illegible] another the door opened; [illegible] Dixon stood in [illegible] holding a candle.
"[illegible] know," croaked she, [illegible] young ladies come to be [illegible] a racket? She wants [illegible] away, Miss Mary."
"[illegible]," said Mary, leaving a [illegible] of resignation.
[illegible] Rozelle lived here [illegible] Croft like a handsome old [illegible] enchanted castle—[illegible] half dead and wholly eccentric. [illegible] was supposed to be rich, although she never spent any money. [illegible] Mellen, her grandniece, represented the captive maiden element [illegible] Polly, the maid, [illegible] the housework and helped Aunt [illegible] to scold poor Mary.

Why did she endure this? Why do [illegible] endure the inevitable? Because there were [illegible] Mellen birds in the nest at [illegible] and because the parent birds [illegible] greatly when Mary was [illegible] and live with her aunt.

"[illegible] be rich," said Mrs. Mellen, [illegible] she has lived in that old [illegible] and spent nothing for 10 years." "[illegible] she hadn't it to spend," [illegible] Miranda Mellen.
"[illegible] she must have it!" said [illegible]
"[illegible]," suggested Alfred, the [illegible] son, "where are the Rozelle diamonds? [illegible] Fernando gave her for a wedding present—the diamonds [illegible] at the ball at Versailles when [illegible] with Louis Napoleon, the [illegible] of the French republic. [illegible] exclaimed Miranda, [illegible] the daughter of the family. [illegible] Rozelle diamonds, indeed! Did [illegible] ever see them?"
"[illegible] But—"
"Well, when I see them I'll believe [illegible]" nodded Miranda.
"[illegible], all this has nothing to [illegible] the question," said Mrs. Mellen, [illegible]. "Your father's [illegible] Jacqueline has asked Mary to go [illegible] Rozelle Croft for an indefinitely [illegible], and Mary must go!"

So this poor little human flower was transplanted from a large, [illegible] family of boys and girls, living [illegible] flat, to the solitudes of a [illegible] country house, standing behind [illegible] of Lombardy poplars in a [illegible] plain.

[illegible] Polly took pity upon Mary, [illegible] suggested to Mrs. Rozelle that [illegible] of the neighborhood girls should be asked to keep her company.
"[illegible] used to a place like this," said Polly.

But Mrs. Rozelle shook her antique bejewelled head.
"[illegible]," she said, decisively. "I [illegible] of the neighborhood girls [illegible] the original here, and I won't have [illegible]

Aunt Jacque, however, was confined [illegible] the echoing room upstairs, and [illegible] not know it, when Polly, driven [illegible] desperation, consented to Mary's [illegible] as a companionship.
"[illegible] Polly, do let me ask Emily [illegible] to come here," she sobbed. [illegible] shall sleep with me, and she [illegible] so much; and I feel myself stiffening into an old woman here alone. Aunt Jacque will never know."

Emily came, under vow of solemn [illegible]. Emily got acquainted with [illegible] Godfrey, the minister's daughter, and Kate introduced pretty Margery Dixon; and the quartet contrived [illegible] themselves hugely, always on tiptoe and under their breath.

"If Mrs. Rozelle finds this out, I [illegible] there," said Polly.

But she never shall find it out!" echoed the four, in chorus.

Aunt Jacque was very cross this [illegible] when Mary ran apprehensively [illegible]
"What's all that noise down below?" [illegible] she, irritably.
"I'm very sorry that the footstool [illegible] over," faltered Mary, [illegible] poking the fire the logs tumbled [illegible] the fire-dogs, and—"
"Why haven't you been up here before to read to me?" imperiously [illegible] the old dame.
"I didn't think it was so late."
"Light the lamp!" said Mrs. Rozelle. "Get your book; begin now!"
Mary obeyed, and when she had read the old woman to sleep, she sat looking at the odd little figures on the lamp shade, wondering—wondering how Aunt Jacque could ever have been young and pretty enough to dance with the first president of the brilliant Parisian court; wondering where the famous Rozelle diamonds were kept; wondering why Aunt Jacque had not shown them to her when she displayed the quaint contents of the flat jewel drawer in the Japanese cabinet—thin old gold chains, fantastic brooches, more or less broken, saucer-shaped lockets and bracelets of curious make, but never a precious stone in the lot.

The dead-gold eardrops, like miniature globes, were among the most modern thing among the articles, but the whole collection, Mary jeeringly told herself, was not worth five dollars.

"I wish she would show me the diamonds!" thought Mary.

And at that very instant Aunt Jacque awoke, with a little start.

"I was dreaming about the Rozelle diamonds," said she, sharply peering toward the bandy-legged Japanese cabinet. "Mary!"

"Yes, Aunt Jacque!"

Perhaps the time was come at last.

"Look in the tall blue vase on the right-hand corner of the mantel. Is there a key there?"

"Yes, Aunt Jacque."

"Oh, then it's safe! But the dream was so very, very vivid. Ring for Polly. I feel like going to bed."

Aunt Jacque went to bed as usual. The next morning she did not get up. She was not sick, she said—only tired.

But the doctor shook his head and gave orders that the house should be kept very quiet.

"Miss Emily will have to go home," said Polly. "And Miss Kate and Miss Margery mustn't come here any more at present."

Emily succumbed to circumstances and went to stay with Kate Godfrey for a few days before she returned to the city. Kate was going to have a party.

"Oh, if I could only have something nice to wear!" sail Emily. "Those gold earrings of madam's! For one night, Mary! She's lying quite drowsy and unconscious; she never would know. And I am so shabby and poor looking among all Kate's friends!"

And Mary, over-persuaded, crept into Aunt Jacque's room, took the gay from the blue vase, unlocked the drawer, and abstracted the dead-gold knobs with velvet fingers.

Emily uttered a cry of joy.

"Oh, you are so sweet, so good!" said she.

"Be sure you bring them back tomorrow," adjured Mary.

"I'll be quite sure," said Emily.

The next morning Aunt Jacque suddenly roused herself out of her dream-like torpidity.

"Who is there?" said she.

And Mary answered:

"I am, Aunt Jacque!"

"I dreamed," said the old woman, "that some one was tampering with my jewel drawer. Go, Mary, and see if the key is all safe."

And Mary, pale and trembling, obeyed.

"Bring it here," said Mrs. Rozelle. "Let me see it. Aye, that's right. Take good care of the key, child. Let it never go out of your sight. The diamonds are there—the diamonds that I mean to give to you!"

"Aunt Jacque!" gasped Mary.

"Yes," nodded the old dame—"yes! You never suspected it, did you? The dead-gold drops are hollow—the great sparkling stones are inclosed inside them. The diamonds that I wore that night when I danced at Versailles, with Eugenie de Montijo opposite me in the set. This old house and the diamonds are all that is left of the great Rozelle fortune, and they are to be yours!"

The dew of perspiration broke out on Mary's forehead as she listened, and no sooner had Mrs. Rozelle fallen asleep again than she called Polly to take her place, and hurried across the meadows to the Godfrey house.

Everything was in the wild disorder incident to the morning after a party. Kate, just dressed, came yawning to greet her.

"Where's Emily? My, didn't you know? Gone back to New York in the five o'clock morning train. Received a telegram that her mother was sick. Didn't even go to bed after the party."

"Did she leave no message for me?"

"None that I know of—except, of course, her love and all that sort of thing. Isn't it too bad that she should be hurried away like this?"

Mary wrung her hands. What was to be done? Suppose Aunt Jacque should insist on seeing the jewels? She hurried to the railway station and telegraphed to Emily to send the earrings at once, and then returned to Rozelle Croft with feelings that can better be imagined than described.

"It was my own fault," she kept repeating to herself—"my own fault! And I alone must bear the punishment!"

The day passed slowly on, and no message came. Aunt Jacque waked and slept by turns, talked about the first president and beautiful Eugenie de Montijo, called Mary by some loving name, and then drifted back into the darkness that borders on the unseen land.

But presently, as Mary sat by the fire in the saloon, drinking her tea, while Polly kept watch and ward up stairs, the shrill old voice called out, in plainly audible accents:

"The gold earrings! Bring me the gold earrings, I say! Mary has the key. Tell Mary to bring them here."

The girl started up, clasping her hands and turning very pale. The punishment had descended upon her at last.

At the same moment a hand tapped at the window glass. Margery Dixon's bright face was closely pressed against the casement.

"Open, Mary—open!" cried the sweet, fresh voice. "Here's a little package Em Hardwick left with me to give you, and I haven't had a chance to come over until now."

The Rozelle diamonds at last, in their unpretending shells of plain gold—and the cloud was lifted from poor Mary Mellen's heart.

And Margery Dixon could not imagine why Mary was crying so hysterically as she took the trinkets from her hand.

"Is she so bad as that?" said she. "But you know she was very old."

It was true. Miss Rozelle was "very old." She died that night; but before she died she solemnly gave into Mary Mellen's hands the Rozelle diamonds and the deeds-of-gift of Rozelle Croft and all its lands, in the presence of the doctor and old Polly.

The girl was not much of an heiress, that was true; but to her the thing meant wealth.

"Father and mother and the children shall come and live here," said she, ecstatically. "And perhaps some day, when I have laid off my mourning, I can go to a party and wear the diamonds!"

For, as you will see, Mary Mellen was but a girl, after all.—Saturday Night.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

Parchment used on the best banjos is made from wolf-skin.

Friendship, Me., has a great grandmother but fifty-three years old.

Ten regiments in the British army publish each their own newspaper.

About $10,000,000 in gold is now concealed in the teeth of people in the world.

The various countries of the world now use 13,400 different kinds of postage stamps.

The latest thing in locks is one where the keyhole is in the centre of the doorknob.

Three million five hundred thousand steel pens are used throughout the world every day in the week.

A merchant in Copenhagen was fined 10 crowns for having used the American flag as an advertising medium.

A Minneapolis genealogist reckons up four billions of persons between William the Conqueror and one of his descendants now living.

Detectives detailed to look after professional shoplifters always look to see if their suspects are wearing gloves. A "professional," it is declared, never works with his gloves on.

A man well up in dog lore counsels intending purchasers of a puppy to let the mother of the puppy choose for them. In carrying them back to their bed the first the mother picks up will always be the best.

Public story tellers still earn a good livelihood in Japan. In Tokio six hundred of them ply their trade, provided with a small table, a fan and a paper wrapper to illustrate and emphasize the points of their tales.

In Germany when the vote of the jury stands six against six the prisoner is acquitted. A vote of seven against five leaves the decision to the court, and in a vote of eight against four the prisoner is convicted.

In Japan, small children of the poor, who have the gift of straying and no nurses to look after them, are safeguarded by the simple precaution of hanging labels round their necks which tell their names and addresses.

The most wonderful statue in the world is in Yokohama, Japan. It is a seated image of the god Dia-butsu, and its height is sixty-three and one-half feet. The total weight of this great statue is 450 tons, five hundred pounds of which is pure gold.

The National Bank of Commerce of Tacoma, Wash., set out to sink a well under the building. Some twenty or thirty feet below the surface the workmen came upon some cooking utensils and a skeleton, and inquiry revealed the fact that the spot had been an Indian burial ground.

The palace of the king of Siam is enclosed in high white walls which are a mile in circumference. Within then are contained temples, public offices, seraglios, stables, for the sacred elephant, accommodation for 1000 troops, cavalry, artillery, war elephants, an arsenal and a theatre.

R. P. Browning, discovered in Nevada, Mo., as the champion skunk hunter, has become the champion frog catcher, getting fifty frogs in half an hour. He uses a pole with a hook on the end, and, riding into the frog ponds on horseback, yanks out any frog that shows himself.

Got His Ice Water Bath.

"Please fix me up an ice water bath," said Dr. Fernandez of the City of Mexico to Clerk Green of the Laclede hotel recently.

"We don't have them," said Mr. Green sympathetically, as he noticed the great beads of perspiration streaming down the Mexican's face.

"Can I provide an ice water bath myself?" inquired the doctor, as he proceeded to mop his face with a fresh handkerchief.

"Certainly."

The Mexican called three bell boys at once, and in short order a huge chunk of ice was afloat in a bathtub full of cold water. Fernandez remained in the bath until the chunk of ice was melted.

"Well, did you enjoy your bath?" said Green, when Fernandez appeared at the counter looking as cool as a cucumber.

"It was good for a while, but the ice melted, and then the water got so hot I had to come out, replied Dr. Fernandez.—St. Louis Republic.

An umbrella insurance company is the latest thing in London. The company insures canes as well as umbrellas.

R.R. COMMISSION CIRCULARS

A Magistrate Convicted of Compounding a Felony.

OLD NORTH STATE CULLINGS.

Big Revenues--Soldier Pays an Old War Debt--Making Money Out of Poultry.

The railroad commission on the 27th issued the following circular:

From and after the 1st day of September, 1897, the Western Union Telegraph Company shall not charge or collect more than 15 cents for transmitting any message of ten words or under, exclusive of date, addres and signature, beween any two points within the limits of this State on its lines, nor more than one cent for each additional word.

Whenever a message is sent over two or more telegraph lines owned, controlled and operated by separate and distinct corporations or individuals, the joint rate shall not exceed 20 cents for each message of ten body words or less, exclusive of date, address and signature, between any two points within the limits of this State and one cent for each additional word. Effective September 1st.

Telegraph companies other than the Western Union Telegraph Company shall be allowed to charge and collect 20 cents for a message of ten body words or under, exclusive of date, address and signature, between any two points within the limits of this State, on their respective lines and not more than one cent for each additional word. Effective September 1, 1897.

The following figures give some idea of the great volume of business done in the Asheville office of the internal revenue. The statement covers from July 1, 1896, to June 30, '97:

Lists	$ 29,853 48
Spirits	581,251 44
Cigars and cigarettes	4,848 30
Snuff	601 86
Tobacco	1,055,872 29
Special tax	15,059 01
Total	$1,687,592 48

The amounts by months follows:

July, 1896	$121,172 28
August, 1896	126,460 38
September, 1896	152,414 83
October, 1896	147,283 83
November, 1896	135,668 01
December, 1896	161,211 25
January, 1897	166,608 07
February, 1897	143,465 26
March, 1897	144,949 17
April, 1897	120,881 93
May, 1897	131,657 95
June, 1897	136,424 52
Total	$1,687,592 48

The collections at the various offices for the year were:

Winston	$880,114 60
Statesville	469,330 91
Asheville	216,070 61
Mt. Airy	122,066 36

F. E. Hege, chief of the poultry department of the State Experiment Station, is arousing much interest in "fowl culture," in the State. He says the chickens and eggs produced are now worth more in cash than any agricultural product. The raising of chickens for the Northern markets is a profitable and growing industry. In one day recently 40,000 chickens were shipped from two points to the Northern markets. Several county poultry associations have lately been formed and the Buncombe Association has just been incorporated. Poultry fairs are to be held at Shelby, Asheville and Charlotte.

In the Superior Court at Concord, D. M. Widenhouse and M. M. Furr, both of No. 9 township, Cabarrus county, have been convicted of compounding a felony. Mr. Furr is one of the Populist magistrates. He has been deposed from office of justice of the peace and is to be deprived of any office of honor or public trust in the State of North Carolina and to pay a fine of $50 and the costs. Mr. Widenhouse was fined $20 and the costs. Both have been given notice of appeal. Never in the history of Cabarrus has such charges been brought against her officers.—Charlotte Observer.

During the war Jesse Snatherly, a Confederate soldier from Montgomery county, saved the life of a New York soldier who was wounded. The woods had caught fire and the Federal soldier called for help. Snatherly took him to a safe distance and provided him with water. He has sent Snatherly $800.

The railway commission increases the valuation of all the divisions of the Atlantic Coast Line, the Southern and the Seaboard Air Line; it decreases the valuation of the Atlantic and Danville; the others remain the same; the increase on railways, steamboat and telegraph lines is about $3,000,000.

While Deputy Revenue Collector Hill and a posse were making a raid on moonshiners in Lenoir county they were fired on by ambushed moonshiners. F. T. Harper was hit by four buckshot and seriously injured. Arrests will follow. The moonshiners are known. The still was destroyed.

It is said that under the new law no pictures or coupons can be put in cigarette boxes or in smoking tobacco packages and the statement is made that this will throw a lot of people out employment.

The truck crop in the eastern part of the State has proven very remunerative this season, and the Goldsboro Argus says that along the line of railroad between that place and Wilmington large quantities of strawberry plants are being planted.

The "gold fever" has spread from Stanley county into Rowan. Some good finds are being made.

Representative Linney has introduced a bill to reduce the tax on distilled spirits to 70 cents per gallon.

The Raleigh correspondent of the Charlotte Observer learns that the Heck estate of Raleigh owns 1,080 acres of land in the Klondyke region of Alaska.

Governor Russell has been invited to attend the annual Washington birthday dinner of the Connecticut society at New Haven, Feb. 22nd.

L. L. Love, of Pennsylvania, contemplates putting up a large rolling mill at Salisbury.

Asheville has changed its time from eastern to central, to conform to the railroad time standard.

HEARING AT FLAT ROCK.

Judge Simonton Will Decide in a Few Days What Constitutes an "Original Package."

The Columbia (S. C.) Register of the 28th says the hearing in the original package cases was held yesterday at Flat Rock, N. C., before Judge Simonton, but no decision was rendered nor was the least intimation given as to what it would be. Attorney-General Barber was present, representing the State; Mr. P. H. Nelson, of Columbia, representing Meetz as agent of the Portner Brewing Company and Pfeifer; Mr. Shuman, of Greenville, representing Payne, of that city; Messrs. B. A. Hobgood, of Charleston, and P. A. Wilcox, of Florence, representing Stackley, of that city, as agent for Gugenheimer & Co.

The main and practically only question before the judge, was what constitutes an original package. The various attorneys practically had the same case, and contended that the bottles in a package shipped into the State were the "original package." In the case of Stackley, of Florence, it appears that the stuff was shipped to him in bottles packed in a car and it was contended that each one was plainly an original package. To both of these positions, the attorney general took exception, contending that the box in which the bottles were shipped was the original package, and not the bottle. He contended, further, that in the Gugenheimer shipment all the bottles in the car substituted the package and must be sold as such. Very voluminous authorities were quoted by all of the attorneys, and the judge seemed to be deeply interested.

Mr. Barber opened and was followed by Messrs. Hagood and Wilcox and Mr. Nelson closed. The attorneys returned from flat Rock last night and all expect a decision within a few days.

TOBACCO MEN SQUEAL.

The Moisture in Their Leaf Will Have to Be Paid For.

A dispatch from New York says the new tariff bill has caused a panic among tobacco importers, and they declare that one short paragraph in the new law means a loss to them of thousands of dollars every year. The paragraph is a part of section 33 of the act which compels importers to pay duty on tobacco at the weight at which it goes into the bonded warehouse. This takes from the tobacco men a privilege that has for many years been accorded to them by the tariff laws. Under the Wilson act and previous, importers have had their tobacco reweighed at the time of its withdrawal from bonded warehouses, and on this weight duties were collected. The weight of tobacco is greatly reduced during the bonded period by evaporation. Experts estimate that the importers save $25 to $40 a bale on Sumatra, and some times as high as $70 a bale on Havanna leaf, by paying on the dried-out tobacco. Importers will now gain nothing by delay, but must pay duties at $1.85 per pound for the weight at the time of its arrival. They estimate the loss to importers in New York alone will be $500,000 a year.

TALK OF A CLOTH COMBINE.

An Experiment That Will Likely Be Tried in the East.

A dispatch from Fall River, Mass., says when the cloth business is dull, and the prospects for dividends poor, the stockholders feel privileged to make suggestions, which explains why there has been more or less talk of late concerning a cloth trust. The proposition has been advanced to pool issues in managing the mills, reducing expenses regulating the supply according to demand, and the introduction of other innovations. As nearly as can be ascertained, it is not the idea to group all the factories under one head at the outset, but to experiment with four or five companies. One agent would dispose of the output, and the services of middlemen in the shape of brokers would be dispensed with. It is claimed commissions take too much out of the mills, and that the drain is unnecessary.

New Civil Service Regulation.

President McKinley has promulgated an amendment to the civil service rules providing that there shall be no removals from positions subject to competitive examination except for just cause in writing, to which the accused has had opportunity to make defence. This also includes all within classified service and all employees of the customs house office, one employee in each internal revenue district to act as cashier or chief deputy or assistant collector, all subject to competitive examination.

Has Carried Out Its Pledges.

At a dinner at Boston, given to Secretary Gage, he makes a speech on tariff and the money question; he says the administration has carried out its pledges as to the former and "the breeze of prosperity brings comfort and restoration" and that the administration can be relied on to carry out its pledges as to the money question, that it will not be idle in this respect.

The Virginia Prohibitionists.

W. T. Rundick, State chairman of the Virginia Prohibition party, has issued a call for a State convention of the party to meet in Lynchburg on August 26th, to nominate candidates for Governor, Lieutenant-Governor and Attorney-General. All Virginia Prohibitionists will have a voice in the proceedings.

Tariff Bill Printed.

The first copies of the tariff act for circulation have been received at the document rooms of the Senate and House at Washington. The bill makes a pamphlet of seventy pages. There will be fifty-thousand copies in all to be circulated by Congress.

Islands Shaken by an Earthquake.

The islands of Antiguo, St. Kitts and Guadeloupe, Jamaica, of the Leeward group, experienced a severe shock of earthquake at noon on the 28th.

Swept Away in a Sudden Flood.

At Prattsburg, Steuben county, N. Y., a cloudburst flooded the village and caused damage to the amount of $10,000. Bridges and buildings were washed away in large numbers, and many people were imperiled.

Warned Not to Start Before Spring.

The Colonial office in London has warned intended gold seekers that it will be useless to start for the Klondike before spring, as the journey is possible only in the summer time.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF TRADE.

Dun's Explanation of the Shutting Down of Big Cotton Mills.

COAL AND IRON DIFFICULTIES.

General Improvement Reported—The Foreign Demand for Wheat and the Advance in Price.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade for the week ending July 31st, says. Dispatches from almost every Northern city of importance, report without exception, improvement in business, and from Detroit to Seattle and Portland splendid crop prospects. The task of adjusting the business and industries of the country to condition created by a new tariff law has progressed with gratifying rapidity and ease. Even the increasing strength of striking coal miners probably forwards the adoption of the uniformity plan, which promises to remove most of the causes of such struggles. Some confusion is caused by events seemingly contradictory by closing of large cotton mills when many other works are starting, and by a decline in some prices when others are advancing, but the balance is unmistakably on the right side.

The most important events since the passage of the new tariff, which was generally anticipated a week ago, has been the marked increase in foreign demand and advance price for wheat, which has risen 4¾ cents during the week, with Western receipts for the first time exceedlog last year's, with Western railroads besieged for cars, and with Atlantic exports of 1,718,739 bushels of flour included for the week, and 6,351,178 bushels in four weeks, against 6,917,865 last year, with heavy contracts for shipment, exceeding 1,200,000 bushels on a single day. Liverpool reports a shipment from America to Northern Bohemia and French markets. Excited speculative sales have little influence.

The fact that corn exports exceed last year, although the price has advanced to 32.87 cents, is further proof that foreign demands are not substantial. With crop news still favorable, producers may probably realize something like $80,000,000 more than last year on wheat, which means a great difference in purchases by agricultural States. Corn also advanced 1.25 cents and cotton a sixteenth, though reports as to yield are good.

The industrial sky is partly clouded by coal and iron difficulties, and by the closing of some large cotton mills. Having run for months far ahead of consuming demand, on cotton bought at comparatively high prices, the mills see ahead a large crop and cheap cotton, and it is but the rational way to halt the production and clear off accumulated stocks, at the season when vacations are common and begin the new year on its own basis.

The woolen manufacturers answer wholesomely and moderatly to the new tariff conditions, and while the opening of light weights below about $1 in cost has met a very encouraging demand, the advance in prices asked is not large.

Delay in the iron industry is partly because a steady rising demand does not yet raise prices. In some products prices are a shade lower notwithstanding a larger demand, owing to competition between works, but Bessemer is a shade higher. In structural work, plates, sheets and bars for the enormous operations of agricultural implement works, the demand increases, as it also does for rolling stock owing to the abundance of crops.

The failures for the week have been 236 in the United States, against 281 last year, and 28 in Canada, against 40 last year.

DINGLEY VERSUS WILSON.

A Comparison of the New Tariff Law With the Old.

The comparison of the present tariff law with the Wilson Act authorized by Congress has been completed. It was made by Chas. H. Evans, who has been engaged in the preparation of all the tariff bills with which Congress has dealt since 1872. The comparison is made in rates expressed in ad valorem terms between the present law and the Wilson law. The statement places the average duty rate under the new law at 54.66 per cent. ad valorem, as against an average of 40.10 under the Wilson law, the average being figured upon the basis of values in 1896.

The statement shows the following increases in percentages: Chemicals from 28.53 to 30.67; wools and woolens from 47.62 to 86.54; silks from 46.96 to 532.41; earthenware and glassware 35 to 52.47; metals 38.11 to 49.24; sugar 40.94 to 74.16; tobacco 109.06 to 121.90; agricultural products 22.44 to 38.42; spirits, etc., 61.54 to 68.83; cotton manufacturers 42.75 to 52.33.

Some of the increases expected in revenue are as follows: Chemicals from $5,619,289 to $8,423,084; earthen and glassware from $8,006,839 to $12,393,148; metals from $13,196,416 to $17,487,482; woods from $995,749 to $2,439,596, sugar from $29,910,703 to $54,207,642; agricultural products from $7,727,614 to $14,587,609.

These estimates are based upon the supposition that the value and volume of imports will remain the same.

Preacher Sentenced to Penitentiary.

W. M. Dubges, a Baptist preacher, Mason and politician, at Macon, Ga., was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary for embezzling of school funds.

Taken to Raleigh for Safety.

At Kittrell, N. C., a negro named George Bodie made a criminal assault upon a Miss Cartlett, white, 18-years-old, and had to be taken to Raleigh for safety. In the meantime the Governor was telegraphed as follows: "Terrible rape on white woman has been committed. Negro is in jail. Will you order special term of court upon request of commissioners and petition from citizens?" Governor Russell at once ordered a special term of court to begin August 16th, Judge Brown to preside.

Spalding Found Guilty.

At Chicago, the jury in the third trial of Charles W. Spalding, treasurer of the Illinois State University and president of the Globe Savings Bank, returned a verdict of guilty. The present trial was on an indictment charging Spalding with hypothecating $23,000 in county bonds.

Spalding's punishment was fixed at imprisonment in the penitentiary. He will make a strong fight before he goes to the penitentiary, and will carry the case up to the last court. The duration of his sentence will be settled by the prison board of the State.

NEWS ITEMS.

Southern Pencil Pointers.

In court at Winchester, Va., two lawyers had a dispute and one struck the other with an inkstand inflicting a dangerous wound.

Albert H. Heitz, a well-known phosphate miner at Charleston, accidentally shot and killed himself.

The national association of Dental Examiners and representatives of the chief dental colleges met at Old Point, Va.

Before the Tennessee Bar Association Justice Walter Clark, of North Carolina, delivered an address; he advocated many changes in the federal constitution, which he says is now undemocratic.

A cotton mill at Natchez, Miss., suspends work for want of raw cotton.

At Starke, Fla., Henry Crosby killed himself with poison; his wife also took poison, but her life was saved.

In Charlotte, N. C., during the past year 240 new buildings have been erected, and there are now being built 112. Besides this, two cotton factories, the Louise mill and the webbing factory of Mr. A. C. Summerville have been built, the fine new courthouse has been completed, and a large number of business buildings have been remodeled until they are practically new buildings.—The News.

Operators in the Middlesboro, Tenn., district have given a raise of 10 per cent. per ton to miners who have resolved not to join the strike.

Governor Atkinson, of Georgia, has refused to interfere in the case of John Tyler Cooper, former Mayor of Atlanta, and later clerk of the county commissioners, convicted of embezzling funds of the county, and Cooper will have to serve three month's imprisonment, to which he was sentenced by the court.

A syndicate is about to close the purchase of most of the coal mines of East Tennessee; the price is about $5,000,000, and if successful over 3,000 miners will be given employment.

There is a rumor in Laurens, S. C., that Ex-Senator Irby is to draw out of the Congressional race and help Ex-Governor Evans.

The Virginia Populists may tender the nomination of Governor to Tyler.

Prof. P. H. Patterson, an educated and influential negro, was murdered in a church in Montgomery, Ala.

The Banister Baptist Association (colored) in session at Houston, Va., adopts resolutions denouncing criminal assaults on white women, and the class of negroes who commit them.

The attendance at the Tennesee Centennial Exposition last week numbered 45,398.

Governor's Guards, of Austin, won the interstate drill at San Antonio, Tex. Neeley Zouaves won the Zouave prize.

Dr. Scott, brother-in-law of Governor Bradley, superintendent of the Eastern Kentucky Lunatic Asylum, has been declared unfit for the place by the grand jury, and his removal demanded.

An insurance company has withdrawn its business from Greenville, N. C., Pitt county, because it did not deem it safe to continue its business in a town controlled by negroes.

General Lafayette McLaws, the oldest surviving Confederate major general, died Sunday at Savannah, Ga., aged 76 years.

The stewarts in the Methodist church at Albertsville, Ala., finding their church revenue insufficient, have levied an annual tax of $10 on each tobacco-chewing member of the congregation. The plan is said to work admirably and to bring in a goodly revenue.

It is reported that Florida will get some relief from the hated water hyacinth. A red spider is said to be rapidly destroying the plants.

President McKinley has appointed a negro Collector of Internal Revenue for Georgia.

Nashville, Tenn., is soon to be in telephonic connection with the entire South.

The Young Business Men's Association, of Richmond, Va., have resolved to invite the Grand Army of the Republic to hold its encampment in the above city in 1899.

The erection of a twenty-ton cotton seed oil mill will be commenced at Lavonia, Ga., at once.

All About the North.

In the 16 to 1 saloon, at Texarkana, Ark., J. W. Foster shot and instantly killed Riley Balthrop, a merchant.

The Democrats of Maryland held held their State convention; harmony prevailed and everything went as Gorman dictated; it declared for bimetallism without specifying any ratio.

At Yonkers, N. Y., fire destroys a factory in which were working 600 men and girls; there were no casualties.

William R. Valentine, a well-known Brooklyn newspaper man, who claimed to be the author of "Casey at the Bat," died at Oyster Bay, L. I., aged 35 years, of abscess of the brain.

The Brooklyn Jockey Club announces the Junior Champion Stake of $15,000 for 2-year-olds, to be run in '98.

A lodging house that will cost $350,000, where working people can find comfortable homes at cheap rates will soon be completed in New York.

At Topeka, Kan., A. Hubbard, who was convicted of embezzling $8,000 as receiver of the Hamilson Printing Company, has been sentenced to three years in the penitentiary, by Judge Hanson.

Miscellaneous.

Forty steamers have been chartered in Atlantic ports to load grain for Europe.

Missionaries in the Tien-Tsin district of China fear an uprising of natives and possible massacree of Christians.

The partial eclipse of the sun, which was visible in this part of the United States, on the 29th, is the last solar eclipse that will be visible in this part until May 27, 1900.

Two coaches of an excursion train went through a trestle near Marietta, O. No one was killed.

The British Government has declined to interfere in the execution of the the sentence of Mrs. Florence Maybrick, on the ground that there is no reason for a change of judgement in the matter.

Armor plate makers decline to furnish the Government the plate desired at $300 per ton.

The following cadets have been appointed to the Military Academy at West Point: Fifth district of South Carolina, Isaac C. Hough, of Camden; alternate, Rollie C. Harper, of Minden, fourth district of Louisiana.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

Brussels streets are now sprinkled with a diluted disinfectant.

The New York Board of Health has passed an order requiring one in every four street cars to be a closed car.

In cases where nature intends that insects shall feed on flowers at night, the flowers they select are all of a white color.

The tartar on human teeth is filled with animalculæ, which are destroyed by vinegar. Vinegar itself contains [illegible]-like insects.

Messrs. Eat[illegible] & Faxon have made collections of nearly [illegible] sixty species of North American Sphagna or peat mosses, with many varieties, in all 172 specimens.

Brooklyn is to have an electric fountain which will have a throwing capacity of 100,000 gallons an hour. Colored incandescent lights will be used for prismatic effects on the great variety of sprays.

Statistics published by Dr. Lodde regarding the use of serum in diphtheria shows that in 10,088 cases treated in eighty-six hospitals in Europe, Australia, Japan and America, the mortality was twenty per cent., instead of 44.3 per cent., under the old method, while in 3769 cases treated in private practice the mortality was but 7.8 per cent.

The fascinating idea that each disease germ has its one specific poisonous principle, its toxin, is attacked by M. A. Charrin, a French biologist. He shows from experiments that a single microbe species may produce several pathogenic compounds—the bacillus of pus, for instance, yielding several which are easily distinguished by their prolonged effects.

The steamship Augusta Victoria, of the Hamburg-American Line, has been lengthened about sixty feet by the insertion of a new section amidship. Her masts have been redapped and her funnels placed further apart. Her horse-power has also been increased by about 1500, which, it is expected, will enable her to make twenty knots an hour instead of eighteen, as heretofore.

After the spring pruning in the vineyard, water is seen trickling down the stems, and in France this is poetically called the "weeping of the vine." Professor Cornu, a botanist, has recently studied this phenomenon, and he says it is due to the abundant absorption of water by the roots of the vine in springtime. The water is forced through all the branches and stems to their very tips, and where they are cut by the pruner it oozes out like teardrops.

The Cobra Stone.

Everyone knows that Ceylon is famous for the amount of queer and rare precious stones found in the sands of its dried-up river beds. Among these is one called "Chlorophane," a rare variety of fluor spar, which shines at night with phosphorescent light. There has long been a tradition among the natives that a certain species of cobra makes use of this stone to attract insects in the darkness; indeed, the name given it is "najakaller," or cobra stone. A scientist recently resolved to test this wonderful story during a stay in the island, so offered any coolies five rupees to point out a stone-carrying cobra. In about a week an old Tamil came in and offered to show him one. He followed this guide and, sure enough, there under an immense tamarind tree he saw a little point of steady, greenish light, and could faintly distinguish, behind, a cobra coiled and slowly waving its head from side to side. It would have been desperately dangerous to approach the reptile, and the coolie begged him not to do do, saying that next night he himself would get the stone. He did so, and in rather clever fashion. Before dark he climbed into the tree, carrying a large bag of ashes. After nightfall the cobra turned up as usual, and deposited its treasure, which it carried in its mouth, before it. Thereupon the coolie emptied his bag of ashes over the shining object, and the frightened reptile, after a wild but fruitless search, crept back into the jungle. The coolie descended, searched the ashes, found the stone, and received his promised reward.

Firecracker of Compressed Air.

The noisiest firecracker yet has been approved by the New York Board of Fire Commissioners. It is warranted to make more noise than the Chinese kind, and to burn no awnings. It has no reaction and no after affects. It explodes with great force, and fills the air with large quantities of noise and lots of strawboard, but no spark.

It is a plain United States firecracker, composed of one-third of chloride of potash and two-thirds of compressed air. The explosion of the chemical bursts the chamber of compressed air, and the result is an explosion which combines the delightful nerve-annihilating properties of the cannon and the pop gun.