

of the Years of Destruction too, the majority behaved with almost dumb docility. Attempts at robbery and individual violence occurred but rarely, and were speedily put down. As there were no sufficient means of imprisoning culprits, death became the recognized penalty for all offences, and the method of trial was much simplified—witnesses met as judges, and their verdict was carried out, whether there were three or a dozen.

Virtually, we have abolished degrees in crime, much to the advantage of the community. Why one measure should be meted out to a murderer and another to a thief, both being criminal in intent, we cannot now understand. Nobody regrets when a thief is drowned (our new way of executing outlaws); we reflect with satisfaction that one more breeder of bad men has gone to his doom. Some such system was once before in vogue, and it was stigmatized by the name of its reputed author as Draconian, but it was doubtless an excellent one, solidly founded on the doctrine of heredity, in those days well understood, and suited to the times.

The government now allots to each of us his tasks. Laziness in their performance disentitles one to participate in the general distribution of necessary and sufficient food and clothing, which is made by the government officials at the public stores. Since, therefore, starvation swiftly follows on idleness, drones cannot exist.

It may be worth noting that money of all kinds is prohibited, lest there should be debt, a form of bondage from which we are happily free. We shall never again witness the sad scenes of the spring of 1894, when thousands starved outside the walls of grain elevators crammed with the most abundant supplies of food the world had ever known!

Activity, whether in art, science or manual labor, brings merit marks which permit of a cessation of labor at five, ten, or more years before reaching

the age of seventy, after which no man is held to work, but has to join the governing bodies. Decisions are there arrived at in secret sessions, at which none but the members can be present and of which none may reveal the deliberations. Of course there are no constituencies to be considered, nor shall we ever return to the insane system—the product of the confusions of the middle ages—under which rulers used to be elected by the votes of the whole people, most of whom could know little of the principles or requirements of government.

The authorities having at first built large barracks, and many people who had lost their all having been billeted on those who in favored regions retained their houses without much injury, we came to adopt a system of living in municipal houses, if I may so call them, something after the old system of the Southern Indians. It would be useless to enlarge on this subject, for we all know the happy state at which we have arrived—without jealousies as to standing, wealth or other superiority.

We have gone through incredible miseries, lost half our population, but our misfortunes have purified us in body and in mind. I was about to say soul—but we have ceased to think about souls. We hold that there is this in common between the soul and the liver, that neither needs attention until it is out of order.

We found that rival creeds could not peaceably co-exist in our communities, so we prohibited discussion about the unknowable, and it is wonderful how soon people came to adopt the reasonings of natural religion when the supernatural was discarded.

We have given up caring for posthumous fame as well as for contemporary reputation, seeing in both but pride or vanity.

Rewards are the natural and lawful result of earnest endeavor, and as they now follow merit without old fashioned "interest" exercised by family in-