

Autos and Railways.

By Sylvester Stewart.

THAT the automobile has a great future I do not deny. Its chief mission is to change city streets from manure yards to clean thoroughfares. The horse is unfit for use on city streets. He occupies too much space; he is too hard to steer; he has the wrong kind of feet on him; besides, on crowded streets, his worried driver whips, frets and jerks ten per cent. of his energy out of him and shortens his life.

But whatever efficiency the auto may attain by future improvements, it will always remain true, that if it is put on steel rails, the same engine and the same quantity of fuel necessary to pull ten passengers or one ton of freight on the best macadam road will pull at least forty passengers or four tons of freight on steel. So, instead of "making railways obsolete," the auto will call for light steel rails for itself, in hundreds of thousands of localities, and will probably be equipped, in many cases, with guides, so that it can run either on or off rails.

The automobile, instead of being a menace to the railway, will be a feeder to it. Light railways—T rails, plateways, etc.—will branch from main lines, and on these branches will run freight and passenger automobiles. In roadways there is nothing like steel, nor anything that makes any approach to it. Of course, in sections too thinly settled to justify two roads a common road and a light railway the business automobile will have to use the common road, but wherever it does it will be compelled to charge a high rate for freight and passengers, on account of the great resistance to progression encountered on all roads but steel.—Engineering Magazine.

The Nebular Hypothesis.

By Agnes M. Clarke.

IT is stated that things may be improved beyond recognition, nay, out of existence. So it has happened to the nebular hypothesis. Stat nomenis umbra. The name survives, but with connotations indefinitely diversified. The original theme is barely recalled by many of the variations played upon it. Entire license of treatment prevails. The strict and simple lines of evolution laid down by Laplace are obliterated or submerged. Some of the schemes proposed by modern cosmogonists are substantially reversions to Kant's "Natural History of the Heavens," the long discarded and despised Cartesian vortices reappear, with the eclat of virtual novelty, in others; nor are there wanting theories or speculations reminiscent even of Buffon's cometary impacts.

Moreover, the misleading fashion has come into vogue of bracketing Kant with Laplace as co-inventor of the majestic and orderly plan of growth commonly designated as the "nebular hypothesis." This has been, and is, the source of much hurtful confusion. Save the one fundamental idea—and that by no means their exclusive property—of ascribing unity of origin to the planetary system, Kant's and Laplace's evolutionary methods had little in common. Their postulates were very far from being identical; they employed radically different kinds of "world stuff" and the "world stuff" was subjected, in each case, to totally dissimilar process.—Knowledge.

The Rose—Undisputed Queen of Flowers.

By John N. May, Treasurer of the American Rose Society.

THE history of the race is full of romance and poetry. When the flower was first introduced as a garden bloom must ever remain a matter of conjecture; but it is certain that the ancients knew and admired this Queen of the Flowers many, many centuries ago.

Early Greek writers mention it in many of their writings, asserting that it was consecrated to Venus as an emblem of beauty, to Cupid as an emblem of love and to Harpocrates as the god of silence. Probably this last fact explains why the white rose was regarded as a symbol of silence, and at ancient carnivals was suspended from the ceiling and around it was written this sentence: "He who doth secrets reveal Beneath my roof shall never dwell."

What faith and what confidence must have existed between man and man in those days when only the presence of a flower was needed to insure silence and to impress upon those present the injunction that secrets were to be kept inviolable!

The Romans also held the rose in great esteem. The beautiful varieties we know to-day were unknown to them, for it is a matter of history that until the beginning of the nineteenth century very few double roses had been introduced. Since that time innumerable and grand varieties have come into existence, and to-day they range in color, size and fragrance from the small dainty button size to those measuring five inches and more in diameter, and in color from the purest white to the deeper maroon, or nearly black. The only shade of color not yet attainable is blue. Though nature has been lavish in bestowing all other shades, forms and sizes, the lover of the rose must be content without this color. But this, I am sure, will be no great hardship, as one has a glorious range of hues from which to choose.

The wild or native rose can be found growing in abundance in nearly every temperate zone. It is found in Asia, Africa, the whole of Europe and North America. The native varieties are the original parents of all the grand roses that now embellish the gardens and homes of millions of the earth's inhabitants. The old-fashioned rose, with its single row of petals, found growing by the roadside in the country districts of New England is the ancestor of some of the highly colored and fragrant blooms that now lend their beauty to decorative purposes.

No one will dispute the popularity of the rose. Certain flowers become the fads of the hour and hold sway for a time, but are soon dethroned. The rose is always in demand, summer and winter, and the sales of its blooms are not exceeded by those of any other flower. Its season of special favor is winter, when no special function is deemed complete without the presence of this beautiful flower.

Can Floods Be Prevented?

THE Middle West, meaning the territory of the lower Missouri, the Kaw and the Des Moines rivers, suffered a flood loss last spring estimated at \$25,000,000. And this despite the fact that millions of dollars are used each year by the Government and by States in building levees and otherwise endeavoring to confine the lower Mississippi and Missouri within safe bounds. It has proved thus far impossible to control entirely the mighty force of these rivers; their frequent rebellions result in inundations with alarming regularity. Suppose the money lost this one season, to say nothing of the vast sums wiped away during all the forty years of Western settlement, had been spent in intelligent preventive measures at the heads of the streams, would it have been effective? Already many Western farmers have thrown up dams across ravines and sloughs on prairie farms, which hold back the rain's bounty. These are constructed primarily as cattle watering places, but they keep the floods from the land below and save many a field from having its crop washed out. If this system be extended over the whole area of the upper basin on a larger scale, it would not only retain a great portion of unseasonable rainfall, but give opportunity for irrigation on the lower levels from the stored water. The Senate of the recent Congress has already realized the necessity of doing something, for it passed a bill appropriating \$10,000,000 for the purchase of 2,500,000 acres on the top of the Appalachian range in the States of North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Georgia, the object being to protect the forests and to prevent floods by holding the waters on the hillsides, rather than allow them free course over deforested areas. The bill failed in the House, but it ought to succeed at next session. The establishment of a permanent reservoir system under Government control and with ample appropriations for its construction should be the next step in the development of the West. It will mean a tremendous body of water held high up on the prairie slopes, exerting its influence in the modification of the hot winds and the droughts; it will furnish to the growing area of irrigated lands a steady supply through the summer months; it will retain the rains the life of the agriculturists of the lower Mississippi and Missouri one of and so prevent the floods that annually spoil the low-lying farms and make anxiety.—The Independent.

ANTI-SEMITIC RIOT AT GOMEL.

The Police and Military Openly Sided With the Murderers.

The Associated Press correspondent has made an investigation on the spot of the "Pogrom," as the Russians described the anti-Semitic riots, which occurred here September 11, and were renewed for several days. The riots were smaller, but perhaps more remarkable than those which took place at Kishineff, because the police and military openly sided with the plunderers and murderers, the "Pogromshiks," as the Russians called them. The troops, supported by many educated and well-to-do Christians, formed a movable shield behind which the "Pogromshiks" ruthlessly demolished the Jewish homes and shops and cruelly clubbed such Jews as fell into their hands, leisurely proceeding from street to street and district to district, as they did so.

The commerce and industry of Gomel, which is considerable, is largely in the hands of the Jewish population, numbering 26,000. Few of the residents are wealthy, but none are paupers. The Jewish artisans incline to socialism.

The trouble began September 11, a holiday (the day of the beheading of John the Baptist) in a wrangle in the fruit and fish markets between Moujik (peasants) and Jews. The wrangle ended in a free fight in which many were wounded, one Moujik succumbing to his injuries.

The Moujik demanded vengeance and employed the following days in inflaming the anti-Semitic agitations, the leaders being an officer named Pensky and a rich merchant named Petrachenko. Everybody knew that a "Pogrom" would occur on Monday and the Jews appealed for protection to Chief of Police Ravasky, who summoned an infantry regiment from its summer encampment. Thus there were 1,600 soldiers in the town. At luncheon hour on Monday the anti-Semitic railway workmen to the number of some hundreds began an organized attack on the Jewish houses in Seamovkaya street, sacking them and demolishing or spoiling the bulky articles by soaking them with kerosene. Police Chief Ravasky had placed police and troops on the Zamovaya, but they acted as though they were intended to protect the "Pogromshiks" from interference.

Jews who tried to cross their lines to rescue their co-religionists were brutally clubbed with the soldiers' guns, bayoneted or arrested. Meanwhile, recruits for the "Pogromshiks" poured steadily over the bridge leading from the railway workshops. A bystander begged the commander to send troops to guard the exit from the bridge. The officer replied threateningly the man with arrest, and saying: "We know what we have to do."

The plunderers now proceeded from street to street, the troops and police following them, and cutting off access to the devastated Jewish houses. They subsequently visited the Jewish quarter called "America," the Konnaya square, the upper end of Roumanizovskaya street, the principal thoroughfare of the town, and the district called "Caucasus."

Altogether nearly 400 houses and shops were wholly or partially wrecked, the windows smashed, the blinds and frames being splintered and every scrap of furniture and effects, even the Samovars, sewing machines, mirrors and lamps destroyed or stolen. The Jews who did not take refuge with compassionate Christians or conceal themselves in cellars, were severely beaten and in many cases dangerously wounded. Some young Jews exasperated by the action of the police and troops armed themselves with any available weapons and tried to force their way to the threatened houses.

A Mysterious Murder.

Chicago, Special.—Early Wednesday morning the dead bodies of Harriet Elizabeth Weber and Innocenti Talamini, a marble cutter, were found on Lexington avenue, just south of Fifty-fourth street. Both had been shot twice and while there are indications that the man shot the woman and then killed himself, there are other features to the case that make it somewhat mysterious. Arthur M. Laurie, with whom the dead woman had made her home, will be held by the police until after the inquest. There is no evidence connecting him with the shooting, but he is detained as a witness.

May Close Its Plant.

Pittsburg, Special.—The United States Steel Corporation may close all its steel plants in the near future unless the workers will consent to a reduction in wages. The reason for this attitude is an overstocked market and dullness of trade at this time of the year. Last year the Amalgamated Association reported a reduction of 3 per cent. on all material made for foreign orders and the steel company, it is said, intends to make a similar request this year. President T. J. Shaffer, of the Amalgamated Association, stated that he felt sure that the limit would not be changed, and that existing conditions do not warrant it.

Working on Message.

Oyster Bay, Special.—No visitors were received by President Roosevelt at Sagamore Hill. Already the President has begun work on his annual message to Congress. This work is simple preparatory, and nothing yet has been reduced to definite form. The message to be presented to the extraordinary session will be comparatively brief. The call for the extraordinary session will not be issued until about the middle of October.

A Suicide.

Charleston, S. C., Special.—J. H. Polhemus, formerly city passenger agent here and also in Savannah for the Plant System, killed himself Thursday morning at Summerville, S. C. He went into the yard with a parlor rifle, the muzzle of which he placed against his breast and pulled the trigger. His body was found by his child. The bullet passed through his heart.

OUT ON HEAVY BAIL.

Slayers of Russell Sherrill Give \$25,000 Bonds.

EVIDENCE GIVEN ON BOTH SIDES.

It Was Proven That Sherrill Was Not Armed—The White Brothers Prove Good Characters.

Salisbury, Special.—After a hearing before Judge Geo. H. Brown, Jr., here Saturday, Thos. J. and Chalmers L. White, who killed Russell Sherrill at Mt. Ulla, on September 17th, were allowed bail in the sum of \$25,000 each and released from custody.

At the hearing in the case the court house was jammed and crowded as it has seldom been before. This strong public interest was induced by the peculiarly tragic circumstances of the killing. Two men of high character and well connected admit the killing of the young man, also of prominent family, in an altercation caused by the ruin of their niece, the child of their dead brother. They allege circumstances of self-defence. On the other hand the prosecution contends that they offered young Sherrill the simple alternative of death or marriage and that upon his declaring his choice of the former when he found that they would accept no equivocation or delay, they shot him down, unarmed as he was, and before his mother's eyes.

Large numbers of people were present both from Concord and the Mt. Ulla section of Rowan county. The Sherrill family was represented by Mrs. Josephine Sherrill, mother of the deceased and the principal witness for the prosecution; her daughter, Miss Lucy Sherrill; her little son, Price Sherrill, and her son-in-law, Mr. W. A. Barber, of Cleveland. The relatives of the defendants present were: Messrs. Tinslow and Thornwell White, of Concord, and Sergeant R. C. White, of Charlotte. The defense was represented by Senator Lee S. Murphy, of Salisbury, and Montgomery & Crowell, of Concord. Solicitor Hummer, L. H. Clement, T. C. Linn and B. B. Miller appeared for the State. Representative Theo. F. Kluttz, who has been retained for the defense, was not present, being away from town. All the points arising during the hearing were hard fought and once or twice warm rejoinders were passed between counsel. When the evidence had been concluded at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon both sides agreed to leave the matter of bail to the court without argument. Judge Brown announced that he would take the matter under consideration and file his decision in writing with the clerk of the court. In the meantime the prisoners were remanded to the custody of the sheriff.

Mrs. Josephine Sherrill, mother of the deceased, was the first witness for the State. She testified that of six children other than the deceased there were in the residence on the day and hour of the killing, Price, a ten-year-old boy, and Lena, a fifteen-year-old girl. There were also in the house J. H. Thayer and son, Charles Thayer, of Mt. Pleasant, who had come to Mt. Ulla to sharpen gin saws, and Prof. W. R. Clegg, a school teacher, boarding at the place. She continued: "I heard a knock at the door about 6 o'clock in the morning and upon answering it saw two strangers. They said they wanted to see Mr. Russell Sherrill. I said that he was not up, but that I would call him, and I placed chairs for them on the porch. I then went and told my son. He asked who the men were, but I couldn't tell him. He rose from bed and came down in his shirt and trousers and with his shoes untied. The gentlemen told him they wanted to see him privately. I was in the hall, but hearing this, came out. They told me to go back, but I refused. Russell had sat down on the bench near the door and as he did so the Whites immediately covered him with their revolvers, rising from their chairs as they did so. They told him he had ruined their niece, Annie White, and had to die today if he didn't marry her. Chal was the spokesman of the two. Russell said he didn't ruin the girl. I stepped between the two men and Russell and pleaded with Chal White not to kill my boy. I then turned to the other man, Thomas White, and began to plead with him, begging him for the boy's poor mother's sake to spare his life. Tom said he was deaf and told me to talk to his brother. Chal repeated that Russell would have to marry the girl today or die. He told me to step back and I did so. Russell said, 'I'll go with you,' and got up and stepped towards the door, whereupon Tom White, the big one, shoved him back. Russell then said he didn't love the girl and couldn't marry her, upon which they both fired, almost together, so close, in fact, that I couldn't tell which fired first. In shoving Russell, Tom White had pushed him towards Chal and away from the door. After the shots Russell fell and I fell almost on him. Rising, I ran out into the yard, screaming and crying out for the neighbors to catch the men who had killed Russell. They left immediately.

Further testimony was given by the prosecution. It was developed the Sherrill was not armed. The defense then gave evidence. For the defense Col. Paul B. Means, Messrs. W. R. Odell, J. P. Allison, Charles Ritchie, Frank Smith, P. B. Fetzer, A. Jonas Yorke and Dr. Robert S. Young, all prominent citizens of Concord, testified to the excellent character of both defendants. The defendant Thomas J. White then took the stand and, being partially deaf, was examined by means of a speaking tube. He testified thus: "I am 39 years old. Annie White is my niece, her father having been my oldest full brother. Since his death I have acted

as her guardian, though not legally such. On the evening of the 16th inst. I came to Rowan, brought by this letter." Here the witness exhibited a letter, the reading of which was, on objection by the prosecution, excluded as incompetent. As, however, it may figure when the case comes to trial, it is given here: "My Dear Brother: O, my brother, how can I tell? Annie is a ruined girl and I want you to come at once and tell me what to do. Russell Sherrill is the author of her ruin. O, God, this is so hard!—Jennie." The writer of this letter was Mrs. Samuel Archer, the mother of the girl and the sister-in-law of the White brothers. The witness continued: "Chalmers came with me. We went to our sister-in-law's, arriving at about 8 o'clock at night. My brother had an interview with Annie. I did not speak with her, but had a conversation with her mother. We went next morning to Mrs. Sherrill's, reaching there about 6 o'clock. We went early to make sure of finding Sherrill at home and to avoid publicity and also to enable us to get home that afternoon. Mrs. Archer lives a half or three-quarters of a mile from Mrs. Sherrill's. We went to the house and Chalmers knocked on the door. He had a conversation with Mrs. Sherrill, which I could not overhear. I asked him if Russell was at home and he said yes. Upon young Sherrill's arrival my brother began a conversation with him, but I could not catch the words. Sherrill sprang to his feet and brother drew his pistol. I also drew mine. Mrs. Sherrill came out and talked with my brother. Don't know what was said. Mrs. Sherrill stepped in front of me and said something to me. I told her to talk to my brother, as I was deaf. Sherrill then advanced on my brother. I following him. I was to Sherrill's right. He continued to advance on my brother in a threatening manner and sprang past me at Chalmers in striking attitude. At this point Chalmers fired, and I fired almost immediately afterwards. Sherrill fell at once. We went to the buggy and started for Salisbury. Three shots were fired, Chalmers firing the third shot. I had no agreement with my brother when we went to Sherrill's. We went to ask Sherrill to right the wrong he had done our niece without publicity; we had no intention of killing him. We took pistols because of the night journey from Concord and not for possible use against Sherrill. I did not shove Sherrill away from the door. Did not touch him except when I shook hands with him on arriving. I had seen Sherrill before, but did not know him." Cross-examined: "I borrowed my pistol, already loaded, from a friend. This was on the afternoon we started. Nothing said between my brother and myself about being armed. It is about 23 miles from Concord to Mt. Ulla. We did not go to Sherrill's house early in order the more certainly to catch him unsuspecting and unarmed, but on account of the reasons I have already given. In accordance with our request Mrs. Archer woke us up at about 5 o'clock. On reaching the store near the house we loosed the horses but did not take them out of the buggy. We talked with Sherrill five or six minutes before the shooting, Chalmers carrying on all the conversation except the one remark I made asking Sherrill to get into the buggy and go with us. We drove to Salisbury quickly to forestall pursuit. I didn't shoot because I was in danger, but because my brother was."

The testimony of Chalmers White was corroborative of that of his brother in all substantial details, being that the idea of killing Sherrill never occurred to them, and that the act was done under the impression that their lives were in danger.

At the close of the hearing Judge Brown admitted the Whites to bail in bonds of \$25,000 each, which was readily given. The Whites then returned to their home in Concord where they were heartily congratulated by their friends.

New York, Special.—Louis Nixon Saturday night announced that he is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for mayor. He made public statement in which he said: "I am a candidate for the Democratic nomination for mayor of New York. This statement is made with a full knowledge of the uncertainties of the Democratic situation. I desire to make it clear that I am willing to stand with those Democrats, however small their number, who believe that the Democratic party of this city should lead and not follow in the forward march of municipal reform."

Workers Among Negroes. Atlanta, Special.—The national convention of congregational workers among the colored people, which has been in session in this city, elected the following officers: President, Rev. H. H. Proctor, Atlanta; first vice president, Prof. W. E. Goss, Talladega, Ala.; second vice president, Rev. S. H. Brown, Washington; recording secretary, Rev. O. Faruma, Troy, N. C.; corresponding secretary, Rev. G. W. Henderson, New Orleans; treasurer, Rev. F. D. Sims, Memphis.

The Peabody Fund. Little Rock, Ark., Special.—Hon. J. H. Hineman, State Superintendent of public instruction, of Arkansas, states that there is a likelihood of an early meeting of Southern States school superintendents to take action relative to the disposition of the Peabody educational fund. The fund is now over \$3,000,000, and many Southern States superintendents are said to favor closing the trust and distributing the fund to the States of the South, rather than to concentrate the money on one large teacher's college, as has been proposed.

Conveyor Burned. Galveston, Special.—The conveyor of the Southern Pacific elevator, 1,500 feet long, was destroyed by fire Monday. The elevator was in great danger for a while. A part of the wharf was destroyed. The total damage is estimated at between \$75,000 and \$90,000.

It probably will be two months before repairs can be made, though some temporary arrangement for handling grain may be made sooner. The insurance probably covers the entire loss.

MANY PEOPLE KILLED

Women Who Witnessed the Accident May Die From Fright.

BAD WRECK NEAR DANVILLE, VA.

The Train Was Running at the Rate of 50 or 60 Miles an Hour and Left the Track on an "S" Curve.

Danville, Va., Special.—No. 97, the Southern Railway's fast mail, plying between New York and New Orleans, plunged over a trestle north of this city Sunday afternoon, killing nine men, injuring seven others and completely wrecking three mail and one express cars. The killed are:

The Dead.
J. L. Thompson, railway mail clerk, of Washington.
W. S. Chambers, railway mail clerk, of Midland, Va.
D. P. Florey, railway mail clerk, of Nokesville, Va.
P. M. Argelwright, railway mail clerk, of Mt. Clinton, Va.
J. A. Broady, engineer, of Placerville, Va.
J. T. Blair, conductor, of Spencer, N. C.
A. G. Clapp, of Greensboro.
Flagman S. J. Moody, of Raleigh, N. C.
A 12-year-old son of J. L. Thompson.

The Injured.
The injured are:
Lewis W. Spears, of Manassas.
Frank G. Brooks, of Charlottesville.
Percival Indenmauer, of Washington.
Charles E. Reames, of Charlottesville.

Jennings J. Dunlap, of Washington.
M. C. Maupin, of Charlottesville.
J. Harrison Thompson, of St. Luke. All of the above are railway mail clerks. It is said that this is the first time that Engineer Broady ever ran a mail train and the supposition is that he was running too fast and was not entirely familiar with his road-bed.

The wreck occurred on a steep grade, the latter embracing the trestle, which is in the shape of the letter "S." The train was probably running at a rate of between 50 and 60 miles an hour when the engine left the track. The train ran some distance on the cross-ties, plunging over the trestle at a tangent, when the engine was about half way across.

The engine and all of the cars fell 75 feet to the water below. The last car tore up a considerable section of the trestle. The engine struck and was buried in the bed of the creek. The cars piled on top of the engine, all of them being split into kindling wood. The engineer was found some little distance from his cab, horribly mangled and dead. All of the bodies save one have been recovered.

The train carried nothing but mail and express. The mail was not much damaged, considering the extent of the wreck. Some loose registered letters and the valuables of the dead men have been recovered. The express matter was considerably injured.

The mail coaches were taken in charge by R. B. Boulding, a clerk who spends his Sundays in this city. He arrived on a train within half an hour after the disaster. Mail clerks were sent on special trains from Richmond, Charlottesville and Greensboro, N. C., to assist in rescuing the government property.

The wreck itself beggars description. All of the cars are battered into kindling wood, and the engine is buried in the mud of the creek. A wrecking crew is laboring to remove the debris, so that the trestle can be repaired for the continuance of traffic at as early an hour as possible tomorrow.

All of the injured mail clerks were taken to the Home for the Sick in this city, where they received medical attention.

The other victims may recover, although the physicians can give out no definite information as to their condition. One man, name unknown, is still in the wreck. He can be seen, but the debris under which he is lying has not been removed.

Official Report.

Washington, Special.—Official reports to the Southern Railway general offices in this city state that the wrecked train was on time at the last station at which it reported, and that it was going at the rate of 30 to 35 miles an hour when it approached the trestle, and ran off the track just north of the trestle, carrying the trestle down when the engine ran off the track to the ground below. Broady, the dead engineer, was about 55 years of age, and had been with the Southern Railway about 20 years, his service a large part of the time being on the division on which the accident occurred.

While reports leave it in doubt just how the accident occurred, and it will take further inquiry to make this certain, it is believed here that the accident was due to a flange on the front wheel projecting over the rail and striking the ties. The trestle where the accident occurred will be fully repaired by an early hour to-morrow morning, and trains are expected to be running over it tomorrow. The injured men have been taken to the hospital at Danville, and are being given every attention. Train No. 97, it is stated at the general offices, has been running about a year, and has had no mishap, except that some months ago it ran into some earth that had fallen on the track.

N'gro Elected.

Oyster Bay, N. Y., Special.—John Hicks, colored, was elected a member of the Republican town committee for the ninth district. Hicks' election was the result of a factional fight in the district, engineered by John Baker, who ran Hicks to get even with William E. Luyter, the present member of the committee.