

SERPENT OF FLAME

PIERCES THEIR VICTIMS WITH
LONG, THIN STREAK OF FIRE.

STRANGE STORY THAT COMES FROM THE
MEXICAN WILDS.

Among the Indians of New Mexico the old man legends of a nature so weird that the blood of the white listener often runs cold at the thought of them. Among them all there is probably not another so startling as the tale of the culebra de lumbre, or snake of fire. This reptile, according to the natives, comes to its enemies by emitting from its mouth a thin streak of fire, which pierces the body against whom it is directed. It is actually scarce the life out. Many of the Indians have been seized by the fire and in nearly every instance death ensued. It was the good fortune of a man

[illegible][illegible]

...singing, equipping over the grass and throating a phosphorescent glow around while at short intervals he would flash their mouths, searing the herbage around them as he lived living things to hasten from safety in terror. That their existence was known to the older natives Pablo said was because the fact that many rocks and stones have craters, the serpent stones, which he knew the pictures on which had been drawn by ancient tribes years ago, and after the truth of this last statement he had seen pictures such as Pablo described and wondered what they meant.

Pablo was asked if he had ever had a snake with one of the snakes, and then he nodded affirmatively. Then he pointed to a faint mark on the ground.

It was twenty years ago," said the old man. "I, with a number of folk, was riding down a canal. We followed a horse-draw which had drawn badgers and a short combat with many wildcats and crows was running on ahead of the horse. Suddenly I heard him yell, saw him rise and then he ran off sideways and I followed. It was strange, I thought. He could have been bitten by a rattlesnake, a black snake or a scorpion. I followed him until I came to the door where the scorpion placed my hand upon him. He was helpless. As I rose to my feet I was conscious of a sickening odor permeating the atmosphere. I was becoming dizzy, and strength was

When I stood where it appeared to be the end of fire. With a great effort I waded my mustang, and just as I gained his head that line of fire spring through the air toward me. Instantly my mustang commenced to rear and snort, and, looking down, I perceived around one of his forelegs a large quantity of the culebra de la muerte. Suddenly my mustang plunged forward, and I, already alarmed, was thrown to the ground. As I touched the earth I was conscious of a blash of light, a sensation as though a brand had been thrust into my face, and my senses left me.

"Nearly five hours later I awoke to find

with the disfigurement of my part, and I was not allowed to go out of the room without a mask. Disappearing through the grate, I saw the streak of fire, and instantly they had been scorched by the deadly flames. Luckily for me, the flame struck me in the forehead in a vital part, and after a short time I was able to get up. The flames, however, had seared its way through my hair, and when the wound healed, as it did, and many months, this scar was left. When the snake had twined itself around the muzzle, I had been butten but away and I was left as exposed. I saw the snake on the stretched on a limb on an oak tree, its brilliant colored body and copper-colored head as to be visible from quite a distance.

Another time, while hunting, I had a snake coiled around my arm, and it was suddenly while I was looking a bright

"I'm already, as I looked up in time to see a
cottonball drift above me. The top of the brush
burst forth above me and vanished in an instant
at the same time a cottonball drifted every-
where, and, dodging about with rabbit ear-
flutters and bewilderment it darted into a
fear not more than twenty feet from me.
"I ran in a circle about the cottonball
and all was well with the cottonball."
"To those who know nothing of the moun-
tains it is a source of much surprise and
amazement to hear a man say that he can
behave a fire sweep the prairie or burn
hundreds of acres of brush and timber
on the mountains. Still the fires frequently
do sweep the prairie and burn during
hot, dry months of July and August."
"Old Indians believe they are caused
by the evil snake of fire."
With these words Papet closed speaking

THE ENGLISH TONGUE.

tainian by about 30,000,000, and the Portuguese by about 15,000,000. The English language is spoken by about two million people, and many of the others, and this relative growth is sure to continue. English has become the world language, and it is the language of all the white of Australasia. North America alone will have 100,000,000 of the English people in 1950. The British Empire, Great Britain and Ireland. In South America, India also the language is vastly extended.

 TO ORDER.

Send 1 cent stamp for samples and self-measuring
tapes. Will include a complete and accurate mea-
surement of the body.

THE EQUINOX PANTS CO.
302 and 304 St. James st., Montreal.

1834. 1890

202 MATHIASSEN & CO.,
202 McGill St., Montreal,
IMPORTERS AND WHOLESALE GROCERS.

Dealers have in this establishment the advantage of stock
large and small, and of the highest quality of goods at
absolutely reasonable prices.

Orders carefully attended to.

HOOD'S "TRIUMPH"

is the Hoop of the Age for PURITY, grace,
elegance and economy. It is made of steel, con-
taining 10 proved pounds less its
weight in iron than any other
hoop. **"THE ANTHEM HOOP CO."**

Ask your Grocer for it, or send to the
Factory at Anthem street, for a box.

NAME and TRADE MARK is stamped on Hoop as
a guarantee of its purity.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

ALL IN ADVANCE.	
Weekly Witness	\$3.00
Monthly Witness	1.00
Quarterly Witness	.35
Half-yearly Witness	.70
Yearly Witness	1.40
Single Copies	5c

All the above papers sent free of postage to any part of the Dominion, United States and Great Britain.

ADVERTISING RATES.

PER LINE WITHIN—Canada, advertisements, 25¢ per line per insertion, including one and large type. One-third of when set in our usual small advertising type. Outside rates: 1 year, \$2.00 per line; 6 months, \$1.00 per line; 3 months, \$2.25 per line. "Pamphlet Book," "Form for Sale," can be inserted for a word per insertion. Money to accompany order.

DAILY WITNESS.—The per line first insertion, and per line subsequent insertions. Outside rates: 1 year, \$2.00 per line; 6 months, \$1.00 per line; 3 months, \$2.25 per line. "Pamphlet Book," "Form for Sale," can be inserted for a word per insertion. Money to accompany order.

When strips are sent to make up a regular column, the only discount is 10¢ per cent.

For the minimum number of lines for which an advertisement is charged.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—When printing is particularly slow, the cost of the paper and the cost of the ink will be added to the regular price.

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The Witness.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1890.

A BLOW AT CANADIAN RAILWAYS.

The United States is about to add another section to the fence which both the Republic and Dominion are constantly extending and building up in order to restrict trade between kindred people to whom it is mutually profitable, if not absolutely necessary. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company transports considerable quantities of tea, raw silk and rice, coming from Asiatic ports, from Vancouver across the continent to American cities in the East. It also carries back at rates of freight which leave some slight profit to the American manufacturers quantities of American cotton for export to Asiatic cities. The Company has been able to carry these goods through Canada to the United States without passing them through the customs, or subjecting them to duty as coming from any other country than that which produced them, by having them bonded at Vancouver by the custom at that port sealing the cars. This privilege is to be withdrawn. It is not claimed that any irregularities have occurred, or are likely to occur. The trouble is that the American transcontinental railway lines naturally displace the competition of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and think that it is prevented from doing the business that they will get it. There is some reason for doubting this. In investigation shows that the Canadian Pacific has built up its Asiatic business at the expense of the steamship and railway lines which transported goods from Asiatic ports to the Atlantic ports of America. The fact that the Canadian Pacific has all but cut the trade in American cotton between Eastern America and Asia shows that it carries at rates which the American railways either will or cannot carry at. On the other hand there is to be said for the American railway companies. They are under an Interstate Commerce Act which compels them to carry "through," "long distance" and "short distance" freights at the same rates per mile and which prevents them from giving preferential rates either to localities or persons. This is a just law and one which is needed for the protection of the people who subsidize the lines of railways and who should all be treated alike by common carriers. Canada needs such a law but has not one, and her people suffer for it, as Canadian railways have helped to build up the Western States at the expense of Canada, for whose convenience they were built, by giving low through freight rates as compared with the high local and short haul rates charged upon goods transported in Canada. The absence of this law enables the Canadian railway companies to transport through freight at lower rates than the American railways can do unless the latter are prepared to cut down their local rates in proportion. If Canada had an interprovincial commerce act the complaints and arguments of the American railway companies against Canadian competition for through rates would have little force, and would probably not have been heard.

THE PARTIES AND PROTECTION.

The two old political parties are at present carrying on a discussion in their respective organs concerning the demerits of each other's fiscal policy. The Conservative papers seem to know that protection is not as popular in Canada as it has been, and that farmers cannot now be argued or cajoled into pretending to believe that the National Policy has been anything but a severe drain upon their resources. In 1875, in spite of the wealth and the rust, which Sir John Macdonald jolied the people into regarding as the work of the Liberal Government, the farmers of Canada were at least comfortably well off as a class. They owned, as a rule, unimproved farms, and if they did not get high prices for their products, as compared with the time of the American war and the succeeding period, they, at least, had the satisfaction of buying comparatively cheap goods, and of being comparatively lightly taxed for Governmental and other purposes, and consequently their revenues, if not great, were then proportionately greater than their expenditures. The farmers' institutions have condemned the protective policy of the Government, and especially condemned the grain and flour duties. When they were invited to ask that these should be increased, they boldly demanded that they should be abolished, as they were a hindrance rather than a help to the Canadian agriculturist. Nevertheless, the Government increased the breadstuffs duties, and with them the protective duties upon merchandise which the farmers are compelled to purchase. The Government made a promise and a pretence at stopping the extravagant system of bonusing railway projects by means of which it bribed whole counties and platoons of counties to support its candidates, but that is about the sum of what they have actually done in the matter. The editor of one of their own organs, which has always ascribed the apparent prosperity of the country since 1875 to the protective policy of the Government, founded a strong argument against certain provisions of the proposed

bank act upon the premises that the abundance of money and the activity of enterprise were the results of the large amounts of money which had been borrowed by the country, and that the banking system of the country had yet to be really tested by the period of repayment which had yet to follow. Over and over again this paper has argued in the same way in regard to the protective policy, and has been combated by the Government organs, which asserted everything but failures to the protective policy. Canada is now looking forward to a magnificent harvest as the only thing which will prevent commercial depression next year, but while a single good harvest will prevent acute trouble it will take a succession of good harvests to avert it altogether. The farmers and small millers who have mortgages to pay off, and the storekeepers who have the sums of repeated renewals to meet do not need to be told that with the most rigid economy and care they will not be able to free themselves this fall, no matter how good the crop may be. The Conservatives need not, therefore, be so sure that a good harvest would save the protectionist policy. On the other hand, there can be no doubt that the lack of strenuousness in political principle shown by the Liberals in late years has prevented that party from securing the confidence of those who would like to see the country free from the trade restrictions and the taxation burdens which have been piled, and are piling, so severely against its prosperity. The Liberals are not free traders; their policy is not even one of tariff for revenue only; the last time their party leader was heard from upon the subject he was arguing for the present necessity of it, not in favor of incidental protection. Is this still the policy of the Reform party in regard to the fiscal policy of the country, apart from the question of commercial union or unrestricted reciprocity with the United States? The farmers should be told that what concerning the Liberal party's views. But in the meantime they should remember that even that mean policy is better than the one now being enforced. There can be no doubt that a Liberal Government would have reduced the protective tariff somewhat in spite of their illogically argued assertions that it could not be done away with owing to the necessity of a large revenue to meet the interest upon the great public debt and the future extra expenditures which the Conservatives have committed the country to. By supporting the Conservative Government, the farmers have subjected themselves to a still higher protective tariff, and have thus to stagger under an augmented burden instead of under a stationary or slightly diminished one. Last session the protection trumpet was sounded, and the manufacturers trooped to Ottawa with demands for increased protection, and their demands were granted. The fiscal policy of the Liberal party, as we understand it, is a craven and vacillating one. It does not promise any great measure of relief, as a good courageous policy should, but it is a great deal to be preferred by the farmers to the Conservative policy, which is one which contemplates an ever increasing burden of taxation upon the already overburdened farmer. Protected manufacturers are simply insatiable. After ten or twelve years of protection in Canada our burdens, great as they are, are not at their heaviest, or anyway near it, judging from the fate of those in whose path we are being driven. After thirty years of protection the United States keeps on increasing the tariff at the demands of the wealthy monopolists and other manufacturers of the republic, while there, as here, the farmers are greatly reduced if not actually impoverished.

THE DEN OF THE PLAGUE.

Cholera is raging in the towns on the Arabian side of the Red Sea. The holy cities on that steaming coast have always been the nests of this disease. Crowded to suffocation at certain periods of the year by exhausted and filthy pilgrims and with no sanitary ideas whatever, they are not only the strongholds of the plague but enjoy the most unenviable facilities for spreading it all over the Asiatic and African world. In the interests of the health of the world it seems necessary that Arabia should be permanently policed by some civilized power, though none will envy the power which undertakes the task. Since the day when it was said of Ishmael "His hand shall be against every man and every man's hand against him," Arabia, though at times claimed by one imperial power or another, and though for some centuries tributary to the Sultan of Turkey as Khalf of the Mohammedan faith, has never been ruled by any but its own sweet will. At Aden, one of the best fortified places in the world, the British Government has its hands full at times keeping the wanderers of the desert at bay. What would be the fury of the tribesmen to see the infidel dog in possession of the shrines of Mohammed; and when the said infidel dog went the length of closing up the sacred well because it is not protected from the sewage of the town, their wrath would be immeasurable and madhah would be heard of proclaiming holy wars all over Islam. There would perhaps be no better solution of the mahdi question, than this "taking the bull by the horns." This would appear to be the mission of England. She is already the peaceful ruler of more Mohammedans than own the sway of any other power. She is already policeman of the east coast of Arabia and the protector of the country west of the Red Sea and owns the fortress at its mouth. It would not be hard to imagine circumstances arising which would render it necessary for her to proclaim her sphere of influence as extending over the peninsula of Arabia.

LONGUE POINTE ASYLUM.

The question of lunatic farming seems likely to enter seriously into politics. The Premier has distinctly and boldly declared the system now in vogue to be antiquated and bad. Mr. Robitoux, the Provincial Secretary, and his colleague, Mr. Boyer, are understood to be very strongly of the same opinion. Mr. Meier, indeed, publicly deplored the fact in the case of the Beauport Asylum a long contract with the farmers hindered his putting a termination to existing abuses before 1892. One might judge from this that reform was immediately at hand, but it is to be remembered that similar expressions were heard from Mr. Meier when he first claimed the support of the people, and there is no reason to suppose that his personal convictions on the subject have ever varied. The Rev. Sister Therese, however, who, through her organ, claims to have overthrown the previous government, distinctly withholds any essential change in the system. She has, indeed, under pressure both from Government and public opinion, made distinct improvements in management, and she has travelled to study the management of lunatics elsewhere. She is a woman, none will deny, of no ordinary capacities and of phenomenal force of will. She is reported to have given her ultimatum to the Government in the shape of a declaration that the Sisters must remain supreme in the institution without any control on the part of physicians or Government officials, or in other words, that the farming system must continue unaltered. She is also said to demand that her contract be renewed for twenty-five years, thus projecting an acknowledged abuse a long way into another and wiser century. It remains to be seen which is stronger, Mr. Meier and his

Liberal ministers, or the reverend sister and her Jesuit backers. The *Espresso*, the organ ally of the Jesuits and of Sister Therese, has for months poured a ceaseless stream of invective abuse on every one who dared to question the moral perfections of the Sisters, or the scientific perfections of their system. In all this warfare not one atom of argument has appeared in its pages further than this, that inasmuch as the sisters were holy women any one who questioned the perfection of their ways was necessarily a fanatic inspired by the lowest motives, if not from the lower regions. There is a good reason to hope that the Government has determined to emancipate itself in this matter from Jesuit tyranny. In fact Mr. Meier's direct organ, the *Espresso*, has commenced a series of articles attacking the present system. The contest is one between light and darkness, and upon its issue depend the hopes of the province in the future of the Mercier Ministry.

ROMANIZING THE TOWNSHIPS.

There has been much indignation in the French press and the English Mercier press that the *Witness* should have mentioned, for what was all it did, that the official use of the French language had been abolished in a portion of the township of Stanbridge, now called Notre Dame de Stanbridge, and was going to be abolished in a part of the township of Whittton. Laborious arguments have been indulged into show that the law under which this is done is a perfectly fair one and tells both ways, witness the fact that the township of Earlely in Pontiac is about to abolish under it the official use of the French language. We do not stop here to enquire how far the cases are parallel. Perhaps some reader in Earlely reading this, and the letter that goes with it, will furnish us with the facts. We never said that the law was not a fair one. We only noted the fact alongside of the more important one that the British American system of municipal government is in certain parts of this province which are in our Federal constitution regarded as the stronghold of the English race. We did not speak of this change from non-sectarian to sectarian government as being one of the very worst forms in which the equal rights of Canadians are being legally invaded. The mean and tyrannical methods by which these new English settlements are being torn limb from limb at the absolute will of the Roman Catholic bishop the moment a French majority can by any gerrymander be counted in any territory whatsoever is well illustrated by our correspondent's account of the procedure in this case of Stanbridge, by which a thriving village has been torn into three. Our correspondent does not blame the French who are good neighbors, but the priests, who manage these things for the aggrandizement of their ecclesiastical system. He is very likely to be right. The French Canadians who leave French settlements to live among the English do so because they can live better there, and cannot therefore be supposed to be anxious to turn the English settlements into French ones, or to drive the English out. Very different are the interests of the priests, who cannot collect tithes till their people are by their parochial system brought under their power. To them it is infinitely important to Romanize the institutions of the country. The worst of it is that the clergy have sufficient control over the French vote to make every politician, both English and French, support the Romanizing system. The only check on the system is as our correspondent says, the fear of rousing the Protestants. Our correspondent complains of the apparent inaction of the Equal Rights Association, but what have his neighbors done to support that movement or to bring it to bear on the facts of which he complains? How did the Eastern Townships answer when the trumpet sounded? By a general cry of deprecation; their leaders and their organs, declared that they were living happily with their neighbors and did not wish people to come into their counties to stir up strife. They answered by bowing down to the idols of the politicians—by insulting the Equal Rights men at Ayer's Place, Waterloo and elsewhere; by refusing a hall to them at Knowlton; by listening to all they had to say in Sutton, Cowansville, East Farnham, Castleton and other points; by yielding the palm of truth, righteousness and courage to the Equal Rights, and then—casting their ballots for the men who had sold them for political success. Why did not the great iniquity in legislation, against which protest was being made, arouse the Eastern Townships' freemen to a sense of their danger? Because the politician was under the lash of the pains and penalties of the church—because the Protestant electors are under the hypnotism of party. If ever men made a disinterested struggle for political and religious freedom in the Eastern Townships it was the Equal Rights, who, at their own expense and risk, went into the Eastern Townships to arouse the public conscience—to oppose the self-styled mouthpiece of Quebec Protestantism who had claimed that the Protestants of this province were with him in voting for the allowance of the Jesuits Estates Act, and who, so far as elections could do so, has proved that they were. Now that the vote has been cast, and that there are no more elections in question, it is of little use waking up to ask why the Equal Rights men to quiet.

MRS. AHAK.

Canada has become a reproach all over Christendom, and for aught we know, in heathen lands, for the way in which a few weeks ago she treated a Chinese lady, eminent, both socially and as an influential Christian, forcing her, after being received with distinction in Great Britain and Ireland, to go about our streets bonded like a bale of goods by our Customs Department. Christian papers on both sides of the line condemn the proceeding freely, but the large organs of public opinion as a rule, do not. They do not like the transaction, of course; it has a bigoted and intolerant look about it. But they do not seem to have got over the matter. The lower classes from Europe are extremely afraid of the Chinese, and these all have votes; and many thinking people share their fear of a Mongolian invasion. It is hard enough for the American press, to assimilate the degraded masses of Europe as fast as they pour upon us, and fit them for self governing citizenship without undertaking a similar task for the tide of heathenism which has begun to flow upon us from an opposite direction. So the American nation consent to an exclusive law and Customs upon the Chinese, an insulting custom duty. The three Chinamen who were sent like tennis balls backwards and forwards over the Suspension at Niagara because at one end they were inadmissible and at the other they could not pay the duty, may have appeared in a ridiculous light to many, but to the thinker it is the Christianity of two great nations which was rendered ridiculous. Let us imagine the Christians preaching the excellence of the Chinese gospel and let us imagine one of these Chinamen of Suspension-bridge fame, or indeed any of the thousands who know how the Chinese are treated in America, rising up and telling how, after the working of this Christian heaven for eighteen centuries, such was the brotherhood of the Christians, to his fellow-man in the United States and Canada, What scorn would bring down upon the teacher's claims? This treatment of the Chinese on the score of race is similar

in character to African slavery. It was very hard to form any argument against the principle of slavery, one which had been admitted from the beginning of the world. The American Constitution had indeed declared that all men were born free and equal, but Americans practically denied this in the case of the African, who was thus excluded from counting as a man. Indeed Chief Justice Taney, of the United States Supreme Court, one of the most competent and respected of jurists, declared as late as 1857, from America's highest judgment seat, that the Negro was an inferior being, having no rights which the white man was bound to respect. The Christianity of the nation doubtless revolted against this to some extent; but it was the workings of Providence that forced the nation, in spite of this doctrine, to blot out slavery from among its institutions. The Americans are now ashamed of having been almost the last Christian people to hold slaves, but they have not yet got one step nearer to the principle on which they demanded their own independence, namely, that all men are born free and equal. Either this, or they must declare the Chinamen, as they did the negro, to be something less than men. It appears as though it would be neither humanity nor Christianity that will remove this shame from these Christian peoples but the logic of providential events. The threatened reprisals on the part of China to exclude all Americans from her Celestial Soil when put into execution, will put the American people into such a humiliating and awkward position that they will probably have to revise their laws.

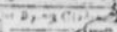
CREDIT FONCIER.

The credit foncier is a dangerously alluring scheme in a country where agriculturists are influential in politics by reason of their numbers, and where a majority of them are in need of credit, or, at least, fancy they are. There are already unsound or adventurous financiers of more or less prominence, ready to urge such bad schemes upon communities during periods of depression or speculation when the need of money is felt. The arguments in favor of a credit foncier seem simple, and sound, as partially presented by plausible advocates. The Government, which merely represents the people of the country, is able to borrow upon the credit of the people, as a whole, at the rate of from three to four percent, while the individuals composing the people have to pay from six to seven percent. Why should not the Government borrow all the money needed by the people and lend it to the agriculturists in need of money, upon the security of their land, at the same low rate of interest, charging them, in addition, only what would cover the cost. Thus the farmers would save two percent interest, or about one third of what they are compelled to pay under the individual system. The objections to the credit foncier, which have been fatal to it wherever tried, except under very peculiar conditions, are kept carefully out of sight by the interested framers of these unsound financial projects. In the first place, a Government cannot create money. If it intends to lend money it must first obtain it either from its own people by taxing them or from other people by borrowing. If it taxes its own people for the purpose of lending to some of them at lower rates of interest than rule in the country, it simply confiscates from one section of the people in order to benefit another section. If it borrowed from outsiders in order to lend again upon such securities and under such circumstances, it would be compelled to pay higher rates than before, thus in a measure defeating its own purpose,—that of saving to the farmer the difference between the Government rate and the individual rate. Then the cost of lending money and seeing to the soundness of the security upon which the loan is made in each individual case is greater than is generally supposed. Men who conduct such businesses have to be possessed of sound judgments. They must possess the power of saying No very decidedly when too large credits are asked. Now, would a Government of the day be likely to appoint such men as agents, and would Government agents and Government money be likely to reduce the actual cost of making such loans? To ask these questions is to answer them, as everyone knows. These considerations take it for granted that the Government of the day would not use such schemes for political purposes. Does the experience of Canadian people warrant them in taking it for granted that the Government would not be more willing to lend to its friends than to its enemies when election time was approaching, or that it would not find an excuse for cancelling or reducing the loans at critical times. During every general election struggle in this province the Government has seized the opportunity of bribing whole communities by remitting their municipal debts to the province. Is there any security that the Government would not proceed in the same way with individuals. It is quite certain that a credit foncier would not be carried on upon a strictly business basis. Political parties would vie with one another in promising reduced rates, and that party which probably be most successful at the polls which promised the greatest reduction, even were it at the cost of the ruin of the credit of the country. In fact, securities held by the Government against the voters who elect it to office would not be securities at all, as the Government would not dare to realize on the securities when this course became necessary, and if it did attempt to do so the prices of farms would be lower than the farmers would believe right, and the Government would be defeated as a hard creditor. There is no reason to believe that, as a general rule, the rate of interest on farm mortgages is too high. Counting the cost and the actual losses by decline in values, it is probable the rates in Canada are not more than fairly profitable. Nor is easy and abundant credit an unmixed benefit to farmers. They would probably be tempted by it to assist others, or to go into some business besides farming, and some would be led to expend money inextricably ways, such as buying new land and obtaining more credit. Sheriff's sales of farms would become even more numerous than they are and the value of land would be reduced, thus injuring, if not endangering, all such securities as farm mortgages held by the Government. We are satisfied the farmers would be a great deal worse off under a credit foncier than they now are, and the credit of the country would be greatly impaired. Nevertheless, we are sensible that the demands will continue. Our Canadian Government has become a paternal one. It regulates the private business of the people. It prohibits them from buying where they can buy cheapest, and compels the many to buy at high prices in order to subsidize and enrich the few. It even borrows money from the railway companies and lets them have it at lower rates than they could get it at in the market; if it thus serves the railway companies why should it not serve the farmers in the same way? This question seems at first unanswerable, but the help given to companies at the expense of the people is possible; but at whose expense can help be given to the people? They are the only paymasters. The Government, for its own purposes, has been instructing the people to look to and depend upon its protective policy for prosperity and success. The farmers have admittedly been injured by this policy, so they feel entitled to look to the paternal Government for relief. Thus economic errors and evils breed and multiply.

THE RAILWAY STRIKE.

Every man not pledged or bound by law or contract to continue at work, can, of course, leave his employment whenever he likes, or whenever he is ordered to do so by any man or society to whom he has surrendered his freedom. When a man has left work, however, he has no more right than any other man to interfere with the business of his former employer. In determining "that not a single passenger, nor a pound of freight" shall be carried into or out of New York by its main artery, the Knights of Labor have simply proclaimed themselves a conspiracy against public order and against the organization of society, and in so doing have thrown away the sympathy which, under Mr. Powderly's teaching, they enjoyed. In fact, it would have been hard for them to select a process by which they could more effectively set the mass of the community against them. Had a band of barons of the old feudal days, for the sake of asserting their own privileges, suddenly swooped down upon and blockaded the highways and cut off the supplies of a city, their conduct would have been denounced as outrageous, and the citizens, who would have speedily armed themselves to put them down, would have had the applause of all mankind. The United States is not likely to hand over the control of the country to a self-constituted body of men who assume to dictate to their fellows, willing or unwilling, where and for whom, and for how much they shall work, who shall be employed and who shall be promoted. The country is strong enough to assert its freedom and it will certainly do so, and when, again, a body of men organize to put the affairs of the country out of joint they will find themselves kicking against the pricks of some effective law that will make their conduct criminal. If it was only stopping for a day the regular milk supply of New York it would be in the highest degree criminal, for the death rate would be certain to rise, and the conspirators would have at their doors the death of more innocents than Herod slew at Bethlehem. The reason given by the Knights for this war against society is a supposed determination of the railway company to have no Knights or unionists in its employ. But how could they better vindicate the action complained of than by demonstrating to all the world where the company would find itself if it was to come under the control of its men. A statement has been sent to Governor Hill of New York that there will be no interference with law and order, which is a pleasant assurance, but out of harmony with the facts already recorded. Unless the reports which have reached us are incorrect the free handling of trains has already been interfered with. Neither the knights nor any one else need fear any harm from the militia, the police or the "Pinkerton thugs" if no violence or intimidation is attempted, but having already sought to interfere with the freedom of the Company they cannot object to every precaution being used against the repetition of such interference. *Suavis populi suprema lex*—the public safety is the supreme law, and the certain consequences of a sudden and unexpected suspension of traffic at the busiest travelling season, or, in other words, of the sudden stoppage of the pulse of the community, are so terrible as to warrant the most vigorous possible measures to ensure the continuity of business. If there are men able and willing to do the work of the Company nobody outside of the Company's employment has any right to interfere with them.

READABLE PARAGRAPHS



IN STATUE QUO.

of the helix I will take the case and get money" — *New York Epoch*.

As he said: "It takes me you have the longest in the world," said a pedestrian, as he wiped sweat from his brow. "No," answered the native, taking his pipe from his mouth, "it is not of the miles, but, as they were so eating, they ran short of mile-stones, as they got down for every two miles."

JULIAN, JAMES AND THE SEAL
 "—tiresomely, I presume it matters not whether events take place; I will continue to be New York World."
 A SLIGHT ALTERATION
 I believe in the motto *In Vino Veritas*. I have longed for what I have seen of men under the use of wine. I should write it *In Vinis*.
 AFTER A SUMMER VACATION
 I'm thin, Thompson
 o, Johnson. My vacation did not result in me losing from anemia.
 he's boarding 'em
 led bugs."
 GREAT SURGEON IMPOSED UPON
 Great surgeon Professor Billings, of Vassar

to perform an operation upon a Russian, agreed to do it for a fee of two hundred guineas. On making the journey to the small town where his patient lived, he was informed that he suddenly died. However, in order that he not suffer loss by the transaction, the professor, whether he would treat five hospital patients for a fee of fifty guineas each. He accepted and did the work; and just as he was started to ascertain that one of the five patients he had operated upon was well, he was



HAPPY THOUGHT.

Don't seem any the worse for his long ab-
 sence. Don't you think it would be a good
 thing to bring up a few of our younger children as fast-

CHANGING PLACES.

ing the engine aside his opposite neighbor seats with him. The stranger puts considerable inconvenience to make the ride with him, but the greater affability of the stranger is not to be denied. "You prefer riding with the smiling and obliging stranger, say; but in case of a collision a man is to be treated up so very much unless his position you occupy now,"—*Texas Sports*.

WHAT COLLEGE CAN DO.

"—Have you seen Mr. Pater's son pass from college?"

"Yes, ma; saw him last night."

"Passed much?"

"He's with a microscope."



SHE HADN'T ANY.

hook. "I don't want anybody to stick *As a Memory of Betsy Malinbrook* on me; for I never heered anything yit that I."

THE END OF THE FIRST PART.

MAN who had been appointed receiver

yer and asked: "Out of \$20,000 passing hands how much ought a receiver to Well, about \$10,000," was the reply. "No!" he exclaimed. "Who is to get the and, I'd like to know?"—*Texas Sittings.*

"My father," says Brown, "You are
 are consumption don't you?" Doctor
 sir, I never fall when my instructions
 "Irate Patient—" "My son took your medi-
 and died an hour after the last dose."
 —"My insulin dose were not followed."
 take it two years.—*New York Weekly*.

BROWN'S WHA-~~WHA~~ to try to appear
 after than he really is, and his children are
 low in his forehead. The other day he
 his sharp little forehead, John, for a mark.
 Brown sat down to read the paper,
 ular went to play with some other chil-
 way home Brown inquired, "How have
 myself?" "Very much, papa." "What
 those other boys?" "I use to keep up
 didn't tell them they were my father,
 you were my footman."



minister, I don't suppose you don't know
 don't want to have nobody to be no-
 ous?
 addressed—Yes, I don't.—*Life*.

"CARVER," says a book on etiquette,

when he carves." Carvers who get on have a wrestling match with the chickens some other name.

