

Nearly 1000 children are born yearly in London workhouses.

Life insurance companies are becoming the holders of enormous masses of capital.

Paris statistics show that out of every thousand bachelors forty are criminals, and out of every thousand married men only eight. This gives a ratio of crime five times as high with unmarried men.

Between 2000 and 2500 convicts from English prisons are annually discharged on ticket-of-leave, and of these over seven hundred are apprehended for fresh offenses and 120 for failing to report themselves.

The City of London is sacred from intrusion by the Royal troops, and only two regiments in the British service have the right to march through it in martial array, with bands playing, bayonets fixed and colors displayed.

The thoroughfares of Rio de Janeiro are so narrow that people can lean out of windows and shake hands across the street. Events, however, remarks the Washington Star, do not indicate that they feel like doing this very often.

Theodore Roosevelt thinks that the day is not far distant when the lake country of Wisconsin and Minnesota will be famous as the summer resort of both the Eastern and Western States, and that a trip thither will be as popular as one to Newport or Saratoga now is.

The New York News boasts that "from the figures furnished by the State Board of Equalization it appears that the apparent value of real estate, plus the assessed value of personal property, make an aggregate of nearly six billion dollars. This is equivalent to about one thousand dollars for every man, woman and child in the State, or five thousand dollars for an average family."

The London Standard correspondent at Shanghai telegraphs that Viceroy Chang, notorious for his hatred of foreigners and for encouraging natives in the barbarous treatment of Europeans, is reported to have addressed a petition to the throne openly advocating the extermination of foreigners in China, and especially English, in order to prevent the eventual partition of China among European powers. The hostility to foreigners in the provinces is unabated.

Statistics are said to show that young men do not, on the average, attain full physical maturity until they arrive at the age of twenty-eight years. Professor Scheiler, of Harvard, asserts, as the result of his observations, that young men do not attain to the full measure of their mental faculties before twenty-five years of age. A shrewd observer has said that "most men are boys until they are thirty, and little boys until they are twenty-five;" and this accords with the standard of manhood which was fixed at thirty among the ancient Hebrews and other races.

The stocking of Alaska with reindeer is a pronounced success according to the Rev. Doctor Sheldon Jackson, United States General Agent of Education in Alaska. Of 170 reindeer brought to Alaska from Siberia last year but eleven died, while eighty-eight fawns were born, of which seventy-nine were living three weeks ago. The revenue steamer Bear made several trips across the straits this summer and transported thirty-seven more reindeer to Alaska. The purpose of the scheme is to furnish a reliable supply of food for the natives and also to establish the use of the deer for work purposes.

A Peruvian inventor has endeavored to provide against the danger to which vessels are exposed when in the vicinity of icebergs or other impending collisions by designing a means of stopping the vessel suddenly. A vertically sliding frame on a post at the bow of the vessel has on its sides pivoted wings which will expand transversely when required. The wings are held in their normal position by means of chains attached to a forward projection of the frame, and other chains connecting the free ends of wings with the sides of the vessel. A winch, the mechanism of which is under the control of the officers in charge, is placed on deck, and hold the chains or ropes which actuate the wings. As soon as danger approaches a few turns of the winch will throw open the wings and a resistance will thus be offered to the forward motion of the ship which will have a material effect in bringing it to a standstill.

AT DUSK.
Between this twilight and the morn
Years like blown leaves may sweep away;
All life's stripped branches be upborne
And tossed into a sea of day!
Then little pulse beat soft and still
Thou art a thread within the loom;
What matter so thou dost but fill
The wheels within thy tiny room?
—Virginia W. Cloud, in Youth's Companion.

TWO MARRIAGE EVES.



HAVE often told you," said James Mayfield to me the evening before my marriage with his daughter Kate, "that I owed my property—or more accurately, my escape from destruction—to an accident, a chance, a miracle. Stand up and look at that piece of paper let into the overmantel. What do you take it for?"

"Well, it looks like half a sheet of business notepaper covered with indistinct figures that do not seem ordinary."

"Yes," he said, gazing with half-closed eyes at the paper through the smoke of his cigar. "They are not ordinary, nor is their history."

"It is not possible to make them out, they are so blurred and faint. Are they very old?"

"Twenty years. They are much faded since I first saw them," said he, crossing his legs. "Now you may as well know the history of that half-sheet of business paper, and what it has to do with me and your Kate's mother. Sit down and I will tell it all to you."

I dropped back into my chair. "Our Kate is nearly nineteen, as no doubt, you are aware. It is the night before your marriage. You, think heaven, run no such risk as I ran the night before my marriage. There is no date on that blurred copy of figures, but if there were you would find it originated on the night before I was to be married, twenty years ago. You are short of thirty now, I was short of thirty then."

"I am going to give you to-morrow our only child, and a fourth share in the business of Strangway, Mayfield & Co., of which I am the sole surviving partner, and that fourth share ought to bring you a thousand to twelve hundred a year. The night that document over the chimney came into existence, I was accountant to Strangway & Co., at a salary of £150 per annum."

books that night, and when I had finished the letters and he was gone, I put the money in the safe in the back room. The memorandum of the numbers I should leave, with the keys, at Clapham, and the whole transaction would be dealt with by my assistant, Broadwood, in the morning."

"Making out the list had taken a little time, as the notes were all small and no two in a sequence; they had been collected for minor accounts in the country."

"I put my list of notes on the desk beside me, and went on with my letters, several of which were now ready for the copying press."

"That evening Grainly talked a lot about the business and the news of the day, and all sorts of things. I could not tell him to go away, for he could see I was not myself leaving yet, and copying the letters, putting them to dry, enclosing them in envelopes and addressing them was not occupation for which a man could reasonably claim quiet."

"When my batch of letters were ready, seeing half an hour's work still before me, I held them out to him, and said: 'When you are going I should be obliged if you would post these, as I am not nearly finished yet.'

"Certainly," said he, taking the hint and rising. "Any one in the place who could show me out? All the gas is turned off below, and I have never gone down in the darkness," said he, moving away.

"There's no one but ourselves here. I'll show you the way," said I with alacrity, delighted to get rid of him. "I had led him through the long, dark corridor and half down the stairs, when he suddenly cried out, 'My stick! I left my stick above. I won't be a minute, Mayfield. Just wait here for me.'

"He ran upstairs to fetch his stick, and was back with me in the darkness in a few seconds. I struck a match to light him, and presently he was out on the asphalt of Broad street, walking rapidly toward Cheapside."

"When I got back to the counting house the checks were on the flat top of the desk. The gold and notes were gone!"

"I had taken the numbers of the notes on a sheet of paper, and left the list on the sloping part of my desk to dry, before putting it into my pocket."

"The paper on which I had taken the numbers of the notes was gone also!"

"From the moment I left the counting house to show Grainly but that night, twenty years ago, no one has ever seen the list I made of the notes. Grainly must have destroyed it the moment he was out of Broad street."

never be found. Why, we have nothing to go on! Anyway, I shall not take steps to postpone your marriage. Yes, it would not do to marry under the circumstances. I am very sorry for you. But all that can be done in the interests of justice must be done. Keep the keys and be in Broad street at the ordinary time in the morning."

"My father-in-law paused here. His cigar had smoked out, but he had not finished his story. He did not offer to move and I sat still. After a few moments he went on: 'I will be merciful to you and tell you nothing of the scene at my wife's place when I called later. Her father and mother were then living. I told my story to all three as I have told it to you, and all agreed the best thing was to postpone the marriage for a month.'

"When I reached the office the next morning I had another good look around, but nothing whatever was to be discovered. I turned the whole place inside out. Nothing, absolutely nothing connected with the case turned up until, to my astonishment, Stephen Grainly walked into the office. Until his appearance I had, in a dim way, made up my mind that all would be cleared up and my innocence established by his absconding. His arrival showed that he meant to brazen the thing out with me. I felt from that moment helpless and paralyzed."

"Grainly," said I, as soon as I could talk, "when you came back for your stick last night, did you notice the money you gave me on the desk where I put it?"

"No, my dear Mayfield, I did not cross the threshold of this room." "You did not see or touch the money or the piece of paper on which I had taken down the number of the notes?"

"No, certainly not. I could not see your desk from the door, and I was not further than the door. You do not seem well. I sincerely hope there is nothing the matter."

"The cash you brought in last night—the £293—has been stolen, that's all," said I. "Stolen!" he cried, falling back. "You don't mean to say that!" "Ay, and stolen within an hour—within half an hour—of our being here last night."

"I cannot—I will not—believe such a horrible thing. Stolen! And in the very office, too!"

"I never saw better acting in all my life than his indignation and horror and astonishment. I could hardly believe my eyes and ears. I had spent a sleepless night, and was half dazed and wholly stupid in despair. For awhile I felt that, after all, he might be innocent, and that I, in a moment of excitement and haste, had placed the money and the memorandum in some place of security which I could not now recall."

"Mr. Strangway, on reaching the office half an hour earlier than usual, gave orders for another search. It was quite unavailing. No tale or tidings of the cash came that day."

"No secret was made of the affair in the office, and as the hours went on I became confident that in Mr. Strangway's eyes I was the criminal. I don't know how it happened, but I did not feel this much. I did not feel anything much. I was in a dream—a stupor."

was about leaving this country—for Spain, it is supposed. He stole the money a fortnight ago, and stole the list you had made of the numbers of the notes. Knowing the way in which the notes had come into his own hands in the country, he felt confident they could not be traced from their source to him, and of course they could not be traced from him to the Bank of England, as the list of the numbers was destroyed by him."

"Then how in the world, sir, were they traced?" said I. "Mr. Strangway raised the blotting-pad and took from under it a piece of paper, the back of a letter."

"The news of the robbery got about," said he, "and, of course, our customers were interested in it. Mr. Young, of Horsham among the rest. Mr. Young, of Horsham, was one of the people you wrote to that evening, the evening of the robbery, and you sent him more than you intended."

"Not the missing sheet with the numbers? I know I couldn't have done that. For I saw the memorandum on the slope of my desk after closing his letter and handing it with the other to Grainly."

"No, but you put the memorandum on the slope of your desk with the ink side up, and you copied Mr. Young's letter and the copying press and while it was damp put it down on the list of notes in unblotted copying ink, and the numbers of the notes were faintly but clearly copied, reversed, of course, on the fly-leaf of Young's letter, and Mr. Young sent the copy back to me privately! Look!"

"Mr. Strangway handed me the fly-leaf of Young's letter, and there were the numbers of the notes, dim to be sure, but not quite as dim there as they are now under the glass let into the oak of the over-mantel. Grainly had put a few of the notes in circulation, and they had been traced back to him."

"He stole the money, Mayfield," said Mr. Strangway to me, "and he tried to ruin you, or anyway he wanted to saddle you with the theft, and for a while I more than suspected you. But all is clear at last, and I'll pay you handsomely one day for suspecting you."

"And so he did," said my father-in-law. "He lent me the money to buy a partnership in the firm, and I am the firm all to myself now—and shall be until the new partner comes in to-morrow."

He rose and shook me by the hand and tapped me on the shoulder, saying: "Your partner for life will be wondering what has kept you. Run away to Kate, now, my boy."—Strand Magazine.

Peace is rarely denied to the peaceful. Accuracy is the twin brother to honesty. Keep cool and you command everybody. Gunpowder made all men of one height. Discretion in speech is more than eloquence. Choose such pleasures as recreate much and cost little. Sad is his lot who, once at least in his life, has not been a poet. Things don't turn up in the world until somebody turns them up. Accent is the soul of language; it gives to it both feeling and truth. The youth of nature is contagious, like the gladness of a happy child. Men are never so likely to settle a question rightly as when they discuss it freely. Agriculture not only give riches to a Nation, but the only riches she can call her own. Behind the shell there was an animal, and behind the document there was a man. Life appears to me too short to be spent in nursing animosity or registering wrongs. Youth changes its tastes by the warmth of its blood; age retains its tastes by habit. A sound discretion is not so much indicated by never making a mistake as by never repeating it. Man may doubt here and there, but mankind does not doubt. The universal conscience is larger than the individual conscience.

THE ORIGIN OF SECONDS IN DUELS.
In olden days seconds were not only the aides and abettors of their principals, but had to be ready at a moment's notice to set to on their own account. From this grew the title by which they have for hundreds of years been known. Nowadays in France the business of each pair of seconds or witnesses to whom the principals have confided the interests of their honor is, first, to decide whether the violation of honor has been such as to warrant the duel; second, whether the parties are qualified to make such a reparation of honor, a man notoriously stigmatized being evidently ruled out by the code; thirdly, to leave no means untried for settling the affair without recourse to arms; and only then, finally, to decide on the details of the combat. The witnesses are themselves in no wise involved in the quarrel of their principals.—Chicago Herald.

A Sailing Vessel Lighted with Electricity.
A sailing vessel lighted with electricity is seldom seen in any part of the world, but the new Spanish bark Le Viguesa, which has just arrived at Philadelphia, from Vigo, Spain, is lighted throughout with the strongest and clearest electric lights to be seen anywhere, either ashore or afloat.

HOW ABOUT

HARD TIMES?

Are you a supporter of the present financial system, which congests the currency of the country periodically at the money centres and keeps the masses at the mercy of classes, or do you favor a broad and

LIBERAL SYSTEM

Which protects the debtor while it does justice to the creditor. If you feel this way, you should not be without that great champion of the people's rights,

The Atlanta Weekly Constitution

Published at Atlanta, Ga., and having a circulation of

MORE THAN 156,000

Chiefly among the farmers of America, and going into more homes than any weekly newspaper published on the face of the earth.

IT IS THE BIGGEST AND BEST WEEKLY

Newspaper published in America, covering the news of the world, having correspondents in every city in America and the capitals of Europe, and reporting in full the details of the debates in Congress on all questions of public interest.

THE CONSTITUTION

Is among the few great newspapers publishing daily editions on the side of the people as against European domination of our money system, and it heartily advocates:

1st. THE FREE COINAGE OF SILVER. Believing that the establishment of a single gold standard will wreck the prosperity of the great masses of the people, though it may profit the few who have already grown rich by federal protection and federal subsidy.

2d. TARIFF REFORM. Believing that by throwing our ports open to markets of the world by levying only enough import duties to pay the actual expenses of the government, the people will be better served than by making them pay double prices for protection's sake.

3d. AN INCOME TAX. Believing that those who have much property should bear the burdens of the government in the same proportion to those who have little. The Constitution heartily advocates an

EXPANSION OF THE CURRENCY

Until there is enough of it in circulation to do the legitimate business of the country.

If you wish to help in shaping the legislation of the government to these ends, GIVE THE CONSTITUTION YOUR ASSISTANCE, lend it a helping hand in the fight, and remember that by so doing you will help yourself, help your neighbors, and help your country!

AS A NEWSPAPER: THE WEEKLY CONSTITUTION has no equal in America! Its news reports cover the world, and its correspondents and agents are to be found in almost every balliwick in the Southern and Western States.

AS A MAGAZINE: It prints more such matter as is ordinarily found in the world's great magazines of the country than can be gotten from even the best of them.

AS AN EDUCATOR: It is a schoolhouse within itself, and a year's reading of THE CONSTITUTION is a liberal education to anyone.

AS A FRIEND AND COMPANION: It brings cheer and comfort to the fireside every week, is eagerly sought by the children, contains valuable information for the mother, and is an encyclopaedia of instruction for every member of the household.

IT'S SPECIAL FEATURES

Are such as are not to be found in any other paper in America.

THE FARM AND FARMERS' DEPARTMENT,

THE WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT,

THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT.

Are all under able direction and are specially attractive to those to whom these departments are addressed.

Its special contributors are writers of such world wide reputation as MARK TWAIN, BRET HARTE, FRANK R. STOCKTON, JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS, and hundreds of others, while it offers weekly service from such writers as BILL ARP, SARGE PLUNKETT, WALLACE P. REED, FRANK L. STANTON, and others, who give its literary features a peculiar Southern flavor that commends it to every fireside from VIRGINIA to TEXAS, from MISSOURI to CALIFORNIA.

Are You a Subscriber? If not, send on your name at once. If you wish

A SAMPLE COPY
Write for it and send the names and addresses of SIX OF YOUR NEIGHBORS to whom you would like to have sample copies of the paper sent free. It costs only ONE DOLLAR a year, and agents are wanted in every locality. Write for agents' terms. Address

THE CONSTITUTION, Atlanta, Ga.
[We call special attention to remarkably Low Clubbing Rates offered elsewhere—Two papers for about the price of one.]