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EPIDEMICS AND THE LAW.

In Paterson, N. J., according to the New York World, the citizens and the medical fraternity are at loggerheads, in the very reverse order of the situation in many other places. A number of persons there are afflicted with what they believe and insist is smallpox. The doctors declare it is only aggravated chickenpox. Quarantine has been established, however, which, under the circumstances, is quite proper, and some patients have been sent to the isolation hospital.

The difference of opinion between the patients and the doctors may be settled after a while, and we hope we shall not be smothered under the pet anathemas of some physicians, who cannot brook dissent from their views. If we add that it is not unlikely that the sufferers will prove to have known more about the nature of their complaint, than the professional gentlemen who have pronounced their issue dixit. We may say, in extension of the crime of doubting the decision of the doctors, that we are familiar with the circumstances attending the siege of variola in Ogden, many years ago, which the doctors at first unanimously agreed was nothing but chickenpox.

This reminds us that according to dispatches to the New York World from St. Paul, Minnesota is also afflicted with an outbreak which is there pronounced smallpox, and the State Board of Health reports that there are forty towns and townships where the disease is epidemic, and many of these are in the lumber regions. It is proper to state in this connection, that the cause is not traceable, or alleged to have been occasioned by the circulation, in those regions, of the Deseret News.

We have been requested to explain when a disease may be properly designated as epidemic. The literal signification of the word is, "upon the people." A disease must be general in order to be termed epidemic. It must afflict the people or a great proportion of them. Under the plain meaning of the term, there is no epidemic in this State and there has not been, alarmists, and persons interested in promoting scares, to the contrary notwithstanding. A contagious disorder may afflict a number of persons and yet it may not be epidemic. Compare the number of the afflicted with the entire population, and that will decide the question.

It should be understood that the decision of the majority of the Supreme Court of the State in the Cox case, was based on certain alleged facts which were not denied by the relator. Among the most important of these were, that there was danger from an epidemic of smallpox, and that vaccination was "the only safe preventive" against it. The case was decided on an appeal demurrer, and its full merits were not discussed. The statement of facts presented was agreed to, and they proved fatal to the cause, although as Justice Baskin clearly pointed out in his dissenting opinion, the law does not authorize the attempt of the board of health to resort to indirect compulsory vaccination, even if the conditions stated were in actual existence.

As will be seen elsewhere in this issue of the "News," there are districts in this country where the rule supported in that decision is now enforced, where there is not only no epidemic but where there is not a single case of the disease so much exaggerated. The people are, very naturally, indignant at having their healthy children denied the privilege of attending the district schools, supported by the taxation of the property of the parents. It is a measure that should receive the attention of the local boards of health, to whom, and not the State board which is virtually one extreme individual, is given the authority in regard to the health of the schools.

In this country, the matter is in the hands of the county commissioners with the health officers of their appointment. They are not subordinate to the State board or its secretary. They are not required to bow blindly to any edict or order emanating from that source. The ruling of the Supreme court does not go to such a length as that. There is no need for extreme measures where extreme conditions do not exist. Utah ought not to be heralded abroad as afflicted with a pestilence, or suffering under a raging epidemic, when she is as free from diseases that are cropping up in various parts of the country as the most healthful States in the Union.

If all the provisions of the health laws of the State are examined, it will be seen that there has been and is, great dereliction of duty on the part of certain health officers, who are raising alarms, and that if those duties were faithfully performed, there would be much less occasion than at present for the attempt to enforce measures of doubtful efficacy and which are obnoxious to the great majority of this community. It should also be understood that the decision of the Supreme court was, by no means, the end of legal controversy. A test can be made as to the alleged facts as well as the law, and this will probably be done before long.

A NEW SALVATION ARMY.

Another religious organization of national scope, with headquarters in New York, seems to be contemplated. It is given out that there are thousands of persons who have left the so-called Salvation Army, and some of these are willing to combine in a new "army," to be known as "Christian Commanders." The methods of the Salvation Army are to be adopted, but a special aim will be to bring persons outside the army in touch with existing churches.

These points of information are given out as to the new movement. Its aim, ostensibly, is only the "salvation of souls," but it is evident that a few well-meaning persons, having grown tired of the exactions of Salvation Army life, and perhaps dissatisfied because not promoted rapidly enough, have conceived the idea of starting an "army" of their own, in which they can have the places of commanders, with others performing the less agreeable work in the streets. It is in this way churches and organizations very often divide and subdivide. Ambition leads to splits in the ranks and sometimes causes defeat.

It is strange that those who profess to aim at "the salvation of souls" seek to accomplish this by fantastic methods, foreign to both the spirit and the letter of that book which they believe contains the plan of salvation. One would think with such an aim, the first thought would be to search the Scriptures to learn what the divine plan is, and then appeal to the Author of that plan for the necessary authority and wisdom to carry it out. Were the question of saving a sick person from death, the absurdity of trying all kinds of experiments would be apparent at a glance. In such case the best skill available would be consulted. Directions based on deep study and long experience would be carried out conscientiously. But when the question of curing souls is involved, it appears that any kind of experiment is considered efficient, from the music of organs in awe-inspiring cathedrals, to the beating of drums in the noisy streets—from the philosophical discourse of the fashionable clergyman to the "words, words, words," strung together by the shouting orator on the street corner.

Is it not high time for religiously inclined people to go back to the methods of the Originator of true Christianity? If there is a divine plan of salvation, that should be carried out. If there is none, of what possible use are all the human devices, including those of "armies" and "commanders?"

NO LONGER ALLIES.

One of the more important items of news is conveyed in a Paris dispatch, to the effect that the Franco-Russian alliance is virtually ended. That entente was entered into as a counter balance to the triple alliance. The announcement of its existence was hailed with much enthusiasm in France, where it was looked upon as the mount from which the country might ascend into international glory, but the results have not justified the expectations. What-ever benefits the alliance has brought have been largely appropriated by Russia. To France has been reserved the glory of playing the second fiddle.

Speculation is now in order as to the probable readjustment of the European balance of power. If Germany takes the place of France, this country will in all probability be isolated. Her natural place would be that of the leading power in a Latin alliance, comprising, besides herself, Spain, Portugal, and Italy, and perhaps Greece and some of the Balkan states, but European political interests are not in line with such a combination. England and France might find it to mutual advantage to act in concert, but with the present lack of confidence, a Franco-English alliance is not conceivable. It looks as if France would have to stand alone, and that means that she will not come in for much consideration in the game of grab the large powers, according to all signs, are about to engage in before long in eastern Asia. It means, further, that if France has any designs on Morocco, she cannot count on Russian influence to prevent Great Britain from interfering in behalf of the Sultan of that little African country. It may, on that account, mean the postponement of a war that has been predicted, for France isolated will hesitate to commence a contest that might bring her into war with her neighbor across the channel.

BY LAW AND OTHERWISE.

The Chicago Tribune has gathered some statistics on the gruesome subject of lynchings and legal executions in this country during the past year. By the figures published it appears that the two modes of sending human beings out of the world were about evenly practiced. There were 115 lynchings and 115 legal killings. The lynchings increased over the previous year by 18, and the executions decreased by twelve. As to the area, of the 115 lynchings 107 occurred in the Southern States, and only eight in the North. The Southern victims were all negroes. The record by States is as follows: Louisiana and Mississippi lead, each with twenty to her discredit. Georgia follows with sixteen, Florida with nine, Alabama with eight, Tennessee with seven, Arkansas and Virginia with six each. Texas with four and Colorado, Indiana and North Carolina each with three. Kansas, Missouri, South Carolina and West Virginia each had two, while Kentucky and Maryland each had one.

The legal executions were distributed among these states: Texas heads the list with eighteen, and then come Pennsylvania with fifteen, Georgia with fourteen and North Carolina with nine. Virginia had seven, Louisiana had six, California had five, and Alabama, New Jersey, Tennessee and Arizona each had four, while Missouri, Maryland, Montana, New York, South Carolina and the District of Columbia each had three. Illinois and the State of Washington report two each, and Connecticut, Florida, Mississippi, North Dakota, Ohio and Oregon each had one. It is a common argument that if there were more executions, there would be less lynchings, but the statistics do

not, apparently, leave the advocates of mob law even this excuse for the outrages. In the South, where the 107 lynchings occurred, there were eighty executions, while in the North there were only eight lynchings and 23 legal killings. Possibly this is mere accident, but there is abundant evidence that mob law is resorted to more for the sake of satisfying a brutal instinct than from a desire to vindicate law and justice. Lynchers do not always even stop to inquire into the guilt of their victims. They are guided by fury instead of reason.

The President in his messages to Congress has repeatedly called attention to a state of affairs, by which even our international relations have been to some extent affected. It would be too much, perhaps, to expect the recommendations of the Chief Executive on this subject to be given an attentive ear by the Congress now in session, whose members are fully occupied by other subjects. But some time the matter should be taken up in earnest. We have now come to a point where the majesty of the law is trampled under foot, and where authority consequently is but a sham. How long can we continue on that downward path, without disaster to our institutions? How long can the ship of state whirl round on the edge of a seething maelstrom of mobocracy without coming nearer and nearer to the fatal center? If liberty, life and property shall continue secure, law must be respected and obeyed, and if some States refuse to vindicate their own authority, other States will be justified in taking steps for the protection of themselves against the pernicious influence of a contaminating example.

PANIC AT CAPE TOWN.

A brief dispatch from Cape Town announces that entrenchments are being constructed from False Bay to Table Bay, and this may fairly be taken as an indication that the present invasion of Cape Colony by the Boers is regarded as quite serious. And according to reports, the fears of the people of Cape Town are justified. One estimate places the number of Boers now in the field at 16,000. They are all determined patriots, with over a year's training in active service on numerous battlefields, and their ranks are said to be daily augmented by Boers from the farming districts of the colony. They seem to have no lack of arms or horses, and they certainly have no lack of daring. They are operating at widely separated points, and yet evidently with some common object in view.

What renders the situation more serious is the probability that with the rainy season, sickness will deplete the ranks of the British, already worn out by the incessant activity of the enemy. The landing of naval gunners from the Monarch and the construction of fortifications around the region of Cape Town indicates that the people are almost panic stricken.

It is hardly probable, though, that the Boers will attack the town. Their experience at Ladysmith, Kimberley and other places should have taught them that their strength is not in the offensive. Their sole aim, probably, is to induce the Colony Boers to a general rising. It seems, however, that General Kitchener has proposals of terms of peace that have been accepted by the Pretoria Boers, and if so, the time for a rising would seem to be past. But the news from South Africa is not only scanty, but also unsteady, and it is difficult to judge from the censored patches, of the real situation. Startling developments may be expected at any moment on the scene of the war, though it has been said to be virtually ended long ago.

New York has a big water ring. And it isn't around the moon, either.

A flood of talk about irrigating arid lands doesn't produce a drop of water.

New brooms sweep clean it is true, but constant sweeping wears away the brooms.

Strange, still Gen. Kitchener will not have Dewet off his hands until he has him in his hands.

Judging from her actions Mrs. Nation must be ambitious to be called the mother of her country.

There appear to be as many candidates for secretary of the legislative senate as there are candidates for the senatorship.

Secretary Root favors the exiling of Filipino leaders. It was a Roman historian who said, "They made a solitude and called it peace."

Ex-Gov. Boutwell says that imperialism is the great question, that there is nothing like it. Possibly, still the coal question is a close second.

Congress is wrestling with the problem how to stop gerrymandering. It being of the nature of a spreading disease, it should be checked.

A Provo woman announces to the world that she will no longer be responsible for the debts her husband may incur. Here is an assertion and probable justification of woman's rights.

It has been found necessary to defend the Australian ballot in Massachusetts. It is rather strange that so excellent a system of voting should need defending anywhere where it has once been tried.

If he is not heedful Bishop Potter will be termed an iconoclast. Here he is lecturing in Philadelphia and declaring that it is within the power of three or four individuals, sitting in a back room of a bank, to convulse the markets of the financial world.

The protest of the New Orleans confederate veterans against inviting President McKinley to the Memphis reunion is most ungracious. It will have no other effect than to show that some, not many, ex-confederates have never been reconciled to the results of the war.

If the theory of Dr. Reed of the commission that went to Cuba to study yellow fever and its propagation is correct, it is an important discovery. The theory is that yellow fever is propagated by mosquitoes and not by com-

tagion or infection. And the experiments would seem to justify the theory. It is a clear case of induction, and as in all inductive reasoning there is liable to be insufficient or defective data.

The House committee on insular affairs has decided to postpone the preparation of all reports relating to our island possessions until the Supreme court decides the Porto Rican cases. This would seem to be a wise decision. The decision in those cases will determine the constitutional relationship of the islands to the United States, and that once determined Congress's course towards them will be made much clearer. It is probable that the decision of the court will be rendered at no distant day.

The public will not sympathize too deeply with the railroad companies, if, owing to a decision by the Interstate Commerce Commission, they will find it necessary to abolish the discriminating freight rates on western traffic. The railroads of the country have been able to distribute, during one year, over a hundred million dollars as dividends among the stockholders, and a reduction of a few million dollars in the total receipts would not cripple them seriously.

Li Hung Chang's communication to Capt. Tilsen, in which he praises the conduct of that portion of the American army that relieved Pekin cannot but be pleasing to the American people. The conduct of our soldiers in China has been in strong contrast with that of the other powers and has been creditable in the highest degree. To have the Chinese appreciate and recognize this is much. And yet the soldiers of the United States did their plain duty, simply just what was expected of them. It is the way of Americans.

ROBERTS AND THE WAR.

Chicago News.

One of the significant features of Lord Roberts' welcome in London was the holding high above the heads of the crowd by some persons a newspaper poster indicating the day's most important news—"Roberts' Welcome in London—Naval Guns Landed in Cape Town." The same apparent incongruity was noticed in the headlines of all the newspapers, in which equal prominence was given to Lord Roberts' return and to the grave situation in Cape Colony or "serious news from the Cape."

Troy Press.

The tenacious struggle of the South African republics to save themselves from extinction must appeal to all discerning and patriotic Americans who remember the seven years' fight of our forefathers for independence against the aggrandizing power of the self-same English government. Months ago the subjugation of the Transvaal and Orange Free State was exultingly chronicled to the world by Great Britain, and it was stated that only a few guerrillas remained to be dealt with. For a time events lent color to this view of the situation, but all of a sudden Boer outbreaks and Boer victories were reported, and fresh activities are now threatening to prolong the war indefinitely. Indeed, the Dutch of Cape Colony are also deeply disgruntled and obviously sick of British rule. They are only waiting for a favorable opportunity to take up arms for liberation.

New York Mail and Express.

With armed bodies of British and Boers hastening through the great districts of Cape Colony in an increasing fever of apprehension and Cape Town itself landing guns from warships and preparing to fortify, it looks as if the burghers had undertaken at last what the experts say they should have done at the outset of the war—the governing of the colony on a large scale. Whether the colony rises or no, there is no good reason why the Transvaal and Free States should not range southward into it. They have no territories or governments left to defend, and they are confronted by hostile garrisons on every hand in the two republics. In British territory they are assured at least of a friendly reception, secret information, scouts, horses and provisions; they can recoup themselves in a fertile rather than an exhausted land. The invasion not only damages the prestige of their enemies, but wears out their strength in the long marches it entails upon them in the exhausting heat and debilitating rains of a South African mid-summer.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Lord Roberts was received by the queen at her Isle of Wight residence with special honors never before paid by royalty to a subject, and in addition he was made an earl and invested with the Order of the Garter, there having been for some little time a single vacancy in the very limited membership of that order. As a further mark of favor the earldom was conferred with a special remainder to his daughters, the only son of "Robt" having been killed in the war. While these honors were being paid to the general, an exhausted and somewhat discouraged Boer, in the fact that the Boers were sweeping in various directions across the "conquered" republics.

Chicago Record.

As against such hard fighters as the Boers this result, notwithstanding the overwhelming numbers the British were able to bring against them, was remarkable. The secret lay in the fact that the ablest strategist and most popular commander in the British army was directing the military movements. The British to a man believed in "Robt" and, apparently, the Boers did also. Now that the general who "organized" the Boer victory in South Africa has returned affairs may take another shape. In any event Lord Roberts has fairly won the position of commander-in-chief, his earldom, the Order of the Garter, the applause of his fellow-countrymen and the praise of the press, a favorable record in clean, straight and manly thoroughness and successful beyond that of any other general of his time.

New York Evening Post.

It must be a slight consolation to the British to have the foremost German officer who served with the Boers, Count Sternberg, declare that, under similar circumstances, no Continental army equal of size could have done better than did the English army during the period up to the fall of Pretoria. The Boer, he declares, is a unique enemy, of a kind never before known, and never to be conquered again. His wonderful eyesight, his familiarity with his country, his readiness to meet any emergency, his slight wants, and above all his fanaticism, all form a combination not to be found elsewhere, and one almost invincible when the terrain is favorable to fighting. It is the scene of the war in South Africa. Only the inability of the Boers to take the offensive, because of their lack of military cohesion and discipline, kept them, Count Sternberg thinks from driving the English out of South Africa in the early days of the war.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Living Age opens its 228th volume with the number dated Jan. 5. That means an existence in the world of journals of fifty-seven years. Conditions are greatly changed since Mr. Little established this magazine in 1844, but it has held its place and is even more indispensable today to cultivated readers than it was half a century ago. It is the only weekly magazine in its field. Literature, art, science, biography, travel, poetry, public affairs, and the best fiction in short and serial stories find a place in its well-stored pages.—The Living Age Company, Boston.

The North American Review begins the new century with a number which maintains the reputation it has won. Ex-President Harrison, in the opening article, treats of the constitutional "Status of Annexed Territory and of Its Free Citizens." M. De Bloyer, in a paper entitled "Past Events and Coming Problems," glances at the things that have happened during the past century, especially in France, and the task that lies before the nations in future years. Gen. R. A. Alger, formerly secretary of war, writes of "The Food of the Army During the Spanish War." Sir Robert Hart, Inspector general of the Imperial Chinese customs and posts, in "China and Her Foreign Trade," tells how the Chinese regard the attempts of foreign nations to cultivate commercial relations with them. Mr. Alfred Harmsworth, editor and proprietor of the London Daily Mail, foretells the character and methods of "The Simultaneous Newspapers of the Twentieth Century," when the trust shall have entered the field of journalism. The Duke of Argyll sets forth the present "Political Situation in Great Britain," and the influences which are responsible for it. Hugh H. Lusk, apropos of the establishment of the Australian Commonwealth, describes "The New Power in the South Pacific." Louis Windmiller advocates certain "Substitutes for Ship Subsidies," which, in his opinion, would better stimulate the growth of our mercantile marine than the measure now under the consideration of Congress. Amherst Webber records some interesting reminiscences of "Some Interpreters of Wagner," and notes regarding their methods of work. D. Menant, in the fifth article of the series on "The Great Religions of the World," gives an account of "Zoroastrianism and the Parsis," and Mr. W. D. Howells, reviewing Mr. E. C. Steadman's "American Anthology," presents a study well worth reading of "A Hundred Years of American Verse."—New York.

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Boys' Overcoats, \$2.00 to \$3.00 for . . . 1.00
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