

THE LOST SHEEP.

There were ninety and nine that safely lay
In the shelter of the fold;
And one was out on the hills away,

The Brave Wife of General Sherman.

I have a case in point as to the manner in which he was frequently imposed upon. Of course the citizens of Louisville recollect that, when Sherman was in command of that department, he was accused of insanity.

Mind Your Own Business.

The history of the late panic proves unmistakably the existence of what may be called the higher law of trade. Those merchants, bankers and capitalists who attended closely to their own proper business and who left other people's business alone, as a rule, passed successfully through the ordeal.

in railroad construction to an extent far above and beyond its proper business of banking. The long list of published assets showed a quantity of worthless securities, larger than might have been reasonably supposed to have existed in the United States.

This firm was loaded down with all sorts of Southern railroad and State bonds of a worthless character. It was the same with several others that could be named. Now, prudent bankers will generally be careful to avoid all securities of this kind, and if they deal in them at all it will be only on account of customers whose collaterals they will always take care shall fully cover their accounts.

Of the failures that have occurred during the last year, it is ascertained that three-fifths consisted of firms which had stepped beyond their proper line of business. It is also a noticeable feature that the failures which occurred by and through outside speculations were what is called "bad" ones, yielding only a nominal percentage of assets, while the failure of houses which attended to their proper business yielded an average of 50 per cent. dividends.

In the case of the Sprague failure we have a conspicuous example of the consequences of not minding one's business. This great firm had invested its resources in all kinds of enterprises, from Maine to Texas, and when the pressure for money came they could not be realized on, and the result was suspension. Of course, the duty of attention to one's business is not incompatible with all reasonable enterprise. But the trouble in many cases is that they involve too large a loss of capital to the regular firm, so that the latter is unable to bear a strain, which under other circumstances would seriously be felt.

Perhaps one secret of the stability of the great European business houses consists in the fact that the owners seldom take much money out of the firm. The founders of a trade generally live modestly, and leave most of their earnings in the business, to fructify and expand a hundred fold. Thus, when a storm comes they are in a position to defy it. We put too little capital on the shelves and in the drawers, and too much in showy windows and gorgeous fittings up, which matter nothing to business men. And so the tide drifts on until the inevitable panic comes, when those who were taken unawares will disappear from sight forever.—U. S. Economist.

Growth of Cities—Increase of Crime.

Of late there has been much speculation and philosophical disquisition as to the increase of crime and the causes of it. The increase is a stubborn fact. All the jails and prisons have been enlarged within the past few years—enlarged more than in ratio with the enlargement of the population. And all of them are now full to overflow, demanding still further enlargement. A Western paper notes that while in 1850 the homicides in the United States were as one to 100,000 of total population, in 1860 they had risen to three and one-tenth, and in 1870 to five and three-tenths. That is to say, we had in proportion to population over five times as many murders, man-slayers, excusable and justifiable killings in 1870 as twenty years before. We think there is no doubt that other and lesser crimes have kept pace with these; that larceny, arson, burglary, robbery and forgery are five times as frequent now in a population of 100,000 as they were in 1850. Certain other offenses have gone still faster into popularity—as perjury, fraud, and swindling. The increase of murders from 1850 to 1860 was 210 per cent, says the Indianapolis Journal. From 1860 to 1870 only 220 per cent. Whereupon it is argued that the civil war cannot be blamed as the promoter of this crime. The Journal then points out what it thinks some of the causes: As the increase of European emigration, which brings us a large proportion of the criminal and refuse classes, who "live by crime and mendicancy." The criminal statistics appear to

favor this view. There is one foreign criminal to every five of native birth, while the foreign population is one to eleven of native birth. This is the rule in the State of Indiana. In the whole country the proportion of foreign to native population is as one to six; of foreign to native criminals one to three. This is one cause. "The illy restrained devilry of the South" is another, if we may believe the Journal. But "the primary cause is the laxity of the law in bringing criminals to punishment." This will not do, as to crime in general. The criminal statistics that the Journal discusses are of those who have been brought to punishment. It may hold as to homicides. We do not suppose that more than one murderer in ten is ever brought to the gallows in this country. If the penalty of murder were life imprisonment we think the convicted would soon amount to three or four.

As to the main cause of the increase of crime in general. We think it demonstrable from statistics and other facts and circumstances, that nearly all classes of crime have just about kept pace in this country with the excess of the growth of large cities and towns over the growth of the rural districts. The population of New York is but one million—of the State, say four millions. The city with only a fourth of the people produces more than half of the criminals. Chicago holds the like relation to the State of Illinois, and San Francisco to California. A very large class of crimes result from want, and the irresistible temptations of necessity, nowhere felt half so powerfully as in the great and heartless city, where human selfishness finds its fullest development. Other classes of crime, especially manslaughter and homicides which some communities consider justifiable while others punish them as murder, while they are frequent in the city, are almost unheard of in the country. It is in the great city that fraud, perjury and forgery flourish; and where, too, conviction is almost sure to follow indictment, if the accused is poor or friendless, which most of them are. If the great city, with its theatres, schools, churches, moral reform societies, multiplied charities, science and art associations, and immense collections of wealth, best represents civilization, it also is most promotive of crime, insanity, and all phases of want and misery. The argument, then, would seem to be that crime and civilization keep even pace! It is not pleasant to admit this proposition, but we really see no way to avoid it, unless we reject the pretenses of the cities as the true exponents of civilization.—Sacramento Union.

Selling Militia Arms.

THE STATES HAVE NO RIGHT TO SELL UNITED STATES ARMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE MILITIA.

The question submitted by the Secretary of War, whether under existing laws the rights of property in the arms issued for arming the militia of the United States is vested in the state authorities, with power to dispose of them by sale or otherwise, without accounting to the United States, was suggested by facts connected with the quota of arms due under the statutes relating to the arming of the militia of the State of Virginia. It appears that the governor of that State made a requisition upon the chief of ordnance for about 2,307 revolvers, to be drawn as a portion of said quota. To meet those requisitions the latter officer in July last gave to an agent of the State orders upon the manufacturer for that number of revolvers, to be delivered within a short period thereafter. Upon receiving these orders the agent, acting upon the directions of the governor, proceeded to New York, and in behalf of the State entered into contracts with certain parties for camp equipage. It was agreed that the contractors should receive in payment for the camp equipage furnished the state under the contracts an assignment of aforesaid orders, and that the delivery of the arms by the manufacturer should be made accordingly to them. But the chief of ordnance, having information of this transaction, and conceiving that the right of the state to make such disposition of the arms intended for the militia thereof was not entirely free from doubt, directed that the delivery of the revolvers in said order be withheld until that point is decided. The determination of that point has been thought to depend on the solution of the question referred to the Attorney General. After quoting the laws in force which provide for the furnishing of arms to the militia by the general government, as contained in various sections of the revised statutes, the Attorney General says: "In no one of the sections adverted to is there any provision which expressly vests the property in the arms after their distribution in the states, absolutely, nor do I find anything therein upon which such a change of ownership results by necessary implication." For the purpose of getting at the intent and meaning of the existing laws with reference to that point, the Attorney General recurs to the earlier legislation on the subject of arming the militia, particularly to that part of it from which the provisions of the revised statutes have been taken, and after a full review of the various acts of Congress from July 6th, 1793, down to the present time, concludes that in contemplation of those provisions the arms transmitted to the States thereunder are to be held by them for a specific purpose only which is pointed out therein, that they become, strictly speaking, interested with nothing more than a qualified property in such arms, and that they cannot, as a matter of right and without thereby interfering with regulations of Congress on a subject over which its authority is necessarily paramount, make any disposition or use of such arms which defeats the purpose referred to, though, if this should be done, there would seem to be no remedy without further legislation by Congress; and the official opinion is that the states do not by the existing laws have "the right of property in the arms issued for arming the militia," if an absolute right of property is there meant, and that they derive no authority under those laws to sell or dispose of such arms at their pleasure. In regard to the actual case presented, which concerns a part of the quota of arms due the State of Virginia, I may add that the disposition of the revolvers hereinbefore mentioned recently sought to be made by the authority of the State would clearly have been unwarranted by existing laws of Congress on the subject of arming the militia. The arms cannot be indefinitely withheld from the State, the statute requiring them not only to be annually distributed, but to be transmitted to it by the officers of the general government.—Washington Star, Nov. 12.

A Word for Utah.

A valued correspondent at Salt Lake City, under date of November 6th, after complimenting one of the speakers at the missionary meeting at the Grand Opera House, Chicago, on Sunday afternoon, November 1st, gives us the following statistics in relation to the progress of Utah. In looking them over, it should be remembered that all the results indicated by these figures have been accomplished in a quarter of a century.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes: No Territorial or Municipal debt, Telegraph lines, Taxes, Population of Utah, etc.

The writer continues—

The facts demonstrate what Brigham Young and his people have done here, in this once sagebrush desert. They are as fixed and immutable as these mountains—as clear as the gorgeous sunlight that illuminates our vast and rich canyons. Tens of thousands of our most intelligent citizens who have visited Utah since you were here pronounce amen to every word you uttered. All business men here who attend to their own business are as untrammelled and unaffected by Mormonism as the same class of men are in Chicago by the Catholic hierarchy; and who says to the contrary utters a gross, palpable untruth.—Chicago Tribune, Nov. 13th.

The Political Revolution.

Above all else—and for this we fervently thank the God of Peace—there is an end of the war and its bloody instructions. We shall hear no more of "war records." As the Herald said during the canvass, "war records" are now so dead that "Mr. Tilden would not lose fifty votes had he commanded the attack on Fort Sumter." This canvass shows that the Americans are a magnanimous, forgiving people; that when the rebellion was suppressed the rebels became once more our brothers and our fellow-citizens, and that in the progress of these States in the road to empire the test of political rewards must henceforward be merit, honesty, capacity, not what was done or said during the civil war; for, as all candid men must admit, many of the finest characters of this generation fought against the North. * * Are these men any worse Americans now for having fought against us ten years ago? Are they to be despised because they have not joined the republicans? Are they not better in every way than the murrain of carpet-baggers and "scalawags" that now overrun the South? Would not even Mr. Conkling prefer to see Breckinridge in the place of Kellogg, Hunter in the place of Moses, and Lee and Jackson, if they were alive, in the place of Patterson and Claytor? Would he not feel that the country was better served by these gallant and honest rebels than by the miserable riff-raff that now infest, deplete and dishonor the South? * * The election on Tuesday destroys all "war records" as claims for political distinction. The rebellion passes from politics into history. * * The victory has been so dazzling, so transcendent, so conclusive in its results, that we can hardly comprehend it. Caesarism is dead. Henry Wilson was right when he said that the third term was the heaviest burden the republican party could carry. The next Congress, as matters now look, will be under the control of the democrats. The thirteen or fourteen years of republican supremacy will be severely scrutinized. New questions will not be considered so seriously as old ones. * * * The democrats will be called upon to show the utmost wisdom. There must be moderation, peace, care. How far this spirit of investigation will go in the next Congress is a most serious question. But the natural disposition to extreme and unusual questions, to impetuous and heroic legislation, must be restrained. Already we have suggestions that the duty of this Congress will be the impeachment of President Grant. But in this and other propositions Congress must not go too fast. * * * The democratic party owes the utmost justice and consideration to Grant. If the result should be the arraignment of his administration before the Senate to meet with the condemnation it has already received from the hands of the people, then the country will feel that a painful duty has been performed with delicacy, firmness and with a due regard alike to the fame of the President, the dignity of his office and the rights of the people to hold its public servants; no matter how exalted, to the severest accountability.—N. Y. Herald.