DELAWARE'S WHIPPING POST.

What It Has Been and What It Is in This Year of Grace.

At the last session of the legislature says the Wilmington (Del.) *News*, it was enacted "that hereafter no female convicted of any crime in this state shall be whipped or be made to stand in the pillory."

The introduction of this act revealed a fact not generally known, that women could lawfully be whipped for counterfeiting, horse-stealing, burglary, arson, maiming by lying in wait, and poisoning. They are liable to be put in the pillory for perjury, subornation of perjury, forgery, receiving stolen goods, assault with intent to kill, conjuration, witchcraft, fortune-telling, and dealing with spirits. That law had been a dead letter for many years, the last white woman having been whipped for larceny about the year 1836. The law was afterward amended to do away with the lash for white women. As late as 1870 colored women were sent to the post. At the session of the legislature in 1871 the word "white" was stricken out of the law relating to the punishment of women for larceny, and the black sisters were put on equality with the white sisters. Now it is designed to remove all possibility of women being whipped or put in the pillory.

A gentleman who has been perfectly familiar with the operations of the whipping-post for over forty years says that he has seen scores of prisoners lashed at the post, and while it is seldom now that blood is drawn, if ever, he has seen backs of prisoners that were almost cut to "a jelly." He says that the whipping became less violent when the newspapers began to report the quarterly performances at New Castle with the cat. The whippings formerly only took place twice a year.

There was a great tendency on the part of the sheriffs to regulate the force of their blow entirely through prejudice for or against a man. For instance, if the sheriff was a farmer he would have but little mercy for a fellow put under the lash for horse-stealing. The man who robbed a store would get off pretty well if the sheriff was a farmer. Then again, if the sheriff was a city or town man he would have no mercy on a city burglar or sneak-thief. The same gentleman declares that he has seen, but many years ago, nine or or ten men run back from the post with their backs all bloody. The story that blood often runs from the backs of the victims is absurd. The writer has seen two or three hundred men whipped, but has never seen the blood flow. He has seen large welts on the backs of the victims, and fine drops of blood almost ready to come through, but never any blood running.

Many years ago a butcher named Stanhope was waylaid and robbed on the highway, first being shot and badly hurt. The robber was arrested and convicted and sentenced to the pillory. A number of the butchers purchased three barrels of old eggs and went to New Castle the day of the whipping armed with eggs. After the man was placed in the pillory, which was then in the open space outside the jail yard, the butchers began a fusillade of eggs. The poor victim was a mass of foul matter, besides being bruised by being hit in the face. The sheriff had great trouble to stop the outrage. At the next session of the legislature the post was moved inside the jail yard. There have been no incidents of the Stannope kind since. The jail gates are always thrown open to the public on whipping days, but the best of order prevails.

The history of the post for fifty years is that the lash as a rule has been used with leniency. The whites have escaped, it has been claimed, for political reasons, the sheriff being in a position to win a vote every time he spared a man's back. There has been but little difference as to numbers between black and white victims.

There has been a great toning down of late years of the number of lashes applied. It was a frequent thing years ago to give a prisoner a cumulative sentence, and for three successive Saturdays he would receive eighty lashes. The result was, even though the blows were lightly laid on, that the victim's back would be in an awful condition. The story is told of one old black man, who, after being whipped upon three Saturdays, was sold into slavery.

He declared that he would never go south, and when his purchaser got as far as Havre de Grace the poor fellow cut his throat.

It was the rule at one time to sell colored men and women to the highest bidder after they had been whipped, and they were frequently knocked down for $1 and quickly hurried south. There is an old man now in the New Castle county almshouse who was regularly engaged in the purchase of blacks and selling them into slavery.

It is really surprising, however, how few are the real facts and incidents that those who are in a position to know can tell.

There are very few whippings in Kent and Sussex counties, so that all material for a history of the post has to be gleaned in New Castle county. Nearly every whipping has some little incident attached to it, but the story of one is really the story of all.

A Noted Tiger.

A tigress in the Nagpur district has a fondness for the employes of the Bengal-Nagpur railway, frequents a tract of country only about nine square miles in area, and is possessed of extraordinary cunning and sagacity. Last year, up to June, she had killed seven people, beside wounding others. She lives in a rocky and precipitous spur, in which there is a heavy bamboo and other jungle. Several springs of water rise at the foot of the scarps, and there is a cave which shows many signs of being used by her and her family. A big stone just outside of the entrance is scored deep and long with many scratches of their claws. In February last in broad daylight she carried off one of a gang of permanent-way men from under the eyes of his companions. She has been shot at many times and her cubs killed but she has got off scathless. Sometimes the man-eater traverses very long distances.—*London Times.*

DR. TALMAGE'S MOTHER.

An Eloquent Tribute to Her Memory by the Famous Preacher.

I never write or speak to woman, says Dr. Talmage in the *Ladies' Home Journal*, but my mind wanders off to one model—the aged one who, twenty-four years ago, we put away for the resurrection.

About eighty years ago, and just before their marriage day, my father and mother stood up in the old meeting-house at Somerville, N. J., and took upon them the vows of the Christian. Through a long life of vicissitude my mother lived harmlessly and usefully and came to her end in peace. No child of want ever came to her door and was turned away empty. No one in sorrow came to her but was comforted. No one asked her the way to be saved but she pointed him to the cross. When the angel of life came to a neighbor's dwelling she was there to rejoice at the starting of another immortal spirit. When the angel of death came to that dwelling she was there to robe the departed for the burial.

We had often heard her, when leading family prayers in the absence of my father, say: "O Lord, I ask not for my children wealth or honor, but I do ask that they may all be the subjects of thy comforting grace!" Her eleven children brought into the kingdom of God she had but one more wish, and that was that she might see her long-absent missionary son, and when the ship from China anchored in New York harbor and the long-absent one passed over the threshold of the paternal home she said: "Now, Lord, lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for my eyes have seen thy salvation."

The prayer was soon answered!

It was an autumnal day when we gathered from afar, and found only the house from which the soul had fled forever. She looked very natural, the hands very much as when they were employed in kindness for the children. Whatever else we forget, we never forget the look of mother's hands. As we stood by the casket we could not help but say: "Doesn't she look beautiful?" It was a cloudless day when, with heavy hearts, we carried her out to the last resting place. The withered leaves crumbled under hoof and wheel as we passed, and the sun shone on the Raritan river until it looked like fire; but more calm, and beautiful, and radiant was the setting sun of that aged pilgrim's life. No more toil, no more tears, no more sickness, no more death. Dear mother! Beautiful mother!

"Sweet is the slumber beneath the sod,
While the pure spirit rests with God."

With such a mother as an example, is it strange that I should always have cherished the most exalted estimate of woman and womankind?

Origin of Names of Fabrics.

Everything connected with one's business is of importance. Very few dry goods men know the origin of the names of many of the goods they handle. They may seem trivial points, but they are of interest to the man who seeks to be thoroughly familiar with the merchandise in which he deals. For the information of such we give the derivation of the names of the following goods: Damask is from the City of Damascus; satins from Zaytown, in China; calico from Calicut, a town in India, formerly celebrated for its cotton cloth, and where calico was also printed. Muslin is named from Mosul in Asia; alpaca, from an animal in Peru, of the llama species, from whose wool the fabric is woven. Buckram takes its name from Fostat, a city of the Middle Ages, from which the modern Cairo is descended. Taffeta and tabby from a street in Bagdad. Cambric from Cambral. Gauze has its name from Gaza; biaze for Bajac; dimity from Damietta, and jeans from Jean. Drugget is derived from a city in Ireland, Drogheda. Duck comes from Torque, in Normandy. Blanket is called after Thomas Blanket, a famous clothier connected with the introduction of woolens into England about 1340. Serge derives its name from Xerga, a Spanish name for a peculiar woolen blanket. Diaper is not from D'Ypres, as is sometimes stated, but from the Greek diaspron, figured. Velvet is from the Italian vellute, woolly (Latin vellus—a hide or pelt). Shawl is the Sanscrit sala, floor, for shawls were first used as carpets and tapestry. Bandana is from an Indian words to bind or tie, because it is tied in knots before dyeing. Chintz from the Indian chott. Delaine is the French "of wool."—*Trade Journal.*

Artificial Lightning in War.

"This is the age of patent new inventions for killing bodies and for saving souls," is what Byron wrote nearly a century ago. There is a man over in Trenton who comes forward today with a scheme for killing bodies which, he thinks, when duly patented, will revolutionize modern warfare. Unless he is in error, the plan will certainly serve to put an end to battles, because the inventor will by this ingenious device kill whole armies in a day. The man's name is Grinnell. He is a Jerseyman and feels a little anxious to know what the effect of his plan will be before getting a patent on it. He wants it used only in case it would put an end to wars. The Jerseyman, you will see, is a kind-hearted destroyer. His invention resides in the power to produce lightning by artificial means. By the use of a small dynamo Grinnell has already killed the flies in a 20x20 room, and by a little work in perfecting his scheme he expects to be able to kill an army any fair day in the week. The act of wholesale destruction will have to be suspended on wet days.—*N. Y. Letter.*

New Wrinkle in Fancy Furniture.

In a Market street furniture store is exhibited a parlor suit that is said to be unique, with one exception, in this country. It is upholstered with palm-leaf fans, a single fan forming the seat and another the back of the chair. The framework is of gilded bent wood. Two fans make a pretty substitute for the cushioned bottom of a tete-a-tete, and even the table top is of fans. It was made to order for a West Philadelphia residence, and the only other suit like it is in New York. Both were modeled after designs shown at the Paris Exposition. — *Philadelphia Inquirer.*

Meerschaum History.

In 1723 there lived in Pesth, the capital of Hungary, Karlo Kowatee, a shoemaker, whose ingenuity in cutting and carving on wood brought him into contact with Count Andrassy, with whom he became a great favorite, says the *Globe-Democrat*. The count, on his return from a mission to Turkey, brought with him a piece of whitish clay, which had been presented to him as a curiosity on account of its extraordinary light specific gravity. It struck the shoemaker that, being porous, it would be well adapted for pipes, as it would absorb the nicotine. The experiment was tried, and Karol cut a pipe for the count and one for himself.

He would work on them at odd moments during working hours without wiping the wax from his hand. He noticed that the wax gave the pipes a pretty brown polish and also that they smoked more sweetly. Other noblemen hearing of the wonderful species of clay imported it in considerable quantities for the manufacture of pipes. The natural scarcity of this clay, known as meerschaum, and the great cost of importation in those days of limited facilities for transportation rendered its use exclusively confined to the richest nobleman of Europe up to 1830, when it became a more general article of trade. The first meerscaum pipe made by Karol Kowatee has been preserved and is now in the museum at Pesth.

How Gold Rings Are Made.

Gold rings are made from bars nine to fifteen inches long, two inches wide and three-sixteenths of an inch thick, is worth $1,000, and will make 300 four pennyweight rings. A dozen processes and twenty minutes' time are required to convert this bar into merchantable rings. First a pair of shears cuts the bar into strips; then by the turn of a wheel a guillotine-like blade attached to the machine cuts the bar into slices, one, two, or three-sixteenths of an inch wide. A rolling machine next presses out the slices and makes them either flat or grooved. Each strip is then put under a blow pipe and annealed. The oxide of copper comes to the surface, and is put into a pickle of sulphuric acid, after which the ring is stamped "14k," "16k," or "18k," according to quality. Next it is put through a machine which bends it into the shape of a ring of the size desired. The ends are then soldered with an alloy of inferior fineness to the quality of the ring. Many people think that rings are molded because they can't see where they are soldered. The ring spins through the turning lathe, is rounded, pared, and polished, first with steel filings, then with tripoli and rouge.—*St. Louis Republic.*

Gaul and Teuton.

A friend who has just returned from Paris tells me a characteristic anecdote, says the *Critic*. During the recent exposition there was a little railroad, five miles in length, running around the grounds. The track ran in and out among the trees and buildings, and so near them that a passenger's head or arm thrust out of the window was in danger of being knocked off. To prevent accidents of this sort warnings were printed on large posters and tacked up at intervals of a few yards along the entire track. They are printed in almost every known language, including Asiatic and African tongues, shorthand and volapuk. My friend counted over thirty languages and dialects. You would have supposed that none was omitted in such a list. But there was one omission, and a very important one. Not a single word of warning was printed in German. Some one said to the manager of the road: "It looks as though you don't care whether the Germans got their heads and arms knocked off or not." He smiled a quiet smile, and replied: "It does look that way, sure enough."

Substitute for Coffee.

A new substitute for coffee may turn up in a berry known as "gaertnera." The British consul at Reunion says that at one time he has received many letters from merchants in England asking for information respecting a shrub then called "mussaenda," the discovery of which, it has been said in some commercial journals, would deal a severe blow to the coffee and chicory trade. About two years ago a rumor was spread that the berry of this shrub could be advantageously employed as a substitute for coffee and chicory. It grows to about ten feet high, has very few leaves, and its branches are wide apart. The berries do not grow all along the branches, as is the case with coffee, but in bunches at their extremeties. At present it is only met with in the mountains, where it grows wild. It might be produced on an extensive scale; but with its inferiority in fragrance and color it could hardly compete with coffee.

Many Mocking Birds.

A writer who has recently visited the Bridal Veil Falls in the Yosemite Valley thus describes the mocking birds in that vicinity in the New York *Press*: "Millions of brown-coated birds there were everywhere, until the whole of our very nature seemed permeated with their music. Sometimes low and sweet, again sad and plaintive, and then full, rich and triumphant, like a pæan of joy and gladness, while we looked at each other in wondering silence. Just as it seemed that the melody was unsupportably sweet, and that our hearts could not contain more without the relief of tears or shouts, the wind died away and the water again struck with an awesome roar into its rocky hollow with a force that made the earth tremble, and was again lashed to furious foam and the song of the mocking birds hushed. Thus it goes on ever and ever, alternately, and has for ages, the song of the birds and the thunderous reverberation of the cataract."

It may relieve mental worriment on the part of somebody to learn that the way to say Mpwapwa in the true African style, barring certain nasal embellishments, is as though it were spelled Emp-wah-pwah.

In Russia in 1888, there were published 5,318 books, of which 17,395,050 copies were printed.

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