

acteristics as Wimbs displayed in this beautiful incident that cemented the friendship between the "old-time" negroes and whites of the south. Unfortunately such incidents are becoming fewer every year."

IT IS BELIEVED BY MANY PERSONS THAT electricity will take the place of steam in the operation of railroads at an early day and in this connection a dispatch to the Chicago Inter-Ocean under date of New York, January 31, is interesting. In this dispatch it is said: "From New York to Chicago in ten hours, is the aim of the builders of a wonderful electric car, planned to run 150 miles an hour by the third-rail system. The first of the huge motors are now being installed in Elizabeth into cars that will give Chicago and Aurora, Ill., the fastest suburban service in the world. It is predicted that the time is now close at hand when the twenty-hour flyer to Chicago will be considered commonplace beside these new space-destroying cars. Mr. Zimmerman, who is now in Elizabeth in the interests of the Aurora, Elgin & Chicago railroad, thinks the motive power of one of the big trunk lines will be changed within a short time. A test of the cars will be made on a strip of track near Elizabeth. The mayor and other public officials will be asked to ride, and, according to the agreement with the Chicago company, the cars must show an ability to go 150 miles an hour."

THE PARIS MATIN HAS MADE SOME INVESTIGATIONS relating to the number of suicides in European armies. These investigations show that suicide is on a decline in all the armies except that of Russia where 13 out of every 100,000 commit suicide with unflinching regularity every year. While it is true that the proportion of suicides in other great military countries is higher than that of Russia, there is shown a tendency to decrease. In France, the rate is 18 per 100,000; in Italy, 34; in Germany, 36; in Austria, 45. The largest number of suicides was in the foreign legion branch of the French army. There the rate was 99 to every 100,000. The Matin points out that suicide is more frequent among cavalry than in the infantry.

A NEW "GREAT SEAL" IS BEING MADE FOR the United States government at a cost of \$4,250, to replace one made in 1885. A writer in the New York Times says that the seal now in use has during the past seventeen years done more work than the previous "great seal" in the forty-four years in which it did duty. The first "great seal" of the United States was made in 1782 in Philadelphia, from a design carefully worked out under the direction of Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, and it was used until 1841. The "great seal" that is now being cut will be the fourth made, its three predecessors having done duty for a total of 120 years.

ALFRED NOBEL, A SWEDISH MILLIONAIRE and philanthropist, provided what is known as the Nobel prizes to be given at the end of each year to those who accomplished the most important results during the preceding twelve months in the line of science, literature, and international peace. Nobel set aside \$8,400,000 as a permanent fund for this purpose. The awards are made by three colleges in Stockholm, Sweden. The prize winners for last year have been announced as follows: Dr. H. A. Lorentz and Dr. P. Zeeman, of Holland, for discoveries made in connection with the use of the spectroscopy; Dr. Emil Fischer, of Berlin, for discovering the effects of uric acid on the human system, and Major Ronald Ross, of Liverpool, England, for discovering that the mosquito is an active agent in the spreading of malaria; Prof. Theodor Mommsen, of Germany, for his writings on Roman history and Latin inscriptions, and Prof. Frederich de Martens, of Russia, for his work on several arbitration tribunals.

EL MOCHO IS A SOUTH AMERICAN REVOLUTIONIST who is now resting on his arms in Caracas under a pledge made to Minister Bowen that he would not engage in or encourage revolution against the Venezuelan government so long as his country was assailed from without. It is written that El Mocho has a very high opinion of the United States. Years ago he was engaged in a law suit against an American. This suit was tried in an American court and El Mocho was impressed with the justice of Americans when he was surprised by winning the case. Since then he

has never lost an opportunity to show his admiration for the great republic.

THE FRAUDS COMMITTED IN CUBA BY representatives of the United States government are recalled by a decision made in the United States court at Baltimore on January 31. A suit had been brought against a guarantee company that had been surety for Charles F. W. Neeley. It will be remembered that Neeley was connected with the Cuban postal service. Neeley was in arrears for several thousand dollars. The court held that because the government of Cuba had released Neeley as well as all others from civil liability, the United States government had no right in its own court to impeach the decree and sue Neeley's bondsmen.

A BILL HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE Massachusetts legislature providing for the erection of a statue to John Hancock, the American patriot. The champions of this measure claim that Hancock's memory has been neglected and they propose that a marble statue of Hancock be placed in the vacant niche at the left hand of the statue of George Washington in Doric Hall at the Massachusetts state house.

AN INTERESTING STORY RELATING TO the sale of the sideboard presented to Mrs. Hayes when she was mistress of the White house is related by the Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune. The story follows: Laden with wine glasses, decanters, siphons and even beer steins, a sideboard of remarkable associations now graces a saloon in the capital city. This sideboard was originally presented to Mrs. Hayes when her husband was president in recognition of her refusal to allow liquors on the table at the White house. It was the gift of numerous young women of Cincinnati, among whom were Mrs. Bellamy Storer, wife of the ambassador to Austria, and Mrs. Taft, wife of the civil governor of the Philippines. The sideboard shared the fate of many another piece of White house furniture at the general clearing out auction last week. It was knocked down to its present owner for \$85, and transferred from the executive halls to a saloon, where it has become not merely an article of use, but has furnished to iconoclasts the subject for many a bibulous jest. No sooner did it become known that the historic bit of furniture was being thus desecrated than John R. McLean offered \$850, ten times the price it had been bought at, for the old sideboard. The new owner, realizing the advertising value of the sideboard declined. Then Colonel Webb Hayes, anxious to rescue the prized possession of his mother from vandals, attempted to purchase it, but he was informed that the price placed on it was \$3,000. So, surrounded by bacchanalian insignia, in an atmosphere heavy with the fumes of alcohol, the old sideboard, the gift of the Cincinnati belles, the most cherished possession of the white ribbon mistress of the White house, stands while ribald jests are abroad at the sad descent from its former high estate.

AN INTERESTING SALE OF RELICS OF THE old Newgate prison took place at London on February 4. An Associated press cablegram referring to this sale, says: There was some competition for the old oak, the hangman's key and the cupboard mentioned in "Barnaby Rudge," which brought \$62.50. The old death bell fetched \$500. The staff on which the black flag was hoisted went for \$60 and copper wash bowls were sold for \$5 each, the plaster heads of prisoners who were executed were knocked down at \$25 and the main entrance door, which was broken down by the Cordon rioters, brought \$150.

WHILE MANY OF THE NORTHERN PAPERS have had much to say concerning the employment of child labor in the southern factories, it is interesting to observe that the New York Tribune has made an investigation relating to child labor in New York city. The Tribune therefore concludes that "we need to turn our attention homeward." The Tribune has discovered that 16,000 children under fourteen years of age are employed in New York city and that it is claimed by workers among the poor that more child labor exists in Gotham than in all the states of the south combined. The Tribune well says that "this is a remarkable revelation."

A RUMMAGE SALE TO DISPOSE OF DISCARDED fixtures and furniture in the White house was recently held in an auction room in the national capital. In a dispatch to the New

York World describing this sale, it is said: Former Governor Lowndes, of Maryland, was the most distinguished purchaser. He secured for \$15 a splendid lounge, upholstered in leather, which formerly stood in the private office of the president. A local saloonkeeper bought the White house refrigerator for \$7. A great bookcase was knocked down for \$1.50. Two dark oak armchairs brought \$85, and everything else in mahogany and oak brought good prices from the second-hand dealers present. President Garfield's billiard table was sold for \$105 and the cues were auctioned separately. One of them had the initials "C. A. A., Jr." scratched in the mother-of-pearl ornamentation, and doubtless was the favorite of President Arthur's son. The old colonial mantelpiece which formerly adorned the state dining-room is now the property of second-hand dealers. The great mirrors of the East Room and the other state parlors were also sold. These handsome glasses brought only small sums. The beautiful chandelier of the Blue Room was withdrawn from sale and will occupy a place of honor in one of the committee rooms at the capitol. It originally cost \$8,000 and was composed of 4,400 prisms of cut glass and a bronze framework delicately chased and with ten fine miniatures in the circular base.

NEWSPAPER READERS HAVE RECENTLY heard much of Mascagni and his troubles. Mascagni is an Italian composer. He arrived in New York October 4 and at that moment his troubles began and they have multiplied ever since. A writer in the Chicago Tribune has compiled a list of Mascagni's troubles: Mascagni lands in New York on October 4 and finds that the New York musicians are up in arms against him. Efforts are made to have his orchestra detained at Ellis island under the contract labor law. Mascagni refunds \$8,000 received in advance sales for "Iris" because the rehearsals were not satisfactory. He becomes alarmed at threatening letters and refuses to go on with a performance of "Cavalleria Rusticana." He offends some fellow countrymen by keeping them waiting five hours at a banquet. He stops a train between New York and Albany because it was going too rapidly. His musicians strike for back salaries and his performances become uncertain. He is arrested in Boston on November 3 in a civil suit brought by his managers for alleged breach of contract. He cables to the Italian premier for protection; is arrested again. Abandons the western tour, but finds a new manager. Returns to New York, but has to cut short a concert and escape to Hoboken to avoid process servers. He engages two armed guards in Buffalo, fearing violence. Tour temporarily abandoned again in Syracuse because of failure to pay musicians. He discharges some of his musicians and partly reorganizes the company. He is sued by Joseph Smith, Mme. Duse's manager, for money due for services. He is informed by Premier Zanardelli that Italy cannot afford him protection if he violates laws. He reaches Chicago and is received by large audiences. The baggage of his company is attached at the railroad station to satisfy a debt alleged to be due to a press agent. Baggage again seized to satisfy a claim made by a transportation company. Mascagni becomes ill of tonsillitis and nervous prostration and keeps to his room at the Auditorium Annex. He sends his company home. He is arrested and acquitted on the criminal charge of embezzlement made by his manager. He receives a new proposition from his old managers.

THE ANTI-KISSING BILL INTRODUCED IN the legislature of Virginia recently has been taken seriously in England and the London Chronicle referring to that measure says: "The proposed American statute for the abolition of kissing and a fine of \$5 for each indulgence in unhygienic osculation is not new. The old Puritan blue laws of Massachusetts forbade the exchange of kisses in public as a breach of good behavior. This law has never been repealed, and not very long ago there was much amusement, and some indignation, in Boston, at the arrest of a prominent citizen for kissing his wife in the street. Milan has a similar ordinance against kisses or other amatory demonstration in public places. It dates from the time of the Sforzas, and only a short time ago a pair of perfectly respectable lovers were hauled before a magistrate for kissing each other in the park. He ruled that though a kiss under such circumstances was not immoral, it was inconsistent with the decorum of civilization, and inflicted a fine of 12s. A similar law imposed in England on bank holidays would make the income tax a superfluity—if the fines were paid!"