

# 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-



E. A. DAVIS.

ging 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 pivoty 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.

### Death of Prince Henry.

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



PRINCE HENRY.

Hesse, removes the only male relative in direct succession to the Hessian throne. He was married morganatically, and in this way his children are excluded from succession.

### 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.



Judge Marks.

### 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 1865. 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



KING LEOPOLD.

shifted when the monarch has no male issue to the eldest brother and his heirs.

### Girl Tramps Numerous.

New Jersey has come to the front with a product entirely its own. It is nothing less than the female tramp, dressed in boy's clothing and stealing rides on freight trains. She is becoming common. The other morning "James" Robinson of Philadelphia was released from the county correction farm at Trenton on payment of a \$3 fine, the money having been sent by telegraph from Philadelphia. "James" is a girl about 16 years old. She was arrested by a railroad detective and sent to the farm chained to six tramps. When captured she had a large revolver strapped to a belt around her waist, and upon being questioned promptly admitted her sex. She refused to give her name, but said she was trying to reach the home of her uncle in New Brunswick. The justice committed her to the stone quarry for thirty days in default of the \$3 fine imposed. This is the third girl tramp the detectives have arrested at the coal chutes there within a few days.

### Dr. Miller's Misfortune.

Dr. George L. Miller, the veteran physician, editor and political writer of Omaha, has been suffering from a mental ailment for some time, and his disease took a violent form last week. He was taken to St. Bernard's hospital in Council Bluffs, where he will be kept until it shall be ascertained whether or not there is any hope of his ultimate recovery. Dr. Miller has been conspicuous in all movements for public good in Nebraska ever since he established the Omaha Herald in 1865. For four years he served as surveyor of the port of Omaha. Dr. Miller has been intimately acquainted with many eminent statesmen, among whom the late Horatio Seymour and the late Samuel J. Tilden were conspicuous. He is a native of Oneida county, New York, and is 73 years old.



Dr. Miller.

## 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.

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 Gottingen, 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. "Ideals," 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 '80's 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.

# SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Frank G. Carpenter, the noted newspaper correspondent, now in the Philippines, sends the following descriptive letter about the introduction of the American free school in Manila: I have visited a number of the public schools of Manila. I am surprised at the quickness and intelligence of the pupils.

Let me take you into one of the schools, and show you just how it looks. It is a primary school, for as yet little more than the primary grades have been established. The nothing like any you have seen in the United States. It is a one-story building, about 30 feet square, built upon posts 10 feet in height. It has sliding windows made up of a lattice work of hundreds of little squares in each of which a piece of oyster shell not thicker than your school house is

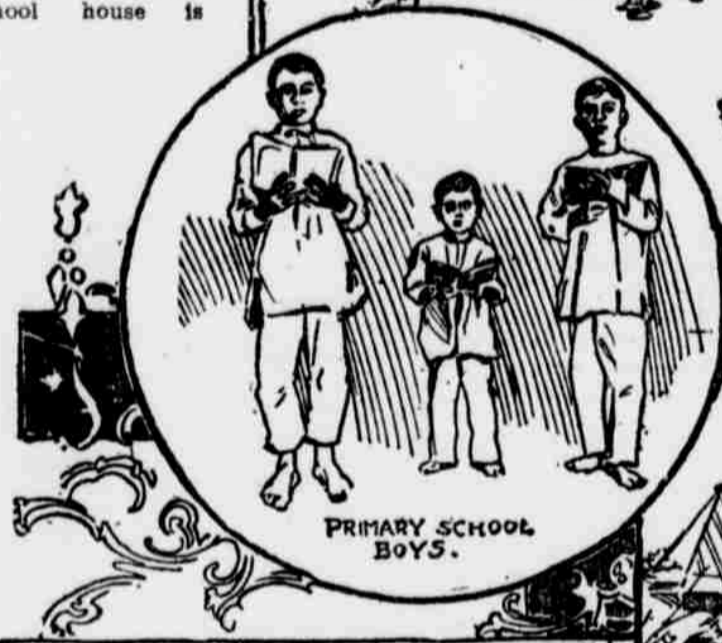
thumb nail has been fitted. These shells serve to keep out the hot sun, and they are so transparent that they admit enough light for study and work. The windows are always open, except where they keep out the sun, so that the air may sweep through. There is a little coconut tree in front of the building I am describing, and we pass through a grove of banana trees on our way to the back yard, where the entrance is found. Going upstairs, we find two or three rooms filled with little children at work.

bare feet, or in slippers, without stockings. Fully half of the number cannot help studying out loud, according to the custom which was taught in the past.

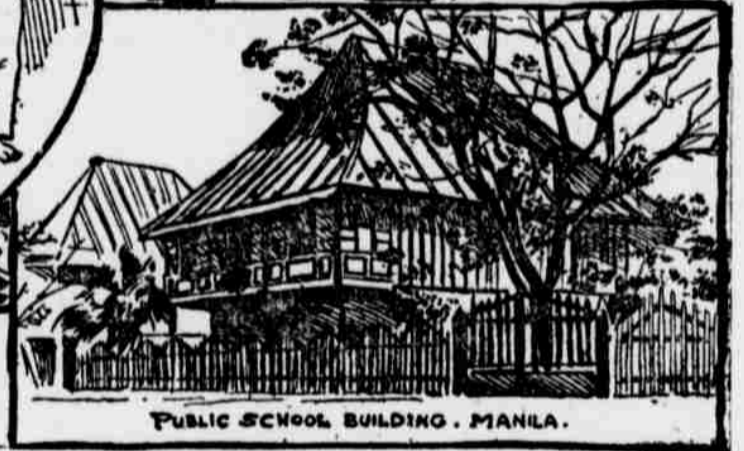
Later on I visited one of the primary schools for girls. The teachers were women, and among them was an American girl who told me that she found the children quite as bright as our school children at home. With her assistance I photographed some of the pupils, taking three little girls as a sample, and later on made a picture



HIGH SCHOOL BOYS.



PRIMARY SCHOOL BOYS.



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, MANILA.



THREE LITTLE FILIPINOS.

In this school all are boys, for there is no co-education of the sexes in Manila, and the boys and girls each have schools of their own. The boys are as brown as mulattoes, and their hair is cut short, so that it stands up like black bristles over their little bullet-like heads. Notice their eyes. They are black, and the most of them snap with interest they show in the teacher. How queerly they dress. If our boys wore their clothes in this way their teachers would send them straight home. Each boy is in his

of a class. She had some of the little ones recite their English lesson, and they did remarkably well.

The teachers are doing all they can to inculcate Americanism. Last Fourth of July there was a school celebration at which pyrotechnic speeches on liberty were made, and the Declaration of Independence read by one of the pupils. On Washington's birthday American flags were put over all the school buildings for the first time, and there were appropriate exercises in commemoration of the first president of the United States. I doubt whether the hatchet story has as much force here as in America, for the Filipino child has thus far not been taught to reverence the truth.

## SOME GALVESTON PICTURES



China's Great Viceroyalties.	
Kiang-si.....	72,176 24,534,118
Total .....	165,137 66,395,577
Viceroyalty of Chang Chi-Tung.	
Provinces. Area. Populat'n.	
Hupei .....	70,450 34,244,685
Hunan .....	74,320 21,002,604
Total .....	144,770 55,247,289
Viceroyalty of Li Hung Chang.	
Provinces. Area. Populat'n.	
Kwang-tung. ....	79,456 29,706,249
Kwank-si .....	78,250 5,151,327
Total .....	157,706 34,857,576

These provinces reach southward from around the mouth of the Yangtze-Kiang River to the Canton coast, and the only other viceroyalty that is of the same class as regards population is that of the single great province of Sze-chuan, which lies way to the west on the borders of Tibet. This is the largest province of China, containing as it does 166,800 square miles and a population of 67,712,897. Its viceroy is a Manchu named Kwei Chun, of whom little is heard. A silver coin is usually in currency for about twenty-seven years.