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WEATHER-WEY.

The heavy downpour which has marked the first half of May, and which seems likely to be continued during the other half, promises to place the month in the same category with its predecessor, April, which has the record of the greatest rainfall for the same month in any year since the weather bureau kept records in the west. In the Salt Lake valley many people are longing for finer weather and less mud; but with all that has been done in the way of having Christmas-day lawnmowers on May mornings, this locality has not been the least fortunate. In the Humboldt valley and other places in Nevada complaint is made of crops being "drowned out" by the carrying of rainfall in other ways; in California the fruit crops are severely affected; in Wyoming and Utah the sheep industry has suffered heavily, and in parts of Idaho crops and animals met with severe loss. Of one section of the last named state the Spokane Review has the following:

This is universally noted the worst spring within the recollection of any one in the Coeur d' Alenes. Snow has fallen nearly every day this month, either in town or in the hills surrounding it, and there has not been a warm spring-like day yet this year. Everyone here blames the miners who have gone for the warm weather, and who can put up with the disagreeableness of the weather by remembering that it is all snow on the summits of the mountains and that the supply there was light when the time came that winter should have ended.

Notwithstanding the occasion for grumbling at the almost ceaseless downpour, there is a bright outlook here in some ways. Vegetables are backward, small fruits are injured, and the merchant who had a spring stock to work off has been unable to do so because much of the money intended for spring purchases has been spent in coal, rubbers and umbrellas. On the other hand, the soil which last season had become so dry as to threaten light crops this year, is receiving the badly needed moisture. The season will be late, but the farm crops will be heavy, and we are assured as far as we can be in the middle of May of a bountiful harvest of the staples of life the coming autumn. The frequent rains are inconvenient, very; they have done some damage; but all in all they have had a vastly beneficial effect generally upon this region, which stands in need of semi-occasional "wet years" to maintain its delightsomeness for habitation.

THE NEED OF THE HOUR.

Once in a while the world is reminded of the low depths to which fallen human nature can sink when yielding to its own impulses, even in this age of civilization and advancement, and consequently also of the great power—either kind of divine—needed for the preservation of the individual, as well as society, in a state of purity. The reminder this time comes in the form of a story from London of the murder of innocent babes, a story before which that of Holmes in this country almost pales.

It seems that the murderers have been at work for about ten years and in that time have destroyed the lives of probably 100 infants. A woman, Mrs. Dyer, is now arrested as the perpetrator of these crimes. For years she has been inserting innocuous-looking advertisements in the newspapers stating that a lady having no children wished to adopt an infant. The premium was £10. One day in March last a parcel was found in the Thames, containing the body of a female child. An address on the parcel and other clues led to her arrest. A search since then has resulted in the discovery of numerous other little victims, and as the prisoners having obtained testimony enough to secure a conviction, the prisoner is said to have made a written confession, the details of which, however, have not yet been made public.

The case in question is undoubtedly the most diabolical one of the century. The women her probably "made" $10,000 by destroying infants, and it must be considered a mystery how the murderous work could be carried on without detection. It is scarcely probable that it was done with the connivance of the parents, if not by their direction, and probably by the aid of others to whom silence was golden, for it is hardly conceivable that any one individual in a well organized community could commit such a string of murders without being detected and meeting with just punishment.

The case of Mrs. Dyer suggests the possibility of there being others of a similar character still to be discovered, in the large cities of the world where innocently Christians. The social status of a great part of the human family is such at present as to appeal to those who have influence for a revision of the methods of dealing with it. The laws are evidently conditioned to deal the evil and accursed crime. Some new system of education—some conventional force not recognized by customs philosophers and lawgivers, is the need of the age.

WILL INTERVIEW, MR. —

An unhappy and previously unwritten incident of the recent Indian controversy just comes to notice, in the nature of a curious attempt to a certain by attempted opportunity for a "favorable wait" demonstration. The story is that a relenting portrait of General Harrison was to be pulled down at a certain time. As a matter of fact, when the string was drawn the picture appeared with the face to the contrariwise. The result was laughter.

This reminds an incident laughingly told by General Grant as to a reception accorded him in a devoted western city during one of his tours. A triumphal arch had been erected across the street up which the hero's carriage was to pass after he entered it at the railway depot. During the night preceding his arrival, however, a heavy wind played havoc with the flimsy structure and when morning entered the committee on arrangements saw that nothing could be done except to remove the debris and see the decorations and notices on the principal buildings along the street. In due time the presidential party arrived and as they passed up the thoroughfare, explanations as to the various edifices on route were made to the distinguished guest. One of the most imposing of these buildings was the fine, new county jail, and to the horror of the committee and the great amusement of the President, over the door appeared a large, colossal streamer bearing the words, "Welcome to Grant."

Another singular accident of similar kind happened after Napoleon III became emperor. When passing through a certain city, he was to strip under a triumphal arch. A crown was to be lowered by a rope, and simultaneously an inscription was to be displayed. The crown got caught, the rope descended and dangled over the head of the monarch, and the words appeared, "He deserves it."

YANKEE INGENUITY.

The great Yankee industry of invention is still in a flourishing condition, according to the annual report of the commissioner of patents—the United States being leading all other countries not only in the number of its inventions but also in their intrinsic value to mankind. It is of course proper that Columbia, the land of wooden nutmegs, white-oak cheese and Waterbury watches, should stand at the head of the list of states in the number of inventions in proportion to population; but the District of Columbia, where so many legislative congressmen and office-holders hold forth, is a close second, and Massachusetts, where the people think they know a thing or two, comes third. Among individual inventors Edison is the leader, with 731 patents to his credit as the result of the work of twenty-five years; but only a small part of these came from the wizard's own ingenuity—he is the employer of inventors, as well as an original genius, and the products of his workshops are all patented in his name, though representing the work of many minds. Further study of the report under consideration shows that the greatest number of patents in any one line has been granted to bicycle inventors, or to makers of bicycle accessories, notably to the men who are working out the pneumatic tire problem. "We shows how resourceful the country's inventive genius is in the commercial need.

PLUCKY COLORED MAN.

If the telegram from Bainbridge, Florida, relating an experience of "regulators" there on Wednesday is true, then the Florida authorities ought to give the negro Jack Tribe all needful assistance to get away from the persecutors, and to protect him hereafter. Tribe may or may not be a typical villain; the slightest reveals nothing of his reputation in that regard, but it does prove that he has pluck and was more of a man than some reports then in office, and assistance White followers of the latter who went out to "regulate" Jackson to break a furious year old boy nearly to death. Young Tribe had got the better of a fight with the son of the town marshal Hughes; but the officer did not see justification in gathering a posse to avenge his boy's defeat than Tribe had for refusing to surrender his son. When the whites began firing because of the refusal, and Tribe replied with such telling effect as to kill the officer who led the mob and two of his followers, disposing the posse, he did just what any father might be expected to do under the circumstances, and which he would be hailed in the North for doing it instead from a white man and his accomplices regret.

It is to be hoped that the posse who are following him and his party with the intention of lynching them will be caught. The commission gives the Florida authorities a good opportunity to score one more point against the lawless methods of "regulators" which should not be committed to be a strong and reliable. A band of fifteen men who would start out to administer in an unlawful way punishment to a boy, whom legal justice could have been had against him if he had violated the law, do not display either manliness or good citizenship—and half as much as the plucky colored man who preferred to fight them to the death rather than surrender his life into their hands. The event shows, on the white man concerned in a bad light, but it must not be remembered that they are typical of the white population of the state, for as a rule these are kind and hospitable, and displease as much as any people can the "regulators" spasms that occasionally occur in the southern state.

SUNDEY BAKING.

At the time of another is almost every person's life he has frequently himself moved upon by the divine afflatus to the extent of overwriting, sometimes this inoculation extends itself to a single line scribbled by a lover to his lady's eyebrow; at other times it breaks out in the form of an ode to spring or a rhyme on the humble snow. Love often, but far more frequently in the effort at the manufacture of a sonnet, and with the exception of not all—and yet, our friend all yet born, the following recipe from a Connecticut factory, the Hartford Courant, will doubtless prove an appreciated boon to peasant as well as to acute generations. The News does not pretend to judge as to the correctness and effectiveness of the formula, but it commends for the general soundness and opportunity of the last half of the last line.

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