

but lovers of art felt then, as now, that it was unfair to the various countries of Europe that they should be deprived of art treasures which had been their pride for centuries. They felt, also, that it was unsafe to collect all the treasures of the world under a single roof; and for these fears the dangers to which the Louvre has been since exposed are a sufficient justification.

The French offered a passive resistance—if they had dared, they would have offered active opposition—to what they called the "spoliation of France" Louis XVIII. was indignant but powerless. Denon, the Director of the Louvre, who had been the chief agent of Napoleon in collecting the museum, resisted sufficiently to compel a show of force. Had it not been for what the French call the "brutality" of the Prussian soldiers, who offered to break down the doors, and for the smoother but equally persistent efforts of Sir William Hamilton, the French would perhaps have kept the gallery. Canova was the agent only of the Papal Government, but he was also commissioned to pursue the claims of the Albani, Braschi, and other families whose collections had been pillaged, and he gave his influence in aid of the agents of the other Italian States. He was met at the outset by the French claim that most of these works of art had been freely ceded by the Pope in the Treaty of Tolentino; but he fortunately found that this treaty had been denounced by the French themselves. Although he felt obliged to yield to King Louis XVIII. most of the pictures and sculptures which were kept in his private apartments, and although many things could not be found, having strayed into private hands, he was able to restore to Italy the greater part of what had been taken from her. Owing to his want of funds, the English Government on two occasions advanced the sum of 100,000 francs each, to pay the expenses of packing and transport. Only one of the great Italian pictures still remains in the Louvre—the "Marriage at Cana," by Paul Veronese—as it was thought it would have to be cut to pieces and irremediably injured in the transport to Venice.

One can appreciate still more the feelings of Denon and his subordinates at the Louvre when it came to the turn of the provincial museums to disgorge. In order to fill the gaps in the galleries at Paris, it was necessary to recall some of the presents made at various times from the overflowing collections. The provincial museums not only objected to this, but protested and complained. Their pictures had sometimes to be taken almost by force, and they demanded compensation.

Canova had at one time a commission to make a colossal statue of Napoleon, which is a really splendid work of art. But the original had never been publicly set up in Paris, as, on account of its nudity, the Emperor feared the jests that would be levelled against him. In the distribution of spoils this was given to the Duke of Wellington, and still exists in the possession of his descendants. The replica of it in bronze stands in the court of the Brera gallery at Milan, and a cast of it in the Palazzo Bonaparte at Rome. The reception at Venice of the objects taken thence is told in the recently published letters of Cicognara. Canova had proposed that the bronze horses, brought originally from Constantinople, should be placed on each side of the ducal palace, looking towards San Giorgio, but it was decided to restore them to their former position above the porch of San Marco. It was a great festa, with music, cannon, and bells, when, in the presence of the Austrian Emperor and his

court, the horses were once more hoisted into their place. The mechanical arrangement was so perfect that the operation lasted but a very short time, after the fleet of gondolas had towed to the landing-place the raft containing the group, which had been temporarily deposited at San Giorgio.

The part played by Canova in all this business was for a long time not forgotten in France. When, after Canova's death, Cicognara undertook to get up an international subscription for his monument, the banking-house of Delessert refused to accept subscriptions, and even Louis Philippe—then Duc d'Orléans—wrote that he would have been most happy to subscribe, "but it is notorious that in 1815 Canova quitted his chisel in order to come to Paris to take charge in the devastation of that museum the loss of which France deplores, and the dispersion of which friends of the fine arts in all countries must regret. This sad page of his history prevents any Frenchman from adding his name to the list of those who are erecting this monument."

It may not be generally remembered that, at a time when the different countries of Europe were in rivalry for possession of works by Canova, one of his statues was brought to the United States. It was a seated statue of Washington ordered by the State of North Carolina. Canova interested himself greatly in the work, as a republican born he admired the character of Washington, and he endeavored to increase and enlighten these feelings by reading what lives of Washington were available, and the whole of Botta's history of the American Revolution. The model was executed in 1818. The statue was finished soon afterwards, and was unveiled with some pomp and ceremonial in the State-house at Raleigh. Unfortunately, it perished in the fire which destroyed that building in 1831. The statue represented Washington seated in the armor of a Roman general, with his helmet and sword on the ground by his side, engaged in writing on a tablet what was apparently his Farewell Address, or the resignation of his commission. The likeness was, of course, made up from copies of portraits, and the statue cannot be called one of Canova's most successful works, but it is on the whole more interesting than that of Houdon and than several made since. Various engravings of it are to be found in the different editions of Canova's complete works, and the original model of it—with nail-heads, pencil marks, and all—still exists in the museum at Possagno. The correspondence on the subject is in the library at Bassano, but there has been no time to examine it.

Nothing will be easier, in one sense, than to obtain a replica of this statue of Washington almost as perfect as that finished by Canova's own hands, and it will be well worth reproducing, even if only as an historical souvenir—either by the order of the State of North Carolina, or by some wealthy Northerner in gratitude for the restoration of his health by the charming climate of Asheville. It has been ascertained on inquiry that the statue could be reproduced by any of the best sculptors of Venice, and set up at Raleigh for a sum which would not exceed six or seven thousand dollars. It would be necessary, however, to intrust the work to an Italian—and better, a Venetian—sculptor partly because there might be difficulties in obtaining permission to use the model, and partly because it might be necessary to do the work at Possagno itself. Besides this, it is to be feared that some of the so-called American sculptors in Italy would charge three or four times as much, to have the work done by Italians without touching it with one finger

themselves, and then pocket the difference of price. E S

Correspondence.

NEGRO CONVICTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In an editorial of the 4th inst., entitled "Negro Convicts in South Carolina," you bring one of the severest indictments against that unfortunate State that I remember ever to have read. Had this article appeared in one of those strongly partisan newspapers utterly blinded by sectional prejudice, it would have received very little attention. But the *Nation* has been so uniformly just towards the South, and preserves so judicial a tone on all subjects, that the charge which you make in the editorial referred to is doubly damaging. If facts are as you describe them, then indeed ours is "a state of things hardly credible in a civilized community." But you are well aware that South Carolina is a civilized community, and such knowledge ought to have put you on your guard against the mistakes into which you have fallen. As I feel sure that you meant no injustice, and that you desire to get at the truth, permit me to call your attention to the facts in the case.

"It is sufficiently startling," you remark, "to be told that of the 894 convicts in the South Carolina penitentiary 843 are colored, and it savors a bit of slavery to find that of the 70 negroes who were subjects of executive clemency during the year, 35 were serving life sentences and 13 others terms of imprisonment of ten or more years."

It should not be a startling fact that, in every community, the great majority of criminals come from the ranks of the poor and ignorant and thriftless. This is as true of New York as it is of South Carolina. Let it never be forgotten that for eleven years (1865-1876) the negroes of South Carolina had a thorough education in crime. During that period bad white men—the great majority of them emissaries from the North—encouraged the negroes in every form of incendiarism and theft. They were taught that it was not wrong to steal from their former masters—that it was, in reality, not stealing, but taking what properly belonged to them. For the ignorance and the low moral tone of the negro, doubtless slavery is largely responsible, and we of the South are willing to bear our share of responsibility for this state of things, but it is certain that the complete demoralization of the negro during the carpet-bag reign was due to the pernicious teaching of these adventurers from the North.

You can now understand why it was absolutely necessary for the Democrats, immediately on coming into power, to pass severe laws against burglary and arson. These were the crimes that were ruining the State. They struck at the very foundation of the social fabric. Industry was paralyzed when its fruits might at any time be consumed by the flames or be borne away by the burglar. It was necessary, too, that these laws should be enforced not only against adults, but against youths of both sexes, sent out on the mission of destruction just because it was presumed that the punishment inflicted on them would be slight.

This discipline, severe but indispensable, had its desired effect. After 1876 crime gradually diminished in the State. By 1883 there was such a moral improvement in the negro race that in that year the law was considerably relaxed, and the punishments were made much

lighter. It is to this relaxation that you refer when you say

"The method by which the administration of the law is kept impartial to all, white and black alike, is ingenious. The statute punishing burglary, for instance, prescribes punishment for life as a penalty, but with an important proviso that if the jury recommend the prisoner to mercy, the punishment shall be reduced to imprisonment for not less than five years. This allows juries to recommend white offenders to mercy, while the negroes suffer the full penalty of the law."

On the contrary, I am assured by the present Governor of the State that the statute was passed for the special benefit of the negroes. The seven years (1876-1883) of discipline under the severer laws had so reduced the crimes of burglary and arson, that it was felt that there might safely be a relaxation of the law and a mitigation of the punishment. The statute which you suggest as made to shield white offenders, must, like most other statutes, be studied historically to be understood, and when so studied, it will be found to bear no such interpretation as you put upon it.

Another general remark needs to be made. You mention cases of persons sentenced to long terms of imprisonment when the articles stolen by the burglar were few and of small worth. But this is not a fair presentation of the case. If a burglar breaks into a house with the view of stealing valuable property, and perhaps of committing murder, if necessary to his purpose—if such a burglar escapes with not a dollar's worth of property, he is just as guilty as if he had taken all he intended to take. In a state of things in which the laws must be severe and rigidly enforced, it will no doubt sometimes happen that the punishment will be too severe, but in all the cases mentioned, I venture to say it will be found that it was the character of the crime, not the amount of property stolen, that determined the nature and amount of the punishment inflicted.

I cannot take up all the cases you have adduced, you would hardly allow me the space for this. It will be better to give such a full statement of two or three of them as will show their real character.

The case of Prince Williams is an interesting one. Your statement of it is as follows:

"Prince Williams, while a slave, had a wife, although no slave marriage was recognized by the law, and this wife seems to have disappeared, perhaps sold into slavery. At any rate, Prince married again in 1878, and, after living with his wife for ten years, was prosecuted for bigamy, slave marriages having been validated by the Legislature. Immediately on his conviction the prosecuting attorney had the grace to recommend his pardon, stating that the main object of the prosecution was to vindicate the law on account of the salutary effect upon the people of that race."

The expression, "perhaps sold into slavery," which I have italicised, insignificant as it may appear, really gives a false turn to the whole statement. It implies that a negro whose wife had been sold into slavery before or during the war, and who, after waiting in vain for many years for the reappearance of his wife, marries again, is prosecuted and convicted as a criminal, and this, too, although his former marriage was not a legal marriage. If the laws of South Carolina permitted a prosecution and conviction under such circumstances, they would indeed betray "a state of things hardly credible in a civilized community." Here is the statement of the case made by an attorney acquainted with all the facts, in response to the Governor's request for information.

"Prince Williams, an old colored man, was convicted at the February term of our court of bigamy. It appeared from the evidence that Prince married Louisa during slavery and lived

with her up to 1873, when Prince was told that his slave marriage was not legal, whereupon he asked his wife, Louisa, to marry him according to law, and validate what he supposed to be an illegal marriage. Louisa refused, and said that she did not wish to bind herself to Prince. A separation took place, and Prince took another wife in 1878. Wife number one lived within a few hundred yards of Prince and wife number two for the past ten years, and not until recently thought of charging him with bigamy, and I am satisfied that the prosecution was brought to revenge herself of an injury in another matter before the Trial Justice Court. Everybody who heard the case thought Prince should be discharged, the evidence showing that he had acted in ignorance of the law, and had done everything in his power to live with wife number one before he left and took wife number two. The judge, solicitor, and jurors join me in asking a pardon for Prince, and I trust the same may be granted by your Excellency. Judge Aldrich directed the sheriff not to send Prince to the penitentiary until you could be heard from. Your early attention will be very acceptable to Prince and your friend,

M P HOWELL"

I may add that the law validating slave marriages was passed in 1872, and that it applied only to cases in which the parties were living together at that date. A certain class of parsons, to get a marriage fee, persuaded the more ignorant negroes that their marriages were illegal, and hence Prince's trouble and Louisa's rebellion.

Here is the Solicitor's account of the case of Dick Ellerbe, endorsed on the petition for executive clemency:

"This party belonged to the 'Spring Hill Gang of Robbers' who infested that country several years ago. One was killed while resisting arrest and after having killed one of the posse. Some escaped. Jake Jennings and Dick Ellerbe were caught. Dick Ellerbe pleaded guilty, and at that time the judge had no discretion, but had to sentence him for life. Jake Jennings was convicted, and, I think, sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. It may be well enough to commute Dick's sentence to an equality with that of Jake, but I know of no mitigating circumstances. Jake's sentence was reduced to five years because of the recommendation to mercy by the jury, etc."

You will observe the operation in this case of the statute referred to above. Jake Jennings, the negro, does not "suffer the full penalty of the law," but is recommended to mercy, and Dick Ellerbe, though confessing his crime, also obtains mercy. It is, no doubt, a touching fact that this negro has eight helpless children, whose mother and grandmother have died while the father was in prison. But what has this to do with the justice of his punishment? Will any one say that a man who belongs to a "gang of robbers that have infested a community for several years," and who kill one of a posse sent to arrest them, should go unpunished because he has a household of helpless children?

The next case on the docket is that of Eli Moore. You say:

"He was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for manslaughter. Eight of the jurors who tried the case ask for his pardon on the ground 'that there is reason to believe that Moore did not do the shooting, and that it was done by a white man who left the State immediately after the shooting and did not return until after the trial.' It apparently did not seem worth while to trouble this white man by ascertaining the truth of the matter, which was adjusted by a commutation of Moore's sentence from ten years to five."

The reader would naturally infer from the above statement that Eli Moore would not be guilty at all should it be proved that the white man did the shooting. But even were this proved, Eli Moore would still be guilty and deserve the punishment he is receiving. He and others, including, probably, this white man, constituted a gang that murdered a colored man named Mitchell Godbold. Which

one of the party actually fired the shot that killed Godbold, will probably never be known. Only two of the party were caught—Haines Graham and Eli Moore. The evidence at the time of the trial was that Moore did the shooting, and so his punishment was made greater than that of Graham. Will any one deny that these men should have been punished? Will any one affirm their punishment was too great? And does the petition, signed by white men, that Moore's punishment should be mitigated, since there is a probability that he did not do the actual shooting, look as if "the State is quite willing to dispense with the formality of the actual commission of a crime by a negro in order to secure his services as a convict?" But why was the suspected white man never arrested? I have not the information requisite to answer this question, but it is no uncommon thing for a man to be strongly suspected of a crime, and yet for the evidence to be too slight to warrant his arrest. At any rate, you may be sure that a white man that joins a band of negroes to commit murder, will hardly be regarded with any special affection by the whites.

I close with the case of Capers Allen, and I select it, partly because it is the saddest and most damaging of all, and partly because, though bad in itself, it is unintentionally made to appear much worse than it really is, by the mode of stating it. Your statement is

"In 1887, Capers Allen, also colored, was accused of murder. His employer at once came forward and testified that the prisoner, who was quite young, was four miles away when the murder was committed. Subsequently, the boy was rearrested without his employer's knowledge, tried, and sentenced to be hanged, the sentence being commuted by Gov. Hampton to imprisonment for life. The employer has made repeated efforts to secure his release, but not until eleven years have gone by is he finally successful."

Your statement is a fair presentation of the case as it is recorded in the Governor's Statement, but that statement, from its very brevity, has to omit much matter that is necessary to the understanding of the case. Gen Bonham, Capers Allen's attorney, assures me that the facts are these: When Clayton Allen was killed, several negroes were arrested on suspicion, among them Capers Allen, then in the employ of P. B. Allen. P. B. Allen at once informed the party that held these negroes in arrest that Capers Allen was with him, four miles away, late in the evening of the night that Clayton Allen was killed, and that he felt quite sure Capers could not have been among the murderers. Whereupon Capers was released. Some time afterwards, the evidence against Capers being very strong, he was rearrested, tried, and convicted. P. B. Allen, his former employer, living, at the time of Capers's arrest, in a different county, knew nothing for a long time of Capers's conviction. As soon as he heard of it he took steps to secure his release, and was successful, Gen Bonham being the attorney. Why it was that the testimony of P. B. Allen to an *alibi* that was adduced when Capers was first arrested, and which led to his release at that time, was not brought forward when he was tried and convicted, is not known. Capers's attorney (a lawyer, appointed by the judge at the time of the trial) knew nothing of such testimony. Here was the great and fatal mistake that consigned an innocent man to imprisonment for eleven years. But as soon as the mistake was detected it was corrected.

The petition makes a different impression. It declares that P. B. Allen had *all along* testified to Capers's absence from the scene of the murder, and the impression is made that Capers was kept in confinement for eleven

years, during all which time P. B. Allen was urging his release, and testifying to an *alibi* in his favor. Gen. Bonham assures me that this was not the case, that as soon as P. B. Allen's testimony was produced it was acted on, and Capers was pardoned.

It is necessary to say a word about these petitions in general, and about the Governor's Statement. The petitions always present the most favorable side of the case. They assume as known all the unfavorable features, and urge only those matters favorable to the prisoner, and they are so apt to strain facts in the prisoner's favor that the Governor feels obliged to write to men of high character in possession of the facts, in order to be well informed before acting on the petition. But the Governor cannot embody all these facts in his Statement. The purpose of the Statement is to inform the public as to whom he has pardoned, and, in the briefest possible way, of the ground of his action. He naturally mentions only the mitigating circumstances. The impression, therefore, is apt to be made that these persons were unjustly punished in the first instance. But if one will only take the trouble to investigate, he will find that there is quite another side to the picture than that presented in petitions. The papers containing the facts in the cases of all who have applied for pardon or commutation are carefully preserved by the Governor, and he will take pleasure in supplying such papers to all responsible persons who seriously desire to inquire into the facts.

The administration of justice in South Carolina is not perfect. But we claim that our laws are impartial and our judges incorruptible. As long as human nature is weak, and juries are made of men many of whom are ignorant and prejudiced, and some corruptible (and this is true of juries everywhere in this country), the innocent will sometimes be punished, and the guilty will sometimes go unpunished. The good people of South Carolina deplore the evils that exist among them far more deeply than it is possible for any one at a distance to do. But we have not yet reached that condition of things described in your article. With all our faults, we are still a civilized community.

W. J. ALEXANDER

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, April 12, 1889.

EAST AND WEST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: It would be bad enough to be advertised as applying the term "effete East" to our busy and exaggeratedly living Eastern centres of thought and commerce, if one had really committed such a solecism, but imagine yourself to have given an address, Mr. Editor, where the very opposite idea was advanced, and where the Eastern States were pictured as the source and inspiration of all Western thought and advancement, and then try and realize your feelings when you saw yourself described to the world as speaking of the "effete East." Surely an author so unfortunate deserves at least the privilege and opportunity of explanation, and though the matter is a very small one to the great East maligned as "effete," the Westerner involved in the case feels very much in the mood for reprisals, at least to the extent of an explanation.

The address in question was upon "The Relations of the East and the West", and in speaking of the possibilities of future development in our great country, the author alluded to the difference between inland and coast civilizations. The fact was adverted to that coast civilizations—or periods of flower in culture—are usually most brilliant, but short-lived,

like the era of Athenian splendor or the Italian Renaissance. Inland civilizations, on the contrary, are of slower growth and longer duration, but are in danger of fossilizing, as did Egypt, for instance. The author then drew attention to the great inland region comprising our so-called Western States, and spoke of the possibility open to them of developing a unique civilization individual in type. The fact was emphasized that the Eastern or coast States had been the original guides and inspirers of the West, and that they would always remain the high seats of a culture peculiarly their own, as their location upon the coast made them sensitive to the thought pulsations of the world. This position would enable them to transmit to the inland region of the West constantly fresh incentives and impulses, which, having done their destined work of rousing, would return to their originators with a new and characteristic flavor.

The idea was, that this constant repulsion would enable the East and the West to maintain each its own type of culture and keep both from stagnating; but the fact was insisted upon that, in order to develop and maintain an individual culture, the West must have her own libraries and universities, and only send her young men and women East after their powers have been ripened and matured in purely Western fashion. It was the elaboration of this last conclusion which probably left upon the mind of the weary listener the idea that the author considered the East "effete," and the mistake is only worth correcting because it voices a feeling in regard to Eastern culture too prevalent in the far West, and which Eastern people are too ready to attribute to the West as a whole.

MARY H. FORD.

KANSAS CITY, MO., April 10, 1889.

AMERICAN WOOD-ENGRAVING IN DANGER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: "An English Estimate of American Wood-Engraving," and the criticism of it in your issue of April 11, cannot help striking an American observer humorously. After the American school of wood-engravers not only has, in the quietest way, won the general admiration of the other part of the civilized world, but is really studied and imitated from Paris to St. Petersburg, and from Stockholm to Rome, while the English conservatives have for the last twenty years never turned their faces forward, for the simple reason that they had once discovered something by looking backward, and now that they try to imitate the Americans—we are to blame for it all. But, as the writer in the above-mentioned article says, "There are shortcomings in regard to book-illustrations." We admit this even if we accept the present method of magazine illustration as good in general. It is certainly the only method possible at present to interest the public.

The making up of a magazine is not practically identical with the art of bookmaking, nor criticism of a magazine with criticism on bookmaking. Nevertheless, the illustrations (wood-engravings) in our magazines have greatly fallen off in interest to our public for some time, if we may judge from the meagre notices of the daily press for the last two years. In particular there were the long war articles and physical and geographical articles in the *Century*, which left little space for artistic efforts either for artists or engravers, and we find there also, in other work which could be more broadly and artistically treated, a tendency to bring out details without regard to the har-

mony of the whole—a kind of amateur work, with little blacks and lights all over it very discouraging to the friends of the art. On the other hand, we find in *Harper's Magazine* a tendency to over-fineness and overcrowded pages, the result of reducing large original drawings and pictures to a small size. This deplorable mistake of our magazines generally has been noticed and criticised in Europe. It leads the public from a healthy pictorial study into a kind of map-examination. We may constantly observe that if any one opens a magazine, he will read for a while, keeping the book at the proper distance till he turns a page, when up goes the book, three or four inches nearer to his face, to make out one of these fine woodcuts, filled like a storehouse—the little light which was left by the engraver having vanished by filling up in the printing, thus leaving often a very dark, indistinct picture. So the dailies, as well as the public, are not much to blame for the falling off in interest in our fine wood-engravings.

Yet there is another feature even worse than this: the magazines have more or less, for the last two years, tried to get tone "process" reproductions instead of wood-engravings, and these have even appeared as frontispieces. The general public, not knowing about the manufacture of these things, have necessarily taken them for superior wood-engravings, since they are not mentioned as tone process anywhere. They must also frequently have felt the necessity of drawing the book still nearer, with a sensation of black sand flying in front of their eyes, owing to their blurred and foggy appearance. This is the latest improvement in American illustrations. Another kind of tone process is made on a lined plate, it appears more clean and distinct, but also more mechanical, flat, and artistically uninteresting.

As to the reproductive qualities of this process, we cannot understand how artists of renown, who are constantly preaching about distinct tones and values, can bear to see themselves represented in such a style. We need only point to Mr. Chase's pictures in *Harper's* March number—a contradiction of their own teachings. We sometimes hear artists prefer these blurred performances because they come nearer a facsimile of the artist, we know of many instances in which such a facsimile was kept, but the picture was lost. Still, we cannot quarrel with the artists if they choose this line, but to the combination of "process" with type in a book we have a right to object. There is nothing more artistic than harmony, in fact, it is the first law of all art. But the sharp-cut letterpress characters and the blurred impressions of "process" side by side are anything but agreeable to our eyes, and almost revolting.

It is much the same with the ornamental drawings of pen-and-ink process. This scratchy work may be all very artistic in itself, but can never join with the letterpress like a clear woodcut. There is a warmth in the line of the latter and a solidity which harmonize perfectly with good letterpress, and therefore the old method (especially that of the sixteenth century) is more agreeable, more impressive, and therefore more artistic, but not exactly cheaper.

We think we have pointed out the main evils at present visible in the way of good book-making with illustrations, and that it is only proper to inform the public, that they may be enabled to understand the difference between "process" and wood-engraving. To this end, the magazines ought to state, either on the page or in the table of contents, which is which. Meantime, with hearty good wishes to the craft of wood-engravers, we bid them see to it that

the interest of the public in this highly cultivating art be kept alive, since every art must decline which does not find a public to appreciate it.

AMEN.

AN ITEM IN BALLOT REFORM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION :

SIR: A bill has been introduced in the Minnesota Legislature, and is now before the Judiciary Committee, to adopt the Rhines vote-recording machine in all general and special elections in the State.

This machine is the invention of Mr J W. Rhines of St Paul. It seems to combine all the virtues of the Australian system with a number of other good points. The ordinary paging machine of the printer suggested the main idea to Mr Rhines. The principle involved is that of the counting-machine, as in the odometer. It is old, time-tried, and absolutely accurate.

The practical machine is an oblong brass box about 10x14 inches, six inches deep, with a hinged cover. This box is placed on a small stand in the rear of the polling-room, and in plain sight of the judges and clerks of election. The voter is identified by the judges, and passes into the stall where the machine is. On raising the lid of the box, a screen is drawn up before the stall, shutting both voter and machine from view. The lid when raised discloses a number of keys not unlike organ stops. There are as many rows of keys as there are tickets in the field, and as many keys in a row as there are offices to be filled. The printed name of each candidate and the office to which he aspires are placed in the top of these keys.

The elector in voting presses down the key bearing the name of the candidate he wishes to support. The key remains down. In being depressed it has locked all the keys of other candidates to the same office, thus making it impossible for an elector to vote for more than one candidate to the same office, at the same time this key has imprinted indelibly, on a slip of paper beneath, a number—which is the total vote cast for that candidate at that time. The elector votes for each of the other offices in turn, in the same way, shuts down the lid of the box, thus ringing an alarm bell and dropping the screen in front, exposing machine and voter to the view of the judges. The box lid on being closed liberates all the keys, and the machine is ready for the next voter.

When the last elector has voted, the count is already made and recorded for each candidate. The turnstile at the judges' desk has recorded the total number of voters. The slip of paper bearing the record of the vote can be most easily preserved.

This system assures absolute secrecy of ballot and absolute accuracy of count. It requires a sort of an educational qualification, in that the keys must be read; and yet there is an ingenious scheme already proposed, that all Republican keys be colored red, all Democratic keys white, etc., so that an elector could vote any straight ticket he chose, and be relieved from all intellectual exertion further than distinguishing between two colors. It saves the expense of printing ballots, and, better than this, it does away with the tedious and inaccurate counting of paper ballots; as a consequence of this, contested elections will be a thing of the past.

Absolute secrecy being assured, bribery at elections will be dealt a most telling blow, for the briber can no longer be sure of his purchase.

J. PAUL GOODE.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, April 8, 1889.

BY AND BY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION :

SIR The reviewer of Murray's 'New English Dictionary,' in the *Nation* of April 4, cites the expression *by and by* as a case in which the Dictionary falls short of perfection. This phrase, he says, "is used by Chaucer in the sense of nearness in space as well as of nearness in time." And he goes on to refer to a line in the *Knight's Tale* as one of the examples which "have not been given because they have not been received." Now the very first meaning given under the heading *by and by* is the following: "Of a succession of (persons or things). One by one, one after another, in order a in place." This is supported by four illustrations, all as apposite as the one mentioned by your reviewer. Indeed, the line from the *Knight's Tale*,

"Two yonge knightes lying by and by,"

could hardly be more exactly paralleled, for lexical purposes, than by the expression of much earlier date quoted from Robert of Brunne, in which, referring to the heads of the slain, we are told that "he laid them by and by."

In speaking of this colossal dictionary would it not be well for reviewers to imitate the caution of the scientist, who will not say "There are no ghosts in nature," but rather, "That part of the book of nature which I have read is silent touching the phenomena known as ghosts?"

M B A

STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, April 6, 1889.

[There are not many persons, presumably, who suppose that the expression "one after another" conveys necessarily the idea of nearness in space, and is therefore equivalent to "close together, side by side", at least if they do, they are not usually employed in defining words for dictionaries. It was to exclude the idea of succession, which may or may not involve the idea of nearness, that the line was cited from the *Knight's Tale*, to which the idea of nearness was essential. In a similar way in the *Reeve's Tale* the Miller's daughter is said to have had a bed to herself "in the same chamber by and by." The cautious scientist may fancy that she had a bed "in succession," whatever that may mean, the ordinary reader will suppose that she simply had one "close by," on account of the smallness of the room.—ED NATION.]

Notes.

J. B. LIPPINCOTT Co have in press Prof. Carl Justi's 'Diego Velasquez and his Times,' translated by Prof. A H Keane, and liberally illustrated. Pierre Paris's 'Manual of Ancient Sculpture,' edited and augmented by Jane E Harrison, 'Half Hours with Humorous Authors,' by Charles Morris, 'Eight Hundred Miles in an Ambulance,' by Laura Winthrop Johnson, and 'Francis Bacon (Part II),' by John Nichol.

A collection of the verse of Mrs Graham R. Janson, under the title, 'The Bird Bride: a Volume of Ballads and Sonnets,' is announced by Longmans, Green & Co.

G. P. Putnam's Sons will bring out in the fall as a subscription work a 'History of the Nineteenth Army Corps,' by Lieut.-Col. Richard B Irwin. It will be accompanied by new maps of the campaigns and by portraits of commanders.

White & Allen have collected for publication in a popular volume Mrs Martha J. Lamb's papers on the 'Inauguration of Washington in 1789.'

"Balaustion's Adventure," "Prince Hohenstiel-Schwangau," and "Vfine at the Fair" compose the eleventh volume of Browning's Poetical Works, published in this country by Macmillan & Co. "Red Cotton Night-Cap Country" and "The Inn Album" fill out the twelfth volume. The generous print of this edition adds to its acceptability as the author's edition with his latest, and perhaps final, revision.

There are a few bright passages, descriptive of life and scenery in the diamond mines, in 'An I.D.B. in South Africa' (John W Lovell Co), by Louise Vescehus-Sheldon, which remind one of that pleasant book of travels by the same author, 'Yankee Girls in Zulu Land.' These are set in a crude story with a childish plot, turning upon the detection of an "illicit diamond-buyer," as those dealers are called who buy stones secreted by the Kafir miners. Numerous illustrations, the best being by C E Graves, give to the book a very taking appearance which its contents, we regret to say, fail to justify.

'Home Gymnastics' (without apparatus) is a handsome and attractive book translated from the German of Angerstein and Eckler, the original having reached an eighth edition (Boston, Houghton, Mifflin & Co). It is adapted both for the well and the sick, and exhibits the several exercises by means of cuts based upon photographs. Anything which promotes a steady regard for health by way of counteracting sedentary habits, senseless costume, or discreditable ignorance of physiology and hygiene, is to be commended, and this work, though not the first of its kind, deserves to have its vogue, and is certain to do good. A happy thought has led to the grouping on one folded sheet that can be put upon the wall, of all the cuts scattered through the text.

All great cities are interested in the endeavors of any one of them to cope with the sewage problem. In Massachusetts, the State Board of Health has had the duty laid upon it of determining how to dispose of the sewage in the Mystic and Charles River valleys, these two streams emptying into Boston Harbor, and their united territory being really a part of the metropolitan district. The Board's Report (Senate document, No 2, 1889) will repay reading. It has a number of excellent maps.

Curious for its maps and colored plates, as well as for its discussion, is the preliminary report on "Peach Yellows," by Erwin F. Smith, special agent of the Department of Agriculture. The peach flourishes or may be cultivated from the northeastern corner of Massachusetts as far west as the 100th meridian, though from the south end of Lake Michigan the line dips southerly till it reaches the 39th parallel. The southern confine extends from the southeastern corner of Virginia, parallel with the coast and well removed from the lowlands, almost to the Rio Grande. The peach reasserts itself throughout the Pacific Coast States.

We have received the first annual report of the Marine Biological Laboratory situated at Wood's Holl, Mass. It relates the history of the institution, an outgrowth of the seaside laboratory maintained for six years at Annisquam by the Boston Woman's Education Association and the Boston Society of Natural History, and records the achievements of the past year, which went little beyond the erection of a building and its equipment in an unsurpassed degree. The end in view is "the establishment of an ideal biological station,

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