

but many of these safeguards have seemed to melt away and vanish under the decisions of this court, and some of its decisions have been quite contradictory.

The different kinds of law were defined by the speaker, the objects of each being clearly stated. He stated that, after all, the law given by the great law-giver Moses, lies at the foundation of all human government, and it is generally conceded by writers on political science that no legislation at variance with Divine Law can stand. The lecturer closed by exhorting all, and especially the young, to a more complete understanding and appreciation of the principles of civil government and political science.

CURRENT TOPICS IN EUROPE.

Wherever one travels in Europe, the fact is ever prominent that the age of railways has left its indelible stamp on all the cities that have been reached by the "iron horse," and few, indeed, are the cities that have not been so reached. Herein seems to lie the great difference in the architecture of Western American cities from those of Europe. It is quite amusing to hear Europeans criticising the practical or, as they consider, inelegant proportions of American cities, while at the same time the best portions of Old World cities are so very similar to those of America—that is, the portions built since 1825.

In Rome, Naples, etc., may be seen the embodiment of at least four distinct types of civilization. The first, including the structures that were erected during the reigns of the Caesars, can only be now traced in roofless ruins, broken arches, dismantled columns and "mouldering pedestals." Yet the indelible mark of that age of iron is still distinctly visible in the ruins of the Palatine and Capitoline Hills.

The second, or medieval age, is equally distinctly marked, not merely by walls and bastions, moats and turrets, but likewise by the quaint style of architecture that is everywhere to be seen in all the older cities of Europe. These tell of a barbaric age, when the rights of man were ill defined and the terrible night of strife and bloodshed and political tempest preceded the dawning of a more peaceful day.

The edifices erected during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries show indications that commerce was increasing and civilization was advancing. The Tower of Antonio was no longer the residence of the Pope; the kings of France no longer dwelt in prison-fortresses, and the grim old Tower of Lon on was no longer considered the only safe residence of the sovereigns of Britain. To this age belongs all the magnificent and luxuriant palaces that adorn European lands.

But the buildings erected and the portions of the cities laid out during the present century are in striking contrast to all that was done in former times. It would seem that the idea of comfort was almost un-

known to the poorer classes of Europe one hundred years ago. It is only in the most improved dwellings and especially in those portions of the cities built since the advent of railways that more or less approach has been made toward the comforts and conveniences of a model American home.

Truth is stranger than fiction, it is said; it might also be added that it is not half so frequent. The re-writing of the world's history, it seems probable, will be one of the employments of the twentieth century. The general research into the records of the past, which is now going on beyond precedent, is plainly proving that much that our fathers believed to be history, was only fiction due—not to criticise too harshly—to the overheated imagination of the historian. For example, who has not heard of the destruction of Pompeii? How eloquently that destruction has been depicted as occurring in the beautiful spring time when nature was clothed in verdure and the spring birds were singing their joyous notes, when the roses were in full bloom and fragrance-freighted zephyrs floated over the fairest of European landscapes, etc. All this sounds very fine, but recent investigations rather prove that it is not true. In excavating recently at Pompeii just outside the Stabian gate was found a relic which does much to settle the matter of date. A little pine tree was found in an almost complete state of preservation; it belonged to that species known as umbrella pine the nuts of which are so much esteemed by the natives of southern Italy, and on it were clusters of nuts perfect and ripe still clinging to the parent branch after the lapse of more than eighteen centuries. The buds of the tree were also in at condition in which they are found late in autumn when the past season's growth is done and the next has not yet commenced. Now it is well known that the nuts of the umbrella pine are never ripe until November or the first part of December. Hence, we may conclude that this shower of volcanic mud and ashes, that hermetically sealed this tree along with the city, did not fall in the spring, but in the month of November, just as the nuts were ripening.

Another item might be mentioned as illustrating the fallacies of historians. As everybody knows, the ancestors of George Washington are said to have sprung from Cheshire, England. But the little church at Brington, in Northamptonshire, contains the graves of many of the Washingtons. On some of the pews and on the graves are engraved the Washington coat of arms, which very much resembles the shield on the great seal of the United States, and plainly indicates its origin, as well as the first idea or outline of the American flag, of the Stars and Stripes. Here, too, is a plain and authentic record of the Washington family running back as far as the year 1583, and in connection with the records of the neighboring village of Solgrave is

continued back to the year 1526. Here then we have a succinct account running back no less than 364 years and an outline of the American flag 250 years before the Declaration of Independence. Such are some of the claims that Northamptonshire brings forward that it was once the "stamping ground" of the Washington family.

It has been said that "nations like machinery, run best when they make the least noise." However true this may be, one thing is certain, the current of European politics has not been running very smoothly during the past fortnight. Scarcely had the little episode of the Duc d'Orleans been laid on the shelf, when public attention was drawn toward the French capital by the fall of the Tyraud ministry. And while the English and German press were busy holding up impetuous, volatile Paris to the gaze of the world, a political storm was gathering in their respective countries. In England the verdict of the so-called Parnell Commission was awaited with anxiety and when at length it was given to the public, the politicians seemed to feel that the longed for jubilee of speech-making had arrived. Not only did Mr. Gladstone make it the opportunity of delivering one of the great orations of his life but a host of others have mounted the rostrum and delivered speeches which plainly indicate that however many or few may be the number of the truly great statesmen in Britain, she is by no means wanting in aspiring politicians. While Gladstone, Labouchere and Lord Randolph Churchill have been making things lively at Westminster the strike of three hundred thousand miners has sent the price of coal up with a bound; and the proceedings of forty or fifty thousand dock laborers, barge-men and carters at Liverpool demanding "higher wages or no cargoes," filled the hearts on ship-owners with dismay, and nearly everybody else with amazement. That the present crisis will be bridged over—that the ship-owners and the dockers will yet be able to effect a compromise—nearly everybody believes. But what about the future? Will it always be thus easy? These strikes are teaching the people the vast power they may wield by careful combination. Meanwhile some of the knowing ones are asking if the words of Jeremiah may not indeed have a meaning also for this generation. "If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how caust thou contend with horses? And if in the land of peace wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?"

While these things are transpiring in Great Britain the political waters are again turbulent on the eastern shore of the German ocean. Immediately the result of the elections for the German Reichstag were known, it became evident that the time of Prince Bismarck's rule was drawing to a close. The Iron Chancellor is not the one who will try to conciliate a rancorous foe. It