

vening object had not thwarted them, is certain. Thirdly, it is beyond all controversy that the girl by her ready rifle prevented further depredation on the panther's part after he had overturned the only obstacle between himself and me. The Mexican stopped the way of the panther, the panther gave the Mexican his death wound, and the girl killed the panther, which, therefore of the three saved my life?" and my poor friend plunged his face in his hands in a second state of abstraction.

I remained silent, knowing it was useless to try to awaken him to his senses. Finally he raised his head.

"I must revisit the scene of the occurrence," he said, "and secure the rifle, the knife, and the panther's skin as relics of such a memorable conflict."

I smiled grimly, said nothing, but came to the mental conclusion that he would not return with a panther's skin, a knife and a rifle, or at least if he did, they would be entirely incidental articles, for after all, I do not think it is such a hard problem to decide which of the three was the actual preserver of his life; do you my reader? G. D.

THE CONDITION OF LABOR.

FOR some time past, the condition of the "wage earning classes" has received extraordinary attention from all of the civilized nations of the world.

A short time since a factory inspector was appointed by the Hungarian government for the purpose of gathering statistics bearing upon the condition of the working classes of that kingdom, and in one of his reports, certain important facts are brought out.

The report says that in factories of all kinds there are employed thirty-eight women to every hundred men—a proportion of female service very much larger than that of our own country, where there are about

twenty women employed to every hundred men.

In Hungary the work in the tobacco and textile industries is very largely performed by female labor. The hours of daily labor average about eleven, though in the paper and glass factories they frequently extend from fourteen to eighteen hours *per diem*. Sunday labor is rare throughout Hungary, except where the work must be carried on continuously. The average daily wages in all branches of work, and for both male and female service, runs from about thirty to fifty cents a day—an amount so small that even the low pay of Hungarians, who come to this country in search of work, receive in the coal and iron mines of this State must seem attractive in the extreme.

In France, the conditions of labor, so far as pay is concerned, are more favorable than in Hungary; but the hours of daily service will average longer, while one disadvantage which the French working-men have to endure, is the tendency to entirely ignore Sunday as a day of rest. As one writer on the subject has said: "There is no day of rest there. When the revolution abolished saint's days, and Sabbath days alike, Sunday work became an established practice."

"The museums and galleries are open on Sundays, but you look for the working-men there in vain. They are at work in the factories, whose chimneys are smoking as usual, or building house, or working in the fields, or they are engaged in various departments of labor. The railway trains run precisely as on week days. As you pass through the country on Sunday you see the people toiling in the fields. Their continuous devotion of labor cannot fail to have a deteriorating effect upon their social condition, and this, we believe, it is which gives to the men, and especially to the women, the look of a prematurely old and overworked race."