sooner attained in a community where they are known, and when they are spared the deeper disgrace of penitentiary imprisonment, and separated from the hardened and desperate characters who will be turned over to the care of the State. Whatever action is taken should be taken at once. The trouble is constantly increasing, and measures should be devised immediately to relieve the penitentiaries from the pressure of an over-population, which impairs their efficiency and endangers the security and safety of their inmates.

BOARD OF PUBLIC CHARITIES.

The annual report of the Board of Public Charities, will place before you much valuable statistical and other information, in regard to the condition of the various charitable, reformatory and penal institutions of the State. Much has been accomplished during the past year in the correction of abuses still lingering in some of the county institutions, by the assistance rendered by wise counsel and judicious encouragement, to those who are endeavoring to improve condition of the unfortunates intrusted to their care, and by a careful and discriminate oversight of the manner in which the funds of the State are appropriated to public charities, and expended by them. A marked improvement is observable in the general attention paid by the local managements, of almost all grades of institutions coming under the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Charities, to a strict economy and care over the various classes of inmates more in accordance with the advanced views of our modern civilization. The benefits of an intelligent, experienced and disinterested supervision, such as is afforded by the Board of Public Charities, which were very imperfectly understood at first, have come to be more and more appreciated by the local managements of public institutions, and it is a matter of sincere congratulation that a growing spirit of confidence and co-operation is clearly perceptible as the work of the Board extends itself. The cost of managing such a State agency, trifling as it is, becomes wholly insignificant when compared with the large saving of public appropriations, and the constant improvement of the State's care of the defective and criminal classes within its border.

FISH.

The operations in the Fish Department during the year have generally kept abreast of the movement in other States. The Commissioners have employed the means given to them, in distributing and cultivating new tribes of fishes, and in purchasing, on reasonable terms, another extensive hatching establishment west of the Allegheny mountains. The State is now in possession of two establishments of the kind. The fish-ways continue to admit shad in large numbers, but they cannot as yet be said to have reinstated the fisheries above the dam. As there is no physical impediment to the fish passing through them, the failure is ascribed to the natural timidity of the shad, the predatory fishing of the river-men, and the deposit of detrimental substances in the river. The neglect of the local authorities to enforce the appropriate legislation, or, possibly, some inherent defects in the laws, seriously embarrass the effort of the Commission to stock the waters of the State with food fish. The results in other States and the partial success of the Commission, with all the drawbacks, have fully proven the feasibility of the scheme when properly supported. The importance of an unfailing supply of cheap food calls for an energetic and systematic effort to re-stock the magnificent water courses of the State before the attempt is finally abandoned.

INSURANCE.

I desire to repeat and emphasize the encomium of last year passed upon the Insurance Department. The labors of this Department, though arduous and of great service to the people, are of the quiet and unobtrusive kind, which escape publicity and are too often passed over without credit. It performs a work of great utility, not only to the public, but to the responsible companies as well. By exposing fraudulent companies it increases the field for good ones, and saves the public from loss by annually informing them of the character and standing of all insurance companies, foreign and domestic. To do this it must often contend against combinations and corporations that are intent upon private gain at the risk and expense of the people. The Department is a most important one, the intersts it serves and protects are vast, and it should receive at your hands, cordial support and proper attention.

CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The recent holocaust in Brooklyn is a terrible reminder of the subject that has frequently agitated, but never sufficiently investigated. In the lurid glare of that sad experience, the laws relating to the construction of public buildings and places of amusement ought to be examined. If found to be sufficient, measures should be taken to have them vigorously enforced. If found to be deficient, ample provision should at once be made to prevent the recurrence of such frightful calamities. The law should be largely in favor of safety and security, even at the expense of private profit and convenience. It generally happens that a great parade is made beforehand of the means of escape, until some sacrifice reveals their utter inefficiency. Such matters cannot safely be left to the discretion of individuals, but must be controlled by a power having a supreme regard for the public welfare. It is better to err on the side of over-officiousness than that hundreds of our fellow creatures should expiate our irresolution.

NAVIGATION OF THE OHIO RIVER.

On April 27, 1876, I had the honor to call your attention, in a special communication, to the necessity of legislation by the State of Pennsylvania, to provide for the cession of jurisdiction over land within the limits of this State, required for the sites of locks and dams on the Ohio river, in the prosecution of improving the navigation of said river by the National Government. In accordance therewith, House bill No 276 was introduced, but no final action was taken thereon. The act should be passed promptly, not only out of respect to the National Government, which is voluntarily doing a work of great utility to the State, but on account of the great importance of the work itself.

STATUARY.

By the act of Congress of July 2, 1864, the President of the United States was "authorized to invite each and all the States to provide and furnish statues, in marble or bronze, not exceeding two in number, for each State, of deceased persons who have been citizens thereof, and illustrious for their historic renown, or from distinguished civil or military services, such as each State shall determine to be worthy of that national commemoration; and when so furnished, the same shall be placed in the old hall of the House of Representatives, in the Capitol of the United States, which is hereby set apart, or so much thereof as may be necessary, as a national statuary hall, for the purposes herein indicated." Several of the States have availed themselves of the invitation and caused to be erected, in the Capitol at Washington, statues of their illustrious citizens. I do not doubt that it will be your pleasure to select from the long list of the famous men of this Commonwealth, two, whose lives and services commemorate great events and great principles, and provide for placing their statues in the National Capitol, to remind observers of the part that Pennsylvania has contributed to the greatness and glory of the nation.

MUNICIPAL COMMISSION.

The municipal Commission to devise plan or plans for the better government of the cities of the Commonwealth, created by the act of May 5, 1876, has been appointed and commenced its labors. The great quantity of material to be digested and the necessity of an exhaustive discussion of the subject will probably delay its report until late in the session. A deep interest has been manifested by the people in the work, and it is hoped that the wisdom and experience of the Commission and of the distinguished citizens whose views will be laid before it, may devise a plan to relieve the cities of the State from their heavy burdens, and suggest a municipal policy which will make impossible the extravagance and mismanagement that have characterized the last decade.

Among the many miscellaneous subjects which will claim your attention during the session, several seem to me of more than ordinary importance. The destruction of the forests of the State proceeding with an alarming rapidity, and producing many ill consequence, should be neutralized by some legislation for renewing this great source of prosperity and health. The poll tax throughout the State ought to be equalized. The exemption law was passed for the protection of the wife and family of the poor man, against his misfortune or folly. It he can waive it, it is a simple nullity, and a law that is only a mockery to those it pretends to protect had better be removed from the statute book or amended. I suggest that a waiver of the law be made impossible. The conviction is steadily growing among intelligent men, and especially physicians, that a State Board of Health is necessary to the health and happiness of our people. Many epidemics can be prevented and contagious diseases sensibly confined or mitigated, by the observance of a few sanitary precautions which are now ignorantly or wilfully neglected. It is our duty as legislators to secure the lives and health and happiness of our people by all the means that the knowledge and ingenuity of the age place within our reach. A State Board of Health, having general supervision over local boards, investigating systematically and scientifically, and disseminating correct information, would inculcate proper habits among the people, and enable intelligent and salutary laws to be framed for the preservation of life and health.

CENTENNIAL.

The Centennial closed amid general commendation. Nothing can be conceived more admirable than the temper in which it was undertaken, and the manner in which it was carried out. In size, interest and attendance, it is admitted to have surpassed all previous exhibitions. Many things contributed to this signal success. The co operation of other States and the United States, and the cordial good will of foreign nations, materially aided the enterprise But the main cause is to be found in the untiring energy and zeal, the prudence, judgment and ability of the distinguished managers, and, in the unexampled liberality of the people of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia. Throughout the Exhibition the utmost good order prevailed, and its associations have powerfully strengthened the reciprocal good will of nations of the earth.

The results have been great and far reaching. It has deepened and widened the public mind at home, and contributed to a better understanding and higher opinion of our nation abroad It has been an exhibition not only of the material products of our institutions, in the necessities, comforts and luxuries of civilized life so lavishly displayed, but it has also shown the mental characteristics which are at once the source and security of the same institutions, the patriotism and liberality, the love of law and order, and the superior average intelligence of American people. It has brought the work of our people into comparison with that of civilized nations, and in summing up what we have done, has discovered to us the direction in which we must proceed. It has crowned the century with unalloyed satisfaction, and we can enter upon the work of the future with the confidence and hope derived from the progress of the past.

PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY.

The past year was the centennial of the State, as well as of the nation. It is natural to review the progress of the century; to trace the rise of the useful and ornamental arts, and to mark the changes that have taken place in society. At the latter part of the eighteenth century the province contained about four hundred thousand inhabitants. The population scarcely extended beyond the Susquehanna, except a few settlements that straggled into the wilderness and held a precarious existence amid hostile tribes of Indians, and the difficulties of communicating with the more populous regions. The people were chiefly engaged in agricultural pursuits; a few in the east were manufacturers and merchants; and the rude distilleries of the west turned the products of that region into merchandise. There were faint traces of the mining, manufacturing and lumber interests of the present day, and only a suspicion existed of the incalculable treasures buried in the earth. The means of disseminating intelligence and knowledge were scanty; and while the higher classes were educated and refined, illiteracy was common among the people. A hundred years have wrought a wonderful change. The population has increased ten-fold, the area under cultivation a hundred-fold, and wealth almost beyond comparison. Thousands of miles of canals and railroads intersect the Commonwealth. Immense mining, manufacturing, agricultural and carrying enterprises give employment to the toiling millians of the State. All the products of the earth are within our reach; fuel and provisions are brought to our doors; gas and water are in our houses, and the news of the world of yesterday is laid on our breakfast tables in the morning. Thousands of schools and colleges are scattered over the State, and the post is burdened daily with millions of letters, attesting the general diffusion of knowledge. The people are more intelligent, freer and happier; more cheerful, tolerant and liberal. The charges of modern degeneracy are refuted by the clear testimony of a hundred years. The cant of politics is a wilful perversion of the truth of history. Comparing 1876 with 1776, it is apparent that we have advanced, not only in population and wealth, but in freedom, in intelligence, in morals, and in general welfare.

PERIODICAL DEPRESSIONS.

In common with other commercial nations we have had periods of depression. That these have not been caused by public and private extravagance and are no proof of the corruption and degeneracy of the times, is easily shown. The aggregate taxes of the United States are less than those of any other nation, and the percentage of the cost of collection and the loss to the Treasury through defective laws and dishonest officials is less than heretofore. If the amount per capital is greater than formerly, so also the relative proportion of capital to each individual is greater still. Other nations prosper under greater burdens; no good reason can be given for a different result in the United States. That the people spend more and live better is undoubtedly true. Such expenditures are not hurtful unless they impair the principal of the nation's wealth. If the purchase of luxuries is ruinous in itself, then the purchase of anything beyond bread and butter and coarse clothing is ruinous also. Nations, as well as individuals, ought to live within their incomes and save wealth fast enough to employ the natural increase of laborers. Within that limit comforts and luxuries are the just rewards of industry. As the capital accumulated since the war and invested in extending old industries and starting new ones is amply sufficient to employ the labor of the country, the cause of hard times is evidently not the extravagance of the people. The capital of the country has not been wasted in riotous living, but is locked up in unprofitable enterprises. Over-production, and not over consumption, is the cause of the stagnation in business. The war, for the time being, changed the entire industrial relations of the country. The demand for some products was enormously increased, and the industries supplying them became very profitable; capital flowed steadily for some years in that direction, and the result was an abnormal growth of those interests at the expense of all others, and increased production. When the war ceased there was in certain industries an enormous production that could not be absorbed by a peaceful community. Capitol sought an outlet by projecting new railroad enterprises and other improvements far in advance of the natural growth of the country. For awhile there existed a period of intense activity and apparently of extraordinary growth. But capital invested in unduly inflated industries will in time become unremunerative. When that happens, those industries and the interests connected with them will wholly or partially fail; the capital, or so much thereof as can be realized, must seek other investments, and the labor engaged find other employment. Hard times are the period of inactivity consequent upon the re-adjustment of these relations. Any legislation tending to make this re-adjustment easy and expeditious will have the effect of preventing panics. Instead of simply attempting reductions, which, even if advisable, would not have accomplished the object intended. Congress should have devised measures to release capital from temporarily unproductive enterprises, to assist labor in changing to other fields of operations, and to foster, encourage and protect the neglected industries of the country. Such legislation would go to the root of the matter. For such legislation we must depend almost entirely upon the National Government. It would not be proper for me to refer to the subject except that our State policy must also accord with correct principles. By encouraging the closer co-operation of capital and labor, by creating new industries and diversified interests, so that proportionately large amounts of capital will not be suddenly transferred from one to the other, and by establishing savings funds, such as have been recommended, whereby the savings of the laboring classes will be made absolutely secure, much can be done to prevent hard times and mitigate their evils when they come.

CONCLUSION.

On the whole, a candid review of the situation will justify our hopes and awaken our gratitude. No man can regard the satisfactory growth of his State without feelings of pride and thankfulness. No man, certainly, can undertake to legislate for so many millions and such vast interests, without a sense of dependence and accountability to God, who has guided the Commonwealth to greatness and prosperity, through the vicissitudes of a hundred years. Invoking His blessing and guidance, let us then address ourselves to the task of retrieving past errors, perfecting past efforts, and devising just and salutary laws to assist the people in their further progress.

JOHN F. HARTRANFT.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, HARRISBURG, January 3, 1877.

Thawing Out Cartridges.

NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—Michael Mulroy, a quarryman, yesterday entered the house of John Kailor with a number of cartridges of Giant powder which had been frozen together, and set about thawing them before a stove. Mulroy sat down, holding the cartridges close to it, and conversing with the inmates. Suddenly six two-pound cartridges exploded, completely demolishing the rear of the building. Geo. Kailor four years old, was instantly killed, and Mrs Kailor and an infant were seriously injured. Mulroy was badly burned about the body.

The South Carolina Case.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The Republican members of the House Committee on the South Carolina election case called on the President to-day. During a prolonged consultation which followed, Mr. Lawrence said that the State had not only gone for Hayes and Wheeler, but that Gov. Chamberlain had been fairly and honestly elected in spite of all the intimidation and fraud practiced by the Democrats. This fact, he believed, could and would be proved to the satisfaction of fair-minded and impartial men of all parties.

Birthday Verses.

"Twas sung of old in hut and hall
How once a king in evil hour
Hung musing o'er his castle wall,
And, lost in idle dreams, let fall
Into the sea his ring of power.

Then, let him sorrow as he might,
And pledge his daughter and his throne
To who restored the jewel bright,
The broken spell would ne'er unties;
The grim old ocean held his own.

Those awful powers on man that wait,
On man, the beggar or the king
To hovel bare or hall of state
A magic ring that masters fate
Which each succeeding birthday brings.

Therein are set four jewels rare:
Pearl winter, summer's ruby blaze,
Spring's emerald, and, than all more fair,
Fall's pensive opal, doomed to bear
A heart of fire bedreamed with haze.

To him the simple spell who knows
The spirits of the ring to sway,
Fresh power with every sunrise flows,
And royal pursuivants are those
That fly his mandates to obey.

But he that with a slackened will
Dreams of things past or things to be,
From him the charm is slipping still,
And drops, ere he suspects the ill,
Into the inexorable sea.

James Russell Lowell.

By our Special Correspondent.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

COLUMBIA S. C., Jan. 5, 1876.

COLUMBIA.

Columbia, once the seat of commotion,—a very quiet city on the surface now—was the pride of the Palmetto State "befoh the wah." It was visited by Sherman's army on its march to the North. I believe it is disputed whether it was "Hampton's Legion" or "Sherman's Yanks" who set fire to the city. But, there is no doubt that it *was* burned. Out of 124 blocks or squares, 84 were totally destroyed; and the burned district contained over 500 edifices—including 5 churches, 5 banks, 2 hotels, a convent, foundries, factories, and depots, besides a large number of smaller buildings. The bridges were destroyed by retreating rebels under Gen. Hampton's command.

But the city bears few traces now of that great conflagration.

THE OLD CITIZENS.

Its results are *felt* rather than *seen*—for, by this loss, hundreds of rich citizens were ruined, and their old hatred of the North made seven times hotter. It is idle to hope that there can be any love of the Union in South Carolina, among the white citizens or the State, until the last man of the old ruling class, is securely screwd down in his coffin. But, on the other hand, until the red clods rattle into the grave of that old survivor, there will be no attempt made in this State to bring on a war against the Nation again. They have been taught to fear its power. Hence, their one aim now is to secure the National Goverment. This was the controlling impulse that led to violence and the frauds—cruel and atrocious—of the late political campaign. It was not in the nature of things that the men who starved and tortured the thousands of Northern prisoners who fell into their hands should hesitate to assasinate a few scores of negroes in order to carry a "solid South" Carolina for Tilden and Hampton. And the proof is overwhelming that they did not falter when the time came. They find, now, that they did not kill negroes enough, and that they did not commit perjury enough, to leave the result in no doubt. Both Hayes, as President, and Chamberlain as Governor, are elected.

HAYES' ELECTION ADMITTED.

The Democratic Congressional Committee before they left the city publicly admitted that, both in fact and "on the face of the returns," the Republican Presidential Electors were undoubtedly entitled to their certificates. Yet, the Democratic Presidential Electors, by the connivance of the corrupt Supreme Court here—described, a year ago by Gen. Hampton as made up of, a Jew, a Nigger and a Carpet-bagger"—the three most odious humane entities to "the chivalry" of South Carolina—have had the effrontery to present their illegal credentials to the acting Vice-President of the United States! It is the old Southern game of bluff—once so effective; and even to-day not without its influence.

CHAMBERLAIN'S ELECTION DISPUTED.

On the "face of the returns" there is no doubt that Hampton was elected, and that Chamberlain was defeated. A brief explanation of this apparent anomaly will show why Chamberlain is undoubtedly the rightful Governor.

The Representative Northern Republicans who came here after the 7th of November urged the representative South Carolina Republicans to avoid any chance of a dispute as to the validity of the returns of the vote for the Presidential electors. The Republicans here therefore counted "the face of the returns"—without taking any note of the protests and affidavits that came up from counties and from hundreds of precincts attesting perjury and frauds both in voting and in rendering the results.

The Supreme Court tried to prevent the counting of the votes for the Governor, State officers and Legislature by different writs and various pretexts. This was done in order to enable the Democrats to declare Hampton and a Democratic Legislature elected. The Board of State Canvassers were threatened with punishment for contempt of court if they proceeded to investigate the evidence before them until it should decide the question submitted to it. Only ten hours of the ten days allowed by law were left; and still the Supreme Court withheld its decision. If the Board of State Canvassers had waited till noon, its power under the laws would have expired by limitation They went to work and rightfully threw out the counties of Edgefield and Laurens, in which the frauds were unquestioned and the most conspicuous.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY VOTE

Take Edgefield as an example. It is separated from Georgia by the Savannah River. Hundreds of Georgians came over and voted there, not at one precinct only, but at every precinct they could reach!

What was the result?

The State Census of 1875 shows that Edgefield has a

Black male population of	4400
White male population of	2725
A total population of	7125

In 1874, Green, the democratic candidate for Governor, received 2900 votes, and Chamberlain, the Republican candidate, 3398—a total vote of 6298.

This year, on "the face of the returns," Chamberlain received 3107—a falling off, from intimidation chiefly, of only 291 votes; while Hampton claims 6267 votes—an increase of 3367!

If every white and every black man in the county had voted there would have been 7323 votes cast. On "the face of the returns" there were 9374 votes cast! If every white man in the county had voted for Hampton he would have received just 2722; but, altho' the Republican vote fell off only 291, Hampton claims that he received 6267 votes! "Boss" Tweed rises to the rank of a secular saint when he is placed side by side with "Gen." Hampton.

Laurens County has as vile a record. Anderson County is as bad as either Laurens or Edgefield.

GEN. BUTLER.

It is by frauds of this character that Hampton claims to have been honestly elected Governor and Gen. Butler rightfully elected Senator of South Carolina! These two men have done what no Northern men ever could do—they have made Tweed and Cronin respectable by contrast.

I have heard both Hampton and Butler explain the part that they took in the campaign—Hampton as to his political course; Butler as to his conduct in the Hamburg Massacre. I cannot reveal what I heard in secret session; *but* I would not wish my worst enemy to bear the name of either man.

Hampton is a man of very limited capacity. He looks like an English fox hunting squire. Butler has a face handsome in features and intellectual in aspect; he is the only man of more than average ability among the Democratic leaders in the State. He is not the equal of Chamberlain, but he is the ablest man by far in the ranks of the opposition.

"DEMOCRATIC NIGGERS."

There are, here and there, a few colored men who are democrats—or as the South Carolinians call them "democratic niggers." I mean, apart from those who were forced by threats to join the democratic clubs. Nearly all of them are either shrewd old fellows who were once republicans and joined the democrats to get the business patronage of the whites or the most ignorant and degraded class of plantation hands who were afraid of losing their leases of land and being turned out on the highways without a shelter for themselves or their families. One of the democratic witnesses before the Congressional Committee, a living rag heap, swore that he joined the democracy of his own free will; because he became convinced that the principles of the Democrats were true. He was asked—"What is a democrat?" and he gave this lucid definition of the "conservative" creed:—

"What I may call it, may be it wouldn't be to you—but still they said the colored people as far as I learn—said the colored people and all that joined the colored people—they said they were republicans, and all the white people were democrats. That is what the people said."

He was asked if it would make any difference, as far as his means of support were concerned, whether he had remained a republican or became a Democrat? To this question he made answer in these words:—

It would make a difference with me in this, sir. It would not have been any difference at all providing, if I thought to myself that I feel it to my interest that I was doing harm to myself when I knowed this much—because if I come to befriend you, when the time comes back to you, to you to befriend me as I friend you you know I don't say 'I don't want anything to do with him.' I will try him—because I have done proved him—because I saw his name and went to his assistance and I took it to be a friend.

"*Question*—Your interests were they with the Democrat-?"

"*Answer*—They did"

These were his two answers, word for word.

THE COMING ISSUE.

The Union was worth saving even at the cost of half a million of lives and mountains of treasure. This is the verdict of the American People. What was worth saving is worth paying for and perpetuating. We shall never have a homogeneous and united Nation until all the people in every State are educated citizens. Education must be made compulsory and the National Government must enforce it. The Democratic demagogues oppose education. In ignorance is their strength; from intelligence springs ours. This is the coming issue.

JAMES REDPATH

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

NEW YORK, January 16, 1877.

MILK.

You who know where the milk you use comes from, can't imagine the doubt that besets the New Yorker, as he pours what he is obliged to accept as milk into coffee, or if a mother gives it to her baby. Years ago, the city was excited by the statements made of milk produced from distillery-fed cows, and all will remember the horrible pictures of cows in every stage of disease, which were being milked regularly, as long as they could stand. It was a fact that milk was sold in the city, from cows fed on distilled slops, that never left their stalls, and were milked till they absolutely rotted. There is another raid on milkmen now, the charge being less serious, but just about as annoying. You all know of the little girl from New York who spent some days at a cousin's in the country. On her return she was asked how she liked it. "Very well," was the answer, "only I don't think that Susy's ma is a clean woman. The milk we had had a yellow scum on the top of it, and wasn't as pretty as the nice blue milk I get at home." The trouble is the milk is too blue, and as there is a very stringent law against adulterating milk, the citizens have taken it up, and are prosecuting the milkmen, right and left. A dozen of them were arrested, and a test case was made of one. In this case samples of milk regularly sold to consumers were tested with the lactometer and it was discovered that the compound could be hardly called milk at all. There was a basis of pure milk, the rest was water, reinforced with sugar, chalk, and all sorts of nastiness, to give it consistency and body. And of the hundred samples examined not one was found pure or even fit for use. The "Orange County" milkmen whose pastures are stables just out of the city, had a trick of keeping milk from souring by the use of chemicals, and all sorts of dodges were shown up. Thousands of the best families use condensed milk, the purity of which is well established, but the appearance of the compound is so against it, it doesn't look like milk. The prosecution succeeded in getting the seller whose case was made a test into the *Times*, with a fine of $250, whereupon the Milk Dealers Association, true to stump-tail, promptly appealed the case.

It will take a long fight to get decent milk in New York. The milkmen have retained the best legal talent in the city, and will make a desperate fight. But the people will win. The proposition is to have inspectors appointed, with the best appliances for testing milk, and to pour into the street every can that has been watered or sophisticated in any way. "Pure milk or none," is the war-cry, now.

REAL ESTATE.

Real estate is still depressed, and there are no signs of improvement. There are but few sales reported, and the number of empty houses and stores is frightful. Occasionally a sale is made, but it is always at figures less than half the price of four years ago, and then the purchaser is not sure that he has a bargain.

Vacant lots nobody will take. When the great boulevard was open in the upper part of New York, the ring was on hand for bargains. On the line of it Connelly built his magnificent dwelling at the public expense. Genet placed his more magnificent house, built on the same terms, near Connelly's. Tom Fields bought an elegant mansion on the boulevard with sixteen city lots. Nobody placed its value when the great drive was opened at less than $125,000. One of the most prudent cash companies loaned on the estate $50,000. It was sold under a foreclosure and the company had to buy it in. It is in the market at $40,000, with no takers.

A business property near the *Tribune* office was encumbered with a mortgage of $25,000. So good was it considered that a second mortgage for $15,000 was placed upon it, and afterwards a third for $10,000, and the third mortgage was considered perfectly safe. It was sold last week, by the sheriff, for $21,000! And in this fearful depression lies the secret of the failures of the banks and insurance companies. They had their surplus capital loaned on what was considered excellent real estate security; but the shrinkage in values left them without any security at all. They had to foreclose, and to save themselves bid in the property, which, as in most cases it stood empty, left them without income. The city is going through a terrible season, and no one expects that real estate will ever get back to old figures.

FAILURES.

Failures are coming thick and fast. The end of the year forces settlements, and the weak ones cannot avoid showing their weakness, and are going to the wall. Many of them are honest failures, but the vast majority are of men who had no right to be in business for three years. The trouble is just begun. But it is for the best after all. It is very much like a sick man taking medicine—the drug makes him sicker, but the foul matter is thrown off and he comes out better than ever. The hard times are simply weeding out those who were never entitled to credit, and here after business will be on a better basis. But it is ugly, just now.

NEW YEARS

Is a great day with young New York, and with old New York. The old knickerbocker, those of the very first society, make sober, decorous calls upon their friends, as did the old Dutch, when New York was a village. Young New York arrays itself in gorgeous attire, and hires a costly carriage, and enters into rivalry as to the number of calls possible to be made. And as, despite the effort of the temperance people to keep liquors off the tables of those receiving, the vast majority did have wines and cordials. Young New York got about as full as usual, and arose the next morning with a villainous bedache, and a total unfitness for business. From the corner of Broadway and Fourteenth street, at eight o'clock P. M., I counted eight parties, not a man of whom could stand truly erect, and they were still making calls. One young sprig at ten boasted that he made three hundred calls, "and I should have made two hundred more, only I was too full." Not one in ten of them can afford the carriage that they rode in, and to say nothing of the gorgeous clothes they wore. A carriage for four is $20 a day, and the other appurtenances make it cost the young man fully $100. This is well enough for the heir to an estate, but the counter-jumpers, who makes up the mass of callers, find it digs viciously into their $1,000 a year.

DAVID DUDLEY FIELD

The "Reform" Democracy have nominated David Dudley Field for Congress, in the place of Smith Ely, elected Mayor. Field is a fair representative of the Democratic Reform. He was Tweed's right bower, and if there is an unscrupulous trader in politics and spoils in New York who is entitled, after Tilden, to be closely watched, he is the man. There hasn't been a nasty thing in the city for years, that he hasn't had his hand in, and there hasn't been a job since Tweed's day that he hasn't profited by. But as the district is overwhelmingly democratic, he will be elected, and as he is very rich, he will be an ornament to Washington society. We have no right to smell at the ignorance of the negro, when constituencies can be found in the Northern States to elect such men as Fields.

CRIME.

There is much more crime than is usual, and it is not committed by professionals either. The fifty thousand men out of work and out of bread, are driven to desperation, and as they have, in many instances, taken the bread that they would gladly have worked for, if they could have had the work to do. This has been the worst winter ever known in this city, and it is growing harder and harder every day. There is no work for the half of the mechanics and laboring men, and the destitution is appalling. It is no wonder that thefts and garroting are rapidly increasing—the wonder rather, is that there is not more of it. Thank heaven it is only a few months till the Spring opens.

PIETRO

A negro held a cow while a cross-eyed man was to knock her on the head with an axe. The darkey, observing the man's eyes, in some alarm inquired. "You gwine to hit whar you look?" "Yes," "Den," said Cuffee, "hold dis cow yourself."

During three months of last year the British railways have killed 264 persons and injured 1,166 others.

AMID the busy scenes of life, as a man paces up and down the highways, nothing in the world so fills him with awe as to suddenly come upon a hog's head hanging in front of a butcher shop with its jaws propped open with a corn cob.

—Rawchester *Democrat*:—"Bessie Turner still refuses to recognize her long-lost brother, though the young man has a strawberry mark over his left eye which she recently gave him herself."

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