From the Ruthless Grasp of the Father of Waters Will More Than

PAY FOR IMPROVEMENTS.

Maps Which Show the Exact Situation in a Striking Manner.

THE CHANGES IN THE CHANNEL,

One Short Cut Which Exerted a Great Influence on the Torrent.

AREA OF THE SOIL TO BE RECLAIMED

PAPER NO. 5.

Very few of our people conceive the importance of the Mississippi river. To most of them, especially to those who live resurrounding lands would more than double his efficiency as a producer of wealth. Multiply the inhabitants of the bottom lands by five, multiply the value of the certain statistics occasionally reprinted, the occasion for a few head lines suming up in ten syllables the misfortunes and miseries of a people, far away scenes, which, though vitally affecting the lives and property of millions of our fellow men, are never brought home to the reatizing senses of the whole people. They must be made to know and feel.

Surrounding lands would more than double his efficiency as a producer of wealth. Multiply the inhabitants of the bottom lands by five, multiply the value of the annual productions of each man by five, and we will possibly reach an approximant estimate of the annual increase of wealth which would flow from the good drainage to be obtained from lowering the bed of the river. This good drainage it is impossible to obtain so long as the river bed is high enough to make levees necessary to restrain the flood waters. To obtain good drainage the river must be lowered so that no levees will be needed.

The stupendous proportions of this

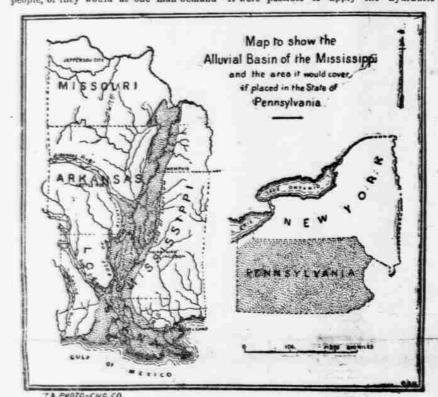
The monstrous wrong and sorrow and loss

in a few hours, and that, too, on a rapidly swelling stream. It drained Golden Lake and the bottoms between it and Frenchman's Bayou, and lowered the level of Young's and Carson's Lakes and Tyronza from four to six feet. The deep bottom between makine village and Frenchman's Bayou was drained almost completely, and where there were formerly impassible sloughs is now dry land. The drainage of Golden's Lake was more thorough than that of any other portion of the county. Where formerly there was a thorough than that of any other portion of the county. Where formerly there was a sheet of water nearly 4,000 acres in area, and of a depth of 8 to 10 feet, there are now only a few isolated water holes of limited area, the balance of what was once the bed of the lake being now a prairie-like opening, covered with rank grasses and vegetation of all sorts. A portion, if not all, of this old lake bed has been homesteaded, and it will soon be in cultivation."

This isolated instance shows how greatly the adjacent country would be benefited by

This isolated instance shows how greatly the adjacent country would be benefited by lowering the river bed. In this case lowering the river bed four to six feet drained ponds, sloughs and marshes thousands of acres in area, and thus increased the agricultural capabilities of the immediate region. What was done on a small scale by accident tural capabilities of the immediate region. What was done on a small scale by accident in this instance it is proposed to extend by design to the whole Mississippi Valley, and thereby to reclaim millions of acres of the richest imaginable soil and add to our wealth a value several times greater than the sum spent to permanently improve the river, make navigation safe thereon, protect the land from overflow and greatly benefit the health of the inhabitants. Any person who has lived in the southern country in a location adjacent to or but little removed from ill-drained or marshy lands is too familiar with chills and severa, dengue and other malarial diseases to need argument to convince him that good drainage of the surrounding lands would more than double his efficiency as a producer of wenth.

The stupendous proportions of this measure preclude its accomplishment by an of the yearly overflows are not real to our people, or they would as one man demand it were possible to apply the hydraulic



that such things be ended. The brooding | system so successful in Holland, at a cost of horror of disease is never thought of by those whose hearts and hands stretch out to help and save-everywhere but here.

The vast wealth to be won by improving these rivers and making them serviceable commercial waterways is not appreciated, or the people would cry out that such possibilities must be realized without further loss

The vast areas now swamps and lagoon, yielding a living only to the stray hunter, are mere fog banks to the people at large. Let them once realize that lands of surpassing richness lie but a few feet or inches below the present river levels-that to lower the Mississippi a few feet would drain and reclaim lands that would make nearly a million homesteads-that the means are at hand to drain these lands at a cost of \$2 or \$3 per acre, and the practical common sense of the people would see the work inaugurated without delay and pushed steadily

forward to completion.

Marsh lands, lagoons and other illdrained areas, now worse than waste, but easy to drain and convert into the most fertile farms imaginable, border the Mississippi and its tributaries in the vast alluvial

5 cents per cubic yard, the total outlay would be \$680,000,000. There seems to be no other way than that proposed in the fourth paper, in which method sultable appliances and sufficient power skillfully directed and constantly in adjustment to the varying conditions of the river, control and guide the mighty forces of nature.

That permanent jetties or contraction works alone will not suffice, is proved by experience. Jetties are the proper and economical means of deepening and regulating channels having a uniform discharge or one varying within moderate limits. In all such streams jetties cannot fail if properly applied. But in a stream whose whole dis arge varies from 156,000 to 1,603,000 cubic feet per second, permanent contraction works are well nigh impossible to design correctly or apply successfully.

Permanent contraction works successful at high water are useless when the river falls; and works efficient at low stages are worse than useless at flood times, even if not destroyed. It is evident that none of the standard old methods will apply to America's vast problem. America must bring forth new methods suited to the unexampled magnitude and changing nature of our rivers. What has be said concerning jetties and contractio, works applies with tenfold force to levees. The levee can be excused only as a temporary expedient,

GRAPHICAL COMPARISON OF SWAMP LAND IN THE MISSISSIPPI VAL-LEY WITH THE FARM ACREAGE OF THE FERTILE STATES.

Total Acreage of Swamp Land in the Mississippi Valley, 30,955,000 Acres.

Swamp Land in the Lower Mississippi Valley, 22,076,000 Acres.

Farm Acreage of Maine, N. Hampshire, Vermont, Mass., Rhode Id., Connecticut and N. Jersey

Farm Acresgo of New York State, 22,190,810 Acres.

Farm Acreage of Ohio. 21,712,420 Acres.

1,000,000 acres in extent, will be considered

Those bordering the river are swampy because the river is too high; and all of auch lands above Baton Rouge, or even a little pearer the Guli lands, 30,000,000 acres n area, can be drained and reclaimed by lowering the river bed, as set forth in the preceeding article. The effect of lowering the river bed upon the drainage of the adacent country will be shown by the followmg extract from a report of the Mississippi

Liver Commission:
"The event which had more to do with the alteration of the level, and consequently the general appearance of this region, than apy other phenomenon that has occurred in recent times, not excepting the earthquakes of the early part of the century, was the Devil's Elbow Cut-off, which happened in 1876, with the general history of which the commission is familiar. The writer hereof was at Shawnee Village, distant about 10 or 12 miles from the point where the cut off was made, in an air line, and he distinctly felt the shock and heard the roar of the mighty mans of water as the river cut its bounded by the levees and of just summer way through the narrow neck of land that depth to earry off the volume of its waters.

Thus the first effect is to soon away the standard of the river, widen it to make merly crawled 25 miles to make. The immediate result of this cut-off was to check the rise in the river for 100 miles up stream.

The swamp lands bordering the Gulf, designed to avert destruction for a season,

Money spent on levees must be reckoned as money invested in the crops of a lew years only. If the crops are of sufficient value to pay for the levees in five or ten years, the expense is justified; not otherwise. The levee or dike has a legitimate use in protecting lands below tide-level
—lands below the limits of natural drainage. But as applied on the Mississippi above the tidal reach the levee is a violation of natural law, and its continued use will bring

flicts on those who offend her. The levee fails to justify its existence by protecting life and property; it prevents good and natural drainage, so injuring the people in health; and in the largest sense it is an obstruction to commerce and the cause of obstructions to navigation.

of obstructions to navigation.

The levee has been tested for upward of 100 years, and the river is to-day in worse condition than it was when the first levee was built. The levee is necessarily built at a considerable distance from the immediate banks of the river, therefore the river at floodwater tends to assume a cross section bounded by the levees and of just sufficient denth to exert off the volume. ancient banks of the river, widen it to make the new banks coincident with the leves and raise the bottom of the river bed to a considerable amount, so that the new cross section will have the same carrying capacity

which it could sustain at its mininver and decrease its capacity for carrying
imum velocity when flowing slowly off the flood waters. Thus the curves beover the shoal; the river here
acquires a maximum velocity, and, thereand crookeder until there comes a climax—

ore, takes up a quantity of sediment sufficient to saturate the water at the augmented velocity. This sediment is suspended and carried along until the water reduces its velocity in passing over the next shoal, where this added sediment is again deposited, building up that shoal. Thus matters go on from year to year. Each year the shoals become snallower; each year the bends become deeper; each year large tracts of agricultural lands are washed away by the punishment which nature inevitably inthe widening of the channel along reaches; each year the banks in the deep bends are cut farther and farther back.

Map

showing changes n the channel of the

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

and destruction of lands

since 1810

Adapted from the report of the Miseigaspp Roser Commission

The squares era fails in eras

Lands method empy abaded the [1]

crest nearer to the bend below and increasing the slope of the descent into it. Down

the sharp declivity the water rushes into the

bend, with a great and ever increasing ve-locity, becoming a power of terrible destruc-

Since the deep water is in the bends, the cities and towns are there located; and the caving of the banks in the bends frequently causes destruction of city property devoted to commercial uses and of very great value. The rate of caving is illustrated by the following extracts from the Mississippi River Commission's report:

"The most noticeable change shown to have taken place in the reach extending from Mound City Landing to the head of President Island is a heavy caving shown

President Island is a heavy caving above Hopefield, extending from Mound City to Hopefield and amounting to a maximum cutting of 1,200 feet in the middle of the

stroyed and its inhabitants impoverished. See accompanying map. Since 1722 15 cut-offs are historical events. In addition to these 19 cut-offs have oc-

in the morning an important maritime town, is left high and dry, its trade de-

at the lead of the old Cow Islands the caving

The varying velocities in the river, due to

mile in length.

Map showing change in the Vississippi River in the vicinity of Vicksburg,

[NOTE.—A critical inspection of the above map shows that the river, probably within 200 years, flowed in nearly a straight line from the northeast to the southwest, its east or left bank lying about where the N. O. & T. Railroad now is; and that within recent times it has washed over and destroyed all the land shown on the right hand side of the map, an area exceeding 125 square miles, or 80,000 acres, which, if well drained and safe from destruction and overflow, would cut up into 2,000 farms of 40 acres each, support 50,000 people and have a money value of \$8,000,000 to \$12,000,000. This is only one locality. Every reach in the river presents similar features of the same of the s

for a distance of a mile."

"Between Beeve's and Harris' landing for a distance of 4,000 feet there has been an average cutting of 300 feet; below Fleece's plantation there has been a cutting of 200 feet to 400 feet, a distance of 3,690 feet, and

as the old one. From this results the build- 500 feet for a distance of 10,000 feet. Cay-

diately below. Up the long sand-wave the river crawls, depositing its sediment, build-

sand-wave higher, advancing its

e to Cut Off of 1876.

In addition to these 19 cut-offs have oc-curred within comparatively recent times, but not historic in the regions affected. Five or more cut-offs are now threatened. We are sure that the cut-offs of quite recent times exceed 30 in number and bid fair to soon equal 40.

These things must be remedied once for all, regardless of cost. We must not swerve from the proper course, even if cities must from the proper course, even if cities must be moved. The end will justify the first be moved. The end will justify the first cost, however great it may be. By means of the movable caisson jetties and such other expedients as have been proved good, or may be deemed suitable, the river must be made to excavate its channel, with as few and as long bends as possible, with such a contour as to insure uniform velocity in all its parts and to a depth sufficient to insure good drainage to the adjacent lands and preserve them from overflow, even in the greatest floods.

This project may appear of colossal pro-

the greatest floods.

This project may appear of colossal proportions, and its cost may seem to be greater than the people can afford to pay. A little reflection, however, will show that the increased value of the lands now occupied in

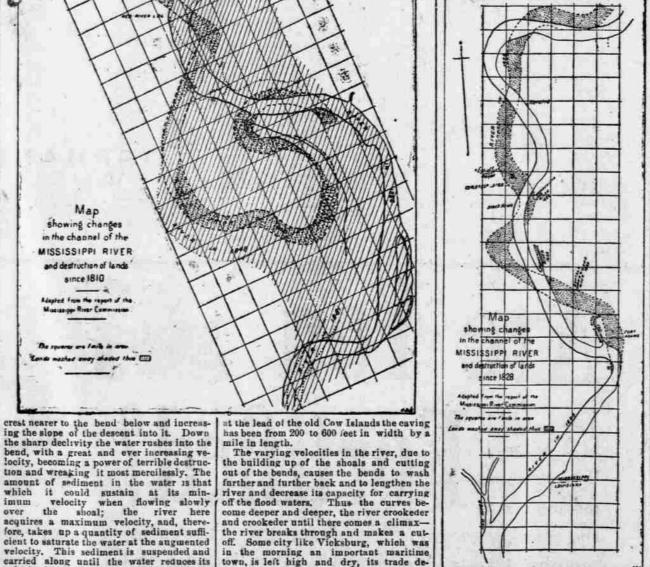
the valley, together with the value of the lands which will be made fit for occupation as the old one. From this results the building up of a long sand wave commencing at deep water in one bend and reaching its greatest height relative to the grade line of the river immediately above the next lower bend. This long sand wave is dignified with the name of shoal or bar. At the crest of the sand wave commences a sharp declivity of the river bottom into the bend immediately above the next lower bend. This long sand wave is dignified with the name of shoal or bar. At the crest of the sand wave commences a sharp declivity of the river bottom into the bend immediately above the next lower mouth of Four-Mile Bayon, upstream, there has been an average earlier of a distance of 10,000 feet. Caving has also taken place immediately above Lake's Landing, averaging 200 feet in width by one-half mile in length, and from the mouth of Four-Mile Bayon, upstream, there has been an average average of a mile."

"Between Beeve's and Harris' landing for a distance of 4,000 feet, for a distance of 10,000 feet. will pay the cost of the improvement several

A tract of land larger than all the New England States, with the exception of the State of Maine, or halt as large as the State of New York, and with agricultural possibilities of the very highest order will be added to the area of the farming lands of the United states. With this increase of stillable lands will come corresponding in-orease of population, of manufactures and of commerce. This it is not possible to ob-tain by the use of levees.

was at Shawnee village, distance about 10 or 12 miles from the point where the cut-off was made, in an air line, and he distinctly felt the shock and heard the roar of the mighty mass of water as the river cut its way through the narrow neck of land which had hitherto restrained it."

This is a good description of a crevasse, where the river breaks through a crumbling and inundates thousands of acres of cultivated lands, destroys farms, buildings and implements, and drowns the stock and



such of the inhabitants as have not time a threat as this. Lands so menaced cannot have a high value proportionate to their productiveness. People will not make good and permanent improvements or work their land under a good system where their land under a good system where their lives and property are constantly in danger. No enlightened agriculture is possible or will be practiced in the Lower Missiasippi bottom lands until the river bed is lowered and such things are rendered forever im-

It is the opinion of engineers and geo-graphers that the Mississippi river has meandered over the entire surface of the flat lands between Cairo and the Gulf. These lands are in some places 80 miles wide, in some as narrow as 20. What the river has done it is doing its best to do again. The time occupied is long, measured by the memory of an individual, but very short if measured by historical another.

measured by historical epochs.

The following selection of maps reproduced from the report of the Mississippi River Commission will give some idea of the

PREACHING REFORMS

Local Ministers Object to Giving Out Free Advertising

BY ANNOUNCING ENTERTAINMENTS

It Requires Too Much Time and Diverts the Mind From the Sermon.

PLANS ADOPTED IN OTHER CITIES

The pastors of some of the largest churches in Pittsburg have recently abolished the custom of making announcements from the pulpit on Sunday of entertainments, fes-

gations equally large, continue to read nearly all announcements that come to them from either secular or church sources. Among the laity of the religious people of Pittsburg and Allegheny this has aroused a controversy as to what is church etiquette on the subject. Some interesting points are brought out on both sides of the question by interviews had with leading clergymen. On last Sunday Rev. W. H. Pearce, D. D., of the Butler Street M. E. Church, Lawrenceville, in a little statement before the congregation, discouraged the practice. For his flock he prints a miniature newspaper called the Church Tidings, and into this he crowds all the announcements possible. It is only monthly, however, and he told the congregation it would be an excellent thing to print a slip of paper, or card, for every Sunday, bearing all acceptable announcements. He said that all the principal churches in the country are ceasing to be the means of free advertising. Rev. Dr. Pearce, when interviewed, gave

his views more in detail. Said he:

VIEWS OF REV. DR. PEARCE. "A preacher in Baltimore not long since told his congregation that if there was any time left after making the usual pulpit aunouncements he would preach a sermon. I think he struck the keynote of the objection to this once popular church custom. To ask a paster to make a long string of announce-ments, many of which he is expected to amplify with complimentary remarks, is to hamper him. It takes his mind, to a greater hamper him. It takes his mind, to a greater or lesser extent, off the line of thought to which he wishes to confine himself for the effetiveness of his discourse. To leave the pastor free to devote himself exclusively to making the devotional exercises and the sermon a success, some other plan should be contrived for the announcement of social events. This matter of announcements has grown to large proportions. The number of our church societies has multiplied of late years, and their gatherings for social and religious purposes are numerous. But, in addition to these, a minister receives all sorts of secular these, a minister receives all sorts of secular announcements. They are about lectures, and the like.
"The neighboring churches send in re-

"The neighboring churches send in requests to announce their fairs, testivals and bazars. If you announce one you must open wide the way and announce all. They are usually pay entertainments, so that an announcement is equivalent to a free advertisement. I reject a great many of these, and I try to limit all announcements to the societies connected with our own church, or to some outside cause in which the public generally is interested, such as the Y. M. C. A. work, when it does not conflict with dates for meetings in my own church.

THE WEEKLY BULLETIN PLAN. "A couple of years ago I tried the week-bulletin plan, and it is eminently successcost of printing it. When that plan is adopted all notices should be in by Saturday morning so they may be printed. That reminds me of another evil of the pres-ent system. Probably two-thirds of the announcements in every church are placed on the pulpit Sabbath morning. or carried to him by the ushers during service. He has no time to determine their merit, and runs the risk of thus hurriedly announcing something that, had he time to Rev. Dr. Purvis, of the First Presbyteriau Church, said: "I am opposed to using the pulpit for advertising purposes. The newspapers are for that. I guard very strictly all the announcements made in my church.
I receive dozens of notices weekly of lectures, concerts, fairs, bazaars and social estertainments which I promptly reject. It would consume valuable time in

the pulpit to read them and fulfill no useful object. Now and then I have to make an exception to this rule, where something is of such common interest to the community as to demand its recognition. These may be of a patriotic or charitable character. But as a usual thing I refuse to announce any pay entertainments. Such requests are usually accompanied by a couple of admission tickets. These I throw into the waste basket. You remember the Newsboys House Association gave a dinner or festival in the chapel of my church. I am connected with the association, yet I not announce the affair from the pulpit." STANDS THE ANNOYANCE. Rev. Dr. Cowan, of the Third Presbyter-ian Church, said: "Oh, I aunounce pretty

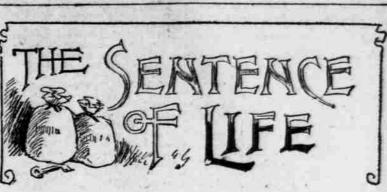
much all that comes to me. True, it is annoying sometimes to find a lot of announcements heaped up on the pulpit Sabbath morning, but usually they all pertain to events out of which some good may come. It does not take me very long to read them. Those I know nothing about, I simply read. Those I am familiar with or which are connected with our own church, I otten emphasize with some remarks. You see there is a way of boiling down announcements so that they will not take up much time. You can't suppress entertainments by refusing to announce them any more than you can muzzle the press. The age for that has gose by. The free ticket nuisance does not bother me. They are usually sent as a compliment to the pastor and not believing that he actually will care to use them; I prefer my church to be sisterly, and for that reason I announce nearly all the entertainments of neighbor

ourages friendship."
Rev. T. J. Leak, D. D., of North Avenue M. E. Church, said: "I make announcements freely, though I try to discriminate between them. Although I have sometimes been embarrassed in the pulpit by the large number of notices that find their way there, and the wordy recommendation some of them ask at my lips I means to make their escape. dation some of them ask at my lips, I People cannot live in comfort under such always try to read them all. IT TAKES UP TIME.

"I prefer to err on the generous side. It is true this often does take up considerable time, but audiences are for the time inter-ested in hearing them. If there are many they can't remember all, so no harm is done I do reject announcements which conflict with the dates of religious meetings in my

with the dates of religious meetings in my own church. On this score I have rejected Y. M. C. A. announcements sometimes."

In all the above churches the reading of announcements takes up from 5 to 15 minutes each service, except in the First Presbyterian, where Dr. Purvis disposes of them in less than two minutes. At Emory M. E. Church, in the East, Rev. Dr. Wilson has the printed slip plan. In a church at Scranton the clergyman is relieved of making announcements. An official member of the church makes the announcements. At Akron, O., Lewis Miller's celebrated M. E. Church has a bulletin board in the vestibule, over which a bulletin board in the vestibule, over which these words are written: "No secular ap-nouncements made in this church."



wealthy banker's residence sat the host and large number of guests, feasting. The dishes were excellent, the wine delicious, and conversation was naturally brisk and animated. Discussion was on the topic of capital punishment—whether it was more befitting humanity to inflict the sentence of death or imprisonment for life. As there were lawyers, physicians, bankers, journalists, in fact, representatives of most of the classes of society present, the respective opinions were widely different,

"I cannot agree with him," said the host to one of his guests, who declared the deathsentence as cruel, and wholly unfit for our cultivated age and Christain government.

taken, can never be restored again—the life again continually asking for books, but his of a human being; and, whether it is literal reading was irregular. Now he would ask

In the magnificent dining-room of the at night, wrote something, and tore it up at night, wrote something, and tore it up again; and more than once they heard painful sobbing. In the sixth year, he began with the study of languages, philosophy, history, and continued so for four years, during which time he read more than 600 volumes.

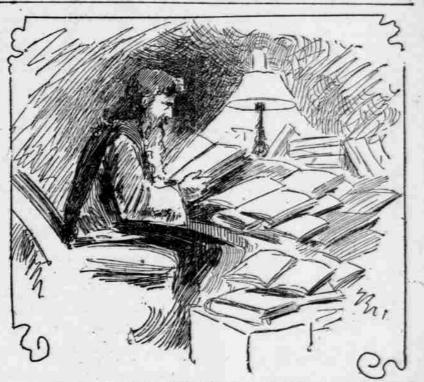
At the end of this time, the banker received the following letter from his

MY DEAR KERPER-I write this letter in MY DEAR KERPER—I write this letter in six different languages; show it to experts, and if they find no fault in it, give me a sign by firing a pistol in the garden. I will know then that my studies have not been in vain, and my soul shall take delight in the thought that the genius of so many centuries and so many countries is known and understood by me. Oh! if you could share the happiness I feel!

The banker did as the prisoner wished. He showed the letters, and as they were perfect, he went into the garden and fired

"I certainly have no experience in either, but if a man may judge by opinion, I should call death more desirable, morally and sensibly prelerable to the slow killing of life-long imprisonment."

"I think both are equally cruel. In both cases the law takes something that, once taken, can never be restored again—the life.



or moral death, in both cases the same

result and the same cruelty.' result and the same cruelty."

"Surely you will not say that the law should let criminals go free? How will you protect the innocent if you do not remove the guilty, and how will you prevent crime if you do not punish it when detected?"

"The question was on the cruelty and not on the necessity, which is quite a different point. I think the question has to remain an open one, because it depends on individual feeling. There are men who had

ual feeling. There are men who had die at once than give up their liberty for ever so short a time, and there are some who could live in chains and yet cling to life."

"I, for one," said a young lawyer, not yet

25 years of age, "prefer life to death in any circumstances. If I should be compelled to between the two punishments, I

banker; "I would willingly lay a wager of two millions that after only five years of solitary imprisonment, you would come to look on death as a kind liberator and be sorry for not having chosen him in time."
"And I am quite certain I would not,"

said the young man; "where there is life there is hope also, and if your proposition was meant in earnest, I shall take your wager, that I shall stand not only five, but fifteen years of single imprisonment, and come out and enjoy life and your millions "I accept. I'll stake two millions, you

your life, or, what I believe the same, your liberty for fifteen years. But I tell you young man, think twice before you wenture! You know it is easy for me to lose two millions. I hazard as much or more every day in business. But it is a different thing with you. You hazard the best years of your life with the certainty of loss. You cannot stand it. You will suffer, perhaps, for a year or two, perhaps a little longer, and then will be glad to escape and forfeit the wager. You must consider, also, that voluntary imprisonment is harder than that which is compulsory, and the knowledge that you are free to go at will must be an eternal torment."
"Well, I think differently, and stick to

the bet, if you are not afraid to hold to it."

All interfered, or tried to do so, but in vain, and this wild wager was concluded and made into a contract, witnessed by all pres-

On the following day, according to this contract, the young lawyer took up his abode in a side wing of the banker's palace. abode in a side wing of the banker's palace. In this side wing he was to remain for 15 years without ever crossing its threshold. He would receive no visitors, no letters. He would see no human being, hear no human voice, speak to no one, never read a newspaper. He should be allowed to play on one instrument, should get books to read, write letters, and receive wine, cigars—in fact, everything that was necessary to his personal comfort. He should not see his attendants, but he could, when necessary, communicate his wishes to them by writing and putting the paper out through a little window in the door, through which he would also get his meals. The stipulations were minutely clear, and as this was noon of November 14, 1870, he must stay in his of November 14, 1870, he must stay in his prison until November 14, 1885, at a board, there stood among old books an aboard, there stood among old books an enormous stuffed eagle. The seals on the prisoner's door were untouched yet, and as

fore his time expired, he should forfeit the wager and have no claim whatever. The door was locked, scala put on the outside, and the imprisonment began.

During the first year, the prisoner was incessantly writing letters, and the sound of the piano was heard night and day. He seemed to suffer very much from loneliness and tedium, and gave up wine and cigars, because, as he wrote, the former created desires; and desires are the prisoner's heavies torment, while the latter spoiled the air in the room. He wanted only lively books, such as comedies, fantastical love stories and such works.

During the second year the piano was prisoner's door were untouched yet, and as the flames of the match died away, the banker, shaken by agitation and flittleming of the heart, drew close to the little window and looked into the room.

There was a feeble lamp light within, and the prisoner sat at the table, with his back against the door and seemingly absorbed in deep study. On the table, the chairs, and the carpets, lay a heap of open books. About five minutes passed without a single movement—a solitary life had evidently taught the prisoner quietude. The banker tapped twice on the window with his finger, but the man seemed to take no notice of it—at any rate, he did not turn. Slowly the banker

and such works.

During the second year the pinno was mute, and the prisoner asked for Shakespeare and Byron. In the third, he gave himself to the study of Roman law and national economy. In the fourth year, he asked for Shakespeare and Byron again, and also for Homer, Voltaire and Goethe. In the fifth, the piano sounded again, and the prisoner asked for wine. Those who watched him through the little window noticed that, in this year, he resigned himself almost entirely to ideness. He ate, drank, yawned, and was often heard angrily talking to himself, and even weeping. Books he did not want, and sometimes he got up

for some scientific work, and then again for poetry. Then he would send out a list com-bining works on philosophy, chemistry, medicine and anatomical science. It seemed as if he would fight dullness as a drowning man the waves, and the last books he read were Tolstoi's "Religious Confessions" and Corvente's "Don Onivote" Cervante's "Don Quixote,"

The banker was feverishly pacing the polished floor of his private room. He was no longer the young, dar-ing man who had held out that evil bet to the young lawyer. The last 15 years had left their marks on him, outside and in. His hazardous speculations had, of late, become less happy than before; in fact, of the many millions he once possessed, there was hardly more than the two he had to give up to-morchoose between the two punishments, I would assuredly try the imprisonment, Life, however dreary, is better than death."

"You speak as youth and inexperience generally do, and will, no doubt, speak differently soon," said the what fool he, the banker, had been! Why, that man was hardly 40 yet! He would that man was hardly 40 yet! He would come out a millionaire, would enjoy life and wealth, marry, have a wite and children, become famous, gain a high position, while he, the banker, would be left a beggar, looking with envy on this man's happiness. Yes, and smile and be thankful, if this creature of his will should say: "You I have to thank for the foundation of my fortune; let me show you my gratitude by helping you as much as possible!" No! he could stand anything but that; and yet, what was he to do? He had to give up the money without delay, without question, and there was nothing to prevent his rain. There were but two ways for him. A resolute jump from the precipice he stood on, or, in plain language, a ball through his heart, and there would be an end of everything, or he must look forward to bankruptey and disgrace. Hold! yes-there was a third-that man could die! Why did he not die before? Why should he, the once penniless accord, live to rob him of his wealth and position, when they were more to him than life itself? Yes, he must—he shall die! At first a thrill of horror went through the breast of the banker, as he contemplated this fearful conception, yet it came again and again; it shaped itself into thought, it worked into a

> It was 3 o'clock. Everybody in the house, except the master, was asleep. He unlocked his fireproof sale and took out the key—which had not been used for 15 years -the key to the prisoner's room. He carefully put on his overcoat, and slowly and noiselessly left the house, and let himself out into the garden. The night was chill, the rain was dripping, and it was so dark that it was only by a general knowledge of

this night-at once!

twice on the window with his finger, but the man seemed to take no notice of it—at any rate, he did not turn. Slowly the banker ripped off the seals and placed the key in the keyhole. The rusty lock gave a harsh click, and the banker thought that, as soon as the door would be opened, the prisoner would jump up and cry out. However, nothing of the kind happened, and as the banker stepped in, the man sut there, immovable as before.

immovable as before.

"The man," I have said; but the human being who sat there at that table hardly resembled a man-in fact, seemed hardly to belong to mankind in general. A skeleton it was, with a long, thin back, skin of waxen, almost ashy, paleness;