

## ROBBERY OF ESTATES

Wisconsin Supreme Court Issues a Warning.

The supreme court of Wisconsin has found it necessary to sound a note of warning to attorneys, and even to courts, so that estates which come into the custody and control of the courts may not be robbed and depleted. The court sounds its warning in a decision rendered in the suit of Spieser against the Merchants' Exchange bank, recently reported, and it is creating a sensation in legal circles. Dodge, the court says: "The present case is so impressive an illustration that we cannot ignore the duty to make it the text for some general remarks upon a tendency of the bar, and even with courts, which promises to develop into a most serious abuse, if it has not already done so. That tendency is to look upon funds in gremio legis as not sheltered by the same rights of ownership, and not entitled to the same protection from extortionate and unreasonable charges, as if they had remained under the custody and control of their owners."

"Some of the demands made against such funds could be justified only upon the view that they are already divested from private ownership; that any part thereof which ultimately reaches those to whom they really belong does so only by grace, or by way of free gift, so that any deduction therefrom, however illogical in character or excessive in amount, cannot be subject for complaint by any one."

After pointing out that receivers and trustees should be restrained to reasonable charges, the court continues: "Only in the wise discretion and firmness of the courts can there be found prevention or remedy for the abuse and disgrace of judicial conservation of estates from their enemies, only to permit their destruction by the very salvors. If such abuses continue, the beneficent power of a court of equity to take to its sheltering arms a litigated estate while rights to it are being established will become a mockery worse than the avoided perils as it is more effective. The record before us presents one of the most extreme cases of affirmative misconduct on the part of a receiver within the history of the court." There has been a tendency upon the part of witnesses to assert the failure to remember when ques-

tions are asked that are likely to lead to disclosure. Of this class of testimony the court says it is "that form of falsification, 'I can't remember,' which has been classic since the trial of Queen Caroline."

In the case under consideration the court refuses to allow the receiver any compensation and severely criticises his conduct in dealing with the funds entrusted to his care, saying that his actions "convict him of such breaches of the most important and highest duties of a receiver that both the referee and the court should, without hesitation, have imposed, as the least penalty, entire exclusion from any allowance by way of compensation."—Milwaukee Wisconsin.

### Lincoln's Population Prophecy.

"During the civil war President Lincoln discussed the impracticability of maintaining a disovered country," says Prof. Lewis M. Haupt, in Lippincott's, "and submitted some proposed amendments to the constitution looking to the elimination of slavery, without which, he said, 'the rebellion could never have existed.' His plan was to purchase emancipation in a period of thirty-seven years, and he entered into an elaborate argument to show that this would be more prudent and more economical than to continue the war. This led him to forecast the probable increase in population, which he believed would continue at its normal rate of growth. He said: 'At the same rate of increase which we have maintained on an average from our first national census in 1790 until that of 1890, we should in 1900 have a population of 103,208,415, and why may we not continue that ratio far beyond that period? \* \* \* We have 2,963,000 square miles. Europe has 3,500,000 with a population averaging 73 1-3 persons to the square mile. Why may not our country at some time average as many? \* \* \* Several of our states are already above that average \* \* \* and yet they have increased in as rapid a ratio since passing that point as before.'"

The "princess" girdle promises to be "the" belt used this season.

## Pledges Russia's Friendship

Says the Muscovite Empire Will Always Be on Our Side

In discussing the tariff dispute between this country and Russia Vladimir A. Teplov, Russian consul general, says: The whole trouble is due to a misunderstanding on the part of the United States. Russia has not a bounty on sugar, as is reported. The United States minister has not adequately examined into the matter of Russian tariffs. He should do so and report to the people here. If he did so there would not be any misunderstanding.

Russia and the United States have too many interests that are mutual for either one to be able to afford to oppose the other. And I wish to say that there is no desire on the part of Russia to oppose this country. Our interests commercially are identical, and we wish America all the progress and prosperity that can come to her. It is absurd to say that we favor Germany. The United States is our nearest neighbor. You can land goods in Russia from San Francisco with much greater facility than Germany can from any part of her territory. Certainly, Russia is looking for the cheapest market in which to buy her goods, and that market is the United States.

Siberia is a large country, and when it is opened, which will be in about two years, America will have it for a market almost exclusively. Siberia will want everything that she can use

from America. Why, then, should Russia antagonize the country from which Siberia must draw the most of her supplies? We shall want machinery, lamps, bicycles—in fact, almost everything that America produces. As to sugar, all we import of this article is from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 worth annually. In machinery, only one article, Chicago alone sends \$30,000,000 annually to Russian markets. Think what the figures are for the whole country! Would it not be absurd for America to sacrifice the tremendous industrial interests she has in Russia on account of a comparatively insignificant tariff on our sugar?

Always Russia has been a warm friend to this country. This is no time for her to change her sentiments. There is rumor of a concert of the European nations against the United States to check the commercial progress that this country is making. In my opinion, such a coalition can never be made. But if such a thing could possibly happen, you may be sure that Russia would not make one of the opposition. Russia and America are two young giants of about the same age. Youth does not affiliate with old age. Where two young men with the same interests can come together they invariably do so. It is the same with countries, and this country will therefore always find Russia on its side.

## JAPANESE SHIPYARDS.

The determination of Japan to become in every sense a modern nation is in no line of development made more plain than in the matter of shipyards. The Tokio shipyard, covering fully 60 acres, is reported as employing 3,000 men, who have all the latest machinery, including pneumatic riveters. Six steamers of 150,000 tons are on the stocks. The fact that the works are equipped with electricity is a further indication of the progressive spirit now ruling.

The shipbuilding yard at Nagasaki is also going ahead, but special interest attaches to the new government steel works. Some 5,000,000 yens have already been spent, but 15,000,000 yens have been voted. The works are on the eastern shores of Kishuu, the most southern of the large islands forming the empire, and are, therefore, contiguous to China. The establishment, which covers 230 acres, is close by the coal fields, connected with the railway, and a seaport, having over 20 feet of water will be convenient for the shipping of the finished products to the northern islands, and also to China, which ultimately must become a large customer. The works are thoroughly equipped. In addition to blast furnaces there are coke ovens, and in the steel department open hearth Bessemer furnaces with a full set of rolling mills for roughing, three bar mills, as well as rail, sheet and plate rolls. There are

steel and iron foundries, boiler shops, laboratories, testing and other departments. The works will soon be put in operation construction being far advanced.

### Raising the Rent.

There is a little two-story house in West Philadelphia occupied by two families, one on each floor. Of late there has been a marked coldness between them. The family on the lower floor sought out the landlady and offered to take the two flats at a considerable increase in rent if the family above were put out. The landlady complied with alacrity and gave notice for the upper family to get out. They resorted with a counter proposition to pay more rent than the family downstairs and take both flats. So the lower flat family were ordered to vacate. Then the first family "called the raise," and again the landlady has changed her mind. The neighbors are curious as to the outcome.—Philadelphia Times.

### Old Names in Georgia.

A correspondent has discovered a number of oddly named persons in Georgia counties. Among these names are: Sorrowful Williams, Increase Thomas, Merciful Jenkins, Angel Jones, Salvation White, Happiness Johnson, Purity Scott and Paradise Lea.

## SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

A writer in the Engineer points out that coal exposed to the air and weather deteriorates measurably. A slow combustion takes place in the oxidation of the coal by the air, and where the heat is confined it may rise to such a degree as to ignite the coal.

In 1899 the area of reserved government forests in the different British provinces of India aggregated 84,148 square miles, or 54,000,000 acres, more than the total area of England and Ireland together. The state forests of the German Empire only aggregate 16,400 square miles.

A Zurich photographer claims to have perfected an apparatus by which he has taken photographs of small objects at a great distance. Some of his pictures were taken at a distance of 120 miles. The improved art is called telephotography, "photographing at a distance," as telegraphy is "writing at a distance."

The theory upon which the Japanese work to produce their famous artificially dwarfed trees is to limit the root system and to reduce the number of leaves so that practically only sufficient food is assimilated to maintain the plant in health, without there being any surplus to provide material for added growth. This counter-checking of the natural growth is done so to such a nicety that a tree more than 300 years old may not attain a height of more than two or three feet.

It is pointed out by physicians that transmission of contagious diseases is easily possible through the common toilet pin, and persons who make a practice of putting pins in the mouth are warned of the danger incurred. Pins are used by patients suffering from tuberculosis have been found to bear the germs of the disease. Even pins fresh from paper or box are not safe, as these are often collected from the streets by children and sold to pin manufacturers, this latter practice being specially common in Europe.

Sable Island, off the coast of Nova Scotia, where so many ships have been wrecked, is gradually washing away, and, strange to say, the Canadian Government is doing its best to find a way to save it. It might be thought, at first blush, that its washing away would be the best thing that could happen, but the trouble is that it will wash down just below the surface of the water, and then lie there concealed, an infinitely greater danger to navigation than ever. So an effort is to be made to keep it above water, and this is to be done by planting on it certain trees whose roots have peculiar binding qualities. The roots branch out widely and interlace, clinging to the sand in such a way that it becomes a strong wall. The French Government has used the trees effectively for this purpose, and they have also been used along the sandy banks of the Suez Canal.

### A Small Watch.

The Dowager Duchess of Sutherland, who is credited with possessing the only crystal watch in existence having transparent works, made for the most part of rock crystal, had the works removed from a miniature watch and placed inside a magnificent diamond having a diameter not exceeding the depth of four lines of ordinary type. Small as this timepiece was, it is surpassed in diminutiveness by what was just described as the "smallest watch in the world," which was exhibited at the watch exhibition in Berlin recently. Made of fine gold, this microscopic watch had the dimensions of a pea; that is to say, its diameter of 6 1-2 millimeters, which is practically a quarter of an inch, would equal in depth three lines of type; 480 of these watches would weigh about one pound avoirdupois, if there existed any one possessing a heart sufficiently adamant to permit so brutal a weight as avoirdupois to be applied to so delicate a mechanism. Made of gold and valued at £400, this dainty watch boasts a minute hand as long as an ordinary-sized letter "I" and a half, an hour hand less than an "n" and a half in length, and a second hand one-sixteenth of an inch long that would demand an incision into the nonpariel foot to supply a suitable illustration.—Good Words.

### Concrete Street Surfaces.

Canal street, New Orleans, is about 135 feet wide between the sidewalks. On each side of the pavement there is a roadway 27 feet wide, on which is all the traffic. In the centre of the street, there is a section 60 feet wide, which has been known as neutral ground, on which the local street railways have laid their tracks. Recently an effort has been made to improve the condition of the street and after considerable study it was determined to pave this central section with concrete. Accordingly a regular concrete pavement, such as that used in sidewalks was laid down, the bottom of which extends to the bottom of the ties upon which the rails are laid. Instead of being a solid mass, it is laid down in blocks with sand joints. Eight inch sand joints are provided between the paving and the rails to prevent spreading of fractures which may develop after a time. This also permits of the ready repairing of the rails, or renewing of bonding without great expense. The experiment of using a concrete surfaceway in streets will be watched with much interest by municipal engineers.

## APRIL CULTURE

Training Currant Bushes. Currant bushes are usually too thick and are seldom properly cultivated. There are some advantages in training currant bushes to a single stem at the ground, as they are then more easily cultivated and kept clear of grass and weeds. Such bushes are easily raised by rubbing off all the buds from the lower part of the cutting when planting, all of which will be below the surface of the ground. Good crops can be obtained, however, from bushes with several stems provided proper pruning and cultivation be bestowed.

### American Apples For France.

The American apple is growing more popular in England as the people become acquainted with them. The London Chronicle says that France is about to follow in the wake of England in taking to the American apple. Happily, however, England will not suffer any diminution in the quantity she now gets, for our apple trees yield as much as 210,000,000 barrels in a season. Indeed, it is probable that the whole of Europe could be supplied without any great difficulty, seeing that every year from 6,000,000 to 10,000,000 barrels of apples are carried in cold storage in the United States.

### The Good Effect of Thinning Trees.

Since fruit when thinned is more evenly distributed over the tree there is a greater opportunity for uniform development. The smaller the number of fruits, the greater will be the supply of food for each and the result will be larger size, better color, better quality, and higher market prices, and the satisfaction of producing an extra good article. The tree will make a moderate growth, set fruit buds for next year's crop, and ripen its wood so that it will not be liable to be injured by the water. With varieties that will naturally produce crops biennially thinning will tend to encourage the habit of bearing annual crops.

### Protector For Young Hedges.

A vigorous, full grown hedge is a formidable barrier to either man or beast, and when properly pruned also beautiful—an ornament appropriate for any artistic home in a picturesque locality. When first set out, however, the shrubs are liable to injury from tramping. Some protection should



PROTECTION FOR GROWING HEDGES.

therefore be given them, and none is more effective or easily built than that presented in the accompanying cut. Indeed, three light rails, with pickets for stakes, are all that is needed. Arranged in this manner not only are both sides of the hedge fully protected, but room is afforded for uninterrupted growth.—Frederick O. Sibbey, in New York Tribune.

### Treatment of the Strawberry Bed.

After the strawberry bed has yielded its crop, mow the tops of the plants close to the ground, and burn them as soon as dry enough, choosing a time when there is wind enough to cause the fire to run quickly, and not burn too long in one place. Then the weeds can be cut out with the hoe, and perhaps the old plants and the land left to the new plants or runners. Some first work the paths between the rows and make the soil fine and rich with manure or fertilizer, then cut a new path where the old row stood, thus keeping the bed in the same place, practically, for several years. While this is an old-fashioned method, those who are limited in their gardens or in land where they can grow strawberries can scarcely try any better method until rust or insects begin to injure the plants. It may not be adapted as well to those who have small beds for home use, but some who have tried it like the plan, even on a large scale, and do not change the location of their strawberry fields until driven from them, or until they decide that they can get more profit from some new variety than from the plants that start as runners from the old bed.

### Wood Ashes For Strawberries.

A correspondent of Rural New Yorker says that he has learned that wood ashes are not a good fertilizer for strawberries on a sandy loam. He has a field on which in 1899 he put about four hundred bushels per acre of unleached ashes, and he has set strawberry plants on it twice, and both times most of the plants died out when a dry time came, though at the ends of the row where the ashes were not put they made a good stand. He has grown good crops of early and late cabbage and of potatoes on the land, and the best crop of late cabbage he had was on that land the same year he applied the ashes. We think one hundred bushels of unleached ashes enough for almost any crop, and certainly upon a light loam we would not use more, though cabbages, potatoes and grass would not be hurt by more, and the heavy application would last longer, but one hundred bushels to the acre would show its effect for at least twelve years afterward. The lime and potash are too strong for the roots of the strawberries, and we think it would be for some other crops when used in so large an amount. We do not think beans or peas would grow on it very well.—American Cultivator.

## THE CHEMISTRY OF SOAP.

Soft, Curd and Toilet Soaps—Potash Lye Use Now.

In the old days it was understood that potash soaps were soft, and those made from soda were hard. But W. J. Teeters says, in the Western Druggist, that the soft soaps of the present days are as a rule not made from potash, but from soda, and are soft only because of the surplus water incorporated in them. They are known as "Swiss soaps," or "settled soft soaps," and contain from 33 1-3 to ninety per cent. of water.

Most of the soaps of the market are made by saponifying oils with an alkali, precipitating the soluble soap formed by adding solution of sodium chloride, removing, drying and manipulating the soap thus formed. Curd soaps are made by melting the precipitated soap, adding more lye to emulsify any unsaponified fat carried down in the salting out process, boiling and running into frames or molds. Curd soap has almost invariably an excess of alkali, to eliminate which the process of "fitting" is resorted to. This consists in allowing the curd soap to stand for some time after boiling, pumping off the lye, introducing steam, and, if necessary, water, boiling and allowing it to cool slowly for several days, when the whole separates into layers, the bottom containing the precipitated impurities known as nurg, the top layer consisting of a frothy crust known as fob, while the semi-liquid soap floats between the two.

Toilet soaps, at least those of the best quality, are made by the cold process. The "stock soap" made by the process outlined above is cut into very thin slices, thoroughly dried, mixed with perfume and coloring matters by grinding in a mill, and then pressed into the desired shape. The transparent soaps of the best class are made by dissolving the dry stock soap in alcohol with the addition of a small amount of glycerine, and allowing it to set. Cane sugar acts somewhat like glycerine by aiding clarification, but its use is open to serious objection, as it has a very bad effect on the skin.

### WORDS OF WISDOM.

Unreasonable haste is the direct road to error.—Mollere.

To be doing good is man's most glorious task.—Sophocles.

Good counsels observed are chains of grace.—Longinus.

We give advice by the bucket, but take it by the grain.—W. R. Alger.

Life is not so short but that there is always time for courtesy.—Emerson.

If thou wouldst be obeyed as a father, be obedient as a son.—William Penn.

Fools learn nothing from wise men, but wise men learn much from fools.—Lavater.

If you will not hear Reason, she will surely rap your knuckles.—From Poor Richard's Almanac.

The two powers which in my opinion constitute a wise man are bearing and forbearing.—Epictetus.

No rock is so hard but that a little wave may beat admission in a thousand years.—Tennyson.

If idleness do not produce vice or malevolence it commonly produces melancholy.—Sydney Smith.

Half the misery in the world comes of want of courage to speak and to hear the truth plainly, and in a spirit of love.—Mrs. Stowe.

The Garbage Problem. The older countries, in spite of the rapid strides we have made in invention, are a good deal ahead of us in many ways. There is the question of the disposal of garbage, for instance! It is said that it costs the city of New York about \$500,000 a year to get rid of it, while many English cities, by burning it in special furnaces, not only destroy it in the most effective way, but actually make a profit out of it. The furnaces dry it out so that it may be used as fuel, and this fuel is used in making steam for pumping water, running electric plants and for grinding up such parts of the refuse as may be converted into cement, tiles and paving blocks. This plan is in use in seventy or eighty of the smaller cities of England, and a million dollar plant is being erected in London.

A Camera For a Sultan. What is perhaps the most costly camera in the world for its size has just been made for the Sultan of Morocco. According to a correspondent of the Westminster Gazette it is merely of the quarter plate dimension, but all the metal work of the camera is of solid eighteen-karat gold, each particular screw being of that precious metal and stamped with the official hall-mark. This is the first time screws have had that honor conferred upon them. The case for the camera is of pure white morocco leather, lined with plush, and finished off with massive gold mountings and lock. When the camera is finished, a few days hence, it will represent a little bill of some \$1500.

The Gallant Cabman. Nothing, perhaps, produces quite so much wit from a cabman as a sense of being underpaid, which in most cases means that he has been justly paid. A lady who had been guilty of this kind of justice experienced the usual sense of discomfort when her driver straightened the palm into which she had dropped her shilling and looked at her speechlessly. She was weakly about to add another sixpence when the cabby's sense of humor prevailed. He transferred the shilling to his pocket and smiled sweetly down at his embarrassed fare. "Course, missy," he remarked, "there was the pleasure o' divin' you!"—London Chronicle.

## A CRADLE SONG.

Hark to the Booger-man's maundering tread,  
By-low, my child!  
Stealthily creeping a-nearer thy bed,  
By-low, my child!  
See his gaunt shadow athwart of the wall,  
Bony hands clutching to make thee his thrall.—  
Cover thy head, dearest! Hush! Do not call,  
By-low, my child!

Out in the hallway are crouching the Spooks,  
By-low, my sweet!  
Ghastly and grim in their shadowy nooks,  
By-low, my sweet!  
List to the rasp of their rattling bones,  
Coupled with gulp of their gurgling groans!  
Under the coverlet! Smother thy moans!  
By-low, my sweet!

See at thy window the fierce Mummie-Rat,  
By-low, my pet!  
Peering at thee through a chink in the slat,  
By-low, my pet!  
Sharp are his teeth as he gnaws through the blind,  
Cruel his claws as they seek thee to find,  
And—if this doesn't lush thee, I've more of the kind!  
By-low, my pet!  
—Charles A. Foss, in Puck.



Sapphede—"I can safely say that I know my own mind." Miss Caustique—"Is that all?"

Hoax—"Golf is bad for the eye-sight." Joax—"I thought golf players had to be lynx-eyed."

Artist—"My last picture positively can't be improved upon." Critic—"Gracious! Is it as bad as that?"

Don't rail with impatience; Don't frown at the opportunity; For maybe, if you stop to kick, You'll miss an opportunity.

Mr. Softleigh (out horseback riding)—"Shall we take the bridle path, Miss Antique?" Miss Antique—"Oh, this is so sudden."

Father—"Well, my boy, any college debts?" Son—"Nothing, sir, but what, with diligence, economy and self-denial, you will be able to pay."

Nell—"When he proposed she snapped him up. She had been singing in a church choir for thirty years." Belle—"The chants of a lifetime, eh?"

It's an easy matter to find a way, If a man only has the will. It's an easy matter to get along After he starts down-hill.

"You don't seem to know jokes," declared the humorist scornfully, as his manuscript was handed back. "I know these," said the editor. "They're old friends."

Mr. Gotrox—"Gracious! What is that noise downstairs?" Mrs. Gotrox—"Oh, it's nothing. I dare say the new English butler is just dropping a few h's."

Tess—"I've got a new way to tell a person's age." Jess—"Is that so? Will you tell any one's age?" Tess—"Yes." Jess—"Tell me yours, then."—Philadelphia Press.

"Some sage has said that the great rule of life is 'know thyself.'" "Yes; but there should be a second rule: 'And when you know yourself don't tell what you know.'"

"No, sir," said the old man with emphasis; "my daughter shall never leave the parental roof." "Good," rejoined the would-be son-in-law; "I have no objections to that."

"What is it that will go down a stove-pipe down, and up a stove-pipe down, but won't go up a stove-pipe up or down a stove-pipe up?" "Give it up. What is it?" "An umbrella."

"The number of people who speak English," said the amateur statistician, "is now 116,000,000." "It is a wonder," said the cynic, "some of them do not find their way on to the stage."

Wigg—"Here's an article in the paper about a club of aeronauts that meets in a balloon." Wagg—"Gracious! I wouldn't want to belong to that and be dropped for non-payment of dues."

I had a dream the other night, And woke up very sore; I dreamed I owned a gold mine, but Alas! my dream is o'er.

—Philadelphia Record.

Blobbs—"What profession is your son going to follow?" Slobbs—"He is anxious to be an aeronaut." Blobbs—"Well, that's one of the professions in which there ought to be plenty of room at the top."

### How He Found Him.

The following story is told concerning two sailors, who happened to be ashore:

One of these decided that after visiting his own friends he would spend a few days with his messmate. Arriving in the locality of his mate's home he was horrified to find that he had forgotten the number of the house. After asking in vain policemen, postmen and pedestrians he caught sight of a toy windmill man, and hailing him he offered twopenny for a "blow on his bugle."

The man agreed and jack tar then gave the ship's call. A crowd quickly gathered and stared at the musical sailor.

Immediately a window was thrown up, and a well-known voice exclaimed: "Ship ahoy! Why, mate, your pipe's been waiting hours!"

Amid great cheering of the crowd he very quickly joined his friend and his pipe.—London Spare Moments.

"The Way to Win a Woman." The first thing a woman wants is to be well treated; once in a while she wants to be petted; the third thing, she wants to be admired; the fourth, she never wants to be contradicted.—The testimony of Dr. Popper, of San Francisco.