

Cooperstown Courier.

By E. D. STAIR.

COOPERSTOWN, GRIGGS CO., DA.

The Indians, according to the best ethnologists, have not increased or diminished much since the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth. There are less than 250,000 of them, all told, and less than 175,000 of them, mostly dwelling west of the Mississippi, who need to be further dealt with by the National Government. These latter are less than one-fourth of our whole people.

A reformed gambler, lecturing in New York on gambling, analyzes each game, and shows that the owner of the game has a percentage in his favor which is never less than 6, and which very generally rises to an absolute certainty. He asserts that there is not a "square game" in New York, and that the amount of money taken annually in that city is something like \$40,000,000. What is true in New York is probably true of every city where gambling is carried on, save as to the amount of the plucking.

Superintendent Crocker, of the Buffalo public schools, recommends fewer examinations and fewer studies in the grammar schools, and interviews with many of his subordinates and other gentlemen well qualified to judge intelligently of educational matters, show that he is by no means alone in his opinion. It is argued that the time spent in obtaining a smattering of many studies, and in fruitless efforts to master them, should be donated to the essential elements of business education.

The troubles in Europe at the present time are simply evidences of discontent that class rule and intolerable taxation have created. Organized resistance in the form of revolution is simply out of the question, owing to the immense standing armies; and a peaceful change cannot be possible because the suffrage is withheld. Checked and baffled on every hand some of the most ardent spirits have resorted unwisely perhaps, to other measures, to terrifically despotic power into something like a decent regard for the welfare of the people. These measures are not generally approved by other nations and it is doubtful whether they can be made effective.

Vanderbilt, according to recent accounts though possessing \$200,000,000, gives much of his time up to doctors, and annoys his friends by his sensitiveness about his health. With the health of a bull, he has the nerves of a woman. For some time past he has had the movement cure, or the rubbing cure, whatever it may be called, involving somebody to come and scrub his muscles over and delude him with the idea that friction is health. He is also a victim of the homeopathic people, and bothers his friends by taking out of his pockets papers of number one, number three and number nine, and swallowing them in the midst of his ordinary social demonstrations. The sick man is constantly harassed with imaginary ailments that no amount of money will cure or dispel—but in this respect he is no worse off than tens of thousands of other people.

The condition of winter wheat save in Washington Territory and Oregon, is less promising than last year during this month. The average for the crop as April was 104; in 1881 it was 85; this year 80. The averages of the condition in the states of large productions are:

New York, 101; Pennsylvania, 95; Ohio, 70; Kentucky, 80; Indiana, 75; Michigan, 92; Illinois, 80; Missouri, 83; Kansas, 70 and California 62. It is not up to the average in any part of the south. The secretary of the state board of agriculture of Ohio, writes that the outlook for winter wheat in that state is the most gloomy for eight years. The severe cold and bare ground in January and February killed the tops close to the ground. It is estimated from present appearances that there will be but 53 per cent. of average crop. Warm rains and good weather may finally bring it up to 60 per cent., and bad weather would send it below fifty. These statistics are offered simply as an encouragement to growers of spring wheat. Hence the importance of raising a full crop.

There is a very important case now before the supreme court of the United States, the actual questions in controversy being whether the power to fix and regulate rates for the transportation of merchandise and passengers over the Illinois Central road is vested in the railroad company or in the state. It is the railroad against the people of Illinois. A suit brought by one John M. Maris in the name of the state, against the railroad company, under an act of the state legislature passed May 2, 1873, entitled "An act to prevent extortion and unjust discrimination in rates charged for transportation of passengers and freight." The plaintiff alleges the railroad company charged him a higher rate on a quantity of salt shipped from Chicago to Tecumseh than that fixed by the railroad and warehouse commissioners, appointed under the act above mentioned. The company admits the overcharge, but maintains that the state commissioners had no legal authority to fix the rates for the transportation of merchandise

over its road, and that the act which assumes to give such authority is unconstitutional and void, for the reason it impairs the provisions of the contract between the state and the company embodied in the company's charter. The great importance of the suit lies in the question whether the so-called "Granger decisions" of the supreme court rendered years ago, are likely to be fully reaffirmed or weakened and qualified in a subsequent decision. The result will be watched with considerable interest.

An Iowa Postmaster Defaults.
Vinton, Iowa Special: Postmaster C. R. Wilkinson of Vinton has been shown to be a defaulter and the office is now in charge of an agent of the postoffice department. The amount of the shortage is about \$1,000.

Soldier Airs on the Scaffold.
Timothy Mitlay was hanged recently, in the Montreal jail, for the murder of William Nesbit on January 19. Mitlay had been a brutish soldier, and said he would die like one. He begged for some brandy before going to the scaffold, but it was refused him. He then squared his shoulders as well as he was able and marched to his doom with that unmistakable military air which twenty years' service gives to British veterans. He died without a struggle.

A Rascally City Clerk.
Edward Sager, city clerk of Wyandotte, Kansas, has disappeared under suspicious circumstances. Informal charges were made that he had defrauded the city by means of false warrants and pay rolls. An investigating committee was appointed, and Sager left his office, saying he was going over to Kansas City, and has not been seen or heard from since. Members of the committee refuse to say anything concerning the results of the investigation, but rumors estimate a deficiency of \$5,000 to \$20,000.

A Bad Agricultural Chemist.
Prof. Collier is trying to make a martyr of himself on account of his removal as chemist of the agricultural department. But if the truth is told about him he ought to be removed long ago. His work on the sorghum question is now pronounced valueless by those said to be best informed on the matter, and the practical sugar manufacturers have got tired of his 2,000 determinations repeated year after year to no purpose. Prof. Wiley, his successor, is one of the most accomplished chemists in the Western States, and has the entire confidence of the best and most practical sugar manufacturers.

Devilries of an Iowa Rascal.
At the session of court just ended at Chariton, Iowa, a noted character, one O. L. Hale, alias Dr. Conway, was sentenced to four years' imprisonment at hard labor in the Ft. Madison penitentiary. Hale has had a varied career. In 1877 he came to this city and engaged as a sewing machine agent. He married a farmer's daughter, squandered her money in a few months, then forged and sold a note, and went to New Mexico. There he assumed the name of Dr. Conway, and soon organized a band of bunco men. In a few months he was elected mayor of Wallace, New Mexico, and held a high hand, granting sporting men every opportunity to ply their trade. Soon after this he killed a man in Arizona, but was acquitted on a plea of self defense. He was finally run down and captured by the sheriff of Lucas county, who had a desperate struggle with his gang in getting him away. He was formerly editor of the Chariton Republican, and has a wife and daughter living in Des Moines.

The Iowa Tragedy.
In its accounts of the murder of his wife and two sons by Charles J. Smith, and the suicide of the murderer, Thursday, the Earlville (Iowa) Graphic says: "About eighty rods east and south from the house was found the lifeless incarnate, lying near a wire fence, with an open jack-knife firmly clutched in his right hand and a small vial of strychnine in the left. His throat was cut from ear to ear, the windpipe being completely severed. From appearances it was thought he had taken strychnine, and, fearing a failure from that agency, his determination to end his life prompted the use of the knife, after employing which he dragged himself along the fence, a rod or more toward the house, where he expired. It seems that the two little girls, one eight and the other twelve, after the attack upon the mother, ran to the nearest neighbor, Mr. Joe Sullivan's and gave the alarm, but before assistance could be rendered, the savage deed was committed. Mr. Smith, in his intercourse among men, has always been considered a pleasant, manly man. But during the last year has been unfortunate in his farm operations, having lost over 100 hogs for one thing, which seemed to make him more irritable. And yesterday a shed fell upon and killed several more than he had last purchased. He has been heard to remark of late, that every thing seemed to work against him. And, it is said, that in his family, at times, he has shown a disposition destitute of kindness. At the time of the perpetration of the deed, which now spreads dismay throughout our entire community, there is no doubt but that

the perpetration was directly caused by loss of property and financial embarrassment. He was fifty-eight years of age, and his wife upwards of forty years. The verdict of the coroner's jury was in accordance with the facts.

Opinion of the Attorney General.
The village of Springfield organized in 1875 under the old law of 1875. Village authorities inquire if they are affected by the law passed by the last legislature. Held, that they are, as Sec. 2 of the new law says that all villages incorporated under the general statutes are to be governed by the new law of 1883; though no provision is made therein for reorganization or reincorporation. Sec. 18 of the old law, by making each village a separate election district, is not repealed on account of failure of new law to make provision therefor. But this failure does not imply a separate tax district. Therefore the township assessor is the village assessor as well, and the township assessor has all authority under the old law.

Scheller Not an Arsonist.
The great Scheller arson trial has closed with the rendering of the verdict of not guilty. The verdict is one that all who knew Scheller—and those who did not know him, but had heard the evidence against him—had confidentially expected. It is hardly necessary to say that it gives general satisfaction. The applause which greeted the announcement of the verdict in the court room was a fair expression of the public sentiment on the subject. The crime of which George Scheller was accused was the firing of the Newhall house, Milwaukee, on January 10, when nearly 100 lives were lost. Mr. Scheller indicted on February 26, and on due time placed on trial, with the result above described.

Higher Rates of Insurance.
The concluding session of the annual meeting of the Wisconsin, Minnesota and Dakota Underwriters' Fire Insurance union was held Wednesday at the Nicollet house, Minneapolis. The union has found that during the last year the expenses and losses have been so great as not to leave any margin of profit. It was accordingly decided that the rates throughout the country be raised in order to make the business a paying one in every town in the jurisdiction. Thirty-two local committees reported as to the conditions of their respective towns, their fire rates, degree of property prospects, etc. The remainder of the evening was devoted to organizing local boards and to routine matters. A. K. Murray and G. V. Munn were elected new members, making the number now 53. Managers Hall and McCord were also elected honorary members. The election of officers took place, with the following result: C. W. Kibber, St. Paul, president; Judge E. B. Ames, vice president from Minnesota; Col. J. F. Bullis, Dubuque, vice president from Iowa; H. C. Hill, secretary. It was decided that the next annual meeting be held in St. Paul, on the third Tuesday in April, 1884.

Germany Ready to Pounce Upon France.

The message of the emperor William to the reichstag, calling for legislation in the interest of the working classes, excites as much uneasiness here in official circles as at Berlin, for the reason that it is believed to have been inspired by the distrust of the existing government of France, and to cover a military programme, which will pretty certainly be carried out upon the first symptoms of serious political disturbances in France. Under orders from Berlin a fortnight ago, six divisions of German imperial cavalry and four army corps have been got in readiness to cross the French frontier in three days. Some of the socialist leaders of Germany appear inclined to cut out work near home for this force, by provoking disturbances among the German working classes; but as any such attempt would be disastrous to the people, it is not likely that it will be made. The real danger to Europe at this moment is at Paris, where men in authority seem to be entirely incapable of understanding the danger to which they are exposing, if not only the peace of the continent, but the very existence of their own country.

The Great Pittsburg Failure.

The failure of James Marshall & Co., iron pipe manufacturers, is the all important topic in commercial and financial circles of Pittsburg. The liabilities are considerably heavier than reported and will not be less than \$1,900,000. Of this amount \$300,000 is to the Marshall estate. The assets will cover all but \$300,000. The heaviest losers are Mark Watson of Pittsburg, brother-in-law of James Marshall, \$120,000; Haggett, Hanna & Co., furnace men, Uniontown, Pa., \$95,000; Marshall Bros., Philadelphia, \$32,000, leaving to be divided among the Fairchance Furnace company, Fayette Brown, receiver of Brown, Bonnell & Co., Youngstown, Ohio, Dunbar, Pa., Furnace company and Rock Hill Furnace company. Almost every bank in this city held papers, but were all well secured and will not lose a dollar. The failure was the result of pure speculation, and the condition of the iron trade was in no way responsible.

Over \$800,000 a year is spent in this country for dolls.

HOME ON FURLOUGH.

The Best Streak of Sunshine in the Life of the Union Soldier.

By the Rev. B. T. Hutchins, formerly Captain Sixth United States Cavalry, Brevet Major United States Army.

War Annals in Phil. Times.
Among the incidents that will bring back to the mind of the soldier some of the pleasant phases of army life, and which went far to make bright the toiling, suffering and sometimes weary life of the soldier, I know of none that has a happier feature than the soldiers' furlough. Let us try and recall our first furlough, and see if it was not the experience of thousands who may read these reminiscences. As the term of enlistment had nearly expired, and when the soldier could honorably be relieved of further campaigning and longer privations, the president of the United States called for more troops and most earnestly invited those who had "borne the brunt of the battle" to re-enlist for a term, called "during the war." Those soldiers who accepted this invitation were given a furlough of thirty days. And what days those were! It did not take much pleading and urging for a brave man to re-enlist. It was at that time that regiments were sifted and the drones and the hangers-on and the invariably sick soldier were allowed to turn in their equipments and go home to stay. But the roll was called and each company had a representation of veterans, whose pledge of loyalty and devotion was as sincere as the government for which they fought.

The first news the soldier received of his furlough was in camp. Perhaps it was after retreat, while sitting around the camp-fire, partaking of his evening rations, talking of camp life or the pleasant story of home and those so far away. An orderly from headquarters rides into camp and gives the Colonel a furlough for his regiment or a portion of his command for thirty days. Tin cups and tin plates, caps and coats are flung high into the air and a wild, hearty and enthusiastic cheer goes up. The hospital is visited and those who are able to join their comrades are discharged, while the sick or wounded one, who cannot bear the excitement of the journey, bravely contents himself. Every soldier who was unable to go with those furloughed had some message of love and loyalty to send to those at home.

Knapsacks and haversacks were emptied and cleaned and refilled. Guns, sabres and side-arms were taken from the rack and made to shine brighter than ever. Pocket books were opened and every cent counted, for the paymaster had been around and settled Uncle Sam's little delinquencies. A new pocket was made in the undershirt for the government bounty money, which they were to take home. During the night they visit their friends in the brigade and tell them the glad news. During the greater part of the night there are some of the boys awake, smoking their pipes or perhaps indulging in just a wee drop of the "commissary," for their joy drives away all weariness. And at last morning dawns and the reveille is sounded. Every man who can crawl into position is found in his company line. Very few men are absent from the roll call. All those on "detached service" have heard the news and have come straggling in during the night to partake of their share in the grand furlough. Breakfast is speedily served and eaten, the regiment forms and the column of brave men take up the march for the cars. Cheers are given by other regiments as they pass and the shout is heard: "Our turn is coming soon!"

Each was obliged to have his own ticket as the entire state was represented in his regiment, and in some cases as soon as the boundary line of the commonwealth was reached the men became scattered. Therefore, some of the scenes at the ticket office were very amusing. The troops of the Army of the Potomac were generally first transported to Washington and at that great national post the soldier on furlough received from the quartermaster his transportation papers. Then the rush at the ticket office began. The railroad ticket agent had no easy task in those bustling, crowding days of twenty years ago, but as a general thing they were always polite and pleasant to the soldier. Fifty of these jubilant fellows would rush pell mell together into the office and shout: "Give me a ticket to go home!" as if the agent knew where was his home. "Show me your papers," was the reply. "Here they are, sir," was the response, "and hurry up, if you please."

The next time we meet the furloughed soldier it is on the cars. These trains that conveyed the soldiers home on furlough were generally specials, made up for the occasion, and the soldiers were very apt to make his condition as comfortable as possible. Let us take a walk through the cars as they are swiftly speeding towards home. Some of the men, from loss of sleep during the previous night, others tired out from a little too much excitement (as the boys used to call a certain imprudence), we find fast asleep. Their three years' experience in the field of Virginia and their experience of sleeping on the sharp side of a fence rail came into good service as they improvised beds in the cars and took position, which was anything but that of a soldier.

A great many were assembled in little knots and were cracking many a joke, which seemed more clever than ever. Here and there was a soldier, with moistened eye and a sad countenance. These were thinking of a dear one in the family group that had passed away since he marched out of the village for the seat of war. Others are looking through their luggage and showing some relic picked up from off some prominent battle field that they were going to present to their Town Library Association. In one corner of the car I see the old battle-flags of the regiment, now soiled and riddled with the enemy's bullets. One of the staffs is broken, having been shot away at Fredericksburg, as the regiment was crossing the railroad. Still this was more precious than the others, for his brave color sergeant lost his life bearing aloft the old flag, and never relaxed his hold until the colors were seized by another sergeant equally as

gallant. These flags will be turned over to the Adjutant General of the State on their arrival at the Capital and new ones will be given for their other conflicts as "veterans."

As the train passes each station cheers are given by the patriotic crowds, and a hearty response is given by the military train. At one station an anti-war politician is seen and makes some disparaging remarks concerning the "boy in blue." It does not take long to put a quietus on this man, and cheers for the army and the navy are repeated with a will. During the night, perhaps, the train crosses the state line and a few of the boys are reminded that their station is the next. As these good fellows bid good-bye to their colonel and captain they are reminded to assemble at the capital city in 25 days from date, when they will leave for the front. It would do your heart good to hear those farewells. Honest, hearty "good-byes" are here uttered; "God bless you," "make every minute count," "Be sure and seal the bargain with Nancy Jane," "Don't let any scoundrel follow you," "Stick up for the old Nineteenth," etc. And these sentences are now repeated all along the remainder of the route, and ere long the night coaches and the last of the regiment is at home.

Sometimes the furloughed regiment all remained in a body until they reached the capital of the state. When this occurred there was always great rejoicing. These soldiers were met at the depot by the Five Department, secret organizations and "the citizens generally." Fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters and sweethearts were all at the station, each one ready to have the first kiss. Oh, yes, and there were many a father and mother present at these greetings who had one or two boys in that regiment when it left the state, but whose bodies are now among the unknown in Gettysburg National Burial ground. Yet their patriotism was more than their sorrow, and such hearts only regretted that they had no other to take their places.

On these occasions the cars are soon emptied and the remnant of the regiment forms into "line" with much more alacrity than it did when almost undrilled they bravely marched out of the city. The old national and state flags are unfurled, and as soon as the multitude behold these threads such cheers were never heard in that region before. The story of these flags had been described by many a letter, but now they were seen and if there was ever idol worship it was on the return of these regiments. The regiment soon moves, amid the booming of cannon and the ringing of bells.

"Did you ever see such marching?" says an old soldier of the Mexican war. "I guess that is what the boys call the Chickahominy step," says another. "Don't Bob look handsome?" says one blushing maiden.

"Who would ever thought that any one could make a soldier out of Jim Long, and now see, he is carrying one of the flags."

As the column marched through the streets cheer upon cheer greeted the regiment. The public buildings were all decorated with flags and tri-colored bunting, while most of the private residences bore some mark of loyalty.

A bountiful collation was generally furnished the boys, and it was no uninteresting part of the programme to watch and see what havoc they made of the good things set before them. No one had dyspepsia in those days, and nothing was too good for those men who had lived uncomplainingly for three years on the government ration. Speeches and toasts and hearty conversation and good cheer followed the dinner. Towards evening the regiment was dismissed and the soldiers, accompanied by some loved one, hastened to their respective homes. Each soldier had his individual welcome. Every one seemed glad to meet him. Many a soldier who before enlistment was treated as a no-account sort of a man is now welcomed as a man full of pluck and backbone and entitled to the respect of the whole community.

When the veteran reached home his first act was generally to doff his uniform and luxuriate in the citizen's dress. When this was done, somehow or other the soldier boy did not look as well in the sight of his proud mother, but it was a good change for the boy, and for once he felt as if he was free. What a time it is in that country home on the first night of the soldier's return. No matter how tired he is it was long after midnight before he was allowed to feel that old soft bed that he had been yearning for so long a time. The neighbors came and the veteran must tell the story of his campaigns and then leave them uninitiated at the last. Many of those who came to visit our hero were parents who lost their good boy in battle. How earnestly did they listen to everything connected with his army life. They must know all about his last battle and how he suffered and how he died. If the boy only died as a soldier should pass away, that was all they required. They seemed happy to know that he belonged to the gallant Nineteenth.

At the end of twenty-five days the veteran is once more at the Capital, donned in his blue uniform. The roll is called and not one of the old men are found absent. One or two hundred recruits are added to the list. The state bounties are paid to the veteran and the larger part is sent to the old folks at home for safe keeping. The new flags are presented to the regiment by the Governor of the state, and after a few speeches the regiment is aboard the train, and amid loud and loyal cheers the veterans of the war are again speedily moving to the front, and many of them never to return. When this regiment arrives at their post another one receives its furlough, and so on until each soldier received what his government promised.

General G. T. Beauregard invented the endless cable system and used it in New Orleans in 1870, afterward selling the patent to a Chicago firm.

Cleveland polled 26,300 votes at its late election, Cincinnati 47,500 and Chicago over 70,000. St. Louis had a very light election and only polled 24,000.

It is estimated that 100 deer have been shot this winter in the vicinity of North Stratford, N. H.