

Hamburg has run ahead of Liverpool and is now the chief port of Europe, if German statistics can be believed.

Criminology has been exalted into a special department of science, and has its authorities, whose statements are received as exact by many men of science and as absurd by a large proportion of the unscientific public.

The foreign sailor is fast disappearing from the American Navy. "The Yankee sailor and the Southern sailor were what made our navy famous and feared in the early times. They will do it again if the occasion calls," boasts the Lewiston Journal.

The Duke of Bedford has placed at the disposal of the technical instruction committee of the Bedford County (England) Council a farm of 275 acres, 149 of which are arable land and the rest grass. Twenty boys receive free scholarships by the County Council, entitling them to two years' board, residence, and instruction in the science and practice of farming.

The value of the goods produced or work done by convicts in the State prisons of the United States has fallen off more than \$5,000,000 in the ten years from 1885 to 1895. At the same time the number of prisoners has increased from 41,877 to 54,244. Combining these figures it appears that the productive value of the prisoners has fallen off almost forty per cent. This enormous diminution is almost wholly due to the passage of laws restricting convict labor or the sale of convict-made goods. These facts appear in a new bulletin of the labor bureau.

Speaking of Li Hung Chang's smoking, Dr. Irwin, who has been his physician for seventeen years, indignantly repels the charge that Li Hung scented up the saloon of the steamship St. Louis with the fumes of opium. "Li Hung Chang never smoked opium in his life," said Dr. Irwin. "He is strongly opposed to the practice, and will not permit those about him to indulge in it. Not one of his suite smokes opium. You may put my name to that assertion. The earl is very fond of his pipe or of a cigarette, but he never smokes anything but tobacco, and neither does any of his suite. The Chinese are a nation of tobacco smokers. Men, women and children all smoke pipes or cigarettes, and the earl does as his people."

It is a circumstance worthy of more than passing note, thinks the New York Tribune, that at a recent convention of teachers and educators in Buffalo an address on the subject of "Good Roads" was given by General Roy Stone, head of the Government department of road inquiry. General Stone is a recognized authority on this subject, and what he said was practical and timely. On reading the announcement of such an address the first question that will arise in many minds is, "What have the public schools of this country to do with good roads?" A little reflection will serve to show that the answer to the question should be, "A great deal." The most important step to be taken in the attainment of good roads in this country is the education of the people to their value and economic necessity, and it is plain that in this matter much can be done by those who have in their charge the training of the young. General Stone called upon the educators of the country to "preach the gospel of good roads," and further to teach a little roadbuilding in all the schools. It is a practical concern of everyday life, as he well remarked, and should interest parents as well as children, women as well as men. "You will need no textbooks," he said, "for no high-class technical knowledge is necessary to teach the rudiments of road construction and repair." Another practical suggestion was that the teachers could do much actually to improve the roads of the country. General Stone's belief is that the great need of our country roads is daily care, for in the absence of care every defect grows by geometrical progression. His estimate is that \$40,000,000 is spent every year on road repairs, and yet the roads are made no better. So he recommends that road leagues be organized among the older schoolboys, that the few necessary tools be supplied by the township authorities, and that the boys be set at work as road repairers. The educational effect of this policy would undoubtedly be excellent; but the first thing to be done is to get good roads to be kept in repair. Boys cannot build roads that are smooth and permanent, though in many regions it would be possible to train them for the work proposed by General Stone.

## RECIPROCIITY A HUMBBUG.

### FACTS AND FIGURES OF A DEEPLY CONVINCING NATURE.

Human Necessities and Human Demands the Only True Trade Regulator — Labor's Opportunities Greatly Improved by Wilson Bill.

The United States Treasury Department recently prepared a statement showing the importations and exportations of this country with all foreign countries with which it had entered into reciprocity agreements during a period of seven years, commencing with 1888 and ending with 1895, and it does not require a person well versed in mathematics to tell where reciprocity commenced and where it stopped. These figures are authentic, taken, as they have been, from the monthly statements of the Treasury Department, and are the first statistics which have ever been compiled authentically on the subject. With these figures before him Secretary Morton spoke as follows on the question of reciprocity:

"The reciprocity agreements authorized by the tariff act of 1890 demonstrate in their operation the fallacy of reciprocal agreements. In discussing this question it is necessary to remember that the events of today are not necessarily the results of legislation of yesterday. Therefore, an extension of trade during the existence of reciprocal agreements may have been merely the continuation of an important trade that had been in progress for years before the reciprocal agreements were instituted. It is fair also to say that a sudden falling off in trade after reciprocity agreements lapsed may have been due to obvious conditions that would have diminished trade had reciprocity continued. But the truth is that in nearly every case there was neither any considerable increase or decrease of trade while the reciprocal agreements were in force, nor immediately after they had lapsed.

"Except in the single case of Cuba no one could conclude from looking at export and import statistics when reciprocity began and when it ended.

"The entire commerce of the United States with the Central American countries, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Salvador, and with San Domingo, the British West Indies and British Guiana, with all of which countries we entered into reciprocal agreements, is so small that the statistics have been consolidated. For these colonies and petty sovereignties the statistics are as follows:

Year.	Imports from.	Exports to.
1888.	\$22,817,113	\$15,328,377
1889.	25,377,058	14,097,153
1890.	27,518,739	15,515,655
1891.	30,952,567	18,143,898
1892.	37,239,826	16,051,929
1893.	37,443,673	15,209,171
1894.	27,925,663	16,325,279
1895.	22,938,893	16,476,161

"The reciprocity agreements with the countries in the above group went into effect at various dates in the year 1892, except that with San Domingo, which took effect September 1, 1891. The last had little effect on the figures for 1892. Our imports increased in a marked degree from 1888 to 1891. The increase during the three years was over 36 per cent. In the year in which the reciprocity agreements were made there was a decided decrease in our exports, and a further decrease the next year, followed by a gain in 1894, which was still a good deal below 1891, however. In 1895 there was a slight falling off in our exports, but they were still considerably greater than in 1893. Our imports from the countries named reached their highest figures in 1891; since then they rapidly declined.

"With Brazil the United States made the earliest of the reciprocity agreements. From that country we buy immense quantities of coffee. Our exports to Brazil, however, are relatively very small. It was claimed that under the reciprocal agreement we should pay for all of our coffee by the exports of our own products. Prior to reciprocity, which took effect April 1, 1891, our exports to Brazil increased at the rate of \$2,000,000 a year. During 1892, the first year after the reciprocal agreement, there was a very insignificant increase.

"During the next two years there was a decline in our exports to Brazil. But our exports to Brazil in 1895, a part of which were made subsequent to the abrogation of the reciprocity agreement, were larger than in any previous year. Estimating the exports from the United States to Brazil for 1895 on the basis of the exports for the first half of that year and the exports for 1896 on the same basis will be even larger than those for 1895."

At this point the Secretary turned to a large voluminous collection of tabulated figures, which he had just received from the Treasury Department, and in a significant tone said:

"For the purpose of comparison let us turn now to Venezuela and the Argentine Republic. These two countries did not enter into reciprocity agreements with the United States. Because they did not many people presumed our trade with them would be diverted.

"But the commerce of the United States with Venezuela for the series of years named was as follows:

Year.	Imported from.	Exported to.
1888.	\$10,051,250	\$3,038,518
1889.	10,392,669	3,738,921
1890.	10,966,765	4,024,583
1891.	12,078,541	4,784,396
1892.	10,325,338	4,949,156
1893.	9,625,118	4,297,661
1894.	9,464,481	4,137,163
1895.	10,073,951	3,740,641

"The effect of our having a reciprocity agreement with Brazil and none with Venezuela was that the latter's coffee went to Europe and our imports from Venezuela fell off proba-

bly two-thirds; yet our exports to Venezuela underwent very little change, and in the current year they will probably be one-third greater than they were in 1888. Although we ceased buying coffee of Venezuela, our exports to that country did not fall so low as they were in 1890 until 1895, after the reciprocity era was over. The presumption is that the Venezuelans bought of us what they could buy here to greater advantage than they could in Europe, and they did not sacrifice such advantages simply because we ceased to buy their coffee.

"The exports of the United States to the Argentine Republic were increasing until the failure of the Baring. From that date commerce between the two countries shrank rapidly until 1892; since the latter year our exports have been increasing rapidly, and in 1895 they were much in excess of 1891 and 1892, and they promise exceedingly well for this current year.

"The foregoing statements and comparisons indicate that the expansion of the foreign trade of the United States will be brought about by the ordinary trade methods rather than by a system of special concessions. "Cuba cannot be forced to buy food in Spain instead of in the United States. Brazil, very naturally and logically, will trade with the Argentine Republic for wheat and flour, regardless of reciprocal agreements. South America generally will buy provisions and lumber of the United States, whether there are reciprocal agreements or not. Central America will do likewise, and get the larger part of its manufactured goods in Europe until the price of the same goods is lower in the United States than it is in Europe. With the reduced cost of production in all lines of manufactured goods the difference in prices, which has been against Americans, is now rapidly diminishing and disappearing.

"Human necessities and human demands will bring the trade of the countries with whom we entered into reciprocal agreements to us, or take that trade to other Nations. The laws of commerce are as inexorable and inevitable in their operations as the laws of nature. No legislation nor diplomacy can subject human wants to arbitrary control. American exports are paid for by imports or by transfers of commerce held by the importing country. All legitimate commerce is irrefragable.

"Every exchange of commodities, legitimately made, is of small advantage to the parties making it. Legislation cannot declare artificial restoration or circulation of blood with so much force as to reanimate a dead organism. And legislation and diplomacy are equally powerless in their attempts to create artificial restoration or circulation of blood with so much force as to reanimate a dead organism. And legislation and diplomacy are equally powerless in their attempts to create artificial reciprocity, or to establish trade between countries which naturally do not trade with each other, because there is no apparent profit in the undertaking.

"We have been told that during the past year our country has been practically inundated with manufactured goods of foreign production, in this way taking work from American wage earners, when, as a matter of fact, there has been on an average a notable increase in the importation of crude commodities that have to be fashioned by the labor of American wage earners, an increase accomplished by the fact that these wage earners made for us in the year 1892.

"The percentage of manufactured goods imported into this country in 1893, 1894 and 1895 was over 22 per cent. of the entire importations of these years, and yet that time covered a period during which the tariff prepared under the protectionist tariff commission was in force. The fact is, that in the last year our importations of manufactured goods were, on the whole, exceedingly small, when one takes into account that we had to make up for the scarcities of 1894, during which year there was a smaller relative importation of manufactured goods than in any other year for which a classification has been given by our Government.

"The results of the year 1896 are expected to show that while crude commodities will be imported in increasing amounts to be manufactured in this country the percentage of manufactured goods coming in this year will be probably less than it was during the years 1891, 1892 and 1893. It will be shown by these irrefragable results that the American manufacturers are supplying a larger amount of goods and commodities for export than ever before, and in addition to that they are supplying the home market to a greater extent than ever before."

### What It Stands For.

McKinley says: "No one need be in doubt about what the Republican party stands for."

To which the Topeka (Kan.) Co-operator makes reply: "No, if there ever was a doubt it has been dispelled."

"It stands today for all that the American people do not want."

"It stands for what benefits the bond gamblers of Wall street."

"It stands for protection to American laborers' one day in the year, and then legislates against them the other 364 days."

"It stands for the wealth consumers and against the wealth producers."

### Hiccoughs.

A new method of stopping hiccoughs is said to have been accidentally discovered in a French hospital. It consists in thrusting the tongue out of the mouth and holding it thus for a short time.

## BRYAN PRAISES FARMERS

### THEY KNOW MORE OF MONETARY SCIENCE THAN THE BANKERS.

The Democratic Candidate Also Shows the Inconsistency of McKinley-Bismarck on Bimetallism — Gold Men Likened to Drones.

Speaking to the assembled farmers of Delaware at their State Fair in Dover, William J. Bryan said:

I want to talk to you while about our financial condition. If things are good then there is no reason why we should make any change in legislation. If our present condition is satisfactory, then we ought to leave it alone and not make a change. No one can advocate any kind of remedial legislation except on the theory that there is something that needs remedying. Our opponents confess the condition, and when I tell you that you cannot remedy the present condition except by financial legislation our opponents say that the trouble is in the tariff question, and if we could just have more tariff then times would get good again. I want to read you an extract from a speech made on last Saturday by the Republican candidate for President at Canton. He said: "Under the Republican protective policy we enjoyed for more than thirty years the most marvellous prosperity that has ever been given to any Nation of the world. We not only had individual prosperity, but we had National prosperity."

Now there is a statement made within a week by the Presidential candidate on the Republican ticket, pointing back for thirty years, from 1869 to 1890, and telling the people that during that period we enjoyed the most marvellous prosperity of any Nation in the world, and that we had both individual prosperity and National prosperity. I want to show you by this same witness's very testimony, given six years ago, that after thirty years of his kind of policy the farmers of this country were not prosperous. If you will take the report filed with the McKinley bill on April 16, 1890, you will find the words I wish to quote: "That there is widespread depression in this industry today cannot be doubted," speaking of agriculture. That is what the Presidential candidate said when he deliberately wrote the report and filed it with his proposed legislation. "That there is widespread depression in this industry today cannot be doubted." (Applause.) Again in that same report he said: "One of the chief complaints that they can get no price for their crops at all commensurate to the labor and capital invested in their production."

That is what he said after thirty years of the kind of policy which the candidate of the Republican party says will bring you prosperity. Let me read again: "We have not believed that the people already suffering from low prices can or will be satisfied with legislation which will result in lower prices. No country ever suffered when prices were fairly remunerative in every field of labor." After thirty years of that kind of policy he tells you that the people are suffering from low prices, and that no country ever suffered when prices were fairly remunerative in every field of labor.

Now let me read you again what he says in this same report: "This great industry," speaking of agriculture, "is foremost in magnitude and importance in our country. Its success and prosperity are vital to the Nation. No prosperity is possible to other industries if agriculture languish." That is what he said in 1890, that there was depression in agriculture after thirty years of his tariff policy, and that without prosperity in agriculture there could be no prosperity among the other industries of the country. Let me read you but the other extract: "The depression in agriculture is not confined to the United States. The report of the Agricultural Department indicates that this distress is general, that Great Britain, France and Germany are suffering in a larger degree than the farmers of the United States." There he is telling us that there is a depression in agriculture and giving the names of three prominent agricultural Nations of the Old World, and telling us that agricultural depression is even more marked over there than it is here. I want you to remember that when you read in the papers that he said that for thirty years we had such marvellous prosperity in this country. (Great applause.) Now, my friends, I have quoted you that he said that there was depression in agriculture in Germany. I want to read you what Prince Bismarck says about the condition of affairs in Germany. Our opponents are in the habit of telling us that all the civilized Nations are in favor of the gold standard. The Germans who live in this country point with a just pride to the greatness of this illustrious German, Prince Bismarck. Let me read you what he has said within a few weeks in regard to bimetallism, and then see whether he testifies that the gold standard has been a good thing for Germany. (Applause.) In a letter written to Governor Culberson of Texas, and dated on the 24th of August, 1896, Prince Bismarck said:

"Your esteemed favor of July 1 has been duly received. I have always had a predilection for bimetallism, but I would not while in office claim my views of the matter to be infallibly true when advanced against the views of experts. I hold to this very hour that it would be advisable to bring about between the Nations chiefly engaged in the world's commerce a mutual agreement in favor of the establishment of bimetallism.

"Considered from a commercial and industrial standpoint, the United States are freer by far in their movements than any Nation in Europe, and hence, if the people of the United States should find it compatible with their interests to take independent action in the direction of bimetallism I cannot but believe that such action would exert a most salutary influence upon the consummation of international agreement and the coming into this league of every European Nation."

If the gold standard had been a blessing to Germany why would not he say that it was better to keep the gold standard instead of getting rid of the gold standard and substituting the double standard by international agreement? Let me call your attention to another thing which Prince Bismarck said. Our opponents tell us that we are arraying one class against another. Let me show you what Prince Bismarck has said in regard to the classes on the questions which concern agricultural depression. A little more than a year ago he was quoted as saying to a farmer audience in Germany that the farmers must stand together and protect themselves from the drones of society who produce nothing but laws. Remember the significance of those words, that the farmers should stand together and protect themselves from the drones of society who produce nothing but laws.

My friends, divide society into two classes; on the one side put the non-producers and on the other side put the producers of wealth, and you will find that in this country the majority of the laws are made by the non-producers instead of the producers of wealth, and just as long as the non-producers make the laws just so long it will be more profitable to be a non-producer of wealth. Bismarck tried to arouse the farmers of Germany to throw out these drones and take charge of legislation themselves. I suppose they will call Bismarck an agitator. (Laughter and applause.) I suppose they will say that he ought not to array one class of society against another. Of course, I don't know how drones feel in a beehive, but if drones could talk and make speeches, I will bet that you could not tell one of their speeches from the speeches of a gold standard advocate. (Laughter and applause.) I will venture to say that if the drones could talk and make speeches you could not distinguish their speeches from the speeches made by the heads of these great trusts, who call all who do not believe with them Anarchists. (Applause.) I will venture that if a drone could talk and write and express his ideas in language there is not a member of a syndicate that has been beating this Government but who could take the drone's speech and use it as his own, and without being accused of plagiarism. (Great applause.) My friends, that is the only class issue that we raise, and if to say the people who fight the Nation's battles in time of war have a right to do the legislating in time of peace in raising class against class, then I am willing to be called an agitator. If to tell the people who produce wealth that they have a right to make the laws so as to secure to themselves a just portion of the wealth they produce, instead of allowing the drones to make the laws and eat the honey, then I plead guilty to the charge of stirring up discontent. (Great applause.)

I will bet you that if the drone was in politics party lines would not weigh very much with him if he had a business interest on the other side. (Great applause.) You show me the head of a syndicate or trust and I will show you a man who, whenever his business interests become involved, becomes suddenly patriotic and tells you that he loves his country too much to let anybody make more money out of legislation than he does. (Laughter and applause.) I will venture the assertion that there is not half of the men who are in favor of a gold standard who can tell what sixteen to one means. They do not understand even the terms which are used in the discussion of the money question. I would be willing to place the average farmer against the average banker and turn them loose to discuss the monetary science and financial history, and the banker could not hold his own with the farmer. Why? Because the financier thinks he knows so much that it is not necessary for him to study, while the farmer realizes that he has got to study in order to know anything about the question. The financier has been getting along so well that he thinks it is not necessary for him to worry, but the farmer has been suffering so much that he is trying to find what is the matter with the farmer. The farmer knows that by making money scarce he makes money dear and property cheap.

My friends, we have had our financial legislation run by those people who have made more in an hour a day gambling in stocks and bonds and gambling in what the farmers call produce than all the farmers of the Union could make producing their crops. (Great applause.) You take for instance, where they can send a large amount of gold abroad and make stocks drop, and bring a large amount in and make stocks rise again. The people who are able to corner the money there are able to get along fairly well, no matter how other people may suffer.

### Infant Alarm.

A French inventor has devised a curious electrical alarm for infants. It consists of a microphone circuit breaker placed near the head of the child in its cradle and connected with an electric bell. A cry from the child will actuate the instrument and will thus cause the bell to ring, awakening the attention of mother or nurse.

## A PRINCE OF THE PLAINS.

### KIT CARSON WAS THE IDEAL FRONTIERSMAN AND SCOUT.

Brave as a Lion, Modest as a Girl—Anecdotes About the Famous Scout—Bringing Game Into Camp.

All the frontiersmen he has been my fortune to know intimately, during a checkered life of forty on the great plains and in the Rocky Mountains, Kit Carson was the prince. He was brave, but not reckless. Perfectly unselfish, he was a veritable exponent of genuine altruism. As true to his friends as the needle to the pole, he would fight for them, and die for them, if needs be. He died at Fort Lyon, Col., on May 23, 1868, during a short visit to the post, where he had a favorite son residing. Early on the morning of that day, while mounting his horse in front of his quarters, an artery in his neck was suddenly ruptured, from the effects of which, notwithstanding the best medical assistance was rendered by the surgeon of the fort, he died a few moments. I was stationed at Fort Harker, Kan., at the time of his untimely taking off, says Henry Juman in the Detroit Free Press, and had received a letter from him a week before, in which he informed me that he was on his way to make me a long-promised visit. His remains, after reposing for some time at the fort, were taken to Taos, so long his home in New Mexico, where a suitable monument was erected over them. As an Indian fighter Kit Carson was matchless. The identical rifle, which never failed him, and was used by him for more than thirty-five years, he bequeathed just before his death, to Montezuma Lodge, F. and A. M., Santa Fe, of which he was a member.

Under the average height, Carson was rather delicate looking in his physical proportions; he was, however, a quick, wiry man, with nerves of iron and an indomitable will. He was full of caution, and possessed an imperturbability in the moment of great danger that was something grand to witness.

Kit, years before he became famous, fought a duel on horseback with a notoriously pompous braggart, a Canadian-French trapper. He escaped with a bullet wound behind his left ear, the scar of which he carried to his grave, but he "winged" his antagonist and forever stopped his boasting.

Kit Carson was the most reticent man concerning his own adventures I ever met. It required the greatest strategy to get him to converse on the subject at all, though he was splendid company excepting when one wanted him to talk about himself. I am reminded of a characteristic anecdote relating to his dislike to telling anything of himself. It was in July, 1866.

L. B. Maxwell, the owner of the immense ranch in New Mexico which still bears his name, on the fourth of that month determined to celebrate the day at his own fine home. By the premature explosion of an old cannon brought into requisition out of its hiding place under a group of elms, where it had lain since the march of General Kearney across the plains to conquer New Mexico, Maxwell so injured his thumb that the army surgeon at Fort Union decided that the wounded member must come off. I invited him to make my quarters at the fort his, where he could have the operation quietly done, and I also asked Carson to come with me to assist me in caring for and entertaining him during his stay.

One morning, while Kit was there, one of the officers sent down to the sutler's store, which was as well the postoffice, for our mail, the coach which brought it from the Missouri River having arrived a few minutes before. While waiting for the letters to be assorted, the officer's eye chanced to rest on a copy of one of the cheap illustrated journals lying on the counter. He would not ordinarily have noticed such a sheet, but his attention was attracted to it by a full page woodcut, adorning its outside, one of those sensational and improbable scenes for which journals of its character are notorious even today. It represented an opening in the forest, in the foreground of which stood an immensely tall man dressed in buckskin, one hand holding a huge rifle, while the other grasped the waist of a woman who was elegantly attired—the conventional woman of such sheets—in laces and flounces. In front of this impossible woman, lying flat on the ground, were seven or eight dead savages, presumably killed by the remarkable hero in defense of the more remarkable woman. The legend at the bottom of the crude sketch, in large type, related how Kit Carson, at some time in the remote days of his youth, had accomplished the mighty deed. It so amused the officer that he bought a copy of the paper and brought it to my quarters, showing it to all of us in turn. When Kit got hold of it, he looked at it intently for a few seconds, read the legend, then handing it to Maxwell, smilingly remarked: "Well, gentlemen, that that may be true, but I ain't got no recollection of it."

The absurd illustration drew Kit out, and he related several amusing anecdotes which had occurred during his eventful career of forty years on the plains and in the mountains, one of which I remember well. He said that in the summer of 1846 he and one or two other old trappers left Bent's Fort for Bald Battles, thirty miles north of there, where there was plenty of buffalo and excellent chances for beaver or otter. They had with them a thoroughly green Irishman. It was his first season on the plains, and, of course, he was very anxious to become a good hunter, and in a little while he got his initial lesson. He was told by the men and Carson, who was the leader, that every man who went out after

## game was to bring some in. O'Neil, the green one, said he was willing to abide by the orders, and would start out that evening. He caught up his rifle and made for a small herd of mountain buffalo, in full view of all, a few hundred yards from where they stood watching him. After O'Neil had gone, and was beyond their vision on account of a low "divide" which had crossed, they heard the discharge of his rifle in the distance, and in a few moments that gentleman came running into camp, beheaded, without his gun, and a buffalo bull close after him. Both were going at their level best, O'Neil shouting like a madman.

"Here we come, be jabers. Stop us, for the love of heaven!"

Just as they came in among the tents, the bull not more than six feet behind the Irishman, who was frightened out of his wits, and blowing like a locomotive, his toe caught in a rope, and over he went into a puddle of water, and in his fall turned over several kettles, one of which contained the supper for the whole outfit. But the buffalo did not get off so easily, for "Shawnee Jake" and Carson snatched their guns and tumbled the animal over before he had done any further mischief.

The Irishman was heartily laughed at after he got out of the water, for a lot of mountain men will show no mercy to one of their number with a misfortune of this character. O'Neil stood there with wet clothes and face covered with mud, but his mother with came to him at once. He said: "Be jabers, yez may laugh, but yez can't say I didn't carry out me orders. For sure, haven't I fetched the mate into camp, and there was no bargain whether it be dead or alive at all?"

### A Great Bird Road.

The Nile Valley is the great bird road running north and south. The heron fishes in every shallow. The ibis haunts the banks. The pelicans stand in rows at the time of the inundation. Eagles, kites and ospreys are common. On every sand bank black or black and white vultures hop about and flap their outspread, draggled wings. A kingfisher, more common and more soberly clad than ours, performs wonderful feats of diving within a few paces of the onlooker. The little sand snipe and the true snipe prevail, and quail visit the country in immense numbers in the spring. Owls haunt the palm trees and ruins, and pigeons, which are reared in every village for the sake of the manure, are probably more numerous than in any other country in the world. It is delightful to note the tameness of the birds in Egypt. They enter rooms and houses through windows or crevices left for ventilation, and once inside hop fearlessly about the floor, picking up stray crumbs.

I have seen—and the sight was a pretty one—a sparrow perched on the corner of a table during the progress of a crowded hotel repast, and it is not uncommon to see them flitting across the ceilings of drawing rooms at Luxor. All birds, from largest to smallest, go unmolested, unless they are definitely useful for food. The great brown kite sits fearlessly on the roofs of Cairo, hard by his cousin, the crow, which is not black like our crow, but black and gray, and might easily be mistaken for a pigeon. Every garden—at any rate in upper Egypt—has its owl frequenting a tall palm tree, and hooting or whistling as nature guides it.—Arthur's Home Magazine.

### Pathetic Story of a Lawyer.

A fortnight ago a letter reached a friend of mine in the handwriting of an old college friend, telling a pitiful story of a stranded life. The writer had been called to the bar, hoping some day to land on the judicial bench, even if he did not reach the woolstack. He had no influence and very little money.

No business came his way. But he held on through long years, patiently hoping that some day his chance would come. Now he was sick, probably unto death, and had no money to buy food or medicine. A remittance was promptly sent and gratefully acknowledged. At the end of a fortnight it occurred to the Q. C. and M. P. to call on the sick man and see what more he might do to help him.

Arrived at the address he gave his name and his errand to the ladylike woman who opened the door, whereat, bursting into a passion of tears, she told him he was too late. Her husband had died that morning. The two walked upstairs to a small front room. On the bed lay the body of a man of about forty years of age, fully dressed in the gown and wig of a barrister. In his right hand he held a bundle of foolscap.

"What is that?" the old friend whispered.

"That," said the widow, "is the only brief he received in the course of nineteen years' waiting. He asked me to dress him thus and put it in his hand when he was dead."—The Strand.

### Said to Be the Richest Town.

The total valuation of Brookline, Mass., is \$60,912,000 divided as follows: Personal, \$15,129,300; buildings, \$16,640,600; land, \$29,142,100. There has been a shrinkage in the value of personal property of \$169,700 and an increase in the real estate of \$2,079,100, making a net gain of \$1,909,400 in the richest town in the country. In the polls assessed there is an increase of 147, the number being 4556.—Boston Herald.

### An Unprofitable Suit.

Lord Gerard has settled for \$18,000 a suit which he has been fighting for nine years against the London and Northwestern Railway Company about some land of his that was taken and for which he asked \$1,800,000. His costs are probably \$50,000.