

teaching that sacred relations of marriage produce "a hell on earth." The Independent's criticism of the "News" statement is eminently immoral, to use no stronger term.

A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT.

The darkness which overspreads the business world is not nearly so dense as many feared and not a few hoped it would be. That the great depression of the past half a dozen years is not relaxed altogether yet and that we are not on the verge of a mighty boom are patent facts, and as relates to the latter proposition we ought all to be truly glad of it. Booms are as surely the precursors of stagnation as that the ebb tide follows the flood tide, and do a whole lot of mischief, in the way of inculcating extravagant and dishonest methods besides. Let us have no more of them, but in their stead a condition of things which comes of and remains by the proper cultivation of our immense resources and a steady, profitable market for all surplus.

With gold being discovered almost everywhere, with lead steadily climbing the upward grade and promising to reach the top notch, and above all with bountiful harvests in all lines, it could scarcely be otherwise than that something of a letting up in the strain should occur without much further delay. A great deal of this sort of thing might come to us and still the pressure that has been upon the bone and sinew of the land not be altogether removed. But it is being loosened surely, and ere the year is past, promises to let go a little more, perhaps considerably, and this is very gratifying. If it will only keep on so until the last vestige of the really hard times we have been undergoing shall have disappeared from the land, it will be ever so much better than if the reversion came all at once and without reasonable warning.

The scoffers and malcontents, those who are only happy when thoroughly miserable, will not be willing to see anything better than we have been having, presently or prospectively. But a contemplation of the situation as it is without being influenced by political bias or personal prejudice will convince any one that the darkest hour before dawn has been passed. Leaving out all consideration of mineral products, and reckoning up only the six principal staples for this year, the following gratifying exhibit is made:

Wheat, 550,000,000 bushels at \$1	\$ 550,000,000
Corn, 2,000,000,000 bushels at 36 cents	720,000,000
Oats, 800,000,000 bushels at 25 cents	200,000,000
Barley, 90,000,000 bushels at 60 cents	54,000,000
Rye, 30,000,000 bushels at 57 cents	17,100,000
Cotton, 8,000,000 bales at 8 cents a pound, or \$40 a bale	320,000,000
Total	\$1,851,100,000

Just add to this, by a mental effort which to the most optimistic can scarcely be made to equal the reality, the many things which this country produces and sells and then contemplate the total! Then conceive of this mighty volume of money being sent through the arteries of trade and industry, and doubt if you can that alleviation more or less pronounced and far-reaching is at hand. Why, the economic part played by the homelike, modest hen is alone an item which few people ever take into consideration and fewer still can appreciate; it is an humble factor by comparison with the whole proposition,

yet in the course of a decade it would overtake and pass the figures representing the national debt. With a nation so happily equipped for self-sustenance and trade, with the precious and useful metals but just commencing to be developed, the total increment for this and succeeding years must be so vast that general adversity cannot with its skeleton figure dominate the land in the future as it has in the past. The specter cannot go any too soon nor stay gone any too long.

Let us be cheerful and make the most of the bright side of things which is surely being turned toward us. The time for despondency is passed, if indeed it ever came.

CALIFORNIA AND SLAVERY.

There is probably as much personal liberty in the state of California as in any part of the civilized world; yet that state is now acquiring a notoriety in this country and in Europe for being as nearly in a condition of maintaining slavery as though the latter were permitted by law. One feature that gives rise to this impression is the virtual slavery in which many Chinese women are stated by the Golden state papers to be kept, beyond the reach of a correction of this evil by officers of the law. Another is the incident of 13-year-old Emma Davis, who is now en route over the continent, bound for her former home in Rock Ferry, a few miles above Liverpool, England.

Four years ago this little girl came to America with a family named Tubbs, and since then has lived with them at Madera, Cal. She was not well treated by the Tubbs family, in fact, was kept in a condition of serfdom, according to the state papers. In her account as published she says:

"I have never been inside a school-house. Mrs. Tubbs made me do all the work of the place and I had to do the vineyarding, too, along with the men. They used to send me to the saloons for beer and I got thrashed with a stick every day. I often asked about my father and mother, but they told me that nobody had ever written from England about me, so I thought all my people were dead. Last week they sent me away to Fresno in a great hurry, and I wondered what was the matter. Then the officers came and told me that kind people were looking for me and that I was never going back to the vineyard any more, but would be sent home to England. I was so happy that I cried for a long time. I thought before that that I would be a slave girl all the rest of my life."

The San Francisco papers say that the authorities have been working for eight months to secure the girl's freedom. The statement of this little girl—which probably is true—and the accounts of the case in the California papers will go to Great Britain and elsewhere, and with what result? The idea will be conveyed that not only is slavery possible, but is a common condition in that state. A few exceptional instances, partially a result of official neglect, can do incalculable damage to a great commonwealth, as is being done now to California's reformation.

PLENTY OF TRIALS.

Here is a legal incident, remarkable enough anywhere, but especially noteworthy because of its having happened in the South, and really quite startling in view of the fact that the accused is a negro. It shows that the sometimes tardy course of the law is

gaining ground on the swifter methods of Judge Lynch, and that southern lawyers are not a whit behind their confreres elsewhere in supplying entanglements of justice in the meshes of legal complications and delays. The case is that of Douglas White (colored) of Montgomery, Alabama, who killed a woman some five years ago. For that crime, through mistrials, reversals, and so on, he has enjoyed six trials. At the first he was sentenced to death; at the second to life imprisonment; at the third to 50 years' imprisonment; at the fourth to 20 years' imprisonment; at the next to 10 years, and now he has been acquitted altogether. Meantime the woman is as dead as she was when her slayer was sentenced to suffer on the gallows for his crime.

WEYLER'S LATEST ESCAPE.

Just fancy the captain general of Cuba and his subalterns, with their decorations flashing in the sunlight and their side-arms glittering like jewels of great value, down on their knees and engaged in the plebian task of eradicating sweet potato vines! We are advised that from the sublime to the ridiculous is but one step, and this latest episode in the Antillean career of the Spanish grandees is proof positive of it. No matter that the object was as stated to deprive the Cubans of their only available food in certain emergencies—and this is always a recognized measure of warfare—the circumstances connected with the carrying out of the plan are such as to take the matter out of the pale of war heroics and place it in the domain of opera bouffe.

Speaking of Weyler suggests that he seems to be doing about right in the Cisneros case; for that matter, it is not absolutely certain that he has drifted as far from the right as he has been represented in any case. His reign, as far as it goes, has been violent and at times cruel; but warfare is a cruel business and it is to be expected that destruction and retaliation will occur. The business of a soldier in time of war is to make as many widows and orphans and leave as little for the enemy to subsist upon as he can within certain lines and subject to certain regulations. Even if Weyler had strictly conformed to those lines and regulations, his proceedings at this time, when war between the civilized and enlightened nations is the least thing thought of, would seem to be barbarous and cruel in the extreme.

It is still hoped that the days of the captain general or of any other imported official are rapidly drawing to a close in Cuba, no matter whether he and they have deported themselves properly under the circumstances or not. For a race of people inhabiting a land which is theirs by right of inheritance and occupancy from time immemorial to be thus governed is wrong in its essence, its philosophy and its practice. May the day speedily come when such abuses of nature's laws will be known no more in any part of the world!

THIS IS WHAT WE MEAN!

The products of political spoliemen, as well as the plunderers and those reaching for pelf, must again be informed that their fond hopes as to an easy walkover in the municipal election in Salt Lake City this autumn are likely to be entirely shattered. The movement for reform on non-partisan lines, the proposition to take municipal government entirely out of the realm of politics and elevate it to the plane of clean, straight, honest business and keep it there henceforth—these ideas