

affairs of men. Chaldeans were especially celebrated for their astrology, and other ancient nations studied the stars diligently. The Arabs after Mohammed saw in this science a reasonable way of accounting for the doctrine of predestination, and to this day their learned men believe in the stars. The Christians of the first centuries were not entirely averse to the study, but later the Catholic church officially condemned it, although even cardinals are said to have cultivated it in secret. Astrology lost its reputation first when the Copernican system had been accepted as a fact. It was sophistically argued that if the earth was but a planet among many, there was no reason why they should exercise influence over each other. The argument prevailed and the study was discarded as idle superstition, although it always has had and still has its advocates both in Europe and America.

There seems to be no reasonable ground why the positions of the planets should not affect our globe to some extent. If the universe, after all, is a harmonious whole, in which the various parts work together like the parts in a vast engine, one planet is certainly influenced by another. So far astrology has probably some foundation. But when men on this broad principle proceed to predict in detail the lives and fortunes of individual persons or foretell the happenings of particular cities and localities, they evidently go too far and indulge in mere guesses. Sometimes they may be right, but oftener they are wrong, a conclusive proof that what they call a science is but a delusive system of the imagination.

### THE SICILIAN REVOLT.

The island of Sicily which at present causes the Italian government more trouble than Ireland ever gave to England, is peopled by a race the condition of which would seem to justify an uprising in the interest of better government. The present Sicilians are oppressed. The wealth of the island is in the hands of a few bankers and land-owners. These live in palatial residences in Palermo or in Italy and let the land to the so-called "gabel-lotti," who sublet it to other "gabel-lottis" from whom the farmers rent. These work the land at their own expense and are allowed to keep about a fourth part of the produce, while all the rest goes to those who do nothing to earn it. The laborers are mostly uneducated, living as best they can on wages averaging five centimes an hour. When out of work the landlord has a chance to advance breadstuff at exorbitant prices and 50 per cent interest a year.

The hapless laborers are subject to robbery not only from the landlords but also from members of their own ranks. Many of the oppressed people have turned robbers and highwaymen, favored in their pursuit by the absence of highroads, as well as well as by the inefficiency of the government to protect the law-abiding, patient citizens. The following description, which occurs in an article by Sig. Tazio written for an Italian paper, shows the awful

condition among the laborers of that beautiful island:

The extreme verge of labor tyranny has been reached in the case of the carusi, or mine boys, under 12 years of age, who carry sulphur out of the pits, climbing steep narrow gangways more than 300 feet high. The pieconiers, who extract the sulphur, engage the boys by advancing to their parents flour or corn worth 50 francs. So long as the parents are in debt the boys remain slaves, their masters being able even to kill them without risk. Recently one boy was killed by eight strokes of a pick, and another by a kick in the stomach. The officials gave their deaths as due to natural causes. The boys are pale, sickly, stooping and rickety, and they suffer continually from fatigue. Their backs are scarred with old wounds. They work twelve hours a day, sleep in the mines and feed on bread and onions. They can obtain water only by a long walk. Military statistics prove that conscripts who have been carusi are incapable of service, owing to sickness and defects in physique.

In later years labor unions have been introduced and the honest working-men have flocked to their standards. They have a membership of 300,000, and their political creed has gradually become socialistic, an equal distribution of land being demanded. There are secret societies with passwords and means of communication unknown to the government police. The matter of education has been largely attended to and schools are established for the children of members. Women are taking a leading part in the movement, encouraging their brothers or husbands to go forward in the work of liberating the people from tyranny.

The present uprising is all the more serious because it is the work of the honest, tolling masses who feel that they have suffered enough. The news from Italy is meager, owing to the censorship exercised, but it can readily be gathered that the revolt in Sicily is supported by the laborers all over Italy. Much of it is directed against the prevailing church. The priests having failed to use their influence for the amelioration of the destitute condition of the masses, are looked upon as the natural friends and allies of the oppressors. The war is therefore directed equally against the church and the state, and so serious has the situation become that the pope has taken the alarm and sought a place of refuge in Spain, if an emergency should arise. Evidently the workmen of Italy are rising en masse, and the country is trembling under the tread of the marching masses.

Under ordinary circumstances, any European government would be able to put down a movement of this kind in its incipency. Against the hosts of the people a trained army would be sent, and the former would fall like grass before the scythe. But the condition of affairs is no longer what it used to be. The vast population of Europe are now-a-days made up largely of the people themselves who have been trained for years to military service. One result of this is that the laborers are no longer entirely unacquainted with military tactics. If they have arms and ammunition and bold leaders, they are able to make a stand against the regular armies. The curse of the rule of mili-

tarism is fairly in the way of being turned against the rulers themselves.

Another fact is that the soldiers in the standing armies are not quite as reliable as they used to be, and many of them would refuse to do effective service against their brothers and fathers and fellow-countrymen. Socialistic and even anarchistic ideas are spread among the armies of Europe. Agents of these organizations enlist in the regiments and secretly propagate their doctrines. This is a known fact, and the governments are aware that there are contingencies in which the armies can no longer be implicitly trusted. It would seem that something of this kind must be feared concerning the Italian army, otherwise the uprising would long ago have been suppressed.

### THE LEAN ATTORNEYS' LIEN.

No advice as to keeping out of litigation and out of the clutches of lawyers could be so effective as the proposed act to protect attorneys (!) by giving them a general lien for balance of compensation upon property of clients in their hands. In that view of the case we can almost afford to give the measure a hearty welcome. With one amendment we feel we could support it without inconsistency or regrets. This is, that in addition to protection there should also be a bounty for such members of the profession as are unable to defend themselves against swindling clients. The rarity of the product would not make the expense heavy, and the most radical free trader would doubtless be inclined to deal generously with an industry so truly infantile.

For the high-class, conscientious lawyer, the useful citizen who while assisting others in maintaining their rights is still desirous of settling rather than fomenting litigation, we have the highest regard. We wish none but that sort could get into the Legislature; for we do not believe they would be in favor of placing power—which might be perfectly safe in wise hands—in the hands of pettifoggers and shysters to keep lawsuits interminably open and forever drawing the life blood out of litigants. That there are dishonest clients as well as dishonest lawyers is not at all an answer to the statement that where there is one dishonest client there are ten whose simplicity and ignorance of legal procedure makes them as clay in the hands into which they fall. It is for these and for the great public that every newspaper that does its duty speaks. They are our clients, and we propose to continue defending them. The issue cannot be obscured by the personalities and sneers of any jabber-work who sweats his mouth in the interest of a few clients but keeps his hands busy in his own.

Two wretched little youngsters were found all alone and half frozen in a house in Bell avenue, Denver, on Sunday afternoon. They were "Bud" and "Boulder" Dawson, aged six and eight years, and their mother is in the county hospital. Their father had inhumanly deserted them two days ago. They have been taken to the Ladies' Relief home.