HIGHWAYMAN TURNS POET

Verse by Albert Ferguson of the Missouri Penitentiary.

FROM INDIANA IN FIRST PLACE

Has Printed a Book of Poems to Cheer His Pellows-Talent Developed Since He Became an Inmate of the Prison.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Nov. 20.-Literary pirates have existed since time out of mind and literary piracy is a form of delinquency by no means distinguished for its rarity at the present day. But the literary highwaymen is unquestionably a rara avis. Indeed, I know of but one specimen in captivity, and he is confined in the state penitenalary at Jefferson City.

It is by no means the purpose of this sketch to attempt to demarcate the finely attenuated and somewhat mystifying distinctions existing between the literary pirate and the literary highwaymen, differences sufficiently subtle and evasive to He elude the grasp of logic upon most occasions and which, therefore, need not be discussed on this occasion, although they may properly be said to arise out of the same psychical diathesis.

The inspirational subject of these remarks tiary indites the following is Albert Ferguson, whose registered number in the Missouri penitentiary is 7,978. Like many other well known characters upon the highway of literature (who are, however, not known as literary highwaymen), Mr. Ferguson hails from London.

In the attic fields of Hoosierdom he was born, five-and-twenty years ago. Following Horace Greeley's advice to go west By n and grow up with the country, Mr. Ferguson in the course of events reached Kansas Why, man, if you'll investigate the matter

he says, the most refreshing creation that

when thrown into prison, revenged himgaged in literary work under similar circumstances. But the name of Albert Ferguson leads all the rest.

over saw, he can calmly smile; and the it is true, has sung: smile goes forth beyond the iron bars to plerce the gloom that shrouds the dreary cell. He laughs and the sound above the

Where are the "cons" of yesterday,
The ones I halled with glad acclaim
When first I sauntered in this joint
And clasped their hands and called their
names?

They've issued forth when times were to They've gone on several, distant way, And I am left to mourn them now. The good old "cons" of yesterday.

They drifted from me one by one;
So simply did they outward go
I hardly missed them, and their place
Is all that's left now to know
That once they dwelt herein with me—
A thought that's freighted with dismay.
I wonder where they are tonight;
Where are the "cons" of yesterday?

What's that you said? Have I gone blind? Just look about me, did you say? Great gosh! They've all come back again, The dear old "cons" of yesterday!

Criminologists have written whole chapters on recidivation without conveying any more information than that contained in the foregoing lines.

There are quite a number of stanzas of good-natured raillery describing the time 'when the rookle bunch blows in," illuminating with keen humor an otherwise dismal scene. There is an ode to hash, that mighty "matutinal dish" which forms the chief staple of the prison menu. Among

ECZEMA NEARLY REACHED EYES

Disease Spread Over Whole Body-Face Was in Awful Condition-Itched So that Baby Could Not Sleep - Doctors and Home Remedies Failed-Mother in Despair.

CURED IN THREE WEEKS BY CUTICURA REMEDIES

"I take great pleas re in dropping you a line to tell you what a Godsend Cutieura Remedies were for my baby. He was suffering from that terrible torture, eczema. It was all over his all over his body in patches, but the worst was on his face and head. His face was awfully bad; the eczems extended up to the lower syelids and I was just about sick for fear it would get into his eyes before I got it stopped. He cried and scratched all the time and could not sleep night all the time and could not sleep night or day from scratching. I took him to the best dectors, and one of them said that he would keep the disease till he got all of his teeth; but if I had decrease the second of pended on the doctors, I guess my boy would have been laid at rest by this time. My friends told me to try many kinds of remedies, and I pestered the child to death with all the different things, but could see no improvement.

Finally I got discouraged, and was just about to give up all hope of his ever getting cured, when I read about the wonderful Cuticura Remedies, which came just in time to save my baby from the terrible torture. I used Cuticura Soom and Cuticura Circura. cura Soap and Cuticura Ointment, and gave him Cuticura Resolvent, and I gave him Culicura Resolvent, and I saw an improvement in three days, and in three weeks his skin was as clear as it could be. That was six or seven months ago, and I have not seen any return of the disease since. I should have written long ago, but I waited to see if it would return. I shall recommend the use of Cuticura from one end of the world to the other. Mrs. Maggie Smith, 314 W Crosier St., Akron, O. July 24 and Aug. II 1908. Maggie Smith, 314 W. Crosier St., Akron, O., July 24 and Aug. 11, 1906.

Quick Shine Snor - olim

the limericks presented the following may be assumed to possess a personal applica-

There was a young man of K. C., Went out on a terrible spree; He purchased a gun, Made citizens run And now he is down at J. C. This is much to the point. Many poets,

It may be admitted, have written more and

said less. And what could be better, fr

its way, than this, entitled "Micky's Arrival? When Micky first came in this world—
This world of woe and sin—
Quite anxious to prognosticate,
The neighbors crowded in.

While one admired the high, straight brow, Another praised his nose; A third remarked his strong physique, And one dwelt on his toes.

Said one: "He has a noble head-Said one: "He has a noble head—
A lawyer he must be!"
Cried one oid dame of Christian mind,
"For him, the ministry"
"A surgeon," was another's choice;
And then, "A business man,"
"A splendid teacher he will be,"
Was still another plan.

The infant lay and sucked his thumb And blinked his eyes of brown, Not understanding he was born Not understanding he w. To be of such renown,

Oh, could those wise ones see him now They sure would have the blues! He's doin' "15" on a stretch,

Engaged in makin' shoes! In reply to the author's recently published essay in the North American Review entitled "The Problem of Child Idleness," the poet laureate of the Missouri peniten-

THE REAL FACTS. The majority of the prison inmates owe heir downfall to idleness.—Thomas Speed Mosby, pardon attorney. Oh, say, Speed, ain't you rather hard on us poor fellers here?
Your words have had a sad effect; you've started many a tear;
We thought an awful lot of you, but now you've made us bridle
By making public utterance that we were always idle.

son in the course of events reached Kansas
City, whither the star of empire is said to
take its way when it moves westward.
Having reached Kansas City he very
naturally (though quite impulsively, it is
believed) committed highway robbery, for
believed he was upon his plea of

which crime he was, upon his plea of guilty, sentenced to the penitentiary for a term of ten years.

From his present domicile he has lately issued, "with a view to creating a little optimism among his fellow unfortunates who are struggling against great odds," as he mays, the most refreshing creation that

has ever issued from that gloomy citadel of human frality and wos. Mr. Ferguson's message is in the form of a little booklet which he has appropriately entitled "Cell House Ballads."

It was Cardinal Mazarin, I believe, who

The foregoing excerpts tend measurably self by writing the life of his jailer. to illustrate the scope and character of Mr. Boethius dreamed his divine "Consolations Ferguson's rhythmical humor in the present of Philosophy" behind the walls of a confined and restricted state of his genius. Paylan prison, and Sir Walter Raleigh en- What could be not do with Pegasus unchained?

Among all those conditions which make for poesy, imprisonment in the Missouri Like the poor galley slave whom Gold- penitentiary may be regarded as the least smith regarded as the happiest man he favorable to flights of the muse. One poet,

Stone walls do not a prison make

Nor iron bars a cage But he was not an inmate of the Missouri creaking of bolts and bars is echoed in prison. Mr. Ferguson is very decidedly He falls a-dreaming of the convicts as prison and iron bars a cage, which propothey come and go, and this is the result: sition he stands ready to establish-chal-"WHERE ARE THE 'CONS' OF YES. lenger to choose weapons, either prose or verse—and declares, moreover, that he confin'd" as he is at this time. Strange to say, however, his talent for versification seems to have developed

within the prison walls. Upon the whole, the case of Mr. Ferguson suggests a nice question of public policy. Plato, it will be remembered, banished all poets from his ideal republic. Let it osed that in this cast our poets into prison.

must give us pause.

only objection urged to this course is the of Ireland. not insuperable one advanced by Mr. Ferguson himself in a dialect poem entitled Kilkenny, Wexford, Limerick, King's "Fate." A pal is insisting that the poet County, Louth and Cork. Of course the apply for a pardon, but reply is made in most important plantation is still that the following stanza:

could take on fat;
"De reason?" say youse; why, Frien' Joe,
yer ignerence is bliss—
Dey wouldn't dare to pardon one wot rites
such stuff as dis!

LIFE IN THE SUICIDE BELT Omaha Classed with Cities Where "Shuffling Off" is a Voluntary Act.

The year 1907, if it had ended with October, would have broken the record for suicides in the United States. Pittsburg announces that its record for the year surpassed that of any previous year months ago and that October, by the 15th of the month, had recorded more suicides than had ever occurred in the city before in an entire month. From every city in the suicide beit come similar reports-from Cleveland, Chicago, Omaha, Denver, San Francisco, Seattle. Is it not high time for the subject of suicide to be intelligently studied in this country?

It is true that Cleveland some time ago appointed a suicide commission, which began forthwith to dole out charity. The Salvation Army has established a section which doles out advice, sympathy and coin to those who come and announce their intention of committing suicide. Both are pathetic confessions of our helplessness and with the problem of self-destruction. There English translation of Morselli's work has uct. never paid for its publication. Is it possible that we care nothing about it?

south. The line lies considerably north of Hoboken, N. J., there are no very tense suicide centers in the east. Of course, the is very great, but it is not great compared had just been making some inquiries about with the total number of deaths; though New York and all New England show a

very much higher rate than the south. The suicide belt begins at Pittsburg and extends almost due west, leaving out Cincinnati, but taking in Cleveland and Chicago, St. Paul, Davenport and Omaha, Formerly St. Paul and Minneapolis were somewhat out of the line, but their figures of late years show an increase. A few years ago the culminating points were Denver, Deadwood and Leadville, but now San Francisco, Portland, and, above all. Seattle, are at the apex of the list. If a man at all subject to the malady of suicide has chased fortune or misfortune to Seattle and fails, there is no other west. Even if he goes up the Yukon and fails he will probably return to Seattle to kill himself. do not attempt to say here what this reographical distribution means.-Chicago

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was never before so "cribb'd, cabin'd and IRISH CIGARS DUE NEXT YEAR

Redmond Declares There John "Room for Beasts and Not Men" in His Country.

luded several times to the revival of to-What would be the result? If we are bacco growing in Ireland as a result of to judge by the Missouri experiment, their the remission of the inland revenue duty. fecundity would be increased as least 100 which effectually killed the industry a per cent. This is a thought that needs couple of generations ago. Facts are now at hand which show that tobacco growing It would be far better, doubtless, to is being taken up seriously by progressive pardon all poets that may from time to Irish farmers, and that it promises to play time be found in a state of captivity. The a leading part in the industrial revival

Tobacco is now being grown in Meath

of Colonel Everard, the pioneer of modern Why don't I try? Why, bless yer soul, boy, Irish tobacco growing. Last year Colonel what's de use o' dat?

Everard had nineteen acres of tobacco I could no more blow dis place dan I land under cultivation and they yielded Everard had nineteen acres of tobacco 19,200 pounds of plug tobacco and 2,000 This year he has taken a crop off twentyfour acres and expects to realize a pronore interesting experiment has been that of Robert Lambkin of Curraheen, near Ballincollig, County Cork. Mr. Lambkin has had many years' experience in tobacco growing and manufacturing in Sumatra and he declares that the cigar leaf which he has grown at Curraheen is fully equal o the best Sumatra leaf. He has used

rincipally Sumatra seed and he finds the oil of Ireland eminently suited for it. The tobacco plant, he declares, withstands the weather better than most of the crops o which the Irish farmer is accustomed and it has to centend with none of the insect enemies that are the terror of tobacco growers in tropical countries. He believes that with ordinarily careful cultivation the crop ought to realize from 1,500 o 2,000 pounds to the acre. The cost of ultivation is about \$250 an acre, and when it is remembered that in Amsterdam-the great market for this class of leaf-from \$1.50 to \$1.75 a pound is paid for the raw leaf, the farmers' profits will be seen to be very large.

Tobacco Growing in Ireland. Mr. Lambkin is going in next year for

hopefulness and our ignorance in dealing tobacco growing in Ireland on a much more extensive scale and he will manufacture has been no such effort in the United States his own leaf. Irish cigars, which have to understand the problem as was made by been more or less of a curiosity until now Morselli and Durkheim in France; even the | will soon be an everyday commercial prod-

One of the greatest paradoxes of modern Ireland was touched on the other day by President Grover Cleveland, this line of the There are practically no suicides in the John Redmond, M. P., in an interview which I had with him as he passed the Mason and Dixon survey. Outside of through Dublin on his way to keep one of his many speaking engagements. He was talking about the depopulation of Ireactual number of suicides in New York City | land, and he was full of the subject as he

> slum life in Dublin. "A quarter of a million of the best o our young people emigrated last year." he said, "and the population of Ireland is less ago. One would think then that those that are left would have room to live, but I have just learned that there are 21,747 families in Dublin living in single rooms That means that 36 per cent of the populasingle room tenements. Is it any wonder a goodly share of the prizes. that consumption is the scourge of Ire-

iand? "The conditions of the agricultural labor ers are just as bad. Hundreds of thouhuddled together in one room huts without proper ventilation or sanitary appliances. s for those who are left. There is more

less room for the men." is the best for ladles, men's and children a good deal of complaint in president's sons in their hunting trips, their shoes, oils and polishes and is waterproof. Dublin about the policy just adopted by

the newly formed central branch of the foot ball experiences. He appreciates that TOBACCO HARDY IN IRELAND the newly formed central branch of the foot ball experiences. He appreciates that United Irish league. The league has been they are strenuous, but asserts that his hearts that were heavy and without hope. of the opinion that stone walls do make a Plant Will Now Be Grown There on against the Dublin workingmen by fixing between the sons of the president and those its time of meeting at four p. m., and its of ex-presidents would not be a bad idea. subscription at \$5. The organizers of the branch have replied that there are plenty as much sport in shooting rabbits as bears of other branches where the meetings are They are so much smaller that it takes a held at night and the subscription is only better aim to hit one, and then there are 25 cents, but this has not satisfied those so many more of them. You don't have to who believe that the national movement hunt days to find one." should recognize no distinction of rank or

A strange will has been made by an eccentric miser named William John Watson, sidered a real hunter. Now he has reached who was found dead a few days ago in a the mature age of 10, and if his horoscope miserable hovel in Portadown. He had reads true he has much success before him, lived apparently in the greatest poverty, of which this, his first day of real hunting never taking any enjoyment and denying is but a forerunner. himself food and drink. It is now learned that he was the possessor of a fortune of ago, and he leaves all this money to the town of Portadown to be applied to proding healthful recreation for the people. He bars foot ball and rowing races, however. Another condition is that the Urban council, out of the income of his bequest, shall treat itself to a dinner every five years, the expense not to exceed \$5 a pinte. and he makes it a condition that the will shall be read at each of the dinners.

Question of Responsibility. The recent crumbling of part of the historic walls of Derry has raised the question of who owns the walls, and who is repounds of cigar leaf of a very high quality. sponsible for their maintenance. A claim to the ownership was made by the Irish society, one of the London companies portionately much larger return. Even a which draws vast revenues from Derry and its neighborhood, but it has been decided that as the walls are a public thoroughfare they have become the property of the city. At any rate the corporation has repaired them, the Irish society displaying no great anxiety to spend on them any of the money drawn from Derry.

An organization for the revival of the Irish national costume has been started in Dublin and the members are pledged to wear the kilt at public meetings and on all possible occasions. The founders of the society hope to bring about the time when the Irish kilt shall be at least as popular as the similar dress in Scotland. It is pointed out as a remarkable fact that while the Scotch have preserved the wearing of the ancient Celtic dress, the Irish with all their flery patriotism have almost abandoned it. Since the language revival and the growth of the Sinn Fein movement, however, a few kilts have made their appearance on the streets of Dublin.

OF THE OLD BLOCK Cleveland Inherits Father's Skill as a Hunter.

"He shall walk the quarter deck as his daddy used to do." Re-written, brought down to date, and

applied to Richard Cleveland, son of former old English rhyme might read: "He shall is the side entrance, the end vestibule shoot the running rabbit as his daddy used to do.

Grover Cleveland and his son went hunting in the rabbit preserves near Boston. Three hundred acres of the estate of William McFarland were turned into a rabbit preserve, and there the ex-president, his son, and C. R. Priest, of Princeton, with the aid of dogs, traced the jumping, frisking animals to their lairs and shot and and the deally "telescoping" is practically than half what it was a hundred years bagged them until their game sacks were

The ex-president dropped the first rabbit of the season, a feat that has been accredited Mr. Cleveland for several seasons past. Young Richard inherits his tion of our capital live and die in wretched father's skill as a hunter, for he, too, got After a game dinner at "Woodside," th

party went out again and had even greater success, gathering in a number of quall and woodcock. So well did the ex-president sands of them, with their families are stand the trip that he says he'il take another this week. The ex-president is extremely fond of these outings, and if they "The fact seems to be that the more all do him as much good as this one they copie leave Ireland the less room there should prove a valuable asset to his health. Young Cieveland started out determined and more room for the beasts and less and to excel the Roosevelt boys in the hunting game. He has watched the records of the day 10c each. Brandels Store.

nothing if not democratic, but the central aim is just as true and sure as theirs. He branch is accused of setting up the bars even expressed the idea that a competition He said: "I don't see why there isn't just

> Richard has accompanied his father or other fishing and hunting trips, but in other years he has not been old enough to be con-

Saturn is young Cleveland's ruling planet He says he doesn't mind in the least if the \$75,000, amassed in Australia thirty years rings of that planet are falling in. He's interested to know whether it is peopled but thinks its chief importance lies in the fact that it assures his success, for ever though a boy young Cleveland has ambi tions, and hopes some day to be known not alone as a "president's son." According to the horoscope, young Cleve

land will have a host of friends, his ene mies will never do him much harm, and while he will be slow to overlook an act of injustice, he will rarely mention one.-Boston Herald.

MAKING FOR SAFETY ON TRAINS Importance of the Steel Car Construction Innugurated by the Union Pacific.

The announcement that an all-steel pasenger coach has been constructed for the Union Pacific railroad is of more than ordinary interest. It gives rise to the hope that the problem of insuring safety in railroad travel has been very largely solved. The test of practical use of the new car will be watched with some eagerness, not only by the traveling public, but by the railroad managers themselves. As a business proposition the reduction of the dangers of travel to a minimum must have the effect of vastly increasing the volume of travel, even in these days of universal use of railroads.

The heavy loss of life through railroad accidents in this country is a subject of nuch comment in Europe. The vast difference between the conditions which obtain in this country and abroad is not usually taken into account, and the comparison of mere aggregates of casualtic herefore is distinctly unfair to this country. But if the general adoption of steel cars will result in eliminating most of these casualties it will be the crowning triumph of American methods. The style of the new car is as radically

different from those now in use as is the material of which it is constructed. Conventional patterns have been boldly discarded. The windows are large, round and permanently closed, something resembling steamer portholes. Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the new coach being abolished with a consequent saving space which will accommodate eight more passengers. The ventilating apparatus does not involve the opening of windows. The siste is seven inches wider than in the ordinary couch, and the invatories are adjacent to the side entrances. These departures from present models add mniensely to the scrength of the new car, mpossible. A surprising fact is that the steel car is lighter than the present style of coach, only 1,145 pounds per passenger

being computed, as against 1.345 in the standard coaches of the old style. The danger of fire in the new coach in event of a wreck is practically nil. Another mportant feature is that greater speed may be attained than is safe with the present coaches. Railroad travel seems o be entering upon a new era, robbed of most of the lamentable features which attend it at the present time-provided, of course, the legislatures permit the railroads to continue to do business.-Kansas

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