

THE epidemic of lynching which has broken out in several parts of the United States has given rise to a warm controversy in the columns of the press. There is something fascinating about this rough-and-ready manner of administering justice by rule of thumb to settlers in newly-opened localities, the dimensions of which have grown more rapidly than their governmental institutions. The fears of "a long rope and a short shrift" have probably been strongly deterrent of crimes in such settlements pending the formation of proper tribunals of justice. But once these are established, no sentimental reason can be accepted in justification of outrages against law and order, nor can the mob be allowed to usurp the joint functions of judge, jury, and executioner, even though ordinary forms of justice may appear slow or faulty.

MANY a sportsman has acknowledged his inability to explain how some sorts of game live through severe winters. This subject is well treated in the current *Forest and Stream*. With a heavy fall of snow topped with a sharp crust, trees, seeds and buds covered with ice, it is difficult to see how winged game can live. Nor, in truth, do they. They simply die in such circumstances. The quail is the first to succumb, the wild turkey holds out longer, and the gamey grouse is the last to give in. This winter, however, the last-named beautiful bird lives well in patches of trees, on mountain slopes, and is indifferent to three-feet of crusted snow on the ground so long as the buds of the poplar and birch are not enveloped in ice. The fox rarely dies through the severity of a season, though he becomes fearfully emaciated. The mink and weasel manage very well, the former by fishing, the latter by mousing. The hybernating habits of the bear, skunk, woodchuck and 'coon are well known. The deer, unmolested by other enemies, is rarely beaten by hard weather alone, while the hare, the rabbit and the red squirrel can "snap derisive thumbs" at Siberian weather, with a heavy ice-crust thrown in.

THE controversy on the White Elephant waxes hotter on both sides the Atlantic, and so the "Prince of Humbugs" gets his latest acquisition more widely advertised than even he hoped. Professor Flower says the pink spots so much commented upon are patches of flesh-colour which show through owing to the absence of colouring pigment in the epidermis. That certainly is the recognized cause of similar marks in pigs, and an elephant is only a pig aggrandized, with the tusks enlarged and the snout greatly lengthened. Mr. John Guy Laverick, writing to the *London Times*, says the real white elephant is of a perfectly light tint all over, and offers to put Mr. Barnum in the way of procuring one. So that it would appear cream-coloured elephants do exist, that most "white" elephants are pink, that "Toung" has pink patches like a pig, and that he is, therefore, not a superior article.

"THE Happiness of Women" has of late received considerable attention in the correspondence columns of a section of the English press, provoked by a paper on the subject in a London review. An advanced civilization has already removed many extraneous causes of discontent and unhappiness among women, and it is a legitimate induction that their gradual raising in the social scale will further conduce to such happiness as is within reach. Physical causes have considerably contributed to the "unhappy disposition" referred to in the paper mentioned. The playground, the gymnasium, the cricket and hunting fields have always been recognized as necessary portions of boyish and manly education, whilst a mistaken prudishness until of late precluded girls and women, who really require more careful physical training, from developing the body. The very natural result has been the "discontent and unhappiness" bewailed. The over-sensitive nervousness which characterizes so many ladies is more the result of want of out-door exercise than of feminine weakness. Any medical man but a quack prefers to prescribe fresh air and exercise rather than tonics. One never hears of "discontent and unhappiness" in the sense referred to among fishwives who help their lords to discharge and sell their cargoes, or follow the amphibious pursuit of shrimping and mussel gathering. "Another woman" hits home when she writes—"a great cause of unhappiness in women—I mean in those fighting with real misfortunes—is their cowardice. Brought up to consider not merely right and wrong, but the opinion of the world, of their friends and relations, they submit tamely to evils from which a firm and persistent will would soon have freed them. Many an act which looks like self-sacrifice is, at the core, mere weakness, fear of the world, of the anger or annoyance of those who have no right to be either angry or annoyed. I think the first lesson to be taught our girls, like our boys, is to be afraid of nothing except doing wrong."

SIR WILFRID LAWSON is the self-elected comic man of the English House of Commons. He is further leader of the "local option" party, who would give power to two-thirds of any community to prohibit the sale of alcoholic liquor in their midst. He is, withal, an enthusiastic Radical. In the course of a speech the other day, *apropos* of aristocracy, Sir Wilfrid is reported to have said:—"He was not of that section of party men who attached themselves to a great man to be dragged through the dirt to dignity. He denied that he had sneered at a new Conservative candidate because he did not belong to a family of great antiquity. In the words of that unhappy man, the Poet-Laureate, on whom the great misfortune had lately fallen of being kicked upstairs to associate all his life with titled mediocrities, he said, in lines which would be remembered when the House of Lords had ceased to exist, that—

"Howe'er it be, it seems to me,  
'Tis only noble to be good.  
Kind hearts are more than coronets,  
And simple faith than Norman blood."

THE *London Spectator* is of opinion that Scotland has not sent first-rate men to the English Parliament since the Reform Bill. The *Scotsman* is very wroth at this statement, and in reply gives a long string of names of Scotchmen who have occupied important public positions during the period named. Amongst others the *Scotsman* gives Francis Jeffrey, the Right Hon. James Abercromby, Lord Campbell, Lord Macaulay, Lord Cardwell, Lord Aberdare, Sir J. Ferguson, Mr. Grant Duff, Mr. Joseph Hume, Mr. Baxter, and Mr. Trevelyan. But the *Spectator* responds that whilst it is most creditable to Scotch constituencies to send up such men, "first-rate men who rise to rule and who so sway Parliament that they are by themselves powers," were the sort referred to. Not one of those quoted by its contemporary was more than second-rate, except Macaulay, whose greatness was displayed in another field. Lord Cardwell, who might have been Premier, and Mr. Trevelyan, who may rise far beyond his present level, are both Englishmen, and do not come within the meaning of the *Spectator's* paragraph at all. On the other hand the English journal disclaims any intention of lecturing a country which is "politically the soundest of the three kingdoms."

A PROMINENT English weekly review, discussing the question of industry, refers to the popular view that black men are very lazy, average white men are lazyish, whilst the Englishman alone loves work for itself. This is palpably untrue. The Belgian or French peasant is more industrious than his English brother, and is a veritable glutton for remunerative work. The Englishman can get through a quantity of good work, but will not labour on Sundays—or even Saturday afternoons—like his continental fellow. Close observers are of opinion that Chinamen are by far the most industrious workers. The well-fed negro comes next, provided he is allowed holidays; the continental workman comes third; the average Englishman comes next; and the brown man is last. The Englishman, however, is approaching the brown man in a deliberate desire to limit his own industry. He considers more leisure better worth his while than more pay—a decision to which the brown man came two thousand years ago.

By its action in again refusing Mr. Bradlaugh permission to take his seat in the House of Commons, the English Tory party has further strengthened that notorious non-jurist's position. Despite the unpleasant theories with which his name is associated, the thrice-elected member for Northampton has equal parliamentary rights with the 228 gentlemen who voted that he be excluded from the precincts of the House. Outside a small, if clamorous following, Mr. Bradlaugh was a nonentity, and if he had been permitted to take his seat he would soon have found his level in oblivion. But the persecution of the Opposition and a few bigoted Whigs have gained for him the sympathy of many who cordially detest his doctrines, and has obtained for him and them a notoriety they could never otherwise have obtained.

A CORRESPONDENCE of more than usual importance to military men and sportsmen has for some time been going on in the columns of the English press. Mr. J. D. Dougall, the well-known Bennett-street gunmaker, stoutly maintains that target-practice will never make a good shot on the field of battle or of sport. "Vernier" sights on military rifles for use in action, he says, are a mistake. He points to the fact that the English soldiers in the Boer war, though highly trained and armed with the most scientific weapons, could deliver no effective reply to the rough Africans, who were sportsmen from childhood. He suggests that military rifles be fitted with plain folding "leaf-sights" for distances up to 400 yards, and that beyond that range the common sense of the soldier be left to guide