

soon as he had evidence enough, in his judgment, to warrant the deed, that is whenever he thought he could do so with a reasonable hope of escaping the consequences of the homicide. The whole affair has the appearance of murder.

The sentiment that a private person, or any number of private persons, has a right to usurp the authority delegated to the legal representatives of the people must be stamped out. It is a revival of the barbarous custom that permitted relatives or friends to revenge the blood of a murdered relative. That custom, if it is to be countenanced at all, should be—as it was in ancient times less barbarous than ours in this particular—associated with convenient cities of refuge for the protection of those who otherwise might be slain innocently.

#### A TIMELY WARNING.

One of the features of the present age is the appreciation of hygienic measures for the preservation of the health of the public. The fact is being understood that it is possible to stamp out many epidemics, if the public are willing to co-operate with the sanitary authorities.

Speaking on this subject the Medical Record in an editorial calls attention to the fact that articles of food displayed in the streets for sale are often a source of danger, a proposition which should be self-evident. The Record says:

"The custom of exposing fresh fruit, candles, fish, vegetables, and various other articles of food on the streets is very prevalent in many parts of America. This practice is greatly to be deprecated, as it is not only a source of danger, but also extremely disgusting. When one considers the dust and filth that is being continually wafted on the breeze in all towns, this fact will be brought home in all its nastiness. If, as suggested in the Milwaukee health report, the people would take the matter into their own hands and refuse to purchase any article of food exposed to such conditions, the practice would soon be brought to an end. This question should be well ventilated in the public press; the more it is aired, the sooner will the filthy habit be stopped."

In the winter time the display of food in the public streets may possibly not be a source of great danger, but in the summer days when the hot winds waft the dust with all manner of germs over the eatables, when numerous insects add their contributions to the general supply of uncleanness, it is different.

#### A BAD THING FOR CUBA.

The merciless killing of the Spanish Lieutenant Colonel Ruiz by Cuban insurgents marks an epoch in the war on that unfortunate island. Whatever hopes may have been entertained of a peaceful settlement of the trouble on the basis of Spain's offer of autonomy must be considered gone. The act is a notice to the world that the insurgent leaders will give no quarter and, consequently, ask for no mercy. It is an indication that the war is to be continued until one side or the other is in a position to terminate it by a decisive victory.

The slayers of the unfortunate Spaniard violated the rules of civilized warfare. Col. Ruiz went to the rebel camp on an errand of peace. He was an aide-de-camp of Marshal Blanco and offered his services to negotiate with the Cuban General Aranguren. For this purpose he proceeded into the country and was well received by his former friend. But the rebels de-

manded his death in accordance with a decree of Gen. Gomez, which makes it a capital crime to try to induce any Cuban leader to lay down his arms; and so strong was this demand that a court martial was ordered by Gen. Rodriguez, with the final result that the Spanish envoy was doomed to death and was shot. Still worse, rumor has it that Aranguren, who had pledged his word for the safety of Ruiz and who defended him at the trial, was put to death too. The sanguinary work cannot even be justified as a measure of retaliation for the assassination of Cubans by the Spaniards; it shows the nature of the war raging in Cuba.

This execution may probably stimulate the rebels to further desperate actions, and the Spanish view may be sustained that only by acts of unusual ferocity can they be prevented from disintegrating. But the cause for which they contend cannot but suffer from such excesses. In expecting the sympathy of civilized people in their struggle for liberty, they must at least show that they are not to be classed with the lowest savages.

#### DARK WAYS AND VAIN TRICKS.

The Pacific Christian Advocate shows how the Chinese exclusion law works in this country. When the law was passed requiring the sojourners from the "celestial kingdom" in this country to take out a certificate, it was supposed that the problem of the detection of intruders had been solved, but it has now been found out that the law merely created a new and valuable commodity. Those certificates are worth from fifty to seventy-five dollars each and there are bureaux of exchange where they are bought and sold.

The Advocate says:

The Chinaman who is going to leave for home and not return can sell his certificate for enough to pay his fare across the Pacific. But why pay fare when it is so easy to be deported? Here comes in the white man who befriends the Chinaman by reporting him being without a certificate. He is arrested. Where is your certificate? asks the unsuspecting judge. "No have got." Then back you go to China, is the verdict, and the meekness with which John submits to enforced deportation is a lesson in humility. The only cost to him is a fee to his white "friend" who has purchased his certificate and put the officers on his track. It is the tax payer who is the loser in this whole business of exclusion.

#### UNCONSCIOUS PRAISE.

F. B. Livesey, of Sykesville, Md., concerning whose anti-Mormon propaganda the "News" has occasionally had something to say, writes to the Truth Seeker, of December 18, upbraiding the editor of that paper for publishing a speech on "Rome and Common Schools," while in the same issue he regards "with nonchalance the growth of the Mormon Church." To this the editor replies that "we knew nothing about that Church which would make it less desirable than others." But Mr. Livesey insists that the "Mormons are the ones to be after; they represent more superstition, church and state, and general danger than the Catholic at present." A significant part follows, which we quote for perusal here at home, as the one redeeming feature of the correspondence:

"They [the Mormons] have been the great friends of the public school, showing that it does not prevent the growth of superstition. Only about four persons out of every one hundred in Utah

are illiterate, and they are probably the non-Mormon or foreign element."

This is praise from an unexpected source, indeed. We might wish that said source were one in which more general confidence for accuracy could be reposed, and still it is corroborative testimony of that given by hundreds of other writers and observers as well as by the facts of history.

#### LOOK TO THE COLLEGES.

Some time ago the sophomores of Columbia college went out on a lark. The freshmen had a banquet and the young men referred to concluded to break it up. They assaulted the hall and captured some of the students and locked them up in convenient places. It was all for fun, but none the less criminal.

At Princeton some of the seniors wanted a new gymnasium, and unable to carry their point in any other way, they deliberately, according to reports, demolished the old gymnasium in order to force the authorities to construct one more in accordance with their own ideas. This was not fun but tactics, equally criminal.

The two incidents suggest a query as to what America's young men learn at our universities and colleges, anyhow. The Columbia youths jeered their victims when they sought police protection against the violence of their fellow students, and probably the Princeton ruffians would be surprised were they to be called to account for their illegal acts. Yet, one of the objects of education is to make the people revere the laws of the country and the appointed representatives and ex-ecutors of those laws. An education that fails in this important respect is a good deal worse than what is commonly regarded as ignorance.

Some people have an idea that acts of lawlessness and defiance of the authorities are found chiefly among the classes unfamiliar with the inside of the higher institutions of learning. Unfortunately this is not so. If it were, the antidote to crime would be more general education. There are proofs, however, that the spirit of lawlessness is but too well at home even in the modern temples of knowledge.

#### STAMPS AND ONYX.

An Associated Press dispatch states that Postmaster General Gary has decided to order a special issue of stamps commemorative of the holding of the Transmississippi Exposition at Omaha next year, at the request of persons prominent in the management of the exposition. They will be in denominations of 1, 2, 5 and 10 cents and one dollar. Suggestions for designs will be received at the postoffice department from any persons who desire to submit them. There will be no attempt to withdraw from sale the regular issues with a view to the exclusive use of the new stamps, as was the case during the World's Fair, when almost all postal business was transacted with the Columbian stamps, but they will be freely supplied whenever there is a request for them from postmasters. The new issues will be different in color from the existing ones, that they may be readily distinguished.

We believe an effort is going to be made to exhibit specimens of Utah onyx at the Omaha exposition, and that a model in that material of the Tabernacle in Salt Lake City will be sent there, if enough interest is manifested in the plan to cover the expenses of the construction.

Well, this feels like the beginning of a good old-fashioned winter, anyway.