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House and Willard's Hotel.

General Wood's declination of a civil position

at a greatly increased salary because

he thinks his services are still needed in

Cuba shows that he is a man of fine moral

fiber.

The treasury deficit during the fiscal year

which ended on Friday is a little over

\$85,000,000. Even Secretary Gage predicted

in his report issued last December that it

would be \$112,000,000.

An effective reply is made to Mr. Haver-

meyer's assertion that the tariff is the

mother of trusts by the London Economist

in the statement that England now has 137

trusts and that 132 of them are over five

years old.

Unless condign punishment is inflicted

on the cowardly assassins who are murder-

ing "imported" miners and their wives, who

are guilty of no crime but removing from

one State to another, justice may as well

discard her scales and all the rest of her

paraphernalia.

"Experience," says the book reviewer of

the New York Sun, "teaches us the moment

that we come upon a Socialist in a book to

look out for something exceedingly depress-

ing." To the Socialist experience should be

added the alums, the ghetto and the novel

advertised by its publishers as "strong,"

for the reason, apparently, that it deals

with topics not usually discussed in general

society.

The prospective increase in the use of

automobile vehicles is causing discussion as

to how to regulate them so as to minimize

the chances of accidents. In New York

there is talk of a new code of road laws and

in Chicago it is suggested that the drivers

of automobiles shall be examined and

licensed the same as engineers. Why should

the driver of a horseless vehicle be licensed

any more than the driver of a horse?

It appears from statistics just published

in Germany that every great section of the

world has increased its railroad mileage in

a larger percentage than has the United

States since 1883. In 1873 the mileage of the

financial problems of the city would be

solved. One of the undertakings to be rec-

ommended by the Women's International

Club should be "the education of the

masculine conscience."

FIFTY YEARS A TERRITORY.

Governor Roosevelt expressed surprise

that New Mexico had not been admitted

to the Union as a State, and this calls

attention to the fact that Congress is under

no obligation to admit a Territory to the

privileges of statehood. It has been assumed

that if the United States should annex Cuba

and the Philippines, as it has Porto Rico

and Hawaii, Congress must make them

States without regard to the fitness of their

inhabitants for the responsibility of the in-

dependence which statehood confers. Those

who so violently opposed the annexation of

Hawaii had visions of the State of Hawaii

with two senators. The caricaturists, who

often display an astounding degree of in-

ignorance regarding everything that pertains

to our government, pictured for us the

statements of the Philippines and Hawaii

in Congress.

The fact of the acquisition of territory

does not involve an obligation to admit

such territory as States. New Mexico be-

came the territory of the United States in

1850, the result of the Mexican war, al-

most fifty years ago. When it was an-

nexed to the United States New Mexico

had a population of 61,500. In 1899 the popu-

lation of New Mexico was 133,583, and the

Governor now estimates it at 232,000. Prob-

ably the estimate has the weakness of all

estimates of those who are booming States

and cities in that it, like the stock of trusts,

is extended by wind, but there can be no

doubt that New Mexico has a population as

large as the ratio of population for a rep-

resentative in Congress in any of the popu-

lations, 174,000.

At different periods for twenty-five years

representative of New Mexico have

knocked loudly and persistently at the doors

of Congress for admission. Admission has

been refused because a majority of its in-

habitants are alien to the United States.

They are unfamiliar with the language of

the United States and ignorant regarding

its political system. Only a few years ago

the debates in the territorial Legislature

were in Spanish. That is, the Territory of

New Mexico has been denied statehood be-

cause in the judgment of Congress its peo-

ple could not be trusted with the independ-

ence and the power incident to that condi-

tion. Utah became a Territory at the same

time as New Mexico, and although its

people clamored for statehood it was not

granted until January, 1896. Yet in 1890 Utah

had a population of 202,550. Utah was

granted statehood because of its adhesion to

Mormonism, which embraced not only

polygamy but a control of civil affairs by

the heads of the church. In 1890 the lead-

ers of the church accepted the provisions

of the Edmunds act, which abolished poly-

gamy and made its abolition a feature of

the State Constitution. This done, Congress

believed that the people of Utah were en-

itled to admission to the Union.

The point to be observed is that Congress

is the judge of the qualifications of the

people of a Territory for statehood, and

that the fact of being territory of the

United States does not carry the right to

be admitted to the Union. New Mexico

has been governed as a Territory nearly fifty

years. The system of government may be

called territorial or colonial, as best suits

those discussing the subject, but no one

will deny that it is government by the

United States.

MRS. SOUTHWORTH'S NOVELS.

Only book dealers and the attendants in

public libraries are qualified to say how

much or how little the novels of Mrs. South-

worth are read in these days. It is the

Journal's impression that there is but little

demand for them in any quarter. Certainly

they are seldom mentioned in current dis-

cussions of books; in the select intellectual

circles whose members arrogate to them-

selves the right to classify and label al-

most dignified with the title of literature; or,

in very up-to-date public libraries they are

crowded upon shelves, and, as some ruled by

the shelves altogether. And yet, in their day,

which was a long one, these tales enjoyed

a popularity that the works of few other

authors before or since have equalled. The

articles on them became known to the public

through the National Era, the paper which

gave "Uncle Tom's Cabin" to the world,

but the most of them originally appeared

in the New York Ledger, then a story paper,

with subscribers eagerly awaiting its weekly

arrival at every cross-roads postoffice in the

country. Every copy had many readers,

and so it was that a host of people kept

pace with the fortunes of Mrs. Southworth's

heroes and heroines, as well as with those

of her equally popular contemporaries, Syl-

vanus Cobb, G. P. R. James, Emerson Ben-

nett, Mrs. Ann S. Stephens, Fanny Fern

and Mrs. Mary Jane Holmes. It was a

famous group, and though none of them

may have produced "literature" in the ex-

clusive sense with which the critics now use

the term, they provided an immense amount

of enjoyment to a multitude of not over-

critical lovers of sentimental romance. It

was before the time of the realistic novel,

the psychological novel, the novel with a

purpose, the slum novel, the dialect novel,

the socialistic novel and the innumerable

other eccentric and unpleasant forms taken

by modern fiction. Readers of simple tastes

who wanted a love story with a due ad-

mixture of incident, adventure, and

trouble, but with a happy outcome, found

their tastes gratified by these

writers. Perhaps the events described were

improbable; perhaps the tales were too sen-

timental; certainly they contained little or

no "character drawing," and there was

never the shadow of a "purpose" beyond

that of telling a good story. But whatever

their defects they had the virtue of being

clean in thought and suggestion and of up-

holding the highest morality. Whatever the

objection raised now by public library pur-

veyors to Mrs. Southworth's novels, nothing

can be said against their moral tone. They

may not be "true to life," but they are at

least as lifelike as a multitude of the newer

novels against which no criticism is made,

and far more wholesome than many. Her

stories contain many excellent descriptive

passages and her incidental pictures of

Southern life as it existed before the war,

and with which she was quite familiar, show

such evidences of accuracy that they may

serve as history.

One of the most popular of Mrs. South-

worth's novels was "The Hidden Hand." It

was first published in the Ledger during the

civil war, if the Journal is not mistaken.

Such was the demand for it that the Ledger

republished it, perhaps twice, within the

succeeding ten or fifteen years. The name

of the heroine of this interesting tale is

"Captiva," and each publication was

marked by the christening of a considerable

proportion of the contemporary crop of fe-

male babies with this appellation. It is not

only political and war heroes who have

babies named after them. It may also be

added that it is not necessary to assume

when one chances to become acquainted with

the war, the later reprinting of the story

offering other possibilities.

Mrs. Southworth, now gone to her rest,

was probably the last one of the group of

Ledger writers mentioned. Robert Bonner,

owner and editor of the Ledger in its palmy

days, and who still survives, may, on look-

ing about him, reflect that though there may

be more real literature produced now in

the innumerable periodicals, not one of the

latter has secured such a company of popular

contributors.

MONUMENT TO AMERICANS IN VENEZUELA.

It is curious to observe how the lines of

history sometimes meet, mingle and diverge

again. Ninety years ago Venezuela, then a

colony of Spain, engaged in a desperate war

for independence and received material aid

from citizens of the United States. She has

had independence since 1823. Now, after

three-quarters of a century, the United

States having just concluded a victorious

war with Venezuela's former oppressor, is