

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

pressing which the members could instantly print in colors "aye" or "no" on a list sheet at the speakers's desk. It was a simpler plan than that of Jaquin.

DOMESTIC INFLUENCE OF MODERN DISCOVERIES.

Soothing effect of the Knife and Fork, the Hackney Coach and a Sewerage System Upon Life and Manners.

In the twelfth century it was found necessary to pave the streets of Paris, the stench in them was so dreadful. At once dysenteries and spotted fever diminished; a sanitary condition approaching that of the Moorish cities of Spain which had been paved for centuries, was attained. In that now beautiful metropolis it was forbidden to keep swine, an ordinance resented by the monks of the abbey of St. Anthony, who demanded that the pigs of that saint should go where they chose; the government was obliged to compromise the matter by requiring that bells should be fastened to the animals' necks. King Phillip, the son of Louis the Fat, had been killed by his horse stumbling over a sow. Prohibitions were published against throwing slops out of the window. Until the beginning of the seventeenth century, the streets of Berlin were never swept. There was a law that every countryman, who came to market with a cart, should carry back a load of dirt!

PAVING

was followed by attempts, often of an imperfect kind, at the construction of drains and sewers. It had become obvious to all reflecting men that these were necessary to the preservation of health, not only in towns, but in isolated houses. Then followed the lighting of the public thoroughfares. At first houses facing the streets were compelled to have candles or lamps in their windows; then the system that had been followed with so much advantage in Cordova and Granada—of having public lamps—was tried, but this was not brought to perfection until the present century, when lighting by gas was invented. Contemporaneously with public lamps were improved organizations for night-watchmen and police.

By the sixteenth century, mechanical inventions and manufacturing improvements were exercising a conspicuous influence on domestic and social life. There were looking-glasses and clocks on the walls, mantels over the fireplaces. Though in many districts the kitchen-fire was still

supplied with turf, the use of coal began to prevail. The table in the dining-room offered new delicacies; commerce was bringing to it foreign products; the coarse drinks of the North were supplanted by the delicate wines of the South. Ice-houses were constructed. The bolting of flour, introduced at the wind-mills, had given whiter and finer bread. By degrees things that had been rarities became common—Indian-corn, the potato, the turkey, and, conspicuous in the long list, tobacco. Forks, an Italian invention, displaced the filthy use of the fingers. It may be said that the diet of civilized men now underwent a radical change. Tea came from China, coffee from Arabia, the use of sugar from Spain, and these to no insignificant degree supplanted fermented liquors. Carpets replaced on the floors the layer of straw. In the chambers there appeared better beds, in the wardrobes cleaner and more frequently-changed clothing. In many towns the aqueduct was substituted for the public fountain and the street-pump. Ceilings which in the old days would have been dingy with soot and dirt, were now decorated with ornamental frescoes. Baths were more commonly resorted to; there was less need to use perfumery for the concealment of personal odors. An increasing taste for the innocent pleasures of horticulture was manifested, by the introduction of many foreign flowers in the gardens—the tuberosa, the auricula, the crown imperial, the Persian lily, the ranunculus, and African marigolds. In the streets there appeared sedans, then close carriages, and at length hackney-coaches.—*Draper's History of the Conflict between Religion and Science.*

Our Forests.

The essay on tree planting read by Mr. Leonard G. Hodges before the Minnesota Agricultural Society, and published in *The Tribune* of Saturday, contained a striking sketch of the pressing need of forest-culture. Although it referred only to Minnesota, it implies throughout the west. The annual consumption of wood in that state is estimated at 1,710,000 cords. As much more is shipped outside the state. Thus, 150,000 acres of wood-land are stripped bare every year. The result of this, by 1900, is summed up by Mr. Hodges in this cheerful picture: "Our