

evident that you don't want any civil rights."

"Not anything mo', I tank you," replied Billy. "Nearly done ruined now. Hev to pay my own doctor's bills; lost all my money in de Freedmen's Bank; nobbber got no forty acres an' de mule dey promised me; an' can't holp myself to a little chicken, fryin' size, without gwine to de penitentiary. I'se got 'nuff cibbal rights!"

The above is no production of the fancy. It is a true incident, honestly told, and it is impossible to talk to the country negroes without hearing just such things as I have related.—*The Independent.*

#### The Matter With Munich.

In Lippincott's for March, the paper on "Munich as a Pest-city" is as likely as any other to be read and remembered, especially by intending tourists to Germany. Why that city has an exceptionally bad reputation as the nest of cholera and typhus, why "diseases of the throat and lungs are very common," and why "the whole population suffers more or less from catarrh," is explained by the writer in a way to carry conviction. The situation of Munich—"upon a high, barren plain, sixteen hundred feet above the level of the sea, exposed to the full power of the sun in summer, brooded over by chilly fogs in spring and autumn, and swept the whole year through by all the storms that accumulate upon the mountains filling the horizon to the south and east"—seems cause enough for a large amount of sickness and mortality, and a permanent and immitigable cause of both. The soil is an equally fatal factor, having once been the bed of a lake, and consisting to the depth of several feet of a loose gravel, in which no useful or ornamental vegetation can be made to thrive except by artificial aid, and through which all fluid-matter deposited on the surface percolates to the rocky substratum, and there stagnating, generates poisonous gases. Scarcely a third of the seventy-five thousand tons of refuse matter annually thus deposited is taken out of the city. Sewers are of very recent introduction, and, being imperfectly constructed and not systematically flushed, rather serve to aggravate the evil of the undrained soil. The state of the city cellars, generally shared in common by the occupants of flats, and permitted to be used even for butchering; the crowding and frequent upturning of the cemeteries; the foulness of the water, which

is drawn from wells "in close proximity to the vault, the refuse-pit, and the drain;" the imprudent open-air habit of the population, their indifference to pure air and to cleanliness within doors, their bad diet—are still other counts in this sanitary indictment, evidence of the truthfulness of which is to be found in the fact that nearly half the children born in Munich die in infancy, and that "the death-rate for the whole population is nearly forty in a thousand." It was in a street bordering on the English Garden that the cholera broke out in 1873, and that Kalubach sickened and died of the disease. The writer's account of this park would seem to be somewhat darker than was necessary; at all events, it is in marked contrast with the description of the same pleasure-ground given by an American consul in Ellis's life of Rumford, to whom Munich is indebted for it. Doubtless, if the Count were alive to-day, he would be as prompt to recognize and strive to improve the sanitary condition of the city as the present authorities are slow in dealing with it.

#### Recording Votes by Electricity.

A clerk employed in the French telegraph office (M. Jaquin) has conceived a system of recording votes by electricity. It is thus described: "Before every deputy two ivory buttons are placed, like the buttons of electric bells. If the deputy wishes to vote 'Yes,' he presses the button on his right; if he wishes to vote 'No,' he presses the button on his left. The voter establishes by this means an electric communication, which is transmitted to an apparatus close to the president and his secretaries. Every time the electric current acts thus it opens the door to a ball, and the ball falls through a tube into the ballot box. The balls are made of glass or ivory, and are strictly identical in weight. The two ballot boxes are then weighed, and the number of balls indicated by the weight. Finally, by turning a handle, all the balls which have not been used are let out, and they give the number of members who have sustained or were absent when the vote was taken. Nothing can be more simple. The inventor has offered to set up his apparatus in the Versailles assembly for the sum of \$12,000."

Mr. Thomas Hall, of Boston, Mass, calls attention to the patent granted in this country, in 1850, to Albert N. Henderson, of Buffalo, N. Y., for an electrical vote recorder. Henderson's plan was to have a couple of keys on each member's desk, by