

THE GREENSBORO PATRIOT

ESTABLISHED IN 1855.
NEW SERIES, NO. 346.

GREENSBORO, N. C., TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1885.

(J. M. H. STUBBS, Editor & Proprietor.
TERMS: \$1.50 Per Year, in Advance.)

The Greensboro Patriot

GREENSBORO, N. C., JANUARY 6, 1885.
THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

The Government Printing Office in Washington, has grown from a poorly equipped printing office until, under its present able and successful management, it is recognized as the largest printing establishment in the world. It is a stupendously vast concern. The present public printer has thoroughly mastered its minutest details, and conducts it on strictly business principles. He is an experienced manager and a practical printer, having worked his way up from "devil" in a country printing office. During his three years in incumbency as Public Printer he has established a thorough business system in every division of the great establishment; refilled it to a large degree with modern and labor-saving machinery and appliances, and that, too, without asking Congress for any extra appropriation of money; and without any "deficiency bills"; and has brought the unfinished work of the office which had accumulated for years as well as current business, up to a point nearer completion than ever before attained. This splendid record is a part of the establishment we set out to describe.

What is called the "Document Room" is 360 feet long with a general width of 60 feet, giving an area of 21,600 square feet. The stands for compositors are arranged on the north and south sides of the room, the imposing stones, galley racks and cabinets, with the many other appurtenances which are necessary in a large office, occupying the center of the room. One hundred and eighty compositors, about the average number employed, can be accommodated here, in addition to the makers up, floor-hands and laborers. There are now in constant use 275 double stands, 1,030 pairs of cases, 19 imposing stones, 6 proof presses, one Washington press, 210 cases of all sizes, more than 160,000 pounds of type of the standard sizes, besides about 115 fonts of different styles used for title pages and headings and 13 cabinets for extra type and cases. An immense amount of type is constantly kept standing in this division of the office. Piles of pages, tied up and kept in place by pieces of heavy wrapping paper, can be seen on every available resting place.

The document room comes under the immediate supervision of the Foreman of Printing, Capt. Henry T. Brian, who with his capable corps of assistants, Messrs. J. M. A. Spottswood, D. W. Beach, and J. M. Maloney, carry on the immense business of this department in a thoroughly efficient and economical manner.

From the office of the Chief Clerk the manuscript of each job is sent to the foreman accompanied by "jackets" bearing the number and title of the work, together with any necessary instructions. These jackets are vouchers upon which the work is executed and are supposed to follow the jobs through whatever divisions of the office the character of the work requires them to go. Endorsements are made upon them by the several foremen as to date of receipt and delivery of work, thus insuring expedition and locating at a glance any unusual delay. Upon the receipt of the manuscript of a job the foreman places it in the hands of the copy editors, who, after numbering the sheets in order, mark the different styles of type in which it is to be set, indicating also, in the case of a book, the size of the volume in which the work is to appear.

The copy is then transferred to the Assistant Foreman, who has immediate charge of the mechanical branch of the work, and by him parcelled out in "takes" to the compositors.

At the present time there are employed in this room about 175 compositors, 6 makers up, 7 floor hands, 7 apprentices and 14 laborers.

Among the "type stickers" are seven body compositors, who are experienced hands, thoroughly skilled in the trade and have no difficulty in "getting up their aver age" and acquitting themselves in a very creditable manner.

The job room is an important feature of the public printing, and from comparative insignificance in the earlier history of the Printing Office it has grown in size and usefulness until it probably exceeds in its equipment and capacity any job printing office in the country. It occupies part of the new fire proof wing erected in 1879, and is

36 feet 6 inches long by 53 feet 8 inches wide, with a ceiling 13 feet high.

In 1860 the only work done there for the government was for the use of the immediate departments there in Washington. The work for the different branches of the departments located outside of Washington was done in private offices throughout the country. Now the work performed here is in part, as follows: The composition on blank books, the blank forms, comprising bonds, contracts, pay rolls, vouchers, schedules, circulars, letter-heads, envelopes, specifications, and, in fact, all species of job printing (excepting that executed at the branch offices at the Treasury, Interior and Navy Department) for all the departments in Washington, the Smithsonian Institution, and all the blanks, blank books, etc., used by diplomatic and consular officers of the United States, wherever located. The completed volumes of the Medical and Surgical History of the Rebellion and the Atlantic and Pacific Coast Pilot, which are models of correctness and typographical excellence, were done here, and were published at a great saving to the Government.

The inventory of the job room, taken at the time of its transfer by private parties to the Government, shows that the material then on hand consisted of about 200 fonts of type, 224 cases, 80 chases of all sizes, 4 imposing stones and 25 composing sticks. In 1881 an inventory disclosed the following equipment: 448 fonts of type, 781 cases, about 1,200 chases of all sizes, 14 imposing stones, 240 composing sticks, Washington hand press, used only for taking proofs, and 1 Degener press for small hurried work. Since the accession of Mr. Rounds to the position of Public Printer, many additions to the stock have been made to meet the growing needs of this room.

There are on hand, ready for press at any time, without composition, about 20,000 electrotype and stereotype plates of such forms as are rarely if ever changed. They are so arranged that any desired plate can be readily found. There are at present employed in this room 52 journeymen printers, 6 apprentices, 1 bookkeeper, 2 laborers, 1 messenger and 2 copyholders. Many of the printers have been employed since the organization of the office as a Government institution, and as a whole the work done here will compare favorably with that done in any office in the country.

The Specification Room occupies the entire fourth story and is 60 by 100 feet. Under the assistant foreman in charge are two preparers of copy, an efficient corps of proof readers, revisers, copy holders, makers-up, compositors and laborers, to the number, all told, of 125.

A history of the Specification Room would necessarily involve, in part, a history of American patents. So closely are the two allied that an intelligent person cannot speak of one without thinking of the other. The never sleeping genius of American inventors not only made the printing of specifications of patents a possibility, but a necessity. Heretofore in the early history of American patent laws, one transcript of the specification of any patent or discovery was deemed sufficient for all concerned. From the year 1790 up to 1840, probably not more than 3,000 original patents and patents for additional improvements had been issued by the Government to inventors. Since 1840 science has made such gigantic strides in the field of discovery, has so enlarged the scope for the genius of inventors, the patent laws have been so frequently amended and liberalized, the rapid growth of the country necessitating new appliances to new and ever-changing conditions of man, that upwards of three hundred thousand letters patent for inventions or discoveries, fifteen thousand design patents, ten thousand re-issued letters patent, and eleven thousand trade-marks have been issued to inventors. With so many patents in every considerable town in the United States, the frequency with which they have to make reference to former discoveries upon a case in hand, interferences or infringements, the clerical force required to furnish transcripts for the courts and other persons, it became evident, for the dispatch of business, that the specifications of patents and designs must be printed. So, in 1866, a contract was awarded to Philip & Solomon for printing twenty copies of each case, which continued two years. It was thought, for economy, the work

could be executed at the Government Printing Office cheaper than by contract. So, in 1868, the Government assumed the printing of the specifications with a force, all told, of twenty-five employees. The number of specifications issued each week averaged about two hundred and fifty, of twenty copies each.

In January, 1872, the first number of the "Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office," was issued.

In July, 1872, the number of copies of each specification was increased from twenty to two hundred and fifty copies, and the library edition of "Specifications and Drawings" was commenced, which contains all the specifications of patents and drawings issued by the Patent Office for one month, together with complete "Alphabetical Lists of Patentees and Inventors," a volume containing 2,092 pages, which has now increased in size to 3,536 pages per month—a work of nearly twice the magnitude of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.

Several thousand specifications of old patents, some of which were never printed, and some of which printed copies have been exhausted, are printed or reprinted every year in addition to the above.

There are also printed in this room "Quarterly Lists of Patentees and Inventors," of about 200 pages, and an "Annual Index" of the same of about 700 pages. About two hundred pages of claims are reset in large type for the use of the photolithographer, who reduces them in size and prints them by his process, with the drawings, each week.

The amount of composition done in this room exceeds that of any other room under the charge of the Public Printer, except one, (the Document Room), and probably exceeds that accomplished by any printing house in the United States.

No pains is spared to make the work perfect in all its parts, the proof being read three times by copy before the matter is sent to press.

To accomplish this immense work, 12,000 lbs. Long Primer, 10,000 lbs. Nonpareil, 1,000 lbs. English, 500 lbs. Brevier, and ten or twelve large fonts of small job type are required. About 130 chases, 116 pairs cases, 600 brass galleys, 150 composing sticks, seven hundred pounds metal furniture, and 300 wooden side sticks.

These remarks might be extended to considerable length.

The stereotyping and electrotyping foundry occupies a room 50 by 50 feet on the same floor with and immediately adjoining the job room, and is under the superintendence of Mr. Alex. Elliott, who is the "father" of this branch of the "plant." The average number of hands employed throughout the year is about eighty.

The machinery consists of 3 stereotype mold presses, 2 stereotype and 1 electrotype furnaces, 2 circular saws, 2 hand shaving machines, 2 steam planing machines, 1 hand machine for thickening blocking wood, 1 jig saw and drill, 1 squaring up and trimming machine, 1 plate-beveling machine, 1 hydrant and 2 toggle-jointed electrotype mold presses, 1 black leading machine, 2 dynamo electric machines, 1 brass rule sawing machine, and furnaces for casting leads, slugs, etc.

The average amount of work executed per day is equivalent to about 300 octavo pages, in addition to which the foundry casts all the leads and metal furniture used in the different departments of this Printing Office. The amount of metal used in the various forms will aggregate not less than 200,000 pounds per annum.

The bindery occupies a floor space equal to one acre. It is under the immediate superintendence of the Foreman of Binding, Mr. J. H. Roberts, with Messrs. J. W. White, John A. Perkins, P. J. Byrne, and W. J. Kingsbury, as assistant foremen.

All documents for the use of Congress, the Library of Congress, the several Departments, and the various courts, are bound, and all blank books of every description, for the use of all the different branches of the Government, are made in this, the largest bindery in the world.

The press room of this vast establishment is on the first floor and is 60 by 300 feet, and has about 60 power presses with a capacity of 1,000,000 impressions per day. On entering, a great noise and din greets one, which at first makes him feel uncomfortable, but soon the ear becomes accustomed to the sound of the machinery, and on

investigation finds this part of the building very interesting. Since the appointment of the present Public Printer many improvements have been made, improved and fast presses have replaced the old slow machinery, and the sanitary condition is better than it has been since the existence of the establishment. It is a very difficult matter to keep any press-room clean, but this one is a model of neatness. The folding room is the largest in the building, 400 persons being employed there. The folding of sheets, maps or illustrations, the pasting, gathering, etc., are all separate and distinct operations, requiring special care and patience, and in some cases great labor. A great deal of its folding is done by machinery. In this room one can form some idea of the vast amount of work done by the Government Printing Office.

There are about one hundred hands employed on the Congressional Record. This force varies during the sessions of Congress, and, with the exception of its foreman and laborer, is dismissed at the close of each session.

The piece department of the office forms part of the "Document Room," (already mentioned), in which are employed some eighty compositors, engaged principally on work for the Supreme Court and the Court of Claims.

This department originated with the present Public Printer, Mr. Sterling P. Rounds, and has saved the Government from \$25,000 to \$50,000 annually. It was one of the first acts of his administration, which has been throughout the most successful in the history of the Government Printing Office.

CLEVELAND AND CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

A letter was addressed to President-elect Cleveland on December 20, by George W. Curtis, president of the Civil Service Reform League, and signed numerously by other members of that organization requesting Mr. Cleveland to be guided by the principles of civil service reform in the selection of public servants in his coming administration. The following able and vigorous answer is published:

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 25.
To Hon. George William Curtis,
President, etc.

DEAR SIR: Your communication, dated December 20, addressed to me on behalf of the National Civil Service Reform League, has been received.

That a practical reform in the civil service is demanded is abundantly established by the fact that a statute referred to in your communication to secure such a result has been passed by Congress with Democratic faith and public duty, and by the further fact that a sentiment is generally prevalent among patriotic people calling for the fair and honest enforcement of the law which has been thus enacted. I regard myself pledged to this, because my conception of true Democratic faith and public duty requires that this and all other statutes should be in good faith and without evasion enforced, and because in many utterances made prior to my election as President, approved by the party to which I belong, and which I have no disposition to disregard, I have in effect promised the people that this should be done.

I am not unmindful of the fact to which you refer, that many of our citizens fear that the recent party change in the national Executive may demonstrate that the abuses which have grown up in the civil service are ineradicable. I know that they are deeply rooted and that the spoils system has been supposed to be intimately related to success in the maintenance of party organization, and I am not sure that all those who profess to be the friends of this reform will see it in its proper perspective, when they find it obstructing their way to patronage and place. But fully appreciating the trust committed to my charge, no such consideration shall cause me to relax on my part of an earnest effort to enforce this law.

There is a class of Government positions which are not within the letter of the civil service statute, but which are so disconnected with the policy of an administration, that the removal therefrom of present incumbents, in my opinion, should not be made during the term for which they were appointed, solely on partisan grounds and for the purpose of putting in their places those who were in political accord with the appointing power. But many now holding such positions have forfeited all just claim to retention, because they have used their places for party purposes in disregard of their duty to the people, and because, instead of being decent public servants, they have proved themselves offensive partisans and unscrupulous manipulators of local party management.

The lessons of the past should be unlearned, and such officials, as well as their successors, should be taught that efficiency, fitness and devotion to public duty are the conditions of their continuance in public place, and that the quiet and unobtrusive exercise of individual political rights is the reasonable measure of their party service. If I were addressing none but party friends I should deem it en-

tirely proper to remind them that the safe and sound administration of the Government, as they regard it for the people's interest does not permit faithful party work to be allowed by appointment to office, and to say to them that while Democrats may expect all proper considerations, objections for office not embraced within the civil service rules will be based upon sufficient inquiry as to fitness, instituted by those charged with that duty, rather than persistent importunity or self-solicited recommendations on behalf of candidates for appointment.

Yours, very truly,
GEORGE W. CURTIS.

The Opening of the Year.

It is odd that Time, the one thing that would seem immutable as the fact that there is a morning and an evening, old Chronos, whom we fancy fashioned of stone from everlasting, has ever since men have been humming and buzzing about, seemed on the surface of things, to endure nothing but change. This is possibly because time is one of the mysteries that men can not penetrate; they can not quite reduce it to its lowest terms, and they are never satisfied with the incapacity of the way they have treated it, finite things finding it hard to formulate infinite things—a disastable evidence, which even the recent change in standard time offers itself in evidence.

Thus the year seems to have begun and ended nearly all round the calendar, February having once stood at the end of the year, when Numa had the business in hand, as various days of March have stood at the beginning, and as the days of a number of months have been scattered about in order that Augustus Caesar might have as many days in his month of August as Julius Caesar had in his month of July.

Although it is more than a hundred and fifty years ago that the change was made from the Julian to the Gregorian style, it will be a matter of surprise to many readers to know that the Old Style, so called, not only still holds in Russia, between all of whose dates and our own there is now a difference of twelve days, but that, in point of solstices and equinoxes, it still holds in England. Although an act of Parliament long since made the change legal and compulsory, the legal and ecclesiastical year beginning on the 25th of March before that act, yet the accounts of the British Treasury still run in the Old Style, and the British money will be remembered, ever expect Christmas dividends to be paid till Twelfth-day, or the Midsommer ones till the 5th of July, and Lady day being that with which the annual reckonings of the Budget be gin and end, and on which the British laborer on his last day of his year—not the 1st of January, but Lady-day, which now is reckoned on the 25th of March, the former New Year's Day, Old Style, but which financially is still held to be the 5th day of April, as it used to be before New Style came in; and it is from the 5th of April, and not the 1st, that the annual reckonings of the British Treasury are made, thus adhering to Old Style.

The French, at the time of their great Revolution, meaning apparently to carry the revolution into all things, divided their year into seasons, and their first month became a part of Nivose and a part of Pluviose, Snowy and Rainy, not even the French Revolution, which brought such change into the world, being able to alter the characteristics of time by whatever name one chose to call its divisions. This same thing is done by the Dutch in their long known of the Dutch as Chilly Month, in translation, known of the old Scandinavians as the month of the fighting god Thor, and of the Anglo Saxon as Wolf Month—the latter, perhaps, because it was the devouring wolf ragged about annually for prey; perhaps because not even wolves are fiercer, hungrier, and more devouring than the bitter cold of the month which made the sad hearted distich:

The blackest month is all the year
In the blackest month of the year.

It is well, in view of the sharp perpetual fight with its rigors, that it should have been named for old Janus, the god of battles, whose temple, closed in peace and open in war, never shut its doors but once in all the days of the Roman Republic. And another aptness is the saying that it is a month of hope, for its starting at the opening day of the year, that it should have its appellation from this same ancient deity, who was also the guardian god of all gates. Was not old Janus, too, the janitor of heaven himself—only letting none suspect our brief folly (brief, since we too soon find out the delusion)—that this year just opened may prove a heaven to us, if no other ever has done so? The gate to us, for he smiled on us with the aid of hope, and turning a backward glance by the way, he saw him frowning with the face of despair.

In all these changes that have been rung upon the calendar of course we have no assurance that things are going to remain as they are, especially arbitrary things that are not enforced by nature, and so long as we have the procession of the equinoxes men will be tinkering with the properties of old Chronos. But whenever any other changes are made, we wonder if it will occur to the changers that there is some poetry, if not some reason, in beginning the year when all the sweet fancies of nature begin to assert themselves too, when all

things begin to bud and burgeon, the sap runs up the stem to burst in leaf and bloom, vitality sweeps along the currents of the blood, fever and purpose swell the heart, and the very earth itself seems freshly made, rather than at a season when all nature lies cold and dead in its frozen shroud. Change is not dear to the feminine heart, which feels safety only in procedure; and we make haste to reassure our readers that, pleasant as they might find this change when once used to it, it is the most unlikely thing in the world to take place, whatever other change come may, because there is nothing in the idea of recommending itself to those Dryadstated who attend to such matters, and who, ignorant of the existence of poetry, or of the poetry of facts, living in the midst of poetry, but stone blind to it, would care nothing at all about the personal possessions, under a heavy load and opening but a narrow way for them in disposing of some odd quarter of an hour that has been bothering almanac makers ever since time began for them, and has proved to them, indeed, a very mauvais quart d'heure.

Gen. Grant's Troubles.

(Philadelphia Times.)
General W. T. Sherman, George W. Childs, and A. J. Drexel, who are among the most intimate and devoted of General Grant's personal friends, met in Philadelphia last week and discussed plans for relieving Gen. Grant from his present financial troubles. While in New York Gen. Sherman learned that an inventory had been taken of General Grant's real estate and personal possessions, under a heavy load and opening but a narrow way for them in disposing of some odd quarter of an hour that has been bothering almanac makers ever since time began for them, and has proved to them, indeed, a very mauvais quart d'heure.

During the consultation they merely discussed the general situation, without adopting any specific plan of relief. Mr. Childs and Mr. Drexel, however, heartily approved of General Sherman's course in behalf of his old friend and fellow-officer. The executors issued in favor of Mr. Vanderbilts over Gen. Grant's two farms, one near St. Louis and the other near Chicago, his Washington house, and the Philadelphia house, at Twelfth and Chestnut streets, which was presented to him by the citizens of Philadelphia soon after the close of the war. The inventory also includes the many valuable presents and trophies presented to the ex-President during his tour around the world after leaving the presidency. The catalogue enumerates costly weapons and souvenirs, rare articles of decoration and bric-a-brac, tokens of the esteem of friends at home and the respect of potentates abroad.

The swords and medals awarded him by Congress, his relics of the war, his pictures and private library, and even the cards engraved by Congress in recognition of his services, are included in the list of articles covered by the judgments. The possibility of his friend losing all these invaluable trophies so in haste is a matter which was much discussed. Mr. Childs expressed his sympathy with the movement, and immediately offered to throw up \$60,000 of the entire amount—which is about \$160,000—with interest, provided the remaining \$100,000 were paid. Mr. Childs said that he had not received a true state of affairs until General Sherman communicated with him, but he proposed to take the matter in hand himself and expected no difficulty in raising the money. Upon his departure from Philadelphia General Sherman expressed his opinion that he would probably continue the efforts he was making in New York and in this city.

Trust God and Talk Cheerfully.

"Merry Christmas," said Mr. Talmage to his congregation last Sunday. "For four hundred Christmases I have spoken to you of the spirit of the birth of Christ. To-day I speak of the temporal benefits of the birth of Christ. There is no nation that has so many happy homes as America. Yet there are many to-day without work, without food and without shelter. There must be something wrong, as to hundreds of thousands of people who are hungry, shivering and cold. The trouble is that our country is suffering from too much politics. Eloquent campaign orators have said that the fate of the nation depended on the success of their party, when the fact is, it does not make two cents' difference to the next year. I enjoy two things upon you: First, helpfulness to the helpless, and second, cheerful talk. If we want to prosper business, talk in a dolorous tone and keep on talking. What are you complaining about? The loudest cries about hard times are no hard. I want to join a conspiracy made up of business men, editors and preachers who shall agree to trust in God and talk cheerfully."

Guarding the Electoral Returns.

The way the returns of the electoral votes of the States, as they are delivered to Acting Vice President Edmunds, are held preparatory to the final declaration of the two Houses of Congress, differs from that of 1876 as widely as the circumstances of that year differ from those of the present. Now they are placed in the safe with no extraordinary precautions, for there is no necessity for them. The returns of 1876, as they were delivered to Acting Vice President Ferry, were put under extra locks and guards, day and night. During the period of suspense, down to the action of the Electoral Commission, the great vigilance was observed. Threats from different quarters, as well as the excited state of the country, led to extraordinary precautions. One hundred extra policemen were sworn in and placed on guard night and day. The number was occasionally increased. This was done once in consequence of reports of plans maturing in Baltimore to make a descent on the Capitol to seize the returns. They were in a safe in a room at the Senate end of the Capitol. At all hours that room was closely guarded.

Unknown to any one but the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, at night a man locked himself in that room, and remained without a light and in silence till morning. One might be carelessly drawn a match to light a cigar. Though it was for an instant the light was seen, and the alarm raised that all was not right in that room. The door was shaken and a call made, but the man inside remained silent. Preparations were made to force the door, and the Sergeant at Arms was sent for. After hearing the report of the officer of the night, he found a way to delay foreign operations till morning, when the guard were relieved and the man inside came forth to confess his carelessness and receive a proper reprimand. The sudden light was a mystery to the guard as long as they were on duty. When the Senate went to the House to meet in joint session to count the votes, the box containing the returns was placed in the possession of a chosen man, who was strongly flanked on the way by the guards, but with little display as the joint meetings were being held. Guards were posted in the galleries on the floor—especially in the vicinity of the Speaker's desk, where the box was and throughout the Capitol building, and in the approaches.

This was kept up with military precision throughout the suspense down to March 5. Meanwhile precautions on a large scale were taken by men higher in office. A military force was concentrated in and about Washington, and held in readiness for an emergency—that of inaugurating Hayes, protected by bayonets, if necessary. A Cabinet official at that time said, recently: "The preparations for a great emergency were more extensive than any record shows. The country was nearer its greatest crisis than was known except to a few."

Shooting at a Target for a Bride.

Jehial Clancy is superintendent of the Clarion Company's lumber mills, near Caalton, Pa. Since July last William Nicholson and William Brant, two young lumber men from the Maine lumber regions, have been working at the mills. Clancy is a nineteen-year old daughter, with whom the two young men fell in love. Each one wanted to marry the girl, but their friendly relations were not disturbed by that fact. Miss Clancy has been home from school in New York State a few weeks only. She seemed pleased with the attentions of the two suitors.

On Thursday week before last there was a shooting match near the Clarion Mills. Young Brant and Nicholson attended. During the day Brant proposed to Nicholson that they should match at 300 yards, best three in fire, the loser to retire from further attempts to win Miss Clancy's hand in favor of the winner. The men shot twenty times each, the shooting resulting in a tie each time. On the twenty first round Nicholson missed, and Brant won the match. The two friends then went to Clancy's and announced the result. Brant proposed marriage to her. She replied that she felt pleased with his offer, but as she was engaged to be married to a young man in Waverley, N. Y., she could not accept it. Brant was so chagrined at this information that he left the neighborhood at once, saying that he intended to return to Maine. Nicholson remained at work in the mill.

The day before Christmas Miss Clancy went away, ostensibly to spend the day with a young lady friend in a neighboring village. On Christmas Day Nicholson also went away. No one connected with the household at once, saying that he intended to return to Maine. Nicholson remained at work in the mill.

On Saturday they returned home together. They had been married on Christmas. Nicholson had continued to press his suit after Brant went away, in spite of the girl's declaration that she was already engaged to be married. She finally consented to marry him, but her father insisted that she keep her engagement with the Waverley young man, and she then agreed to elope with Nicholson.

—One county in Australia has this year paid the bounty on 25,840 dozen of captured sparrow eggs.

—David Dobbs, Will's P. O. Ala., says: My grand-daughter had suffered with a sore upon her leg of six months' standing, which yielded quickly to Ramon's Nerve and Bone Oil, and is permanently cured by its use. For sale by Rob't. G. Glenn.

A Gloomy Retrospect.

An year draws to its close everybody is looking back over its gloomy record and hoping that 1885 will prove of a different character. It must be confessed, however, that the prospect is not less dismal than the retrospect. The year about closing has brought little cheer to financial or mercantile interests.

Those who twelve months ago refused to say that the outlook was attractive were classed as croakers. Those who predicted reduced earnings for the railroads, the shutting down of manufacturing establishments, stagnation in general business, cessation of dividends and failures of interest were denounced by Wall street operators as "living bears" and "wreckers." But facts are stubborn things and the record of 1884 stands out in bold relief—a startling array of failures, defaults, defalcations and receiverships. Its close finds depression in business circles, decreased railroad earnings, and abnormally low prices for agricultural products and for iron, which, next to agriculture, is the most faithful index to the general condition of trade.

More than 100 railroads have passed into the hands of receivers during the year, including such important roads as the West Shore, the Reading and the Wabash, and others are resorting to desperate expedients to prevent default, in the hope that some intervention may occur in the situation which will enable them to pull through. The condition of trade is indicated in the fact that 11,600 failures have occurred during the twelve months, as against 4,650 in 1880, and the liabilities amount to \$240,000,000, as against \$97,120,000 in the year named.

Horror of the Flames.

Rainwater & Kern's big grain elevator at Dallas, Texas, was burned last week and three lives were lost in the flames, immediately after the fire started it was reported that two men were in the building, and immediately afterward a hat was thrown from a window in the top story. This was conclusive proof that there were at least one man in the building and that he asked for assistance. The excitement accordingly became intense. Mr. David Rainwater, who had been confined at his home through illness, was quickly on the ground in response to his condition and offered \$2,000 reward for the rescue of each of the men supposed to be in the building. He explained the manner in which the elevator was built, and said that if the fire cut off egress by the stairs there was no way of escape. The windows were fastened from the inside, and could not be reached without a ladder from the inside. Nothing, however, could be done to rescue the men.

When the fire had about half consumed the building the floor fell and the grain commenced pouring through the chutes. The charred remains of a man came within sight. The body was quickly taken up, placed on a blanket and taken to the morgue. Soon after their body came through the same door, but it was quickly covered by the grain and the tottering second story preventing further search. The body was removed by charred beyond all recognition. The feet to the knees and the hands to the elbows were burned off and there was not a vestige of skin by which to tell whether the man had been white or black.

Married on Schedule Time.

An American (Ga.) special says: The unexpected marriage of Miss Georgia Laramore, of this city, to Mr. Ward Holt, conductor of the Southern, has created quite a sensation. Mr. Holt, being aware that Miss Laramore was to marry a prominent Mason merchant in a day or two, stepped over to the hotel veranda, where she was standing with a letter in her hand, and congratulated her. Holding up the letter, she said: "Do you see this? It is a request for a postponement, which I have granted."

"Why?" replied the conductor, whose train was now ready to leave, "I would not have agreed to that. Do not postpone a wedding. If it is not ready, I am, and you know I love you. Will you marry me?" She dropped her head, dropped her eyes, and next moment the answer was plain. The conductor delayed his train for five minutes, procured his license from a magistrate in less than half an hour, and in less than half an hour, to tell it the two were made one. Then the conductor, kissing his wife, pulled out with the train, having first telegraphed to Macon for a conductor to meet him midway. The signal arrived at the place designated. Mr. Holt returned to his bride, while her letter of postponement to her jilted lover, by the kindness of the postmaster, was withdrawn from the mail.

A Horrible Homicide.

Near Chehalis, Wyoming, on the line of the Northern Pacific railroad, last week, Wm. Pearson, a well to do farmer, who is a strong believer in spiritualism, imagined that he received an order from a higher power to kill his infant child. This he did with a hammer. When he has finished he showed what had done to his wife, who is also a spiritualist. He then said that if she would cut her throat he would do the same. Both were found next day half frozen with their throats cut but not yet dead. Pearson had revived sufficiently to state what he had done with a hammer, when he has finished he showed what had done to his wife, who is also a spiritualist. He then said that if she would cut her throat he would do the same. Both were found next day half frozen with their throats cut but not yet dead. Pearson had revived sufficiently to state what he had done with a hammer, when he has finished he showed what had done to his wife, who is also a spiritualist. He then said that if she would cut her throat he would do the same. Both were found next day half frozen with their throats cut but not yet dead. Pearson had revived sufficiently to state what he had done with a hammer, when he has finished he showed what had done to his wife, who is also a spiritualist.

—A writer in the Texas Courier of Medical essays that any thing which will cause a man to sneeze will cure him of hiccough.