

cannot be regarded as property, as they were in the days before the war, and, consequently, their lives have no value in the eyes of the men whose aim it is to get out of them the greatest possible amount of work at the least possible expense. The result of the system is an average annual death rate of 10 per cent. from disease, and a similar death rate, which, in such records as are ever allowed to see the light, appears under the significant head, "Died or lost while trying to escape." When it is stated that bloodhounds are used to track and capture the unfortunates who from time to time try to fly from a fate far worse than death, the full meaning of the quotation will be better understood.

In Mississippi, North Carolina, and to a certain extent in South Carolina, as I know from personal observation and investigation of the most careful character, the condition of the convicts under the lease system is quite as bad as it is in Georgia. In all the "convict camps" of those States the prisoners are obliged, under the lash of cruel keepers, from the effects of which many of them die every year, to work in the fields, in mines, and upon railroads and highways. No effort is made to provide them with proper shelter or food. In the majority of cases their clothes are a mass of filthy and foul-smelling rags covered with vermin. Under the eyes of armed guards, hired by the lessees because of their known brutality and strength, they are worked from daylight sometimes until far into the night; worked whether they are sick or well; worked in all sorts of weather, frequently without food of any kind; worked sometimes until they fall down and die. So dying, they have in more than one case been left to rot in the place where they fell. This is not a fancy picture. It is a plain, uncolored statement of facts, which cannot be successfully contradicted. Those who doubt will find the proof in the official statistics of the death rate among convicts in the South, which have from time to time been forced into print. These statistics, it must be remembered, are far from complete. It is obviously to the interest of the prison officials to keep back as much of the truth as possible. There is many a convict who dies in a swamp or a ditch without official notice or record of any kind, yet, even when the best possible face is put upon the matter, the figures tell a story which is sufficiently startling and terrible for even the most confirmed seeker after sensation.

From such official records as have been compiled and can be obtained it appears that for the four years past the average death rate among the convicts of Mississippi has been a little over 11 per cent. The great majority of the prisoners are, of course, negroes. In many cases they are let or hired out by the chief contractors to planters and others, who pay an average of \$8 a month for their work. The average pay for laborers in Mississippi who are not convicts is about \$14 a month.

In South Carolina the average death rate for the past four years has been, among the negro convicts nearly 9 per cent., and among the white convicts a little over 7½ per cent. In 1879, during the entire year, an average of 100 negro convicts were leased to work on the Greenwood and Augusta Railway. During the year 75 of the convicts so employed died. The death rate for the year was among the white convicts, who numbered 36, nearly 19½ per cent., and among the negro convicts, who numbered 589, a fraction less than 23 per cent. It is but justice to state that the comparatively small average death rate since 1879 is due chiefly to the efforts of the Prison Superintendent, Mr. J. T. Liscomb.

In North Carolina, from incomplete statistics, it appears that the average death rate for the past four years was about 9 per cent. among the negro convicts. In that State there have been many instances of great cruelty to the prisoners. In at least two cases within the lines specified negro convicts are known to have been whipped to death.

Turning to Alabama, in regard to whose prison system little or nothing has until recently been known, it appears that under the vicious lease plan the death rate among convicts in that State for the past 10 years has been nearly 600 per cent. greater than in the majority of the penitentiaries of the North and North-west, where the average death rate is about 1 per cent. Referring to this startling fact, Dr. J. B. Gaston, the President of the Alabama Board of Health, has within the past few days made certain disclosures which are well worthy the careful attention of all thoughtful men. The more so because Dr. Gaston is a Southern gentleman of known ability and standing, a man in regard to whom, as a Democratic State officer, it will certainly not be possible to bring the familiar charge of partisan bias. From his testimony, given without passion and after careful investigation, it appears that the extensive convict camp at the New-Castle coal

for an hour or more in a shelter, so called, which is only partially and very imperfectly protected by weather-boarding, and at last—the frequent flogging for 'failure to perform the daily tasks.'"

It may be well to repeat with as much distinctness as is possible that these recently ascertained facts in regard to "the best managed convict camp in Alabama" are supplied by an officer of the Democratic Government of the State. They have been obtained as they are now printed, without partisan purpose or intent of any kind. The elections are now over. The question involved is not one of politics. It is above and beyond all politics and all parties. It is a question of common humanity—is a sentence to hard labor in the penitentiaries of the South to be regarded by the world as the equivalent of a sentence to death by slow torture? The query is one which cannot forever be ignored. Sooner or later and in one form or another it must be answered by the Democratic Governor, the Democratic legislators, and other officers of the States of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Mississippi. H. C.

DEATH OF CAPT. JOHN B. PELL.

John B. Pell, a retired sea Captain of this City, died early yesterday morning in the Grand Hotel, in the eighty-third year of his age. Mr. Pell had been in excellent health and spirits, and was remarkably active for his age until a few days ago, when he began to grow feeble. Death resulted from old age. He leaves six children—three sons, two of whom, John H. Pell and Frederick A. Pell, are residents of this City, and three daughters. Mr. Pell was born on Oct. 20, 1800, in Greenwich-street, in this City, in a house which stood on the old Lisenard farm, his father's name being William Pell. He received a common school education, and at the age of 16 he went to sea, for which he had a great fondness. His first voyages were on ships of the East India Packet Line, but soon after learning thoroughly the principles of navigation he attained the command of vessels plying between this port and Havre. He continued in the service of the Havre Packet Line until 1847, when steam-ships began to take the place of sailing vessels. This he had prophesied long before it actually took place, and he used often to speak of the time when sailing ships would be superseded by steam. The last ship he commanded was the St. Nicholas, of the Boyd and Pinkerton line. In 1847 Mr. Pell retired from a sea-faring life, and he has since resided for the most part in this City, although he was accustomed to spend the Winter season in Florida. His life in this City was a very quiet one. Capt. Pell had many friends, especially among the older citizens of New-York, and was well known among merchants and in sea-faring circles. He was also a member of the St. Nicholas Society. Capt. Pell was a twin brother of William Pell, now living in First-place, Brooklyn, who was also a sea Captain. The two brothers looked exactly alike, and friends often could not tell them apart. Often when meeting on their return from voyages they would be surprised to find that each had changed the manner of dress or wearing of the beard in exactly the same way. In this way many singular things happened, and their similarity to Dickens's Cheeryble Brothers often occasioned comment.

The funeral will be held in the First Reformed Episcopal Church, Madison-avenue and Fifty-fifth-street, on Tuesday at 12 o'clock, the service to be conducted by the Rev. Dr. Sabine, Rector of the church. The interment will be at Passaic, N. J.

MEETING AN UNKNOWN CORRESPONDENT.

A young woman of good family connections, living in this State, was taken to Police Head-quarters on Friday under peculiar circumstances. Her stay there was brief, and when she left she went away with her friends. The young woman, whose name and residence are withheld by the Police, entered into a correspondence with a strange man who advertised in a New-York newspaper for a young lady correspondent. Under an assumed name she wrote to him, and 20 letters passed between them without her family discovering the fact. She was induced to leave home on Wednesday last, and came to the City, where she was met by her correspondent in the Grand Central Depot. He took her to a hotel, where they remained for three days. Her friends followed her to this City and found her in the hotel. She was taken to Police Head-quarters, and it then became a question whether to cause the arrest of the man who had betrayed her and thus expose her misfortune, or let him go unpunished and save the girl's reputation. The latter course was decided on by the friends of the young lady, and she was put under their charge and taken home.

TO-MORROW NIGHT'S SPORTING EVENT.

The event of this week in sporting society is to be the international wrestling-match in Madison-Square Garden to-morrow evening between Mr. Clarence Whistler, known as the "wrestling demon" of Kansas, and Mr. Joe Acton, the "wrestling wonder" of Great Britain, for \$2,000 and the championship of the world. The conditions are catch as catch can, best two in three falls. Mr. Richard H. Fox is the stake-holder. Mr. James Pilkington, of

books. To succeed in thus systematically robbing the stockholders Rice must have been aided by the collusion of his underlings in the office, but the representatives of the English parties are not prepared yet to make any charges against anybody except Rice, the principal in the crime. As the investigation proceeded, it became evident that the defalcation would amount to a large amount, but as Rice showed no indications of leaving the country, or indeed, gave no sign that he knew that his accounts were being examined, it was thought best to take no legal action against him until all the facts of the crime had been discovered. He continued to live in his house at Horseheads, Chemung County, coming to this City occasionally to attend to business. He was closely watched, however, and had he attempted to leave the country he would have been arrested at once. Two weeks ago the investigation had revealed a defalcation of over \$100,000, when an event occurred which determined counsel to apply for a warrant and capture him whenever he made his appearance in this City.

This determination was the result of the discovery that Rice, in addition to his embezzlements, had committed forgery and made an overissue of the stock of the Utica, Ithaca and Elmira Road. Henry S. King was on his way to this country to protect the interests of his clients, when, on Dec. 2 last, the banking house of which he is the head received a draft drawn by Rice in favor of the Third National Bank of this City for \$10,030. The receipt of this draft from the man who had so successfully swindled them for nearly four years naturally astonished the London bankers, and they refused to accept it, but sent a cable dispatch to Charles H. Tweed, who was looking out for their interests, notifying him that they had received such a draft. Mr. Tweed at once went to the Third National Bank to find out what was the occasion of the making of the draft, and here he was informed of a new feature in the operations of Rice. The bank held the note of Rice, secured by the forged indorsement of Henry S. King & Co., for \$10,000, which had been loaned to President Rice, and the draft had been drawn to take up this loan. As collateral the bank held 10,000 shares of the stock of the Utica, Ithaca and Elmira Railroad, which had been issued in 1878, and bore the signature of George J. Rice as President of the road, representing a par value of \$1,000,000. This stock had been presumably canceled in 1881, when new certificates were issued, and Rice was directed to cancel the old ones. He had neglected to do this, but deposited them as collaterals in the Third National Bank to secure his loan, and as a result the company found itself, by the discovery of Mr. Tweed, with an overissue of stock representing about 9,000 shares, the English holdings of about 10,000 shares, with the 10,000 old shares representing that amount of excess over the capital stock authorized. The London bank, of course, refused to honor the draft of Rice, but Mr. Tweed at once paid the Third National Bank the amount of the loan, with the interest due, and took up the overissue in the interest of his clients. Knowing that Mr. King was on his way to New-York, the counsel took no further steps until his arrival, when a warrant was procured and Rice was arrested while at dinner at Delmonico's on Friday night. He took the arrest very coolly and said that he had a good defense to make when the proper time arrived. It is believed that he has very little of the money which he has embezzled, and that most of it has been lost in stock speculations. He has been living since he first came to this country at Horseheads, near Elmira, and he maintained his establishment in extravagant style. He has a wife and family whom he sent home to England last Spring, and since then he has spent a great deal of his time in this City.

Inspector Byrnes said yesterday that he was not thoroughly familiar with the details of the case. His officers had been looking for Mr. Rice for two weeks, a warrant for his arrest which had been issued by Police Justice Morgan, sitting at the Tombs, on complaint of Mr. Henry S. King, having been placed in his hands for execution. He received information on Friday evening that Rice was in this City, and that he was boarding at a fashionable boarding-house at No. 43 West Twentieth-street. Detective Sergeants Haley and Ruland were sent in search of him, and they found him at Delmonico's. The warrant was executed, and Rice was taken to Police Head-quarters and locked up. Inspector Byrnes would not permit access to the prisoner by members of the press, although a number of friends who called yesterday afternoon after he had been taken back from the Tombs were permitted to see him. His counsel, Mr. William F. Kintzing, called last evening and had a long consultation with his client. Afterward Mr. Kintzing said that Mr. Rice claimed that he had done nothing wrong, and that all his transactions were legal, and were carried out by virtue of a power of attorney given him by the owners of the road, and which to his knowledge had never been revoked. In 1877, when the road was insolvent, it was purchased for \$50,000 by H. S. King & Co. on his representation. The road was then mortgaged for \$600,000, and 20,000 shares of stock of the face value of \$2,000,000 were issued. The stock was put upon the market. He was elected President, and was given a full power of attorney to act for the English capitalists who had invested their money in the road. In 1878 he borrowed \$10,000 from the Third National Bank, as President of the road, giving notes for the same and depositing with the bank 10,000 shares of the stock of the road as collateral security for the loan. The notes were given as President of the road. The loan was renewed from year to year. On the 17th of November last he notified the bank that he would take up the loan, and redeem the hypothecated shares. He gave a check for the amount and interest to the bank, signing it H. S. King & Co., and appending his own name to it as attorney in the same way that

one way the Lord help's m held at 10:30 this morning an

THE JAPANESE

HE TRIES AN AMERICAN C

NOUNCES IT "VERY

After breakfasting yesterday at his sumptuous suite of apartments at the Hotel, the Prince of Arisgav for a morning walk. Smoking his suite, comprising Grand Emperor Hayashi and Off Household Nissai, Zamanoto up Fifth-avenue as far as the Consulate in this City to remedy" against cold, both the Prince declared his willingness to accept of an order of attaché to the bar for some after absorbing one, is stated to have declared it "very comfortable" later, however, he complained of feeling cold some was sent for. Shortly before compliance with an invitation to Gen. Grant's house on street and Fifth-avenue, where the ex-President. The meeting and Gen. Grant was a most comfortable of luncheon with the the afternoon he drove in a cab to a tropical heat, to Brooklyn, inspected the big bridge, and with the proportions of the was driven up Fulton-street Hall, and thence in a route through some of the best ferry. The party then retired to the Hotel, where the Prince spent in visiting places of am

THE SUNDAY

TRAINS ON THE ELEVATED

—NEW INJUN

Vice-President Gallaway, of the New-York City Railway Company, has sent a letter in which he announces the experiment of running elevated roads at the rate of they pass the churches during the day. This is in accordance with a request from League. Mr. Gallaway states that trains on Sundays is not a profitable company, as the disbursements. Such trains are not Third and Sixth avenue lines, people demand them. He also says that the company's employees are at all day if they choose to do so, and employed to do the work in case of an emergency. Injunctions were yesterday issued by Judge Walling on behalf of No. 577 Eighth-avenue; the M. Harry Hill, John J. Daly, of C. A. Bradenburgh, who keep 298 Bowery, and Jacob H. M. No. 150 Prince-street, restraining interfering with them to-day directing the Police not to interfere with repairing telegraph and telephone lines, or to permit the erection of new wires. Beyond this the enforcement of the provisions of the last Sunday.

THE ALDERMEN IN

The cases of Aldermen L. and Donovan, who, with the Aldermen now in jail, were brought up before Judge Court, came up before Judge a motion to remit both the fine and the costs. The Aldermen in question, and did, like their fellow Aldermen, the original sentence to five days. Judge Gilbert is the next General Term, which he advised the defendants to apply to the Governor for a pardon on the occasion to say that in his Term had committed a grave original sentence of the court contentment was a criminal offense had power to do what it had the 10 Aldermen it had the convicted criminal, and that the Supreme Court Judge in the General Term. Judge Court power to pardon rested only

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