

a moment to comfort her, but I knew there was no hope for that. And through all my thoughts there ran as a sort of undertone a feeling of wonder why I hung suspended in the air and could not get to my journey's end. My life from boyhood days was reviewed. I saw every act that I have done which I am ashamed of. I saw the windows passing up and I knew I was not yet half way down. Then I felt the rope in my hands burning and cutting my flesh. The vibration of the rope, which was fastened at both ends, had carried it inward twelve feet at the middle, and in my lightning-like descent I had happened to make about half of my fall at the instant the rope came nearest me. I would have reached the bottom in two-thirds of a second more. I heard Pepperdine strike and scream. The pain in my hands made me want to relinquish my hold, for I thought that I would be killed anyway. But I decided to be game. Next I saw darkness illuminated with millions of sparks. I knew then that I should see my wife again. I knew that if death came it would not be immediate. Then I lost consciousness."

THE PRESIDENT'S barber is just now in the limelight. The Omaha World-Herald says: "Some comment has been excited by the discovery that the colored barber who shaves the president is carried on the pay roll as an employee in the office of the auditor of the navy at a salary of \$1,600. All he does is shave the president, and that is all he has done for years. He rarely if ever shows up at the auditor's office. This is a means of getting something for nothing commonly practiced among high officials at Washington. Men are hired by the government at from \$900 to \$1,500 or more a year, congress appropriates for their pay as 'laborers,' 'janitors,' 'gardeners,' etc., etc.—and then they are immediately assigned to act as lackeys, valets, servants, of officeholders who thus escape the necessity for paying their help out of their own pockets. Similarly the president assigns a war vessel for the exclusive use of himself and family in pleasure excursions and traveling by water. Similarly appropriations are made for horses for the army, and the horses are used instead to draw someone's family carriage, while a 'gardener' acts as coachman, a 'janitor' as footman, and a 'messenger' as hostler. Senator Tillman franked a government typewriter from South Carolina to Washington, and was branded before the world as a desperate and vicious character in consequence. Will the class in ethics please stand up and say wherein Tillman's transgression was more culpable than that of his furious critic?"

THE GOVERNMENT made a profit during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1908, of \$10,541,371 on the coinage of silver, nickel and one-cent bronze pieces. This represents the difference between the price paid by the government for the metals and their coinage value. The following is taken from the New York Tribune: "Frank A. Leach, director of the mint, gives these figures in his annual report. The original deposits of gold bullion in the mints and assay offices during the fiscal year amounted to \$207,415,984, and uncurrent United States gold coin of the face value of \$4,020,668 was received for recoinage. Silver bullion purchased for subsidiary silver coinage during the year aggregated 18,819,279 standard ounces. The coinage executed by the mints during the fiscal year 1908 amounted to \$197,238,377 in gold, of which \$106,182,420 was in double eagles and \$4,829,060 in eagles of the designs prepared by the late Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the American sculptor. The amount of subsidiary silver coinage executed was \$16,530,477, which is the largest subsidiary silver coinage executed in any one year since 1877, when the government was preparing for the resumption of specie payments and issuing subsidiary silver coins in redemption of fractional currency. The director of the mint estimates the production of gold in the United States during the calendar year 1907 to have been \$90,407,700, and silver for the same period 56,514,700 fine ounces, of the commercial value of \$37,299,700 at the average New York price of silver for the calendar year 1907, namely, 66 cents an ounce. The director estimates the production of the precious metals in the world during the calendar year 1907 to have been \$410,555,900 in gold and 185,014,623 fine ounces of silver of the commercial value of \$122,090,000 at the average price of silver for the year. The increase in the production of silver for 1907 over that of 1906 was 19,260,000 fine ounces. The stock of gold coin in the United States on June 30

last is estimated at \$1,535,169,328; silver coin, \$715,615,595, including \$568,259,812 in silver dollars; gold bullion held by the treasury, \$79,971,247, and silver bullion (cost value), \$7,979,000. The stock of gold coin in the world on January 1 last is estimated at \$7,014,600,000; silver coin, \$3,530,700,000, and the uncovered paper, \$4,302,500,000."

W. A. CROUFET of Washington, D. C., and well known as a newspaper and magazine writer, contributes to the New York World this interesting letter: "In his speech on Monday and his explanation Senator Tillman was betrayed by his southern origin into the use of the word 'undertake' in the sense altogether different from its usual meaning at the north and in Washington. He declared that he had not 'undertaken' to buy any land at a certain time, meaning that he had not entered definitely into the undertaking. This was quite correct in the old English use of the word. Even today the surprised tourist sees in many parts of London the word 'undertaker' in letters two feet long across the front of buildings, and on inquiry finds that the occupant is not a 'funeral director' at all, but simply an architect and contractor who 'undertakes' to erect a row of buildings. South Carolina retains more old English pronunciations and definitions than any other state except Rhode Island, and it is not necessary for her senior senator to 'undertake' to correct the interesting and harmless survivals. The senator was also betrayed into rather an unhappy use of the word 'disingenuous'—in the sentence 'I perhaps was disingenuous.' It is quite too strong a word for the occasion and entirely misleading. Indeed, he says immediately afterward: 'I have not attempted to deceive anybody. I have not told any falsehoods. I spoke to the attorney general about it. I explained to the agent of the secret service the whole transaction.' This is certainly as frank and candid as anything can be. We all know that the 'ingenue' of the stage is so called because she is quite too ingenuous, lacking that quiet reticence and reserve which result from a wider knowledge of the world, and which are often indispensable in dealing with the subtle and crafty."

REFERRING TO the mystery surrounding the identity of the prosecuting party in the proceedings against the New York World and the Indianapolis News, the New York Globe, a republican paper, says: "If it shall turn out to be William Nelson Cromwell or Douglas Robinson or any of the gentlemen whose names were without just reason connected with insinuations of Panama corruption, the grand juries and the courts can be trusted to attend to the case in the ordinary course of business. But if it is the government which contends that it has been libeled as an institution, it would seem that the Roosevelt administration was seeking to celebrate its approaching departure by introducing its greatest innovation. For a century and more—since the repeal of the sedition law, whose enactment wrecked the Adams administration and destroyed the federal party—the country has quietly reposed in the belief that the government could not be libelled—that it was perfectly safe to say all manner of disagreeable things concerning it. If this notion is wrong, and anything said in disrespect or ridicule of these United States is a crime, it is manifest that the number of criminals has been very large. If assault on men in office is to be construed as assault on the government, and as such punishable, our political campaigns have been one long orgy of crime. It may be suspected, when the lid is lifted, that it will be discovered that the theory outlined by the president in his Pulitzer message has not been followed, and that the prosecution is on the old and defensible ground that some person has been lied about and that he has taken his grievance to the authorities."

A WASHINGTON dispatch to the Houston (Texas) Post says that an agreement has been reached among republican senators to confirm no more of President Roosevelt's nominations, especially those to judicial positions. On this point the Post says: "The agreement in effect not only serves notice upon the president that the senate holds him in the utmost contempt, but that it proposes in the most direct way possible to make him feel some sense of the humiliation he has brought upon himself by his own perverse conduct. In no other way could the senate so effectually make him feel

its resentment as by turning down the appointment of his favorites to office, many of whom have no doubt been promised easy berths for the future, upon the presumption that out of gratitude for the support rendered him by the president in securing the nomination, Mr. Taft would not raise any objections to such unusual exercise of the appointing power on the part of one about to retire from office. Though humiliating the confession, it is nevertheless true that every day brings new developments leading inevitably to the conclusion so accurately expressed by ex-Governor George W. Peck a few days since that 'Roosevelt will leave the presidential chair cordially disliked by the great masses of the American people, even among the members of his own party who have become thoroughly disgusted with him.' Thus, in Mr. Roosevelt is the observation of Solomon that 'Pride goeth before destruction and an haughty spirit before a fall' again strikingly verified."

SECRETARY of the Interior Garfield declares that during the past two years government land worth \$110,000,000 has been stolen. The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says: "Information of these wholesale frauds has come into the possession of the secretary through special agents in the field. These lands are situated chiefly in states west of the Mississippi river and have been fraudulently acquired by corporations and individuals. With a view of recovering the lands, Secretary Garfield sent today letters to Chairmen Hale and Tawney of the senate and house appropriation committees respectively, asking for an additional appropriation of \$500,000, which, if granted, with that already asked for, will give the department \$1,000,000 for that purpose. The specific purpose of the appropriation requested is for preventing 'depredations upon public timber, protecting public lands, examining swamp lands, etc.' It is stated that there is reasonable prospect of recovering much of this alleged fraudulently acquired land if the appropriation is promptly made. It also is pointed out that, while a million dollars may seem large, it is not one per cent of the commercial value of the land which the government may hope to recover. Secretary Garfield also submits a statement of H. H. Schwartz, chief of the field service, showing over 32,000 distinct cases of alleged land frauds demanding further investigation. The number of such cases awaiting investigation, by states, is as follows: Oregon, 1,462; California and Nevada, 1,409; Washington and North Idaho, 1,325; Montana, 3,605; Colorado, 8,621; Arizona, 496; Wyoming, 21,155; Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, 5,894; Missouri, Louisiana and Arkansas, 1,593; Utah, 1,482; Oklahoma and Kansas, 1,012; New Mexico, 1,205, and Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, 1,960."

A NEW YORKER, who signs his communication "No Hero Worshipper," sends to the New York World this letter: "In view of some recent occurrences in the city of Washington, and because of the fact that the people of the United States have seen fit to bow down in abject homage to a fetish of personal grandeur, it might be well to direct their attention to an abstract from a bygone and well-nigh forgotten page of American history: 'Articles exhibited by the house of representatives of the United States, in the name of themselves and all of the people of the United States, etc., viz.: Article X. That said Andrew Johnson, president of the United States, unmindful of the high duties of his office, and the dignity and proprieties thereof, and of the harmony and courtesies which ought to exist and be maintained between the executive and legislative branches of the government of the United States, designing and intending to set aside the rightful authority and powers of congress, did attempt to bring into disgrace, ridicule, hatred, contempt and reproach the congress of the United States, and the several branches thereof, to impair and destroy the regard and respect of all the good people of the United States for the congress and legislative powers thereof (which all officers of the government ought inviolably to preserve and maintain), and to excite the odium and resentment of all the good people of the United States against congress * * * and in pursuance of his said design and intent, did openly and publicly * * * make and deliver * * * certain intemperate, inflammatory and scandalous harangues * * * as well against congress as the laws of the United States duly enacted thereby.'"