

The great serial story by B. F. Ferguson has just commenced in the Weekly Union. It should be read by all lovers of the best class and highest order of fiction. The Weekly Union is far in advance of any other paper of the coast; the best newspaper; the best family journal; the best review of current political literature; the best paper for local news, general miscellany, for the farm, home, street and office. It contains full photographic reports of the proceedings of the Senate and Assembly of the California Legislature. It is issued in semi-weekly 8-page parts, and goes to the readers on Wednesday and Saturday, thus anticipating all other weekly papers, and to those of readers make itself as useful as a daily would possibly be. It is published at the rate of one cent per copy, and a full year for \$2 per annum.

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

In New York yesterday Government bonds were quoted at 103 for 4s of 1897; 103 for 4s of 1881; 107 for 4s; sterling, \$4 1/2 @ 85; silver bars, 113; silver coin, 109; gold bars, 162; gold coin, 153; 10c gold, 109; 5c gold, 109; 2c gold, 109; 1c gold, 109. United States bonds, 109; 4s, 109; 4s, 110.

In San Francisco half dollars are quoted at par; ten dollar, 80; 5 dollar, 80; 2 dollar, 80; 1 dollar, 80; 50c, 80; 25c, 80; 10c, 80; 5c, 80.

At Liverpool yesterday wheat was quoted at 10s 11d to 11s for America California, white, and 11s 10d to 12s for do. red. The only stock overboard in San Francisco on Thursday afternoon, and most of the strength there acquired was manifest at the early informal session yesterday, but at the regular 10 o'clock call there was no business done.

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THE REPORT OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER.

The report of the Transportation Commissioner for 1877-78 has been submitted to the Legislature. We print a synopsis of it to-day. In the light of the blind and unintelligent legislation incorporated with the new Constitution this report is calculated to be instructive reading, though it may be feared that those who insisted, in the teeth of all the evidence extant, upon making the organic law ridiculous in this connection, are incapable of deriving any enlightenment from the plainest records of experience. The report of the Transportation Commissioner is a bulky volume, and its size may intimidate the average reader. But the kernel of the report is to be found in a comparatively small compass, and this part should be carefully studied by every member of the Legislature, and especially by every member of the Committees on Corporations. The sub-articles on "Influence of Through upon Local Rates," "Discrimination," "Inflexible Rates," "Competition," "Elements of 'termining Local Rates,'" "Principles of 'Governing Railroad Rates,'" and the "Conclusion," are especially valuable, for in these sections are discussed all the questions which affect legislation upon transportation. And the first fact to be noted is that the California Transportation Commissioner has reached the same conclusions and convictions which the Massachusetts Railway Commission reached long ago, and which every body of the kind has in turn reached, no matter under what circumstances they were created. The gist of this important discovery may be summarized as a realization of the truth that all attempts to control transportation by mere force are impracticable, but that by a restrained supervision all the security required for the protection of the public can be obtained. The Massachusetts Board has put the case thus: "It is quite safe to say that the nature of this reform is little understood by even those engaged in the management of railroads, much less the general public. It includes, however, the whole principle of the regulation of railroads by supervision, as opposed to their regulation by penal enactments. It is based upon the conviction that the so-called compulsory legislation known as 'General Laws, not only in this country, but in every country, is a failure. It is in fact the only method by which the capabilities of a given region, climate, or soil, can be ascertained. In vineiculture theory can never educate alone, for experience proves that every country, locality, and difference of climatic conditions, has its own peculiar influence upon the growth and product of the vine. Methods which succeed in one place fail utterly in another, and these differences of influence necessitate change of treatment, not only in the character of the selections for cultivation, but in the modes of manufacturing wines. If, therefore, the Agricultural College should establish experimental vineyards, it would be certain to produce results calculated to be of great benefit to intending vintners, and these results would be independent of any theories of the Professor of Agriculture might espouse. It would then be possible for farmers who contemplated the setting out of vineyards, but who did not know what vines to plant or graft, or how to treat them, to ascertain by a visit to one of the experimental vineyards, exactly what they most wanted. This is a line in which the College of Agriculture can be made to redeem its now somewhat dubious reputation. Hitherto it has done nothing, or next to nothing, for the State. It is certainly time that it was turned to some practical use, and it ought not to require much argument to demonstrate the benefits which it can be made to confer upon the public in this way. One of the most important needs of the time is information regarding the best methods of securing the attacks of the phylloxera. The most speedy and certain mode of acquiring this information is by experiment. Farmers, however, are seldom in a position to test the matter practically by planting a large number of different vines, and observing their growth. This kind of work can be done by the Agricultural College, and it is unlikely to be accomplished by any other agency. Of course a very important consequence of such experimental work would be the practical education in vineiculture and viticulture gained by the students of the college. In a few years this enterprise would create a class of experienced and thoroughly informed vintners, who could go into the vineyards of the State, and instruct the farmers, or who could themselves take charge of vineyards, and give an enormous impetus to this growing and important industry. In France and Germany, and other countries where the culture of the vine has been long established, such experiments are constantly conducted by the agricultural colleges and other institutions, and the results are found to be extremely valuable. There would be no difficulty in procuring the land required to make the experimental vineyards, for a very few acres in any one locality would be necessary, and no doubt all that was needed would be willingly given for such a purpose. The proposition is the first thoroughly practical one which has been made in this direction, and we think it ought to secure the approval of the Legislature. It is in the line of what the Agricultural College was originally intended to do, and we are of opinion that one result of a fair trial of it would be to popularize that branch of the University, at the same time that it would suggest other methods of utilizing the expensive agricultural machinery which the State has provided, and which has unfortunately, from various causes, been somewhat barren of satisfactory results up to the present time.

WORK FOR THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE.

A resolution was introduced in the Assembly yesterday by Mr. Adams, to the effect that the Agricultural College of the State be instructed to ascertain what facilities the College of Agriculture of the State University possesses for establishing and working experimental vineyards. The resolution was further required that the committee be instructed to report a bill, should it find such action necessary, to cover the points indicated. This resolution appears to aim at the preparation of some practical and valuable work for the College of Agriculture, and it is evident that if the proposition is intelligently carried out the results ought to be of considerable value. For experimental vineiculture is precisely what very few agriculturists can find either time or means for, yet it is obviously the most profitable of useful discoveries. It is in fact the only method by which the capabilities of a given region, climate, or soil, can be ascertained. In vineiculture theory can never educate alone, for experience proves that every country, locality, and difference of climatic conditions, has its own peculiar influence upon the growth and product of the vine. Methods which succeed in one place fail utterly in another, and these differences of influence necessitate change of treatment, not only in the character of the selections for cultivation, but in the modes of manufacturing wines. If, therefore, the Agricultural College should establish experimental vineyards, it would be certain to produce results calculated to be of great benefit to intending vintners, and these results would be independent of any theories of the Professor of Agriculture might espouse. It would then be possible for farmers who contemplated the setting out of vineyards, but who did not know what vines to plant or graft, or how to treat them, to ascertain by a visit to one of the experimental vineyards, exactly what they most wanted. This is a line in which the College of Agriculture can be made to redeem its now somewhat dubious reputation. Hitherto it has done nothing, or next to nothing, for the State. It is certainly time that it was turned to some practical use, and it ought not to require much argument to demonstrate the benefits which it can be made to confer upon the public in this way. One of the most important needs of the time is information regarding the best methods of securing the attacks of the phylloxera. The most speedy and certain mode of acquiring this information is by experiment. Farmers, however, are seldom in a position to test the matter practically by planting a large number of different vines, and observing their growth. This kind of work can be done by the Agricultural College, and it is unlikely to be accomplished by any other agency. Of course a very important consequence of such experimental work would be the practical education in vineiculture and viticulture gained by the students of the college. In a few years this enterprise would create a class of experienced and thoroughly informed vintners, who could go into the vineyards of the State, and instruct the farmers, or who could themselves take charge of vineyards, and give an enormous impetus to this growing and important industry. In France and Germany, and other countries where the culture of the vine has been long established, such experiments are constantly conducted by the agricultural colleges and other institutions, and the results are found to be extremely valuable. There would be no difficulty in procuring the land required to make the experimental vineyards, for a very few acres in any one locality would be necessary, and no doubt all that was needed would be willingly given for such a purpose. The proposition is the first thoroughly practical one which has been made in this direction, and we think it ought to secure the approval of the Legislature. It is in the line of what the Agricultural College was originally intended to do, and we are of opinion that one result of a fair trial of it would be to popularize that branch of the University, at the same time that it would suggest other methods of utilizing the expensive agricultural machinery which the State has provided, and which has unfortunately, from various causes, been somewhat barren of satisfactory results up to the present time.

NOT A FIT FIELD FOR THE DISPLAY OF PARTISANSHIP.

We understand that an effort is being made to procure the removal of Dr. Wilkins, Resident Physician of the Napa Insane Asylum, on the ground that he is a Democrat, and that a Republican ought to have the position. We desire at the earliest moment and in the most emphatic way to enter our protest against this movement, and we shall advance several reasons for the ground we take in the case. In the first place we will remind the Republican party that at the beginning of Governor Irwin's administration a similar movement to displace Dr. Shurtleff from the Superintendency of the Stockton Asylum, on the score of his Republicanism, was set on foot. We protested earnestly against that proposition, and the arguments which we advanced were acknowledged, and Dr. Shurtleff retained his office. This, therefore, was a case in which a Democratic administration recognized the propriety of making the superintendence of an insane asylum a field for the display of partisanship. For a Republican administration to exhibit less public spirit and liberality would be most mortifying to all enlightened members of the party, and would expose it to the just and sharp censure of the public. For there is not and there cannot be any justification for a step of the kind said to be contemplated. Dr. Wilkins is by common consent of those best qualified to form a judgment on the question, admitted to be one of the most accomplished alienists on the Pacific coast. His professional qualifications for the office he holds are indeed to some extent a public possession, for it must be remembered that he was sent to the Eastern States and Europe at the expense of the local government, to gather information regarding the treatment of the insane, and that he is therefore now putting into daily practice, for the benefit of the public, the knowledge and experience which they enabled him to obtain. In his case, as we remarked the other day, the State pursued a businesslike and sagacious course. It first trained him for a special work, and then it gave him that work to do. Nothing could have been more judicious, and the results have fully indicated the wisdom of the proceeding. And now, having this carefully and thoroughly prepared him for his special functions, and having tested and proved his fitness by several years of practice, it ought not to require to be said that the only rational policy for the State to pursue is to keep him where he is, and where he is so unambiguously the right man in the right place.

WARDEN OF THE STATE PRISON.

We recently gave some reasons why it would be judicious to seek a trained penologist for the important office of Warden of the State Prison. We have since been permitted to see a letter written by a gentleman who has for years been prison reformer, and who has written for us a long and interesting article on the subject of the State Prison. The letter contains a suggestion which we have recommended that we give it the special attention it deserves. The writer says: "The system which has hitherto prevailed with us has not been such as to admit of a thorough training of prison officers, so that it is no real disparagement to anyone to say that 'there is probably not a man in the State who is properly qualified for Warden' according to the high standard which it is

in order. It will never do to convert our Insane Asylum into the spoils of partisan warfare. California politics would indeed be disgraced if such a precedent were established. But inasmuch as a Democratic administration has already set the example of deference to the requirements of the situation in this matter, that ought to render impossible any Republican attempts to change the practice which a just and honorable regard for the public interest has established. We are thoroughly confident that in what we are now saying we express the convictions of the great body of the Republican party, moreover. No such brazen greed of office as is indicated in a proposition of this kind can find approval or sympathy there. The highest good of the whole people is, in the eyes of sound Republicans, the only truly venerable motive-power in politics, and the small and narrow selfishness which sees in a party triumph nothing broader than an opportunity to put this man out of office and that man in, is discontinued. To remove Dr. Wilkins on political grounds would be to perpetrate a wrong on the helpless patients who are dependent upon his skill for whatever prospect they may have for recovery. It is well known that uniformity of treatment is of the first importance in insanity, and that only a physician to only methods by which the capabilities of a given region, climate, or soil, can be ascertained. In vineiculture theory can never educate alone, for experience proves that every country, locality, and difference of climatic conditions, has its own peculiar influence upon the growth and product of the vine. Methods which succeed in one place fail utterly in another, and these differences of influence necessitate change of treatment, not only in the character of the selections for cultivation, but in the modes of manufacturing wines. If, therefore, the Agricultural College should establish experimental vineyards, it would be certain to produce results calculated to be of great benefit to intending vintners, and these results would be independent of any theories of the Professor of Agriculture might espouse. It would then be possible for farmers who contemplated the setting out of vineyards, but who did not know what vines to plant or graft, or how to treat them, to ascertain by a visit to one of the experimental vineyards, exactly what they most wanted. This is a line in which the College of Agriculture can be made to redeem its now somewhat dubious reputation. Hitherto it has done nothing, or next to nothing, for the State. It is certainly time that it was turned to some practical use, and it ought not to require much argument to demonstrate the benefits which it can be made to confer upon the public in this way. One of the most important needs of the time is information regarding the best methods of securing the attacks of the phylloxera. The most speedy and certain mode of acquiring this information is by experiment. Farmers, however, are seldom in a position to test the matter practically by planting a large number of different vines, and observing their growth. This kind of work can be done by the Agricultural College, and it is unlikely to be accomplished by any other agency. Of course a very important consequence of such experimental work would be the practical education in vineiculture and viticulture gained by the students of the college. In a few years this enterprise would create a class of experienced and thoroughly informed vintners, who could go into the vineyards of the State, and instruct the farmers, or who could themselves take charge of vineyards, and give an enormous impetus to this growing and important industry. In France and Germany, and other countries where the culture of the vine has been long established, such experiments are constantly conducted by the agricultural colleges and other institutions, and the results are found to be extremely valuable. There would be no difficulty in procuring the land required to make the experimental vineyards, for a very few acres in any one locality would be necessary, and no doubt all that was needed would be willingly given for such a purpose. The proposition is the first thoroughly practical one which has been made in this direction, and we think it ought to secure the approval of the Legislature. It is in the line of what the Agricultural College was originally intended to do, and we are of opinion that one result of a fair trial of it would be to popularize that branch of the University, at the same time that it would suggest other methods of utilizing the expensive agricultural machinery which the State has provided, and which has unfortunately, from various causes, been somewhat barren of satisfactory results up to the present time.

desirable to adopt for the office. We have plenty of proper persons, perhaps, for all the subordinate positions, and those who, under correct training, would eventually develop into first-class prison officers; but no one, I think, now who is fitted to take charge of our Prison, as its head, and do with it what needs to be done. There are those, however, elsewhere on 'American soil, who have proved their qualifications in this direction by their success in the administration of prison affairs—one of whom I have no doubt could be induced to accept the position of Warden of our State Prison. To test this matter somewhat, I recently wrote to Colonel Louis D. Pilsbury, Superintendent of Prisons of New York, under the reformed system of prison management introduced in that State two or three years ago. His reply was short and terse, but 'right to the point. Said he: 'If your Board want an honest, capable Warden, 'I can furnish one, when the time comes, 'who will fill the bill in every respect.' 'He added, 'If I can be of any service to you in reconstructing your State Prison 'or system, I shall be gratified.' I want 'to say, on my own responsibility, that I am not sure but that if the proper efforts were made, Colonel Pilsbury himself could be prevailed upon to accept 'the position.' We regard this statement as of special importance because it proves that the right kind of man for the position can be procured, if the State wants to reform the State Prison management.

THE STEEL RAIL SWINDLE.

A petition is about to be presented to Congress asking for a reduction of the duty on steel rails from \$28 per ton, the present rate, to \$10 per ton. The duty ought to be removed altogether, for it is an outrage on the American people, though for that matter the whole tariff is an outrage. The present price of steel rails in England is \$25 5/8 per ton. The tariff 'protects' the American steel rail maker by clipping \$28 per ton on to this rate. The result is that the whole American people shall be compelled to pay \$28 a ton bounty on every ton of steel rails that is not a large one, but, as might be expected, it is wealthy. Manufacturers cannot help getting rich when the Government decrees them a steady profit of 110 per cent. on all their productions. What of the other side, however? The railroad interest of the United States represents an enormous capital; not less than \$4,600,000,000; and behind the railroad interest stands the whole American people. Every man who travels by rail, or who has goods carried by rail, is forced to pay his quota towards the building up of the steel-rail manufacturers. And there is still more grave as to the case. Steel rails give additional security to transportation. They are less liable to accidents, and, therefore, they make traveling safer. But the tariff operates to prevent their introduction, because they are made to cost so much more than iron rails that only the wealthiest companies feel justified in buying them. So the lives of American citizens are exposed to greater risks in order that a few manufacturers shall be enriched to the most arbitrary and irrational way. There is no more equity in this tax than there would be in a Congressional law to the effect that whoever traveled should, in addition to paying his fare, deposit so much in a box, to help purchase an estate for the president of the railroad or the steamboat company on whose line the traveling was done. It is as much naked confiscation and robbery as that would be. Unfortunately the arguments which apply to steel rails apply quite as forcibly to nine-tenths of the fourteen hundred protected articles on our monstrous tariff, and the self-interest of the protected parasites has become so thoroughly organized that it is difficult to get even the least reform into effect without the most bitter and obstinate opposition. How long will it be before the people's well-being controls fiscal legislation?

AN INTERESTING CASE OF LITERARY PIRACY.

A case has just been decided at Philadelphia, by the United States Court, which serves to show how impossible it is for literature to secure any protection from the most outrageous treatment, in the absence of international copyright. The case is that of the Encyclopedia Britannica, the ninth edition of which is now in course of publication, and which has been boldly and shamelessly pirated by American publishers. When the new edition was being prepared, the Edinburgh publishers made an arrangement with Little, Brown & Co., of Boston, to sell the work in this country, and the only genuine copies of it are to-day those which bear the imprint of Little, Brown & Co. The original copies, printed in Edinburgh, and the subscribers to that edition know what they are getting. Other editions sold in this country are pirated, and as publishers who will steal are obviously not reliable, it is plain that those who buy these pirated editions must do so at their peril, for whether they are getting correct and faithful reproductions of the original is a question which could only be satisfactorily determined by an exhaustive comparison and examination. Of course all manner of statements will be made by agents, but it is clear that after a publisher has brought himself to such a wholesale and utterly shameless theft as this, it must be impossible to put any confidence in his morality. The case which has recently occupied the attention of the Philadelphia Court, however, was as follows: In the tenth volume of the Encyclopedia Britannica appear four articles for which copyright is claimed in the United States. They are: 'Georgia,' by Samuel A. Drake; 'Albert Gallatin,' by Henry Cabot Lodge; 'Garrison,' by Oliver Johnson; and 'Galveston,' by General G. A. Johnson. 'Garrison' and 'Galveston' were copyrighted by Charles Scribner's Sons, 'Gallatin' by Mr. Lodge, and 'Galveston' by the Blacks of Edinburgh. The Philadelphia firm of J. M. Stoddard & Co., which has undertaken to pirate the new edition of the Encyclopedia, reproduced all the copyrighted articles in its issue of the tenth volume, and thereupon Charles Scribner's Sons brought four suits for the purpose of preventing the issue of the tenth volume, and J. M. Stoddard & Co. were enjoined from publishing the same. A motion for a preliminary injunction was argued before Judge Butler on the 22d ult., and on the 23d ult. it was passed upon. The outcome we give in the language of a dispatch to the Chicago Inter-Ocean: 'The whole question of the right of English publishers was fully brought to the attention of the Court, and voluminous authorities were cited. The question was, whether it is to themselves, there are some would-be leaders who cry politicians, and even Congressmen, like De La Matye, but as these men cast their votes for the incongruous assembly they must have felt that there was small prospect of in-

the case. After a full hearing of counsel, and a consideration of all the questions involved, and consultation with Judge McKim, of the United States Circuit Court, Judge Butler this morning refused to grant the injunction.' Thus every effort to protect the publication of the Encyclopedia Britannica has failed, and even American copyright is held to possess no validity when found in connection with a foreign work. The flagrant immorality of a practice which thus allows an American publisher to appropriate literary property to the value of a million dollars or so, does not require to be pointed out. It is, however, necessary to show that this habit of piracy entails much risk and insecurity upon the American public. For they are solicited to buy pirated editions which they are assured are word for word the same as the original, and that danger their incur is shown in the notorious case of Lippincott & Co. and Chambers's Cyclopaedia. That case a Philadelphia firm not only pirated an English work, but added insult to injury, and deliberately swindled its American customers, by flagrantly garbling several important articles in the work, to suit the foolish and mischievous economic doctrines of Pennsylvania. No more rarely act like this was ever perpetrated in literature, and whoever purchases the pirated editions of the Encyclopedia Britannica must take their chance of being misled in the same way, or even worse, for it is idle to expect there should be more honor among literary thieves than among other kinds.

It should not be necessary to say that if Colonel Pilsbury himself could be induced to accept the position we should at once have a complete guarantee for the success of the reforms to be established, provided the Board of Directors had sense enough to refrain from improper interference with him. For Colonel Pilsbury is a penologist who has had a fine training in the work. He is the apt pupil of his father, General Amos Pilsbury, one of the most enlightened prison superintendents of the time. Colonel Pilsbury has proved his efficiency in the most practical way. He took hold of Sing Sing Prison when it was costing the State \$500,000 a year, and in three years he brought it up to within \$20,000 of being self-supporting, at the same time introducing reforming elements of the highest value into the system. Such a man is the kind of Warden needed here, and if he could not come himself, an officer who had been trained under him would undoubtedly be the next best recourse. And we know now that a trained officer of that kind can be had. Would the State be justified in neglecting such an opportunity when it is presented? This is a business question, and it is one which must not be evaded or ignored. The State Prison has long been abandoned as a prey to office-seekers. The truth must be realized that it is no proper subject for that kind of bargain. The State of California has already incurred a very heavy obligation in this connection. It has most unparagonably neglected its plain duty. It has maintained a barbarous, brutal, shameful condition of things at the State Prison. It has exceeded its authority in wantonly brutalizing and degrading its criminals. Its allowed politicians to fatten on a system which bred crime and increased taxation in about equal proportions. It is time to insist, in the name of the People, that this abuse should be abolished, and that genuine reform should be introduced to the prison system. We have shown how this reform can be established. We have indicated a sure way of effecting it. We have given the evidence that the man for the position is to be had whenever he is wanted. And if, in the teeth of this showing, the old, bad methods are adhered to, and all hope of reform is dashed at the outset by an unfit appointment for Warden, we know now that a trained officer of that kind can be had. Would the State be justified in neglecting such an opportunity when it is presented? This is a business question, and it is one which must not be evaded or ignored. The State Prison has long been abandoned as a prey to office-seekers. The truth must be realized that it is no proper subject for that kind of bargain. The State of California has already incurred a very heavy obligation in this connection. It has most unparagonably neglected its plain duty. It has maintained a barbarous, brutal, shameful condition of things at the State Prison. 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