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SALT LAKE CITY, - SEPT. 3, 1901.

A DANGEROUS CUSTOM.

The folly and wrong of permitting boys to carry firearms, and indulging in shooting for fun with such dangerous weapons, has received another sad illustration. The tragedy at Huntsville is the latest object lesson of this kind. A valued and manly citizen of that place was shot and killed on Sunday night, presumably by a boy who fired off a pistol without any design or thought of doing injury. It was a piece of that carelessness which is the cause of so many fatalities.

It is but a short time since an aged lady was killed, near Cottonwood canyon, by similar recklessness. In that case there is no doubt as to the youth who fired the fatal shot. In the Huntsville case the matter seems to be surrounded with some shadow of mystery. The doubt, however, is not very strong, and it is evident that the death of a good man is due to this abuse of liberty in the use of deadly weapons.

There should be stricter precautions than are common in this particular. Loaded guns and pistols are, frequently, left where young people can reach them and handle them in sport. That is really culpable negligence, and those who are guilty of it deserve severe censure if not punishment. Inexperienced boys ought not to be allowed to carry such dangerous weapons.

It is not right or lawful for older persons to do so, ordinarily. The custom that was justifiable in early times and in a wild country, is now out of date. There is no necessity for it, except on rare occasions, and it ought to be relegated to the limbo where buckskin suits, long spurs, lassoes, Indian trappings and powder-horns are consigned.

There ought to be a general movement to put away this uncouth and dangerous practice, and cultivate more civilized habits. Concerted action among parents and leading men and women in all our settlements, will soon bring about the needed change. Carrying a revolver is no mark of manliness or bravery. It is more like bragging in a peaceable community, and ought to be regarded and treated with ridicule instead of admiration. Other pastimes than shooting at a mark within the boundaries of a settlement, and firing into the air in a spirit of roveliness, can be found by law-abiding men and boys, and a general sentiment against such things ought to prevail in every part of this progressive State.

THE WISHES OF THE DYING.

"Can't a man do what he likes with his own?" That is a question which some folks think unanswerable except in the affirmative. But are they not much mistaken? It seems that William Townsend of Minnesota was, when he imagined he could surely provide by will how some of his property should be disposed of, so as to prevent a number of his legal heirs from inheriting it. He required that the sum of \$25,000, which he had in paper money, should after his decease be burned, for the purpose we have mentioned. Now a competent court of jurisdiction has set aside that provision, and the widow and other heirs-at-law will receive their share of the cash.

No man or woman can live for self alone, or act independently of other living persons. There are rights belonging to all individuals, that must be taken into account in all human actions. Laws are framed for the protection of these rights. No one's mere whim or will must be allowed to prevail, when it trespasses upon those human rights.

In brutal times—including some of the most modern periods, angry men would beat their wives, on the ground that they had the right to do what they pleased with their own. But that is not now regarded as permissible, either in law or custom. Parents may not abuse their children, even though they may chastise them in reason and with due regard for justice and necessity. There are proper restraints that may be put upon individuals who exhibit abnormal impulses and designs that are obnoxious to public policy.

The idea that anything, however irrational, unkind or selfish that is expressed in a will, or by a dying person must be carried into practical effect, is very common but is a very preposterous. It has received a rude shock by the decision of the Minnesota court which we have briefly alluded to. It is true that one who has by industry and thrift accumulated property, should have the right to dispose of it as he wills, and that his wishes in life or death ought to be respected. But it is also true that this presupposes his sanity, and regard for public and private property and the welfare of others, as well as his own personal desires.

One of the most selfish and tyrannical demands of dying persons, is that the surviving wife or husband shall never marry again. It usually impresses the individual thus prohibited with undue solemnity. The wish of the dying one,

is regarded as something sacred and to be carried out at any cost or sacrifice. But the improper demand of the dead should have no more force than a foolish requirement from the living, and in a case of forbidding to marry, ought not to weigh any more on the mind than an unreasonable bit of despotism from any source.

Quarrelling over the estate of a deceased person is extremely reprehensible and disgusting. Endeavors to set aside and render nugatory the rational and clearly expressed will of the departed, out of pure greediness or disappointment, are all too common and cannot be too severely condemned. It is not such reasonable disposition of property that we refer to in the remarks here made, but only in cases of injustice, folly, cruelty and attempt at domination, that we advocate the rights of the living to prevail over the whims of the dead.

FOR A HALF-HOLIDAY.

One of the leading manufacturers of the city of Lynn, Mass., is quoted in the Boston Transcript as strongly in favor of the half-holiday movement for the benefit of the workmen. He is said to be working diligently to bring about an agreement between employers of laborers, by virtue of which Saturday afternoon shall be a general holiday all the year round, instead of in the summer only. And his reasons are not merely philanthropic. He believes that such an arrangement would amply pay. He is quoted as follows:

"I fully believe that we would have as much work accomplished at the end of the week with a half-holiday on Saturday as if we ran the factory until six o'clock every Saturday evening. When we have a half-holiday employees do not have such good excuses for staying out as they do the rest of the year, and if we were to insist that the Saturday afternoon holiday would be granted only on condition of no shirking the rest of the week, I am positive that we would all be gainers. The work that is done in our factories Saturday afternoons for the rest of the fall will amount to so very little that it hardly pays to keep the power on."

As a general rule, it pays to treat laborers well. Only a few years ago the half-holiday movement during the summer months was started in a timid way. By this time it seems to have come not only to stay, but to expand into a permanent institution. And workingmen who, by the generosity of his employer, gets half a working day at home, has no excuse for violating the Sabbath. The reform advocated by the Lynn manufacturer should gain support among all advocates of better Sunday observance.

REVOLT AGAINST MOB LAW.

The state of Alabama deserves great credit for the stand its officers have taken to put an end to mob law. In the town of Wetumpka, a "respectable" farmer who admitted that he took active part in the lynching of Robert White several months ago, has been sentenced to life imprisonment, and the public prosecutor has booked half a dozen others for trial on account of that murder. Some members of the mob are reported to have left the country for parts unknown.

But this is not the only indication of a wholesome change in public sentiment, in regard to the atrocities that have been committed recently. During the last few weeks eight different prisoners in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, and Texas have been successfully protected against mobs, by the officers. In one case, at Asheville, Ala., the mob retired after a determined defense of the court house, by the sheriff, in which two of the would-be lynchers were left on the battlefield, one dead and the other seriously wounded. At another place, the entire mob was driven away by the sheriff single handed. These events prove that lynchings can be prevented, and refute the silly statements that American officers are powerless against a rabble. They also show a notable change of sentiment in the interest of law and order.

It has been sufficiently demonstrated that lynchings do not act as a deterrent to crime, even though they take the form of burning at the stake and the distribution of the gruesome remains as souvenirs. Such acts inspire disrespect for all law and authority. They incite to revenge instead. They intensify the race hatred and brutalize the communities that tolerate them. That can easily be proved by lynching statistics. Only just laws, firmly administered, can stop crime. That doctrine should not be unknown to twentieth century civilization.

The Birmingham Age-Herald, speaking of the proper remedy against mob law very well observes:

"The members of a lynching bee have no expectation of encountering personal risks. They are looking for excitement and a frolic, not for battle, and when a sheriff does his duty they go away. They went away in Carroll county, Ga., and in Charlotte, N. C., and they dispersed themselves in our own Tuscaloosa county. The constitutional convention located the trouble, when it practically called upon sheriffs to defend their prisoners against mob action. Sheriff Kyle shows how it can be done when a mob advances upon a favorable occasion for mischief and an outrage against law and the State's good name. Sheriff Kyle deserves special honor, and the law-abiding people of Tuscaloosa county will let a rare occasion go unimproved if they do not act up to their opportunity."

IS FRANCE SERIOUS?

The Franco-Turkish affair is commencing to assume a rather serious appearance. The Turkish ambassador has been made to depart from Paris, whither he went in spite of an invitation not to come, and rumor has it that a French squadron is about to leave for Turkish waters. That certainly looks ominous. It seems to mean that France is determined to have her claims settled, even if she has to use force.

To the sultan the French bills are no bagatelle. He owes Frenchmen more than \$5,000,000 for railroads, besides the money demanded by the Dock and Quay company. This company went to work under concessions granted by the sultan, but when their labors were almost finished, it received notice that the sultan intended to buy all the improvements, as he had arrived at the conclusion that facilities for landing and embarking passengers must

not be owned by foreigners. The company was, of course, powerless to resist, and merely asked to be reimbursed. It had expended \$7,000,000 and demanded another \$3,000,000. Two years ago the sultan appointed a commission to negotiate with the company, but no cash was procured. France now threatens to force the payment not only of the claims of the Dock and Quay company, but the other claims too, that involves a much larger sum than the sultan has at his command.

The situation, as far as Turkey is concerned, is rendered still more serious on account of the internal troubles in the Ottoman empire. Disorders and military risings are reported in Armenia, Macedonia, Albania, and elsewhere. To quell these disturbances money is needed, to maintain troops, and it is therefore quite evident that Abdul Hamid is not able to pay France without foreign financial assistance. If France wants to collect its bill, the only way to do it, seems to be to seize territory.

Rumor has it that the sultan has obtained an assurance that France will not be permitted to employ force, and that he therefore will refuse to make any concessions. But it is probable that M. Constans would have pressed the matter so far, without some understanding that his government would not be prevented from forcing the collection? No power that means to preserve its self-respect can make reasonable demands upon any other power, and then let them drop. France cannot now resume diplomatic relations with Turkey before some settlement shall have been made. It is not probable that France is acting alone in this affair.

It is quite certain that Turkish rule in Europe some time will come to an end. It exists, owing to the jealousies of the European powers of one another. But whenever the great powers see mutual advantage in a division of Turkish territory, that ruler "shall come to an end and no one shall help him." The time may be drawing near and the Franco-Turkish controversy may be a prelude to one of the greatest world dramas. Time alone can tell. But the beginning of the twentieth century may possibly be made to witness as great a war conflagration as was the beginning of the nineteenth.

HOW TO STOP LYNCHINGS.

The Boston Herald prints a sermon delivered by the Rev. Quincy Ewing in St. James' Episcopal church, in Greenville, Miss., on the subject of lynchings. It is a patriotic, just and timely outcry for righteousness and civilization. And it is important as coming from one born and reared in the South, and thoroughly imbued with the Southern spirit. He discusses the subject in the most calm and dignified manner, and strips the apologists for mob rule of every vestige of decent covering. We hope many such voices will be heard throughout the land. Silence whistles and spurning authority, is criminal.

On the question of how to stop the lynchings, Mr. Ewing has this to say:

"Can the lynching of negroes be stopped in Mississippi? Can it be stopped? It can be, just as soon as the people of Mississippi elect a legislature decent enough to want to stop it. We have elected a decent governor, and all honor crown his head for the stand he has taken in this matter of negro lynching, in the face of his blatant and venomous detractors! We have elected a decent governor; now let the people of Mississippi elect a decent legislature, and the lynching demon will be bound within its hell den."

"Elect a legislature with manhood enough, with moral backbone enough, to pass a law simply imposing a big money fine upon any county in which a lynching occurs; and lynchings, I doubt not, would be of rare occurrence even in our counties that civilization has most slighted. Probe the pocket of the lyncher and you will speedily get at his conscience!"

"Elect a legislature with decency enough to want to stop lynching, manifested in the passing of a law vacating the sheriff's office and making the sheriff forever ineligible to any office of any kind who surrendered a prisoner to a mob, or did not do all that could reasonably be expected of him to prevent anybody charged with a crime from falling into the hands of a mob. That would discourage lynching for obvious reasons that I need not mention."

"In case neither of these laws should discourage it sufficiently, let the legislature give the governor explicit power to send troops into any county where, in his judgment, the sheriff is clearly not doing his duty; is standing in with a mob; has not taken these precautions which the law allows him to protect a prisoner from would-be lynchers, or persons not prisoners from a mob's frenzy; to send troops into the county to handle the mob and run them down and drag them to prison, just as federal troops in the West have often run down and dragged to prison murderous Indians and white desperadoes."

Capt. Ames, the tallest man in the British army, is to be married. That will indeed be a wedding in high life.

A thirty-million-dollar strawboard trust is to be organized in New York. A straw ball trust is next in order, but it will require more capital than that.

Mr. Shafter speaks of "the trust and the newspaper," as if they were allied against the laborers. This is not true. The American newspapers are, with very few exceptions, the best friends of the workmen.

It looks as if Colombia would better keep her marauders out of Venezuelan territory. The latter republic is the stronger of the two and a real clash would probably prove very disastrous to the former.

Members of the New York Yacht club are placing wagers upon the Shamrock II as against the cup defender. Even these "snobs of the sea" like to "turn an honest penny," and it looks as if Sir Thomas Lipton may turn many of them this time.

Ex-Queen "Lili" has come to the conclusion that it is difficult for Hawaii to shake Pule. And Kilauea, the Hawaiian volcano, is about to go into eruption again. Between nature, the political parties and the politicians the islands are kept in constant agitation.

The people of the Second precinct cannot be much blamed for protesting against the erection of a crematory in their midst. The very name of such an establishment is suggestive of all sorts of odors. It should be said, though, that modern crematories can be made as inoffensive as the average

back yard, or more so, if they are properly constructed and equipped. However, Salt Lake City has ground enough for the proper disposal of its garbage, without encroaching upon the residence part, against the wishes of the residents.

Another wealthy American lady is in trouble in London. It is not kleptomania this time. It is forgery. But the health of the lady is very poor, so she will receive all the tender care and sympathy to which she is entitled, being a "charming personality" of "high social position."

The firmness of France in dealing with the "unspeaking Turk" would indicate that an unwritten understanding exists between the great powers, as to the final disposition of the great smoker and his empire. France is sitting on his case in a very practical way.

The controversy as to whether the Apostle Paul ever was married is still going on, and a new argument has been discovered—or shall we say invented?—in favor of the assertion that he was. It is based on Acts xxvi, 10, where Paul says that when Christians "were put to death I gave my vote against them." The word "vote" is equivalent to the death-ballet, which, it is urged, could not have been cast except by a member of the Sanhedrin, and in order to belong to that august body a man was required to be thirty years old and to be a husband.

FRANCE AND TURKEY.

Kansas City Star.

There is another note of discord in the workings of the Berlin treaty, but there is no probability whatever that it will break up the concert of powers. France is having a rub with Turkey, but interests in the Ottoman empire are too well distributed to permit friction of the others, unless, of course, there should be an actual declaration of war. Should that really come the creditors of Turkey would make short work of its territory.

Los Angeles Times.

The concert of the European powers is not exactly broken by the rupture of the diplomatic relations between France and Turkey. But the affair has introduced any number of very serious notes into the concert, which never was any too harmonious, at its best.

Boston Transcript.

The main interest after all in the embroglio turns on the possibility of the Eastern Question, that sleeping dog, being awakened from its uneasy slumber. Just at present, to say nothing of the next massacres of the remnant now disarmed and practically helpless of the Armenians, the condition of affairs on the Bulgarian frontier is equally, and the Macedonians are waiting for a chance. Austria is alarmed that Italy is tooled publicly in Montenegro, France is always ready to be of service to the growth and power of Russia, and the eternal "Question" may be reopened enough to permit a little paring of the Turkish territory. But the German kaiser is the "Great Assassin's" great and good friend in particular and the other continental powers and Great Britain are a unit in their desire that this sanguinary sick man shall not be hurried out of the world, that his long overdue day of reckoning shall be postponed if even for only a little time, till their own interests are secured in some way.

Springfield Republican.

The breaking off of diplomatic relations and the ambassador of a great European power is an unusual event, and the first feeling upon hearing of the action of the French ambassador at Constantinople yesterday is one of apprehension lest this be the precursor of more serious troubles. But a diplomatic rupture does not necessarily mean war, as our own experience has so often shown. The French are intent upon making the sultan keep his promises concerning some quays built in Constantinople harbor by French capitalists, and are being thwarted much as our government has been in the collection of the missionary claims. The French government has a pretty long arm, and, as it appears to be well supported by the other powers, it is altogether probable that Abdul will quickly reach an understanding satisfactory to French pride.

San Francisco Chronicle.

It is not likely that Turkey could now be partitioned without a war between the partitioning powers, whose complications and results could not be by any one foreseen. Probably it would involve what Mussolini would call a "holy war," in which the sultan would call upon the faithful throughout the earth to come to his assistance, and a revival of medieval savage warfare in India, Africa and Eastern Asia. It is a train to which Europe dare not touch the spark, and while a war between France and Turkey might end without any of these most serious results, the danger is too great to be willingly assumed. For these reasons it is quite certain that the comparative trivial dispute about possession of certain docks in Constantinople will be arranged in some way, most probably by complete compliance with the French demands.

Baltimore Sun.

There is little reason to believe that the sultan intends to take any step which will lead to war with France. He will probably swallow his medicine after he is convinced that procrastination will not save him. He will put the sword on his already overtaxed subjects and squeeze enough money out of them to satisfy the French claims. Then he will prepare to bluff his other creditors in the usual Turkish way, until they in turn compel him, by methods similar to those of France, to pay their claims. Possibly one day the sultan may conclude that his empire is not worth all the trouble it causes him, and the most effective way to get rid of it will be to state a general European war. If he ever concludes to take this step he will have a terrible revenge upon Europe for the indignities it has heaped upon Turkey in the past half-century.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Gen. Funston, in a finely illustrated article in the September number of Everybody's Magazine, tells the story about the capture of Aguinaldo. Another notable feature in this publication is a paper on "The Birth of an American," by W. D. Wagner. It is a paper on the life of the great American people. There are also many interesting stories and essays on numerous subjects—John Wainmaker, Philadelphia.

Cassell's Magazine of Illustrated engineering for September comes with the following list of contents: "The Coming of Today," A. Rickard; "The Glasgow Exhibition," by W. D. Wagner; "The Tool, the Machine, the Man," by W. H. Smyth; "The Measuring Machine in the Workshop," by Prof. John H. Sweet; "Machine Tools at the Glasgow Exhibition," by Joseph Horner; "The Evolution of Standards"

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of Measurement," by John A. Brashers, "From Log to Paper," by Alton D. Adams; "Industrial Consolidation," by Charles R. Flint; and "Current Topics."—New York.

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D. R. ALLEN, Secretary.

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