

# Current Topics

Once \$40,000,000 Now \$4,000,000.

E. A. Davis, one of the heirs of the great Davis estate, died under distressing circumstances at the county hospital, Chicago, last week.

His death was caused by brain fever brought on by years of worry over legal complications connected with the will case and family troubles. He was only 35 years old and had a very active career ever since his boyhood. Two years ago Mrs. Davis applied for and secured a divorce from him. Their two young children were placed in the hands of a guardian, and the parting with his little ones is said to have contributed more than anything else to his mental distress and subsequent fatal illness.

The great Montana estate of his uncle, the value of which has dwindled from \$40,000,000 down to \$4,000,000, is still in the courts, and it is improbable that an early settlement will be reached. The case has been drag-

## Marks the Lawyer.

Judge Abraham Marks, the original of Harriet Beecher Stowe's character in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," is quite ill in St. Peter's hospital, Brooklyn, at the

aged of 87. Judge Marks was hardly the man described by Mrs. Stowe in her famous book. Quite the reverse, in fact, for he was a war friend of Henry Ward Beecher. Uncle Tom's creator used only his name, and did so at the suggestion of her reverend brother, offered in a moment of merriment. But the name struck, and the judge's friends have never since called him in any fashion of speech except "Marks, the lawyer."

Judge Marks is a courteous, learned, old-style gentleman, with a heart as tender as that of the fictional Marks was hard. He came from Virginia to New York in 1832, was a reporter on the old Star, and afterward studied law. He laid away a competence for his old age.

## In the Public Eye Again.

If rumor can be relied upon, King Leopold II, of Belgium, may abdicate his throne this fall in favor of his nephew, Prince Albert, who will be married soon to Duchess Elizabeth, of Bavaria. Were it not for the fact that the retirement of King Leopold has been the subject of repeated rumors heretofore, some credence might be attached to the report which now comes from Belgium, but so frequently has the good-natured monarch of late years had occasion to contradict such reports that there are comparatively few readers who will stop to give the matter second thought. King Leopold has held the reins of government continuously since 1835. Prince Albert is the son of the late Count of Flanders, brother to the king. He succeeded to the claims of Prince Baldwin, his elder brother, who died in 1891. Leopold has three daughters, but these are disqualified by the Belgian constitution, the succession being



E. A. DAVIS.

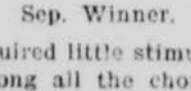
going along for over ten years, and though the claimants came to an amicable arrangement among themselves three years ago, the Montana courts still hold the property intact, that is, what is left of it. Hundreds of lawyers have grown rich upon the fees necessitated by keeping it in the courts.

## A Gain for Gossips.

Since sociology has taken such a firm hold upon inquiring minds that somewhat bedraggled lady, Dame Gossip, has gained a new dignity. What used to be looked upon as idle chatter about one's neighbors is now come to be regarded in the light of scientific inquiry about social units. Those old themes, the love of dress, the love of one's neighbor, and the lack of love for one's family, which were supposed to set pivots tongues to wagging now set lofty brains to brooding, and to accumulate items of news is a pursuit worthy of the most dignified of investigators. It is now the business of half the world to find out how the other half lives, and that old statement of Pope's that the proper study of mankind is man is today accepted in a broad sociological spirit.

## Sep Winner Again at Work.

The venerable Sep Winner, despite his 73 years, is the author of a campaign song, which he expects to score as big a hit as his compositions of years ago, that have brought him fame, if not fortune. For some time his pen has been idle, but the melody in his heart could never die, and it required little stimulus to reawaken into song all the chords and harmonies that rang through his soul and found the "Mocking Bird," and other popular airs. What success may await him with his new song one can not say, but there will be hundreds of old admirers of his compositions who will welcome it on account of its author, if for no other reason. These will be interested to learn something of its writer, if only to reawaken old memories.



Sep. Winner.

## Death of Prince Henry.

The death of Prince Henry, who was the uncle of the Grand Duke of



PRINCE HENRY.

Home, removes the only male relative in direct succession to the Russian throne. He was married monogamously, and in this way his children are precluded from succession.

# The Weekly Panorama.

## New President of Purdue.

Dr. Winthrop Ellsworth Stone, who has succeeded the late James H. Smart as president of Purdue university, Lafayette, Ind., served the college as vice-president from 1892 until his election to the presidency last July.

Dr. Stone is a young man, enthusiastic in educational work. Although only 38 years old he has won wide recognition by his learning and his progressiveness. He was graduated from the Massachusetts Agricultural college and later studied at Göttingen, where he received a doctor's degree. From Boston university he received the degree of bachelor of science, an honor earned by his researches in chemistry.

After completing his studies in Germany Dr. Stone was for a time connected with the chemical department of the University of Tennessee. In 1889 he left the Tennessee university to accept the chair of chemistry at Purdue university.

Dr. Stone is a great favorite with the students at the Indiana college and the opening of the institution will bring him enthusiastic greetings from the members of his old classes.

## Hero of Big Riots.

Police Lieutenant Edward J. Steele of Chicago, who died suddenly the other morning, took a prominent part in suppressing the Haymarket riot, his company being at the head of the column that advanced to disperse the anarchists. His clothing was riddled with bullets and he injured his wrist in clubbing one of the rioters senseless with his empty revolver. Lieutenant Steele was out for two days



EDWARD J. STEELE.

and two nights, and nine of the twenty-four members of his company were seriously wounded.

## Defends Her Works.

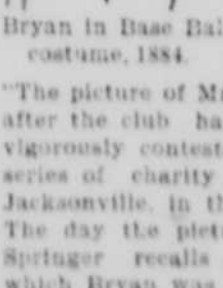
Sarah Grand, the novelist, who is engaged in a sharp controversy with an English clergyman as to the effects of her stories upon the minds of the young was born in Ireland. She began writing at the age of 11 and at 16 was married to an army officer with whom she traveled in Ceylon, China, Japan and Egypt. Her contributions to periodicals were at first returned with unfailing regularity, but she refused to be discouraged and kept on sending manuscripts to the publishers until they were compelled to give her a hearing. "Idealia," her first important work, was published at her own cost, while "The Heavenly Twins," perhaps her most successful effort, had to wait three years for a publisher. Sarah Grand's position in contemporary English literature has been the subject for much controversy. She has many friends and many enemies. Her real name is Mrs. Chambers McFall.



Miss Grand.

## Bryan's Home Run Hit.

Back in the '90s when William J. Bryan, the standard bearer of the Democracy, was a lawyer at Jacksonville, Ill., he was a baseball enthusiast and belonged to a club there, the baseball club of Morgan county bar. Recently this fact was brought to light by the finding of John W. Springer, one of the leading citizens of Denver, of a faded photograph, showing Mr. Bryan in the uniform of a ball player. Speaking of the matter Mr. Springer says: "The picture of Mr. Bryan was taken after the club had participated in a vigorously contested game, one of a series of charity games played at Jacksonville in the summer of 1884. The day the picture was taken, Mr. Springer recalls that the club of which Bryan was pitcher and himself catcher had been victorious over a team made up of the best players among the town store clerks. He also recalls that victory was pulled out of defeat in the ninth inning by Bryan's home run hit."



Bryan in Base Ball costume, 1884.

## TURNED OVER TO DEARING.

Long Contest at Feeble-Minded Institute is Ended.

LINCOLN, Neb., Sept. 24.—The long and tiresome fight for control of the institution for feeble-minded youth at Beatrice has been finally settled, and Dr. C. E. Coffin and Secretary Jewell, who received the institution from Dr. Lang, as representatives of Governor Poynter, turned the institution over to Dr. W. H. Dearing, the new superintendent. There has been more or less trouble at this institution for the last six or eight years.

Some time ago Governor Poynter became dissatisfied with the management of the institution under the superintendency of Dr. Lang, and appointed Dr. Dearing. Lang took the controversy into court and Judge Stull granted him a temporary injunction and upon the case coming up to be heard on its merits the judge decided in favor of Dr. Dearing and against Dr. Lang. Lang then appealed the case to the supreme court, but Judge Stull granted a peremptory writ of mandamus ousting Dr. Lang from the control of the institution and commanding him to turn it over to his successor, Dr. Dearing.

## Nebraska in Washington.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—The post-office at Tamba, Washington county, has been ordered discontinued. Patrons will be supplied by rural free delivery from Arlington.

Nebraska postmasters appointed: D. B. Buzick, at Chase, Chase county, vice L. R. Briggs, resigned; J. A. Woods, at Drop, Logan county, vice L. Hudson, resigned; Etta M. Lundy, at Wellfleet, Lincoln county, vice W. A. Brandt, resigned. Wyoming: Florence Kennedy, at Winthrop, Natrona county. Iowa: A. C. Karens, at Genoa, Wayne county.

The North American National bank of Chicago was today approved as a reserve agent for the First National bank of Wymore, Neb. Lieutenant Colonel Forrest H. Hathaway, deputy quartermaster general, will proceed from Omaha to Louisville on business pertaining to the purchase of horses for the army.

## In the Dark as to the Law.

OMAHA, Sept. 24.—Judge Shiras of the United States district court decided the case of Thomas L. Sloan against the United States in favor of the defendant on a motion to dismiss for want of jurisdiction. In rendering this decision the court certified the case to the United States supreme court for the purpose of securing final decisions upon some questions where the law is ambiguous. The first question propounded to the supreme court by the district judge is whether he was right in dismissing the case, as he asks whether the act granting the lands in severalty to the Omaha Indians confers jurisdiction upon the circuit court to determine such cases as may be presented under its terms, and whether the court would have jurisdiction when the suit is brought against the United States alone to the exclusion of the Indian tribe and all other persons.

The Farmers' Supply Association of Lincoln, Neb., is now ready for business. It will pay every farmer who is in need of anything in the house or on the farm to write to this association for prices, as their object is to get everything from the manufacturer to the consumer at actual cost, plus the expense of handling the goods. They carry a full line of groceries, furniture, carpets, stoves, and harness as well as all farm supplies. Located at the corner of 13th and O streets, No. 139 N. 13th street, Lincoln, Neb.

## A Swindler Overhauled.

TRENTON, Neb., Sept. 24.—Word reaches here that D. O. Whitford, under a number of aliases, has been captured by the chief of police of Lincoln. Whitford spent a number of days here and succeeded in getting a loan of \$199 from W. O. Robinson, president of the State bank and giving a mortgage upon cattle he professed to own.

## Thieves Rob a Tailor.

BLAIR, Neb., Sept. 24.—Thieves entered the shop of J. P. Johnson, merchant tailor, and stole two valuable overcoats that were left for repair. Entrance was effected through a rear window and the thieves were evidently scared away, as they did not attempt to get into the front room, in which Mr. Johnson had a large stock of goods for gents' furnishings.

## Horse Thief Arrested.

PAPILLION, Neb., Sept. 24.—Charles Hill, a painter, after imbibing a quantity of hot corn extract started for a drive across the country with a horse and buggy belonging to Geo. Klundick. Sheriff McEvoy was notified and returned with Hill who was overtaken and arrested for horse stealing.

## Decide Against a Bail road.

PLATTSBROUGH, Neb., Sept. 24.—The supreme court has decided that the Missouri Pacific Railway Company must pay W. K. Fox, administrator of the estate of Amos Thompson near Union while employed as brakeman for the company. This is the third time the case has gone to the supreme court.

## Girl Killed by Lightning.

LYONS, Neb., Sept. 24.—Eva, the 14-year-old daughter of J. C. McElhinney of this city, was struck and instantly killed by lightning while on her way home from down town upon an errand.

## Woman Believed to Be Insane.

PLATTSBROUGH, Neb., Sept. 24.—Mrs. Lena Koshler, a young woman, was taken in charge by the officers as she displayed unmistakable symptoms of insanity. She visited a number of the local stores and at each place wanted to purchase the entire stock. Several years ago the unfortunate woman's mind became unbalanced and she was taken to the asylum at Lincoln, but was soon after discharged as cured. She has since married and is the mother of a small child.

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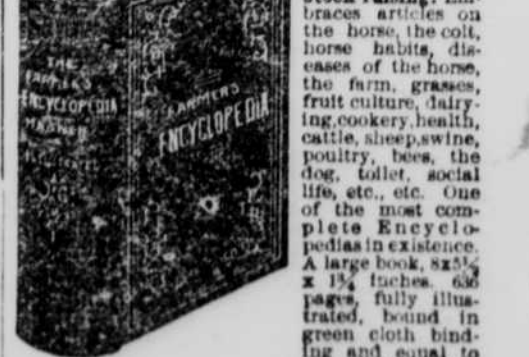
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