

The island of Cuba is 760 miles long and varies in width from 20 to 135 miles. The area is about the same as the state of Ohio.

The English court of chancery has done humanity a great service by refusing to grant a trustee the name of a tribe as a trade mark.

COUNTING the Mississippi and Missouri as one stream, the total length is over 4,000 miles. Considered separately the Mississippi is 2,316 miles and the Missouri 3,047.

THERE are 109 women in the world to every 100 men. It is the best kind of a surplus to have. The civilization and the humanity of the world are largely dependent upon the women.

ALL indications agree that less than ten miles below us a comet is to be seen. Ten miles above us we have the pitiless cold, far below zero, of interplanetary space.

THE Washington Post believes that the cat-o-nine-tails is none too good for wife beaters. It might be an improvement to add one more tail, as it is about the meanest crime indulged in by creatures that sport the name of man. A man that beats his wife is lower than any beast that walks.

THE latest oddity in queerly colored game brought out of the Maine woods is a deer with a pink-tinted hide. The ground color of the hair is almost snow-white, and the whole body is dotted with spots or blotches of red hair. The appearance of the animal is said to have been notably pretty as well as odd.

ROUMANIA is the highest taxed country in the world. Every bottle of foreign wine has to pay a shilling duty. A case of whisky went from the army and navy stores the other day. The transport tax stamps and other duties amounted to more than the price of the whisky. There is a tax even on female servants.

GRAND ARMY posts in Pittsburgh have inaugurated a movement for the preservation of war records of veterans all over the country. It is intended to suggest the formation of a national grand army museum at Washington, and also district museums at various points in the United States, so that valuable information may be preserved for posterity.

THE French government has paid the Persian shah \$100,000 for the right to dig up antiquities in Persia. The ancient empire, and the bargain is regarded as an excellent one for the western nation. Several of the great cities of the Bible lie buried there, and archaeologists think that they contain better treasure trove than the world has ever gained from the orient.

THE 31 states and territories are subdivided into 2,849 counties. Texas leads with 244, and Delaware is at the small end, with only three. New England has but 53 counties, while New York, with a smaller territory, has 60; Arkansas, 75; Virginia, 104, and Georgia, 137. Maine has 16 and South Carolina 35; North Carolina, with about the same area as New York, has 96. There are 191 counties, divided among 27 states, in which no newspapers are published.

THINGS are all turned upside down in this modern world. Down in West Virginia the other day a plump widow of 21 fell in love with a forger, Jerry Smith, confined in the penitentiary of that state. He asked and she accepted, and so the prison cell was rigged out with flowers, red orange blossoms, and a clergyman made the betrothal and the widow man and wife, while everybody was as happy as they would be in a fashionable church. The penitentiaries are becoming sought-after places, we are afraid.

THE theory is now advanced that Aseunt mountain, at Windsor, Conn., was a volcano. Recent analysis of the green granite from the mountain shows that it is not really granite, as it contains no mica, but a different mineral, so that the stone is more valuable than granite. It is said to be absolutely imperishable, as it contains none of the natural elements which cause stone to decay. The stone has at some time been subjected to intense heat, which has driven out all the metals and made it remarkably compact.

CREMATION of the dead is growing in favor in Philadelphia. A cremation society was organized in 1888, and the number of bodies cremated each year since then has increased steadily. In 1889 there were 3 cremations, and so far this year there have been 56. The society has started recently a scheme to "popularize the movement" by issuing bonds, which net the purchaser three per cent. interest per annum and entitle the holder of each bond to one cremation, with a receptacle and space for the storage of the ashes. The society now has 260 members and 300 stockholders.

GERMAN geographers have made a careful estimate of the population of Africa, and place the total at 103,953,000, which is 52,240,000 more than the aggregate population of North and South America. Europe and Africa combined have a population of 321,332,000, though their area is not greater than that of all America. The new world has plenty of room for many times its present population of 121,713,000. The German estimate of the population of the world now is 1,480,000,000, and a member of the Royal Statistical society says it will be 33,356,000,000 by the year 2317.

THE oldest lawyer in New York city is William Cookson Carpenter, who, at 91 years of age, is still a practicing attorney in that city. Mr. Carpenter began practice nearly 65 years ago, and it is his boast that never once has he been compelled to ask for the postponement of a case on account of illness. Despite his 91 years Mr. Carpenter still stands erect, walks about without the slightest need of a cane, has a firm, mellow voice that does not betray a quiver of age, and his hair, silvered with so many snows, is still abundant. He was a personal friend of the late Charles O'Connor.

## Epitome of the Week.

INTERESTING NEWS COMPILATION.

FIFTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

The Senate on Saturday the president's message on the financial situation was discussed, but no action was taken. Adjourned to the 24th. In the house Speaker Reed announced the standing committees. The president's financial message was read and referred to the committee on ways and means.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The senate was not in session yesterday. In the house Mr. Dingley, chairman of the ways and means committee, stated that he hoped to be able on Thursday next to present to the house some measure looking to the relief of the treasury as suggested by the president. Bills were introduced to levy and collect duties on wool and cotton; for the protection of agricultural staples and American ships in the foreign trade, and to relieve the United States treasury and to familiarize the people of this country with the advantage of a silver coinage.

Washington, Dec. 26.—The senate on Tuesday repeated the prescriptive disabilities bill passed at the close of the war against the services of ex-confederates in the United States army and navy. A resolution was introduced to coin the silver in the treasury and another urging the Latin-American union, in which all the republics of the western hemisphere would make common cause against European encroachments. In the house a bill was introduced providing for a duty on certain grades of sugar.

Washington, Dec. 27.—There was no session of the senate yesterday. In the house a revenue bill was passed the operation of which is limited to 2 1/2 years, and which is designed to raise \$40,000,000 for the relief of the treasury. The rate was 25 cents, 10 cents, and was on strictly party lines, the populists voting with the democrats against the bill.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Venezuelan commission resolution was signed by the president and it is now a law.

It was decided at a cabinet meeting to make arrangements for another sale of bonds for gold at the earliest practicable moment.

President Cleveland will issue a proclamation January 4 next, declaring Utah a state of the union.

The United States supreme court adjourned until January 6.

In the United States the visible supply of grain on the 23d was: Wheat, 62,398,000 bushels; corn, 5,789,000 bushels; oats, 6,408,000 bushels; rye, 1,156,000 bushels; barley, 4,204,000 bushels.

President Cleveland tendered places on the Venezuela line to Mr. Phelps, of Vermont, and Robert T. Lincoln, of Illinois, both ex-ministers to England.

THE EAST.

An agreement by which the trolley strike was declared off in Philadelphia fell through and the strike was resumed.

In Philadelphia Andrew Johnson and his three children were burned to death in their home.

The postal clerk's dog, "Owney," arrived in New York from China, having completed the circuit of the globe since August 12 last.

In Philadelphia the street railway strike was finally ended through the efforts of John Wanamaker, who was aided by the members of the Christian league.

The firm of Whittle, Hamahan & Co., dyers and bleachers at Providence, R. I., failed for \$135,000.

Mrs. Joseph Fagnant presented her husband with a pair of daughters at Greenville, N. H., and with this Christmas present Fagnant is the father of 27 children.

Mrs. Sarah Lovett died at Nashua, N. H., aged 106 years. A brother died a few years ago, aged 105, and 11 brothers and sisters all but one lived to be over 90.

Lord Dunsen arrived in New York to make good his allegations of fraud in the Valkeyie-Defender races of last September.

WEST AND SOUTH.

A railway collision at Camden, Tenn., killed J. S. Brewer, a brickman, and three unknown tramps.

The state mine inspector in his annual report to the governor places the output of gold for South Dakota at \$3,500,000 for 1894; \$5,000,000 for 1895, and gives an estimate of \$7,000,000 for 1896.

The doors of the bank of Farmington, located at Farmington, Ill., were closed. Alvinia says that Mustafa Pasha, commanding a Turkish force, captured the town of Zeitoun and murdered the 12,000 Armenian residents.

In the La Marsh dike near Pekin, Ill., a break broke thousands of acres and thousands of dollars' worth of damage was done.

At Columbus, O., the Merchants' and Manufacturers' national bank was authorized to begin business with a capital of \$350,000.

Daniel McAllister and John McKnight were killed and seven others severely injured by a dynamite explosion on the drainage canal near Homeville, Ill.

In the Presbyterian church at Findlay, O., Mrs. Mary Murch dropped dead while addressing a missionary meeting.

The 1896 Indianapolis directory places the population of the city at 134,000, a gain of 40,000 since 1890.

At New Orleans Peter Gerlo took 12 1/2 seconds from the world's bicycle record for a mile, placing the record at 1:40:35, instead of 1:42:25.

The covered bridge over the Scott river at Chillicothe, O., was burned by incendiaries, entailing a loss of \$100,000.

Lena Thomas and Ella Scott fought at Puerto Gorda, Fla., with a pistol and a dagger over Henry Cassidy, whom both loved, and both were fatally wounded.

The home of William Jones was washed away by high waters at Eldorado Springs, Mo., and he and his wife and three children were drowned.

The doors of the Exchange bank at Ewen, Mich., were closed.

At Des Moines, Ia., the Lewis Investment company made an assignment, with liabilities of \$420,000.

In the Osage river in Missouri a rise of 35 feet made the entire Osage valley for 400 miles a scene of desolation and ruin, hundreds of families losing everything.

A. H. Strickland's 12th birthday (colored) celebrated his 12th birthday.

A. H. Strickland's 12th birthday was celebrated at Burlington, Ia.

Fire destroyed the Lawrence reduction works at Victor, Col.; loss, \$125,000. From the effects of coal gas John H. Baulsbaugh and his wife, who reside near Swatara, Pa., were found dead in their room.

Fire destroyed the building in Baltimore occupied by the firm of Oehm & Co., as a clothing store, the loss being \$300,000.

In a freshet near Sterling City, Tex., seven persons were drowned.

The remains of Harry T. Hayward, who was executed December 11 at Minneapolis for the murder of Catherine King, were shipped to Chicago for cremation.

Nearly all the business portion and many residences at Ryan, L. T., were destroyed by fire.

In Denver John H. Husted, worth \$300,000, committed suicide through an insane fear that he was about to lose his fortune.

Lillie Baptiste and Mable Harris were drowned at Sturgeon Bay, Wis., while skating.

Five Indians, driven to desperation by hunger, ambushed and killed three Americans who were working in the gold fields in the state of Sonora, N. M., and cooked and ate their bodies.

At Youngstown, O., Charles Dunn confessed to robbing and burning four schoolhouses.

In San Francisco the Porter Bros. company, the largest dealers in dried fruits on the Pacific coast, failed for over \$1,000,000.

William and John Noonan and Edward Mulcahy lost their lives in a planing-mill fire at Ashland, Wis.

For 24 hours the entire Ohio valley was swept by storms of rain and sleet, and the telegraph service to the east, south and southeast was badly crippled. The downfall extended from Vicksburg, Miss., to Montreal, Can., and as far east as Washington and New York.

The warden of the state penitentiary at Frankfort, Ky., discovered a nest of counterfeiters in the prison.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

During a hurricane a large number of boats sank at Hankow, China, and over 200 persons were drowned.

Panama advises say that the city of Santa Marta was nearly destroyed by a tidal wave and that many lives were lost.

Eddie and Willie, sons of Mrs. P. Laerman, and Jimmie, son of Lawrence Kinney, were drowned at Morris, Ill., while skating.

Near the island of Aruba the steamship Nansemond collided with the Spanish steamer Mexico. The Nansemond sank and Capt. Lasky and seven persons were drowned.

Near Dungarven, Ireland, the British ship Moresby was stranded and Capt. Comber and his wife and son and 35 sailors were drowned.

The Venezuelan government ordered that the national militia be recruited from all classes of citizens.

Off Cabot island, N. F., the coasting schooner Victory foundered and 27 persons perished.

Dispatches from San Salvador say that soldiers, who were dissatisfied with their treatment, shot and killed 21 officers.

At the entrance of the harbor at Algiers the British steamer Bellephore collided with and sank the French steamer Emile Selsie and 30 passengers of the Emile Selsie were drowned.

The government of Manitoba positively refused the proposal of the Canadian government to establish a system of separate schools in any form.

The cruiser Kwan-Ping was wrecked on the Pescadore islands and nearly all her deck officers and 60 men were missing.

LATER NEWS.

Leslie Combs, the largest tobacco grower in the world, and his father-in-law, Daniel Switzer, the most successful retired breeder of thoroughbreds in America, failed in Lexington, Ky., for \$300,000.

The last saloon in St. Joe, Ind., was wrecked by unknown persons.

Prof. Charles H. Thompson, principal of the colored schools at East St. Louis, Ill., shot his wife because she would not live with him and then killed himself.

Efforts to enforce the Sunday-closing laws at Niagara Falls, N. Y., failed, the jurors releasing all prisoners.

The schooner Edna M. Champion, which sailed from Philadelphia on October 12 for Port Tampa, Fla., with a crew of nine men, was given up as lost.

H. B. Nims & Co., one of the oldest book concerns in Troy, N. Y., made an assignment.

Bart Torney, Andrew Lawrence and William Girard were instantly killed by an explosion of dynamite at the Milnesville (Pa.) colliery.

Judge Jackson, of the United States court at Parkersburg, W. Va., held that pension money could not be attached or levied on for debt.

The fourth earthquake shock since October 31 last was felt at Charleston, Mo., and vicinity.

Twenty-four persons were smothered and trampled to death in a panic caused by a false alarm of fire in the Front Street theater in Baltimore. Two others were fatally hurt and ten more were seriously injured.

Samuel Friedman, of Dayton, O., a wholesale fruit dealer, was robbed by highwaymen of \$700.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The tariff bill was received in the senate yesterday and referred to the finance committee after a long debate. Mr. Quay (Pa.) introduced a bill to increase the duty on leaf tobacco. Mr. Hill (N. Y.) introduced a resolution providing that any bonds hereafter issued may, in the discretion of the secretary of the treasury, be made payable in United States gold coin or in standard silver dollars, at the option of the holders. Without action the senate adjourned to the 29th.

In the house Mr. Barrett (Mass.) introduced a joint resolution authorizing the president to arrange a conference between the United States and Americans possessing territory on the American continent for the settlement of boundary disputes. The bond bill was discussed, but no action was taken.

THE GEMS OF THOUGHT.

True politeness is perfect ease and freedom. It simply consists in treating others just as you love to be treated yourself.—Chesterfield.

## TARIFF AND BONDS.

Text of the Bills Framed by Republican Congressmen

To Provide More Revenue by Increasing Duties on Imports and Also to Protect the National Cash Box

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—The following is the full text of the revenue bill which the ways and means committee will report to the house to-day:

A bill to temporarily increase revenue to meet the expenses of the government and provide against default.

Be it enacted, that from and after the passage of this act, until August 1, 1898, there shall be levied, collected and paid on all imported goods of classes 1 and 2 as defined in the act hereafter cited, approved October 1, 1890, and subject to all the conditions and limitations thereof, and on all hair of the camel, goat, alpaca and vicuña, and on all skins of animals, except as hereinafter provided, and on all shoddy, unsorted waste, top waste, slubbing waste, roving waste, yarn waste, and all other wastes, except as hereinafter provided, a duty of 10 per cent. of the value of such articles by an act entitled "An act to reduce the revenue and equalize duties on imports and for other purposes," approved October 1, 1890, and subject to all the conditions and limitations of said act, and on all wools and Russian camels' hair, of class 1, as defined in said act approved October 1, 1890, and subject to all the conditions and limitations thereof, there shall be levied, collected and paid the several duties and equalized duties on imports and for other purposes, as set forth in schedule K and also paragraph 588 in the free list of an act entitled "An act to reduce taxation, to provide revenue for the government and for other purposes," which became a law August 27, 1894, and which is now in force.

Section 3.—That from and after the passage of this act, until August 1, 1898, there shall be levied, collected and paid on all imported lumber and other articles designated in paragraph 674 to 683, inclusive, of an act entitled "An act to reduce taxation, to provide revenue for the government and for other purposes," approved October 1, 1890, and subject to all the conditions and limitations thereof, in addition to the ad valorem duty now imposed on such articles by an act entitled "An act to reduce the revenue and equalize duties on imports and for other purposes," which became a law August 27, 1894, a duty of 10 per cent. of the value of such articles by an act entitled "An act to reduce the revenue and equalize duties on imports and for other purposes," which became a law August 27, 1894, and which is now in force.

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