

people. The friend to whom we refer tells us that he waited and hoped some willing man would come along and ask for the use of his garden in accordance with our suggestion. He would not only have let such an applicant have the land rent free, but would have bought from him all the produce the family required. He did not feel, however, to employ a gardener, for the work furnished him the physical exercise he needed, and he had a liking for it anyway. He is not afraid of soiling his hands, or bending his back; and he is not scared into listless inactivity and idleness by the stroke of the town clock or the shriek of the whistle. This latter is the trait of his character that we consider admirable, and this is the example we claim others may follow to their gain.

### THE SMALLEST ON EARTH.

The smallest republic in the world is supposed to be the Republic of Tave-lara, on an island of that name, a few miles from Sardinia. Its population is given as fifty-five. In 1836 the island was accorded independence and was governed for forty-seven years by a king. Before this monarch died he expressed a wish that his faithful subjects would govern themselves, and for four years after the demise of the sensible ruler, they got along without any ruler at all. Nine years ago, however, it was found desirable to adopt a form of government, and after several mass meetings in which the women took a prominent part, a constitution was adopted and a republic proclaimed. The financial affairs of the Lilliputian commonwealth are in a good condition, because the president, who is elected for six years, and his cabinet as well as other public officials, serve without salary. The cost of the privilege of being governed is thus indisputably reduced to a minimum.

### FRANCE NOT RECONCILED.

The supposition that the hostility between France and Germany has, by this time, spent its force is evidently not well founded, judging from a recent incident. The other day a report reached Paris that the Berlin Academy of Science had recommended that the Prussian "order of merit" be given to a number of distinguished French savants, and to Pasteur among the rest. The latter at once announced that he, as a Frenchman, could not accept such a recognition of the Germans, whereupon a shout of delight went up from one end of the country to the other. It subsequently developed that the Berlin academy never had contemplated the recommendation referred to, perhaps for reasons similar to those that prompted Pasteur to make his premature refusal.

It is not surprising that a feeling of bitterness still lingers among the common people who witnessed the desolation of the cities and villages, fields and orchards and vineyards by the relentless German armies, or in the hearts of those who still mourn the loss on the battlefield of fathers, husbands or brothers; nor is it difficult to

understand that humiliated patriotism still looks with tearful eyes on the beautiful provinces, Alsace and Lorraine; but it is an ominous sign that this feeling still is cherished in scientific circles, where there should be "neither Jew nor Gentile," no distinction on the lines of nationalism but only common interests for the good of humanity. As long as that condition exists there is no possibility of lasting reconciliation. The spirit of revenge evidently lives in the depths of the French nation; and it will probably manifest itself before everything in the political machinery of Europe has been finally adjusted.

### THE OLD WAY BEST.

The experience which Michigan has had under the abrogation of capital punishment is rather more effective as an argument than all the sentimentality with which advocates of the plan go about seeking to win other communities to their side. It has had a practical trial for nearly a generation in the peninsula state, and during that time a great many interesting statistics have been accumulating. An examination of these for the decade 1880-1890 is fruitful in comparisons, the most telling of which is that in those ten years murders increased more rapidly in that commonwealth than in any other state in the Union. Since 1835 the figures show that there have been 484 murders in Michigan, while in the neighboring province of Canada, which has a population three times as large, there were but 223 during the same period. And as if this comparison were not of itself sufficiently startling, it is further evident that the effect of the prohibition of the death penalty has been not only to encourage crime, but to discourage prosecution, for out of 162 murders committed in 1892, thirty-nine of the perpetrators were never brought to trial, and only 3 per cent of those tried received life sentences.

It cannot excite much wonder that with such experiences before them, other states are slow to depart from the stern old code which declared that "whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." There is a strong and growing sentiment in Michigan itself that the state has had enough of its experiment.

### THE MONTH OF WEDDINGS.

Poets and lovers have ever had an especial liking for the month of roses, "leafy June." Birds and brook are then most musical, enfolding nature is arrayed in her loveliest dress, and full-blown hope is sturdier and more buoyant than at any other period during the annual cycle. One seldom has the blues in June, even when addicted to the malady at other times. Every prospect seems rosy and the heart of man is glad.

Hence it happens that June is chosen as a favorite month for weddings. It furnishes the opportunity for the most idyllic of honeymoon. Flowers strew the young pair's pathway everywhere, and nature's sweet perfume fills every bower. June mar-

riages are almost always happy, too, so they say, and there have been attempts at statistics to show that more silver and golden and even diamond weddings are celebrated then than in any other two months in the calendar. Social philosophers are fond of saying that in drawing for prizes from what cynics call the lottery of love, those who make the venture in June are rarely fated to a blank. At any rate the month is popular for occurrences of the kind, and Salt Lake City is not behind other places in furnishing its full quota of them. Among the principals thus far reporting themselves, the News has many friends. It sincerely hopes that all of them, as well as those who are about to enter the blissful state—for the month is not yet far spent—may have a measure of health, happiness and prosperity heaped far beyond that which the poets sing of.

But after all, the hour, the day, or the month is only a small matter compared with the other elements that go to make up the record of matrimony in its truly blessed estate. The choosing of a life mate is accompanied by no small risk unless the heart and motive on both sides be true. Humanity is petulant, frail, full of weaknesses; to correct these shortcomings great patience is needed, sweetened with deep affection and a full consciousness of all the responsibilities that matrimony implies. When these ameliorating conditions exist, no marriage need be a failure; and with the light which many readers of the News have received concerning the sacredness and eternity of the covenant, prudence, principle, and purity ought to make of each wedding the sure promise of continuous joy.

### DEATH IN WEARING APPAREL.

"Microbes in cloth" is perhaps the latest word of warning from scientific men to a race already trembling at the revelations made of tiny but deadly enemies surrounding it on all sides. The alarming report is now published that a Munich physician, who has made a series of careful investigations of bits of cotton and woolen goods, has found that on an average goods of the latter material contains 956 microbes to an inch and an eighth, while cotton holds an average of 712. The researches were made on bits cut from stockings that had been worn for some time. A glove was next examined, and although it had never been worn, being new, it was found to be inhabited by thirty-three little animals to the square inch, or thereabouts. Further experiments proved conclusively, it is asserted, that microbes exist to a greater or less extent in all wearing apparel.

It is not contended that all animal forms are deadly because they are almost infinitely small. On the contrary, some are believed to be perfectly harmless; but the fact that they congregate, live and multiply in clothes indicates that the more dangerous ones can do the same. It was, for instance, been demonstrated that typhoid bacilli can live in clothing under ordinary circumstances for a period of twenty-five days, a fact which would