

sary to run for office again, but I will not attempt to decide that question until the time comes to act. I do not see any necessity to say more on the subject." In answer to the direct question, "Will you run for the presidency again if conditions arise to warrant it?" William J. Bryan tonight dictated the foregoing statement. Regarding the future of the democratic party, he said: "I am not at all discouraged as to the future of the democratic party. There must be a democratic party in every country, and I want our party to be democratic; and I have no doubt that the country will see the necessity for the adoption of the reforms advocated by the democratic party. It is already a great educational force, and I have no doubt that conditions will so indicate the party as to make the voters turn to it as the best instrument for the accomplishment of the necessary reforms." "Will you allow yourself to be elected United States senator from Nebraska?" he was asked. "Nebraska does not elect a senator this year," he said with a smile. "But it does two years from now," he was reminded. "You have my statement regarding my future so far as I care to say," and he refused to discuss the subject further.

NEWSPAPER circles were greatly agitated recently by the announcement that William R. Hearst had paid a visit to Theodore Roosevelt at the White House and had received a most cordial welcome. Referring to that visit the New York World was unkind enough to say: "We wonder if Mr. Roosevelt made this social function even more joyous by reciting any of the following extracts from the speech delivered by Secretary Root at Utica, November 1, 1906, when Mr. Hearst was a candidate for governor of New York: 'I say to you with his (Roosevelt's) authority that he regards Mr. Hearst as wholly unfit to be governor, as an insincere, self-seeking demagogue who is trying to deceive the workingmen of New York by false statements and false promises; I say to you with his authority that he considers that Mr. Hearst's election would be an injury and a discredit alike to honest labor and to honest capital and a serious injury to the work in which he is engaged of enforcing just and equal laws against corporation wrongdoing. President Roosevelt and Mr. Hearst stand as far as the poles asunder. Listen to what President Roosevelt himself has said of Mr. Hearst and his kind. In President Roosevelt's first message to congress, in speaking of the assassin of McKinley, he spoke of him as inflamed by the reckless utterances of those who, on the stump and in the public press, appeal to the dark and evil spirits of malice and greed, envy and sullen hatred. The wind is sowed by the men who preach such doctrines, and they can not escape their share of responsibility for the whirlwind that is reaped. This applies alike to the deliberate demagogue, to the exploiter of sensationalism and to the crude and foolish visionary who for whatever reason apologizes for crime or excites aimless discontent.' I say, by the president's authority, that in penning these words, with the horror of President McKinley's murder fresh before him, he had Mr. Hearst specifically in his mind. And I say, by his authority, that what he thought of Mr. Hearst then he thinks of Mr. Hearst now."

ARRESTED, TRIED, convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary, all within less than four hours, is the finale of the story of Peter Van Vlissingen of Chicago. Van Vlissingen, for years a real estate dealer in Chicago, and ranked among the most prosperous and reputable business men of that city was, during all that time, doing a fraudulent business. Immediately after his arrest he was arraigned before the court and tearfully confessed that for eighteen to twenty years he had been securing money through the sale of forged documents, and though he had bought back many of these spurious instruments without detection, at least twenty-five people would lose an aggregate of \$700,000 through the paper which he has not yet redeemed. In forging notes he declared he had perfected a unique device. This consisted of a plate glass desk top so arranged that by an electric light thrown up from beneath he could readily trace from the original forged signatures onto worthless paper. Throughout his arrest and sentence the prisoner made no effort to defend himself, but only requested that his punishment be speedy. Asked if he had anything to say before sentence was imposed Van

Vlissingen bowed his head and replied: "Only that I be given my punishment at once." His term in the penitentiary was fixed at indeterminate from one to fourteen years.

SPEAKING OF the "irony of fate," perhaps the story that comes from North Carolina is about the best example of it that has come to public notice for some time. The Greensboro Industrial News is the only republican daily newspaper published in North Carolina. Taking this fact in connection with its name it seems strange that the Industrial News should be in financial straits. But recently, since election, creditors made application to Judge James E. Boyd of the United States court for the application of a receiver. Judge Boyd granted the application and appointed W. L. Underwood receiver. Mr. Underwood announces that the publication will be continued and the vice president of the Industrial Publishing company declares that the business will be re-organized and put upon a sound basis.

NOW THEY are quarreling over the authorship of "Little Drops of Water." The New York Times says: "The announcement of the death of the author of the jingle beginning 'Little drops of water, Little grains of sand' must have caused a good deal of surprise. That such a familiar rhyme had an identifiable author has not been generally known. Even now we have doubts as to Mrs. Carney's claim to authorship of the first stanza of her moral poem. One of the stories is that she wrote it off without thinking, as a stenographic exercise, and afterwards added the other utterly commonplace stanzas. Not only is the authorship of the poem claimed for Mrs. Carney by her friends, but the date of its composition is announced as 1845. Does it seem possible that people who lived before 1845 did not know 'Little drops of water,' that Andrew Jackson, Daniel Webster and Burton the comedian did not learn it in the nursery? It has the juvenility, the utter simplicity of folk lore. It seems to have been handed down from the ages. Yet we are asked to believe that a Boston primary school teacher wrote it with no intent to perpetuate it, when she was twenty-two years old and studying shorthand, that it came to her 'all of a sudden.' Is it not a fairer inference that she had heard the jingle in her infancy, and, finding it new to the cultured Bostonians of her vintage, was tempted to elaborate it? Shakespeare, Spenser and the other great ones thus adapted the unidentifiable trifles of their era."

THE KANSAS City Star says: "Attention has already been called to the fact that the next president will have appointments to make to the supreme court. That the majority of the justices may change in the next four years has not, however been generally understood. Justices are permitted to retire at the age of 70 on full pay. Of the nine members of the court, five are now above 70 and one will attain that age before 1913. Their present ages are as follows: Chief Justice Fuller, 75; Justice Harlan, 75; Justice White, 73; Justice Brewer, 71; Justice Peckham, 70; Justice Holmes, 67. The next president may therefore determine the tendencies of the supreme court, not merely so far as personal fitness is concerned, but toward certain broad questions. Pre-eminent among these is that of nationalism as contrasted with state rights. This involves the ability of the federal government to regulate the corporations, a matter of the greatest importance to the republic."

IT HAS ALWAYS been the general impression that strong wind is a bad thing to have about when a fire is raging, but in this iconoclastic age we are no longer surprised to have old ideas overthrown. It remained for some quick-witted but unknown genius to turn the evil of a heavy wind to good advantage in case of fire. For several weeks a drouth has raged in some sections of Pennsylvania, and this drouth was especially hard at Indiana, in the Keystone state. The drouth was so severe that the city's water supply was exhausted, and when a fire broke out in a row of houses at Iselin, a mining suburb, the water pipes were empty and it seemed certain that the entire suburb would be destroyed. But a quick witted man bethought himself of something, and immediately proceeded to put his idea into practice. He had the water mains connected with

the compressed air pumps at the mines and started working as hard as possible. Then the volunteer firemen turned the compressed air upon the fire and literally blew it out. The damage was confined to the one house in which the fire originated. At any rate this is the story told in a dispatch to the Pittsburg Dispatch.

IT HAS BEEN several years since the "thumb print" craze ravaged the country as a result of Mark Twain's "Puddin'head Wilson," but it bids fair to be revived by a recent offer promulgated by Secretary Garfield. The Associated Press report recently carried the following interesting story under date of Pawhuska, Oklahoma: "Secretary Garfield and the interior department have officially indorsed the thumb print as a signature concerning the transactions of the Osage Indians. Indian Agent Millard, located here, has been notified that hereafter the thumb print of each Indian shall be affixed to his receipt for the payment of annuity money, and will also be recognized by the department in signing leases and other instruments in writing. Records will be taken of the thumb prints of the various members of the tribe, about 2,200 in all, and preserved for reference."

THE INTERSTATE commerce commission has recently issued its casualty report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1908. If the list of dead and wounded was that of some battle the whole world would stand aghast, but as it is merely the list of killed and wounded in the industrial field it will result only in editorial comment for a few weeks—and then will come forgetfulness. In the meanwhile the terrible slaughter will continue with practically no abatement. During the year ending June 30, 1908, there were 3,764 persons killed and 68,989 injured in railroad casualties in the United States. Bad as these figures appear they are better than the figures of the year before, showing a decrease of 1,236 in the number of killed and 3,297 in the number of injured. Commenting upon this record of slaughter the Wall Street Journal says: "Many a war fills pages in the world's history with a less number of human beings killed and maimed than makes up the annual record of slaughter and mutilation on American railroads."

AN INTERESTING psychological experiment that is soon to be made is described by an Associated Press dispatch from New York in this way: "Attracted by the \$5,000 offered by the Metropolitan Psychological society of this city to the person who can count a number of oranges without seeing them, a man in Oakland City, Ind., comes forward with the assertion that he is ready to make good by auto-suggestion. Dr. L. S. Trusler of the Indiana town has written to the society telling of the claims of the man for whom he stands sponsor, saying that he is ready to count the oranges when information as to their location is supplied. Where they are makes no difference to the mysterious man, it is said, but he must have them located before proceeding. To add interest to the test he proposes to do the counting while asleep. The society has replied to the offer, requesting that a number of preliminary tests be gone through to determine the subject's powers and good faith in the matter. Hundreds of offers to try for the \$5,000 are received by the society daily."

DR. L. FRANK Derby Pierce of West Roxbury, Mass., is responsible for an "animal story" that certainly deserves the earnest investigation of Theodore Roosevelt when that strenuous enemy of the "nature fakirs" goes to Africa. A special dispatch from Chicago to the New York World gives Dr. Pierce's story as follows: "Monkeys and the large gray squirrels that overrun the jungles of Africa are their own dentists. They fill each other's teeth with consummate skill and often kill an aching nerve. At least this is what Dr. L. Frank Derby Pierce of West Roxbury, Mass., says, and he is going to lecture before Chicago dentists on the subject. Dr. Pierce, who spent several years in the jungles of Africa, says that monkeys and squirrels have discovered a blue clay, much the same color as that which covers the diamond fields, and in this clay is a large percentage of creosote. When the animals have the toothache they plaster this clay into the cavity as a remedy. The creosote often kills the offending nerve."