

thieves and are a menace to peace and good order in society. There are 70,000 convicts in the penitentiaries of the country, whose time is sold at four cents a day, while they make articles of merchandise which are made by expert labor, and as the curfew ordinance lessens crime by fifty per cent it is a protection for the mechanic."

There is no denying the cogency of the reasons why children should be kept off the street at night; but the influence and authority that should accomplish this are those of the parents, not of the police. When the police power of the state is obliged to intrude within the family circle, there to enforce ordinary and necessary discipline over the young children of the household, a deplorable condition of society exists. The love and reverence of children for their parents are among the most potent means an all-wise Creator has provided for the preservation from sin, suffering and final destruction of the succeeding generations of humanity; and when these agencies wane in effectiveness so far that they have to be replaced by the police power of the state, a sad status has been reached.

But if parents cannot or will not keep their children off the streets at night, in a given town or city, then it is proper to have and enforce a curfew law. It is better that the children should be saved by the police than not at all. But the fact remains that the increasing need for and popularity of such legislation comprise one of the worst features of the civilization of the time.

#### CONFERENCE ON LEPROSY.

An international conference of medical men was recently held in Berlin for the purpose of discussing the nature and possible remedy for leprosy. This dreaded disease has lately appeared in several places in Europe where formerly it was unknown, and particularly in the eastern provinces in Prussia. The government of that country became alarmed and invited physicians of different parts of the world to come together and confer upon the subject. The congress was well attended and its deliberations were followed with much interest.

Most of the physicians present held that the disease is caused by a bacillus peculiar to human beings, and that it consequently is contagious, although much less so in northern countries with a cold climate than in warmer regions. Thus in Norway, where a great many lepers are found, it had never been considered necessary to separate the patients very rigidly from the rest of their fellow-beings. It had also been proven that sufferers who had been removed from a warmer to a colder climate had felt a decided change for the better.

With regard to any remedy it was admitted that none so far had been found. All that medical skill can do for the lepers is to alleviate their sufferings. Not even serum had proven effective. The opinion was expressed that it would be necessary for scientists and governments to work together for extirpation of the disease.

To this country the question is an important one because, notwithstanding the care that is exercised in the exclusion of all sick immigrants from our shores, persons infected with the disease may land, if it is not of sufficiently long standing to show its symptoms. It is well known that leprosy may linger in the body for years before its presence is known even to the sufferers themselves. The proposition of Dr. Ashmead of New York to appoint a permanent international commission for the scientific treatment of the ma-

ter was unanimously commended, and it may possibly be carried out in a not distant future.

#### PROFESSOR ANDREE.

There seems to be some anxiety now among the friends of M. Andree, who left Danes Island on the 11th of June for a trip in a balloon across the Arctic sea. The undertaking certainly was one of the most daring planned in this century, and many believe that in the present imperfect state of aerial navigation it was entirely unjustifiable. M. Andree told his friends in Stockholm, however, not to worry about him, should they not hear from him at all this year. He regarded it as possible that he would have to spend the winter somewhere in the Arctic regions. At the same time it is well that Prof. Nordenskjöld has undertaken to see that an expedition is sent out in search of the bold explorers. They have no ship to fall back on. When their supplies are consumed, should they still be in the land of the living, they are entirely dependent on what game they may be able to kill, perhaps in an uninhabited region and during the long and intensely cold polar night.

#### LOOKS LIKE WANTON SLA

The killing of Indians in Lily park, near the Utah-Colorado line, in the light of all the particulars that have been so far reported and verified, has the appearance of wanton slaughter. No sufficient justification for shooting down the red men has yet been offered.

The dispatches thus far received are very conflicting as to the number of Indians killed, and the number of game wardens who did the killing; but one fact is evident: The Indians were engaged in what, from their standpoint, was a lawful pursuit, as they insist that their treaty with the general government gives them the right to hunt when and where they were at the time they were fired upon.

Another thing is reasonably certain: Had the officers communicated with the government representatives at the agency, the return of the Indians to the reservation could have been accomplished with ease and without bloodshed. All appearances up to the present writing indicate that the Colorado officers were far too zealous, and that human life to them is a smaller matter than the deer the Indians were hunting. The public opinion of the country will censure the Colorado game wardens, unless the showing so far made against them is greatly changed.

#### FITS SALT LAKE, TOO.

The Wool Record of October 26 appeals to its readers to do their duty "in remembrance of honor at stake and homes in jeopardy;" and the occasion of this plea is such an exact parallel with conditions in this city that we commend the article to our readers for their special favorable consideration at this particular time:

"The Wool Record is not in politics. It has no political axe to grind. It nevertheless believes in good government, and will ever be found in support of civic honor and public order. It certainly requires no argument to prove that these cherished conditions of municipal prosperity and safety cannot be conserved by turning over the control of the interests and destinies of

The Greater New York to mere professional politicians.

"We do not propose to abandon or obscure our proper function as an industrial journal by entering the political arena. We shall not be so presumptuous as to dictate to any man his duty in the choice and support of candidates. We cannot, however, resist the profound sense of obligation constraining us to implore every self-respecting citizen to give neither support nor comfort to those who seek the public service only to promote personal selfishness.

"No reputable and intelligent citizen can afford to so vote in the approaching municipal election, as to practically give his personal approval to those methods and abuses whereby morality is stricken down in our streets, and public office is made a reproach to any honest man. There is nothing of partisanship in this plea. It springs wholly from civic pride and patriotic solicitude. Let us do our duty in remembrance of honor at stake and homes in jeopardy."

#### A VALUABLE MANUSCRIPT.

A few days ago a dispatch from Denver stated that a clergyman of that city had informed his congregation of the discovery of a leaf of the New Testament, the earliest, so far, in existence. The announcement, if well founded, is important enough to command widespread attention.

According to exchanges received, the sacred relic was found among a lot of papyrus sent by Dr. Petrie of the Oxford university to England. The Denver clergyman paid a visit to Dr. Petrie about three weeks ago and learned of the find of the leaf in question. Hitherto only a few intimate friends of Dr. Petrie had been aware of its existence.

The leaf now found contains almost the entire first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, and corresponds exactly to the Greek text commonly in use. Critics who have examined the characters pronounce it written before the year 200 of our era, and state that it must be a copy of still earlier manuscripts. The theory is that the leaf has fallen out of the book of which it once formed a part, and that it had been thrown among waste paper and found its way to the pile of rubbish where it finally was discovered among other papyrus by the Egyptian explorers.

In order to appreciate the importance of this leaf of the New Testament, it must be remembered that it has been urged with considerable force lately that in the history of the New Testament writings there is a gap of a century or more between the days of the sacred authors and the earliest catalogues of their writings, not to say anything about the earliest copies extant. Now this fragment comes to the world as a voice from that distant past proving beyond a doubt the existence of New Testament writings previous to the manuscripts now known, and probably during the days of the so-called apostolic fathers, if not of the first Apostles of our Lord. It may bring modern criticism to the necessity of changing its tactics. It certainly strengthens the position of believers in the authenticity of the New Testament.

We are not disposed to undervalue the importance of any historical evidence in favor of the foundations of the Christian faith, but we believe nevertheless that those foundations are so firmly planted that nothing can remove them. The influence of Christianity upon the world is an argument before which every doubt must be quelled. The re-establishment of the Church in our own age in its original