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FOR A TIN WEDDING.

Though far away on your festal day,
Be sure I shall step in,
But least in song, to join the throng
Bearing its gifts of tin—

Friends and companions new and old,
Neighbors, and near of kin,
Hearts tried and true, all wishing you
Long life and plenty of tin!

Long life is good, but many conclude
It isn't worth a pin
Without enough of the precious stuff
We symbolize as tin.

A quantum of bread, with may be a spread
Of butter, not too thin,
Must be had somehow, but it can't, you'll allow,
Without a tribute of tin.

So Pater Familias, who expects to fill
The household barrel and bin
With daily supplies, must endeavor likewise
To line his till with tin.

For leisure, culture and cheerful days—
To take your ease in your inn,
Cross lands and seas, and do things like these—
You certainly must have tin.

To this, sometimes, we owe the rhymes
Which needy poets spin;
And teachers will teach, and preachers will preach,
The better, I'm told, for tin.

Genius must have its share: for even
Columbus, to begin
The grandest of trips must furnish his ships
With good Castilian tin.

And every one knows what a flood of woes
And troubles, up to the chin,
Surely besets the mortal whose debts
Are more than his store of tin.

And alas! for the proud, romantic youth
Who now-a-days would win
A prudent bride, yet can not provide
The needful box of tin!

The champion of his fellow-men
Your modern paladin,
Must right their wrongs with the power that belongs
To a righteous use of tin.

In short, whoever would be a man,
And a not a mere manikin,
Through the thick of the fray must cleave his way
With weapons of toil and tin.

Yet, though it may load their shelves with gems,
Their tables with terrapin,
There's a rare bird which not even the rich
Can catch in a cage of tin!

And, Oh my friends! in the river of life
Are fishes of finer fin
Than ever man took by hook or crook,
With a shining bait of tin!

I almost envy the pious and poor
Bare-footed capuchin,
Who wanders about the world without
The bothersome burden of tin.

Good children, modest and well-behaved,
We never make any din;
Good service, good sense and little pretense,
In those who earn our tin!

Hope, happiness—ah, so many things
That are, or might have been!—
A heart of truth, and the dreams of youth,
Can not be bought with tin.

Yet tin, as I say, is good in its way,
And it causes me huge chagrin
That I can not be there to night to share
Your festival of tin.

But may be there, in the mellow glare
Of gas or of paraffine,
Amid the bright throngs, bringing flowers and songs,
And treasures of glittering tin;

When the tales have been told, and the sober and old,
And young folks all a-grin,
Have honored the lays of your poets in praise
Of the mystical feast of tin—

Some voice, in a pause of the songs and applause,
Of piano and violin,
At just the right time, may ring in this rhyme
That I've set to the tinkle of tin.

—*J. T. Trowbridge, in Youth's Companion.*

THE ENGLISH PRISON.

How Far it has Advanced from its Original Shape.

Private Lockups of Bishops and Lords—Transportation to America and Afterward to Australia—Great Progress in Suppressing Crime.

It is an old saying, though probably not older than the era of Howard, and not accurately true one, that the worst use you can put a man to is to hang him. It is becoming more and more evident that the worst way to crush crime is to crush the criminal. Yet exactly a hundred years ago 242 persons were sentenced to death, and 103 were actually executed, in a single year, out of a population of eight and a half millions; and two centuries before that 800 persons were hanged in a single year out of a population of less than five millions. Since the abolition of capital punisment except for the crime of murder, which was one of the effects of the Reform bill of 1832, the number of executions has averaged twelve a year, and has once fallen as low as four. Yet we do not hear that crimes against person or property have increased. But in old days capital punishment was inflicted only in execution in due course of law. In those days the phrase "rotting in jail" was no empty form of words, but was merely a terrible expression of a terrible truth. Every town which had bought up its rights of lordship had its own jail and every jail was a hotbed of disease and crime. The state of things tolerated by the great lords is illustrated by the Duke of Portland's prison, reported on by Howard. It was farmed out to the jailer for eighteen guineas a year: it consisted of one room, with a cellar under it, which at the time of Howard's visit had not been cleaned for months, nor had the door been open for weeks. The Bishop of Ely kept a prison in which the prisoners were chained down on their backs to the floor, across which were several iron bars, with an iron collar with spikes about their necks, and a heavy iron bar on their legs. The prisoners were more than half starved, half clothed, unshod, unwashed, and they lived perforce in a poisonous air and drank poisonous water.

The system of transportation, with all its horrors, was sort of an attempt to lessen the pressure of the two systems, if systems they could be called, of indiscriminate capital punishment. Transportation was an alternative to capital punishment, introduced in Charles II.'s time and extended to non-capital crimes in 1717 by way of relieving prisons at home and giving cheap labor to the colonies. "It was," says Sir Edmund, "a kind of slave trade, and offenders were put up to auction and sold for the period of their sentences by the person who had contracted to transport them. The contractor released them on payment of a sum of money, and it was said that some contractors who shipped their convicts at Bristol, landed some of them on Luddy Island, a few miles down the channel." The transport ships reproduced all the horrors of the "middle passage" of the slave trade. Literal rotting of the feet was common, and extracts are given from some Bristol convict contractor to a jailor, saying: "Sore feet prove very fatal. The mortality we met with in our last ship, if repeated in this, will so surfeit us that we shall never take another." The American War of Independence put an end to transportation to America. The "hulk" system was invented as a "temporary expedient" till the penitentiary could be adopted. This temporary expedient lasted till 1857. This was even worse than the prison system. The mortality of prisoners was at different times 30 and 26 per cent. per annum. "Hulk fever" took the place of "goal fever." The mortality in the modern penitentiary systems of prisons is 13 per 1,000.

With the discovery of Australia the transportation system was renewed. The Botany Bay settlement was founded in 1787, and from first to last 134,308 persons were transported to Australia. The state of things which existed then is fairly shown by two quotations. In 1834 the number of convicts in Van Dieman's Land was about 15,000, the summary convictions amounted to about 15,000, and the number of lashes inflicted was about 50,000. From the formation of the establishment at Macquarie Harbor, January 3, 1822, to May 16, 1827, there were 116 attempts at escape. Of these 75 were supposed to have perished in the woods, 8 are known to have been murdered and 6 eaten by their companions; 24 escaped to the settled districts, 13 of whom were hanged for bush ranging and 2 for murder; in all, 101 of the 116 came to an untimely end. After 1847, transportation ceased to any other colony than Western Australia, and was then conducted more on the penitentiary system, and in 1868 it ceased altogether, and the present penal servitude convict system was established in its place. This system is absolutely uniform, so far as rules can make it so. During the first nine months the prisoner passes his whole time—excepting the period allotted to prayers and exercises—in his cell, apart from all other prisoners, working at some employment of an industrial or remunerative character. During the second stage he sleeps and has his meals in a separate cell, but works in association, under a close and strict supervision at employment suited to him. The third period is that of the ticket of leave. The second stage is divided into three classes, and on promotion from one class to another the prisoner gains certain privileges, such as more frequent communication with friends, more freedom for exercise on Sundays, and earning more money to be paid on discharge. Corresponding punishments are inflicted, but corporal punishment only by the director of prisons, and after full trial with evidence taken on oath. It is significant of the improvement which is taking place in the convict prisons that, while in 1871, of 13,500 prisoners, nearly half received punishments, in 1884-5, out of prisoners numbering nearly 100 more, under 5,000 were punished. It is satisfactory, also, to know that the average number of prisoners under sentence of penal servitude is gradually decreasing. Notwithstanding an increase of population of five millions, there were on March 31, 1885, only 8,790 persons in penal servitude, instead of 11,660 in 1869. At the same time the average number of prisoners in the ordinary prisons has also fallen from 20,000 in 1869 to 17,000 in 1884, and the lowest figure known, in February, 1885, of 15,733, while the percentage of extra punishments in prison has fallen 3 per cent; and the most striking proof of improvement is that the death rate has fallen 2 per 1,000, and the average number of suicides from 17 a year to 13 a year. It is certain, therefore, that the adoption of the reformatory, and humane system of prison discipline has not contributed to the increase of the number or the criminalty of criminals.

But perhaps the most encouraging fact of all is the diminution in the number of juvenile prisoners. In 1816 there were in London alone, with a population of a million and a half, 3,000 prisoners under 20, or one in every 500 persons. On March 31, 1884, out of the whole twenty-seven millions of England and Wales, there were only 5,500 prisoner. under 20, or one in every 5,000 persons. Further, while in 1816, 1,500 of the 3,000 prisoners in London were under 17, in 1884 there were in all England only 275. Even adding the number of children in reformatory schools (6,601) the number of juvenile criminals is 500 per cent. less than it was in 1816. It is also satisfactory to reflect that while the cost of prisons in 1870 was £456,000, it was in 1884 only £381,400. If progress continues at its present rate we may hope to see the number of prisons, the number of prisoners and the cost of keeping them reduced almost to a vanishing point. With the progress of education in the young, the improvement of the dwellings of the poor and the progress of humanity in the efforts to reform and reclaim prisoners, the prison population may gradually be reduced to these irreconcilable enemies of the human race whom inherited depravity or exceptional circumstances have contorted into a species of wild beast.—*London Spectator.*

GOLD AND SILVER.

Quantity and Value of These Metals Used in the Arts and Manufactures.

From a table recently prepared by the Director of the Mint, it appears that during the calendar year 1883 a total of $14,459,464 worth of gold was utilized in the arts and manufactures of the United States. Of this amount, $7,905,163 was used in jewelry and watches; $3,598,308 for watch cases; $1,084,824 in gold leaf; $827,000 for watch chains; and the remainder in smaller sums for dental supplies, pens, instruments, plate, spectacles, chemicals and jewelers' supplies. During the same period, a total of $5,556,530 worth of silver was utilized for similar purposes. Of this amount, $2,066,294 was used for plate; $1,815,599 for watch cases; $1,098,220 for jewelry and watches; and the remainder was divided among the other uses specified for gold. The table is of considerable importance, for by giving the amount of gold and silver annually utilized in the arts, it permits an approximate estimate of the available metallic currency of the country.—*Scientific American.*

—A flock of jolly larks flew over Georgetown, Col., recently, apparently eastward bound. An observer fancied they had received some intelligence of the new law which makes a song bird's murder a capital offense, for they carried their bills high in the air, and darted along as though there was not a bonnet or a milliner in the world.—*Chicago Mail.*

—A farmer of Ariel, Pa., found seven raccoons in a hollow in the trunk of a tree which he had cut down. Another farmer on the same day found near this tree a curious-looking mound. He tore it down and found that it was made of sticks plastered with mud. Eight raccoons were rolled up snugly at the bottom.—*Philadelphia Press.*

COST OF LIVING.

The Astonishing Calculation Made by a Massachusetts Statistican.

The question as to what is the lowest cost to which decent and comfortable living can be reduced has been answered lately with much detail by Mr Edward Atkinson, a Massachusetts gentleman who has a great fondness for working over economical statistics, which he handles in an able and workmanlike fashion.

The present price of a very comfortable subsistence for a single man in Boston, for instance, he fixes at $200 a year, from which sum it may be reduced, if necessity requires, to $150 a year by the exercise of intelligent care, for, as he truly says, it takes a great deal of intelligence to get the most comfort for the least cost.

He finds that a decent room, tolerably furnished and moderately warmed in winter, can be hired for $100 a year, and, as it can be occupied by two young men, the cost to them will be $50 each. A full and comfortable supply of clothing, according to Mr. Atkinson's investigations, can be bought for $15 a year. This includes a best suit for Sundays and holidays, to be worn three years, and a common suit for every-day use, to be replenished annually. The amount may be made considerably less than $45 by dispensing with the best overcoat, for instance, and by wearing satinet instead of woolen in winter.

Here we have, at the outside, $93 for rent and clothing. Add $15 for washing and $10 for fuel, and the sum is $120. The ordinary calculation is that a workingman must expend as much for food as for all the rest of his subsistence, or at least $120 or $150 more. But Mr. Atkinson contends that such an expenditure is made necessary only by wastefulness and ignorance of what to buy, how to buy it and how to cook it, and that it is "entirely possible to buy an ample and nutritous ration, in considerable variety, in the city of Boston, at not exceeding 7 cents a day and prepare it for use within 8 cents a day." The necessary cost of food he therefore fixes at one dollar a week, or $52 a year, and this is the daily bill of fare he presents as obtainable for that sum:

"One-quarter to three-quarters of a pound of good meat; three-quarters of a pound of bread; one-half to one pound of potatoes, or some other vegetable; one-half pound of oat-meal; one-half ounce of butter; one ounce of sugar; a large bowl of tea or coffee, with a spoonful of condensed milk; an orange, an apple or some dried fruit."

The allowance of cost for meat seems small, but he makes it small because he provides for the purchase of the trimmings of the best joints, which are now thrown into a scrap heap and sold for a cent a pound or less, to be rendered into fat. It is true that the price of this wasted meat would rise somewhat if the people were intelligent enough to buy it, but, on the other hand, the price of the best cuts would be likely to decline on account of the use of the other. It is because the English know how to take advantage of the coarse parts of beef and mutton much better than we do, according to Mr. Atkinson, that the cost of the best cuts of American beef is less in London than it is in New York or Boston. "We pay the highest price for what we call the best part, and we waste the rest, or else it is sold at a small price to the keepers of jails, to be served to persons in a form which makes it better food than three-quarters of the workingmen outside of jails can secure at a much higher cost."

He says, for instance, that he has purchased himself good meat, which is now wasted, at one cent a pound, in parcels of ten pounds, at which price the marketman said he would select any quantity at any time. To the meat he added ten pints of water, with suitable seasoning, and made rich and nutritious bouillon, and had remaining the stewed meat in the broth, "very nutritious and appetizing food." The whole cost him only 12½ cents, including fuel, which was kerosene burned in a hand-lamp. The meat was cooked in an air-tight vessel surrounded by hot water.

Mr. Atkinson concludes that "the price of a well-conditioned life in the city of Boston for food, shelter, clothing, fuel and laundry may be covered by the sum of $172, leaving within the limit of $200 a year $28 for sundries or luxuries." The problem is to prevent the waste of food, for "the price of food is half the price of life, and half the price of food is wasted for want of knowledge how to buy it and how to cook it."

Solve that problem, says Mr. Atkinson, and you solve the labor question, for if a man knows how to live "he can live to-day at a very low price, and if he be intelligent he may earn the price at the cost of very little labor." The views and figures of this Boston investigator are, therefore, pretty sure to provoke a lively discussion.—*N. Y. Sun.*

The Last of the Grusiniens.

The last Prince of Grusinien has just died at St. Petersburg in very straitened circumstances. Of late years the Prince lived quite poor in a suburb of the city. Prince George of Grusinein was the last representative of a once powerful house. As a youth he went to St. Petersburg, where he attracted much attention through his beauty, the elegance of his carriage, and the splendor of his diamonds. He kept a great house, and became renowned for hospitality and benevolence. On a single day, however, his wealth left him, and eventually he took a couple of small rooms and lived on a modest pension allowed him by the Government. He bore his reverse of fortune without complaining, even managing to devote a small portion of his small pension to the maintenance of less favored friends. A court lady of his mother, for instance, was provided with both home and necessaries for a long time, and this dependent, ninety years of age, ministered to the Prince during his last hours.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

Luminous Printing.

An Italian has, it is alleged, invented a luminous printing ink that renders it possible for newspapers to be read in the dark. What a luxury it will be, when one is restless at night to take up a book or newspaper and read himself into a somnolent condition, without the trouble or danger attending other lights! Luminous cards are not unusual, and the reader may not be surprised at some future time to find himself able to read his paper at night, without other light than its brilliant pages will reflect. Stranger things than this are constantly occurring in the invention line.—*Midland Industrial Gazette.*

OF GENERAL INTEREST.

—Kerosene has been found on the coast of the Red Sea, near Suez.

—An obituary in a Cincinnati paper says: "A resident of Fourth street last evening tried to drive a nail into a can of nitro-glycerine."

—A Montana jury recently brought in a verdict of guilty against a cowboy and his friends rode into town and gave them a whipping.

—The value of the hardware produced in the United States each year is now about sixty million dollars, and nearly half of it is made in Connecticut.—*Hartford Post.*

—The only part of the civilized world in which people can conceal their age is said to be in America. The thorough system of registration in vogue in other countries renders such statistics public property.

—The half-clad citizens of the Bermudas have an idea of the eternal fitness of things, for they, it is said, import for their use largely potatoes from the States at two dollars a barrel and send us potatoes of their own growth at from fifteen to twenty dollars a barrel.

—A woman in Lincoln, Neb., lost a black-and-tan terrier that was dear to her. She had reason to think that a man about to go to Fonda, N. Y., had stolen it, and she wrote to the Fonda chief of police, who soon found the dog and sent it back to its mistress by express.—*Troy Times.*

—Several years ago an Illinois man quit chewing tobacco, but recently he began again. The first day he enjoyed it so much that he used up thirty-five cents' worth of navy plug, and then was taken sick and for two or three days acted very like a man with delirium tremens.—*Chicago Mail.*

—A number of young ladies of Omaha have organized a secret society known as the "Order of the Chicken Heart." Each member must swallow a roasted chicken heart once a week for two months, at the end of which time, in a dream, she will be brought face to face with the man whom she is to marry.

—In 1878 Rev. David Walk, a minister in the Christian Church, bought five acres of land in Kansas City for $1,500. He was a poor man, and he had hard work to keep the taxes paid on his land, but he did, and the other day was rewarded by selling it for $66,500. Naturally, Kansas City is bragging about this.—*N. Y. Sun.*

—There is a little poet in New Orleans. She is ten years old, and when, recently, a pigeon's egg was shown to her, in which was a little squab that had just failed of being hatched, she composed these lines:

Here lies birdie, for whom we mourn;
Birdie that died before she was born;
Oh, what a horrible thing is death,
When it comes before you get your breath.

—A young wife in Portland, Me., was told by her brother that her husband gambled. She could not believe it, and to convince her the brother took her, dressed in a suit of his clothing, to a gambling house, where she saw her husband lose four hundred dollars. Then she made herself known, and marched her astonished husband home by the arm.—*Boston Journal.*

—Cocoanut growing is attracting much attention in sections of the South, and especially on the coast of Cape Florida, where a consignment of over one hundred thousand of the nuts arrived lately for planting. The industry bids fair to become very prosperous in the Orange State. Cocoanuts sometimes commence bearing in four years, are always in full bearing in seven years.

—Charles Patterson, a notorious chicken thief of Richmond, Va., was in the habit of killing and dressing the chickens he stole before quitting the premises. Unfortunately for him, he fell asleep while picking chickens on Monday night, and in the morning the owner found him calmly snoring by the side of eight well-dressed fowls and a pile of feathers. Richmond roosts will not be disturbed by Charles for many moons.

—Two horses hitched to a hack, in which were two women, run away in Westfield, Mass. Jack Mahoney, a well-known local ball player, ran after them, caught on behind, yelled to the frightened women not to jump out, and then, while the carriage swayed and jolted, climbed over the slippery roof, reached the driver's seat, leaned over the dashboard, grabbed the reins and brought the runaways to a standstill. No one was hurt.—*Boston Transcript.*

—J. T. Everett, of Princeton, Mass., has a bed of asparagus that was planted about one hundred and twenty years ago by Captain John Bowen, then a retired officer of the English army under half pay from his home government. He was a very enthusiastic and intelligent farmer. When the war broke out he was called into the service of his native country, his farm was confiscated and he never came back to it. The asparagus bed he planted is some fifteen feet square. Not a root has ever been disturbed or removed from the bed for one hundred and twenty years. It produces abundantly.—*Boston Bulletin.*

—Various trials of the new French horse-shoe, which is made entirely of sheep's horn, are said to show its particular adaptedness for horses employed in towns, and known not to have a steady foot on the pavement. The results of the experiments are therefore regarded as very satisfactory, horses thus shod having been driven at a rapid pace on such pavement without slipping. Besides this advantage, the new shoe is spoken of as more durable, and, though a little more expensive than the ordinary kind, seems destined, sooner or later, to replace the iron shoe.

A COMPROMISE.

The Value of the Character of a Texas Merchant Prince.

A ranchman from Concho County went into Mose Schaumburg's Austin Clothing Emporium last week. He got into a dispute, knocked Mose down, blackened the eye of young Jake, and used frontier language to Mrs. Schaumburg. Mose had the ranchman arrested for this, and for slandering him by publicly proclaiming on the streets that he was a thief. The ranchman sent his lawyer to Mose with a view to having the matter settled.

"You offers me," said Mose, "ten tollars. Mine gracious! Dot vas an insult. Ten tollars vor my vounded feelings! Ten tollars vor Jakey's plack eye! Ten tollars vor dose pad vords at Rebecca! Und he ruin my gharacter py galling me a thief. Vy, my vriend, dot gharacter py itself vas vorth more as ten tollars. I dells you vat ve do, make it dwelve tollar and a hallof and ve galls it squvare."—*Texas Siftings.*

AMERICA'S FARMS.

The Development They Have Caused During the Past Fifty Years.

The farms of America comprise 837,628 square miles, an area nearly equal to one fourth of Europe, and larger than the four greatest European countries put together (Russia excepted), namely, France, Germany, Austria and Hungary and Spain. The capital invested in agriculture would suffice to buy up the whole of Italy, with its rich olive groves and vineyards, its historic cities, cathedrals and palaces, its King and aristocracy, its Pope and Cardinals, and every other feudal appurtenance. Or, if the American farmers were to sell out, they could buy the entire peninsula of Spain, with all its traditions of medieval grandeur, the flat lands which the Hollanders at vast cost have wrested from the sea and the quaint old towns they have built there. If he chose to put by his savings for three years the Yankee farmer could purchase the fee-simple of pretty Switzerland as a summer resort, and not touch his capital at all, for each year's earnings exceed £110,000,000 sterling.

The farms of America equal the entire territory of the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Hungary and Portugal. The corn fields equal the extent of England, Scotland and Belgium; while the grain fields generally would overlap Spain. The cotton fields cover an area larger than Holland, and twice as large as Belgium. The rice fields, sugar and tobacco plantations, would also form kingdoms of no insignificant size. And such is the stage of advancement reached by American agriculturists, that Mulhall estimates that one farmer like Dr. Glin or Mr. Dalrymple, with a field of wheat covering a hundred square miles, can raise as much grain with four hundred farm servants as five thousand peasant proprietors in France.

The cereal crop for 1880 was more than 2,500,000,000 of bushels. If placed in one mass this would make a pile of 3,500,000,000 cubic feet. Built into a solid mass as high as the dome of St. Paul's (365 feet), and as wide as the cathedral across the transept (285 feet) it would extend a solid load of grain, down Fleet street and the length of the Strand to Piccadilly, thence on through Knightsbridge, Hammersmith and South Kensington, to a distance of over six miles. Or it would make a pyramid three times as great as that of the Cheops. If loaded on carts it would require all the horses in Europe and a million more (33,500,000) to remove it, though each horse drew a load of two tons. Were the entire crop of cereals loaded on a continuous train of cars, the train would reach one and one-half times around the globe. Its value is half as great as all the gold mined in California in the thirty-five years since gold was found there. The corn and cotton fields of America form kingdoms in themselves surpassing in size some of those of Europe.—*From A. Carnegie's "Triumphant Democracy," published by Charles Scribner's Sons.*

AN ICE BRIDGE.

Description of the Most Awe-Inspiring and Sublimest Spectacle on Earth.

The grandest sight in the park is beyond the lower falls of the Yellowstone. I have never seen, but have frequently read, of the beautiful sight presented by the falls of Niagara in winter and of the wonderful ice bridge formed at their base by the freezing of the waters, but I can not imagine how Niagara can compare, even considering its tremendous volume of water, with the sublime lower falls of the Yellowstone river in midwinter. Here was the ice bridge, too, or rather an ice mountain, which rose to a height almost equal to the descent of the falls. A feeling of awe creeps over one upon beholding in this wilderness such desolate grandeur as can not be seen elsewhere on earth. I stood on Lookout terrace, a short distance below the falls, and saw a great sheet of water shoot out from the land and with a mighty roar plunge fully 895 feet into the abyss beneath.

Nothing could freeze in the basin that received this deluge, for the force of the descending river must have broken any thing that came in its way; but the spray that shot far out beyond the solid stream froze as it fell and formed the beautiful ice bridge or ice mountain I have mentioned. The walls of the great canyon of the Yellowstone certainly are the most awe-inspiring, majestic, sublimest spectacle on God's earth. Nowhere in the wonderful park nor elsewhere on the globe can there be found such an extensive view of a combination of stupendous natural scenery and gorgeous coloring. On this wintry day, far in the depths of the park, away from humanity and alone with nature, I can not describe the feeling that came over me.—*Cor. Philadelphia Times.*

CITY ELECTIONS.

The Methods by Which They Are Conducted in German Municipalities.

A striking feature of the German municipal system is its entire independence of national politics. No issues but those arising out of municipal questions are allowed to influence the city elections. Every male inhabitant, twenty-four years of age, has a right to vote on municipal questions, provided he has his own household and is not dependent upon father or mother; that he has not received alms from the public funds within twelve years; that he has paid all municipal dues; that he occupies a house or pursues a trade with two employes; that he pays an income tax or a class tax. Under one or another of these five conditions all industrious persons in the city are included. That all voters should count equally is regarded as unbusinesslike. The arrangement adopted to meet this point of view is this: Voters are divided into three classes, each of which elect one-third of the City Council. To the first class are assigned so many of the largest tax-payers as pay one-third of the taxes assessed; to the second so many as in the aggregate pay the second third of the taxes; to the third class belong all not included in the first and second. Each of the three classes elects forty-two members of the Council, its influence upon questions of finance being kept in strict equality with its tax payments. The City Council of Berlin has long been conspicuous for the educational and financial standing of its members. Election to it is accounted an honor to which the ablest men of the city aspire.—*Brooklyn Eagle.*

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