

THE PRESS.
FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 6, 1874
Gossip and Gleanings.

Dakota Territory has only three-eighths of a white man to an acre of ground.

In China, two people of the same surname dare not marry. The Smith family would suffer in that country.

A father in Wisconsin offered his boy five dollars to take a dose of castor oil, and then got a counterfeit bill off on the boy.

A prevalence of the measles is reported in Connecticut, but it is one town there not at all alarmed. It's Haddam.

What is the difference between a farmer and a bottle of whiskey? One husbands the corn and the other corns the husbands.

A hopeful toper looks for an early summer and a good, square, old-fashioned cholera, to top all this nonsense.

Dio Lewis ventures to observe that "high living is the foundation of every cemetery." His formula is accordingly a very simple one—diet or die.

Are blacksmiths, who make a living by forging, or carpenters, who do a little counting-fitting, any worse than men who sell iron and steel for a lining?

"And did you hear him call her my dear or anything like that?" asked the lawyer. "No, sir! of course not; why she was Lis wife," answered the lady witness.

The Waukegan (Ill.) Gazette speaks of William Yager, *nee* conductor on the

Northwestern Railway." Now, was William really born a conductor?"

A Pekin (Ill.) woman was asked by the preacher if her husband feared the Lord. He replied, "fear Him? Bless you, he is so afraid of Him that he never goes out Sunday without taking his gun along with him."

They're singing these lines in Ohio now:

Rouse, thee! O despondent brother,
Familiar with hard-fought days of pain;
When this whiskey war is over,
We'll, O we'll get drunk again.

Said a pompous husband whose wife had crouched up behind and given him a kiss, "Madam, I consider such an act indecorous," "Excuse me," said the wife, "I didn't know it as you."

"I've helped bury every man that ever sold a drop of liquor, except one, and I am arming him, night and day," was the cheery good-natured remark of a temperance orator in Springfield, Mass., the other day.

A watchman who lodged in the boiler-room of a factory at Flushing, was asked if he wasn't afraid of being blown up, and answered, with a sickly smile, "No; I'm a married man."

Mad dogs are chewing the calves of the hiccagoans. We have been trying to think that we would rather have a mad dog do than chew a Chicagoan's calf, but we haven't a nytime—that is, if time is really money—to allow the amusement to any result.—*Milwaukee Sentinel*.

Little girl—"Mamma, I don't think the

people who make dolls are very pious people," Mamma—"Why not, my child?" Little girl—"Because you can never make them kneel. I always have to lay my doll on her stomach to say her prayers!"

The travelers' book at an inn in Switzerland contains the following epigram:

THE TWO TRAVELERS.
I've lost my portmanteau!
"I pity your grief."
All my sermons were in it!
"I pity the thief."

A gentleman traveling on horseback "down east," came upon an Irishman who was fencing in a most barren and desolate piece of land. "What are you fencing in that lot for, Pat?" said he; "a herd of cattle would starve to death on that land." "And sure, your honor, wasn't I fencin' it in to kape the poor bastes out at it?"

When the British ships under Lord Nelson were bearing down to attack the combined fleet off Trafalgar, the first lieutenant of one of the ships, on going round to see that all

and were at quarters, observed one of the men devoutly kneeling at the side of his gun. When an attitude in a British sailor exciting surprise and curiosity, he went and asked the man if he was afraid. "Afraid?" answered the sailor; "no! I was only praying that the enemy's shot may be distributed in the same proportion as prize-money—the greatest part among the officers."

has the merit of being 'too true.'" A gentleman invited the Rev. Mr. M.—to drive, one day, and thought he would improve the opportunity for a little serious conversation, and broke the ice thus: "I sometimes think there's something wanting in my life—"
"Yes," interrupted M—, "you want something that will get up and git, and just come on the road better than this old plug you're holding the lines over now!"

Old Ironsides.

HER PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE.

The frigate *Constitution*, the "Old Ironsides," is being repaired at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. The design is to fit her for sea service, but it is supposed that during the centennial year she will remain at the Philadelphia Navy Yard to give visitors an opportunity of looking through her.

The *Constitution* is 1576 tons, carried originally forty-four guns and 400 men, and cost \$302,719. She was built at Boston, between

1794 and 1797, by Edmund Hartt, under an act of Congress which provided for the purchase or construction of four ships to carry forty-four guns each, and two to carry thirty-four guns. The Algerine corsairs were depredating at the time upon American commerce, and Congress was aroused to the necessity of putting an end to their outrages. President Washington approved the act immediately after its passage, and the keel of the Constitution was laid in November. She was the only one of the forty-four-gun ships completed. The Algerines having made peace with the United States, the material for the others

The Constitution was designed by Joshua Humphreys of Philadelphia, and was built under the superintendence of Colonel George Claghorn of New Bedford. When her hull was completed and a day fixed for the launching, the people of Boston and its vicinity crowded to the shipyard of Mr. Hart, and an effort was made to slide it from the ways into the water, which did not prove successful. It moved about eight feet, and there stuck, and it was not until a third attempt was made that the shell reached its destined element. When first put in commission, Commodore Nicholson was assigned to her, and she was afterwards commanded by Commodores Preble,

Hull, Bainbridge, Stewart, Decatur, Rogers, Macdonough and Elliot. Commodore Hull captured the Guerriere in her, Commodore Bainbridge the Java, and Commodore Stewart the Cyane and Levant. The last action took place off the island of Madeira, on a bright moonlight night. Peace had been declared between the United States and Great Britain, but by the terms of the treaty, the capture was legalized. The Constitution was rebuilt in 1834 at the Charlestown Navy Yard. When hauled into the dock for that purpose there were present Vice-President Van Buren, Secretary-of-War

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