

the attention of the reader, there being but 107 in 1892 against 123 in 1891 and 102 in 1890. The statistics show that if the population last year was about 65,000,000, every man, woman and child had a chance in 9700 of being murdered and every murderer had one chance in sixty-three of being executed for the commission of the crime. In the matter of judicial hangings, Georgia heads the list with fourteen, Kentucky and Texas following with ten each and Arkansas has eight to its credit. The terrors of electrocution, or something else, brought the largest state in the Union down to a very low figure; with more than 6,000,000 people, New York had but five executions last year.

It is shown that with the falling off in legal executions there is a corresponding increase in lynchings. Whether one result is the natural product of the other or not can only be guessed at by each individual for himself; there were 236 of these last year, of which New York state had but one, the greater number being in the South, and 155 of the victims were colored.

It is also shown that suicide is increasing as rapidly as murder in this country. There were 3360 last year as compared with 3331 in 1891, 2640 in 1890, and 2224 in 1889. The causes for this large number of self-murders are given as follows:

Despondency.....	1163
Unknown.....	684
Insanity.....	520
Domestic infelicity.....	296
Liquor.....	315
Disappointed love.....	249
Ill health.....	278
Business losses.....	55

We think many of the other causes given might be grouped in the first one mentioned as leading to it; it is also noteworthy that the overwhelming majority of this ghastly array were of the masculine gender, they numbering 3555 against 805 females. It is all bad enough, no matter how arranged.

THE HOLD-UP INDUSTRY GOES ON.

Those gentlemen of undisturbed leisure who hibernate somewhere in daylight and prowl about the streets at night in search of unarmed or timid victims, ought to be governed by some considerations of propriety. It is said that there is honor among thieves and this may be true of a certain class but not of all. Those who "hold up" an inoffensive boy and because he has no money or valuables proceed to break open his head with a weapon, can scarcely be said to have either honor, courage or decency, and take those away what remains of the calling? Claude Duval, Dick Turpin and some of their more modern imitators at times invested the business with a dash of bravado or a spurt of gallantry which softened the public mind toward them somewhat; but of the wretched yet police-proof miscreants who prowl about our streets in the darkness and all of whose assaults are cowardly in the extreme, there is nothing extenuating to be said. All good people would hail with satisfaction if not with joy the announcement that a summary example had been made of one or more of the infamous gang, and surely

this cannot be much longer deferred. The law-abiding element here is yet in the majority and is not forgetful if it is neglectful of its power and its rights; if it has to act alone it will do so, and then let the thugs beware!

ANNEXATION OF CANADA.

The question of Canadian annexation has been mentioned so often that it has become a little hackneyed and fails to elicit the attention which it once had. However, the subject is not dead by any means; in fact it can hardly be said to be sleeping. As to how this would be but for the press of both countries it is hard to say; certainly the newspapers are doing and have done more of the agitating—when indeed it has amounted to that—than any other agency at home or abroad. Congress does nothing, the Canadian parliament does nothing, and thus the matter does not acquire much headway.

Recently an ultra-loyal and conservative dominion newspaper published an article on this subject in which it said among other things that "The time for united action has come, and Canadians who believe in Canada's right to a national existence on the continent must unite to a man and put down the American or annexation party in this country. There is but one issue in the country today and that is annexation or British connection." From which it would appear that there is a spark of the sentiment spoken of remaining with some of the populace and the paper thinks it of sufficient proportions to put the loyal Britons on guard. But at this distance it sounds unreasonable if not absurd. If Canada were a small island adjacent to our national territory and could be had without a row with our cousins beyond the Atlantic, we might take her in; not otherwise, at least for some time.

BURSTING OF THE SAN JUAN BUBBLE

There is gold in the San Juan river beyond a doubt; but, according to all accounts which are worth considering, there is more in the Colorado river, and more still in places on Green river; while the Henry mountains seem to be a feeder for all the surrounding country and here we suspect all the mineral that is valuable in sufficient quantity and of an available character will be found. Concerning the richness and probable permanency of this district there seems to be no question at present, though as an offset to even this, it is given out that it is a hard region to get into, a hard one to get out of, and it takes hardihood, determination, experience and a first-class equipment to accomplish anything there.

Human science will some day, perhaps, arrive at a plan whereby the golden sands of San Juan and other streams can be made to yield up their treasures in such sums and at such an amount of expense as will enable any one possessing the necessary industry and ability to make good wages at it. But it has not done so yet, and until it does the worst thing a poor man who seeks to better his financial condition

can do is to be led away to where such placers are. Arriving there and making investigations, he will soon find some yellow earth which he knows contains the precious stuff he is in search of, and this has the effect of making him go to work in earnest; he gets nothing, but keeps at it, confident that the next painful will show a better result, but it does not; and the glamour overspreading the field of his labor is seldom dissipated until, out of provisions and money and with health impaired and plunged into the deepest dejection as he looks over the ground in which for weeks and months he has labored to no end, he turns his back upon the illusion and sets out on his dreary return home. A place in which there is gold so fine as to be all but impalpable and yet quite visible, is worse than one where there is nothing but barren sand for the foregoing reason; one is a siren, a will-o-the-wisp, a mirage, because it lures and gives rise to false hopes from the thralldom of which the victim seldom escapes so long as he is able to remain within the withering influence; the other honestly and at once proclaims its barrenness and whosoever is then deceived is not wise.

There will probably be something of a rush kept up for the San Juan country for some time yet, but returning crowds will have the effect of curtailing it perceptibly until finally it will cease altogether—this being of course dependent upon the condition of things remaining as we understand them to be at present. Other discoveries of consequence may be made in that region, for that it is a gold district is, as is satisfactorily shown, a fact. Nor is it yet established that all the gold already found is too fine to save, for there is good evidence that small quantities have been obtained in individual cases. Perhaps also with the disappearance of the winter's snow we shall hear glowing reports from the Henry mountains. But taking all these into consideration, we can still only see that it is a poor place for a poor man and there are no immediate promises of its being any better. It is gratifying to note that but few of our people have been led off by the excitement and that they still look upon their homes, occupations and things in possession as holding out more to them in the way of substantial inducements than San Juan or any other gold field could even if genuine.

JUSTICE LAMAR.

Death is reaping a great harvest in the field of eminent men of late, his newest victim being Lucius Quintus Curtius Lamar, associate justice of the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Lamar was a native of Georgia, and was born on the 1st of September, 1825. He removed to Mississippi at an early day, where he received the rudiments of an education and then went to a Georgia college where he graduated; studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1847. He returned to Mississippi and held various professional and political positions, being elected to Congress in 1856 and re-elected in 1858, resigning his seat toward the close of the latter term because of the secession movement. When the war