

Cooperstown Courier.

By E. D. STAIR.

COOPERSTOWN, GRIGGS CO., DA.

CALENDAR.

Calendar table showing months from Jan to Dec with days of the week and dates.

Though stocks of nearly all sorts are "in the slough of despond," the New York Herald says...

There is a retaliation resolution in the House, on Germany, for refusing to receive American hog products.

The remarkable red sunsets and sun risings that have caused so much wonder in America...

Representative Washburn's bill to repeal the laws allowing pre-emption of the public lands...

The papers assert that the country is now passing through an epidemic of crime, and their various columns sustain the assertion.

Archbishop Perche of New Orleans has for some weeks been in failing health.

Reuben R. Springer has given the Cincinnati art museum a lot of valuable pictures.

EPITOME OF THE NEWS.

Washington Gossip.

Senator Harrison and his wife and daughter left Washington last week for Indianapolis.

The report comes from Washington that the sentence of the court in the case of Capt. Chambers McKibbin...

Postoffices established: Dakota, Idylwildre, Turner county, Postmasters commissioned: Abe Wilkins...

Third assistant Postmaster General Hesen says the two-cent postage is a success...

Of 520 freedmen, worth from \$10,000 to \$30,000, in Washington, 120 are women.

Railroad News.

Articles of incorporation of the Moorhead & Chicago Railroad company were filed recently...

Mr. J. Davis, assistant general passenger agent of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba road...

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and Central Iowa have issued a joint freight tariff...

Probably the wealthiest railroad conductor in America is employed on the East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia road.

Crimes and Criminals.

Helena, Mont., Herald: Gov. Crosby was recently notified by telegraphic message from the department of justice...

Mrs. Judith Fitzpatrick, a widow aged seventy, living at Leocompton, Kans., was murdered at her home the other night...

The negro, Big Ike, who, while attempting to burglarize the bank of Durango, N. M., last week...

From slaying at missionary meetings in the Gloverville, N. Y., jail, Aggie Austin, a pretty girl...

The postoffice at Perryville, Kans., was robbed of \$800, the burglars going east on the Union Pacific.

Willie Whitley, the "Chicago Kid," was arrested at Lawrence, Kans., recently, for stealing a thousand dollars worth of drafts from a trunk.

Personal Gossip.

Admiral Stephen D. Trenchard, U. S. N., died on the 5th of last November.

Archbishop Perche of New Orleans has for some weeks been in failing health.

Reuben R. Springer has given the Cincinnati art museum a lot of valuable pictures.

4 Sprague, the living skeleton, has willed his bones to Harvard college.

Foreign Items of News.

London Cable: The Fenian scare is subsiding, owing to the reported official confirmation of the Fenian story...

Casualty Record.

John Burk, fireman in the engine room, of the Fuller Electric Light company...

Miscellaneous News Items.

The following priests were ordained at the Cathedral in Baltimore by bishop Keane of Richmond...

The sixth annual meeting of the Western Commercial Travelers' association was held at St. Louis with a large attendance.

Frank Cole and Miss Neary of Cohoes, N. Y., were announced to be married Wednesday afternoon.

The Ohio senatorial fight is hot indeed. All the closing work is to be done during the holidays.

Mr. Childsey, fifty years old, perished in paying his suit to Miss Johnson, who clerks in a New Haven saloon.

Thirty years ago lager beer was practically unknown in this country...

The case of Rev. W. Mitchell of Boston, arrested for stealing a book from a store...

President Rockwell, of the Educational association, wants congress to give \$65,000 a year of the surplus revenue for public schools.

The son of the Dominion Premier says that the Manitobaans are not so dissatisfied as reported.

John Abraham, a poor Rockford, Ill., tailor, has received a \$60,000 legacy.

Paducah, Ky., has a groom and bride sixteen and thirteen years old.

A St. Paul tailor prophesies that 1885 will see knee-breeches in style.

Matrimony and Suicides.

LA CROSSE, Wis., Special Telegram, Dec. 26.—A despatch from Necedah gives the particulars of the marriage of the daughter of Samuel Hiles to William Armstrong...

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A Typical Texan Matinee.

McDade Special: Henry Pfeiffer, Wright McLemore, and Thad McLemore were taken from a saloon here by fifty well-armed masked men...

Constancy Rewarded. Canton, Ohio, special: Twenty years ago William Craig quarreled with his pretty young sweetheart...

Mr. Mahone's desk in the Senate Chamber was adorned on the 17th inst., with a floral sword, the blade of which was dark red and the hilt white.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Following are the committees as announced by the speaker:

- Electrics—Turner, Ga.; Davis, Mo.; Converse, Cooke, Bennett, L. W. Berry, Robertson, Keeluck, Adams, N. Y.; Bannay, Pettibone, Miller, Pa.; Valentine, Hepburn, Iowa; Hart, Blount, Ways and Means—Worsham, Mills, Blount, Blackburn, Nev.; Herbert, Ford, Jones, Ark.; Kelley, Kasson, W. W. McKelvie, Ohio; Hancock, N. Y.; Russell. Appropriations—Randall, Forney, Ellis, Holman, Hancock, Townsend, Hutchins, Follis, Burren, Keifer, Cannon, Ryan, Calkins, Harr, Washburn, Judiciary—Tucker, Hammond, Culbertson, Tex.; Moulton, Broadhead, Dornshelmer, Collins, Sawyer, Reed, Me. E. B. Taylor, Ohio; McCord, Brown, Ind.; Poland. Banking and Currency—Buckner, Ermastrout, Potter, Hunt, Miller, Tex.; Chandler, Wilkins, Yapple, Dingley, Brumm, Adams, Ill.; Henderson, Iowa; Hooper. Finance and Measures—Bland, Dowd, Hardy, Nichols, Pusey, Lanham, Taylor, Belford, Lacey, Chase, Everhart, Luna. Comm. on—Resign. Clardy, Turner, K. J. Bunn, Sherman, Grasscock, W. W. Wood, Barksdale, O'Neil, Pa.; Davis, Ill.; Wadsworth, Long, Stewart, Vt. Rivers and Harbors—Willis, Blanchard, Jones, Ala.; Gibson, Rankin, Breckenridge, Murphy, Sumner, Fellows, Baine, Robinson, Ohio; Chase. Agriculture—Hatch, Mo.; Aiken, Dibble, Williams, Beach, Green, Winans, Weller, Patton, Culler, Wilson, Iowa; White, Minn.; Ochsner, Hull, Stephens, Ark.; Raymond, Dak. Affairs—Curtin, Belmont, Deuster, Clements, Cox, N. C.; G. D. Wise, Va.; Stewart, Tex.; Lamb, Ind.; Rice, Wait, Ketcham, Phelps, Ill. Military Affairs—Rosenrath, Slocum, Dibble, Morgan, Wolford, Nichols, Murray, Duncan, Steel, Bayne, Lemon, Laird, Cuthbert, Magnus, Mont. Naval Affairs—Cox, N. Y.; Morse, Talbot, Buchanan, Eaton, Balmoryue, McAdoo, Harmer, O'Neil, Pa.; Boutwell. Postoffice and Postroads—Money, Rees, Ward, Congrove, Riggs, Rogers, Ark.; Taylor; Tenn.; Jones, Tex.; Paige, Bingham, Peelle, Skinner, N. Y.; White, Ky.; Wakefield, Md.; Borie, Wendell, Harlow, Van Eaton, Bedford, Strait, Anderson, Payson, Brants, Washington Territory. Indian Affairs—Welborn, Graves, Stevens, Peelle, Price, Finerty, Skinner, N. C.; Smith, Penn.; George, Perkins, Nelson, Ostray, Harrison. Territories—Evans, S. C.; Pryor, Arnold, Harde-man, Lanban, Alexander, Carleton, Foran, J. D. Taylor, O.; Kellogg, Johnson, Lawrence, Struble, Post, Wyoming Territory. Manufactures—Bagley, J. D. Wise, Virginia; Quinn, Caldwell, Wood, Love, Snyder, N. Y.; Bay, Va.; Price, Oultrite, Elwood, Brown, Pa.; Bay, N. Y. War Claims—Goddess, Jones, Wis.; Stone, Taylor, Rogers, N. Y.; Welles, Ferrell, Kellogg, Everhart, Herlihy, Van Hook, Dyer, Wood, Love, Snyder, N. Y.; Bay, Va.; Price, Oultrite, Elwood, Brown, Pa.; Bay, N. Y. Revision of Laws—Oates, Buchanan, McMillin, Hill, Clay, Ward, Hemphill, Brown, Pa.; Bayne, Spooner, McComas. Public Buildings and Grounds—Stocksler, Young, Caldwell, Honkins, Pusey, Wendell, Worthington, Brainard, Houton, Kean, Jr., Breit-unz, Milliken. Pacific Railroads—Cassidy, Throckmorton, Cabell, Thompson, Jr., Jordan, Crisp, Post, Wilson, Hendricks, Wilson, W. Va.; Fletcher, Spriggs, Barrett, Gunther, McComas, Jeffers. Private Lands—Mudrow, Mitchell, Williams, Ala.; Russell, Covrage, Eldredge, Lowery, Payson, Parker, Mass.; Weaver. Public Health—Beach, Graves, Riggs, Chandler, Fiedler, Davis (Mass.), Evans (Penn.), Libbey, Pettibone. Ventilation and Acoustics—Hardy, Cabell, Green, Shely, J. D. Wise (Penn.), Brewer (N. Y.). Enrolled Bills—Neco, Warner (Tenn.), Snyder (W. Va.), Yapple, Peters, Homes. SELECT COMMITTEES. Reform Civil Service—Mitchell, Cox, Clements, (N. Y.), Bingham, Phelps, Millard, Luman, Hill. Alcoholic Liquor Traffic—Hill, Bland, Kiegar, Carleton, Evans, Davis Ill.; Guenther, Guff, Jr., Canadian Shipbuilding and Shipowning—Slocum, Deuster, Dibble, Throckmorton, Eust, Flahaly, Love, Dingley, J. O'Neil, Pa.; George Long. Law Respecting Elections of President and Vice-President—Wilson, W. Va.; Fletcher, Spriggs, Barrett, Gunther, McComas, Jeffers. Public Health—Beach, Graves, Riggs, Chandler, Fiedler, Davis (Mass.), Evans (Penn.), Libbey, Pettibone. Ventilation and Acoustics—Hardy, Cabell, Green, Shely, J. D. Wise (Penn.), Brewer (N. Y.). Enrolled Bills—Neco, Warner (Tenn.), Snyder (W. Va.), Yapple, Peters, Homes. Among the contested cases in the present house is that of Fredericks against Wilson, Democrat, and Wilson, whose certificate gave him the prima facie right to the seat, is a republican, Fredericks claims he was elected by twenty-three majority, according to the returns of the local authorities. The returning board by its count gave Wilson a majority of seventeen. He (Fredericks) declares this was a fraud on him, a put up job, by which he lost his certificate, and he proposes to go before the elections committee immediately after the holidays. The papers have been filed. Fredericks is in Washington, and is confident as a man can be who has the count on his side. Gen. McKenzie, commander of the department of Arizona, has, as already published, become insane during the past week, but the matter has been kept quiet at the war department to avoid trouble in bringing him East. He has no idea of his own condition, and is coming on under orders to report at the department. Nothing is known at Washington about the cause of his mental break down. It is said to have violent phases. He will be taken to the government asylum for treatment. John N. Irwin, governor of Idaho Territory, returned to the treasurer of the United States a draft for \$650 sent him as salary for the quarter ended Oct. 30, and declined also to receive the salary due him for the quarter ending Dec. 31. He states that he has been unable to attend to the office since July 1, and does not consider that he can conscientiously take the pay.

A Colored Messenger's Career.

Washington is a city of quiet characters. They are everywhere, even in the most unexpected places, and as a matter of course, many of them find their way into official positions. My attention has often been brought to the colored messenger of the attorney general's office, and the other day I questioned him about his history. He has held the present position for many years, and I doubt if there is a single member of congresses or a United States judge in this section of the country who does not know Coleman. I will give his history in his own words. Said he: "I was born in Forkhill county, Va., on the old plantation of the Lee family. I don't know exactly how old I am, but I think I will be sixty-three some time in next March. In 1848 Mr. Lee, my master, sent me to Richmond to be sold, as he had to raise some money, and I was carried away from my wife, hand-cuffed, and put in a freight car. That night I lodged in the jail, and the next morning I was led out to the block. Years before I had been kicked in the head by a horse, which left the ugly looking scar which you see on my forehead. That night in jail I rubbed the scar with my hands until it looked very sore, and on auction day, when the trader came around, they asked me if I ever felt any effects of the wound. I told them that I had a good master I guessed that I could get along well enough, but that I was subject to attacks of fits. I was appraised at a high figure, but the 'fit' story cut it down considerably. The day when I was led out to the auction block there were over 500 other slaves sold. A Frenchman named Brant bought me at a private sale for \$500, and I was his valet at the old Exchange hotel in Richmond, now the Bulfinch house, for seven years, and at the end of that time I had some \$2,250, with which I bought freedom for myself and wife. I used to make a great deal of money at the Exchange, and I remember that some weeks I laid by as much as \$100 in a single week, but this of course did not happen often. Mr. Brant, when he found that I was a married man, told me that he had a lot of 'yaller' girls on his plantation, and that I could easily find another wife, but he liked me so well that he bought my wife. In 1859 I bought my wife's sister, and paid \$250 for her, as she was sickly. She hadn't been with us long before she died, at an expense of \$60. I had three sisters somewhere in Louisiana or Mississippi, and after the war was over I sent letters to the various churches in that section to be read from the pulpits, with the hope that I could get some information as to whether they were dead or alive. One of my letters was read in a little town in Mississippi, when a colored woman jumped up and said that she was one of the sisters. I brought her here, and she is with me now. My remaining two sisters died during the war, or some time previous. I was appointed messenger by Attorney General Speed, who was in President Lincoln's cabinet, and I have served at this door ever since, including the terms of office of Messrs. Speed, S. Ansberry, Evans, Hoar, Akerman, Williams, Pierpont, Taft, Devens, McVeagh and the present incumbent, Mr. Brewster."

About Amber.

"Is amber found in this country?" asked the reporter. "Yes, it occurs at Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard and Camden, N. J. In the latter place, some years ago, several barrels were taken from the green sand but burned by mistake, or rather through the ignorance of the finders. At the present day it finds its greatest value as an adjunct to the smoker's outfit, but in olden times it was considered a jewel and worn as such. In an Irish tumult a cup of amber has been found that would hold half a pint. The Czar of Russia possesses a tea set cut from amber blocks that are probably worth much more than treble their weight in gold. "For commercial purposes the raw material is separated into different classes. The finest generally goes to Constantinople, there being made into mouthpieces. The next class, composed of smaller pieces, are made into beads. They find lively sale abroad, but go off rather slow here. A set of amber jewelry—pin, earrings—can be bought very reasonable here, but at present there is no call for it. The low price is on account of their being no duty on it; curiously enough, it comes under the head of guns and is admitted free. For the last year nearly \$50,000 worth of it was imported, showing that there is some demand for it; but, as I have said, it comes from smokers. The dealers here buy it by the weight; where about 250 pieces make a pound it is \$1.50, but where four pieces go to a pound it runs up to \$50 or \$100, as the case may be. It has many colors. Green is most valued, though others prefer black, that matches well with colored meerschaum. The real amber yellow, however, brings the best price; the cloudy is pretty, but not so valuable. "Are large pieces rare?" asked the reporter. "Yes," was the reply, "both rare and costly. There is a piece weighing eighteen pounds in the Berlin Museum, for which \$1,000 was paid, and previous to this \$5,000 was refused for an eighteen-pound lump found in Prussia. The mines all along the Baltic coast yield yearly about 300,000 pounds, and some one estimated that the amount still in the amber district is worth \$1,250,000. The vast amounts taken seem incredible, yet since the beginning of this century, 2,000 tons have been quarried and for the last 3,000 years over 8,400 tons have been taken into jewelry and articles of luxury. As the amber is taken from the mines it is placed in baskets and stowed away in vaults arranged according to the size and quality. In the vaults of Patcher Douglas the records can be seen of mining as early as 1500."