

print nothing concerning the movement in the higher schools. No. 3,855—Absolutely no communication concerning the commercial convention drawn up between Russia and Persia; nor anything about the pending discussion of the Erzeroum treaty by Persia and Turkey in Constantinople. No. 3,200—In Jaroslaw the trial is proceeding of some students of the Demidow Lyceum, who are accused of disturbing public order, rioting in the streets and ill-treating police officials. You are recommended to say absolutely nothing about this matter. Per Telephone—You are recommended to say nothing about the appointment of the Austrian ambassador. No. 6,733—Until further notice nothing to be said about the suicide in the Wladimir district court. No. 10,490—Absolutely no news or articles to be published about the disorders in the seminaries. (Quite secret.) No. 302—To publish nothing about the suspension of the "Rossia" newspaper, nor to give the reasons for this suspension. No. 620—To make no reference to the disorders at the Obuchow steel foundry. No. 2,377—Inasmuch as in the "Government Messenger," in the announcement that Gorki's election to the academy of science is invalid, it is not stated whence the communication emanates, you are recommended by order of the minister of the interior to head it thus: "From the Imperial Academy of Sciences." No. 2,765—You are to make absolutely no reference to yesterday's incident with the Moscow chief of police. (The "incident" was an attempt on his life.) No. 2,894—To refrain from comment on the reports in foreign journals concerning our dealings with China. The freedom of the press is estimated highly in this country and well it may be, for in the upward and onward march of civilization, it must be reckoned as one of the most important factors.

IT MAY BE POSSIBLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE that Ireland may come to have a rival in its use of peat instead of coal as fuel. The high prices of coal and wood may serve to call attention to the beds of peat that are to be found in Indiana. The state geologist of Indiana, W. S. Blatchley, gives the information that peat may be found in abundance in the northern counties of the state, one bed alone covering about three hundred acres. It is claimed that these beds might be profitably worked as the peat varies in depth from one foot to five, and the expense of cutting and drying the material would be comparatively small.

AMERICANS WHO REVERE THEIR NATIVE land and all that pertains thereto will doubtless be roused by the announcement that the burial place of Joseph Rodman Drake, who wrote that immortal poem, "The American Flag," is in danger of desecration. Mr. Drake is buried in a private graveyard in the suburbs of New York, and the land where this cemetery lies is being cut up into sections and new streets are being opened in all directions. One of these streets will pass directly over Drake's grave, and through some freak of fate, is to be called "Whittier" street. That good old Quaker poet would certainly not be pleased to have his name connected with any act of vandalism toward the memory of a man who did so much to rouse the patriotism of Americans. It is to be hoped that something will be done to preserve this historic spot and let the bones of the poet rest in peace.

ANOTHER DESECRATION IS IMPENDING at Concord, Mass., where a beef packing concern proposes to erect a factory almost on the very site of Thoreau's old hut beside the waters of Walden Pond. The growth in popularity of this author in recent years has caused this retreat to become the favorite haunt of visitors. The site is marked by a huge cairn of stones, to which each visitor adds one. All those who read and enjoy the writings of Thoreau will esteem such a desecration in the nature of a calamity, and the people of Concord are not less interested in preserving intact one of the most valuable attractions of the historic town.

CONSIDERABLE INTEREST HAS BEEN manifested in the work of excavation carried on at the great prehistoric city of Copan in Honduras. Recently the Honduran government issued orders to stop all excavating, and this action is causing much regret to the scientists who have been engaged in uncovering the secrets of this city, which is regarded as having been the capital of a great empire. Great palaces and temples, giant stairways and broad plazas have already been discovered and it is earnestly hoped that the government will soon remove its prohibition on further excavation, as interesting discoveries are looked for. Meantime a wall has been built about

the city and watchmen have been stationed there to keep away natives who might deface and destroy the elaborate stone carvings and sculptures. The history of this city has been found written on columns of walls of palaces and temples, but so far no one has been found who could read the inscriptions. Archeologists of the Peabody Museum have mastered the calendar of the vanished people, however, and it is hoped that with this as a starting point, an acquisition of a knowledge of the empire may be obtained.

THAT CHICAGO IS HOLDING ITS OWN IN the ranks of great and growing cities is proved by figures recently given tending to show that it is probably the largest bread consuming city in America and perhaps in the world. The Chicago Tribune of October 5 gives this information: John A. Heusner, president of the Heusner Baking company, has compiled a lot of figures upon Chicago's daily consumption of bread. Here are a few extracts from his figures: Four hundred thousand pounds of loaf bread is supplied by bakeries in Chicago daily to the consumer. In addition, 50,000 pounds of bread finds its way to the consumer in the form of rolls, each roll weighing one and three-quarter ounces. Every loaf of bread sold in Chicago must by law weigh one full pound. Hence if all the bread sold in loaves and rolls were baked into loaves of one pound each there would be 450,000 loaves of bread baked daily in the bakeries. A pound loaf of bread brings into the baker 4 cents. Hence the daily consumption of loaf bread in Chicago amounts to \$16,000. The rolls sell to the dealers at 8 cents a dozen. For rolls the bakers receive in addition \$4,000, or a total of \$20,000 daily that Chicago pays the bakers for bread. Though a pound of flour makes more than a pound of bread, Mr. Heusner assumed that each pound of flour represented a pound of bread. In that case Chicago would dispose of 450,000 pounds of flour, in bread alone, in twenty-four hours. If 400,000 pounds of flour were packed into barrels, each holding 196 pounds, or standard weight, it would take 2,806 barrels to hold the supply. If these barrels were packed into freight cars, allowing 150 barrels to each car, they would make up a train of nineteen cars. Twenty loaded cars are considered by railroad men to be a full train. Drivers of bakery wagons are considered doing a fair day's business if they turn in \$20 per day. If the daily receipts of the bakers from the bread supply is \$20,000, it requires 1,000 wagons and as many drivers and as many horses to supply the trade of Chicago daily. Bakery proprietors figure that a good day's work on the part of a baker is bread to the value of \$20. Hence it takes 1,000 bakers to supply the 1,000 drivers who deliver bread. In addition to these men it is estimated that it takes 700 stable men, helpers, and clerks to handle the bread supply of Chicago. Then the bread supply of Chicago gives work daily to 2,760 men, or nearly as many men as there are in three regiments of infantry when the regiments are recruited to their full quota of men.

THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT OF THE Chicago Tribune tells the public of the latest fancy of Queen Alexandria. It is reported that the queen is in negotiation for the purchase of the so-called "Napoleon's Villa" on the island of Elba, which was the first consul's residence during his exile on that island, prior to the battle of Waterloo. Since 1815 this house has had many different owners and contains a great number of valuable relics of the first Napoleon. The present owner has refused all offers to sell, but it is now announced that the historic place will soon pass into the possession of the queen of that country to which Napoleon owed his defeat. The queen is said to be very enthusiastic in the collection of relics of Napoleon, and already has a large collection.

AS CIVILIZATION PROGRESSES, INSTRUMENTS of torture are gradually being done away with, and so the news that the abolition of the tread-wheel and the crank in English prisons is now accomplished will be welcomed as a sign of the higher civilization. According to the London Chronicle, it was Sir W. Cubitt who, in 1820, devoted his talents to the perfecting of the first of these penal contrivances. By the Prison Act of 1865 every male prisoner over sixteen, sentenced to hard labor, was ordered to undergo three months of labor of the first class, which included the use of the tread-wheel and the crank. The tread-wheel was a hollow cylinder of wood with steps about eight inches apart on its outer circumference, and working on an axle. The work resembled the continuous ascent of a flight of steps under difficulties. The normal speed was 32 feet

a minute, so that allowing for six hours' treading a day, a prisoner would be required to climb over 8,000 feet. The crank resembled the process of raising a bucket from a well by means of a handle with a resistance on the wheel of 12 pounds and the prisoner had to make in six hours 8,000 to 10,000 revolutions, the number of revolutions being recorded on an infallible dial. The London Chronicle concludes: "There can be no doubt that both the tread-wheel and the crank came pretty near to being instruments of torture, and it is a curious comment on our vaunted civilization that the proposal to abolish them evoked the bitterest opposition."

THAT A MAN ACCUSED OF A SERIOUS crime may obtain his freedom through the omission of a dollar mark on the warrant for his arrest is a possibility, according to a story from St. Louis. The case concerns George H. Sharpe, a former stock broker of St. Louis, who was arrested in Chicago September 16 on a fugitive warrant sworn out by Senator H. E. Begole of Belvidere, Ill. The charge made against him is that he has secured \$2,000 from Senator Begole on worthless mining stock. After the arrest in Chicago the St. Louis authorities were notified and the governor's warrant of extradition was secured, and forwarded to the Chicago police. Sharpe's attorney, however, noticed the omission of the dollar mark in front of the figures 2,000, and he has made this a basis for suit to regain his client's freedom.

ACCORDING TO A CENSUS REPORT there is considerably less illiteracy among children between ten and fourteen years of age than there was ten years ago, and this is rightfully attributed to the increased efficiency of the school system. These figures are taken from an abstract of the census report made by the Chicago Record-Herald, and one part especially interesting is that pertaining to the southern states. The abstract is as follows: Missouri, 1890, 94.48, 1900, 96.64; Delaware, 1890, 90.96, 1900, 95.40; Maryland, 1890, 90.54, 1900, 95.36; West Virginia, 1890, 89.16, 1900, 94.74; Kentucky, 1890, 85.17, 1900, 91.56; Texas, 1890, 85.55, 1900, 90.74; Florida, 1890, 82.43, 1900, 86.24; Tennessee, 1890, 80.94, 1900, 85.08; Virginia, 1890, 77.32, 1900, 84.53; Arkansas, 1890, 77.89, 1900, 83.89; North Carolina, 1890, 69.38, 1900, 78.25; Mississippi, 1890, 63.41, 1900, 77.62; Georgia, 1890, 66.75, 1900, 77.21; Alabama, 1890, 64.50, 1900, 71.11; South Carolina, 1890, 61.00, 1900, 70.44; Louisiana, 1890, 57.26, 1900, 67.12. It is particularly encouraging to note the great improvement and progress where the illiteracy was greatest. North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, and Louisiana show exceptionally good progress along this line.

AN ARTICLE IN THE LITERARY DIGEST OF September 27, gives an interesting view of the enormous values of real estate on the lower end of Manhattan island. Mr. Richard M. Hurd, writing in the Yale Review, claims that the banking district of New York city contains the most valuable land in the world, its only competitor being the financial section of London, \$450 per square foot having been offered for the corner of Wall street and Broadway, and from this maximum value the average prices of real estate varies. Mr. Hurd is of the opinion that it will soon develop that the greater part of the surface of Manhattan island will be devoted to business solely, and the space above the ground floor, if not utilized for business, to be occupied by hotels, apartment houses, flats and tenements, and if the growth of the city continues unchecked, no estimate can be made as to the extent of the valuation of its real estate.

OPERATIONS ARE UNDER WAY FOR THE draining of the Everglades, those great and dismal swamps of Florida. Estimates of the extent of the land to be reclaimed vary from 800,000 to 4,000,000, but all accounts agree that the land, when drained, will rank among the richest in the world. It is not thought that the task will be a very hard one, although it will take engineering skill to accomplish the result desired. The land is nowhere less than ten feet above tide level and the natural drainage is toward the ocean. Several streams permeate the swampy land and the object of the present efforts is to assist these streams by removing the barriers at their heads and thence running channels into the heart of the Everglades. Nine canals in all will be constructed with a total length of 144 miles, each being 50 feet in width and 12 feet in depth. The time necessary to accomplish this task is estimated at about five years and the total cost about \$850,000, which compared with the great value of the reclaimed land for agricultural purposes is surely a very good investment.