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TIMELY PRECAUTIONS.

"Five cases of smallpox yesterday and six the day before make a record for Salt Lake City. After the disease has gotten almost beyond control, the people will awaken to the need of the most stringent regulations that are being practiced."

The foregoing paragraph is from the Ogden Standard. If its own reports are correct, the Junction City is afflicted quite as much as the capital of the State in proportion to the population, with the prevalent disorder. And it seems, too, that quarantine regulations are evaded there as much as here.

It is a mistake to say the quarantine regulations are "loose" in Salt Lake City. They are very close and rigid. The fault is in the failure to carry them into effect. Perhaps that is what the Standard really means. The board of health and the county commissioners are doing all they can to control the disease and prevent contagion. But occasionally some unwise or selfish person or persons, disregarding the welfare of others, will break through the rules and mingle with the public after being exposed to infection, and even while under quarantine. The regulations are all right, but this conduct is all wrong.

There seems to be a lack of understanding as to the manner of spreading a contagious disease. Some people seem to think that if they are not infected themselves, they cannot communicate the disease to others. They imagine, too, that if they are vaccinated they are not only immune from smallpox, or whatever the present disorder may be, but are safe from imparting it to other people. This is a very grave error. The seeds or germs of a zymotic disease can be carried in the clothing, the hair or the beard of a person who has been in company with one afflicted with that disease, and he can thus impart it to others without being taken down with it himself.

A doctor who does not carefully and thoroughly disinfect his own person and clothing, after attending a smallpox or scarlet fever patient, is just as likely to spread contagion as a layman who has been exposed. A real or supposed immune, whether from vaccination or from having had smallpox in the past, who has been waiting on a patient in certain stages of the disease, can convey the germs of it, as we have explained, and unconsciously scatter them around, by mingling with people in public or in private who happen to be in a condition to be infected.

The experience of a century has demonstrated beyond fair dispute, that unless sanitary regulations are rigidly enforced, if it fits abroad, if persons exposed to the disease are permitted to mix with the public, no other precaution or prophylactic will prove effectual. All the preventive measures have been adopted, but sanitation and isolation are neglected.

Decaying animal and vegetable matter furnish a fruitful hotbed for the kinds of diseases that are afflicting people in this and other parts of the country. A sensitive nose makes a fine detector, and will be very greatly disturbed by the effluvia arising in some places in this city. If the people want to stamp out the disorders that are afflicting them here, in Ogden, and other towns of the State, let them clean up all around them. Bury offensive matter. The earth is the best deodorizer available. Disinfectants are useful, but decaying things should be put under the soil.

There is no use in getting up a scare. There is no need for it. Proper precautions, the observance of rules of health and when necessary, of quarantine regulations, ventilation, sunshine, temperance in diet, cheerfulness of spirit, faith in God and obedience to His counsels, will do wonders in arresting the progress of contagious disorders, and everybody should endeavor to aid in promoting the general health and welfare, by acting with a view to the good of others as well as of themselves.

WILL APPEAL TO CONGRESS.

Methodist ministers of Chicago have, very properly, resolved to ask Congress, through the President of the United States, to enact legislation for the prevention of lynching in this country. Considering the fact that about 200 persons have been put to death in this way, during the last ten years, and that the evil is growing, they hold that nothing short of national authority can supply the needed remedy.

The action taken by the ministers is in some quarters being ridiculed. What is the use, it is asked, to request Congress to perform impossibilities? If the reformers have any practical plan, why do they not submit it to the public at once? But this mode of reasoning would hold good in relation to any other crime. It may be impossible to entirely prevent murder, or theft, but it is possible that any reason why civilized States should not legislate against such

crimes, and fix certain penalties for their perpetration? The point is, that lynching should be defined as a crime, and the power and duty of punishing those who commit it should be delegated to somebody, and if State governments fail to do their duty, they should be held responsible to somebody. There is no wrong that cannot be righted in some way or another. And inasmuch as murders by mobs have become a menace to orderly government, Congress may properly be asked to consider what can be done for their repression.

We hope, if the matter is brought to the attention of Congress, it will be taken up with all the earnestness its seriousness demands. The talk about "manliness" asserting itself by burning human beings at the stake and gathering souvenirs of charred bones and such objects, counts no more than the incoherent ravings of maniacs. Lynching is the result of a tendency to retrograde toward barbarous conditions. It is a blot on organized communities. It is a sign of human degeneracy, and its prevalence is a danger to civilization. Whether Congress, at the first attempt, succeeds in formulating any effective measure against it, or not, the very fact that the national assembly takes the matter in hand will surely have a good effect throughout the country. And when the agitation has once started in the right direction, it need not stop until success is achieved. We believe it is the duty of every good American citizen to lend his support to the movement which the Chicago ministers are said to have commenced.

COLONIZATION OF SIBERIA.

The Russian efforts at colonizing Siberia are not of little interest to the people of the Western States of our country. It seems that a sum of \$10,000,000 was set apart in 1893, by the government for the purpose, and that as a consequence, the commissioners to whom the work and the money were entrusted, during the last four years, have secured no less than 700,000 colonists, of whom 225,000 went to Siberia in 1899. The government grants subsidies to the settlers, encouraging farming and fruit raising. Since 1894, \$2,000,000 was spent in this way. The money is not donated, but must be paid back, after a reasonable term of years, in annual payments, and thus economic independence is aimed at.

There is no doubt that this settlement will continue. The railroad route from central Russia to the Siberian colonies is a trifle, and within the reach of all. The new country has many advantages, and as these become known, it will be coming with population. And the result will be a growing exchange of products between the eastern coasts of Siberia and the western parts of the United States. Russia, as a rule, believes in fostering home industry and home commerce, but as the colonies grow they will need numerous things Russia cannot supply, and which naturally will be drawn from this country. Everything goes to prove that the predictions made a long time ago, to the effect that the great highway of commerce will in the coming century be extended across the Pacific, will prove correct. When the time comes, the countries bordering on this ocean will be raised to positions of the greatest importance. For national wealth, power and influence always center in the countries situated along the great highways of trade and commerce.

CONGRESS WILL DECIDE.

There is considerable newspaper talk about the Philippine situation. Some are disposed to make it as gloomy and desperate as human language permits, while others take a more cheerful view. From recent reports by General McArthur, some draw the inference that the islands cannot be pacified until every native shall have been killed off, while others see in these reports a confident promise that with proper vigor in the military operations, the resistance to the United States will be overcome in a short time.

What the true facts are is not easy to decide from the conflicting testimony. For even persons who have paid a brief visit to Manila and other islands, give different stories as to the real conditions, being influenced by their party preferences to see and hear mainly what agrees with their inclination.

Congress is the proper body to deal with the Philippine question now. That assembly will undoubtedly be given all the facts bearing upon it, and if the members take time to weigh properly the evidence on both sides, and to deliberate upon all the questions related to the main subject, in that spirit of patriotism which seeks but the welfare of the country, the best result will be obtained. The proper solution will come, as surely as it has been found for other great national problems in the past.

In the meantime private judgment can be suspended. The representatives of the people can be trusted to deal with the Philippines in the true American spirit, which, if not always infallible in judgment, yet never aims at the oppression of anybody, be it for race or for religion.

One thing can be said truly, and that is that for intelligence and especially for ability to comprehend international questions, Congress is about as representative a body as exists in the world. American diplomats and American navy commanders have in late years become noted for the wisdom and directness of their judgment and proceedings, whenever their duties have brought them into contact with similar functionaries of other nations. Our congressmen, as a rule, occupy a similar high level, if compared to the general quality of legislators of other countries. It follows that if Congress cannot deal successfully with the problem presented in the Philippine situation, no other body of men can.

GRASS IN THE STREETS.

When the commanders of the allied forces in China marched through the sacred precincts of Peking, reserved for the imperial family, they found, it is said, an untidiness that was a strange contradiction of the term "sacred" applied to that part of the city. The court yards were laid with ponderous flags of

stone, but they were disfigured by weeds growing undisturbed between the flagstones. The water in a lagoon, ornamented by marble bridges, was stagnant and covered with green scum. The fact has been mentioned as an evidence of the decay of the empire, but now comes the Electrical Review with the editorial statement that the next century will witness the growth of grass in our own streets, as an evidence of progress. This sounds paradoxical, but the writer in the Review believes that with the passing away of the horse and the advent of the automobile, this will surely come to pass. He thinks many will yet live to see the smooth sward grass upon the Fifth Avenue of New York. When the destroying hoof of the horse is known no more in the streets, grass will become a sign and a symbol of improvement; people will then cherish even the stray shamrock on the roadway crossings, and instead of the white-clad street cleaner they will see the conductors of automobile mowing-machines trimming the grass at intervals in the busy thoroughfares.

There is, at least, food for thought in this curious forecast. Man, no matter how gorgeous his surroundings may be, always feels a longing for the beauties of nature. Marble works, silk hangings, paintings, embroideries, are no satisfactory substitutes for the majestic sculptures of the rocks, the mystic mazes of the woods, the soft grass of the meadows, and the delicately tinted flowers that far surpass, in gorgeous attire, even Solomon in all his glory. To love plants is natural to man. Their existence is necessary to his happiness. There is therefore nothing impossible in the suggestion that future cities will give more room for parks and lawns and flower beds. Possibly the scarcity of such oases in the deserts of city streets, is one cause of disease in the larger cities.

The Chinese idea of letting the grass grow in the court yard of the imperial palace, the writer in the Review, at all events, should regard as an evidence of progress and a proof that the "Celestials" are about a century in advance of our own cities in this respect. If he is correct, even this simple suggestion has its two sides.

A WORTHY CHOICE.

We learn from the Lowestoft Journal, published at Lowestoft, Norfolk, England, that Alderman James Beckett of that town has been elected Mayor, and Editor Arthur Stebbings has been elected Alderman. These gentlemen are known to some of our missionaries as good friends, and particularly Mr. Stebbings, whose paper has always been fair and courteous to the "Mormon" Elders when they have been assailed by vituperative opponents. Both of them are all friends and schoolboy associates of R. F. Nealen Esq., of this city, and he cherishes their friendship with affectionate memory. The Deseret News congratulates them on their election, feeling assured that they will worthily represent the interests and work for the welfare of the good and quiet Norfolk town and seaport. Lowestoft, famous everywhere for its herring and other fisheries.

The sublime porte is not an open door for Dr. Thomas Norton.

Harvard's men turn double crimson when Yale's football abilities are mentioned.

A fight against the banana trust is being organized. If great care is not taken someone will slip up.

A Chicago doctor claims to have discovered the germ of scarlet fever. It will be a red-letter day for him.

Denver is an up-to-date town. To be in line with the great cities she has determined upon a crusade against vice.

All the world loves a lover in the same sense that a little folly now and then is relished by the best of men.

If all the historic wrongs of the world are now to be avenged, when will the day of peace and honest civilization be ushered in?

About the funniest thing Mark Twain ever did was to lodge a complaint against a New York cabman thinking he could get any redress.

Miss Mary E. Wilkins is much annoyed at the reports that her engagement is broken. These reports cause her some novel experiences no doubt.

A Deseret mining man is going to sue China for damages. His case will scarcely be advanced on the calendar over that of Uncle Sam, Dame Europa et al.

If Germany is after the Island of Curacao, off the coast of Venezuela, of course she is after it with what Chancellor von Bismarck would term "German's proverbial modesty."

According to a Milwaukee paper the employees of a Chicago & North-western train must use up pencil stubs and save bent pins. This is getting railroad economy down to a fine point.

The Iron County Record is "off" in its comments about the Deseret News, and would be puzzled to show wherein there is any contradiction between the utterances of the "News" and the address recently published in our columns. We have given place to both sides of the smallpox question from its differing advocates, and have editorially opposed COMPELLED vaccination. That has been, and is the attitude of the Deseret News.

And now we are told seriously, that in ancient Egypt there was no marriage ceremony, so far as archeologists have been able to discover, but there was a contract which secured to the wife certain rights, one of which was that of complete control over her husband, who promised to yield her implicit obedience. If civilization always is progressing in a circle, we may in another century be where the ancient Egyptians were in this respect.

It is claimed that the members of the Ruskin colony in Georgia have by experiment found that they can live at a cost of less than ten cents a day. It is a contract with co-operation. Everything they consume is bought at wholesale, in large quantities, and is cooked

in the community kitchen. In the community dining room tables are set for three hundred people. But those who do not wish to eat with the crowd are allowed the privilege of purchasing the provisions at the company stores and cooking them at home.

According to English press reports it is the intention of Lord Kitchener to adopt the reconcentrated policy in dealing with the Boers. Cannot a great Anglo-Saxon general devise a "better" means of dealing with the Boers than to adopt the discredited and disgraceful policy of the Spanish butcher, Weyler? It was that policy and its dire consequences that led the United States to declare war against Spain and free Cuba from the tyrant. It is to be hoped that these stories about General Kitchener's intentions towards the Boers are untrue. England cannot afford to follow Spain in her very worst policy.

In the Reichstag Gen. von Gossler declared that what the German troops were now doing in China was "merely retaliation for what the Huns did to us for centuries." What an historically scientific and absolutely satisfactory explanation that is. It recalls the story of the new and fanatical convert who assailed the first Jew he met after his conversion, and who when repokated with and asked why he did it, asked the injured Hebrew if the Jews did not crucify the Savior. "Yes," replied the Jew, "but that was nearly two thousand years ago." "Well," said the new convert, "I never heard of it until yesterday."

Truly this is a strange world. A Rome dispatch says that an international congress, attended by one thousand delegates, assembled in the Eternal City on Sunday last to discuss the use of cannon to prevent hail, which is so destructive to crops. The theory is that firing cannon into the air would have the effect of breaking up the rain clouds. It is only a few years since the United States government made a large appropriation for the purpose of bombarding the heavens that rain might be produced. The artillery operations were conducted by "General" Dyerforth, a Washington attorney, with the result that the appropriation was used up and no rain produced. The Italian cannon-hall congress will be no more successful. These people make too much noise to be real scientists.

COMMENTS ON THE LYNCHING.

New York Evening Post.

Yesterday's burning at the stake of a negro murderer in Colorado was attended by circumstances of deliberate ferocity which makes it the most disgusting thing of its kind ever known in a Northern State. Indians could not be more cruelly treated than the victim of a lynch mob. The ordinary crimes do not serve in this case. There is no race question in Colorado. It cannot be said that these fearful torments must be meted out to all negro criminals in order to make the lives of whites secure. Nor was it a question of a howling mob driven to sudden and uncontrollable frenzy. A week had passed since the crime. Preparations to lynch this guilty man were made with all the deliberation of the public meeting. The form of agony by which the wretched man should be put to death was decided by a kind of popular vote. Telegraph operators were notified, and photographers advised to be ready for "snap shots" of the dying struggles.

Troy Press.

The details of this horrible burning are too sickening for recital. They suggest that before attempting to "benignly assimilate" the Philippines, missionaries should be sent to civilize those sections of our own country where lynchings, burnings and other horrible crimes that would disgrace Zulu savages are committed with evident pleasure by congregating bodies of participating citizens.

San Francisco Chronicle.

Although the provocation was great, the method adopted by the people of Colorado, to avenge the death of the little victim of the negro Preston Porter Jr., is open to the strongest condemnation. It was lawless and barbarous, as barbarous as the crime of the man who perished at the stake. The burning alive of a ravisher and a murderer in open day, in the presence of a motley gathering of onlookers, may temporarily strike terror into the hearts of evil-doers, but it does not cultivate respect for law, no matter how odious the crime may be. The purpose of all legal codes is to provide penalties to suit offenses. In organized communities it is the first duty of the citizen to obey the law and its processes, even though the latter may be devious at times. It is a sign of human degeneracy when the law is brushed aside and summary methods of dealing with crime are adopted.

Sacramento Record Union.

That is an odd excuse for not holding an inquest in the case of the negro Porter over in Colorado—that no remains can be found. But the ashes are the remains of a man, and the remains of a man who was lawfully executed remain on the soil where the law deliberately laid down and closed its eyes while mob law unmarked rode the breeze. But an inquest is not necessary, for every one knows who burned the wretch. If now there is to be no procedure against any of these people, the district attorney intimates, it will amount to approval of murder and outrage. The men should be brought to trial who committed the crime of burning alive, and if no jury in Colorado would convict them, but they should be tried nevertheless.

Los Angeles Express.

Whether in the Southern States or those of the West or East, mob law is to be deprecated, nor can it be excused on any ground, but when Judge Lynch carries into effect his dread edicts in such a barbarous manner as that of burning alive at the stake, the community in which it was done suffers far more than the miserable wretch who furnished the bonfire, because of the brutalizing influences caused by witnessing such scenes.

New York Evening Sun.

Another negro burned at the stake! Another blow struck at law and order! Another triumph of the wild justice of revenge! Another proof that some are not so far from the barbarous cruelty of the Middle Ages!

Chicago News.

The part the governor of Colorado and Sheriff Freeman played in this shocking act of brutality cannot be too severely censured. These are the officers whose sworn duty it is to uphold the majesty of the law and to vindicate its justice, but by their ready compliance with the demands of the mob, with full knowledge of what they were doing, they have placed themselves on the same level of disregard of law and the methods of civilized society in dealing with criminals with the mob act that has shocked the civilized world.

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