

LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER

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TOLEDO OREGON

Infectious diseases are unknown in Greenland. So are most of the other things that go with civilization.

When George Washington thinks of the nation he fathered he must ascribe some of its traits to its mother's side.

These efforts of the leading cities to put up the tallest buildings may really start in a desire to look down on each other.

Women are learning not to step backward off moving street cars, which gives them a lower rate for accident insurance.

The United States, England and Germany, having each repudiated their rumored alliance, will now proceed to be better friends than ever.

A New York woman laced so tightly she broke a rib. In her case she ought rather to hold herself in when it comes to too much enthusiasm for a small waist.

Those who favor woman suffrage assert that the sex is firm in its political convictions, always taking a decided stand. In other words, while they may talk over the fence they never get on it.

Recorder Goff of New York is said to have transfixed a witness with his eye. This is said to have been a setback to an attorney who was thought to have "fixed" the witness with cash.

"My father was a wagon-maker," said President Steyn of the Orange Free State recently, "and I am thankful to think he was a good one." Even to the occupant of a chair of state the fifth commandment adds a comely crown.

It has been proved that San Jose scale can not thrive in Germany; but, notwithstanding, American fruit continues to be excluded. The only valid objection Germany can now have to the admittance of the San Jose scale is that it is not capable of supporting itself.

A New York man who gave an elephant tobacco was instantly killed by the infuriated beast. He probably wanted to satisfy himself as to the truth of the story that an elephant is always able to pick its tormentor out of a crowd. There is such a thing as being too skeptical.

Phoenix, Ariz., has distinguished itself by having a performance of "The Three Musketeers" with real, instead of blank, cartridges in the shooting act. Something must be done, of course, to keep up interest in art in Phoenix, even though spectators have to go to theater in bullet-proof evening dress.

Interrogation, as a figure of speech, may be made quite effective when used by a writer, but must be treated warily by the orator, lest it provoke disconcerting replies. Mr. Andrew Carnegie delights in repeating a story of his youthful days in Scotland. He says that a minister, who gave full value for salary received, and ordinarily preached for an hour, one morning, when in splendid condition, spoke for an hour and a half. Then, without turning a hair, he remarked that what he had hitherto spoken concerned the major prophets. He would now turn to the minor prophets. "But what place," he asked, dramatically, "shall we reserve for Malachi?" Just here a restless sister of the flock rose from her seat under the pulpit, noisily dropped her psalm book, made her way down the aisle, and after opening the heavy, creaking door, turned to face the astonished pastor and people. "Malachi," she said, succinctly, "Malachi may have my place!"

Singular to say, the popular distrust of the noble science of surgery does not abate. The able surgeon finds a stiff and stupid prejudice against the most beautiful operations, and sometimes when he has his saws and knives all sharpened in preparation for the exploration of an interior he looks around to discover that the prospective patient has basely fled. It is but two or three weeks since a Western architect, who was about to be operated upon for appendicitis, arose from his couch and galloped away, leaving the surgeons staring at one another in grieved surprise. Now we learn from another part of the country that a gentleman whose leg was to be cut off seized a favorable opportunity and sprinted forth from the hospital at a record-breaking gait despite the assurances of the surgeons that he could not put one foot before the other. These things are disconcerting. If the surgeons are to recover lost ground it is clear that they must keep prospective subjects continuously under the influence of anaesthetics until the operation is "pulled off." This thing of hopeless cripples doing the 100 yards in eleven seconds for fear of the knife

is likely to cast a suspicion upon the diagnosis.

The Iowa Supreme Court holds that when a man or woman attaches his or her name to a church subscription list an obligation has been created that, in the eyes of the law, is predicated upon a good and sufficient consideration. A man had subscribed to a fund raised by an Iowa Methodist Episcopal church, but when an attempt was made to collect the subscription he repudiated it on the ground, first, that there had been no consideration and hence the contract did not bind him. This point was disposed of as a quibble, the court assuming that the subscription would not have been made without sufficient consideration, whether tangible or not. A more serious contention was that the subscription, being made on Sunday, was void. The court held that while an ordinary contract made on Sunday was illegal one to do good could not be so considered. "The custom of taking offerings on the first day of the week has existed from time immemorial," says the decision, "and no one has supposed this to be prohibited by statute. Otherwise the deacons or others in passive around the hat and the minister in directing this to be done are amenable to the penalties of the law. The founder of Christianity held it to be lawful to do good on the Sabbath day." Hence the court decided that the contract is valid. Aside from the interest in the decision it is one of real value. There is a general disposition on the part of some people to seek the reputation for doing good works to be gained by subscribing to various charities, but they often neglect to pay when the time comes. It is well that there is a legal method to collect subscriptions made in this way.

Two centuries back a young man of twenty-three sat in the quiet of the evening—thinking. His body was quiet, his vitality, his life, all his powers, were centered in his brain. Above, the moon shone, and around him rustled the branches of the trees in his father's orchard. From one of the trees an apple fell. No need to tell you that the young man was Newton; that the fall of the apple started in his ready brain the thought that led to his great discovery, giving him fame to last until the last star shall fade from heaven. How splendid the achievement born that moment! How fortunate for the world and for the youth Newton, that at twenty-three his brain had cultivated the habit of thought! Our muscles we share with everything that lives with the oyster clinging to his rock, the whale plowing through cold seas, and our monkey kinsman swinging head down from his tropical branch. These muscles, useful only to cart us around, help us to do slave work or pound our fellows, we cultivate with care. We run, fence, ride, walk hard, weary our poor lungs and gather pains in our backs building the muscles that we do not need. Alone among animals, we possess a potentiality of mind development unlimited. And for that, with few exceptions, we care nothing. Most of us, sitting in Newton's place and seeing the apple fall, would merely have debated the advisability of getting the apple to eat it—just the process that any monkey mind would pass through. A Newton, a brain trained to think, sees the apple drop, asks himself why the moon does not drop also. And he discovers the law of gravitation which governs the existence of every material atom in the universe. Young men who read this, start in now to use your brains. Take nothing for granted, not even the fact that the moon stays in her appointed place or that the poor starve and freeze amid plenty. Think of the things which are wrong and of the possibilities of righting them. Study your own weaknesses and imperfections. There is power in your brain to correct them, if you will develop that power. As surely as you can train your arm to hold fifty pounds out straight, just so surely can you train your brain to deal with problems that now would find you a gaping incompetent. You may not be a Newton. But if you can condescend to aim at being an inferior Newton, can't you afford to try even harder to be an inferior Newton? Don't be a muscular monkey. Be a low-grade philosopher. If you can't be a high grade, and find how much true pleasure there is even in inferior brain gymnastics. It is thought that moves the world. In Napoleon's brain are born the schemes that murder millions and yet push civilization on. The mere soldier, with gold lace and sharp sword, is nothing—a mere tool. It is the concentrated thought of the English people under Puritan influence that makes Great Britain a sham monarchy and a real republic now. It is the thought of the men of independent mind in this country that throws English tea and English rule overboard forever. Don't wait until you are old. Don't wait until you are one day older. Begin now. Or, later, with a dull, fuzzy, useless mind, you will realize that an unthinking man might as well have been a monkey, with fur instead of trousers, and consequent freedom from mental responsibility, or self-respect.

You can't live on Christmas presents any more than you can live on love.

HORRORS OF U.S. ARMY

CRUELITIES FORMERLY INFLICTED ON SOLDIERS.

Shouldering a Log—Trotting the Bull-Ring—One Man Buried Up to His Neck in Sand—Some Other Inhuman Methods.

Twenty years ago cruel punishments indeed were meted out to refractory soldiers of the United States army. In those days a 20 or 30-day trick in the guard house was not a comparatively minor matter, as it is now. The soldier who nowadays lands in the guard house for drunkenness, insubordination, neglect of duty or any other violation of regulations is put to work at some job around the post from fatigue call in the morning till recall from fatigue late in the afternoon. The work is never hard. The only discomfort connected with the work is that it is always performed under the watchful eye of a sentry with a loaded gun. On the other hand, the guard house prisoner gets every night in—that is, he is permitted to slumber peacefully on the comfortable bunk in his guard house cell, while his comrades who have not committed themselves have to take their turns standing guard over him through the watches of the night.

Shouldering a Log.
The soldier who worked himself into the guard house prior to 1870 did not get any night in, from the day he began his term until its end. He walked his post, two hours on and four off, from the beginning to the termination of his sentence. But he did not carry a gun while on post. He shouldered an unbarked log, from six to eight feet in length and weighing from 70 to 100 pounds, and a man in his rear carried the rifle. The business of the soldier with the rifle was to see that the soldier with the log kept on the move, up

less graceful, but also less irksome, trot, the sentry hadn't a word to say, but if for a single instant he relapsed into a common, everyday walk he would hear the sentry's command, like the crack of a circus ringmaster's whip, "Shake her up there, Pete; what do you think this is, a practice march? G'lang!" and if the bull-ring pounder knew his gait he would leave off walking right away. The bull-ring work was good for wind and muscle, but it was hard and galling. A soldier undergoing a bull-ring sentence dropped dead from heart disease at a post in the Southwest one day about seventeen years ago, and then the bull-ring punishment was abandoned.

Buried in Sand.
It was reserved for the commanding officer of an Arizona post, a one-company outfit, to inflict so barbarous punishment upon an offending soldier that the whole scale of punishment in the United States army was revised and made hard and fast. This commanding officer was a captain, and the affair happened in 1879. He had in his company a soldier who was a very hard case, and put in most of his time in the guard house. He completed a guard house term in the autumn of 1879, and immediately repaired to the near-by town of whisky shacks and made himself exceedingly drunk. He returned to the post with the announced intention of razing it to the level of the desert and firing a volley over its ashes. The captain had him lassoed as he was entering the post. He ordered that a hole sufficiently large to receive the upright body of a man be dug in the sand of the parade ground. When the hole was dug the captain ordered that the hard-case soldier be stood in it up to his neck, and that the sand be then repacked around him as tightly as possible, covering his arms and shoulders and leaving only his head protruding above the ground. The captain's orders were obeyed. The offending soldier, still more than half drunk, was packed in the sand hole,

and three spokes. His arms were stretched until there were three or four spokes between his hands. Then feet and hands were firmly bound to the felloes of the wheel. If the soldier was to be punished moderately he was left bound in an upright position on the wheel for five or six hours. If the punishment was to be severe the ponderous wheel was given a quarter turn after the soldier had been lashed to it, which changed the position of the man being punished from an upright to a horizontal one. Then the prisoner had to exert all his strength to keep his weight from pulling heavily and cutting on the cords that bound his upper arm and leg to the wheel.

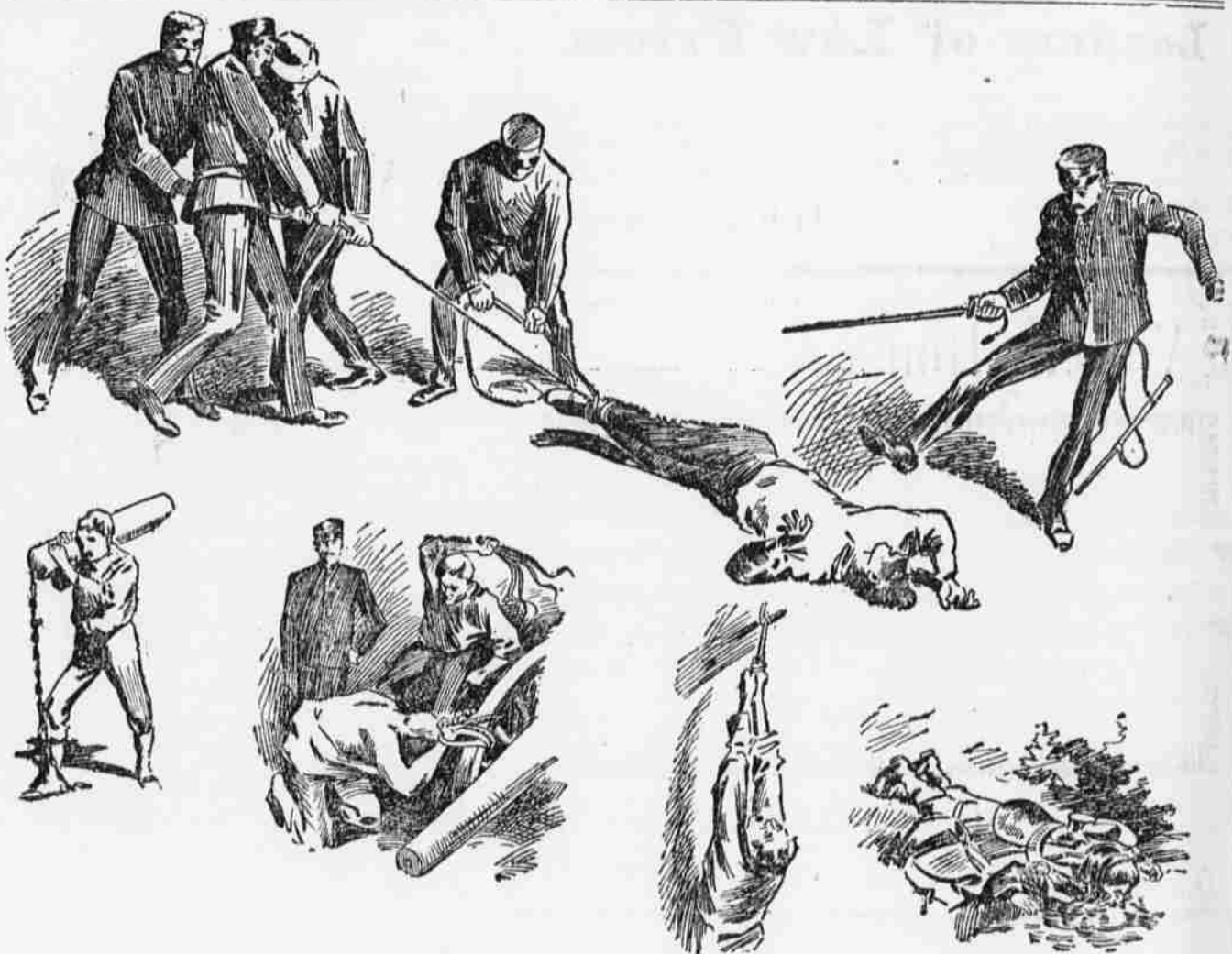
A Wise Answer.
It takes but an ordinary man to return an angry answer to an insult. The extraordinary man is he who, under such circumstances, holds himself so well under control that he controls his adversary also.

Persia once possessed such a man, and was clear-sighted enough to make him a judge. He was the chief judge of Bagdad in the reign of the Calif Hadee, and his name was Abou Yusuph. He was a very wise man, for he knew his own deficiencies, and was actually sometimes in doubt as to whether he possessed sufficient wisdom to give a just decision in cases peculiarly shrouded in mystery.

It is related of him that on one occasion, after a patient investigation of facts, he decided that he had not sufficient knowledge to pronounce on the case before him. There was in his presence a pert courtier, one of those men who take long to learn that wisdom and impudence are not closely related.

"Pray do you expect that the calf is to pay you for your ignorance?" he asked, hoping to place the judge at a disadvantage.

"I do not," was the mild reply. "The calf pays me—and pays me well—for what I do know. Were he to attempt



CRUEL ARMY PUNISHMENTS.

and down in front of the guard house, from the time he went on post until relieved, at the end of two hours, by another guard house prisoner, to whose shoulder the log would be transferred. It was also the sentry's duty to see that the "log-humper" did not drop his burden. The prisoner could shift it from one shoulder to the other, or carry it under his arm, or horizontally in front of him, or in any other way he chose; but he had to carry it, and he had to keep moving, on pain of being indented with the point of a bayonet. There are hundreds of old soldiers still in the United States army who did their little tricks at "tree packing" in the old days, and none of them speaks with the slightest degree of enthusiasm of the job. The guard house prisoner of large physique was out of luck in those days. A 100-pound log was invariably bestowed upon him. The smaller logs were reserved for the prisoners of less bulk.

"Trotting the Bull-Ring."
One of the punishments meted out to the cavalryman who got into the guard house under the old regime was "trotting the bull ring." The bull ring is the circular track upon which the horses are exercised when there is not much doing around the post in the way of drills on account of inclement weather. Every cavalry post has its bull ring. Upon the smooth surface of the bull ring the fractious cavalryman of a couple of decades ago was required to chase the intangible air at regular intervals, named in the sentence, every day of his confinement. His bull-ring work was no go-as-you-please walking match, either. He could go at any pace swifter than a walk; but he was not allowed to walk. Heel-and-toe business was barred. If he chose to work it out in cantering the sentry was agreeable; did he prefer the

his head alone catching the rays of the semi-tropical sun, and a sentry was placed over him. The sun was nothing compared to the desert ants. The ants sent out their couriers to the highways and byways and dunes and hollows, and it was no time at all before some thousands of them, big, red, spider-like and ferocious, were running over the soldier's head. They crawled into his ears and his nose and his mouth, and they caused him such unspeakable agony that he shouted in frenzy. The sentry finally revolted against this punishment, and his comrades joined him. They threatened the captain, and the latter, from fear of summary punishment, permitted the prisoner's release. The prisoner was taken to the hospital, almost a maniac. The case was reported at Washington, and the result was a revision of the military code.

Bucking and Gaggling.
Although the new regulations expressly forbid the punishment of "bucking and gagging," men have been bucked and gagged in the United States army within the past dozen years. Bucking and gagging consists in tying a refractory soldier—generally a soldier who is maniacal with drink and very abusive—hand and foot with cords and gagging him with a block of wood whittled to fit his mouth. The gagging part of this punishment came near choking a number of soldiers to death, which accounted in part for its erasure from the punishment list. One punishment much affected in the light artillery was called "tying on the spare wheel." Springing upward and rearward from the center rail of every caisson was a fifth axle, and on it was a spare wheel. A soldier who had been insubordinate was taken to the spare wheel and forced to step upon it. His legs were drawn apart until they span-

ned three spokes. His arms were stretched until there were three or four spokes between his hands. Then feet and hands were firmly bound to the felloes of the wheel. If the soldier was to be punished moderately he was left bound in an upright position on the wheel for five or six hours. If the punishment was to be severe the ponderous wheel was given a quarter turn after the soldier had been lashed to it, which changed the position of the man being punished from an upright to a horizontal one. Then the prisoner had to exert all his strength to keep his weight from pulling heavily and cutting on the cords that bound his upper arm and leg to the wheel.

One in Misfortune.
The soldier boy wrote home from the far Philippines:

"Father—My left leg has been shot off by a cannon ball. I want to buy me a good, first-class cork leg. Please send me \$100 in your next letter."

The father answered, from his home in the Georgia pines:

"Son—I kin shake hands with you on yer loss. I lost my wooden leg endarin' of the blizzard. A nigger stole it an' split it up fer kindlin' wood. Ef you git that cork leg, let me know how it works, an' whar you got the money to git it with."—Atlanta Constitution.

Hollanders Smoke Most.
The Hollanders are perhaps of all the northern people those who smoke the most, the humidity of their climate making it almost a necessity, while the moderate cost of tobacco with them renders it accessible to all. To show how deeply rooted is the habit, it is enough to say that the boatmen of Holland measure distances by smoking.

Cordial Relations.
Mrs. Snow—My husband has grown very fussy of late years, but he was easily pleased when we were married.
Mrs. Coldeal—He must have been.—San Francisco Examiner.

Jerusalem's Population Increasing.
The population of Jerusalem has been rapidly increasing of late and is now about 45,000; of these 28,000 are Hebrews.

If you must go to law, hire the best lawyer in town. The law is always on the side of the best lawyer.