



A Montana man has just completed and applied for a patent on an automatic machine that bids fair to revolutionize the cutting of precious stones. This machine can do the work of at least twelve men.

Edison says that gold is not as valuable nor as necessary as iron or lead.

A public library and literary resort exclusively for the blind has been opened in Chicago.

It is said there is no case on record in Massachusetts where a verdict having been set aside in a capital case and a second trial granted a conviction was secured.

The Chicago Herald has discovered that every crowned head of Europe, with the exception of that of Turkey, is descended from one or two sisters, the daughters of Duke Ludwig Rudolf of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttel, who lived about one hundred and fifty years ago.

We have an idea that the United States is a great place, with its 60,000,000 people, observes the Detroit Free Press, but there are 800,000,000 people in Asia, and more than 200,000,000 in Africa. The scientific estimate is that there are 1,450,000,000 people on the earth, of whom not more than 500,000,000 wear clothing from neck to sole.

One of Boston's pleasantest small charities is the furnishing of street car tickets in summer to poor invalids for rides in the suburbs of that city, but it is now asserted by the conductors that very many of these tickets are misused, being tendered to them by persons who not only are not ill, but are, from their dress and appearance, abundantly able to pay their own fares.

The Manufacturers' Record of Baltimore publishes a list of 502 industrial concerns established in the South since the 1st of July, showing that business was affected very little by the panic below Mason and Dixon's line. The list is made up largely of cotton mills, canning factories, foundries and wood-working establishments. During the first half of the year some 1400 new enterprises of this kind were started in the South.

M. Francisque Sarcay, the French dramatic critic, announces himself as a convert to vegetarianism. He has written a letter to a Paris paper describing his experiences, in which he says that he is only a "moderate" vegetarian—that is, he eschews only meat and admits eggs, butter and cheese, milk and fish to his regimen. He finds that he is in much more vigorous health and in better working condition than before. The first week, he says, is rather hard to bear, but the benefit is soon felt thereafter.

The big liners New York and Paris, according to the New York Sun, burn about 330 tons of coal per day, or about 30,800 pounds per hour, in maintaining 18,000 indicated horse power, which is equivalent to a coal consumption of 1.71 pounds per hour per horse power. The average for all the fast ships with triple expansion engines, like the New York, Paris, Majestic, Teutonic and Fuerst Bismarck, is said to be about 1.75 pounds per horse power per hour. In the case of the Umbria and Etruria and similar ships, which have only compound engines, the rate is higher. This is an evidence of the advance made in marine engineering by the introduction of the triple expansion system.

The Atlanta Constitution says: "After sixty years of restricted suffrage, Belgium, under her new constitution, is about to try a startling experiment. The new law gives a vote to every male citizen who has reached the age of twenty-five. A married man who pays taxes, or a tax-paying bachelor of thirty-five, is entitled to an extra vote. A third vote is given to a citizen of independent means, possessing a certificate of high education, or who holds or has held a public office of a certain rank. It is believed that every husband will place his extra vote at the disposal of his wife, thus indirectly giving her the elective franchise. Under the new constitution the number of votes in Belgium will leap from 150,000 to 1,200,000. A well-equipped Belgian will now be able to cast a vote on election day just after breakfast, and if he feels greatly interested in the campaign he can stick in another vote at dinner time, and still another on his way home to supper."

THE HEADSMAN'S AX

STORY OF THE SWIFT AND SILENT GUILLOTINE.

Notoriety Won by a Chance Remark—The Idea Not Exclusively French—Scene at a Paris Morning Execution.

THE story of the guillotine forms one of the saddest, not to say the most revolting pages of history, so distasteful even to the writers of French annals that its origin was not definitely known till some forty or fifty years after its invention. Popular legend attributed it to one Dr. Guillotin, a member of the convention in 1789, who two years before the machine commenced its deadly work had with humane intention suggested in that body that criminals who had to suffer the death penalty should be beheaded by some mechanical means, the mode of which he did not specify and of which he had himself no definite idea.

It has often been asserted, and is still repeated, that Dr. Guillotin was the first person who died by the guillotine. This is not a fact. He was arrested on some trivial charge, but released. He afterward acquired a considerable fortune, and died peacefully in his bed at Paris in 1814.

The following description of the guillotine in its perfected form is condensed from an admirable article by Maxime de Camp, published in the Revue des Deux Mondes. Until 1872 it was mounted on a scaffold, a scaffold being traditional, but it is now placed on the ground, and in Paris not far from the door of the Roquette prison in order to abbreviate as much as possible the agony of the condemned and soften the horrible features of the scene. The instrument, which can be taken apart for the purposes of transportation, is about thirteen feet high and surmounted by a crosspiece, called in French the "chapeau." The ax is a triangular blade solidly fastened by bolts to a piece of wood fourteen inches broad. The ax itself is a foot in width. A little more than three feet from the ground are two boards, the lower one fixed, the upper made to slide up and down in the grooves. In the lower of these is cut a half-moon. There is another in the upper, and when it falls on the lower, the two half-moons meet, making a perfect circle, which receives the neck of the criminal and keeps the head in place. This is called the lunette. In front of the lunette and on the side on which the condemned approaches the instrument is an upright board, long enough to reach from the ankles of the criminal to his breast, which turns upon pivots in the middle. It is called the "bascule." On one side is a huge basket, lined with zinc and partly filled with bran or sawdust, that is destined to contain both the head and body. The bascule is furnished with straps to confine the body and limbs if thought necessary. The criminal approaches the bascule erect before him. The executioner, who stands beside it, pushes him forward, tilting it at the same moment. His head falls into the lower half of the lunette. The executioner touches a button, which drops the upper half of the lunette imprisoning his neck. The pressure of another button lets fall the ax, whose movement is accelerated by a heavy weight of lead and rollers set in the grooves, and the work is finished.

Though the instrument seems to be so precise in the accomplishment of its work, mistakes or imperfections are possible, caused by involuntary movements of the condemned, who, however composed he may be, is not always entire master of himself. The ax slides down close beside the lunette, but a contraction of the muscles of the neck sometimes causes the blade to strike the chin, and though the arms and legs are fastened it is not so closely that all motion is rendered impossible. To perfect the operation the executioner has two aids, one of whom presses on the legs and the other seizes the head, which he draws toward him to enable the blade to strike the neck squarely and sever it without accident, after which, if there is any need, he pushes the head into the bascule.

As soon as the President refuses to intervene, the executioner appears on the scene, and the execution usually takes place on the following day, or the day after. If it is desired to avoid a public execution it may be delayed several days, in which case the Place de la Roquette is besieged every night by a crowd such as Paris alone can produce. The guillotine is brought after midnight, but long enough before the fatal moment to render it solid and to raise and let fall the ax

several times to see that there is no obstruction. The military arrive, partly on horseback, and form a square, forcing the crowd back to the limits of the place.

When all is ready the director of the prison, the priest, two or three officers and usually a few reporters, proceed to the cell of the prisoner, whom they find sleeping quietly, entirely unaware that death is so near. The director awakes him and in a formula, whose words are almost always the same, says, "Your appeal has been rejected. The President refuses to pardon you. Have courage." To this the prisoner commonly replies; "I will have courage." But sometimes he complains, affirming his innocence, or accusing certain witnesses of having testified falsely against him. He rises, dresses, and is taken into another room where he has his hair cut and the upper part of his clothing cut away to allow the ax to operate freely. The executioner appears and takes possession of him. The cortege is formed to conduct him to the scaffold, his arms tied and his legs confined but not in such a manner as to prevent all movement. The priest goes before to hide the terrible instrument, holding up the cross which the condemned rarely raises his eyes to look upon. The executioner or his aids support him if he falters. He arrives at the guillotine facing the bascule. The priest dismisses him with a kiss of peace. The executioner tilts the bascule, the neck falls in the lower half of the lunette, the upper half falls clapping the neck and the ax falls instantaneously. The work is finished in a few seconds. There is the fall of the ax, a spurt of blood; the head rolls into the basket, and the body is tumbled after it. Then the basket is put into a wagon, which gallops away to the potters' field. The instrument is taken to pieces, taken down and carried off the building where it is stored. The squad of the Republican Guard that guarded the place with other soldiers on duty are marched off to their barracks. The spectators disappear from the few windows that command the place, and the crowd melts away, a few remaining to inspect where the guillotine stood, the traces of blood having been carefully removed the moment the instrument disappeared. An hour after the sight of the tragedy remains no trace of the occurrence.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Frost Torches to Protect Vegetables.

The project adopted by the farmers of Saratoga County, New York, to protect their crops from damage by early frosts is worthy of imitation elsewhere. It seems that a Swedish farmer has talked of the use of "frost torches" in his native country, made of petroleum-soaked peat; but, as peat is not common in Saratoga County, the farmers employed their leisure time in the summer in preparing pine stakes two inches in diameter and five feet long, then they laid in a stock of kerosene. A few evenings ago the thermometer dropped to thirty-eight degrees by 8 o'clock p. m. and the agriculturists began soaking their pine sticks. By midnight they had them in place, about fifty to the acre and blazing vigorously, the dense smoke preventing the chilling of the atmosphere. As the torches cost but about one-half cent each, and as all the torch-illuminated farms escaped damage, while the others in the vicinity were probably depleted of two-thirds of their produce by frost, it is clear that the scheme is as economical as it is successful.—Newark News.

Lariat Made of Human Hair.

Carlos Gutierrez, a Mexican cowboy of White Oaks, New Mexico, wears at his saddlebow perhaps the most curious lariat ever possessed by a herder. This lariat is composed entirely of human hair of a beautiful glossy black, as fine as silk and strong as hempen rope. The whole is the work of his mother and his wife, both of whom contributed to its length for a period of several years, carefully braiding in their locks from day to day. The lariat measures something over seventeen feet in length and is about half an inch thick.

Both of the women are noted for the beauty and abundance of their hair, the elder's being eight feet from the crown of her head to where it falls on the ground, while the wife's tresses, when she sits, sweeps the floor for three feet. Gutierrez has been offered his own price for the rope, as it is a superstition among the cowboys that a rope of human hair is a talisman against death in the saddle, besides bringing good luck with the cattle.—Philadelphia Times.

Typewritten letters have been formally ruled out in legal evidence.

TREASURY THEFTS.

FAMOUS ROBBERIES FROM UNCLE SAM'S STRONG BOX.

The Hallock Case—A Twenty-Thousand-Dollar Robbery in the Issue Room of the Treasury Department.

THE Treasury Department furnishes the greatest field for possible crime. Almost all the employes of the Treasurer's office in the department at Washington handle from tens to hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars every day. None of these men and women is under bonds. The Treasurer of the United States gives a bond, which is expected to secure the Government against loss whether by theft or by error. A little clerical mistake by one of the employes of the office might make the Treasurer a very poor man in a very short time. The amount of mutilated money received by the Treasury Department and handled by many clerks in the course of its progress to redemption is \$700,000 a day. The most famous Treasury robbery is known as the "Hallock case." This robbery occurred in June, 1875. Benjamin Hallock was a clerk in the cash-room of the Treasury Department. Money is handled and tossed about there all day like bread in a baker's shop. One day a package of \$500 notes, aggregating \$47,900, was missing from the cash-room. The city detectives became suspicious of a man named Theodore Brown, known as "Pegleg," Brown, who was a constant frequenter of a saloon kept by "Billy" Ottman on Pennsylvania avenue. Brown displayed a great deal of money and presently went to Saratoga, where Detective George Miller, of Washington, found him playing the races with \$500 notes. He was not risking much money on the horses and it was evident that he was using the race meeting to have the \$500 notes broken into notes of smaller denominations. Brown was arrested and brought back to Washington. In the meantime Hallock, who was under suspicion, had gone to New York. He was arrested and brought back to Washington, where he was used as State's evidence in an effort to convict Ottman and Brown. The Secret Service detectives found \$14,500 on special deposit in Ottman's name in Alexandria, and this was recovered temporarily. It was finally paid to Matt Carpenter and George Bliss, who were the attorneys for the accused men. None of the money stolen by Hallock was recovered, and, as Brown was never tried and the jury in Ottman's case disagreed, no one was punished for the crime. One peculiar feature of the Hallock robbery was the fact that the money stolen by Hallock was not of a new issue, but was money that had come back to the treasury in good condition and was being reissued. If the money had been of a new issue the numbers would have been consecutive, and it would have been very easy to trace the stolen notes. Evidently Hallock had taken that fact into consideration.

Another famous affair was the Winslow robbery, which occurred on December 7, 1879. Winslow took a package containing \$11,900, chiefly in \$100 notes, being sent to the National Bank of Illinois by express in exchange for notes sent in for redemption. The Secret Service Bureau went to work on this case, and got so well on the track of the thief that on the morning of January 7, 1877, a package containing \$11,200 of the stolen money was left at the door of the home of the Secret Service Chief. Facts in connection with the return of the money pointed to Winslow, and he was arrested. All the money except \$555.85 was recovered. Winslow confessed and was sentenced to a year and a half in prison. In his confession he said he had prepared an envelope resembling the office envelopes, which he had filled with blank paper and surreptitiously sealed with the office seals, which were not in his possession. At an opportune moment he had substituted this dummy for the package intended for the National Bank of Illinois.

One of the most picturesque robberies occurred in General Spinner's time. In his annual report for 1869 Spinner had boasted that although his office had handled billions of dollars every year, no shortage had occurred during his term. Certainly this immunity from loss was not due to the perfection of method in the Treasurer's office, for Mr. Spinner's system was very crude compared with the check system of to-day. Almost in answer to General Spinner's boast came a robbery that is unique in the history of the department. It was customary then as now to permit visitors to go through the issue division if they were vouched for by employes of the office. In the early part of June, 1870, two

strange men were noticed by some of the employes of the Treasury Department loitering about the corridors, but no particular comment was made and no watch put on them. On June 11th the wife of a well-known resident of Washington was visiting the Treasury Department with some friends. She stopped at the door of the issue-room, and Mr. Root, who was in charge of the room, invited her to enter. One of the men who had been loitering about the hall pushed his way into the midst of this lady's party. Mr. Root supposed that he was one of the party and the lady supposed that he was a friend of Mr. Root. The stranger questioned Mr. Root very closely about the methods of the office, working his way over to the table on which lay many packages of notes. He managed to get Mr. Root between him and the clerk who had charge of the money. At the same time the other man entered the room and bending over the messenger of the office so as to obstruct his view of the table on which the money lay, made particular inquiries by name for a fictitious clerk of the office. At this moment the first man distracted Mr. Root's attention by telling him that the party of his "friends" was about to leave and that he must join them. When Mr. Root's head was turned the man picked up a package containing 200 \$10 notes. He might just as well have had \$20 notes, as packages of these notes were on the table, but he did not have time to select. The package which he took was of the size of a \$10 bill in length and breadth and was six inches thick. It was too large to be concealed under his coat, and it was remembered afterward that he had in his hand a large Panama hat, in which he doubtless concealed the package. There was no suspicion of the robbery until the following day—Sunday. No clue to the thieves could be had at Washington, but the numbers of the notes were sent out and all banks were warned against receiving them. Some months afterward a man deposited \$7900 in these notes in a New York bank. He was arrested and part of the money recovered. His accomplices fled the country. The records of the Treasury Department do not show that either of these men were punished.—San Francisco Chronicle.

The Competition That Crushed.

"No," said the man with a straw in his whiskers, "no, you don't catch me shippin' no more stock on your steamboats."

"And why not?" asked the freight agent.

"I done it once," was the reply; "had a fine mule; worth \$200; wanted to send him from Cincinnati to Louisville; put him on a steamboat that had one of them forty-hoss-power bass fiddle whistles on it, with a snort and a screech at the end; mule went on the boat all right but he was lonesome; got to brayin'; had a bray on to him that he was proud of; brayed till the passengers organized a committee to wait on the captain; captain couldn't do a blame thing; had a contract to deliver the mule in Louisville unless the boat busted a boiler; the boiler wouldn't bust and the mule kept on brayin'; about midnight the boat was goin' to make a landin'; pilot pulled the string and the whistle began to blow; mule stopped brayin' soon's the whistle started and cocked up his ear to listen; listened a minute; tried to bray; didn't know whether he was brayin' or not, for that blame whistle; tried again; whistle kept on, then it give a snort and a screech, and bust my buttons if that mule didn't give one look of disappointment and grief and drop dead right on the deck. No, sire, no more steamboats for me shippin' stock on."

and he went out to find a railroad freight agent.—Detroit Free Press.

Stealing the Diamonds.

"Despite the guarding of the diamond mines there is still a good deal of stealing of diamonds," says Dr. J. W. Matthews, a pioneer of Cape Town, South Africa, in the San Francisco Chronicle. "They are constantly inventing new ways to circumvent the guards. It is a great temptation to steal. A native finds a diamond, for instance, as big as a walnut. Well, if he can secrete it it means that he has a fortune and that he need never work any more. A diamond that size is worth \$25,000, enough to last a poor native all his life. So he sets to work contriving how to get away with it.

"I have known them to conceal diamonds in their nostrils and in their hollowed-out boot heels and in all manner of ways scarcely to be imagined. Do the best the guards can the laborers will make away with some."

The District of Columbia has the largest death rate from consumption of any part of the United States.

AUGUSTA EXPOSITION.

Governor Northern Delivers an Address.

The Georgia State Fair Combined With the Exposition. AUGUSTA, GA.—For the third time a grand exposition has been held. On this occasion, however, there is joined with this enterprise the Georgia State Fair under the management of the Georgia State Agricultural Society, the two combined forming an exposition that equals in its scope and magnitude any similar enterprise ever attempted in the history of the South.

In the building is the finest agricultural display of Southern products ever seen, fifteen counties of Georgia and South Carolina and the collective exhibit of the State of South Carolina, participating. In the industrial, mechanical and electrical departments nearly all the States and eight nations are represented, while among the attractions are many of the best features from the Midway Plaisance at the World Fair.

Gov. Northern in his speech said: "This is an auspicious day, not for Augusta only, but for Georgia and the South. With cheap material, cheap labor, and no strikes, the South can claim the entire contract of the manufacture of cotton goods at no distant day. Nothing but ourselves can hinder the growth of our section and the wealth of our people. We do not need to cultivate our farms less but more, while we invite capital to develop our mines, utilize our forests, manufacture our cotton, broaden our agriculture, and open our ports to the commerce of the world.

"The South, under the diversification of crops and diversification of industries, is thrilling with new life. As this new prosperity comes to us it will bring no sweeter thought than that it adds not only to the comfort and happiness of our section, but that it makes broader the glory and deeper the majesty and more enduring the strength of the union of States. In this Republic of ours is lodged the hope of free government on the earth. Here God has rested the ark of the covenant with the sons of men. Let us scar above all provincial pride and find our deeper aspirations in gathering the fullest sheaves into the harvest and standing the staunchest and most devoted of its sons, as it lights the path and makes clear the way through which all the people of this earth shall come in God's appointed time."

TO COIN \$4,000,000 A MONTH.

Colonel Oates Says that Mr. Carlisle Intimated to Him His Policy. MONTGOMERY, ALA.—Congressman Oates has arrived in this city direct from Washington. In an interview he said he had recently called on Mr. Carlisle and the Secretary gave him to understand it would be the policy of the administration to coin all the silver bullion in the Treasury, or about four millions monthly. At this rate, which is the capacity of the mints, it would require four years to coin all the bullion on hand. That would be at the end of Mr. Cleveland term. The succeeding administration would provide for additional currency and relief to the people for increasing the circulating medium. He says he thinks the bill repealing the 10 per cent. tax on State banks will, if passed, give a sufficient domestic currency and relief to the people, but he is not sure the President favors it. The President is non-committal.

A Crew Rescued.

NORFOLK, VA.—The bark S. S. Southard, Captain Broun, from Charleston or Bremen, which put in here for coal, brought to this city Captain McDonald and crew of six men belonging to the schooner Peter H. Crowell, of Dennis, Mass. The Crowell sailed from Norfolk on November 3d, for Fall River with a cargo of coal. She encountered bad weather from the first and on November 5th there was five feet of water in her hold, and it steadily increased notwithstanding all efforts to clear her. When sighted by the Southard Saturday morning she was 13 miles off Body Island. Her decks had had been swept ashore, sails lost and all her boat's carried away. The men were in an exhausted condition and had to be hauled on board with lines.

Nine Feet of Water in her Hold.

WILMINGTON, N. C.—The schooner Douglas Gregory, Captain L. S. Stillwell, sailing from Port Dennisville, N. J., from Savannah to Baltimore, with a cargo of lumber, was towed into Southport in distress. The captain reported that she was struck by a northeast storm on the 10th, in latitude 33 deg. 35 min. north, and longitude 78 deg. west, during which the vessel lost her rudder and sustained several leaks. At present there is nine feet of water in her hold.

Kills the Sheriff. MURRAY, KY.—J. M. Breedlove, sheriff of Henry county, Tenn., was shot and instantly killed by a negro named Coleman. The negro was in ambush and used a shot gun, blowing the top of the sheriff's head off.

The Gridiron Club of Washington, D. C., visited Asheville, N. C., last Friday, where they were wined and dined.

IT CAME TOO LATE.

The Death of a Direct Tax Claimant Before his Claim was Paid.

BEAUFORT, S. C.—At a time like this, when soft-handed charity is pouring its benefactions upon the distressed and storm-stricken sections with bounteous hand, it is a base and additional reflection upon a common sense of justice that this latter should be withheld from those entitled to its rewards and that, too, by the great Government under which we live.

Edwin C. McTureux, respectfully connected and said to have been a faithful and gallant Confederate of Kershaw's brigade, an heir to a moderate sum of money from the direct tax fund in the hands of the United States Government, died here last night in extreme poverty and destitution, while the little pittance from his paternal estate on St. Helena Island confiscated by the United States during the war, and from which he long since should have received his quota, has been withheld in accordance with the cruel and inexorable rule of delay in these cases for long months of postponement of the check, and he had died just about the time that it should have arrived, and now too late for him to enjoy its benefits, which might have smoothed the rough asperities for his life or lightened up his dark pathway to the grave.

He sought not the general charity that might have been obtained, but preferred to abide the sickening pang of hope deferred, and so groaned and died! We had obtained for him a judgment in the Court of Claims for his portion of money, which our paternal Government had allowed him to expect, but the usual formalities of procrastinating payment for ninety days was required by the Government, and when it comes it will come too late to afford him the life's comfort and pleasure of its receipt. It is a sad irony of fate. He had nevertheless some kind friends who saw that he was not entirely neglected and saw him decently interred.

TOBACCO MEN COMFORTABLE.

They Think the Tobacco Tax not Likely to be Raised. WASHINGTON, D. C.—A committee from Winston, N. C., representing the tobacco interests have visited the Secretary of the Treasury and the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. They have also had a hearing before the ways and means committee. As a result of the various interviews they say they are sanguine that the tax on manufactured tobacco will not be increased, and that the provision of the McKinley law as to leaf tobacco will not be enacted. The Secretary has made no recommendation of the kind and both he and the Commissioner are opposed to troubling tobacco. These gentlemen understand that the committee is not likely to increase the tax of six cents on the pound, but they have a sub-committee to look after things if it is proposed to disturb the situation.

A distinguished member of the ways and means committee said that the internal revenue features of the bill were not yet arranged. As to the tariff election results, he smiled and remarked, "I think the committee has some backbone, but it is conservative and its action will be conservative."

THE WORK OF ANARCHISTS.

They Throw Dynamite Bombs Into the Midst of a Theatre.

BARCELONA, SPAIN.—During the second act of the opera, William Tell, Wednesday night in the Lyceum Opera House, two bombs, presumably loaded with dynamite, were thrown from the galleries into the audience below. One struck a man on the back of his head and the seat and fell to the floor harmless. The other exploded in the crowd of spectators, killing and wounding a large number of people and making a wreck of the fixtures of the building. Fifteen persons were killed outright. Others have since died, bringing the total to twenty-five.

Two Lawyers Fight.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Burrell Miles, a 330 lbs. man, working in the State dispensary, fell down the elevator opening, and he was rendered unconscious, and is thought to be seriously injured. He was sent to the hospital for treatment.

J. H. Bausket and J. S. Verner, two prominent lawyers of this city, had a personal encounter on the street. They were separated without being much hurt.

Picking Cotton by Machinery.

New York.—The United States Cotton Picking Company, which was recently formed in New York with Jacob Schwed as president, has been sold out to the Weller Cotton Picking Company, with a capital of \$1,000,000, of which Mr. Schwed is also president. The machine acquire by the Weller Company from the United States' Company has been in operation in the cotton fields near Annoton, Ala.

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