

The De Soto County News.

Entered in the Post Office at Arcadia, Florida, as Second Class Matter. PUBLISHED BY THE DE SOTO PUBLISHING CO. Weekly, on Friday.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One Copy One Year.....\$1.00
One Copy Six Months..... .50
One Copy Three Months..... .25

Office: In News' Building, corner Magnolia Street and De Soto Avenue. PHONE 17.

COOPER CASE AGAIN.

We do wish that the Cooper case could be finally closed somehow, and its agitation ended. Isaac E. Cooper convicted of assassinating J. H. Bowman, marshal of Punta Gorda, has on the very eve of execution twice been reprieved. The last time, Thursday, 31st of last month. These reprieves have wrought up considerable feeling in De Soto county, and threats of meeting out summary punishment are made. The Punta Gorda Herald says: "No reasons, of course have been given for this reprieve granted Cooper and the public is left to imagine that they are of the same character as those which influence Gov. Jennings to withdraw the death warrant in August of last year."

Those who are familiar with the evidence and are not moved by the disgusting sentimentality characteristic of the few who side with murderers in their efforts to evade the noose, cannot be convicted of Cooper's innocence by any official action that may be taken, especially if it is based, as is suspected, on affidavits utterly untrustworthy. If they have even a tendency to show that Cooper may be innocent, why are they kept such a profound secret and so carefully withheld from the public?

People do not hesitate to express the belief that the State authorities are playing a game having for its object the commutation of Cooper's sentence, to be followed in a year or two by a full and free pardon. And those who are convicted by Cooper's guilt and have in mind the pardon of Sylvester and of Williams, to say nothing of the hundreds of murders committed and no one punished for them, have lost all faith in our State officials as an agent for the protection of human life, and they propose hereafter to protect themselves in that sure and summary manner that admits of no foolishness and no delay. These people are greatly disappointed in Gov. Broward. They had been assured of better things from him. They have been told that he had the nerve and courage to do his duty regardless of the clamor and the threats of criminals and their friends. They were assured his strong common sense and sagacity could not be imposed upon and that he could be relied upon to protect the people in their rights and their lives.

It is unfortunate for the State Board of Pardons that all the evidence produced or the salient points thereof is not made public, the affidavits submitted to the board sent to the community, where all parties are known, and an investigation made before the board acts. Secrecy in securing reprieves and pardons is not satisfactory, and opens the door for false and fraudulent petition and affidavits. The whole business is too much of a hidden nature until the deed is done and public sentiment shocked by the announcement that a pardon has been granted. This is not right, and both sides should have a fair showing, and the whole proceedings be made public from the start to finish.

While the Metropolis does not coincide with its Punta Gorda contemporary fully in the above, the strictures contain much truth, and we publish them in whole so that the readers of the Metropolis may know what feeling is continually being worked up by the reprieving and pardoning of criminals, and that without notice or knowledge of the people most interested. The Tampa Tribune knocks out the plea of Cooper because of the protection and support of his wife and children by saying:

Col. Brady doubtless did not tell the State Pardoning Board that it was proven by unimpeached testimony at the trial of Cooper that he had deserted his wife and children and refused to contribute to their support for a long period; and, also that, at the time of his crime, he was living in an open state of adultery with another woman at Punta Gorda. Jacksonville Metre-

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

Be a gentleman, and some people will not appreciate you.

Defeat is often a good thing, as it shows a man how little he amounts to. If you want to enjoy the society of people never become intimate with them.

Rich men are hated and this is the reason: We poor people are in the majority.

The house is too noisy for comfort with a child in it and too lonesome for comfort when the child leaves. And there you are.

Every house owner should ask himself this question tomorrow, "Is my house a nuisance in the neighborhood?" Look yourself over.

As a man gets older he finds that the path from the cradle to the grave is not near so long as it was from soup to dessert when he was a child.—Aitchison Globe.

According to Scripture.

A certain tailor of very strict principles was in the habit of excusing the faults of his assistants only in they could justify themselves by Scripture. One day a woman entered his shop and asked to see some material, but refused to buy it because it was too cheap. After showing her some other goods, the assistant brought back the same material, this time asking a higher price, whereupon the customer bought it. Afterward, the proprietor, who had witnessed the transaction, reproved his assistant severely. The latter, remembering the rules of the establishment, replied: "Oh, it's according to Scripture all right. She was a stranger and I took her in."—Harper's Weekly.

Names of Birds.

Certain birds get their names from St. Peter. According to a writer, "the petrel (in German Petersvogel, Peter's bird), a bird that skims the waves, is named after the apostle who walked upon the waves of Galilee. But the parrot is a less simple case. In Spain and in Portugal, as in France, the word corresponding to 'parrot' almost certainly represents 'little Peter,' a familiar name playfully applied because Peter was so common a Christian name. Similarly, a house sparrow is nicknamed 'parrot' in France."

A Criticism by Liszt.

A story of Liszt recites that on a certain occasion a Miss M. was playing a sonata by Sterndale Bennett, a work of a very prosy type and certainly lacking in anything like spontaneity or poetry. Liszt was evidently not familiar with it, so, after playing some six or seven pages, he gently tapped Miss M. on the arm and said, "Mademoiselle, would you kindly name the piece you are performing?" "Certainly, sir," she replied. "It is the sonata 'The Maid of Orleans,' by William Sterndale Bennett." "H'm," said Liszt. "It's a pity the original manuscript didn't meet the same fate as the 'maid.'"

Strawberries.

Lord Sefton, the renowned gourmet, was once interrogated as to the best mode of eating strawberries and replied: "Sprinkle them slightly with powdered white sugar candy and a few drops of Malmsey. Take them after breakfast or for supper or after dinner after a plain biscuit ice." When a once well known diplomatist attended his first garden party after arriving in London he was shown a dish of strawberries and cream. "Pourquoi faire?" cried he, explaining that he could not bring himself to fancy that the mess was intended for the food of men.—London Truth.

Bank of Ireland Guard.

The Bank of Ireland, like the Bank of England, has a military guard, which is relieved every twenty-four hours. Immediately after the mounting of the new guard every morning a knock at the door of the officer's room announces the arrival of the head porter with a large book, in which the officer signs his name, rank and regiment, and on the departure of the porter with the book a half sovereign is found on the table. It is the officer's perquisite.

The Bad One.

"That brother of yours, Lucy," said the man of the house, "seems to be a pretty tough character."
"Deed hé is, suh," replied the colored maid. "He jes' natchelly seems to be de white sheep ob our fambly, sho' 'nuff."—Philadelphia Press.

Her Cooks.

Mrs. Hatterson—What! You've had fourteen cooks in three months? Mrs. Catterson—Yes, and I didn't please any of them.

Labor is the inevitable lot of the majority, and the best education is that which will make their labor most productive.—Proude.

Autograph Fans.

It was in China that the first autograph fans were seen, and they became very fashionable there long years ago. Some carefully preserved specimens have belonged to the emperors and their wives, while others have been given as diplomatic presents. A fan of this description, for instance, was presented by the Chinese ambassador to Mme. de Clauzel at the coronation of Napoleon I. In India the very first fans were supplied by nature in the spreading leaves of the lotus and palm, but screen fans soon became emblems of power there also, for they are not only mentioned in the great Hindoo poems "Mahabharata" and "Ramayana," but Brahma and Indra are represented in the ancient sculptures at Elephanta followed by slaves bearing the fly fan and parasol, which latter was also considered as an emblem of su-

STATE
ITEMS OF INTEREST
GLEANED FROM OUR
EXCHANGES.

The fishing at Daytona is said to be great this season.

Representatives of northern fruit houses are in the State offering from \$1.20 to \$1.25 a box for oranges on the tree.

The weather bureau at Jupiter has figured out that August, while a warm month, was only slightly warmer than the average for the month for the past 18 years.

The electric light plant at Daytona is soon to be enlarged by the addition of three dynamos and a new 150 horse power boiler, giving the factory a boiler capacity of 450 horse power.

Mrs. J. A. Lowe, who was shot by her husband at Key West a few days ago, is in a critical condition. It is thought the spinal cord is severed. Captain Lowe will recover from his self-inflicted wounds.

A good indication of the progressiveness of the city during this summer is the fact that one meat market reports larger sales of fresh meats on one day of the present week than for any one day during the busiest tourist season of last winter.—Miami Record.

The first shipment of naval stores ever made in Lee county was shipped from the McAdow turpentine farm at Olga in the schooner Traveller to Key West last Friday. Her cargo consisted of fifty tons of turpentine and rosin. The schooner Traveller is the largest vessel to go up the Caloosahatchee as far as Olga, which is twelve miles above Fort Myers.

Work on the F. E. C. Railroad extension below Homestead is progressing as well as could be expected under the difficulties to be contended with there. Nearly four miles of roadbed has been put in good condition, and two dredge boats have been built and are ready for duty. As the boats were built away from any water course two lakes have been worked out in which to launch them. After this is done the boats will be placed on either side of the roadbed and required to dig their own channel as they proceed toward the bay, the debris from the channel being used for the roadbed behind them. Two other dredges, starting from the bay, will be engaged the same way, coming to meet them.—Miami Record.

ALL THE PEOPLE

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| 15c. White Lawn, short lengths | 9c yd | 25c Ladies' Black Lace Striped Hose..... | 15c pr |
| 36-inch Percal, the 12½c kind | 8c yd | Ladies' Black Hose 9c or 3 pair for..... | 25c |
| 36-inch White Cambric, worth 12½ | 8c yd | Men's Black Half Hose 9c or 3 pair for..... | 25c |
| Yard Wide Bleach, the 10c kind | 8c yd | Men's Summer Undershirts, worth 50c, 75c and \$1 as long as they last | 35c |

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