

"Sorry, sir," returned the druggist, "but Garrett County went local option, and if you want to buy spirits without a prescription you'll have to vote against Prohibition." The President walked thoughtfully to his carriage, while a bystander informed the druggist who it was he had bluffed.

**SAYS AN EXCHANGE:** The judges of Riga, Russia, are likely to find themselves wearing convict clothes in Siberia before long if they do not reform their ways. The paternal government of the czar has found it necessary to arrest them all because they persisted in using the German language in their courts after they had been ordered to substitute Russian for it. If those judges are so unfortunate as to speak Russian with a brogue or not at all they are still guilty of the high crime of disobeying an imperial ukase. They are less wise than the Russian officer who is represented as replying when asked how it was possible for him to learn so many languages in so short a time "The czar ordered it."

**LESLIE'S MONTHLY:** The Italian Parliament consists of two houses—the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. The Senate is composed of princes of the royal house who are of age, and of an unlimited number of members, above forty years old, nominated by the king for life. The Lower House has 598 members, elected by ballot on a franchise comprising all male citizens over twenty-one years of age who can read and write, and who pay taxes to the amount of nineteen lire per annum. Neither Senators nor Deputies receive any salary, but are allowed to travel free throughout Italy, by rail, or from port to port in the kingdom by steamer. The duration of Parliament is five years, but they may be dissolved by the king at any time.

**SOME** of the most curious gambling establishments in the world are those which exist at Calcutta and Bombay, which are kept open during the rainy season of the year for the purpose of enabling those who wish to bet on the amount of rainfall of any one shower. Whenever a raincloud crosses the sky a crowd of eager and excited men rush to the points which overlook the roof in question, shouting and gesticulating to their friends while gazing anxiously at the sky. It is said that this system of gambling has one advantage, that the rainclouds cannot be manipulated. There can be no "loading," as in dice, or "pulling," as in horse races. The owners of the gambling establishments are interested simply to the extent of their commissions and see that there is fair play between the gamblers.

**THE Cleveland Leader** remarks: "Chicago is again suffering from an outbreak of the most offensive foreignism. An attempt has been made to enforce the Sunday-closing law against the saloons, and the Personal Rights League has seen fit to protest against the enforcement

of the law. One of the speakers at a meeting of the league said: 'If they are going to close the saloons we insist that the churches shall also be closed, and that they shall not be allowed to continue business at the old stand.' The idea of comparing the whisky-shop—the nursery of crime and disorder—with the churches is outrageous. It ought to be enough to arouse public sentiment on the subject and to force Sunday closing. Such offensive language is a disgrace to Chicago and cannot be squelched too soon."

**NEW YORK World:** Now that Stanley seems certainly nearing the East Coast of Africa the interest in his latest expedition is greatly increased. It is mainly a romantic interest, such as attaches to every story of travel and adventure in strange lands, of hardships endured, dangers passed and difficulties overcome. For there was nothing in the objects of the expedition to command much sympathy. The pretense of relieving Emin, who did not need or desire relief, was merely a cover for an essentially commercial enterprise undertaken in the interest of traders looking to future profits. Incidentally such a march, however, helps to open the road by which civilization will enter the fastnesses of the Dark Continent, and so in serving greed a man like Stanley serves human progress also. And what a fascinatingly interesting book the story of this last march across Africa will make!

**HERE** is a passage from the late Samuel S. Cox's description of a sunset, which gained for him the sobriquet with which nearly everybody is familiar: What a stormful sunset was that last night! How glorious the storm, and how splendid the setting of the sun! The scene opened in the west, with a whole horizon full of golden interpenetrating lustre, which covered the foliage and brightened every object into its own rich dyes. The colors grew deeper and richer, until the golden lustre was transferred into a storm cloud, full of finest lightning, which leaped in dazzling zigzags all round. The wind arose with fury, the tender shrubs and giant trees made obeisance to its majesty. As the rain came and the pools formed, thunder roared grandly, and the fire bells caught the excitement, and rang with hearty chorus. The south and the east received the copious showers, and the west all at once brightened up in a long, polished belt of azure, worthy of a Sicilian sky.

**MARY MARTIN**, a young woman who was sent to the King's County (New York) penitentiary, has been transferred to the hospital at Flatbush, where the doctors will endeavor to find out the source from which she has a remarkable power. She is timid and extremely sensitive, but possesses the strength of a Saxon. She is only 4 feet 8 inches in height, small limbed and has the hands of a child of 10 years. When arrested in Brooklyn she had torn

up a lamp post in the street, and it required five officers to arrest her. She was locked up in an iron cell and an hour later surprised the desk sergeant by appearing before him, having bent the bars of the door and crawled out. At the prison she was given the strongest cell, but a few hours later was found in the prison yard. Mary had snapped the bars of her cell door as if they had been sealing wax. Warden Hayes gave orders for the confinement of the female Samson in one of the strongest cells in the woman's prison. Mary quietly submitted to her transfer, and the following morning the discovery was made that she had escaped again. She was carried to another cell and a special guard placed over her. The girl escaped from the "cooler" by using her fingers as a wrench for the purpose of removing the nuts from the ends of the lock bolts, afterwards taking off the lock. She wouldn't remain locked up, so Judge Moore remitted her fine and she was discharged.

#### Some Famous Suicides.

The following are some of the more noted suicides of which mention is made in history. These do not savor much of insanity, but rather of stoic philosophy:

Cato stabbed himself rather than live under the despotic reign of Cæsar; Themistocles poisoned himself rather than lead the Persians against his countrymen; Zeno, when 98, hung himself because he had put his finger out of joint, and Hannibal and Mithridates poisoned themselves to escape being taken prisoners. When we search through literature we find that Saul, rather than fall into the hands of the Philistines, commanded his armor bearer to hold his sword that he might plunge upon it; Samson, for the sake of being revenged upon his enemies, pulled down the house in which they were reveling, and "died with them;" and Judas Iscariot, after selling the Savior for thirty pieces of silver, was overcome by remorse "and went and hanged himself."

#### Fattening Snails.

The vineyard snail is held in great esteem in southern Europe. It is by no means uncommon in England. At one time it was believed to have been imported by the Romans, while another theory held that it was introduced about the fifteenth or sixteenth century. It is undeniably common in the vicinity of old Roman camps. But it is frequent also on chalk and other dry soils, and the opinion now generally entertained is that the *Helix Pomatia* is a native British species. The rulers of the world were nevertheless its especial patrons. Not content with eating it stewed in every form, they fattened it in cochlearia, or styes, meal boiled in wine, being regarded as the food best fitted for producing large and juicy specimens. How successful they were may be inferred from the fact—if fact it be—that some of the shells of these domesticated snails would hold a pint of wine.—*Once a Week.*