

We think this was a proper rebuke. But it should have come from the court. In our opinion too great latitude is allowed to members of the bar in their harangues. Not only were funny stories out of place on so grave a case as a charge of murder, but the mimicking of a witness and the terrible castigation bestowed upon him were of such a character as to require a reprimand.

Attorneys often act in a most cowardly and abominable manner towards witnesses, who have no opportunity to defend themselves against abuse and misrepresentation. It has often appeared to us that a judge who appreciates his own dignity and the claims of justice, ought to stop such ebullitions of malice and such defamation as frequently disgrace the forensic efforts of lawyers hired to prosecute or defend accused persons. And juries ought to be protected as well as witnesses from the volume of irrelevant and needless verbiage which is sometimes poured in upon them in a tireless deluge.

The Denver juror did a good thing, if it was out of the common way, and it is to be hoped that good will come of it. Freedom of speech is all right, but it should have its limits, and courts ought to keep valuable attorneys within decent and reasonable bounds.

"THE COMSTOCK CLUB."

THIS may truly be called the age of literature. Of the making of books there is no end. They come from innumerable printing presses in such torrents of reading matter, that the world is flooded with them and the mind of man is overwhelmed at the bare contemplation of their immensity and variety. Yet the number of really unexceptionable and first-class works, of the order of light literature, is comparatively small. One of the best of this class that has come under our notice is "The Comstock Club," written by Judge C. C. Goodwin and issued by the Leonard Publishing Company of this city.

We gave a very brief notice of the book on receiving it a few days ago. It is worthy of all praise. While it has scarcely a thread of plot, it is a connected story, not in the style of the ordinary novel, but yet of intense interest from beginning to end.

"The Comstock Club" is the tale of an organization of Nevada miners in early times—men of education, brains and enterprise, who, far away from the centres of civilization, formed a club and spent their evenings in social chat and the relation of personal experiences. These form the greater

portion of the book. In them are introduced a mingling of pathos and humor, of brilliant wit and thrilling incidents that is of rare production even in this age of authorship.

There is an originality about the work that is striking and delightful. Its dialogue scintillates with repartee as sharp as blades of steel, yet pleasant and genial in their impressions on the reader, and free from venom while full of sarcasm and irony. The sentiments the book conveys are of an exalted order, and there is a tenderness and beauty in them that touches the soul. It is full of alternate laughter and tears. There is not a dull spot in it. The style is in the writer's best vein, and the language in places reaches the sublime. There are bits of descriptive matter that are gems in their way, and in the whole work there is a spirit of humanity and love of all that is generous and noble and helpful, that glorify the work and speak in the highest terms of its author.

This book ought to have a wide circulation. It will take immensely on the Pacific coast, and it only needs to be pushed by live business energy to become one of the most popular and widely read works of the new year.

THE ORDER OF THE GARTER.

In discussing the origin of orders as marks of royal favor, *Chambers' Journal* assumes that the custom prevailed in Pharaoh's time; for that monarch "took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck."

Of modern countries France and England have shown, perhaps, the most favor to orders of distinction. In this respect France is far ahead even of England. In the latter country the existing orders are now limited to ten, and of these the most ancient and highly prized is "The most noble Order of the Garter."

The origin of orders and companionships can be traced back to the close of the eighth century. Chivalry in all its splendor then existed. Europe was overrun by wandering adventurers eager for riches and fame. In perilous enterprises they would combine as organizations entitled Companions or Fraternities of Arms. Eventually these armed fraternities became so powerful that fellowship in them was highly prized, and finally a system of military orders was instituted.

In England the Order of the Garter is most highly valued. It dates back to the time of Edward III. There are various versions of the story as to how the garter became a symbol of the

order. One, however, is taken as the most probable, because it the most romantic. During a festival at court a lady happened to drop her garter, King Edward took it up, and observing some of those present smiling significantly he uttered the phrase, "*Honi soit qui mal y pense*"—"Evil to him that evil thinks," and then tied the garter around his own knee. It is supposed that Edward, about this time, had in view the institution of a new order of knights, after the pattern of those of the Round Table, and adopted the garter as the ensign.

The garter is now worn on the left leg. That worn by Charles I at his execution was inwoven with 400 diamonds. The mantle accompanying it is of purple velvet. The collar consists of twenty-six gold pieces, each in the form of a garter.

At the time of the foundation of the order its knights numbered 25, exclusive of the King. In 1786 the number was enlarged to thirty-two. A second enlargement took place in 1805, and a third in 1831, by which the lineal descendants of George I. and George II. were included. The order now numbers fifty knights, and has in its ranks Emperors, Kings, Princes, besides Dukes, Earls and Marquises. Since the reign of Henry VII., no lady unless she be the reigning Queen, has been considered eligible for the decoration. Admission to it is now restricted to the most noble in the land, therefore in England a member of the Order of the Garter may be safely considered the acme of the bluest of blue blood.

IGNORANCE AND CARELESSNESS IN LEGISLATION.

IN the great controversy relating to silver now agitating the country reference is made frequently to the demonetization act of 1873. Advocates of free and unlimited coinage of silver claim that this act was surreptitiously passed by goldites, and that the country was not fully aware of its real nature until some years afterwards. It is admitted, however, on all hands, that a silver dollar in 1873 was worth three cents more than a gold dollar.

The anti-free silver men claim that this act had nothing to do with the demonetization of silver, and that it did not interfere with the standard silver dollar. That is all true, but it only authorized the coinage of silver into half and quarter dollars and dimes, according to the standard of 1853, and into a trade dollar above the standard of the unit dollar; and prohibited these coins from being a legal tender for more than five dollars in any one pay-