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## THE DOOMED ANARCHISTS.

THE decision in the cases of the condemned anarchists is of great importance to the country. The anxiety in reference to it and the general gratification given by it is an evidence of the sense of danger felt in consequence of the existence of a growing power for evil, threatening the well-being of the nation.

It is hoped that the resolute application of the law will check the growth of anarchism by informing its votaries as to what they may anticipate providing they attempt to put their destructive tendencies into operation. Whether this will be the effect is not positively clear. Time will show. It is probable that the result would have been more salutary in that respect had the decision of the court affirming that of the lower tribunal been simply announced, in connection with the reasons for the conclusion. Instead of this the several judges made verbal statements, all setting prominently forth the fact that the proceedings of the trials were not free from errors, but the mistakes were not deemed to be of a fatal character or sufficiently strong to influence the conclusion in favor of the appellants.

Seeing that the element of public policy enters largely into these cases—a fact that is pretty generally admitted—that side of the subject is not strengthened by remarks from the learned gentlemen that are liable to be construed to mean a sort of half apology to the appellants for the adverse decision rendered. Such expressions are also liable to be misconstrued by the anarchist fraternity as a diluted admission that their comrades have not received exact justice and that the law has been stretched at least as far as it was possible to go in its application to them. Let them be thus impressed and they may possibly be lured to tactics of revenge and guided by a spirit of greater desperation. It looks at this distance as though the announcement of the decision and the elaborate reasoning forming its basis, without the additional remarks, would have been more politic than the utterance of the little speeches in relation to the existence of immaterial errors committed at the trial.

Doubtless some of the more pessimistic people who predicted terrible things providing the decision of the lower courts were not affirmed by the higher, will now change about and predict the same immediate evil result if the condemned men are executed. This latter view has been held by many people from the beginning. This opinion does not, however, appear to be well grounded. It must have for its foundation the theory that the anarchical fraternity are a mass of semi-idiot or rampant lunatics. This may be true of some and even many, but that the leading spirits possess ability and some shrewdness may not be perhaps denied. The dullest of them would be able to perceive that any attempt to rescue the condemned men from the grasp of the officers of the law would be nothing short of an outbreak of lunacy. The same reason would lie in reference to an immediate uprising for any other purpose at such a time. For them to take violent action at a time when the powers that be are amply prepared for them is not in accordance with what may be presumed to be their tactics. It would be inviting upon themselves a tremendous crushing process. If they contemplate violence, either for revenge or spoliation, or both, they will doubtless select a time when the community are slumbering in the arms of fancied security, and everything external wears an aspect of peace.

Although the execution of the condemned anarchists may check the operation of that sinister element for a season, no one will claim that it will come within even a long distance of expunging from the hearts of those saturated with its sanguinary sentiments their devotion to its horrible theories. The evil has grown to the proportions of a national disease. The seeds of the malady have spread throughout the system. The effects may be subdued by the application of a rigorous regime, but the extinction of the germs is nearly within the range of the impossible under existing conditions. The complaint is liable to show itself by the bursting out of eruptions in unexpected spots. Combined with an impartial, yet vigorous application of the law, a higher national morality would have the most

salutary effect. The upward tendency in that line is not, however, as speedy as could be desired. Indeed it seems to be tolerably clear that the preponderance of travel is on the other road.

## THE CITY ASSESSMENT.

THE citing of certain taxpayers to appear before the Board of Equalization and show cause why their assessments should not be increased, is a course of procedure which ought to be commended by citizens generally, however urgent may be the objections thereto by the parties so cited. The disclosures resulting from an examination of the city assessment roll will not only show ample justification for such action, but leave the Board no alternative but the taking of it, if justice is to be maintained in connection with the burdens of municipal government.

While it is usual in assessing taxes to allow the taxpayer the benefit of a low estimate of the value of his property, the discrepancies between the actual and assessed value, shown by the city tax roll, are, in many instances, too great to be allowed to pass unrectified. On and near Main Street are pieces of real estate belonging to wealthy persons or corporations which are assessed at from one third to one half the price at which they could be readily sold, and in some instances properties could be quickly turned into cash at a price four or even five hundred per cent greater than the assessed valuation.

It is more difficult for a person unconnected with a mercantile house to estimate the value of its stock of merchandise, than of the real estate it occupies; but there is reason to believe that discrepancies exist between the actual valuation of stocks of goods and that at which they have been assessed, that are nearly if not quite as great as those in regard to real estate. In some instances merchants of this city would be very indignant were a mercantile agency to give them a rating as low as they have given to the assessor.

It is claimed to be a general rule among assessors in the United States to tax real estate and merchandise at about two-thirds of the value for which they could be sold. While there is no warrant of law for taxing property in this city at less than its actual value, custom has perhaps made a reduction of the assessed below the selling price more or less justifiable; and so long as the assessment is impartial probably there would be little or no complaining done by any class of taxpayers. But complaint is made that residence property in the suburbs is taxed much higher in proportion to the price for which it would sell than is real estate in the business centre, and figures that have been taken from the assessment roll certainly indicate such to be the case.

The injustice in the assessment which the Board of Equalization is endeavoring to correct has doubtless resulted principally from basing the tax for the current upon that of the previous year, rather than upon a critical consideration of the value of the property. While the city has been growing and merchants have been enlarging their business and increasing their stocks, the assessments have been made from year to year without fully taking into account the increase in the value of the property of taxpayers, especially in the business portion of the city.

The Board of Equalization may regard the task it has on hand as being disagreeable, but it should be proceeded with unflinchingly. It is a work in the interest of justice, and the present financial condition of the city requires that its officers cover into its treasury the whole of the revenue to which it is entitled. Five mills on the dollar is a tax so low that it would be smiled at in many cities of the Union similar in size to this, and its lightness is a strong argument in favor of a fair valuation of property on the assessment roll.

As a further justification for the action of the Board of Equalization, it is stated that the expenses of the fire and police service and street lighting for the district included in the fire limits, which, of course, embraces the business centre, amount to more than the revenue derived from that portion of the city, and that the poorer sections of the municipality are actually bearing the burdens of the wealthy portion. Such a showing certainly looks to be one of injustice.

## NEW YORK REPUBLICANS BE- RATE THE PRESIDENT.

THE Republican State Convention of New York attracted much more attention this year than usual. In fact, the same might be said of the gatherings of both the great parties in all the doubtful States as well as some that are not doubtful, this being the time of skirmishing premonitory of the coming struggle. The Republicans need no ghost come from the grave, or any other agency, to inform them that without New York they have no more chance of success than the Prohibi-

tionists or any other inferior aggregation save. And the Democrats are in the same position, notwithstanding their hope for one or two of the Middle States. New York being thus the indispensable quantity next year makes the preparations of each of the forces there now and the election next month loom up as matters of great moment.

The nominees and platform of the Empire State Republicans appear in the telegraphic columns of to-day's News, and both, it must be admitted, are somewhat above the standard. Col. Fred. D. Grant, eldest son of the late General, heads the ticket for Secretary of State (the Governor not being elected this year) and his associates are men of high character. The platform does something more than give voice to the regulation platitudes with which we are all so familiar. One plank assails what is termed the "treachery of President Cleveland" regarding the civil service law, and demands in lieu of "hollow pretenses" a "substantial and earnest reform" in that part of our public policy.

Just how or to what extent the change demanded could be brought about is not explained, probably for the reason that it cannot be. How could the President's plan be improved upon? Generalities will not do, we must have specifications, and to what particular case can the Republicans point in justification of their charges? It should be remembered that the civil service law goes only to the method and circumstances of an appointment, not to the personnel or politics of the appointee; so that, when a vacancy occurs through death, resignation or the expiration of a term, and an appointment to fill it is made, no matter how objectionable the new man may be to the opposing party, the law is not violated because it does not state in most cases what kind of man he shall be, except that he must have ability and good moral character. Yet the Republicans constantly charge bad faith because some of the places thus falling within the disposal of the appointing power are given to men of their way of thinking. This looks to us much more like "hypocrisy" than anything that has so far been traced to the national executive. Do these gentry expect him to consort with those who opposed his election and have ever since been opposing his administration and slandering himself? Would they look upon him as a consistent, sensible man if he took firebrands into his house or known enemies into his counsel? Scarcely. And yet, with all these things apparent, they bespatter what would in many respects be a tolerably clean and respectable piece of political work with an unalloyed-for, unproved, unjustifiable and out of place assault upon the chief magistrate.

The "demand" for something better, which they promise, is more quixotic than encouraging. Those who know of politics and politicians in this country will not be greatly misled by it. The Republicans were in uninterrupted power for twenty-four years, and during all that time the number of Democrats appointed to office could be counted on the fingers of one hand, and none of the administrations of that period were equal to the present one in point of freedom from suspicion of corruption or jobbery. This must be admitted because it is a fact and no one will doubt that if the Republicans should prevail in the Presidential contest next year, a clean sweep of all Democrats holding office will be made as fast as the guillotine can be operated. So putting this and that together, the denunciation of the things that be and the promise of an improvement all along the line "when we get there," has but the appearance of a diaphanous scheme to entrap the unwary.

## CULTIVATE GOOD GRAPES.

It does not appear to have dawned upon the people of this blessed section of the country that it is admirably adapted to grape culture. This opinion is justified by the fact that but little care has been taken to cultivate the finer kinds, which can be raised on the bench lands with remarkable facility.

In illustration of this we have seen some specimens produced in the orchard of Brother C. R. Savage, of the Twentieth Ward. They are of the species known as the Buckland Sweetwater. They are as delightful as any fruit of the kind grown in any part of the world. They are half hardy, and, with the exception of covering in winter, require, in cultivation, but little attention.

Such grapes could be sold by exportation in immense quantities, as the market for them exists all around. A considerable revenue would be the result. As it is, the trade is nearly monopolized by California. A ten acre lot devoted to the raising of the finer qualities of grapes would undoubtedly prove a paying investment. The poorer kinds should be supplanted by those that are more desirable as soon as the change can be effected.

## HONORING THE CONSTITUTION.

THE proceedings in progress in Philadelphia commemorative of the framing and promulgation of the Constitution

of the American Republic are eminently proper. The memory of the travail of the Goddess of Liberty and the birth of a new and brilliant era in the science of human government should be perpetuated by suitable national recognition.

The glorious instrument which proclaims the equality of all citizens before the law forms the basis of our institutions. In the Roman Republic, whose fundamental principles are not to be spoken of in comparison with the basic elements of our government, there was an understood rule, when it was in the height of its power—that it was the duty of each citizen to understand its constitution and the leading general laws of the Empire. It is one that should obtain in this nation, that there may be an intelligent conformation to the requirements of the palladium of our liberties, and that all may be in a position to defend its principles when they are assailed or infringed upon. The constitution is a compact entered into by the people who agree to be governed by it, and prescribes the relationship between the rulers and those who are subject to them. Its principal function is to preserve minorities from encroachment on the part of majorities. How essential this is in view of the natural disposition of the strong to take advantage of the weak. This sacred instrument forbids in its genius and letter the enactment of class legislation, or laws that do not bear upon all classes alike, and places the same ban upon unequal application of laws that are intrinsically proper. Under the supreme law of the land the people are the source of power, but even they, by sacred compact—the instrument itself—may not overstep the limits which the constitution defines. Familiarity with the conditions, limits prescribed by, and principles involved in the Constitution whose framing and promulgation are being fittingly commemorated at Philadelphia, is a gauge by which the intelligent citizen possessing fair powers of analysis can measure the heights and depths of great, and even small, public questions that, from time to time, agitate the country. Of this information it is his plain duty to possess himself. He should also aim to be a good citizen, not only by refraining from infringing upon any wholesome law, but by eschewing everything incompatible with truth and justice. No man who is inordinately selfish, immoral, or intemperate can be a good citizen, notwithstanding that many who exhibit those tendencies in their daily practice are the loudest praters about the glory of American citizenship. Such characters, by their example, debauch public sentiment and increase evil in the commonwealth. A man is a good citizen in proportion to the amount of good he produces.

## A MORE PACIFIC SPIRIT.

GENERALLY speaking the local indications are decidedly pacific. Elements of discord are being gradually subdued and a more consistent condition is the result. The class of citizens who are opposed to the introduction of religious strife into every channel of life are becoming more numerous, while those who delight in that species of turmoil are proportionately diminishing. They are at least decreasing in influence.

There are objects and pursuits that conduce to the welfare of all citizens without distinction; if a pacific sentiment, the result of tolerance and conciliation, prevails, there will be no obstacle in the way of attainment. Whatever lions may have lain in the pathway have been created, and therefore are subject to removal. They are, if we view the signs of the times aright, gradually disappearing. If this happier feeling remains uninterrupted and increases, a leading desideratum of all the people, without distinction, will be secured—an era of material prosperity the like of which has never before dawned upon Utah. The indications of a change in this regard are unmistakable.

The city and the surrounding country are daily growing in importance, and whatever will conduce to hasten their great destiny can be favored and aided by everybody who has the welfare of the whole at heart. In the language of the late General Grant—"Let us have peace." It appears to be dawning, and prosperity ought to follow.

## A LOCAL QUESTION.

Two communications were brought to this office to-day for publication in the News, both of which treated of an alleged taking by the people of the Twenty-first Ward of water belonging to those of the Eleventh Ward. One of them also contained a statement, which is given in another column, of the claim of the people of the latter ward to the waters of Red Butte creek. Nearly the whole of the other letter is devoted to the making of allegations respecting the difference about water existing between the people of the two

wards, and a discussion of that question. That communication is not given in these columns, for these reasons. It relates to a local question affecting only the inhabitants of a limited neighborhood; it would call forth a rejoinder and denial, and would likely lead to the creation of much ill-feeling; the dispute could not possibly be settled by any amount of newspaper discussion. There are other methods open to the disputants more direct and consequently more effective.

## ABOUT HOW IT WAS.

GOVERNOR ADAMS, of Colorado, says that he will always believe "that sending troops to Meeker prevented a general massacre. As a matter of course it would be almost too much to expect that His Excellency would admit that the taking of such a step, incurring a very large expenditure of means and ultimately considerable loss of life, was a useless one. It would be a very large amount of corn to acknowledge in one lump. The New York World appears, however, to hit the point squarely, in the following:

"When Indians start out to slaughter their enemies they do not take a large number of squaws and papposes with them. No matter what may be said of the State authorities of Colorado, it cannot be disguised that the recent attack on the Ouray Utes by cowboys and militiamen was unprovoked and cruel. The one fact that the Indians are to be paid out of their own money for the stock stolen by their enemies is sufficient to cast suspicion on all statements tending to excuse the actions of the white men."

## THE QUEEN PROROGUES PARLIAMENT.

QUEEN VICTORIA yesterday sent in a message formally proroguing Parliament for two months. Some of the uninformed may construe this as meaning displeasure on the part of Her Majesty, but it meant nothing of that kind. As a matter of fact, being from first to last and all the time a devoted Tory, she must look upon the labors of the session just ended with special approval, and upon the majority of that body with enduring admiration.

A question has arisen in this connection as to the terms of members of Parliament. The House of Lords, the upper branch of the law-making power, is composed of Peers, whose title is hereditary and whose tenure of office is good behavior, there being no expiration otherwise during the life of the Peer. The members of the House of Commons, or popular branch of Parliament, formerly sat for three years, but many years ago this was changed to seven years. They cannot resign unless they accept an office of profit under the crown. They "work for nothing and board themselves" as members. However, the Queen, who is as nearly as possible absolute when she determines upon so being, can dissolve as well as prorogue Parliament, and this is the Commons' official death.

It will thus be seen that Victoria is not at all displeased with what a great many people on both sides of the Atlantic will term the bad work of the prorogued Parliament, or else she would have put an end to it at once. To prorogue is simply to give a recess to the members, a little breathing spell, so to speak, that they may return to their work in November freshened up and invigorated for their labors. She makes a slight reference to Ireland, depicting the unfortunate condition of things there, but as usual suggesting no remedy for the evil, even when some of the landlords themselves are beginning to recognize the enormity of what Parliament has done for them, and are willing to make terms with the oppressed people who, after all, reside upon their own soil and will not be driven out into the elements without a struggle. She cannot endure Gladstone, and it looks at times as though she lent a too attentive ear to that gentleman's political opponents. Or, she may be acting on the principle suggested by the late General Grant, that the best way to secure the annulment of obnoxious laws is to enforce them vigorously. Whether that is the object in view or not, they are certainly being enforced in Ireland vigorously enough.

## THE VENEZUELAN TROUBLE.

THE telegraphic news a few weeks ago contained an item to the effect that the little but staunch Republic of Venezuela, in South America, was disposed to go to war with Great Britain because of the latter's encroachments upon her soil. It seems that the State Department at Washington has been very quietly but vigorously investigating the subject, and has developed the fact that said encroachments amount simply to an incursion. British subjects having come in in large numbers and taken possession of