

CHARITY!

How the Poor are Treated in New York State.

OTSEGO COUNTY'S PAUPERS.

Realities in the Glowing Land of Romance.

DAMPNESS, DIRT AND DIPHTHERIA.

Studies of Character and Scenes of Misery.

"IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?"

COOPERSTOWN, N. Y., Sept. 30, 1879.

Cooperstown is a pretty village, fondly loved by those who have never left it and extolled by those seekers of country comfort who during the summer season venture to make the journey over a very rough railroad in order to reach it. The visitor is reminded on every hand of the great story writer whose name the village bears. Indeed, the name of Fenimore Cooper has been carefully divided in order that it may supply names to two hotels and his tales of the forest have been grossly twisted into a shape that they furnish interesting localities which obliging hotel clerks and no less willing hackmen are anxious every one should see. It is the land of romance pre-eminently, and this may account for the fact that so few of the dwellers on the southern shores of Otsego Lake comprehend the reality that stares them in the face as they approach the town by the railroad from the south—the reality that exists at the Otsego County Poorhouse. Here again I found the same contrast that I referred to in my letter at Schoharie. In walking down from the depot to the hotel I passed the village green on which stood the Court House and various offices of record. The lawn was carefully trimmed and the walks were in a most orderly condition. I saw two signs painted on separate boards fastened to a tree. Prompted by idle curiosity I read them. One set forth the hours at which prisoners in the County Jail might receive their friends. The other read: "Possibly no permits given to visit Jail." I had to think a moment before I could recall the identity of this criminal, in whom the whole village was thus forced to interest itself. Who was he? A condemned murderer—adjudged guilty of a dastardly crime. I might have looked in vain for another signboard bearing the words—"Four miles from this place are seventy of our fellow citizens, innocent of crime, who are dying in squalor and misery." As a matter of fact I asked four intelligent residents of Cooperstown before I could find one who knew where the Alms-house was located! The common answer was, "It's out of town somewhere." Of course it was out of town; I knew that such was always the case. Such disagreeable objects are always placed where the eyes of self-constituted people will not be offended by them. We will do what not one person in a hundred in any county town ever does—we will go to the Alms-house.

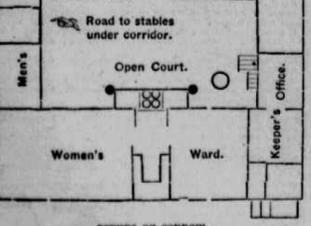
ON THE ROAD.

The road runs almost due south from the main street of the town and is in much better condition than was to be expected, knowing whence it leads. Inquiry satisfies me that it is not so smoothly worn by the travel of sympathizing visitors, but that a large cotton mill and a village beyond is the cause of the travel over the thoroughfare. The best face of the buildings is shown to the public that passes daily on the railway. In this the overseers of the poor only follow an old adage about putting the face to the public. The neat of the buildings are perched on the brow of a small hill and overlook miles of the surrounding country. The lane, after we leave the main road, does not afford a view of the surrounding country. True, it does not take us through the potters' field; it only ends in a stable yard. The stable deserves the name of a new institution. The building, raised high above the dampness of the ground, free from vermin and bad smells—everything, in fact, which the quarters inhabited by the paupers are so deficient in, is a very comfortable and healthy place. I should either want to be a horse or to have the privilege of sleeping in one of the stalls of the stable.

A FEW EMPLOYMENTS.

"The old stone house," as it is familiarly called, is a two-story high, with a basement. It forms the main part of a quadrangle, the other three sides being completed by wooden structures of more or less antiquity, which contain most of the interesting features of the institution. The central courtyard contains a few trees, and is entered through the woodshed by a walk leading from the main part of the building to the keeper's house. Mr. Andrew Spencer, a visitor to Cooperstown, interested in the work in which he was engaged, who had come out to see his institution. He was rather anxious to see the place, and I had to talk to prevent his questions. I was shown over the entire institution, and the construction of its good and bad features. In order that I may do full justice to the keeper I will speak of an addition to the buildings which he has just completed. It is a kitchen, a new wash-house, with stationary tubs, has been finished, and in one wing has been placed a bathing apartment, in which the inmates are required to bathe once a week. Now, at the arrival, he declares, resolutely object to the bath, but as he described it carefully to me a couple of men strip the newcomer, and, each taking a stiff brush scrub him so vigorously that whoever after he prefers to rub himself. This may not be positively cruel, and as the end seems to justify the means, well to very much had to be done. The persons washed in the same water, as I am informed, I doubt if the benefit is very great.

INSANEWARD.



SCENES OF SORROW.

We first entered the women's part of the building, consisting of the stone house. The walls have been recently registered and I was told that the place was so constructed to provide for the inmates at the time; but after I saw the quarters inhabited by the men I was willing to admit all that was said. The inmates are accustomed to plenty of clean, white, and very much alike are the expressions they all wear! There were, as the diagram shows, two large rooms on each floor, and a large white room stretched across the end furthest from the door, which the only privacy was obtainable.

THE WOMEN OVERSEER.

I was anxious to see some of the women, but unfortunately a man entered who from his dress I judged was one of the county overseers. He inquired of the women, and I was told that the inmates, which in an instant changed from confident amiability to discreet moroseness. It was only a few minutes that I was allowed to see the inmates, who had been connected with the inmates of the poor in this county for many years. The keeper conducted me up stairs and showed me the third room, several inmates stretched across the floor, not occupied at the moment, and a decided improvement on what I had witnessed below. It was a dirty, cold, and provided for the women first, and what little money the county had granted had been given had been judiciously expended. So many things were needed that the supply of money can never be expected to extend the walls.

BABES IN THE CELLAR.

The nursery with many babies is found in the

"WE CENSURE THE POLICE."

THE VERDICT OF THE CORONER'S JURY ON THE DEATH OF MR. H. B. HAAS IN THE THIRTIETH STREET STATION HOUSE.

Hartog B. Haas, a cigar dealer, doing business at No. 393 Sixth street, was arrested on the night of the 7th inst., at his store in Broadway, near Thirty-first street, on complaint of two little girls named Mamie and Ada Callan, who accused him of having committed an indecent assault on them. He was taken to the West Thirtieth street station house, and there denied the charge, but was locked up. The next morning he was discovered dead in his cell, and the police in reporting the case to the Coroner intimated that he had committed suicide. An autopsy was made on the body by Deputy Coroner Miller, who found that the surmises of the authorities were incorrect, death having resulted from natural causes. Coroner Ellinger had an inquest in the case yesterday.

Sergeant Oliver Lewis, the first witness, testified that on the night of the 7th inst. he was on duty at the Twenty-ninth precinct station house when Officers Schmitz and Berger called on him on a charge of indecent assault. He was taken to the station house on the complaint of the two little girls there present; witness explained that he did not order the arrest of Haas; the girls accompanied the officers to the station house with the prisoner; Haas denied the charge but admitted that he had had a conversation with the girls; his reason: he had no money with him when searched before being put in a cell; witness was relieved from duty at twelve P. M., but saw the prisoner again at seven A. M. on the 8th inst. in a factory in the city called at the station about that time and asked to see him; an officer who went to speak to him came back and said that he was dead; witness went to the cell and found him stretched on the slab, with his head reclining against the wall; his head was bent backward, his mouth and nostrils were found around his neck; the alleged assault was found to have been committed on both of the girls at the same time, and a few minutes before the arrest; the girls were aged ten and fourteen years; he deceased was not ordered to be arrested after the charge was made to the sergeant.

Mamie Callan, the oldest of the girls, on being sworn, made the following statement:—I am fourteen years old and live at No. 457 West Thirtieth street; I went with a pair of shoes, on the evening of October 7, to Twenty-third street, to get on them my father's store in Eighty-seventh street, between Thirty-first and Thirty-third streets; I left it after eight P. M. with my sister; we delivered the shoes and got the money and came back on the side of Broadway, when we got to Twenty-third street he beckoned us and threw open the door; he was some distance from the door; he said he had the money; he gave us both three cents and took improper liberties with us and used obscene language; we went to the door and called to the store door was open; we did not cry for help, but I called him a 'dirty loafer'; we were in the store about ten minutes; there were no lights on the window; any person could go up or down; it was the first time he ever talked to us in that way; when he spoke to me in that rude manner I understood what he meant; I went into my father's store, but did not say anything about what had occurred; I went up to father to Thirty-third street, and on the way met a detective, who asked me what I had been doing in the cigar store; this was about fifteen or twenty minutes after; it was in Thirty-third street, between Fifth and Sixth streets, that we were arrested; we then all went down to the Twenty-ninth precinct station house; I told the officer at the desk what Haas called, the sister of the previous witness, was called to the stand and gave similar testimony.

THE GEORGIA VISITORS.

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The grave mistake made by the authorities in putting under arrest for the robbery of Dr. Norman McLean the gentleman who had been his companion of voyage, and whom he had every reason to trust, was further attested yesterday morning in the Jefferson Market Police Court. The detectives who arrested him were present, and stated that they were thoroughly convinced that an injustice had been done Captain Lewis, and that they were sorry to see the true one of an arrestment, and that they were sorry to see the true one of an arrestment, and that they were sorry to see the true one of an arrestment.

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CONVICTS AT LARGE.

TWO BLACKWELL'S ISLAND PRISONERS DISMISSED AND BOUND THEIR KEYS AND LEAVE HIM ON THE LONG ISLAND SHORE. Two convicts escaped from the Penitentiary yesterday forenoon under circumstances that, to say the least, are peculiar. They were detailed to row one of the keeper's boats that patrol on the east or Long Island side of Blackwell's Island. The keeper in charge was Mr. Strauss, who received his appointment about four months ago. On Warden Fox's books the prisoners' names are registered as John Quinn and Thomas Lewis. When the craft was nearly opposite the house, and the boat was about a hundred feet from the shore, Quinn determined which, caught the stretcher (the long narrow piece of wood against which oarsmen brace their feet) and holding it over Keoper Strauss warned him that if he made any resistance or uttered an outcry he would be murdered instantly. The other pointed the keeper's gun at his head and reiterated the threat. The attitude of the men seems to have subdued the keeper, and an instant later he found himself bound and gagged by the convicts. "Now keep quiet, we'll blow your brains out," said the outlaws, who then began to row for the Long Island shore. They landed at a point near the shore, where they were met by Strauss' gun and a pistol, which was forced from his pocket. The former was found upon the ground, and the latter was seen to be in the hands of the convicts. Quinn and Lewis started at a lively pace, and Keoper Strauss, after strenuous efforts, succeeded in loosening the rope that bound them to the boat.

HONORABLY DISCHARGED.

The grave mistake made by the authorities in putting under arrest for the robbery of Dr. Norman McLean the gentleman who had been his companion of voyage, and whom he had every reason to trust, was further attested yesterday morning in the Jefferson Market Police Court. The detectives who arrested him were present, and stated that they were thoroughly convinced that an injustice had been done Captain Lewis, and that they were sorry to see the true one of an arrestment, and that they were sorry to see the true one of an arrestment, and that they were sorry to see the true one of an arrestment.

AN UNSAFE ARMORY.

Colonel Spencer and the officers of the Fifth regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., are endeavoring to force a change of armory. The building now occupied is said to be in such a dangerous condition that the colonel will not form his entire command in the armory for the parade to-morrow, allowing only a single company at a time to enter the drill room or gun and other accommodations. The building was formerly a church, and stands in Twenty-third street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues. There is a stable in the rear and the ground floor is occupied by Battery K. A narrow stairway leads to the upper part of the building, and is entirely inadequate for military purposes. The room itself is not large enough to accommodate the regiment, and even the regimental stores have to be stowed away in the rear of the building. When the regiment was to drill the cases around the walls shook till it seemed as if they would topple over. In fact the cases were so badly damaged that it had become necessary to stop drilling. A part of the wall which is now bulging was once propped from the outside by piles of stone, and the danger is said to be in such a dangerous condition that the colonel will not form his entire command in the armory for the parade to-morrow, allowing only a single company at a time to enter the drill room or gun and other accommodations.

COLONEL PRATI AND ITALIAN CRUELTY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—In reading a report in the Herald of the 10th inst., concerning the arrest of Nicola Vianelli by Officer Chiardi, of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, I see that your reporter was misinformed in one very important particular. The intelligent, law-abiding Italian who have made New York their home very look with pride to their native land, and to the example of any countryman I most emphatically protest against the cruel assertions made against the fair name and fame of Italy. The story that many children are thus rendered sightless and deaf, and that they are sold to the lowest bidder, is sheer nonsense, and I trust in the intelligence of the American people to disbelieve all such stories. It is a disgrace to our country that such grossly absurd information should be furnished by Officer Chiardi, who is himself an Italian by birth.

BROOKLYN ALDERMEN.

At a regular session of the Brooklyn Common Council yesterday afternoon, President Ray in the chair, a resolution was adopted directing the financial officers of the city to pay the judgment recently obtained by Messrs. Kingsley & Kenney against the city on the contract for the construction of the Homestead storage reservoir, amounting to \$134,000. While the amount remains unpaid it bears interest at the rate of seven per cent. Corporation Counsel W. C. Witt, in a communication addressed to the Common Council on the subject, says:—"Notwithstanding the defeat of the city upon this appeal, it must be borne in mind that the judgment was reduced by the referees nearly \$100,000, and that through this controversy the \$500,000 provided to be expended on the further extension of the reservoir by the act of 1875 was saved to the city." Mr. Dr. Witt enclosed a schedule of items of the amount to be paid the contractors, together with a bill of Mr. John E. Parsons, for services rendered the city as counsel in defending the suit. Mr. Parsons' bill, amounting to \$2,078 22, was ordered to be paid. Mayor Howell, in his communication to the Aldermen recommending a reduction in the present water rates imposed by the Board of City Works for

THE VERDICT OF THE CORONER'S JURY ON THE DEATH OF MR. H. B. HAAS IN THE THIRTIETH STREET STATION HOUSE.

Hartog B. Haas, a cigar dealer, doing business at No. 393 Sixth street, was arrested on the night of the 7th inst., at his store in Broadway, near Thirty-first street, on complaint of two little girls named Mamie and Ada Callan, who accused him of having committed an indecent assault on them. He was taken to the West Thirtieth street station house, and there denied the charge, but was locked up. The next morning he was discovered dead in his cell, and the police in reporting the case to the Coroner intimated that he had committed suicide. An autopsy was made on the body by Deputy Coroner Miller, who found that the surmises of the authorities were incorrect, death having resulted from natural causes. Coroner Ellinger had an inquest in the case yesterday.

Sergeant Oliver Lewis, the first witness, testified that on the night of the 7th inst. he was on duty at the Twenty-ninth precinct station house when Officers Schmitz and Berger called on him on a charge of indecent assault. He was taken to the station house on the complaint of the two little girls there present; witness explained that he did not order the arrest of Haas; the girls accompanied the officers to the station house with the prisoner; Haas denied the charge but admitted that he had had a conversation with the girls; his reason: he had no money with him when searched before being put in a cell; witness was relieved from duty at twelve P. M., but saw the prisoner again at seven A. M. on the 8th inst. in a factory in the city called at the station about that time and asked to see him; an officer who went to speak to him came back and said that he was dead; witness went to the cell and found him stretched on the slab, with his head reclining against the wall; his head was bent backward, his mouth and nostrils were found around his neck; the alleged assault was found to have been committed on both of the girls at the same time, and a few minutes before the arrest; the girls were aged ten and fourteen years; he deceased was not ordered to be arrested after the charge was made to the sergeant.

Mamie Callan, the oldest of the girls, on being sworn, made the following statement:—I am fourteen years old and live at No. 457 West Thirtieth street; I went with a pair of shoes, on the evening of October 7, to Twenty-third street, to get on them my father's store in Eighty-seventh street, between Thirty-first and Thirty-third streets; I left it after eight P. M. with my sister; we delivered the shoes and got the money and came back on the side of Broadway, when we got to Twenty-third street he beckoned us and threw open the door; he was some distance from the door; he said he had the money; he gave us both three cents and took improper liberties with us and used obscene language; we went to the door and called to the store door was open; we did not cry for help, but I called him a 'dirty loafer'; we were in the store about ten minutes; there were no lights on the window; any person could go up or down; it was the first time he ever talked to us in that way; when he spoke to me in that rude manner I understood what he meant; I went into my father's store, but did not say anything about what had occurred; I went up to father to Thirty-third street, and on the way met a detective, who asked me what I had been doing in the cigar store; this was about fifteen or twenty minutes after; it was in Thirty-third street, between Fifth and Sixth streets, that we were arrested; we then all went down to the Twenty-ninth precinct station house; I told the officer at the desk what Haas called, the sister of the previous witness, was called to the stand and gave similar testimony.

THE GEORGIA VISITORS.

BLACKWELL'S ISLAND INVADED BY THE GATE CITY GUARD—A VISIT TO NIBLO'S. Shortly before ten o'clock yesterday morning the vicinity of the Coleman House on Broadway was the scene of bustle and excitement. Company C, of the Seventh regiment, under the command of Captain Berkley, was drawn up