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HISTORY REVISED.

Once upon a time—as the story goes—a leader who had conquered a commonwealth entered a place of worship of the higher class, and discovering there a great display of silverware, ordered the trembling janitor to take it away and have it coined into money so it would do the people some good. This interesting event has had different names coupled with it at different times, those of Cromwell and Napoleon I being most frequently pressed into the service, though the most likely theory is that it never occurred at all, and there is at least one good reason for so believing besides the conflict in names, dates and places.

Silver was valuable in those days—any days, in fact, prior to these days—and those who effected conquests and subjugated everything to their control were not prone to ordering or permitting articles of value to be distributed among the people when the victors themselves were fully equal to the task of absorbing all the good things that came along. Now if Cromwell's victorious tilts against the authority and government of Charles I had occurred about 250 years later, or Bonaparte had crossed the Alps and carried consternation throughout Italy seven or eight decades after it occurred, then the event spoken of might have come down to us with something of authenticity along with it. It would have been a small matter and one that would have resulted in considerable cheap notoriety to have ordered a metal that once served as money and was still so regarded by the more unsophisticated and ingenuous to be scattered in the form of coins among the masses, for the victorious leaders themselves would have had no use for the debased stuff and the peasantry would have rejoiced at it. But to say that such a thing could occur when a dozen silver dollars were as precious as a gold one and much more convenient, is to practice upon us unwarrantably. We also understand that silver has not changed an iota; it is as intrinsically consequential, as good looking and as honest now as it was then or at any other time; but we have changed, that is all.

UNLAWFUL KILLING.

That lynching at Decatur, Illinois, on Saturday, was one of those ebullitions of outraged society that do not generally spend their force until the object of it is known to be destroyed or beyond the reach of his pursuers. They illustrate with exactness how weak and flimsy is the barrier which civiliza-

tion has erected between the human of today and of the age when clad in skins and armed with weapons fashioned out of rocks he went forth to destroy without discrimination and without mercy. It only needs a sudden and violent shock to the sensuous nature to cause the veneering of enlightened restraint which has been growing about the race for so many ages to drop off as an unfastened cloak and the animal part to exercise full sway. That the victim of the mob's vengeance deserved all he got is neither here nor there; he claimed to the last that he was innocent, and as there was no direct proof to the contrary it is possible that he was; but the probabilities lean the other way of course. All this matters not. A gang of madmen in possession of the object of their frenzy are not the proper persons to determine that question, and even if it were determined beyond all peradventure, they have no right to execute a judgment, especially one formed in defiance of the law.

It is gratifying to note that Governor Altgeld realizes the gravity of the offense and is not disposed to deal with it in a mild-mannered way. The authority of the state has been set at defiance in order that a murder might be committed, and he cannot afford to do less than exhaust if necessary his official authority and the commonwealth's power in bringing the guilty to justice, and the guilt of the wretch upon whom they exercised their unlawful vengeance is not defensive matter in the least. Such outrages are becoming common, and for the sake of society in general as a means of restraint, as well as a vindication of the laws, the perpetrators should be brought to a full atonement.

A man was recently acquitted of the charge of murder in one of the courts of this Territory. The jury found that he was insane at the time he committed the offense and thus forever placed him beyond any punishment that the laws of man can inflict. And if he was really insane, or if the jury however mistakenly had cause to believe from the evidence that he was not responsible at the time, their act was just and proper. He was not insane at the trial, though, and on his examination shortly after was shown to be not only sound but tolerably bright; also, a short time before the killing he was not altogether if at all unbalanced, and thus, ugly as such conclusion may be, it looks very much as if the refuge of those charged with homicide had been successfully resorted to once more. We can understand readily enough that insanity is as often paroxysmal and momentary, affecting the strongest and best of minds, as it is organic or resulting through a mental strain or great depression of spirits; that the passions are sometimes the master of the situation and the person but their slave—all of which must be duly considered in any such case. But in the one spoken of the wrath engendered seems to have grown gradually, to have been nursed to some extent, because the defendant had been robbed. If this was a fact—and we have no reason to doubt it—it was not sufficient justification for killing either with or without the operation of law. To take a man's life to save

property from him which he unlawfully seeks, when there is no other safe or ready means, is justifiable sometimes; but to brood over losses and finally seek to "get even" by killing the robber is another matter altogether. It is a dangerous thing for the community which excuses it, a dangerous thing for the whole human family.

INFORMATION WANTED.

PLAIN CITY, Weber County.

June 1, 1893.

Editor Deseret News:

I am informed that there was a notice in the News some time since to the effect that a certain brother was engaged in securing genealogies for the benefit of the Saints here in Utah. Do you remember the name of the brother referred to? Or do you know any one at Liverpool, England, who is making a business of securing genealogies? If so, what are his charges? G. W. BRAMWELL.

To the foregoing letter the News is able to make reply that within a few months past the names of two or three parties have been published in these columns as being engaged in the business referred to; it is doubtful, however, if any of these parties are still so employed. If any of our readers can give the information desired by Brother Bramwell, the News will gladly give publicity to it for his benefit and that of others who may have similar desires.

STILL STRIVING AGAINST THE AIR.

It is a rather dull week that ends without having seen something new in the way of an airship having come to light—dull in respect to that industry anyway. The latest one demanding attention at the hands of the credulous is the invention of William E. McCouniekin, an electrician of Jersey City, N. J. This is represented to be an entirely new line—a rather gratuitous piece of information in view of the fact that all the old "lines" are reposing in the scrap heap along with the Kelly motor and other wonders whose wonder is spent. This machine is to "revolutionize aerial navigation business" in a few months—a revolution which must surely take a lower place in the scale than even those cheap and nasty affairs which take place in parts of Central America on the dropping of a hat, as, up to the very latest advices, the amount of business being carried on in the aerial department was so very small that we are unable to see where a revolution could possibly take hold.

The new machine, we are advised, is as yet incomplete, but is modeled on the lines of a bird and a fish, being shaped like the latter. The name, however, is complete, and pointed together reads "pegasipede"—a combination of Pegasus (the winged horse) and pedal. The inventor vouchsafed to a New York Sun reporter the information that he had given the subject years of thought and had finally proceeded to give them practical application. As stated, it is shaped like a fish and is worked with pedals. The tail acts as a rudder. There is a neat, comfortable saddle in