

that which represented Congress as contemplating a punishment no less severe than that of cancelling the bonding privileges of the railways, in return for any discrimination that might be practised against the vessels of the United States in the Welland Canal, when, as every one who knows anything about the matter knows, the discriminatory toll complained of was discontinued by the Canadian Government nearly a year ago. It is not likely that there is more foundation for the disquieting tales which are being circulated concerning the alleged action of British war-ships in landing marines at Bluefields in Central America, and afterwards, as alleged, making a "deal" for the possession of Corn Island in that neighbourhood. We do not suppose that Great Britain would be disposed to regard the fact that the United States own and occupy a large part of the American continent as giving the Republic any better right than any other nation to interfere with the affairs of any independent people on the same continent. But it is in the last degree likely that she would trample in any way the supersensitiveness of her American offspring, save to accomplish some end of justice, humanity, or self-protection, such as could hardly be accomplished by such a move as that described. No doubt it will appear, when the facts become known, that her action, whatever it may have been, in all these cases, was in accordance with international rights and necessary to promote the ends of humanity or justice, if not to carry out positive treaty obligations.

Commenting on a paragraph or two which appeared a few weeks since in these columns, touching the failure of the University Extension movement in Canada, *The University Extension Bulletin* agrees with us to some extent in ascribing the failure partly to a "nervous dread" on the part of many college and university men, lest the extension movement should encroach upon their hitherto undisputed territory, and partly to the fact that in most cases university professors are too hard worked in the institutions with which they are connected to have any reserve of time and energy which they can devote to outside instruction. The *Bulletin* is, however, quite unable to admit that the work of university extension can be successfully carried on save in connection with the universities and by the aid and supervision of university professors. We are by no means convinced that this is the case, as a rule, though there are, we are glad to know, many instances in which good work has been and is being done under the auspices of universities. We, nevertheless, doubt whether the want of flexibility, both in routine of subjects and in methods of instruction, which is characteristic of many, at least, of the universities, especially the state universities, does not constitute a serious disqualification for successful extension work.

We believe that there are in most communities men whose contact with the outside world, superadded to thorough culture, whether obtained in universities or otherwise, fits them to be much more efficient and successful as conductors of extension classes than the average university professors. But we need not now argue the point. We have no doubt that the benefits resulting from a hearty interest in the work on the part of the universities would be mutual, and that a few years of such work would react powerfully in broadening the views and improving the methods of the professors in their proper university work.

We have recurred to the subject of University Extension mainly to admit that our criticism of the failure of Canadian universities to throw themselves into the work as we had hoped they would do, was too sweeping, and did injustice to at least one or two of our institutions which have really made good beginnings. We are aware, for instance, and should have stated, that Queen's University, at Kingston, has carried on extension work, to some extent at least, by means of a series of lectures delivered by its able and versatile Principal, and, if we are not mistaken, by other professors as well, though we are unable to say at present whether these lectures are now continued, and whether other methods, such as examinations and practical work by students, are connected with them. We should be glad of fuller information, as it is our desire to recognize and make more widely known every thing that is being done in this direction by Canadian institutions. We did not know, we blush to confess, that for several years past the University of New Brunswick has been doing a valuable extension work in the City of St. John. From the calendars of that institution kindly sent us we find that lectures in History, Literature, Physics, Chemistry, Geology and other branches of Science, and even in Law, Philosophy, and Political Economy, have been regularly given in St. John for at least three years past, to classes ranging in number from a few students up to almost one hundred. That real educational work has been done is evident from the fact that examinations have been held, and certificates won by a larger or smaller number of students, at the close of each series of lectures. It is possible that similar work has been done by other of our universities, of which we are in like manner uninformed.

A few weeks ago the San Francisco *Argonaut* had a strong article in favour of the restoration of the whipping-post as a punishment for crimes of a certain class, such as woman-beating, child-torturing, ravishing, and generally crimes against the person. The classification was made on the principle that the crimes to which this mode of treatment should be applied were

those "the very commission of which proves the criminal to be either degraded below manhood, or so essentially savage that the only conscience that can be appealed to is fear of physical pain." The *Argonaut* marshals a somewhat formidable array of historical and other facts to prove the effectiveness of this kind of punishment where other modes of treatment have failed. It attributes the freedom of certain States of the Union from crimes of the kinds indicated, as compared with the prevalence of such crimes in others, to the use of the lash in the former and the abolition of it in the latter. The fact, however, that the principal State instanced in the first class is staid old Delaware, and that such cities as New York, Chicago and San Francisco are put in the other scale, deprives the comparison of most of its value, seeing that the vastly worse record of the latter can be easily accounted for on other principles. Perhaps the most forcible example quoted in favour of a return to the old heroic treatment is that of the prevalence of garroting thirty years ago in England, and its almost complete disappearance as soon as the law authorizing the use of the lash was passed and began to be enforced.

While we cannot but admit the cogency of many of the arguments from time to time employed by those who advocate a freer use of the lash as a deterrent from brutal crimes, we must not forget that there is also much to be said on the other side of the question. In the first place, making a reasonable allowance for the constant influx into such cities as those above named of multitudes of the very lowest classes from Europe and elsewhere, is it not the fact that the ratio of crimes of the kind indicated as well as of all other kinds, is constantly decreasing? In Great Britain, for example, it is a statistical fact that the frequency of such crimes as larceny has steadily decreased as the severity of the punishment attached to them has declined. Whether the decrease, through some strange working in human nature, is due directly to the modification of the punishment, or only to the gradually increasing intelligence of the people, the inference is the same. We do not wish, in the absence of fuller data for the formation of an opinion, to take strong ground on either side of the question. We may just say, however, that even to demonstrate, if it were possible, the greater effectiveness, as a deterrent, of the whipping-post over other modes of punishment would not be, to our thinking, conclusive. The effects upon all the parties concerned would need also to be taken into the account. What is the effect of this peculiar mode of punishment upon, first, the public generally, who, either with or without the help of the newspapers, are sure to be made, figuratively, at least, familiar with the degrading spectacle. Nothing is to be gained and much may on the whole be lost if, in