

The murderers, John and George Stephenson, were hung at Regina last week for a murder committed in June of last year. The guilt of the men was undoubted, and they made a full confession of their crime on the gallows. Yet they hoped to escape up to the very last, through the active efforts of able lawyers. As it was they escaped punishment for almost a year, much in consequence of the tardiness of the legal authorities, and of the skill of the legal gentlemen fed to assist them. Such long delays in administering justice have a most demoralizing effect, and in every instance there should be a searching enquiry why a delay was necessary at all—or if there was a delay without any necessity for it. The legal gentleman and the dilatory legal officials are much more responsible for much of the lynch law outrages than they are willing to acknowledge. The facts ought to be thoroughly ventilated.

The question of women's work and wages is not to be settled in our generation. Every day's newspaper contains some complaint of inadequate pay or unfair treatment on the part of the employers, with an implied appeal to the humane public to right the wrong. No doubt there is a certain foundation for the protest. Women are the weaker side in the controversy, and the weakest must go to the wall. But no close observer of the feminine habit of mind can fail to have been struck with a certain air of condescension which most women maintain toward their work, and which explains, in a degree at least, their discontent. Men take up their business, be it hard or easy, pleasant or hateful, with a matter-of-course determination to accomplish it which ignores its quality altogether. Women sigh over theirs, lament the hard necessity which brings them to it, patronize it as not quite worthy of their attention, and are always looking over the edge of it toward a free beyond.

Writing in regard to the closing of the late session of the Ontario Legislature the *Montreal Witness* says:—"The Lieutenant-Governor's speech mentions the act confirming the agreement with Manitoba, by which the question of the boundary award is referred to the Privy Council for decision. The election law has been amended so as to make bribery more difficult. A contagious disease act was passed, and a factory act requiring machinery to be guarded from possible contact with employees, and making other provisions for the safety of operatives, was passed. The License Act has been more restrictive, and the penalties for violation has been increased. A fair amount of work has been done this session by the Ontario Legislature, but the Government has probably been strengthened more by the corruption of its enemies than by the useful work which has been done."

The United States government may yet find abundant reason to regret its supineness in regard to the Irish dynamite demonstrations so long tolerated in the country. Men of a vicious stamp are becoming familiarized with the idea that dynamite may be used as legitimate and

effectual means of revenge for real or supposed wrongs, and it may become a dangerously common idea to use it on enemies at home as well as abroad. What if the dynamiters should take it in their heads to dynamite some of the public buildings of the United States as well as of England or Canada? There are rumors that balls filled with the terribly dangerous explosive were thrown about during the late Cincinnati riots, and that a part of the very serious destruction of property was brought about in that way. It may be but a drop before a shower. Let brutal and ignorant men get accustomed to the idea of using dynamite whenever real destruction is desired, and a time of terror may soon come.

The statement that a plot has been discovered to destroy the principal Dublin prison by dynamite should be received with some reserve. It is, moreover, exceedingly improbable that such a discovery would lead the Government to transfer the Irish Invincibles from the gaol in question to some of the English prisons. The incarceration of a lot of violent dynamiters in the Tombs would be one of the best guarantees that that edifice could have of its immunity from explosions. The British Government thoroughly appreciates this view of the matter, having held ever since the Westminster affair that the Houses of Parliament were perfectly secure as long as the Home Rulers retained their seats.

When first proposed as a means of disposing of our poor frail bodies, cremation was looked upon with little short of horror by the generality of people. Things have changed since then, and cremation bids fair to become, at no very short distance of time, the universal custom. Such improvements have been adopted in the construction of crematories, that complete combustion is secured, without the loss of any of the constituents of the body, and the method of transferring the body to the furnace and preserving the ashes for the friends, is divested of every disagreeable feature. The question of cremation is a topic of discussion in our leading journals and magazines, and with few exceptions is now very favorably regarded. It is more economical than our present system, it is certainly superior, from a sanitary point of view, and it does away with the fear of grave desecration, and the dread of burial alive.

Foreigners in China, according to the Pekin correspondent of the *Pull Mall Gazette*, makes a great outcry about the stupidity of the Chinese in holding out against railways. Chinese do hold out against railways, and they are quite right, he says, in doing so. They feel that to introduce railways at present would be to flood the country with foreign engineers, contractors, managers, machine mechanics, engine drivers, &c., and once there the Chinamen fear that they would never leave, but get a hold on the country, and that China would become a second India and pass under foreign rule. Rather than have the foreigner they go without the railway, and bide their time. Railways and all the rest will come as soon as they can make and manage them

without help. Coming up to Pekin from Tientsin he was surprised to look out of his boat and see telegraph posts stretching along the country, and learned that there had been a telegraph established between Tientsin and Tung Chou, a place fifteen miles from the capital. It was erected under foreign supervision, but is worked entirely by Chinamen. China feels herself competent to work a telegraph, and has it, not only from near Pekin to Tientsin, but from Tientsin onward to a river port near Shanghai. As soon as China feels that she can work a railway the railway will come. A great deal that is said about China being ready for railways is premature. There is hardly a place in the north of the empire where a railway would pay. What China wants first is good roads. After some ten or fifteen years of good roads an intercommunication traffic will spring up which will call for railways, but at present no such traffic, except, perhaps, on one route, has been developed and a railway, if built to-morrow, would stand rusting its rails in idleness.

It is not so much surprising as humiliating to observe how strongly what we call the supernatural impresses mankind, even in these days of enlightenment and progressive discovery. In the days of our ignorance it was inevitable that this dread should be great and universal. There was really very little to illumine the human understanding and to suggest for its consideration that the unknown is not necessarily unknowable. Until within what must be deemed recent days, no single discovery of any magnitude had been made except the magnet and the mariner's compass; and, although these objects, with their phenomena, might have been held to point to the solution of other mysteries, they did not at first seem to imply or involve nearly so much as they are now seen to involve and imply when regarded in the light thrown upon them by other inventions. Now however, in the broad light of science, with all we know of the recently unknown and all that our present knowledge shadows forth, it is a shame to our nature that we are not rather eager to solve the enigma than scared at the remaining mystery of the supernatural. For the purposes of amusement the lore of demonology and witchcraft may be preserved or even dressed up in a new form under the name and guise of "Spiritualism"; but it is discreditable to sane and fairly strong minds that a lingering dread of the supernatural should be found to haunt the chambers of imagery, that there should not only be credulity, but actual dread in relation to subjects which probably have no existence outside the consciousness of those who are oppressed and worried by them, and, if they had, should wholly lack the power to disturb or affright. As for "authenticated ghost-stories," there are legions of such narratives extant, and, for aught TRUTH knows, a considerable proportion of them may be true—that is relations of fact, so far as those by whom they are related are concerned. That objects—call them "apparitions" if any one pleases—have been seen or heard TRUTH does not for a moment doubt or deny, but in such a manner, and in such manner only, as flashes of light

have been seen before the eyes of persons who have been struck on the head or whose brains have been over-stimulated, and in such manner as sounds are heard in sleep, or even when in the act of awakening, or even wide awake but abstracted, as it were, and in a condition to be misled by impressions on the sense of hearing. We will go further, and admit that there may be influences which our mind—or our brain—can exert on another, sympathetic disturbances which one nervous system may set up in another. The possibility of such intercommunication between similar organisms is evident, just as one reed instrument will affect another. We can understand all this, and we can believe that much that will hereafter be discovered may be very surprising and as marvellous to us, if we could anticipate the discoveries of future ages, as the telegraph would have been to our benighted ancestors if they had lighted upon it; but that there is nothing supernatural—that is, above and beyond nature in the sense of being disconnected from it—we are assured, not because the thing is impossible, but because the whole harmony of creation and the philosophy of science combine to render the conjecture that anything supernatural exist, needless and absurd. Rest assured we are integral parts of a vast whole which is the sum of the forces we see and feel at work within and around us, and which neither stultifies the initial principles of its development in its highest phase nor consummates its perfection in discord.

Another of those terribly disastrous cyclones passed through parts of the State of Indiana last week. The village of Oakville, consisting of about thirty houses, is reported to have been swept out of existence. Four persons were killed and a number wounded. At another village, Reynoldsburg, several houses. At Pittsburg a good deal of damage was done, and a wire mill was wrecked, seriously injuring some of the workmen. In another county four persons were reported killed and twenty-two injured by falling buildings. Trees were prostrated across a railway track and an express train thrown off in consequence. To reach the climax a telegram from Huntsville states that: "A baby was carried several miles in the woods where it was found alive this morning." At this distance it looks as though there must be some terrible lying as well as terrible wind down South. These destructive cyclones appear to be growing more frequent and more disastrous in the South and West. Three disastrous ones have been reported within a month.

When once a start is made in applying the principle of protection it appears a difficult matter to decide when and where to stop. That fact is becoming more and more evident in the United States each year. At first the decision was to protect manufactured articles so as to encourage home industry allowing raw material of all kinds to enter free, but the lines have kept widening out and interest after interest has been clamoring for protection and received it too. In the beginning the idea was that by the protection of infant industries they would