

unavailing. It is supposed to be the work of an incendiary. There was no insurance.

The propeller *J. Seaverns*, which left Chicago last week for Port Arthur, has gone to the bottom of Lake Superior and may prove a total loss. All of her passengers and crew escaped. The total loss is \$32,934. The boat was commanded by Capt W Pritchard, and had a crew of fourteen men. She had a cargo of supplies for the Canadian Pacific Railway and a number of passengers. The *Seaverns* was formerly a steam barge of 173 tons burden, and was sold last winter to Walter Ross, a Canadian.

UNITED STATES.

At Janesville, Wis., a heavy frost, on May 16th, damaged fruit and crops.

The report of the Michigan Central Railway shows the net earnings last year to be \$1,834,000.

The pork packing house of John Taylor & Co., of Trenton, N. J., has been destroyed by fire. Loss \$75,000.

An accommodation and freight train were in collision near Enon Valley, Pa., last Saturday evening. Seven persons were seriously injured—two reported fatally.

The Harlem railway shops in New York were burned on May 19th. Loss \$225,000. Several persons were injured.

The cheese factory at Paradise, Annapolis, was destroyed by fire on May 18th, nothing being saved.

At Cincinnati, the Lead Pipe and Street Company's establishment was burned on May 19th. Loss \$60,000. Mrs. Leich, a tenant on the fourth storey, was fatally burned, and Wm. E. Cook seriously burned.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says Lord Wolseley will command the expedition in the early autumn which will land at Suakim and march to Berber. A military railway is to be built across the desert.

Lord Randolph Churchill's course on the Franchise bill has caused general surprise. The *Telegraph* says he is gradually leaving the present Conservative leaders behind. The *Standard* says his conduct is likely to entail disaster upon the Conservative cause.

The fire which began in three cotton warehouses on Grundy street, Liverpool, on May 17th, was extinguished in one, but the others were still burning and expected to continue until night. The property of Molyneux & Taylor is damaged to the extent of £10,000. Of 600 bales of cotton half were saved.

Von Boetticher has been appointed President of the Prussian Cabinet, *vice* Bismarck.

A serious fire is raging at Kief. Many houses have been burned.

A large flowing well of petroleum has just been struck at Swantow, Pomerania, which yields 50 per cent. of pure oil. The nearness of this locality to the Baltic Sea affords cheap and abundant transportation.

A treaty between France and the African International Association has been published. The document, if authentic, shows that Belgium has abandoned its English sympathies. It is reported that the Association is framing a constitution as a free, federal State established on the Congo.

The Malagassy Government are reported to have offered France £1,000,000 on condition that the latter abandons all claims on their island.

Nearly the entire town of Bei Bazar, in Turkey, has been burned. 950 dwellings, 544 warehouses and shops, 11 mosques, 15 schools, 9 khans, and 146 other buildings were consumed. Eleven persons perished.

Mahmoud Damad Pasha died at Constantinople on May 21st. He was interred at the same time as Midhat.

The name of Mahmoud Pasha has not been prominently before the public for some time past, but he played an important part in the foreign affairs of Turkey, and in the re-organization of her navy some twenty years ago.

Two hundred rebels have bombarded Suakim, the attack lasting one hour. Two inhabitants were wounded, and the rebels succeeded in stealing one thousand sheep. British troops were landed at the town and the rebels were forced to retreat.

Refugees from Korosko and Berber report General Gordon well and that his sorties have been successful.

For Girls and Boys.

THE BIRTHDAY PRESENT.

It was Annie Field's birthday—her twelfth birthday! Not a holiday, though! Annie knew very little about holidays, for her parents were poor, and her mother was too glad of her help in the house to spare her much time for pleasure-seeking. Yet she never thought herself hardly used, never complained, nor wished she could turn into somebody else, and she generally managed to keep a smiling face in spite of all the hard work that fell to her share.

So busy was Annie all the first part of the day that she quite forgot about it being her birthday, although she had been looking forward to reaching the age of twelve for some time past.

Suddenly in the afternoon, while she was walking up and down the street in which they lived with the baby in her arms, it came into her mind, and she laughed aloud at the idea of her having forgotten it.

"Mother," she said, when she went indoors, "it is my birthday."

"Your birthday, so it is! Dear me, how quickly the years go." And, having said this, Mrs. Field fell to thinking of the past, and made no further mention of the birthday. And Annie got the tea ready, and made the toast and washed the little ones' faces and hands and put on their clean pinafores, all the time without the least shade of disappointment on her countenance that she had had no birthday treat—no presents. When tea was over, and the little ones were all gone to bed, Annie had still many things to do to help her mother. At last, when it was past eight o'clock, Mrs. Field turned round upon her, saying:—

"You look tired, dear; you had better be getting to bed."

Annie not only looked tired, she felt so. Yet she was unwilling to go to bed at present. "Mayn't I stay just until Willie comes in?" she asked, pleadingly.

"Very well, if he is not long you shall wait. I know Willie likes to see you when he comes home. Sit down and rest, child; you've had rather a hard day of it on the whole."

A knock came just then at the door; Annie ran to open it.

"Well," said the tall, overgrown boy who entered, "many happy returns of the day!"

Annie did not relish this good wish any the less because it was the first she had received, and when Willie bent down and kissed her, she put her arms lovingly around his neck. He pulled himself up again pretty quickly then, saying, "You know I don't like being hugged, Annie!"

"Oh! I forgot," she said, penitently.

Perhaps it was her penitent look that caused him to speak at once in a different tone.

"I wanted to have brought you a present, but the things in the shops were too dear; I couldn't afford it."

"I don't mind at all, Willie. Be quick and come in now. Mother got some hot soup for your supper."

Willie seemed glad to sit down and have his supper at once. After it was over Annie seated herself beside him, and then, putting her mouth to his ear, spoke very earnestly.

"I do want you to give me a birthday present very much, Willie."

The boy looked astonished and a little hurt at the request.

"You know what I told you," he said.

"Yes, but I have thought of a present that you *can* give me if you will. Perhaps you won't like doing it very much now, but I'm sure you'll be glad some day. Look here, I want you to give me your name."

"My name!" said Willie, and then took out of her hand a little piece of paper on which she had written in large bold letters—

"I agree to abstain from all intoxicating liquors as beverages."

"That was what was written in the pledge-book I signed," said Annie, timidly, but earnestly, "and I just want you to put your name at the bottom, and give it to me for a birthday present. I shall like it better than any other."