

LEWISBURG AND THE WEST BRANCH FARMER.

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BY O. N. WORDEN.

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THE CHRONICLE.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 8.

At our request, we present below a copy of one of the Oration at the Students' Celebration of the 4th July last.

THE CAUSES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE FORMATION OF NATIONAL CHARACTER.

Numerous and nameless are the causes that contribute to the formation of national character. The most efficient are those which exist in the habits and feelings of the people; and among the most important of these, can be enumerated patriotism and enterprise—for when these self-relying and business agents blend in the character of a nation, they form a basis and sustain a structure of national beauty, that will stand while these elements exist.

We turn your eyes for a moment to the contemplation of the causes, both physical and social, that moulded the national character of Rome. We see in her formation, many peculiar agents that caused her to attain a high and commanding elevation. Her gift of loveliness, her beautiful and bright Italian sky, her genial soil and sunny climate, her limpid streams and fair cities, the gorgeous splendor of her palaces, her magnificent ruins, exalted by the remembrance of heroic achievements, and "retained in the graceful garlands of prodigal nature," caused her arms, her power, and her glory to extend over all the then-known globe. Their genuine influence inspired her citizens with the love of true greatness. They held forth the golden and brilliant gift of Liberty. They placed before her eager gaze the bright statue of Freedom which tinged the distant horizon with its glow, and was seen by her noble aspirants, like a guiding star by the weary traveler, to lead them to the goal of their aspirations. The affection, which her inhabitants had for these lovely scenes, retained their hearts, to be torn asunder only by the hand of Death. And this kindled in their breasts a light of unending lustre, which cheered and sustained her own sons through the long and dismal night of the Dark Ages, and afterwards diffused its brilliancy over the whole Eastern Continent, and has been as a precedent to modern nations. The examples of valor, of truth, of patriotism, and of eloquence, which shone so conspicuously in the actions of their forefathers, exerted an influence in the formation of their character, which proclaimed to every people, what she was and what they must be. And can her unrivaled eminence be attributed to the mere effect of chance, or the sport of ambition? No, certainly not! For did not these causes uphold her in the most cheerless hours of her sufferings? For at a certain period of the Roman empire, when the notorious Caligula and his band of profligate conspirators had marked out that mighty city to destruction, and its inhabitants to death, the thrilling and powerful eloquence of her gifted orator scattered widely and far over, with the impetus of the Simon, the evil, that impended cloud-like over her, and secured safety and happiness to her grateful citizens. This agent protected her besides from the wanton cruelty and vengeance of that conspirator, who delighted in the butchery and blood and agonies of his victims. This agent lifted, as it were, the country from an abyss of ruin, and instilled a national vigor that boldly dared to resist any oppression that threatened the vital powers of her constitution. Hence, we say, that these causes gave her such resistless might that her eagle hovered on triumphant pinions from Northern snow-capped mountains to Southern sunny plains.

But we leave this nation, whose constitution has long since been effaced by the finger of Time, and consider the causes

that operated in the establishment of the character of that nation, whose institutions still exist, and whose system wears the impress of refinement and opulence. The causes that encouraged the growth of Britain, and gave to her that permanency of authority, which is acquired by transcendent merit, are chiefly found in their national pride and self-reliance—in the hereditary energy of their Saxon fathers, blended with the more refined and elegant character of the Norman French. Their insular position also had its influence. But physical causes assisted only in a slight degree in the enlightenment and cultivation of the English. Their exalted notions of English rights, and an undeviating affection for their country, and a fadless love of learning, enlarged their spirit of liberality—a liberality which made the promotion of the arts, a common cause; cultivated science, the beloved object of emulous nations; banished the germs of superstition and duplicity; and gave full scope to the cultivation of her prime elements. Altho' for a time cramped by the force of established errors, and a mystical jargon of religion, in which fraud might defend its treachery, and villainy under the guise of sanctity might commit its depredations, unpunished; but against these expedients of ambition, she brought to bear her powerful agents—they were crushed, and with them everything that could retard her onward and upward progress. Their military genius and commercial resources added much to their wealth and power. They rendered every nation subservient to their will. Their military posts were reared upon every shore, publishing the fame of their matchless might. Their vessels of commerce occupied every harbor, and spread their snow white pinions on every sea and made her character "known and felt, borne as it is on the wings of the wind to the Esquimaux of the Pole and the millions of India."

The country of picturesque beauty, once the nursery of oratory, of poetry, of sculpture, and of architecture—beloved Greece! the model of all future excellences—next claims our attention. The prudent foresight and energetic conduct of her heroic leaders, erected a national structure of grandeur, magnificence, and strength. The climate and temperature of Greece, so healthful to the vigorous development of the physical and intellectual faculties, aided by the bewitching scenery which encompassed her like a fairy-wrought robe, by her mountains and her valleys, the themes of her time-honored poets, by Tempes' pictured vale, and Ossa's ivy clad mount, all these allured her the means of availing herself of the influence and advantages of all those beauties, with which she had been so bountifully gifted at the hand of nature. Did not these agents impart to her children that susceptibility of refinement, that discernment of the sublime, which in a land teeming with beauty are wont to afford unending solace? Did not the glorious creations of the genius and imagination of her artists and painters, confer upon the minds of the inhabitants, such an unwearied fondness for their own beautiful land, that it could only leave them with the last red drops of life as they flowed in her defence? Brightly in the firmament shone the star of Hellen! Why did it shed o'er every land its brilliant splendor? We invoke not the venerable shades of her orators, to tell the encouraging tale of her progress to the very summit of Fame. From what we ourselves have seen in the ascension of our own loved land, we judge what must have been the fountain, whence she derived the blessings, that urged her to supremacy of power. Greece also possessed many agents, that tended to produce a greater degree of refinement, than existed in any other portion of the world. To her are ascribed the origin and advancement of literature and the fine arts, which were carried to such a degree of unrivaled excellence, that her schools were the resort of the youth of all nations.

As a final illustration, we gladly recur to the consideration of the causes that gave birth to American Society. A nation planted as this was, in a wild and uncultivated region, and in its infancy reared by the torturing hand of persecution, must have possessed many characteristics of unity of feeling and matchless energy. For with resistless perseverance the Pilgrims buffeted every storm of physical disadvantage. With unflinching zeal they labored in America's wild wastes, compelled to defend themselves against the bloody attacks of a barbarous and cruel race, and to acquire a scanty subsistence by increased toil. Such difficulties opposed, such trials beset them. But despite all surrounding trials, they have

reared this glorious fabric of national greatness. They did not stand aloof, gazing with mere aspirations upon the mountain tops from which the temple of Fame shed all around a pleasing halo, but they labored and attained its brilliant honors. Another efficient cause consisted in forming their own government on the original foundation of human rights, which was revealed to them by a study of the laws of nature. The spirit that would naturally attend such attainments arising from this study, inspired them to frame a system of free government, unobscured by monopolies, untrammelled by any species of allegiance to royalty. To the mother country, America was in some degree indebted for the spirit of patriotism, which is an essential ingredient in the organization of any government, but there came not with it, those evils, which arise from a regal form of government, which in most cases communicate their impressions on whatever people their institutions visit. But this agent was commingled with all the habits of the people, and all the feelings of morality. This agent gave a milder cast to their other passions. This animated them to make a universal struggle for a universal right. This also was an incentive to mental advancement. It effected a rapid progress in intellectual culture. For from the period, when the Rock of Plymouth first received the wandering foot steps of the Pilgrims, there has been a sure and steady advancement in knowledge. Each day, as it hath gone by, has gathered together in its treasure-house some tangible good. The light of every morning has exhibited to our astonished gaze, some invention of human genius, some wonderful display of human talents. Literature shines forth with greater brilliancy. The veil that has hitherto concealed the fair face of science, is being uplifted. The canvass of American commerce is filled by the breezes of every zone. Agriculture offers at the shrine of industry more abundant sacrifices. Every intelligent mind is devoted to the development of its full perfection. Every muscle is strained to attain a higher literary elevation, and to burst the shackles from which the imprisoned soul struggles to be free; that this fair inheritance, purchased at the price of the blood of our departed heroes, may establish a character that shall be highly conspicuous on the historic page till nations no longer exist, and Time's long flight shall end.

From the New York Atlas:
The Covenanters' Night Hymn and Prayer.
The following beautiful poem—and we hesitate not to say that it possesses merits equal to those of any poem that has graced the pages of English literature, since the introduction of the printing art—originally appeared in Blackwood's Magazine. It is from the pen of an anonymous writer, who is known to the readers of that celebrated magazine by the signature of "Delta."
The poem is illustrative of the privations and sorrows that were endured by the Scotch Covenanters, in the early days of their existence, as a religious sect; when, honed like waves, they fixed their homes, and their temples, in which they sought to worship the only true and living God, among the crags and glens of Scotland.
Although it be true, as has been justly remarked by a late historical writer, that the Covenanters, both in their preachings from the pulpit, and their teachings by example, frequently proceeded more in the spirit of fanaticism, than of sober, religious feeling, and that in their antagonistic ardor they did not hesitate to carry the persecutions of which they themselves so justly complained, into the camp of the adversary—sacrificing, in their mistaken zeal, even the ennobling arts of architecture, sculpture and painting, as adjuncts of idol worship—still it is to be remembered, that the aggression emanated not from them; and that the rights they contended for were the most sacred and invaluable that man can possess—the freedom of worshiping God according to the dictates of conscience. They sincerely believed that the principles which they maintained were right; and their adherence to these with unalterable constancy through good report and through bad report—in the hour of privation, and suffering, and death—in the silence of the prison cell, not less than in the excitement of the battle field—by the bloodstained hearth, on the scaffold, and at the stake—forms a noble chapter in the history of the human mind—of man as an accountable creature.
It should be recollected that these reli-

gious persecutions were not mere things of a day, but were continued through at least three entire generations. They extended from the accession of James VI to the English throne, down to the Revolution of 1688, almost a century, during which many thousands perished.
In reference to the following stanzas, it should be remembered that, during the holding of their conventicles—which frequently in the more troublesome times took place amid mountain solitudes, and during the night—a sentinel was stationed on some commanding height, in the neighborhood, to give warning of the approach of danger:
"The placid west, her of the hill,
What of the night! what of the night!
The winds are low, the woods are still,
The countess stars are sparkling bright;
From out their hollow, mood-laden gleam,
By the wild-foot only trod,
We raise our hymn of praise of men,
To thee, O omnipotent God!
Jehovah! though no sin appear,
Through earth our simple path to lead,
We know, we feel Thy ever near,
A present help in time of need—
Near, as when pointing out the way,
For ever in thy people's sight,
A pillared wreath of smoke by day,
Which turned to fiery flame at night!
Whence came the summons forth to go?
From thee swam the warning sound,
"Out to your tents, O Israel!"
The heathen's warfare girds thee round!
Sons of the faithful! up—up—say!
The least must of the wolf beware;
The falcon seeks the dove for prey;
The Fowler spreads his cunning snare!"
Dye set in gold; 'twas peace around—
"Twas evening peace by field and flood;
We seek, and on our limbs loud
The cross of wrath—the mark of blood,
Lord! in thy cause we mocked at fears,
We scorned the ugly's threatening words,
Beat out our praying hooks to spears,
And turned our plough-harrows into swords!
Legions! Scotland! days have been,
The soil when only freedom tread—
When mountain crag and valley gleam,
Fought forth the loud acclaim to God!
The fire which hither imparts
Refulgent in each patriot eye,
And graven on a nation's heart,
The Wren—for which we stand or die!

Unholy change! The scower's chair
Is now the seat of those who rule;
Tortures, and bonds, and death, the share
Of all except the tyrant's tool;
That faith in which our fathers breathed,
And had their life for which they died—
That precious faith, their hearts bequeathed
To their sons—our iniquity has derided!
So we have left our homes behind,
And have betaken on the sword,
And in our own league have joined,
Yet to consent with the Lord,
Never to seek those homes again,
Never to give the sword its sheath,
Until our right of faith remain
Unalter'd as the air we breathe!
O Thou who retest above the sky,
Bright about with stars thy throne,
Cast from the Heaven of Heavens thine eye
Down on our wives and little ones—
From Galilee's singing "round
Oh! for a moment turn those eyes,
That shone on them, and on their foes,
The famished orphan's cry to hear!
And thou wilt hear! it can not be
That thou wilt shut the ravens' beak,
Who in their season send them food;
It can not be that thou wilt weave
The net to catch the wretched prey,
And yet unbind, unsheltered, leave
Thy children—asking less than they.
We have no breath—the sober lie
In blackness, where they brightly shone;
We have no homes—the desert sky
On covering—earth on couch alone;
We have no heritage—depression
On those who rest not on the ground,
Our hearts are scaled; we seek to heaven
For refuge, and home, and health!
O Sion city of the saint,
And holy men, made in our heart!
Part for the gates, our spot faint!
Thy glorious, golden streets to see—
To mark the captive that inspires
The ransomed, and red-redeem'd by grace;
To listen to the seraph's hymn,
And meet the angels face to face!
Father in Heaven! we turn not back,
Though briars and thorns choke up the path;
Rather the tortures of the rack,
Than to read the win-press of thy wrath;
Let thunders crash, let torrents shower,
Let whirlwinds scourge the howling sea,
What is the turmoil of an hour
To an eternal calm with Thee!

[The following is a highly satisfactory solution of a problem which has long perplexed many.]
"A revisiter at the West has paid this compliment to woman kind in general: 'I wish to notice a little objection I heard to-day concerning our meeting. Some persons have said that this is not really the work of the Lord, because nearly all the 'seekers' are females; they moreover challenge us to tell why there is so large a proportion of the weaker sex engaged. Now I will not answer this directly; but, see here: two years ago I had occasion to preach to the prisoners in the Penitentiary. Now how did it happen, that there were there more than four hundred males, and but about half-a-dozen of the weaker sex?' He was generally supposed by the objectors, about that time and place, to have 'got 'em'! leastways so the narrator states." It cost France \$40 per soldier, it is estimated, to take Rome.

BOOK KEEPING AT THE MINES.

Generally nearly all articles command good prices in cash. There are few instances wherein credit is given, and I was not aware that there was any credit at all, until the day I visited the Sonoran camp, when a gentleman handed me the account of a merchant who had just made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors. I send you one page of it, in order that you may have a correct idea of the credit system in force here. You will see that the style of book keeping is quite primitive and original. The head commenced thus:
Account Book of John M'Guire and the people in these degges.

Hemon Galpin, 4 lbs of flour	04 00
George Williams, the Jarkey white man	5 00
Thomas Sillas the Spanish reason flower	
sugar	6 50
Manuel Sanchez groceries D C Dt	15 00
Red that lives with Dancing bill	20 50
Dancing bill needles, three shone stock-	18 00
the man that in his tent panic unt	26 00
shoes	10 00
Martin that has the woman Dt	
laces that has the woman with the big	53 00
ring in her ear	70 00
the comen bones bone Dt	5 00
haml on for shone Dt	47 00
The boy I left the tent with Dt	25 00
Hoss Coleman Dt in all	45 00
Leas the Sonoran that stole the corn	
flower bread	37 00
Chene in all up to this date	131 00
John that speaks English Dt	88 00
Poldinary flower that cut off the china	
man's hair, reasons and pain killer	48 00
medicine	
Vicente and his two sons 8 ounces in	96 00
gold dust	
facile the hock jersey credit tilt morn-	63 00
ing pantalons and shoes—red shirt	
Riviera Ri:ele the man has got the	
shone for sires for the woman that	
lives near Cheney \$8 00 one needle	7 00
in all	16 00
The man that was lame with romilsons	
The man that claims the horse 10 dol-	10 00
lars cash	
The Spaniard that took the jacket	137 00
Louche the Spaniard that has the est-	36 00
le	24 00
frank the man wate won that gambles	18 00
Manuel Salazar the Canaccer frenchman,	20 00
that has the white wife	
and for two ounces in gold dust lent	45 00
in all	300 00
The man that set up the store in the	
new degges for that one on coffee,	
candies, serpsys sorsag-sard, on but-	
ter pantsions pans red belts	300 00

There, Messrs. Editors is a true copy, as literally as I can make it, of one page of an account book kept by one of the merchants at the mines. It is not original in its style, and, considering the absence of the school master, an excellent effort! I would send you the document itself, but I wish to retain it among my relics of the gold excitement.

How to Conduct a Newspaper.

In 1788, Dr. Rush wrote a letter to Mr. Brown, the editor of the Federal Union, giving him directions how to conduct a newspaper in such a manner as to make it unobscure, useful and entertaining. The period is very interesting one, and may be read with instruction at the present day.

"4. Never suffer your paper to be a vehicle of private scandal or of personal disputes. If the faults of public officers are exposed, let it be done with decency. No man has a right to attack the vices or follies of private citizens, in a newspaper. Should you, under a false idea of preserving the liberty of the press, lay open the secrets of families and thereby wound private honor and delicacy, I hope our Legislature will repeal the law that relates to assault and battery, and that the liberty of citizens will be as sacred and universal in Pennsylvania as your liberty of the press.

"5. Never publish an article in your paper that you would not wish your wife or daughter (if you have any) should read or understand.

"6. The less you publish about yourself, the better. What have your readers to do with the neglects or insults that are offered to you by your fellow-citizens? If a printer offends you, attack him in your paper, because he can defend himself with the same weapons with which you wound him. Type against type is fair play. If you had been in twenty Bonker's Hill battles, instead of one, and had fought forty duels in to the bargain, and were afterwards to revenge an affront, upon a man who was not a printer, in a newspaper, I would not believe that you possessed a particle of true courage.

"9. Let the advancement of agriculture, manufacturers, and commerce be the principal objects of your paper. A receipt to destroy the insect that feeds upon tur-nips, or to prevent the rot in sheep, will be more useful, in America, than all the inventions for destroying the human species, which so often fill the columns of European newspapers.

It cost France \$40 per soldier, it is estimated, to take Rome.

Letters in Cities.

The increase of the idle population of large cities, some say, will ever prevent giving an efficient application of the laws to preserve order, and secure peace and safety to the community. This is a palpable contradiction. Having discovered the cause of disorder to be an idle population, the cause itself suggests the remedy, by preventing the increase of the idle, as well as diminishing the number. Society have the whole matter in their own grasp. Any social evil is curable if you want to cure it. "Where there's a will there's a way," will apply as forcibly to the suppression of mobs as to the elopement of a lover. If you give encouragement to idleness, you must reap the fruits of the whirlwind that you sow. Every idler is the public enemy. We want no more laws on the subject; but we do want an execution of the laws. Commit all idlers as vagrants; and what else are they, be they men or boys? But the truth is, we encourage instead of punishing idleness, and then expect to enjoy peace, security and order. The devil is said to be the bosom friend of the idle. Keep at work, and you will keep out of mischief. Never compromise with the devil, by working half your time and idling the other half. This does more mischief than total idleness. "Oh! but you must relax a little!" Do you ever feel as happy when idle as when at work? No, you never do. It is contrary to the laws of nature. Man was made to labor, and that labor has been made so sweet to him, it constitutes his happiness. Experience stamps this fact with a seal not to be broken. Now what is true of individuals is true of society. Large populations must be kept busy, or they prey on themselves. Shut a set of worthless idlers enjoy themselves in firing buildings, and murdering men, women and children, at the sacrifice of the public good? As matters now stand, it would seem that the object of civilization was the amusement of the idle. What a monstrous perversion! We have then but one duty to perform to insure the reign of peace, and that is to find employment for every idle man and boy found loafing in the streets, and if employment is to not be had immediately, commit them till it can be obtained. Boys, idle and worthless, are now the chief cause of all riots. Scour the streets, lanes and alleys of all the idle who infest them, and see how easily the evil of public outrages can be abated. As this must be done, sooner or later, if society is to be preserved from disorganization, why the sooner it is done the better. As this is the root of the evil, the root must be cut up. No one who judged by what he saw, and who saw the number of idlers in this city, would suppose that any were at work, and yet we are the most industrious people in the Union.

[There is much in the foregoing, from the Philadelphia Ledger, that is applicable equally to idle men and boys (and also do nothing women) in country towns.]

Influence of Bad Books.

Bad books are like ardent spirits; they furnish neither "nourish" nor "medicine"; they are "poison." Both intoxicant—one the mind, the other the body; the thirst for each increases by being fed, and is never satisfied; both ruin—one the intellect, the other the health, and together, the soul. The makers and vendors of such are equally corruptors of the community; and the safe-guard against each other is the same—total abstinence from all that intoxicates the mind and body.

Macaulay, in his History of England, notes truly but grandly, describes Milton: "A mighty poet, tried at once by pain, danger, poverty, obloquy and blindness, undisturbed by the obscene tumult which raged all around him, a song so sublime and holy, that it would not have misbecome the lips of those ethereal virtues whom he saw, with the inner eye which no calamity could darken, flinging down on the Jasper pavement their crowns of amaranth and gold."

The law in Connecticut against selling spiritous liquor imposes a fine of \$10 for the first offence, \$20 for the second, and so double for every offence of which a man shall be convicted. A man has forty-five cases pending against him, the last of which, if found guilty, subjects him to a penalty of \$114,490,932,543,300.

The only class of men who are not in the habit of disparaging their neighbors, are the assessors of taxes; for it is well known that they never "underrate" anybody in the slightest degree.

Apprenticeship.

One of the most serious obstacles to the progress of the Mechanic Arts among us,—(says a thoughtful Southern journal, whose hints are also suited to the North)—is the brief and irregular apprenticeship served. No greater mistake can be made than to suppose that a trade can be acquired in a few months. Without the instructions, practice and discipline of a regular apprenticeship, no one can become so good a mechanic as he is capable of becoming. It is true that one who has good mechanical talents may in a short time, get a limited knowledge of a trade, and be able to do a plain job in a bungling way. But such a person has no right to the proud title of "Mechanic." Besides he must always labor to great disadvantages. His work will never command high prices, nor will he find ready and constant employment, unless there is a scarcity of workmen in his particular business. Our standard of qualification for Mechanics needs elevation. Until this is done we shall have bunglers instead of workmen. While so few of our Mechanics do first rate work, our people will go to the North and to Europe for their manufactures, machinery &c. All our talk about encouraging home industry, and talent, dependence upon ourselves, &c., will amount to just nothing at all.

Nothing needs now to be more strenuously urged than that, among all classes of mechanics, a full and regular apprenticeship in all cases be insisted upon. Justice to the apprentice, to the master, and to the public, all require this. And it is the dictate of policy as well as of justice. Nothing short of this will ensure the apprentice such a knowledge of his business as will fit him to undertake business on his own account; nothing short of this will give the employer a proper remuneration for his instruction; nothing short of this will give character and standing to us as a class.

In Germany the young man is not only required to serve a regular apprenticeship, but he is then required to travel three years, through the principal cities and towns of his country, laboring a while in each, to pay the expenses of his journey and to give him a knowledge of all the new discoveries and improvements in his trade. Thus he becomes a thorough mechanic. For this reason we never see a bungling workman from Germany. No man is allowed to become a master, or boss, there, unless he can show specimens of the highest excellence of workmanship. Laws, rendering all this obligatory, might be out of place in our government, but we wish that custom, which is law in another form, might require, most pre-emptorily, a regular apprenticeship, in all cases. Let not this important point be lost sight of by the mechanics of the South.—*American Mechanic.*

INDIANA REPRESENTATION.—The luck of political war is sometimes a curious thing to behold. Take, for example, the recent Congressional election in Indiana. The majority for Mr. McCaughey (Whig) in the seventh district is greater than the whole Democratic majority in the north half of Indiana, and the Free Soil thrown into the bargain! And yet the Whigs have but one member in Indiana! Look at this:

Whig	Dem.
McCaughey 1,873	Julan, (F.S.) 4th Dist. 154
	McDonal, (Dem) 8th 334
	Pitch, (Fen) 9th 231
	Harlan, (Dem) 10th 589

Total 1,359
McCaughey's majority over all, 515.
Here is a specimen of luck! However, in the long run, this sort of luck comes out about right. In New York, it must be admitted, the luck is rather against the Democrats.—*Cincinnati Atlas.*

The Next Congress.—The gain of a Whig member in Rhode Island, gives the Whigs three majority in the House of Representatives thus far, viz: Whigs elected 108 Democrats 105. Seventeen members are yet to be chosen, in districts which sent to last Congress eight Whigs and nine Democrats. The Free Soilers in this calculation are numbered with their original parties.

A machine has been invented entitled a "fire annihilator," which, by a powerful application of vapor, extinguishes a most intense fire in a few seconds.

The Sheriff's Office of the city and county of Philadelphia, is worth \$30,000 per annum—\$3000 more than the Presidency of the United States.

Plank roads in the State of New York pay 15 per cent. on a capital of three hundred thousand dollars. They are becoming very popular.