

of (alleged) facts: The navigator went to the southern side of Costa Rica and there for the first time he heard of the great ocean ahead; this caused him to believe that he had reached a point beyond which was the Bay of Bengal, and he was looking for a passage way by which to effect an entrance into it. And upon this stupendous geographical error he rested his conclusion that the globe was not so large as supposed or that since the early estimates an awful shrinking had taken place. He thought he was but a few days' sail from the mouth of the Ganges, when in reality he was just that distance from the American mainland, and that he never got any further west.

Again we ask, *qui bono*? All such accounts must be more or less, indistinct, imaginative and difficult to trace, investing them with a corresponding degree of incredibility. Where a doubt arises regarding the credit of discovery, why should it not, as in a case of law, be construed in favor of the one in possession? Is it not a little singular that some people will believe that an all but continuous chain of history, beginning with the earliest exploits of the man in question and coming on down with but slight interruptions to the present time, is less to be relied on than an adverse conclusion arrived at by some intellectual mischief-maker four centuries later?

It is now only ten days till bands will be playing, flags flying, buildings loaded with decorations, eloquence and general detonating effects lifting the circumambient air, the streets surrendered to gaudy pageants flanked by open-mouthed gamins who wonder what it all means; and it is with this last-named class that the iconoclast would have us—who know what it is for and why—train.

Let us respectfully decline. Let Columbus Day come and go without so much as an unpleasant thought or reflection to mar the general effect—without even a drop of that cold fluid so much of which is alleged to have yawned between Columbus' last stopping place and the eastern shore of North America being thrown upon the proceedings. It will be so here in our Mountain Home where we recognize and appreciate the works and merits of pioneering skill and fortitude, and it ought to be so everywhere. Let the idol-wrecker take a back seat for that day at least!

TREASON AGAINST THE STATE.

THE unusual spectacle of the chief justice of a commonwealth presiding over a court of oyer and terminer—literally a trial court—was beheld in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, yesterday. The occasion was the charging of the grand jury with reference to the crime of treason, having in special view of course the recent troubles at Homestead. It is held that as treason is the highest crime against the state, it is proper that the highest judicial functionary in the state should hold the court in which the proceedings are initiated and conducted, and hence the extraordinary procedure spoken of.

The announcement that proceedings of this character would be had against the strikers was received with general astonishment not only in Pennsylv-

ania but everywhere else in the country, by nearly every one who was cognizant of the circumstances of that awful battle at Homestead in July last. Looking at it from one point of view it was considered that indictments for murder and perhaps for arson and willful destruction of property would be inevitable; but that the full measure of the criminal scale was to be invoked was not even thought of. Of course the charge will rest upon the strikers' having usurped the functions of the state in resorting to armed resistance of the Pinkertons, in which case, we take it, the defense will be that the latter were themselves an unauthorized mob seeking by force of arms to overcome those who, until thus menaced, were acting within the pale of the law; in other words, that they were justified in meeting force with force and only employed so much of it on their own part as was necessary to repel the aggressors.

It is a most important case and its progress will be watched with the greatest interest. Such a proceeding has not taken place in our country for so long a time that this circumstance alone invests it with the utmost attractiveness. Whatever the outcome, of course there can be no greater penalty than that provided for murder, the next crime in degree—death.

THE CHOLERA IN A NEW LIGHT.

THE *Review of Reviews* sometimes takes a philosophical turn in looking over and summing up the situation of mankind; and then it sails in for such matter as yields the most comfort that the status of the case will admit of. In pursuing this usually good and praiseworthy work it has caught up with the idea that the lately threatened visitation of cholera is not only not an unmixed evil but a positive benefit. It pronounces the Asiatic scourge the "great sanitary inspector of nature. He (sic) may be regarded as the author of modern sanitation," and it decides that the cholera goes "his" rounds, reviving the faith of mankind in measures of public health at times when the zeal of the sanitarian burns low. The claim is made that the dread disease saves more lives than it destroys; that there are few capitals in Europe which are not made cleaner, sweeter, more habitable and healthy because of the threatened visitation, and that we on this side are following suit with commendable celerity, or words to that effect.

The concluding portion of this unlooked-for development of optimism is as follows:

"The cholera is really one of the least deadly of diseases if deadliness is to be computed by the numbers slain. Half a dozen other maladies slay, year in and year out, ten men for one taken by the cholera; but they do it in a quiet, stealthy, strictly non-sensational fashion. Hence they kill, and kill, and kill, and it does no good. But when the cholera comes along it produces the maximum of sensation by the minimum expenditure of life, and does more good in its sensational tour of three months than all the other diseases do in as many years. It is no doubt due to their appreciation of this fact that the journalists exhaust their resources in

striking headlines as if to get up a cholera panic. Otherwise their method of dealing with the cholera news would be murderously cruel."

Let us hope that the disposition to credit cause with effect, and uphold the destroyer because he scares us into making our homes less inviting to him, will not extend so far as to make us quit fighting him wherever and whenever he does come, especially when he comes in the form of yellow fever or diphtheria, for instance.

A LITERARY CHAMPION WANTED.

THE *United States Investor*, whose offices are at 19 Pearl St., Boston, 335 Broadway, New York, and 241 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, is out with an offer of \$1000 in prizes for essays of not more than one column each respecting American cities and towns, to be received until December 31, 1892. The prizes will be subdivided as follows: For the best essay respecting any American city or town, \$500; for the second best, \$300; and for the third best, \$200. Each essay is to deal with the merits of the city or town chosen as its subject, either as a desirable place of residence; as affording opportunities for investment; as a place of peculiar location; as a place of unusually rapid growth; as a place in which an unusually large amount of capital and labor is employed in any particular industry; as a place possessed of great undeveloped resources, such as water power, coal and iron, etc., which is peculiar because it has long escaped attention; as a place of great historical interest; or as possessing any other claim to unique interest and special distinction. The essay may cover either one or all of the above topics. In awarding the prizes, the judges—who are three distinguished Congressmen, Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, Speaker Charles F. Crisp of Georgia and Hon. Julius C. Burrows of Michigan—will consider the literary merits of the essays, as well as the merits of the town or city described. They will not, however, go outside of the essay itself for evidence that the town or city possesses any special interest. Any claims which even a well known city may have to distinction within the intent upon which these prizes are offered must rest wholly upon what is said by the essayist within the space of the column allotted to him. This condition, together with the consideration of literary merit, will give the essayists an even chance.

We give the proposed contest this much publicity because of a conviction that Salt Lake—of all American cities—has the peculiar merits to entitle her essayist to the first prize. It is well, too, to remind our panegyrists that this city has an enterprising neighbor on the north—Ogden—who may be depended on not to allow this opportunity for honorable and glowing self-advertisement to escape her.

Andrew Anselmi of Almy, Wyoming, put a loaded gun in his wagon and in passing behind the wagon the gun was discharged, inflicting a wound in the abdomen that proved fatal in a few hours.