

A New York clergyman who recently conducted a Sunday morning service on Blackwell's Island learned that there are at present fifteen college graduates wearing the "stripes" in that penitentiary.

Twenty-two turkey gobblers at New Brunswick, N. J., attacked a tramp who had entered their inclosure with felonious intent, and when he got away he had no turkey, nor as much clothes or cuticle as when he started in.

There is no royal road to wealth, and there is no way to shoe a horse except to nail on the shoe. So says a blacksmith, and, in proof of his assertion, he states that while nearly 200 patents have issued for horseshoes and \$6,000 paid into the patent office at Washington, not one of the inventions has ever been used.

Nearly everybody learns to do something nowadays. The man or woman of fashion usually plays on some musical instrument or recites. The newest thing, however, is the mastering of the art of the prestidigitator. Many of the swell men have become adepts and entertain their guests with tricks of conjuring. To do this well a quick eye, a dextrous hand and a ready tongue are necessary.

The sending of cotton from the South to San Francisco for reshipment thence to China and Japan is one of the anomalies of commerce. Cotton for the Orient has hitherto been shipped entirely from New Orleans and Mobile, but the demand has increased so enormously in the last year that those ports alone can no longer supply it, and it has been found necessary to send vast quantities overland by rail to California.

At Philadelphia a wagon loaded with gasoline collided with an electric car. The wagon was demolished and the oil flooded the street. The accident attracted the attention of a motorist of another car, who ran his car up to the scene. Seeing the oil running under his car, he turned on the current to get away. A spark from the wheel immediately ignited the gasoline fumes and instantly the street was ablaze. Four people were injured, one seriously, and one horse was burned to death.

It is the practical aspect of civil service reform that makes it unassailable. Great as its benefits are to the public service, they might not be able to protect it against a combined attack in Congress if the spoils system were really, as it was once thought to be, a strong tower of defense for the politician. He has learned that it is the weakest point in his armor. He, in self-defense, is now ranged with the friends of good government on the side of civil service reform.

Hale, the victorious cyclist, not only broke the wheeling record, but the dietary score also. On the first day his consumption of food by weight was 34 1/2 pounds, on the second 59 pounds, and the total weight in six days was 162 1/2 pounds. This goes beyond the performance of the Zulu Kaffir, who makes nothing of consuming fifteen or twenty pounds of baked elephant's foot at a sitting, but who follows up his feast with a fast of considerable duration, not trying to live the pace for a week together, as Hale succeeded in doing without apparently incurring any injury.

One of the largest nuggets of pure gold of which record has been made that was ever found in either North or South America is, says the New York Sun, now in the office of Carter, Hawley & Co., William street and Exchange place. It was found on a placer mine in Dutch Guiana, on the north coast of South America, in November last. It is in the shape of an irregular honeycombed triangular plate that is about ten inches long on the base line, by six and a half inches high to the apex and an inch and a half thick. It weighs 15.64 pounds troy, and seems to be pure enough to sell for \$29 an ounce, or \$3,753.60 for the whole mass.

Senator Davis, of Minnesota, says that the country has never experienced such hard times as in 1857. "Money was not only scarce, but there was no money in circulation—none to be had anywhere. Along the Chippewa, Black, Mississippi, and other rivers sawlogs were legal tender. In fact, everything that possessed any sort of value passed as token money. Up in Northern Wisconsin copper was mined, and copper cents were minted and issued by private individuals. The general storekeepers issued their own scrip, and it passed for money many a time. We had every kind of token money except wampum. We didn't get quite that far back to the primitive method and medium of exchange."

A Boston woman who has lately returned from England brought with her, among other curiosities collected during a long residence abroad, a piece of fancy work which was purchased at a fashionable charity bazaar in London. It is a knitted shawl about half a yard square, and its color is pink. The execution is indifferent, the usefulness or the beauty of this article is not apparent, yet the present possessor values it beyond price. It is the handwork of the Queen of England, and sent by her to the bazaar, where it was raffled for. This royal hand-made shawl has a

guaranteed cigarette attached, and though not signed by the Lord Chamberlain or the Prime Minister, there is a real Countess, not to mention the original owner, to swear to the genuineness of the document going with the article.

A coffee merchant in Brooklyn has the impudence to go into the business of sugar refining and thus become a competitor of the sugar trust. But he is about to be well punished. The sugar trust has bought a big coffee factory and will sell the product at a price which this Brooklyn merchant cannot meet. And as soon as the Brooklyn merchant is crushed the price of coffee and sugar will be raised and the trust will make good its loss and will take a million or so in addition as payment for the trouble this impudent fellow gave it. There is entirely too much impudent criticism and rebellion against these monopolies. The independent business men and the people generally need to be taught their place. It is earnestly hoped that the monopolies will be even more severe in the future. Put the screws on hard. The break will come the sooner!

The Spanish news smiths at Havana have a serious rival in the man who is forging dispatches from the seat of war in the Philippine islands. He has even a harder task to manufacture victories for the Spaniards than the Havana men have, but he gives his stories a much neater turn. His report of the three attacks upon Novetas reads very much like the account the editor wrote of the encounter he had with a war-like visitor. "We inserted our nose," he wrote, "by an adroit movement into our antagonist's mouth, and suddenly throwing ourselves upon our back drew him down upon us with great force. He attempted to strike us several times, but we cleverly caught the blows upon our eyes and mouth, and when we had tired him out we allowed him to rise from his uncomfortable position." This is how the Spanish troops treated the Philippine rebels.

A taxidermist at Northwood, N. Y., has been making experiments as to the effect of light reflected in a bird's eye. A glass, seven or eight inches in diameter, has been found most serviceable. The antics of blue jays are remarkable when the light strikes them as they sit in the shadow of an evergreen tree. They jump to another branch and try to look into the light, but they have to turn away, as the light dazzles them. Then they fly around the reflector, but after practice one is able to keep the light always on them, and the birds not infrequently come within reach of a man's hand. A ruffed grouse gives a startled look when the light strikes it. Then it jumps, and away it goes. Hawks, too, are usually startled or annoyed so that they fly off. Woodpeckers don't seem to mind it at all. Rabbits blink and stare at a glass for a while, then go around a stump and sit up again, as if waiting for the light to play tag with them.

In Kentucky even lynching is done in so courteous a manner that the subject is left nothing to desire. For instance, the vigilance party at Owensboro did not violate the sanctity of Christmas day by their act, but considerably waited till 2:30 next day before addressing themselves to the disagreeable but necessary task. Even then great consideration was shown for the religious needs of the prisoner. The report says that "he was given ample time to pray." But when he had finished his petition the lynchers proceeded resolutely and he was strangled to death. Even during the operation of choking the alleged murderer to death no disturbance occurred. The dispatch states that "the lynching was the most quiet and orderly, perhaps, ever conducted in the State, and few persons save those having business on the public square at the time knew anything of it." Here again we see that delicate Kentucky consideration for the feelings of others. Instead of whooping and howling about and awakening those who did not take part in the ceremonies the participants conducted themselves in a quiet and orderly manner, thus setting an admirable example for others.

A bright young Chicago man has written an entertaining book of South American travel which wins praise from more people than his friends, but even the author must smile to read in a Chicago Sunday newspaper the following finale to a review of his book: "How much do any of us know of South America? How many of us ever heard that Venezuela meant originally Little Venice, and was so named by a European? Young Mr. Morris deserves the thanks of a public either too busy to inform itself about its own hemispheric sphere or too indifferent." If the elevator boy or mailing clerk who wrote this enthusiastic review ever went to school he would have known that Venezuela, Little Venice, is popularly supposed to have been so named by a European and not by an Australian bushman or an inhabitant of Mars, as the naive statement of the reviewer might indicate. He would also know that the average American citizen is tolerably well acquainted with the history and geography of South America, and can distinguish between Simon and Patsy, Bolivar, and the reviewer should send to Washington and get the handbooks of the bureau of American republics. Then when the elevator shift is changed he can read up on a heap of things he is seemingly unaware of.

"Dreadful how the bicycle is running out of the market, isn't it?" "Yes, it is; but the crop of wild oats seems to be coming along about as usual."—Chicago News.

## HORRORS OF FAMINE.

### APPALLING CALAMITY THREATENS THE INDIAN EMPIRE.

Millions of Human Beings May Perish, as in 1877-78, of Hunger and Pestilence—The People's Miserable Condition—Measures of Relief Devised.

Ghastly Records of the Past. The famine prevailing in the north and northwestern parts of India is, according to the best information available, one of the most appalling calamities which has ever visited the great peninsula. The district affected is many thousand square miles in extent and the failure of the crops has been almost complete. The millions of India live from hand to mouth, and when from any cause even a single crop fails the effect is at once apparent in widespread suffering. With 1,250,000 people on the verge of starvation in the Deccan alone and the gloomiest prospects in other great agricultural provinces, the civilized world may be shocked by a recurrence of the unspeakable horror of such famines as those of 1769 and 1877-78, when people died not by the thousand or the ten thousand, but by the million.

The population of British India is now estimated at 240,000,000 people—twice as many as the Roman empire had at its period of greatest strength. Nearly all these millions are laborers living from hand to mouth, and the giving such surplus as they produce to support the British imperial establishment and their own priests and hereditary rulers.

India's Pitiable Condition. At best, their condition is utterly miserable from any standpoint an American can occupy in looking at them. These strange people living in the hotbed of nations, speak a language which in some of

the great leveller, brushes away distinctions like cobwebs. In the agonies of hunger they forget the religion which made them apathetic and meek, and in great crowds they throng around the headquarters of the local governments, demanding bread with a fierceness which gnawing hunger can inspire even in a Hindu—the mildest of all slaves.

During the famine period of 1877-78 the British Government spent \$40,000,000 in attempts at relief, but in spite of all it did in relief work, there were 1,556,000 deaths in a single year in the single province of Madras.

Horror of Pestilence. But famine is not the worst—or perhaps it is truer to say, the most formidable—to the spectator, for with it comes pestilence. At his best, the Hindu is really half starved, and in a famine year he is inevitably a victim of the horrible diseases of his condition and climate. The



ground parches under a sun which bakes it until it is dust with no drop of moisture anywhere to make even a cooling dew. The brooks vanish. The rivers become mere threads or dry up altogether. The pools of water on which the villages chiefly rely are foul at best, but in a prolonged drought the water in them evaporates until it is of the consistency of slime. And this slime, foul with animal and vegetable putrefaction, the people must drink as the horrors of thirst are added to those of hunger. Up from the dry jun-



HORDES OF STARVING PEOPLE SWARM THE ROADS IN INDIA.

its dialects is so strikingly like our own that there can be no doubt of the relationship to us. Yet they seem to be utterly without the race impulses which force the European into ceaseless activity. Given a thimble but with a little rice or grain enough to make a cake on the heated stones of the hearth and they do not care for the future.

The jungles near which they make their villages are full of fierce quadrupeds and yet more deadly reptiles. Tigers kill and devour them, cobras sting them to such an extent that the deaths from this cause alone run into the thousands every year. The deadly miasma of the marsh and the jungle saps their vitality until they are

bleached and the parched fields come dust clouds laden with the seeds of death in many forms—and among them that swift and most dreaded of all forms of death in Asia—cholera. Whole villages, weakened by hunger, are swept away by it. Father, mother and children die together. There is no one to bury the dead. Houses in the outlying villages are filled with corpses, and the gaunt wolves and jackals from the jungles are emboldened to enter the deserted streets in search of the food which famine, though it has made them lean in the beginning, supplies them in superabundance in the end.

### BLEACH THEIR OATS.

#### An Illegal Practice Attributed to Chicago Grain Dealers.

Considerable interest has been aroused over the discovery that oats bleached with sulphur have been handled in the Chicago market. It is against the law of the State to use such a process, but the poor quality of the present oats crop has proved too great a temptation to certain mixers, who have brightened up the oats with sulphur to help out poor lots. The fact became generally known when insurance inspectors made a complaint to two or three concerns, and raised the insurance on certain buildings. Later all the large concerns handling oats were questioned as to whether they were using sulphur. Most of them denied it emphatically. The innocent ones in the trade are highly incensed at the use of the process by others, as it is claimed it will hurt the reputation of Chicago oats.

#### Told in a Few Lines.

The question of a century celebration of the death of Edmund Burke is being mooted in Ireland.

Because he was out of money and had nothing to live for, Henry Miller (also spelled Mueller), who was formerly a prosperous butcher in Chicago, shot himself in the left lung at San Francisco and is now dying.

Ahlwardt, the notorious Anti-Semitic agitator and member of the German reichstag, who recently came to the United States to organize a crusade against the Hebrews in this country, is said to have deserted his family in Germany.

The Pope has issued an order forbidding priests not belonging to the Roman diocese to dwell in Rome under penalty of suspension. It also threatens measures against the resident clergy who are seen on the streets after the religious curfew bell.

The premises of the Russian Oil Company at Purfleet, Eng., have been burned, doing immense damage. Cataclysms of burning oil were poured into the Thames, illuminating the river from Greenwich to Gravesend. The Purfleet powder magazine and the Anglo-American Oil Company adjacent, were saved by the efforts of the fire brigade.

## NEW PLAN OF FINANCE

### WORK OF THE CONFERENCE AT INDIANAPOLIS.

Declares for Gold, for the Retirement of Treasury Notes, for Freer Banking and for a Monetary Commission to Suggest Reforms.

The work of the monetary conference at Indianapolis is finished.

After all the States had submitted plans for reforming the currency, it was clear that there was no substantial agreement as to what should be done, and that there was considerable difference of opinion as to the proper mode of procedure. The committee on resolutions, composed of one delegate from each State, examined carefully all the manuscripts filed with it, and, after a session of twelve hours, the following resolutions were unanimously recommended:

1. That the present gold standard should be maintained.

2. That steps should be taken to insure the ultimate retirement of all classes of United States notes by a gradual and steady process and so as to avoid injurious contraction of currency or disturbance of the business interests of the country, and that until such retirement provision shall be made for a separation of the revenue and note issue departments of the treasury.

3. That a banking system be provided which should furnish credit facilities to every portion of the country, and an elastic circulation, especially with a view of securing such a distribution of the loanable capital of the country as will tend to equalize the rates of interest in all parts thereof. For the purpose of effectually promoting the above objects:

Resolved, That fifteen members of this convention be appointed by the Chairman to act as an executive committee while this convention is not in session—with the full powers of the convention. The executive committee shall have the power to increase its membership by any number not exceeding forty-five, and five members thereof shall at all times constitute a quorum of said committee.

The Executive Committee shall have special charge of the solicitation, receipt and disbursement of contributions voluntarily made for all purposes; shall have power to call this convention together again, when and where it may seem best to convene; to do so, and said committee shall continue in office, with power to fill vacancies, until discharged at a future meeting of this convention.

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of this Executive Committee to endeavor to procure at the special session of Congress which, it is understood, will be called in March next, legislation calling for the appointment of a monetary commission by the President to consider the entire question, and to report to Congress at the earliest day possible; or, failing to secure the above legislation, they are hereby authorized and empowered to select a commission of eleven members, according to the rules and plans set forth in the suggestions submitted to the convention by Mr. Hanna, of Indianapolis, as follows:

Article 1. The commission shall consist of eleven members, to be named by the Executive Committee appointed by this convention. The Executive Committee shall have power to fill vacancies in the commission as they may occur.

Art. 2. The first meeting of the commission shall be held at a time and place to be designated by the Executive Committee of this convention in a call to be issued therefore; and at such meeting the commission shall organize by the election of such officers and the adoption of such rules and by-laws for its own government as may be agreed by a majority of its members, and thereafter it shall be governed by such rules and by-laws, subject to these articles.

Art. 3. All rules and by-laws of the commission and all its proceedings shall be directed toward the accomplishment of the object of its creation, which is to make a thorough investigation of the monetary affairs and needs of this country, in all relations and aspects, and to make appropriate suggestions as to any evils found to exist, and the remedies therefor; and no limit is placed upon the scope of such inquiry, or the manner of conducting the same, excepting only that the expenses thereof shall not exceed the sums set apart for such purpose by the Executive Committee.

Art. 4. The Executive Committee of this convention shall see to it that the voluntary contributions made to it as may be available, and that purpose, to defray all necessary expenses of the commission, and shall not be liable to attach to said committee or to this convention beyond the amount so notified.

Art. 5. When the labors of this commission have been completed so far as practicable, the Executive Committee, if it deems it advisable, shall issue a call to bring this convention together again at a time and place designated in such call, and at the meeting so convened the commission shall make report of its doings, and suggestions in such manner and form as it shall deem best adapted to present to this convention and its members for action; and, if legislation is deemed impossible, shall accompany such report with a draft of such bill or bills providing for such legislation.

Resolved, That all resolutions and communications as to methods of currency reform which have been presented to this convention be referred to such commission when formed.

This plan was put together by W. B. Dodge of Minneapolis, M. E. Ingalls of Ohio, Rufus B. Bullock of Georgia, N. E. Fletcher of Michigan and Charles I. Libbey of Maine. In committee there was a long debate.

J. H. Walker of Massachusetts, chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency of the national House of Representatives, attacked the plan. He declared that but for this convention Congress would have come forward with some scheme for the reformation of the currency system.

Congressman Fowler of New Jersey declared that any commission appointed by the convention or at its suggestion would seem to the Committee on Currency and Banking and the Senate Finance Committee as bearing the assumption that the members of those committees are not able to draw a bill for bringing about the reform sought. "The members of Congress are not absolutely ignorant," said he, "and all the wisdom of the country is not outside."

J. H. Rhodes of Massachusetts sustained the plan in a speech that charged Congress for ten years back with indifference to petitions, appeals and popular demand.

There was uproarious applause from all parts of the hall. When it had subsided Mr. Walker said: "If this sentiment is to be applauded in this convention, I have nothing more to say."

The previous question was demanded. Congressman Fowler, seeing that the convention was against him, withdrew his proposed amendment to the report of the committee, and the committee report was adopted.

### Cigar Box Cedar Scarcity.

There is said to be a scarcity of Cuban cedar for cigar boxes since the outbreak of the revolution in that country. A good substitute, and one often used, however, is lumber wood, which is dyed to the popular color.

It requires only the necessary circumstances to make any man a liar.

## SLAUGHTER IN CUBA.

### Desperate Battle Takes Place, in Which Many Men Are Lost.

The New York Press claims to have received news through private channels that Gen. Maximo Gomez stormed and captured the important city of Santa Clara on Jan. 9, and is now moving on Havana with 8,000 men. The famous cavalry leader, Quintin Banderas, was mortally wounded, according to the Press, and Gen. Luque, commanding the Spanish, was also wounded. The news received said that the losses were: Spanish, estimated, killed and wounded, 900; prisoners, 700; cannons captured, 18; battle standards, 4; rifles in the Spanish arsenal, 5,000, with plenty of ammunition. Cubans killed and wounded, 1,500, which is 600 more than the Spanish loss. The Press quotes Carlos Roloff as saying the report is credited.

A Havana dispatch to the World says couriers who have slipped through the Spanish lines in Matanzas province bring the news that Gen. Gomez is undoubtedly marching on Havana slowly but surely, and that his advance guard is laying in waste the country as they proceed. In less than a week the advance guard of Gomez's army has destroyed by fire twenty-one of the most valuable estates in the province of Matanzas, and the work of destruction continues as the army moves along. The people of Havana are at last becoming thoroughly alarmed at the situation, and all who possibly can have already left the place. Those who have been detained are making preparations to leave with all possible haste. Many of those who have been outwardly loyal to Spain have lost all confidence in Gen. Weyler's ability to handle the insurgents, and they now actually fear for the safety of Havana. Skirmishes occur every day in Pinar del Rio. The insurgents are under command of Ruis Rivera.

### EXPORTS AND IMPORTS FOR 1896

#### Statement Relating to Merchandise, Gold and Silver Issued.

The monthly statement of the exports and imports of merchandise, gold and silver for the month of December, 1896, and for the twelve months of the calendar year 1896, shows as follows: Exports of domestic merchandise during December, \$16,128,334, and for the year, \$986,871,256. This is a gain of \$25,652,000 for the month, as compared with the December, 1895, and a gain for the year of \$179,128,000. The imports of merchandise during December amounted to \$57,956,069, and for the year \$890,556,223. Of the amount for the year \$321,951,526 was free of duty and \$568,604,727 was dutiable. The exports for the month are about \$121,133,000, and the loss for the year about \$121,133,000. The exports of gold during December amounted to \$405,856 and the imports to \$2,572,271. For the year the exports aggregated \$56,742,844 and the imports \$102,766,438. The silver exports during December amounted to \$6,819,545 and the imports to \$1,279,801. During the year the exports amounted to \$37,029,336, and the imports to \$12,504,573.



Still in San Francisco that Durant case still continues to hang, while Durant himself doesn't.—Cincinnati Commercial Bulletin.

The murders of 1896 exceed those of 1895, but then last year's comic songs certainly were a good deal more irritating.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

It appears that there is an impression among some persons that they can make good bank officials of themselves by committing suicide.—New York Journal.

Now New York has begun a war on the tall church bonnet. This looks very like a movement against feminine piety in its most popular form.—Boston Herald.

We are sure that this Mr. Angel, who wants to come to the Senate from Idaho, would feel very much out of place on the roll call of that body.—Washington Post.

Georgia is unable to see why such a pother should be made over Kentucky's six lynchings in six days. Georgia sometimes has nearly that many on one limb at a time.—Kansas City Journal.

Recent events in Western banking circles are likely to increase the popularity of the stocking heel and the chimney as places of safe deposit for people of a saving disposition.—New York Press.

It was very thoughtful in the makers of New Year calendars to have the figures so large and black. Hang one of 'em on the wall and you can tell when a note falls due without getting out of bed.—Atlanta Constitution.

The delights of holiday buying have now been followed by the equally keen pleasures of post-holiday bargain hunting, and the soul of the shopping woman is full of energetic peace and joy.—Baltimore American.

China is establishing schools for the teaching of English. It is not surmised, however, that the demand for teachers will interfere to any considerable extent with the laundry business in this country.—Houston Post.

Mayor Penoyer, of Portland, Ore., decided that his salary was too large, and so he offered to give back one-half of it. There are various degrees of this malady, but it is not very often elected to office.—Baltimore American.

White Ghost, a Sioux chief, has gone to Washington to collect a little bill of \$200,000 said to be due his tribe. If he is successful in his errand it will not be necessary for this Ghost to walk back for lack of car fare.—New York Press.

Frederick Starr, professor of anthropology at the Chicago University, announces that the American people are degenerating into Indians. This theory accounts for the increasing popularity of the college yell.—Chicago Journal.

One of the most sublime and ridiculous attributes of human nature is the perennial assumption that if a few men will meet and pass a law against an evil, that evil will at once get scared and flee to parts unknown.—St. Louis Republic.

It is reported that a woman in Philadelphia who has been a kleptomaniac has been permanently cured by a surgical operation. The surgeons have not yet reported the nature of the operation, but if it simply involves the amputation of her fingers the cure is not a discovery worth mentioning.—Indianapolis Journal.