

## THE PITH OF THE NEWS.

### Washington News.

The public debt statements show an apparent increase of \$750,000.

Ex-Senator Windom will probably visit Mexico this winter on railroad business.

The river and harbor committee is already at work. It will only expend \$8,000,000.

Senator Hawley introduced a bill appropriating quite a large sum for the relief of the officers and crew of the Tallapoosa.

Washington match-makers have a scheme to marry Mr. Cleveland to a Southern bride. Millionaire Corcoran is in the plot.

Postmasters commissioned.—Seymour D. Selby, Carbon, Iowa; Emerson J. Stimson, Brownsdale, Minn.; Victor Bader, Robinson, Wis.

The state department at Washington has recently received from Consul Atherton of Pernambuco a sample of the medicine now being it is claimed, successfully used in South America in the treatment of cancer.

The very positive recommendation of Secretary McCulloch that the tax on tobacco should be removed, gives new courage to producers of that article that this session of congress will witness the abolition of the tax.

A workman named Williams employed on the upper scaffolding of the Washington monument, slipped and fell ten feet, his sleeve catching on a nail, preventing his plunging down the other 400 feet. He is glad about that.

The postoffices named have been changed as follows: Minnesota—Lake Valley, Travers county; to Wheaton; Upland, Yellow Medicine county; to Clarkfield. Postmasters Commissioned—John McGuigan, Millville, Minn.; Lewis J. Baker, Clarkfield, Minn.; N. F. Schroeder, Wheaton, Minn.

In spite of all doubt there is a general belief among the Democrat senators that Senator Bayard will be invited into Cleveland's cabinet and that he will be given the state portfolio. His acceptance is not a matter of so much confidence, as Mr. Bayard's known preference is for the senate, where his family has been distinguished through most of the century.

The annual report of the chief of the revenue marine service shows the relief work performed exceeds that of any other year. They assisted 246 merchant vessels, shipwrecked or in distress, valued, with cargoes, at over \$7,000,000, and saved many whose lives were imperiled. In addition to regular work, vessels maintained a sanitary patrol along the coast against the introduction of cholera and yellow fever by ships arriving from foreign ports.

Two new members presented themselves for admission to the house to fill vacancies caused by the resignation of Mr. Calkins of Indiana and Mr. Kasson of Iowa. B. F. Shively, Greenback-Democrat, succeeds Mr. Calkins, and H. Y. Smith, Republican, succeeds Mr. Kasson. The admission of these two members still leaves vacancies, caused by the death of Mr. Evans of South Carolina and Mr. Duncan of Pennsylvania, both of whom were Democrats. In the senate there is the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Anthony of Rhode Island. This will be filled temporarily by Mr. W. P. Sheffield, who was appointed by the governor of Rhode Island to serve until the meeting of the legislature. The term for which Mr. Anthony was elected began with the present congress and will expire in 1890.

### Railroad and River News.

At Dubuque Mrs. Mercer is suing the St Paul road for \$10,000 for the death of her husband.

### Record of Casualties.

Lester V. Spicer of Albert Lea, Minn., was gored to death by a bull.

Mrs. Jane Patterson of Ringgold, Ga., has just died from a rattlesnake bite received thirty years ago.

John Grey of Weston, Wis., went deer hunting recently, and, not returning, search was made. He was found under a pine tree, shot through the heart.

The venerable wooden signs attached to the desks in the senate, denoting who sat at them, have been replaced by handsome silver plates, bearing simply the senator's name without even the respectful "Mr."

The boiler of a saw mill about seven miles from Elizabethtown, Ky., exploded, tearing the building to pieces and killing John Morgan, James Morgan, Richard Figg, and four others whose names are not known.

### The Criminal Calendar.

Simon Trudusky, farmer, was murdered near Minto, Dak.

Dr. F. De Castro, a crank, killed himself in New York, willing his body to the Chicago Medical college.

Hoagson Grossett of Racine, Wis., caused the arrest of his wife on the charge of criminal intimacy with her own brother.

Mrs. Mary Wentworth was probably fatally shot in her apartments, on Joy street, Boston. Her husband, from whom she has been separated, is suspected.

Alexander Buntin, vice president of the insolvent Exchange bank of Montreal, was sentenced at the criminal assizes to ten days' imprisonment for having obtained undue preference over creditors by withdrawing \$10,000 after the bank's suspension.

The people of Eastern Kentucky are said to be in a truly pitiable condition. Successive failures of their crops have resulted in famine and destitution, and now they are scourged by a disease that has already proved terribly fatal and which is attributed to poisonous water.

### Personal Points.

Edward Mulharen Warum, M. P. for County Kilkenny, Ireland, has resigned his seat because he does not enjoy the confidence of Parliament.

Henry Smith, speaker of the New York assembly in 1870, a prominent Republican and lawyer, died in Albany of congestion of the brain.

The better half of ex-Congressman Leckwood of Buffalo, who nominated Cleveland, has a \$2,000,000 bank account, and she would like to spend some of it in Paris as the wife of the American minister to France.

Rev. Luke Davis died at Binghamton, N. Y., recently, aged seventy-seven. He was graduated from Madison university in 1840 and preached in several prominent Baptist churches in New York state, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and Ohio.

James G. Blaine, Miss Dodge (Gail Hamilton), James G. Blaine, Jr., Miss Sherman and

Mrs. and Miss Goodwin arrived at New York and were driven to the residence of Stephen B. Elkins. Mr. Blaine is in most excellent health and spirits. He is only on private business. He expects to stay in New York for a day or two, and then proceed to Washington.

Gen. Gersham G. Mott of Bordentown, N. J., died suddenly a few days ago. He served as colonel in the Mexican war, and won the rank of major general in the late war. Gen. Mott, at the breaking out of the late war, was appointed lieutenant of the Fifth New Jersey volunteers, then promoted to the colonelcy of the Sixth New Jersey volunteers, being wounded at the second battle of Bull Run. He was promoted to the command of the Second New Jersey brigade, in Hooker's old division of the Third army corps. He was again wounded at the battle of Chancellorsville. At the beginning of the wilderness campaign he was placed in command of the Fourth division of the Second corps, after the Second division. He was a third time wounded at the skirmish at Amelia Springs. He was breveted major general of United States volunteers. He resigned his command in 1866.

### Miscellaneous News Notes.

The Farmers' National bank of Bushnell, Ill., closed its doors recently.

A New York clergyman received a wedding fee of \$1,000 the other day.

Kramer Bros. & Co., wholesale hatters, Chicago, were closed by the sheriff.

The Union Democratic club of Richmond, Va., had a 219-pound plum pudding for its Thanksgiving dinner.

The Northwestern Car company has been reorganized, with seven millions of capital, and will make only threshers now.

The Vermont legislature has just voted—113 to 69—against giving women the right to vote at municipal and town elections.

Seven Philadelphians out of ten, wear badges of some sort. One Chestnut street jeweler makes \$50,000 worth of badges annually.

Waldo B. Brigham of Hudson, Mass., has gone into insolvency. He owes about \$37,000 of which \$4,000 is secured. The assets for unsecured creditors are light.

Kramer Bros. & Co., a large wholesale hat house at Nos. 507 and 209 Monroe street, N. Y., were closed by Deputy Sheriff Burke to satisfy creditors amounting to \$28,100.

The Gloucester, N. J., gingham mills, idle for three weeks past, thereby throwing about 600 people out of employment, resumed operations Monday morning at reduced wages.

The case which President Lincoln carried on the night of his assassination is now the property of Col. W. H. Harris of Cleveland, one of the occupants of the president's box on the night of the assassination.

Gov. Glick of Kansas says that the scheme for a great cattle trail from the Red river to the northern boundary of the country as marked out by the late cattle convention in St. Louis is entirely impracticable.

The Virginia general assembly passed over the governor's veto the electoral board bill. This is the second time this year that the legislature here has had to do this, as the court of appeals decided the first bill passed last winter to be unconstitutional.

Charles S. Voorhees, a son of Senator Voorhees, has been elected as a congressional delegate from Washington Territory. He first came into the blaze of public observation behind the footlights of an Indianapolis theater in the role of Hamlet—for one night only.

A semi-official count was made of the vote for congressman in the Seventh Iowa district, from certified duplicate returns, by the state board and a certificate thereof given to H. Y. Smith, successor to Mr. Kasson, and he has left for Washington to be present at the opening of this congress. His commission cannot issue until Thursday. His majority is 2,754.

### Suggests of Foreign News.

Gen. Wolsley forbids any of his Nile party to send any news to the press.

The French minister of war, it is said, has had several interviews with the inventor of the so-called navigable balloon.

The Trinidad Chronicle gives an account of a coolie riot in that colony. A telegram received by a gentleman in town from San Fernando reports fifty coolies dead.

Prime Minister Ferry has given the powers of official information of the complete cessation of cholera in France, and requested them to abolish quarantine against France.

Judge Manisty of London, whose course in the Coleridge case caused so much criticism, is to retire from the bench, the ostensible reason being old age. He is seventy-five years.

Bernard Coleridge, son of Lord Chief Justice Coleridge, is endeavoring to arrange a compromise with F. M. Adams, barrister, to whom a jury lately accorded a verdict for \$15,000. Coleridge has offered to pay all the costs of prosecution and 5,000 cash to Adams to settle the matter.

A correspondent with the Canadian contingent on the Nile writes an evening paper to the effect that considerable indignation exists over the fact that Lord Wolsley has forbidden any party to write the press anything respecting the trip. For all this, the correspondent says, the Canadians are determined to keep the papers posted on the movements of the contingent.

### Serious Loss to Wisconsin.

Science hall of the state university at Madison, was entirely consumed by fire Monday morning, the walls only being left standing. The fire broke out in the engine room, presumably from sparks from the forge, in the extreme northwest corner of the basement, only about ten feet from the door to the boiler room, and burned slowly but strongly till the interior was one mass of flames. The efforts of the firemen became absolutely fruitless, and by midnight the building was a mass of ruins. Science hall was built in 1870 and 1872, the legislature of 1870 making an appropriation of \$80,000 for its construction. David Stephenson of Madison was the contractor, and during the erection of the building the northwest wall was blown down in a gale, involving a loss upon Stephens of ten thousand dollars. The contract price was \$78,774, and the heating apparatus and introduction of the system of water works cost \$17,000 additional, thus making the structure cost a total of \$95,000, or practically \$100,000, by reason of subsequent improvements. Irreparable and almost untold loss is entailed, however, in the destruction of the magnificent zoological museum; the coast and state survey notes of Prof. J. E. Davies, representing twenty years of labor; the geological notes and specimens of Prof. R. D. Irving; the botanical specimens of Prof. William Trelease; the handsome art collection, which included many rare and valuable oil paintings; the innumerable mechanical appliances in the machine shop, and the chemical and assay laboratory, and drawing-plant of over fifty students, ranging in value from fifteen to thirty dollars each. Two hundred thousand dollars would no more than cover the actual loss.

## THE HOME CIRCLE AND FARM.

### Household Hints.

The gravy made from roast lamb is much improved in flavor if a few thin slices of bacon are laid over and under the roast.

The best way to boil corn is to boil it with part of the husks on it. Remove the silk and the tough outer covering, leaving the white inner leaves. The corn will be much sweeter if cooked in this way.

If you are to have winter window gardens, now is a good time to start them. The experience of amateurs is, generally, that the slips do better with ordinary soil and care than the old and stocky plants.

A correspondent, "E," asks how to clarify sugar: To three pounds of sugar allow three pints of water; melt the sugar in the water, and let it come to a boil; then add the well-beaten white of one egg. Let this boil from eight to ten minutes, and then strain it.

A delicious dish for breakfast is made by boiling some potatoes until tender, but not soft; remove them from the water, dry them on a hot plate, then rub them through a coarse sieve. If they were boiled in salt water, they will require no other seasoning. Rub them through a sieve held over the dish in which they are to be served, as any handling will make the particles fall, and the effect will be spoiled.

Preserved Tomatoes are a luxury appreciated in winter. To seven pounds of tomatoes add one pint of vinegar, three and a half pounds of sugar, one ounce each of cloves, allspice and cinnamon. Scald and peel the tomatoes (very ripe ones are best); drain them. Let the vinegar, sugar and spices boil for five minutes, then put the tomatoes into the kettle; these should boil for at least half an hour; if they were not successfully drained, three-quarters of an hour is none to long. Keep them in jars closely covered.

### Oatmeal Nine Days Old.

I find that oatmeal porridge is greatly improved by being made some days before it is required, then stored in a closed jar, brought forth and heated for use. The change effected is just that which theoretically may be expected, viz., a softening of the fibrous material, and a sweetness due to the formation of sugar. This sweetening I observed many years ago in some gruel that was partly eaten one night and left standing until next morning, when I thought it tasted sweeter, but to be assured of this I had it warmed again two nights afterward, so that it might be tasted under the same conditions of temperature, palate, etc., as at first. The sweetness was still more distinct, but the experiment was carried no farther. I have lately learned that my ensilage notion is not absolutely new. A friend who read my Cantor lectures tells me that he has long been accustomed to have seven dishes of porridge in his larder, corresponding to the seven days of the week, so that next Monday's breakfast was cooked the Monday before, and so on, each being warmed again on the day fixed for its final execution, and each being "seven days old." He finds the result more digestible than newly-made porridge. The classical nine days' old pease pudding is a similar anticipation, and I find, rather curiously, that nine days is about the limit to which it may be practically kept before mildew-mouldiness is sufficiently established to spoil the pudding. I have not yet tried a barrel full of pease pudding or moistened pease meal, closely covered and powerfully pressed down, but hope to do so.—From "The Chemistry of Cookery," by W. Mattieu Williams, in Popular Science Monthly.

### Care of Boy's Clothes.

The worst of boys' clothes is that being mostly woolen they absorb dust and odors to that degree Aunt Jane declares she can smell a boy across the room by his fusty jacket. Every closet ought to have a window; but as every closet does not, all the boys' suits should have a thorough airing once a week. On a sunny day at Aunt Jane's you will see the back porch strung with lines of trousers and jackets turned inside out and swinging in the wind from breakfast time till 4 o'clock in the afternoon. First they are whipped and shaken till the dust is out, grease and mud stains taken out with a stiff Manilla scrubbing brush, hot water, and soap—any part of the lining that is soiled is scrubbed in the same way, rinsed in hot water—sometimes Aunt Jane says it takes a dip in very weak copperas water to cleanse and sweeten them to suit her—sun and wind all day doing the rest. Then the closets have the floors washed often, and the doors left wide open every day while the rooms are airing, and by this care that immaculate woman keeps her boys' wardrobe as neat and sweet as any girl's. One rule is that no boots and shoes are kept in closets with clothing, for leather and woolen suits together get up a smell of their own that is, to say the least, extraordinary. The boys never wear their boots or thick shoes up-stairs or in a carpeted room. As

soon as they come home the boots are taken off in the little dressing room off the entry, put on the back porch to be cleaned if they need it, and then all go in the boot closet down stairs, while the boys wear slippers or low shoes about the house. It was some trouble to make them understand they were not to come stalking into the sitting room in rubber boots or walking shoes, but the noise, dust and wear of carpets saved by it would make any woman's heart glad. The boys pretend their mother copies Turkish manners and would like them to leave their shoes outside, like the Turks at the door of a mosque; but they find stout shoes last longer for being kept to their own particular uses, and carpets certainly wear better when not ground by half-inch soles. How baggy at knees and wrinkled at elbows the suits are when school-boys have nearly gone through them. To prevent this, every Saturday night, after they have been brushed, dampen the knees of the trousers and press them with a heavy iron, or leave them all night under a smooth board and heavy weight, the way soldiers keep their uniforms smooth. When a jacket is worn rough, lay it on a table, scrub with a stiff brush, hot water and soap, using as little water as possible; rub with a dry crash towel, put a thin cloth over and press the garment well. A shabby coat often comes out as good as new from this treatment. Coats must not be hung by the loop on the collar for any length of time, but be put away on the wire shoulder forms, which cost ten cents apiece. Trousers and vests should be laid away in press to keep them in shape.—Wide Awake.

### Imported Horses.

A writer from France to the Breeders' Gazette thus describes how some dealers purchase horses for the American market: "We have seen this year some very selfish Americans who came to Perche and have spent their time in looking after the poorest stock because it was the cheapest. Such exportations can only do harm both in America and in Perche. No doubt some are 'registered,' and by means of this may be palmed off as the cream of the Perche. I can not help relating to you how an American of your Western states transacted his business. He did not even pay a visit to the Perche. As soon as he arrived in Paris he took a cab, went to a dealer there and said: 'I want fifty horses,' and sat down while the dealer gathered them for him. These animals came from the Lord only knows where, very likely the most of them from Belgium, with which a few from the Perche or elsewhere are mixed; but it is all the same to this gentleman from the West as long as they are cheap. As soon as he had the required number he herded them together and shipped them to America, where I am told they are sold under the name of 'Normans.' It is indeed a wonder that the old dukes of Normandy do not get out of their graves in their wrath at the idea of calling these heavy draft-horses 'Normans.' In view of such practices it is well for buyers to know from whom they purchase when paying good prices for 'imported stock.'

### Strawberries, Set Them Now.

Now is a good time to start a bed of strawberries. Few who have not tried realize how small an area and how little trouble it takes to grow strawberries in plenty for family use. The young plants, either common runners or potted plants, can now be safely set where they are to grow. The latter set on rich soil will bear well next June. One hundred plants well cultivated will give an abundance for family use. There is no farmer in the state of Michigan but may have all this delicious fruit that his family desire for use during the season or for canning. They are as sure as the wheat crop and for the space used more profitable. The lot owner in town will find more satisfaction in a plat of strawberries than in anything else he can raise. A class of fruit that is so easily spoiled by handling one only knows its true worth who can pick it fully ripe from his own garden. He can never get it second-hand in perfection, and besides when one depends on the market he does not provide his family with half as many as they want. If 100 quarts are used during the season they will cost at a low price ten cents per quart or \$10. This will seem a large amount to pay out for one fruit, but they can be easily grown on four square rods of ground and will be a perfect surprise to the family and a great saving as well. Who will not try them.

### An Excellent Stock Rule.

New York Tribune.—An excellent rule for owners of live stock of all kinds to be guided by is this: that what is bad for his own health is bad for his stock. A man feeds himself reasonably; he would not think of eating the hard, unripe, windfall apples which he gives to his cows, nor make a meal of chaff instead of bread, although his cattle may be forced to feed upon swamp weeds and dead and dry herbage picked up from what has been rejected during the summer; nor will he drink foul water, nor live in such filth as he keeps his poultry or his pigs in. I don't know but what mankind can stand more of this than our domestic animals can, but at any rate as a rule we try to

avoid it, and if we should have sound healthy stock we must treat them, as regards sanitary laws, precisely as we do ourselves, and in some cases better.

### Take a Holiday at the Fairs.

From Rural New Yorker.

Even a comparatively light burden becomes almost intolerably oppressive if constantly and unceasingly borne, and it helps one wonderfully to lay it down, straighten up and take a deep breath, if only for a moment. If it makes the burden no lighter, it does what amounts to the same thing, it rests the tired muscles and makes them the more able to bear it. It does a team engaged in heavy work an awful sight of good to occasionally stop, have the harness loosened, and be allowed to get a long breath; it seems to put new life and vigor into them, and they always look their thanks. The farmer is too apt to make his life like the constant bearing of the heavy load, or the drawing of the team. He does not have resting and breathing spells enough; he seems to think he cannot afford the time. He forgets that the distance is much shorter to the rested horse, and the load much lighter to the rested man.

Just now is a splendid time to turn over a new leaf. The season of fairs is just opening, and every farmer should so plan his work that he can go to one or more of them. We believe that this year they will be more free from objectionable features than ever before. Do not think it enough that you go alone, brother farmer; your wife needs a rest as badly as you do, and often ten times worse. Plan, therefore to take her. And then the boys—they have been good boys, and have worked hard and faithfully; of course you will take them. And the girls—well, you might as well make up your mind to take the whole family, not forgetting the hired man. Go early and go every day. When you get there, don't get to talking politics and forget all about the family; they are worth more to you than all the politicians; so stick by them and let the button-holders go. Take the whole family about, and show them the improved stock; call attention to the points of excellence in the different breeds, and kinds of domestic animals. Show them the fruits and flowers; show them the farm and household machinery; and see if you can't find some new improvements in it. Be sure to point out everything. Make yourself happy by seeing how much you can interest them in what comes from the farm, and what tends to lighten the labors of the farm.

If you see anything on the ground that merits your disapproval, call the managers' attention to it, and beg of them to abate the nuisance. If they neglect to do so, make a memorandum of it, and be sure to settle with them at the next annual election. We believe that two or three days thus spent will be much better than money at interest, and we believe you will be surprised at how many new ideas you will get, and will be charmed at the new zest and interest it will put into the work, of even the hired man. Try it.

### Chinese Feeding Their Dead.

From the Portland Oregonian.

Early yesterday morning hacks and express wagons loaded with Chinamen, roast pigs, etc., commenced to pour across the Stark street ferry on their way to Lone Fir cemetery to observe the religious ceremony commonly called feeding the dead. A reporter of this paper, who visited the cemetery during the afternoon, found a large number of Chinamen engaged in this pious duty. The roast pigs and chickens were placed around on the ground among the graves of the Chinese and at the head of nearly every grave candles were burning. From the best information to be obtained in regard to this custom it seems that the food is intended as a sort of propitiatory offering to the Chinese devil. The offerings varied according to the habits and tastes of the occupants of the graves. At the grave of one, his friend, after digging holes in the hard ground with his knife, stuck up two candles and then laid out several sets of chop-sticks and as many small cups, which he filled with wine; then he placed some bowls of rice and a package of cigarettes and a small vessel of opium. Then he made several bows and genuflections, as if inviting his dead friend or the other party to set to. A number of fires were burning in the vicinity, and on these were placed pieces of paper with squares of imitation gold leaf pasted on them representing gold coin, and smaller squares punched full of holes represented the brass cash, which coin has a hole in the center. Some burned small garments made of paper and this furnished a new suit to their deceased friends at small cost. After the pigs and chickens had been displayed long enough to give the devil time to satisfy himself they were carefully replaced in the wagons and brought back to town.

At Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a very destructive fire occurred Friday afternoon, resulting in the almost complete ruin of J. R. Merin & Co.'s cold storage warehouse, filled with butter and eggs, chiefly the latter, of which there were 200,000 dozen. The origin of the fire is a mystery. The building was worth about \$10,000, and the stock \$40,000. The building is burned to the ground, and the stock nearly destroyed.

At a fire in the residence of Joseph Biglow of Toledo, a daughter eight years old perished in the flames. His wife and infant child were badly burned.