

to come and meet the charges. He replied by saying that under God's guidance he was prompted to fly. Belfast immediately disowned its representative, and the House of Commons ordered the expulsion of DeCobain for gross and immoral conduct.

DeCobain fled from France to Spain, thence to the United States. In New York he made the acquaintance of prominent Methodists. He went to gatherings and spoke fervently and earnestly, until he became a recognized church power. His identity was not fully known to the public, though it was to his immediate friends. At a revival meeting a few nights ago, he preached and sang with such fervor and force that he became the lion of the hour. Women and men flocked around him to shake his hand. Then his full identity was made known. He gave a sort of explanation of the charges made against him, which was accepted, and he is now the guest of Gotham's most prominent Methodists, and regarded as a persecuted man.

### THE CONVICT CONTRACT SYSTEM.

THE recent troubles in Tennessee can be traced directly to the system of leasing convicts which prevails in that State. This business has been a bitter issue for some time with labor organizations, and also with manufacturers. The wage workers claim that it degrades labor, disturbs wage rates and creates a sort of general disorder all around. The capitalists who cannot lease convicts claim that those who do can undersell them in the market; hence in certain industries the convict and the honest citizen are competitors.

The present condition of the cooper trade in Chicago affords a fair illustration of the situation as regards the convict as a factor in production. The penitentiary of Joliet and Michigan city are immense institutions. The convicts there are not leased out as in Tennessee, but they are leased to contractors for whom the work is performed within the prison walls. For some time contractors in the cooper trade have been turning out work for the Chicago markets. At first private master-coopers tried to compete with the prison-made article, and of course had to reduce wages, until at present the best tradesman in the city can only make \$1.20 per day. A day's work for a first class worker is supposed to be about six large hard tierces, for which he gets twenty cents each. The same kind of barrels can be turned out at Joliet for four and a half cents each. The result is that convict prices now rule, and twenty mastercoopers with six hundred journeymen in Chicago alone can not even get full employment at twenty cents a barrel.

The daily product at Joliet is estimated at 1200 barrels. The convicts are paid about 55 cents each a day. The output at Michigan city is put at 2000 barrels daily. Before this prison contract system was introduced journeymen coopers were paid about 35 cents a barrel, which would produce about \$2.10 a day. When it is remembered that this contract business also obtains in shoemaking, chair-making and various other industries, it is little wonder that disorder sometimes prevails.

What renders the prison contract system specially odious in Illinois is the fact that it is being carried on in defiance of law, as the following appeal of the coopers will show:

"To the Pork and Beef Packers of Chicago:

"Gentlemen—We desire to call your attention to the fact that the XXXIVth General Assembly of Illinois (in 1885) submitted the following constitutional amendment to the people of this State for their ratification or rejection: 'Resolved, That hereafter it shall be unlawful in the State of Illinois to let by contract to any person or persons or corporation the labor of any convict confined within said institution.' At the general election Nov. 2, 1887, the above amendment was voted on by the people of Illinois and adopted by a majority of over 19,000 votes. On Nov. 22 of the same year the vote was canvassed and the Governor issued his proclamation declaring such amendment to be a part of the constitution of the State. It is now seven years since the XXXIVth General Assembly passed the above joint resolution and nearly five years since the amendment was ratified and declared to be part of the organic law of Illinois. Notwithstanding this no regard has been paid by our State officials to its existence. In consequence of this the coöperage interests of this city have become so depressed that many of our bosses are on the verge of bankruptcy, while the journeymen coopers have been unable to sustain their families in ordinary comfort.

"With these facts before you, we are slow to believe that the packers of Chicago are determined to aid in continuing this illegal and monstrous competition of convict labor against a body of our people who have every claim on society for a fair opportunity to make an honest living and support their families in conformity with the neages of civilized life. That we are growing restless and considering ways and means by which this outrage can be stopped is quite natural.

"After due consideration we have concluded that the wisest course to be pursued is to ask a conference with the packers and see whether by mutual consent we can form an agreement by which prison-made coöperage will be excluded from the Union stock yards. Hoping that you will give this your favorable consideration, we remain, very respectfully,

"THE COMMITTEE OF JOURNEYMEN COOPERS."

In this appeal there is nothing anarchistic, impertinent or intemperate. It shows that the anarchy is on the part of the capitalist and the constituted authority.

### DEATH OF C. M. HARROCKS.

Catherine Macswell Harrocks, widow of the late Peter Harrocks, died at 10:45 a.m. today, August 18th, at the residence of her son, Elder W. B. Dougall, 49 north West Temple street, of general weakness superinduced by old age. Deceased was born in Dumblane, Perthshire, Scotland, October 8, 1808.

Sister Harrocks embraced the Gospel in 1853, in Aughton, Lancashire, England, and emigrated to Utah in 1855. She passed through the various trials and vicissitudes incidental to life in Utah in early times, with cheerfulness and unswerving integrity to the truth. She rejoiced in the principles of the Gospel when first heard and accepted them with a devoted and honest heart, cheerfully

leaving friends and all former ties, to comply with the duty she felt resting upon her together to the body of the Church. She was an unobtrusive earnest worker, diffusing joy and comfort in the hearts of all who knew her, and was one of nature's truly noble women. Her unselfishness and her charity for the weaknesses of others were among her conspicuous characteristics. She has gone to join the Host of the pure and righteous who have preceded her and finally to enjoy the Celestial Kingdom of God. Sister Harrocks had been a widow for over 28 years.

### THE COUNTY ASSESSMENT ROLLS

County Clerk Allen finished the totaling of the assessment rolls for the county this morning. The following are the figures:

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Total tax for city..... | \$ 372,223 19 |
| To be abated.....       | 3,255 14      |

|                                      |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| To be collected.....                 | \$ 368,968 04 |
| Total tax for outside districts..... | \$ 67,271 56  |
| To be abated.....                    | 751 92        |

|                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| To be collected.....        | \$ 69,549 64  |
| Grand total tax levied..... | \$ 489,484 74 |
| Total amount abated.....    | 4,007 06      |

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Total to be collected.....                          | \$ 435,487 68 |
| Territory's portion, or ten eighths of the tax..... | \$ 241,920 93 |
| County's portion, or four eighths.....              | 96,766 38     |
| County school fund, or four eighths.....            | \$ 6,788 37   |
| Total special school tax.....                       | 30,886 54     |
| Abated.....   | 218 23        |

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| To be collected.....                                | \$ 30,658 01    |
| Assessed valuation of the city.....                 | \$41,368,131 11 |
| Total assessed valuation for outside districts..... | 7,74,617 77     |

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Grand total assessed valuation for the county..... | \$48,832,748 88 |
|--|-----------------|

### RETURNED ELDERS.

This morning we received a pleasant call from Elder John D. Williams, of Kanner, Iron County. He returned yesterday from a mission to England, to fill which he left here on September 2nd, 1890. He labored during his absence in the Welsh Conference. He in connection with his fellow missionaries, endeavored diligently to spread the Gospel, but the people generally manifested marked indifference to their message. Very few accepted it. Elder Williams returns in good health.

This morning we received a call from Elder Joshua B. Bean, of this city, who returned on Saturday from a mission to England. He left home on September 3rd, 1890. On arriving at Liverpool he was appointed to labor in the Leeds Conference, during the first ten months as Traveling Elder and the remainder of the time as President of the Conference. He and the other brethren associated with him were more than usually successful, for these times. During the present year twenty-one additions were made to the Church. The conference covers a large extent of country and requires much traveling on the part of the Elders. Most of the proselyting has to be done in a private way, as the people, as a rule, are too indifferent to attend public meetings. Elder Bean returns in good health, well pleased with the experience he has derived from his mission.