Twelve young women are having a race on bicycles for the championship of America in New York.

A cattle grower from Northern Montana reports that cattle are suffering for want of water and look in a very bad condition.

Mr E. H. G. Edwards, who is to take charge of the British Legation at Washington, arrived there on the 16th inst.

A fourteen story building in Chicago collapsed on the 17th inst., a number of workmen barely escaping with their lives. The building was on the corner of Adams and Dearborn streets, and was used for offices.

Mr. Blaine wants the U. S. Government to purchase Cuba, and he is mad enough to imagine that Canada will some day drop like a ripe plum into Uncle Sam's open mouth, but Canada at present has no desire to be gobbled.

The new number of *The Season* is to hand. It is a first-class Ladies' Fashion Magazine containing numerous illustrations, among others two historical or national costume pictures. All Newsdealers, or the International News Company, New York, 30 cents.

Mrs. Francis Marie Morton, the sister of Guiteau, who murdered President Garfield,has written a novel entitled "The Stalwarts, or Who Were to Blame," in which she attempts to show that insanity was at the back of her brother's murderous deed. The book treats of fifty years of American history and is certain to create a sensation in political circles.

There is to be an International Maritime Conference held at Washington next fall, and Great Britain has accepted the invitation to participate in it, The following countries have signified their intention to be represented at the conference: Brazil, Chilli, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hawaii, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Norway, and Uruguay.

A horrible catastrophe happened at Hartford, Conn., on Monday last. The main portion of the Park Central Hotel, facing on High and Allyn streets, fell down, burying in the debris at least fifty people. It is supposed to have resulted from an explosion of the boilers in the basement, and from the havoc created in adjoining buildings it would seem to be the most probable theory.

A proposed amendment to the Naval Appropriation Bill has been introduced in the U. S. Senate,. authorizing the construction by contract of two harbor-rams of steel, to cost, without armament, not exceeding $1,500,000 each, and of fifteen gunboats, or cruisers, each not to exceed 1,700 tons in displacement and $500,000 in cost. It appropriates $5,000.000 to begin the construction of the vessels, and $3,000,000 for armament.

Ex-U. S. consul Greenbaum, to Samoa, is reported as saying that when he was in Samoa, he was informed by an employee of the German Trading Company, that they had a regular system of opening letters by steaming them over a boiler, and so getting at the contents, copying all correspondence, and returning it to the envelopes without any noticeable change. This he said in reference to mail matter failing to reach Capt. Leary of the U. S. Navy when at Samoa lately.

Lord Aylesbury has begun a suit for divorce from his wife.

The recent snow storms in France have been followed by serious floods.

William O'Brien has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment without hard labor.

The women of Denmark, to the number of 70,000, have petitioned for the right of suffrage.

Mr. Parnell's friends are very anxious about his health, and entertain fears that he may not recover.

Viscount Hinton perambulates London streets with his barrel organ, and is said to be doing a roaring business.

The Argentine Confederation proposes to spend $5,000,000 this year in promoting European immigration into its territory.

A diamond of wonderful purity, weighing 240 carats, was found at the Jagersfontain mine in South Africa on Christmas day.

A supplementary treaty of commerce and amity between the United States and Japan, was signed in Japan on Wednesday.

An Austrian factory has received an order for a large number of rifles, from Germany, and has contracted with a Selime factory to supply 250,000 stocks for German repeaters.

The Duke of Westminster has made deadly enemies of the London doctors by stipulating in granting new leases to medical men, that no brass plates shall be placed on the doors.

A German is said to have invented a substance known as safety dynamite, which will not require thawing if it freezes, and so the danger which accompanies this process will be avoided.

The Russian branch of the English family of Lesley has inherited in England a legacy of £10,000,000, but the members have been requested to become British subjects before the money is paid.

The famine in Anhui and Kiangsee, China, is worse. There has been drought two years in succession. In one province 300 families are said to be starving, and altogether several millions are suffering great want.

Sturnburg Lake is becoming a popular place to suicide in. Two persons, a man and a woman, drowned themselves on the 14th inst., making eleven suicides since the unfortunate King Louis ended his existence there.

Queen Victoria will visit Biarritz early next month, as privately as possible, travelling under the title of the Countess of Balmoral.

On the last of January about 500 Irish emigrant families left their homes for Buenos Ayres, and many more are under contract to go.

Cape Colony has ventured to try the experiment of a penny postage, which was to have come in force at the begining of the year. Those who favor a two-cent rate in Canada will await with interest the issue of this experiment.

In case of serious trouble between the United States and Germany over the Samoan Islands, it is alleged that the sympathies of New Zealand and Australia would be with the former country, without reference to the stand that England might take in the matter.

The Princess Wilhemina Helena Paulina Mary is the heir presumptive to the crown of Holland. The King continues ill, and in case of his death the Queen will probably be appointed Regent during the minority of the young princess, who is only 8 years old.

Queen Victoria has not relaxed the rigid rule for the court-dress of ladies, it must still be the same low-necked affair that it always was, except in the case of age or infirmity, when, by special permission, such persons may be allowed to wear high-necked dresses.

Reports come from Panama which say that a loss of over $2,000,000 to property resulted from an earthquake on Dec 29th, which extended through San Jose, Hereida, Baba, Santa Barbara, San Rafael Grecia, and Santo Domingo, in Costa Rica. Other places were tossed about like the waves of the sea

On Thursday last the Czar, Czarina and Czarewitch, attended a reception given by Sir Robert Morier, British Ambassador at St. Petersburg. In view of the quarrel between Sir Robert and Prince Bismarck the affair has caused much comment, as the attendance of three members of the Imperial family was a mark of unusual patronage.

The Colosseum in Rome was to have been used by the American base-ball players, but it was found that the dangerous state of the galleries precluded the idea of playing in the arena. The teams arrived at Brindisi last Friday, but it is feared that the police regulations resulting from the last riots may prevent the games taking place.

A car on an express train from Nice to Paris on Tuesday of last week, took fire and burned completely away. The passengers barely escaped with their lives, as the alarm signal would not work and the train was not stopped for some time. The carriage was heated by hot air which permeated under the floor and the fire must have originated from it in some way.

At the wedding of Miss Essie Jenyns, Australia's Mary Anderson, in Newcastle, N. S. W., the people beseiged St. Andrew's Cathedral, and the marriage party had a struggle to get to the altar, the actress fainting in her affianced's arms. Seats, railings, and gas standards were broken down, curtains torn, and the ornamental work of the church generally demolished. It is not comfortable to be so very popular with the masses in some cases.

The resignation of the Floquet ministry on an adverse vote of the Chamber on the motion that the debate on the revision of the Constitution be adjourned for a week, which was oppoed by the Government, indicates its extreme weakness. Efforts to construct a new Cabinet have as yet failed, and it does not seem probable that any pos[illegible] ministry selected from the present Chamber would be any stronger. The successes of General Boulanger have evidently told heavily on the existing state, and the whole body politic seems ripe for overthrow.

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