

VALUE OF PROPERTY DURING LIFE AND AFTER DEATH.—Rich as a man may die, unless his property is all in good shape, and his will and affairs generally clearly arranged, there is no certainty whatever that his wife and children will derive much benefit from all he has left behind. Property sold through the Probate Court generally brings only from one-half to two-thirds the price it would command if the late owner was alive and was himself selling it. This is due to the fact that, if there has been any kind of irregularity in the legal proceedings connected with the sale, the heirs are eventually likely to take the matter up and try to recover the property, as was the case in the Party and Wilson and many other suits. In addition to this injury to the property of deceased persons comes heavy legal and court fees, referees' charges, advertising, and a thousand loopholes which drain the estate, all of which the owner, in his lifetime could have avoided. It is particularly unfortunate for heirs and legatees if the property left to them is covered by a mortgage. Though the mortgage may amount to but one-third or one-half the value of the property, it is quite likely—because of heavy back taxes—tended to swallow it all, and leave the heirs nothing. The man who leaves his wife and children should endeavor to keep his affairs in such a state that, if he were suddenly called away by death, his property would be found in such well-arranged condition as to yield something like its full value to those he leaves behind. The value of property while the owner is living is next to nothing, and the value of the same property when the owner dead and the sale to be made through a court, are, unfortunately, two very different things always.—*New Estate Circular*.

WHAT WILL HE DO WITH IT?—L. H. Keith, of Massachusetts, who drew the \$100,000 prize in the Public Library drawing, has arrived in Louisville, and claimed the money. He was accompanied by his father, and the *Cloud Leader* quotes the words of the master as follows: "With a prudence which seems natural to him, Mr. Keith has never performed no plans, but will invest his money in the best manner possible, and, for the present, pursue the even tenor of his way in the manner in which he seems to have heretofore done. Like his father, he seems to be a man of quiet energy, prudence, and foresight—one not given to talking overmuch of his plans. He is modest, and seeks to avoid notoriety. There is nothing more about either, but, on the contrary, they seem to be fond of enjoyment, and given to seeking quiet pleasures. The union of the Scottish and New England natures gives them, apparently, a character of great shrewdness and energy. Neither of them would be apt to be drawn into wild schemes; and it is safe to say that Mr. L. H. Keith will retain and increase the great sum of money which has fallen to him."

A. T. STEWART'S WILL.—\$100,000 FOR SOMEBODY.—Wealthy men are often accredited with greater riches than they possess, and frequently, after diligent inquiry into their resources, find that they have set too high a limit to their possessions. It therefore rarely happens that a man astonishes himself with his own wealth; yet a little on dit attributes a bit of this amazement to Mr. A. T. Stewart. It is probably generally known that Mr. Stewart took the steamer for Europe last week. It is not so generally known that before his departure he made a will. Prior to making this will, it was thought advisable to prepare a schedule of his real and personal estate, with its valuation. Upon the completion of the schedule, much to the surprise of Mr. Stewart, and to the greater surprise of his friends, it was found that he was worth one hundred millions of dollars. That any American should be possessed of so great wealth almost surpasses belief, but the truth of the foregoing statement is well authenticated.

OREGON IRON WORKS.—We find in the *Oregonian* the following gratifying statement in regard to the Oregon Iron works, situated on the Willamette river, below this city, and some miles this side of Portland.

Among all the plans to save our State from the occasional recurrence of a pressing and oppressive stringency in financial matters, none have ever been advocated with the same confidence as the diversification of our industries and the development of the splendid resources which all admit Oregon possesses. The great advantages of our State for manufacturing purposes have not been improved, and hence with the means of boundless wealth all around us, we have struggled through with comparative poverty, allowing other communities to outgrow and over-reach us. We have always had confidence, however, that in the long run our State would come out of swaddling clothes and begin a growth that would be permanent,

and at last bring her up to a place and give her a standing among the prosperous and wealthy States of the Union. We are led to make these remarks by occurrence of the fact that the vast iron mines right at the harbor of our city almost, are again to become the scene of active operations, and the sound of the blast and pick are to be heard and the blaze of the furnace seen as the earth gives up the useful mineral that has lain concealed in her bosom for ages. A company has been organized, the transfers made, and they now have full control of the above named mines. This company have determined to commence operations as soon as the necessary stock of coal and ore can be placed at the works. The contracts are being negotiated for this coal and ore, and workmen will probably be put upon them in the course of a few days. Every good friend of Oregon will wish success to this enterprise.

HOW TO READ.—Reading furnishes the mind only with materials of knowledge; it is thinking that makes what we read ours. We are of the ruminating kind, and it is not enough to cram ourselves with a great load of collections; unless we chew them over again, they will not give us strength and nourishment. There are, indeed, in some writers, visible instances of deep thought, close and acute reasoning, and ideal pursuit. The light these would give would be of great use, if their readers would imitate them. All the rest are but particulars fit to be turned into knowledge; but that can only be done by our own meditation, and examining the reach, force and coherence of what is said; and then, as far as we can see the connection of ideas, so far is it ours. Without that it is so much loose material floating in our brain.—*Locke*.

EXCITING SCENE ON THE PLAINS.—Out on the plains, about 200 miles from Denver, is a vertical bluff seventy-five feet high. A party of hunters recently stampeded a herd of buffaloes right to the brink of the precipice. The foremost brutes, appreciating their critical condition, attempted to avert the calamity, but the frightened hundreds behind crowded forward with characteristic persistency. The front rank, with legs stretched toward each cardinal point of the compass, bellowed in concert, and descended to their fate. Before the pressure from behind could be stopped, the next rank and the next rank followed, imitating the gesture and the bellowing of the first. For thirty seconds it rained buffaloes, and the white sand at the foot of that bluff was incarnadine with the life-blood of wild meat, and not until the tails of fifty or seventy-five of that herd had waved adieu to this world did the movement cease.

INSANITY IN ITS RELATION TO CRIME is briefly but very ably treated in the work of Professor Hammond, noticed elsewhere in this paper. He does not believe that insane criminals should always escape punishment because of insanity or delusion. The rule he lays down is as follows: "The individual who has sufficient intelligence to know that pointing a pistol at a human being, cocking it and pulling the trigger are acts which will cause the death of the person against whom they are directed, should be subjected to the same punishment for a homicide as would be awarded for a like offence committed by a sane person. And the insane person whose delusions are not such as would, if true, justify a homicide, should come under the same rule." This is good common sense and it ought to be law. It is of direct application to one or more cases of crime, in any city wherein if the criminals are demented or deluded they are no less criminally answerable for their acts.

A WELCOME INNOVATION.—An improvement has been introduced in the cars of the Connecticut River Railroad which ought to be adopted by every railroad in the country. In every car there is a box overhead, at one end, in which is contained the name of the next station, which it is the duty of the brakeman to change as they leave the stations. And it goes further; it states where they connect with other roads. As the change is made, a bell strikes twice, which attracts the attention of the passengers, so that the box always exhibits the name of the next station and so on. Thus passengers always know the name of the stopping place, and also if it connects with any other railroad. Those who have been annoyed by the indistinct announcement of stations, will at once appreciate the advantage of this arrangement.

THE COAL FIELDS OF TENNESSEE occupy no less than 3,400,000 acres—being 300,000 acres in excess of the united coal fields of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Some of the strata are known to be 100 feet in thickness.

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