

EDITORIALS.

THE New York *Star*, of the 1st inst., contains a sketch of the career of a man, now an inmate of the Toombs prison, which, if true, is as romantic and full of startling adventure as the hero of any nautical or frontier romance ever penned. The sketch was furnished a reporter of the *Sun* by the prisoner himself, and the following condensation of it may not be found uninteresting:

The name of the gentleman is Antoine Pelletier, a Frenchman, born at Fontainebleau, in 1819. His father was a Colonel under Napoleon the Great; his uncle was a celebrated chemist in Paris, and the discoverer of the medical properties of quinine. Antoine was educated at the *lycee* of Bordeaux, in which, a maternal uncle was one of the principal professors. He ran away from the *lycee*, and going to the American Consul at Bordeaux, represented to him that he was an orphan and wished to be apprenticed to some American ship. The Consul got him bound to a Mr. Blanchard, of Portland, Me., and he sailed under the American flag for several years. He then entered the service of the British East India Company, and in the course of two years, visited the principal cities and provinces of India. From India he came again to America, became a whaler from New Bedford, obtained command of the ship *Daniel O'Connell*, and during one of his voyages his men mutinied, and a desperate fight of two hours, duration, between officers and men, was terminated by Captain Pelletier shooting down two of the latter. After the fight he put into Lima, Peru, where the story of the mutiny made a sensation and the President of the Peruvian Republic offered him a command in the navy, and he became Captain of the *Constitution*, and fought several actions with her. He next entered the service of Ecuador, and as a soldier of fortune achieved considerable reputation under President Flores. He was elected to and continued to be a member of the Congress of Ecuador, until Flores was overthrown. He and General Flores then went to Spain and fought for Queen Christina against the Carlists. The two adventurers next raised a strong force intending to invade Ecuador, but their design was frustrated by Lord Palmerston, then Prime Minister of England.

Our hero next figures in the service of the Republic of Guatemala, and, while in command of a schooner of thirty tons and a crew of a little over twenty men, captured an Equadorian steamer of sixteen guns after a hard fight. With this prize an enterprise against Ecuador was undertaken, and a town on the coast was captured; but an attempt to penetrate into the interior was attended with defeat and loss. The expedition returned to Costa Rica, and Pelletier became collector of Punta Arenas.

In 1848 he led an expedition into Nicaragua, and after a desperate fight with the Nicaraguans he and his surviving followers, sixty-two in number, were captured, and the latter immediately executed. Captain Pelletier was tried for piracy, and sentenced to death. At two o'clock in the morning of the day fixed for his execution, the General commanding the forces which captured him, set him free, furnished him a canoe and provisions, and told him to row for his life. He managed to cross the bar without being discovered, and after being thirty-six hours at sea was picked up by the ship *Anita*, the first that went to San Francisco after the discovery of gold. From San Francisco he went to Panama, and soon entered the service of the government of New Granada, laid the telegraph now stretched across the Isthmus, and made a fortune.

He returned again to the United States, settled in New York, started a line of packets to South America, married an American lady, and in due time became the father of two boys. While in command of his own ship on the African coast he was captured by an American ship and brought back, a prisoner, to New York on a charge of participating in the slave trade. The charge could not be substantiated and he was liberated.

Havana was his next dwelling place, and there he purchased a condemned slave, the *William*, took again to the sea, himself in command, had another mutiny among sailors, and finally fell into the hands of the Haytiens, who charged him with being a slave and a pirate, and after long imprisonment finally condemned

him to death. Before the sentence could be carried out, he, through ill-treatment, fell sick, was placed in hospital, and, by the aid of friends, managed to escape from hospital and Hayti, and returned to this country a ruined man. This was seven or eight years ago. Since then he has been living a comparatively quiet life, and it is not unlikely that he will remain in obscurity some years longer, for he is now awaiting his trial on a charge of receiving a quantity of U. S. bonds, knowing them to have been stolen, and the property of Senor Castillo, Secretary of the Cuban R public.

WE received among our exchanges this morning, number four of the Wyoming *Daily News*, a new paper which is being published at Cheyenne, W. T. The following very pertinent remarks, headed, "Weak Fathers and Wicked Sons," are from its columns. We re-print them and recommend them to the attention of "Weak Fathers" everywhere, for we believe that the course which they pursue, which is so tersely denounced by our cotemporary, is one of the most prolific sources of evil in the world. If the Wyoming *News* undertakes to reprove every kind of folly in the same vigorous style, we wish it every imaginable success in its labors for human regeneration:

"Foolish, indulgent fathers are daily preparing their sons for a life of shame and woe. They are winking at little vices which will ere long grow to crimes. They will suffer their boys to impose, with impunity, upon their weaker fellows, and when informed of the fact, turn away with a laugh or a word of encouragement to the young tyrants, who are taking the first steps in the path that may end in murder. The boys of this age are a saucy, unscrupulous and perverse lot. The boys of Cheyenne are the worst specimens which the age affords. They are wilful, riotous and destructive. They are destitute of reverence for age or sex. They are learned in the worse forms of vice. It is positively alarming to see the degree of depravity to which some of these young devils have attained. Profanity, obscenity and contempt for all authority are noticeable in nearly all of the boys who roam our streets. The boys who are kept in schools are but little better, for the street boys corrupt the others. The fault is largely with the foolish parents who spare the rod and raise their boys for the penitentiary. The idea that a boy must never be punished—that his person is sacred from the correction of parents and teachers, is not the least among the demoralizing influences of the day. Down with this weak, false *lying* sentimentality. Make them mind. Compel obedience. Break the stubborn will or the boy's neck. Better break it now than let the rope of the hangman do it. We must have good boys, if we hope to see good men. Teach them to respect authority, to fear God and the law, or turn your back on hope and surrender them to the devil at once."

WE published, a few days ago, an article from the Idaho *Statesman* on the annexation of Montana, Idaho and Utah Territories to Nevada, in which that project was discussed and advocated. The Idaho *Democrat*, in a recent article on "The Territories," discusses the same propositions; but differs widely in its views and conclusions from the *Statesman*. The *Democrat* appears to appreciate the Territorial form of government, and thinks that even if a Territory has the requisite population for a member of Congress, it would be wise to delay the time of admission until she should have received all the benefits which it was the original design of the Government to extend. Capitol buildings, penitentiaries, establishments for education and a balanced account—or, in other words, a *homestead unencumbered*, the *Democrat* says should be the heritage of a State upon admission into the Union. If there is any probability of Idaho receiving all these advantages and favors within the next fifteen years, it might be advisable for her to remain in a Territorial condition; but if she does, she will fare better than Utah has during the twenty-one years of her Territorial probation. The proposition to make one great Mountain State out of Nevada and the Territories, the *Democrat* calls absurd and equivalent to a proposition to remand the Territory into the hands of vigilance committees. The territory and population of a State should be compact, and as far as possible, its interests harmonious; but, the *Democrat* thinks, such a State as the

Statesman proposes would sink the whole craft of State; besides, it would be utterly impossible for the people and varied interests of so vast an area of country, to reach a common centre for the transaction of that business necessary and essential in a State government to its maintenance and existence.

After this we presume all hopes of having such a State formed as the Idaho *Statesman* proposed, may be dismissed. Who comes next? Who has a proposition that will meet the exigencies of this case? Nevada wants population; Idaho and Montana are in a similar position; what plan can be devised to furnish them with what they want?

No branch of trade in Utah has been more affected by railroad communication with the East, than the manufacture of shoes. In the days of ox team travel articles manufactured here, of inferior stock, by inferior workmen found a ready sale; but a complete revolution is taking place, for inferior articles of home manufacture have been completely run out of the market by the facility with which cheaper articles, excellent in style and quality, have been imported from the East and sold here; and now, at Zion's Co-operative establishment and at other places here, boots and shoes are being manufactured equal in quality and almost as low in price as those made in and brought from the eastern market.

This great change, however, has necessitated a recourse to machinery in the manufacture, because, by the old fashioned hand system of work, neither employer nor workman were able to compete with foreign manufacturers. The good work of employing machinery has commenced, but it is not near so general here as it will be, for to compete successfully with foreign makers the home manufacturers will be compelled to introduce the most improved kinds of machinery.

In Massachusetts the manufacturers are now using a machine for sewing on shoe soles, which takes three hundred stitches a minute. But, in view of the change in the status of both employers and employed in this branch of trade, it may not be uninteresting, perhaps, to produce, from the Newburyport *Herald*, the following account of the machinery in use in a shoe factory at Newburyport, Mass.:

"On the basement floor the sole-leather is put into shape for use. The first process is cutting the leather into proper lengths for the soles, which is done by a stripping machine, not worked by steam. When the leather is cut into the right length and width for soles, four or five of the strips are cut into shape at once by a machine run by steam, which, by an adjustment of one part, also rounds and presses the sole as the maker used to do with his hammer and lapstone. The die and moulding machine is manufactured by a firm in Lynn. A channelling machine cuts the channel into which the thread is sewed, so as not to show from the bottom, and another machine cuts the feather edge. The shank-pieces are cut also by machines, and the stiffenings skived by a machine contrived for the purpose. In this room six men are employed. Having seen the process of fitting the sole to be sewed to the upper, we next ascended to the second floor, where the uppers are prepared. In one room seven cutters were cutting out cloth and leather ready for stitching in the next room, where thirty-five girls were at work, a few of them fitting the lining to the outsides, ready for stitching, but most of them seated at a long table stitching uppers, at sewing machines run by steam power. By each machine was a gas burner to give light for work during the evening. In the same room one boy was punching holes for the lacings with a machine, and another boy with another machine was fixing the eyelets into the lacing holes. The soles and uppers thus prepared for each other, we proceeded to the first floor to witness the consummation of the union. Here thirty men are at work. The first thing done is the lasting of the shoes. After passing through the laster's hands they are sewed by a huge sewing machine. This machine, Mr. Choate informed us has done more to revolutionize the shoe business than any other single influence, since it enables manufacturers to work profitably in situations where formerly it could not be done. For its use the company pay a royalty to the patentee of two cents per pair for all ladies' shoes, and one cent per pair on all misses' shoes sewed on it, and they are contemplating the introduction of another machine into their establish-

ment. The machine takes three hundred stitches a minute, and consequently, with its help, one man can perform the work of many sewing by hand. After the shoe is sewed, the "channel" is cemented together and the sole is pressed, the press taking the place of the hammer in the old method of handwork. A workman then trims the edges of the soles, and another blackens the edges and burnishes them with a hot iron. The shoe is now applied to a swiftly revolving cylinder covered with sand paper which buffs the bottom, and a circular brush at one end of the cylinder puts on a polish. The heels are then put on by one workman, and their edges shaved and blackened by another. The process of burnishing the heels is done by machine, the edge of the heel is applied to a disc which makes 1,100 revolutions in a minute, and polishes them off rapidly and completely. Lastly the sole is finished by one workman, and the shank ornamented by another, when the shoes are tied up and sent off to the packing room. This division of labor, which has been described, is done by what is called a "string team." There are other "teams" in the same room making shoes, less by machinery and more by hand, and producing a rather better kind of shoe.

SOLOMON is credited with the authorship of the oft-repeated saying "There is nothing new under the sun," a saying, the truth of which has seldom or never been successfully disputed. But we believe that the city of Chicago, or rather its environs, can furnish a refutation, for it has now in operation what has probably never been seen in the world before—a steam garden. Steam has been made the principal agent in accomplishing many very useful, and some very curious things, but growing vegetables by steam deserves to be credited as the very latest novelty, and has very strong claims to be considered something new under the sun. This garden is not within the limits of the great western metropolis, but at Lake View, on its outskirts. It is two acres in extent, is entirely covered with glass, and by means of a net work of underground pipes and a powerful engine and boilers it is supplied with all the heat and moisture necessary for the germination and development of the various products of the vegetable kingdom most in demand in the markets of the city. It is said that beets, turnips, cabbages, cauliflowers, lettuce, radish, onions, cress and other garden stuff, raised by this process, are now very nearly ready for market.

Such a project must have cost considerable means to carry it out; but its originator had a pretty clear, so heard with such unusual facilities for sending an early supply of garden vegetables to market he can not help reaping enormous returns for his outlay.

By the recent revolution in Spain, religious liberty, a thing hitherto unknown in that land, being the stronghold of Catholicism, was inaugurated; and it is gratifying to see that the priests, in some localities, though unwittingly perhaps, are doing their utmost to hasten the dawning of this new era into meridian lightness. A Barcelona paper tells of a scene, which recently took place in the village of San Gines de Vilasar, which sounds more like the dark ages of inquisitorial intolerance and bigotry than the 19th century.

A sermon had been preached in the church in this village against the various Protestant sects, after which the religious officials and dignitaries of the place, each one holding a lighted candle, proceeded, after some Catholic ceremonies, to burn a number of religious books, among which were several bibles. This task accomplished, the proceedings wound up with a tremendous philippic against heretics (Protestants) generally.

It is almost difficult to believe that such proceedings could take place, even in Spain, at this late day. The Catholic priesthood in that country are credited with being terribly ignorant, and caring more for their own creature comforts in this life than for the welfare of others' souls hereafter; and, so far as the assertion in reference to their ignorance goes, it can easily be believed, judging by the mental status of the actors in the above farce.

The people of Spain are probably more under the control of their spiritual guides than any other in the world; the low ebb to which they have fallen, mentally and socially, is proverbial, and it is easily accounted for if the religious functionaries of San Gines de