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GEORGE E. DESBARATS,
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GETTING UNFASHIONABLE.

ten inches thick, was not only not guilty of murder, or manslaughter, but was actually not guilty of a *voluntum assault*, while if he had only struck the man with his fist and given him a black eye, the Recorder would probably have given him his choice of paying ten dollars, or going to goal for two months. This spirit of injudicious clemency has also lately appeared in England, and in fact appears to be spreading everywhere where capital punishment laws exist.

The favourite plea on which murderers are acquitted is insanity. The murderer coolly, calmly and deliberately shoots down his victim; he then "behaves in a strange manner," two or three quack doctors "interview" him for an hour or so in goal, and then come into court and by dint of using lots of hard words persuade the jury that the murderer is insane "at the time of the murder." He is then either acquitted at once or another farce is enacted: that of sending the murderer to a Lunatic Asylum, where he remains for a short time and then the doctor of the establishment pronounces him "cured" and he is discharged.

Now, we are not by any means blood-thirsty, and would rather that two guilty men escaped than that one innocent man, or lunatic, should be executed; but we think that when it comes to so ridiculous a pass as that it should be claimed that every murderer is insane, it is high time that a change should be made in the law.

Nothing has gone out of fashion, and it would be better if the criminal law was expunged from the statute books and some punishment attached to the crime of murder, which would be carried out. We do not believe in capital punishment; we believe with Bulwer that "the worst use you can put a man to is to hang him;" but, we believe as long as there is a law on the statute book, in having it executed, and when it has become inoperative through public apathy or a laxity of public morals, then it is time to expunge it and substitute for it one which can be carried out. There seem to be two primary reasons why capital punishment is going out of fashion; First, public opinion is gradually growing stronger and stronger against it; and as education increases so the feeling seems to increase that it is poor policy to hang a man. Secondly, as the power of the press increases and as newspapers become more and more generally read so it becomes more and more difficult—in fact almost impossible—to get an intelligent jury; for in order to qualify himself as a juror a man has to swear that he is such a fool that he does not read a newspaper. It, therefore, happens that the jury, in most cases, is either composed of friends of the prisoner's who "swallow the oath," for the sake of acquitting their friend; or of a lot of ignorant bores who have "formed no opinion" simply because they are totally incompetent to form any opinion at all and are swayed entirely by the lawyer who happens to strike them as the most eloquent, or who is best known to them. There seems to be a radical error in the formation of a jury for the trial of murder cases, and that portion of the law ought certainly to be amended; we think, also, that it would be far better to abolish capital punishment and substitute flogging and imprisonment. Greater care should also be taken that in cases of insanity, the lunacy of the prisoner should be fully proved, and due provision made for having him placed in a Lunatic Asylum for a proper period.

crowd. He was committed for trial at the next Assizes, and was sent back to jail under a strong escort. The papers found on prisoner were evidently his own work, and from the manner of their construction, the peculiar nature of the assault, the fact of the pistol being unloaded and perfectly useless if it had been charged, as well as the general bearing of the prisoner, it is believed by almost every one that he is insane, or at least labouring under a temporary mental derangement.

This is the fourth attempt to assassinate the Queen—if this can really be called an attempt to assassinate;—the first being made in 1840 by a crazy lad named Oxford; the second in 1842 by John Marcy who was sentenced to be hanged, but whose sentence was afterwards commuted to transportation; the third attempt was made by John W. Bean who was let off with 18 months imprisonment. The news of the attack caused great excitement in England, but it quietly subsided as soon as the facts of the case became generally known.

A ROW IN THE HOUSE.

"FREE-TRADERS" AT LOGGERHEADS.

Now there is a row. Now the switch which has been so long in pickle must come out, and somebody must feel the effects of it. Now the lion roareth and the windgoddo mourneth for his first-born. Now free-traders stand aghast, and eye each other doubtfully, and weep over falling from grace of free-traders who have voted for free trade.

"The Democrats," says the N. Y. *World*, "who voted on Monday in the House of Representatives to repeal the duties on tea and coffee are uniting to the representatives and the guides of the Democracy of the United States." Let them put that in their pipes and smoke it; and if they want to cut and come again, here's at them further: "All honor to the Democrats who voted against the repeal of the tea and coffee duties, and so were faithful to the interests of 40,000,000 consumers." If still unsatisfied, let them go yet further and read: "The vote of any Democrat, wherever he is, whatever his past history, to repeal the tea and coffee tax, is either the vote of an ignorant, or the vote of a protectionist's conscious or unconscious tool."

And now may we pause awhile to ask, Why all this anger? Why these hard words? Why these cruel taunts and breathing out of threatening and slaughter? Why, the thing is already explained; certain free traders have voted for free trade. Ah! but then you see, it wasn't the right kind of free trade. It was not a free trade that destroyed a portion of the industry of the country, and assisted the outlet of capital to three operatives out of seven, and shut the factories, and tended to cause public distress and bankruptcy. It was found that the revenues of the United States were larger than the public good demanded; whereupon some patriotic person said: "Let us give the people free tea and coffee; it will save \$19,000,000 of taxation, and the treasury can bear that loss." But do the free traders like that? Oh! no; not at all. If they could take the duty of iron, now, and shut up every blast furnace in the country, and to a large extent the rolling mills and machine shops, they would please the free traders; at least the men who head the free trade movement, and who pay out their money so freely to send lecturers out to preach free trade and print picture papers to show how heavily the tariffs fall upon each article of consumption. But, there were in the House sundry honest and uncalculating free traders who called a spade a spade, and supposed that free trade was wanted simply to lighten the burden of taxation and not on account of the harm it could be made to do; and these in their honesty voted for the abolition of the duties on tea and coffee. How honestly they have voted they now know. But it is too late; the law is passed, and unless something can be done in the Senate, the duties will be forever gone to the extent of 19 millions of dollars annually, and not a single home industry will have been destroyed!

At such a calamity as that well may the *World* insert a double headed leader reading these recent wretches out of the party.—*Hamilton Spectator*.

EPITOME OF LATEST NEWS.

CANADA.—The Directors of the National Bank. Quebec propose to increase its capital to two millions of dollars—double its present capital.—Belgian emigrants have lately arrived in large numbers at Quebec, and have found employment on the streets of the city at \$1 per day.—A farmer named Bernard Lennon was drowned at Kingston on 8th ult. by walking into a trench which had been cut round one of the stone pillars. He leaves a wife and seven children in poor circumstances.—The petition for the release of Grace Marks, who has been confined in the Penitentiary for nearly 20 years, has been very largely signed, and will be presented to the Governor on the opening of Parliament.—The Irishman of Kingston intended celebrating St. Patrick's day with more than usual splendour.—A proclamation will soon be issued inviting the people of Canada to observe the 15th of April as a day of thanksgiving for the recovery of the Prince of Wales. The Dominion Government have followed the example of the Imperial Parliament in this matter in writing and Parliament was called together.—The contract for the building of the North Shore Railway is now signed, and active preparations are being made to commence the work. It is expected that towards the end of the month the surveying party will be fully at work. The energy displayed in preparing the contract has already increased the value of real estate. In St. John's there are instances in which property has advanced 50 per cent. in value. Rents have also an upward tendency in other parts of the city of Quebec.—The National Hotel at Astoria was burnt on 5th inst. Loss about \$10,000.—Insurance \$1,000.—Quebec is to have a new Gas Company.—Ephraim Brown was so badly frozen at Kingston on 7th inst. that his arms and legs had to be amputated.—It is reported that the 27th Royal Irish Fusiliers, from Montreal who had been transferred to the 1st Regiment at Halifax.

UNITED STATES.—The large establishment of Jayne & Son, druggists, Philadelphia, was totally destroyed by fire on the 4th inst. The loss on the building is \$125,000, and nearly \$1,000,000 worth of stock was burnt or damaged by water. Two children, aged 2 and 4 years, were burnt to death at Saranton, Pa., on 1st inst.—The reply to Earl Granville's note on the Alabama claims was sent on 1st inst.—The trial of Mayor Hall for embezzlement commenced on 1st inst.—Just before leaving for the East the Japanese Embassy presented Mayor Medill, of Chicago, with \$5,000 for the relief of the poor of Chicago.—In the Senate, Mr. Schuyler has presented memorials from various parts of the United States, with 10,407 signatures, protesting against any amendment to the Constitution incorporating therein the recognition of God or Jesus Christ.—The body of C. McClelland, U. S. Deputy Marshal, was found on 2nd inst. 18 miles from Fox Point, Dakota, he having perished in the recent storm while pursuing an escaped prisoner.—A French named Willie Williams, living near Maricopa, Indiana, followed his daughter to Daleville, where she had gone to marry one Lamdey. He found the young woman at the house of a relative and cut her throat, killing her instantly.

He then shot himself twice in the mouth with a revolver, and was supposed to be mortal. He leaves a large family.

ENGLAND.—The Attorney-General has concluded his address in the Trenchard case; it lasted twenty-six days.—John Bright has written a letter to the Anti-Income Tax Association, in which he declares that only in a reduction of government expenditures can he see a chance for the abolition of the odious tax. He decries the condition of a real economist party, and advises the withholding of confidence from a government which cannot govern without taking 476,000,000 annually from the nation's industry.—Sir Charles Morland has applied for the appointment of a medical practitioner to examine the condition of the city on Tuesday evening caused by the falling of the stands and the moving of the great mass of people at 229, only two of which resulted fatally. Most of the injuries consisted of broken legs and ribs and the dislocation of other limbs and cuts.

FRANCE.—Prince de Joinville has been reinstated in his rank as admiral of the navy, and Duke d'Albe in his military rank as General.—The Committee of the Assembly has voted in favor of the restoration of their property to the Orleans Princes.—European Power, now having a commercial treaty with France, will shortly send to the Government at Versailles a protest against the passage of any bill imposing a tax on raw materials.—It is reported that two vessels of the line which have shown Bonapartist tendencies, have been removed from Paris.—The extension of the fortifications of Metz and Strasbourg has been decreed at Berlin.—It is reported that the Pope has offered the Pope the hospitality of France, and that Austria has tendered His Holiness Salzburg Castle for a residence.—A movement is on foot for the organization of a new Convention to revise the constitution of which will be the liberation of French territory from German occupation and the formation of a ministry pledged thereto. All constitutional questions to be shelved, until that day is accomplished.—The Count de Chambord was the most popular man in the Chamber.—The ex-Professor of the Department of the Euro has been tried for misappropriating 200,000 francs contributed by the Languedocian operatives for the relief of France after the war.

GERMANY.—A most shocking accident occurred in Frankfurt-on-Main, last inst. A building, in which a large number of persons resided, fell burying the inmates in the ruins. Fourteen persons have been taken from the debris.—The Emperor on Saturday made a distribution of donations to the Generals distinguished for their services in the late war.—The Thanksgiving Service for the restoration to health of the Prince of Wales, at St. Paul's Cathedral, in Berlin, was attended by His Majesty Emperor William, all the members of the Royal Family now in Berlin, and the different Foreign Ministers accredited to this Government. The health of the Emperor William is improving.

ITALY.—It is said that Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia, while in Rome recently on his way to Egypt, declared that if France made an attack upon Italy, the latter country would be defended by Germany.—It is now believed that the Pope meditates his departure for an early day. The archives and jewelry in the Vatican are being securely packed, so as to be in readiness for removal. It is said His Holiness will go to the city of Trent in the Tyrol.

AUSTRIA.—A Russian Spy has been detected at Lombardy, sketching the fortifications and commencing the plan of an invasion.—The International Society is reported to be organizing strikes with the object of preventing the International Exposition at Vienna. The Emperor Francis Joseph, by an Imperial Decree at Rome at an early date, has recognized the old Catholic Bishops, or opponents of the dogma of Papal Infallibility, as a portion of the Roman Catholic body of Austria.

INDIA.—General Brownlow telegraphs under date of 27th ult., that the Northern Powning chiefs have submitted bringing peace offerings, and binding themselves to peace with the usual oaths, ceremonies, and all captives have been recovered.

RUSSIA.—Baron Von Offenber, the new Russian Minister to the United States, has left for his post of duty.

SPAIN.—A decree has been issued for the formation of Provincial battalions of infantry.

WHY AMERICAN GIRLS WILL NOT BE HOUSE SERVANTS.

I have thought a great deal on the whys and wherefores of this subject. It has always seemed to me that, had I to choose between boarding in the places many "working girls" are obliged to board in, or "living out" in a clean, pretty home, with clean, wholesome food, and a pure atmosphere to breathe, I would not hesitate a moment to choose the latter. Now, to begin with all mistresses are not "heartless and selfish," no more than are all servants. I have often been much attached to those who have lived with me, and have made their womanly joys and sorrows my own; and I have lady friends who do the same. To be a "servant," under such circumstances, where a girl is thrown upon the world for a living, seems to me not so dreadful a thing. "But," some may reply, "I must share my room and bed with a person I don't like." Very true; but do not many working girls who board out have to do this to lessen their expenses, and with the added disadvantage of dirty surroundings and foul air? "But," say they, "we have our freedom after dark." Alas! what has involved to many a young, unprotected girl in a great city, it is not necessary for me to tell you. No right-minded mistresses—and there are many such—would be unwilling, in addition to your "evening and Sunday out," occasionally to give you extra privilege in this way, and that without waiting for you to beg for it.

But to be "a servant" you reply. I reply, who isn't a servant to somebody? Is not the teacher to his pupils' parents, who often drive him wild with their foolish requests? Is not the clergyman to his parish, who sit in judgment on his pork barrel and the number of his shirts, and allow him no possession of any kind undisturbed? Don't a lawyer have to spend his life in dodging? Are not lecturers tongue-tied, according to the latitude and longitude they happen to lecture in? Don't Editors as well as type-setters have to "mind their P's and Q's"? Are not all ladies servants to Fashion? All the brute creation stop gingerly lest some bigger beast will chew them up. So, if that is the trouble, we won't talk about being "servants," because up stairs and down stairs and in my lady's chamber we are all in the same line.

FANNY FERN.

THE POOR PERSON AT THE DOOR.

"A poor person at the door," says the servant, "and would like to see the lady of the house."

The girl does not say "beggar;" she describes him, so the mistress goes to the door, and meets the "poor person." His look is ugly, and his hat is crushed, and his face is puff, but he does not look like a laboring man. He is much poorer than any laborer—poor in health and strength and decency, as well as in pocket; but he has more command of language, and makes a bow that has a lingering remnant of elegance in it, as he asks you to "excuse his intrusion." Having excused his intrusion—and you would excuse the hot blast of whiskey from his clothes too, were that possible—you hear that he wishes to go to Albany, and has not the wherewithal; or that he has a fine business offer—it may be that of cashier in a bank, by the air with which

he speaks of it—in Boston, could he but get there; and you have such an extremely kind heart, that he knows you will assist him to the amount of twenty-five cents, upon which excellent example other kind ladies will do the same; and in his fine position, or in the arms and home of his affectionate brother, he will not only never forget your kindness, but will forward the amount loaned per post.

If you believe this fiction to be founded on fact, you are more credulous than I am; if you can say "No" to the modest request, you are master of your mind. His Albany is around the corner; the Boston situation is the retirement of the dirtiest bar-room near at hand, and the affectionate brother is a "whisky straight," and you know it very well. But though you can pass the professional beggar with his brazen bowl of "Please assist the on *Jarty night*," you can't shut the door on the fingers of this broken-down object. You give him the quarter, receive another bow, and he departs. Unhappy "poor person," who will never be any richer until he owes a grave.

Poor! Yes, poorest of the poor!—no home, no friends, no self-respect, no respect from any other all gone that makes a man a man; and gone for what? For the gratification of one mysterious craving—for the love of that burning staff that would scald your throat or mine as though it were boiling water. He has mortgaged his all for it, and the interest that he is paying is awful—his wealth, his health, his good-repute, his brains, and, for the last payment, his life itself. Poor indeed! poor beyond expression!

And to this any of us might come, strong as we feel, who should trifle with the intoxicating cup. And when we think of this, and when we look at the poor person trembling in his latters at the door, let us pray that whatever poverty may be our share, however humble may be our lot, however hard the toll that we must do, that the worst poverty of all may never fall upon us—the abject, disgraceful, lonesome poverty of the drunkard.

MARY KYLE DALLAS.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS.

A REMARKABLE peculiarity about the new volcano which has lately made its appearance in one of the Philippine Islands is that it broke out in the bottom of a valley.

PROFESSOR Paolo Mantegazza is about to publish a work entitled "Fasci della Natura Ummana Feste ed Ebbrezza," in two volumes, which will treat of the fact that man in every time and in every climate, seems to be subject to the necessary albuminous fluids seems to invent. A very step, so very important and some new stimulating agent.

In the *Moniteur Scientifique*, No. 133, Dr. P. Muller has a valuable paper "On Extracts of Meat Considered in a Physiological Point of View." Meat extract, he contends, are neither directly nor indirectly deficient in the necessary albuminous matter. If given alone, he says—and the same applies to beef-tee—the extracts only tend to retard the recovery of convalescences.

In 1690-91 a Dutch navigator named Barents wintered on the northern coast of the island of Nova Zembla. At this time East Greenland, Baffin's Bay and Belting's Straits were all unknown, and he had only just previously discovered Spitzbergen. A Norwegian fisherman last year discovered the log hut which he said he had wintered in. It was almost geometrically sealed by the ice, and the old tools, weapons, etc. found within and now transferred to Norway, are but slightly injured by it.

The blue gum-tree of Australia and the Malay Archipelago has been lately introduced into the south of France, where it flourishes as well as in its native country. It is a valuable source of food, and its qualities. The use of cigars made from them has been prescribed by Dr. Macleod of the English hospital at Netley, in cases where anti-spasmodic remedies are inadvisable—as such as spasms and aneurisms—with great success. In Germany, a tincture of the leaf has also been successfully used in the treatment of intermittent fever; and it is even asserted that it will prevent a relapse of this disease.

A curious fact in regard to creeping and twisting plants has been noticed by Mr. Anderson-Liery, and by him communicated to the scientific committee of the Horticultural Society. This is, that they will be attracted by certain species of clematis growing near them, and repelled by others. It has been observed in tropical forests, that the climbing vines seem to prefer certain kinds of trees, and to go far out of their way to reach them, at the same time avoiding other trees much nearer, and apparently more convenient.

A St. Petersburg physician has discovered that a decrease in the temperature of the body is accompanied by an increase in the size of the red corpuscles of the blood. Thus, exposure to cold, and the internal use of alcohol, both lower the body temperature, and enlarge the red corpuscles; while exposure to heat, and the inhalation of an atmosphere overcharged with carbonic acid gas, both of which tend to increase the temperature, contract the corpuscles. An exception to this general law is also mentioned as a suggestive coincidence, the occurrence of a beautiful aurora borealis on the evening of the same day.

The explosion on the sun, which was observed by Prof. C. A. Young of Dartmouth College, on the 7th of September last, was in some respects the most remarkable solar disturbance on record since the short space of half an hour, an immense protuberance of cloud—consisting of hydrogen gas—on the eastern edge of the sun, increased in height from about 100,000 miles to nearly 300,000 miles. The velocity of its ascent was 166 miles per second, which also exceeds any other such motion as yet observed. Young speaks of the motion of this vast red hydrogen cloud as almost perceptible to the eye, and says that the whole phenomenon, as observed by him, suggested to him a vast forest of trees, which he also mentions as a suggestive coincidence, the occurrence of a beautiful aurora borealis on the evening of the same day.

It is well known that large volumes of water are continually pouring into the Mediterranean, not only through the various rivers which empty into it, but from the Black Sea and through the Straits of Gibraltar into the Atlantic. As there was no apparent outlet, and the sea never seemed to get over full, it was conjectured that there must be a powerful underground flowing out through the Straits of Gibraltar. This is said to have been verified by the experiment of a certain sea captain, who lowered a basket of stones in the straits, which soon encountered an outgoing current that carried the basket forward with such force as to tow his boat against the upper current. During his late dredging expedition in the Mediterranean, Dr. Carpenter also investigated the matter, and found the captain's report to be substantially correct.

AS OLD-FASHIONED MOTHER.—Thank God some of us have an old-fashioned mother—not a woman of the period, enamelled and painted with her great origin, her curls and bottines, whose white jewelled limbs had never felt the clasp of baby fingers, but a dear, old-fashioned, sweet-voiced woman, with eyes in whose depths the love light shone, and brown hair, threaded with silver, lying smooth upon her faded cheek. These old hands were worn with oil, which served not only to soften the skin, but to prevent any pillow in sickness. Blessed is the memory of an old-fashioned mother. The music of other voices may be lost, but the entrancing memory of her will linger on our ears over the ages. The light of her eyes will be forgotten, but hers will shine on until the light from heaven's portals shall glorify our own.

HOUSE INTERIORS.—Domestic miseries cannot always be concealed by the victims of them; they lie open to the gaze of all who cross the afflicted threshold. But they do not concern the outer world. The outer world has no right to look on them. Visitors should not see them, even when their dismal forms come boldly into view, and visitors should bear off no memory of them to exhibit to others. The joy of a household may be proclaimed far and wide, its weakness, its afflictions, its sorrows, and its miseries possess a bitter sanctity that every sensitive and honourable soul will religiously respect.

As no day is without some clouds, so no fortune is without some shadow.