

SOLITAIRE. Hour after hour I measure these ribs of wry land, And count the wind-cut ruffles in the sand, With sparkling strips of sun and strips of shade, I see the aloe bud and bloom and fade; I mark the dissolution of the flower, Hour after hour, Bright is the morning sun and fierce the noon; The pulseless air cleaves to me in a swoon: The low-voiced waterfall, with muffled note, The hoarse sea growling from some cavern throat. Are all my answers while I watch and pray, Day after day, Year after year I feel my overcast sight begin to fail With vainly searching for a phantom sail; Entombed within my crystal wall of sea, No tender human footsteps quicken me; No sweet and homely human forms appear, Year after year.

NEW YORKISMS.

From Our Own Correspondent. New York, May 26, 1870. You see these elegantly-dressed, these slim young men, with womanly complexions, primrose-colored gloves as flawless as the flower they are named after, and wearing rings and carrying watches which you, who receive a much larger salary for your certain knowledge, cannot afford to buy. How do they do it? Here is one who is dressed in the very highest style. No body but a Broadway tailor could have presented such a pattern and achieved such a fit. These clothes are not merely loud pretence—they are genuine elegance; and the young fellow looks as much like a gentleman in them as he could in anything. They are most probably paid for, too, for the metropolitan tailor is not apt to let young men he knows nothing of have clothes on trust. How is this thing accomplished? To my certain knowledge the young fellow is a waiter in a restaurant. Many is the time he himself has waited upon me, wearing a white apron and a silver badge. Now he is elegantly unaware of my proximity, and looks over me and beyond. When I next see him he will be receiving a twenty-five-cent piece from some munificent customer. How, in the course of a year's savings, he contrives to save sufficient money to buy so costly a suit as that he wears remains a mystery, but he does do it, and, taking all things into consideration, does not ill become them. Sometimes the mystery is not quite so unfathomable. It was not with one Mr. Bodd, who lived in one of the suburbs of this city. His salary amounted to the princely sum of \$15 per week; his style of living corresponded to an income of four times that amount. He was fond of billiards, the theatre, mixed drinks, and mixed companies—all of which may be classed as economical means of amusement for poor young men. Mr. Bodd's economy in that direction was so great that he spent upon them all the money which should have been put to better uses, and more too. One of his duties was to pay men off at certain locomotive works; so Mr. Bodd made out an ingenious pay-roll, which included the names of many substitutions workmen who had no existence at all. However, Mr. Bodd drew from the cashier sufficient money to pay all the men named in his list, and pocketed what remained after paying all the laborers really engaged. The amount thus conveyed to his use was quite considerable in the course of a year. Finally, his accounts getting complicated, as they sometimes will even when money is not misapplied, Mr. Bodd recently took passage in a Hamburg steamer for the sake of putting the ocean between him and his nefariousness. How strange it is that young men living greatly beyond their incomes can't see that the hand of detection is on them!

Picturesque Pedestrianism. Mr. Edward Payson Weston, in a certain sense, understands stage effect almost as well as Mr. Fechter does. It is not for nothing that he wears a black velvet suit, leather leggings, and a white hat, and carries a light little riding whip. He understands the art of making-up. The ensemble is picturesque and telling and has a certain desirable effect upon the observer. Thanks to these and similar pains, he is almost as much a favorite with the women as the leading juvenile at a theatre or the unmarried clergyman of a fashionable church. Pink and perfumed notes and feminine photographs reach him daily, and during his performance he has been more than ordinarily doted in this particular, but has not had time either to read the one or to look at the other. For my part, I don't wonder at the women liking him, for young men of fine physique and good brains are not often found in this city, and in these respects Weston deserves more popularity than the actor or the minister. His pedestrian feats and failures do good, not in the mere winning or losing of wagers, but in the air they give the legs of a too listless community. Every man feels under the same obligation to put his best foot forward that he does in time of drill and drafting, and the calves of the community are pricked into action.

Private-Box Pity. The popular idea of going to heaven in a hand-basket may be beautiful, but it is too democratic to suit suburban New York. Accordingly a church is being built with a gallery upon the private-box principle. This gallery will contain nearly thirty private boxes, exquisitely furnished, and each capable of accommodating twelve occupants. Each, also, is to contain a centre-table for books, hats, gloves, pocket-handkerchiefs, etc. Is not the idea a nice one? Is it not pleasant to know that every owner of a private box can attend to his devotions in secret, without being distracted by the regards of any save his own family? Then the luxury of the thing is another recommendation. The frivolous-minded will perhaps feel that that religion must be worth something which provides *decees* such luxurious oriental compartments. The spiritual millionaire can shut himself out from the presumptuous masses who assume a common plane with him on religious questions, and the family that plumes itself on its ancestry can knock at the door of the Kingdom of heaven without having their gloves soiled by contact with the artisan's rude hand. ALI BABA.

The St. Louis Tribune says that the people of Missouri care nothing about an agricultural school, but do care something about a school of mines, which they want to be located in the mining region in the southeastern portion of the State, and to be "a real, practical, and thorough school and not a pretentious sham." A Colorado critic apologizes for the shortcomings manifest in his account of a recent performance, by saying that he was compelled to hang on to the gallery and let his feet hang down among the audience, and that all he could do was to interview the man who hung by his side and give his opinion.

FRENCH BEGGARS. There is scarcely another nation in Europe which has legislated so much and done so little for the suppression of beggary as France. While Italy and Spain still tolerate and almost recognize it as a profession, and while the protecting traditions of feudal times in England and Germany developed themselves into regular institutions for the prevention of mendicity, France seems to have constantly believed that mendicity can be ordered out of existence, or that it can be abolished by severe penal law, without the necessity of doing anything for the relief of real poverty and destitution. Every French historical work of the last 150 years which attempts to deal with the beyond battles and court intrigues, has something to say of measures taken against beggary, and of the constant increase of beggars in spite of such remedies. M. Maxime Du Camp undertook, in the recent number of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, to bring together the scattered evidence on this subject, and give us an essay which is the more valuable as considerable light is shed upon this evidence by the study M. Du Camp has made of the present state of beggary.

There was a time when beggars of all the large towns, and especially those of Paris, formed almost a regular corporation, with a chief bearing the title of *Coerre*, who had a whole staff under him; these gentlemen carried on their trade, when circumstances allowed it, knife in hand. The chief residence of the Parisian beggars was the Cour des Miracles, and a comparatively recent report (1849) shows that the enclosure of Saint-Jean-de-Latran contained twenty years ago a population of beggars, which gave it a *cachet qui rappelle les anciennes Cours des Miracles*. The opening of the Rue des Ecoles and of the Boulevard Saint-Germain dispersed the population of this dangerous quarter into dark lodging-houses, which may be found in all the various districts of Paris. The laws against beggars are traceable to the sixteenth century. An edict of 1524 directed that beggars shall be whipped and banished; but this seems not to have had much effect, for an edict of the following year orders them to be hanged if they do not leave Paris forthwith. In 1532 Parliament prescribes that they should be linked by twos, and employed to clean the sewers; while an ordinance of Charles IX. of 1561, condemns them to the galleys for life. Forty years later, another ordinance prescribes that they shall be publicly flogged, branded, and have their heads shaved. The municipalities of many provincial towns did not take such energetic measures, but invented a more original one of appointing special officers, who, under the name of *chasse-gueux* and *chasse-coquins* had to keep the town clear of beggars by all appropriate means, including actual hunting. It was under Louis XIV that more rational steps were first taken for the prevention rather than the punishment of mendicity. In 1657 the Hospital-General (consisting of the three branches of Notre-Dame de la Pitié, La Salpêtrière and Bicêtre) was opened, and Paris got rid of something like 40,000 beggars. Old soldiers were the only kind of beggars who still remained in the streets until the opening of the Hotel des Invalides.

Yet even these measures did not answer for any considerable length of time, for the provinces sent new masses of beggars into Paris, and in 1688 the old law about the galleys for life was again promulgated. Some twenty years later a still greater effort was made to put a stop to the evil by decreeing that every one proved to have given alms to a beggar should be fined fifty livres. In 1719 Law proposed to transport beggars to America, and the Compagnie d'Océdent was authorized to carry away as many men, women, and children as it chose from all the branches of the Hospital-General. But this also did not help much, for a few years later the law of galley and branding punishment was again in full vigor. The number of beggars, however, was hardly so great at that time, and the measures taken during the Revolution probably still lessened it; for in 1720 a kind of workshop is established upon the proposal of La Rochefoucauld-Liancourt, and Necker declares to the Assembly that the King keeps *des ateliers de charité* for 12,000 persons. Under the Directory a considerable amount of tolerance was exhibited, and the number of beggars increased again very largely; so that finally the Government was again forced to take measures for driving them at least out of Paris into the country, where, under the cover of royalistic favor, they carried on brigandage and incendiarism on a most extensive scale.

The Code Penal finally settled the mendicity laws which are in operation nowadays. Article 274 declares that any person found begging in any part of the country where there are institutions for the relief of the poor is to be punished with from three to six months imprisonment, after which he is to be sent to the *depot de mendicite*, while Article 277 declares that a beggar found in possession of arms, or of an implement *propre à l'effraction*, is to be sent to prison for a term of from two to five years. The Second Empire having done very much in the way of establishing charitable institutions, these mendicity laws are carried out with great severity. After the sentence has expired the beggar is transported from the prison to one of the *depots de mendicite*, Saint Denis or Villers-Cotterets, where he is bound to work in any trade he is fit for, and where he is kept until his earnings, with a deduction for the cost of his maintenance, amount to a sum which is considered sufficient to give him a start. It is for the authorities to decide upon this matter, according to the circumstances of each case, and to the number of times which the beggar has been convicted. The total of these prisoners amounted in 1869 to 2588 at St. Denis and to 811 at Villers-Cotterets, in both cases the number of men being double that of women. Of the first of these establishments M. Du Camp speaks in very unfavorable terms:—

La maison de repression de Saint-Denis est le plus formidable cloaque qui se puisse voir. Depuis qu'il est entré en cette cité d'autopsies sociales, j'ai été contraint de descendre dans bien des bouges et de visiter bien des sentines; mais il n'est pas à la porte de Paris, dans la seconde moitié du XIXe siècle, sans l'administration d'un droit de laet, un lieu si particulièrement délirant, pourri, et malsain, c'est ce que je n'ai jamais vu imaginer. Villers-Cotterets is better spoken of, but it is not so much a house of detention as a hospital for destitute people; the number of convicted beggars forming there only a very small minority. A characteristic feature of the inmates of both these houses is that on leaving them they never say to the guards "adieu," but only "au revoir;" so sure are they to be arrested again, again to be sent to prison, and again to appear at the depot.

A Texas man, who has heard that he is the rightful heir to any number of million pounds and the title of Duke in Germany, announces that he cares nothing about the title, as he would not give up the title of an American citizen and the pride of being a Texan for all the dukedoms in Germany; but he is going after the money.

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TESTIMONY. Like the following was never before offered in behalf of any medicinal preparation. HON. G. W. WOODWARD, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

HON. JAMES THOMPSON, Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. I consider "Hoofland's German Bitters" a valuable medicine in case of attacks of Indigestion or Dyspepsia. I can certify this from my experience of it.

HON. GEO. SEARSWOOD, Mayor of the City of Buffalo, N. Y. My family during the past year, and can recommend them as an excellent tonic, imparting tone and vigor to the system. Their use has been productive of decidedly beneficial effects.

HON. JAMES M. WOOD, Ex-Mayor of Williamsport, Pennsylvania. I take great pleasure in recommending "Hoofland's German Tonic" to any one who may be afflicted with dyspepsia. I had the dyspepsia so badly that it was impossible to keep any food on my stomach, and I became so weak as not to be able to walk half a mile. Two bottles of Tonic effected a perfect cure.

JOHN EUTERMARKS, ESQ., Law Partner of Judge Maynard, Williamsport, Pa. This is to certify that I have used "Hoofland's German Bitters" for dyspepsia, and found it an invaluable remedy.

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