

resorting to any methods which statutory law or recognized customs forbid. More elaborate accounts by mail show the scheme to be as ingenious as any that ever was devised having in view the circumventing of the law while maintaining its form and semblance, and these have been quite numerous in the sunny South since the practical application of the changes wrought by the constitutional amendments.

It seems that a few days ago, in the Alabama house of representatives, Mr. Brewer introduced a bill providing that all persons in that state whose state and county taxes amount to \$5 annually, shall not be required to pay the same provided it be shown that such person failed to vote at the previous August and November elections. There is not 20 per cent of negro voters in a majority of the Southern states who pay taxes exceeding \$5 per capita annually. It is believed at the lowest calculation fifty per cent of the negro voters would take advantage of an opportunity to save \$5 or a less amount, should this bill become a law. It is computed from authoritative sources that of the 300,000 votes in Alabama about 136,000 or more belong to the negroes. If Mr. Brewer's ideas of legislation should prevail, Alabama would have practically wiped out its negro vote. This inspires the *Chicago Dispatch* to observe that "Mr. Brewer ought to find a remedy for Democratic hardships in Alabama on some plan more in harmony with the spirit of constitutional liberty; his 'friendship' for the negro will hardly be credited at par in northern circles until he elevates his statesmanship to this plane."

By one means or other it seems the Southerners are determined not only to be the ruling power but exclusively such; and perhaps it is as well that the negro make a little money out of the election in a legal way, since it is quite apparent that he is not likely to ever make anything else.

#### A BOOM FOR BEAVER.

A private letter from a gentleman residing in Beaver City conveys the information that that community is figuratively turned upside down over the recent mineral discoveries there; and what he says is but confirmatory of what has been told by others from that quarter. The latest excitement is over the finding of gold-bearing ore in the Indian creek, a little stream in the northern part of the county, and it is only necessary to say that the "find" is genuine so far as it goes; to what extent that may be can of course be determined only by actual development, and the season may operate somewhat against active operations just now. The writer looks for a bustling time in that neighborhood with the opening of spring, and his premises seems to be well founded.

Gold mining on "Old Baldy"—as a great mountain which overshadows Beaver Valley is called—has been carried on with tolerable profit for some time. The eminence is so precipitous, however, and the scene of operations is so near the top, that the work has not attained the magnitude that would have characterized it had the mines been more accessible; this obstacle will not be present in the new

fields, nor will there be any serious detriment in the way when once a good start is had, so far as we can learn.

Beaver county is already in possession of one of the greatest sulphur mines in the world, the product of which is equal to any and is being shipped in large quantities every day. As the home of the great Horn Silver mine, and many other silver, lead and copper properties, it would seem as if the only thing needed to make their principal town a metropolis is a railroad, and this cannot be denied it much longer. We can all afford to rejoice in Beaver's prosperity.

#### A DANGEROUS PAIR.

The state of Maine has a Jean Valjean in the person of the outlaw Nadeau. A United States marshal got after him near Aroostook not long ago, and met with such a reception that the right of way on all public highways has been awarded Nadeau by common consent ever since. A reward is offered for his apprehension, but the people are either quite independent and not at all in need of money up that way, or don't believe in obtaining it in that manner; perhaps, however, like the man and the bear, they haven't lost any outlaws of late and have no need to go in search of them.

Nadeau is a smuggler, who has established the doctrine of free trade in a practical way over the Canadian border. The government on this side would like to have him the best kind, and it cannot be said that he gives them no opportunities; but, from whatever cause, the powers that be are not supporting him yet and probably will not for some time to come. He is assisted in his nefarious work by his brother, who is almost as much a desperado as himself; certainly the risks they jointly run at times go to show that neither is in the least afflicted with nervousness. A constant watch with a portable arsenal is kept up at home or on the road; and when an unwelcome caller comes along he is given a warning to come no nearer than he is and a reasonable time within which to retrace his steps, which so far has been done with remarkable uniformity.

The brothers are not destitute of generosity by any means, nor are they at all discriminating regarding whom they confer it upon. A few days ago they went to Moose River settlement to do some trading, one standing guard as usual while the other ran the business department. When in the outskirts they found a teamster with a broken down cart and at once Nadeau sent him in for some blacksmith's tools. The driver returned with about half the adult male population along with him. The brother, with gun cocked, advanced to meet the squad and requested them in his blandest tones to halt, which they then and there immediately did; he then drew a line in the road fifty paces from the wagon, and said nothing more, but the crowd knew what that line meant, at least none of them crossed it. Meantime the outlaw worked away at the wagon as coolly as if he were not performing before a good-sized audience. When the work was finished the teamster was

sent on his way rejoicing, the crowd walked sheepishly back from whence they came and the brothers faded into the woods.

The most lurid of our cheap literature could scarcely contain anything excelling this incident, or, for that matter, several incidents in the career of the Nadeaus. The reward for them has probably been increased by this time, and it is idle to suppose that the tolls will not be drawn about them sooner or later. While the general offenses of these men do not rank with the grosser crimes, involving, perhaps, less of moral turpitude than the majority of misdemeanors, they are still contrary to law and the government cannot tolerate them. To intersperse an act of generosity or a dash of romance with the routine procedure now and then makes it more readable, but does not abate its criminal character one jot.

#### A SENSITIVE PEOPLE.

A few days since the News made the remark that it was a long time between crises in France, the last one being two or three years old; for a nation in which these political ruptures have occurred almost periodically, this was regarded as something worthy of comment. The additional point was noted that our mercurial fellow men were in possession of a full-orbed national scandal, and the thought occurred that this was perhaps mitigating the dull, aching void. Following closely upon the development of the scandal came the suicide of Baron Reinach, and as we all know that for self-destruction the average Parisian is without a model and without a shadow, that it is in fact a species of mania over there, it then only needed the cabinet crisis to round out the situation, to complete the political and social triangle of turbulence, as it were. Well, we didn't have to wait long for the completion. Yesterday, in the chamber of deputies, the prime minister saw fit to interpret a demand from a member as a want of confidence in the government and insisted on the regular order of the day in opposition, in which position he was not sustained. The next thing in order was for the ministry to withdraw in a body, which they did in good order; they then wrote out their resignations and proceeding to the President's headquarters handed the documents to him. The resignations were accepted, leaving the country without a cabinet for the time being; and this is a crisis.

The French are a very sensitive people. Whether it is this quality that makes them so willing to fight at the "drop of a hat," and to fight so desperately when they get at it, or not, we don't know. It is a certain thing, however, that the unearthing of a great scheme for systematic public plunder is taken to heart in France more than such a thing is anywhere else, especially in our country. The discovery by the chamber that the French nation and people had been and were being preyed upon by a set of sharpers acting in the guise of promoters of a great enterprise is announced, and instantly the whole people are agitated as nothing short of a declaration of war could do it; a banker