THE PLODDER'S PETITION.

Lord, let me not be too content With life in trifling service spent-

Make me aspire! When days with petty cares are filed, Let me with fleeting thoughts be thrilled Of something higher!

Help me to long for mental grace To struggle with the commonplace I daily find;

May little deeds not bring to fruit A crop of little thoughts to suit A shriveled mind.

I do not ask for place among Great thinkers who have taught and snug And scorned to bend

Under the trifles of the hour-I only would not lose the power To comprehend. -Helen Gilbert, in the Independent.

THE QUALITY OF MERCY.

"And if he is guilty, what then?"
"Well, who cares about his guilt? You mean, if the jury find him guilty."
"Yes, of course, the verdict." McClune
of the First Ward was slightly embarrassed

by the railroad attorney's severe tone. "Why, that's what we're here for. There's just one thing to do—work on the Judge to get him off easy."

The third man was the Sheriff-taciturn, calculating, anxious to be re-elected-a power in the county's politics. "It won't do to send him up," he remarked, with unwonted eagerness. "He can do more with the French vote along the creek than anyone in the county—and you know we hev' just got to get that vote."

In a little room back of the Sheriff's office the trio were considering ways and means. An important local politician was on trial for the most heinous offence of the plains—cattle-stealing. To be sure, only one cow had been traced in such a manner as to lead to his arrest, but hundreds of head had been missing in the community, and the existence of an organized band of

cattle thieves was suspected.

For days the trial had dragged along in the stuffy prairie court room. The space within the railing, where the lawyers, witnesses and prominent (or self-important) citizens sat, was filled session after session, but the benches for the common public were mostly vacant.

From a corner, the prisoner-a gaunt pallid settler-faced the jury. He was accompanied by a veiled woman - his

The best criminal lawyers in the county Merton & Hammond, were fighting for John Warden's liberty. At last it ended, and all awaited the verdict. Attorney's and court officers discussed the case while the jury was deliberating-the group in the Sheriff's apartments most earnestly of

"I don't believe he is guilty," spoke up Merton, "and yet there is something mighty queer about how that animal got

in his yard." "Maybe," suggested the Sheriff, looking through the unwashed windows across miles of dun western Kansas prairie, 'maybe there wa'n't no stealin'-th' crit-

is the remark seriously. "The cattle inside the fence were put there, but I don't beHolland's features grew hard and foright learning things and we'll be all time to swing things and we'll be all right. See? I want to tell you that it is the thing to do."

The prisoner's wif Holland's features grew hard and forHolland's features grew hard and forlieve John Worden did it.

"Of course not, or you would not have taken the case," laughed his rival, the

Merton reddened a little, then arose as the twelve men in whose hands was his client's fate came into the court-room in

charge of a bailiff. The jury did not agree with Merton. After much discussion and wrangling in their shabby room, the august body re-

turned a verdict of guilty.

The local papers applauded or criticised as ran the personal prejudices of the editors; the jurymen were serene in the consciousness of duty, done and the prisoner, his face more wan than ever went back to the stone dungeon that served the county-

The session of the court went on, and divorces, mortgage foreclosures, quarrels and damage cases took their turn on the

But Merton still worked for his client. Another meeting of the local leaders of his party was called, and again in the little room back of the Sheriff's office the gathering came to order. 'He'll be sentenced to-morrow," Mer-

ton explained," and if we're to do anything, now is our chance. The judge has refused us a new trial—we must get him off with a light sentence."

"It would be a mighty good thing to handle the creek townships with," drawled the Sheriff. "This next election's goin' ter be mighty close."

"Afraid you won't pull through, are you?" sneered the editor of the county pa-per. He had praised the jury's verdict, and his real sentiments were against War den, but he had been called vigorously to time by his leading supporters and told to get on the other side for the party's sake. It made him cross and pessimis-

"Well, Jim," replied the Sheriff, "a good majority along the creek will be about the only thing that will allow you ter keep yer grip on the county printin' at robber rates," and the laugh was on the

newspaper man.

McClune was clearly the leader to whom they looked for counsel, and when he spoke there was close attention.

"I take it," he announced, after awhile, "that the Judge wants to do what's right, but he ain't anxious to cut his own politic al head off to spite somebody. He's got to be elected next November, too, or he might as well leave the State—an' to be elected, he's got to pull every rope."

"Just what I was tellin'th' boys," pu

in the Sheriff. "The district's close," went on McClune, and if there's any doubt about Warden's guilt as Merton says there is, it's all right for the Judge to give him the benefit of it and make his sentence light--say a couple months in jail. He can stand that and get out in time to round things up by election day."

The others nodded approvingly "Of course you know the penalty runs to ten years," added Merton, quietly. "Yes, an' in some communities that

ain't civilized as well as we are, it's hangin." remarked the Sheriff. The editor voiced the feeling of his com-"Somebody must go to the Judge, and make a talk-and McClune is the on

to do it." The First Ward politician denied his fitness. "I don't want to," he said, deprecatingly, "but, of course, someone will have to do it."

"Well, you're the man. You nominated Holland, and he'll listen to you when he would show us the door."

"I suppose that's so. Well, we'll try it." and McClune went out into the biting winter afternoon.

Judge Holland was surprised to see Mc-Clune that evening. The Judge's home was with a sister on the edge of the straggling prairie town. He was compelled to ask his visitor into the sitting room where the children were studying school lessons by the shaded lamp.

"I came to see you very particular," blurted out the First Ward leader, embarrassed by the family circle.
"Oh yes, you wish to see me alone—

In the little bed-room, warmed by the Our home is there." stove-pipe from the apartment below, they

The Judge was slender, clean-shaven, nervous, with deep-set eyes and high student's forehead; his visitor, high brusque, and whiskered, was much the older, and considered the young lawyer whom he had assisted in the political race

as his protege. ing himself carelessly on the bed. "I've come to see you about Warden—the cattle-

thief, you know." "Well, what's the matter?" "You'll have to sentence him at the end

of the term-to-morrow." "Yes." Involuntary the judge glanced towards a table whereon lay a bundle of

legal papers.

"It's a pretty serious job, I know, but we want you to be easy on him."

"The jury found him guilty."

"I know—but Merton thinks there is

And I want to say to you"—it was a favorite expression of McClune's-"that Merton's opinion's worth something." "Mr. Merton is perhaps prejudiced."
The Judge smiled quizzically. Merton had been his rival for the judgeship, and neither had quite forgiven the other for

the part taken in the campaign. "For my self, I think the jury was correct." "Well, I reckon it was-but we don't visitor went on : "You've got to run for wouldn't have done it at all if it hadn't

been for me and John Warden. Do you know what would have happened then?" The young Judge knew too well. The burden of debt, the meagre law practice still more diminished when the bursting of the boom sent people out of the county by the hundreds, the expense of the cam-paign—his hair had whitened while he waited for the returns from the back precincts, one of which was John Warden's. "You haven't got your debts paid yet;

you don't see any great opening for a law business here, do you?"

McClune laughed harshly. Both knew that the town was in worse financial condi-

tions than ever in its history.
"You have just got to be elected, now

ain't you?" The Judge did not reply
"If you send Warden to the 'pen' for five or six years, you'll lose all three of the creek townships. The French are his friends and swear by him—not another the creek townships. The French are his friends and swear by him—not another the creek townships. man in the county can handle them for us. That's one hundred and fifty votes. It'll beat you. Give him a month or two in calling at the front door downstairs. The jail and he can stand it; he'll get out in bailiff rapped.

Holland's features grew hard and bidding. "In other words you want me followed. to sacrifice justice to politics-to sell my soul for place?" The Judge looked his visitor square in the eyes.

McClune refused to meet the gaze, but turned away with, "Oh, don't be a fool Occasionally the I and try to work off an oration on me." Bad as I want this office, bad as I need t," went on Holland sternly, "do you

think it my duty-between man and man, honor bright-to do this ?" McClune did not answer. He was lying oack on the bed and apparently not listen-

ing closely.

"If the man is guilty, he deserves punishment; if he is innocent, he ought to go free—there is no middle ground—"

"—but what of good points," inter"—but what of good points," inter-

rupted the First-Warder. "Maybe the man's innocent. You want to hold your job on the bench four years more, don't you? And you know I want to run on the ticket with you for Clerk of the Court."

"God knows I do-but this is a monstrous thing you ask. McClune, and I'm tempted to tell you to leave the house. You've been my friend. When I was a poor boy, taking care of horses in this old town to buy my clothes, you were good to me. I don't forget that, and I don't forget how you helped me to attend school, to get a start, and then to secure the nomination for Judge—you pulled me through the campaign. Of course I'd have been beaten but for you—"
"And John Warden."

"Yes, and John Warden. But this thing you ask is another matter—let me think over it?"

McClune rose to go. At the door he turned and, with the finesse of a born dip-lomat, played what he knew was his strongest card. "Remember I'm to be on the ticket with you," and was gone. Holland sat a long, long time in the chilly bed room. Once he went over to the table and took from the bundle of pa-

pers a slip on which were written some moranda. Slowly he read them: "Titus James, arson, eight years."
"Richard Roe, larceny, two years." "John Warden, larceny, six years."

"And McClune wants me to make it two

onths or less !" he mused. A studious, conscientious youth, an earnest, hard-working lawyer, a man who look-ed for truth in his fellows—the thought of prostituting his high office, even to serve a friend to whom he owed so much, un-nerved him. It haunted him through a sleepless night, it sat beside him on the bench in the stuffy court-room the next morning, it went with him to the Judge's chamber at the noon recess. He wanted no lunch. With the slip of paper in his hands he sat pondering, as he firmly believed, the question of his duty and of his political and business future.

The door opened. "A lady to see yer Honor," and the bailiff brought in a veiled woman. Holland recognized her as the one who had, day after day, been sitting beside John Warden.

"What can I do for you, madam?" his air was courteous.
"Once you did not call me 'madam." She threw aside her veil, and he saw in er sweet but worn face familiar lines.

"It is. I have been John Warden's wife for four years, but you did not know —and probably you did not care."

over the fit of his trousers; neither of them ever encountered that obstacle.

"I thought-I thought it was Mrs. War-

Holland could not speak. The one romance of his life—the days when he had admired Mary Heather's pretty face and form—came back to him.

"Yes—I cared—but I did not know,"

he stammered, at last. "You loved me once!" exclaimed the woman, impetuously, as if determined to present her strongest forces first. "You said you loved me—and then you left

"No, you left me Mary—beg pardon,"
"Well, we won't go over that," she had
not noticed his familiarity with her first
name. "It is too late now. I married John Warden a month after, and we went to Texas. We nearly starved there"—the woman shuddered at the remembrance— 'and came back to settle on Sand Creek.

saw a notice of your marriage."

Holland shook his head. She was playing her game well, and had him at a disad-

"I have come here to tell you something something terrible. There came a time when we had nothing to eat, when the cupboard was bare of potatoes even, and it decide in favor of the miners, the grievance med that we must go on the town-or sell our horses, if we could get anything for them above the mortgages they carried. You don't understand what that means. I thought of you that terrible day-thought some doubt about the jury just being right. of how different life would have been with you, Mark-and I cried for the first time

since my marriage."

The Judge's eyes were moist and they avoided the woman's.

"On the plain, near our house, was a great herd of cattle belonging to some rich company. Who would know or care if one was missing? I begged John to help me, and together—yes, together, but at my suggestion—John Warden and the woman you once loved, and around whom you want him in jail more than two months." you once loved, and around whom you "The Judge's face darkened, but his once put your arm tenderly, went out in once put your arm tenderly, went out in the dusk of evening and drove a cow into office again next fall. You pulled through their corral. They killed her, and the last time by less than a hundred, and you meat made their first meal for thirty

hours." "Somehow, after that, things went better. No one knew how desperately poor we had become, and John's influence with the foreign-born settlers on the creek brought him work. He was above them in intelligence, and had a tender heart. He nursed their sick and helped bury

their dead-and they worship him.' "But a lawyer, working for this great cattle company that had robbed us of pasture, and whose herds have trampled down our crops, traced a missing cow to our corral, and my husband is in jail—for how long you are to say this afternoon." A pause followed, and Judge Holland,

rising, went to the window.
"Mark!" The old familiar title of youth caused him to turn quickly. The prisoner's wife stood close beside him.

easy-chair and sobbed. "Oyez, Oyez, Oyez!" the Sheriff was

"Time for court to commence, yer Hon-The prisoner's wife, her face again hid-

The town knew that sentences were to be pronounced, and the room was filled. The prisoners stood in a dejected row, Occasionally the Judge glanced at a piece

of paper in his hand. Titus James received his eight years behind the bars. Richard Roe was ordered to the penitentiary for one-fourth as long. short terms were distributed as a teacher might give out prizes on the last day of school-only these were not received with

"John Warden, stand up! In accordance with the verdict found by the jury," the Judge's voice was far from firm, and he nervously tore into fine pieces the slip of paper he held in his hands—"you are senenced to one hour's imprisonment in the county jail, to commence at one o'clock to-day.

Everybody looked up at the big clock above the Judge's head. Its hands showed that nearly one-half of the sentence had

expired. No, not "everybody"-McClune, as the sentence was pronounced, slid quickly through the green doors at the rear of the room into the deserted hall without. Softly he chuckled to himself,

"The ludge wants to be re-elected a mighty sight worse than I thought he did," ran his meditations. "I didn't know I had so much power over him." And thinking so, his surprise was all the

greater when, two days after, Judge Holland gave an interview to the Herald in which he said that, owing to the need of rest and a contemplated trip to the Pacific coast, he would under no circumstances be a candidate for a second term.—C. M. Harger, in Harper's Weekly.

Easy When You Have To.

This new story of Abraham Lincoln is

from Eben Holden:
"My son," he said, taking my hand in
his, "Why didn't you run?"
"Didn't dare," I answered. "I knew it was more dangerous to run away than to go forward," "reminds me of a story,"

said he, smiling. "Years ago there was a bully in Sangamon county, Ill., that had the reputation of running faster and fighting harder than any man there. Everybody thought he was a terrible fighter. He'd always get a man on the run; then he'd ketch up and give him a licking. One day he tackled a lame man. The lame man licked him in a minute. "Why didn't ye run?" somebody asked

"Didn't dast," said he. "Run once when he tackled me an' I've been lame ever since."

"How did ye manage to lick him?" said the other. "Wall," said he, "I hed to an' I done it

easy."
"That's the way it goes," said the immortal President, "ye do it easy if ye have He reminded me in and out of Horace Greeley, although they looked no more alike than a hawk and a handsaw. But they had a like habit of forgetting them-selves and of saying neither more nor less than they meant. They both had the strength of an ox and as little vanity. Mr. Greeley used to say that no man could amount to anything who worried much

Price of Powder Caused Strike.

Chief Grievance of Miners in Present Troubles in Anthracite Region. No Special Arbitration. Mitchell Insists on Broad Base of Settlement. Amounts Earned by the Men Greatly Vary in Different Colli-

eries. Sliding Scale at Some Places. The list of grievances prepared at the Hazleton convention last mouth, and upon which the present strike is based, does not apply to all the mines in the anthracite district, nor can it be said that all the grievances apply to any one mine. The indictment was intended to cover all the grievances that exist in all the mines, and it is upon that basis only that President Mitchell and his associate officers of the Mine Workers' association are willing to arbitrate. They refuse to arbitrate special me upstairs."
In the little bed-room, warmed by the ove-pipe from the apartment below, they ced each other.

The Judge was slender, clean-shaven, ervous, with deep-set eyes and high udent's forehead; his visitor, big rusque, and whiskered, was much the dider, and considered the young lawyer withom he had assisted in the political race is his protege.

"Now, Holland," began McClune, seating himself carelessly on the bed. "I've in home is there."

Our home is there."

"I never knew," repeated the Judge.

"And we nearly starved again," went on how little people could keep up life if it was necessary. I cared for the horses while John was sick. I drove to the store with eggs, and I followed the plough and harrow. I read in the Herald every week that you were rising in your profession, and how you became Judge—but I never knew," repeated the Judge.

"In the individual operators, but insist upon an omnibus proceeding, which makes agreement the more difficult, because an operator will naturally refuse to arbitrate grievances or with individual operators, but insist upon an omnibus proceeding, which makes agreement the more difficult, because an operator will naturally refuse to arbitrate grievances or with individual operators, but insist upon an omnibus proceeding, which grievances or with individual operators,

and the miners have agreed to arbitrate, there is probably less cause for complaint than in any other mines in the entire anthracite region, and Mr. Mitchell argues that they should not be used as an example that exist in other mines would not be removed, but if he should decide against them, the public would infer that the com-plaints of the men in other mines were not well founded and their moral support would

POWDER A STRONG GRIEVANCE. The greatest source of trouble is the price of powder, and it does seem queer that men of such experience and intellise the month. I have made an average of four ordinary miners where I was permitted to see the pay rolls, and find that 2,730 min-see the greatest source of trouble is the month. I have made an average of four claim that when their husbands are paid in cash they speedily seek the saloons and gence as the owners and operators of mines should permit it to remain as a continual cause of friction and complaint. As I explained the system of management in the anthracite mines is awkward and antiquated and has not been changed for nearly 30 years. After the troubles in the '70's the present scale of wages and methods was adopted. Owing to the disturbances which occurred in that strike. It was not considered prudent to place powder and other explosives on sale to the public, and therefore the operators agreed to provide the miners with whatever powder they needed for blasting purposes as fast as they required it, at the rate \$2.75 a keg, which was the ruling price at that date. In the meantime power has become cheaper year after year, until now it can be bought for \$1.10 to \$1.25, and I am informed that it has been

as low as 90 cents a keg.
Some of the operators furnish powder to their men at cost price. Others at a slight advance, \$1.50 a keg, others will charge \$1.75 and \$2. In all these cases the excess over the cost is a profit to which the operator is not fairly entitled, from the standpoint of his employes. The operator on the other hand, argues that the money from the sale of powder is a part of the re-turn he should receive from his employes, and that if the price is to be reduced he should not be compelled to pay as much per ton as he is now paying for the mining of his coal. This is an individual matter, and no two operators look at it alike. Liberal employers give their men the benefit of the reduced cost of powder. Those who work close and try to make as much as pos-

CHANCE TO INCREASE EARNINGS. of all the matters involved in the present troubles, and if the operators would all from the coal. They receive from 35 cents agree to let the miners buy their powder in to \$1 a day, according to their age and effithe open market or furnish it to them at ciency, averaging perhaps 65 cents. There cost price, the bottom would fall out of are perhaps 5,000 boys engaged about the the strike A keg of powder will last two or two and a half days under ordinary cirsimilar compensation. cumstances, hence the miners' earnings | At one of the small mines near Scranton

would be increased about fifty cents a The method of estimating earnings is as complicated as a metaphysical problem to the ignorant miner, and the great majority of them are ignorant. Furthermore, it is of any one miner for that month were \$81. an inheritance from the past generation, and like the price of powder, is a continual source of misunderstanding and friction, when it might be made so simple that everybody could understand it. The minbut the word "ton" is generally used to describe a carload, although a full car will contain from 2,600 to 3,000 pounds of coal. Hence, in the indictment of the Hazleton onvention, the operators are accused of swindling their employes by compelling them to furnish 3,000 pound to the ton, when the same coal is sold to the public at

the rate of 2,240 pounds to the ton. The explanation is as follows: Every car is supposed to contain a net ton of coal after all the stone, slate and other foreign substances have been removed. The miner works in the dark, underground and although a man of experience can distinguish a chunk of coal from a stone or piece of slate by the weight and feeling, nevertheless it is almost impossible to avoid getting a certain amount of foreign substance in every car, and 24,000 boys are employed in the anthracite regions to pick over the coal and remove the foreign particles. Some miners are honest and some are dishonest. They will grade up on the matter of morals about the same as other laborers of equal intelligence, and dishon est miners will throw in stone and slack their coal in the cars so as to cheat their employer whenever it is possible to do so

HONEST SUFFER FOR DISHONEST.

Hence, they are required to send up several hundred extra pounds to cover defi ciencies. This is required of honest as wel as of dishonest miners.

When the car gets to the mouth of the mine the coal is inspected, and if an un-reasonable amount of slate is found in it, the miner is fined or docked 25 cents, instead of being discharged for dishonesty It would seem that some simpler way Hungarian caunot be made to understan why he should be compelled to produce 3,000 pounds for a ton, when he is honest then have his wages reduced 30 per cent when he is caught cheating.

The coal is inspected by a "weighmaster" who keeps the accounts of the miners, and reports to the office what each has sent out from the shoft during the day.

from the shaft during the day. He is usually a faithful, intelligent man, selected from the force of miners because of these qualities, but as soon as he is placed in a position of authority his former chums and fellow workmen regard him as their enemy and complain of his actions. I am told as never worked underground, and do not understand the tricks of the trade. At any rate a friend becomes a foe when he is placed in authority over you, and the miners money goes to the company. It all goes to

object to having their fellow workmen ap- the doctor, and in consideration therefore pointed to serve as weighmasters. They he is required to answer all calls from that demand, too, the privilege of having what is termed a 'check weighmaster' of their medicines and surgical supplies that are

TWO MEN CAUSED QUARREL. At a few mines this has been permitted but the operators say that the experiment was a failure because the two men were always quarreling and sometimes fighting, and kept the entire mine stirred up with he levies blackmail.

work in some of the mines. As a rule, miners work about 18 days in the month, and from six to seven hours a day. That them, but it is asserted that those who reis believed to be as much as any ordinary man can do without over-taxing his strength The number of days is determined by the superintendent. The number of hours is optional with the miner, and men of great endurance oftener work 10 and 12 hours a day and increase their income accordingly. Eight or ten cars of coal are the result of an ordinary day's work, for which the miner made a profit coming and going, but such is paid from 70 cents a car and upward, according to the character of the vein of coal and it is optional with the employe in which he is working. This is determined by the superintendent. Thus a first class miner, who produces 10 cars of coal ers employed in them earned an average of \$52.53 during the month of August.

The question of pay is also involved in the strike, and is, in fact, the fundamental reason for it. The mines demanded an increase of 5 per cent, for those making the highest wages, and 10 per cent increase for all earnings between \$1.50 and \$2 a day, and 15 per cent increase for all earnings less than \$1.50.

PAID ON A SLIDING SCALE. In some of the mines, particularly those belonging to the Philadelphia & Reading railroad, and Cox Brothers, which market their own coal, including perhaps 42 colliers and 25,000 men, the miners and laborers are paid by the week on a sliding scale, according to the fluctuations in the price of coal. Their pay is regulated on a basis of \$5 a ton retail at tide water, and the following statement shows the actual wages paid per week to laborers and miners dur-

ing the last eight months: wages pr. wk. \$11.84 December, 1899 \$1.40
January, 1900 4.60
February, 1900 4.80
May, 1900 4.70 12.35 12.22 12.35 August, 1900 4.80

Involved in the strike are about 59,000 laborers and general workmen, who assist the miners in the shafts and do whatever is engineers whose pay averages \$60 a month, and the same number of firemen who receive an average of \$45 a month; 2,000 blacksmiths and carpenters from \$45 to \$75 a month; 10,000 men who drive the mules and horses and attend the stables, from 75 cents to \$1.25 a day; 24,000 boys from 12 the collegians were in readiness for a hard The powder grievance is the most serious | to 18 years of age, who are engaged in the picking of slate and other foreign substances

employing 56 men only, when I was allowed to examine the pay roll for August, the average earnings of the miners working beneath the ground were \$50.57 for an 49 and the smallest were \$35.89.

EARNINGS OF MINERS GREATLY VARY. I was shown the pay roll for August in one of the collieries in the Hazleton district er is not paid by the ton, but by the carload and the amounts earned by the men range from \$38 to \$152. The man who earned \$38 laid off nearly half the time. The man who earned \$152 went into the mine every day and remained long hours. The others ran about as follows: Two miners \$81.57 each, one miner \$89.37, one miner \$93.67, one miner \$75.54, 16 miners \$61 each, two miners \$83 each, four miners \$68 each, two miners \$76 each, one miner \$65, one miner \$62.25, one miner \$57.

The average number of days worked during the month was 18.

A neighboring mine worked 136 men whose average earnings for the month were \$52.45, the maximum being \$91.48, and the maximum \$36.52, the average number of

days worked being 19. In another mine employing 192 miners, the average earnings of the men were \$52. 60 for the month, the maximum \$61.90, and the minimum \$53.81 for an

average of 17 days work. The following is an exact copy of the rate of wages paid to other employes than underground miners in the calliany lest re-

| | underground influers in the con- | itory ra | iat 10 |
|--------|----------------------------------|----------|--------|
| | ferred to: | | |
| 8 | Tracklayers, per day | | \$2.10 |
| ø | Track helpers, per day | \$150 | 1.75 |
| 3 | Rockmen | 2.00 | 2.20 |
| 8 | Rockmen, helpers | 4 1 | 1.75 |
| 疆 | Masons | | 2.00 |
| | Company laborers | | 1.50 |
| 꽳 | Head footman | | 1.65 |
| 蜀 | Head footman, helpers | | 1.50 |
| | Runners | | 1.50 |
| 8 | Drivers | 1.10 | 1.35 |
| ı | Door boys | | .60 |
| 緩 | Outside laborers | 1.25 | 1.45 |
| | Headmen and footmen | 1.45 | 1.50 |
| 9 | Loaders | 1.35 | 1.45 |
| 9 | Plane engineer | | 1.60 |
| 33 | Headmen | | 1.45 |
| , | Loaders | | 1.10 |
| | Drivers | | .90 |
| | Carpenters | 2.00 | 2.10 |
| 7 | Carpenters helpers | | 1.65 |
| 450 | Blacksmith | 1.75 | 2.00 |
| r | Plackemith helpers | | 1.45 |
| r 1 | Engineers at shaft, and breaker | | 2.25 |
| ī | Engineers at supply shafts per | | |
| | month | | 52.00 |
| , | Engineers at breaker per month | | 60.00 |
| t | Machinist | | 2.00 |
| 819 | Firemen | | 1.58 |
| , | Platemen | 1.10 | 1.25 |
| 7 | Slate pickers, men | .90 | 1.10 |
| 1 | Slate pickers, boys | .50 | .75 |
| 4 | Slate pickers, bosses | 1.35 | 1.48 |

The company's doctor, who is complained of, is employed at the isolated mines to attend the miners and their families. When the mines are situated in or near large towns like Scranton and Wilkesbarre the companies do not employ doctors. The miners employ any physician they please. At the isolated mines to guarantee the doca rule, men who have been employed as miners are much more exacting and arbitrary when they are promoted to weighmasters or foremen than men who have and other employes accordingly, except the boys whose fathers are employed in the mines. They pay nothing. None of this

represent their interests and protect them from the exactions and dishonesty of the weighmaster.

and surgical supplies that are necessary for the proper treatment of his patients. These mine doctors make from \$1,500 to \$4,000 a year according number of employes. Smaller mines in the same neighborhood usually combine in

the support of the some doctor. OUTGROWTH OF MANY YEARS. This system is the outgrowth of many years' experience. It is explained that, before it was adopted, miners who were ill controversies. They say also that the only reason why the men object to an examiner as weighmaster is that they are unable to deceive him if he is honest, and if dishonest Often miners would refuse to pay and tell the doctor to collect from the company. Another complaint is the lack of regular Under the laws of Pennsylvania these assessments for medical services are optional, and the miners cannot be compelled to pay fuse to pay the doctors' assessment are discharged as soon as their service can be dispensed with although other reasons are as-

signed. Another ground of complaint is the company stores. Formerly it was the custom here as elsewhere to pay all employes in orders on their store, so that the company establishments are now regulated by law, whether he receive his pay in store orders

or cash. Here enters a delicate question. The gets \$7 a day. From this he pays his assistant \$1.60 a day, and his powder bill which is a dollar or so, and finds himself with \$4.40 or thereabouts as the net earnings of the day, which figures up about \$79 generally prefer to be paid in cash, and it a month. The great majority of miners do is often a matter of serious dispute between not produce more than eight cars a day, so husbands and wives. In such affairs the that their earning are not more that \$54 a paymasters of the mining companies have generally come home drunk with empty pockets on pay day, whereas if they are paid in store orders such misfortunes cannot occur. The dissolute miners are said to be behind the demand for the abolition

of the company stores.

Although the trading at the company stores under the law is optional with the miner, it is complained that many companies will not employ men who trade elsewhere, although, of course, when men are discharged for this cause other reasons are

It is said to be the almost universal rule that the poorest miners are the most active agitators and make the most trouble and the men who are temperate industrious and skillful and are making good incomes are contented and make no complaint .- W. E. Curtin in Pittsburg Post.

Cane Rush May Cost Life. Rutgers Cellege Student Probably Fatally Trampled.

Unnoticed in the Struggle. In the fierce cane rush at Rutgers College Saturday night 18-year-old Fritz Wittig. a member of the freshman class, was knocked down in the scrimmage, trampled on and, it is feared, fatally hurt. The rush

was won by the sophomore class, but doubtless at fearful cost. necessary on the outside. They are paid an average of \$10.50 a week; there are 5,000 shortly after midnight, and it was freely stated that the struggle would be a fierce one. And it was the hardest fought rush in years. The sophomores, smarting un-der their defeat on Wednesday, were determined to win the victory at all haz-

> e collegians were in readiness for a hard the ground, and those who did not take part in the contest cheered the others on. Young Wittig was in the thickest of the scrimmage, and did good work for the freshman class. In some manner he lost his footing and disappeared in the midst of the struggling mass. In the darkness and excitement his absence was not noted, and for several minutes the rush continued over his prostrate body. When time was called he was discovered on the ground unconscious. Willing hands carried him to a fraternity house near by and Dr. Nicholas Williamson found that he was suffering from concussion of the brain and had been badly bruised about the body. All efforts to restore him to conscious being futile. Dr. Williamson asked that the young man's parents be notified. Since the rush the physician has repeatedly tried to revive the young man, but without

The contestants in the cane rush are very much grieved over the affair, and are eager and willing to do what they can for their suffering comrade.

Peppermint Oil Crop.

Beet Sugar is now Being Largely Raised in New

York Instead of the Mint. The beet sugar industry is attaining wonderful proportions in various sections of this country. A few years ago in some sections of central New York the pepper-mint oil crop was the leading feature, and brought more money into the hands of the brought more money into the hands of the farmers than did the apple crop. But now the peppermint crop is mostly a thing of the past in that section and the mint stills are kept in operation by the crop of a few acres near them.

The beet sugar crop has driven the mint crop westward, for the farmers find it more profitable to raise sugar heets.

profitable to raise sugar beets. Ten years ago every community in central New York had a resident who was getting rich by stilling mint, but these same mills are now falling into disuse. Lyons, N. Y., was the centre of the mint market of the world, but that honor is now among the claims of distant western cities. The fame of the Wayne county oils was known near and far and took the world's prize at the Columbian exposition in 1893. The Pan-American exposition will bring a new locality into similar prominence in all probability. Thus, the peppermint crop, like the march of civilization has gone west-

NEBULÆ OF SONG.

Dim nebulæ of song!

Mirst, a cold star dust in the spirit's void,

Whirling with measured sweep the shadows

through, then more compact, centripetal and strong, Swifter and surer and of warmer hue! Far through the silences their songs descend; Thou, too, shalt join their ancient choir of love And send thy light across the paths of men.

Now the faint music of the early dawn, Feeling its way with broken chords at Then the C major, resolute and strong, Surer in conscious strength the measu But thou, dim dust, that trailest through

night,
Leasting the waves of that unsounded sea,
Swift be the course of thy triumphant flight
And sweet thy music in the years to be!
—Herbert Muller Hopkins in Bookm