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SOME gentleman who is handy with
figures has ascertained that it takes
700 bullets, on an average, all of
which have been carefully inserted in
the engines of death, to kill a man in
English warfare, while in Germany,
on account of the superior marksmanship
of the Teutons, probably, every
450 bullets sent whizzing into the
camp of the enemy picks off a man.
It is notorious, however, that in this
country whoever points an unloaded
weapon at another always kills at the
first fire. This remarkable difference
between loaded and unloaded weap-
ons merits far more serious attention
than it has received. There is indeed
something positively weird about the
unerring deadliness of the unloaded
weapon, and careful observation
might demonstrate that the surest
way to exterminate an enemy in war
would be to prohibit the loading of
all rifles before going into action.

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enforce such a law, are the only things
likely to satisfy the public sentiment
that is now demanding that these fenced-
in lands shall be thrown open to the
actual settler. The people are deter-
mined to see whether the present Con-
gress will have backbone enough to re-
spond to their demand.

The citizens of Washington have long
enjoyed the credit of being a public-
spirited community, and they are so
long as Congress foots the bills for ev-
ery last enterprise that is undertaken
here. If, however, the people want
something that Congress has no right
to provide, such as a skating rink, or an
armory, or a base-ball park, they get up
a grab-bag fair or something of that
sort, and by hook or crook they have
managed to get all of these things. To
these will shortly be added an opera-
house which is to be built by a military
company, but never a word has been
mentioned about the establishment of
a public library, or any other public
enterprise that would conduce to the
mental improvement of its more than
200,000 population. And you may
safely predict that if this great city, the
capital of this great country, this boast-
ed imitation of Paris, ever does get a
library it will be when Congress fur-
nishes it. DOM PEDRO.

Almost a Patricide.

What might have proved a fearful
tragedy occurred in the not always
most peaceful vicinity of this place,
early Friday morning, at the residence
of David Walabach, who lives some
two miles east of the mill and post-
office. The particulars, as near as
they can be gleaned from the parties
interested are, that early Friday morn-
ing, Roy Walabach, a boy of twelve
years of age, having by some means
procured a revolver that belonged to
his father, who at the time was laying
in bed asleep, deliberately fired at his
head, the ball striking near his right
temple, ranging across the forehead,
making a slight flesh wound, from
which the blood flowed quite freely.

Without awaiting the result, the boy
dropped the revolver and hurriedly
took one of his father's horses and
struck out, but only went some two
miles from the house into a draw,
where he was found the next day by
some member of the family and per-
suaded to go home, where he now re-
mains chained to the floor with a big
log chain by his inhuman father. The
boy at first denied the act, but sub-
sequently acknowledged it, and upon
being questioned by a neighbor as to
the motive, replied that he could not
help it—he had used him so badly.
Upon inquiry, it appears that there
has been considerable difficulty in the
family from their first settlement in
the neighborhood, owing to the quick
and ungovernable temper of the father,
who has a family of six or seven
children, and who most of the time
has been a perfect terror to his whole
family, so much so that at one time
the mother, with her three youngest
children, left him and proceeded to-
ward her former home in Nebraska,
but at the end of the first day's jour-
ney the deep anguish and strong love
that a true mother has for her child-
ren overcame her, and she retraced
her steps, resolved that their lot
should be her's, that she would en-
dure all, yea, death only would sepa-
rate her and her children.

A deep feeling of indignation is
expressed by many of the citizens
against this father who thus drove the
boy of so tender an age to attempt
such a deed, and sympathy is every-
where expressed for his sorrowing
mother and her children, two or three
of whom have ran away from home
within the past two or three years.
Cedar Bluffs, Kas. J. S. V.

THAT must be a peculiar system of
religion those revivalists are preach-
ing up in Custer county. Three or
four raving maniacs attest the effect-
iveness of the same. We suggest
that the vigilantes have a matinee
some Sabbath afternoon. The cranks
ought to be eliminated.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

Washington, D. C., April 27, '84.

A second edition of the judicial farce
enacted last year, resulting in the ac-
quittal of the star route thieves, will be
presented to an admiring public next
week in the trial of William Pitt Kellogg
for receiving money in his capacity
of United States Senator from Louis-
iana. If it were not so deucedly expen-
sive, it would be amusing to see how
the Attorney General has gone to work
to collect his evidence in this case,
which as in all such cases is principally
drawn from some thievish accessory,
whose credibility is as easily impeached
as his evidence can be purchased with
promises of immunity. In this case was
Walsh who wrote to the President about
"important" papers in his possession
that would convict Kellogg. Walsh
and his papers were in that safe haven
(Canada) where Government criminals
mostly do congregate, and thither the
President dispatched Mr. Brewster Cam-
eron, and one of its \$100 per day attor-
neys, Mr. Ker, to receive the important
papers. Upon their arrival at Montreal
and conferring with Mr. Walsh, the lat-
ter suddenly discovered that the papers
were not so important in working a con-
viction as he thought they might be,
and so, under a suggestion of additional
immunity, he has concluded to come on
in person and give his testimony, which,
in the light of that given in the star
route cases where it was picked to flin-
ders and scattered to the winds, is not
likely to add heavily to the Govern-
ment's chances for convicting anybody.

In this connection it may not be in-
opportune to say that the Attorney
General may have in view the possibil-
ity that a simple trial of Kellogg, though
it result in acquittal, may deter other
Senators and other Members of Con-
gress from accepting money in an official
capacity, but the innumerable trials
and the many Congressional investiga-
tions that we have had, should have
convinced Mr. Brewster of his fallacy.
To show how credulous a being the At-
torney General is, it is only necessary
to call attention to his official letter of
apology for not convicting the star route
thieves, in which he solemnly declares
he saved to the country the two millions
of dollars annually that the thieves
would have continued to steal had he
not brought them to trial! Now every-
body knows that before Mr. Garfield be-
came President, and therefore before
Mr. Brewster was ever thought of in
connection with the Attorney Generals-
hip, the star route thieves fell out
among themselves and gave each other
away to the authorities with superlative
alacrity. It was then that the stealing
was stopped, but nobody supposes, after
the events that have since transpired,
that there was ever any serious inten-
tion on the part of the authorities to
punish the thieves.

While I am not banking much upon
the faithfulness or integrity of public
officials in general in the matter of
fencing in and trespassing upon the
public lands, I think that the recent
editorial upon that subject in the New
York Times, so far as it reflects upon
the Secretary of the Interior, does that
gentleman a gross injustice. For years
these squatters upon the public domain
have defied the Government, which, un-
der a practically obsolete law, they
knew to be powerless to molest them.
Mr. Teller, however, more than a year
ago, called the Department of Justice
to account for its neglect in enforcing
such law as would be available to an
individual whose property might be
trespassed upon in like manner, but
that department had its hands so full in
making facilities for the star route
thieves to slip through its fingers, that
it had no time to attend to these big
land pirates. The fact of this business
is that no amount of effort to restrain
the fencing in of the public domain will
avail so long as Senators, Representa-
tives, and men in and out of high public
station, who have got plenty of money,
are interested in occupying these mil-
lions of acres for their own purposes.
A good, healthy Congressional enact-
ment that would mean something, and
a Department of Justice that would
also mean something in its attempts to