

in behalf of the sanctity of human life, else it will come to be known as the Cain of commonwealths. Its record is appallingly bloody. It is claimed that during the last thirty-two years there have been more men murdered in South Carolina than that state lost in the War of the Rebellion. For years there has been a steady increase in the numbers of murders. The record for 1897 approximates 250."

Undoubtedly the state of South Carolina is suffering in the estimation of the civilized world on account of the lynchings and other tragedies that are so frequently enacted within her borders; and the lovers of law, justice and good order should exert themselves to subdue the contrary element in the population. It was in South Carolina that the monster of nullification attempted to enthrone itself, and that the War of the Rebellion began. Both before and since the war, the state has been noted for the insubordination and downright disloyalty of many of her public men: while on the other hand, from the time of the Revolution until now, she has abounded in men who were true and brave.

Perhaps the homicides for which she is noted are but the outward manifestations of a struggle that is going on with the ultimate result of securing the survival of the fittest. But if human life must be taken, it is best to accompany the process by at least the forms of law.

ST. MARK'S HOSPITAL.

One of the most beneficent characters portrayed in Holy Writ is that of the Good Samaritan. When the priest and the Levite had passed by the bleeding victim of thieves, leaving him to suffer and die by the roadside, the Good Samaritan, who made no professions of holiness or sanctity, so far as we are informed, yet had in his heart the Godlike attribute of sympathy, stopped when he came to the prostrate sufferer, bent over him in mercy, dressed his wounds, poured in the oil and the wine, conveyed the helpless wayfarer to an inn and made ample provision for his care until recovery.

This parable contains one of the sweetest lessons left on record by Him who spake as never man spake; the lesson which teaches the blessedness of alleviating human misery. The man and woman who make the practice of this lesson a part of the labor of their lives, are, consciously or unconsciously, carrying into effect an exceedingly important part of that system of salvation the Savior came to teach; and all who aid them in their work are entitled to share in their reward.

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin;" so sympathy for sufferers from wounds or disease leaps over the barriers that creeds would establish, and makes a brotherhood of all who give place to it in their hearts. It is a virtue that every human being should reverence and cherish, for not another mark does more to distinguish from the brute creation, our race that was made in the image of God.

For a quarter of a century, in its quiet way, St. Mark's hospital has been filling its mission of mercy in this city. It has never been obtrusive, nor has it ever made itself a public burden; but in the spirit of the highest form of the purest religion, it has been doing in our midst the works of the Good Samaritan. Of late it has vastly increased its capacity to do good by adding a great wing to its previously grand building. This effort has entailed a burden that bears so heavily as to render necessary a call for help. The addition is called the Hamilton wing, in honor of Dr. J. H.

Hamilton, who was in very deed, a father to the hospital, and who gave to its permanent and successful establishment the best efforts of his life.

Upon the Hamilton wing there rests the incubus of debt, which the executive committee of the hospital are most desirous of removing. As a means of raising funds, a grand ball will be given by the committee on Thursday evening, the 13th inst., at Christensen's hall, and there should be no parsimony shown in the matter of purchasing tickets; if more are paid for than are used, no harm will come of it.

But there is no reason why aid for the hospital should be confined to the purchase of ball tickets; on the contrary it may most properly go much farther. Gifts and bequests could scarcely be more wisely bestowed than in relieving and aiding so noble an institution. The "News" takes pleasure in directing the attention of men of means in the community, of all creeds, or of none at all, to the mercy they may extend to suffering fellow beings by holding up the hands of St. Mark's hospital.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

There has been some talk lately of the great "criminal foreign element" of the United States. Statistics from one foreign country, Norway, do not bear out the statements based on this somewhat vague term. Official records prove that since the year 1840 the number of criminals has been steadily decreasing, while the population has been increasing.

In the year mentioned there were 1,840 criminal cases in Norway; in 1850, 1,755; in 1860, 1,638; in 1870, 1,401; in 1880, 1,092; in the period between 1885-90, it varied between 783 and 679, and in the last years it fell below 600. The crimes committed were all the way from murder to petit larceny, theft being the most general. The greatest number of criminals were found among the day laborers.

There are several causes for this decrease in criminality in Norway. The country has at various times been the scene of extensive religious revivals that have had a purifying influence over all classes of society; great efforts have been made for temperance and particularly for a rational and practical regulation of the saloon business, and, above all, justice has been administered with a moderation that in itself has had a humanizing influence on the people. Thus capital punishment is nearly always commuted to imprisonment at hard labor for life, and other transgressors often obtain a pardon when after a term of years in the opinion of the authorities, the ends of justice have been fully met. The annual cost of the maintenance of a prisoner is about \$200 and a large part of this sum he or she is made to earn for the institution that keeps them.

JAMES WILSON MARSHALL.

Henry W. Bigler of St. George, Utah, will go down to fame as the first man who recorded the fact of the discovery of gold in California. He was a fellow workman with the man who made the discovery, and kept a diary in which he recorded the event at the time of its occurrence. Of course he was intimately acquainted with James Wilson Marshall, who made the find, and for that and other reasons the following communication is fraught with peculiar interest:

"St. George, Utah, Jan. 4th, 1898.

"To the Editor.

"I notice in the Evening News under the heading 'Golden Jubilee,' the

following: 'On Jan. 24th, 1848, 50 years ago, gold was discovered by James W. Marshall, a mechanic from Pennsylvania, in his mill race at Coloma, on Sutter's creek.' I think there must be some mistake about the matter.

"I have Marshall's history, entitled 'The Life and Adventures of James W. Marshall, the Discoverer of Gold in California,' and on page 6 it is stated that 'James Wilson Marshall was born in Hope township, Hunterdon county, New Jersey, in 1812. His father was a coach and wagon builder, and he was brought up to the same trade,' and when I was working for him and Sutter, I heard Marshall say he was a coach maker by trade and had 'worn out many a silk handkerchief rubbing the coaches and putting on the shine.'

"I might further say that Marshall, in his declining years, at least in 1871, was a Spiritualist. He paid me a visit in Farmington, and sought an interview with President Young. I took him to the Historian's office and introduced him to Brother George A. Smith, who took us over to the President's office and introduced Marshall to the President. The interview was short, but agreeable, and to me interesting. Brother Brigham and Brother George A. made him a present of several of our Church works, while he gave them a copy of his own life, which may yet be found in the Historian's office.

"The object of Marshall's visit to Utah in 1871 was to get the affidavit of three of the men who worked for him, and Captain Sutter. He was going to Washington, D. C., to see if something could be done to restore to him his rights. He claimed that he was entitled to settler's rights, as the legislature of California had passed laws taking away his land, and miners had jumped his claims, etc. I never heard how he came out, but I do not think anything was done in regard to restoring to him his lands and mining claims.

"As I stated, he was a Spiritualist, claiming that the spirits often talked to him, even when he was walking in company and talking with somebody. He told me that he would know the woman who was to be his wife by seeing on her bosom a star. He died without ever being married. I suppose he never met with the lady who wore a star on her breast.

"Respectfully yours,

H. W. BIGLER."

FAIR AND SENSIBLE.

The Pioneer published at Ida Grove, Ida county, Iowa, in a recent issue, has a fine half tone picture of the Temple square in this city, accompanied by a detailed and accurate description of the buildings thereon, to which are appended the following fair and sensible observations:

"We wish to say that no other Church organization upon the American continent is possessed of so fine buildings, grounds and furniture, as those of the Mormon Church of Salt Lake City. We will also add that there is no church in the land whose members are more sincere and self-sacrificing than those of this Church. There is no church building in the world that has such immense audiences on Sunday as does that Tabernacle. Rain or shine, summer or winter, the average attendance at the 2 o'clock Sunday services in that Tabernacle is 7,000 people, and a finer looking, better dressed body of people were never assembled in the annals of history. Refinement, health and courteous manners characterize the entire audience. In short, the demeanor and general character of the average Mormon is in keeping with the magnificent buildings and handsome grounds as shown in the above illustration. As a newspaper man, and with the full knowledge of