

**The Crops.**  
From the Courier-Journal.]  
The cotton area under cultivation at present is reported by the various cotton exchanges and by the Department of Agriculture in percentages which would amount to about 8,960,000 to 8,975,000 acres, against 9,250,000 acres in 1875. The crop was planted a few days later than the last, and there has also been more rain in some sections than was needed. The condition of the crop is consequently reported less favorable than at the corresponding date of last year.

The food crops were probably never more promising, and the present prospects are that the yield of all the earlier cereals will be the largest known. Of the late cereals, such as corn, it can be only known that the acreage is of the largest breadth. There are hazards surrounding them all, but the situation was never more gratifying. The California wheat exports will be about 200,000 tons larger than last year, a gain of nearly fifty per cent.

So far, there is no crop of which we have knowledge, reported or otherwise, than favorable, with the exception of leaf tobacco. The latter has been recently "coming out" to a surprising degree, and with as good weather conditions as the present there will be probably a good average acreage planted after all.

**The Life Insurance Agent.**

About the best abused individual of modern times, we should say at a venture, is the life insurance agent. Like the apostle Paul, they have to suffer all manner of reviling, and their "realized assets" are more frequently curses than currency; hence we transfer, with much pleasure, to our columns, the following handsome and truthful tribute to their worth:

"The knight-errant of mediæval romance was the prototype of the modern life insurance agent. The true knight of olden times found his glory in the succor and protection he afforded the weak and defenseless, the widow and the orphan. It was the joy of his heart to combat and destroy their captors and tyrants, however mighty and terrible. He was bound by oath to do this whenever summoned to the rescue, but he was looked upon as *faineant* if he did not voluntarily sally forth in search of opportunities to render services to the oppressed. He earned his renown by enduring every kind of hardship and facing every danger, natural and supernatural, for the sake of doing good to those who needed and deserved it. But the day has gone by in Christendom for wrestling fair ladies and little ones from the clutches of giants, dwarfs, magicians, demons, dragons, and other monsters in human and inhuman shapes. The strong, brave, noble and kind-hearted are no longer required to don their armor and assault the strongholds of such form of iniquity, to scale their lofty walls, batter down their iron-bound gates, to penetrate their noisome and black subterranean passages, dungeons and caves, and bring forth their hapless captives to the light of day and liberty.

There is, however, a work equally arduous, honorable, and beneficent to perform, worthy of the valor and devotion of the noblest manhood. There are still *demons* to be battled; there are still grisly, cruel and insatiable monsters to be overcome. The widow, the orphan, the aged and the defenseless still need succor and protection. The gaunt wolves—Hunger, Destitution, Licentiousness and Vice still compass, hunt and seek to devour them. A champion is needed; one who will not flinch from so terrible a strife, and who has the constancy, courage, wisdom and generalship to carry it on with success.

"That champion we have. His achievements have challenged comparison with those of the Cid, or the most famous knight of the Round Table. He does more for widows and orphans, for the helpless and dependent, in one year, than ever did any dozen of the *preux chevaliers* of old time in their whole lives. For he is sustained by a grand and beneficent system which magnifies his work a hundred fold. He is the life insurance agent.

**THE WEEKLY SUN.**  
1776. NEW YORK. 1876.

Eighteen hundred and seventy-six is the Centennial year. It is also the year when an Opposition House of Representatives, the first since the war, will be in power at Washington; and the year of the twenty-third election of a President of the United States. All of these events are sure to be of great interest and importance, especially to the two latter; and all of them and everything connected with them will be fully and freshly reported and expounded in *The Sun*.

The Opposition House of Representatives, taking up the line of inquiry opened years ago by *The Sun*, will sternly and diligently investigate the corruptions and misdeeds of Grant's administration; and will, it is to be hoped, lay the foundation for a new and better period in our National history. Of all this *The Sun* will contain complete and accurate accounts, furnishing its readers with early and trustworthy information upon these absorbing topics.

The twenty-third Presidential election, with the preparations for it, will be memorable as deciding upon Grant's aspirations for a third term of power and plunder, and still more as deciding who shall be the candidate of the party of Reform, and as electing that candidate. Concerning all these subjects, those who read *The Sun* have the constant means of being thoroughly well informed.

*The Weekly Sun*, which has attained a circulation of over eighty thousand copies, already has its readers in every State and Territory, and we trust that the year 1876 will see their numbers doubled. It will continue to be a thorough newspaper. All the general news of the day will be found in it, condensed when unimportant, at full length when of moment; and always, we trust, treated in a clear, interesting and instructive manner.

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