THE OMAHA DAILY BEE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1902.

he felt relieved. The desperado came for-

ward, and to the boy's surprise began to

climb the small ridge of outcrop until he

reached the failen tree. Johnny saw that

FARM LAND AS INVESTMENT a farm. I have never known one of this class of men to be more than ordinarily euccessful, while on the other hand, the most highly successful farmers I have known have invariably been men of more Attractive Features of Agriculture as a or less education and excellent business Pursuit with Prefit. ability.

Put a shrewd, intelligent business man

capped by entire lack of experience.

Rapid Increase in Values.

all parts of the country indicating rapid

increase in the value of land and great

Tendency to Hold Onto Land.

This latter fact is in itself bound to in-

crease the value of land from year to year.

although, perhaps, but slowly. The tend-

ency today to hold opto land is very strong

because of the absolute independence of

the man who owns a few acres. Labor

he is less concerned with the questions of

protection and free trade than any other

class of our people. If necessary he can

live absolutely independent of any other

Land value in all parts of the country

is affected to a great extent by local condi-

tions which are continually changing and

the man who is going to invest in land

should watch these conditions very care-

Generally speaking, however, I believe

that under the present prosperous condi-

tions of our country, a judicious invest-

ment in farm land is one of the safest and

W. M. OSTRANDER.

most profitable investments that can pos-

HIS DEAR DEAD FRIEND.

Mayor of Atlanta Speaks at the

Funeral of a Negro.

The funeral of Richard J. Henry, colored,

for so long a time porter and private serv-

ant of his honor, Mayor Livingston Mims.

embodied in its program an episode that is

too notable and too altogether pleasing to

be omitted from a special comment, reports

His fidelity, his courtesy, his intelligence

only to his master and employers, but

and his effective service had endeared him

to all the numerous company of white men

of all degrees who came in contact with him.

rlass of people.

sibly be made.

the Atlanta News.

conditions do not seriously affect him and

am continually receiving reports from

SOME EXAMPLES TO PROVE THE POINT

W. M. Ostrander of Philadelphia Gives His Opinions and Cites

> Facts to Support His Conclusions.

prosperity among the agricultural classes. Mr. W. M. Ostrander of Philadelphia, one One man writes: "Farm lands are now of the best known real estate dealers in on the verge of the greatest boom in the the United States, contributed the follow- history of the state of Missouri. Crops are ing article to last week's issue of The magnificent all through the state and the Twentleth Century Farmer, from which farmers have been making money." Another man writes: "Farm lands in paper it is reproduced:

To discuss "farm land as an investment" Minnesota and Dakota have increased very In an exhaustive way would involve enough largely in value recently. The land is exsubjects, almost, to fill a book. I shall ceptionally fine in this locality and the discuss it in a general way only, omitting crops have never been better than they statistical reports which are always, to the are just at present." These are only samples of scores of average person, more or less tiresome.

In the first place it would be well to similar letters. Farm lands will steadily increase in consider a few general facts. The total acreage for the entire country is \$41,201,value for three reasons: First-Because of the greater increase in 546. The total value of farm products for population than in the development of new the year 1899 is given by the census bureau at \$4,739,118,753, of which amount \$1,718,- |and.

Second-Because of the increasing desire 890,221 was for animal products. The number of farms in the United States has steadily increased for the last Aready settled rather than go into a new fifty years. In 1900 there were nearly four territory. times as many farms as in 1850, and 25 Third-Because of the tendency of the

middle and wealthier class of today to buy per cent more than in 1890. Since 1880 the total acreage of farms has increased more rapidly than the number of farms, so selves that the average size of farms has increased. The most important agricultural states, beginning at the east, are New

York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. Together they embrace 44 per cent of the total value of farm property and produce about 38 per cent of the total farm, products,

Beat Opportunities in Newer States.

The inference should not be drawn from the above statements that the states mentioned are superior to all others as fields for investment. While these states contain many of the finest farms in the country, they do not offer the opportunities to large investors that are offered by some of the newer states.

For instance, in the south, some sections of Georgia are now especially attractive fully before plunging too deeply. to investors. New railroads are now covering heretofore untouched territories, and bringing them within easy access of northern markete.

The south probably offers larger fields for investment than any other section of the country because of its numerous undeveloped portions. A great many thousand persons go south each year for the sole purpose of developing land. Chicago is the center of migration to the south and from there go many capitalists and investors as well as seekers for permanent homes. Southern fruit growing is becoming more important in proportion to the increased and improved shipping facilities. The fruit is now landed in perfect condition in northern markets, which, a few years ago, were totally inaccessible.

Fruit Growing in South. Another interesting feature is the fact that this year for the first time, fruit (principally peaches) has been grown more or less extensively among the large forest trees. The fruit trees when grown in this way get enough sun to promote a healthy growth, while they are protected from the frosts which so often prove injurious. For to his care for transmission to the bank, frosts which so often prove injurious. For and it is estimated that in this position he this reason southern timber land often had carried on his person millions of dolproves a good investment for farming purposes in connection with fruit growing.

In the far west land heretofore consid-able negro were everywhere in evidence. ered of little value has recently produced. They made a large representation in the some surprising results. For instance, land large audience.

An Ali Baba of the Sierras By BRET HARTE.

(Copyright, 1903, by Bret Harte.) Johnny Starleigh found himself again late

on a good (or even fairly good) farm and for school. It was always happening. It in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred he seemed to be inevitable with the process will be successful, even though handtof going to school at all. And it was no fault "o' his." Something was always ocin his daily path to the school room. He may not have been "thinkin' of squirrels," and yet the rarest and most evasive of that genus were always crossing his trail; he may not have been "huntin' honey," and yet a wild bees' nest in the hollow of an oak absolutely obtruded itself be fore him; he wasn't "bird catchin'," and grown men hunters always saw the most wonderful animals when they "hadn't got | a gun with 'em," and it seemed to be his

> bilities on the way to school. If nature was thus capricious with his elders, why should folk think it strange if she was as mischievous with a small boy? On this particular morning Johnny had

lot to meet them in his restricted possi-

been beguiled by the unmistakable footprints-so like his own-of a bear's cub. What chances he had of ever coming up of people to locate in states which are with them, or what he would have done seen enough to know that their enterprise

if he had, he did not know. He only knew as well as their cave was a secret, and that that at the end of an hour and a half he the desperado would subject any witness found himself two miles from the school to it, however innecent or unwilling, to horhouse, and, from the position of the sun, rible penalties. The time crept slowly by; country homes of large acreage for them- at least an hour too late for school. He he heard every rap of a woodpecker in a knew that nobody would believe him. The distant tree, a blue jay dipped and lighted

punishment for complete trunney was little on a branch within his reach, but he dared worse than for being late. He resolved to not extend his hand; his legs were infested accept it, and by way of irrevocability, at by ants, he even fancied he heard the dry, once burnt his ships behind him-in de- bollow ratile of a rattlesnake not a yard from him. And then the entrance to the vouring part of his dinner. Thus fortified in his outlawry, he began cave was darkened and the two men reap-

to look about him. He was on a thickly peared. Johnny stared. He would have

disappeared in it.



any boy of the locality who had heard the twas those two men who had made his common gossip of his elders, but to Johnny's brother a thief! He was very near the tree. He crept

tancy an idea was kindled peculiarly his stealthily on his hands and knees through own. Here was a cavern like that of the "Forty Thieves" in the story books, and the bracken and as stealthily climbed the was the All Baba who knew its secret! wedge of outcrop, and then leaped like a He was not obliged to say "Open, sesame."

but he could say it if he liked, if he was showing it off to anybody. Yet alas! he also knew it was a secret

he was carrying a heavy stone. "What's he must keep to himself. He had nobody the blamed fool goin' to do?" he said to to trust it to. His father was a charcoal curring-some eccentricity of nature or himself; the man's evident ignorance re- burner of small means; a widower with circumstance was invariably starting up garding footprints had lessened the boy's two children. Johnny and his elder brother awe of him. But the stranger's next essay Sam. The latter, a flagrant incorrigible of took Johnny's breath away. Standing on 22, with a tendency to dissipation and low the fallen tree trunk at its axis on the company, had lately abandoned his father's outcrop he began to rock it gently. To roof, only to reappear at intervals of Johnny's surprise it began to move. The hilarious or maudlin intoxication. He had upper end descended slowly, lifting the always been held up to Johnny as a warnroot in the excavation at the lower end, ing, or with the gloomy prognosis that he and with it a mass of rock, and revealing Johnny, was already following in his toryet there was a yellow-hammer always a cavern behind large enough to admit a tuous footsteps. Even if he were here he within sione's throw. He had heard how man. Johnny gasped. The desperado coolly was not to be thought of as a confidant Still less could he trust his father, who deposited the heavy stone on the tree beyond its axis on the rock, so that it would would be sure to bungle the secret with keep the tree in position, leaped from the sheriffs and constables, and end by bringtree to the rock, and quickly descended. Ing down the vengeance of the gang upon At which he was joined by the other man. the family. As for himself, he could not who was carrying two heavy chamola dispose of the gold if he were to take it. leather bags. They both proceeded to the The exhibition of a single flake of it to opening thus miraculously disclosed, and the adult public would arouse auspicion

> and as it was Johnny's hard fate to be always doubted, he might be connected with Johnny sat breathless, wondering, exthe gang. As a truant he knew he had no pectant, but not daring to move. The men moral standing, but he also had the supermight come out at any moment; he had stition-quite characteristic of childhoodthat being in possession of a secret he was a participant in its criminality-and bound, as it were, by terrible oaths! And then a new idea seized him. He carefully put back everything as he had found it extinguished the candle, left the cave, remounted the tree and closed the opening again, as he had seen the others do it, with the addition of murmuring "Shut, sesame" to himself, and then ran away as fast as his short legs could carry him. Well clear of the dangerous vicinity, he

proceeded more leisurely for about a mile.

Repeating it at intervals, he was presently

contagion to this?

"and I'll show ye."

wildcat on the tree. With incredible activity he lifted the balancing stone and as the tree began to move, in a flash of perception transferred it to the other side of its axis, and felt the roots and debris. under that additional weight, descend quickly with something like a crash over the opening. Then he took to his heels, He ran so swiftly that all unknowingly he overtook a figure, who, turning, glanced at him and then disappeared in the wood. It was his second and last view of his brother -as he never saw him again. But now, strange to say, the crucial and most despairing moment of his day's ex-

perience had come. He had to face Meety Stryker under the burnt pine, and the promise he could not keep, and to tell her that he had lied to her. It was the only way to save his brother now. His small wits, and, alas! his smaller methods, were equal to the despairing task. As soon as he saw her waiting under the tree he fell to capering and dancing with an extravagance in which hysteria had no small part. "Sold! Sold! Sold again and got the money!" he laughed, shrilly. The girl looked at him with astonish-

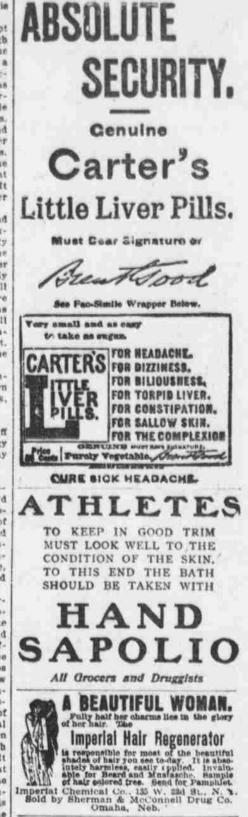
ment, which changed gradually to scorn and then to anger. Johnny's heart sank, but he redoubled his antics. "Who's sold ?" she said, disdainfully.

"You be. You swallered all that stuff about Ali Baha! You wanted to be Morgy Anna! Ho! Ho! And I've made you play hookey-from home!"

"You hateful, horrid, little liar!" Johnny accepted his punishment mecklyin his heart gratefully. "I reckoned you'd laugh, and not get mad," he said, submissively. The girl turned, with tears of rage and vexation in her eyes, and walked away. Johnny followed at a humble distance. Perhaps there was something instinctively touching in the boy's remorse, for they made it up before they reached her fence.

Nevertheless Johnny went home miserable. Luckily for him, his father was absent at a vigilance committee called to take cognizance of the late sluice robberles, and although this temporarily concealed his offense of truancy, the news of the vigilance meeting determined him to keep his lips sealed. He lay all night wondering how long it would take the robbers to dig themselves out of the cave and whether they suspected their imprisonment was the work of an enemy or only an accident. For several days he avoided the locality, and even feared the vengeful appearance of Spanish Pete some night at his father's house. It was not until the end of a fortnight that he had the courage to revisit the spot. The tree was in its normal position, but immovable, and a great quantity of fresh debris at the mouth of the cave convinced him the robbers, after escaping, had abandoned it as unsafe. His brother did not return, and either the activity of the vigilance committee or the lack of a new place of rendezvous seemed to have dispersed the robbers from the locality, for they were not heard of gain.

The next ten years brought an improvement to Mr. Starleigh's fortunes. Johnny Starleigh, then a student at San Jose, one morning found a newspaper clipping in a letter from Miss Amelia Stryker. It read as follows: "The excavators in the new tunnel in Heavystone Ridge lately discovered the skeletons of two unknown men, who had evidently been crushed and entombed some years previously by the falling of a large tree over the mouth of fuest temporary refuge. From somt river gold found them they were supposed to be part of the gang of sluice robbers who infested the locality some years ago and were hiding from the vigilants."



9

Phoenix, Arizona.

> The winter home of no less than 25,000 persons, who go there to escape the hardships . of a winter in the North.

Excellent hotels; innumerable boarding houses; mild climate; clear, pure air; plenty of places to go and things to do; most cheerful health resort in the country; endorsed by every climatologist in America.

adjacent to the Columbia river has pro-The funeral, conducted by high officials duced a yield of wheat to equal or exceed of Henry's own church and race, was most that of the middle west-in some cases impressive and full of high tribute to the fifty-six bushels to the acre. These results, character and record of the deceased. The of course, are due largely to improved mayor of the city and his accomplished methods in fertilizing and operating the wife occupied front seats in the church during the services and when the ministerial

Portions of Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, offices had progressed to a certain point Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico have the mayor of the city, who was also the never been developed owing to the lack of employer of the deceased, was called on to irrigation. Should irrigation facilities be sneak. furnished by the government, these sec-

tions would offer some great opportunities for profitable investment. Irrigation an Important Fact.

Irrigation has been an extremely important factor in the past in developing certain sections of the country, and in all probability will be just as important in the

future. In a recent report I notice that was certainly unexpected-and yet while so "a comparison of the number of irrigators heartily commending all that has been so and the number of acres irrigated at the feelingly and eloquently said in reference beginning and end of the decade 1889-1899 to my dear dead friend-my friend of more shows that these have approximately dou- than a third of a century- I cannot refrain

Irrigation has produced many very remarkable results. In fact some of the deed, a sorrow that my entire family shares, most valuable agricultural land in exist- and I know, too, it will be felt by the ence was at one time apparently worth- large number of his friends and mine who

mand is principally for farms of large his many white friends in this city who acreage. Kansas land, with the exception respected and admired him for the splandii of the more desirable portions, has reached qualities that he possessed. He was ever a singular accident and one which had pera very low ebb, and a heavy purchase of doing charity and kindness to all sorts of this land might result in immense profits people. He was indeed a medel husband within the next few years.

Farm land adjacent to the large cities. principally of the east, is always attractive to investors and practically sure to prove profitable if bought at a low price. All land, however, is liable to flustuate in value, and because of this fact it is necessary for a man to be thoroughly wide awake in order to be a successful land investor or operator.

Good Farming Affects Prices.

While the value of a farm as an investment is largely affected by local conditions, it is also affected to a great extent ings and promises of the holy religion he farm may be bought for \$30 per acre and erend clergy has, on this solemn occasion, several years under expert manage- so ably administered. ment sell for \$40 or \$30 per acre. I have

37 bushels to the acre and his corn will in yonder comn carries with him acceptthis: Profits on corn, 16,000 bushels, de-

livered in December, \$7,000; profits on hogs sold, \$1,800; on hogs raised this year. about \$1,300; profits on wheat, 1,620 bushels, \$1,100: on flax, etc., about \$1,000; and the difference between the purchase price of the farm and the price he has been offered for it, \$3,840. The total profits will amount to about \$15,940, or nearly \$9,600 net profit in one year, just the price he paid for the whole farm. This is the story of a man who knew practically nothing about farming when he bought the property, but who was an exceptionally good

manager. Ristration of Good Management. This is simply another illustration of the them comfortable, and he paid for them. fact that any good farm is a good invest-ment under the proper kind of management. In nine cases out of tan, when a farm is said to be run down and unprofitable, the cause can be traced to inefficient management. Farming in the true sense of the word is a real science, but unfortunately this fact is not approclated by the majority of farmers. A great many farmers with whom I have come in contaut seem to think that very little education and business ability is needed to run to even give us a plano."

JOHNNY SAW THAT HE WAS CARRYING A HEAVY STONE. "WHAT'S THE BLANE FOOL GOING TO DO?" HE SAID TO HIMSELF.

Without any special time for preparation and mainly upon the impulse and suggestion of the moment Mayor Mims, who has long been held one of the most accomplished and aristocratic gentlemen of the south, a cav-

aller and Burbon of the most pronounced type arose and said: "Your call on me to speak on this occasion

from expressing the genuine grief and sorrow that his death has occasioned me. In-

haps arrested the progress of the excavators. The roots of a large pine tree growing close to the wall had been evidently and father, a good citizen and a loyal and

devoted friend, and a Christian gentleman. had fallen, with one of its largest roots "To me his offices of concern and thoughtfulness were constant and grateful. In the course of nature he should have survived and apparently blocking the entrance. The me, and I always thought that if he did large tree lay, as it fell-midway across axis he tried to rock it as the others had. story. But not all. With the instinct of there was no living man on whom I could better rely for kindness and care for my family.

"I can point to no one whose daily life and character afford a better and more comboyish fancy it seemed so easily balanced mendable example to all men to emulate on the rock that but for its imprisoned root than this

"He well deserved all the comforts, bless he felt must be looked to hereafter. But here his attention was arrested by someby the way in which it is operated. A professed and which the distinguished rev- thing more alarming. His quick ear, at-

"I care not, though, for creeds in that in mind a man who recently purchased a unknown country 'from whose bourne no farm of 320 acres in Bates county, Mis- traveler returns'-and to which his pure ing. But as he recognized the features of leaped down and ran to the opening. souri, and has just beeen offered \$42 an spirit tends-for I feel that the good man one of them he drew back with a beating acre for it. This year his wheat yielded who sleeps in all the awful majesty of death yield 80 to 35 bushels to the acre. His able credentials to all the happiness that profits for the year look something like pertains to mortals after death. His memory will be treasured."

The Gratitude of the Helped.

Chicago Record-Herald: Her husband's Finding he had been unobserved, the brother had through his own efforts beboy took courage, and his small faculties come very rich. became actively alive. The two men came

rejoicing.

face

"Now," he said, "I will do something on together cautiously, and at a little disfor her and the children. I am under no tance the second man, whom Johnny did not know, parted from his companion and obligation to them, but they are poor and I feel that it will be no more than right for me to help them."

Therefore he bought a comfortable home who advanced directly to the fallen tree. for them and gave her the deed. Then Suddenly the sentinel uttered an exclamahe took her to the furniture stores and tion, and Spanish Pets paused. The senthey secured carpets, beds, chairs and tinel was examining the ground near the other things that were necessary to make heap of debris.

robber

"What's up?" growled the desperado. after which he went about his own affairs "Foot-tracks! Weren't here before! And fresh opes, too." She sat in her new home, with her hands

clasped in her lap and a sad look on her had just passed Spanish Pete hurriedly joined his com-

"What is the trouble "" her neighbor DARIOH. "Foot-tracks be ---- !" he said scornasked. "I was thinking of the selfishness and

fully. meanness of some people," she sorrowfully replied. "Think of all the money he has. barefooted? It's a young bar!"

wooded terrace with a blank wall of "out-rubbed his eves if he had dared. They were until he caem to a low whitewashed fance. crop" on one side nearly as high as the not the same men! Did the cave coutain enclosing a small cultivated patch and a pines which pressed close against it. He others who all the while had been shut up had never seen it before; it was two or in its dark recesses? Was there a band? three miles from the high road and seemed Would they all swarm out upon him? to be a virgin wilderness. But on close Should he run for his life?

examination he could see, with the eye of But the illusion was only momentary? a boy bred in a mining district, that the A longer look at them convinced him that wall of outcrop had not escaped the atten- they were the same men in new clothes nankcen sunbonnet within the enclosure tion of the mining prospector. There were and disguised, and as one remounted the above the line of fence. Stopping before marks of his pick in some attractive quartz outcrop, Johnny's keen eyes recognized him | him, the sunbonnet revealed a rosy little seams of the wall, and further on a more as Spanish Pete. He merely kicked away ambitious attempt, evidently by a party the stone, the root again descended gently of miners, to begin a tunnel, shown in an over the opening and the tree recovered its scarf. It was "Meely" (Amelia) Stryker, a abandoned excavation and the heap of debris former angle. The two hurried away, but before it. It had evidently been abandoned Johnny noticed that they were empty for some time, as ferns slready forced their handed. The bags had been left behind. Dakota land, for a long time very quiet, with the business in which I have been en-mes recently taken a strong brace. The de-gaged for so many years, and I might add and the yerba buena vine was beginning to the text of the ground, like an Indian, for mat the surface of the heap. But the boy's the last rustle of fern and crackle of un-fancy was quickly taken by the traces of

tion burned in his small veins. He quickly smile, exclusively confined to one side of climbed up the outcrop, picked up the fallen her face. loosened by the excavators and the tree to the prostrate tree. Here he paused and stone and in spite of its weight lifted it from his coign of vantage looked and lisstill in the opening the miners had made, tened. The solitude was profound. Then "No-say!" said Meely, eagerly. mounting the tree and standing over its another but much smaller outcrop of rock Alas! Johnny's heart was stout, his courwhich stood sharply about fifteen feet above age unlimited, his perception all embracthe level of the terrace-with its gaunt dead ing, his ambition boundless, but his actual said nothing about the tree, and, I grieve limbs in the air at a low angle. To Johnny's aveirdupois was only that of a boy of 10. The tree did not move. But Johnny had played see-saw before, and quietly moved Neither did he mention the name of Spanish it would have made a capital seesaw. This toward its highest part. It slowly de- Pete. For all of which he was afterward scended under the changed center of grav- duly grateful.

ity and the root arose, disclosing the opening as before. Yet here the little hero tuned like an animal's to all woodland paused. He waited with his eyes fixed on the sounds, detected the crackling of under- opening, ready to fly on the sallying out of wood in the distance. His equally sharp anyone who had remained concealed. He eyes saw the figures of two man approach- then placed the stone where he had stood. Must keep watching out! You come at 4."

The change from the dazsling sunlight to heart, a hushed breath and hurriedly hid the darkness confused him at first, and he himself in the shadow. For he had seen could see nothing. On entering he stumbled that figure once before-fiying before the over something which proved to be a hotsheriff and an armed posse-and had never the in which a candle was fitted, and a box terious rendezvous with Meely velled a forgotten it! It was the figure of Spanish of matches, evidently used by the two men. Pete, a notorious desperado and siulce Lighting the candle, he could now discern

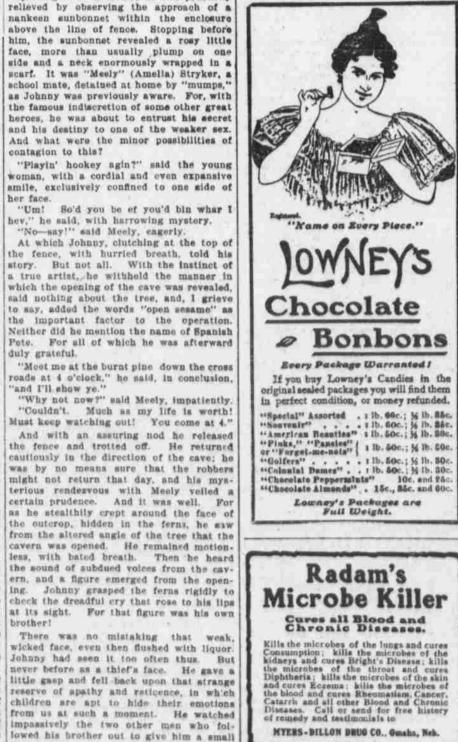
that the cavern was only a few yards long the outcrop, hidden in the ferns, he saw -the beginning of a tunnel which the accident to the tree had stopped. In one cavern was opened. He remained motioncorner lay the clothes that the men had left, and which for a moment seemed all the sound of subdued voices from the cavthat the cavern contained, but, on remov- ern, and a figure emerged from the opening them, Johnny saw that they were ing. Johnny grasped the ferns rigidly to began to lotter up and down, looking around thrown over a rifle, a revolver and the two check the dreadful cry that rose to his lips as if acting as a sentinel for the desperado, chamois leather bags that the men had at its sight. For that figure was his own brought there. They were so heavy that brother! the boy could scarcely lift them. His face There was no mistaking that weak,

flushed; his hands trembled with excitewicked face, even then flushed with liquor. ment. To a boy whose truant wanderings Johnny had seen it too often thus. had given him a fair knowledge of mining, never before as a thief's face. He gave a he knew that weight could have but one little gasp and fell back upon that strange meaning. Gold! He hurriedly untied the reserve of apathy and reticence, in which nearest bag. But it was not the gold of children are apt to hide their emotions Johnny's heart sank. It was where he the locality, of the tunnel, of the "bed from us at such a moment. He watched rock!" It was "flake gold," the gold of impassively the two other men who folthe river. It had been taken from the lowed his brother out to give him a small miners' sluices in the distant streams. The bag and some instructions, and then rebags before him were the spoils of the turned within the cave, while his brothe "What fool would be crawlin' round sluice robber-spoils that could not be sold walked quickly away. He watched him or even shown in the district without danger disappear; he did not move, f.r even if he replied. "Think of all the money he has. Tet he is too stingy, too narrow-minded Tet he recognized the truth of the re-to even give us a plano." Johnny knew the footprints were his own. Tet he is too stingy, too narrow-minded Tet he recognized the truth of the re-semblance; it was uncomplimentary, but this might have occurred to the mind of despair came a boyish idea of revenge. It

For a few days thereafter Johnny Starleigh was thoughtful and reserved, but he did not refer to the paragraph in answering the letter. He decided to keep it for later confidences, when Miss Stryker should become Mrs. Starleigh.

Mortality Statistics.

ME FOOL GOING TO DO?" HE until he caem to a low whitewashed fence, enclosing a small cultivated patch and as neat farm house beyond. Here he paused, and, cowering behind the fence, with ex-traordinary facial contortions, produced a cry not unlike the scream of a blue jay. cry not unlike the scream of a blue jay.





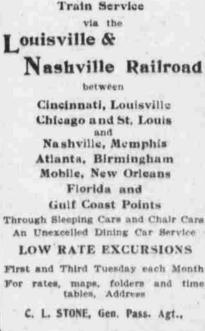
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