## ESTING ITEMS.

I THE REPORT OF THE PARTY OF TH

manslaughter.

An interesting and refreshing fea- virtue. ture of summer journalism is the appearance in the St. Louis Republic

average length of life among them is the rest of France.

WHEN an Illinois woman learned that her husband had lost \$1,500 she did not rep ne nor grow hysterical. She almiy ued the kee er of the game for three times the amount of the los- and got judgment. Onhusband has parted torever from the privilege of sheering at the bhanciering of the other sex.

PERLADELPHIA is race crazy, and horses of elongated pedigree are being ridden by gentlemen similarly distinguished. It is true that most of the horses tumble down, and most of the gentlemen tumble off, but the sacrifice of a lew bones upon the altar of fashion is something at which no Philadelphian worthy the name would pause.

THE CTE e for old furniture is a stimulant to a questionable industry. In the courts lately a witness gave as his occu ation that of a wormhole borer." In uiry dis losed that he was an expert at his peculiar trade, and made a good living by the skillful way in which he imitated wormholes in oak furniture to give it an antique effect.

TECHNSEH, O. T., is evidently lacking in the relinements of civilization. Thirty 'deading citizens' of that place have been indicted for horse stealing and will probably be sent to the penitentiary unless a mob gets hold of them first. In Chicago leading citizens tap the water mains and steal the city water, and everybody says they are d uced shrewd business

as ever the prudent Victoria can sanity and usefulness outlast the monarchy itself.

WHEN the Columbia is steaming ten knots an hour her furnaces use murder of a person at Corneli College

deliberate trial in open court.

THE first step which a man takes in the direction of his own overthrow is not to do some overt act of evil A boat that lies on the water's edge does not begin to wreck itself by thrusting itself out abruptly into she current; it begins by lying on day with it. If it is chained to the k, no harm can come to it: mislef begins when it haiflies on the and half floats on the water The trouble with people is that they drifting. They are the chip on rave instead of the watch-tower

Baryusa the people of Chicago nor as assessment of that city will feel the state of W. C. P. Brecklaridge aron

POPICS OF THE TIMES. community. It might be well. indeed, it some of the latitude allowed A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTER- in this city were curtailed. But Chicago has never sent to Congress the or elected to any other public postage of the Day-Misterical and tion a self-confessed, hra on roue and libertine and she never will. From What is needed at Ithaca is a that standpoint, at least, Chicago has The prince of our set broken-hearted!

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MR. CORNELIUS, the Chicago tonof an able and exhaustive illustrated sorial artist who paused in his work article treating of the proper method only long enough to kill a man and of raising snow blockades on rafi. then calmiy resumed shaving the customer in the chair, is entitled to praise for his consideration. Mr. Tue Paris-born families become ex- Cornelius evidently felt that his pertinct in three or our generations, in sonal quarrels should not be allowed conse nence of their feeble fecundity to inconvenience his customers any and high rate of mortality, and the further than was absolutely necessary. This point will probably have only 2 years and I month, as com- little weight with a jury, but it will pared with 49 years and z months for appeal to thousands of men who have writhed in half-shaved anguish while the officiating barber has been discussing the horse races, the ra lroad strike, or other topics of interest with the artist at the next chair.

> Mosr people will be puzzled to understand the alternate severity and lenity shown by the police of Chicago in dealing with the violators of the law. On Saturday a thief who robbed a man of a diamond at the Union Depot was captured, but allowed to go free upon giving up the gem. That is one extreme. On the other hand the guardians of the peace will promptly haul out their revolvers and blaze away at any man they see running-the idea being that the runner is a malefactor who is seeking safety in flight. There should be some uniformity in these matters. If the police are to combine the functions of judge, jury, and executioner they ought to treat everyone allke. They should e ther shoot all their prisoners or turn them all loose. The ex sting system is confusion and un ust

DR. S. WIER MITCHELL, the famous expert in cases of insanity and nerv ous diseases, delivereds an address in Philadelphia before the American Medico-Psychological Society, in the course of which he severely denounced the administration of insane asylums in this country. As the result of his observations he finds that physicians and nurses get their appointments by political pulls; that asylums are prisons, and not hospitals; that they are not provided with modern appliances: that nurses are not properly educated and examined, THE Hanoverian succession to the and that "if the ob ect of the insane British throne is now about as secure asylum is to restore the patient to make it. Three generations of her present methods of procedure are dedescendants stand between it and the serving of nothing but denunciation." not well- cloved I onise of Fife, who No man has a clearer authority to would surged to the crown were the pronounce upon this matter than Dr. Hanove stock to become extinct Mitchell. That he is correct in his Looking at the situation from all observations has been demonstrated sides it would really seem that the over and over again by exposures of living Hannvers are very likely to insane asylum methods where they have attracted official attention.

up coal at the rate of thirty-five tons by trolicsome students who used a day: at fourteen knots seventy, chlorine gas as t e agency of their Governments do not like any better exuberant spirits has come to noththan individuals to pay big oal bills, ing through lack of testimony or, her husband, and even when the days especially where, as in the case of rather, through abundance of perwarships, there are no earn nas to jured testimony. The Justice of the offset expenses. Those magnificent Supreme Court who presided in the bursts of speed, like that of the Co. case gave it as his conviction that lumbia last year when she struck "there was a deliberate plan on the cal bank. There was always a doubt more than a twenty-two knot gait, part of some unknown parties to are reserved for occasions when ruis- thwart just e and t at there was no part in the robbery or not, but that ers want to get there, or to get away question in his mind that witnesses had deliberate y violated their oaths before the grand jury." In the tace Profile who think the world is of this disgraceful and shameful per- ular effort was ever made by the growing worse instead of better jury to cover up murder it is aston- officers to follow him up, as the should compare the treatment ac- ishing to see that the President of other burglars were captured with corded Santo, the assassin of Presi- the College at a recent banquet dedent Carnot, and availlac, who clared that "in all universities, in stepped into the carriage of King human nature itself, and even among Henry Iv. of Fran e and stabbed the brute creation there is a tenhim to death. I availlae was broken dency to worry the new comers in a meal, with the little high chair on the wheel with most logen ous spirit of fun." It is hard to decide deliberation and melted lead was which is the most disgraceful feature poured into his stomach through an in this case, the deliberateness with abdominal incision. Santo, on the which te students violated their contrary, was protected from the oaths or the levity and unconcern if the father might come back at any angry crowd by his victim's official with which the President of this servants and will receive a fair and university treats the crime of murder.

All in the British Empire. Roughly speaking the British Empire extends over one continent, 100 peninsulas, 100 promontories 1,000 lakes, 2,000 rivers, and 10,000 Islands. The Assyrian Empire was not so wealthy, the Roman Empire was not so popular; the Persian Empire was not so extensive, the Spanish Empire the beach and letting the current was not so powerful, is the way the Briton sings .- Toronto Mail.

In England, down to the reign of Charles IL, or a little later, the kiss was the common greeting to triends ds was a mark of close intimacy or high savor. In the diary of Anne Countess of Pembroke, her ladyship thinks the fact of her shaking hands with any one worth noting.

A MAN stope hoping to be reward-as he grows older, and prays that will not be punished.

You interes: ms. Tell me about it, and let your old chum, sir, con-ols. Hard hit in the heart, I don't doubt it; You were made for that sort of a rola.

Did you bend on your knee like an actor, Hardly knowing just where to begin? Was dear mamma's consent the main factors
What a fool the poor gill must have been

Who was she? What |- I. You were jealous? O. Jack, who'd has ethought such a thing? You've been certainly not over sealous; But, his me and where is the ring?

## HOW BEN SAVED NO. 60

WANTED-Bright boy to deliver messages and take care of office; small wages, but privilege of learning telegraphy is desired. Apply in person effer 8 a. m. on Saturday to Mrs. Hackness, Manager W. U. Tel. Co., Kennels-

Such was the advertisement which appeared in the local columns of the Kennelsville Weekly Intelligence, and greeted the quick eye of Bennie Grant as he read his mother's copy of the paper on his way home from the

"I don't know whether I'm a bright boy or not," he said to himself. "but it strikes me that I can deliver messages in Kennelsville for small wages pretty nearly as well as

anyone He thought the matter over very carefully. Vacation had just begun, and the idea had just begun to dawn upon him that it was high time be began to do something to a d his mother in her brave struggle to provide for her Ittle family. Bennie was only 14, but there were two sisters younger than be, and one sturdy litt e t-year-old brother. Five years belore, when the sturdy little o-year-old was but a mite of a baby, hichard Grant, Bennie's father, suddenly disappeared. There were no suspicions of foul play, and there was no mystery about it at all. Clever, hardworking, genial "Dick" Grant had fallen into evil ways. From a good husband and father, who provided plentifully for his family, from a man whom every one respected, be



had sunk, through the influences of wild companions, to the level of the worst of them. Those were hard times for Mrs Grant but she loved seemed darkest, she always had faith that some time he would e made to see the error of his ways and be himself again.

Then came the burglary of the lowhether Richard Grant really took he was in some way implicated in it was reasonably certain. Anyway, he d sappeared, and nothing had since been heard of him. No particmost of the stolen money, and they denied that Grant was in any way implicated. When Bennie entered Mrs Grant had just finished arranging the table for the simple evening close beside her own, Bennie's place at the end and the chairs of the two sisters on the other side of the table. There was one place, with the arm chair, always left vacant, as moment. Bennie came into the house rather more silently and slowly than usual. The thought of actually beginning the struggle of life in earnest gave nim a pe ultar feeling of dignity. He kis-ed nother, but did not say a word. He put the paper down upon the table and silently pointed to the adve t-ement Mrs. Grant set the plate bread down carefully to balance the butter plate on the other end of the table, drew her glasses from above her forehead, and with her arm longly about her hoy read the notice She pressed a kiss on the top of the cu ly little head, while a pro d look came into her eyes.

"Would you like to try it Bennie, "Honestly, mother, I would," he replied eagerly. "It's vacation time friend. now, anyway, and I've always thought that I would like to learn to BOW.

tolograph. I might as well be do-ing that and earning something as fooling the whole sum are away." God bless you, tay little man," raid the mother, foodly, and so it

There wasn't any particular reason why isennie should have risen the next morning at half-past 4, for the notice in the paper said distinctly after a m " But he did. Perbaps you may have been stimulated to early rising by some such important event yourself some time. It ever, Bennie was most nerribly nervwas a rather excited bttle boy that bade his mother good-bye an bour previous to "8 a m." on Saturday. and that hour of waiting until it should be t me to pesent himself was the longest one in Hennie's history. He felt rather nervous, also, as he thought of lacing Mrs. Harkness, whom he had always looked upon as a very mysterious lady, holding, as she seemed to. the lightning in her grasp. He walked by the door several times before he mustered up courage to go in, after the hands of the town clock pointed to 8:01, and



IT WAS EXCITING WORK.

when he did he found six other lads about his own age wa ting to interview the lady manager.

One by one they were called into the mysterious once behind the rail and talked to. Hennie's turn came last of all. Whether Mrs. Harkness was pleased by his manner, or whether it was because he came last and the others had tired her out, Bennie never knew. But after a very few questions he was engaged at a weekly salary of \$2.50 and the privilege of learning telegraphy during odd mo-Never was a mes-enger more faithful. Never was there a more marked exception to the proverbial slowness of the class, and never was than the youth that this little tale is all about.

The 'dearning telegraphy" part of M s. Harkness's bargains had been found by former messengers t te more or less of a delusion and a snare, but for once at least she took an actual interest in a "student." In less than two months, under her careful guidance, Bennie had transmitted his first message, and it wasn't long after that, being left alone for a time in the office that he answered the repeated cails of "Kn," and actually received a message all alone, "breaking" only three times. It was exciting work, though. From that time his progress was rapid. Mrs. Harkness found that she was able to go away quite frequently for several hours and leave Hennie in sole charge, and he obtained quite a reputation up and down the line as the youngest operator on the circuit. It is easy to believe that Mrs. Grant was proud of her son. But when school opened again in the autumn it took a long time for Bennie to convince her that it was much better for him to keep on contributing to the support of the family his family he had come to call it, and gather his education in actual service, than it was to waste time over books. He finally did convince her, however, much to the delight of Mrs. Harkness.

One afternoon while Bennie-they called him "Bn" on the wire-was finishing up the regular evening's grist of messages, Mrs. Harkness, who was working on another wire, came over to his table and laid this message before him:

Dispatcher's Office, Rochesport, 6 P. M.
Mrs. Harkness, Mgr., "Kn."
A number of our regular operators are sick and my regular men are all on duty. I need a man at folville to night. Can your "Bn." go? If so wire me qui k and send him up on train No. 11. This message will case him. A. R. LANE. Dispatcher, C. & L. R. R.

"Do you suppose that I can do it?" queried Bennie, anxiously. "Why, of course you can, dear,"

answered Mrs. Harkness, smiling proudly upon her clever pupil. "But I never was in a railroad telegraph office in my life."

you and you won't have any trouble. No. 11 is due at 8:20. You have thirty minutes. Now you trot home and have your mother put you up a good lunch. Good night and good lu k to you." and Mrs. Harkness turned to her work again. So the dispatcher received a message which relieved him considerably and Bennie sped on his way.

It was after 9 when he stepped from No. 11 upon the platform at Folville. The old station agent breathed a sigh of relief when Benn e handed him the dispatcher's message, though he looked rather askance at the diminutive figure of our young

"My night man has been sick a week," he said, "and I've worked he said, "and I've worked night and day for forty-eight hours now. I couldn't keep awake another twelve hours if trains all had to stop

"Can I bendle the we k all right. do you shink?" queried anxious "Ba."

Oh, yes, I guess so. It's almost all plain telegraphing. You may have to hold No. 60. If you do, here are the torpeloes and the r d lanterns" and with a few simple directions the weary agent went away to bed. In spite of everything, howous and anxious Foiville station was a lonely place. The village was several miles away, there were no dwellings within a half mile and, altogether it was anything but a cheerplace in which to spend the n ght.

Bennie tried to interest himself in the time-tables and in listening to the routine work on the wire, which No. was all new and novel to him. press, which was scheduled to pass at 1:30 without stopping. No. 1 , a through freight, was carded to meet No. 60 one station further down the sick with horior. line. There was the possib lity that the freight could make Folville the upon the table. meeting point

left by the agent and received seviral ments," semarked the man in the of the usual style of long, verboose rail oad messages in good shape. Occasionally a freight train would rumble by, but none stopped, and he was beginning to think the duties of a night railroad telegraph operator a 'snap," as he expressed it to him-eif. when he was somewhat startled to receive this order:

Dispatcher's Office, 1:25 A. M. Operator FL-Hold No. 60 until No. 13 ar-ives.

Bennie repeated the order to the dispatcher, prefixed by the numeral 1., which means, or rather used to mean. "I understand to," whi h is the response to "13," "Repeat how you understand."

He had ben noticing by the reports on the wire that No. to had lost time ever since it left Rochesport, and though 13 was also very late the dispatcher evidently deemed it possible for the ifreight to make Folvitle without delaying the limited a great deal.

thun to Folville regardless of No. 60," was the order he heard given to No. 12, at a station some distance up the line

For the first time the sense of his great responsibility came over him with full force, and the thought of what might happen if he should be negligent filled his mind with terror. The n ght had come on dark, wet, and dismal A driz ling rain fell drearily and incessantly, and the switch lights by the side of the track shone blurred and dimly through the mist, throwing a faint leflection calmiy. upon the wet rails It was a sort of night which every old railroad man hates cordially. It was before the day of automatic semaphore signals. and Bennie was just getting ready to start down the track with his red lante n and his torp does when a there a student of the art more apt slight noise caused him to turn around suddenly, and he was startled



A NOISE CAUSED HIM TO TURN SUDDENLY.

to discover two men standing quietly in the office. Their appearance was not reassuring. Both wore heavy as leaving the next station below, beards, evidently false, long over- and No. 12 had left Miliport some coats and slouch hats, and they were minutes before. drench d by the rain. For several minutes Bennie could not speak. Then he asked the men in assteady vo ce as he could command, what they wanted.

Will you kindly tell us what orders you have for the dimit d' tonight?" queried on of the men.

Bennie pointed silently to the order book. Both men bent eagerly forward to read it. "Well, if that alo't great, ex-

claimed one of them slapping the other on the back. "Just the thing. It'll save us a heap of trouble." "Where is 60 now, my young

friend?" asked the man who had spoken first.

"At Millport," answered Bennie. "And 13:" "At Auberly."

That's good, Jim. They'll meet No matter. Keep your wits about on one of those curves west of the station. I guess we're relieved of considerable responsibility. All we have to do is just to sit down and wait."

That's right. Sit down, young feller."

"But I must go and be ready to

flag No. 60." "On, never mind 60. She'll get along all right. No. 13'll stop her." ble" ried Bennie, almost frantically, as he tried to push by the men and

was thrown violently back. "Well, now, I don't know about that," remarked one of the men who seemed to be the leader in the doubtful enterprise, as he took a chair and tip ed it back directly in the door which led from the othe into the waiting-room The other man stole around and leaned pensively against the door leading into the baggage. room, the only other exit "I don't

by heart disease, or suddenly fall and burt the back of year head severely, you wouldn't feet that you were mortally responsible, would jou. rennie made no reply.

Of c urse you wouldn't-of course you wouldn't: and in case you don't sit right down on that cha r and keep perfecti still someth ng very much resembling in general effect what I've just hinted at will happen to you '

Bennie sank bark aghast. The whole scheme flashed through his mind in a moment. These men had contemplated wrecking the express for plunder; but if the holding order was not carried out the same effect would be secured and he would be re-60, he learned, was the limited ex- sponsible. No. 60 and No. 13 would probably meet just beyond the cur e. and the thought of the terrible collision which must easue made him What could be do to save the train? Involuntarity his No 60 might be late enough so that hand stole towards the telegraph key I would much prefer that you re-

He transmitted several messages frain from manipulating the instru-



THERE WAS JUST TIME ENOUGH.

doorway in his extremely polite but

meaning way. "Else he may get an attack of that 'ere he irt d sease you spoke abouteh, pard?" added the man in the baggage-room door

Poor Ben was almost will, but the men in the doorways sat smok ng

"I'm sorry for you, young man," said the waiting-room man, with a trace of genuine pity in his voice: 'honestly 1 am: but don't you see it isn't your fault You won't blamed at all. We'll take all of the blame-won't we, James?"

"Well, I rather guess so, and considerable of something else, too, 'f that express car has got the stuff we're lookin' for in her

"Well said, James, well said. But upon my soul, young man, I'm sorry for sou.

"You'd better be sorry for yourselves and what you've got to answer for " cried Ben, frantic with the horror of the moment, "and white you're about it you might be sorry for the husbands and wives and children and mothers you're going to murder for a little money-but may be you don't call it murder."

"Why, no, we don't that's so," said the imperturbable man in the door-"Bless me, if you didn't look and talk then just about as my wife used to when she was trying to explain to me how bad I was It won't be murder, my boy, it won't be murder. Let me see, it will be an accident caused by the unavoidable negligence of a telegraph operator, who was prevented from performing his duty by an unforseen engagement which it was impossible for him to break-not being strong enough. Don't that draw it milder for you. my son?"

To this heartlessness Ben could not reply. He heard No. 60 reported

In ten minutes they must certainly come together He must make one more appeal. "Think of how tough it'll be for

me," he said with pathetic eagerness. 'They'll say that I was asteen. and that it's all you could expect from a son of Dick Grant. It'll just break my mother's heart, that's what it will.

Bennie buried his bead in his arms and fairly writhed in agony, otherwise he might have seen the sudden start which the robber in the door-

I guess, Jim. you'd better be getting up towards the curve I'll take care of this boy, and be with you when it's time," was what the man in the doorway said. The other man hurried away without a word.

Hardly had he disappeared in the darkness when Bennie beheld a strange change in the man who rema ned.

He leaned excitedly forward and gazed long and intently into the lad's face. Then suddenly he clasped him close in his arms for a single moment. and putting his lips close down to

Bennie's ear he said huskily: "There won't be any murder done to-night, boy. You tell your mother "But don't you see I'm responsi- that Dick Grant has been bad, pretty bad, but he's never been quite so tough as that yet and he pever will be. And you tell her that sometime when he's made right as much of the w.ong he's done as he can he'll come back and help her to be proud of their boy. Now, you get out and flag that train. You've got just time

enough. in another moment he, too, had d sappeared in the darkness.

PROPLE finally become frightfully know about that. Now, if you tired of accepting the will for the should ha pen to be stricken down deed