

the community—sometimes numbering from 100,000 to 400,000 individuals—to which it belongs. They have some power of communicating their thoughts to each other, of giving information to one another, something approaching to language. If we ask ourselves whether they are conscious beings, it is difficult to deny them the gift of reason when we see them, often in the face of accidental conditions of which they could have had no previous experience, excavating chambers and tunnels, making roads, guarding their home, gathering and storing food, nursing their young, feeding and making use of domestic animals, holding slaves, recognizing friends, and manifesting aversion to strangers and enemies, and, on the whole, there is good ground for the opinion that their mental powers differ from those of man not so much in kind as in degree. Ants have the power of distinguishing light and colors, and of discriminating objects; but their perceptions of objects and their sensations of light and color must be very different from ours, since some colors affect their eyes which are imperceptible to ours, and the same may be true of objects. It would appear, therefore, that the colors and proportions of objects and the general aspect of nature must present to them a very different appearance from what they do to man. Though the subject is still involved in doubt, observations seem to indicate that ants are not deaf, as Huber and Forel maintained, but that they possess some sense of hearing, and that while they are insensible to sounds that affect us, they have the power to distinguish sounds which we can not hear. As regards the senses of smell and touch, there can be no doubt that both are highly developed in them. To sum up: The economy of labor and the ingenuity and inventiveness displayed under exceptional circumstances by ants, the social and friendly relations which exist between those of the same community, and between them and other animals, the hostility they manifest to stranger ants and other insects, their power of communicating their thoughts, their enjoyment of

the senses, their prevision, and their ability to accommodate themselves to novel or accidental conditions, all indicate intention, foresight, and calculation; that they have their desires, passions, and caprices; and lead to the conclusion that they are endowed with reasoning powers so marked in kind and degree as to force the admission that "they have a fair claim to rank next to man in the scale of intelligence."

THE novels of the month are fair in quality and comparatively few in number, among them being two by native authors who are deserved favorites, Rev. William M. Baker (recently deceased, many of our readers will regret to learn) and Frank Lee Benedict. Our list comprises the following: *The Price She Paid*,¹¹ by Frank Lee Benedict; *The New Timothy*,¹² by William M. Baker, a new edition; *Altiara Peto*,¹³ by Laurence Oliphant; *By the Gate of the Sea*,¹⁴ by David Christie Murray; *His Triumph*,¹⁵ by Mary E. Denison; *Disarmed*,¹⁶ by Miss Betham-Edwards; and *Thicker than Water*,¹⁷ by James Payn. Of the above it deserves to be noted that *Altiara Peto* and *By the Gate of the Sea* form the initial numbers of the new and tasteful yet cheap "Duodecimo Edition" of "Franklin Square Library" novels, just projected by the Messrs. Harper.

¹¹ *The Price She Paid*. A NOVEL. BY FRANK LEE BENE-DICT. 12mo, pp. 429. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott and Co.

¹² *The New Timothy*. A NOVEL. BY WILLIAM M. BAKER. "Franklin Square Library." 4to, pp. 71. New York: Harper and Brothers.

¹³ *Altiara Peto*. A NOVEL. BY LAURENCE OLIPHANT. "Franklin Square Library." Duodecimo Edition, pp. 242. New York: Harper and Brothers.

The Same. "Franklin Square Library." 4to, pp. 58. New York: Harper and Brothers.

¹⁴ *By the Gate of the Sea*. A NOVEL. BY DAVID CHRISTIE MURRAY. "Franklin Square Library." Duodecimo Edition, pp. 116. New York: Harper and Brothers.

The Same. "Franklin Square Library." 4to, pp. 29. New York: Harper and Brothers.

¹⁵ *His Triumph*. BY MARY E. DENISON. 16mo, pp. 248. Boston: Lee and Shepard.

¹⁶ *Disarmed*. A NOVEL. BY MISS BETHAM-EDWARDS. "Franklin Square Library." 4to, pp. 42. New York: Harper and Brothers.

¹⁷ *Thicker than Water*. A NOVEL. BY JAMES PAYN. "Franklin Square Library." 4to, pp. 74. New York: Harper and Brothers.

Editor's Historical Record.

POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 19th of September.—The following State nominations were made: Nebraska Democratic August 29, J. W. Savage for Justice of the Supreme Court, and for Regents of the State University Dr. D. R. Daniels, G. W. Johnson, and J. M. Woolworth; Pennsylvania Greenback August 30, T. P. Rynder for Auditor-General, and Captain A. T. Marsh for Treasurer; New York Greenback September 5, Rev. Thomas K. Beecher for Secretary of State, Louis A. Post for Attorney-General, G. L. Halsey for Comptroller, Julian Winne for Treasurer, E. A. Stillman for State

Engineer; New Jersey Democrats September 13, Leon Abbett for Governor; New Jersey Republicans September 18, Judge Jonathan Dixon for Governor.

The Northern Pacific Railroad was completed, August 22, by the joining of the two ends, thirty miles west of Mullen Tunnel, Montana. On the occasion of the formal opening, September 8, a golden spike was driven at the point of meeting.

The Irish Registration Bill was rejected in the House of Lords, August 21, by a vote of 52 nays to 32 yeas.

The French captured Hué, the capital of

Annam, August 25, and soon afterward a treaty of peace was signed.—On September 1 the French forces, after a desperate engagement, defeated the Black Flags, between Ha-Noi and Sontay.

According to official reports of the recent cholera epidemic in Egypt, there were 27,318 deaths up to September 1.

DISASTERS.

August 15.—Twelve miners killed by the breaking of a rope, near Redruth, England.

August 21.—One-third of the city of Rochester, Minnesota, destroyed by a cyclone. Railroad train on its way from Rochester to Zumbrota lifted from the track and completely demolished. Thirty persons killed and fifty wounded.

August 25.—Twenty-three workmen killed by the fall of a scaffold at the King of Bavaria's new palace on Chiem See.

August 26.—Eighteen of the crew of the steamer *Woodburn* lost, with the vessel, off Ed-dystone Light.—Many fishing vessels wrecked off the Grand Bank. Over sixty lives supposed to have been lost.

August 27.—Violent volcanic eruptions near the island of Java, followed by a huge tidal wave causing the loss of many thousand lives. Several towns were destroyed, light-houses disappeared, and the mountain of Kramatoa sank beneath the sea. Sunda Strait was greatly changed, and navigation rendered dangerous.

August 28.—Explosion of steamer *Riverdale's* boilers, on the North River, New York. Five persons killed and several injured.

August 31.—News of the loss of the Dutch arctic steamer *Varna*, in the Kara Sea, on July 4.—Steamer *Ludwig*, sixty days out from Antwerp, with seventy persons on board, given up for lost.

September 2.—Forty persons killed in a crowd run into by a railroad train at Steglitz.

September 4.—Nine militiamen killed and fifteen wounded by a railroad accident near Grayville, Illinois.

September 14.—News of the loss of the steamer *Proteus*, of the Greeley Relief Expedition, in Smith Sound, July 23.

OBITUARY.

August 18.—At Cardiff, Wales, William Wirt Sikes, author and United States Consul, aged forty-six years.

August 19.—At York, Pennsylvania, Judge Jeremiah S. Black, in his seventy-fourth year.

August 24.—At Frohsdorf, the Comte de Chambord, aged sixty-three years.

August 27.—Announcement of death, on July 13, of Ranavalo II., Queen of Madagascar.

September 3.—At Bongival, France, Ivan Sergyeevich Tourguéneff, aged sixty-five years.

September 11.—In Paris, France, Henri Conscience, aged seventy years.

September 12.—At Monmouth Beach, New Jersey, Hugh J. Hastings, of the *Commercial Advertiser*, aged sixty-five years.

September 16.—At Manchester, Massachusetts, Junius Brutus Booth, aged sixty-two years.

September 18.—In London, England, John Payne Collier, in his ninety-fifth year.

Editor's Drawer.

THERE appears to be too much electricity around this year, or else it is unevenly distributed. It is a year of uncommon atmospheric disturbance, volcanic activity, and general disaster. We can not yet predict these disturbances and disasters, but in our newly acquired wisdom we fancy that we can assign their cause. We watch what we call electric storms in the sun, and its ominous and changing spots, and though we are not sure that the sun's troubles induce our earthly calamities, yet we are inclined to refer both to one cause. We fortunately have an agency, about which we know little, that can be made accountable for all our unexplained misfortunes. In our empirical condition electricity now is as useful in our perplexity as malaria is to the doctors in their experiments: it is a handy scapegoat. We know, in fact, that electricity is the most skittish agency that man ever attempted to harness to his uses. We have tamed it to go in single and double teams, duplex and even quadruplex; we can send it round the globe on a wire, or we can store it and carry it round in a trunk (subject, of

course, when it enters the port of New York, to a duty), and we make it repeat speech, turn machinery, and dispel darkness. We have done all this within a few years, and got to feel quite comfortable in our ability to handle it, and yet every few days it shows new freaks, mocks us with its subtle eccentricity, storms the sun, tears the earth to pieces, and declares itself master instead of servant.

All this is so clearly outside the province of the Drawer that we should not have alluded to it but for another aspect of the electric agency, which is clearly within our purview, and that is the moral. We know that it is usually held nowadays that crime is either hereditary, or caused by badly cooked food, poor clothes, and unwholesome lodgings; at any rate, that it is a disease, with little personal responsibility, caused by something akin to malaria, and to be cured by physical treatment. The so-called criminal should be pitied rather than punished. If a man is properly nurtured he will be pure. It is so well settled that when an exception occurs in the case of a well-nurtured man or woman who steals, we