

moved right, left, forward or back as their respective players chose. Messrs. Rosewater, and Thompson, move their men till exhausted, then take a few hours' repose and expect to find their men in the same relative position when they begin the game again. It is characteristic of the better taste and regard for convention of the other candidates and the calibre of the free-men who are voting for them that they do not talk with the same confidence and scorn of "their men." A traveller from Mars or some unsophisticated enthusiast with ideas enough to choke him about freedom and representative government, etc., would comprehend with difficulty Mr. Thompson's absolute ownership of the Lancaster county delegation, which is supposed to represent the interests of the county, but is instead a very nicely carved set of wooden players that look just like real men, only they cannot make voluntary motions, but are moved by hand. The state might have saved the expense of the salaries of the Lancaster delegation if the voters had elected Mr. Thompson and given him six proxies. Then six other men would not have been able to pose as representatives of the people, but the saving to the state would have been enough to overbalance the loss of what only look like representatives.

"Elected on the First Ballot."

It has been understood so long by Mr. Thompson's hired men that he would be elected on the first ballot that those who believe everything they are told, are slightly dazed by the suspension of his victory, and the delay of his triumph over the malignant enemies of a good and magnanimous man who only cares to go to the United States senate because of the enlarged opportunities such an office will afford him to do good to others. Juxtaposed to Rosewater and opposed by two members of the senate who are candidates themselves, it is somewhat difficult for Mr. Thompson to demonstrate the universal legislative popularity he has heretofore claimed. The opposition of whole counties to Mr. Thompson is affecting some of the legislators who have been persuaded that Mr. Thompson is the only candidate.

Pat Crowe and the Police.

The development of detectives and policemen does not seem to have kept step with the evolution of rogues. Men like Pat Crowe play with the detective force. They know their thick wits and the police are at their mercy. The accessories to a policeman's dignity, his uniform, his club, the patrol wagon, the serious regard he has for himself as an irresistible agent of the law, narcotize his energy. The chief of police is apt to be a policeman with a multiplied sense of a policeman's dignity and importance. The rogues have no dignity to maintain. They have only to outwit a set of men, born for their vocation, with unvarying methods of acting when the law is outraged. The manufacture of safes has kept pace with the development and ingenuity of burglars. If the output of detectives could be matched in like manner to rogues' wits Pat Crowe had been caught. Pat himself would make an ideal detective if he could be trusted. He is alert, quick on his feet, daring and an accurate judge of human nature. No modern officer is so behind the times, so useless, so entirely a functionary and nothing more, as the city detective. Newspaper reporters hunt criminals for the detectives, find their hiding places and supply the prose-

cuting attorneys with most of their testimony. If it were not for the supplemental activity of the reporters the public would have recognized long ago the functional paralysis of the detective service. Should a number of criminals follow the example of Pat Crowe and kidnap children the helplessness and uselessness of the American police system might be demonstrated and a reform be instituted.

Tesla and the Brothers Grimm.

Before the discovery and the universal application of electricity Nikola Tesla would have chosen the telling or compiling of fairy-tales for his profession. Electricity is still a new energy. "The plain people" do not yet limit its possibilities. They believe, or according to the very plain people who write for the newspapers, they say they believe whatever Tesla tells them he has accomplished by the aid of electricity. He says he has had some mysterious and otherwise unaccounted for messages, which he is sure have come from the queer people in Mars. There are editors who believe him. Tesla has the same manner of fooling people that Keeley used for so long. The American people will believe anything that a man with a big reputation says. All that is necessary is for the story-teller to be famous, he must therefore be truthful and he may tell them traveler's yarns without verifying them, and be met with credibility. Tesla discovered the credulousness of his audience years ago and he has played upon it without protest ever since. He plays that he knows a great secret but will not reveal it till a certain date, and the date is at hand he plays that he knows something more wonderful still, but he will not tell either one. We are so glad to be amused and amazed that we agree to all his terms and to his continual postponement of the miracles he says he can perform at will. Meanwhile Bell, Marconi and Edison have accomplished something. Though Edison dissipates occasionally on newspaper notoriety.

Tesla's latest fake is a telautomaton, or an automaton that will work under orders from a controlling mind, whether near or distant. His machine is like a hired girl in one respect, it will only take orders from one person. He claims that he has constructed a boat that will obey him from the shore. According to this distinguished romancer, the boat has rudder, oars etc., and has obeyed directions issued by him at a distance. He says further that he can furnish a telautomaton with a mind of its own, that will not be run like his boat with "a borrowed mind." "I propose to show," he says, "that an automaton may be contrived which shall have its own mind, and by this, I mean, that it will be able, independent of any operator, left entirely to itself to perform in response to external influences affecting its sensitive organs, a great variety of acts and operations, as if it had intelligence. It will be able to follow a course laid out, or to obey orders given far in advance; it will be capable of distinguishing between what it ought and ought not to do. It will be no mere mechanical contrivance, but a machine embodying a higher principle, which will enable it to perform its duties as though it had intelligence, experience, judgment, reason, mind."

Just think of taking a machine "embodying a higher principle" apart, to oil her up. Think of the discussions, and difference of opinion a machine embodying a higher principle might enjoy with an engineer like Henry James, for instance, who is

given to splitting hairs and laying one on each side of the fussy scales he weighs things with.

Tesla himself designs the perfected telautomaton for use in war to prevent bloodshed and cruelty. "Instead of man fighting man in the future, it will be machine against machine."

Missourians are scattered all over this country. They are the leaven of the heap. Tesla's telautomaton is as familiar as the old seven league boots, the cloak of darkness, the magic carpet, the table that sets itself with all kinds of dainties for the wishing, the sword that cut anything and all the rest of the Grimms' properties.

Socialism in the Public Schools.

Editor of The Courier:—I have recently read in the New England Journal of Education an extract from your paper concerning the theft of school books by school children. May a stranger be excused for saying that in this matter you must be mistaken, I feel very sure? In our High School in this city, we have some ten thousand books of all kinds and we lose no more than five or six a year from the entire number. In the entire city, of course we have a much larger number of books; but a book is rarely stolen, or lost indeed. I think you do the principal of your high school, or the superintendent of your schools, an injustice which you will be glad to correct when you have made further investigation of the facts. G. E. G. Supt. of Schools, Mass. Jan. 12, 1901.

The writer of the foregoing refers to a paragraph on the operation of the free text book law printed in The Courier of the seventeenth of November 1900, wherein it is intimated that the effect of the law upon the children of Lincoln is undermining notions of mine and thine. In regard to the thievery of books in the public schools, the statement was not made without authority and upon investigating the subject again, I find that there is no occasion for retraction.

In the Lincoln high-school a new system has been adopted since the article was written. When a book is missing from the high school library, the class is assessed its price. This system has almost stopped the stealing of books. But the pilfering still goes on in the cloak room and from the teachers, who constantly report losses of fountain pens and other small articles from their desks. So that the improvement in regard to stealing books, can not be assigned to tender consciences but to discrimination in selecting the most profitable articles to steal.

The value of the articles stolen is small. But the value is not of so much significance as the number of things stolen. The boys who are in the high-school now, in a few years will be in the city council, in the legislature, in the cashier's cage, and in various positions of trust, for the city, county, or for corporations. The last decade in the state government has demonstrated the misery that a defaulting bank president or state treasurer can cause to the community.

It is certain that whatever the schools are doing they are not teaching the sacredness of private property and the still greater sacredness of public property. If the schools were inculcating these principles and graduating honest alumni there would not be so much stealing in the high-school and in the university. The state institution has adopted a system of checking, which has removed a part of the temptation from cloak-room thieves.

The weakness of socialism is that it teaches universal ownership. An article may be used and enjoyed by the possessor, so long as his hands

hold it, or his eyes guard it. Whenever he lays it down, it belongs to who can grab it first. Every night the janitor at the high school fills a table full of books that he has found in different parts of the building. In the morning, when they come to school the students turn over the miscellaneous pile of soiled, torn books looking for those they will need that day. The connection between a careless use of the books loaned them and taking property which belongs either to the school-board or to one of their schoolmates is apparent to a candid mind.

Public schools and state universities, supported by a compulsory tax, on those who have and those who have not children, are only justifiable because they are supposed to increase the value of each citizen to the state. It should be demonstrable that the average graduate of high-schools is better and more useful to the community than the average boy whose parents take him out of school before he reaches the high-school. The great merchants and manufacturers of this country, however, are trained in a different school and by the constant and widely different demonstration of commercial principles and conduct. The unpampered realization of the rule of the game *humaine* is best learned in the stores and offices. If it were possible to hold a competitive examination between the little boys in business and the little boys going through the sacred processes of public school education, the former would stand a chance of getting a mark at least fifty per cent higher.

The scholars of the Lincoln high-school have no desks. They drift about from class room to class-room with a pile of the school-board's books on their aching arms. They have no lockers, either for book or for wraps and they lay the books down and their wraps are stolen, by the logical graduates of the system who go into a dark, barred cage in the basement and pick out as well as they can, by touch, what suits them. Tramps and inveterate travelers that pay their way, who have no place in society, no example to set, no community to shock, and no investigation to dread, are not a highly-moral class. Some people lead respectable lives for nine or ten months out of the year in the cities where they live and they keep their courage up by planning for an annual vacation far from family and acquaintances. It is due the children we are educating to be our governors, mayors, treasurers, judges, and presidents that we keep the sharpest temptations away from them until maturity. We owe them the safeguards in their public school life, of a localized seat and desk, and of the certainty of detection and discovery if they steal.

There is also a not quite clearly defined connection between red-tape, formal methods of teaching, and stealing and between lying and stealing. A confusing number of rules in regard to deportment enervates morals. The lines of children who, watched by the teacher on the steps, are forced to march out in single file till they reach the street is an indication that the teachers are devoting disproportionate time and attention to outwitting every normal child's desire to run and make a noise as soon as school "lets out." (Is there a more graphic phrase for dismissal? One more eloquent of the child's point of view?) Twenty-five years ago in the public schools of Lincoln there was no stealing. Today there are a number of thieves in the public-schools and in the university. Is the evil remedi-