

By E. D. STAIR.

COOPERSTOWN, GRIGGS CO., D. F.

The state of New York has a law which provides a penalty for an attempt to commit suicide.

The expense of municipal government in New York and Paris do not differ very much per head of population, but the Parisian gets a great deal more for his money in various ways.

California wheat is likely to be short on account of the lack of rain, the rainy season not putting in an appearance this year. The whole question of a good or bad year hinges on occasional showers which cannot be counted upon with any degree of confidence.

There has been a marked falling off in immigration to this country from Europe or the eight months ending with February. The total for the period ending February, 1882, was 375,093, and ending February 1883, was 300,484. The decline owing to greater prosperity in Europe.

The trouble with many Northwestern farmers is not that they raise too much wheat but that they do not raise enough of other necessities of life which contribute so much to human comfort and save the unnecessary expenditure of what is received from the great staple.

The New York legislature has just passed a law prohibiting railroad men from watering their stock. It will be unlawful hereafter to issue any bonds or stock upon any railroad in New York state, or upon any railroad which may hereafter be constructed in the state, representing on their face value more than the actual cost of construction and equipment. The object is primarily to prevent exorbitant charges on the plea that such charges are necessary to pay fair dividends on the cost of construction and payment of ruinous expenses.

The New York Mail says the veto of the charity bill in Massachusetts gives a warning which the administrators of all state charities will do well to heed. Gov. Butler objects to the expenditure of \$9 per cent. of \$474,000 appropriated by the bill to pay salaries in charitable institutions. His rebuke of extravagance is severe, and it may be complained that he has struck a blow at public confidence in charitable work, but it will benefit, rather than injure, the cause of charity if the reform it demands is promptly effected.

While congress goes on year after year with its chatter about American commerce, the ship-building trade of the Clyde increase steadily and enormously. Its growth in the last twenty years has been especially great. In 1862 the vessels built aggregated 69,967 tons; the next year 123,262; the year following 178,505; in 1872 they had reached 230,347, while in 1882 they were 391,934. These last figures represented 291 vessels, and this was an increase of thirty vessels and 50,000 tons over the year before. Soon we may expect to see half a million tons as the vast annual product of this great Clyde industry.

The publication of the names of all the pensioners of the United States, with residence and cause of alleged disability, will serve to ferret out the frauds already practiced, but what is needed is more publicity for the claims before they are passed upon. The Providence Press thinks that the name of each new applicant, and the basis of his claim should be published in the newspapers in the district where he is best known, and there would be a pretty good chance in that case, of uncovering fraud if it were attempted. The pension list draws upon our national finances fearfully, and while we want every soldier deserving a pension, to receive one, we do not want to pay out millions of dollars, to men who have no proper claim to a reward.

In the agricultural hall at the Centennial exhibition there was a department where California wines were exhibited, and in connection therewith a restaurant where samples of the wine might be obtained. To many persons this was no doubt the first revelation of the extent to which viticulture has been carried on the Pacific slope. Since 1867, however, there has been rapid progress, until now the wine industry is one of the most important in the state. The San Francisco Bulletin of a late date gives the figures of the surveyor-general for 1882. The total wine product for the year is set down at 8,453,987 gallons; of which Los Angeles county produced 3,100,000 gallons, Sonoma county 2,199,318. Four-fifths of the yield came from these three counties, therefore.

A recent report of the New York Prison Association contains some disagreeable facts. The association says that out of fifty-nine county jails not more than six are in good condition, all the others being faulty, insecure or bad. In but eight are children removed from adults, and in seven convicts kept wholly apart from the unconvicted, while in only twenty-three are the sexes entirely separated. Indeed, the jail system of the state is declared to be no better than

that of England a century ago, and to be a disgrace not only to the commonwealth but to civilization itself. Some allowance, however, must be made for statements from the agents of such associations, because they are very liable to exaggerate evils for the purpose of magnifying their own work. Professional educators almost invariably exaggerate the extent of what is termed "illiteracy" and its evils, as do other so-called reformers, in regard to the special necessity for their work.

In a volume of diplomatic correspondence just printed at Washington, there is an interesting letter to the secretary of state from Minister Comley at Honolulu. He discusses the future of the Hawaiian Islands, a question which is considered of great importance to the United States, in view of the rapid decadence of the native population. Mr. Comley shows that, out of a population of forty-five thousand natives of aboriginal descent, there are over seven hundred lepers at the lepers' settlement at Moleki. It is estimated there are between three thousand and five thousand concealed lepers on the islands. The ablest physicians there declare that our-fifths of the natives are afflicted with the syphilis. The minister says: "The robust race of the ancient Kanaka has shriveled and dwindled to this melancholy handful, some of whom are still of noble physique, and all of whom are of amiable character, but too many of whom are crippled by rheumatism, syphilis, paralysis or leprosy. They are crippled alike in person, in morals, and in fortune—in mind, body, and estate. There is no mercantile or manufacturing business in the kingdom that is owned and managed by a native of full blood."

Cheerful Coronation of the Czar.
The Revolutionary party of Russia has issued a proclamation announcing its preparations complete to meet the coronation of the czar, and they have every hope of success in fully carrying out a long devised plan. The proclamation contains a warning to all persons that they shall, if valuing their personal safety, keep at a distance from the ceremony of coronation. The pronouncement concluded with the words, "We will strike once more for the freedom of Russia." The proclamation is printed in letters of red and bordered with stripes of the same color.

Removal of Sitting Bull.
Orders have been issued by Gen. Terry for the transfer of Sitting Bull and his band of followers, now held as prisoners of war at Fort Randall, Wyo., to the Standing Rock agency, where they will be turned over to the Indian department and placed under the care of United States Indian Agent McLaughlin. The first contract boat going up the Missouri river will be utilized for the purpose, and to prevent any possible lack of food at the agency the subsistence department will furnish from Fort Randall the rations necessary to subsist the Indians during the journey, and for four weeks after their arrival.

Ben Butler's Bad Nephew.
Washington Special: Col. George H. Butler was recently given an appointment under the quartermaster's department and detailed for duty on the frontier. On his arrival he indulged in some characteristic display. Gen. Terry immediately wrote here and asked the immediate discharge of Mr. Butler. The letter of Gen. Terry was referred to Gen. Sherman, who returned it with an endorsement somewhat as follows: "This man was appointed for the purpose of developing the latent good that is in him. Let him be subjected to a severe course of discipline; send him to jail, put a ball and chain on him; shoot him if necessary, but don't discharge him."

Fifty Injured But None Killed.
An accident near Mason, on the Cincinnati Southern railroad, recently, threw the north-bound passenger train from the track. The train was going forty miles an hour on a sharp curve when part of the train left the track and rolled down an embankment fifty feet. Two sleeping cars were completely wrecked and the passengers extricated with difficulty. Nobody was killed. The total number injured is fifty-three, several of whom are seriously hurt. The cause of the accident was a broken rail. The engineer, Michael, discovered it, instantly applied the brakes and reversed. This threw Conductor Wood, who was in the smoking car, forward and gave him slight bruises. The engine and baggage car remained on the track. The smoking car was partly thrown off. The ladies' car entirely left the track and stood almost at right angles with the road, the lower end down the embankment. This car was subsequently burned. Two sleeping cars rolled down the embankment and were badly wrecked. Very few passengers escaped without some injury.

Shocking Developments in the Old Bay State.
In the Tewksbury almshouse inquiry in Boston, by a legislative committee, ex-Watchman Dudley testified that one night he caught the wife of Superintendent Marsh opening trunks and taking clothing from them; Mrs. Hope told him she saw the same thing, and that the most valuable dresses were taken by

Mrs. Marsh to her private store room and made over. Twenty children in one ward used to cry at night because of hunger. One night he saw four bodies resurrected and driven off in a wagon. The food for the inmates and insane was always very poor. A man who drove the hospital team told the witness that he had taken up sixty-eight bodies in eight months, for which Marsh paid him. Describing the wretched condition and treatment of the insane, he said that one woman, in a dirty cell in the attic, was entirely without clothing and almost a skeleton. She had only one meal a day, carried her by an idiotic girl, who was seen to throw the food away and come back with the empty plate, telling that the woman had eaten all the food. The insane woman's name was Mary Barron. To Gov. Butler, the witness, said that of seventy-three children that came there in a year, only one lived.

Gen. Washburn on the Tariff Legislation.
Speaking of the tariff question Congressman Washburn of Minnesota, now visiting this city, said: "I do not think my state will be badly affected by the reductions in tariff. I voted for the bill, but not because it was the best that could be passed at the last session. I hoped that by the passage of the bill the question would be settled and business returned to its normal condition. I do not consider that the reduction will be as great as anticipated. The estimated reduction in revenue is placed at about \$24,000,000, but I do not think it will be anything like as large a sum as that—indeed I would not be surprised if the revenue were not reduced \$1 by the bill. Whether or not the tariff question will enter largely into the next presidential canvass depends entirely on the action of the democrats in the next congress. If they bring up the question again, they, being in the majority, must be responsible for whatever action is taken. There is wide difference of opinion among the members of that party in regard to the tariff, and if it is again brought up at the next congress it will cause internal dissensions in the democratic ranks. The republicans are somewhat divided on the question and many of them from the northwest would vote with the democrats of the east in favor of a protective policy."

Continued Agitation in Paris.
Paris Cable: The excitement over the arrest of Louise Michel is increasing. A great number of meetings were held recently by the revolutionists, and all were closely watched by the police, but there was no disorder. Nearly 30,000 troops were under arms and ready to march at a moment's warning. One fiery municipal counselor said that the existence of the present republic was due to the self-sacrificing ardor of such patriots as Louise Michel; that the confagurations of 1871 purified Paris, but that other confagurations might be necessary. Another speaker urged immediate action. In the large towns the same state of excited anticipation exists. Meetings are held almost daily, and the situation everywhere seems critical. Seventeen persons were arrested, charged with complicity in revolutionary movements.

Victoria's Tribute to John Brown.
London Cable: John Brown's decease elicits from the queen one of the most extraordinary tributes ever paid by mistress to servant. The English public, long familiar with the exceptional position occupied by John Brown, accept with gravity whatever the queen chooses to say, the newspapers treating his death as a public event, and publishing elaborate and eulogistic biographies. Various rumors are afloat in different circles concerning the cause of his death. The doctor's explanation that his death resulted from an attack of erysipelas is not credited. John Brown's younger brother succeeds to the post of confidential servant, so that the fortunes of the family will not suffer by the death of the long-time and devoted attendant.

Defaulting Congressman Must be Paid.
Controller Lawrence has rendered a decision that the salary of Congressman Ochiltree of Texas must be paid to himself, notwithstanding his indebtedness to the United States, on the grounds that his office is a constitutional one, and that if his salary was withheld he would be deprived of means of support and his constituents of representation. Territorial delegates, however, are not constitutional officers, and it is held that in their cases their indebtedness to the government can be set off against their salaries. The following are specific points of the decision: "In view of the explicit provisions of the constitution and reasons on which it rests, it must be held that the salary must be actually paid to him as representative; because the language of the constitution is imperative; he shall receive compensation for his service as fixed by law. If his compensation is not paid to him, and is withheld it cannot be said that he has received it, etc, etc."

A Double Tragedy in Washington.
Frederick DeFronville, a former member of the signal corps, recently shot and killed his wife, and then killed himself,

at his wife's home in East Washington. DeFronville and his wife separated about eight months since, the woman refusing to live with him on account of his intemperate habits. Mrs. DeFronville, who was a Dane, had been employed as translator in the agricultural department, and lived alone. Tuesday evening DeFronville went to the house and demanded admission. Being refused, he started to break the door; when his wife sent a man who was in the house through the back entrance for a policeman. Before he returned DeFronville had broken in the door and killed his wife and himself. No one witnessed the tragedy, but when neighbors, alarmed by pistol shots, entered the house, they found Mrs. DeFronville dead, shot through the brain, and her murderer lying dead beside her, with a revolver in his hand. The motive of the deed is supposed to have been the jealousy of DeFronville and his wife's refusal to live with him.

What a Great Financier Says.
The Hon. Alexander Mitchell, who has just returned to New York from Florida, speaking of the outlook for the present season in railroads, grain, provisions and stock, said: "I can't see but what we have passed through the worst. We have had a long siege of dull times, railroads show great improvements, crop prospects are very favorable. Europe is a great consumer of all our products, and when the wheels of commerce revolve, speculation in stocks will follow. I think very many of the roads are now selling at very low prices. Take it all in all, I am a bull on the future, and believe that our finances are commencing to give substantial evidence of a prosperous outlook."

Adirondack Murray Eludes His Creditors.
The Rev. W. H. H. Murray, once a popular pastor of Park Street church Boston, and author of the Wonderful Adirondack Falls, is again in trouble. A dispatch from San Antonio, Texas, says he left that town suddenly. For some time past he has been deeply involved in debt and has been putting off his creditors with specious promises. Instead of keeping his agreement he made arrangements for flight. Thursday his intimate female friend left town by rail and Murray packed his goods and started Saturday for the south. His indebtedness amounts to something over \$12,000. Murray's persuasive powers in borrowing money proved as successful in Texas as in Boston.

James Parton the Historian, Makes a Sensation.
At the recent meeting of the Nineteenth Century club in New York, James Parton read a paper on the Coming Man's Religion. In the course of his paper Mr. Parton said that his mother insisted on his going to a religious school, one of that kind where they profess to fully convert half a dozen boys during the year. In conclusion, he said the coming man's religion would be America itself, that sublime experiment. At the close of his paper Marshall Mallory, proprietor of the Churchman and one of the owners of the Madison Square theater, sprang to his feet and exclaimed, amid much sensation, that the man who cast disrespect on the memory of his mother was unworthy of attention. A letter was read from the Rev. Howard Crosby, in which he declined to be present, because he would as soon think of discussing the multiplication table or the virtue of his mother as the subject of religion. There was much excitement among the guests in consequence of the strong expressions of opinion during the evening.

An Old Time Diner Out.
An ancient gentleman, who has outlived his early friends and contemporaries, was met a few evenings ago going out to dine and wished him a pleasant time. "A pleasant time!" he repeated, with his faltering smile and far away look. "Why, I go simply as a matter of duty; to keep people that ever heard of me from thinking I'm dead and buried long ago; so that when I'm dead they'll not be at the trouble of inquiring who it is, or mistaking me for the corpse of some other man. Ah! it is a sad thing to outlive friends, and manners and customs—even the style of eating! I don't go out now to eat; I make it a point to get what I need before I start, and merely go through the form of tasting all the dishes brought in, a la Russe. In my youth we sat down to a warm, comfortable, not too gorgeous table, with not too many at it for enjoyment, and saw our food carved and dealt out before our eyes, and had our appetite whetted by its savory odor before we tasted it. But now, only the cook and waiter know the mysteries to which we are treated—cold!"

At Minneapolis the republicans elected their candidate for judge and seven of the ten aldermen. The election of seven republican aldermen gives the republicans majority in the council. The parties are divided as follows: Republicans—Comstock, Andrews, Johnson, Coe, Cleveland, Greenleaf, Pillsbury, Clark, Parker, Haugan, Roberts, Lawrence, Chunnel—13. Democrats—Glenn Nelson, Wait, Elphorn, Hallow, Morse, Walsh, Holscher, Noeremberg, 9. The general belief is that as now constituted the council will be favorable to high license when the question shall be raised. The park scheme was adopted by a fair majority.

Cow Boys in Iowa.
For a number of years the country in the vicinity of Exira and Brayton, in the southern part of Audubon and the northern part of Cass counties, Iowa, has been more or less terrorized by a gang of roughts known as the "Crooked creek cowboys," consisting principally of Colbert Strahl and son, Rollo and Jesse Millholland. The officers and the law were set at defiance until a point was reached when it was deemed necessary to exterminate the gang. On Feb. 16, Rollo Strahl, son of Colbert, was shot in Exira by the officers, and died next day. A few days after another son, Dodge, was killed in the Black Hills. The loss of his two boys operated to make the old man desperate and he has been drinking hard ever since, and it is said has made many threats. One of those concerned in the shooting of Rollo was George Hallock, a young man of twenty years, a son of H. N. Hallock. Young Hallock is a crack shot, and is not a man to fool with. The way the story goes, Strahl and Millholland were in Howlett's saloon in Oakfield. Both had been drinking. Strahl saw Hallock pass by on a load of corn. The two men immediately got a buckboard and started after Hallock. Nearing the old Brown farm about 6 o'clock, where Hallock was taking the corn, their harness broke and they had to stop a moment. This enabled Hallock to get inside the feed lot with his load. A correspondent who interviewed Hallock gives his own words as to what followed: "They were just behind me and as they turned to come in the gate, both had revolvers in their hands, and Strahl said: 'Now, then, damn you; we have got you.' I had slipped down off the load and held the team with one hand and in the other was my revolver. I let Strahl have it, and he dropped. I pulled on Millholland, and he went down. Hallock fired twice more but neither shot took effect, as the horses wheeled around and ran towards Oakfield. Strahl fell off the truckboard at the first shot, and Millholland fell off about fifty yards from where he was hit. Strahl was carried into Judge Turner's where he lingered till 12 o'clock Friday night, when he died. The ball struck him in the throat. Millholland was hit just over the right eye. The doctor has not found the bullet yet. He was alive, but very low, and is since reported dead. The revolvers which the two men had were found on the ground near where they fell. Strahl's was a self-cocking bulldog, while that of Millholland was an ordinary weapon, and was cocked. The weapon with which Hallock did the work is a long 32 caliber six-shooter, and he said it was a borrowed one, and stated if he had his own revolver he would have been surer. Hallock talks unconcernedly about the matter, as if it was an ordinary occurrence, and evidently feels no anxiety about the result, and he gave himself up and is now in charge of an officer. It is but fair to say that public feeling is mostly with him. When your correspondent left Oakfield the coroner's jury had not rendered a verdict, but judgment is that it will be a case of self-defense. Strahl leaves a wife and a daughter, aged twenty-two years. Millholland leaves a wife and a small family. Strahl was formerly a citizen of Des Moines. He was a well-to-do farmer, fifty-five years of age, and the proprietor of 420 acres of fine land, beside other property. He was a powerful man, and a great pugilist, in fact his friends say he never met his equal in a rough and tumble fight. Millholland is about thirty, and is the same sort of a man as Strahl, except that he drinks a good deal. Strahl has been considered the leader of what is known as the "Crooked creek gang."

Death of Peter Cooper of New York.
Peter Cooper of New York, whose reputation as a philanthropist is world-wide, died on Wednesday morning at the age of 92. He had been suffering since Sunday with a cold, which developed into pneumonia. His great age prevented his recovery, although the best and most skillful physicians were in attendance. Tuesday evening it was feared that the attack would take a serious turn, but it was not until after midnight that all hope was lost. Mr. Cooper then began to realize the fact that his end was approaching and about 2 o'clock Wednesday morning called his son, ex-Mayor Cooper, his daughter, Mrs. Abraham S. Hewitt, and her husband to his bedside where he informed them that he was dying. His grandchildren were summoned and his physician, Dr. J. J. Hull, was also present. At that time Mr. Cooper was perfectly conscious and spoke clearly to those around him. About three o'clock he passed gently away, as Mr. Hewitt said to a correspondent, "like a child going to sleep." He had lived a long span and having had a good vigorous constitution, which he never abused, his last hours were painless. During the recent illness he spoke of his desire that the Cooper Institute should be maintained, that having been one of the objects of his devotion. News of his death soon spread through the city of New York exciting feelings of regret. Flags were at half mast on Coopers institute, city hall, postoffice, newspaper offices, and other public and private buildings, and great honors were paid to his memory. Peter Cooper, the oldest native resident of New York, the man who built the first locomotive ever made in the United States, and through whose agency 90,000 people have been educated, was born in New York on Feb. 12, 1791. During the revolutionary war his maternal grandfather, John Campbell, was an alderman of New York and deputy quartermaster general, and expended a private fortune for his country. His father was a lieutenant in the same war. Mr. Cooper gave away enormous sums, but prospered in a proportionate manner. In 1854 he laid the corner stone of Cooper institute, the greatest monument to his philanthropy, at the junction of the Third and Fourth avenues, New York, to be devoted forever to the union of the art and science in their application to the useful purposes of life. It cost \$354,000 and has grown under the care of Mr. Cooper and the trustees appointed by him until it now counts under 1,500 pupils in the course of the year.

The war department occasionally receives petitions for the discharge of Sergt. Mason but nothing has yet been done about it, and the president, so far as can be learned, has taken no steps toward the exercise of executive clemency to relieve him from the eight year's imprisonment. The diamonds worn by New York bartenders are said to be worth \$350,000. The Philadelphia News remarks that the carbuncles worn on the noses of New York bar patrons probably cost about \$5,000,000. The Jeanette seamstress that they owe their lives to Danenhower's bravery and skill.