

Republican Progress

Printed each Tuesday Morning, by
WILLIAM A. GAGE, Editor and Publisher.

News Items Solicited.

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Mary Anderson is an exception to the oft-repeated rule that nobody can attain excellence on the stage without beginning to climb at the lowest round. She made her debut in leading tragic roles only a few years ago, and began to make money and fame at the very outset. She is now very wealthy; and for glory, she was publicly crowned with a laurel wreath the other night in her native city of Louisville, by the Mayor and Editor Watterson, of the *Courier Journal*. The Mayor assured her that she possessed "exceeding loveliness of person, purity of heart, and beauties of mind."

A Chicago hotel clerk went last year to Dakota, to a hotel reputed to be doing a roaring trade—it was. He returned lately, completely cured of all desire for change. The hotel, he says, was a small frame structure, with a school section on the top floor, and three hundred people often slept in the house. "They came in wagon loads. The landlord made money, but he never was around, and I had to do everything. The landlord was selling town lots and surveying, and ran a lumber yard and everything. The first day I was there I had to leave the office and drive thirty teams around to the barn, and helped to unhitch the horses, and all the time I was there I was half hostler, half chambermaid, half cook, and half everything there was. Why, a hotel clerk is of no more account out there than an Alderman here. It would make you sick. I had to help wait on the table, help make beds, split slabs for fuel, bail out the cellar, deal for a faro bank in which the landlord was interested, milk six cows, go out and hold a chain for surveyors, scrub the office floor, and lay out corpses."

A close observer of men and things in London says he has learned from personal observation and court records, that of adult criminals in that great city, nearly all had fallen into a course of crime between the ages of eight and sixteen years. He further says that if a young man can be educated to an honest life until he is twenty-one years of age, there are forty-nine chances in his favor to one of his falling into crime after that age.

The American Express Company has introduced into New York the system of harnessing three horses abreast, after the fashion of London omnibuses. The change has been made on two of the wagons for experiment, with very satisfactory results. The wagons have two poles instead of one, and each of the three horses are attached to a separate whiffle-tree. This is found to be a decided improvement over the system sometimes used of putting one horse in a shaft and another at each side. The harnessing is exactly the same as with two horses, with two poles instead of one. The experiment is tried upon the wagons that deliver goods in the upper part of the city, not only because the loads are frequently too heavy for two horses, but to enable the drivers to make up for lost time with an increased rate of speed, when from any cause they are delayed at the start.

Funeral reform is much needed in this country, but there are no customs remaining, except those pertaining to Irish wakes, so objectionable as those practiced in Scotland. The funeral of John Brown, the Queen's gallie, was conducted in the regular Scotch fashion, and each person invited to attend was received by a relative of the dead man, bottle in hand, and urged to take refreshments. Wine and cake were served in the house, while whisky, biscuit and cheese were served outside. The American people have passed the period in which feasting is considered a proper feature of a funeral ceremony, and the custom once so general

is now obsolete, thanks to the development of a sense for the fitness of things.

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Little additional news has come from the discoveries in prehistoric mounds, recently alleged to have been made on the banks of the river Yadkin, in North Carolina. Yet these discoveries if genuine, hardly deserve to be dismissed so shortly. Not to speak of the beads, pipes, and stone axes and food cups unearthed, one mound in Caldwell county is reported to have yielded fifty-six skeletons, while the total number of skeletons found in the neighborhood was not less than 150. Some of them were spoken of as possessing large and well-formed skulls. A hundred and fifty skeletons are not to be picked up every day, nor can it be reasonably supposed that the Caldwell mound was "salted" with skeletons to excite the cupidity of the Smithsonian Institution. It is time, therefore, to learn more about this remarkable North Carolina skeleton mine; otherwise it must be classed in popular belief with the Texas meteor.

New England wagon factories are turning out for next summer an unusual number of two wheeled carts. Some have an arrangement by which they can be adjusted to horses of different builds, as a tall horse requires that the cart be pitched at a different angle from that used with a short one. The largest style of two-wheeled carts, built for four people and having seats running lengthwise of the body, passes under the name of wagonet. The carriage dealers say that the reason why there are so many novelties this year in the vehicle line is because trade is dull and the manufacturers have been racking their brains for patterns which will help stimulate it.

The Sandusky (Ohio) Register tells the following story of a Grand Jury at the October term of Common Pleas Court in that city: "One of the jurors could neither read nor write, and in order to cast his ballots for or against indictments in the cases he got a friend to write for him two sets of ballots—one set reading 'Yes,' the other set 'No.' He folded his ballots carefully, and placed them in his vest pockets, those reading in the affirmative in his right-hand pocket, and those in the negative in his left-hand pocket. During the examination of witnesses he was so occupied in listening to the testimony that he forgot how he had arranged the ballots, and when the jury came to vote on one of the cases he couldn't tell which pocket to dive into for the right ballot. He wanted to vote 'Yes,' and so at a venture he fished a ballot out of his left-hand pocket and voted it. When the ballots were counted, it was found that fourteen of them read 'Yes,' and one 'No.' Vote after vote was taken on the case, and with the same result, till in some way it leaked out that the juror referred to had his left-hand pocket stuffed with ballots reading 'No,' which he had been voting, when all the time he wanted to vote in the affirmative. Another vote was then taken on the case, and the intelligent juror went for the papers in his right-

hand pocket, and when the ballots were counted they were all in favor of the finding of an indictment.

SOME GOOD ARMY STORIES

[Attention being directed, just now, to the old soldier days, the following characteristic army stories will be appreciated by many]:

A CHICKEN STORY.

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