

years ago the Omahas and Otoes, numbering thousands of warriors on each side, met out upon the plains in a fierce battle. They fought with the valor of vengeance and the wrath of desperation until not a single man on either side was left alive and without wounds. And then came the old men and squaws and children from the Otoe village on the south and the Omaha on the north and sat down upon the prairie among the dead and dying and wailed and wept for days. Then the Great Spirit, in his merciful goodness, caused a vast spring to burst open the plain where the battle was fought and to swallow up the earth, that was full of blood and tears, and to send forth forever to the Missouri a stream of bright pure water like tears. And thus was born and baptized the Weeping Water; L'ean qui Pleure; Nehawka.

We feel sure that the Nebraska Independent, that eminently sane and temperate authority on social and financial questions, would not willingly mislead its readers. But we fear that presidents of life insurance companies, who go to its pages for counsel to guide them in the management of their enterprises, may be induced to take action that they may regret afterwards, when they read the Independent's utterance on the subject of consumption. Life insurance companies have long declined to accept persons whose parents were tuberculous, on the ground that they were likely to go the same way; but the Independent, in scoffing at the Conservative's proposition that certain people ought not to be married, says that "if anything has been thoroughly established beyond contradiction, it is that tuberculosis is a germ disease, and that it is not hereditary. The same remark may also be made about most of the other diseases enumerated."

We would not be arbitrary, nor, as some foolish European countries are doing, forbid by law such marriages; if the Independent wishes to marry its offspring to the children of the insane, epileptic, alcoholic, tuberculous and gouty, we will cheerfully acquiesce. But we will still advise those who choose to listen to us, not to run the risk of such alliances. Tuberculosis is certainly contagious; that is, perfectly healthy people may contract it by associating with the consumptive. Insanity is also contagious to a certain extent, it would seem, for we have known very sensible farmers to become violently disturbed in reason by listening to inflammatory utterances. But the commonly accepted view, shared also by such small medical authorities as we have read, is that these disorders, and others like them, arise mainly from a generally disordered physical condition, known as degeneracy, which is indisputably transmissible from parents to children. When the condition known as degeneracy is once established in a family, generally by somebody's misbehavior, there seems to be no way of getting rid of it. One man may have consumption; his children may or may not contract the same disease, but if they do not, they are more likely than not to break out in some other way; to be either drunkards, insane or epileptics. And about the fourth or fifth generation the breed loses the power of continuing itself, and the line dies out.

We therefore still respectfully recommend, to those whose mental constitution enables them to perceive that two

and two must inevitably make four, that they neither marry nor give in marriage into families where any of these symptoms have presented themselves. To those who would repeal the law of heredity, or other natural laws, by legislative enactment, we believe we have no suggestions to offer.

Telegrams from
CONGRESSMAN Washington dated
MERCER. December 19, state

that "Congressman Mercer has introduced a bill appropriating two millions of dollars for a new building in Washington for the Department of Agriculture."

On page 58 of the report of the Secretary of Agriculture for the year 1895 will be found this statement: "If the Department of Agriculture is to be domiciled, as every other department is, in a building proportioned to the value and magnitude of the interests which it conserves, it is suggested that an appropriation for the construction of an edifice for the Department of Agriculture must be made in the very near future."

That a Nebraska congressman should make the effort to carry out the suggestion above is quite in keeping with the expanding reputation for successful corn, wheat, fruit, cattle and swine producing that this commonwealth enjoys. Getting appropriations out of the national treasury for any purpose whatsoever is favorably considered in these times as a symptom of statesmanship. But obtaining an appropriation for a really useful purpose may not be quite so popular as one for buying and distributing cabbage, carrot, beet and onion seeds as gratuities.

The Honorable Mr. Mercer will find, by turning to the fifth page of the report of the Secretary of Agriculture for the year 1896 and reading down to the middle of the sixth page, that during four years that officer—under Grover Cleveland—had saved and covered back into the treasury of the United States a trifle more than two million dollars.

Thus the money then saved may now be used legitimately to construct a department building for agriculture. And it is much easier and far more commendable in these days of extravagance to get money out of the treasury than to cover money into the treasury. To provide for expending is patriotism and to prevent unnecessary disbursements is penuriousness. But there will be an end to extravagance and a beginning of frugality in government disbursements or an end to this government before this century closes.

The Conservative
"THE OVERLAND has received from
STAGE TO CALIFORNIA." its publishers, at
Topeka, Kansas,
Messrs. Frank A.

Root and William E. Connelly, a copy of this exceedingly interesting and very valuable record of the pioneer passenger and freight transportation lines between the Missouri river and the Rocky Mountains. Every public library in the State of Nebraska ought to have this book. It is a record of miracles in human endurance and achievements. It reads like an oriental romance, and yet it is only the half-told truths of occidental fact and fortitude. Messrs. Root and Connelly have performed a remarkably valuable service to Kansas and Nebraska by preserving in such admirable book form a portion of the records of the pioneers of the two states.

It is about time
ABOUT TIME. for the Honorable
William Vincent
Allen, formerly a judge, and subsequently a United States senator, and again a judge, and by appointment again a Senator, to wake up, yawn, and stretch his intellectual muscles preparatory to again saving the Republic. Until Allen and the stungee of ingratitude, and also the ungrateful stinger, make a new fusion, confusion is imminent among the office-seeking mavericks of Nebraska. It is time for the welding of the chunks in the political scrap pile preparatory to another "Battle"—like "the first battle"—when populist and Bryanarchist may once more "scrap" together.

On the 17th of this
"A COLORADO month The Conser-
COLONEL." vative received from
its publishers,

Crane & Co., Topeka, Kansas, a copy of "A Colorado Colonel and Other Sketches," written by William Cary Campbell, of Arizona. We have read the "Colorado Colonel" with great satisfaction. It is a perfect picture of a character common only to the mining regions of the Rocky Mountains; it is well drawn and naturally colored; in fact, truthfully faithful to a type of mankind developed only in mining sections of the country where vast fortunes are made and lost with the same facility that children make soap bubbles with pipes and float them in the air until they break and disappear. The character of Wildman is exceedingly well drawn; likewise is the character of Agnes Hargrave and that of Doctor Eisler. The book, taken as a whole, is exceedingly refreshing because of its Western breeziness and total disregard of the Bostonesque rules of certain tribes of literati in the Eastern states. Every Western citizen will enjoy it.

ABROAD.

THE CONSERVATIVE
is pleased to note
that "The Insurance
Business and Remembrancer," published in London, England, on Saturday, September 21, 1901, contains the following allusion to the symposium which we published a few months ago, entitled: "What are the Young Man's Chances?"

"American Journalism, which is always practical and at the same time original, knows no dull season. While British newspapers in the early autumn descend to stories of sea-serpents and gigantic gooseberries, our contemporaries on the other side of the Atlantic fill their columns with matter no less interesting than instructive. In a recent issue of THE CONSERVATIVE, a journal devoted to the discussion of political, economic and sociological questions, there are published the views of a number of gentlemen who have attained prominence in their different avocations, in answer to the all-important enquiry, 'What are the Young Man's Chances?' Replies were received from workers in the journalistic, legal, educational and industrial fields. Among these contributions was an article from the pen of Mr. Wm. B. Carlile, manager at Chicago for the Mutual Life, of New York, which in addition to possessing necessarily a special interest for all engaged in insurance work may be singled out for its directness of purpose, its eloquence and its practical value."