

last campaigns in some Northern States. It was understood that in the event of Ohio going Democratic last fall the Michigan plan would be adopted. If we remember correctly Governor Boies had to pledge himself that in the event of his re-election in Iowa he would oppose or veto a Michigan scheme for choosing presidential electors. There was some talk recently that Nebraska intended introducing some innovation in this regard.

Michigan is entitled to 14 electors in the next college. It is supposed that about six of these at least will be Democrats. One report is that the Michigan State Republican committee has decided to ignore the district law of 1890, and nominated electors at large in the usual way, assuming that the new law is unconstitutional. This, of course, would bring the matter into the courts, but conservative and sober-minded Republicans are of the opinion that their party in Michigan would risk too much in this project. If the case went against them they would lose all, whereas now they are sure of 8 electors at least, and there is a fighting chance for two more.

EUROPEAN WAR PROSPECT.

AUSTRIA is greatly agitated over the warlike demonstrations of Russia. Great activity prevails in the forces of the Czar located near the frontier. General Gourko, who is said to be in command of the division of the army that will be used for offensive purposes in case of war, is in constant communication with St. Petersburg, and sealed military orders are flying about from point to point. There may be nothing in all this that will lead to the opening of a European war at an early date, yet what can all this preparation mean if there is no hostile intention behind it?

Warsaw appears to be, at present, the Russian point of concentration, and the object of the present movement of the Czar means that, in the event of a declaration of war, he intends to secure the advantage on the first outbreak. In any kind of a fight there is a great deal in getting in the first effective blow, as its moral effect is always potential.

The special alarm created in Austria is occasioned by the fact that the military demonstrations are close to her frontier. The Russian ambassador has, however, assured the Austrian government that the Czar has no warlike intention with regard to that country. This statement has no quieting effect, as assurances of that character from such a source are taken by the leading nations for what they are esteemed to be worth, and that is not much.

This much is certain, no matter which of the two nations—Germany or Austria—the Czar may propose to attack, the struggle would involve both, according to the conditions of the triple alliance. It would appear also that it would bring Italy into the fight. If an immediate war has been decided upon by Russia, however, it is possible that a portion of the understanding between Russia and France is that the latter will take care of Italy. That would leave the Czar to cope with Germany and Austria.

In that event it could scarcely be doubted that Italy would be unable to cope with France, while the other wing of the fight would be so nearly equal as to make the issue doubtful, Russia having the advantage of overwhelming numbers with which to perform her part of the process of "pulverizing." On the part of Russia, one of the chief immediate objects of such a war would be the unification of all the slavonic races. The success of this scheme would mean the annihilation of Austria. The ultimate purpose would be, as a matter of course, the occupation of Constantinople by Russia. The one step leads directly toward the other.

The present war-cloud may pass off, but the elements will gather again, until there will finally be a break resulting in Europe being deluged in blood.

ORIGIN OF LYNCH LAW.

LYNCH law is becoming alarmingly popular in this country. The subject is therefore one of general interest. Hence the reproduction of the following, which embodies portions of an article from the pen of M. A. Minor and which appeared in the Philadelphia Times of February 28th, and later in the columns of *American Notes and Queries*:

"On the lawn of the most charming home in South Virginia, in a beautiful valley of Campbell county, stands the old walnut tree on which Lynch law was first administered.

"'Avoca' is the name bestowed on the old Lynch place, in memory of Tom Moore's 'Avoca,' by a granddaughter of the Colonel Charles Lynch of the Revolution.

"It is not generally known that the original lynch law never sentenced an offender to death, but only to be whipped. The term has been ascribed to more than one source. Modern dictionaries and some of the encyclopedias have treated it as worthy of notice. Webster, Worcester and other lexicographers ascribe the origin of lynch law to a Virginia farmer named Lynch, and the traditions and records of the Lynch family agree with the more formal references found in historical works. There is no room for doubt that the term, 'now become a part of the English language and accepted of all men,' was derived from that fearless and honored soldier of the Revolution, Colonel Charles Lynch, whose sword hangs on the wall of the lofty hall at Avoca. But that Colonel Lynch should be reputed the father of lynch law in the modern acceptance of the term is quite another matter, and would be utterly unjust to him. In the year 1780, when the fortunes of the patriots were at low ebb, the Scotch settlers and Tories of Piedmont, Virginia, conspired to crush the 'rebellion.' Their efforts were thwarted by the courage, vigilance and energy of Colonel Charles Lynch, Captain Robert Adams and Captain Thomas Calloway, aided by Colonel William Preston, all Virginians of wealth and influence. Colonel Lynch being Chief Magistrate had the power of a judge. He was a man of striking individuality, and 'vividly impressed the popular imagination. So eminently a leader that he naturally and easily took his place at the head of the Whig party in his section of the country.'

"These gentlemen, ardent patriots, kept a sharp watch upon the loyalists, and when one was discovered playing into

the hands of the enemies of Washington he was seized, taken to the residence of Col. Lynch; examined by a court composed of the gentlemen above named and others, and if found guilty tied to the walnut tree, given thirty-nine lashes and made to shout 'Liberty forever!' After this he was set free, with words of counsel and admonition that left him a wiser if not a better man. One of the Tories arrested was found to have papers of importance to the royalists concealed in the hollow of a square bedpost. He received the usual castigation, was given a house to reside in on the premises and forbidden to leave them on pain of severe punishment. These orders he strictly obeyed. The refrain of a popular song of that section was:

"Hurrah for Colonel Lynch,
Captain Bob and Calloway!
They never let a Tory off
Until he shouts for Liberty.

"The manner of procedure cannot be said to be lawless and unauthorized, and was considered by most, amply justified by the disturbed condition of the country resulting from the repudiation of allegiance to the English government. The prisoner was brought face to face with his accusers, heard the testimony against him, and was permitted to call witnesses and be heard in his own defense. If acquitted he was let go, often with apologies and reparation. If found guilty he was punished as before stated and made to recant his disloyalty. After the Revolution the Legislature of Virginia found it necessary to protect these gentlemen by special enactment from the civil suits brought against them for taking the law into their own hands. (See Hanning's Statutes-at-Large, Vol. XI, pp. 134-5.) In later times the mild sentence of thirty-nine stripes gave place to the sentence of death, and many lives have thus closed without ceremony, but no one ever came to his death at the hands of the gallant Colonel Lynch except on the battle-field. No ghostly body ever dangled from the bare old tree that has battled with the storms of one hundred and fifty years."

SIT DOWN ON IT.

THE *Herald* calls attention to the absurd proposition in the City Council to fill up the Jordan and Salt Lake canal, north of Ninth South street, with the hope that it will be sat down upon. We endorse. The city wants the water and cannot do without it. The money expended to build the canal was city money and the work was done for city purposes. Keep the canal clean and free from obstruction, cover it over if necessary in places where it would be better to be enclosed, but don't destroy the ditch. We do not wish to attribute improper motives to any one unless the circumstances make them so plain that they cannot be ignored, but it looks as though some personal interests were involved in this movement, or so peculiar a proposition would never have been introduced.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RESOLUTION.

THE dispatch sent by the Chamber of Commerce to President Harrison, urging him to grant general amnesty to all persons who are under disabilities through the operations of the Edmunds-Tucker act, shows a generous disposition on the part of that body, and is evidence that the movement is