WOMAN'S KINGDOM.

The Impending National Council, and the Women Who Will Attend.

The Influence of National Deliberation—A Philadelphia Architect—Her Training.

A Versatile Shop-girl—Colonel Baxter and Her Majority—English Women.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The first triennial meeting of the National Council of Women, to be held at Albaugh's Opera House in Washington, will be in every way a notable gathering. It will be composed of representative women from the East and West, those interested in art, science and literature, and others prominent in politics, philanthropy and the professions.

The call, already published, has the weight and authority which have been given by such names as Harriet Hosmer, Clara Barton, Frances E. Willard, Mrs. M. Louise Thomas, Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mrs. Kate Gannett Woods, Susan B. Anthony, May Wright Sewell, Elizabeth Boynton Harbert, Mary F. Seymour, Lucinda H. Stone, Kate Field, Jennie G. Croly, Mary F. Eastman, Dr. Julia Holmes Smith. Of these many are known throughout the country. The fame of Harriet Hosmer is world-wide. Her interest in the welfare of women everywhere is equaled only by her genius, and while she can not be present in the council, she will be in spirit lending the work her enthusiastic sanction and approval. Miss Willard stands for the organized temperance work of the country, and with it the equal suffrage cause which is inseparable from it. It may be taken for granted that the reform which she advocates daily and almost hourly will be presented with all the persuasion and eloquence which she commands.

May Wright Sewell, another leader among Western women, is allied with all the best educational interests, of which she believes political education not the least important. She has achieved distinction for high ability as a presiding officer, for executive faculty, and clear-headedness, none of which she has lost since the convention over which she presided last year. Mrs. Harbert is also too well known to need any recommendation. Her newspaper work has made her thousands of friends the country over, which has been strengthened among her close acquaintances by her amiability, graciousness and innate refinement of manner and of nature. She is one of the eminent equal suffragists of the West, and, aside from this, has done much for girls and women in philanthropic fields.

The New York *Commercial Advertiser* says: Addresses will be made on a wide range of topics of interest to women. Among those which can be announced thus early are papers on "The Present Status of Women in the Church," and "Woman as an Agent in Religious Work," by the Rev. Mila F. Tupper and the Rev. Anna H. Shaw. The Rev. Anna Garlin Spencer will deal with "The Relation of the State to Unfortunates;" Mrs. Lucinda H. Stone with "True Co-education;" Mrs. H. H. Hobbs with the National Woman's Temperance Hospital; Mrs. Kate Gannett Wells with "Woman and State Boards," and Mrs. Annie Nathan Meyer with "A New Phase of Woman's Education in America—Barnard College." Miss Jane M. Bancroft, Ph. D., professor of history in the Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio, will speak on an educational topic, but has not yet sent in its title. "The Influence of Woman in the Farmers' Alliance" and "The Admission of Women to the Medical School of Johns Hopkins University" are subjects to which considerable attention will be directed. In addition to the other topics announced a delegate from each National association represented will discuss the work and the aims of her own organization.

Such conferences are always a practical education. Wherever there is free and fearless interchange of ideas there can be no pettiness and narrowness. A deprivation in this particular, in the past, has reacted upon women socially, politically and professionally. It has been only within recent years that such meetings have been held; that those who have distinguished themselves in one line might compare knowlege and opinion with those eminent in other ways. Not only are the individuals, and those who are permitted to attend, benefited by the discussion, they are helpful to women everywhere. If the meetings are reported with the dignity and carefulness which they will merit the results will be spread abroad to the uttermost part of the land. The wife of the mechanic in the cottage or in the city suburb, the farmer's wife in the far West, the teacher in the country hamlet, the girl doctor struggling to build up a practice in an out-of-the-way village, the young writer, the artist, hampered by discouraging limitations, all these, doing the world's work though unseen, each in her appointed place and way, will take heart of grace from the words of hope and good cheer that will go forth from that great meeting.

They will be helpful and heartening, most of all because the utterances will be the words of women who have themselves overcome tremendous obstacles, triumphed over opposition, persevered through almost hopeless difficulties, making their success an example and an inspiration to those who may do and may succeed as they have done. M. H. K.

MINERVA PARKER.

It is a cause of frequent remark by those who are interested in woman's progress that while so many women are entering upon the professions, and earning distinction in literature, medicine, the pulpit, and the law, none have taken up that of architecture, a profession for which women seem for many reasons specially adapted. This, however, is no longer quite true. There are now a few women architects, and we have the pleasure of giving this sketch of the pioneer in her profession—Miss Minerva Parker, the architect who has been engaged by the Queen Isabella association to design the Woman's Pavilion in connection with the World's Fair at Chicago.

Philadelphia is proud to claim her, for although born in Chicago, she was educated in the City of Brotherly Love, and still calls it home.

Miss Parker is the first of her sex to enter her profession, and has achieved success while still a young woman, for she is not yet thirty. She is slender, of medium height, rather of the brunette type, and vivacious in manner. In short, she is possessed of a charming personality. She comes of sturdy New England stock, her ancestors having settled in Boston Mass., and were actively identified with the various movements of the revolutionary war. Her grandfather was a well-known ship designer and architect, who left New England about 1834 or 1835, at the time when the wave of population began to move toward the then far West. He finally purchased a large tract of land on the shore of Lake Michigan, where the city of Chicago now stands. Her mother was one of the first children born in that thriving city, and from her youth up was accustomed to being associated with her father, not only in study, but in practical work. With such antecedents as these it is not surprising to find Miss Parker following the natural bent of her mind for architecture, undoubtedly inherited from her ancestors.

Like all innovators, Miss Parker has had many obstacles to overcome before reaching her present position, chief among them being the difficulty to obtain in this country the thorough technical training necessary to fit her for the successful prosecution of her chosen work. This does not apply to women only, but to men also. Miss Parker believes thoroughly in any movement calculated to elevate the standard of architectural work, and is in favor of licensing architects, expressing herself as perfectly willing to embrace an opportunity to pass a prescribed examination for such a purpose; and, "Should I fail," using her own language, "I would then know there to strengthen my armor."

Strange to say, the fact of being a woman has never been a serious drawback while pursuing her line of work. On the contrary, words of encouragement and good fellowship have been freely extended, both by the public in general aid by her fellow-architects. Such facts as these afford convincing proof that a position is waiting for every woman just as soon as she makes herself capable of filling it.

Thus far Miss Parker's work has been almost wholly confined to domestic architecture, which, for the present, it is her intention to make a specialty. She believes that architecture is largely the expression of popular taste, and that the responsibility rests with the architect to refine it, and to eliminate from it, as far as possible, all those fantastic examples which possess no intrinsic merit, and which only await the verdict of time to condemn them in the eyes of all true lovers of pure and simple architecture.

The designs for Chicago which Miss Parker has been commissioned to draft are for an international club house, with a congress hall in connection with the proposed social headquarters for women in the fair grounds.

Among the plans recently furnished are the following: A large frame house for Max Suppee, erected at Johnstown, Pa.; a three-story stone residence for Lewis T. Brooke, at Radnor, Pa., containing, among other features, a large reception hall, with oak rafters, and paneled with the same wood; a stone fireplace of unique design adds beauty to this hall, from which open an office, a parlor, dining-room, and library. There are also in her office the plans for a large store and frame dwelling to be erected at Elm Station.

A NEW YORK SHOP GIRL.

New York *Sun*: A gentle and warm-hearted old lady was making some purchases in one of the big dry-goods emporiums on Twenty-third street, and was attracted by the graces of manner and physique displayed by the young woman who waited on her. She questioned her about her life and habits, and the girl, recognizing the honesty of the old creature's interest, smilingly replied to her inquiries.

"How much do you make in this store?" asked the old lady.

"Eight dollars a week, ma'am," she replied.

"And can you live comfortably on that?"

"Well, you see, I make considerable outside."

"How?"

"I have a typewriter at home, and I get from $2 to $5 a week for copying. Then I dress a lady's hair when she goes to large dances. She's one of the Four Hundred, and one day she was trading with me at this counter, and she liked the way my hair was arranged. You see I have a very great quantity of hair and so has she, and as she thought I managed mine so well and got it to look so smooth she asked me if I would teach her how to do it. I offered to do it for her, and I did so at her house. Since then she has sent for me quite regularly, and at each visit I make her I receive $5. I also make gentlemen's scarfs for down-town manufacturers and get $1.10 a dozen for them. I can finish a dozen in two evenings at home. I usually employ myself in this way when I have no typewriting to do. Altogether I make from $15 to $20 a week, and, as I have a sister that makes just as much, she and mamma and I are really laying up a nest-egg for a rainy day."

"Yes," said the old lady; "but where do you get any pastime during all this?"

"Oh," responded the shop girl, "I don't need any pastime, except Sundays, when we all go down to Staten Island and take dinner with mamma's sister."

The old lady patted the shop girl's hand fondly and smiled.

"You are a good young woman," said she, "I shall see you again."

COLONEL BAXTER.

Mrs. Annie Baxter, affectionately called "Colonel" Baxter, was elected County Clerk by a large majority not long ago in Jasper County, Missouri. She had served as deputy clerk for several years, had performed the duties well, and was very popular. The defeated candidate is contesting Mrs. Baxter's election on the ground that a woman is not eligible. The Missouri papers denounce his conduct in strong terms. The St. Louis *Republic* says:

"There is certainly nothing in his claim that the statute fixing the qualifications of county clerks uses the masculine pronoun 'he' throughout, for it is a well-known rule of grammar that the masculine pronoun is made to do duty for persons both of the male and female sex. And as the *Brunswicker* points out the Missouri statutes use the pronoun 'he' in relation to the nouns 'intestate' and 'teacher,' whereas everybody knows that women are allowed to have wills of their own after death as well as during life; and without women teachers the young idea would not learn to shoot with any accuracy at all. The argument that because only men are allowed to vote in Missouri none but men are competent to hold office is weak and illogical. If men, as the lords of creation, have the exclusive right to confer, they certainly have the right to confer it upon whom they please, provided there is no express legal prohibition. The Jasper County men voted Colonel Baxter into the county clerkship. Emulating the example of the Hungarians who promised to die for their 'King,' Maria Theresa, they should see to it that her right is not overthrown."

THE CLOTHES OF ENGLISH WOMEN.

Kate Field's Washington: Do English women dress better than their neighbors? I think I hear a cry making the welkin ring—if the welkin ever does ring—"Perish the thought! They are the worst dressed women in the world. They put on hideous colors; they've not the slightest idea of style; they are careless about their gloves, and they are badly shod. Their feet are enormous." The average German woman dresses no better than the average English woman, and the wholesale abuse showered on our cousins proves the old adage; it is useless for a dog to go in for character after he has been given a bad name.

There are English women and English women. There is the ordinary middle-class woman and the hopeless high-class dowager, both of whom look like animated rag-bags gone mad. Their sense of color is limited to a frenzy for bright purple in gown or bonnet and green gloves. They may be seen in the merry month of July, walking or driving about London in white muslin and seal-skin sacques. The name of these beings is legion, but there is a reverse to the medal. A very great change has come over English society within twenty years. Before then Paris might have been at the antipodes so far as its influence was felt across the channel. Now there are no better dressed women in the world than many of the leaders of English society. The professional beauty has been obliged to live up to her reputation, and, although it is poetical license to declare that "beauty unadorned is adorned the most," every woman in the depths of her own consciousness knows how dependent she is upon clothes for her effects. In cultivating a taste for selfish purposes the professional beauty has been a benefactor to society. So, too, has the Princess of Wales, whose style, however, is somewhat stiff. Nor is it true that small feet are an American monopoly. The model of Lady Holland's foot is one of the attractions of Holland House. She is not alone in her beauty. English women have been careless in the matter of shoes, and shoes make a deal of difference in the appearance of feet.

What I like in the English is that they can't be bullied out of their convictions. Morris, Rossetti, Ruskin begin a crusade against the Phillistines, against stupid ugliness, against blind adoration of conventionality. Women join their ranks and attempt to make poetry out of millinery. Some of their efforts are very ridiculous, but out of these efforts have come Gainesboro' hats and charming costumes, making the wearers look like fascinating old pictures instead of fashion plates. For the first time England is exercising an influence upon France. Æstheticism includes too much beauty to be ignored, and Parisian modistes are taking lessons of their despised neighbors. If I were asked which women to-day had the more taste in dress, American or English, I should say the English, because the are beginning to think, and are striving to be individual. In the chaff of affectation there is the grain of an honest ideal.

NOTES.

Mrs. Alice Wellington Rollins is writing her experiences in Alaska and Brazil. They will be published in a series of articles called "From Palm to Glacier."

Dr. Helen L. Betts has been delegated by the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania to visit the laboratory of Professor Koch, in Berlin, and investigate his method of treating consumption. Dr. Betts is a graduate of the Pennsyvania College, now practising in Boston, and is the first woman physician to go.

Elizabeth Bisland, whose clever series entitled "An American Woman's First Season in London" made so favorable an impression on the readers of *Harper's Bazar*, is a young, brilliant, and versatile woman, exceptionally beautiful and winsome, and possessing that charm above every other, a low, sweetly modulated voice, with sweet Southern intonations.

Ill health has not prevented Fraulein von Chauvin, a German lady, from making for herself a more than national reputation as a naturalist. Her collection of butterflies is the most perfect in Germany; she has an aviary in which birds and animals of the most opposite natures live together in peace; and by observation and experiments, she has made valuable discoveries in animal and plant life, and has written several treatises that have attracted much attention.

Mrs. Carrie Steele, of Georgia, has founded a colored orphan asylum, where destitute children may be cared for and taught trades. A cottage and stable have been built, a larger building is going up, and four acres of land belonging to the asylum are under full cultivation. All the funds thus far have been raised by Mrs. Steele's personal exertions. She now appeals for State aid, and will probably receive it, the Atlanta papers speaking in high terms of this effort by a colored woman to care for and train "the hundreds of colored orphans who are growing up as material for the chain-gang."

COMPLICATIONS.

The Inter Ocean's Puzzle Department—Enigmas, Conundrums, and Oddities.

[Readers are invited to aid in our "Complications" by the contribution of good original charades, enigmas, rebuses, etc. Communications for this department should be addressed to E. R. CHADBOURN, Lewiston, Me.]

No. 4,690.—Charade.

The farmer now is up in arms,
For *last* he has been cheated.
He thinks if he but had the reins,
That justice would be meted;
His pleas and prayers would then be heard,
Nor longer would be slighted;
His *first* would have a smoother flow,
And all his wrongs be righted.

So, cutting loose from *total* ties,
He shouts in bold defiance:
"Republican and Democrat,
Beware of the Alliance."
And, deeming this the golden way
To swift and full redressment,
He pays from out his scanty purse,
The stiff campaign assessment.

He spends his time for days and weeks
In winning over his neighbor,
And sends to Congress here and there
A champion of labor.
His dreams may bear a golden fruit,
His party miss the danger;
But likely 'tis that it must lie
Beside the bygone granger.

H. C. LAUGHLIN.

Orleans, Neb.

No. 4,691—Crown.

1. A letter. 2. To reach. 3. A boy's name (Dim). 4. A bribe. 5. A kind of sea animal. 6. Obscure. 7. Gorges. 8. Frostings. 9. The Latin plural of a species of plants. 10. Conceals (Obs). 11. The youngest son of Japheth. 12. A very ancient city south of Gaya. 13. An Anglo-Saxon deity.

MINNIE SINGER.

No. 4,692—Anagram.

To-day I was surprised to see
A name in print well known to me—
That of a bank cashier, who had
Sinned deeply and gone to the bad.
Embezzled thousands, living fast,
And when this longer could not last
Without detection, he had planned
To skip for some far distant land
With one last haul, and there to dwell
In ease, and all would yet be well.
But ere his journey he did end,
The officers did apprehend,
And nip his prospects just in time,
So now he suffers for his crime.
I recollect how he began
Oft to STEAL COIN UP town, and plan
To rob those who employed him, and
Escape without a reprimand.
Bad boys, I write this for your sake,
And hope you will the warning take.

CHARLES I. HOUSTON.

Jamesville, N. Y., Christmas, 1890.

No. 4,693—Square.

1. A rustic. 2. Tribe of Indians. 3. The first day of August. 4. Proper name (Lipp). 5. Closer. 6. A skin disease.

Dubois, Ill. ASPIRO.

No. 4,694—What?

When a thing
Is level, or thin,
Or as smooth as a smoother can make.
When aught is insipid,
Like water when tepid,
'Tis *my first* without any mistake.

Should smooth things, be more so,
Whether pounded, or wore so,
Should weak things lose flavor,
Or the tasteless lose savor,
Then *my first* and *my second* is shown.
If you do *all* with pleasure,
It shows in some measure,
You have tasted the blarney stone.

SEA.

No. 4,695—Half Square.

1. To wit. 2. Unpublished. 3. Traces. 4. One who edits. 5. Malignity (Obs. and rare). 6. A walk (Lat.) 7. Three-fourths of cest. 8. An abbreviation. 9. A letter. SOLON.

Waterman, Ill.

No. 4,696—Double Letter Enigma.

If you "a bicycle" should buy,
Would you "an ordinary" try?
Some "like" them best, but in my mind
I'm to the safety most "inclined."
For "climbing" hills, some wheelmen say
The high wheel always "leads the way."
Which one is best, I do not know,
But will say this, where'er we go,
The safety wheel is the machine
Which at the present is most seen.
This much is true, if one should fall,
There is less danger, that is all.
A part of all high grade wheels find,
When this solution's brought to mind.

CHARLES I. HOUSTON,
Bicycle Wheel Works, Jamesville, N. Y.

No. 4,697—Oblique Rectangle.

1. A letter; 2. To mimic; 3. To uncover (Obs); 4. A figure of speech; 5. Having the property of eating away; 6. An ulcer in the inner corner of the eye; 7. To call up (Obs); 8. (Bot.) The name given to an abnormal condition when an irregular flower reverts to a regular form (Sup); 9. Tales; 10. A law; 11. Still; 12. A letter.

SOLON.

Waterman, Ill.

No. 4,698—Numerical.

Where shall true ALL be found,
Upon this selfish earth?
It does not here abound,
Though attribute of worth.

To 1, 4, 10, 11,
8, 12, 16, 17,
The messenger of heaven
It often seems, I ween.

5, 9, 15, 13
With confidence applies
Where true *complete* is seen,
For there its refuge lies.

The 6, 2, 7, 3
Of friendship it cements;
Before it, pure and free,
E'en jealousy relents.

If 4, 14, my friend,
Thy heart doth ALL abide,
Then justice shall attend
Thy steps, whate'er betide.

ANISE LANG.

Oconomowoc, Wis.

No. 4,699—Strange Confusion.

When "Aidyl's" wand had touched my eyes
I gazed around in some surprise,
1. And saw a cow slip down the bank,
2. And saw a bull rush at the tank;
3. Another bull let in for fun
Stuck on the wall and there it hung.
4. I saw an ancient cab cut up
5. And call a flower with it to sup;
6. Saw sages eat, and how they fill,
7. Saw some sage drunk, while some were ill,
8. Of dudish brutes I saw a crowd,
9. And saw a spire ring bells too loud;
10. I saw a man go as a runner,
11. Saw blue-eyed Lu plue all the summer;
12. Saw horsemen's bells that made no jangle,
13. Saw lassies' hair all in a tangle;
14. Saw some old saws still good and true,
15. No more I saw, saw this for you.
Is it the brain or eyes in trouble
When all one sees inclines to double.

CLAMOR.

Awards to Contributors.

The prizes offered for the best lots of original puzzles received during the second half of 1890 are thus awarded:

1. M. C. S., Springfield, Ill.
2. Medius, Thomaston, Conn.
3. W. Wilson, Montreal, Canada.
4. Gwendoline, Baltimore, Md.
5. Charles I. Houston, Jamesville, N. Y.
6. H. J. A., Howick, P. Q.
7. Firebug, Hartford, Conn.
8. Harry.
9. Aidyl, Waite, Me.
10. McGregor, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
11. H. C. Loughlin, Orleans, Neb.
12. Frank, Newcastle, Ohio.
13. Solon, Waterman, Ill.
14. Hempel, Austin, Tex.
15. Sea, East Oakland, Cal.
16. Tally W. Hooche, Iowa City, Iowa.
17. Aspiro, Dubois, Ill.
18. Mrs. E. F. Reynolds, Wichita, Kan.
19. Belle Burdette, Clarksville, Tex.
20. Mrs. C. R. Steniger, Dallas, Tex.
21. H. C. Burger, Salem, O.
22. Charlie, Constitution, Pa.
23. Mrs. Pauline Bailey, Mulvane, Kan.

Some of the favors of these contributors have already been printed; others remain to appear from time to time. A new competition is being prepared. Look out for it.

Answers.

4,668—Some-what.

4,669—
A S P I R O
S T O R E D
P O R I M E
I R I T I S
R E M I S S
O D E S S A

4,670—Ihlang-ihlang.

4,671—
C H A R G E R
O R I O L E S
C O M I T I A
T A D O R N A
N A N D O W S
D E A D E Y E
D R E S D E N

4,672—W. [It mades Ed wed, and him whim.]

4,673—
B
K A
F O R
P E T E R E R O
A V E R A G E
C E T I N E
K N E E S

4,674—Sleep.

4,675—
D
ARE
APING
DRIVERS
ENECATE
GRADINS
STIPEND
ENEMIES
SNIPPET
DEPONES
SENSATE
TEARING
STIPTIC
ENTERER
GIRDLES
CELLULE
REUNITE
SLIGHTY
ETHIC
ETC
Y

4,676—Crowning, rowing, owing, wing, ing, ng, g.

4,677—
M A D
H A R E M
M A R A C A N
A R A B I N E
D E C I D E D
M A N E S
N E D

4,678—Mail, sail, nail, wail, flail, jail, gale, hail

For The Inter Ocean.

THE UNION VETERAN LEGION.

BY G. W. CROFTS.

(An impromptu delivered at the annual installation of officers of the Union Veteran Legion encampment No. 8 of Council Bluffs, Iowa, Tuesday evening, Jan. 13, 1891.)

What thoughts to-night old veterans,
Come flowing like the tide
Of ocean, great and boundless
That tosses in its pride,
A deep and mighty current
Of scenes that shook the land
As tempests shake the ocean
That thunders on its strand.

Again your cheeks are ruddy
Like skies in summer morn,
Your step is light and buoyant
All weariness you scorn;
Your eyes flash with the splendor
Of youth and manhood rare,
And strong your heart's pulsations
To think, and do, and dare.

Again you see the war cloud
Roll thick upon the sky;
You hear the booming cannon
Proclaim the battle nigh;
You see the grand old banner
Unfurled to meet the foe;
You leap with dauntless courage
To lay the tyrant low.

You see the dear old homestead,
The cottage on the hill;
You hear the murmuring brooklet,
The rumble of the mill;
You hear those gentle voices
That sang so tenderly,
"For Bonnie Annie Laurie,
I lay me down and die."

You feel again the pressure
Of hands so kind and true,
In farewells and in blessings
As you put on the blue;
The bugle and the drum-beat,
The muster and the call—
What memories are thronging
Within this quiet hall!

And then, those years of battle!
You can not blot them out—
The storming of the breastworks,
The bloody fight and shout!
Such scenes as these ne'er perish,
But stronger grow with time—
As mountains in the distance
Appear still more sublime.

But years on years have vanished,
Your ranks are growing thin,
As one by one your comrades
The Sexton gathers in.
Stand close, stand close together!
And God be with you all!
And Heaven bid you welcome,
As one by one you fall!

Till then, may every blessing
That Heaven above can give,
Be showered richly on you.
And long may you all live!
May garlands fresh and fragrant,
Be scattered o'er your way.
Until there breaks the morning
Of God's Eternal Day!

For the Inter Ocean.

THE OLD HOUSE.

BY GRACE DUFFIE ROE.

Cold and cheerless, bare and bleak,
The old house fronts the shabby street;
And the dull windows eastward gaze,
As their cob-webbed brows they raise,
Just as tho' they look'd to see
What had become of you and me—
And all the other children.

The garden at the side—you know
Where mother's flowers used to grow—
Had run as wild as we'd have grown,
If we had not her training known;
But vines she bent cling round each tree,
As do her prayers to you and me,
And all the other children.

Over the eaves, wrinkled and bare,
The gray moss hangs like tangled hair.
If we had heard these echoes flung
Down the long halls, when we were young,
We'd never skirried off to bed—
You and I—thro' the gloom o'erhead,
With all the other children.

We thought the stars looked in at night
Just to enjoy our pillow-fight,
When mother bent above her bed,
The silver moonlight touched her head;
And in my dreams her face I'd see,
Madonna-like, shine over me,
And all her other children.

The dust drifts o'er the garret floor,
The little feet tread there no more.
But o'er the stage, still standing there,
Our Muse first stalked with tragic air,
Or whispered low to you and me,
Of golden days that were to be
For us, and all the children.

Good-by, old house; thy tattered cloak
Is fringed with moss and gray with smoke:
Within thy walls we used to see
A gaunt, old wolf named Poverty;
Yet from thy rafters' dingy bars,
A ladder stretched up to the stars
For me and all the children.

Battle Creek, Mich.

MILEAGE TICKETS ON THE PENNSYLVANIA LINES.

On and after Jan. 20, 1891, individual and non-transferable one-thousand-mile tickets, good over all divisions of the Pennsylvania system west of Pittsburg, will be sold at rate of 2 cents per mile, or $20 each, by line agents at principal points.

All forms of mileage tickets heretofore issued for the Pennsylvania lines—still unused and unexpired as to time limit—will be honored on and after above date on all roads operated by either the Pennsylvania Company or the Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railway Company, and only one thousand-mile tickets will be thereafter sold.

E. A. FORD, General Passenger Agent.
Pittsburg, Jan. 15, 1891.

OUR CURIOSITY SHOP.

The Weekly Budget of Queries from the Readers of the Inter Ocean.

Facts Not Generally Known Concerning Art, Science, Literature, and History.

Everybody's Encyclopedia and Family Library of Useful Knowledge.

THANKSGIVING DAY IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

CHICAGO.

Tell something of the observance of Thanksgiving Day in other countries than ours, if any observe it. G. MITCHELL.

Answer.—Our Thanksgiving Day is usually and correctly regarded as a national institution. But there is no doubt that our Puritan ancestors, who established this custom, took their idea from the Hebrew feast of ingathering or tabernacles, one of the three great feasts of the year commanded in the law of Moses. This festival occurred in the month Tisni, the seventh of the Jewish year, which corresponded very nearly in date to our 1st of October. On this date all the males went up to Jerusalem, and for seven days lived in booths made of branches of trees, and made thank-offerings to the Lord. No one was to go empty handed, but was to give as the Lord had blessed him, and these gifts were to go to the help of the stranger, the fatherless and the widow. This custom of the Jews was kept up for centuries; its exact time of falling off is not known. Probably, the harvest feasts of all other nations were directly taken from the Hebrew practice. The Greek festival of the Eleusinia was held in September, in honor of Demeter, the goddess of cornfields and harvests. The fable was that this deity had taught the early inhabitants of Greece to plow and sow and reap the fruits of the ground. The Romans had a similar deity, Ceres, and to her they held a festival called the Cerealia, modeled on that of the Greeks. This feast degenerated in time to a mere noisy revel, but there is no doubt that its original idea was that of thanksgiving. The harvest time among the Scandinavian and Teutonic races was always celebrated with festivities. The harvest home in England, kept with much merriment, dates back to the Saxon heptarchy. Its observance was a familiar thing until the close of the last century. It was celebrated with a great feast and much hilarious sport. The Puritans were of course familiar with this festival, but they did not approve of secular feasts, and it was the custom of the Jews which they meant to copy in their thanksgiving. However, a thanksgiving day of a religious character was not unknown in Europe, even before the Puritans inaugurated the day in New England. When the Spanish Armada had been defeated Queen Elizabeth ordered a day of praise and thanksgiving, and it was kept not alone with processions, illuminations, and merry-making, but also with services in the churches. Again, when the gunpowder plot was discovered, in 1605, a public thanksgiving was held, and this gave rise to the custom of keeping Guy Fawkes' Day, which, however, has long dropped from use. In 1575, the people of Leyden, Holland, kept a thanksgiving day in honor of the first anniversary of the deliverance of that city from the Spanish siege. In later years, in England, on the recovery of George III. from one of his prolonged fits of insanity, a special thanksgiving was held, and a great procession marched through London, and an elaborate service of praise was held in St. Paul's Cathedral. A similar thanksgiving service took place when the Prince of Wales recovered from the illness so nearly fatal to him in 1872. Similar occasions have been observed in the event of deliverance from war or other great calamity, in other countries of the world, but the annual thanksgiving is a custom that belongs only to our own land and Nation.

THE UTILIZATION OF NIAGARA FALLS.

RADNER, Ohio.

I have heard it stated recently that the work of putting the power of the great Niagara Falls to use had begun. Give us the facts in the case. STUDENT.

Answer.—It is certainly true that the first steps have been taken in the task of harnessing the mighty power of the Niagara cataract for the use of man. Many plans for this work had been previously suggested, but a company for the purpose of testing plans for using the Niagara power was not formed until 1886. Hitherto the difficulty had seemed to be the construction of a water wheel that would meet the existing conditions. But about this time the success of the Pelton wheel in waterworks on the Pacific coast appeared to point to a solution of the difficulty, and some Canadians having seen the workings of this wheel, and pronounced them satisfactory in all respects, it was thought that the time for beginning the work had come. The company first formed gave out a contract, in July, 1889, to another company, to construct at Niagara Falls works that would develop 119,000 horse-power. Plans and specifications for the work were then prepared, and; Sept. 13, a contract was awarded to a New York firm to construct a tunnel parallel to Niagara River. This tunnel will be connected with the upper river with a canal having surface transverse conduits, taking the water to penstocks and thence to turbine wheels. The tunnel itself is to be merely a tail race, receiving the water from the turbines conducting it below the falls. It is to start at a point below the falls under the suspension bridge, extending through the rock to the upper river at a point a little over a mile from its mouth. It will be 28 feet high, by 18 feet wide, with a semi-circular top and straight sides. The flow of water over Niagara Falls amounts to 12,785,455 cubic feet a minute. To develop 119,000 horse-power with a 170-foot fall, the height of Niagara, would need less than one-fifth of one per cent of this volume. Apparently, the power thus to be put to use is practically inexhaustible. It is probable that within a few years an extended system of works will be in use on each side of the great falls.

POPULATION STATISTICS.

MITCHELL, S. D.

1. Give the names and population of the twenty largest cities in the United States, according to the census of 1890. Also give the population of these same cities according to the census of 1880. 2. What is the population of Duluth, Minn., and West Superior, Wis., according to the 1890 census? H. Q.

Answer.—1. The following is a table giving the names and the population for 1880 and 1890 of twenty-four of the leading cities of the United States:

Name.	1890.	1880.
New York	1,513,501	1,206,299
Chicago	1,099,133	503,185
Philadelphia	1,046,252	847,170
Brooklyn	804,377	566,663
Boston	466,507	362,839
St. Louis	460,357	350,518
Baltimore	433,547	332,313
San Francisco	297,990	233,950
Cincinnati	296,309	255,139
Cleveland	261,546	160,146
New Orleans	241,995	216,090
Pittsburg	238,473	156,389
Buffalo	234,457	155,134
Washington, D. C.	229,796	147,293
Detroit	205,669	116,340
Milwaukee	204,150	115,587
Newark	181,518	136,508
Minneapolis	164,738	46,887
Jersey City	163,987	120,722
Louisville	161,008	123,758
Omaha	139,526	30,518
Rochester	138,327	89,366
St. Paul	133,156	41,473
Kansas City	132,416	55,785

2. The population of Duluth is returned 32,725 for 1890.

PRICES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

BIRKBECK, Ill.

1. Is it true that a person can buy a McCormick self-binder, manufactured in Chicago, for less in England than in this country? 2. Is it true that a Howe sewing machine can be bought for less in Paris than in this country, where it is made? 3. Is it true that American pocket-knives made in Chicago can be bought in England for much less than at their place of manufacture? J. P. SUTTON.

Answer.—1. It is not true. At least fifty times has THE INTER OCEAN gone into great detail on this question. The McCormick firm has answered it, every great manufacturer has answered it in our columns. Farm implements of all kinds are cheaper in America than in any other country of the world. 2. So-called Howe sewing machines may or may not be lower in Paris than here; we do not know. The Howe Company can prevent any American firm from using its name in in America, but can not prevent a French or English firm from making an article like the Howe machine and selling it as such. But we do know that a very excellent sewing machine is made and sold in the United States for $17, and a high grade machine for $22, and we know that machines of like quality are not sold cheaper than these rates either in Paris or London. 3. In 1888 we exported cutlery to the value of $115,404, and during the same year imported articles of this kind, chiefly from England, to the aggregate amount of $2,194,313, on which we paid duties amounting to $999,461. It is not likely, therefore, that we did a very large business in underbidding the cutlery manufacturers of England or anywhere else.

DEBTS OF THE WORLD.

LAKE LINDEN, Mich.

Give a list of the debts of the principal countries of the world. N. S. CAMERON.

Answer.—The following table gives the information desired:

COUNTRIES.	Fiscal year.	Public debt.
Argentine Republic	1889	$ 597,253,910
Australasia	1888	839,082,005
Austria Hungary	1888	1,174,725,965
Austria proper	1888	440,564,300
Hungary proper	1888	601,994,495
Belgium	1888	435,177,710
Bolivia	1888	12,061,890
Brazil	1888	360,486,150
Bulgaria	1888	No debt
Canada	1888	240,956,875
Central Am. States	1889	78,225,160
Chili	1888	64,321,880
China	1889	61,525,000
Colombia	1889	22,156,615
Denmark	1889	53,655,300
Equador	1889	10,662,900
Egypt	1888	518,689,400
France	1888	6,427,500,000
Germany	1888	317,500,000
German States	1888	1,831,582,565
Great Britain	1889	3,341,988,155
Greece	1888	115,329,010
Hawaii	1888	1,936,500
India, British	1888	911,150,000
Italy	1889	2,600,000,000
Japan	1889	302,262,250
Mexico	1888	162,737,650
Montenegro	1888	850,000
Netherlands	1887	452,497,720
Norway	1889	40,325,000
Paraguay	1887	4,625,000
Persia	1886	No debt
Peru	1889	360,000,000
Portugal	1888	630,222,620
Roumania	1888	147,880,690
Russia	1888	3,731,103,600
San Domingo	1886	5,134,000
Servia	1888	62,550,000
Siam	1886	No debt
Spain	1888	1,299,500,000
Sweden	1889	72,933,175
Switzerland	1889	10,974,600
Transvaal	1889	1,660,000
Tunis	1887	8,283,750
Turkey	1887	900,000,000
United States	1890	862,430,541
Uruguay	1888	52,308,380
Venezuela	1888	21,465,200

TONING BLUE PRINTS.

JACKSON, Mich.

There is a process for toning prints made on ferro-prussiate paper (blue prints) other colors than the blue. Can you give directions for this process in Our Curiosity Shop? CONVICT.

Answer.—The American Manual of Photography for 1890 says: "Blue ferro-prussiate photographic prints may be converted into brown prints by the following process: The positive blue print, thoroughly washed and dried, is plunged into a solution of ammonia, in which it is kept until it has nearly or quite lost its color. (The operation lasts from two to four minutes.) The print is rinsed and plunged into a bath of tannic acid, the operation being stopped as soon as the desired sharpness and tone are obtained. This last operation requires about ten minutes. If at the end of this time the color be not dark enough, it is intensified by adding to the bath a few drops of ammonia. After a lapse of one or two minutes rinse in abundant water. The solution for preparing the sensitized paper for these prints is made with tartrate of iron and potash, 15 parts; red prussiate of potash, 12 parts; rain water, 250 parts. The solution to remove the color of the print has ammonia of 23 degrees; beaume, 100 parts; rain water, 800 parts. The solution to give the brown tone has ten parts of tannic acid, dissolved in 500 parts of rain water and filtered." It further says: "Blue prints may be given the black tone by plunging them into a solution of four parts of potash in 100 parts of water; then when the blue color has entirely disappeared under the action of the potash, and a yellowish color has taken its place, they are immersed in a solution of four parts of tannin in 100 parts of water, then washing them again we obtain prints whose tone may be assimilated to that of pale writing ink."

A BATTLE OF THE MEXICAN WAR.

GUANAJUATO, Mex.

Give as full an account as possible of the Angostura's battle (Feb. 23, 1847) between the Mexican and United States forces. How many American and Mexican troops were distinguished there? E. HERRERA.

Answer.—This engagement is known in American histories as the battle of Buena Vista, so called from a small village near the scene of the fight. This was several miles south of Saltillo. This latter place General Taylor had taken in November, 1846, and here had gathered the most of the "army of occupation," as his division was known. Part of this army was drawn away by General Scott, on his arrival in January, to strengthen his force for the proposed conquest of the capital. The Mexicans chose this time, therefore, for an advance against Taylor's depleted force. The United States troops, omitting the garrisons placed at Monterey and Saltillo, numbered less than 5,000 men; the Mexicans, led by Santa Anna