

SAN FRANCISCO: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1885.

minutes north."

NO. 12,737.

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VOL. XXXVIII.

EXPERT TESTIMONY.

Its Value in Determining the Validity of Writing.

THE METHODS OF DR. PIPER

Anecdotes of the Celebrated Expert - His Versatility and Learning - Physician, Artist and Chemist.

Dr. R. U. Piper, the expert, who was engaged to come here from the East to testify in the Sharon case, is in his way a very celebrated character. He is a venerable looking gentleman, of appa-rently fifty-five or sixty years of age, with white hair and beard, and a wonderful degree of vitality. A refined temperament is clearly indicated in his physiognomy. The perceptive and analytical organs are also very prominently developed. Dr. Piper is a native of New Hampshire, and a gradu-ate of Dartmouth College. For ten or fifteen years past his profession has been that of an ex-pert in any and all cases admitting of a practical application of chemicals or the microscope. He has also received a thorspech medical admetic has also received a thorough medical education. and is an artist as well, being able to draw with much facility and accuracy, and to use colors with The factory and accuracy, and to be coros with taste and naturalness. The literary attainments, too, of Dr. Piper are above the average, he having been intimately associated with such poetical celebrities as William Cullen Bryant and Oliver Wendell Holmes. A representative of the ALTA met Dr. Piper last evening at the Palace Hotel, and asked him to de-fine what was comprehended in the term expert.

AN EXPERT DEFINED.

AN EXPERT DEFINED. "Webster's definition of the word," he replied, "is 'a skillfal or practical person; one who has skill, experience, or peculiar knowledge upon cer-tain subjects of inquiry in science, art, trade, or the like; a scientific witness." This definition would include every person who is skilled in any business, art or trade whatever; and in law, any such person, when called as a witness in a court of justice, might be entitled to be classified under the head of an expert or a scientific witness in the could claim to be skilled. Scientific or expert testimony, then, in this view of the sub-justice, would include the investigation and ascer-tament of certain classes of facts and their statement in fixed terms." "What, if any, are your peculiar methods in determining the genuineness of handwriting. I have madeavored to adopt a method by which the ordi-and avored to adopt a method by which the ordi-scient than that of a full explanation of the facts in the case. It consists in the bringing together of magnified specimens of the letters under dis-tions of the scienter of the scient of dispatcher of magnified specimens of the letters under dispatcher of the missing the gene of the letters under dispatcher of magnified specimens of the letters under dispatcher of the missing the gene of the letters under dispatcher of magnified specimens of the letters under dispatcher of the missing the gene of the letters under dispatcher of the missing the gene of the letters under dispatcher of the missing the gene of the letters under dispatcher of the missing the gene of the letters under dispatcher of the missing the gene of the letters under dispatcher of the missing the gene of the letters under dispatcher of the missing the gene of the letters under dispatcher of the missing the gene of the letters under dispatcher of the missing the gene of the letters under dispatcher of the missing the gene of the letters under dispatcher of the missing the gene of the letters unde

the case. It consists in the oringing together of magnified specimens of the letters under dis-cussion, drawn with great accuracy by means of the microscope, and placing the disputed letters and words thus enlarged by the side of the genuine ones, thus enabling any one' to make a comparison of form under the only conditions in which such comparison can possibly be made. We are also able under these conditions to observe the minute anatomy of the letters which is inappre-ciable in most cases by the unaided eye. The only theory involved in the process is the idea that every person has some peculiarity in his writing unlike that of any one else, which, if not other-wise appreciable, may be brought out by means of the miroscope. This may consist in what has been called the 'rhythm of pressure,' where some por-tion or portions of a letter are specially shaded, or by a peculiar looping, curving of pen strokes, etc. Whatever the facts may be, they are all brought ont by means of the microscope, and by thus plac-ing the enlarged copies of the letters side by side the juror as well as the expert in a given case is placed in a position to draw his own conclusions.'' IMITATING SIGNATURES.

IMITATING SIGNATURES.

Dr. Piper also stated that it was impossible for a signature to be counterfeited so as to defy deteca signature to be counterfeited so as to defy detec-tion upon proper examination, for the reason that no two individuals can write exactly alike. He has in his possession a varied and valuable collec-tion of original diagrams and drawings illustra-ting the action of Paris green, arsenic, etc., in cases in which he has testified. The difference be-tween dog's blood and human blood, which is often very difficult to perceive, was lucidly explained by him. He has been a leading witness in many cele-brated civil and criminal cases in Eastern cities, where his services are highly ranked, and the weight of his testimony will be specially remem-bered in the case of the Cadet Whittaker, who was

The Law Relating to Making Contracts for Street Work. Judge Wilson has rendered a decision of great importance to this city in the case of Peter Connolly vs. The City and County of San Francisco, brought to recover \$1,200 damages for alleged breach of contract. He complained that his bid was accepted for constructing a sewer on Seven-teenth street, from Howard to Channel; that he engaged teams, workmen, and furnished material, etc.; and that the city refused to fulfil its contract, by which he was damaged to the above

AN IMPORTANT BULING.

tract, by which he was damaged to the above amount. The case came before the Court on a de-murrer interposed by A. E. T. Worley, Assistant City and County Attorney, on the ground that the law of contracts was not applicable in respect to this mode of enforcement; that the county being a part of the State sovereignty, permission must be given to sue; that under all the street laws the Superintendent of Streets must enter into all con-tracts for street work; and further, if the plain-tiff has any remedy, it was by mandate.

Superintendent of Streets must enter into all con-tracts for street work; and further, if the plain-tiff has any remedy, it was by mandate. Judge Wilson said, in sustaining the demurrer: "It is well settled now, whatever may have been the former rule, that a municipality, being a part of the State sovereignty, is not liable, in the ab-sence of a statute authorizing a suit. Is there any statute anthorizing an action to be brought against the city in a case like the one at bar? I have been unable to find any." The Judge proceeded to say that the Superin-tendent of Streets alone had the power to enter into the contract, after it had been awarded, and that if he had failed to do his duty, "it may be," said the Judge, "he could be compelled by a writ of mandate, or in a proper case would be liable on his official bond, but it seems to me under no cir-cumstances would the defendant be liable under the state of facts disclosed by the complaint. The defendant could not make the contract through the Board of Supervisors on dwarded the contract it had performed all it was permitted to do under the law, and the plaintiff must have been presumed to have known that." It is said that the point that the county is a part of the State sovereignty has never been decided in relation to esuits in the city.

of the State sovereignty has never been decided in relation to suits in the city.

Immigration Notes.

Immigration Notes. A gentleman from Illinois has written a letter to the Immigration Association asking for infor-mation relative to the advisability of establish-ing mills for the manufacture of cotton bats and other products of cotton at some favorable location in California. He asks the following questions : First—What is the extent of the demand for cot-ton batting? Second—How many mills are already in operation? Third—Whether the number of these mills are sufficient to sapply the demand? Fourth—Whether any bats are imported from other States, and an estimate of the number of pounds? Fifth—What is the cost to the whole-sale trade of Nos. 1, 2 and 3 bats laid down in San

Francisco? The California Silk Culture Company has free all new settlers, through the medium of the Immigration Association, one hundred to one thousand mulberry cuttings of the white variety, gratis, parties so ordering them only to pay the necessary freight charges. All orders are to be sent to the Immigration Association.

Satro Heights Improvements.

Sutro Heights are being greatly improved. A lot of statues have just been received by Mr. Sutro from Brussels, comprising human figures and ani-mals. A macadamized road, forty feet wide, leads mals. A macadamized road, forty feet wide, leads from the eastern gate through the grounds. All along the northern front extends a lattice fence about thirty feet in height. Broad esplanades, rising one over another, add to the beauty of the situation. The conservatory, filled with exotics, is also being extended, and will soon rival, if not eclipse, that of Golden Gate Park. The grounds are densely planted with trees and flowers, which flourish well, in spite of the winds. It will require about two, vears more to complete the improveabout two years more to complete the improvements now under way.

Security Savings Bank.

Security Savings Bank. The Bank Commissioners have made the follow-ing report upon the Security Savings Bank: As-sets, real estate, \$154,87650; stocks and bonds, \$76,77917; loans on real estate, \$745,06535; loans on stocks, bonds and warrants, \$627,950; money on hand, \$20,59216; due from banks and bankers, \$46,58851; furniture, fixtures, etc., \$150; expenses, taxes, etc., \$1,15029; other as-sets, \$17,72384. Total resources, \$1,690,87582; liabilities, capital paid up, \$150,000; surplus (stockholders' dividend account), \$76,24141; due depositors, \$1,451,54824; interest collected, \$8,88197; other liabilities, \$9,20420. Total liabilities, \$1,690,87582.

A Novel Plea.

In accordance with an order signed by Judge Hunt, Davis Louderback, counsel for the ALTA Publishing Company, went to the office of George W. Tyler yesterday and demanded to be shown the papers in his possession relating to the suit of Sarah A. Hill against the paper for libel. George W. Tyler refused to allow an inspection of the papers, saying that the contract was before Chan-cellor Houghton and the other papers were in his possession. He further denied the right of Judge Hunt to either make or enforce such an order. Mr. Londerback said he would call the attention of Judge Hunt to this point at his earliest oppor-tunity.

THE FRIGID NORTH.

Interview with a Survivor of the Greely Expedition.

THE ANCIENT FROZEN SEA.

Personal Experiences of Sergeant Maurice Connell-Life at Cape Sabine-Suffering of Greely and His Gallant Crew.

Sergeant Maurice Connell, of the Third United States Cavalry, and a survivor of the Lieutenant Greely Arctic Expedition, is in San Francisco, having arrived recently from Washington. He said yesterday, in the course of a conversation with a representative of the ALTA : "I've been in service in Arizona under General Crook, the celebrated Indian warrior, and was also with him in his campaigns in Wyoming, Montana and Nebraska. Volunteers were called for-men who had been on the frontier or in the army and were inured to hardships—and in April, 1881, I joined the Arctic Exploring Expedition under Lieutenant Greely." "Do you now intend to remain in San Francisco?"

"Yes. I enlisted here in 1871, and since my return from the Arctic, my health not being the best, I was assigned by the authorities at Washington to the Signal Service Corps, and being given my choice of stations, I concluded, on account of its delightful and balmy climate, to come to San Francisco."

"Cannot you tell me any interesting incidents of your northern expedition?"

"Well, the history of the expedition has been very fully published and commented upon in all of the leading news journals, and you, of course, do not wish for any repetitions. Still, I'll try to give you some of my personal impressions, which may perhaps be worthy of publication."

"Yes, that's the idea. Talk about any notable scenes you've witnessed, etc."

THE FROZEN SEA.

"I was greatly surprised at the ice north of the eighty-first parallel, where it is from fifty to eighty feet in thickness. It is called for this rea-son and because of its wide extent, the ancient frozen sea. North of the eighty-fifth parallel it is supposed that the ice never breaks, but remains al-ways forcen. Batween the eighty-first and eightyways frozen. Between the eighty-first and eighty-second parallels we were plentifully supplied with

second parallels we were picturnity supplied with game." "No teal ducks and venison?" "No indeed, but there were musk oxen, ptar-migan, Arctic forses and wild ducks and geeee. The musk oxen never leave that section of the country, but the darkness prevents them from be-ing hunted in Winter. They have been seen, how-ever, so early as the 26th of April and so late as the 1st of November. It is claimed by some writers that these oxen always follow in the direc-tion of the receding sun, but my observation is that the presence there of an immense glacier makes that impossible. The musk oxen weigh less than two hundred pounds in April, but in-crease in weight to four hundred pounds in July. The Siberian wolves, that seldom if ever attacky man, follow the oxen in the heaviest enows, ham-string, and feed upon them. We used to man, follow the oxen in the heaviest snows, ham-string, and feed upon them. We used to hunt and kill the musk oxen during the Summer and then skin and preserv them. We ascertained that by skinning them in mediately after killing the flesh was relieved of a disagreeable sweet and musky flavor which, other-wise, distinguished it. The ptarmigan is appar-ently a species of prairie hen. The color of the male is always white, but the female, in Summer, changes its nlumage from white to brown. The male is always white, but the remate, in Summer, changes its plumage from white to brown. The ducks and geese of this region are always flying north during the Summer, in search of continual daylight, I presume, or else a quiet locality in which to breed, but after the 15th of August they begin to return to the south. The pleasantest chapter in our Arctic experience was the

TWO YEARS' LIFE AT FORT CONGER.

"It was cold, though, the mean temperature being five degrees below zero, the minimum seventy-two degrees below, and the maximum fifty-two degrees above zero. But we built our-selves a house and had an ample stock of pro-visions. We also discovered, only six miles dis-tant, a mine, out of which could be knocked a ton of evel with a single blow of the right so that by of coal with a single blow of the pick, so that, by loading the coal upon our sledges and hauling it over the ice to camp, we experienced no difficulty

fully well trained and can be guided by a word from their masters. The Esquimaux do not eat often, but are bissed with enormous appetites when they do eat, often devouring from eight to ten pounds of raw meet at a single meal." "You traveled very far north, did you not?" "We did, attaining, at Lockwood's Island, the highest latitude on record, viz., 88 degrees and 24 minutes north."

THE MARRIAGE CONTRACT.

Judge Tyler Tries to Prevent It Being **Produced-Expert Examination**.

Last week Judge Sawyer made an order, in the United States Circuit Court, that the defendant in the Sharon case should produce the marriage contract before Master in Chancery Houghton on Tnesday, February 24th, at 11 A. M. On Tnesday, however, another day's extension was asked, and the Judge ordered the marriage contract to be produced on the next day at 11 A. M. Accord-ingly, yesterday at the appointed hour a large number of persons began to file into the Circuit Court, among whom were Attorneys Terry, Tyler, Levy, Barnes, Newlands, Stewart and Evans. Subsequently, Sarah Althea came into Court and took a seat by her attorneys. Mr. Stewart then addressed the Court, saying

that the defendant in the Sharon case had appeared before Master in Chancery Houghton and stated

before Master in Chancery Honghton and stated that she could not produce the marriage contract, because her attorney, Judge Terry, had it and she could not get it from him. Judge Terry then addressed the Court, saying that he had had the contract in his possession for several weeks and still had it, but that, unless the Court ordered him to produce it, he did not intend to do so. to do so. An order for the production of the contract was

to do so. An order for the production of the contract was at once made by the Court. Then Judge Tyler arose, and with majestic wrath addressed the Court. He said that the Court had absolntely no authority to enforce the order it had just made, and that the subpcens which had been delivered to Judge Terry and Sarah Althea were absolutely void. The document could not be in the possession of both parties. Added to this the law was very strict as to the manner in which subpcense should be served, and in this case the law had certainly not been complied with. The Court stated that it was too late to make these objections, and, that if there had been any-thing in them, they would have been made by the associate counsel before. Tyler replied that he had never waived this ob-jection, and that if his son had done so, it was because he did not understand the point. The Court replied that the defendant had had the document in her possession, and sufficient warning had been given her to produce it. "We have ordered her to produce it, and it must be pro-duced."

Tyler then desired to know what law enabled the Court to proceed in such an arbitrary manner. The Court replied that it acted in accordance with law, and all these tactics pursued by the counsel for defendant, were simply for the pur-

Tyler denied that he was guilty of any obstruc-tionist tactios. The Court then said: "We will cut this matter

short. An order has been made for the production of the contract and it must be produced right

ow." The attorneys, Sarah Althea and R. U. Piper, the Chicago expert, then proceeded into Examiner Houghton's room. Before any examination had taken place, Sarah

Althea approached the expert with a pen-knife in her hand and an exceedingly determined look on or face. "I want to see that there is no acid on your nails," she said, "before you examine the

beer." on the expert stretching out his right hand Sarah Althea immediately began scraping and par-ing. Having pared the nails of the right hand she was about to commence on the left, when she was about to commence on the left, when she found that they were already pared very close. "At any rate," she said sadly, "you will be able to say some day that you had your nails cleaned for you by Mrs. Sharon." She then carefully examined the apparatus of the expert and wiped his microscope.

his microscope. During the finger-paring process Judge Terry produced the contract and laid it on the Examiner's desk. Examiner Houghton then took it up, gave it to the expert and told him that it was in-trusted to him and that he must be very careful and return it in the same condition in which he

had received it. An order was filed by the Court yesterday after-noon stating that the examination shall be con-tinned from day to day before Master in Chancery Houghton

ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.

A Prolonged Session Held Last Largest Pacific Coast Company

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Evening.

THROES OF RETRENCHMENT.

The Salaries for March to be Paid Only in Part-Rules Adopted-A Lively Tilt Between Directors Hoitt and Deane.

An adjourned meeting of the Board of Education was held last evening, Director Hoitt in the chair. All present except Director Dithmar. The reading of the minutes was dispensed with and the following communications were read : From Liz-zie Corbell, asking to be elected a teacher in the Department, having served six months' probation as a substitute ; from Miss F. R. Davis, asking a similar privilege ; from Miss Josephine E. Scott, for a similar privilege ; from Victorine M. Roche, asking for a State educational diploma; from Miss L. M. Randolph, asking that her of absence be extended to May leave Sth ; from Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper, pre-senting the Board a copy of the Fifth Annual Report of the Golden Gate Kindergarten Association, together with the thanks of the officers for past favers ; from Miss C. A. Martin, tendering her resignation as teacher in the West Mission Grammar School ; from A. M. Clay, who wants

All of the communications were referred to the

CONDITION OF THE SCHOOLS.

CONDITION OF THE SCHOOLS. Superintendent Moulder in making his regular report said he had been busy during the past few days in visiting the schools of the department for the purpose of investigating their conditions and workings. In this duty he had visited one hundred and twenty classes, not in a casual way, but he had conversed with the principals, also made brief addresses to the scholars. It afforded him great pleasure to report to the Board that the general condition of the classes was excellent and the progress observed by the scholars was very flattering. The chief defect that came under his observation was owing to the dilapidated state and uncomfortable condition of the school buildings. He closed his report with a reference to the appro-partment during the last six months of the fiscal year. The apportionment as reported amounts to partment during the last six months of the fiscal year. The apportionment as reported amounts to \$489,734. It was figured that only \$369,734 would be left for the six months, after deducting \$5,266for the present deficiency. This \$369,734 divided by six would leave \$64,622 to carry on the School Department each month. It is well known that the least sum necessary for expenses does not fall short of \$65,000 per month, so that a deficit or shortage of \$3,378 per month, or a total of \$20,268, is contemplated for the future six months of the fiscal year. fiscal year. THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCES.

The following report was made by the Special Committee on Finance: Your Special Committee appointed to examine into the state of the finances of the Department and devise ways and means to tide over the present embarrassment of the School Fund, do respectfully recommend: That only one-half of the salaries due teachers and janitors one-half of the salaries due teachers and janitors and other monthly employees of the Department be paid for the month of March, with the under-standing that the unpaid half will be paid to said teachers, janitors and other employees whenever the School Fund will permit. Your committee would respectfully ask further time for considers on of matters referred to them. The report was unanimously adopted. The Classification Committee recommended that all cases of indefinite leave of absence he termi-

The Classification Committee recommended that all cases of indefinite leave of absence be termi-nated on April 1st; that Swett's Elocution be adopted for use in the Girls' High School; that the drawing class in the Evening School be discon-tinned; that two evening classes in the Mission Grammar building be consolidated with classes in the Haight Primary and Lincoln schools. Director Stern moved that the part relating to

Swett's "Elocution " be taken up separately, which was carried. Upon a vote being taken the resolu-tion was adopted, Directors Stone and Pollitz vot-ing against the order. A NEW RULE.

The following new rule was offered by Superin-tendent Moulder: "The meetings of all commit-tees shall be open to the public, except when oth-erwise ordered by the unanimous vote of the mem-bers present, in cases where, in their opinion, the interests of justice or of the Department require secrecy."



NOTICE.

All the POMMERY and GRENO CHAMPAGNE shipped to the United States by Messrs. Veuve Pommery & Fils, will hereafter have, in AD-DITION to the ORIGINAL LABEL, a White Band around the neck of the bottle, with POMMERY CRENO printed thereon in plain black Letters, thus enabling the friends of this Favorite Brand to distinguish the Genuine article from imita-tions or unauthorized outside shipments of inferior quality.

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the privilege of taking photographs of department appropriate committees.

bered in the case of the Cadet Whittaker, who was tried some years ago in New York. With his other accomplishments, Dr. Piper is extremely clever in the use of the pen, and can closely imitate any signature which he has ever seen. He is now writing a treatise on the character and value of expert testimony. The versatility and learning of Dr. Piper are really wonderful, and whatever his testimony may be in the Sharon case, it is likely to have great weight with the Court.

SUICIDAL SOLARI.

Liver Complaint and an Arrest Drive Him to Death.

At 9:80 A. M. yesterday, Isidro Solari, a young Italian artist, was found in a room in the Capital House unconscious from the effects of an overdose of laudanum, an empty vial, which still con tained a few drops of that insidious drug, being found near his bed. Officer Mills removed the young man to the City Receiving Hospital, where the attendants worked with him all day, but with-out avail, his death occurring at 5:50 p. M. In his pocket was found an envelope addressed to Astalfo Schiappa Pietra, a Washington-street gro-cery clerk, who gave out the contents of the en-velope to be as follows :

Dear Friend: Please notify my father of my sui-cide. The only request I ask is that I wish to be buried in San Buenaventura, Cal. I remain, IsiDRO SOLARI. I am at the Capital House, Sacramento street, room No. 77.

At the prison Detectives Bee and Harper recog-At the prison Detectives Bee and Harper recog-nized the dying man as one whom they arrested late in January for robbing T. S. Sobrano, of 718 California street, of a suit of clothes and \$170. Solari had arrived here two months previous, on a pleasure trip, and having spent all his money was obliged to go to work. He obtained the key to Sobrano's room on the pretence of getting a picture to copy, and encountering the money in his search he appropriated it. He managed to compromise with Sobrano after being arrested, and was discharged. At that time he claimed to be ill, and a letter was found on him in which he threatened suicide. He was twenty-two years of age and unmarried.

Where is Willie?

Where is Willie? W. B. Tyler failed to appear in Judge Rix's Court yesterday to answer to the charge of vulgar language pending against him, and the Prosecuting Attorney moved that his bail be declared forfeited and a bench warrant issue for his arrest. The Court said that there was a possibility of the de-fendant having misunderstood the date set for his trial and said that he would take the matter under advisement until Friday morning in order to give him a chance to put in an appearance. At the advisement until Friday morning in order to give him a chance to put in an appearance. At the same time leave was granted to the prosecution to so amend the complaint that the charge would not stand as "vulgar language," but as "language tending to create a breach of the peace," this being in view of the late decision of the Appellate Court in the case of young Tyler's father.

Mechanics' Union.

Mechanics' Union. A meeting of the Mechanics' Union was held last evening at Irish-American Hall. The report of the Committee on Constitution and By-laws was read and adopted. It was also decided to change the name of the Union to Machinists' Union. The performance at the Grand Opera Honse last Satur-day netted the Association \$600. Besides this, \$250 has been collected from the members, mak-ing, altogether, \$850.

St. Patrick's Day Convention.

The Literary Committee of the St. Patrick's Day Convention met last evening at Irish-Ameri-can Hall, President John H. Gilmour in the cheir, and it was decided to hold their literary ex-ercises in Metropolitan Temple.

The Police Courts.

tunity.

In the Police Courts. In the Police Court yesterday, Charles Wolff was acquitted of grand larceny and sent to the County Jail for sixty days for obtaining goods under false pretences. The following charges were dismissed on examination: Henry Propp-man, embezzlement; Wm. Foley, robbery; Mi-chael Mulhern, H. G. Zingleman and William Turner, assault with deadly weapon, and Thomas Bird, assault to rob. John Meyer and William Smithers, alias Duggan, were held for trial for burglary, and Peter Hansen, William Harris and John Shaughnessy were held for assault with deadly weapon, with bail set at \$2,000 each.

Fine Display of Oranges.

A fine display of choice clusters of California oranges from the well-known ranch of Major R. H. Nolton, near Los Angeles, is made at the stand of Z. W. Moore in the California Market. Some of the branches have from three to six dozen oranges on them. One large branch has two varieties on, the Navel variety having been grafted on the parent stem of the Mediterranean variety. Large clusters of California lemons and limes from the same ranch are also to be seen.

Lobos Avenue Property-Owners

The Point Lobos Avenue Property-Owners' As-sociation have decided to await the action of the Supervisors, who, it was said, would soon take up the matter of compelling the Geary-street Cable Bailroad Company to conduct a cable line, instead antroad company to conduct a capter line, instead of steam cars, on the avenue. It has also been re-solved to request the Supervisors to instruct the Superintendent of Streets to notify the owners of property on the north side of the avenue, between Josephine and Blake streets, to remove the sand drifts that obstruct the streets.

Heavy Royalties Demanded.

Suits have been commenced by the Surety Pack-ing Company against the firm of Scofield & Tevis and the Continental Oil and Transportation Com-pany to recover \$12,500 and \$18,250 respectively, as royalty on the use of certain patent packages for holding and shipping liquors. The contracts were signed April 1, 1880, by which the defend-ants agreed to pay plaintiff \$8 75 royalty for each mackage need

Fish vs. Flesh,

Luke Livingstone, a "gallns" butcher-boy, and Moreka Solano, an Italian fish peddler, collided their respective carts on Kearny street, near Sactheir respective carts on Kearny street, near Sac-ramento, early yesterday morning, and engaged in a bloody conflict in consequence. During the row Luke used his whip and Solano his fish-knife and when arrested the former was charged with battery and the latter with assault with a deadly weapon. Neither combatant was seriously injured.

A Taxable Hat.

A Taxable Hat. As William Rad of the steamer Granada was leaving the ship on Tuesday night, Ottenheimer, Night Inspector of Castoms, noticed that he had a Panama hat in his hand. The Inspector told him that the hat was liable to duty. This made Rad very wroth and he seized the Inspector by the throat. Rad was then arrested and a charge of as-sault was put against him yesterday in the United States Marshal's office.

in keeping warm. About 100 miles northwest of In keeping warm. About 100 miles not need to the norm weet of Fort Conger, I saw an open river running out of Lake Hazen. The head of the river was open for a distance of about three miles, although for three consecutive months fifty degrees below zero was the mean temperature. The river was open in April, with indications that it had been so all through the Winter.''

April, with indications that it had been so an through the Winter.'' "The contrast between your life at Fort Conger and Cape Sabine must have been very strong." "Ah, yes, and very sad after leaving Fort Con-ger and trying to return to the south. We were nipped in the ice on the 26th of Angust, 1883, and being all corect one of our boots are delifted in nipped in the ice on the 26th of August, 1883, and losing all except one of our boats, we drifted in an ice floe for 38 days. The floe by mere chance fastened to the shore on the 29th of September, enabling us to land with the boat and all of our records. We then marched forty miles north to Cape Sabine. We were there eight months, with only forty days' provisions. While starving we killed a few Arctic foxes and a bear. We then had to eat our sealskin clothing. When a man died we left him clothes barely sufficient to cover his nakedness and wrapped ourselyes in the rest to his nakedness and wrapped ourselves in the rest to try to avoid

DYING FROM THE COLD

DYING FROM THE COLD In the Winter of 1883-4, with the thermometer 55 degrees below zero. Oh, it was terrible, beyond all conception. Finally, we used to crawl out of our huts upon our hands and knees, with our dead comrades lying around us, and graze like cows or horses upon the few moss buds which were in sight. Talk about cannibalism. I do not think that had we eaten the dead men, in the condition we then were, that we could have survived to tall the awful tale. It all originated, in my judgment, in the superstition of the sailors. When, at last, we were rescued, and I was taken on board one of the relief shins. the notavician would allow me we were rescued, and I was taken on board one of the relief ships, the physician would allow me only three spoonsful of milk punch during the en-tire day. On the second day a spoonful of minced beef was added to the punch. I was in the interim suffering severely from the pangs of hunger, and a sailor sympathetically gave me a morsel of corn bread, which I swallowed with the utmost avidity. I was closely watched then, and not nutil about the sixth day was it considered safe to allow me to eat sufficient to half satisfy my hunger."

SUFFERING FROM COLD.

SUFFERING FROM COLD. "I suppose yon also suffered much from cold while out on the exploring sledges ?" "Yery true. I could tell yon of many excur-sions, when, with the thermometer 61 degrees be-low zero, I've slept between two buffalo skins upon the ice. It is castomary when returning to camp from a sledging excursion for a man imme-diately to take off his socks and put them into his breast to warm, while he puts on a dry pair. We need a dried meat called permican, a pound of which contains as much nutriment as five pounds of fresh meats. Hard tack and tea are its usual accompaniments. Every sledge also has to carry a pick and shovel, a hatchet or an axe, a sleeping-sack and an alcohol-lamp, which is used in melt-ing the ice to obtain water, etc. The average weight of the sledge and its contents is not less than 300 pounds, which the explorer is compelled to draw himself over the ice, and in the face of but a few miles in a day, when the elements cospire against him. The darkness, the sense of isolation and the wide waste of snow and ice are but too well calculated to make a man lonely and alcohol-lamp the advancing but a few miles in a day. When the elements cospire against him. The darkness, the sense of isolation and the wide waste of snow and ice are but too well calculated to make a man lonely and alcohol-lamp the sense and lonely and advancing but a few files of the sledge and the sense of the slow and ice are but too well calculated to make a man lonely and advancing mathematical and the side waste of snow and ice are but too well calculated to make a man lonely and advancing the source of the sledge and the sense of the slow and the sense of isolation and the wide waste of snow and ice are but too well calculated to make a man lonely and advancing the source of the sledge and the sense of the slow and ice are but too well calculated to make a man lonely and advancing the source of the sledge and the sense of the snow and ice are to show the sense of the slow dejected.

HABITS OF THE NATIVES.

March 16th the Date of Its Occurrence Future Eclipses.

An eclipse of the sun will occur, after an interval of fifty-four years and thirty-one days, on Monday, March 16th. It will be visible throughout North America and the adjacent Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, except a small strip south of about sixteen degrees of latitude, but this eclipse will be so confined to these limits, that the only place outside of them in which any part of the obscuration may be seen is the west of Ireland, where the beginning of it will be visible a few minutes before sunset. The line of the central eclipse will strike the earth at sunrise at the place in the North Pacific in latitude 36, longitude 157, In the North Fachic in latitude 30, fongitude 13/, and will reach our continent at Cape Mendocino, in California, in latitude 40, longitude 124, and thence pass in a northeast direction over the north-west corner of that State, over Oregon, Idaho and Montana, to latitude 49, thence across British America to latitude $56\frac{1}{2}$, longitude $91\frac{1}{2}$, where it will be central at noon at that place, thence it will neas, still in a northeast direction. where it will be central at noon at that place, thence it will pass, still in a northeast direction, over Hndson's Bay, Bafin's Bay and Greenland, to latitude 71, longitude 15, where, at snnset, it will leave the earth, having occupied 2 hours and 12 minutes in crossing it. The width of the ring, or annular eclipse, will be, in the United States, about seventy miles, but no large town is included therein, and Eureka, in California, and Bozeman, in Montana, seem to be the most important places. In extreme Southern States, Florida, Texas, etc., the magnitude of the eclipse will be therein, and Eureka, in California, and Bozeman, in Montana, seem to be the most important places. In extreme Southern States, Florida, Texas, etc., the magnitude of the eclipse will be small, but becoming larger toward the North, until the central line is reached. In New England more than one half of the sun will be obscured ; at Chicago, seven-tenths ; at St. Paul, five sixths, and at San Francisco, Sacramento, and Winnipeg, Manitoba, each of which will be about 150 miles southeast of the central line, fifteen sixteenths. For the computation of the beginning, end, etc., of the eclipse, the elements of the sun and moon, as given by Leverrier and Hansen, were used, ex-cept that the corrections of the longitude and lati-tude of the moon suggested by Prof. Newcomb were introdaced ; correction which retard the computed times at each place 30 to 40 seconds. The time used for these computations is the old mean solar at each place, and not the lately invented method of computation, which is sometimes called "standard time." The eclipse will, it is believed, be the last annular one in the United States during the re-mainder of this century, as the central line of the one which was annular at Washington, September 18, 1888, for 5m. 50/4s., will, at its return on October 20, 1892, pass north of latitude 49 deg., and over Hudson's Bay and Labrador; it will, how-ever, be large in New England, etc. The next total eclipse in the United States will take place in the afternoon of Jannary 1, 1889, when the moon's shadow will pass over Colusa, in California, and over a narrow strip to the east of it to the place where the sun will set. This will be the return of the total eclipse so successfully observed at Beanfort, South Carolina, November 30, 1834. The next total eclipse of the sun in the Atlantic States will occur in the forenoon of May 28, 1900,

30, 1834. The next total eclipse of the sun in the Atlantic States will occur in the forenoon of May 28, 1900, when the moon's shadow will pass from New Or-leans to Norfolk and thence across the ocean to Europe, which it will reach near Oporto, in Portu-gal, and leave near Alicante, in Spain.

HABITS OF THE NATIVES. "What did you observe relative to the habits of the Esquimanx ?" "The Esquimanx dwell in sealskin huts in Sum-mer and in snow huts in Winter. They subsist by hunting the bear, the seal and the walrus, and they eat raw meat and drink oil, being strangers to cooking and using very little if any water. I am talking, of course, of the wild Esquimanx. The bear is hunted by the Esquimanx on sledges drawn by dogs, and with spears manufac-tured from bone and ivory. The dogs are wonder-

Interests of justice of of the Department require secrecy." He supported the measure in a brief speech. He said he was always opposed to the secret meetings, and had been elected by the Democratic party upon an express pledge to prevent such meetings. When the old Board first met, they attempted to hold secret meetings, but by his casting vote the measure was defeated. Director O'Brien offered the following as a sub-

Director O'Brien offered the following as a sub-Director O'Brien offered the following as a sub-stitute, which was accepted by Superintendent Moulder, and was unanimously adopted: "All committee meetings shall be public, unless in the opinion of any committee public interest requires an executive session."

A TILT BETWEEN DIRECTORS.

A THIT BETWEEN DIRECTORS. The following new rule was offered by Director Deane: "There shall be but one Vice-Principal in any school in this Department, the senior Vice-Principal to be retained." This provoked considerable discussion, as it was seen that the effect would be to lop off \$40 a month

from the salary of Albert Lyser, an old teacher in the South Cosmopolitan School. During the de-bate, Director Hoitt called Director Beach to the bate, Director Hoitt called Director Beach to the chair and made a bitter speech against the meas-ure. He said it was a job, and should have been brought up in committee before it was sprung on the Board. He was sorry to see that this was the first attempt that savored of jobbery, and he wanted a vote taken now to see who would favor it. Dr. Deane replied coolly, and called for a vote. His rule was adopted, Director Hoitt alone voting against it

against it. This little unpleasantness being settled, the en-tire set of rules were adopted, and the Board ad-journed for one week.

Sudden Deaths.

At 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, John P. Hel-castle, an elderly boilermaker, residing at * No. 609 Howard street, died anddenly while attempt-ing to sit up in bed. He was 60 years of age, a German by birth, unmarried, and had been suffer-ing from asthma for some time. On the 6.30 P. M. boat from Oakland were three Chinese researces who were together on the lower

On the 5:30 P. M. boat from Oaktan were three Chinese passengers who were together on the lower deck. On nearing this side two of them were ob-served trying to arouse the other, who, investiga-tion showed, was dead. No signs of a violent death could be found on him anywhere, and the body was removed to the Morgne, where an au-topsy will be held.

A Widow's Suit for Damages

A Widow's Suit for Damages. Kate Cornyn has sued the Hale & Norcross Mining Company to recover \$20,000 damages for the death of her husband Felix, who fell down a winze in the mine on the 16th of September. She has several minor children, and claims that the accident was caused by carelessness on the part of the employees of the company.

Sharon's Appeal Filed.

General Barnes, counsel for William Sharon, filed a notice of appeal yesterday with George W. Tyler and the Clerk of the Superior Court from the decree of divorce and from the order of Jadge Sullivan allowing alimony and counsel fees in the divorce suit of Sarah A. Sharon vs. Willia

New Incorporation. The Knights Ferry Manufacturing Company has filed articles of incorporation. The company pro-pose to erect mills and manufacture cotton and woolen goods, feed and fiour. Capital stock, \$1,000,000. Directors—C. F. Burnham, A. Grant, W. A. Hawley, F. H. Miller and W. L. McCray.

It is stated that the man who was brought down under the name of W. O'Brien from Hollister, last Saturday, on a charge of obtaining fraudulent registrations in Kern is not O'Brien at all. His name is said to be McCarty.

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