

of that conservative news disseuser, the Associated Press, which at the same time announced the day of her departure for New York to put herself under training.

This was about two years ago. The nation has been duly posted from time to time on the progress she was making and on her final debut before the footlights, on which occasion she was handled with a conscious charity approaching tenderness. She has been struggling with her profession for nearly a year, and the best she can say for herself now, quoting her language to the court, is, "I hope to be an actress some day," at the same time virtually confessing herself a pauper and a vagrant.

This is the most worthy vindication of the respectability of the American drama which it has received for a long time. It is a notice to the people of her class that to be extensively advertised as licentious is not an absolute key to success on the stage. The case of Mrs. Leslie Carter is the most perfect example we have had of this sort of preparation for the drama, and herein is our apology for this reference to her career.

ELECTROCUTION OR THE GUILLOTINE

THE New York *Sun* was so sure that all the sensible people of the State were with it in its little war on the electrocution law that it has gone to the expense of compiling the opinions of leading men of all parties on the subject.

Among the dozen or more throughout the State whom it has interviewed, two only are in favor of repealing the law. One was Chauncey M. Depew, whose reason for so wishing was that he did not believe in killing murderers in any fashion. The other gentleman of the opposition was the Hon. W. H. Robertson. His reason was that he was one of the five members of the State Senate who opposed the law at its passage, and he had not taken the trouble to change his mind.

It looks very much as though the *Sun* had reached as comfortable a point as it will likely ever reach to drop the subject. In any event, by its efforts to show a public aversion to the electric method of executing criminals, it has proven the contrary so effectually as to make electrocution a pretty sure institution for some time to come.

A noteworthy point in the interviews is the favor which was expressed in several instances for the guillotine. This is a new sentiment on this continent, but it will not be surprising if the next innovation that is made in the methods of execution should look

to France for a model. It can be said of the guillotine that it never half disposes of its victims, which cannot be said of the gallows, and if a painless death is possible, this instrument will inflict it, since, at the instant of its touch, it cuts in twain the life cord itself. Moreover, to the advantages named, it adds a perfect fulfillment of that law to Christian beliefs which says: "Whoso sheds man's blood by man shall his blood be shed." This is a point of scripture which is quite lost sight of by the advocates of hanging and electrocution.

THE LOTTERY AND ITS RIGHTS.

THE Louisiana Lottery monster is finding an earnest advocate in the New Orleans *Times-Democrat*. In its zeal to restore the soul thing to its old prestige before the law, that organ calls upon the nation to look to the doctrine of States-rights before laying hands upon that which concerns the lottery company.

The Government has not yet attempted any assault upon the lottery, further than to exclude its tickets and advertisements from the United States mails. A large number of newspapers carrying lottery advertisements have been thrown out of the mail bags, and a case is now before the Supreme Court to test the legality of this action.

The *Times-Democrat* will be excused for its enthusiasm. A million and a quarter annually we believe was the last offer of the lottery concern for a legal existence in the State of Louisiana. This is quite enough to raise to a white heat patriotism of the venal quality which seems to govern the lottery advocates generally. But heat in such a controversy will not help matters. That mammoth institution of chance has for a long time been looked upon as a national scandal and abomination by a large majority of the people of the Union. With such a sentiment prevailing, it can not count on favors from any quarter save the State of Louisiana, which it has so long corrupted with the crumbs from its enormous revenues.

What the letter of the constitution guarantees cannot be denied very well, but there is nothing more than that to be hoped for by the Louisiana Lottery company. A free people can afford to bear with some things they do not like, for the sake of preserving from promiscuous assaults the bulwarks of their liberty. But they will make no voluntary gifts to that which takes advantage of constitutional guarantees to make itself a national nuisance. The defenders of the lottery company may expect the government of the United States to make the Republic as uncomfortable as possible for their line of business.

MONEY AGAINST MORALS.

The question whether the Louisiana Lottery company next spring is to be allowed to renew its charter for another twenty-five years has just about taken possession of the State. It has been a leading subject of debate for some time, but it was too one-sided to be even noisy until now.

The money side of the contest had popular opinion so thoroughly in its grip that the moral side did not count to any serious extent. But a little agitation from the moral standpoint in the face of another twenty-five years under the degrading influence of this mammoth evil has had wondrous results. It has brought into the field on the side of the anti, as the men of the opposition are termed, a force that seems to have taken the lottery people by surprise.

The election is over half a year hence and the air of the State is lurid with lottery politics. The anti are thoroughly organized for war. To their ranks have rallied many of the leading men of the State, Democrats and republicans. Governor Nicholls has long been one of their stalwarts. The entire church element is anti, without a drawback, and the Farmers' Association makes anti-lottery the subject of a special plank in its platform.

The pro-lottery people are beginning to show their hands, but they tremble. Their plea for a continuation is of course based upon a money argument. They hope with their million and a quarter annual contribution to the State treasury to bury the moral feature of the contest entirely out of sight. They are succeeding on this line among the colored gentlemen and the creoles, but with intelligent citizens it has lost its enchantment.

It would be unsafe to predict what will be the outcome of the struggle. The wealth of the lottery company is enormous. And with their disposition to use it for corrupting public opinion or the ballot or anything else that might confront them as an obstacle to their reinstatement, no man can know what they might accomplish. But whether they gain their point or not, the vigor and determination with which the better people of the State have arisen to oppose them is a mighty omen of good and gives to Louisiana a respectability and majesty which was never before accredited to her.

At Williamsport, Pa., a recent cyclone threw a large iron bridge span into the river.

A nail factory at Ironton, O., which had been idle for quite a while, resumed operations on the 3rd inst.