HUNTING THE GUACHARO.

SOME ON THE SPORTS OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

A Chapter Not to be Read Until You Have Finished Your Sunday Dinner.

[Special Correspondence of the RECORD-UNION.]

SAN JUAN (Costa Rica), Sept. 1, 1888.

We have been making a journey up the coast on a novel mission, viz: the annual guacharo hunt, or the gathering of "oil birds," for culinary and illuminating purposes. Of all queer freaks of nature, the guacharo is queerest, both in itself and the use to which it is put. Naturalists give it the name of *Steatornis caripensis*, of the order *Insessories*, and tribe *Fissirostres* (commonly referred to in the family *Caprimulgidæ*); but no name suits it as well as the Indian word, which signifies "oil bird." A full-grown guacharo is nearly as large as a dove, with plumage of brownish gray and a remarkably strong bill. It more than quadruples its size while maturing, and when first able to fly is not much larger than an overgrown whip-poor-will, or a Trinidad "goat-sucker." Its most singular trait is that of being nocturnal, though frugivorous. It makes its home in deep, dark caverns, at the edge of the ocean, living entirely upon oleagenous fruits, such as aguatates ("vegetable butter"), castor beans, nuts of the oil-palm, etc.

Being always on the *qui vive* for novelties, as journalistic duty demands, we begged the privilege of accompanying a hunting party, but found great difficulty in obtaining our point. Though life is wild enough, heaven knows, in this strange country, and the majority of the natives seem to have no notion of conventionalities, yet nowhere on earth are social distinctions more clearly defined, or rules of etiquette more rigorous, regarding the conduct of the so-called "upper class." The laws of Medes and Persians may change, and death, taxes and the plumber may sometimes be evaded; but for a lady to step aside one hair's breadth from the time-honored (though often absurd) *costumbre*, means social ostracism, complete and final. For example, Central American ladies go nowhere except in the beaten paths and regular routine prescribed by the narrowest of local fashions—to church, to the opera, the bull-fight, the paseo—never being allowed the slightest latitude for indulging in vagrant fancies in the way of rambling about, or gratifying an investigating turn of mind by sight-seeing privileges. Here woman's "sphere" is exclusively the home circle, where she is expected to remain in religious seclusion—to look as pretty as possible, and spend her days like Solomon's lilies, which "toil not, neither do they spin"—eating, smoking, sleeping, rearing children, having a holy horror of all literature except such as pertains to the church (lest it lead to that pernicious strongmindedness which is supposed to afflict many Northern women), obeying her husband implicitly in all things, and praying strict attention to the prayers and *oresones* that, it is believed, will open heaven's gates at last to her less prayerful male protectors. Of course, all this applies only to the aristocracy, and to diverge from it is to write one's self down irrevocably as belonging to the other class, who go to the opposite extreme in ignoring the common decencies of life.

Although in this country, as in Europe, Americans are allowed much more latitude than native ladies (because of the exaggerated reports of their free-and-easy ways at home), our kind entertainers stood aghast when we proposed joining the guacharo hunt. On the ground that the United States was waiting with breathless interest to read all about it in the columns of the RECORD-UNION, the matter was at last arranged by the accommodating Alcalde, who not only offered to escort us himself in official capacity, but obligingly loaned his aunt and an elderly female servant to act as our duennas.

Probably our northern friends would have smiled at the figure we cut, as, mounted on scrubby little donkeys in the midst of a cavalcade of Indians, male and female, we came "in at the death" in as fine style as circumstances would permit. Our destination was a gruesome cavern of enormous extent, near the historic Bahia del Almirante, the bay so named in honor of the great Admiral Christopher Columbus, who cruised its waters in the year 1502.

For many miles our route lay along the Rio Estrella (River of the Star), which flows through that region comprising the lands granted by the Spanish Crown to Columbus and his descendants. As usual in those days, this territorial grant was accompanied by a title of nobility; and hereabouts, to this day, the famous discoverer is called El Duque Columbo de Veragua. Duke Christopher, however, never occupied his Costa Rican possessions, and soon after his death his eldest son, Don Luis Colon Columbus, entered into an agreement which incorporated this duredom of Veragua with the Royal estate.

More and more difficult became the way as we neared the rock-bound coast, the steepest hills being covered with groups of pines—as if sown for spite on the perilous ascents, instead of on the level plains—the thick carpet of "needles" rendering the declivities so slippery that our mules literally slid down them. These trees of the north, rarely found in this latitude, were held sacred in Aztec mythology to Metlacueya, mother of the gods, who, curiously enough, fills the part of Cybele among the Greek goddesses, whose favorite tree was also the pine.

Wherever squalls of wind had cracked the trunks, resin was trickling out in transparent streams. We saw some Indians manufacturing turpentine after their usual improvident fashion. Instead of tapping the trunk and letting the resin flow to an extent not to cause death, they cut down the valuable tree to within a foot of the ground. At once the fluid begins to ooze out, and soon fills the gourd and pigskin bottles placed to receive it; after which the tree is chopped up into faggots. The latter are in great demand, especially during the Lenten season among the Indians, whose poor homes and altars are illuminated by nothing more brilliant than the smoky glimmer from a pine faggot.

We observed an occasional Lentish shrub, like those of the Mediterranean countries, which yield the valuable gum resin called mastic, also clumps of the genuine "turpentine tree," from which is produced that commodity known to commerce as *chian*, or cypress turpentine. In color and consistency it resembles strained honey, and is of agreeable odor and pleasant taste, in all respects like the turpentine of commerce except that it is free from acridity. Instead of making of it a profitable industry, the lazy Costa Ricans obtain a little by slashing the trees with their machetes and placing stones for the turpentine to flow upon; and then the accumulation is scraped off, very early in the morning, before the heat of the sun has again liquified it.

Arrived at the guacharo cavern—into and out of which the restless tides ebb and flow with a sound like thunder—the first thing was to build a large fire near the entrance and make preparations for "trying out" the nestlings. Then, rushing in with great noise, shouting, brandishing sticks and waving flaming torches, the Indians began the slaughter of the innocents. The old birds, frightened by the sudden intrusion and blinded by the light of the torches, hurried into the open air, uttering piteous cries of distress and bewilderment, flapping their wings in our faces, and settling themselves in clouds upon every near-by object, even upon our shoulders and the backs of the donkeys.

In half an hour the cave had been thoroughly searched and bushels of the young birds dumped into the heated kettles, where they were at once reduced to oil. After five minutes' boiling, there is nothing left but the tiny bones, and the oil is run into earthen jars, ready for use, without further refining. No purification is needed, for in its natural state the oil is purity itself, colorless, odorless and of remarkable transparency. It is used not only for lighting and cooking purposes, but it is considered superior to olive oil for salads, etc. I can testify to its excellence as an illuminator, for a jarrito of guacharo fat with a twisted rag in it has long been my lamp in Costa Rica, and I want no better, as it emits neither smoke nor smell, but burns with a steady, white flame. Notwithstanding the careless habits of the people, and the absence of ice or cellars, the oil never becomes rancid, but keeps perfectly pure and sweet from year to year.

While watching the boiling-down process, the attentive Alcalde turned up a stone for us to sit upon, disclosing underneath a beautiful coral-hued serpent, fully a yard long. Coiled up tightly and regarding us with sleepy eyes, it lay motionless while we admired its shining scarlet skin, divided by rings of glossy black; but not long, for the first Indian who espied it whacked off its head with one blow of his mechate and carried it delightedly to his *companera* to cook for dinner. The flesh of these harmless serpents is a much-prized article of food among Costa Rican Indians; but, though bent upon "doing as the Romans" so far as possible, we declined with thanks when a well-fried and (still squirming) morceau was offered us.

Before the conquest, that snake peculiar to the North American continent, which the Spaniards described as having "castinets in its tail," found a favorite place at the most sumptuous feast of the Aztecs. Nor were the Central Americans singular in their taste for reptiles. Dioscrides, a celebrated Greek physician in the first Christian era, prescribed viper flesh as a tonic, especially for delicate ladies. Snake meat formed one of the component parts of the celebrated Theriaca, the great panacea of our early ancestors, which was one of the chief branches of Venetian commerce.

There are several species of vipers and lizards, besides various bugs, beetles, worms and insects, that are here sought for food or medicine. Wherever scorpions are found—and that is everywhere below the Rio Grande—the Indians eat them, after pulling out the sting, crunching their scaly backs with greatest gusto. A species of yellowish worm, called paxi—the larvæ of the water fly—is considered a most toothsome delicacy, and is prepared for the table in various ways. The insect itself is about the size of the horse-fly and its eggs resemble fine fish roe. Early historians speak of bread made by the aborigines of these eggs—doubtless the same that is sold to-day in the markets. A Spanish monk, writing from this region in 1625, says, with profusion of capitals: "The Indians gathered much of these Eggs and kept them in Heapes and made thereof Cakes, like untoe brick-bats. And they did eate of this Meale with as good Stomach as we eate cheese; yea, and they holde Opinion that this Scum and Fatness of the Waters is the cause that such Greate Number of fowle come thereuntoe."

The Indians have a systematic method of collecting these eggs, which are found in greatest profusion along the reedy margins of shallow lakes. At the proper season they plant reeds a few feet apart, with their tops sticking out of the water. Here the obliging insects deposit their eggs in incredible quantities, the rushes being soon loaded down with them, clinging together in balls, heaped one above another. Then the reeds are carefully removed from the water, shaken and deposited as before to catch a fresh supply. The eggs are compressed into paste, sometimes with the addition a little corn meal, and are made into cakes, which may be dried and kept a long time.

Frequently the flies themselves are pounded into jelly, or are boiled whole in corn husks and thus eaten. Both this mixture and the cakes above described find ready sale here, especially during Lent, when meat is forbidden. They look as tempting as many of the messes we daily encounter, but as to their flavor I cannot speak from experimental knowledge.

In Central America, as in several parts of Europe, snails are fattened for food. They are kept in large reservoirs, the floors of which are strewn with corn meal, herbs and flowers, and grow to astonishing size. Perhaps, the custom was borrowed from the luxurious Romans, who, if Varrro is to be believed, fed them on bran and wine, till sometimes a single shell contained ten quarts of snail! This explains that those famous suppers of the younger Pliny were not so very meager after all, though history asserts that they consisted merely in "a lettuce for each guest, three snails, two eggs, barley-cake, sweet wine and snow." FANNIE B. WARD.

LIGHTNING-RODS GOING OUT.

No Protection, But on the Contrary Strongly the Reverse.

"Lightning-rods are going out of use. Why? Because they are not believed to be the protection it was once thought they were."

That was what an electrician told a reporter.

Fifteen years ago the lightning-rod agent was everywhere in the land, and more especially at every farmer's door. To-day it is claimed their number has materially decreased, and farmers are discontinuing the use of the rods.

"What is your opinion upon the subject of lightning-rods?" was asked of Chief Walker of the city electrical department.

"Candidly, in nine cases out of ten," he replied, "I think they are humbugs. I believe it is a fact that more barns are struck and burned that have lightning-rods on than with them off. In the first place it is best to keep electricity as far away from a building as possible. The object of the lightning-rod is to attract it. The rod is supposed to act as a conductor of the electrical current to the earth, but instead of being carried off the current, in consequence of faulty construction of the rod, or attachments, is frequently switched into the building. The end of the wires is supposed to be buried in moist earth, the moisture acting as a good conductor. Without strict attention the iron becomes oxidized and rusts off and then the rod is worse than nothing. It is a positive danger under such circumstances, attracting the electricity of the atmosphere and having no adequate outlet for it. Then again the same danger arises when the insulators upon the side of the building become defective. The lightning is attracted from the atmosphere, where it might have remained but for the rod and it is turned loose against the building on its way to the earth. If, for instance, the attachments on a barn are poor or worn out the current may be deflected and set fire to the contents. This is no uncommon occurrence. In this city some years ago the rod on the Belmont Waterworks was struck and it fused. The current flowed on down and played about the machinery in the liveliest kind of a way. A big stone was knocked of the Washington monument by lightning. When the ground contract is good and the lightning is about to strike a building a rod may be of use, but I think the rods do more harm than good. There was a time when farmers were scared into rodding their barns and houses, but I think they are getting over that."—*Philadelphia Record.*

A Woman's Confession.

"Do you know, Mary, I once actually contemplated suicide?" "You horrify me, Mrs. B. Tell me about it." "I was suffering from chronic weakness. I believed myself the most unhappy woman in the world. I looked ten years older than I really was, and I felt twenty. Life seemed to have nothing in it worth living for." "I have experienced all those symptoms myself. Well?" "Well, I was saved at the eleventh hour from the commission of a deed which I shudder to think of. A friend advised me to take Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. I did so. In an incredibly short time I felt like a new being. The 'Prescription' cured me, and I owe Dr. Pierce a debt of gratitude which I can never repay."

Constant Dropping.

Forty-one years ago a young man of Rhode Island asked a young woman of the same State to marry him. She said "No." The young man went about his business, but he kept his eye on the woman and from time to time renewed his suit, she refusing offer after offer. He persevered, and his constancy was rewarded a short time ago when she accepted and married him. He was then 72 years old and she 66.—*St. Paul Pioneer Press.*

Of soup and love—the first is best.

CAMPAIGN ISSUES.

THE DEMOCRATIC CHINESE RECORD FULLY EXPOS'ED.

Very Cogent Reasons Why the Democrats are Trying to Cover Their Acts of the Past.

At a Republican mass meeting held in San Francisco on Thursday evening, ex-Senator H. W. Mitchell, of Nevada, addressed the meeting, and commenced by saying that in the days gone by he had been a war Democrat, believing then that the Union ought to be perpetual and that the interests of all sections of the country ought to be preserved. With opinions unchanged he believed that the prosperity of the Union ought to be preserved apart from any feeling of partisanship, and while holding these opinions, he said, he ventured to appear before a Republican Club for the first time in his life. He then proceeded to examine some of the fallacies put forward by the Democrats regarding the present tariff, and dwelt particularly upon certain of the statements made regarding the wool clip of the United States. The statistics supplied captured the fancy of the audience, which warmly applauded the statement that the United States was in no way dependent upon wool imported from Australia or elsewhere for their manufactures. "I can show," said Mr. Mitchell, "by statistics, that this country, producing as it does, the necessaries of life, and very many of the luxuries, is capable, with its interests properly guarded, of dictating terms to the world." The speaker concluded by quoting a number of the Democratic Presidents who, he said, were all protectionists, and in whose footsteps the Democracy of to-day was not following, they having proved recreant to their trust.

Major P. S. Dorney, of Los Angeles, was the next speaker, and after instancing the energy which the Democratic party has always displayed in battling for the interest of Southern free traders, reviewed the Mongolian record of California's Democracy in the following words: "The first American-Mongolian treaty was negotiated in 1847 by a Democratic administration with James K. Polk as President. In 1850, McDougall, California's Democratic Governor, advised legislation favorable to Chinese immigration, and he referred to the Chinese as a 'most desirable class of citizens.'"

The Democratic Assembly of 1852 reenacted the infamous fugitive slave law. It passed the Peachy bill which legalized in California contracts for labor made in China, and which provided that a laborer brought here under contract, and who should leave his master, might be apprehended, brought back and compelled to work out his term of contract slavery. The same House refused to pass a bill to tax Chinese, and Hager, our Democratic Hager, caused the adoption of a resolution providing that a committee should be sent to China.

In 1852 the Democratic Legislature laid the miners' tax bill on the table. This bill was leveled at the Chinese, and provided for the levying of a head tax on aliens. In 1856 labor commenced to growl at the Chinese, and the Democratic Legislature appointed a Democratic Committee of Inquiry, which reported. "We say the tendency of the Chinese here is not toward corruption. We think they have done us no harm."

In 1859 the Reed treaty with China was negotiated, and was ratified by President Buchanan, "Democratic Ten-Cent Jimmy." In 1862 Leland Stanford, the first Republican Governor of California, called the attention of the Legislature to the alarming growth of Chinese immigration. A head-tax bill was introduced, but it was defeated by Democratic votes, as was also Sears' bill to protect white labor. A miners' tax bill was fought through, but because it was leveled at the Chinese it was declared null and void by a Democratic Supreme Court.

In 1868 a Democratic Governor (Haight) hastened from Sacramento to welcome Burlingame and his pigtail embassy.

The feasting and praising of the Orientals by Mayor McCoppin, Delos Lake and W. T. Coleman was also referred to, and in the same connection Major Dorney recalled Cleveland's participation in the grand "pow-wow" given at Washington to the Chinese Embassador.

He went on to say: "Ah Grover was the first Chief Magistrate of the American Republic, Ah Haight the first chief of an American State, and Ah McCoppin the first chief of an American city, to insult their race by sitting at the table with pigtail Chinese. They were all Democrats, and though they would refuse to register at the same hotel with a negro, they were happy and content with sitting cheek by jowl with Ah Lai Che Pan."

In 1869 a bill granting a large area of tide lands to a railroad corporation was before the Democratic Legislature of this State. An amendment forbidding the employment of Chinese was defeated, and of the forty-two votes cast against that amendment, thirty-two were cast by Democrats. At that time labor was depressed and restive; the rank and file of Democracy began to lose faith in their party on the Chinese question, and under the leadership of an honest but disgusted Democrat, General A. M. Winn, the sovereigns of labor were organized. At that time, too, the Democratic cheap labor free-traders of the South made contracts with Koopmanchap & Co. for Chinese labor, and under those contracts thousands of coolies were imported.

The anti-Chinese riot in Los Angeles in October, 1872, was also referred to by Major Dorney, during which a Spanish police officer and an American citizen were killed by Chinese natives. As an outcome of the riots a Democratic Court sentenced half a score of Americans to terms of imprisonment varying from sixteen to twenty-two years, and the speaker insisted that of the men imprisoned all but three were innocent.

The formation of the Order of Caucasians in the spring of 1877, followed by the so-called Trout Creek massacre, were referred to, and Major Dorney told how the Democratic Administration, to appease China, favored the prosecution of certain citizens of Truckee. The cause of the arrested men was espoused by the Order of Caucasians, and $260 was raised in Truckee for their defense. Niles Searls, the Democratic aspirant for Chief Justice, was unrelenting in his persecution of the incarcerated men, who were, however, tried, proved innocent and discharged.

The consistent antagonism of the Democratic party to workingmen was dwelt upon by the speaker, and he told how a "sweet-scented Democratic supervisorial trio—Gibbs, Wise and Foley"—had made brutal threats relative to the carcases of workingmen dangling from the city lamp-posts "And all," said the speaker, "because the workingmen had lost faith in the Democratic party on the Chinese question."

The concluding portion of the Major's speech dealt with Cleveland, who is accused of ordering the United States troops to Rock Creek and Seattle to defend Chinese and arrest whites. Furthermore, he stated that it was Cleveland who kept Stephens, the "pro-British-American Consul," at Victoria, "the back door through which Chinese dodge the Restriction Act."

An Irish Love Story.

A remarkable incident, the particulars of which are vouched for, is reported in Dublin. Just eight years ago a young Dublin engineer and the daughter of a wealthy farmer, who was also engaged in the Dublin provision trade, were married. The bride had managed the provision business for her family, and was described as an amiable and lovely girl. After the marriage the wedding party went to Glendalough, and a most enjoyable day almost up to the hour of returning was spent, the company being a large one, when some misunderstanding occurred between the newly wedded pair. The bridegroom left the company in anger, and walked the eight miles back to the city in time to catch an evening steamer to Liverpool, and from that period until Thursday in last week he was never heard of.

The bride felt her desertion keenly, but she stuck to her business. Her father meantime died, and she was left in charge of great responsibilities. The wanderer was forgotten or believed to have died, and some time since another succeeded in obtaining her affections. The wedding was arranged for an early day and invitations had been issued, when the long-missing husband put in an appearance in the city. He had been all these years in New Zealand, and he had made money, which he had come home to share with his wife, who, "strangely enough," adds the correspondent, "felt all her old love for him revive. He was very nearly being late, but his timely arrival saved a vast amount of after misery to all concerned."—*London Globe.*

HOUSEKEEPER'S HINTS.

Some Plain Facts That May be of Use in Time of Need.

For bleeding of the lungs drink freely of salt and water.

Ammonia and whiting will clean nickel plating beautifully.

Keep a separate saucepan for boiling potatoes in if possible.

The oftener flour is sifted for sponge cake the lighter the cake will be.

Salt sprinkled freely on anything burning on the stove will prevent any disagreeable odor.

To remove coffee stains, put thick glycerine on the wrong side and wash out in lukewarm water.

Dusting cloths must be washed often or they will carry more dirt into your rooms than they remove.

Bent whalebones can be restored and used again by simply soaking in water a few hours and then drying them.

If you take a bucket of fresh water into your bed-room every night and let it remain uncovered it will absorb all poisonous gases.

A good substitute for buttermilk for cooking is a thin batter made of flour and tepid water and allowed to remain long enough to sour.

To perfume your wearing apparel put a few drops on small pieces of pumice stone and place in drawer and boxes and among dresses in wardrobes.

Paint stains that are dry and cold may be removed from cotton or woolen goods with chloroform. First cover the spot with olive oil or butter.

Everyone should have eight hours' sleep, and pale, thin, nervous persons require ten, which should be taken regularly in a well-ventilated room.

Make starch with soda water and you will find it a pleasure to do up your starched goods. It prevents the iron from sticking and makes a good glossy surface.

Wisteria is the name given to a new tint of purple; it is a cross between a violet and a crushed-strawberry color, and lights up well, a trait that belongs to shades of purple.

When molasses is used in cooking it is a great improvement to boil and skim it before using. The raw, rather unpleasant taste of the poor qualities of molasses is much improved by this process.

To cure warts take an Irish potato and cut a piece off the end and rub on the wart two or three times a day, cutting a slice from the potato each time used. Very often one potato is sufficient for the cure.

Ink stains are entirely removed by the immediate application of dry salt before the ink has dried. When the salt has discolored by absorbing the ink, brush it off and apply more; wet slightly. Continue this till the ink is all removed.

Keep your combs and brushes sweet and clean. Wash them in tepid water containing a few drops of ammonia. The grease and soil will disappear as if by magic. Place the bristles down to dry and delicate celluloid brushes will not be injured.

For mosquito or gnat bites an experienced traveler writes that he uses a solution of alum water as strong as can be made, adding one-fourth of aromatic vinegar and one-fifth of glycerine. Shake well before using. It will instantly cure the bite.

Be sure the water is at a boiling point before putting into it the vegetables to be cooked. If it is cold or lukewarm the freshness and flavor will soak out into the water. Place the saucepan over the hottest part of your stove so that it will boil as soon as possible, and be careful that the boiling process does not cease until the contents are thoroughly cooked and ready to be dished.

A weak solution of salt and water is recommended by good physicians as a remedy for imperfect digestion, and for a cold in the head it is a sure cure, when snuffed up from the hollow of the hand. We have known severe chronic cases of catarrh entirely cured by persistent use of this simple remedy every night and morning for several months, when the best efforts of the best physicians failed to do any good. It should be used milk warm.

Habits of the Prairie Dog.

It is now no longer the prevailing notion that these engaging little animals do not drink water, but on the contrary, however they may get it, they are very fond of it, and in reality must have it frequently. A prairie marmot which I have as a pet drinks water three or four times a day, and if deprived of it, shows the effect at once and drinks double the amount the very next time he gets a chance. The little fellow I bought from a Navajo Indian, when it hardly had its eyes open; at present he is full grown and hibernating in a burrow which he dug in the cellar last October. I emphasize the word hibernating, because many still believe these animals do not do so. Even here at Fort Wingate, and I presume in other parts of New Mexico, these animals become torpid just as soon as the first cold snap strikes them, and repair to their burrows for hibernation again, until the return of warm weather lures them out. There is a large "prairie dog town" not a mile from where I sit at present, and one may pass through it every day during the cold weather and when snow covers the ground, and not a track of this little animal can be found anywhere in the vicinity. By the middle of next month (February), however, they will begin to show themselves.

There is another old story now nearly entirely exploded about them: I refer to the happy family of the "prairie dog," the prairie owl and the rattlesnake, all living in harmony in the same burrow. Of course they do nothing of the kind, but the marmots have to put up with these owls and snakes as best they can, precisely as we, in our large towns and communities, have to put up with our owls and snakes in human form—meeting and passing men every day of our lives whom perhaps we know well to be sneak-thieves and cut-throats. It is said upon good authority that prairie marmots will even desert the burrow in which a big "rattler" enters, and even, if small cobblestones be handy in the neighborhood of the entrance, deliberately seal it up with them, so that the snake cannot get out and must starve to death.—*Forest and Stream.*

America for Americans.

Governor Foraker, in his article on "Tariff and Labor," in the *American Magazine* for September, says: "From every country the people are looking to us, and in every land they are struggling to lift themselves to our plane. As a result, they have a republic in France, universal manhood suffrage in Germany and by and by they will have home rule in Ireland, and great advancement for the masses in every civilized country of the globe. Let us continue to hold up the standard. We have truly a great country. This wise policy has made it such. We have 60,000,000 of people now, and shall have hundreds of millions who are coming with the swift fleeting years of time. Let us do our duty with the same patriotism, zeal and fidelity that have been displayed in the past, and there will be for the coming generations, not only a union of States, with one flag and one Constitution, but a union of hearts, filled with gratitude for the work we have accomplished and a determined purpose that it shall abide through the centuries, to bestow its unspeakable blessings on all those who may come after us."

PRISON STATISTICS.

AN ARRAY OF FACTS OF PUBLIC VALUE.

The Tenth Report of the American Prison Census at Last Comes From the Press.

[Written for the RECORD-UNION.]

The delay in publishing the Tenth Report of the American Prison Census is most discreditable to those who have been charged with its compilation. It is over eight years since the information here set out was collected, a quarter of which interval should have been ample for digesting and collecting the data which but now is given to the world. While, however, a most reasonable time has been occupied in preparing for the launch of these statistics, the duty of reviewing them is not one that can be shirked, although they have lost much of their freshness by being held back for so long a time. The confession of their collater, that his statistics are "deplorably meager and inadequate," seems a little unreasonable, considering the hundred odd months which he admits have been devoted to their arrangement and grouping. On the principle, however, of better late than never we hail the publication of the report with satisfaction, only regretting that the conclusions to which its figures point are not of a more encouraging nature than an analysis of the volume shows them to be.

Plurality of Courts and duality of laws and constitutions are elements of confusion in the dissection of these statistics which, under a more widely administered Federal Government would be eliminated. There is the Congressional Criminal Code and the State Criminal Code, representatives of each of which can arraign and prosecute for an offense which, morally one, may by the interposition of independent authorities be magnified into two. Anomalous cases such as this are no doubt difficult for the statistician to deal with, for if he treated the second prosecution *de novo*, however legally accurate might be the result of his figures, morally speaking it would be worthless.

Comparison of the criminal codes in force in the different States discloses only one fact, viz: that on the turpitude of different crimes there is a great conflict of opinion. Grand larceny in one State may be punished by a term in the county jail of days, and in another State by a term in the penitentiary of years. Two crimes besides murder are punishable by death in South Carolina, while in another State capital punishment is prohibited altogether. Prisons are run on lines as divergent from one another as the laws which send the men there, there being at least four systems of governing prisons, each of which is paralleled many times in the penal economy of this country. Some States have a mitigation law for good conduct in prison, others have not; tickets-of-leave and indeterminate sentences find favor in some States and are detested in others.

From this conflicting mass of opinion and custom, so mutually destructive as to scarcely yield a single generalization, it is refreshing to turn to figures which, having an eloquence of their own, need but little comment to bring out their moral. On June 1, 1880, the adult criminal population of the United States was 58,609, of whom half were in penitentiaries and the rest in county jails, bridewells, insane asylums, etc. The ratio of prisoners to population is 1 to every 855 inhabitants. That crime is on the increase is proved by the fact that in 1870 the ratio of prisoners to the population was .000,853; the report shows it to have increased to .001,169. The growth of prison population has been progressive since 1850, and in 30 years has arisen from .000,290 in the former year to .001,169 in 1880, allowing for general expansion of population. Formerly the percentage of foreign born criminals to the bulk of the population was high; latterly, however, it has been much reduced, the percentage of home-raised criminals increasing as the former are diminishing. "In other words, the increase of crime has been very much greater among the native than the foreign population." Urban communities are less honest than rural communities, as we should expect to find, the city producing 2½ to 1 from the country.

Twenty-nine years and 7 months is the average age of a prisoner, but there are eight over 90 and the same number under 2! Most prisoners are 25 years old, and least 98 and 1. Half the convicts in the jails of America are under 28 years of age.

While the proportion of foreigners to home born is as 2 to 11, the convictions for crime is as 2 to 5, from which the inference may be drawn that the former are more dishonest than numerous. Foreign contempt for law, however, is not so much evidenced by the commission of acute offenses—as theft, homicide, etc.—as by massive offenses, which include immorality and social disorder. In other words, foreigners are more turbulent and noisy than kleptomaniac and homicidal. Of 12,681 foreign-born prisoners, Ireland contributes 5,309; England, 1,453; Scotland, 414; Germany, 2,071; Mexico, 330; Australia, 16; New Zealand, 1; figures which should be valuable to Mr. Pixley, if of little use to anybody else. Putting them somewhat differently, out of every 306 Irishmen in America, one is "doing time;" one out of every 199 Chinese, one out of every 949 Germans, and so on *ad nauseam.*

The Hungarians and Bohemians are the most law-abiding of Uncle Sam's foreign-born citizens, and the Irish and male negroes least. In the matter of vagrancy, foreigners surpass both the home-born American and the negro, for an average collection of 950 tramps will yield 644 Irish and 174 Germans. Of different sorts of crimes, Pennsylvania yields most forgers and vagrants, New York most counterfeiters and Texas most mail-robbers and murderers. California is more orderly than New York and more chaste than Massachusetts.

Such are a few items culled from this great mass of statistics which, while its compilation has been most unjustifiably protracted, fairness and accuracy of figures in a great measure compensates for a delay in publication which, under other circumstances, would have been unpardonable.

CRITO.

Folsom, August 31, 1888.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

Puget Sound fir is being used for fine car interiors.

If the wooden die blocks used in a shoe factory be coated with shellac every night they will last much longer without planing.

An important invention in railway practice is the method of welding steel rails by electricity, recently patented by a Baltimore electrician, by which track-layers are enabled to lay a continuous rail.

A writer in *Table Talk* urges the dyspeptic to learn to eat olives as a means of repairing and lubricating the weak stomach, a means which he deciares to be more efficient than all pill and medicinal draughts ever concocted.

An idea has been developed in Germany in the shape of the manufacture of mortar by machinery in large quantities to be delivered to contractors or individuals as required for use. About 2,000,000 barrels were disposed of in Berlin on this plan alone last year.

A German is said to have perfected a process whereby a softer quality of wood is rendered equally as good as lignum vitæ, for such purposes as stern bearings for propeller shafts. He forces oil into the pores of the soft wood, then subjects it to intense pressure, thereby solidifying it.

By means of recent improvements made in the manufacture of rifles, as many as 120 barrels can now be rolled in a hour by one machine. They are straightened cold and bored with corresponding speed, and even the rifling is done automatically, so that one man tending six machines can turn out sixty or seventy barrels per day. With the old rifling machine twenty barrels were about the limit of a day's work.

The length of pipe laid in Paris for the distribution of power by compressed air already exceeds thirty miles. The compressing engines are of 3,000 horse-power, and about 3,000,000 cubic feet of air are compressed daily to a pressure of eighty pounds per square inch, at an expenditure of fifty tons of coal.

The Chinese frequently place little metal idols within the shells of mollusks, removing them several years afterwards covered with a substance resembling pearl; they also lay strings of small pearls separated by knots inside of the shells, and on taking them out, after a lapse of some years, obtain large and costly pearls.

According to the *Essen Zeitung*, Chief Engineer Thier, of Erfurt, Germany, after battling for months to find a lubricant which would prevent iron surfaces welding together when subjected to rapid friction under heavy pressure, at last found one in mustard oil mixed with a small quantity of petroleum, which completely overcame the difficulty.

M. E. Ducretel, of Paris, has devised a filter for filtering the oil used in lubricating gas engines. An unnecessary quantity of oil is generally used for this purpose, and it is important to save as much of it as possible. In the device referred to the heat of the escaping gases is used to raise the temperature of the oil, thus facilitating filtration.

The Steel Car Company is said to be constructing a fire-proof steel car at Boston, which will contain nothing that can burn except the upholstery, and even that is constructed of uninflammable material. Not only immunity from fire, but an increase in strength, a decrease in the liability to telescope and diminish dead weight are expected to be some of the good features of the new car.

A California company is about to begin the manufacture of soap from clay containing soap properties, presumably similar in character to the natural soap well which has been discovered near Buffalo Gap, in Dakota. The soap is skimmed from a boiling spring, and hardens by exposure to the air. It is like soft clay, and can be gathered with a shovel. It is supposed to be a mixture of borax, alkali and lubricating oil.

"We notice," says the *American Machinist*, "that the plan of using a marine brake to stop vessels in an emergency is by no means abandoned. The latest effort in this direction is in the way of a cable with canvas cones attached. These open out upon occasion, and so afford resistance. It is said that a steamer on the Seine, running at a speed of thirteen knots, was stopped in seven seconds, while thirty-four seconds were required when the engine was reversed to stop."

A construction detail that is gaining much popularity in some Western cities is the bricking in of frame houses. The building is sided up with matched stuff, as if complete, then a brick face wall, four inches thick, is laid in contact with the exterior, tied on by spikes about every sixth course. A boy distributes them all around on top of the wall. They are laid in the mortar-bed ready, and driven through into the siding till the heads are flush with the face of the wall, when the next courses are laid, and so on. The walls present the appearance of solid masonry, are durable, and as they add to the warmth of the buildings, seem to present substantial recommendations, especially in severe climates.

By a new method of platinizing metals the metallic object is covered with a mixture of borate of lead, oxide of copper and spirits of turpentine, and submitted to a temperature of from 250° to 330°. This deposit, upon melting, spreads in a uniform layer over the object. Then a second coat is laid on, consisting of borate of lead, oxide of copper and oil of lavender. Next, by means of a brush, the object is covered with a solution of chloride of platinum, which is finely evaporated at a temperature of not more than 200°. The platinum adheres firmly to the surface, and exhibits a brilliant aspect. If the deposit be made upon the first coat the platinum will have a dead appearance. Patinizing in this way costs, it is said, about one-tenth the price of nickel-plating.

The September Planets.

Jupiter is evening star, and once more wins the place of honor on the planetary annals, but after September closes his best period of visibility has passed. The prince of planets may be easily found in in the southwest, setting on the 1st about three hours after the sun. He is in conjunction with Mars on the 11th at 9 A. M., being two degrees and twelve minutes north. The planets will be near neighbors on the evening of the 10th. Jupiter set on the 1st at 9:45 P. M. On the 30th he sets at 8:04 P. M.

Mars is evening star and his course through the month is one of special interest. Moving at a more rapid pace, the ruddy planet overtakes and passes his more lordly neighbor on the 11th, as already stated. He is in conjunction with Beta Scorpii on the 13th, and in conjunction with Antares on the 22d. A good opera-glass will be a valuable aid in the observation of these celestial meetings and partings. Mars set on the 1st at 9:19 P. M. On the 30th he sets at 8:31 P. M.

Mercury is evening star, and takes an active part in the proceedings of the solar community during the month. Moving eastward in his rapid course, he overtakes Venus on the 18th at 10 P. M. He is in conjunction with Uranus on the 19th at noonday. On the 22d, at 2 P. M., he is in conjunction with Spica, being 55' north. Mercury set on the 1st at 6:49 P. M. On the 30th he sets at 6:20 P. M.

Venus is evening star, and sets at the close of the month more than an hour after the sun. Observers will find the beautiful evening star in the southwest soon after the sun has disappeared. She makes a close conjunction with Uranus on the 19th at 3 h. P. M. Venus sets on the 1st at 7 h. 3 m. P. M. On the 30th she sets at 6 h. 98 m. P M.

Saturn is morning star, and the only visible planet in the morning sky. He is easily found in the northeast, rising two hours before the sun at the beginning of the month, and four hours before him at the close. Saturn rose on the 1st at 3 h. 10 m. A. M. On the 30th he rises at 1 h. 32 m. A. M.

Neptune is morning star. He rose on the 1st at 9 h. 58 m. P. M. On the 30th he rises at 8 h. 4 m. P. M.

Uranus, Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Mars are evening stars at the close of the month. Saturn and Neptune are morning stars.—*Providence Journal.*

In a Persian Vineyard.

Hassan and I rode out to a big vineyard near Gulack, in the foothills of the Elburz Mountains, to pick out the necessary quantity of grapes. Hassan said it was best to buy them on the vines and leave them there until we were ready for them. We found the vinyard inclosed with substantial mud walls twenty feet high. A little stream of water flowed beneath an opening in the wall at one side and out again on the other. The water was used for irrigating the vines.

Instead of being trained up posts or irellis work the vines were trailing over long ridges of dry earth. The soil of the vineyard was piled up in long mounds or ridges about four feet high. The vines were planted in the trenches and grew over the ridges. These latter were made perpendicular on the south side, but slanting on the north. The vines are trailed up the northern slopes so as to benefit by the oblique rays of the sun, which are supposed to be better for the grapes than direct rays.

Several varieties of grapes were in the vineyard, from little white grapes called kishmish, from which are made the sultana raisins of commerce, to the big black grapes almost the size of egg plums.—*T. Stevens in New York Sun.*

CREMATION QUESTIONABLE.—At the late meeting of the American Scientific Society in Cleveland, C. K. Remington, of the Buffalo Crematory, read a paper on cremation which provoked a discussion developing the fact that opinion among scientists is very evenly divided as to the expediency of incineration as a means of disposing of the dead.—*Sanitary Era.*

FALL DRESS.

FASHION'S DICTATES FOR THE COMING SEASON.

Sensible and Simple Garments the Rule—The Tournure, Directoire, Empire and La Tosca Costumes.

[Fashion writer in New York Star.]

There having been no end of talk and inquiry regarding the question of the tournure, and whether or not dresses will still be made with reeds across the back breadth of the foundation skirt, I have been to all the leading retail and wholesale houses and seen all the importations for this fall, and I can state positively that the tournure will still be worn. All the imported cloaks, jerseys and suits are made for just the same amount of bustle that we have been wearing through spring and summer. The suits are made with reeds or steels in back, although different modistes vary both the number and the way of plac