A LONELY STATION. (UNION PACIFIC R. R. 1880.)

An empty bench, a sky of grayest etching,
A bare, bleak shed in blackest silhouette,
Twelve yards of platform, and, beyond them stretching, Twelve miles of prairie glimmering through

North, south, east and west-the same dull gray persistence, The tattered vapors of a vanished train, The narrowing rails that meet to pierce the distance, Or break the columns of the far-off rain.

Naught but myself-nor form nor figure waking
The long hushed level and stark shining waste—
Nething that moves to fill the vision sching
Where the last shadow fell in sullen haste.

Nothing beyond. Ab, yes! From out the station
A stiff gaunt figure thrown against the sky,
seckoning me with some wooden salutation
Caught from his signals as the train flashed

Yielding me place beside him with dumb ges-Born of that reticence of sky and air. We sit apart, yet wrapped in that one ges ture Of silence, sadness, and unspoken care:

Each following his own thought-around us darkening, The rain-washed boundaries and stretching track: Each following those dim parallels and hearkening For long lost voices that will not come

Until, unasked-I knew not why nor wherefor.—
He yielded, bit by bit, his dreary past,
Like gathered clouds that seemed to thicken Some dull down-dropping of their care at

"Long had he lived there. As a boy had started From the stacked corn the Indian's painted Heard the wolves' howl the wearying waste that parted His father's hut from the last camping

"Nature had mocked him; thrice had claimed the reaping With seythe of fire of lands he once had Sent the tornado - round his hearthstone heaping Rafter , dead faces, that were like his own.

"Then came the war time. When its shadow beckoned He had walked dumbly where the flag had Through swamp and fen - unknown, un-

praised, unreckoned— To famine, fever, and a prison bed; "Till the storm passed, and the slow tide returning Cast him a wreck, beneath his native sky At this lone watch gave him the chance of

Scant means to live-who won the right to All this I heard-or seemed to hear-half blending With the low murmur of the coming breeze. The call of some lost bird and the unending And ceaseless sobbing of those grassy seas.

Until at last the spell of desolation Broke with a trembling star and far-off The coming train! I glance around the sta-

All is empty as the upper sky! Naught but myself-nor form nor figure waking The long hushed level and stark shining Naught but myself, that cry, and the dull

shaking Of wheel and axle, stopped in breathless "Now, then-look sharp! Eh, what? The station master? Thar's none! We stopped here of our own

The man got killed in that down-train dis-This time last evening. Right there! All -Rret Harte. London, England.

## A FLOURISHING TOWN.

The most extraordinary newspaper I published up in the Sierra range about fifteen years ago, The Manganetus In-

The publication alluded to had mysteriously fallen into my mail-box in San Francisco for over a year, and it was always a welcome arrival.

It was neatly printed, carried several columns of live advertisements, and had a bright bustling air about it that always gave me a very favorable impression of Manganetus, as well as of the man who edited the paper.

He took a decided stand on all the current topics of the day, and in everything transpiring in the town where his paper was published he carried candor to the verge of bewildering

I never saw a paper edited with such absolute fearlessness, and I often wondered why it was that the editor was not some time mobbed or murdered. At last my business took me in the

vicinity of Manganetus and I decided to make the editor a call. It was fast coming on nightfall as I

cated, and I spurred my horse up the steep mountain, thinking of the warm bed and excellent supper I should soon be enjoying. My mind was full of the Slavin

house, a hotel of very superior accommodations, which advertised liberally in the Index, and whose royal provender and home comtorts the little paper was never weary of describing. "Only a mile more," I said to myself, as I thumped my weary breast with a good-sized stick, and after another mile I repeated my observation, and so the poor horse went on check-

ing off miles and miles, while I persuaded myself that each mile was the Strange, I thought, that I could see

no lights ahead. I strained my eyes for the welcome twinkle from cottage windows that in darkness tell the traveller of the town, but the night crept on, a little faster perhaps than the horse, and still I was alone.

Presently I came to a log cabin and my heart rose as I saw the light gleaming through the chinks. Dismounting I walked, stiff and lame, to the cabin and hammered on the door.

A little, bent-up man, with a wrin-kled, leathery face, came to answer,

and as he opened the door cautiously, I noticed that he had a cocked pistol in his hand.

Seeing the pistel I said: "Here is civilization. After the little man with the big pistol had surveyed my famished face and tired horse, he opened the door a little wider, and then, swinging it back, with a smile somewhat apologetic

in its character, invited me in. "How far to Manganetus?" I asked. He looked at me in a rather queer way, and then bit his under lip, as if nipping a smile in the bud. "It is far from here? Can I reach

tt to-night?" "Hardly think you can make it to-

night." he replied with a tone that puzzled me somewhat; can't you stay all night?" he added. "Better stay; you can't possibly make Manganetus to-night.'

I accepted the invitation with alacrity. My horse being provided for I was soon absorbing the heat of a cheery fire and listening to the conversation of my new acquaintance. He was a man of very fluent expression, and possessed a wonderful fund of informs a scores of topics not ordinarily cascussed by men who occupied log cabins in the mountains.

While wondering who this odd character could be I heard a monotonous noise in the next room, and I certainly thought I heard the familiar sound of some one rapidly folding newspapers. My ear did not deceive me, for in a few moments a pleasant-faced little girl appeared and handed my companion a paper which he at once passed over to me. It was damp from the

press, and I read the titl:: "THE MANGANETUS INDEX." "By industry we thrive." Devoted to the material interests of Manganetus. Subscripon \$5.00 per annum, payable in advance. My host smiled as he handed me the

"Then the town is here." I said. 'Let me go to the hotel; the Slavin House, I believe. I do not desire to trespass upon the hospitality of a

stranger.' "You will remain here, sir," he replied. "I blush to confess it, but this is the town of Manganetus, and this cabin is the only habitation for twenty miles."

I stared at the man in astonishment. "You may well be puzzled," he continued. "But I will explain. There is a group of mines near here which certain capitalists of San Francisco are anxious to place upon the London market. They have hired me to advocate these mines, and it is part of my bargain to run my paper in such a way that the London readers will think that a large town is flourishing here.

I nodded vaguely and he went on: "My imagination is not sluggish, and so I manufacture all I write. leave no stone unturned to make the mythical city of Manganetus a live, issue a public meeting called to discuss the question of a new bridge across a stream that exists only in the columns of the index. Here is the wife of a prominent mining superintendent eloping with a member of the City Council; here is a runaway team, knocking the shithereens out of a cigar-store. You will note the advertisement of the cigar-store in another column. Here is the killing of Texas Pete and the investigation of his death by a Coroner's jury. The cause of the shooting was a dispute relative to the ownership of a mining location of fabulous richness. There is also in another portion of the paper, a legal summons advertised calling on a coowner (one of the principles in the affray) to do his assessment work or lose his interest. All my work dovehave ever had any knowledge of was tails nicely in, has a plausible look and shows no flaw, yet it is absolutely made from whole cloth."

"This is the most extraordinary thing I ever heard of," I said to him. "This country is full of extra-ordinary things," he quietly replied. "Where does this edition go?" asked.

"Clara, bring me the mailing list." it embraced the leading banking houses of London and New York, as well as the centres of finance and mining. My own name was oddly enough on the list. About a hundred copies were mailed, and every one went where it would do the most good. I found that my friend edited the

paper and did the typesetting, and his daughter was learning the art. "I have no companions except my little daughter-and the town of Man-

ganetus," he added, with a smile. I passed a very comfortable night. The roar of the wind through the pines and the rocking of the cabin had a deliciously soothing effect, and I lay in neared the spot where the town was lo- the warm bed thinking and resting un-

til morning before I slept. My friend, the editor, was very talkative at breakfast. He never alluded to his name, but he told me more of the paper and the enjoyment he had in building up a town in the clouds from a purely imaginative basis. "Tomorrow," said he, "I start out

on horseback to the nearest mail station, and leave my bundle of papers in the hollow of a tree until the mail buckboard comes along to take them. "In a few weeks they are being read in London and New York, and the parties in each of these cities who are nandling the sale of these mining properties are backed up handsomely by my

FROM the foundation of the world mankind, in one form of exertion or another, has sought to acquire the art of creating something from nothing.

editorial statements.

Even since wood was made to float on water and sustain some human freight, sailors during storms have been "pitying those on land in danger from falling trees and buildings."

## **TWINS** DON'T LIKE

HOW THE AFRICAN MOTHERS MUST SUFFER.

A Disgrace to Have More Than One Child at a Time.

Few things are more mysterious than the undefinable sympathy which often exists between two human beings who came into the world together. There can be no doubt that this sympathy is real, and not the effect of the magination, as some have supposed. So far as is known it does not always develop itself, and when it is present its cause is not by any means understood. A very real affection generally exists between twins, and often seems to show itself in the earliest days of infancy. It is no uncommon thing for a twin who has lost his or her counterpart to pine away, dropping gradually into the clutches of the destroyer, who, in taking away the other, has deprived life of all its joy. But though intense fondness is no doubt to a great extent the cause of such sad occurrences, the sympathy which twins have for one another shows itself

With many savage races twins are hurried out of the world immediately they have entered it; others allow them to live, but only under certain condit.ons. In Western Africa, a little below the equator, between ten degrees a large .ribe called the Ishogo. They have many peculiar customs, but none more so than their treatment of twins and of the mother who is so unfortunate as to bear them. An idea seems to exist with them that no woman ought to produce more than a single child at a time, and they seek to rectify the error by giving their deities every chance of killing one of the children before they have arrived at the age at which they are considered able to take care of themselves. This is held to be at about six years old; once that age has been passed, it is thought by these people that a proper balance between life and death has again been struck, and they do not deem any further precautious necessary.

Immediately the birth of twins takes place, the hut in which the event happened is marked in some manner which will render it readily distinguishable from all others in the village. Those who have read accounts of African travel will probably remember the unanimous testimony which explorers of the dark continent bear to the extraordinary loquacity of its natives. Africans talk as they breathe-unceas ingly-and yet the unfortunate mother of twins is forbidden to exchange a single word with any but the immediate members of her family. She may go into the forest for tirewood, and erform the household work necessary for the existence of herself and her children, but it must be all done in strict silence, unless she finds herself near one of her close relatives. The consequence of this peculiar custom is that the Ishogo woman dreads the advent . f twins more than anything, except, perhaps, being childless; and nothing irritates a newly married woman more than to tell her that she is sure to become the mother of two children at a birth.

When the six years of probation have dragged out their weary length, a grand ceremony is held to celebrate the release of the three captives, and their admission to the society of their fellows. At aybreak all the village is aroused by a proclamation made in the principal street, and the mother and a friend take up their stand on either side of the door of the hut, having previously whitened their legs and faces. The rest of the inhabitants of the place congregate round about, and at a given signal the white legged women march away from the hut, followed by the twins, the mother clasping her hands, and capering about, the friend beating a lusty tattoo upon a I glanced over the list, and saw that drum and singing a song appropriate to the occasion. After this procession has gone the round of the village there is a general dance. Then every one sits down to a great feast, and eating, drinking, and dancing are carried on for the rest of the day and all through the night. As soon as the next day dawns all restrictions upon the mother and her offspring are held to be removed.

This ceremony is known 'M'paza," a word which signifies both the twins and the rite by virtue of which they and their mother are admitted to the compani nship of their kind. Cases in which one of a pair, of twins has felt a disturbing influence at work within him when evil was befalling his other self are numerous. As with all matters of the kind, the instances related are apt to border upon the land of fiction, but there are many which are perfectly well authenticated. Though twins are usually alike in form and feature, this is not invariably the case. The writer knows twin brothers who can scarcely be said to bear even a family likeness to one another and whose complexions go to the very extremes of darkness and fairness. But though unlike bodily they so resemble each other mentally that by side.

American Cattle in European Markets. A short time ago the attention of the Department of Agriculture was called

to a recent shipment of American cattle sold in the Rhenish provinces. Through the Department of State, the Department of Agriculture was placed in possession of a communication from the United States Consul at Cologne, in which this gentleman reported the sale of some thirty head of American cattle in that market, in reference to which he made the following state- they would live longer.

"The quality of those oxen was good, but too fat, which, however, can be remedied. The price obtained per 199 pounds of the dressed meat, that

is, exclusive of the head, hide, feet and entrails, which fall to the butcher, was Marks 70 (\$16.80), being the same p ice paid for the home stock. Therefore, American cattle can compete with the home production.

"There is a difference among oxen fattened on pastures and those fattened here, especially the red and white checked ones, which might oummand s higher price, say Marks 72 per 100 America for the German market,"

American stock raise sfull information on this subject, the Secretary of Agri- that insects chiefly feed on vegetable culture addressed a communication to in force in Germany with reference to and in a recent communication from world both in ancient and modern he Department of State, enclosing the | times. report on this subject of the American Locusts have been eaten from the Consul at Hamburg, the Secretary of remotest antiquity, and some Ethiorian State promises to obtain further in- tribes, from this circumstance, received formation which shall include the law the name of Acridophagi, or locuston the subject of the exclusion of pork esters. The Arabs, when there is a and any efforts that may have been famine, grind locusts in their handand twelve degrees east longitude, lives made recently to secure its repeal, mills, or pound them in mortars, and allusion to which was made in mix with flour and water into a dough, American papers in the form of a which they bake as ordinary bread. press dispatch, purporting to have But they not only employ locusts dur-November 20.

be stated, that the cattle sold in Co- smoked. logne formed part of a shipment of 160

firms in Cologne. livery of said cattle, without a knowlregulations, and would consequently have sustained heavy pecuniary loss had the cattle been subjected to the regular four weeks' quarantine.

At the same time, however, strict orders were issued, that henceforth the regulations must be rigidly enforced. The Consul at Hamburg also informs cently large quantities of American beer have been used in the province of Schleswig in Prussia for the consumption of the German army. An order has since been issued, however, prohibiting its further use for that pur-

The above is substantially all the inture has been able to procure on this subject up to date.

A Village That Is Some Pumpkins, A special from Knoxville, Tenn., save-The village of Rogersville, in corporate limits of the town are the graves of the parents of Davy Crockett. The only ebbing spring in the United States is but a short distance from the public square. It has regular tides, and ebbs and flows every two hours with unvarying uniformity. The water is always intensely cold, but never freezes, even in the coldest weather. The oldest woman in the State gets her mail at the post office there, and a few miles in the country is the oldest organized church in the State, the New Providence Church, at Stony point.

The Queen-Regent of Spain. Dona Christina, who is so affectionately watching by day and by night at the bedside of her sick child, is a slim woman, rather above the medium height, a daughter of the Archduke Ferdinand and Archduchess they passed from the bottom to the top | Elizabeth of Austria, and is nearing of one of our great public schools side | the completion of her thirty-second year. The strain, physical and mental, caused by the youthful Monarch's illness, is leaving its impress on her appearance, at the best of times not of the healthiest—a very pale comp exion, large eyes, and golden hair. She is an intellectual woman, can freely converse in Spanish, French, German and English, loves music and society. Hardly an artiste of note visits the city without being invited by the widowed Queen to sing at the palace.

## INSECT EATERS.

THERE'S NO DISPUTING ABOUT TASTES.

Locusts, Ants, Slugs, Worms and Spidera Esteemed Delicacies.

It is difficult to imagine what would in stables. The latter are preferred have been the result if the reader had dined with a German gentleman who is said to have eaten spiders, spreading them, like butter, upon his bread! pounds. Both kinds are readily mar- This, it must be admitted, was a most keted here. There being rather a depraver s je; for the ordinary preyscarcity of cattle here this year and a |ing spider a one of the foulest feeders consequent rive in the price of beef in the insect world. But the eating of meat, it is thought that a considerable even cleanly and pleasant-looking number of American cattle can be sold insects is regarded by most people with here, and I am informed that anothe abhorrence. We are told in Clarke's large shipment is on its way from Travels, that the Arabs "are as astonished at our eating crabs, lobsters and In order to be able to give to our oysters, as we are at their eating locusts." It should be borne in mind matter, and are, therefore, much more the Department of State, requesting cleanly than, for instance, swine or information in regard to the laws now dacks. Examples of the eating of insects, as a staple item of food, can be cattle imported from the United States, brought from almost every part of the

been sent from Berlin, under date of ing a scarcity of corn, but, at other times, eat them as a delicacy. They In the meantime, for the informa- boil them for a good while in water, tion of those interested, the substance and afterwards stew them with butter of the correspondence between the De- into a kind of fricassee of good flavor. partment of State and the American The Hottentots are said to rejoice at Consuls at the points referred to, is the appearance of a swarm of locusts, here given. It would appear from the although the destructive insects devour report of the Consul at Hamburg and all the verdure in the district. The the enclosures forwarded with his natives eat them in such quantities that communication, that cattle imported they soon grow perceptibly fatter. into any of the German states and They also gather the eggs, and make provinces from the U. ited States, of them a kind of brown, or coffee-South America or Great Britian, are colored soup. Wagon loads of locu-ts ubject to a four week's quarantine, are taken into the markets of Fez, as a and furthermore, that there is no like- usual article of food. In the Maharatta lihood of such quarantine being either country, people preserve them in salt, abolished or modified. It should also and in some parts of Africa they are

Large quantities are used as food in head sold in the Rhenish Provinces, Greece. Jackson, a traveller of the and that the data in regard to them last century, says that, in 1799, locusts was obtained from Messrs. Salm & were generally served up in Barbary Whil, one of the largest cattle dealing with other dishes, and were esteemed a great delicacy. They were preferred It appears further, that during the by the Moors to pigeon; and it is said early part of last fall, some six or that a person might eat a plate of about seven hundred head of cattle were two or three hundred without feeling landed in the port of Toenning, from any ill effect. The following was the the United States, and that these were method of cooking adopted: the heads, subjected to only five or six days' wings, and legs were thrown away, their honesty have no need to proclaim quarantine, but that this was due and the bodies boiled for half an hour. the fact. to a special permit from the Imperial They were then sprinkled with salt of the fact that the persons interested being added. An English clergyman, had entered into contracts for the de- the Rev. R. Sheppard, cooked the common grasshopper in this way, edge of the existence of the quarantine serving with butter instead of vinegar, humility. and found it excellent.

In doing this he was really following the teachings of the Bible in Leviticus, xi. 20: "These ye may eat, the locust after his kind, and the bald locust after his kind, and the grasshopper after his kind." Locusts are new eaten in Crimea, Greece, the Department of State, that until re- India, Asia, Persia, Africa and Madagascar. The Chinese, who are noted for their economy, eat the chrysalis of the silkworms, after they have unwound the silk from the cocoons. They fry them in butter or lard, add the volks of eggs, and season with pepper, salt and vinegar. A missionary named Favand said that he found formation the Department of Agricul- this food both refreshing and strength-

ening. White ants are much prized as food in various parts of Africa. The Hot-tentots eat them both raw and cooked, and thrive wonderfully on this diet. One traveller says that the natives Hawkins County, has several things of parch them in pots over a fire, and eat which it can boast. The town itself is them by handfuls as comfits. He asjust one hundred years old. It has the serts that he several times ate them oldest Masonic lodge in the State, and prepared in this way, and found them the house which sheltered General to be of delicate flavor, nourishing and Jackson for months still stands in a wholesome; resembling in taste sugarstate of almost perfect preservation. ed cream or sweet almond paste. Slugs A huge hearth in a front room, which are not so frequently eaten as snails. he laid with his own hands, shows Mr. Vincent M. Holt tells of two scarcely a trace of wear. The first gardeners who were in the habit of newspaper published in the State was issued from Rogersville. Within the weak; the other, because he liked them: Ælian speaks of an Indian king who set before his guests a quantity of roasted worms, of which he said Indians were very fond, for desert.

Some Greeks, who tasted them, are said to have pronounced their flavor most delicious. Humboldt mentions that the Arabs of Fezzan ate some kinds of worms. The wire-worm, the larvæ of a small beetle, is eaten in large quantities by Turkish women, and the Chinese also eat some species of worms. Spiders nearly an inch in length are roasted over the fire and eaten by the natives of New Caledonia. Even educated Europeans have been known to eat them. Reaumur tells of a young lady who, when walking in her grounds, never say a spider which she did not pick up and eat. The celebrated Anna Maria Schurman, also, used to eat them, and said they tasted like nuts. She used jestingly to remark that she was born under the sign Scorpio.

Round the World in Less Than a Second. A French savant has calculated the Ame required for a journey round the earth, and has obtained the following results: A man, walking day and night without resting, would take 428 days; an express-train, 40 days; sound, at a medium temperature, 32 1-2 hours, a cannon-ball, 21 3-4 hours; light, a little over one-tenth, of a second; and electricity passing over a copper-wire, ures, a little under one-tauth of a second.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

Few suffer uninvited insult, Truth is a merciless iconoclast. Alas! For those advanced in years

Generosity serves others better than itse f. A little world always makes a little

Danger and security are close neigh-

Head love never sheds any of its own A poor lock is a good friend to the

burglar. We cannot own anything that we do not enjoy. To seek the truth is better than to

dig for gold. Love can only be measured by what it will suffer.

The way to make a man right is to make his heart right. Theman who is looking for faults in others will be kept busy. If there is good in us it will be sure

to inspire good in others. One of life's richest possessions is the memory of a good mother. Lions are never so big as we think

they are from their roaring. You can't make a guilty man happy. He must first lose his guilt. The love that never goes away from

home had better die aud be buried. The easiest thing in all creation to believe is a pleasing lie about ourselves. An enemy is an enemy, no matter whether he carries a flag or a musket. To be good and disagreeable is high

treason against the royalty of virtue. When a man knows, and knows not that he knows, he is asleep; wake him. Be quick. You can't use a minute but once—make the most of it.

If there wasn't any gold in the world there wouldn't be so much brass.

Some people are afraid to do right for fear they will lose money by it. A mean man must keep at it, but honesty will float without any paddling. The heart is so large that it takes more than the visible universe to fill

The man who desires only to be a sounding brass will never be anything

The man who grumbles at the quality of a gift would get tired sitting down. If two persons could ethically agree

they could talk and smile continually. Burdens will grow heavier by trying

to shift them upon the shoulders of others. One of the most powerful elements in every success is the determination to

succeed. Those who are honest and earnest in

A beautiful person is like a fountain, Chancellor, which was granted in view and pepper, and fried, a little vinegar watering the ground and spreading fer tility.

A man is vain just in proportion to his folly, and wise just in proportion to his You cannot hire a man to be honest,

He will want his wages raised every The world is full of people who are

right in their hearts and wrong in their The man who takes everything for

granted will fall through a good many

Fire is always saying, "I'm hot," and to doubt its word is to reap the penalty.

A life's happiness is easily flung away, and hardly found again when you have parted with it.

He whom the good praise and the wicked hate, ought to be satisfied with his reputation.

You just bring a couple of little quarrels into your family and they'il breed like sparrows. Unhappy people abuse themselves by

looking sour at everybody who disagrees with them. Moral training is impossible, for it depends upon the individual sense to determine good from evil.

The happiest man is he who, being above tue trouble which money brings, has hands the fullest of work.

The man who thinks he is wise should not waste his opportunity to learn by telling what he knows. There is no beautifier of complexions

or form of behavior like the wish to scatter joy and not pain around us. We murmur because we are in want, and, therefore, want because we mur-

When a man is as polite to men as he is to women he is entitled to be known

as a gentleman. The best cook stove ever made will not bake a biscuit unless there is a good fire in it.

Some persons have plenty of genuine diamond ornaments, but only glass-bead While the unhappy have still hope, the prosperous tremble with fear, Such

Children and plants turn instinctively

toward the light. Let us emulate their Those who go hunting for trouble are very poor sportsmen, though they generally bag the game.

You may suspect those persons who boast of some special virtue of having secretly the opposite vice.

By all that we circumscribe anticipation, we exalt fruition, the measure of which was never yet quite filled.

Grand thoughts, like orchard trees, amount to nothing unless they blossom and bear fruit. The fruit of thought is

The greatest blockhead is the one whose mistakes teach him nothing. Wisdom is always knocking at the front door and wanting to come in, to ang up pictures and give away treas-