

THE FAVORITE

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"THE FAVORITE"

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A DISTINCTION WITH A DIFFERENCE.

The redoubtable Captain Jack and five of his Modoc warriors who took part in the murder of Gen. Canby have after due trial been found guilty and condemned to death. The sentence will be carried out at Fort Klamath on the 3rd proximo. The result of the trial has given unlimited satisfaction in the States, but in this country it has met with very general disapproval if not with absolute censure. This, we think, is somewhat unreasonable. But there is a disposition among writers for the Canadian Press to make the least of the doings of our neighbors; though after all in this they only follow in the steps of our American cousins, whose want of appreciation of the doings of their transatlantic brethren is notorious. The Canadian Press, so far as has come under our attention at the time of writing, seems to be unanimous in condemning the execution of the Modocs. Why? Because the prisoners "voluntarily entered the camp of their enemies" and "surrendered." They had, it is argued, only been fighting for their hearths and homes, and in the first instance had been compelled to take up arms in consequence of the unjust treatment to which they had been submitted. We are perfectly willing to admit that the Modocs have been harshly treated, and were in great measure justified in resorting to arms to secure their rights. But we utterly fail to see that there was any justification for the murder of Gen. Canby. So long as the Modocs confined themselves to legitimate warfare they were entitled to fair treatment under the rules of war. But when they descended to mere assassination they deserved only the fate of ordinary assassins. This is not, however, the point upon which it is our intention more particularly to dwell. While the Modoc chiefs are suffering the extreme penalty of the law for the murder of the man whom they looked upon as their lawful victim, some half-dozen convicted murderers are lying in New York gaols under sentence of — simple imprisonment. Murder in the streets of New York, committed under comparatively small provocation — frequently none whatever — is one thing. Murder committed on the Lava Beds of the West by a parcel of half-tamed, uncivilized savages smarting under a sense of injury and oppression, is a totally different matter — a crime deserving of extreme punishment. If the ignorant Modocs are to suffer the extreme penalty, justice and common sense demand that the far viler criminals in the Tombs should meet with the full measure of their reward. Unhappily, according to the dictates of American justice a distinction in the rank or social position of the accused seldom fails to imply a difference in the manner in which the law will deal with them.

"NO BLAME ATTACHES TO THE COMPANY'S SERVANTS."

Nearly all the accounts of railway accidents that occur these days are supplemented with the assurance contained in the above words. And yet how often, one is inclined to wonder, is the assertion really true. Not, we venture to say, in seven cases out of ten in which it is used. We do not wish to be understood to say that railway managers are in the habit of systematically shirking the responsibility of accidents which occur on their lines, though this is unfortunately too frequently the case. But many railway disasters are undoubtedly due to causes which do not come under the eye of the authorities. A careless workman lays a rail insecurely. By constant wear and tear the rail is loosened; some day a heavily laden train passes by, displaces the rail, and a terrible smash is the result. An over-worked telegraph operator, worn out by long hours and close attention to his business, falls asleep over his instrument. Instructions reach him on which hang the lives of scores of human beings. They convey no meaning to his drowsy senses, and pass unheeded. Next day we read in the morning papers of a "Frightful Railway Accident, Forty Persons Killed, and Twice That Number Injured." An inattentive signalman neglects his lookout, with the same result, or an intoxicated conductor runs his train deliberately to destruction. Yet in many cases of accidents which have been traced to such causes we have been assured that "no blame attaches to the company's servants." Subsequent investigation has proved that the entire blame rested either on the railroad officials or on the company that overworked its employees. Of course so long as men are not perfect there will always be negligent servants. But there can be no doubt that the most fruitful cause of railroad disasters is drunkenness. It is a fearful thing to consider the load of responsibility that frequently rests on an intoxicated and incapable engine-driver or conductor. The incomprehensible thing is that the public should have allowed matters to take their own course so long without insisting that precautions should be taken to preclude the possibility of accidents arising from such a cause. No sane man would think of committing his health to the charge of a physician with whom indulgence in intoxicating liquors was a habit. And yet we are contented to go on from year to year calmly entrusting our lives to the care of men of the indulgence of some of whom we only too frequently have practical demonstration. We are glad to see that at last an effort is being made to insure perfect sobriety among railway employees. Strange to say the originators of the movement do not belong to the travelling public. The railway men themselves have had their eyes opened to the immense importance of securing sober and trustworthy servants, and, more wonderful still, have begun to act. A circular has been lately addressed by Mr. Spicer, of the Western district of the Grand Trunk, to the higher officials in his department in which after detailing the disadvantages arising from the employment of persons prone to intoxication, he asks their co-operation in inaugurating a temperance system among the employees of the road. Mr. Spicer evidently understands the importance of example as well as precept, for he himself pledges himself to total abstinence, and invites those whom he addresses to do the same. If his invitation is accepted, the example of the employers will doubtless be speedily followed by the employed, and we may look for the commencement of a new era of comparative immunity from railroad disasters. In time we have no doubt that strict temperance will be the rule with the officials of the line. The result must be a great decrease in the number of accidents; but should accidents occur as they will in the best laid out arrangements both of mice and men, there will without doubt be more truth than there has ever hitherto been in the stereotyped corollary "No Blame Attaches to the Company's Servants."

NEWS CONDENSED.

THE DOMINION—The Prince Edward Island nominations take place on the 10th Sept. and the polling on the 17th.—The Royal Commission held two preliminary meetings the week before last and adjourned until the 4th September. Mr. Walter Vankoughnet, of Toronto has been appointed Secretary to the Commission.—It has been decided not to begin the work of deepening the channel between Quebec and Montreal till next season. Three years are to be spent on the undertaking.—Sir Robert Hodgson has been appointed Administrator of the Government of Prince Edward Island.—The \$36,000 Prince Edward Island land damage debentures, recently reported as lost, have turned up in a broker's office in Halifax, where they had been left by the late Provincial Secretary of the Island.—More immigrants arrived in Canadian ports this year than during the same period in 1872, and the probability is that the returns at the close of this season will show a large increase in the population of the Dominion from this source. The settlers come from the United States as well as from Europe.

UNITED STATES—An English and Scotch colony is about to be founded in Kansas by a gentleman who has bought a county for the purpose.—The United States Secretary of State, in a communication to Secretary Richardson upon the subject of seal oil under the Treaty of Washington, says it was understood by the American Commission to negotiate the Treaty of Washington that seal oil was not to be regarded as fish oil.—A second party of Menonites, numbering fifty persons, arrived in New York last week.—Another river steamboat disaster is reported from Helena, Ark., by which several lives were lost.

UNITED KINGDOM—It is reported that a plot has been discovered in Newgate to release Austin Bidwell and his companions, the Bank of England forgers, by corrupting the prison officials.—Another railroad accident has occurred. By a collision between a freight and an excursion train at Retford, on the Great Northern line, four persons were killed and fifteen injured, several beyond hope of recovery.—The London house-painters and decorators are on strike.—The difference between the Manchester iron-masters and operatives will probably be submitted to a committee of arbitration.—The new programme of the Irish Home Rule party is published. It includes the abolition of the office of Lord Lieutenant and the substitution of a Suzeraine, to have the nominal title of King; a triennial Parliament, and a law for the confiscation of the property of absentees.

FRANCE—Rochefort's fellow-convicts on board the vessel conveying him to New Caledonia have attempted to lynch him, considering his course as treasonable to the cause of the Communists. The officers of the ship were obliged to assign him quarters apart from the rest of the convicts.—It is stated that Prince Jerome Napoleon's formal demand for restoration to his rank as General of a division in the French army means far more than appears upon the surface of it.—The Paris *Opinion Nationale* says the negotiations looking to a fusion of the Conservatives of the Assembly with the Legitimists in the interest of Count de Chambord, have suddenly come to an end in consequence of differences upon the question of a national flag.—The Minister of Commerce states in a private letter that the differential duties upon grain imported into France in American and other foreign vessels will continue to be collected until the first of October.—Prince Napoleon has been elected President of the Council General of Corsica by a majority of 30 votes. In accepting the position he delivered an address to the Council recommending that its proceedings be confined to matters of departmental interests.—At a meeting of the members of the Left last week, it was decided to seek the support of the Left Centre to prevent the success of the plans of the Fusionists and Legitimists for the re-establishment of the Bourbon monarchy.—At a banquet given by the Prefect of the Department of Eure in honor of the Duc de Broglie, the latter in replying to a toast gave his views on the situation. He said the Government of the Republic was engaged in a struggle, not against public opinion, but against those loose principles which threaten to put an end to social order. The struggle was a perilous one; it might be a long one, and it would require, in support of the Government, the efforts of all honest citizens of the Republic. The problem which the situation presents is soon to be solved by the National Assembly without passion and without the influence of personal sympathies. He delivered high encomiums upon the character of President McMahon, whose private life he called a "model of honor." It was good fortune for France to have such a President as McMahon, whose loyalty to his country is above the ties of party. "Let us rally around him." He alluded in kind terms to ex-President Thiers, to whom, however, he thought the Assembly had manifested ample gratitude for his great services.

SPAIN—On the whole things are beginning to look up for the Republicans. In the early part of last week, it is true, a desperate engagement took place near Berga between a force of two thousand Carlists and three columns of Republicans, which resulted in the defeat of the latter with a loss of two hundred men and a gun. A day or two later, however, the Republicans had their revenge. In a battle which also took place in the neighbourhood of Berga, the Carlists were routed, with a loss of 90 killed and 300 wounded, among the latter Generals

Savalls and Tristany. The siege of Berga was immediately raised, and the Carlist force put off in full retreat. In the north-east a Republican army numbering 12,000 men, under General Sanchez Bregua, has entered Bilbao, the Carlist force of occupation retiring before them without offering battle. From the north the Government has received advice stating that the troops of the enemy are discouraged and insubordinate. On the other side we learn that the Carlist troops, who now number 28,000 men, have again invested Berga, and are organizing for a movement on Madrid, and will be ready to start in October.

PLANTS IN SLEEPING ROOMS.

BY H. C. KEDZIE.

A great deal of nonsense originates with people who think, but do not observe. They take hold of what is really true and imagine a great deal more, by means of which they build up a tolerable "bugaboo" at which people who trust to the learning of the builders get very much frightened. Thus it is known that plants give off carbonic acid gas at night, and straightway arises a commotion as to the danger of having them in sleeping rooms at that time.

The quantity that they give out is so small that it does not compare in a slight degree with what human beings give out. We venture to say that a sleeping infant would exhale more carbonic acid in one night than a hundred hot-house plants, yet whoever suggested that the health of a mother was seriously affected by the baby resting in her arms? As to the injury from vegetation, those of us who have had to sleep at various times in the woods, with but green branches for a pillow, and the sweet wild green grass instead of a feather bed, know well after a few days of such experience, that it is the most health-giving of all luxuries, notwithstanding the "awful" amount of carbonic acid so much vegetation must give out every night. Surely if this is so injurious it ought to affect the lungs more especially than any other part of the system, yet the experience of army life is abundant that many a person, who, with lung disease, supposed he might as well "die for his country" in the woods and fields as "on a feather bed," and went into the war of the rebellion, was, if not wholly cured, much ameliorated by thus sleeping out amidst the carbonic acid of open-air vegetation.

Still facts and figures please most people. Gov. Holt addressed a letter to Prof. Kedzie, of the Michigan Agricultural College, recently on the subject. The professor replies at length. We make the following extract:

"Not to leave this matter in the condition of mere conjecture, I have gathered and analyzed specimens of air from a room where the influence of growing plants would be exhibited in a greatly exaggerated form. Thus, instead of taking the air from a room containing a few plants, I gathered it from the college green-house, where more than 6,000 plants are growing. I gathered the air before sunrise on the morning of April 16th and 17th; the room had been closed for more than twelve hours, and if the plants exhaled carbonic acid to an injurious extent, the analysis of air from such a room would certainly disclose this fact. The two specimens of air gathered on the morning of April 16th, from different parts of the room, gave 4.11, 4.00 parts of carbonic acid in 10,000 of air, or an average of 4.03 in 10,000. The two specimens of air gathered April 17th gave 3.80 and 3.80 of carbonic acid in 10,000, or an average on the whole of 3.84 parts of carbonic acid in 10,000 of air; while the outdoor air contains 4 parts in 10,000. It will thus be seen that the air in the green-house was better than "pure country air." This deficiency of carbonic acid was doubtless due to the absorption of carbonic acid and consequent accumulation of oxygen during daylight, since the windows of the green-house were closed day and night on account of the cool weather.

"To ascertain whether the air of the green-house had more carbonic acid by night than by day, I gathered two specimens of air in different parts of the house, at 2 o'clock P.M., April 17th. These gave one 1.40 and 1.38 parts of carbonic acid in 10,000, or an average of 1.39 parts, showing that the night air contained more carbonic acid than did the air of day.

"Now, if a room in which were more than 6,000 plants, while containing less carbonic acid than any sleeping room on this continent, we may safely conclude that one or two dozen plants in a room will not exhale enough carbonic acid by night to injure the sleepers.

"It is so easy to be deceived by a name! I lately saw an article showing the beneficial and curative influence of flowers in the sick-room. Instances were related where persons were cured by the sight and smell of flowers, and without question their influence is good. Yet flowers exhale this same carbonic acid both by day and by night! The flowers, by their agreeable odor and delicate perfume impart an air of cheerfulness to the sick-chamber which will assist in the recovery from lingering disease, notwithstanding the small amount of carbonic acid which they constantly exhale.

"The presence or absence of carbonic acid is not the only question in regard to the healthfulness of plants in a room. The state of moisture in the air of the room may become an important question, especially in the case of persons afflicted with rheumatic or pulmonary complaints. But I will not take up that subject."—*Gardener's Monthly*.