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LOOK AT HOME.

While there is a lull in the storm that has disturbed American society over the morals of Utah, the Congressional investigation being postponed for a few days, it might do some good if the papers that went into convulsions on that subject would institute inquiries into matters nearer home. For instance: One of the New York journals recently gave an account of a number of "unsolved murder mysteries" that have remained without discovery of the assassins during the past twelve years.

It is stated that within that period, in addition to the many murders which have been traced to the criminals, there are four hundred cases in which the perpetrators have never been discovered, and of course no one has been punished for the crimes. A list of the more important of those cases is given, with the names and residences of the victims and the dates of the murders, also the number of days spent by the police in the investigation of each mystery.

In some cases the time of inquiry ranged from ten to thirty days. In one it was extended to sixty days. But the majority only occupied from two to ten days and further interest in them then ceased. The great city of the East, with all its piety, charity, and religious institutions, has had covered up during twelve years no less than four hundred horrible murders, the perpetrators of which have eluded discovery.

That gives some idea of the prevalence of capital crime in New York. But how about other forms of lawlessness? What about the sins against society as well as against God, that are looked upon as venial in comparison with the deadly offenses?

There are vastly greater violations of law and decency in one district of that metropolis in a week, than are committed in all Utah in a year. And yet the yellow journals of Gotham display in glaring capitals the alleged evils of "Mormonism," and the awful immorality of this comparatively pure and virtuous State! Talk of "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel!" It is more like shuddering at a mite and smiling at a multitude of monsters!

Let the "Christian" anti-"Mormons" of the land cleanse their own domiciles and clear themselves of their own crimes, before they cry out in holy horror at reports of comparatively small errors two or three thousand miles from home!

LIQUOR SELLING TO MINORS.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Dec. 25, 1899.
Editor "News":
Dear Sir—Will you be kind enough to answer the following through the columns of the "News":
We have an ordinance prohibiting minors from entering saloons. Parents give their sons who are under age permits to enter these places. Can the law be thwarted in this way, and is it not a fact that the owner of the saloon is liable if he allows minors inside, even though they may hold a permit from their parents to enter the saloon? An answer and comments on this will be appreciated by a
SUBSCRIBER.

A correct answer to that would require examination of the city ordinance relating to the subject. It is probable, however, that parents are allowed to give permits to children whom they may send to a saloon to make purchases, and that these would relieve saloon keepers from any liability in such cases.

This opinion is based on the State law in reference to the sale of intoxicants. Any person who knowingly gives, sells or otherwise disposes of any intoxicating drink to a minor, or allows a minor to be in his place of business where liquor is sold, "without the written consent of the parents or guardians," is to be "deemed guilty of a misdemeanor." This, it will be seen, opens a loophole for such cases as our correspondent mentions, if the city ordinance is in accord with the State statute. The latter will be found in section 1249 of the Revised Statutes of Utah.

There is another provision of law on this point that should be considered. It is that, "Every person who sells or gives to another under the age of sixteen years, to be by him drunk at the time as a beverage, any intoxicating drink, is guilty of a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding three months."—See Section 4245. This, however, does not apply to parents or guardians or physicians of such minors.

But the offense is not covered, in this case, by a parental permit. If liquor is sold to a minor under the age of sixteen years, "to be by him drunk at the time," the saloon keeper is liable, permit or no permit. It is different, as we have explained, when parents give permits to their minor children to enter a saloon and purchase intoxicants to be taken away from the place of sale. It is perhaps useless for us to discuss the sense, morality or decency of sending children to a saloon to purchase liquor. Parents who do this would not probably pay attention to any homily we might give them on this subject. If they had proper regard for the welfare of their offspring, they would not

throw them into the way of temptation, nor into the company of the frequenters of such places. As to the saloon-keepers, they are in for business, and so long as they keep within the law they cannot be interfered with. A correct public sentiment is what should be promoted, and the enforcement of the law when it is broken should aid in its supremacy.

PENSION REFORMS.

The bill for pension reform, introduced into the House by Mr. Stephens, of Texas, provides that no one shall receive a pension who has property worth \$1,000, or more, or who receives a salary from the United States or from any State, county, municipality, corporation or company in the United States or receives wages or income from any source in excess of the amount of pension now received or that he would be entitled to under existing laws. It further contemplates limiting the number of pensioners and the aggregate amount to be paid out for any one year.

It is pretty generally felt that something should be done to stop the abuses notoriously practiced in connection with the pension business. Nobody begrudges those who in the service have been rendered unable to support themselves, a reasonable allowance for their declining years; nor the support to which widows and orphans, rendered so by the war, are entitled, but the promiscuous distribution of pensions to people who are earning a better living than many of those from the pockets of whom the pension is drawn, is naturally regarded as an injustice.

Congress may as well take the matter up first as last. The nation cannot afford to pay out in annual pensions to soldiers much more than European countries pay for their standing armies, and then maintain a large army and an efficient navy besides. A halt must be called somewhere in the expenditures for a militarism that should have no permanent home in a free Republic.

MARRIED AND YET SINGLE.

It is not very often that a divorce case reaches the distinction of a hearing in the United States Supreme court. But recently there was one before that august body, the parties in the case endeavoring to find out whether they are married or single.

Mr. Peter Lee Atherton of Louisville had, it appears, secured a divorce from his wife in Kentucky, while the latter, in order to protect her good name, had asked for a divorce from the husband, in New York, without obtaining what she asked for. The Athertons found themselves in the odd position of married people in the State of New York, and single in Kentucky, and the suit before the Supreme court is for the purpose of compelling the New York courts to recognize the action of the Kentucky courts.

There has been much talk recently of the necessity of having uniform divorce laws throughout the country. The present case is one which illustrates the absurdity of the diversity of laws as now existing. Even polygamy is legalized by laws that render a couple married in one State and not in another. Let the investigation proceed as to what extent polygamy is actually practiced under the Stars and Stripes. Some startling facts might be obtained.

THAT FENIAN RAID.

The rumors about a Fenian raid on Canada, in behalf of the Boers, are presumably only the offspring of imagination. Such a move, were it contemplated, would of necessity be conducted, in all the preliminary stages, with the greatest secrecy. Nothing would be heard of it, until about ready to be carried out. When it is stated that 125,000 men are to be raised for the purpose of making an incursion into the Dominion, and that 500 have been enrolled in New York, and correspondingly large quota in other States, there is but little cause for alarm. Were there in this country a general Irish rising against Great Britain, the plans would not be publicly discussed beforehand.

There is much sympathy in Canada for the South African republics, and it is said that there is also a growing sentiment in favor of annexation to the United States. Should, however, any such movement as that said to be contemplated by Irish-Americans, be attempted, it would be the duty of the United States to suppress it, and without doubt it would be of but a brief duration. The end in view would not be reached, and the very failure would make any future approach between this country and Canada more difficult.

The friends of the Boers ought to exercise what influence they may have in an entirely different direction. It is claimed that President Kruger is willing to enter upon negotiations for peace. Dr. Leyds, the European agent of the Transvaal, thus informs a French paper. It may be presumed that all the Boer president now asks for is the recognition of the independence of his country. To aid in bringing about peace, if possible before further bloodshed has resulted, would be of greater service to both combatants, than the laying of plans for the invasion of other colonies of the British empire. A voice for peace is more precious at this time than one for the continuation of the sanguinary struggle.

But would England be willing to listen to overtures for peace? She ought to. Her generals have been stopped in their onward march, probably by the fear of a general Boer rising in the British territory, which would cut them off from their bases of supply and lines of communication. Sickness has attacked both men and animals; and the enthusiasm for further military glory is not exceedingly great. If the Boers are inclined to peace, the British government should not hesitate to end a campaign which at all events must be too expensive both to the gainer and the loser.

TO CAPTURE THE AURORA.

Mr. Evelyn B. Baldwin, the Arctic explorer, speaking recently to a Boston audience on the aurora borealis, declared that this is the manifestation of a great electrical force, of which the Poles are

reservoirs. He said he had no doubt that there are great and controllable currents flowing within the earth between the two great polar reservoirs, currents which could be utilized in the propulsion of machinery and the working of dynamos quite as readily as by the lesser power houses of our great cities. The great currents of the ocean have been made of practical advantage to man, and there is no reason why he cannot make the great polar electrical currents also serve his purposes.

The theory once admitted, it readily follows that there is no end to the practical uses to which this aurora power can be put. By it the Arctic night could be lit up, and it could, of course, be led by wires to all the centers of population of the earth, giving them a cheap power to be utilized in all affairs of industrial and commercial life.

Great are the plans and aspirations of man. When the earth itself shall have been hitched unto his little machinery and made to do the duty of the horse, steam, or electricity, the next will be to find a solution to the problem of how to right the earth in her course, and to prevent the planet from wobbling first to one side and then to another.

But Mr. Baldwin's scheme is not quite as comprehensive as that. He merely suggests that an expedition be sent out to investigate the feasibility of the plan. The expedition, he says, should be well equipped with instruments and should be composed of men who thoroughly understand electricity and the appliances by which it may be controlled and put to practical purposes. Such an expedition could also contribute to geographical and other knowledge either in the north or south polar regions. Without doubt the north magnetic pole is the center of the great force in the north polar regions, and as this point lies just to the northward of the Hudson Bay region, it is, therefore, at the very threshold of the vast British-American territory.

The Arctic expedition business is slow at present. The failure of Nansen to drift across the Pole; the disappearance of Andree, and the mishap of Wellman have all a discouraging tendency. Something must be done to boom a business, which, if well managed, is a considerable source of income, as it has been to both Nordenfjeld and Nansen. It may not be possible to tap the Polar currents and make them turn a coffee mill or a sewing machine, but it is practical to tap the pockets of enthusiastic folks, who are ready to lend support to almost any fantastic scheme, and incidentally to the schemers. With the present knowledge of the aurora borealis, it would be about as rational to talk about harnessing the twinkling of the Polar star, and utilizing it for industrial purposes as it is to speak about expeditions for the purpose of capturing the aurora. But people will believe the improbable, sometimes in preference to truth.

In the recent advance in prices it is notable that the bulk of the increase has gone to manufacturers.

An exchange says "there is a fortune awaiting the man who can breed quails successfully for market." It is likely to wait.

The Christmas party at Windsor Castle to children of British guardsmen again impresses the fact that while Victoria is a queen she also is a mother.

The Knights of Labor organization is beginning to feel the effects of dropping into politics. The Chicago letter carriers have withdrawn from the organization because of its political attitude.

Utah stock men will take special interest in the convention of live stock associations to be held at Fort Worth, Texas, on Feb. 16, next. The subjects for debate are of live interest to this State.

The Deseret News fully appreciates the encomiums passed by the press and the people on its Christmas edition, also the kind words of commendation upon our general course which come from so many sources. Thanks.

The cry for "more money" which is heard in financial circles, is echoed in many a home, and is "a long felt want." None of us would object to a little more money, but where is it to come from and what is the limit of the demand and the desire?

The vast number of office holders in New York has been the subject of frequent comment, and it now develops that there is a host of other people in that State who are desirous of feeding at the public crib. See the applications for pensions for illustration.

The movement for a Fenian attack upon British sovereignty in Canada may not amount to anything serious in the present state of affairs, but in the event of a prolongation of the South African war is liable to develop a trouble which this government will do well to guard against.

According to the report of Charlton Lewis, president of the New York prison association, the present method of holding prisoners in Cuba ought to be abolished without delay. No people are fit for self government while they uphold such procedure as Mr. Lewis describes.

Complaint is made that when British emissaries went into the Transvaal and endeavored to ascertain the armament possessed by the Boers, the latter refused to give correct information. How impudent! But let a foreigner try to find out what is in a British fortress, and see how quickly and vigorously he will be "fired."

It is said that the American government should assure the Filipinos that the purpose of this nation is to establish peace in the islands. That assurance was given by presidential proclamation to the islanders nearly a year ago, and was accepted by the majority; while Uncle Sam's troops have been trying to thrash a realization of the fact into Aguinaldo's followers ever since

their treacherous outbreak of February last.

The advance in railway rates on Jan. 1st will have an effect on retail prices such as few people realize now. In the larger cities of Utah, where imported goods predominate to a vast extent over home productions, the increased burden will come heavily on a large mass of the people; and the only bright spot is that possibly it will stimulate local production in some lines so that the community will come a little nearer being self-supporting than it now is.

COMMENTS ON AFRICAN WAR.

San Francisco Chronicle.

Some of the military tactics of British and European troops in the field will surely be revised if not entirely altered as the result of the South African war. All of the disasters which have befallen the several British columns have, judging from the skeleton reports let through the lines by the news censors, been due to a too close adherence to the tactics taught in the military schools for operations in the open country where the battalions of the contending hosts are visible to one another. In every engagement of importance so far fought in South Africa the British troops have been thus marched into action against a silent and concealed foe with little if any knowledge beforehand of the position occupied on of his numerical strength until in the thick of the fight. Search for the position of the enemy has been made with artillery at long range. It has been discovered only when the Afrikaners chose to reveal it by replying. When the latter chose to remain silent, the British troops were moved blindly and disaster followed.

Chicago News.

England and the United States had enjoyed a long interval of peace. Both countries had adopted the habit of looking to the navy as their best reliance—partly because both were thinking of defensive warfare. The navy was kept in constant practice, while the army grew moribund. The Boers, an inland people, looked wholly to their army and their land force was as well prepared as the sea force of England or the United States. The lesson is obvious. A certain number of men provided with rifles and uniforms do not make an army. Above all, a certain number of solemn officials with high-sounding titles and much personal dignity do not necessarily make a war office. The army should be kept in practice and preparation as well as the navy.

Springfield Republican.

This tendency of the British people, now so conspicuous in South Africa, is growing stronger elsewhere, and, in it, one may discern a weakness that in time may ruin the empire and really reduce Great Britain to second or third rank among the powers. The British people are steadily drawing away from the soil. In the British Isles agriculture has been ruined and the rural population for years have pressed with ever-increasing force into the towns and cities. The British are no longer an agricultural people at home; all their aspirations lead them to manufacturing, trade and speculation. And those who leave home for other parts of the world are less disposed than ever to take up land for cultivation. Farming is too slow for the modern British emigrant, and he seeks wealth by quicker means, whether in South Africa, Canada, Australia or the United States, although in the tropics he may cultivate the soil on a large scale by coolie labor.

Boston Herald.

It is stated that the Boers are earning a half-million dollars weekly, which should be very handy for them as a resource in conducting their war. But where does the gold for these dollars come from? Naturally, from the mines of their territory, yet it is not understood that the Boers own the bulk of the property in these mines. That belongs mostly to Great Britain, and it is not indeed for this latter country, if, until she can get her troops into the heart of the Boer territory, she should be levied upon to furnish the "sneaks of war" to her enemies. It looks as if this were the case, and as such it is a unique feature in the contest that is going on between a rich country and a presumably poor one.

Chicago Times-Herald.

It is a singular feature of the war in South Africa that while the correspondents have given us the details of British losses it is almost impossible to arrive at any idea of those which the Boers have sustained. On this side of the Atlantic we have heard little or nothing of the assault on Ladysmith November 9th, in which the Boers lost "over 800 killed and wounded." When the Boers losses at Mafeking, Dundee, Elands-laagte, Willow Grange, Belmont, Modder River, Magersfontein, Ladysmith, and Colenso are ascertained it is far from improbable that in the matter of killed and wounded they will exceed those of the British. The Boers conceal their losses almost as skillfully as they mask their positions.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

The Boers have demonstrated from the beginning of the conflict now in progress that they were in a state of preparedness for war, while the English, it is apparent, were not. In the light of what is now known, Brother Kruger looks up as anything but the simple Bible student that many people believed him to be at the outset of the campaign. The Boers seem to have had a plan. They had the world's champion, Joey Chamberlain was the fellow who was eager for war, while Kruger was eager for peace. The Boer ultimatum, which brought on the war, construed the landing of English troops in English South Africa as a preparation for hostilities. Yet it seems that notwithstanding the strong objection to preparations for hostilities which the Boers entertained, they had, when they put forth an ultimatum, overcome the prejudice so far as preparations on their own side were concerned. In fact, they must have been systematically prepared for many years for exactly what has taken place.

Washington Evening Star.

Suppose Dewey, instead of promptly sending the Spanish fleet to the bottom in Manila Bay, had only crippled it, and in doing so had crippled himself. Suppose, instead of the inspiring news he sent, he had called for reinforcements and announced that he was holding on with great difficulty pending their arrival. Suppose that Cervera had escaped with one or two of his best ships from Santiago and outfitted Sampson's fleet, leaving the Americans to guess again as to his destination and intentions. Suppose that Spain had then started her reserve fleet across the Atlantic instead of for Manila through the Suez Canal. . . . How would a beginning like that have affected us? . . . We should have gone on, of course, and in the end have won, but our superb and unbroken successes undoubtedly saved us from much turmoil here at home.

THE SALOON.

Exchange.
The saloon has few friends—none to be proud of. There is nobody whose presence is not a menace to the community who would not like to see the saloon go, and go to stay. It has been a place that has thrived either on the weakness or the vice of humanity. It has been the rendezvous of the criminal, the friend of no one but the poorhouse and the prison. If all this was

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