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IT IS INEXCUSABLE.

It seems that negro-burning is still one of the pastimes indulged in by mobocrats who are possessed with the spirit of murder and lawless revenge. In the latest case in Arkansas, the excuse that justice would not swiftly overtake the criminal or prisoner accused of the worst of crimes did not count, for measures had been taken for his immediate trial, and pledges had been given by the leaders of the incensed citizens, that the result of the trial would be patiently awaited. But all this was to no purpose; the jail was forced, the doors broken down with sledge-hammers, the negro prisoner was dragged to the place of the holocaust, half a mile from the town, and amid his piteous appeals for his life, wood was piled around his shivering form and he was burned to death. Not satisfied with this act of vengeance, the appetite of the mob being whetted by the horrible sight, they started after another victim, whom, however, they were unable to find.

Simultaneous with the news of this outrage, came tidings of the appearance in court of a man supposed to have been murdered, and the alleged murderer had been tried and convicted in a lower court, and the case was up on appeal to the Supreme court. The defendant, however, had gone crazy over his troubles. This shows the uncertainty of anything but direct evidence, and the caution which should be used in judicial proceedings. If this be true in the legitimate conduct of trials for alleged offenses, how much greater caution should be exercised, when the public take the responsibility of condemning persons against whom circumstances point as criminal, but who, in any event, ought to have a fair trial by a competent court and jury!

Mobocracy should be utterly condemned by every lover of his country. There is never any real and substantial excuse for it. We enter fully into the feelings of a community aroused to fever heat over an outrage committed by a negro upon a white woman. But making all allowances for natural resentment and a demand for punishment, we cannot justify lynching, nor condone the savagery exhibited in burning to death a human being, no matter what may be his color or his crime.

The law should be made as nearly adequate to the offense as is possible, consistent with civilization and decency. But even where it is insufficient and tardy, it should be held supreme until it is improved or abolished. Even when a criminal is undoubtedly guilty the law should take its course, and this must be emphasized in the mind of every just person when it relates to an individual who is unconvicted, and against whom there is little more than dark suspicion. Lynching ought to be stamped out in these United States at any cost.

AN OLD SLANDER REVIVED.

A friend in Virginia writes to us, asking particulars as to an allegation in a pamphlet, published against the "Mormons" by a sect called the "Disciples," that Joseph Smith stole the money from the bank at Nauvoo and absconded with it.

This is a new one to us. We are familiar with most of the stories concerning the Prophet Joseph Smith uttered by his enemies, about his being a money digger, a peep-stone holder of precious metals including buried treasures, a wife stealer, a rascal, a profligate, a religious fanatic, an ambitious politician, a false prophet, etc., etc., but we never read or heard of a charge that he stole money from the bank at Nauvoo.

We are of the opinion that what is intended is a revamping of the old story about the bank at Kirtland, Ohio, which was organized under the name of the Kirtland Safety Society. It was established for the benefit and advantage of the Saints in that vicinity. Joseph Smith was for a short time one of the officers of the institution, but he subsequently resigned his position, having discovered improper transactions by some of the bank officials, from whom fellowship in the Church was withdrawn. Their operations were at first unknown to the Prophet Joseph Smith, and as soon as his transactions came to his knowledge he warned the public against them.

The bank failed and much trouble was occasioned in consequence, but as soon as possible the paper of the institution was called in and redeemed, and though efforts were made to cast a stigma upon the Prophet Joseph in consequence of these financial difficulties, none of them succeeded because there was no solid foundation for the complaints. But in all the perplexities and difficulties that arose, there was no such foolish charge preferred that he stole money from the bank and absconded with it.

These ancient slanders now revived, simply show to what desperate straits anti-"Mormon" writers are reduced, in order to attack a religion which they cannot convert, and to slander a great and mighty servant of the Lord who was martyred for the testimony of Jesus, and who is numbered among the grand and notable characters of the nineteenth century.

MITCHELL AND WAGES.

Mr. Mitchell, the leader of the coal strike, has acquired fame as a conservative but firm opponent. Lately he has also proved himself a man of letters, a good dialectician and an orator. In his replies to the operators, he has decidedly had the best of the argument. His speeches to the laborers show that he has the qualities needed in a leader. His thoughts are clear, and he conveys them in a lucid manner. He is no enthusiast painting ideal pictures to his audience; but he tells them exactly what the situation is and what they may expect. He does not seek to influence his hearers by false promises; he tells them the unadorned truth. Consequently, if the strikers resume work, as they probably will, they do so knowing that in the settlement to come, some of them will in all probability be left out. They do not expect anything else, but are willing to make the sacrifice, that others may profit thereby.

The question of the conditions under which American labor is performed, is one of immense importance to the entire country, and it is well that it is about to be arbitrated, as far as the anthracite section is concerned. The European, and still more, the Asiatic, laborers are that they are so many animals from whom a certain amount of usefulness must be extracted, in the shape of labor, of taxes, of military services, all for a minimum of consideration in money and human rights. Millions of Asiatic laborers are but slaves, and millions of European workmen are removed but a few steps from that level. Hence the lack of progress, the industrial depression, the racial unrest that obtain in so many parts of the world. The American idea is different. It is this, that the honest laborer is the equal of any other man—other things being equal, and that he is entitled to wages that will enable him to enjoy the comforts of life to some extent, as well as leisure for improvement and recreation. Here it is recognized that a laborer is different from the machinery he sets in motion. He is an intellectual being and is entitled to wages that shall enable him to take care of his soul as well as his body. Employers do not always remember this, and the consequence is labor troubles. It is well when they can be settled by means of arbitration. The findings of the commission should be of benefit to laborers all over the country. If the wage question and other considerations are thoroughly discussed.

THE LABELING OF SHODDY.

A bill was introduced in the House of Representatives last year by Congressman Grosvenor of Ohio, "to provide federal inspection and taxation of mixed goods and the marking of the same." It was referred to the committee on ways and means. Efforts will be made to bring it forward at the coming session of Congress.

The measure was devised under the auspices of the National Livestock Association, but it is a matter in which the whole country is interested. The bill provides that: "All textile fabrics, made in imitation of woolen goods, shall be so marked and labeled by the manufacturers and wholesale and retail dealers that consumers will be able to detect the ingredients of the cloth." The label would indicate the percentage of pure wool that is, wool not there, of pure wool that is, wool not there, of shoddy and other ingredients. Suitable penalties are provided for violations of the provisions of the law, and an internal revenue tax of one-tenth of one cent a pound is levied on all manufactures in imitation of woolen goods, which contain shoddy or other ingredients than pure wool. A small tax is also imposed on manufacturers of mixed goods.

The same principle on which oleomargarine is required to be so stamped or labeled that it may be detected by the purchaser, and not be imposed upon the public as real butter, enters into the provisions of the bill under consideration. People who purchase textile fabrics ought not to be deceived by the dealer into the idea that they are buying "all-wool" goods, when the wares offered are mixed with shoddy or other materials used in such manufactures.

The increase of shoddy productions in the United States has been very rapid of late years. There might be little or no objection to this, seeing that people either from choice or necessity are so ready to buy anything that is cheap, if they were not deceived by the imposition upon them of fraudulent articles, having the appearance of woolen goods and declared by the dealer to be such. The public ought not to be entrapped into buying a comparatively worthless piece of cloth under the impression that it is genuine. All adulterations of every kind should be placed under the ban of the law, or at any rate be so labeled that the purchaser will not be deceived.

One reason why the Livestock Association has taken the matter in hand is because the shoddy deception is greatly injurious to the sheep interest. The substitution of shoddy for pure wool has become so common that the wool market has thereby been depressed and, therefore, the sheep industry has been damaged. All owners of sheep and dealers in wool are personally interested in the passage of this measure, and it will doubtless be beneficial to trade in general, and certainly to the great masses of the people of the United States. The passage of the bill should be urged upon members of Congress, and their constituents in the various districts which they represent should bring it to the attention of the gentlemen who receive their support by votes at the polls.

NO COMPARISON.

The downfall of Dowleism is now predicted as an impending event. For some time it has puzzled the country. The

story about Alexander Dowle's career as a miracle-worker and the founder of a "Zion," and, finally, his claim that he is a reincarnation of the Prophet Elijah, has been told repeatedly in the public press, and it has, no doubt, been a matter of wonder to many that such a man could receive any following at all. Now, it is claimed, his "Zion" does not pay. The so-called prophet is constantly pleading for money, and his followers are commencing to lose faith. The movement is therefore expected to collapse at any time.

A New York contemporary, commenting on the prospective end of Dowleism, and comparing this movement to the success of "Mormonism," points out that intolerance is at all times foolishness. Dowle, it is remarked, was allowed full liberty to preach and to found his "Zion" on the outskirts of Chicago. And now, because his doctrines were not stimulated by persecution, they fall on account of their own falsity. "Mormonism," on the other hand, was given "the most useful gift that orthodoxy can furnish hereto-day." The "Christians" gave it a martyr. "No possible heresy should ever again elicit in the United States the persecution that alone can prolong the life of a noxious creed."

We hope this sentiment will become general in this country. For persecution always has been, and always will be, wrong, and a menace to the people that practice it. Dowleism has not been free from persecution entirely, although it may not have any martyrs. And we believe such opposition as Dowle has met with, in the shape of persecutions, has been to his advantage, rather than otherwise. So true is it that intolerance is folly.

But it must not be concluded that persecution can give permanency and success to falsehood, or that the absence of persecution means that truth will not conquer. Ecclesiastical history furnishes some striking examples of persecuted heresy dying out, notwithstanding most cruel opposition, while truth remains and grows under all conditions. No amount of blood and fire could give permanency to the delusions of the German Anabaptists of the time of the Reformation. The reasoning that ascribes the success of "Mormonism" to nothing but the persecution it encountered is false. It is the truth of "Mormonism" that is its strength, its vital principle, its life. It is because it is true, that it has withstood the raging storms of persecution and the withering heat of the desert, and it is by that strength alone it will overcome the temptations of the world, in whatever form presented. There is no comparison between "Mormonism" and Dowleism, except as genuine gold may be compared to an imitation. One will stand the test of fire, while the other will perish, even without the furnace test.

LOST LITERATURE.

An interesting article from the pen of George Brandes is quoted in the Literary Digest, on the enormous number of books that have been lost. He shows that they must be counted by hundreds of thousands, and that the preservation of ancient literature has been often been due to accidents and trivial circumstances. Mr. Brandes says:

"Striking examples of the transiency of human works are furnished by the Greek and Roman literature. The library of the Ptolemies contained 700,000 volumes when it was burned on the capture of Alexandria by Caesar. The greatest treasure of the Pergamon library was the 200,000 volumes, no one of them duplicating another, which Antony presented to Cleopatra. This rare collection was destroyed, with the temple of Serapis, through the fanaticism of Bishop Theophilus, in the reign of Theodosius.

"We know the titles of 350 Greek tragedies and have the text to three. Not one of the 800 dramas of Athenaeus has come down to us. Of the most eminent Greek lyricists, including the poetess Corinna, who five times defeated Pindar himself in competition, only unimportant fragments remain. The great poets of the Augustan age speak of Gallus and Varius as their peers, but all the works of these two writers have vanished. We probably owe the preservation of the works of Tacitus to the fact that the Emperor Trajan, fancying that he was a descendant of the great historian, filled the public libraries with his works and had ten copies made every year. And still the works of Tacitus vanished from the earth, and it was not until the fifteenth century that the single manuscript to which we owe our knowledge of them was found in the Westphalian monastery of St. Emmeran. The French Egyptologist Mariette found on the breast of a mummy a papyrus containing beautiful verses by the Greek poet Alkman, of whose writings very little was known.

"We like to fancy that it is the best of the old literature that has been preserved, but as a matter of fact the selection has been made by blind chance rather than literary discrimination. We have but one manuscript each of Boetius, Valerius, and the older Elder. The epic Herodotus, of Providence has vanished utterly, and of medieval French humorous literature not a hundredth part remains. In Berlin, in 1817, by the latest chance, sixty-one old French 'phrases' and 'moralities,' printed in the sixteenth century, were discovered which otherwise would have been lost to us. The celebrated Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales' were discovered in 1837, after eight centuries of oblivion. And in all human probability no fewer than nineteen of Shakespeare's plays would have been lost had not Remond of Condell collected and published his works seven years after his death."

What there was of the rain was very good indeed.

Money makes the mare go and automobiles make the money go.

The price of coal may come down but that of beef goes up forever.

Let's see. It was one Baer who said there was nothing to arbitrate.

Mr. Yerkes seems to have seen Mr. Morgan at Philippi all right enough.

Government by arbitration is much preferable to government by injunction.

General Apathy appears to be leading the political procession throughout the country.

Wherever coal is burned John Mitchell's name will be a household word this winter.

The miners were unanimous but the coal operators are many men of many minds.

Booker Washington has purchased a

fast trotter. This is a way up from slavery.

Those Venezuelan and Colombian "terrible battles" seem to be decidedly to the swift.

The outcome of the Wilkes-Barre convention should make Mr. Roosevelt's left leg feel all right.

The strike cannot be said to have come to an untimely end, it having lasted nearly six months.

In the miners' convention speeches were made in five tongues. In the operators' meetings money alone talked.

Sir Henry Irving advocates municipal ownership of theaters. This is not necessary where there are free councilmanic performances.

The Somalia led the British troops into a very bad trap. They seem to have learned more from the Boer war than the British did.

No political convention could have accomplished so much and such important work in so short a time as the miners' convention did.

Contemplating the happy result of his efforts to bring about a settlement of the coal strike, well may the President say: "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war."

Lord Acton was an Oxford man who became a professor at Cambridge. It is a strange thing, and now Mr. John Morley has presented Lord Acton's library to Cambridge. It was the right thing to do.

That Uncle Sam has money to burn has long been known. It was this fact, doubtless, that prompted Mark Twain to place an order for forty-five tons of government bonds, suitable for furnace, with the secretary of the treasury. We hope his order is filled.

It is the opinion of President Harper of the University of Chicago that students at theological seminaries often become filled with pride. The observation is probably true. But there is not room enough in the human heart for both pride and Christian humility.

The double lynching at Hempstead, Tex., yesterday, was bad but not so bad as the burning of a negro at the stake at Forest City, Ark., a day or two ago. The Texas negroes had been found guilty and would have been legally hanged, but the impetuous nature of the Texans could not brook the law's delay.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL ON TRUSTS.

Chicago Record-Herald.

In his discussion of the trust question at Pittsburgh Attorney-General Knox announced himself as of the opinion that the Congress could enact anti-trust legislation effective without a resort to constitutional changes. This opinion he derived in part from a consideration of the Sherman law and the Supreme Court decisions under it.

The speech does not settle the question, but it has the rare merit of being really suggestive.

New York Mail and Express.

Mr. Knox believes that the power under the Constitution is ample for the regulation of commerce between states to prevent any injury to it or to the interests dependent upon it that result from the abuses of combinations of capital. It is only for Congress to regulate interstate commerce, and it is necessary for this purpose, and trust to the courts to sustain its action or to correct its errors.

Boston Herald.

To carry on a great manufacturing business it is necessary to find consumers all over the Union, and just so soon as the products of an industry find their way in the course of trade across a state border line, then instantly the federal Congress, by the rights accorded to it in the Constitution, assumes powers which will permit it to do pretty nearly what it pleases. "You take my life," said Sisyphus, "when you do take the means whereby I live," and, in a monopoly which a great industry might establish, would be worth little or nothing to it if it was prohibited by Congress, so long as it continued to act in direct restraint upon the free movement of the goods of the state in which its business of production was carried on.

Los Angeles Times.

Attorney-General Knox, in his address before the chamber of commerce at Pittsburgh, turned the searchlight of reason and common sense on the trust question. And there is no subject upon which the people of the United States need more enlightenment. There are trusts and trusts. The good ones must be let alone; the wicked ones must be compelled to behave. That duty will be performed.

Chicago News.

It is encouraging to learn that Mr. Knox believes the necessary remedies can be found without radical changes of the organic law or any alteration of the Constitution. The Sherman act, the interstate commerce law, and similar measures have proved imperfect, but that is no reason why they should not be strengthened to meet the requirements. Their ineffectiveness has been due largely to failure on the part of lawmakers to observe the line of demarcation between state and federal jurisdiction. Federal acts in restraint of interstate commerce are not subject to reach producers exerting an actual monopoly under warrant of state law, the national government having jurisdiction only over interstate commerce. Mr. Knox reasons that if Congress may destroy a combination which violates interstate commerce it has the power to deny any combination the privilege of engaging, indirectly or otherwise, in interstate commerce, save upon terms fixed by Congress.

Boston Transcript.

The great "evil" of trusts Mr. Knox put down as over-capitalization, and he was as strenuous for supervision and publicity as is President Roosevelt himself. The Sherman anti-trust law is not in Mr. Knox's opinion of sufficient efficiency to reach the beginning of combination, that stage of the life of a monopoly wherein it can be indicted to do those things which it is prohibited from doing by the Sherman act. The Sherman act as it stands is thus expressed: "If the Sherman act exhausts the power of Congress over monopolies, the American people find themselves hopelessly impotent, facing a situation fraught with the most alarming possibilities, with which neither the federal nor state governments can deal."

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Harper's Bazar for November is, as the magazine always is, filled with such pictures and articles as those interested in fashion and in home topics generally, are looking for. The frontispiece is a fine drawing by Clarence Underwood, "Home is Where Mother is." This is followed by an illustrated article entitled "Home: A Glance at the Art of Comforts shown that the number is devoted to such topics as these: "What Should Girls Read?"

by William Dean Howells: "Little Mary's Thanksgiving," drawn by F. Y. Corey; "The Red House," a novel, chapter XI, E. Nesbit; "Reception Gowns," "Furs and Wraps," "Autumn Millinery," "Designs for Children's Frocks," "House and Dinner Gowns," "A Thanksgiving Dinner," Christine Terhune Herrick; "The Thanksgiving Table," illustrated, Margaret Hamilton Welch; "How to Clothe the Baby," illustrated by A. M. Cooper, Marianna Wheeler; "Girls and Their Interests," "Eminently Practical Topics," "Good Form and Entertainment" and Books and Writers.—Harper & Bro., New York.

Among the contributors in Ainslee's November number are Ethel Watts Mumford, Frank Dempster Sherman, Joseph C. Lincoln, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, Edgar Saltus, Caroline Duer, Julien Gordon, E. S. Van Zile, Norman Duncan, Carolyn Wells, Clinton Scollard, and Lloyd Osborne. The popularity of the magazine may be judged from the fact that the entire October edition was exhausted two days after its appearance. One feature of the present number is a story by Prevost, written in French. The title is "L'Abandonne."—Ainslee Magazine Co., New York.

"American Data Book" is the title of a little volume just published. It gives thousands of dates of American history, and so classified as to render it easy to find what is looked for at any particular moment. It is a book that should be welcome to journalists, writers, librarians, and to all students. It is brought to 1902, and cannot get out of date for many years.—The Kama Co., Sage-Allen building, Hartford, Conn.

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