

THE PAVEMENT QUESTION.

A report has been made lately to the Common Council of Philadelphia, by a special committee, appointed to investigate the question of the best material for street paving. They discuss the materials and methods of paving used in various Eastern cities, and give the experience of each, and the main result of all the experiments seems to be that no pavement known to them deserves to be considered satisfactory. Cobble is too rough and wood too perishable. The Belgian stone block is durable and tolerably smooth, and is recommended for the main business streets frequented by heavy teams. In Broad street, which is to be "the most beautiful boulevard in America, admirably adapted, on account of its length and width, for civic processions, military displays and a fashionable drive," the committee recommend a pavement of preserved wood.

The Nicolson pavement has been extensively tried in the cities of the Mississippi and Lake basins and is generally condemned on account of its rapid destruction by wear and rot, and displacement by swelling. In Columbus, Ohio, unpreserved wood lasts five years. The chief engineer of the public works in St. Louis thinks the Belgian pavement will supersede everything else. In Chicago prominent officials said that in places where cost is a secondary consideration a wooden block pavement is preferable. The expense of Nicolson there is \$1 50 per square yard, and the abundance of rain throughout the year, the moisture of the atmosphere and the coolness of the Spring and Fall prevent the desiccation of the blocks and the consequent frequent changes by shrinking and swelling and the rapidity of decay observed in California towns. The report makes no mention of the effect of the fire on the wooden pavement; and the reports which we have from other sources are contradictory. We have seen one article in which the writer asserts not only that the pavements were burned and that the loss is a most severe blow to the finances of the city, but adds that one of the chief causes of the rapid progress of the fire was that the flames ran along on the coal tar in the pavements as if it were petroleum. On the other hand John W. Forney, in a public letter from Chicago, speaks of his astonishment at finding the wooden pavements in good condition after the conflagration.

Nicolson is denounced in Cleveland as a failure, and also the De Golyer No. 2 wooden pavement made of blocks preserved on the Samuels plan. Toledo has a similar experience, and also Buffalo. The authorities of the three cities agree in demanding stone. Cincinnati, after trying many other materials, prefers cobble, but is very strict in measuring the size of the stones and in requiring them to be put down with care. In San Francisco, the proper strictness has never governed the street department, and consequently our cobble pavement, as a class, is bad in material and construction.

The Chicago judgment that wood is preferable where cost is a secondary consideration, meets our approbation. Perhaps we would say "where cost is not taken into consideration." No pavement is so nice for a little while as one of wooden blocks; but, in most places, cost is not a secondary but a primary consideration. Property holders do not wish to be put to the expense of a new pavement once in five years; and unpreserved wood will not last longer than that period. The Philadelphia Committee do not seem to know anything about the wood-preserving process used in this city, and therefore their opinion has no bearing upon it. The opinions of the experts upon the protection furnished by the creosoting process against decay are very favorable; as to the time in which a preserved wooden pavement would wear out, additional evidence is needed.

Belgian pavement is made of rectangular blocks of hard stone—trap preferred, and of that there is an abundance in this State, though not very near to San Francisco or any of the railroad lines—about three inches wide, from six to twelve long, and six deep. If the upper edges are broken off for the thickness of half an inch, the stone presents a fair foothold to horses and does not hurt their feet so much as cobblestone. Both Belgian and wooden blocks are slippery in wet weather. Hard granite would make good Belgian pavement, but the breaking of hard stone into rectangular blocks would be very expensive in California. In Paris the streets are remarkably smooth, clean and hard, but we have no document describing the method in which

the work is done,—though the best are paved with asphaltum.—*Alta California.*

Manner of Planting and Cost of Gathering Grapes in California.

The fathers planted their vines all the way from six to eighteen feet apart in the square, and there has been much controversy among viniculturists as to the proper distance for planting. In this, as in many other things, one general rule cannot be laid down; the person planting should not be governed by a hobby of distances, but should be guided by the nature of the soil, and by the character of the species of vine planted. As a general rule, vines planted in rich soil run to wood, and should be planted far apart; in lighter soils, they should be planted closer together. The old method was to plant in squares; but the more recent plantations have most all been made in rows, which manner is the more rational; and presents, among many other advantages, that of allowing the plantation of a greater number of vines to the acre, without discarding the use of the plow. The usual distance between the vines, in vineyards thus set out, is four feet one way and six the other. It has been found that a greater number of vines to the acre, within reasonable limits, produce more than a less number. The old plantations contained generally 680 vines per acre, while the new ones contain 1,000 and 1,800 vines to the same space. The following are the average yields, for the whole State, in these different modes of planting, when the vines are seven years old:

680 vines per acre, 10 lbs per vine, 6,800 lbs grapes.
1,000 vines per acre, 8 lbs per vine, 8,000 lbs grapes.
1,800 vines per acre, 5 lbs per vine, 9,000 lbs grapes.

It is now conceded, in those localities where the experiments were made with these different modes of growing the vines, that the ten pound of grapes produced by two vines are superior in every respect to the ten pounds produced by a single vine on the same amount of space. The pruning of the vine costs about \$4 per thousand; the hoeing and suckering, when properly done, about as much more; so that the expense, in a greater number of vines, per acre, would increase somewhat the cost of cultivation; but this would be more than made good by the increased quantity of grapes. The cost of picking is nearly \$1 25 per ton, and that of hauling, within a distance of five miles about \$1 more, making in all, \$2 25 per ton. The average price of grapes is \$1 per hundred pounds delivered, and the gross income of a vineyard containing 680 vines would be \$68. Deducting packing and hauling, \$8, cultivation, \$15, would leave a yearly net income of \$44 per acre on an investment of \$112 and interest up to the fourth year. This reckoning is based upon the blue Mission grape; and where the vineyard is planted with choicer varieties, the income is from two to four times greater, according to variety. When wine is made, instead of selling the grapes, the net income can be reckoned upon as amounting to at least fifty per cent. more. This increase holds good with wines made from the choicer kinds of grapes.—*Overland Monthly.*

THE NEW APPORTIONMENT.

The apportionment bill, as it has passed the lower House of Congress, contains several new and important features. The first, and the one of most immediate interest to public men, is that increasing the number of Representatives to 283. During the debate on this section a strong influence, inside one party, was developed in favor of limiting the representation, and of a small house. Cardinal de Retz was quoted as saying that an assembly of more than one hundred persons was a mob, and an apparently strong case was made out; but the House did not accept the idea, and adopted in its stead the opposite theory and an increased representation. The best answer to the argument in favor of a small representation is that our National Legislature is already divided into two houses; that this plan has worked successfully, and will never be repealed; that one of these divisions is already limited in membership; that a large lower body elected directly by the people is a nearer approach to the true idea of democracy—which is representation—and that a smaller number of Representatives would vest a few men with powers altogether too great and dangerous, and re-

move the Government still further from the governed.—*Gold Hill News.*

FAILURE NOT A FAILURE.

The secret of happiness is to make the best of everything; no matter what happens to annoy, let it all glide along as easily and with as few words of complaint and fault-finding as possible.

Little conveniences will intrude upon the most fortunate people; so the only way to be master of every situation is to make up your mind not to notice small annoyances. People may keep themselves in a constant broil over what amounts to nothing; and without accomplishing the least good, may ruin the peace and quiet of a household. We cannot have everything just as we want it in this world, and the sooner a person understands that fact, the sooner he may have a true basis for happiness. It is the greatest folly to set the heart upon uncertainties, and then, if disappointed, refuse to be reconciled.

Do the very best you can, and then take things as they come. If a man strives with his best knowledge, energy and untiring labor, to accomplish a certain object, working with skill and patience, he will be a success, and he ought to reconcile himself to failure, if it was inevitable. If his labors have been of brain and hand, he is better fitted to succeed in other undertakings.

THE PISTOL IN INDIANA.

A PHYSICIAN AT GRANDVIEW SHOT FOR SEDUCING A MAN'S WIFE.

From the Louisville Ledger.

They will shoot over in Indiana; indeed they will both shoot and cut, as many a poor, luckless man could testify—if dead men ever told tales, which we are given to understand they do not. Shooting and cutting have really become a sort of pastime with our Hoosier neighbors, and they relish it almost as heartily as a good meal. We are pained to thus record it, nevertheless, the truth of history verifies the declaration.

The latest case of this shooting mania occurred Saturday night, at Grandview, Spencer county, a little town on the Ohio river, about one hundred and fifty miles below this city. The victim of the pistol in this instance was Dr. Ferdinand Mason, a practicing physician at Grandview; the executioner one Larkness Lamar, an old and highly respected citizen of Spencer county, who belongs to a most excellent family.

The story, in brief, is as follows: Larkness Lamar was a mental invalid, and for proper treatment was sent to the Indiana Insane Asylum. This was in November, 1870. During his stay at the asylum Lamar alleges that Dr. Mason, under the doubly sacred obligation of his family physician, seduced Mrs. Lamar, and since that time until recently had held illicit intercourse with her. The suspicion of this fact forced itself upon Lamar through his own observation; and he made up his mind very deliberately to slay the seducer. Not willing, however, to take the risk of such an act without being thoroughly convinced that Dr. Mason was guilty, Lamar appealed to his wife for the truth or groundlessness of his suspicions. She told him frankly, so the report goes, that Mason had, after the practice of many wives, seduced her.

This seemed to fully determine Lamar upon the course to be pursued. He procured a revolver, which he carefully loaded. Then going out upon the street he hunted up Dr. Mason; and addressing him asked: "Doctor, have you a bill against me?" "Yes," replied the Doctor; "if you will come to my office I will show it to you, and we can settle." Lamar accompanied the Doctor to the office as requested, and the Doctor got a match which he lighted, for the purpose of lighting the lamp. But just as the match burnt up brightly, Lamar drew his pistol and fired upon the Doctor from behind, the ball taking effect in the back near the spine, and passing entirely through his body. The wounded man fell to the floor, mortally wounded. The best medical men of the town, with Dr. Mason himself, pronounce the wound necessarily mortal. When our informant left the town, early on Sunday, Mason was reported dying.

Dr. Mason, we are informed, formerly lived at Newburg, in Warwick county, where his wife, a most estimable woman, left him, and procured a divorce, on account of cruel treatment. He had the reputation of being a seducer, and of using his profession to secure his vile ends. He was a "truly loyal" cause during the "late unpleasantness,"

and was particularly anxious that all the Southern people, except the negroes, and all the Northern Democrats, should be exterminated.

"The mills of the gods grind slowly,
But grind exceedingly fine."
—*Indianapolis Journal.*

A PREVALENT CRIME.

Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper's powerful article in the *Overland Monthly*, entitled, "Motherhood," is profoundly suggestive. Among all civilized nations, infanticide is looked upon as a crime of peculiar atrocity. All the tenderest and holiest feelings of our nature are aroused in behalf of these little ones, "whose angels do always behold the face of our Father in Heaven." The idea, however, has gained prevalence, that the crime is not so hideous if committed upon a child previous to birth. How early the deathless soul commences its separate existence science has not learned nor revelation made known. It is probable that as soon as life begins its pulsations "man becomes a living soul." To wilfully destroy the unborn offspring is then as really murder, as to take the life of any other human being. What hopes may be quenched, what powers of bestowing happiness on the world destroyed, what genius in art, science or literature annihilated, what capacity of glorifying God rendered blank, none can tell. Countless lives of coming generations may have been terminated, in the one destroyed; harps innumerable in heaven may be forever silenced; and all to escape a little motherly toil and care! Such sin contains in itself elements of utmost horror and despair.—*Occident.*

THE KRUPP STEEL WORKS.

An interesting account has lately been published in Europe of the celebrated Krupp Steel Works, which, perhaps quite as much as the genius of Moltke, contributed to the overthrow of Louis Napoleon in the recent campaign. Here were forged that terrible artillery and those weapons under which the previously indomitable spirit of the French recoiled, and they sustained a defeat unprecedented in their annals. The works, it seems, contain no less than 514 heating and smelting furnaces. They have 250 puddling, welding and warming furnaces; 170 forges, 245 coke furnaces and 125 of other sorts. The turning lathes are 120 in number, the planing machines 119, the drilling machines 114, the grinding stools 90, and other machines to the number of 120 in all. Two hundred and fifty-six steam engines, of 8,377 horse power, propel this vast force, and they are set in motion by steam from 150 boilers. There are 56 Naamth or power hammers on the premises, weighing upwards of 3,000 cwt., and striking with a force almost incalculable.

The number of men employed exceeds 7,000, and the quantity of cast-steel produced amounts to 130,000,000 pounds. Among the steam engines are one of 4,000 horse-power, three of 800, one of 500, one of 200, one of 160, three of 150, one of 120, three of 100, and 242 of inferior power. One of the power-hammers weighs 600 cwt., another 400, a third 200, a fourth 150, a fifth 140, two of 110, three of 100, and 46 of inferior weight.

In addition to implements of war, Krupp manufactures axles, wheels and bands for railways, as well as rails and springs. He likewise constructs railways for mines, and axles for steamboats; with cylinders and many other parts of machinery, including steel for the fabrication of tools and cannon. The whole of these works have been the creation of one man, and they are at present entirely unequalled in the world. The owner was lately on a tour in England, and at Torquay he encountered Louis Napoleon. It would be curious to know what were their sentiments as they passed in the streets.—*New York Star.*

PIG BREEDING AND FEEDING.

Mr. Meehi, the prince of experimental farmers, says the same rule applies to pigs as well as to other animals; choose the best male parent of a thrifty breed. Let the breeding sow work for her living, for if you feed her bountifully she will get fat and have few pigs. But he says to have good pigs, she must have the right sort of food to make bone, muscle and fat; but avoid the fatal mistake of giving the sow a large quantity of roots before parturition. Let her run in pasture and have a moderate supply of bran, a little meal and boiled pota-