

year just closed, was 180,000 marks—about \$43,000.

—More than 500,000 penny-in-the-slot gas meters are in use in London. Among the poorer people they have almost entirely displaced the use of oil lamps.

—The citizens of Helsingfors, Finland, wear badges of mourning in silent protest against the abrogation of their constitution by the Russian government.

—Herbert Putnam, librarian of the Boston public library, has been appointed by the president to be librarian of congress, in place of the late John Russell Young.

—Judge Gibbons of Chicago has decided that the Illinois civil service law giving preferences to veterans of the civil war is unconstitutional because it grants exclusive privileges.

—The strike at Colon, republic of Colombia, reported in No. 44 at page 10, has been defeated by the importation of laborers under contract for wages lower than the prevailing Colon rate.

—A district messenger boy was sent on the 14th from London to New York, Philadelphia and Chicago to deliver private letters, with the idea that he would be more expeditious than the mails.

—Ex-Congressman James G. Maguire, democratic and populist candidate for governor of California last fall, addressed a special meeting of the Chicago Single Tax club on the 14th, advocating the single tax. Maguire has stood for this reform for 23 years, having been one of Henry George's earliest converts.

During the month of February, 1899, the exports and imports of the United States were as follows:

	Imports.	Exports.
Merchandise	\$ 80,260,032	\$93,894,149
Gold	5,148,906	324,840
Silver	1,427,027	4,562,196
Total	\$86,835,965	\$98,771,185
Excess of exports.....		\$11,935,220

—A college to educate labor leaders has just been established at Oxford, England, by Walter L. Vrooman, formerly of Kansas, and Charles A. Beard. It is called the Ruskin Hall. The only qualifications for admission are good moral character and ability to read intelligently. The cost of residence is \$125 a year. Tuition expenses are \$30.

—At the legal hanging of a man and a woman at Scholastique, Quebec, on the 10th, more than 600 men were present, and 2,000 more tried to batter their way into the jail yard. They yelled and howled, and when the drop fell they cheered. The police had to hold them back with threats to shoot, while the officiating priest exhorted them in the name of Christianity and decency to desist.

MISCELLANY

TRUTH'S NEED.

For The Public.

Why waste our heroes on the battlefield?
There is a dearth of courage everywhere—
Dearth of the fortitude that will not yield
To Falsehood and her promises so fair,
But false as fair. Such courage is our need
As dares the heights of truth; that will
not blanch
Though all the world cry out against the
deed,
And hurl its fury like an avalanche.
Truth hath her need of heroes more than
these
Arms of the lands and navies of the seas!
JOSEPH DANA MILLER.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Judge Samuel T. Corn, of the Wyoming Supreme Court, in reply to questions as to whether in that state the bad and ignorant women vote more generally than the good and intelligent, and whether any of the other predicted evils have happened, has written the following letter, which we reprint from the Woman's Journal, of Boston:

I can answer your questions in the negative, without any reservation whatever. And, while there are a few men here who do not thoroughly approve woman suffrage, I do not think there is one in the State who would seriously answer them otherwise.

Women of all classes very generally vote. Bad women do not obtrude their presence at the polls, and I do not now remember ever to have seen a distinctively bad woman casting her vote.

Woman suffrage has no injurious effect upon the home or the family that I have ever heard of during the 12 years I have resided in the State. It does not take so much of women's time as to interfere with their domestic duties, or with their church or charitable work. It does not impair their womanliness, or make them less satisfactory as wives and mothers. They do not have less influence, or enjoy less respect and consideration socially. My impression is that they read the daily papers and inform themselves upon public questions much more generally than women elsewhere.

Woman suffrage has certainly had no bad results. On the other hand, it has not revolutionized or reconstructed society. But it has had the effect almost entirely to exclude notoriously bad or immoral men from public office in the State. Parties refuse to nominate such men upon the distinct ground that they cannot obtain the women's vote.

The natural result of such conditions is to increase the respect in which women are held, and not to diminish it. They are a more important factor in affairs, and therefore more regarded. It is generally conceded, I think, that women

have a higher standard of morality and right living than men. And, as they have a say in public matters, it has a tendency to make men respect their standard, and in some degree to attempt to attain to it themselves.

I have never been an enthusiastic advocate of woman suffrage as a cure for all the ills that afflict society; but I give you in entire candor my impressions of it from my observation in this State. It is difficult to make anyone not residing here understand the entire absence of the objectionable features which it is supposed must attend the institution. They simply do not exist.

WELL QUALIFIED FOR THE POSITION OF UNITED STATES LABOR STATISTICIAN.

My friend Bings is one of those habitual calculators—one of the kind that says if all the teeth that have been extracted since the first dentist began business were to be used for paving purposes in Hades, the good-resolutions contractor would be out of a job for 10,000 years. He thinks in numbers, and if he were a minister he would get all his texts from the same source.

The other day he saw me first on a ferryboat, and immediately button-holed me. Said he: "How sad it is to think that so much labor goes for naught!"

I knew that I was in for one of his calculations; but I also knew that it would be useless to try to head him off.

He stroked his beard and said, with an imitation of thoughtfulness:

"Every day in this Empire state 1,000,000 human beings go to bed tired because you and I and the rest leave butter on our plates and don't eat our crusts."

I told him that I was astonished, but that he would have to elucidate.

"The farmers sow 8,000,000 bushels of useless grain—grain that eventually goes out to sea on the refuse scows—they milk 50,000 cows to no other purpose than to produce sour or spilled milk, they allow their valuable hens to lay 1,654,800,001 eggs that will serve no better purpose than to spatter some would-be Booth or lie neglected in some out-of-the-way corner, while their wives are making 1,008,983 pounds of butter that will be left on the edges of plates and thrown into the refuse pail. If they didn't sow the useless grain, or fuss over the hens that lay the unused eggs, or draw the milk that is destined to sour, or make the butter that is to ornament the edges of the china disks, they would be able to go to bed merely healthily tired instead of overworked, and fewer farmers would