

ministered in a new country that it is thought that Judge Lynch was empowered to deal in a summary way with the pirates, and thus gave rise to the name. The source, however, has been traced to an earlier date. In Ireland, in 1493—so the story runs—James Fitzstephens Lynch was mayor and warden of Galway. Being engaged in trade with Spain he sent hisson there to buy a cargo of wine. The young man spent the money intrusted to him for this purpose, but succeeded in buying the cargo on credit. The Spaniard from whom he bought sent his nephew with Lynch on his return voyage to Ireland, where the money was to be paid. In order to conceal his defalcation, young Lynch had the Spaniard thrown overboard. When he reached home he was received with honor. A sailor, however, upon his deathbed told the mayor of his son's crime. The young man was tried before his father, convicted and sentenced to be hanged. His family and others tried to prevent the execution, but the father, feeling that the sentence could not be carried out in the usual way, took his son up a winding stairway to a window overlooking the public street, with his own hands fastened the halter attached to his neck to a staple in the wall and acted as executioner. The council books of Galway are said to contain this record: "James Lynch, mayor of Galway, hanged his own son out of the window, for defrauding and killing strangers, without martial or communal law, to show a good example to posterity."

#### A JEWISH CENTENNIAL.

The *Minneapolis Tribune* has information that an international centennial jubilee is proposed to be held in the once great and glorious capital of Palestine, in the year 1900, on which occasion representatives of the remnants of Judah will meet Christians and Mohammedans in a friendly conference. The special object of the meeting is not announced, but it may be surmised, if there is a feeling among the Jews prompting them to flock en masse around the sacred ruins, it is with the object in view of ascertaining what can be done for a permanent possession of the land that real is theirs. The country is still large enough and has abundant resources, when developed, to maintain the seven millions of Jews scattered abroad on the face of the globe. And these, some of whom are the rulers of Wallstreet and Lombard street and other financial strongholds, have money enough to buy the whole country even at boom figures, should they choose to do so.

#### THE FRENCH ELECTIONS.

The enormous republican gain in the French elections settles one thing conclusively, that royalty has received a definite quietus. It would be impossible to conceive of any circumstance or set of circumstances out of which the revolution which set in more than twenty years ago and whose impetus has been steadily gaining could now

be turned backward. In saying this we are not oblivious to French history nor overlooking the mercurial temperament of that people as a class; indeed, we prefer to keep both in full view, for by their light it is shown that the restlessness and discontent characterizing the masses must have been because of discontent with the governments imposed upon them part of the time, and created or accepted by themselves in the heat of passion at other times. It is otherwise now, and a steady growth of popular and representative government for a score of years finds that system firmly established and securely entrenched.

The exact status of the chamber of deputies is not yet known, and it is not necessary for present purposes that it should be. It is enough to know the general result, which is as herein set out. We are advised by the telegraphic correspondent of the *New York Herald* that socialists will be numerous in the next chamber. Although numerous results are still lacking, it is now possible to see that the forecasts made were right. The numerous second ballots which will be necessary show that patrons of France hesitate as to making their selection from the various parties who have presented themselves for her suffrage; also that France does not want any more scandals, for all those who took part as denunciators in the Panama scandal are not elected, while nearly all the persons who were compromised in that affair are returned on the first ballot. One thing is declared to be certain, however, that France wants a republic, for the old monarchist parties have literally melted away. Throughout the whole of France the monarchists have not polled 100,000 votes. Socialism, on the other hand, has made great progress, but it is impossible as yet to express it in figures.

#### THE DECADENCE OF MODESTY.

A note of warning is that sounded by the *San Francisco Chronicle* in an editorial on this subject. The paper says among other things:

But as to modesty, in its best sense, it will hardly be disputed that it has fallen into a state of comparative decadence. Any observer who studies the younger generation today, and the older one as well, cannot help recognizing the fact, melancholy though it may be. He will see publications of various kinds, books, magazines, weeklies, etc., openly advertised, sold and read which, a dozen years ago, would have been sold, if at all, under cover of the darkness and read, if at all, in secret. Two or three years ago, as will be remembered, a great-to-do was made about Tolstoy's "Kreutzer Sonata," though at the same time the United States mails were used for the circulation of publications which fairly reeked with vulgarity and even obscenity, and which brought to their aid all the skill of the artist and the colorist to render their salaciousness the more attractive. Does any one doubt this statement of the quality of much of the so-called literature of the present day? If so, he must be blind or singularly unobservant.

How, then, can we hope to cultivate modesty in the rising generation when it is hemmed in and surrounded by glaring and shameless immodesty? The quick brain receives and stores what it receives through the eye and ear, and inevitably

there comes a reproduction of it in some way or other, either in speech, in gesture or in action.

Is there a remedy? Not unless public sentiment can be turned into the channels of purity and decency. Censorship of the press the public will not submit to, and zealots like Anthony Comstock are apt to err on the side of excess of zeal, and thus bring ridicule and even suspicion on their motives. Something must be done to check the decadence of modesty among the American people, for unless it be checked it will certainly be followed by the decadence and degeneration of morals, and then farewell to the greatness of a great and powerful nation.

That the closing sentence is by no means the mere groan of a pessimist is plain, if history is allowed to teach us its lessons. If the downfall of Babylon, of Assyria, of Greece, of Rome, all great nations once ruling the world, is traceable directly to the decay of their morals, why should not the same cause produce the same effect in this age of the world? No more important question can be discussed today than that of how to save the world from immorality.

#### A WORD ON REGISTRATION.

"Touch them up again on the importance of registration," said a friend to a NEWS man yesterday.

Certainly.

The appeal to that patriotism which should animate all good citizens to the fulfillment of every duty and the enjoyment of every privilege of citizenship, ought to need no repetition. Still, many who are highly esteemed as residents, who are in every sense good neighbors, who would fight for their country to preserve it from foreign or domestic foes, are lukewarm and indifferent when it comes to the business of voting. The worst of this is that the irresponsible element, the floater and transient species, the gang who have no abiding interest in good government and whom a drink, a dollar, or a promise of reward will influence, can always be depended on to vote up to the very last minute of election day and in as many different places as possible. The will of the real majority is frequently defeated in this way, for a tramp's vote counts as much as that of the oldest resident, and a millionaire by his own proper act can do no more in the ballot-box than the veriest "hobo."

We should like to see every man on every block of this broad city avail himself to the utmost of the right of suffrage. In saying this, there is no desire that the lists shall be padded, the ballot-boxes stuffed, illegality in registration winked at or repeating permitted. What is wanted is a full but honest registration, a complete and intelligent vote, and an accurate, honest count. If this is not had, so far as the citizens' part of it is concerned, we shall wait to know, before voicing complaints as to future misgovernment, official extravagance and excessive taxation, whether or not the complainant was among the derelicts. What can be more inconsistent and absurd than for a man to whine about official abuses and wrongs when he himself does not even attempt to prevent the occurrence