KANSAS AND THE NEGRO

NOTABLE STRUGGLE OF THE "FREE SOILERS" RECALLED.

Ante-Bellum Incidents that Stirred the Country and Gave to the State The Name of "Bleeding."

Chicago Tribune.

The burning at the stake of a negro on the soil of Kansas will strike many people as being a historical paradox. For the ten years just previous to the civil war the battle for the negro's freedom was mainly fought in the then Territory of Kansas, at least so far as actual physical violence was concerned. John Brown lived in Ossawatomie, Kas., with his sons, and there commenced the attacks on slavery which ended with his capture at Harper's Ferry. There was civil war in Kansas over the slavery question as early as 1856. Its soil was invaded by a "Northern army" and by Southern sympathizers. Men were shot, hanged, tarred and feathered on both sides. Pitched battles were fought and more than one Kansas town was burned to the ground. When the rebellion broke out the State of Kansas furnished to the Union army 23,000 men, a greater percentage of its population than that furnished by any other State.

The fight for the control of Kansas became active when in 1854 Congress passed resolutions organizing the Territory, to be admitted later as a State, with or without slavery. Immediately a body of pro-slavery men from Missouri crossed the river and laid out Leavenworth, the first city in the Territory. During the next month a body of emigrants from Massachusetts, sent out as an anti-slavery colony, settled at Lawrence and organized a "squatter government." A few months later Andrew H. Reeder, of Pennsylvania, destined to play many parts in the coming fight, was appointed the first Governor of the Territory. Meanwhile, the slavery men of Missouri were forming secret societies and planning schemes for controlling the government of Kansas. When the first election for a Territorial delegate to Congress was held they swarmed over the river and, by casting hundreds of illegal votes, succeeded in securing the election of the pro-slavery candidate. A great "free soil" meeting was immediately held at Lawrence to protest against the outrage. The same month four sons of John Brown settled at Ossawatomie. In the spring of 1855, when representatives were chosen for the State Legislature, 1,000 armed men marched into the Territory from Missouri and insisted on voting. A Leavenworth man who ventured to protest was carried away into Missouri and there tarred, feathered, and ridden on a rail. The Free-Soilers met at Lawrence in response to this outrage and announced that if the men of Missouri wanted war they were ready to meet the issue.

"FREE SOILERS" DRIVEN OUT.

When the first Legislature met at Pawnee the pro-slavery members, who had been elected by fraudulent votes, at once drove out the few "free-soil" members and changed the seat of government. Meanwhile, Governor Reeder had been accused of official irregularities and was removed from office, and a convention of "Free Soilers" met and repudiated all acts of the Legislature. Wilson Shannon, of Ohio, was appointed to succeed Reeder as Governor, and he got to his new scene of duty just in time for serious trouble. The former Governor, Reeder, had been elected to Congress by the "Free Soil" party, and the slavery men met in convention and declared that to decline to obey the laws passed by the recent Legislature was treason. Two or three men were killed in quarrels over this question, and a body of 800 "Free Soil" men, including John Brown and his four sons, enlisted to protect themselves, while 1,500 armed Missourians marched over to oppose them. Governor Shannon was able to prevent a collision and both forces finally dispersed. Amidst tremendous excitement and much violence on both sides a "free soil" Constitution was adopted in December, 1855. Under this Constitution Charles Robinson was elected Governor. But this action was nullified by President Pierce, who in a special message to Congress recognized the first "bogus" Legislature and declared that the Robinson government was revolutionary. In order to carry out the effects of this message the United States troops in Kansas were put under command of the territorial Governor. But the "free Soil" Legislature met in spite of the presidential prohibition. While they were in session a large body of slavery men from Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina entered Kansas and the grand jury of Douglas county indicted the "free soil" Governor, Robinson, and all the leaders associated with him on a charge of high treason. The bitterness of feeling which prevailed at that time is shown by the fact that the Rev. Pardee Butler, who had been preaching anti-slavery sermons at Atchison, was tied to a raft and set adrift on the Missouri river by the pro-slavery men whom he had offended. When he ventured to come back he was stripped, tarred and covered with cotton. Former Governor Reeder, who had been chosen territorial representative in Congress, and Governor Robinson were arrested for high treason. The authorities arrested many other Free Soil leaders at Lawrence and destroyed the Emigrant Aid Society Hotel and the Herald of Freedom printing office.

CIVIL WAR IN EARNEST.

Then civil war broke out in deadly earnest. Captain Pate started out with an armed body to "destroy old Brown" at Ossawatomie. He captured two of John Brown's sons, one of whom, John, jr., was driven insane by the inhuman treatment which he received. John Brown the elder organized a little body of armed men to follow Pate's force, and in a pitched battle compelled his surrender. A few weeks later Pate and his followers sacked and burned the town of Ossawatomie. For more than a month the fighting continued, and the Missouri river was closed to the passage of "free-soil" emigrants.

Meanwhile the national government was taking a hand in the struggle. A bill admitting Kansas as a State was passed by the lower house of Congress in June, 1856. Under this bill the "free-soil" Constitution was recognized. On that account it was defeated in the Senate. When the "free-soil" Legislature attempted to meet in Topeka it was dispersed by United States troops acting under order of President Pierce.

All over the country the fight for Kansas was exciting great interest, and many organizations were formed to assist either the "Free Soilers" or the pro-slavery party. In Buffalo, N. Y., for instance, the sum of $120,000 was quickly raised by the Grand Kansas Aid Society to further the cause of anti-slavery. The civil war in the Territory continued with increasing violence. "Free Soil" men seized the fort at Ossawatomie, driving out the slavery advocates from Georgia and other Southern States who occupied it. The "Free Soil" forces also captured Franklin and Lane's "Northern army," consisting of 500 emigrants, with sixty wagons, advanced into the territory by way of Iowa and Nebraska. This "army" was in command of General James H. Lane, who, after attaining political prominence in Indiana, removed to Kansas in 1855, and was one of the State's first United States Senators.

During the next few years events of sensational interest followed fast. Governor Shannon was removed. The Territory was declared to be in a state of open insurrection and rebellion. A number of pitched battles were fought between the "Free Soil" and pro-slavery forces, in which honors were almost equally divided. Territorial Governors were removed, resigned and fled the State in rapid succession; John Brown and his men made a raid into Missouri, liberated fourteen slaves and brought them back to Kansas; Horace Greeley and Abraham Lincoln made speeches within the boundaries of the State and gradually the "Free Soil" forces gained control. Finally in 1860 the national House of Representatives voted to admit Kansas as a State under the so-called Wyandotte Constitution. The bill was passed by the Senate in January, 1861, and immediately approved. Charles Robinson was the first State Governor.

From a civil war of its own the new State was plunged almost immediately into a greater war, which involved the whole country. When the rebellion broke out, "bleeding Kansas" had a total population of little more than one hundred thousand. Of this number she sent nearly 25 per cent. into the Union armies. During the war Kansas suffered severly from the raids of the rebel guerrilla Quantrell, who burned several towns and took revenge on the "free soil" headquarters at Lawrence by riding through the streets and shooting down 200 citizens.

In 1879 began a great emigration of colored people into the State. Badly treated in the South, they naturally looked upon Kansas as a haven of refuge. At the close of 1880 there were 40,000 negro emigrants in Kansas.

The most recent of political sensations in the State occurred in 1893, when with Governor Lewelling, elected by the Populists and Democrats, in the chair, both the Republicans and Populists claimed the speakership of the House of Representatives. The Republicans took forcible possession of Representatives' Hall and Governor Lewelling called out the militia. Fortunately, a compromise was reached before the rival forces had come into actual conflict.

WHY CHURCHES DECLINE.

Reasons as They Appear to a Secular Newspaper.

Leslie's Weekly.

The real difficulty with the church is that it has lost its militant spirit. It is no longer forced to fight its way to success. Excepting in rare instances, such as have recently occurred in China, its disciples and preachers are not called upon to face martyrdom. No sermons are heard upon the mount or in the wilderness. Massive cathedrals, costly edifices, beautiful rituals, enchanting music, all indicate that the taste for luxury common to the age has permeated the church. An architect in New York has calculated that the cost of the steeples on the churches of that city, invested at 6 per cent. would annually realize more than the entire appropriation of the Methodist Church for its missions in China.

Instead of competing for souls, many churches have entered into a competition to see which shall obtain the most eloquent preachers, the most costly cathedrals, the finest singers, the most expensive chimes, and the largest membership among the wealthy and the leaders of society. Instead of the free church of the early days, we have a system of pew rents and constant calls for contributions for the support of innumerable benevolences, missions and moral and religious enterprises, as well as for the support of the minister and the choir, the payment of interest on church debts, and the infinite variety of expenditures involved in the maintenance of commodious structures. While the ministers preach the gospel of economy an unselfish life, the church buildings, costly as they are, are used really for but one great service during the week, and that is the leading service of the Sunday. During the remainder of the week the magnificent pile of masonry and decorative work is in too many instances as useless as a toll-gate on an abandoned turnpike.

Thoughtful and practical men in some of our great churches, realizing this situation and the fact that the support of the churches as thus conducted is becoming an onerous burden, are in favor of building churches that can be rented for lecture and other purposes throughout the week, and utilized for the service of God on the Sabbath or on any other chosen day. There is no reason why every church should not only be self-sustaining, but self-supporting. This would mean free pews, less frequent demands for collections, and a return to the church which the Master established when he preached by the seaside, in the wilderness and on the mount, and even fed the hungry multitude that gathered first of all to satisfy their souls with spiritual bread.

Another fault of the church is that it lacks the strenuous life. It does not assert itself. It is not difficult to ascertain whether a man in these days is a Democrat or a Republican. The badge of the party is openly worn during the heat of every Presidential campaign. But where is the badge of the church? Why should the church member wear it? In what struggle is he engaged that calls for an assertion of his faith?

If political parties did not engage in political battles they would speedily cease to exist and their membership blend into each other. The warfare against sin cannot succeed unless it is waged as every struggle must be—with earnestness and strength. The battle must be sufficiently vigorous to make men openly take sides and proclaim their allegiance. What could not the churches in our great cities do if their membership were united for the common good? This membership includes, beyond question, the majority of those who represent the wealth, respectability and the influence of every community.

ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Strain Upon the Scientist Soon Exhausts His Vitality.

New Orleans Times Democrat.

"The point of exactitude to which astronomical observations are carried is almost inconceivable to the untrained mind," remarked one of the staff of Tulane University. "In making delicate measurements, for example, astronomers always take into consideration a factor known as 'habitual personal error.' In other words, no two observers see things exactly the same through their telescopes. To one a star will appear a little smaller and to another a little larger than it really is, and the ony way to correct these deviations is to check a number of different observations against each other. A calculation is never accepted as final until it is certain that it is unaffected by personal idiosyncracy. I mention this as merely one instance out of thousands illustrative of the marvelous accuracy of the science. There is no other profession in the world, by the way, for which a man makes such a complete sacrifice of self. I have seen it stated somewhere in explanations of their extremely high wages that certain expert workmen in rolling mills 'wear out,' on an average, in about six years. The active life of an astronomical observer is certainly no longer. The terrific wear and tear on the optic nerve soon exhausts its vitality, and meanwhile the general exposure incident to the occupation is almost certain to break down a man's constitution. In obtaining successful results, almost everything depends upon the clearness of the atmosphere and the conditions in that respect are much more apt to be favorable in winter than in summer. An observatory must not be heated because a variation in the inside and outside temperature would create a distortion of the sensitive lens and the consequence is that the astronomer is frequently half frozen at his post. Many an observer has contracted a fatal case of pneumonia while seated at the eye-piece of his telescope, and nearly all the older men are shattered in health. It is a fine evidence of their courage, their devotion and their single-heartedness that we hear so little about these things."

UNCLE SAM'S EXHIBIT.

Government Board Preparing Unique and Attractive Displays.

Washington Letter in Troy Times.

Every department of the government is now preparing an exhibit for the Pan-American exposition, which is to open in Buffalo on the 1st of next May. The various bureaus of the executive departments are vying with each other to make this exhibit the most attractive and unique which has yet been turned out. Because of the harnessing of the power of Niagara Falls and the almost unlimited electric power from the great waterfall the Buffalo exhibition promises to be electrically the greatest ever seen in the world, and the executive departments have started out to change the old-time method of simply making a pro forma exhibit, and instead they will be represented in a unique way. The Navy Department, for instance, has an electrical design of its own which will show the deck of a man-of-war with all the officers of an admiral's flagship in full uniform and occupying just such positions as they would occupy on the original, from the admiral down to the petty officers. The State Department will have exhibits of our colonial possessions which will bring to the visitor a vivid representation of the people and industries added to the Republic in the last few years. Other departments are planning something original, and altogether the governmental exhibit in Buffalo instead of being the most unattractive feature of an exposition, as was the case in Chicago, Atlanta and Nashville, is likely to be a section that will draw more visitors than any other place.

THE FALLACY OF BOILS.

Contrary to Common Belief, Few Skin Diseases Are Contagious.

Harvey Sutherland, in Ainslee's Magazine.

"It is an unshaken article of belief with most people that skin diseases are almost always catching; that they show that the sufferers themselves or their parents are no better than they should be; that they indicate that 'the blood is bad,' that you must be careful or you will 'drive it in,' and the patient will die, if nothing more, and that a boil is worth $5 in doctors' bills saved. They are all wrong, teetotally wrong, on the very best medical authority. Not more than two or three of the hundred or so skin diseases catalogued are catching, and the chances are that the eruption is as innocent and as innocuous as a cold. If there is such a thing as 'bad blood' medicine has not found it out. Next to nothing is known in regard to the condition of blood in disease. Chemical and microscopical study has utterly failed to show that there is any difference between the blood in health and the blood in cutaneous disorders. Certain of them are symptomatic of nervous breakdown, and imperfect digestion causes others. Tomatoes, bananas, strawberries, shellfish and other articles of diet, harmless to most of us, cause a rash to break out on others. Evidently the medical profession does not fear 'driving the disease in,' for the treatment for cutaneous affections is now wholly local. A boil is an acute inflammation of the tissues surrounding the hair-follicle, and is due to some infection of the follicle by a germ, generally the staphylococcus pyogenes aureus. I thought you might like to know the name. Boils come upon the just and the unjust, on those who have good blood and those who have bad blood. What forms inside the tormenting thing is not the strained-out impurities of the blood, for pus does not exist in the blood. It is of local formation. A boil is not worth five cents, let alone $5. It is just what your untutored imagination says it is, a confounded nuisance. If anybody owed me $5 and could either pay it in cash or boils, whichever I preferred, I should take the cash every time, even at a discount. I think I should get more comfort that way."

THE YOUNG MAN ABSALOM.

David's Son a Type of the Fascinating Scoundrel of All Ages.

New York Mail and Express.

Absalom, the son of David, deserves more respectful presentation than as the type of a young man who wants to anticipate the course of nature in stepping into the shoes of his elders. The young man of the Old Testament was that, but he was more than that. He was protagonist in one of the most absorbing struggles for power in all history, the human interest of which has not lost its mandate to move three thousand years after its actors became dust. He was the type for all time of the fascinating scoundrel who gets along further in the world by his manners than others do by their rugged virtues.

In this young man are discovered a host of men who have lived since him and a host of other men whose lives are no less real because they have been lived only in the pages of fiction. There is the Greek, Alcibiades, with the steel-cold calculation of an adventurer, the morals of a satyr and the instincts of a traitor, but with the beauty and the graces of a god. There are the ill-fated English Stuarts, unstable as water, trivial where they are not treacherous, shallow-hearted scoffers in an age of serious things, and yet so winning of person and address that new hearts were won to them in the place of those they had derided and trampled upon. They have lost the throne which they seemed always willing to betray, but they reign still in song and story, though better men be forgotten.

The shadow of Absalom brooded over the elder Dumas as he wrote, and there stepped forth on the pages of musketeer books the handsome and engaging figure of Aramis, always coldly seeking his own interest, always a plotter, but a personality that has captivated the reprobate heart of a world that does not carry its moral destruction into its leisure reading. Even Anthony Hope was not unmindful of Absalom, for he drew Rupert of Hentzau with his dark, fair face and his insinuating address, a scapegrace with a touch of Satan about him, a gallant who "would not kill where he has kissed," a villain with so subtle a charm withal that the men who hunted him down killed him in regret rather than in anger.

"A perfect traitor," George Eliot makes one of her characters say, "should have a face which vice can write no marks on; lips that will lie with a dimpled smile, eyes of such angel-like brightness and depth that no infamy can dull them; cheeks that will rise from a murder and not look haggard." Such was the son of David, according to the sober chronicle of holy writ. "In all Israel," it remarks, "there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty; from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish on him." Of his manners there is just a glimpse in the simple record: "So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel."

The character of Tito, drawn by George Eliot, in Romola, comes, perhaps, the nearest to that of the plotting prince of Israel. Each and all the gifts and graces of mind and person, each conspired against the state that sheltered him; each betrayed the father that nurtured him; each met a violent and ignoble death—the one on the river bank in Florence, with the fingers of his adopted parent clutching his throat; the other dangling from an oak, in the wood of Ephraim, with three darts thrust through his heart and the structure of his hopes crumbling before the assaults of the great generals of his father.

What that consummate man of the world, Lord Chesterfield, urged his son to strive to attain Absalom had of nature—"engaging, insinuating, shining manners, distinguished politeness, an almost irresistible address." The catastrophe came to him, as it comes to men who have these outward qualities, but lack the qualities of heart of which they are the lying symbol. He failed before the fateful day of Ephraim, and he did not know he failed. His wisest adviser saw the game was up when yet his sky seemed clear. And this is what he did: "And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed he saddled his ass and arose and got him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father."

Blinded by his vanity, Absalom rushed on to his fate. Ahithophel was doubtless a better man, and certainly a stronger man, but his history is compressed into a sentence, yet what a sentence! The chronicler lingers longer over Absalom, as if the charm of the young man was on him, too!

One cannot approve at all the scapegrace son of David, but one cannot be unmindful of the hold he had on the heart of the greatest man of his time, or of the fact that from the greatest man of his time he derived his own wonderful but marred qualities. He deserves to be recalled as the fugitive done to ignoble death in the shadow of an Asiatic forest, but the plaint of David sounds so loudly across the centuries as to make one almost share his regret. "And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept; and as he went thus he said: 'O my son Absalom! my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!'"

A Good Draw.

Washington Post.

"The most remarkable draw I ever saw made at poker was in a Chicago club one night," said Mr. Robert Hurd, of Illinois. "There were five of us in a little social game with a limit of $25 and all jackpots. A friend of mine, whom I will call Jones, was dealing. I was first under the guns and passed, as did also the two men sitting next. The fifth man—we will say his name was Brown—opened the pot for $5. Jones didn't have the shadow of a thing in his hand, but he raised Brown $10, intending to stand pat and bluff it out. Brown had three aces and he came back at Jones with $10 better. Now, instead of laying down, as a wise man should in a case of that kind, Jones determined to see it through. He knew, of course, that it would be useless to try and bluff, so he drew three cards to a king and queen of spades. Brown had drawn two cards to his aces and had got a small pair. As a bait, he led off the betting with $5. Jones hadn't looked at his hand until Brown bet, and when he picked up his cards he almost dropped dead. He had drawn an ace, jack and ten of spades, making a royal flush. They raised each other back and forth until one or the other had all his money in, and when the hands were shown the game broke up right there. I know it to be a fact that Jones hasn't touched a card from that day to this, but despite his abstinence from gambling he is yet firmly convinced that fortune will some day give him an awful drubbing to offset such an unheard-of favor at her hands."

CLUBS FOR YOUNG GIRLS

A CIVILIZING ELEMENT AMONG IMMIGRANTS IN NEW YORK.

Six Hundred Such Clubs in the East Side Jewish Quarter—Practical Work Done by Them.

New York Evening Post.

This is the season when the girls' clubs of the East Side are busiest. They begin their official year in September, when the cool evenings set in, and for the next three months are energetic in cavassing for new members and in making preparations for entertainments, study courses and club work for the remainder of the season. There were almost none in that part of the city twenty years ago, but at the present time they are numerous. Strangely enough, the countries which supply the East Side with its citizens either do not permit women's clubs or else have never heard of them. There are a few in Vienna and Buda-Pesth, while in the eastern half of the Austro-Gothic empire there are none. In Russia and Roumania women's clubs are forbidden by law, while in progressive Germany such organizations are discountenanced, and in most districts require a police license. Yet the girls and women from these districts, after they have become Americanized, are the most active and enthusiastic in club work. They are more pertinacious than their native sisters. It is impossible to enumerate the organizations of girls which are found in the great triangle bounded by the Bowery, Ninth street and the East river. In the neighborhood of the Educational Alliance, which is situated on East Broadway and Jefferson street, there are over one hundred. The branches of the alliance in Madison and Fifth streets have given birth to several score. The public, evening, private and high schools have evolved educational and literary unions exceeding fifty in number. The numerous trades and industries of the district have developed social leagues, reading circles and all sorts of unions. This does not take into account the clubs and classes which have been started by philanthropic individuals and societies.

A prominent worker on the East Side estimates the number of girls' clubs of all sorts at about six hundred. Nearly all have had the same development. They begin in a home or school with a handful of members and some public-spirited friend or teacher. They grow moderately for one or two years until they reach the limit set by their constitution and by-laws. This runs from twenty-five upwards, the average being about fifty. According to the girls themselves twenty-five is the best number when the aim of the club is educational or literary. When it is social a hundred is the best number. When it is of the nature of a trades union then the rule is "the more the merrier." The aims and objects of these associations illustrate the varied character of New York life and the versatility of its daughters. They include dancing, deportment, literature, stenography, typewriting, embroidery, drawing, photography, gymnastics, basket ball, chess and checkers, dominoes, backgammon, botany, wild flowers, wood carving, artificial flower making, German, French, Hebrew and Latin, civics, American history, rhetoric and composition, debating, essays, singing, piano playing, violin playing, amateur dramatics, millinery, dressmaking, cooking, lace making, telegraphy, book binding and basket work.

EAST SIDE SERIOUSNESS.

In all of the organizations may be found the distinguishing characteristics of the East Side—earnestness and seriousness. There is very little make-believe and very little mischief, and the members do not have a good time under the pretext of study or work. These black-eyed girls are all ambitious, patient and resolute. To them the club programme means duty, and the aim of each is to surpass all the rest. This rivalry never ends. It is not confined to the club, but is carried into the home, store and office. Members of literary clubs read, memorize, study and rehearse with almost as much zeal as an actress in learning her part. I attended a reception a short time ago of the Isaac Pitman Club, where one of the members, a round-faced, bright-eyed girl of sixteen, recited from memory a poem more than five hundred lines in length without making a hitch or break. When the feat was commented upon the young woman laughed contemptuously, saying, "Every girl in our club could do that." The Girls' Camera Club, which was organized a year and a half ago, has taken over five hundred pictures in that period, and given two capital exhibitions of its work. At the outset they took portraits and views of houses, streets and meetings in the neighborhood. They passed to photographing the East river, the Hudson, Central Park and the Bronx. They then took up flashlight pictures and snap shops, culminating with freak pictures. Their work has been overseen by an expert, although nearly all are now so skillful as to require no assistance.

It must not be supposed that these girls allow theory to interfere with practice or permit club pleasures to interfere with the cares and duties of daily life. The artificial-flower workers have a number of social and industrial organizations in the neighborhood of Division and Grand streets. They combine business with pleasure, and keep a sharp eye upon all the features of their calling.

Two years ago the market for their goods began to slacken and many hands were laid off. They appointed a committee to investigate the matter, which promptly found out the cause, and reported it to be the introduction of new and beautiful styles of artificial flowers from Paris. The clubs raised a fund, sent their most capable girl to the French capital and supported her there until she had learned the latest conceits and fancies of the trade. When she returned the club sessions were devoted to study and practice under her instruction, and in a short time she had imparted to them all that she had learned abroad. As soon as this was accomplished the officers of the societies made a demand upon their employers for higher wages, and obtained them without the necessity of a strike. It is hardly necessary to add that the goods produced were equal to those which were imported, and that the French exporters soon found their American sales going down to the vanishing point.

A LITERARY UNION.

A model literary union is the "Knowledge-Seekers' Club," which works under the direction of Miss Spectorsky. In its brief career it has taken a long and thorough course in American literature, and for its sole recreation gave a comedietta, "The May Queen," which received very high praise from all who attended it. Stenographic and typewriting clubs are to be found all over the East Side. There is at least one attached to every social settlement, from the Educational Alliance to the smallest school. They are more ambitious than the classes in other parts of the metropolis. The latter are satisfied with talking English, but the East Side girls in many instances use German, Spanish, French, and Yiddish. There are girls in the Ghetto who can write shorthand and typewrite in five different tongues. A novel amusement, found in these organizations, is drawing what are called typewriting pictures. Lines are made by using the letter I and a period (.); stippling with the letter (X), and leaves and trees with the small (c), the (O), the semi-colon, and the figure (3). Prize designs which were exhibited by one of the clubs at the close of the season, were the drawing of a three-story house and of the typewriting machine itself.

Where the clubs begin with small girls they usually change in character as the members advance in years. The late Col. Waring established the famous street-cleaning brigade of boys and girls. One of the girl regiments of the little army, after attending to their street duties for two years, formed themselves into the debating club. They next became the literary club. They then secured a leader in Miss Richter, who by degrees reorganized them into a Shakspere study club. A year was passed studying the great dramatist, when the members put theory into practice by presenting "As You Like It" to a large audience. A successful innovation was started at the Educational Alliance by Mrs. Samuel Greenbaum and Mrs. Dottenheim. They formed the Alliance Progressive League, with an enrollment of thirty-five girls seventeen years of age. The object was social accomplishment. The programme included instruction in etiquette, dancing, parlor games, reading, declamation and discussion. It was so well conducted that before a year had passed nearly every member had undergone a change so great as to attract general notice.

A HUNGER FOR KNOWLEDGE.

Everywhere is manifested an intense desire for knowledge. It may be questioned if there is a girls' club in that part of the city where there is not a debate at every session. In those which are given to non-literary objects, such as cooking, embroidery, needlecraft, typewriting, lacemaking and millinery, the usual practice is to have one member at each meeting sit at a high desk and read aloud history or standard literature, while the club attends to the regular order of the day. New ideas in Europe are quickly transferred to New York and bring forth fruit. The industrial movement in Ireland which, under the leadership of the Countess of Aberdeen, has succeeded in reviving the ancient lace industry, has aroused attention on the East Side. In a short time it had secured full instructions concerning the points and patterns for which the Emerald Isle was once famous and then started its manufacture in this city. Another club is following the lines which were originated by Mme. St. George in Vienna. Embroidery is the raison d'etre of many societies, one of which is the Juvenile Sewing Circle conducted by Miss Unger. Another club, founded by Miss Minnie B. Louis, has done such admirable needlework as to receive praise from the American Federation of Sewing Schools. The Little Women Club, started by the late Mrs. George Johnson, devotes its sessions to "getting into touch with nature." It holds its meetings in fair weather in the public parks or pretty spots in the suburbs, where the members study trees, flowers, mosses, birds, butterflies and insects. The Alcott Club makes a specialty of visiting the American Museum of Natural History. The Band of Mercy, established by Miss Benedict, is practically a branch of the Humane Society. The Give-up Club was organized by Miss Margaret Pascal. Its object is practical benevolence, and the special care of sick and ailing. The Daughters of Zion Club is an echo of the Zionist movement. It is conducted by Miss Rubin, and carries on a propaganda looking toward the re-establishment of the Jews in Palestine. The Girls' Chess and Checker Club of the Educational Alliance is always ready to meet rivals on the checkered field.

These clubs contribute largely to the elevation of the population. Every girl carries the club influence into her own home, and there incites her brothers, sisters and parents to stronger effort and achievement. The effect may be noticed by any one who visits this part of the city from time to time. The boys and girls dress better from year to year, the homes become more comfortable, the small tenement is exchanged for a larger and better one, and finally the day arrives when the successful paterfamilias with his household leaves the Ghetto for a home uptown or in the suburbs. To a stranger the Ghetto seems always the same, but to one who knows it, it is a veritable kaleidoscope. Out of it flow those who have succeeded, or those who go to other cities in quest of fortune, while into it come the armies of the oppressed and down-trodden from Austria-Hungary, Roumania and Russia. Without the co-operation of the girls, this amelioration would be much slower, and the existing conditions would be far worse. They are a potent factor in the advancement of their own people, their neighbors and of the city at large.

CHINESE THEORY OF PUNISHMENT.

It Must Be So Terrific as to Frighten Evildoers.

London Telegraph.

Even pirates in China excite something of compassion. Like the vast multitudes, they are probably short of food, and for their offense, when caught, they are cruelly punished. In the Magistrate's yamen, at Canton, there were three pirates, just brought down for trial by one of her Majesty's gunboats. These wretches, loaded with fetters, were awaiting the certainty of decapitation in a filthy yard adjoining the court. When I saw them they had not been tortured, but another was brought in who had been judicially handled the day before. The theory of the criminal law of the empire is that every prisoner must voluntarily confess to his crime before he can be punished. In practice the confession is obtained by constant tortures, repeated day by day, or as often as the accused can endure them, for they must, at the magistrate's own risk, stop short of death. This pirate was brought in on a basket, because the day before his ankles had been broken in the course of his torments with a wooden hammer, and he was to be hung up again to extract a few more crumbs of evidence. To enter the yamen of a Chinese magistrate is to plunge deep into all the "enchantments of the Middle Age," with the addition that the Oriental torturer takes a far keener pleasure in his dreadful work than one would fain believe can ever have been the case in Europe outside the cells of the Spanish Inquisition. With positive delight he exhibits the blood stains on the rattan and the bamboo, and explains how many blows of the thick cane are needed to kill. Graphically he illustrates the peculiar torture of tying a man up like a trussed fowl, and then breaking his muscles with repeated blows, or hamstringing him to keep him quiet in future. There is no elaboration of cruelty which is not daily practiced in a Chinese yamen, and the numbers of the onlookers show the light in which such sport is popularly regarded.

It is only fair to say that the Chinese have an explanation of this theory of punishment. On the whole, the country, save in a few disturbed districts, is comparatively free from crime, while the police are admittedly wanting in any sort of efficiency. The watchman, who goes his rounds at night, wields his rattle and beats his gong to warn intending malefactors of his approach. Close to Peking, in the city of Ching-Ho, the policeman goes still further, and discharges his old musket in the air over the principal inns to let robbers know that he is about,—a remedy in itself both deterrent and self-protective. For a moment I was at a loss to know whom the guardian of the peace was shooting at.

The principal value of the constable is that in default of the actual lawbreaker he can be flogged for nondiscovery. Of far more importance is the universal and complicated system of mutual responsibility among members of a family and neighbors of a house—that system which has its roots so deep in the foundation of Chinese society and there exhibits so much of the earliest traces of civilization. All this is a great social safeguard, but for the determined criminal there is little of check or restraint outside the Yamen. He may be reprobated by his clan and his guild, but he certainly has little police inspection. Therefore, argues the apologist, the punishment inflicted must be of so terrific a kind as to frighten away evildoers by its mere atrocity. All justification of the barbarous punishment runs on the same lines. Besides, manifold as is the subdivision and organization of Chinese life and being, you always feel that their attitude of mind and conception of manners differ more widely from those of the modern man of the West than he can from his ancestor of the "spacious times" of Queen Elizabeth. Yet, what were the views of the Elizabethan man in regard to torture, sanitation and magic?

Peanut Vines for Ornament

Philadelphia Telegraph.

Few persons are, perhaps, aware that a thing of beauty is a common peanut plant, growing singly in a six or eight-inch pot and grown indoors during the colder months. Kept in a warm room or by the kitchen stove a peanut kernel planted in a pot of loose, mellow loam, kept only moderately moist, will soon germinate and grow into a beautiful plant. It is in a similar way that the peanut planters test their seeds every year, beginning very early in the winter, and the facility with which the seeds will grow in this way has suggested to many Southern flower lovers the possibility of making the useful peanut an ornamental plant for the parlor or sitting-room window.

As the plant increases in size and extends its branches over the sides of the pot in a pendant manner, there are few plants of more intrinsic beauty. The curious habit of the compound leaves of closing together like the leaves of a book on the approach of night, or when a shower begins to fall on them, is one of the most interesting habits of plant life. And then, later on, for the peanut is no ephemeral wonder, enduring for a day or two only, the appearance of the tiny yellow flowers and putting forth of the peduncles on which the nuts grow imparts to this floral rarity a striking and unique charm all its own. There is nothing else like it, and florists throughout the country might well add the peanut plant to their list of novel and rare things.

The Girl Typewriter.

Philadelphia Record.

"If female stenographers and typewriters are driven out of the business and their places taken by young men the comic newspapers may be held entirely responsible," remarked a business man yesterday. "The average wife fails to see the humor of the perpetual joke about the employer and the pretty typewriter. Most of them are really far from being pretty, if the truth must be told, but we can't convince our wives of that. My wife is not exactly jealous, but she has a deep-rooted conviction that all typewriter girls are flirty, and she has always wanted to know why I had one in my office when I could just as well have a young man. Finally I grew weary of all this, dismissed the girl and engaged a young fellow, to whom I have to pay higher wages, and who doesn't do nearly as good work. But my wife is satisfied, and that's the main thing. A number of my business acquaintances have recently had the same experience."

VEGETABLES IN WINTER.

Ways of Cooking That Make Them More Palatable.

New York Evening Sun.

There is an unnecessary sameness in most households in regard to winter vegetables. Some simple and very inexpensive sorts are entirely neglected because they are not liked as commonly prepared and because the cook either does not know or does not care to prepare them in appetizing styles. With the advantages of the markets which receive fresh installments of the vegetables from France every week and from the hothouses, there is no reason why the table should not show a summer-like variety of vegetables, for even these imported delicacies are comparatively cheap. Kohl rabi is one of the vegetables that is not really appreciated. It many be cooked in many different ways. When simply boiled and served with pepper, salt and butter it is good, and also when boiled in a broth or gravy. About the best way to cook kohl rabi is this: Peel three or four of the vegetables, quarter and slice them, tossing them into water as soon as they are sliced. Boil them ten or fifteen minutes, then take them up and put them in a baking tin. Turn over them one-half cupful of boiled milk, sprinkle them with salt and pepper and add small pieces of butter. Over all strew a layer of Parmesan cheese and bake ten minutes in a hot oven.

If cabbage or cauliflower are past their freshness a tiny pinch of soda or a piece of loaf sugar will revive them.

Ordinarily turnips are boiled, then mashed, and they are by no means favorites thus treated. It is quite possible, however, to make turnips into an appetizing dish by bestowing very little time and care upon their preparation. Cut half a dozen turnips into thin slices and boil them ten or fifteen minutes. While they are cooking heat one-half pint of clear soup stock and season it with salt, cayenne, nutmeg and sugar. Now remove the turnips from the water and, after draining them carefully, place them in a baking dish and pour over them the seasoned stock. Bake until very tender, basting them from time to time. With old turnips it will be necessary to leave them in the oven at least thirty minutes. Take the slices up on a hot platter and serve them with gravy from the pan, to which must be added butter and flour to thicken.

Another very pleasing way of serving turnips is with parsley. Cut the raw turnips with one of those little potato scoops and boil them in salted water until they are very tender indeed. Be careful, however, that they retain their shape; drain them from the water. Add to them two tablespoonfuls of melted butter, a dash of white pepper and a tablespoonful of minced parsley. They will be salt enough, probably, from the salt in the boiling water; if not, add more of that valuable seasoning ingredient. Paprika may be added or omitted at will.

The carrot is another of the winter's vegetables that, if not actually disliked, is generally treated with indifference. When merely boiled there is reason enough for this fact, since a boiled carrot is not the most toothsome sort of fare; in fact, it is far from that. Carrots may be thus cooked: Boil the vegetables until they are tender, then cut them into slices. Melt some butter in the frying pan, and, when it is hot, add the carrots, tossing them about until they are slightly browned. Put these slices into a baking pan and pour over them a mixture of one-half cup of clear stock, two ounces of butter, one tablespoonful of sugar and a pinch of salt. Place the pan in the oven and bake till the liquid has cooked away, leaving the carrots browned and glazed. If you are ever to like carrots they will appeal to you under this form. It is a pity that so thoroughly healthful a vegetable is not more generally liked.

There are any number of ways of making onions attractive. To cook them with the least possible trouble, bake them in their skins. Select onions of a uniform size, brush them and wipe them clean, but do not wash them. For the rest treat them as you would potatoes to be baked, simply placing them in the oven and letting them cook till tender. When done, peel them, cut them, and serve with salt, pepper and plenty of butter.

Cut some raw potatoes into strips and soak them in cold, salted water for some time before cooking. Finally dip each strip into melted butter and lay it in a baking pan. Sprinkle with salt and pepper and brown in the oven.

BIRD'S-EYE LITERATURE.

Those Reviews of the Century Which So Few Care to Read.

New York Commercial Advertiser.

The quickest work in century reviewing was that of a Kentucky writer who put the whole hundred years into less than a column, including photography, antiseptics, electricity, matches, Roentgen rays, the "paroxysms of France toward sane government" and the "recrudescence of Italy." It is a century, he said, that will compare favorably with any other in respect to poetry, for few of the early poets "who are now called great could exist in any age except their own." Therefore, "let us thrill with pride in the race which mankind has run in the century gone." Like most of these summaries it is a little disjointed in style, but the thing had to be done, and he did it. It was a timely topic—that most oppressive thing in periodical literature—and people who could not be hired to read through a school manual of world's history were supposed, under the spell of the calendar, to crave the same sort of material in newspapers and magazines. Perhaps some of them did, but their heads must be spinning still if they read much of it. For the difficult art of condensation has fallen into strange hands. Compression, as understood by many, consists not in packing an idea into a small space, but in leaving out the idea altogether. They confound the concise style with the syncopated intellect. To give a general impression of haste—that seems to be the object of the amateurs of condensation. As if one could not be wordy in a few lines. Here, for example, is a dab at the educational trend of the century: It can be summed up, says the writer, in three words, "Culture, efficiency, power." What is the use even of these three words? It was a case, not for condensation, but for total silence.

The bird's-eye writer is always attempting what are for him quite impossible feats. It would require an extraordinary amount of talent to carry out his plan. Some few of the century skimmers had a gift for their calling, and managed to say some salient things. But with most it was a mere agitated fumbling in the grab bag of memory. Bird's-eye writers have taken too much to heart the things they have heard about the rush and scramble of our modern life. They seem to think the busy man wants a flustered writer. They conceive of the busy man as in a fever to hear things buzzing. What has the world been up to this past month? asks the busy man as he leaps from the quick-lunch counter to the news-stand. So they give him a flurry of half-stated facts—not so much a bird's-eye view as a fricasseed chicken view of wars, conferences, labor riots, torpedo boats, obituaries and the latest novels, all in a thin gravy of editorial comment. As a matter of fact, we are in no such hurry as that. There is plenty of time in the world for choosing the good things even now. Because a man works hard it does not follow that his mind is a whirling miscellany. Out of office hours he avoids the bustling person if he can, and there is no reason for supposing he likes him in a magazine. Magazine editors often exaggerate our sense of obligation to the time spirit. To keep posted up on all the monthly irrelevancies of a good-sized and fairly active universe is not a matter of conscience with the most of us. Nor are we so strictly chronological in our interests, often preferring to spend our leisure comfortably than to squint at all things calendarwise, with the bird's-eye man for a cicerone.

And what is there so dreadful in falling behind the times? The happier a man is the less he takes account of the clock. There is no moral obligation at all to hold our heads each month or week in a running stream of indiscriminate summary. Suppose we are a bit pressed for time, why make the worst of it? Frightful as the pace is, we can still see the landscape.

A HAPPY OLD AGE.

About the Pension System of New South Wales.

Sydney (N. S. W.) Letter in Boston Transcript.

The long list of progressive experiments introduced into Australia within the past decade has received a fitting addition in the adoption of the old-age pension bill. With remarkable unanimity the Legislature has passed the measure which has for some months been before the public as an immediate consideration, while for several years it has held a prominent position in the calculation of sociologists. The introduction of this radical innovation, which upsets not only a system, but a principle, means doubtless the beginning of similar legislation in other colonies. New South Wales is now on record as declaring that the care of aged men and women who are destitute of means is not charity, but the payment of a debt incurred by the state during the individual's lifetime of usefulness. The industrial contribution of the men, the child-rearing of the women, are not to be repaid by the cold charity of an almshouse, which too frequently takes on the likeness of a crime, but are to be rewarded by the grateful state by an honorable independence in the midst of friends.

The old age pension law provides for the support of all needy men and women over the age of sixty-five by the payment of 10 shillings per week, the amount to be varied slightly, one way or the other, as need may arise. The necessary qualification is a residence of twenty-five years in the colony without two years' absence. A residence of ten years in another colony will be counted. This clause has received general praise as indicating to the other colonies that the way is open to them to make similar provision for their own poor, returning the compliment of New South Wales. The proposed sum, 10 shillings, is rather more generous than that given by New Zealand. Seven shillings is the sum decided on in the sister island, but, doubtless, the cost of living goes far toward making up the difference. Ten shillings in New South Wales is generous, and shows how eagerly the people welcomed the change, which, as they believe, is bound greatly to benefit unfortunate old age.

A few men opposed the bill on the ground of its expense. They claim that an increased burden of taxation will have to be borne by the people to support the new system. Certainly the pension scheme will be more expensive than the old plan of institutions. This is not denied. On the other hand, the scheme will naturally relieve the public of part of the burden of charity which, while carried willingly, is yet large enough to be oppressive. Also, there will be a decided reduction in the amount the State spends annually on the public institutions. Without counting in this reduction, the sum needed to finance the old age pensions scheme is estimated at about £300,000 yearly. From this sum deduct a large portion of the £600,000 annually given in charity by private individuals; then further deduct the smaller saving of the government's expenditure on pauper institutions as at present established, and it will be seen that the scheme is not really so expensive as it at first seems. It is merely a question of which shall tax, the unfortunate old folk whose undeserved suffering loosens the purse-strings of the well-to-do, or the state which claims these aged poor as its benefactors and creditors. This spirit of patronage may prefer the former system, but justice has cried loudly for the second and has won her case in New South Wales.

Not all pauper institutions can be abolished by the new bill. Only the comparatively able-bodied will benefit by the pensions. Of the colony's 4,000 paupers many are mentally or physically ailing to such an extent as to require the care of trained nurses. These are far better off in institutions, of course. On the other hand, the pension scheme will very likely remove the cause of much of the feebleness in mind and body. Work, up to a certain limit, may be a benefit to the human animal, but carried too far brings inevitable collapse. The average individual, whose lines have fallen in not too thorny places, should be able to work and win a fair proportion of daily bread up to the age of sixty-five without injury to body or brain. At that period, should it become necessary, work may be laid aside and the remaining years spent in peace and the chimney corner. Much of the feebleness to be found in pauper institutions comes, of course, from a cruel prolongation of the struggle for existence, from work pursued when the tired old frame cried out for rest because of that inborn dread of charity which is the birthright of the self-respecting poor. So, in the course of a few years the old age pension scheme should do away with pauper institutions to an extent which will be at first impossible.

The most remarkable feature of the fight for the bill has been the comprehensive character of its friends. The premier, Sir William Lyne, and the leader of the opposition, Mr. George H. Reid, the Labor party and the Conservatives, the Church of Rome and the Salvation Army have been strongly on the side of the bill. All differences were forgotten and the lion and the lamb lay down together. In fact, one of the chief reasons for opposing the bill has been, not disapproval of its provisions, but a desire to have the federal Parliament deal with the question in the hope that the measure might become general throughout Australia. But New South Wales wished to lead the way, not for her own glory, but because she can bear well enough the burden of a little experimenting. She has made the road an easy one for others to follow, and there is little doubt that the sister colonies will soon accept her invitation.

Great Men's Opinions of Women.

Remember, woman is most perfect when most womanly.—Gladstone.

Earth has nothing more tender than a pious woman's heart.—Luther.

All I am or can be I owe to my angel mother.—Abraham Lincoln.

Disguise our bondage as we will, 'tis woman, woman, rules us still.—Moore.

Heaven will be no heaven to me if I do not meet my wife there.—Andrew Jackson.

Even in the darkest hour of earthly ill woman's fond affection glows.—Sand.

Women need not look at those dear to them to know their moods.—Howells.

Oil and water—woman and a secret—are hostile properties.—Bulwer Lytton.

Raptured man quits each dozing sage. O woman, for thy livelier page.—Moore.

Kindness in woman, not their beauteous looks, shall win my love.—Shakspeare.

He that would have fine guests, let him have a fine wife.—Ben Johnson.

Every pretty woman should be a flirt, every clever woman a politician.—Ouida.

A woman's strength is most potent when robed in gentleness.—Lamartine.

Lovely woman, that caused our cares, can every care beguile.—Beresford.

A Translator.

Notes and Queries.

The word, meaning a mender of boots, has revived, or, perhaps, has never died. Last month Judge Bacon at Whitechapel asked a man:

"What are you?"

He replied: "A translator."

Judge Bacon: "Of languages?"

"No, boots; I make old boots new all the week and sell on a barrow in Petticoat lane on Sunday."

Bailey (1736 A. D.) explains "translator" as "a new vamper of old shoes," etc. I remember the word with this meaning occurring in the old Radnor Church parish registers.

The Luck of Harmsworth.

Kansas City Journal.

The consensus of opinion seems to be that it is fortunate for Mr. Harmsworth that his newspaper doesn't have to compete with live American dailies for circulation.

Distinction.

Atchison Globe.

When a man is bilious he admits it, and takes pills, but a woman begins to talk about life being a struggle and the wretchedness of her environment.

Where They Draw the Line.

Atchison Globe.

Something is wrong; girls are so delighted to assist in serving at a party, but they balk in serving the dinner at home.