

CURRENT GOSSIP.

POLITICAL NURSERY RHYMES.

I.

Rock-a-by wranglers in the House talk,—
As the wind blows the faction will rock;
When the Knott breaks the faction will fall,—
Down will come Boyg and Speaker Raud all.

II.

Sing a song of 'Lecton,
Legality denied;
Get up a Commission
The question to decide.
When the case was settled,
The people all did sing:
Isn't that a better way
Than fighting for the thing?

Field was in the court-house room,
Laying down a rule;
Howitt in the market,
Looking for a mule;
Tilden he was hurrying
The bureau-drawers to close,
When in came a "jobble-er,"
And ciphered off his nose!

III.

Picketty, Picketty, my Madd-ox
knows how to fill his pockets with rocks!
If a share of that million shall come to me,
The Confederate widows will happy be.

IV.

Pelton—This little pig went to market;
Ticken—This little pig stayed at home;
Cronin—This little pig had roast beef;
Grover—This little pig had none.
Patrick—This little pig cries, "Wec, wec, I can't
find my way home!"
—Boston Advertiser.

CAPT. ROYTON IN ROME.

Anne Brewster writes from Rome, Jan. 30, to the *New York World*: "A few days ago I received an envelope by post, on which was the picture of an Esquimaux-looking man, and under it was printed Capt. Paul Boyton. Inside the envelope were tickets to an exhibition he was to give, a programme of his performances, and a card addressed to me, with the compliments of Capt. Paul Boyton, New York, United States of America, upon it. On Sunday afternoon I drove over to the Vasca Natatoria, in which the famous swimmer was to give an exhibition of his life-preserver. The Vasca Natatoria is an immense tank of Aqua di Trevi outside of the Porte del Popoli. It is quite a little lake in extent, and has a pretty island in the centre. The Romans go there in summer to swim. The place was crowded; I should think there were over 500 persons present, and the blue liveried carriages outside showed that "society's" sons and daughters were taking interest in the gallant swimmer's exploits. The Captain looks, when dressed in his suit, like one of Capt. Kane's company attempting the discovery of the North Pole. His apparatus or habit is in two pieces, separated at the waist; the upper part covers the head, the lower the feet; attached to it are little tubes for inducing the suit with air; these tubes make him look like a figure prepared for bronze-casting. His performances were extremely interesting; he was as light as an air-ball on the water; floated, walked, in short did as he pleased; it was like terra firma to him. He floated about with a flag fastened to his feet, as a signal; he sent off carrier-pigeons and fired fuses. Then he went to different parts of the tank and picked up floating bits of plank, and nailed a raft together upon which he mounted, waved his flag, and blew a horn. Then he floated off again, took a fishing-line and went fishing; after a few moments he drew up a fish, which, of course, was previously fastened to the line, but that was nothing. After catching his fish he returned to the raft and took from his little floating traveling-sacque all the articles needed for a dinner; a little furnace, some pieces of charcoal, a bottle of beer, fruit, bread, cheese, plate, tumbler, etc., made a fire in the little furnace, cleaned the fish, put it on to broil, and while it cooked, he uncorked his beer, drank to our health, and floated about eating bread and cheese. Then he opened a newspaper and raised an umbrella, which he fastened to his feet, and read the paper under the shade of the umbrella, leaning his head comfortably on one arm, as if he were lying on a sofa instead of water! After these amusing performances he gave some others, which were to show the usefulness of his apparatus in shipwrecks, and for the service of pilots and coast-guards and a variety of other uses. It was evident, however, that, notwithstanding the Captain performed all his remarkable exercises with a great deal of skill and facility, they were, on the whole, very exhausting. The apparatus is a wonderful arrangement, and I fancy any one once put into it would be sure to float; but it certainly requires a capable person to manage it, even one-hundredth part as well as its inventor does. I am told that the Minister of the Italian navy intends to purchase a number of these suits for the service. The apparatus costs from 250 to 400 francs apiece, according to quality and accessories. The Captain is a most decided American-looking man; he has a resolute, intense expression of face, and has made an excellent impression in Rome.