TIMELY TOPICS.

The desirability of some form of govnent for Alaska begins to receive attertion at Washington. A bill, prered by Mr. Converse, chairman of the ouse committee on lands, provides for a governor, a council of six members and a judge. The only sembiance of government in the purchase at present is the orders of the revenu- collector and the fur company. Mr. Converse has become convinced that the undeveloped wealth of that country is incalculable.

The records of the trotters as made up for 1880 mark the past season as the most remarkable on record. Two bundred and sixty-six borses are named that trotted in 2:30 or better in 1880. Of these, one hundred and thirty-four were new to the turf at the opening of the year, seventy-two redu ed their previous records and sixty did no better than in previous years. But the most notable event of the year was the achievement of the unequaled time of 2:103 by the six-year-old Maud S. Twenty-three horses now on the turf made a record of 2:20 or better during the past season. It is confidently expected that the record of Maud S. will be beaten in 1681.

Consul Duncan, of Naples, says that next to the Irish and Germans no people in Europe are more inclined to emigration to the United States than the Italian peasantry. Various causes are operating to induce this movement, chief among which are the present oppressive system of taxation and the desire to avail themselves of the superior opportunities to better their condition and obtain more complete liberty and a better education for their children.

The Russians are about to establish a Greek-Russian church in San Francisco. A priest has been selected by the Russian synod, who will scon leave St Petersburg for California, accompanied by deacons, acolytes and a full choir. Five thousand rubles have been appropriated for preliminary expenses, and the funds needed for the building of a church will be supplied when the mission is ready to start.

The inventive genius of a Scotchman has, if we are to believe the Scotch papers, found a way to accomplish something which man has never before dreamed of doing, namely, calming the sermon. stormy sea. Mr. Shields, of Perth, has invented a way of stilling the waves of the ocean, and is putting it into successful operation. He sinks bottles filled with oil; the bottles are opened by a process devised by the inventor, and the oil, ascending to the surface, stills the waves, thus reducing the proverb about " pouring oil upon the troubled waters" to practice. The invention has been tested at Peterhead with, it is said, amazing success. The Scotch papers rare full of it. The invention may not be practicable upon the high seas, where a vast quantity of oil would manifestly be required to still a dangerous storm, but if the claims of Shields, the inventor, are genuine, it could be made very useful in calming open roadsteads or illy-shellered harbors.

Preservation of Harness.

The first point to be observed is to keep the leather soft and pliable; this can be done only by keeping it well charged with oil and grease; water is a destroyer of these, but mud and saline moisture from the animal are even more destructive. Mud, in drying, absorbs the grease and opens the pores of the leather, making a ready prey to water, while the salty character of the perspiration from the animal injures the leather, stitchings and mountings It therefore follows that to preserve a harness the straps should be washed and oiled whenever it has been moistened by sweat or soiled by mud. To do this effectually, the straps should be unbuckled and detached; then washed with a little water and brown soa . then coated with a mixture of neatsfoot oil and be allowed to remain undistured until the water is dried out; then thoroughly rub with a woolen rag; the rubbing is important, as it, in addition tends to close the pores and gives a finish to the leather. In hanging harness care should be taken to allow all straps to bang their full length; bridles, pads, gig saddles and collars should be hung upon forms of the shape of each. Light is essential to the care of leather, and when the harness closet is dark the door should be left open at least haif of the time during the day. All closets should mountings use a chamois with a little trip oil or rotten stone, but they should be scoured as little as possible. Rubber covered goods are cleaned in the same way. Leather covered needs to be well brushed and rubbed with a woolen rag.

twice a year, and when unduly exposed treated as we have recommended, the leather will retain its softness and strength for many years .- Harness Jour-

The Mysterious Knot-Hole.

A short time ago a few Cincinnatians were on a hunting trip in Indiana. One night they found it convenient to put up at a small country tavern, where the accommodations were somewhat limto the roof. This being the best they could do, they accepted the conditions without much murmuring, being perfeetly effectually tired out with their day's tramp, and after supper retired

About ten o'clock they were awakened out of sound slumber by the great gayety and laughter proceeding from the room adjoining, occupied by the landlord's three buxom daughters. It was evident that, as they were retiring for

Now the hunters were all young men, and it was very tantalizing to have so much "gal" fun going or with only a

"See there, boys, there's a knot-hole in the d or and we can see all that is going on. Heap of fun there, you bet."
They all looked, and there, sure enough, was what appeared to be a good sized knot-hole, showing the light within the room adjoining to be very bright indeed. A bold hunter crept cautiously out of bed and applied his eye to bow. the knot-hole, but was astonished to find he could see nothing. As he pu seemed to disappear. Stepping back a ing ill as from doing ill.

sgain. "What did you see?" inquired one of the hunters, who was trembling with curiosity in the bed.

"Didn't see anything," was the reply. They either took the knot-hole away or plugged it up."
Then another hunter tried it with like

effect. As he stoored to take a glance at unconscious maidenhood on a frolic, the knot-hole vamosed. They were greatly puzzled, until one of them cried

"See there, boys; look at the roof!" They looked, and the mystery was solved. There was a knot-hole in the board roofing, through which the moon was shining, the light falling upon the door so as to produce the illusion described. The hunters slept better after the discovery.

RELIGIOUS NEWS AND NOTES.

There are 15,000 white families in Ala bama without a Bible.

Mississippi has 910 Baptist churches, with a membership of 56,630.

Mr. Cyrus H. McCormick has given \$100,000 to the Presbyterian Theological seminary of Chicago, clearing it entirely of debt.

Mr. Moody's sermons have been the missionaries in teaching the people in the several stations.

Twelve Chinese converts have been ordained to the ministry of the Church of England. Nine of these are living and engaged in the work of the church In Detroit, Mich., six Methodist

distress, have formed an alliance and extinguished the debt of each, an aggregate of \$35,500. The Presbytery of Huntingdon recently celebrated, at Duncansville, Pa.,

the completion of Rev. Dr. W. J. Gibof the gospel.

The centennial celebration of the Congregational church of Middletown, Ct., has been postponed until June, 1881, to puppy!" accommodate Western people who wish to attend.

The Lutheran church has in Nebraska twenty-four ministers, thirty congregations and 1,229 communicants. The first convention organized in 1871 with six ministers.

The degree of doctor of laws has been conferred by Cambridge univerity, England, upon Dr. Littlejohn, Protestant Episcopal bishop of Long 'Island, in recognition of his late discourses in the university pulpit.

Some of the Methodist preachers of Brooklyn are endeavoring to make the ness wishes to evide it. It is impossimorning preaching service more attractive to the children of their congregations by giving them, every Sabbath, a answer. Indeed, nothing is more true short address directly before the usual than the statement of Talleyrand, that

The Baptists in Sweden have, in twenty-five years, built 125 chapels, that have cost them \$500,000. In addition to their contributions for the support and enlargement of their own work, they are taxed for the support of the Lutheran State church \$20,000 yearly, or one dollar per member.

The Roman Catholic population of the United States is estimated at 6,143,222. ruled by sixty-seven bishops and archbishops and 5,989 priests, who minister in 6,407 churches and chapels; '1,136 students were in theological seminaries last spring and 405,234 pupils in parochial schools. Catholics have also 1,729 mission stations, besides their regular churches, 687 colleges, seminaries and academies, 2,246 parochial schools and 373 charitable institutions, all indicating hard work and plenty of it.

At the Congregational triennial council held at St. Louis, the report of the secretary, Rev. Dr. A. H. Quint, gave the following figures: New churches organized, 334; churches dropped from the roll, 165; total number of churches, 3,674; tetal membership, 382,920. Of the 3,674 churches only 898 are supplied with installed pastors, about one-fourth; 1.893 are supplied by acting pastors; the others are vacant, or are supplied by ministers of other denominations.

Jay Gould's Financial Resources. Gould is very closely studied now in England by financiers who know what to removing the surplus oil and grease, his movements are. The Hollanders are also impressed with Gould, on account of his large ready-money resources. He wanted to get hold of the Kansas Pacific railroad, and they agreed on the terms, and then said: "Now, Mr. Gould, what time do you propose mail a letter. He is only one man, but to make these payments, and what securi- the other mentioned in the heading ties have you to give us?" "I shan't stands around to give advice. be ventilated, and when possible they give you any securities at all," said should be well lighted. To clean plated | Gould, "and I don't want any time. I will give you my check on Morton, Rose & Co." And he did, for \$1,500,- carries his knees and nose against the 000. As an instance of Gould's excess hard wood. of capital it is said that the New York Clearing House a tew days ago showed If a harness is thoroughly cleansed the Fourth National bank to have a advice, but with no successful results. balance of over \$4,000,000, and, on in- By this time his smile has faded, his quiry, it was found that this was Gould's | dyspepsia begins to work up, and there money. A number of German bankers is indigestion in his tones as he turns had heard a rumor that Gould meant to | and asks: borrow large sums of money and pinch the street about the time they had some for the day?" important financial movement to make. So they went to Gould with collateral if you push hard enough. I presume and borrowed \$6,000,000 cash from him; the hinges are a little rusty." but, as he did not pinch the street, in a ited, so much so as to compel them all to little while they went back with the As a rule he puts his shoulder to the bunk in one moderate-sized room next money and demanded their collateral, door, his feet slip back, and he comes whereupon Gould, having no place to down in a graceful heap, to be laughed put the money, paid the larger part of it at by all the boys. When he gets up he over to the Fourth National bank .- feels as if he could lick any seven men, New York Letter.

Words of Wisdom.

Some things will inot bear zeal; and the more earnest we are about them. the less we recommend ourselves to the

Zealous men are ever displaying to you the strength of their belief, while door intervening. At length one of the judicious men are showing you the hunters whispered to the others: grounds of it.

> Whether zeal or moderation be the point we aim at, let us keep fire out of the one and frost out of the other.

The word that once escapes the tongue cannot be recalled; the arrow cannot be detained which has once sped from the

Cromwell did not wait to strike until the iron was hot, but made it hot by striking.

talkative wife was out walking a few mouth." "Maybe so," responded the husband-father; "but I have never seen its mouth at rest long enough to tell what "it looks like."-Galveston News.

Illinois is out of debt, having paid off \$18,000,000 in the last few years.

Getting Square with a Bursted Bank. During the bank mania in the West, when ever little village and hamle boasted its bank, one of these public "accommodations" sprung up in Mount Vernon, Ohio, under the cognomen of "Owl Creek Bank," taking its name from a small but beautiful stream pass-

ing through the village. The affairs of the institution went on swimmingly for a short time, but a short time only. Like all its kindred of money translated in Arabic, and are used by representation, it was declared insolvent. A morning or two after this important fact had come to light, a mysteriouslooking person, wrapped up to his eyes in a cloak, presented himself at the counter of the bank, tendering some of their bills, and demanded, in a serious manner, their redemption in gold or si.ver. He was told that the bank had churches, in various degrees of financial neither. He then demanded Eastern funds.

"No funds on hand," was the brief

"Can you," said the mysterious personage, "give me tolerably well executed counterfeit notes on solvent banks? son's fitty years of service as a minister I would prefer them to this trash." This was a home-thrust not to be sub-

mitted to. "Out of the bank, you insulting

"Hold! I may have made some mistake. Am I right in supposing myself in the office of the Owl Creek bank?" "Yes, sir."

"I have then my revenge for the loss of my money-I have just shot your president"-at the same time throwing on the counter, from under his cloak, a arge hooting owl.

And There the Case Dropped.

Not even a lawyer, however skillful n cross examination, can make a witness tell the truth, provided the witble to put a question in such exact language that it will demand the desired language is intended to cover up one's thoughts, and no one ever practiced the principle contained in the statement more than Talleyrand himself. It was necessary on a certain occasion in court to compel a witness to testify as to the way in which a Mr. Smith treated his with a sweet and winning smile—a smile intended to drown all suspicion as to ulterior purposes-" how does Mr. Smith generally ride a horse ?"

The witness looked up innocently and replied: "Generally a-straddle, sir, I believe."

The lawyer asked again: "But, sir, what gait does he ride?"

The imperturbable witness answered: He rides any gate at all, sir, but I've seen the boys ride every gate on the farm."

The lawyer saw he was on the track of a Tartar, and his next question was very insinuating.

"How does Mr. Smith ride when he is in company with others? I demand a clear answer." "Well, sir," said the witness, "he

keeps up with the rest, if his horse is able to, or if not, he falls behind." beside himself, and asked: "And how

does he ride when he is alone?" "I don't know," was the reply; "] was never with him when he was alone." and there the case dropped.

Two Men and a Door.

The storm-doors around the postoffice all open outwardly. This isn't for fear that a fire will occur and a rush ensue, but it is arranged that way to make a man mad. A man will go singing along the stre t, smiling all over, and bragging to himself how good-natured he is, when he suddenly remembers that he must

The first man rushes up the steps and gives the door a push. It is as solid as a rock, and his momentum generally

" Push!" yells the extra man.

The other steps back and follows the

"Is this blasted old postoffice closed "Oh, no, sir. I guess you will get in

Then the man returns to the charge. but before he has time to pick a fight the other advances and says:

"Mighty curious about that door. Ah! I see-opens this way. You might have pushed all day and not got in." the one who goes in is too mad to post his letter. The one who stays out the next .- Detroit Free Press.

Art in Singing.

Art, cultivation and a little timely clear-sightedness-or clear-hearingness -can prop up many a failing voice. Any one who remembers how Braham sang at seventy-five will acknowledge this. A then young, but now elderly, musician once told me how he remembered having had to accompany the great tenor in the "Bay of Biscay," given with a fire and force almost incredible in a We should be as careful of our words septuagenarian, and received with his head down to look the knot-hole as of our actions, and as far from speak- thunders of encores. "My boy," whispered Braham, "play it half a tone lower." Again it was given, and again encored. "Half a tone lower still." said the old vocalist, "they'll never find us out." Nor did they. And the ap-A husband of a very fashionable and plause after the third effort was loudest of all, so completely did art conceal the days ago with his little girl, when he defects of failing nature. But suppose met a friend, who admired the child very | the singer had not been an artist, or the much. "It is a beautiful child," said accompanist had only understood a the friend, " and looks very much like little music, and been incapable of transits mother, particularly about the posing the song " half a tone."-Good Words.

> There are thirty-five foreign missi on ary societies in the United States. twenty-five in the British empire, and twenty-five in the rest of Europe. Annually they expend about \$7,000,000.

Migration of Birds.

Professor Newton considers that, were sea fowls satelites revolving round the earth, their arrival could hardly be more surely calculated by an astronomer. Foul weather or fair, h at or cold, the puffins repair to some of their stations punctually on a given day, as if their movements were regulated by clockwork. The swiftness of flight which characterizes most birds enables them to cover a vast space in a brief time. The common black swift can fly 276 miles an hour, a speed which, if it could be maintained for less than half a day, would carry the bird from its winter to its summer quarters. The large purple swift of America is capable of even greater feats on the wing. The chimney swallow is slower, ninety miles an hour being about the limit of its powers; but the passenger pigeon of the United States can accomplish a journey of 1,000 miles between sunrise and suns et. s also true, as the ingenious Herr Palmen has attempted to show, that migrants during their long flights may be directed by an experience partly inherited and

partly acquired by the individual bird. They often follow the coast line of continents, and invariably take, on their passage over the Mediterranean, one of three routes. But this theory will not explain how they pilot themselves across broad oceans, and is invalidated by the fact, familiar to every ornithologist, that the old and young birds do not journey in company. Invariably, the young broods travel together, then come, after an interval, the parents, and finally the rear is brought up by the weakly, infirm, molting and broken-winged. This is the rule in autumn. The return journey is accomplished in the reverse order .-London Standard.

What They Bought. "My children," said a New Haven man to his son and daughter, both along in their teens a trifle, "if I should give you each five dollars what would you do with it?" "I would buy something to read," replied the boy, the light of intelligence beaming across his countenance. "And I." said the girl, with enthusiasm, "would buy something to wear." "You both do yourselves credit. It is natural that a boy just on the verge of manhood should seek to improve his mind, and girls of your age, my dear." horse: "Well, sir," said the lawyer, as he stroked her curls, "always are thinking of good clothes. Here is the money, use your judgment, both of you." The boy bought a full collection of Wild Bill; or, Life on the Plains" novels, and the girl a five-dollar set of diamond jewelry. - New Haven Register.

> A Good Account. "To sum it up. six long years of bedridden sickness and suffering, costing \$200 per year, total. \$1 200 -all of which was stopped by three bottles of Hop Bitters taken by my wife. who has done her own housework for a year since without the loss of a day, and I want everybody to know it for their benedt. "JOHN WEEKS, Butler, N. Y."

A report comes from England that Gerald Massey, the poet, has lost his reason and is an occupant of an insane asylum. Mr. Massey has just passed his fifty-second year, and should be only in his prime. His life has been a hard struggle with poverty, and many disappointments have crowded in upon him. The lawyer was by this time almost. For many years he has been an ardent spiritualist.

> A Pastor Made Happy.
> I have been greatly troubled with my kidneys and liver for over twenty years, and during that entire time I was never free from pain. My medical bills were enormous, and I visited both the Hot and White Springs, noted tor the curative qualities of the water. I am happy to say I am now a well man, and entirely as the result of Warner's Sate Kidney and Liver Cure. With such glorious results I am only too glad to testify regarding the remedy which has made me so happy. REV. P. F. HARKLEE.

Coal Run Crossing, Ark.

A soap-eating match was a diversion at Springfield, Ohio. The quickest deyourer of a bar of ye low soap got a prize of \$5. The winner performed the purifier. feat in less than an hour, but was much longer in the hands of a physician in consequence thereof, and had besides to pay the doctor \$10. He thinks he can't afford to win another match.

Stop spending so much on fine clothes, rich tood and style. Buy good, healthy tood, cheaper and better clothing; get more real and substantial things of life every way, and especially stop the foolish habit of running atter expensive and quack doctors or using so much of the vile humbug medicine that does you only harm, and makes the proprietors rich, but put your trust in the greatest of all simple, pure remedies, Hop Bitters, that cures always at a trifling cost, and you will see better times and good health. Try it once. Read of it in another column.

The amount of capital invested in manufacturing pursuits in New Jersey is \$89,000,000, which gives employment to 75,000 persons. Of this number, 13,000 of the working people are engaged in Paterson in the manufacture of silk. The horse-power used in the State is 50,000.

The greatest effects have sometimes the smallest cause. Life is constantly sacrificed by neglect of Coughs and Colds, when a 25cent bottle of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup would save the sufferer.

Chicago claims to be the hogopolis of the night, they were having a high old appr bation of sober and considerate shakes all over and keeps his eye out for the world and with the certainty of an undisputed title. Last year 5,400,000 hogs were butchered in that city, and about 6,500,000 have met the same in

> Malarial fevers can be prevented, also other miasmatic diseases, by occasionally using Dr. Sanford's Liver Invigorator, the oldest general Family Medicine, which is recommended as a cure for all diseases caused by a disordered liver. Eighty-page book sent tree. Address Dr. Sanford, 162 Broadway, N. Y.

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>
> Mending of all kinds of clothing, table and bed linen, etc., and elegant embroidery, is now done on the Wilson Oscillating Shuttle Sewing Machine, without an attachment. Wonders will never cease in this age of progress.-Scientific American.

Get Lyon's Patent Heel Stiffeners applied to those new boots before you run them over.

The Voltate Belt Co., Marshail, Mich., Will send their Electro-Voltate Belts to the afflicted upon 30 days' trial. See their adver-tisement in this paper headed, "On 30 Days'

VEGETINE in Powder Form is sold by all druggists and general stores. It you cannot buy it of them, inclose fifty cents in postage etamps for one package, or one dollar for two ackages, and I will send it by return mail. H. R. Stevens, Boston, Mass.

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Debility. ISLESBORO, Me., Dec. 28, 1877. Mr. Strvens:

Dear Sir—I had had a cough for eighteen years, when I commenced taking the Vegetine. I was very low; my system was debilitated by disease. I had the Kidney Complaint, and was very nervous—cough bad, lungs sore. When I had taken one bottle I found it was helping me; it has helped my cough, and it strengthens me. I am now able to do my work. Never have found anything like

MRS. A. J. PENDLETON. Dr. W. Ross Writes: Scrofula, Liver Complaint, Dyspepsia,

the Vegetine. I know it is everything it is recommended

Rheumatism, Weakness, H. R. STEVENS, Boston: I have been practicing medicins for twenty-five years, and as a remedy for Scrofula, Liver Complaint, Dyspepsia, Rheumatism, Weakness, and all diseases of the blood, I have never found its equal. I have sold Vegetine for seven years and have never had one bottle returned. I would heartily recommend it to those in need of a blood

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es of all other to and vigor to the aged and infirm. y of the bowels uire an Appe are wint the disease or all ters. Don't wait until you a only feel bad or miserable. It may save your life. It has \$500 will be paid for a capure or help. Do not suffer miler, but use and urge them to use Hop B Remember, Hop Bitters is no runken nostrum, but the Purest fedicine ever made; the "INVALID mid be without them. D.I.C. is an absolute and irre

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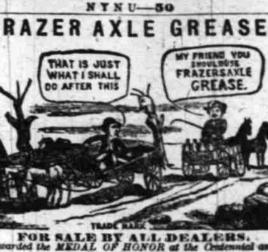
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