

### A New York Institution.

Curious paper, that New York *Herald*. Its characteristics are incongruous. Principally in expenditure, boundless in enterprise, and without a peer, as a newspaper, it embodies at the same time many provincial peculiarities—such, for instance, as an inflated sensationalism and an interminable self-laudation. Sensation is its staff of life, and hosannas to the New York *Herald* its daily and everlasting tune. True, the natural effect of this conjuncture of characteristics is to produce a fountain capable of satisfying the most insatiable thirst for news; nevertheless so constant a dinnings of self-praise grows tiresome, at times. The *Herald* aims to quickly supplement one grand business stroke with another so as to keep the newspaper reader in a fever-heat of interest and expectancy. Just at this time it would go slow if it consulted their desires. The Stanley expedition tried their patience exceedingly. For a matter of months the *Herald's* "allusions" to Stanley were of the dimensions of pages, and the worst of it was, the young coxcomb blocked up the Atlantic cable, besides monopolizing most of the American press outside of the *Herald*. And then, after the *Herald* had wrung him dry, the fellow took to the rostrum, and the lecture-going community has not ceased retching over the infliction yet.

The *Herald* is now in the full feather of another exploit. Always alive to the well being and comfort of newspaper patrons, we were oppressed with misgivings the moment Bennett announced the departure of his correspondent to the Cuban rebels, that those patrons were threatened with a fresh calamity, but we hoped it might prove tolerable beside the Stanley nightmare. We are now convinced that the *Herald's* Cuban job, viewed in the light of a bottomless bore, will "lay over" the Stanley bore, even as the mastodon lays over the field mouse. The classical name of the deluded youth who offered his person as a sacrifice to *Herald* fame, is O'Kelly. He has been captured—as the sad idiot must have known he inevitably would be—by the Spaniards, and his chances of being shot are considerably above par. To say that the *Herald* is running O'Kelly at this present time is but to faintly express it. O'Kelly absorbs the editorial page, and works the Washington, Key West, and Havana correspondents, and the mapengravers of New York City to the verge of death. The bore increases in depth. The *Herald* has even begun to issue quintuple sheets so that the foolhardy Celt may be thrown up life-size. The O'Kelly bore is worse than the Stanley bore, because O'K. will probably be shot, and we shall never hear the last of him. And if he survives, and gets away from the island, he will come home and go to lecturing; and then we shall all have to be taxed to build more lunatic asylums; for there is no rational doubt in the world that every tenth mother's son of us will be a raving maniac, if another *Herald* correspondent takes the rostrum during this century. If there wasn't danger of the country's being stolen out of house and home, we should call for an extra session of Congress to have Bennett amputated.—*Cleveland Herald*.

### The Laws of Sex.

It is very remarkable that this nineteenth century should be destined to set at rest numberless questions which have agitated the world for thousands of years, without seeming at the end of each hundred years to be any nearer the solution than when the discussion first began. One, which seems now definitely settled, is the law which regulates the production of the sexes. This has not only been a question for science, but one in which every cattle-raiser has had an universal interest in dollars and cents, as whether the progeny of any special breed was of one sex or another might make the difference between a few dollars on the one hand, or thousands on the other.

It is rather strange that, with such an immense moneyed interest in this matter, the mind has not been stimulated to search more closely into Nature's laws in this case; but as no amount of money during our great war could stimulate a first-class national song, it is probably the same with the spirit of Nature; and it may even be that

because of the mercenary spirit connected with the subject, Nature has so long hidden the law of the case.

The only theory that ever made much headway was one by Prof. Thury, of Geneva, well known to intelligent stock breeders. This was so manifestly contrary to probability, if thought had been given to animals in a state of nature, that it is a wonder that intelligent men ever gave any heed to it at all.

The first attempt at enunciating a law which commanded universal attention was made in a paper before the American Association at Salem, Mass., in 1869, by the agricultural editor of this paper, and published in full in the press at that time. This was that sex was due to various phases of vitality—the highest grades of vitality producing the female, and the lowest the male sex. The facts were all drawn from the vegetable world, but the author suggested that the same law would in all probability be found to hold in the animal also. This brought a protest from Prof. Agassiz, who thought it very dangerous to the already proved—as he thought—facts of science, that even a suggestion of such a law as applicable to the animal world should be made.

In the following year, however, the same observer presented another paper at the Troy meeting, showing not only that vitality ruled in this instance, but that it was a mere matter of nutrition; that in the earliest stage of plant history the flower might be either male or female—that the vitality as affected by nutrition alone made the difference. Professor Gill, of the Smithsonian, took Professor Agassiz's place in opposing any reference to the animal kingdom here also. But in the February number of *Old and New* for 1872 the author of the new theory took ground for the identity of the law among animals as among plants. At Dubuque, Iowa, last year, another Philadelphian, Prof. Hartshorne, advanced a step further, and demonstrated that the law was true as regards bees; and now a lady of Vineland, Mrs. Treat, has proved by an experiment so thoroughly conclusive that it is true in butterflies, that there is no longer any hesitation among scientific men to accept the doctrine. Mrs. Treat took butterflies, and by feeding them abundantly while they were depositing their eggs, raised female insects; while the eggs of those butterflies half starved yielded male ones. This she repeated two seasons with the same results.

We thus see it placed beyond a doubt that the question of the amount of nutrition at a very early stage of development decides the question of sex. Whether in the complex organization of the higher animals this can be controlled, as in the case of the more simple butterfly, is a question for the future. For the present we ought to be satisfied that science has placed us on the right track.—*Philadelphia Press*.

### Unconsidered Murderers.

The man who cuts his neighbor's throat runs a good chance of being hanged; the man who murders him by secondary causes is neither condemned nor suspected. Yet there are crowds of these murderers abroad, agents and effects of our boasted civilization; and we decorate some of them, honor others, and pay all, just as we pay the undertaker and the sexton for the considerate burial of our dearest. The ordinary architect is one of these murderers; and we question whether we shall get rid of his bad breed until one of them has been hanged *pour encourager les autres*. The ordinary architect builds a handsome-looking house, paying great attention to the ornamentation of the iron-work, the right curves of the mouldings and the general effect of the facade. The stairs are wide and what he calls noble, the drawing-rooms perfectly proportioned, and the principal bed-rooms are arranged with taste and according to superior ideas. But the drains go into a stagnant cesspool, and the waste pipe of the cistern leads direct into the drains; that is to say, the architect has built a house which is a nest for perennial typhus and diphtheria, and has thus constituted himself the prospective murderer of any number of innocent lives. Damp through all the basement, and imperfect ventilation in the sleeping-rooms, are

extra flourishes of the weapon he employs in his trade. People take these fine artistic houses, and their friends congratulate them on their good fortune in having such a first-rate architect, and make all sorts of admiring comments on the perfect taste with which their dwelling is arranged. But, somehow, all sorts of troubles and illness follow. Children die of scarlet fever, and older people suffer from incurable neuralgia and dyspepsia; there are obscure cases of typhoid fever springing up no one knows why or whence; and the fine house, with its chief rooms to the east or the north, with its defective ventilation, its poisoned water, and its contaminated air, is simply a death-trap constructed by an architect at great pains, abundantly rewarded by applause.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

### Hume on Interest.

Nothing is esteemed a more certain sign of the flourishing condition of any nation than the lowness of interest, and with reason; though I believe the cause is somewhat different from what is commonly apprehended. Lowness of interest is generally ascribed to plenty of money.

Thus an increase of commerce, by a necessary consequence, raises a great number of lenders, and by that means produces lowness of interest.

And thus, if we consider the whole connection of causes and effects, interest is the barometer of the State, and its lowness is a sign almost infallible of the flourishing condition of a people. It proves the increase of industry, and its prompt circulation through the whole State, little inferior to a demonstration.

A variety of fine manufacturers, with vigilant, enterprising merchants, will soon draw money to a State, if it be anywhere to be found in the world. The same cause, by multiplying the conveniences of life, and increasing industry, collect great riches into the hands of persons who are not proprietors of land, and produces by that means a lowness of interest.

Prices have risen near four times since the discovery of the Indies, and it is probable gold and silver have multiplied much more; but interest has not fallen much above half.

After a sudden acquisition of money or of the precious metals by means of a foreign conquest, the interest has fallen, not only among them, but in all the neighboring States, as soon as that money was dispersed, and had insinuated itself into every corner. Thus interest in Spain fell near a half immediately after the discovery of the West Indies, as we are informed by Garcilasso de la Vega; and it has been ever since gradually sinking in every kingdom in Europe. Interest in Rome, after the conquest of Egypt, fell from six to four per cent., as we learn from Dion.

As to the reduction of interest which has followed in England, France, and other kingdoms of Europe that have no mines, it has been gradual, and has not proceeded from an increase of money.

### Women's Duel.

DESPERATE AND DEADLY FIGHT WITH BUTCHER KNIVES.

About 6 o'clock last evening one of the most desperate encounters ever heard of between two women occurred near Fort Hill. A little before the hour named, two women, named Rosa Dent and Violet Carter, met in front of the premises of Wesley Dent, and engaged in conversation, when a crazy man, a character in the neighborhood, passed along, and Rosa spoke to him in a jeering manner, "poking fun," as Violet Carter described it, at a poor old man. The strictures of Violet Carter provoked a tart reply, and words ran high until Violet Carter walked up in front of Rosa and threatened to beat her brains out. Without more ado the two separated, the one going to the eating house of which she is proprietress, and the other to her own little grocery store opposite. Within a few moments they both emerged from their respective houses and walked toward each other. They met about the centre of the street, and simultaneously displayed a pair of butcher knives. With the utmost coolness and deliberation they came up face to face, when Rosa Dent

opened the attack by inflicting a severe stab in the face of Violet Carter. The blow was immediately returned, and then followed a hand-to-hand affray, with a desperation seldom if ever equaled. It lasted but a few moments before one of the assailants, Rosa Dent, was down, and the other stood over her in the act of making one last fatal plunge, when a colored man passing by caught the blade and probably saved Rosa's life. The wounds of Violet Carter were, however, already fatal, and she was even then in the throes of death. Physicians were summoned for each of the women, but in less than an hour after Violet Carter had passed beyond the pale of human endeavor. Rosa Dent was removed to the county jail, where her wounds were promptly dressed, but her recovery was considered doubtful. She was stabbed several times, but the last and probably fatal wound is a deep and ghastly cut underneath the right breast. It is said no ill feeling existed between them heretofore, but that they were friendly and intimate neighbors.—*Vicksburg (Miss.) Herald*.

### Russian Civilization.

CONDITION OF THE PEASANTRY—DETERIORATION OF THE RACE.

A Russian paper publishes a very desponding article on the condition of the agricultural classes of the empire. "These classes," it says, "pay no less than 274,000,000 roubles to the government in taxes; and if we consider that since 1856 the country has been at peace, that the number of recruits levied yearly has been comparatively small, that serfage has been abolished and labor has been emancipated from the dues which formerly restricted its activity, and that the empire has been provided with a huge network of railways which enables corn to be rapidly transferred from fertile districts to barren ones, it would seem that there must be an increase in the general prosperity. But instead of this we are assured by all who are well informed on such subjects that, with a few individual exceptions, our peasants are, on the average, no better off now than they were thirty or forty years ago."

The great mass of our people live like a horde of savages in smoky huts; young and old, covered with dirty sheep-skins, sleep together with their domestic animals on the same boards. There are whole districts where bathing is unknown, and change of linen is regarded as a luxury. Black bread, mixed with all sorts of foreign ingredients, cabbage soup and milk, are the regular food of our peasantry. As for the cattle, everyone who has traveled in the interior of the empire knows that they have enormously diminished in numbers. We have, as has been wittily said, more Councilors of State than cows. That the physical condition of the masses has deteriorated, and the muscular power of the average peasant is less than it was is shown at each levy of recruits.

There was a time when we used to boast of the gigantic strength and robust healthiness of our peasantry; but no one has such illusions now. Since there have been surgeons and trained nurses in our villages we know that they are nests of disease. How fearful is the mortality, and how few of our peasants ever attain advanced age."

### Home Manufactures.

There is no surer method of building up a country than by patronizing its industries; no more certain way of injuring it than by sending away from home to buy what can be produced by your home manufacturers. Other things being equal, it is always the best policy to buy at home. The principle underlies all departments of trade and production, and is the basis of national as well as local prosperity. If each family in this city sent east for its groceries, there would be no need of such stores, except on the smallest possible scale; if our ladies purchased their millinery and had their dresses made in the States, Denver could dispense with dress-makers and milliners; if boots, shoes and clothing were all bought east of the Missouri we could get along without shoemakers and tailors;—and so all through the various trades, professions and industries. It is home patronage which makes business for everybo-

dy, renders money plenty, and creates a substantial local prosperity.—*Denver News*.

SHAVING EMIGRANTS. — One would suppose that an immigrant escaping from the sharpers who lie in wait about Castle Garden, would be allowed to proceed on his inland journey to the West without being subjected to further impositions. But not so. Chicago has the honor of supporting a gang of scoundrels who make it a business to fleece newly arrived foreigners in a way that would put the boldest New York rascal to the blush. Runners and swindlers ingratiate themselves with the new comers, and on pretense of securing them remunerative employment, ship them away to points where their services are not needed, charging them exorbitant fees for their pretended agency in procuring work for them. The *Tribune* says:

"In some of these cases suit has been brought against these swindlers, and hopes are entertained that the culprits will be brought to justice and their nefarious trade exposed."

"As an example of the fear immigrants have of runners and swindlers in this city, the following is a specimen. Forty immigrant families arrived from New York on the Pittsburg and Fort Wayne Railroad, but, from information they had previously received about our immigrant houses and runners, they were afraid to enter the city, and disembarked at Englewood, preferring to camp two days on the open prairie."—*Ex*.

### The Pathfinder.

The intelligence that Gen. John C. Fremont has been condemned to five years imprisonment by a French court on account of his connection with the negotiation of the Memphis & El Paso Railroad bonds in Paris, is a rather astounding denouement of a gigantic railroad enterprise from an American point of view. Those who have read the charges made against him, however, and who are familiar with the French custom of dealing with speculators, will not be surprised at the sentence, if it follows a substantiation of the charges that were brought against him. In the course of the trial, M. le Baron Gaudree-Boilleau, who married a daughter of Thomas H. Benton, and who is consequently a brother-in-law of General Fremont, gave an interesting summary of the latter's career. When Gen. Fremont married, said Boilleau, "he was a simple Lieutenant without fortune, and was ready to plunge into any new enterprise which promised a fair gain." The witness went on to state that Fremont was unsuccessful, and soon ran through with Senator Benton's estate. It was probably on this account that the Baron Gaudree-Boilleau, through his wife, had a claim against Fremont. When the Baron went to New York to settle this claim, he found, so he says, that Fremont had spent much money on account of the election, and he finally settled by the acceptance of 766,000 francs in the Memphis and El Paso railroad. One witness at the trial, Mr. Magnin, testified that Gen. Fremont, Auffermann, Gaudree-Boilleau, Paradis, Crampon, Probst, and Lisignol had received in all 13,000,000 francs from the French people on account of the bonds, though only four miles of the road have ever been built. It was also shown that much money had been spent on newspapers and government officials to secure the introduction of the bonds on the Paris Bourse, and to deceive the people. The dispatch states that the men who were associated with Fremont were all sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, and were arrested on the spot. General Fremont was not there. The reason which he has given the American people for not going to France was that he could not get there in time to be present at the trial.—*New York Tribune*.

The Farmers of Iowa resolve to nominate their own candidates for Governor. The "Patrons of Husbandry" in Illinois will do the same thing. The Iowa Farmers declare against political parties, and are fighting for freedom from the oppressions of monopoly through the ballot-box—freedom from Railroad as well as from Congressional monopoly.