

executive and judicial, may summarily end the lawlessness. If the interference is with national business, then the national authority intervenes; and perforce if it is of a more local character, then the state may exercise the sovereign power in compelling the cessation of unlawful acts within its jurisdiction. In this respect the ruling should be welcomed by all as a clear exposition of governmental powers.

Under this opinion, Mr. Debs and several others must serve their term in prison for contempt. Referring to the criminal charge yet standing against them, considering that mistaken ideas as to what they might lawfully do were prevalent to a large extent, it would be magnanimous for the government to pass these by, that there be no martyr-making in the business. Now that the rule is definitely settled, however, it should be given a rigid application in every part of the country where mobs, either of strikers or others, seek the enforcement of their will as against the lawful conduct of industrial or any other business by individuals or companies. The welfare of the working classes in the whole nation requires that this be done.

MEMORIAL DAY.

Tomorrow, May 30, the people of a great nation will observe Decoration Day, in ornamenting the graves of loved ones who have passed to the great beyond, and in services appropriate to the memory of the Union's fallen heroes. As has been suggested by the soldiers' organization which claims in its membership the remaining veterans of the great army which thirty years ago was mustered out of service, Decoration Day is not the occasion of hilarious enjoyments or of boisterous mirth, but of proceedings recalling memories of those who have lived and died, and of the good works by which they benefited their fellow-men. Naturally the subject recalls scenes of a solemn character, which do not, however, preclude a feeling of rejoicing that the ever-living memory of loved ones who have gone is illustrative of the great truth that though dead they yet live and are real, tangible objects of an affection which has been intensified by their absence.

In the present stage of woman's progress as a prominent factor of civilized existence and government, it is not inappropriate to recall that the institution of Decoration Day was due to woman's sympathy and inspiration. Some years after the close of the war Mrs. Martha G. Kimball, whose death occurred in Philadelphia a little more than a year ago, beheld some Southern women decorating the graves of Confederate soldiers, and the inspiration of a national observance of the ceremony for the Union need in the same war flashed through her mind. The unailing affection of mothers, wives and daughters for the sons, husbands and fathers who had fallen was suggestive as typical of the undying love which a nation should manifest for those whose lives had been sacrificed in its behalf. Mrs. Kimball communicated the idea to General John A. Logan, and through the agency of the gallant soldier Decora-

tion Day was ineffaceably inscribed among those days which the people delight to observe. The institution of the beautiful custom found ready response in the hearts of a patriotic people. The Union dead were, near and dear to them as their own kindred, whom they were; and so closely was their memory interwoven with that of the national family that by one impulse the observance of the day for the heroes of the war was united with its observance for all the loved ones lying in the silent tomb—the whole being brought within the bond of family affection.

Strongly as the ceremonies of Memorial Day remind us of the past, of the joyful associations and hallowed communion with those to whom we have said farewell in mortality, and of the sorrows and anguish of parting, their presence with us is still more suggestive of immortality, and of the impotency of death to break the chain that binds us to intelligent organized existence. A change has come, as we witness changes day by day. But as the influence of the light and warmth of the day that closes is not lost in nature, but continues to the coming of another day, so the ties and memories of the associations experienced, though buried for a time in darkness and gloom, live on to a renewal of the associations at a future time. Death, as the night, has its season; and when death is overcome, as when the darkness of the night is dispelled by means within the power of our own manipulation, there is unending life as we may have unceasing light.

The triumph over death has been wrought out by the great Captain who will make a glorious union of the nations. To mortals its joys are reached through the portals of the tomb. This generation does well to remember in affection those who have passed before—especially the good and the brave—to keep fresh their acquaintance, and to hallow their associations, in the manifestations of eternal love displayed in the beautiful order of strewing flowers on Decoration Day, that those acquaintances and associations may be renewed in unbounded joy. May the lesson be deeply impressed on succeeding generations to recognize past, present and future existence as they are, till the great family reunion when the sting of death shall have passed away and grave's victory be but a distant memory. Welcome the Decoration Day with its sweet and plaintive memories, reminders of the pleasures, sacrifices and triumphs past, and harbingers of the brighter joys and glories yet to come!

TWO GREAT DISASTERS.

The dispatches again bring sorrowful reminders of the great dangers that attend those who "go down to the sea in snipe." Two passenger vessels, the *Collima* and the *Dom Pedro*, have been plunged into the ocean's depths, one off the western shore of America and the other off the western coast of Europe, while almost their entire cargo of precious human freight found a watery grave. The total loss aggregates nearly 300 people—not so many, it is true, as

the combined losses at the foundering of a Spanish man-of-war and the wrecking of a North German Lloyd steamer, which occurred closely together a short time since, but yet sufficient to cause a thrill of horror wherever the news is borne.

The precise causes of the later catastrophes have not been fully stated, but sufficient has been told to inspire the belief that possibly a full measure of care might have prevented the accidents. This was the case with the others mentioned; the Spanish warship was sent to sea in an unworthy condition, and either the *Elbe* or the *Crathle* which ran her down, had an inefficient lookout. Should the crashing of the *Dom Pedro* into a rock, and the wreck of the *Collima*, be traced to neglect on the part of any one in charge, they will add two more instances to the already long list in modern ocean navigation where the source of trouble is in the incompetency of men rather than in natural dangers they have to cope with.

The great number of deaths among travelers, due to preventable causes, is a notable feature of the past decade. It has been clearly shown that the facilities for rapid transit on land and sea have not in themselves augmented the danger to travelers, but rather have lessened them. The swiftly moving ocean steamship is not exposed to as great peril as the sailing vessel which is buffeted at the mercy of wind and waves; the rapidly traveling railway train has less proportionate danger than the stagecoach with rough road and fretful horses. In the progress toward rapid transit, the mechanical necessities for safety have kept pace with the means of accelerating speed.

The trouble in later times is largely because all men who hold responsible positions have not had developed in them that intelligent control of self which makes them altogether equal to the occasion. They become careless, reckless, incompetent, and the result is a destruction of human life. The wild, half-drunken stage driver who might easily control teams of half-wild bronchos is not in that condition fit master for a railway train; the ship officer half stupefied with rum or tobacco, who might bring a sailing vessel safely into port, has not in that state the activity of brain necessary to direct the speedy movements of a fast steamer. One effect of accidents which might have been avoided will be a demand for more competent officials, for men whose technical knowledge of their calling is at a high standard, and who control themselves by temperate lives so that their brains are not lulled into inactivity or overstimulated into weakness by drugs which reduce man from the plane of master to that of slave. It is a pity, however, that this demand is made effective only through the destruction of human life from such causes of carelessness as led to the loss of the warship and the ocean steamer, and probably produced the later catastrophes.

THE NAVY has adopted a new magazine rifle, the Lee, having a caliber of .286. At the current rate of reduction in bullet-size it will soon be fashionable to be shot with the delicate shaft of a cambric needle.