

method of death adopted in New York state would have the effect of deterring capital offenses to some extent; it is a more terrible ordeal than hanging, even though death be instantaneous; but it does not. On the contrary such crimes have increased, at least the convictions are more numerous. When Harris took his place in a condemned cell at Sing Sing there was but one more left vacant, and as he has some six weeks of life left it only requires a very slight increase in the percentage of immediate over recent convictions to have the condemned department filled before he bids the world good-bye. One or two are now on trial in New York city. It would be a strange commentary on the Empire state's ghastly experiment if the result should prove to be that the number of cells in which murderers awaiting the death penalty are placed has to be increased! Yet such a thing seems inevitable now; custom and familiarity, which were sought to be precluded through a provision in the law excluding reporters, but were not, that provision being a dead letter from the beginning, have had the usual effect upon the criminal classes, and electrocution is no more dreaded now than the gibbet used to be; not so much apparently, though the crime wave is responsible for a full share of the increase.

WHAT A SOURCE FOR TENDERNESS!

That childhood, youth and even early manhood do not always indicate what the instincts and inclinations of the matured human being will be is in no instance more clearly shown than in the life of Robespierre, the French headman whose bloody rule even at this late day cannot be thought of without a shudder. It is said that when a young man, the future tyrant was so good and amiable that he was the darling of all the old women of the town, and that he had so kind and sensitive a heart that he wept on finding his aunt's canary dead in a cage. These tender peculiarities, which were so soon to give place to passions both brutal and bloodthirsty, are brought to view by the publication of some of his poems by a modern admirer. The collection was treasured by an old maid sister of the author, Miss Charlotte, who was in her later lifetime a pensioner upon the bounty of Louis Philippe—the king thus showing rare charity to the sister of the man who had cut off his brother's head. At Miss Charlotte's death the poems, along with other relics of the deceased tyrant, passed to a collateral branch of the family, and they are now, after the lapse of a century, to see the light in the form of a published volume. A critic who has read the manuscript says one of the poems is to a turtle dove that he gave to his sister, for he was especially fond of animals, and when he was absent from home the canaries mourned him to they refused to sing. It is shown that the youth wept much as well as wrote verses. When at school in Paris he was appointed to welcome the king—that same king he afterward had beheaded—by some verses when the king visited the college where he was

at school. As he was celebrating the virtues of the new monarch the young Robespierre became so much affected with his own eloquence he broke down entirely. Another time he was sent to greet Rousseau with some verses of his own making; he fell to crying until he started Rousseau's tears, and they finished by weeping on one another's shoulder. He then wrote some more poetry about this incident and sent it to his sister Charlotte.

All this will no doubt give the volume quite a sale, for it constitutes a most acceptable kind of advertising. The merit of the poetry will cut a smaller figure with the purchaser than the opportunity its perusal will give for studying an unknown phase of one of the most terrible characters the world ever saw.

THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.

A seeker after information asks a cotemporary a question which is interesting from one point of view and absurd looked at another way. It is as to the preponderance in number of the human beings now alive over all those who have preceded them, or otherwise. While it is understood that the earth has now a greater population than it ever had before, the number being estimated variously at from 1,300,000,000 to a hundred millions or more in excess of that figure, it should be kept in mind that a generation is a very brief span and that the population of the globe must undergo a complete change every hundred years at the most. The increase this century is shown to have been very rapid; one authority in 1804 put the number of people alive at 649,000,000, since which time it has about doubled if all estimates are approximately correct, and it is further calculated that three times as many have been born and died since that date. Even the deaths in the present century, it is believed, exceed the number of persons living. "As we go back in history," says the authority spoken of, "we find a smaller population, but with smaller and smaller data to go on. The only fair basis we have for an estimate at the beginning of the Christian era is the population of the Roman empire. This included the most civilized races of mankind, and was the most extensive and powerful nation that the world had ever seen. Yet the Roman empire, from the best obtainable data that has come down to us, did not at the death of Augustus, 14 B. C., exceed 53,000,000 people. India and China were the only populous parts of the earth beyond its limits, and it is not probable that the total population of the world ran above 200,000,000 at that date. Yet if we allow forty years as the average of life at that era, this population, if stationary, would take only 300 years to show as many deaths as there are now living people."

The country of which we have the most ancient general records is Egypt, with a present population of nearly 7,000,000. It was a civilized nation 4000 years ago and the population in bulk has remained tolerably steady during the whole of the intervening time; but if it averaged say 5,000,000 and the duration of life be put at forty years during such time

and the 2000 years previous thereto, we have a total of 750,000,000 dead—or more than half the population of the earth, for that little nation alone! It is more than likely that the array of those who have gone before surpasses that of the living in a proportion almost impossible to estimate.

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS.

The selection of Max Judd, a St. Louis clothing merchant and a Hebrew, to be consul-general at Wien recalls the fact that the Austrian government refused to receive Mr. Keiley as minister to Wien, during Mr. Cleveland's first term, on the ground that Mrs. Keiley was of a Hebrew family.—*N. Y. Mail and Express.*

Before proceeding further, we will make the correction that Mr. Keiley was appointed minister to Austria, not Wien (Vienna).

Perhaps Mr. Cleveland has concluded that he will send abroad such agents as are acceptable to this government regardless of the prejudice of the ones to which they are sent. It may also serve as a notice to the Austrian nation that we do not share in their groundless intolerance and bigotry, and by repeating what was pronounced objectionable before, the objection may decline if not disappear.

It is to be said in this connection that the President's diplomatic appointments so far have been uniformly first-class; the most important one, the French mission, has been filled quite acceptably to both powers; Mr. Eustis is a man of large experience in public affairs, is highly educated, quite wealthy, of French antecedents and speaks that language perfectly. A better selection could not have been made.

IN DEATH NOT SEPARATED.

WEST WEBER, Utah, March 28.—A little more than four months ago you published a notice of the death and funeral services of Brother James Barnes of this ward. Last Wednesday night, (March 22nd) his wife passed away after a short illness. Since the death of Brother Barnes she has often expressed her desire to join him who had been her life's companion more than forty-three years.

Sister Caroline Barnes joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, with her husband, at Breeds, Sussex, England, in the year 1852. She was baptized by Elder John Griffiths. Emigrating with her family to Utah in 1874, she settled in Ogden for about three years and then moved to West Weber.

The funeral services over her remains were held on Friday in the Wilson Ward meeting house, which was filled with many who had known her from her youth. Bishop Winslow Farr, who has lately returned from New Mexico, bore testimony to her integrity in the cause of truth, her devotion to her husband and family. He had received of her hospitality when on a mission to England. In 1885 she accompanied her husband to Logan and assisted him in officiating for their dead friends. Elder Einathan Eldredge and Bishop McFarland also spoke encouragingly to the family. She leaves two sons and two daughters who give evidence of continuing the work their parents so ably commenced.