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AURDER IN THE UNITED STATES.

At the present time there are no less than twenty-three murderers awaiting trial in the Tombs prison, New York; if we take h indreds---we had almost said thousands--o' persons accused of murder are awaiting trial in the various prisons throughout the country. Of these twenty-three murderers from the corpses of their victims. Many of them have been there so long that their erimes are almost forgotten, and when their trials do take place, the circumstances of the marders will be as fresh as if they had never been related before. Out of these twenty-three it is possible that one money, or political friends or influence, may be hanged in the course of a year or so, but the great bulk of the criminals will get off with no other punishment than the imprisonment they have suffered previous to their trials. One of the worst features in the matter is that the had cases are the most likely to be acquitted; noticeably is this the case with Stokes, the murderer of Fisk, and Foster of car-book celebrity; both these men have been tried and the juries "failed to agree" which is an almost certain forerunner of an acquittal by the next jury that tries them. Murders in New York are so common, that even the reporters seem to have lost a little of their zest in serving them up for the public, and murderers are such a drug on the market that it no longer satisfies the aspiring "interviewer" to spend an hour with Stokes in his cell and give the readers of his paper an exact and detailed account of dressed, what he said, what he are, what brand of eigars he smoked, etc., etc. Now, we would advise the reporters to lay their heads together and endeavour to get up a new sensation: let them bring all their weight and influence to bear to insure one conviction, and then they would have something novel to report. New York has been satiated with accounts of murders and a well-written report of an execution or two would doubtless be an agreeable change to the newspaper readers.

A curious report about a colebrated murderess has lately reached us, which at first looked like a joke, but on consideration we are prepared to believe it, in fact we are prepared to believe almost anything with regard to murderers in the United States. The report is that Mrs. Laura D. Fair, who shot Crittenden is about to petition the Legislature of the State of California to have the expenses of her second strength, durability and comfort. The beauty of the chair is that it can be placed in thirty trial refunded to her by the State, on the ground that she ought to have been acquitted at her first trial and not put to the fortable positions; it being capable of being converted into a bed, a child's crib, a lounge, or a rocking chair, bosides various easy and comfortable positions for invalids. The chair forms annoyance and expense of a second. This is decidedly cool, especially when we recollect that the first jury found the fair Laura guilty of the wilful murder of Crittenden, and that she was sentenced to be hung. By the strenuous efforts of her Counsel a reprieve was obtained, and subsequently an order for a new trial was granted, and at the second trial the jury unanimously agreed that lying in wait for Crittenden, and shooting him was not mur-

acquitted; and now she wants the State of California to pay the expenses of said acquittal. The State of California might reimburse Mrs. Fair, but if they do we shall certainly think that all the wise men have gone back to the East, and that none are left in the Legislature of the State of California. Another report, about Mrs. Fair is that she is to lecture this winter; we would suggest as the title for her lecture "What I know about murdering Crittenden."

MANSARD ROOFS.

Atthough mansard roofs are looked on as a modern invention, they are really about a century old, having first been used by Mansard, whose name they bear and who was superintendent of public buildings in the reign of Louis XIV. He is said that he was a wonderful adept in the art of flattery, and that one of his devices for flattering the King was to design some plans, some portion of which would be so impracticable that the most inexperienced eye could see it. When the plans were submitted to the King he would, of course, point out the inconsistencies, when Mansard would praise his perception and declare that if he had not been a King he would have made a great architect, at the same time blaming his own stupidity for committing such a silly blunder. It is not stated whether his celebrated roof was presented as a blunder or not, possibly it was, but modern experience has shown that it was an unfortunate day when Mansard invented his new roof, and that no greater agency for spreading a conflagration has the whole United States we will find that ever been found. The form of the mansard roof is against it, offering as it does many structive to the young. strongholds for fire to take possession of, but the principal objection is the material of which these roofs are made, which is in-variably wood, with, perhaps a slate cover-ing, but more commonly only a coating of tip. The roofs are placed on buildings in New York some have been in prison variably wood, with, perhaps a slate covermore than a year, while others are just fresh | ing, but more commonly only a coating of tin. The roofs are placed on buildings selves frequently as much as twenty-five or thirty feet in height, thus presenting a pletures are just the thing to delight the juvenile heart. tremendous accumulation of light timber, almost out of reach of the water power, for the fire to feed on. If these roofs were at a moderate height from the ground they would not be so dangerous, but it is the fact that they offer such a mass of combustible matter to the flames, at an elevation which reduces the water power to its minimum force, which makes them so difficulties. Comprised in about 2000 Brevier pages, quarto, with nearly 3000 Hustrative engravings. the fire to feed on. If these roofs were at or two unfortunate wretches, who have ho a moderate height from the ground they minimum force, which makes them so difficult to deal with. If the mansard roof was constructed of iron and slate, or tin, it would probably be as safe, and certainly as ornamental a roof as can be found : but as long as they are constructed of wood they are dangerous in the extreme. Their danger has long ago been appreciated in London and there is a law against their use. Boston will probably pass such a bylaw now that the richest portion of the City has been reduced to ashes mainly through the instrumentality of these same mansard roofs. Will Montreal take warning by the fate of other cities and forbid the erection of these dangerous roofs, except they are perfectly fire-proof, or will our City fathers sit with folded arms and wait with new religious paper published in German at preston, Ont., and is designed to fill in the German at the company of how the prisoner looked, how he was patience until the fire King lays waste a Preston, Ont., and is designed to fill in the Ger how the prisoner looked, how he was patience until the fire King lays waste a Preston, Ont., and is designed to fill in the Ger by hitter experience that it is wise to profit promises to be well worth the subscription price, by the misfortunes of others. In opposition to the mansard roof General Shaler, who is one of the New York Fire Commissioners and who was in Boston at the time of the fire, states that the most potent agency in checking the conflagration was the oldfashioned brick houses with slate roofs which skirt the burnt district. Without attempting in any way to dwarf the noble exertions of the fire brigade he is still of opinion that had it not been for these oldfashioned houses the fire would have been

> A THOROUGHLY GOOD THING .-- One of the most complete and useful inventions which we have lately examined is Wilson's Adjustable Iron Chair, the Canadian Agents for which are Dr. N. A. Smith & Co., 241 St. James Street. The frame of the chair is iron, and the upholstering a handsome parior ornament, and is peculiarly well adapted for a quiet smoke, or the enjoy-ment of a good book, it being provided with a leat and elegant reading desk which saves the trouble and fatigue of holding a book up, and is very convenient. Altho, the chair is ornamental and useful at any time, it is to the invalid that it will prove the greatest boon. We have tried it ourselves and have never found anything so comfortable and convenient for a convales cent. The variety of positions in which it can be placed, the accommodation of the reading desk, the soft and luxurious cushions all tond to make it a comfort and a blessing to the invalid. The chairs are sold throughout the Dominion at

much more extensive.

THE FIRE IN FULTON, N. Y.

(From the Fulton Patriot and Gazette, Nov. 20,

Yesterday forenoon our village was startled by the cry of fire. (We haven't any alarm, and are obliged to depend upon human lungs for notice in such a case.) The scene of the ex-citement proved to be H. S. Condec & Son's Knitting Mili, at the east end of the lower dam. When we first came in sight of the building, the finnes were pouring out of one of the lower windows, and the smoke rolled up in a dense cloud. The Fire Department was promptly astir, but in the meantline a more powerful agent than water was brought to bear upon the flames. But a few days before Mr. Coudes had parchased three Babcock Fire Extinguishers and when the cry of fire sounded through his mill he at once tested them. The fire originated in the picker, and the spark was blown into a small room partly filled with cotton. There the dre was confined, excepting what was smoking its way through the outside window. The Babcock Extinguishers were at once taken to the fire and set in operation, throwing a stream about as large as a pipe stem into this room, which was a perfect mass of fire. Two were used, and in an incredible short time, not to exceed three or five minutes, the flames were eximguished. There was comparatively little damage done by the fire, and none by water, as the flames were under control before the steamers could be got to work.

Mr. Coudee informs us that at the present time his mill is unusually full of work, both finished and in progress, but, fortunately, none of it was injured. Too much cannot be said in praise of these Habcock Fire Extinguishers, and we feel that our vilinge was saved a disastrous fire by their prompt use yesterday.

LITERARY ITEMS.

THE DOLL WORLD SERIES. By Mrs. Robert (PRolliy, 3 vols in a neat little case, Roston; Roberts Bros. Montreal; Dawson Bros. Price \$3.

These three little volumes, Doll. World, DEBORAN'S DRAWER, and DAISY'S COM-PANION, are excellent stories for chil-dren and are particularly well adapted for a Christmas present as they are handsomely bound in cloth and embellished with six or eight engravings each. The style of the stories is good and they cannot fail to be interesting and in-

KING ALFRED AND OTHERE, the discoverer of

sixty or seventy feet high, and are them minated. The new version of Pass in Boots is selves frequently as much as twenty-live or well and pleasantly told, and the bright showy

John E. Potter & Co., Philadelphia, have in press and will shortly publish Potter's Com-PLETE BIBLE ENCYCLOPEDIA; a Universal Dic-

CASSELU'S MAGAZINE for December is as full of good things as usual. Mr. F. W. Robinson's serial "Little Kate Kirby" is continued, and grows in interest as it progresses. There is a curious paper on "How Oll was 'Struck' in Canada," by J. C. Dent; and two excellent short stories, "Two Events in a Quiet Life," by E. Claxton, and "Very Odd," by the author of "Mrs. Jermingham's Journal." The poetry in the number is very good, and the Illustrations are fully up to their usual standard of excellence.

THE ALDINE.—This is without doubt the very best are magazine published in America, and very nearly resombles the Art Journal of London. It contains twenty-four pages and has about thirty-six illustrations, printed in the most perfect manner on tinted paper. The reading matter is most carefully selected, and the utmost pains are taken in getting up the whole magazine. The Aldine is published monthly by James Sutton & Co., 58 Maiden Lane, New York. Price \$5 per ann.

THE CANADIAN EVANGELIST is the title of a large portion of our City, and we are taught same position that the Wilness does in English. \$1 per annum.

Tom TAYLOR, the popular English dramatic author, has retired from his place in the Public Health Department of England on a pension.

States early in January.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

A Woman's Vengrance. A novel. By James Payn. New York: Harper & Brothers. Montreal: Dawson Bros. Paper, 50 cents. For THE KING, By Charles Gibbon.

York: Harper & Brothers, Montreal: Daw son Bros. Paper, 50 cents.

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

A noy with microscopic eyes is the latest scientific wonder in England. He possesses the faculty of seeing minute objects magnified to marvelous degree. His eyes were diseased when he was young, and he came near losing his sight, which, however, he gradually recovered It was found, however, that the internal structure of the eye had been changed, the corner being greatly enlarged, the crystalline lens be ing divided into three different parts, each part surrounded with a light blue circle; and in the center of each appears the Irls, diminished to the size of a pin's head. The patient cannot distinguish objects at a distance, they appearing blurred and misshapen. The magnifying power of his vision is stated at 5,000 diameters. A curious fact is that he will never examine water, having once discovered the vast number of infusoria contained in some which he was drinking, and the sight of which thoroughly frightened him. The lad, it should be men-tioned, has a wonderful talent for drawing and coloring with great accuracy the objects which come beneath his inspection. The case is un. der the particular attention of Sir Charles Madden, F. R. S., and of Dr. Crowder, the eminent

the uniform prices of \$25, \$30, \$35, according to the uniform prices of \$25, \$30, \$35, according to don, of a very peculiar kind. Its chief charac-

eristic seems to consists in howling at stated times. Regular hours are fixed during the day for engaging in this devotion, and twice during the night the members are obliged to rise and howl. At their stated meetings, (which are held in the open air, doubtless because of their inability to pay for a room to howl in,) they meet and howl in concert. Hence they have been very appropriately styled "The Howling Repentants," it is not a cheerful prospect, how-ever, that these votaries of the new faith have before them for spreading their peculiar religion for the police have a summary way of stopping their unearthly noise by marching them to the station-houses, and dealing with them in such a manner as to make them howl from a motive

The following are medical signs of dreams, as published in a medical work:—Lively dreams are, in general, a sign of nervous action. Soft dreams, a sign of slight irritation of the brain; often, in nervous fever, announcing the ap-proach of a favourable crisis. Frightful dreams are a sign of determination of blood to the head. Dreams about blood and red objects are signs of inflammatory conditions. Dreams about ruln and water are often signs of diseased nuceous membranes and dropsy. Dreams of distorted forms are frequently a sign of abdominal distructions and disorders of the liver. Dreams in which the patient sees any special part of the body suffering, indicates disease in that part. Preams about death often precede apoplexy, which is connected with determination of blood to the chest.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.—It is generally supposed that the words and air of "God save the King" originated with Handel, in the time of George the First. It is also attributed to John Bull, musical professor, in Queen Elizabeth's time, who, it is said, composed it for a dinner given at the Merchant Tailors' Hall, in 1603, in honour of the accession of King James the First of England; and others ascribe it to Henry Carey, about 1743. The French claim it. History tells us that certain words to that air were always sung by the maidons of St. Cyr, were always sung by the maidens of St. Cyr, when Louis the Fouries the entered the chapel of that establishment to hear the morning prayers. It is said that De Brinon was the author of the rords, and Lulli, (who had been a scullion in hat monarch's kitchen), the father of the French opera, composed the air.

THE latest novelty in suicides comes from Cleveland, Ohlo, where an individual who had drawn a blank in a lottery, went to his death after the following unique and claborate preparations: He first procured a loaded revolver and connected it with clock-work, so that it should be fired off at a certain time. He then got into bed, and placing the pistol behind his ear, took dose of chloroform. Under the influence of the narcotic he then went to sleep. At the set time the clock-work pressed the trigger, dis-charging the pistoland haunching the slumberer mo, Edinburgh, Montreal: Dawson Bros.
Price 25 cents each.
A brace of capital Christmas books finely illustrates o neater, if not quieter than the guillotine.

> A QUEER country is China; a country where roses have no fragrance and women no petiti-coats; where the laborer has no subbath and the magistrate no sense of honor; where the roads bear no vehicles and the ships no keel; roads bear no venices that the simps no keer; where old men fly kites and the accedic points to the South; where the place of honor is on the left hand and the sent of intellect in they stomach; where to take off your hat is an insolent gesture and to wear white garments is mourning ; which has a literature without an alphabet and a language without a grammar.

THE remains of John Howard Payne, the auther of "Home, Sweet Home," are to be brought from Tunis, where he died and was burled, and will be interred by the Faust Club of Brooklyn, at his old home on Long Island. The Club proposes to erect a monument to his

gular coincidence between the destruction of Chicago and Boston. The Boston fire occurred it the very same hour and on the same day of the week and month. The only difference is that one happened in October and the other in

A complete set of all the documents, opinion arguments, and other papers connected with the Geneva arbitration has been received at the Congregational Library in Washington. They include even the leading articles of the European press and are splendidly bound.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR HOBSE POWER

One of the results of the prevalent horse great impetus to investigations and experiments having for their object the substitution of some perfectly safe and practical motive power for street cars and road vehicles in place of horse and mule power. Certainly no stronger stimulus to inventive genius could be given. We believe that smoke-consuming WILKIE COLLINS will pay a visit to the United steam engines can be built, which shall noiseless in their operations and more easily managed than a pair of horses, that shall work as cheaply as that animal, either on street rails or off them, and which shall be unobjectionable in all respects. The great car and transportation companies of the country would do well to unite in offering a handsome prize for such an invention. This would excite the inventive skill of our mechanics, induce them to experimentalize liberally, and doubtless, in the end, produce exactly what is wanted.

It is stated, indeed, that a New Orleans

scientist has already solved the problem, so far as it relates to street railways. His engine, which has been thoroughly tested and pronounced to work most successfully, is said to effect a saving of thirty-three per cent of the cost of running cars by horse power. No fire is used. The driving engine is of ordinary character. It has a reservoir large enough to contain three hundred gallons of water with steam room above it. The boiler is of steel and is well covered with non-conducting material to prevent the radiation of the heat The motive power of the engine is obtained by means of the compression of steam in water, the steam being conducted from a stationary boiler at the end of the track, which dispenses with the firing-up process while under way. The steam with which the en-gine is charged is sufficient (according to the capacity of the boiler) to perform a trip of from ton to fifteen miles. At the time of obarging, the temperature in the boiler is about 380° Fah., the pressure of steam being about one hundred and seventy pounds to the square inch. There is said to be not the least danger of explosion in using this apparatus, as the pressure in the reservoir can never rise above the point reached at the time of charg-ing, and it is necessarily constantly diminish-

ing as the power is expended; while so simple is its construction there is less skill required in handling this locomotive than a horse or mule. Some of the intelligent and ambitious mechanics and machinists of Pittsburgh might find their account in entering the same field of investigation and experiment .- American Manufacturer, Pittsburgh.

EPITOME OF LATEST NEWS.

l'inited States.—A fire occurred in the upper flats of the Fifth Avonue Rotel, corner of 23rd Street and Fifth Avonue, New York, on the night of Rote inst., seriously damaging the 23rd Street wing. The loss by fire and water is estimated at \$50,000, fully covered by insurance. The most melanchely feature of the fire was the burning to death of eleven servant girls of the hotel who were in what is called "the cockloft," the starts leading to which caught fire and the unfortunate girls had no means of escape. Two other girls who managed to get on the roof were seriously injured. There were 600 guests in the hotel at the time of the fire, but all escaped unhurt.—A Washington special states the old syndicate, in conjunction with Rothschilds, have offered to take the remaining three hundred million of the five per cent, bonds, and also a large portion of the four and a half per cent, loan.—A telegram from Yroka states that the Greek Indians have been get into their reservation, and are new quiet. —John W. Southwell was arrested in New York on 8th inst., on a charge of altering cheques of the First National Bank of New York; one from \$45 to \$45,000, and the other from \$30 to \$55,000.—The second officer of the Pacific Mail Company's steamship Sacramento arrived at San Diego. Cal., on 8th inst., in an open bout, with the news that the steamship Montana leaves San Diego at daylight to-morrow with orders to proceed to the wreck and relieve the passengers, and return with thom to San Diego, if she does not succeed in getting the Sacramento off the reef. The Sacramento had 150 passengers and 200 tons freight. The date of the disaster is not given.—The Heradd's Washington special says the Credit Mobilier investigation will show that several Congressmen for a time accepted onormous dividends from that concern, which they devoted to charitable and political purposes.—The warwith the Madonk Indians in Oregon continues. Goo. Frock and Class. Murro were killed on Lost River. Troops from Linkville, Warren and Bidwell are marching

Edmand Forrest. the tragodian, died suddenly at Philadelphia on 11th inst.

CANADA—The Dominion Board of Trade will hold its annual meeting here under the Presidency of Col. Mediveren, commencing on the 15th Jan. It is expected that the President and Secretary, and possibly some other members of the National Board of Trade of the U.S., will be present.—The Pres Press believes that the revised census returns will place the population of the four undermentioned Provinces about as follows:—Ontario, 1620,855; Quebec, 1,191,555; Nova Scotia. 357,800; New Branswick, 285,777.

Hamilton contemplates the intraduction of the fire about the fear and telegraph system.—Great additions have recently been made to the parliamentary library—newards of 3,1720 volumes. —A number of improvements have been effected in the interior of the Parliament building.—A very destructive fire occurred at Oshawa, Ont., on 8th inst., a number of stores and dwellings were hurned, the total loss being about \$75,000, partially covered by insurance.

The Merryweather steam fire Engine lately purchased by the town of Whitby was promptly sent to 9shawa and saved the whole town from being destroyed, as the fire had got quite beyond the control of the local hand engines.—Hon, Joseph Cauchon has resigned his scat as member for Montmorency in the Local Legislature of Quebec.—The epizodic has not quite left Halifax yet, and ox teams are still used.—Hunters are taking large numbers of deer from the Uppur Ottawa District to the United States market via the Brockville and Ottawa R. R.—Execuations for the new Post Office have been commenced, and the work will be pushed forward rapidly by the contractors, Hatch Bross, of Quebec.—Action in a boun taken against Mr. Canchon for the numpose of imposing the penalty of Sim of ceach and every day he has illegally occupied a sent in the Logislative Assembly since the opening of the present session.—It is stated that Mr. Anger, advocate, will oppose Mr. Cauchon in the County of Moutmoroney.—A letter from Gaspe Bay, 6th

France —The number of petitions for the dissolution of the National Assembly circulating for signatures throughout Paris and departments is greatly increasing. The Profects of the several departments where the movement has assumed formidable preportions have been summoned to Versuilles. The members of the moderate left are in favor of the dissolution of the Assembly. — Ninety-two members of the Assembly, which belonged to the Left Centre during the September Government, and fifteen Moderate Republicans, including General Chanzy, M. Jules Favre, M. Casimire Perrier, and M. Leon Say, have united in the presentation to the National Assembly of the proposal for the reference to the Assembly of the proposal for the reference to the Committee of Thirty, suggesting the prolongation of M. Theirs' torm of office four years, the election of a Vice-President, the partial removal of the Assembly yearly, the establishment of the principle of Ministerial responsibility, the creation of a second Chamber, and the sattlement of the Executive and Legislative Departments. The struggle between President Thiers and the National Assembly continues. Thiers is gradually gaining strength.

SOUTH AMERICA.—Advices from Rio Janeiro to November 22nd, state that tienoral Mitro, the Argentine envoy, brought his negotiations with Brazil to an amicable conclusion. It is sottled that Paraguay shall make separate treaties with Uruguny and the Argentine state. Brazilian and Argentine troops are to evacuate Paraguay and Island Argen, three months after the conclusion of treaties. The treaty already made between Brazil and Paraguay is not disturbed. The allies in the late war against Paraguay are placed on an identical footing with regard to the indemnification of their expenses. Paraguay is to pay them upwards of 2 per cent per annum of war indemnity during the next two years and 6 per can annually thereafter, until the entire amount is liquidated.

ITALY.—The floods in the north of Italy continue to spread. Some of the larger towns are throatened.
—It is not true as reported that the Pope will leave Rome if the bill for the suppression of cortain religious corporations now before Parliament should pass.—Nuples advices report the band of brigands, headed by Mame, are becoming daily more daring and lawless, notwithstanding that a heavy ranson is offered for his bead. All efforts to capture the leader are unavailing.

the loader are unavaring.

ENGLAND.—Several of the gas stokers, who were summoned to appear on a charge of conspiracy, have been found guilty and sentenced to six weeks imprisonment. —Viscountess Boaconfield, wife of Mr. Disraoli, is seriously ill.—The ship Franklin which sailed from Hamburg several days age for San Francisco with a large number of emigrants on board, grounded on the coast of Visland on the Island of Netherlands in the North Son and went to pieces. Eighty persons are known to have perished.

South Arriva.—Cape of Good Hope advices by mail state that a flerce buttle is going on in the interior between the Krele people and Tambookies, in which the lutter were whipped, and from 100 to 1,000 were slaughtered. Many of the natives were armed with Enfield and other European arms.

SWITZERLAND.—The Actoution for President and Vice-President of the Swiss confederation for the year 1873 has resulted in the choice of M. Ceresole for the former office, and Dr. Schenck for the latter.

SPAIN.—A body of Carlists entered the town of Alamesa last week, but wore met by troops, and repulsed after a sharp fight.

[3] AMAIUA. -- Large numbers of wealthy Cubans are leaving Cuba and purchasing plantations in Jamaica.



