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WE are now receiving the largest and most carefully selected Stock of General Merchandise which we have ever purchased, and will make it to your interest to call and examine for yourselves. We have added to the lines usually kept by us many new and desirable ones, embracing—

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Also, the Celebrated "NEW GLOBE" SHIRT—the king of all Shirts. It needs only to be worn to be appreciated.

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The attention of Ginners and Farmers is called to our-

COTTON SEED AND GRAIN CRUSHER. By which you can crush your Cotton Seed and make your Fertilizer.

Get our prices on Plantation and Gin House Scales, Cotton Gins, Feed s and Condensers and General Farm Machinery.

We are at all times in the Cotton Market, and will do you right. We will pay all ties who owe us for Supplies and Guano an extra price.

A large lot of BAGGING and TIES at lowest prices.

McCULLY, CATHCART & CO.

Mr. Soudday's Reasons for Favoring a Repeal of the Existing Law.

MR. EDITOR: In your issue of December 18th you mention the fact that I spoke in the House of Representatives in in favor of repealing the law exempting factories from taxation. In the article you express your satisfaction that my views did not prevail, and you speak of the law as one highly beneficial to the State. Whilst the House by an over-whelming vote killed the exemption, yet, since your article has put me before the people as opposing a measure of such benefit to them, I think it but just to them, as well as to myself, for you to allow me to present to them my reasons for the position I occupied. This is only what I desire. I have no idea you meant o provoke a newspaper controversy, nor do I mean by this communication to do so. Perhaps I can best accomplish my desire by asking you to publish the speech referred to and leave the people to judge the correctness of my position.

H. G. SCUDDAY.

MR. SPEAKER: The ingenuity displayed in the arguments of the friends of the Exemption Law to-day, is only surpassed by the ingenuity displayed in 1873, when its friends succeeded in placing it upon the Statute Books of this State, in the face of the express mandates of the

Constitution against it. Their speeches are as remarkable for what they do not tell us, as they are for what they assert. Whilst the climax of their argument has been that "foreign capital will seek investments in our State," the market. Cigars and Tobacco. yet it is quite remarkable that we have Best Coal Oil Lamps and Lamp not been told on this floor of a single factory in South Carolina that has been Goods, and every variety of choice
Goods and necessary articles usually
kept in First Class Drug Stores and
used in families.

he

Goods and necessary articles usually
kept in First Class Drug Stores and
used in families.

he

Goods and necessary articles usually
kept in First Class Drug Stores and
used in families. money that should remain there to lighten the burden of taxation upon the people. It has developed here that one foreign capitalist did put forty thousand dollars in one factory, but he did not do it until he was given the exclusive right of handling and putting the goods upon the market when manufactured, with the right to retain large commissions for his work. He may not have known of the existing law

existing law.

The gentleman who last spoke made use of one remark that completely shattered the force of his speech. He said "money is power," Yes, Mr. Speaker, money is power, and little does it need the arm of legislation to sustain it. Another remark of his made the injustice of the present law even more glaring than ever. He said "he favored the exemption because when factories are built the poor by hundreds could get employment." He Oblige us by giving us a call, and you will be surprised at our LOW PRICES and superior quality of our Goods.

Son, we are yours, &c.,

failed to tell us that the Exemption Law said to the wealthy corporation, with its magnificent buildings, you need not pay your tax, and that it said to those hundreds of poor people who really need aid, and who furnish the physical labor, without which the factories could not exist, you must pay the last farthing of your tax. My friend could much better show has a surprished for the poor by advocating failed to tell us that the Exemption Law his sympathy for the poor by advocating an exemption from taxation for the ope-

ratives of factories. The gentleman from Greenville (Mr. places himself in an amusing position by his advocating the Exemption Law. Two sessions ago when he felt that the welfare of the people of this State demanded it, he stood here and labored zealously for the Railroad Commission Act, even when he was told that its passage would drive foreign capital om Railroad enterprise in this State. Then it was duty to ignore the claims of foreign capital in order to protect the in-terests of our own people. Now the in-terests of foreign capitalists seems to out-weigh in importance the interests of our own people. Again it is somewhat amusing to notice how extremely anxious he is to benefit the people, even at the expense of violating the terms of the Constitution, and yet when the opportunity is offered him by complying with its requirements to benefit the people, as for instance the maintenance of the South Carolina College, we find him opposing it with a consistency that is indeed striking. I shall notice only one other point of his before noticing the more important issues of this discussion. He favors the exemption because he is an advocate of a diversity of industries in South Carolina, and thinks it will develop them. I assert that the remedy the gentleman suggests is worse than the disease. Whenever the government takes under its wing any one department of industry, bestows upon it favors, which it denies to others of equal merit, or enters into a sort of partnership with it, by legislating to increase the ordinary profits of that industry, you at once create a governmental monopoly as it were, and destroy the very possibility of a healthy develop-ment and growth on the part of the other industries that are denied such favors. My position is, that the surest way to induce a diversity of industries in South Carolina, is to secure the protection of

and partiality to none. If, however, Mr. Speaker, this House is determined to violate the principle I have just announced, and foster any one department of industry in this State by the strong arm of legislation, let us have an eye to the one most meritorious. Let us foster the one that contributes most to the welfare and support of our State. This is not a manufacturing State and we can never hope to make it one. We ing States of New England. It is purely an agricultural State, Now, sir, it would be but a just recognition of this fact, and that the life blood of this State comes from that department, for us, if we have any special favors to show, to give it the benefit of them.

The day of the necessity for the exemption of factories has long ceased to exist in this State. In 1873, when the law was enacted, who filled the seats of this Hall? Who occupied the chair now graced by you? Property in South Caroina, as well as personal rights were in jeopardy. Foreign capital would not seek our State. Perhaps it was policy then to enact such a law. But, sir, I make it as the proudest assertion of my life, that South Carolina has been redeemed, regenerated and disenthralled. And now with honest home-rule, the adaptability of our soil to the culture of cotton, and the thousands of natural water powers in our State, are they not in themselves sufficient to induce capital here? What is it that developed manufacturing industries in North Carolina and Georgia? I am informed they have no such laws and yet they double us in those enterprises. In fact such Exemption Laws are found in very few of the States of this Union. And where they do exist, manufacturing does not keep pace with those States that do not have

Ar ther argument in favor of this exto the taxable property of the State, increases the value of adjacent lands and
affords markets for the farmers. This

| Come home brightened up with a new come home brightened up with a ne emption is, that factories when built add reaching one ten miles west of Cincin- a Bohemian on a city paper and has creases the value of adjacent lands and affords markets for the farmers. This may be true. If so, then is it right to discriminate against railroads. For the long that was published up with a new civilization and talks yankee and dresses to time in regard to the fact and nature is no sleeping car on the road to glory."

One of the party whom he aimed to hit same loving soul in him and brings companied from time is no sleeping car on the road to glory."

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THE MANUFACTURING EXEMPTION. same reasons they are more entitled to the exemption. There are ten times more foreign capital to day in this State nvested in railroads than in factories. but I dare say, my friends would not advocate their exemption. It is here that the hideous form of protection is seen. strictest protection. Beautiful consist-

> of this State, which each of us have now sworn to support? If not, then it is a solemn duty to oppose it, however beneficial the results may be. In legislation, the end can never justify the means.

But, Mr. Speaker, the friends of the exemption have undertaken to ignore the that the law now on the books is for the construction of the courts. An ingenious evasion, a subterfuge! Not being ious evasion, a subterfuge! Not being them were arrayed in Sunday garments, able to meet it, they evade it, and here to-day we defy them to answer it. Has they were so clean, and their fond moth original question. I am still more surprised at some who intimate that we can with impunity, ignore the Constitution altogether in this matter. This must arise from a misapprehension of its charstitution is a barrier between the people and those who would usurp power. That it is a limit fixed, within which those who exercise the Legislative, judicial, and executive functions of the government, must operate. We perform then the highest duty we owe our constituency, when we preserve intact the ply with the oaths that are required of us as members of this House. With this tion, except in cases otherwise provided tramp and everybody talking at once, and for in this Constitution." Section V, I think I hear a baby squalling and a Article 9, prescribes what property is exempt, viz: such as schools and the property of penal and charitable institutions. The Constitution does not exempt still calm and serene, for Christmas comes Factories, but on the contrary provides for an equal and uniform rate of taxation on all other property not exempt.

Therefore having no authority in the Constitution for this exemption, are we to usurp the power to do so? To prevent usurpation of power, Section IV, Article I of the Constitution says: "All powers not herein delegated remain with the people." They have never delegated to us the power to exempt Factories from taxation, and they alone possess it. Until they in the exercise of their reserved rights amend the Constitution allowing this exemption, I can never give my vote or influence to the existence of such a law. Mr. Speaker, these are my views after much serious thought and meditation. I am not opposed to Factories, or to the material progress of my native State. Not that I do not love them, but that I love a compliance with my sense of duty to the Constitution more. This bill will not effect existing Factories. It is right for the State to maintain good faith with them. I do hope it will pass and the Exemption Law be repealed. The advocates of the exemption remind me of a man trying to cap a muttering volcano. Sooner or later it will be repealed. I firmly believe that the people will rise in their indignation, and with the power they, possess, will wipe from the Statute Books of this State this law, which savors so strongly of strict protection, and every letter of which is glaring with injustice and discrimination, and which has not the slightest foundation in the Constitution

of this State. [The exemption was killed in the House by an overwhelming vote. The oldest and most distinguished Lawyers of the House, endorsing the Constitutional objections raised, voted for its repeal. In the Senate it liked one vote of being repealed.] H. G. S.

### Profitable Cotton Raising.

The Atlanta Constitution records the results of a competitive trial in profitable cotton raising in Georgia, in which seventy-five planters participated. A fertilizer company in the State offered \$800 in gold for the best yield of cotton made on ground enriched with their fertilizer, and four Jersey bulls for the best yield produced by clubs. The highest yield was 1,345 pounds of lint cotton to the acre, or three and one-half bales of average of the seventy-five farmers was To secure this, they used an aver-

leaving a net profit of \$44.12 to the acre. the cotton seed nearly paying for the cultivation. "At a bale to the acre above the cost of the fertilizer, any farmer can get rich," says the Constitution, and the seventy-five made more than that average. The returns from the State show that on an average three and a half acres were required to produce a bale, or seven acres, under the old method, to secure what the new method produced from one acre-a demonstration of the profits of "improved farming" which will not be lost on the planters of the cotton belt. The corn premiums produced results equally gratifying. There were sixteen contestants, and the average yield was eighty-one bushels to the acre, the first premium being taken with 1161 bushels. The interest in these contests, and their success, prove that the Southern planters are "abandoning the loose, old plantation methods, and are beginning to see the profit and comfort in small farms well tilled." A steady following of this system will pay that section better than all the politics it ever indulged in.

CHRISTMAS CHEER.

The Happiness of the Arp Family.

It is the same old story, but it is a good We have passed another milestone The very same principle that arrays the in the journey of life. Christmas has said I, "what makes you ask such a the line. After one such shock, however, Democracy of this country against the come again and now it has gone. How question Republican party, and yet, in the Demo- short these miles are getting as we near cratic State of South Carolina, while with the end. They used to be long, very our lips we are denouncing the protective long, to me. How that, I wonder! They system, we are allowing this law to re- say that time passes swittly when we are main on our books, which savors of the happy, and it is so, I know, for an hour or a day, but it is not so for a month or a ncy!

Be the benefits of the exemption what our age. Childhood is happy and bright, they may, there is a question at the bottom of this matter, that outweighs all er rise a wink too soon, nor bring too tom of this matter, that outweighs all of the mans to be used in bringing about the results. I might accomplish much good at your County Poor Hong. The trees are not so tell nor the hills of the matter and accomplish much good at your County Poor Hong. The trees are not so tell nor the hills of the matter and accomplish much good at your County Poor Hong. The trees are not so tell nor the hills of the matter and accomplish much good at your County Poor Hong. The trees are not so tell nor the hills of the matter and accomplish and candles, entered the cleft. In the side though this is good hunting ground it is very poor finding, and when they do distance found that it widened into a great cavern. The appearance of the might be desired though this is good hunting ground it is very poor finding, and when they do distance found that it widened into a great cavern. The appearance of the might be caused by the solution of the mountain, and after going a short though this is good hunting ground it is very poor finding, and when they do distance found that it widened into a great cavern. The appearance of the might be caused by the mountain and candles, entered the cleft. In the side though this is good hunting ground it is very poor finding, and when they do of the mountain, and after going a short though this is good hunting ground it is very poor finding. There were great cavern. The appearance of the mountain, and after going a short though this is good hunting ground it is though this is good hunting ground it is though the mountain, and after going a short though the mountain and after going a short though the mountain and after going and when they do of the mountain, and after going a short though this is good hunting ground it is though the mountain. much good at your County Poor House The trees are not so tall nor the hills so evening, and they scared him so bad with with a thousand dollars, by feeding and long and steep. The rivers are not so the noise of their guns that he finally clothing the poor-yet this would not | wide and the creeks have become branchmake it right for me to rob a Bank to get es. Indeed, the great big world that the money. Can this exemption stand used to strain our comprehension and the test in the light of the Constitution excite our wonder is not much of a planet

On Christmas night, that is the night before Christmas, Mrs. Arp and I took our patriarchal stations in the big arm chairs by the parlor mantel, and with patient and serene dignity prepared our-selves for coming events. We let the constitutional objection, by saying that young folks manage these things now and the Legislature is no judicial body, and they give us no trouble. There was a hey give us no trouble. There was a goodly gathering of children and grand children and kith and kindred, and all of the Constitutional objection passed be-yond the consideration of this House? and a maternal pride, when all of a I assert, that when a bill is introduced to sudden our blue-eyed daughted opened repeal an existing law, the law is revived in all its bearings, and its merits are brought before the House as if it was an had struck in these parts and was exploding right here in the parlot. I can't here anything for the tumultuous confusion of infantile voices, and the grown up ones are no better. Old Santa Claus has just come into the room and emptied his basket, and now the little tin horns are tooting and the harps are blowing and the boys are popping paper caps in little iron heads fastened to a string, It is all mixed up with "oh my, oh isent it lovely, bless his heart. Look at my slipperswell I declare," and the women folks are showing their handkerchiefs and shawls and perfumery, and soforth, and the men and boys are taking on over their cuff-buttons and handkerchiefs and cravats, view of the Constitution before us, it is and one boy has got a new gun, and necessary to read only one or two sec- another a fine book, and another sometions of it to determine our duty. I thing else, and there are firecrackers by call your attention to the imperative the peck and ever and anon there is a language of Section II, Article 12: "The grand racket in the front yard, for they property of corporations now existing or are popping them in a barrel, and here hereafter created, shall be subject to taxa- they go and there they go, all on the

be left out when the music stops. It

to sing :

"I would not live always, I ask not to stay."

And now the music has begun and I am called to help for they are getting up a family dance and Mrs. Arp and I always make the music. They let us do that-we are still useful and it would be along without us. Mrs. Arp's fingers are and perhaps in the extreme Northeastern right hard for these young folks to get still nimble and as gracefully touch the ivory keys, as when I first worshipped at her shrine thirty six years ago and went into raptures over Kathleen Mavourneen and her beautiful hazel eyes-not Kathleen's eyes, but Mrs. Arp's. And she just nearly died over my soft dove like notes on the flute as I carroled "The Sweet Vale of Avoca," or "The Irish Emigrant's Lament."

But now when the young folks wish to dance, we cheerfully respond and play a medley that has neither beginning nor the acre, or three and one-half bales of ending, for it just goes on and on and 450 pounds each. The lowest yield was 430 pounds, or a bale to the acre. The tastia that is an original mixture of Dixie and Run Nigger Run, and the Bob-774 pounds, or nearly two bales to the tail Nag and Come Out of the Wilderness and the Arkansaw Traveller and age of 888 pounds of the fertilizer, which cost \$15.54. The cotton brought \$69.66, and some others of like life and key and And now the programme changes

for the next set. again and we have music with song. Younger fingers touch the keys and the family choir gets round the piano and cheers the wee small hours with melody. The old standard songs are still welcome songs that never wear out, such as "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep," "Suwanee River" and "Annie Laurie," and there are some later ones that are full of sweet harmony, such as "I. Sent a Letter to My Love," and Punchinello and "when the leaves begin to fall." But all pleasures must close after while, and so, one by one, the little chaps surrendered to their drooping eyelids, and peace and quiet reigns. We did not gather all our children this time, for their business and engagements would not permit. But we got together a goodly number, and scattered the extra beds all around upon the parlor floor, and Mrs. Arp's turkeys, that - The centre of our population has she raised, are being daily sacrificed upon the altar of paternal love. One of our for a century moved westward with ro-markable regularity, beginning at a point on the eastern shore of Maryland, and of Gotham, and he has succeeded and is

miration with which the younger children look at him and listen to his changed vernacular. One of them seemed a done Rictor any harm?" "Why, no,"

ing house all the time, just like sick folks do." The boy was really alarmed for fear his big bud had become demoralized.

And now they will finish up the week evening, and they scared him so bad with ran down the tree and the dog caught him. But after all, they had a power of altogether the situation was so threaten-

Well, Christmas will be over when this reaches your readers. I hope they all had a good time and were happy, and now let me wish for you and for them a happy New Year.

A MOUNTAIN MYSTERY.

Is the American Volcano Found in North

Charleston News and Courier.

The singular phenomenon which recently startled the people living near Elk mountain, in North Carolina, a brief News and Courier a few days ago, deserves more attention than is likely to be be-stowed upon it. It is indeed but one link in a chain of such occurrences, and the series undoubtedly presents some features of sufficient importance to require a careful investigation at the hands of scientists, geologists and others quali-fied to conduct such investigation in the most thorough manner, and thereby to trace the connection between the different phenomena, and, if possible, to discover the cause of them all. A review of some of these occurrences will interest every person who lives between the Blue Ridge and the Atlantic ocean, at least, as this numerous class may be fairly sup-

live and upon which they expect their children to live after them. Concerning the most recent disturbance in the mountains, Dr. J. S. T. Baird, who is evidently an intelligent and careful observer, and who was himself an audi-

stability of the plateau upon which they

tor of what occurred, says: "Standing on an elevated point on my farm, with a full and unobstructed view of the entire Elk mountain range, and happening at the very moment to have my eyes turned in the direction of the point in question, it afforded me an excellent opportunity to observe the whole but once a year, and let's have fun and frolic and good cheer.

But by and by the program changes and the plays begin and big and little run little and seemingly just over the crest of the mountain and at the hour shows stated. Can anything be more express or nand the plays begin and big and little run nandatory than the sections quoted? There was what seemed to be a most the sections quoted? The program than the sections quoted? The program than t terrific subterranean explosion, followed makes the old house quake when they all by a very perceptible jarring and trem-throw themselves into their seats tumultuously, and ever and anon I hear an old a heavy rumbling sound as of the deep chair crack and now and then a little intonations of distant thunder, which chap gets run over and retires with a came on with increasing volume for sevgroan, but it is all right I reckon for it is eral seconds. The sound proceeded with Christmas, and it is free for all. They rapid undulations in an eastwardly direcjammed me up in a corner with my little tion, following the course of the mountable and all I can do is to look on and tains, and seeming to traverse the deep feast my soul upon their happiness for it bowels of the earth, until it reached a all carries me back to the days of my point on the horizon of our valley about gushing childhood when I never got tired | 45 degrees East from where it started, of such frolics and loved the nights that brought them, when hide and seek was a glorious joy and the little Jack Maringall itself above the horizon, pealed out upon a drama of delight. Oh would I were a the air like a mighty thunderbolt, and boy again just now, not for life, but just thus it ended as suddenly as it began. now. I would like to feel as I used to Mr. A. E. Hemphill, who was on the top feel when all was bright and gushing and of the mountain, in the immediate viexultant, and there was no apprehension | cinity of where the first shock occurred, of trouble or grief or dark shadows to says that it seemed to be directly beneath come. Such thoughts do come and go in him and the sensation was as though the spite of us and they mellow us down and whole mountain was tumbling from its prepare us to let go our hold upon earth when our time comes. I thank the good Lord for so gently tempering our life that Monday and Mr. James Edwards, who we become reconciled to the change in were on the mountain some two miles due time. When we are young and further East, describe the sound and the bouyant it is all right we should ex shaking and trembling of the mountain as most appalling and terrifying, even

"The world is very lovely Oh my God, I thank Thee that I live."

as allow appairing and terrifying, even putting the leaves on the trees in rapid and lively motion. Other persons felt But when we get old it is just as sweet and lively motion. Other persons felt and heard the shock many miles away. The shock was repeated, with the same characteristics about sunset on the eveniug of the same day."

These are no ordinary disturbances,

common to mountain ranges; but rather, so far as is known, have been confined on this and previous occasions to that portion of the Blue Ridge which lies in the Southwestern part of North Carolina, corner of Georgia. Very little has been made public in regard to the disturbances in Georgia, but there is not far from Tal-lulah falls, in this State, a peak of the Blue Ridge known as "Sinking Mountain," which name has probably been bestowed upon it by reason of phenomena occurring at that point similar to those so frequently observed a few miles to the Northeast in the same range.

The disturbances at Bald mountain

commenced ten or twelve years ago, and excited at the time considerable interest all over the country, as well as feelings of profound apprehension in those who dwelt within the circle of their mysterious and threatening manifestations. It will be remembered that the mani-

festations were of so frequent occurrence and of so violent character as to compel the attention of persons living at a dismeasure. Oh, we make music we do, tance of forty or fifty miles from the and the children always cheer us and mountain itself, while those who lived mountain itself, while those who lived thank us so rapturously that we try it on or near it were so seriously alarmed again when they call us and get ready that hundreds of families abandoned their homes and fled to other and distant localities to escape the danger which threatened them constantly by day and night. The panic was so general that, at one time, all the roads leading out of the disturbed section were filled with fugitives, and they who, for any reason, were compelled to remain behind, were reduced to a state of such confusion and terror that they gave over all other pursuits and devoted themselves to religious exercises, firmly believing that the end of all things was at hand. It is easy to smile at their fears from a far and safe distance, but it is not to be doubted that similar shocks repeatedly felt in other portions of the country would lead to similar results among the more ignorant classes of the population at least. At the time of the shocks at Bald mountain it was stated that the beasts in the fields showed their alarm not less than did their masters, and that horses halted, cowered and shivered in theis tracks while being driven along the public roads, many miles distant from the mountain, when they felt the mysterious tremor passing through

the ground beneath their feet. Notwithstanding the large mass of

occurred. The Asheville and Spartanburg Railroad was then being construct ed on the other side of the range eight or ten miles distant, and the wiseacre little troubled and said with serious con- attributed all the sounds and shocks that cern, "papa do you think New York has were heard and felt to the frequent blasts that were made in the rock beds along it was discovered that one of the numerous peaks of the Bald mountain group "Well, I don't know," said he, "but he ous peaks of the Bald mountain group wears that silk hat and he is so polite was rent in twain from summit to base. and he says he eats oatmeal at his board- and the unbelievers were silenced from fissure caused by that sbock showed that

it was several feet wide and hundreds of yards long. A party of mountaineers, having provided themselves with ropes and candles, entered the cleft in the side great cavern. The appearance of the walls proved beyond question that the cavern was of very recent origin; fragments of rocks hung loosely overhead; the floor was covered with debris, and ng and uncertain, at best, that the exploration was abandoned well nigh at its outset. It has never been pressed any further, to the writer's knowledge. The who entered the cave was that the "bot-tom of the mountain had dropped out, down to somewhere," leaving the peak little more than a rocky shell. On this heory the phenomena that had been observed for so many months before were

accounted for. The inside of the mountain had been crumbling and caving in, piecemeal, and the fall of the masses in the interior had caused the shocks and rumbling sounds that had been felt and heard for miles around. The theory may or may not be the true one. It will hold until a better one is offered, at least, and has strong support in some other recent A few miles from Bald mountain, in another part of the same range, is another peak that has certainly caved in the way

suggested.
The nature of the disturbances that have occurred at this point is beyond question. The mountain has caved and crumbled until it is as hollow as a bee withal. Currents of warm air are drawn into crevices between the rocks on the one side of the mountain, and pour out on the other side, as chill as a blast from an ice house. The outgoing currents creep along the ground and are distin-guishable in the summer time at a disposed to feel a special interest in the tance of half a mile from the point of exit. So it is said. A fishing rod can be driven out of sight at many places, in

the crevices between the rocks under foot. At one point a cross section of the ridge has fallen bodily a distance of per-"cut," the side walls of which are nearly perpendicular. Make two parallel cuts suspecting what was under you. The crevice gradually widens as you descend the mountains, and you can go into it at of the cave are broken and cracked in every direction, and the floor is covered with fragments that have fallen from above, and that keep falling. The floor also drops away sometimes. You cannot go very far along the dark and dangerous road your feet are in, even if you wish to do so, because it ends suddenly in an abyss of which you can neither see the roof, the sides, nor the bottom. Drop a stone over the verge-you will never hear it strike! There is no known bottom there; it, too, has dropped down to

There are other evidences of unrest and uncertainty in the hearts of those of the Civil Service Statute, but which everlasting hills. In one place a great are so disconnected with the policy of an body of water gushed out of the side of administration, that the removal therea mountain, breaking its way through from of the present incumbents, in my the soil and carrying everything before it. The guides will show you "whirlpools" that receive mountain streams and solely on partisan grounds and for the swallow them. Throw a stick into the purpose of putting in their places those little mealstrom and it will spin around who were in political accord with the a few moments and then disappear in appointing power. But many now holdthe vortex.

These things are all peculiar and in-teresting and unexplained. If the same features and facts and phenomena were there would be legends about them, and public servants, they have proved themto be observed in the Hartz mountains Americans would cross the ocean to see them and write books about them. If loss manipulators of local party manthey were located in the White mountains, or the Catskills, or the Adirondacks, there would be hotels and railroads all through the region to accommodate the crowds of visitors every summer. As it is, it is all in the "Land of the Sky." public place, and that the quiet and unand might as well be in the sky itself, so far as our people are concerned.

### Girls in Odd Stockings.

"Scarlet stockings? Yes, they're all the go," said a Chestnut street hosiery dealer yesterday. "But that isn't the latest craze by any means." "What is the latest fashion, then?"

"Why, on Saturday morning I had three young lady customers who came in and bought three pair of red and three pair of black hose. I was somewhat sur-prised and asked the object. In each case I was told that it was not the proper caper to wear two red stockings now, any more than it is to wear two black ones." "Well, what on earth were they going to do?'

"Wear one of each kind-a scarlet stocking on one foot and a black one on the other. It's a fact I assure you. And the fashion is gaining ground, for this morning I had several more customers on the same errand. Black and red, you know, are striking and at the same time becoming contrasts." -- Philadelphia Times.

### An Enthusiastic Citizen.

"Your house is afire, Colonel," said a man approaching an acquaintance one night during a political "ratification" when the pulse of many a man was fe-

"All ride, ole boy. Go up after while'n put her out." "But the roof was falling in when I

"Thad so? Cellar ain' hurt yit, reckon. Hoorah !" "Nearly all of your furniture is de-

'Thad fact? Saved the well didn' they? All right. Hoorah!" The American is an enthusiastic citi-

- A zealous preacher, who loved smoking as well as he ought, in a heated discourse exclaimed, aiming his rifle at IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE.

Civil Service Reform.

NEW YORK, December 29 .- The folowing correspondence explains itself: NAT'L CIVIL SERVICE REFORM LEAGUE, OFFICE 4 PINE STREET, NEW YORK, December 20, 1884.

Hon. Grover Cleveland : SIR: We

have the honor to address you on behalf of the National Civil Service Beform

League, an association composed of citizens of all parties, whose sole pur-pose is indicated by its name, and which takes no part whatever in party controversy. The vast increase in the number of persons engaged in the civil service, and the grave mischiefs and dangers arising from the general proscription in the service which for half a century has followed a change of party control of the national administration, have produced so profound an impression upon the public mind that the first effective steps toward reform were taken with the cooperation of both parties in the passage of the reform Act of January 16th, 1883. The abuse which that Act seeks to correct, however, are so strongly entrenched impression made upon the minds of those in the traditions and usages of both parties that there is naturally a wide-spread anxiety lest the party change in the National Executive, effected by the late election, should show them to be insuperable; but believing as we do that the reformed system cannot be held to be securely established until it has safely passed the ordeal of such party change, and recalling with satisfaction and confidence your public expressions favorable to reform and your official acts as the Chief Executive of the State of New York, we confidently commend this cause to your patriotic care in the exercise of

can people have entrusted you.

Respectfully, yours,

GEO. WM. CURTIS, President.

the great power with which the Ameri-

WM. POTTS, Secretary.
John Jay, Moorefield Storey, J. Hall
Pleasants, W. W. Montgomery, Everett P. Wheeler, Frederick Cromwell, Morrell Wyman, Jr., Carl Schurz, Silas W. crumbled until it is as hollow as a bee Burt, A. S. McDonough, Wm. Carey hive, and a very badly cracked bee hive Sanger, Wm. W. Aiken, Executive Com-

PRESIDENT-FLECT CLEVELAND'S REPLY. ALBANY N. Y., December 25, 1884. Hon. George William Curtis, President, &c.—DEAR SIR: Your communication, dated December 20, addressed to me on behalf of the National Civil Service Repractical reform in civil service is demanded, is abundantly established by the fact that the statute referred to in your communication to secure such a rehaps a hundred feet—leaving a gap sult has been passed in Congress, with through the mountain like a railroad the assent of both political parties, and by the further fact that the sentiment is generally prevalent among patriotic peoacross and through a loaf of baker's ple, calling for a fair and honest enforcebread, and then wash down the middle ment of the law, which has been thus slice so formed and you will get a fair enacted. I regard myself pledged to ides of what has occurred here. The lost of bread is a mountain, however. tion to disclaim, I have in effect promised the people, that this should be done. I am not unmindful of the fact to which one or two places. Looking upward it appeared as a broken thread of light that the recent party change in the extending along the roof of a cave of unknown proportions. The rock walls civil service are ineradicable. I know that they are leeply rooted and that the spoils system has been supposed to be intimately related to success in the maintenance of party organization, and I am not sure that all those who profess to be friends of this reform, will stand firmly among its advocates when they find it obstructing their way to patronage and place. But fully appreciating the trust committed to my charge, no such consideration shall cause a relaxation on my part of an earnest effort to enforce this law. There is a class of Government positions which are not within the letter

> ing such positions have forfeited all just claims to retention, because they have used their places for party purposes in disregard of their duty to the people, and because, instead of being decent selves offensive partisans and unscrupuagement. The lessons of the past should be unlearned, and such officers, as well as their successors, should be taught that efficiency, fitness and devotion to duty, obtrusive exercise of individual political rights, is a reasonable measure of their party service. If I were addressing none but party friends, I should deem it entirely proper to remind them, that though the coming administration is to be Democratic, a due regard for the peo-ple's interest does not permit faithful party work to be always rewarded by appointment to office, and to say to them. that while Democrats may expect all proper consideration, selections for office, not embraced within the civil service rules, will be based upon sufficient inquiry as to fitness, instituted by those charged with that duty, rather than upon persistent importunity or self-solicitation

didates for appointment. Yours very truly, GROVER CLEVELAND.

Always Look Under the Sofa.

and recommendations on behalf of can-

The following from the Conyers Weekly is published with the hope that it may serve as a warning to spoony couples hereabouts:

There is a certain boy who does not live a thousand miles from here that ought to be killed. Last Sunday evening he crawled under the sofa, and when his big sister and her best young man were sitting as close together as possible, he rigged a slip-knot around their feet. When the old gentleman came into the parlor to look for his cigar stump they thought they would occupy separate pews. The young man fell over the center table, and Miss-sat down on the floor with a concussion that dislocated her adjustable bangs. The old gentleman thought Mr .- was drunk, and hit him with his cane several times before he could tear himself loose and fall out of the window.

- The Russian government is about to build an eleven thousand ton iron clad, the cost of which is estimated at \$3,250,-

The match is declared off.

- It does not seem to follow that in