The Water Mill.

Listen to the water mill all the livelong day
How the creaking of the wheel wears the hours away;
Languidly, the water glides useless on and still,
Never coming back again to the water mill;
And a proverb haunts my mind as the spell is cast,
"The mill will never grind with the water that has passed."

Take the lesson to yourself, loving heart and true,
Golden years are passing by—youth is passing too—
Try to make the most of life, lose no honest way;
All that you can call your own lies in this—to-day,
Power, intellect and strength may not, cannot last,
The mill will never grind with the water that has passed.

Oh! the wasted hours of life that have flitted by;
Oh! the good we might have done—lost without a sigh,
Love, that we might once have saved with but a single word,
Thoughts conceived but never penned—perishing unheard.
Take the lesson to your heart, take, oh! hold it fast,
The mill will never grind with the water that has passed.

—The late General McCallum.

WHAT HERBERT SAID.

"Don't go, Ellie; please don't What will Herbert say?"

"I don't care in the least what Herbert says. He has no right to dictate to me. Not that he ever does," Ellie added, quickly. "Mr. Granville Ferguson has invited me to go to the park with him, and there are four other ladies and their escorts to join us there. I am going and I shall wear my new cashmere. It is just the right length for skating. If you were good-natured, now, you would lend me the sealskin cap Uncle Will last gave you."

"You can have the cap, Ellie, but I do feel bad about Herbert. You know he loves you."

"He has never told me he loves me."

"Never told you he loves you?" said Carrie. "Don't he come here every afternoon or evening to see you?"

"How do you know he don't come to see Aunt Fanny, or you?"

"Ellie!"

There was such keen pain in Carrie's tone that pretty Ellie sprang from her seat and remorsefully threw her arms around her sister, kissing her warmly, and saying, "If everybody knew you as well as I do, Carrie, now good and sweet you are, never cross or out of temper like me, and knowing twenty things where I have learned one, you would have fifty lovers. Men are such idiots. If a girl has a pretty face, that is all they ask."

Cartainly, if this speech was true Ellie Wilson had no cause to complain of nature's unkindness. She was very pretty, with saucy, sunny face, full of sparkle and animation, and a dainty little figure, every movement of which was graceful.

But Carrie, only two years older than her sister, and not twenty-two, without any great beauty naturally, had, through the carelessness of a nurse in her infancy, been the victim of a fall which had cut open one cheek, leaving a long, red scar, disfiguring her for life. Her soft blue eyes, her glossy brown hair, her clear complexion, were all lost sight of in the long blood-red mark that covered one side of her face from temple to chin. It grew purple in the cold air, crimson in summer heat, but it never faded away.

It had been poor Carrie's cross from childhood. Her school-life had been embittered by the taunts of her companions, and she had shut herself up in a great measure from society from her sensitive shrinking from notice. It was not perhaps strange that Ellie, praised and petted all her life for her beauty, should also have given undue weight to her sister's misfortune. That Carrie would be an old maid and Ellie make a brilliant match was a certainty in the minds of the family and friends.

But relatives and friends alike were pleased when Herbert Brandon, after the death of Mr. Wilson, became a constant visitor at the house of the orphan girls. He had been their father's clerk, and later his junior partner, and still carried on with one other surviving partner the business of Wilson & Co., though the head of the house had been three years dead at the time my story opens. Business at first, and afterward certainly his own good pleasure, brought him often to see the young ladies and their aunt, who had filled their dead mother's place for many long years. He was a man whose love would honor any woman, and Carrie was not alone in supposing that pretty Ellie was the chosen of his heart.

Carrie liked to think so. Of all the suitors that came to visit her pretty sister, Herbert was certainly the one she would select for a brother. Never having thought it possible that she could win closer love than a brother's, Carrie was naturally very anxious about Ellie's choice, and she shrank with positive pain whenever she thought that Granville Ferguson was usurping Herbert's place. He was a far handsomer man, wore finer dress, had diamonds sparkling upon his shirt-front and little finger, lived in handsome chambers, and was the pink of courtesy. And yet Carrie did not like him.

On the day when Ellie so wilfully persisted in accepting Granville Ferguson's escort to the park, Herbert was coming to spend the evening, to try some duets. But Ellie said Herbert and the duets could be had at any time, while skating was a luxury to be seized whenever the opportunity occurred.

So, when Granville Ferguson, in his jaunty overcoat, with a tiny bouquet in the button-hole, made his appearance just before sunset, he found Ellie with the new brown cashmere and sealskin hat waiting for him. She had put the crispest of ruffles into a ruff lined with blue silk and the bewildering blue bow under her pretty chin, and her hair was in the puffiest of golden curls under the rim of the cap. When the ornamental water, brilliantly illuminated by the moon, was reached, Ellie's feet could scarcely keep still to have the skates fastened.

They were well matched upon the ice, for there were few of her own sex as graceful and expert upon skates as pretty Ellie Wilson. In her eager excitement she overlooked, entirely forgot, the fact that the party her escort had promised to meet did not appear, and she glided among the groups gathered around her, nodding now and again to friend or acquaintance, sparkling and happy.

She was getting tired, and turned to suggest to her companion a few moments' rest on the bank, when she saw him accosted bytwo men, who, without skates, were standing upon the ice near him. They were not near enough for her to hear the conversation, as she had darted off a few minutes before for a long sweep on the glassy surface of the lake, supposing Granville Ferguson followed beside her.

It made her uneasy to see him walking away with his new companions, leaving her alone in the crowd around her. She knew that it was getting late, and already the concourse of people was thinning rapidly. There was a long walk to be taken, and she was growing conscious of curious looks directed toward her. Granville Ferguson was no longer to be seen, and her loneliness was becoming almost unbearable, when her friend, Mrs. Morrison, with her husband, skated to her side.

"Don't faint, Ellie," her friend began; "we will take care of you. You must come to our house to-night."

"What has happened?"

"Granville Ferguson has been arrested."

"Arrested!" cried poor Ellie, with white lips, for the handsome scamp had won more than a passing interest in her impulsive heart. "For what?"

"Passing a forged bill. He is one of a Western gang the police are seeking. Come, you must go home with us, and we will send you home early in the morning."

"But Carrie!"

"She will be frightened, no doubt, but it will be for a few hours only."

And Mr. Morrison, seeing the gathering pallor of the pretty face, hastily sought a cab, put Ellie into it, his wife following.

In the meantime Carrie, in the quiet dress she always wore, thinking regretfully that finery of any kind would only make more conspicuous the disfiguring scare upon her face, waited for Herbert. She could not help a little thrill of pleasure at the thought of a quiet evening with him alone, for her aunt generally nodded in silence over her knitting. She had faithfully tried to keep Ellie at home; that having failed, she could enjoy the evening. Ellie was very exacting of her lover's attentions, if lover he was, keeping him beside her constantly; while Carrie, as was habitual with her, kept in the background, listening to her sister's lively chat, and wondering why she could never jest and frolic with Herbert.

The little mantel clock was striking eight when he came. Aunt Fanny, who had been all day shopping in the keen winter air, had yielded to the drowsy influence of the warm room, and was quietly asleep in her arm-chair; but Carrie was awake, and went forward to meet the visitor.

"I am very sorry Ellie is out," she said, "but I'll try the duets with you, if you wish."

A look of pleasure flashed into Herbert's face, but shy Carrie, looking down, missed it.

"But you usually have Ellie."

"Ellie does not sing as well as you do. Her voice is not as good, and she is careless. But before we try the duets, sit here a little while and talk to me. I so seldom see you alone."

She sat down, wondering a little at the request, but the wonder grew deeper as Herbert talked to her. Little by little the truth came home to her that Herbert Brandon was glad, not sorry, to find Ellie gone; that the words her sister had spoken in jest, supposing them far from any truth, were indeed a fact, and that it was her own plain face, not Ellie's pretty one, Herbert came to see. In words whose earnest truth could not be doubted, Herbert told her how her gentle sweetness, her useful, cheerful life had won his love, and that his hope of happiness for life rested upon her answer to the simple, unmistakable question that came out at last:

"Will you be my wife, Carrie? Can you give to my keeping the happiness of your life, believing I will earnestly endeavor to guard you from every sorrow. I know I am not worthy—no man can be worthy—of such a treasure as I ask; but I love you, darling, I love you."

He knew his love was returned when the shy but happy eyes were raised to his own. Yet involuntarily one little white hand was raised to cover the disfiguring scar. Tenderly Herbert prisoned it, and pressed his own lips upon the cheek.

"Let me help you to forget that," he whispered.

They talked long and earnestly, each learning much ungussed before of the other's heart-confidence, till the clock chimed eleven.

"It is time Ellie was home!" Carrie cried, starting at the sound.

"Where has she gone?"

"To Hyde Park with Granville Ferguson."

Herbert started as if he had been shot.

"Granville Ferguson? Carrie, I must go out. I can get a cab. But it is too late. Some of her friends will surely be there."

"Why, what is the matter?" asked Carrie, frightened at his evident agitation.

"I meant to tell you this evening, but I forgot everything else when I found you alone, Carrie. Granville Ferguson is one of a gang of forgers. Hill Lyman is a very intimate friend of one of the detectives, and this afternoon he told me they had secured the proofs against him for which they had been waiting for months. He has in his possession this evening a large sum derived from forgery and he was doubtless arrested at the park. Hill told me the whole plan and invited me to go out and 'see the fun,' as he expressed it; but seeing no fun in the downfall of a man we have all met as a friend more or less, I declined. If I had only asked sooner for Ellie I might have gone to the park. Did she expect to meet other friends?"

"She spoke of some ladies Mr. Ferguson was to meet," said Carrie, who was really crying at the thought of her sister's position, "but I do not know who they were. She always does meet friends at the park, but I could not tell where to look for her. Oh, Herbert, it is dreadful! What can we do?"

"I will go out on the chance of finding her."

But when he reached the park the lake was deserted. It was useless to seek for Ellie at that hour among her large circle of friends, and Herbert could only return to Carrie with his tidings.

Aunt Fanny was awake and thoroughly terrified by that time. She enjoyed a sensation and seldom had so fine an opportunity for hysterics, and so fell into them on the spot.

It was a dreary night for Carrie after Herbert left, for she could not listen to her aunt's dismal forebodings without some answering fear in her own heart. But quite early all terror was dissipated by Ellie's appearance.

"I came as early as they would let me," she said, after telling the event of the evening; "but I have not closed my eyes all night. I knew you would be uneasy about me."

She looked pale and wan, and Carrie saw that there was a deeper sorrow than she confessed in her warm heart. She bustled about, insisted upon putting her to bed to rest, brought her up a cup of coffee and petted her in a loving, tender fashion, that Ellie could not resist. For, after a short struggle with herself, she whispered: "I am ashamed of it, Carrie, now; but I did like him so much, that when he asked me this afternoon to marry him I only put him off for a few days, meaning to say yes then. I did not quite like to engage myself till I had told you and Aunt Fan. Carrie, was Herbert here?"

"Yes, dear. He went to the park for you; but you were gone."

"He is always kind," sighed poor Ellie. "I don't love poor Herbert, Carrie, but I think he's the best friend we have. Carrie!"—for Carrie's face certainly told secrets in spite of her efforts to keep down the blushes—"Carrie, look at me! I will see!" and she lifted the shy, drooping face. "Is he to be my brother?"

"Yes, dear; he has applied for the situation."

"You absurd little thing! There, don't try to explain anything. I'll be your bridesmaid; and mind, Carrie, it is an immense relief to my mind to think I can flirt as much as I please and go where I like without your piteous 'What will Herbert say?' for it appears to me he has 'said his say,' as the old women express it, to some purpose."

And, after all, the red scar was hidden by a bridal veil, and Herbert Brandon sees no face so fair in his eyes as the disfigured one of his gentle, loving wife.

Bull Fights in Portugal.

There is quite as much parade in the Portuguese as in the Spanish bull ring, but the purpose of the show is to fight the bull and not to slay him. The horsemen ride good horses, not abandoned beasts—horses trained to fight bulls, and not simply to be gored and torn. The foot performers are of two classes—those who throw darts, and another class of lively, active young men who seize the bull by main force and play antics over him. Sometimes colored gentlemen offer themselves as tossing material for the bull, and then the fun is screaming. The performers are quaintly dressed in costumes of past generations; the dart throwers' a natty costume, like Italian opera singers, short and embroidered velvet jackets, breeches gaudily tinted, white stockings and red sashes. When the bull comes pawing and prancing into the arena, instead of iron and leather-clad horsemen on broken-down omnibus horses to prod him with spears, the foot-performers in Italian costumes throw the darts into his shoulder. This is an exciting feat, but bulls have a way of lowering their heads and taking their time before tossing, and it is in this instant that the performer throws his darts and skips over the barrier. It is a question of nerve and suppleness reduced into seconds. The pain of the wound sends the bull capering around the arena, and other agile dart-throwers have their chance. In the meantime red capes and scarfs are thrown before his eyes to excite him. After the bull has been worried by the dart-throwers and cape-danglers the horsemen attack him. The duty of the horseman is to throw a dart about four feet long into the bull's neck and so manage his horse as to keep him from harm. Horses are trained to these experiences just as in the West they are trained to hunt buffalo, and it is a disgrace for a cavalier to allow his horse to come to harm. As a closing act, some daring fellows attack the bull, jump over his horns, seize his tail and overpower him. This done, and the bull thoroughly beaten, a half dozen trained oxen with bells around their necks are driven in. The bull welcomes them as friends and goes out in their company. The darts are removed, and the sore parts rubbed with salt and vinegar. It is not often that a bull goes twice into the ring. He learns the trick the first time, and if called upon for a second performance stolidly takes his place in the corner, and watches his enemies skip around without budging.—*New York Herald.*

HOW IT HAPPENED.

It Takes a French Publication to Tell Us How the Phonograph was Invented.

It has been usually understood that Mr. Thomas Alva Edison invented the phonograph while making some experiments in telegraphy. It has been reserved, however, for an ingenious Frenchman to discover that this is not the fact, and some other ingenious Frenchman has sent to Mr. Edison, for his edification, a book containing among other things, a true and veritable account of the discovery. This book is called "Le Trocaderoscope; or a Bird's Eye View of the Exposition." It is a bulky volume, and is full of pictures in the higest style of French art according to M. Alfred Le Petit, the caricaturist. The article on the phonograph states that some years ago there lived in New York a young working-girl named Miss Brigton, of whom a neighbor became greatly enamored. One fine day the gallant young man called upon Miss Brigton while she was busy at her sewing-machine and began to pour into her not unwilling ears his tale of love. As he talked she sewed, and was apparently more engaged in stitching upon her dress a galloon of filmy metal, than in listening to her lover's ardent proposals. At last, in an agony of emotion, he cried out:

"I swear to you, Miss Brigton, I will marry you!"

Miss Brigton looked up, smiled, blushed and stopped the sewing machine.

Eight months later, according to the historian of the "Trocaderoscope," the gallant young man was summoned before the court, at the instance of Miss Brigton, as defendant, in a suit for a breach of promise. He was examined and cross-examined, but however ably the counsel put to him in different forms the question, "Did you ever promise to marry this woman?" he invariably responded, "Never in my life!"

The veracious historian tells the remainder of the story much as follows:

"One of these rascally responses threw the young Americaness into such a fury that she was taken with a fit of hysterics, and her pretty nails rasped along the galloon on the dress that she wore. What was the astonishment of the judge and the audience to hear coming from the apparel of Miss Brigton a voice which distinctly articulated in the tones of her betrayer those terrible words:

"'I swear to you, Miss Brigton, I will marry you!'

"These words were immediately followed by the loud sound of a number of double kisses.

"Every one gazed in wonder.

"The young man became very pale.

"But recovering his composure he smiled and said, 'Some one of my friends in court, who is a ventriloquist, is making fun of me.'

"Mr. Edison was in court simply as a spectator. He did not believe in the ventriloquism. But he elevated his eyebrows with the air of a man who should say, 'Let me see; there is something under all this.'

"He bought the dress from Miss Brigton at a large price, and hastening away with the precious vestment, submitted it to a minute examination.

"He drew his nail along the metal galloon, and it repeated anew, 'I swear to you, Miss Brigton,' etc.

"After laborious researches he obtained proof that the little marks imprinted on the galloon had been traced by a needle, reproducing the vibrations of the voice.

"The phonograph had been discovered!"

Curiosities of Agriculture.

A German workman in a gypsum stone quarry traveled across a meadow in going to and returning from his work. A clergyman of the name of Myer, who saw this field every day, observed the greater luxuriance of grass on each side of this path than in other parts of the field. This simple observation laid the foundation for the extensive use of plaster as a fertilizer for the last hundred years.—*London Country.*

"A pretty fellow you are to instruct the public on rural matters, when you can't supply your own table with vegetables, or raise a good head of celery to save your neck!" A faithful report of domestic conversations on this point between agricultural editors and their wives would be very funny—to the public—*Christian Union.*

Why is that barley straw as litter causes lice? Cannot some one give an intelligible reason? I have cudgeled my brains in vain.—*Mark Lane Express.*

Major Campbell Brown, of Maury county, a noted sheep-breeder in Tennessee, was telling me some evidences of sagacity, as shown by his shepherd dogs. On one occasion two of his dogs noticed three strange cattle in among his herd of Jerseys. Without an order from any one, these dogs started for the intruders and attempted to drive them out. Finding it impossible to get the three together, they drove them one at a time to the gate, and then attracted attention by barking until some one came to open the gate and let them out. He also stated that he had been amused at noticing the manner in which one of his dogs would attack a strange mule. He would steal up behind him, bite him on the pastern joint, and drop on his belly, thus avoiding the certain kick.—*Forest and Stream.*

An unknown thief in Chesterfield sent a letter to the man whose poultry house he had depleted, saying: "Mr. Britt i must not forget to tell you that the Black Hen was very tough We could neither roast nor boil it it was a disappointment as I had asked a friend to come to dinner and with Pulling at the old Black hen he Loosened all his Front teeth the cock was very good and tender"—*Sheffield Telegraph.*

Two stories are told of two Japanese students at Hartford. One of them was invited to call upon a young lady, and he did so one afternoon. When he left he was urged to "call again," to "be sure and come" and to "come very soon." The lad did not exactly understand what "very soon" meant, and surprised the young lady by calling again in a few hours. Another Japanese was invited out to dinner, and when the servant passed him a jar of current jelly he gave the mold a dexterous shake and emptied the whole form on to his plate, thinking that there was a mold of jelly for each person at the table.

Paris last year consumed 11,819 horses for food, being some 700 more than in 1877.

NEWS SUMMARY.

Eastern and Middle States.

President McMillen, at the twenty-fourth annual convention of New York school commissioners and city superintendents, at Syracuse, said that there were 11,821 schoolhouses in the State, valued, with their sites, at $30,147,589; and 1,032,052 pupils. President White, of Cornell university, in a speech, compared America's school system with Europe's, and awarded the palm to America.

The Citizens' savings bank, of Woonsocket, R. I., has been declared insolvent by commissioners appointed to look into its affairs.

An interesting ceremony at Greene, N. Y., was the marriage of three sisters at one time. Two of the bridegrooms were clergymen.

At the convention of the International Baseball association in Buffalo, N. Y., the name was changed to the National Baseball association, and the championship pennant was given to the Buffalo club.

An interesting case concerning an eccentric old New York merchant's ability to take care of his large property has recently been decided before eighteen jurymen in Brooklyn. Distant relatives of Jonathan T. Wells, who for many years sold straw hats in New York and accumulated a fortune, claimed that his actions betokened insanity, and sued to have the control of his affairs taken away from him. The old man resisted the charge; the case was tried, and the jury, after hearing a number of witnesses on both sides, voted twelve to six that Wells was sane, and capable of taking care of his property.

Jacob A. Westervelt, an ex-mayor of New York and president of the deck department in that city, is dead in his eightieth year.

John C. O'Sullivan, an East Newark (N. J.) politician, was found guilty, some time ago, of being a common barrator—that is of causing and encouraging dissensions among his neighbors—and has been sentenced to sixty days' imprisonment in the county jail and to pay a fine of $100, with costs. O'Sullivan is the only man ever charged with this offense in New Jersey, and it is said that besides himself only one man has ever been convicted on a similar charge in this country.

Henry Bigelow Williams, a Boston real estate agent, has failed for $1,267,000.

Captain Paul Boyton started from Pittsburgh, Pa., in an attempt to swim to New Orleans in his life-saving rubber suit. When he made the start the temperature of the water at Pittsburgh was at freezing point, and the river was full of ice.

A car attached to a train at Chambersburg, Pa., left the track and fell over an embankment six feet high, turning on its side. About fifteen persons were injured more or less seriously.

The Rhode Island Prohibitionists, in convention assembled at Providence, nominated the present State officers for re-election.

Twenty-one new dentists were graduated at the thirteenth annual commencement of the New York College of Dentistry in that city.

The Penn Steel and Iron company, of New York city and Clintonville, N. Y., has failed for $200,000, and a receiver has been appointed. It is thought the assets will more than cover the liabilities.

David Pender, the young criminal who attacked Mrs. DeBary in broad daylight on Fifth avenue, New York, tearing a valuable earring from the lady's ear while the street was filled with pedestrians, has been sentenced to State's prison.

The schooner David H. Tolck went ashore at Barnegat, N. J., and the sea being heavy, began to break up rapidly. The captain's wife died in the rigging, and out of seven men and a boy landed by the efforts of a life-saving station's crew, two were dead, while the rest were in a dying condition. Another man was swept from the rigging and drowned.

At the convention of the American Fish Culture association in New York, a number of papers on pisciculture were read, and Robert B. Roosevelt was elected president for the coming year.

Western and Southern States.

All is fish that comes to the net of the Western highwaymen, and he has no more respect for the armed soldier than for the peaceful citizen. Brevet-Col. Rice and Lieut. Fred. Sibley, of Gen. Miles' regiment, and Morris Cahn, of Evansville, Ind., with an escort of seven men, were surprised by four black-masked road agents on the Yellowstone. Five of the party were in an ambulance and five were on horseback, leisurely following at some distance in the rear. The five in the ambulance were suddenly covered with the rifles of the robbers and told to throw up their hands, which they prudently did. Then, while the captain of the robbers kept "the drop" on the captives, the other three disciples of Claude Duval relieved the officers of $200 and Cahn of $2,500; refusing to take the gold watches of the military men. When the five cavalrymen rode up they were quickly covered by the robbers' rifles, disarmed and robbed. The thieves then made the military stack their guns and leave unarmed. A military detachment which was sent in pursuit of the road agents captured one of them.

The Ohio Prohibitionists are first in the political field with a ticket headed by Gideon T Stewart for governor. The platform adopted favors giving the laborers for corporations the first lien for wages; favors reserving public land for homesteads; the suppression of gambling in stocks; the prohibition of labor of children under fourteen years of age in mines and factories; universal suffrage; the issue of small interest-bearing bonds; compulsory education; the reduction of official salaries, and local options.

George Washington, a colored man, twenty-five years old, was hanged at Louisville, Ky., for an atrocious assault on a little German girl four months ago. Twenty thousand persons witnessed the hanging. A horrible failure was made at the first attempt, the rope breaking and precipitating Washington to the ground. He was picked up half insensible, and hanged again as soon as possible. He was pronounced dead at noon and the body was cut down.

Indian depredations in Dakota are reported. Two wagon-trains were attacked near Rapid City, the savages firing several volleys into the town to prevent the citizens from going to the rescue of the teamsters. Another band of Indians attacked the Sulphur Springs station, on the Bismarck road, killing one man and running off four horses. Troops were sent in pursuit of the hostiles.

The annual Mardi-Gras carnival, at New Orleans, began with the landing of the king, who was escorted through the city and paid his respects to the mayor, who handed him the keys to the city. General Sherman and party were present at the king's reception and ball.

A legislative investigating committee in Missouri reported that State Treasurer Gates was a defaulter in the sum of $343,000, and recommended his impeachment.

A Portland (Oregon) dispatch says thirty-six Indians—the remnant of the Bannock band which was raiding in Idaho last summer—were surprised by pursuing settlers and all but two or three of the whole band killed.

A fire destroyed two-thirds of the business portion of Bamberg, S. C., causing a loss of $50,000.

The flames destroyed seventeen buildings in Pensacola, Florida, entailing a loss of $125,000, upon which the insurance is $70,000.

Major A. M. Hutchens and Thomas McNatt, both highly-respected citizens of Tishomingo county, Miss., left Iuka together to go home, being neighbors. Hutchens had drawn $1,700 in gold from the express office, sent by a Cincinnati house to be used in purchasing a farm. Late in the evening McNatt's horse reached home riderless, with blood marks on the saddle. This aroused the suspicions of McNatt's family, who feared foul play, and a search was instituted, which revealed the dead body of McNatt, terribly mutilated, about two miles from his home. One hundred yards further on Major Hutchens' body was found in like condition.

From Washington.

General Barlow, of New York, and William E. Chandler have appeared before the Potter committee. The principal point on which testimony was taken was whether General Barlow was counsel for the Republicans in Florida in November, 1876; it having been charged that, while acting in that capacity, he acknowledged the State had given a majority for Tilden. On this point the two witnesses took directly opposite views, General Barlow claiming that he had not gone to Florida as Republican counsel, and Mr. Chandler alleging that Barlow had been sent there in that capacity.

The Senate committee on railroads agreed unanimously to report back Senator Jones' telegraph bill, with a recommendation that the whole matter be referred to a commission consisting of two Senators, three members of the House, and four persons to be appointed by the President. This commission is instructed to examine into the question of the alleged discrimination by the Western Union Telegraph company; the relations and rights of the associated press and National and Associated Press, and the subject of a postal telegraph. The commission is to give the whole subject a thorough and exhaustive examination.

The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Representative Horatio C. Burchard, of Illinois, to be director of the mint.

The Greenback members of the next Congress have held several caucuses, and have resolved to vote together when the next House organizes. At a recent session eighteen members of the next Congress were present, and an address to the people was adopted.

An altercation in the Senate lobby between Donn Piatt, editor of the Washington *Capital*, and William McGarrahan, who has been prominently before the country in connection with a large silver mine claim, led to blows. Piatt was knocked down and badly beaten in the face. The parties to the row were opponents in the claim referred to, and just before the trouble a bill in McGarrahan's interest had been laid over in the Senate, upon Senator McDonald's objection.

Foreign News.

Prince Bismarck has suffered a defeat in the German parliament, which voted overwhelmingly against the government's interpretation of the socialist law, and refused to sanction the proposed arrests of members.

A report from Mandalay asserts that the king of Burmah had murdered all the royal princes and their families, and removed the new ministers and replaced them by the ministers who were formerly in office, thus restoring the former despotic government.

Late advices from Cape Town, Africa, state that the British have repulsed numerous attacks of the Zulus.

Reports from Hayti state there is a revolution in that place, and that it has been invaded by filibusters from Jamaica. A night attack was repulsed by the government troops, who lost thirty-five in killed and ninety odd wounded and missing. There are three pretenders to the presidency of the island.

After being forty-two days out, and no tidings having been received from her, the British steamship Zanzibar, from New York, bound for Glasgow, was given up as lost. The Zanzibar carried a complement of thirty-six officers and crew, but no passengers, and with her cargo was valued at $400,000.

During a violent storm on Prince Edward island a Presbyterian church at Souris, a Catholic church at Cardigin Road, and several other buildings were blown down.

A rise in the river Loire is causing disastrous inundations.

Many of the striking dock laborers at Liverpool have resumed work at reduced prices. At a meeting of the striking weavers at Ashton-under-Lyne, to the number of 3,000, it was decided, with only four dissentient voices, to continue the strike until they are reduced to starvation.

The work of burning infected houses in the Russian plague districts has commenced.

C. R. Urmany, cashier of the Exchange bank, of Montreal, stole $20,000 of the institution's funds and fled.

At Sienna, Italy, an earthquake shock overthrew two churches and killed a number of persons, including two priests.

Tremendous storms are reported in the south of France, where hundreds of people have been thrown on public charity by the destruction and inundation of their houses. In Spain the tempest lasted four days, with much damage and loss of life. Various villages and farms in the Navarre and Asturias were destroyed. A bark was wrecked at Corunna, and thirty persons were drowned.

Senor Cirilo Antonio Rivarola, ex-president of Paraguay, was set upon by five assassins in the streets of Asuncion — the capital of the country—and stabbed to death.

Charles Peace, the notorious English burglar and murderer, was hanged at Leeds, England. His many crimes and escapes from the clutches of the law would fill a volume, and he was considered one of the most remarkable criminals of the age. Just before his execution he confessed that he had murdered a Manchester policeman in 1876, for which crime another man is undergoing imprisonment for life.

CONGRESSIONAL SUMMARY.

Senate.

The bill to fix the pay of letter-carriers, which passed the House last June, was passed without amendment. The bill authorizes the postmaster-general to establish two classes of letter-carriers in all cities containing a population of 75,000 and upward. The salary of carriers of the first class, who have been in service one year, is fixed at $1,000 per annum, and of the second class at $800. In cities containing less than 75,000 inhabitants, one class of carriers is established at an annual salary of $850. The postmaster-general is authorized to establish a third grade of carriers, to be known as auxiliaries, at an annual salary of $400. Adjourned, after an executive session.

The army appropriation bill was reported to the Senate with amendments. Subsequently, when the Burnside reorganization bill was reached on the calendar, objection was made to its consideration and it was laid aside.... Mr. Shields addressed the Senate in favor of placing the names of survivors of the Mexican war on the pension rolls, after which the consideration of the postoffice appropriation bill was resumed. Several amendments to the Brazilian subsidy clause were offered and rejected, the only one of importance which was adopted providing that the contract shall not be considered in force if the service on either line is abandoned or discontinued. Shortly before midnight, after a protracted debate, the subsidy amendment was adopted by a vote of 23 to 17. After discussing several other amendments the bill was finally passed, and, at one o'clock, the Senate adjourned.

The bill to amend certain provisions of the revised statutes relating to the transportation of animals was passed. It provides that animals shall not be kept in cars more than forty-five hours at one time; that they be properly fed and watered, and that the secretary of the treasury appoint an agent at Portland, Me., Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk, New Orleans and Galveston, to inspect all live animals designed for exportation, and certify as to their healthy condition. Adjourned.

A communication was received from the secretary of the treasury in regard to the exportation of cattle, and suggesting legislation to prevent the shipment of diseased animals.... Hon. Zachariah Chandler, the newly-elected Senator from Michigan, was sworn in and took his seat.... The consideration of the army appropriation bill was resumed, the question being on the amendment striking out the reorganization sections, which was agreed to—yeas 45, nays 18.... The House provision forbidding the use of troops at elections was also stricken out by a strict party vote—yeas 34, nays 30. Various other clauses of the House bill were stricken out. When the provision authorizing railroad companies to do a telegraph business was reached, Mr. Howe offered an amendment requiring railroad companies desiring to do a telegraph business to accept the restrictions imposed on telegraph companies, one of which is that their lines may be purchased by the government at an appraised valuation. This gave rise to a debate, pending which the Senate went into executive session and then adjourned.

The bill accepting Mr. Bennett's ship Jeannette for Arctic explorations and that amending the Freedmen's savings bank charter were passed without discussion.... The Senate resumed the consideration of the army appropriation bill. After considerable discussion, Mr. Howe's amendment, making railroad companies doing a telegraph business liable to the same restrictions as telegraph companies, was adopted. Mr. Eaton finally moved to strike out the railroad telegraph clause as amended, which was rejected. Finally the bill was reported to the Senate and passed.... The yellow fever bill was then taken up and several amendments were adopted. During the evening several attempts were made to obtain a quorum, and at midnight the sergeant-at-arms was instructed to request absent Senators to attend. An hour later he reported, but as only two or three additional members appeared he was instructed to compel the attendance of the absentees. This is said to be the first time such an order has been made.

The bill to prevent the introduction of contagious diseases into the United States, and to establish a bureau of public health, was passed.... The Vice-President, by request, laid before the Senate a telegram from the California constitutional convention, thanking Congress for the passage of the bill restricting the emigration of Chinese, and declaring that the Senators and Representatives in Congress who supported it will receive the lasting gratitude of the people of California. Upon Mr. Hoar's point of order the chair decided the telegram could not be received.... After adopting suitable resolutions in honor of the late Representative Welch, the Senate adjourned.

Mr. Edmunds, of Vermont, from the committee on the judiciary, reported, in accordance with a resolution recently adopted by the Senate on his motion, a bill further to protect the constitutional rights of citizens and to punish violations of the same. It was placed on the calendar.... The conference report on the internal revenue bill was agreed to. By its provisions the tax on tobacco has been reduced, and the tax on lucifer matches retained.... The consideration of the deficiency appropriation bill was resumed, the pending question being on the amendment appropriating $250,000 for court expenses and for expenses incurred under the enforcement act, and, after a debate, it was agreed to, and the bill passed. At the evening session a large number of relief and pension bills were passed, after which the Senate adjourned.

House.

In committee of the whole the amendment to the legislative appropriation bill, fixing the pay of jurors, regulating the method of drawing them, and repealing the statutes in regard to the jurors' test oath, was agreed to by 127 to 85 ....An exciting debate then ensued upon Mr. Southard's amendment repealing the section which authorizes the appointment of supervisors of election, but without taking action the House adjourned.

The Florida contested election case of Finley against Bisbee was called up, and the majority report in favor of Finley was adopted by 131 to 122, and Mr. Finley was sworn in.... In the evening memorial services in honor of the late Representatives Welsh and Williams were held. Adjourned.

Mr. Whitthorne, chairman of the committee on naval affairs, reported back the bill authorizing the secretary of the navy to accept, for the purpose of a Polar exploration by way of Behring straits, the ship Jeannette, tendered by Mr. James G. Bennett. Passed.... The bill for the relief of John T. Armstrong, of Virginia, on account of wharf property occupied by the United States army in Alexandria during the war, was defeated, as were several other bills providing for the payment of war claims. Adjourned.

The committee on expenditures in the State department presented a report ordering a warrant to be issued for the arrest of Minister George F. Seward for contempt as a contumacious witness.... On motion the business on the speaker's table was proceeded with. The second bill was the House bill for the repeal of the resumption act, as amended by the Senate, providing that after the passage of this act United States notes shall be receivable the same as coin in the payment of four per cent. bonds, which are authorized by law to be issued, and after October 1, 1879, they shall be receivable for duties on imports. Mr. Ewing, of Ohio, acting under authority of the committee on banking and currency, submitted amendments, the first striking out "Oct. 1, 1879," so as to make United States notes immediately receivable for payment of customs duties. The second amendment offered by him was as follows: "Provided that the money hereafter received from any sale of United States bonds shall be applied only to the redemption of other bonds bearing the highest rate of interest and subject to call, and provided that whenever, from time to time, the proceeds of the sales of bonds shall aggregate $3,000,000, the secretary of the treasury shall issue a call for that amount of the bonds of the interest on the bonds called for redemption shall cease in thirty days from the date of such call, and all United States notes received into printed or issued or paid out by the treasurer or the assistant treasurer. By Mr. Kelley, authorizing the issue of coupon certificates of deposit to aid in refunding the national debt. The sundry civil appropriation bill was then passed. It appropriates $16,936,000.

Mr. Monroe moved to pass the bill providing for the payment of arrears of pensions. It provides that the act "to authorize the issue of certificates of deposit in aid of refunding the public debt" be so amended as to authorize the secretary of the treasury to apply such portion of the proceeds of the sale of certificates of deposit provided for in said act as may be necessary, not exceeding $20,000,000, for the payment of claims for arrears of pensions. Mr. Atkins called attention to the fact that the House had already passed a bill appropriating $26,000,000 for the payment of arrears of pensions, and Mr. Monroe replied that his bill was to provide the ways and means. Mr. Monroe's motion was defeated by 125 to 116.... The House went into committee of the whole on the legislative appropriation bill, the pending amendment being the one repealing the law creating supervisors of elections. A long debate took place, at the conclusion of which the amendment was adopted by 143 to 3, the Republicans abstaining from voting. The bill was then passed—yeas, 143; nays, 117. Adjourned.

The national census bill was passed without a division. The bill provides that the enumeration shall begin on the first Monday in June, 1880, and the returns shall be forwarded to the supervisors on or before the 1st of July following; and in any city having over 10,000 inhabitants the enumeration shall be taken within two weeks from the first Monday in June. The President, by and with the consent of the Senate, is to have the appointment of the supervisors of the census, whose number is limited to 150, and who are to receive a compensation of $500 each. The sum of $3,000,000 ($250,000 of which is appropriated by the bill) is limited as the maximum cost of the census. After discussing the sugar bill and the internal revenue bill, the House adjourned.

THE BLACK DEATH.

Terrible Details of Russia's Visitation—Whole Towns Laid Waste—Exit from Russia Cut Off.

A private letter from St. Petersburg, received in New York, gives the following graphic details of the terrible plague which is raging in many districts of Russia:

"I have a sad story to tell. You have probably heard some reports about the epidemic prevailing in Russia. It is a most fearful disease, brought here by the soldiers from the East. It has spread in the southern provinces of Russia at a rapid rate. Thousands upon thousands have died with it within the last five days. The victims when taken live only about two hours, and turn black all over. All the physicians ordered to the care of the sick have died within twenty-four hours after their arrival. The corpses are burned, and so are the houses in which the people die. Whole towns have been laid waste during the last few days. The government has placed a cordon of soldiers around the infected provinces so that the people cannot get out and spread the disease. Any who attempt to leave or break through the cordon are shot dead on the spot.

"The people are beginning to feel uneasy all over the empire. The government, of course, does not allow the news to get out. All reports are suppressed, but the worst of all is that nobody can get out of the empire. The Austrian and German governments have placed a double cordon of soldiers along all the frontiers, preventing all persons from entering their territory from Russia. All persons from Russia by railroad are stopped at the frontier and detained twenty days in quarantine, their baggage and clothing disinfected, and if they prove all right after the lapse of twenty days, they are permitted to cross the border. During the twenty days' quarantine people are housed in large sheds and barns, without any accommodations or comforts. Of course, a knowledge of this fact keeps people from traveling. There is no possibility of slipping out anywhere.

"May God grant that the disease—'black pest,' as they call it here—may in some way be checked. I believe the government is doing all in its power to prevent the disease from spreading; but if it is not stayed soon then the victims may fall by the thousands daily. It is much worse than the yellow fever was in the South last summer. It was brought by a Tartar soldier a month ago, who, on leaving the Turkish territory, pulled off from a dead Turk on the battlefield a handsome silk shawl, which he tied around his body. On arriving in his native town he presented the shawl to his sweetheart, a girl of nineteen years. She tied it around her body and danced about for joy in a room in which were some twenty-five people. In two hours she died, and five hours after the introduction of the sh