

Too Many for Him.

The following has been furnished us by a friend of Hon. M. Ryan, who appreciates the joke, and wants all Mr. Ryan's friends to hear of it in order that they too may enjoy it:

"Hon. Michael Ryan, the Nestor and wit of the Alexandria Bar, opposed Col. E. A. Hunter and his son, R. P. Hunter, in the trial of a case before Judge... His Honor was a strong pillar of the church, and his expression of countenance and his manner indicated much more than ordinary sanctity. The decision of the court was unfavorable to Mr. Ryan, and he was closely taken to task by his unfortunate clients. With an air of injured merit the defeated, though not discomfited, turned upon his critics, and in the most beautiful brogue exclaimed:

"You're a fine set of fault-finders, I'm sure! How could ye expect me to win the case, when I, a poor, wretched mortal, had to contend alone and single-handed against the father, son and howly ghost, all three at once?"

In provinces of Turkey when, real ignorance or a desire to avoid military conscription causes the concealment of the age of the young men who are supposed to be liable to service, the authorities use a singular but simple rule to ascertain the maturity of the youths. A string is used to measure the circumference of the neck. If this measure proves to be less than the length of the face of the boy he is considered to be under eighteen, the military age; but if the measure equals the length of the face, then the boy is old enough to serve.

In France, journalism is a more honorable profession than in either England or America. All editorials in Paris newspapers are signed with the real name of the writer, who may thus build up a valuable reputation and receive the just reward of his labor. A journalist of moderate ability is paid \$100 a month to begin with; after six months, if he continues well, \$200 a month; and when his name begins to command attention, he can fix his own terms.

The census report shows Louisiana to be a very small producer of cereals. It planted 1504 acres of wheat in 1871, and raised 3044 bushels, about half the amount produced in 1869. Its acreage in oats was 26,862, and the production 229,850 bushels. Of barley there were only 2 acres and 50 bushels; of rye, 213 acres and 1106 bushels; of buck wheat, 75 acres and 1305 bushels. Even in corn, Louisiana was behind nearly all the other Southern States, with an acreage of only 740,454 and a production of 9,878,024 bushels. [N. O. Democrat.]

SOMETHING ABOUT DENTISTRY.—An authority on dentistry stated in a recent lecture that the first knowledge of dentist surgery was brought to this country by a person who accompanied the French troops here during the revolution. The first dentist was established in New York 1788. George Washington's false teeth were retained in the mouth by spiral springs. In 1830 there were 200 dentists in the country, in 1842, 4000; to-day 15,000.

GAMBALDI frankly admits that the emigrants from Italy to this country are, as a class, undesirable, both physically and morally. The cause of this he finds in the fact that the picked men of Italy are in the army, the civil service and the religious orders.

TOO POOR TO HAVE A NAME.—Among the inmate convicts in the Eastern Penitentiary is a middle-aged man who has a propensity for burning barns and houses. Recently one of the inspectors inquired his name. "Well Sir," replied the convict, as he pressed one of his hands against his forehead, as if to refresh his memory, "you have got the best of me. I did have a name once—I think it was Jack—but the fact is I am now too miserably poor to have a name. But sir," and there was a look of earnestness in the man's eyes "I wish you would please inquire among those who know me, and if you can find out what my name is tell me. It's frightful to be without a name."

A contemporary hits the nail on the head when he says that "no class of men in our country do more gratuitous work than the publishers of our country newspapers, and none receive less thanks for what they do. People have no more right to ask and expect space in the columns of a newspaper without paying for it than they have to ask a merchant to give them a bundle of dry-goods or a package of groceries free of charge."

Some philanthropists have said that a man who truly loves a horse cannot be wicked. He must be in the wrong, for Texas jails are full of men who loved other people's horses not wisely, but too well.

An Inducement to Immigration.

[New Orleans Times.] One of our contemporaries of this city says: "The immigrant to Louisiana need not invade the forest or the naked plain, unless he prefers to do so—he can at his discretion become a tenant or a day laborer."

That is just what the majority of our large land owners would like immigrants to become, viz: tenants or day laborers, and that is just what immigrants do not want to become. The chief object of immigrants is to get a piece of land which they can call their own and which they can cultivate and improve with a feeling that their labor is for their own benefit and not for the benefit of some body else. Hundreds of thousands of immigrants settle in Kansas and Texas every year. What the average immigrant wants is cheap land and that he finds in the States mentioned. He is forced to look for cheap lands because his means are limited. If desirable land were cheap in this State no doubt we should receive a much larger share of immigration than we do. Our land owners, however, demand prices for land that are out of the reach of the average immigrant. They discourage immigration and injure both the State and themselves. They fail to sell their lands and are every year becoming poorer.

They cannot understand that as long as the country remains unsettled and unimproved, there is no prospect of their getting their price for their land. They do not seem to see that by selling a portion of their land at its market value, and thus securing the settlement and development of the country, they enhance, two or three times, the value of the portion they retain. It is folly to try to attract here the kind of immigrants we want by holding out to them, as an inducement, the chance of becoming tenants or laborers. If that is the inducement we have to offer, the thrifty immigrant, whether he be foreign or native, will continue to rear his cabin in Texas, Kansas or Dakota.

We must offer cheap lands and in order to do this we must impress upon our land owners the fact that it is for their interest to sell a portion of their lands, for what they are worth now and not demand for them what they may be worth ten years hence.

Strange Freak of Nature.

[Meridian Mercury.] About fourteen miles from Live Oak, Florida, there lives a woman with a strange family. One day she was out walking, and had occasion to cross a creek on a log, and while thus crossing, a huge alligator attacked and pursued her for some distance, frightening her very much. In about seven to nine months, she was confined with twins, both males. They were perfect children down to their waists, and there the human ended, and they are complete alligators on downward, tail and all. There are short, webbed feet and legs at the lower portion of the abdomen like alligators. They crawl with their hands, dragging themselves about just as an alligator does. They make a squealing inarticulate noise. The mother has had a large trough or tank filled with water, in which she keeps them and they live pretty nearly all the time in it. They are fed and eat regularly, and seem to be doing well, and are seemingly happy. They are now about fourteen or fifteen years old. Comparatively few outside the immediate neighborhood know of it. The mother has refused large offers of money for their exhibition. Our informant lives at Cartersville, Georgia. He seems to be a truthful man and vouches for the truth of the story.

General Dalzel, passing by a sentinel at Portsmouth, the fellow complained to him that he wanted shoes. "This very proper that you should have a pair," said the general to him. Thereupon he takes a piece of chalk, and chalks out a pair of shoes upon the sentry-box floor. "There's a pair for you," says he, and goes his way. His back was no sooner turned than the sentinel chalks out a man standing sentry, and goes his way. The general soon after was surprised to meet the man in the town, and asked him how he came there. "Sir," said he, "I was relieved." "That's impossible at this time of day. Who has relieved you?" "One that, I'll answer for it, will stick to his post." The general goes with him to the place. There, sir," says the soldier, "if that is a good pair of shoes, this is also a good sentinel."

A small boy in Newburyport, Mass., was promised by an older sister a half-dollar if he would give away a worthless pup he had picked up somewhere. The small boy gleefully consented and pocketed the money. When evening came the sister asked to whom he had given the dog, and was told with charming naïveté, "Oh, I've given him to brother."

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