

George W. Wellington, who escaped from a Mexican penitentiary, where he was undergoing a life sentence for murder, two weeks ago, and who arrived in Denver last Thursday, has left for his home in Boston. Wellington was the station agent at Chihuahua, Mexico, and one evening upon returning home shot, for some cause, Raymon Gonzalez, a general of the Chihuahua state troops. Wellington pulled out a pistol and shot Gonzalez in the head, killing him instantly. Wellington was tried and at first was sentenced to death, but the Mexican authorities concluded that to execute the American would be too flagrant in view of the facts, so he was sentenced to a life term at hard labor. After his conviction his wife returned to her relatives in Boston. Wellington managed to escape through a friend named Harry French, who bribed one of the guards to overlook him. Wellington left Mexico under the cover of night.

The State Investment Insurance company of California is in a bad way says the *San Francisco Chronicle*. At the present moment the company's stock is greatly impaired as the result of manipulations by the directors. Its unpaid losses amount to \$100,000, it owes \$100,000, money borrowed on its stock, and its available assets amount to the building in which its offices are located, valued at \$120,000 and mortgaged for \$70,000, and a mortgage of \$60,000 hypothecated for \$45,000 on another building. In addition to the questionable proceeding of buying the company's stock with the company's money, and, in fact, gambling with the stock, it is a notorious fact that in spite of heavy losses dividends have been paid both in 1891 and 1892 to the amount of about \$62,000. There has been some talk of assessing the stock of the company, but in view of the fact that the company has 2,900 shares and there are only 1,100 outstanding, it is evident that such a proposition is out of the question, as the 1,100 shares would not stand it.

The great number of burglaries and robberies which have occurred in Denver the past two months was increased on Saturday night by a daring burglary committed on the hardware store of Ellis, Son & Stauchfield, Larimer street. The job was a very neat one, and was evidently committed by expert cracksmen. Entrance was gained by sawing off two five-eighths-inch iron bars, prying them apart and opening a window. Once inside a strongly barred door prevented access to the front of the store. To avoid this the burglars passed down into the cellar and easily wrenching the lock off a frail door, were in the store proper. The show case, which contained about \$250 worth of Colt's revolvers, was completely gutted, the burglars leaving but a few cheap guns behind. The case is located but two feet from the front window, and how the police escaped noticing the burglars is a mystery. But a few feet from where the revolvers were taken the safe stood. It contained over \$300 in cash, but no attempt was made to molest it.

One more victim of a guilty conscience has quieted it with a dose of laudanum and gone to the great unknown. It occurred at Leadville, Colo.

Lou Emerson had been at one time a lady in the higher stations of life, but fell, and gradually sunk to its lowest depths of degradation. A daughter had been reared in a respectable way with friends and relatives and never knew what her mother had become. On Saturday the mother received word of the approaching marriage of her daughter and an earnest appeal that she should come to her at such an important step in her life. The mother had no money to go. Remorse seized her that she had brought such disgrace on her child and she took the contents of a three-ounce bottle of laudanum. Aid was summoned, but too late and she died at a late hour the same night. A few years ago she was one of the leading demi-monde of Omaha. From there she went to Denver and finally came to Leadville, where she worked in a beer hall. She was a beautiful woman, and though bearing the marks of her dissipation still attracted the attention of all.

If the investigation into the condition of affairs at the Veterans' Home at Yountville, Cal., be thorough, and if all attempts at whitewashing be frowned on, there can be no doubt that there will be some horrible revelations says the *San Francisco Chronicle*. There is a strong belief that dead men have been robbed, and that sick soldiers have been so grossly neglected that they died. Gross negligence, amounting probably to downright dishonesty, will be unearthed in the furnishing of supplies, and there are many cases in which costly materials are being allowed to become valueless on account of the little attention which has been paid to them. In fact there has been such general mismanagement that the name "home" cannot fittingly be applied to the state institution at Yountville. Nothing has been done there to reform the dissipated old soldiers. Nay, rather everything has been done to encourage the men in their bibulous habits and to cause the rest to indulge in excessive drinking. No place for recreation has been provided except the groggery known as the "sauteen," which was built in the center of the grounds a short time ago.

J. D. Smith, who was recently convicted of the murder of Robert Allen at Sacramento, Cal., and sentenced to life imprisonment in Folsom, is dying. His attorney appealed the case to the Supreme court, and it is expected that a decision will be rendered in a few days. Pending the appeal Smith has occupied a cell in the county jail, and recently he appeared to be very sick. His condition became so serious that Dr. Atkinson was summoned, and after an examination he declared that the murderer was in a dying condition. On Friday morning he executed a certificate, saying that the prisoner is suffering from a complication of disorders which may end his life within two weeks, and that his disease is greatly aggravated by the unhealthy and noisy surroundings and the lack of necessary care. In accordance with a request of the medical gentleman Judge Catlin this morning ordered Smith removed to the county hospital. He was taken to the latter institution the same afternoon, and latest accounts state that he will not live. As the wagon bearing Smith reached the hospital the latter

remarked as he pointed to the big building, "There is my last home. I'll never leave there until they carry me out a dead man."

### THE UPPER SNAKE RIVER.

EGIN, Fremont County, Idaho, May 3, 1893.—Perhaps a few items from the North Fork of Snake river will be interesting to many of your numerous readers. Your correspondent moved into this locality nine years ago this spring. At that time but little land was fenced, and the grain raised was limited to hundreds of bushels; while lucern and tame hay were correspondingly scarce. Many of the residents were trappers, ranchers, and others who seemed to have no permanent abiding place. Now there are two wards organized here, viz: Parker (P. O. Egin) and Egin (P. O. Edmunds) and the necessity exists for their division, as they occupy too much ground. Hu dreds of miles of fence is now put up, (mostly barbed wire) and the small grain crop for 1892 was nearly forty thousand bushels, with a great abundance of lucern seed, lucern hay, timothy, corn, potatoes, beans, peas, squashes, melons, cabbage, etc. Tomatoes and small fruits do better here than in any other place of similar elevation that I have seen; in fact, gooseberries, currants, and raspberries are wonderfully productive. Apples, pears, plums and cherries are a success where properly cared for. The soil varies from a loamy volcanic sand to a rich heavy clay. The water supply is almost unlimited. Saw timber is not so plentiful, near by, as could be desired; but building timber and fence poles from thirty to forty miles distant are comparatively inexhaustible. Cedar posts and wood are six to ten miles distant. The proposed townsite of St. Anthony which has been selected as temporary county seat of this (Fremont) county joins the Parker ward on the east. We have the finest and most extensive range that can be found west of the Rocky mountains, offering summer feed for hundreds of thousands of sheep and stock cattle, though provision would have to be made for wintering them. Fish and game are not so plentiful as they were, but they are still abundant. The land in the immediate vicinity of this place is mostly taken up, but there are very many land owners who would be glad to sell a portion of their claims at a reasonable price, and avoid the disagreeable alternative of mortgaging their homes to pay debts incurred in the buying of machinery, etc. I do not think that more than one-tenth of the claimed land is under cultivation; probably far less than that; still, we have been paying taxes on all this unproductive property.

Perhaps this will suffice for our immediate neighborhood; but volumes might be written of the flattering yet truthful character respecting the great Snake River valley. The facilities offered by the Teton Basin, Upper Fall river, Teton bench, Rexburg bench and many other places, it would be impossible to enumerate in this brief article. Coal has been discovered in several places, some of which rivals in excellence the famous article from Rock Springs. There is an abun-