

THE WEEK.

JOHN RALSTON, the foreman of a candle and soap factory in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has fallen to half an estate of three millions in Scotland.

THREE HUNDRED PEOPLE are reported sick at Waterbury, Connecticut, of winter cholera, supposed to be caused by the mixture of snow with the city water.

WILLIAM LEWIS, who had been an author, lecturer, politician and judge, died recently in abject poverty, in a hospital to which he had been taken from a miserable hotel, in Dallas, Texas.

A BANKER has written to the Treasurer of New York, saying he had seen one of the new five-cent nickel coins so perfectly gold-washed as to deceive ignorant persons, and pass easily among them for a new five-dollar gold piece.

MR. PETER COOPER, the famous philanthropist and founder of the Cooper Institute, where thousands of young people are educated free, in the city of New York, has lately passed his ninety-third birthday, on the occasion of which he received visits from many friends, and many sent him bouquets.

MR. COBB, late Governor of Alabama, has the reputation of granting over two hundred pardons in a little over a week. Such a straining of the quality of mercy to evil-disposed people is simply criminal injustice to the law-abiding portion of the community.

JIM CHANG, a Chinaman, attempted to start in the laundry business at Waynesboro, Georgia, but a party of white people destroyed his property and drove him away. If that is a specimen of the vaunted chivalry of the South, the nation could well afford to have it exchanged for a quality less pretentious in name and more manly in kind.

THE GOVERNOR OF TEXAS, in a message to the Legislature of that State, recommends compulsory vaccination, saying that, although as a rule he was opposed to paternal government, yet upon this subject he was firmly fixed. He is right, for there is no questioning the fact that the average people are far from knowing enough to take care of themselves in the matter of health.

A MAN CLAIMING THE UNKNOWN TITLE of "Lord Cantyre" last fall met a wealthy young lady of Perth, Ontario, on a steamship coming out from Great Britain, and after an acquaintance of some months privately married her in Montreal during the recent Winter Carnival. Her guardian did not know the marriage had taken place until he went to Montreal to make enquiries about the assumed lord upon behalf of his ward. It is not yet publicly known whether the man has any means of his own or respectable antecedents, but it is a fact that he gave false accounts of himself in other ways than the pretension of nobility.

THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR are said to desire national laws to prohibit gambling by speculation in the necessities of life, and to make eight hours a day's labor for others as well as for Government workmen. As for the first matter all classes will second the Knights' wishes, provided legal ingenuity can devise a law, as it has hitherto failed to do, which can be enforced. With regard to the hours of labor, their shortening must be brought about gradually, if at all, through the progress of labor-saving machinery and the educational and social elevation of the working classes. In any event, however, it would be wrong to make a law forbidding a man to sell ten, or even twelve hours for a day's labor, if he chooses to do so.

MR. HULETT, an American who narrowly escaped massacre in Madagascar, will lay his case before the Government of the United States, and claim damages against Madagascar.

A SENSATION in Toronto is the revelation of a practice of whipping young girls in factories for disobedience and neglect of work, and a society of ladies has been formed to protect them.

JOHN BARNES, of Moore County, North Carolina, was poor a few weeks ago and owned only twenty-three acres of barren land, but gold has been discovered on his property and he is now the wealthiest man in that region, being worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

MUCH INCONVENIENCE and damage has been caused in parts of the Province of New Brunswick by the recent drouth, wells having been dried up, and even springs that have scarcely ever failed before, the results being suffering among the animals and the closing of mills.

THE COLORED PEOPLE in Salisbury, New York, are much excited over the throwing up of a live snake by Hugh Leonard. The serpent is eighteen inches long, and the man says there are more where it came from. It is said a discarded sweetheart gave him a cake to eat containing snake eggs.

THE POLICE OF MONTREAL have begun a campaign against gambling houses, of which it is believed there are many in the city. In the first one raided fifteen young men and a quantity of gambling instruments were seized. The offenders were afterward convicted and condemned to pay heavy fines.

STANISLAUS KULINSKI, who has been a jeweller and watchmaker in Charleston, South Carolina, several years, claims he is the son of a Russian nobleman of high rank, and that he left Russia in 1848 against the laws of the country, but was pardoned for so doing by the late Czar. He has prepared a petition, asking the Czar to grant him the right to sue in the Russian courts for his ancestral estates, which are very valuable. Kulinski has become a citizen of the United States.

A BILL is making progress in Congress to provide for the execution of the provisions of the treaty of 1880, between America and China, prohibiting the opium trade. Chinese subjects cannot import opium into the United States under penalty of fine not exceeding five hundred dollars and forfeiture of the package. A similar penalty is prescribed in the bill for the importation of the article into any open ports of China, or its transportation from one open port to another, by American citizens.

CHARLES GAVIN was married in 1845 at Detroit, Michigan, and afterward served three years in penitentiary at Auburn, New York, for grand larceny, and again in the Ohio penitentiary a term for counterfeiting. Disappearing in 1853, he was believed to be dead by his wife, who married again. Her second husband was wealthy, but becoming dissatisfied with her reputation, he left her, and for twenty years sent her a hundred dollars a month. Lately he discovered that her first husband was still living, and began a suit for divorce. When the wife was confronted with her long-lost husband she threw up her hands and cried, "Charles, Charles," then fainted, and on recovering whispered, "I thought he was dead." A much sadder result came from the identification of the man by his aged mother at Detroit. She recognized her long-missing son, screamed his name, and dropped dead.

WAR VESSELS of England, the United States and France have gone to Ecuador to protect foreign residents in a revolution now raging in that republic, in which the city of Guayaquil is threatened with destruction.

JAMES ATWELL, a leper, landed from a vessel off Lewes, Delaware, and was ordered out of town by the authorities. He had come from Cuba, where the disease had developed, and was going to Toronto to enter a hospital, hoping a cold climate would check the malady. In this he seems to be acting under erroneous advice, for the cold of Canada will not last him long at this date, and besides there has for many years been a colony of lepers confined at Tracadie, New Brunswick, for whom the cold has not proved a cure. That place will probably be his final hospital if he reaches Canada.

UNDER POPULAR GOVERNMENT a remedy can be found for the most flagrant abuses provided it is only sought. What is known as lobbying has grown to be one of the greatest dangers to good government in the United States. Lobbying means the interference for selfish ends with legislators while attending to their public duties, to induce them to support measures that, as guardians of the public welfare, they should oppose. It has come to such a pass that both national and State Congresses are infested every session with the principals and agents of monopolies and private speculations, who hang about the lobbies and dog the steps of members wherever they go, buying votes where they can and have to, and begging them everywhere. The Senate of North Carolina has invented a remedy for the abuse mentioned which ought to be effective, being imprisonment for not less than one year of persons convicted of lobbying.

THE OCCUPATION OF COAL-MINING is easily imagined to be one of the hardest species of labor. Many do not enjoy a week-day's sun-light for months, and far under ground they ply their tools, often without space to stand up in, exposed to dangers from foul air, falls of earth or coal, floods of water and other contingencies. It is not generally known, however, that the workmen in many coal mines are subjected to various exactions and oppressions that are almost, if not altogether, as hard to bear as their toils and perils. A witness before the Congressional committee on labor recently said the coal miners were compelled by their employers or operators, on penalty of discharge, to deal altogether at their employers' stores—which they call "pluck-me" stores—and to pay ten to twenty-five percent more for everything they bought than was charged elsewhere. They also had to buy all tools, lamps, oil, powder, etc., out of wages not averaging over six hundred and fifty dollars a year. The men did not seek other vocations because they were brought up to mining, and it is strange, in this connection, that men who know by experience the whole hard lot of a miner's life, yet send their children into the mine to be brought up to the same bondage as young as the law of the country will allow them. Relief will probably be long in coming from legislation, for mining requires such large capital that great monopolies have grown up, which control the principal fields and have the public so much in their power that attempts to force them in any direction may cause them to raise prices to famine figures, or suspend production altogether until they are allowed full freedom in managing their affairs. The right cure for the hardships of the miners is to make their services more valuable by making their numbers fewer, and if the old ones cannot get out of the business let them keep their own children out of it by all means.

UP TO A RECENT DATE there had been sent from New York sixty-four thousand dollars for the relief of sufferers from floods in Germany.

A BILL has been introduced into the New York Assembly to establish a whipping post for the punishment of men who beat their wives and children.

LABORERS ARE ARRIVING in Panama in large numbers to work on the interoceanic canal. The first of a lot of twenty-four engines bought in the United States has been put together and has commenced work. Mr. Charles de Lesseps, son of the venerable engineer, is probably on the ground by this time, and his father Count de Lesseps, will be there in July.

A NEW THEORY of the terrible Newhall House fire in Milwaukee is now given, which will be a welcome one to the bar-keeper hitherto suspected of setting fire to the place. The body of a man has been found under the sidewalk, burned beyond recognition. Tramps are said to have frequently infested the basement and one was once caught smoking near the base of the elevator, and it is believed that the fire might have been caused by tramps.

GOVERNOR HOYTE, of Wyoming Territory, gives the following high recommendation of woman suffrage in his annual message to the Legislature:—"The New Territory of Wyoming is the only spot on the earth where the political privileges of women are equal and identical with those of men. It was a bold and gallant stroke on the side of reason, and of justice long delayed, the act of our first Legislative Assembly. Elsewhere objectors persist in calling this honorable statute of ours an experiment. We know that it is not—that under it we have better laws, better officers, better institutions, better morals, and a higher social condition in general than could otherwise exist—that no one of the predicted evils, such as loss of native delicacy and disturbance of home relations, has followed in its train—that the great body of our women and the best of them have accepted the elective franchise as a precious boon, and exercise it as a patriotic duty—in a word, that after twelve years of happy experience, woman suffrage is so thoroughly rooted and established in the hearts and minds of this people that among them all no voice is ever uplifted in protest against or in question of it."

GOVERNOR LUTLER, of Massachusetts, is figuring prominently as the friend of the oppressed. He recently issued an order that all convicts should be allowed to send him sealed communications, and a large number made use of the rare privilege. Their letters told of terrible brutality of men strung up by the wrists until they fainted, of others kept in over-heated cells until they were almost mad, and of protests being answered with confinement in a dungeon. In consequence of these letters one warden was summarily dismissed and others were expected to follow. Although criminals have often too easy times and good fare in confinement, yet any attempt to over-reach the penalty of the law against them, on the part of keepers or overseers, should be severely dealt with. The same Governor was expected to send a message to the Legislature requesting a law to make employers liable for accidents to employees when the same result from the carelessness of other employees. The effect of such a law would be to make employers very particular about whom they employed in responsible positions, but it is easy to imagine cases when it would operate unjustly against employers.

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