

# THE COURIER.

BY H. J. FELTUS.

BLOOMINGTON, - INDIANA

Mr. PARNELL's declaration that he will never account "to friend or foe" for the large sums of money which he has received in aid of the Irish struggle is very much to be regretted. The persistent failure to show, at least in a general way, what has been done with such funds is neither creditable to the Irish leaders nor beneficial to the cause of their unhappy country.

Reports of Boards of Health in the Southern cities show that the death rate per thousand among negroes is far higher than among whites. In some cases this excess of mortality is 120 per cent, while the average is fully 50 per cent. This is one of the facts which show the falsity of the reasoning of the philosophers who contend that the African is going to outnumber the Caucasian in the Southern States three-quarters of a century hence.

The prospects now are that the wheat crop this year will amount to 500,000,000 bushels at least, making all reasonable allowances for damage in the Northwest. The 500,000,000 mark has never been passed by the wheat yield except twice.

In 1882 the production was 504,600,000 bushels, and two years later it was but a small fraction under 513,000,000. Last year the yield was 410,000,000 bushels. Not only is a large wheat crop this year assured, but the production of nearly all the other cereals is or will be heavy. This fact, coupled with the reasonable certainty which there exists of a big demand for wheat from Europe, is the bright spot in the business situation.

STANLEY writes that he is reduced to two hats, four pair of boots and a flannel jacket. This stock sets him up as a chieftain in Africa, but he is not encouraged in his necessity of returning to the coast without supplies. The expedition on the whole has suffered from an immense amount of bad management, and will have accomplished very little of what might have been done. The Paas is to return with Stanley, and give up the Soudan. This was the only sensible course, as he has but 1,400 troops along a line of communications of 180 miles. He really holds possession of a very insignificant bit of territory, which may as well be given over to the Mahdi.

There are 600 children reported in the poor houses of Illinois. Other States allow the same abhorrent outrage to continue. With them are some of the most debauched of adults, insane as well, in some States. Immorality of the grossest sort is openly practiced, and of a child escaped pollution. There are probably over 5,000 children being educated by the States in this unwholesome manner. It needs another Howard to work a reform. Our prisons, jails and penitentiaries are bad enough, but our poor houses are the worst of all. It has long been held by the decent poor to be the worst possible disgrace to be driven to resort to these public institutions. They are filled by tramps and prostitutes and vagabonds, and prostitution is one of their common features. Not a child should be allowed inside their doors.

A COCK-AND-BULL story to the effect that an English syndicate was forming with a capital of £10,000,000 for the purpose of controlling the dry goods trade of the United States has been added to this country and published in a double leaded type in a leading New York newspaper. The enterprise is following in the lines, it is stated, of the brewery investments. Did it ever occur to these English investment alarmists that the United States has twice the population of the United Kingdom, to say nothing of infinitely greater natural resources, and that, moreover, the average Yankee can take care of himself when it comes to business as well as any one in the world? The tail, so far as we know, has never yet succeeded in wagging the dog, and the United States, in the respect noted, have become very decidedly the dog. An English syndicate might as well be formed to regulate our atmosphere.

## Lots of Bass.

This happened in a village in northern Illinois, says a writer of the New York World. One morning the village miller came into my store and told me that a school of bass had come up from the river into the tail race back of the mill. I got my rod and a pair of live minnows and proceeded to one of the mill windows overlooking and about fifteen feet above the race. Right down before me in the shallow water were at least 100 black bass. As soon as I could get my tackle in shape and dropped a few live shiners down among them, and of all the fighting for food that I ever saw that contest among the bass was the climax.

Extremely Thirsty.

In one of the hospitals which lined the heights north of the city during the war says the Washington Post, a nurse was one day distributing a present of light wine which had been sent in by some generous firm. As she passed the cooling drink from cot to cot one soldier who was wasting away with camp fever called out continually: "Lady, give me a drink."

This is simply the record of Frank M. Millikan as a tax title shark, covering a period of ten years' operations in Howard County. It is probable, if not certain, that he has similarly operated in other counties of the State, and possibly in other States whose laws allow an exaction of from 50 to 75 per cent.

Finally his turn came and he quaffed the goblet; then fell back on his pillow with a sigh of relief and satisfaction.

"You must be very dry, poor fellow," said the sympathizing nurse.

"Why, lady," said he, "I am so dry that when I spit I spit dust."

Wilkie Collins' Wondrous Talent.

Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, the well known physician and author, of Philadelphia, contributes an article to the August Century on "Poison of Serpents," richly illustrated by J. Carter Beard. With the aid of Dr. Edward T. Reichert, of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Mitchell has solved many perplexing problems regarding the poison of serpents. Their experiments were made with the idea that a more complete analysis of the venoms of serpents might lead to the discovery of an antidote. Dr. Mitchell states that while at present we are still groping for remedies, yet we are to-day in a position to know with some definiteness what we want and what we do not need.

## A Trainer's Idea.

"When your man's asleep is the time to tell how he stands work," says William Muldoon, speaking of the amount of training an athlete should have. "So long as he sleeps well he's all right, but when he begins to be restless and to have night-sweats, and shows similar evidences that his nervous system is strained, let up a little on the work. You heard men say they were so tired they couldn't sleep; well, that's literally true when a man has had too much exercise. But you need never worry as long as your man 'sleeps soundly.'

Letters from the Eiffel Tower.

At the top of the Eiffel tower, for a fee, specially prepared note paper, dated from the summit of the tower, is provided, and the writer can have the letter posted on the spot.

The low, flat heel is now the fashion. If the rest of the shoe fits the

foot, these heels are the natural enemy of corns, and the chiropodist has to suffer. It is generally believed that women are more vain of their feet than men are of theirs, but my experience has shown me that quite the contrary is the fact. Men will insist on making their foot look small, and any shoe that will do that is the fashion for them.

THE SHYLOCK WHO EXACTS HIS FOUNT OF FLESH,

And Extorts the Laws' Full Penalty From His Victims.

FRANK M. MILLIKAN,  
Secretary Republican State Committee and Extritition from the Poor.

Kokomo Dispatch, Aug. 3.

A tax certificate shark.

The fellows who don't have corns are those who wear roomy-toed shoes. But they mustn't be too large. A shoe too large is as bad as one too small. At oversized shoe makes corns on the bottom of the feet, and they are the worst kind. The late war was the greatest corn-cure ever known. I never knew of a single case of a soldier in that war who suffered from corns and I was all through it. If a law should be passed that no shoe would be worn in this country but the pattern array shoe of the rebellion, the corn doctor's occupation would be gone.

## SINGULAR SAMOAN CUSTOMS.

How Brides Are Won, Graves Mark-ed and Houses Built.

Lient. Charles H. Ripley, in a talk on Samoa reported in the Springfield, (Mass.) Union, gave a most interesting account of the marriage customs of the Samoans. After ascertaining the amount of dowry the maiden is carried off by a party of the friends of the groom who never marries in his own village. The natives vie with each other in collecting bottles, which are a great rarity in that country, and are used after death to encircle the graves, which are level with the ground, two or three rows of bottles indicating superiority. The beverage of the Samoans and the process of manufacture is more curious than inviting. A substance resembling liquorice is chewed by girls until it becomes soft and pulpy, when it is mixed with water, and must be used soon after being prepared. If too much is taken a slight paroxysm of the limbs follows but soon passes off. It is used largely at entertainments, and people who indulge in it properly seem to be benefited. The occupation of the people comes down from generation to generation. The son of a carpenter can not be anything but a carpenter, and no other family can follow that occupation. The process of house-building was described, a man needs a new house, talks with his relatives, sounds them as to whether they think he needs one and will be likely to contribute, visits the house-builder with many compliments upon the fine house he hears he builds, and leaves a present. After a time he repeats his visit. Later a relative goes with a present and similar compliments, and so on until the builder signifies his intention of building the man a house, and sends word he is coming. A house is put at his disposal in the village, his expenses are met by the man for whom the house is to be built, and when the house is finished the relatives assemble and presents are given to the house-builder. Very little money is exchanged. Although a gentle people, in war the Samoans are quite barbarous, going over the field and cutting off the heads of the wounded after a battle. The enemies show great consideration for each other in arranging for a battle, sending words that if perfectly convenient one will meet the other with so many men at such a place at such a time, never varying from the number of men agreed upon.

Lient. Ripley closed with an interesting account of a picnic given by a Samoan princess, several hundred servants being in attendance, and the chief entertainment for the natives consisting in sliding down a waterfall about 30 feet high.

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## A Chiropractor Has His Say.

"Years before last I had two women patrons to one man," said a chiropractor. "But last year, and so far this year, the falling off in the former patronage has been more than one half. But there has been no decrease in the number of male customers. How do I account for all this? Easily. Fashion in shoes is responsible for it. A year and a half ago the high, narrow French heels were the fashion in women's shoes; and they are one of the best friends a chiropractor can have. They are regular and rapid breeders of corns. No woman can wear a pair of such shoes long without looking up a corn doctor."

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## A NOTORIOUS TAX SHARK

MADE SECRETARY OF THE RE-PUBLICAN COMMITTEE.

A Man Who Has Grown Rich Off of Other's Misfortunes.

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Kokomo Dispatch, Aug. 3.

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At a recent meeting of the Republican State Central Committee, Frank M. Millikan, of New Castle, the notorious tax certificate shark, was elected Secretary—the second officer in command of the party machinery in Indiana. With its eyes open, with the facts fully before them, and over the earnest protest of many of the wisest and best men of the party, this man of malodorous memory was chosen to one of the highest positions known to the party organization. It passes comprehension that the party could have made such a stupendous blunder. Not that Millikan is not competent, not that he is financially weak, not that he is not smart, but that he has the unsavory record of a professional delinquent tax purchaser and has grown enormously rich in the last ten years by process of law and through the misfortunes of thousands of poor men all over the State—men who have either had their property taken from them or have been bled of the last drop of blood permitted under color of legal authority.

Personally we have no acquaintance with Frank M. Millikan, and personally we have no quarrel with him, but when he is put forward as the second highest representative of a great political party his record becomes a fit subject for investigation and comment. It may be said that Mr. Millikan has done nothing unauthorized by law. True, but the law gives authority for the doing of many things not accounted honorable or manly among people of high character. The evasion laws of Great Britain permit cruelties unspeakable to be inflicted upon the poor tenantry of Ireland, yet no one can be found to defend them. The shark who seeks the advantages of the shark who seeks the advantages of the law to rob the poor of their hard earnings. Delinquent tax buying is considered dishonorable and is held to be an odious violation of the world's code of honor.

It is in human nature to despise the professional title-gatherer and the oppressor of the poor, even before the advent of Jesus of Nazareth. In all ages and under every sun, the man who seeks to take advantage of the misfortunes or the needs of poverty is condemned and execrated. The Shylock who demands his pound of flesh, the money-lender who extorts unscrupulous interest of his helpless victim, the human ghoul who robs dead men's estates and beggars orphans, and the tax certificate shark who piles up his wealth by exacting the vigorous penalties of the law are joint heirs to the common hatred of mankind.

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