# HHHRSON

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OPEN

A GLIMPSE OF NEW YORK'S FAMOUS PENI-CHATS WITH THE QUEER CHARACERS-STRANGE FANCIES OF THESE UNFOR-WHAT AN INTELLIGENCER REPORTER

From the Bucks County Intelligencer.

To the casual traveller, as he hastens up and down East river in the bustling, narrow, it lies in the water like a stranded log, encompassed upon either side by a We have scoured the market for things swift-running stream. The rapid current other's hair, but the nurses soon separate blind," wetting her finger and wiping of the river strikes it at its head, where them." the tall lighthouse stands, in a long, seething line of foam, and separating, eddies one who followed us most persistently pleasant feature. here and there huge slices of the solid wall; called. She was a short, thick woman, read well enough. and when the tide is high the waves from about fifty years old, with a shaggy mop the steames' paddlewheels throw their of red hair clustering about her face, and white crests clear over the rocky barrier long arms that almost reached down to her on the sward beyond. It is quite a pic- huge bare feet. After shaking hands with turesque place, viewed from a distance. her we gave her an apple, and I wish I The gloomy looking buildings, with their could describe the look of delight that went flood of waters surrounding the whole the went out of the building we saw her at her my had. striped suits, who labor in the quarry and bars as though in stocks, her hands protrud- and much other writing so lined and in churches of every name. brown MUSLIN, Prints, along the water's edge in a way suggestive ing a little above clutching her apple, and terlined as to be illegible. Then we bade forget the busy city that crashes and grinds heavy irous-much as I have seen the part with us. just beyond; and he must not see the river baboons in the menageries hugging the A young and pretty-faced girl attracted beyond it he congratulates himself that he sanity. has not yet taken up permanent residence

> To reach the island the visitor must leave the wharf at the Bellevue Hospital east off and steamed up to the head of the is slight.

island—a pleasant ride of a couple of miles. interesting of all to visitors, and we went the last extreme. directly to it. The buildings are quite numerous, and are mostly very large, built TO CALL AND INVESTIGATE, AT

Proceeding at once to the office in the us was through the corridors of the building we were then in. This building was long and wide, two stories hight, and contained a vast number of lunatics. In the centre of each floor was a wide hall, with the rooms opening into it from each side. floors are as white and clean as vigorous provided with sheets, pillow cases and counterpanes. On the walls were pictures and prints of various kinds, and there were numerous canary birds hanging from the ceiling. In this building those lunatics-"loons" in the vocabulary of the Islandare confined who are not violently insane, but cannot be entirely trusted alone. These form the largest number of all the patients in the asylum, and the number in this Now you can get the benefit of your CASH in

building ran well into the hundreds. The janitor took us into the first corridor, were visible perhaps two hundred lunatics; we were seven in party. The feeling at first was not comfortable, but our apprehension soon wore away. Some of the lunatics scorned to notice us; others leered at us with silly grimaces; and others still glared and scowled at us in a very angry manner. "It is one of our principles," said the janitor, "to keep the loons busy all the time; they are quieter and happier while at work. They take care of this building themselves, under the direction of the nurses, and seem glad to do it. They she said. And going to her window she 3 doors above the Washington Hotel. 3 make their own beds, scrub the floor, &c.; indeed they seem so anxious to get to work that sometimes they get up at three o'clock one of the stones was an amulet, and if do best they are allowed to do." He the other stone I was to plant and millions showed us several rooms decorated in var- of dollars would grow from it.

honor to sound minds.

It was curious to watch the actions of conversation with a picture of Napoleon TUNATE CREATURES-THE "BABY" AND and berating it. A number of melancholy I turned with a start, and saw by my side debts. The theory upon which large THE WORKHOUSE AND ITS WORKERS- rocking platforms, mouning and weeping black eyes. She, I learned, felt herself each sitting in a large church, even with a tion. Indeed, it was a pathetic place, for shells, fish bones and the like as such. snorting steamboats, Blackell's Island pres- the troubles and sufferings are as real to "See my eye?" the Mother said. Under will seat 2,000 persons, with a funded debt ents few points of attraction. Long and these poor unfortunates as the trials of it was a long, inflamed streak. "The other of \$100,000, will be about \$22,000, or only

of force rather than inclination; he must her red, frowsy head pressed against the her good-bye, though she was very loth to

The island is divided into three sections janitor as we went out. What he referred lighted thereby.

numerous single story frame buildings, in make them happy and contented. of the native stone quarried on the island. which the quiet, harmless, hepeless cases From the asylum we went to a portion of The lunatics are confined in the various live. Each one contained an average of the Island where they do not take such buildings according to the violence of their seventy-five beds, all as neat and clean as great pains to make people comfortableare allowed perfect liberty; but they are the office, we were motioned to a door with main structure, where we presented our full of whims. Some won't go outside the the wave of the official's hand. Entering passes, we were turned over to the care of door; others won't go across the portico; unacompanied, we found ourselves in a courteous and talkative janitor, who one was reading a book, which she con- vast building, open to the roof. The escorted us about. The first place he took tinues to read without finishing from one massive walls were honeycombed with cells year's end to another; and all have some | three tiers high, the second and third tiers peculiar trait that marks them as hopeless | being reached by narrow iron balconies.

"This is the 'Mother of the Universe,'

California devils stripped me of everthing, and you see what I have got on now," "What have I got? What have I got?" and locked the door behind us. There she said, as though talking to herself, tugging at a piece of twine fast to her belt. "Only this," pulling out an old brass shoe buckle, "and the diamonds all stolen bosom an old programme she had found of in the workhouse; but were sound in mind some dance party. "Oh! beware of those devils," she said to us, gravely. "Do you unmolested. come from California?" turning to me.

"Yes," I answered, willing to humor

"Then I must give you some diamonds, brought me a large horse chestnut and two small stones. The chestnut was a diamond in the morning and go to scrubbing, and fastened it on blue ribbon and tied it around we cannot stop them. Whatever they can my neck it would save me from great harm;

ious ways by their owners, and some of "Now," she said, "close your hand up estimated at \$20,000,000.

ON BLACKWELL'S ISLAND. the zephyr, needle and wax work would do tight; you don't know how valuable those diamonds are.'

> And thus she went all around our party the patients. One was holding an animated with a seriousness that was truly touching. nounce an article in Scribner under the hanging on the wall, alternately coddling diamonds," said a harsh voice in my ear. lation to the recent discussion as to church ones were swaying up and down on large a heavy-set German woman with piercing churches are built is that the expense for in the most heart-broken manner. Some allied with the Mother because she gathers | considerable debt, is less per capital than seemed bubbling over with light-hearted- the bits of stone and other trifles for her. in a small church without any debt at all. ness, and others were plunged in the depths | The Mother herself never goes outside of | For instance, the expenses of a church in of despair There were several that fol- her building, and if nobody brought her this city scating 500 people will be about lowed us closely, but offered us no molesta- "diamonds," she would use cinders, egg \$15,000 a year, or thirty dollars per sit-

> actual life. "Don't they ever quarrel?" I night a little devil dipped something in ten or twelve dollars a sitting, or about asked our attendant. "Yes," said he, "once | malaria and put it in my eye," she said; | twenty-five cents for each person for each in a while, woman-like, they get in each and now I must do so to keep from going Sabbath in the year. beneath her eye, where she had rubbed that the Presbyterian Memorial Church of As we went up on the second floor the the sore spot that so marred her otherwise New York, Rev. Dr. Robinson, has just

length of its walled edges. In and out of muttered something far from complimen- I gave her one of my eards. Unfortunately 000, charging up the interest \$7,000 a year) the crevices between the stones the waters tary. Above we were introduced to the it had Penn'a, on it. I went down im- to running expenses. As the building is rush in a hungry sort of way, licking out first "character"—the "Baby," as she was mediately in her estimation, for she could designed to seat nearly two thousand peo-

"Thought you came from California!" I was silent.

peremptorily.

I held out my hand.

massive walls and barred windows, and the over her face! Simple as a child, she This I give you and this I take away," she comer enjoys all the privileges and immunicarefully cultivated land about them, are hugged the precious apple to her bosom said, going over them half a dozen times, ties of those who have borne the heaviest suggestive of old feudal castles, and the and fairly crowed with delight. As we and wound up by leaving them all in burdens. The paster himself has contrib-

by two walls running across its whole width. to was an enclosure surrounded by a stout It would be impossible to tell of all the represented almost every variety of color, The upper section is the female lunatic fence, containing fifty or more patients. curious things these lunatics said and did. and many of them were capable of receivasylum; the middle the penitentiary; and Some had their heads tied up, and all One must see them to form a good idea of ing a high polish. One tree furnishes wax the lower the almshouse, hospital and other seemed to be in different stages of con- what such a place is. There on the island that is used for candles; another a pith charitable institutions. The male asylum, valescence. Here, we found, were put for they are very comfortable and well cared that is used for food; and still another controlled and directed in the same man- safe keeping during the day time all those for. They have a hall of good size, with a | yields a juice which is used in the place of ner as the female, is located on Ward's Is- who had suicidal inclinations. "Every now stage and a piano. From time to time intoxicating liquor. There is a single variety land, some distance further up the river. and then one jumps the fence and runs for companies from the neighboring city give of palm from which the natives obtain food, So there are none but female lunatics on the river," remarked our janitor, "but we them volunteer entertainments. Anything drink, elothing, bedding, cordage, fishing-Blackwell's Island; but there are certainly eatch them before they get into the water." in which music has a part they are plessed tackle, medicine, and the material they Farms, Timber Lands and Town Lots AND IF ANY THINK THEY HAVE enough of these to compensate for the Of course, they are only kept out here in with. Fancifully-dressed characters give manufacture into dwellings, weapons, harabsence of the men, being over 1200 in pleasant weather. At the bestthey were a them vert delight, and the manner in which poons and musical instruments. Doubtless REASON to DOUBT IT WE WOULD number. This part of the island is most sorry-looking set, and were melancholy to they give vent to their approbation is more the day is not far distant when the valuable graphic than pleasing. From what we saw | woods of Brazil will be used for various Seattered around the grounds were on the Island, no effort seems spared to useful and ornamental purposes.

those in the large buildings. These patients | the workhouse. Presenting our tickets at In the centre is a square building, for cooking and washing, with two wings running der changes. This can be done by thick said the janitor, touching a comely-faced right and left, being the men's and women's old woman on the shoulder, who was sitting | side of the prison. The wings being con-The rooms were occupied by two, and some- on the floor in one of the little buildings. structed in the manner described, they are times three inmates, and were fitted up in | She was once a school-teacher, and was a easily watched and guarded, and escape very comfortable style. There was no very intelligent woman, for too much leavn- from the building is simply impossible. The carpet on the hall or in the rooms, but the ing had made her mad. She gets her male convicts wear a conpicuous striped strange title from her stranger fancy that | suit, and the females are also uniformed. scrubbing can make them. The beds were all the universe is owing to her for exis- The men work upon the grounds, which are kept in beautiful condition; in the "Yes. I'm the Mother of the Universe; quarries, and elsewhere, where the prison I made all things," she said, juming up. authorities choose to put them. The wo-"When I came here from California," she men likewies have their duties to perform. all mothers to put them away. After the continued, "I was dressed in the most | For punishment the ball and chain, dungeon, gorgeous pink robe and covered with short rations, &c., are effective weapons diamonds from head to foot. But," she against the evil disposed. In spite of all the simple matter of comfort a complete suit of said, in the most animated tone, "those sly precautions a convict occasionally escapes. warm underwear and long stockings do more To either shore from the Island it is but a for women and children in way of protecshort swim, and all many want is but the tion from coughs and colds than all the pointing down to her plain brown robe. smallest opportunity, and they will soon furs, flannels and wraps they can possibly breathe the air of freedom.

Taking a hasty glance at the almshouse and hospital, we made our way toward the wharf, thankful from the bottom of our hearts that we were confined with neither out of it; and this," drawing from her the lunaties in the asylum nor the vicious and free in person, to continue our awy EDWARD PRIZER.

The test suit brought in the United States Circuit Court by Phelps, Dodge & Co. and other importers against Collector Arthur, of New York, to recover moneys paid under protest, as a duty on tin plate, has been decided by direction of the court in favor of the plaintiffs. By this decision the importers recover one and a half per cent., the excess exacted from the time the Revised Statutes took effect.

The gold yield of California this year is

### "What Our Churches Cost Us."

The publishers of Scribner's Monthly an-"Oh! I watch her when she gives away above title, which will be of interest in reting. The cost of running a church that

We are led to this discussion by a notice and twists in turbid fury along the whole kissed her hand farewell to us, and another "Let me write you something," she said. to carry permanently the remaining \$100,000 ple, if filled to its utmost capacity, the charge for interest to each person would be less than \$4 a year, or about seven cents a "Where's those diamonds?" she said, Sunday. It is worthy of note that all the pew-owners in this church have surrendered their title to their pews, so that there is "This I give you; this I take away, now no privileged class, and that the latest uted over \$25,000 to the church building moat. But to conceive this idea one must window, her immense feet sticking out Then she wrote on my card that I should from the proceeds of his hymn and tune shut out the working gangs of convicts in through the narrow opening between the meet her, as she was going away from here; books, which had so wide a popularity in

All intelligent travelers who have visited craft that swarm the bosom of the stream. edges of their cage. Twenty-seven years my attention. She was from the East, the Brazil speak in the most glowing terms of Yet, picturesque as the island seems, when had she been there, and each additional janitor said, and she continually talks about the country. Professor Agassiz regarded one has been borne out on the broad river year seemed to take her farther away from her Jake who is coming to give her sixteen it as the most productive and interesting kisses. Poor, sad heart, hers is a weary country on the globe, and the one in which The patients confined in this building vigil; she watches and wacthes, but Jake it is the easiest to obtain a livelihood. Some are taken out each day in squads for never comes. One woman imagines she is who have sailed up the Amazon declare exercise, and they go and come quietly- Mrs. President Grant, and dresses herself that a vessel can be loaded with Brazil nuts glad to get out and glad to get back. in all her finery she can find, and sits in at an expense of only a few cents per bushel. on a boat that plies between that place and Friends of the patients can take them away great state in a little summer arbor. She These constitute a valuable article of comthe several public institutions up the river. at any time on twenty days trial; and often won't answer any one unless addressed as merce, while the oil extracted from thems On a morning not long ago a small party they go away one day and come back the "Mrs. Grant." One poor, simple creature, is very desirable. All the tropical fruits of us went up, prepared and equipped for next, wild and unmanageable with the at the janitor's request, sang for us. She are produced in Brazil almost without cul-KID GLOVES, of us went up, prepared and equipped for the purpose. We were not sent up, as excitement of strange sights and new faces. stopped in a stanza to request us to tell her tivation. The soil in many parts of the country will produce twenty specessive were some who took passage on the same Across the way was the building for the step-mother to send her a sacque that country will produce twenty successive boat, but went up of our own free will. raving maniacs, but we were not allowed wouldn't wear out, as she was tired of crops of cotton, tobacco or sugar-cane with-After the "Black Maria" had emptied her within fifty yards of it. Experience has those that did. The longer we stayed with out the application of manure. No coundaily load of wrong-doers into the hold of proved that a strange face was simply fuel her the more numerous became her wants, try in the world approaches the land of the boat, and the various visitors accom- for their fury. It was a consolation to so we left in haste. As we were leaving Dom Pedro in the variety of its forest promodated with better quarters above, we know that the proportion of desperate cases she informed one of the gentlemen in the ductions. Professor Agassiz states that he party that she loved him, though, to be saw one hundred and seventeen different "This is the suicide pen," remarked the candid, I do not think he was much de- kinds of valuable woods that were cut from a piece of land not half a mile square. They

# CLIMATE AND CLOTHES.

Owing to the sudden changes of our climate, says the New Century for Women, it is of the greatest importance for Americans to protect the entirsure face of their body and limbs for nine months out of the year. How we dress during the remaining three is of less importance than how we work and eat; but unless the skin is well and closely covered during the fall, winter and spring, we cannot be free from the influence of sudor light underclothing, in silk, flannel, or woven wear; but in some form it is necessary. This important precuation oughtparticularly to be remembered in dressing. little children. Their clothes ought to meet in such a way as to leave no chance of bare skin, for sacques and overshoes are mockeries if the knees are uncovered. As for short stockings, they are simply traps for disease. They may be safe in July, but, the chilly nights of autumn ought to warn skin is covered the clothing may be light or heavy, as the weather needs; but as a

# How to Rid a Barn of Rats.

Job Hayes, of East Marlborough, Chester county, several years ago adopted the following novel method of clearing his barn of rats: He filled his cart with corn fodder and placed a basket of corn on top with a light covering of fodder on top of this. Hauling the eart in the barn, he placed boards so that the rats could run up into the eart. The next morning he hauled the cart out into the field and dumped its load, when rats issued from the fodder in greatnumbers and fifty or more killed.

We shan't starve this winter. The saurkraut crop is said to be the largest in the

Pennsylvania has hung more murderers than any other State.