

CONTEMPT OF THE LAW.

OUR ESTEEMED CONTEMPORARY, the Oregonian, writes a very pretty little homily on contempt of the law as it has frequently been exemplified in lynching cases in the south.

To all of which we say amen, but we should require a more general and at the same time more specific application of the principle. If contempt of the law is deadly to our institutions when manifested in the south, it cannot be less so when it is exhibited in the north and the west.

A case in point is found here in Portland, though it happens the contempt of law here exhibited has been upheld rather than rebuked by the Oregonian, which now writes so eloquently on the general subject and specifically as it is applied to the south.

No newspaper can too strenuously uphold the law. In a popular government like ours, the moment respect for the law is lost, the foundation of the government is gone.

Contempt of the law should be denounced by all good citizens, wherever, whenever and by whomever shown. While one section of the country may furnish a text for passing comment, we should not in the heat of our denunciation of that section overlook glaring illustrations that would add pith and moment to the context simply because they are occurring under our very noses.

CLIMATE A MINOR CONSIDERATION.

THE STORY was told yesterday of the unexpected death of a Portland young man of consumption in Arizona, whither he had gone in the hope of cure, or at least of benefit.

This same story has been told repeatedly during the past few months. Persons afflicted with tuberculosis have gone to some other state or territory, into a different climate, perhaps to a higher altitude, and at first reported improvement, encouraging their friends, and then came the news of their sudden collapse and death.

The lesson of this is that a mere change of place, altitude, scene and climate is not always or ordinarily curative or beneficial, though it sometimes is; but, on the contrary, is frequently, if not usually, fatal.

The reason may not lie in the climate of the place resorted to, but rather lies, probably, in other circumstances or conditions. The change of altitude and atmosphere may, indeed, be a cause of collapse rather than of cure; but besides this, the weak, despondent sufferer may become so homesick and disoriented by his surroundings that worry and lack of comforting cheer may overcome the otherwise naturally beneficial influence of the new climate.

The average sick person cannot permanently improve under such circumstances—alone, with no friends or acquaintances near, only uncaring and perhaps rude strangers, or persons sick, suffering and despondent like himself.

So the new gospel of cure for consumptives is not so much in a mere change of climate as life in the open air, the best of food and plenty of exercise, which should come from work to be most effective. With some, this regimen may be pursued with better results away from home, perhaps; but in the case of the majority, it will be better undertaken without a long journey into a far different climate and among entire strangers and non-sympathizers.

But the open air—the fresh air, the wind and the sunshine, day and night—these, according to the new doctrine, that is being well supported by results, are the main elements of cure, and the "change of climate" is rather incidental; it alone is not the chief thing; indeed, it may be disastrous.

Another story was also told this week of a young woman of New Orleans, who, her physicians told her, was hopelessly ill of consumption, could live but a few weeks at most. But she was a young woman with a will and stout nerves. In her case a change of climate, though not the chief desideratum, was essential. She came to western Washington with her mother, went out into the woods near a lake, and slept, even in the cold weather of early spring, in the open air.

Plenty of pure, fresh air has been found to be better than all the medicines ever invented. Dr. Sun outclasses all the doctors of the world combined. Then plenty of good food—beef, game, fresh eggs and pure milk—and all the exercise that can be taken without exhaustion, will do their part to effect a cure.

The change of altitude and latitude may or may not be beneficial; this depends on circumstances, and on the sufferer's temperament.

TIME FOR ACTION HAS COME.

THE TIME HAS NOW COME when the question of the Columbia river is far and away the most important that confronts Portland and the great scope of country that lies back of it clear into the panhandle of Idaho. As a matter of fact, it has always been the most important question, and, while it long has been realized, we have been slow to set in motion those strenuous agencies which would effect its improvement and utilize to their fullest the advantages which it should afford.

The work up river is in little better shape. The right of way for the canal, which is to be turned over to the federal government without expense, is still hanging fire, and when the actual work may be begun no man on earth can say. There is little encouragement to be found in the fact that the small canal at the Cascade Locks took twenty years to build. But it should have this effect—of putting the people of this city seriously to work in organizing a movement which will speedily bring about the appropriations by congress necessary to complete these two great public undertakings.

tee of the house, Congressman Burton of Ohio, is one of the best-informed on these subjects in the United States. Whatever information is to be laid before this committee should be liberal and absolute. There should be no spread-eagle talk, but there should be an indubitable array of facts and figures such as will appeal to practical men and force from their sense of justice the recognition that we must have. There should be a coming together all along the line on this important subject. The matter should first be discussed in all its bearings, and then the line of campaign should be paid out. Competent men should be set to work to collect all the facts and figures bearing on the river, in order that a case may be laid before congress that cannot be ignored. Then it should be vigorously pushed by influential citizens back of the congressional delegation, and the subject should not be allowed to rest until the work is entirely finished and the benefits begin to flow to all this vast region.

A NEW LINE OF WORK.

SUCH MEETINGS as that held last evening at the Commercial club are stimulating and productive of much good. The chiefest lack of Portlanders in the eyes of visitors is their lack of self-appreciation. They are prone to accept as a matter of course the natural advantages which surround them, and to view with surprise not unmixed with incredulity the enthusiasm which strangers naturally manifest over the unexpected beauties and advantages which they find here.

But nevertheless it is realized that in order to achieve its destiny, and to achieve to the fullest the career which its fortunate surroundings insure for it, there should not only be concerted movement in the direction of certain improvements, but that all those things should be done which will bring to the attention of the people of the country a knowledge of the advantages afforded, not alone by Portland, but by the great state and section whose natural metropolis it is and must ever remain.

YOUNG GIRLS AS LYNCHERS.

LYNCHING of negroes for assaults upon women is indefensible, because if the culprits merit speedy death any state has it within its power to make this crime a capital one, and they may speedily be tried, convicted, and hanged. Another consideration which makes these barbarities inexcusable is that in many cases it is not at all certain that the victim is really guilty. The mere accusation of the woman or child assaulted is sufficient for the mob, and it is not impossible for her to be mistaken. The negro lynched in Mississippi one day last week protested innocence, and warned men of his race never to go near a white man's house when no man was there, apparently meaning that even this act might be sufficient foundation for an accusation and the unwelcome visitor's violent and lawless death.

This lynching was remarkable in the part acted by the alleged victim, a girl of 14 years, who was induced to play the main part in the revengeful tragedy. The negro was placed upon a horse, which she held for that purpose, and then led under the nose, which, one account, says, she

placed around his neck. What a spectacle for a theoretically free, law-abiding, and Christian country—and those southerners are professedly the most religious people in the land. What utterly distorted and stupid ideas those people must have of their duty as citizens, and teachers of children; thus to make a young girl the star actor in a scene of real murder. What sort of a woman can they expect her to become, after this performance? Either she must suffer a lifelong regret, on adult consideration, or else the spirit of lawless revenge, thus kindled into flame, will become a ruling passion, rendering her, to say the least, a woman of an unlovable type. Such, at least, is the logical probability. Her willingness to perform this act may be considered proof that she had really suffered shameful violence at the negro's hands; or, on the other hand, and nearly as likely, it may be evidence of a depraved and cruel disposition, seeking to exhibit itself, and gain notoriety.

There are other young white girls, according to the account, were given places of honor, or rather of dishonor, among the spectators. Thus are they instructed in the manliness of lawless force, the Christianity of venomous revenge, the womanliness of murderous cruelty, the grace and sweetness expressed by the act of lynching a nigger.

There are cases of assault when a speedy lynching, in hotly indignant blood, seems almost excusable, but to make young girls the principal performers in such a scene shows a moral perversion that deserves the flaying lash of every pen and tongue in the land.

AMERICAN TOADIES.

THE AVERAGE AMERICAN is not a toady, though the genus toady is by no means unknown among us. The average well-balanced, self-respecting American fawns upon and worships neither the multi-millionaire at home, nor the titled aristocrat abroad. But there are exceptions, and the millionaire himself, who likes to be toadied to by his financial inferiors, is in the other case about the most conspicuous and disgusting of American toadies abroad.

It has been observed by Thackeray and others that the Americans far out-toady the British common people in the presence of the aristocracy, and this is probably true of the Americans who, conceiving everything in their own country except their money to be vulgar, and nothing in it (with the same exception) worthy of admiration or respect, go over to Europe on every possible occasion.

Our greatest toadies are the newly rich people, though not the very richest, who itch to get into touch with foreign high society by means of the expenditure or display of their wealth. These people are the very incarnation of American vulgarity.

So the average common American was amused rather than indignant on reading last week that a lot of rich American toadies who had exhausted every effort to get within the charmed circle of royalty and nominal nobility, at Kiel had been most distinctly snubbed by Emperor William, who would not allow one of them to come nigh. He served them just right.

The aristocracy of Europe, at least of England, are generally real gentlemen and ladies. They have some absurd notions as to their superiority, but as a rule they are considerate both of the rights and the feelings of foreigners, particularly Americans, and do not treat them with indignity. But they know no better than we do that one sure sign that a person is not a read gentleman or lady, in the broad sense, is his or her desire and attempt to crowd in where his or her company is neither necessary, desirable nor agreeable. And this absence of a necessary quality in the making of a true gentleman or lady is accentuated and rendered all the more conspicuous when its lack is pompously and brazenly sought to be supplied with money.

An honest, industrious, well-behaved, intelligent American is the equal of anybody; he is infinitely superior to an European aristocrat who is also a cad, a snob, or a spendthrift rake; but these newly-rich people, who thus seek to bask in the light of royalty and hobnob with aristocracy are not typical Americans. Lord preserve us from their ever becoming so.

We are more ashamed of them than the real as well as nominal ladies and gentlemen of Europe are. They are the most offensive type of American toadies.

THE READJUSTMENT OF HOME LIFE

By LADY HENRY SOMERSET

THE great difference that exists between young people nowadays and young people when mother was young, is that they feel it their duty to make the most of their opportunities, to do justice to themselves, and not to be on tap for all the rest of the family.

"You see," she continued, "the old people have had their day; they have no right to hamper the lives of the younger generation, and the old-fashioned ideas as to the necessity of daughters sacrificing themselves to their mothers is gone. The mothers who brought them into the world are bound to give them care and education, and then they should send them out into life, without any idea of repayment for services which the children have a right to expect."

"For a moment my mother's mind was shocked by this rude revelation of the position of the modern mother; but, hastily recovering, I said: 'The twentieth century woman has to fit herself to be a wife, and therefore, I suppose, would have, in any case, to learn her home duties?'"

"Well, naturally she may marry," answered my charming instructor; "that is to say, if her career is not interfered with. But of course, if she has set herself to do serious work she may not have the time for domestic life; not, at any rate, until she has achieved a large measure of success."

"In any case, the modern man ought to feel that it is his solemn duty to advance his

wife's career as much as his own, to leave her undisturbed during her hours of study, and to fit in his demands on her time with the requirements of her serious life."

"But what about the education of children?" I gasped.

"Of course, that is a matter which they would have to consider, and the probability is that really earnest workers who mean to make a mark by their work would settle to have none. For my part, I feel that if a woman's time is to be monopolized by giving children to the country, the state ought to engage her to do so, and pay for the service as it does in other callings that benefit the nation."

Here I remained silent. For years I have been trying to maintain that wider education for women, that broader opportunities and equal responsibilities for both sexes need never for a moment destroy that ideal of family life which is the best heritage of any nation.

In the age of poetry dead? In the ideal of love laid low? Have we buried beneath the embers of utilitarianism all the exquisite emotions which have taught the language of love to countless ages? Are the Julietts of the present day no longer to know "that silver sweet sound lovers' of tongues by flight, like softest music to attending ears," but to be absorbed as sanitary inspectors in a system of new drainage for Verona? And is Romeo to consider their study of refuse destroyers and new methods of sanitation to be more sacred than the "exchange of thy love's faithful vow for mine?"

What is so changing th old order, which

had the power and the leisure to love, and a generous desire to lavish its treasures to the commercial partnership, which measures its meagre gifts of time and its starved ideals by a standard so sordid and so prosaic?"

My answer is that it is the rebound from a system of subservience which was equally regrettable in the past, that the balance will adjust itself again. If those who advocate the via media do so, on sane and sacred lines.

After all, the home standard was not in the past so very high. It is true that we had certain phases which sounded well, and which became national shibboleths, but the mother's ambition not infrequently began and ended with the idea to get her "girls married;" and that, too often, in exchange merely for "saint-seducing gold," while the father's thoughts were occupied in "getting the boys on."

And the pretty girls married and the clever boys arrived, according to the law of the survival of the fittest. But what about the ugly girls, and the dull boys? They were too often sacrificed.

How many girls who could have earned a good living and led a happy useful life, received no education because "Tom must be sent to college," and college is an expensive place, or "May (the beauty of the family) must have ball gowns," because if she presented a good appearance a husband was more likely to be secured. But the first principles of education had been so learned that all idea of rebelling against the inflexible parental judgment was undreamt of.

The old system of family life was un-

doubtedly subservient of individual freedom. If a girl, for instance, made no success in the matrimonial line, the only duty that lay before her was not to be heard of—to live an utterly uneventful and useless existence; and to retire into the background of life with subservient alacridity.

Some years ago I remember calling at a certain house, where the family consisted of nine daughters. I was no sooner in their midst than I perceived a cloud was overshadowing the domestic horizon.

What was it? A death, a disaster, a money loss?

I did not wait long before I learned that the tribulation through which they were passing arose from the fact that the eldest of the nine plain damsels had announced her desire to train for a nurse in a London hospital. When the news was broken to me by the tearful mother I waited, wondering what was to follow which could account for the tragic tones, but I found there was nothing more to relate, so I endeavored to express my views as to the good sense the girl had shown, but I say that I was trampling ruthlessly on her tenderest feelings.

"People will think she was obliged to work," was the first objection. To this terrible possibility I could only feebly reply that we were all intended to do some work, and that after all it was not necessary to be beggared of this world's wealth in order to fulfill our wholesome destiny.

"It is so hard that she should dream of leaving us," said the poor lady. I ventured on this to insinuate that there were eight

young women still left for parental consolation, and that if she had been bidding her goodbye in order to make her own home, no objection would be raised.

"Ah, but that was such a different matter, that was a woman's legitimate calling. It was all useless. The idea was firmly rooted that a girl had no separate existence, save as she found her life in man's. What wonder? It was the outcome of the teaching handed on through the years. 'He for God, she for God in Him!'"

But at last a new conception of her possibilities has opened out before the eyes of countless girls, who feel that their life was not intended to be valueless because they have not drawn the lottery prize of marriage; that there is no law which should sacrifice them utterly for their brothers' advancement; indeed, that his career can be bought too dear, if it involves the principle that women were created mainly to minister to his wants, or to wait upon his wishes, for such a demand made upon sisters at home means a tax levied by and paid by the wife also.

When, therefore, we regret much of the exaggerated demands made nowadays by women, and we fear for the safety and sanctity of home life, we have not to go far to find the cause.

The victims of convention have been many; they have inwardly revolted against the injustice which sacrificed the less favored to the advancement of the few.

The unreality of the code of family life, and the oppression and subservience that it engendered, have been silently rebelled

against in the past, and have resulted in open revolution in our time.

Little wonder, therefore, that, under changed conditions, in the glare of a new day, women are dazed and lose their bearings for a while.

What is the remedy? It rests largely, I think, with the church. Here is the great educating force which should always be ready to adapt its teachings to new developments, social and moral.

Let the great religious teachers face the inevitable, recognize that the old order which regulated family life has passed; that the same mighty bonds of affection exist, but that if the sanctity of home is to be preserved they must be differently adjusted. By facing facts unflinchingly the real mischief of the modern position will be avoided.

Parents must understand that their relations to their children demand a far greater recognition of freedom, for both boys and girls, when they have reached years of discretion, and in training them for freedom and for the exercise of their gifts and powers let them, from their earliest years, instill the inviolable sanctity of the marriage tie, for so only can freedom be safe, either for the state or the individual, so only can the sanctity of family life be maintained, and men and women understand their true relations to each other and to the divine laws which change chaos to Cosmos.

It is so impossible in these few words to touch so mighty a question, but I shall hope soon to be allowed to express my opinions on this, the most important aspect of our changing social conditions, in another brief article.

MARYLAND SUMMER LEGACY.

From the Baltimore News. The change of sentiment which has swept over the Democrats of Maryland within the past few days regarding Mr. Cleveland is remarkable. Men who less than one month ago pronounced his nomination for the presidency as impossible and said such a course would be disastrous now admit that the New Jersey statesman would be a powerful candidate, and some of them claim he would sweep the country.

That much of this sort of talk comes from straight-out Gorman men seems remarkable when one considers the state of feeling which has been supposed to exist between Messrs. Cleveland and Gorman for the past decade. It would not do to conclude that such men have forsaken Mr. Gorman, neither would it be wholly right to believe that Mr. Gorman has sent a quick tip down the line to the effect that it would be

better to drop state pride for a sure winner, but the facts are here given as they are found to exist. Dispatches from New York persistently hint that the anti-Farker combination may decide upon Mr. Cleveland as the only available man upon whom they can unite with any prospect of success. Marylanders, though, do not credit these rumors, for they say if Mr. Gorman finds he cannot get the nomination for himself he would probably prefer Judge Parker to Mr. Cleveland. It is believed by Mr. Gorman's Maryland followers that he will not come out in the open as a candidate unless he thinks he sees his way clear to be both nominated and elected.

Local Democratic leaders assert that Mr. Cleveland's nomination would assure Maryland to the Democracy next fall by probably 30,000 plurality, and that it would enable them to carry five of the six congressional districts. Conservative Republicans, while they do

not concede such a majority, admit that with Mr. Cleveland as the standard-bearer of their opponents, they would have great difficulty in carrying any Congressional district except the Sixth. Mr. John E. Semmes said today: "Mr. Cleveland is, to my mind, the only candidate the Democrats can win with this time. Mr. Roosevelt is impulsive and rash, but he is also industrious, honest and manly, and the American people admire that sort of man. Therefore, he is a strong candidate, and it will require a man possessing all these qualities to defeat him. Mr. Cleveland is what man."

That not a single delegate is instructed for Mr. Cleveland makes but little difference. Garfield and Seymour were both permanent chairmen of the conventions which nominated them, and were never placed in nomination, and were not voted for until after many ballots were taken. Many of the presidential and vice-presidential candidates

have been selected without the formality of a nominating speech. If, by the time the St. Louis convention meets, sentiment throughout the country has developed as strongly in favor of Mr. Cleveland as it has here, the mention of his name may create a stampede which will carry everything before it.

QUARRELS AMONG RUSSIANS.

St. Petersburg Cable to Chicago News. In spite of the czar's efforts to harmonize his counselors, the strife between the parties of Admiral Alexieff and General Kuropatkin has broken out afresh. The civil element has renewed its attempt to dominate the military situation and confusion prevails in Manchuria. By order of Kuropatkin two divisions of infantry were to be dispatched to Liao Yang when they reached Harbin. Admiral Alexieff, however, stopped the troops and sent them into camp. Some days elapsed before the commander-in-

chief ascertained what had happened. He protested to the czar and a violent quarrel ensued.

Kuropatkin's friends in St. Petersburg charged Alexieff with deliberately sacrificing the national welfare to his private grudge. This accusation was refuted by the court supporters of Alexieff and personal encounters were narrowly avoided. The complaints of the general staff against Alexieff's rule are endless. It is alleged that the viceroy's contractors and engineers, while engaged in work in connection with the railways, were guilty of great corruption. The masonry of bridges over numerous rivers has been found so bad that reconstruction has been necessary. Under the supervision of Prince Shiloff, minister of ways and communications, some bridges have been destroyed and temporary wooden structures put in their place. It is charged that the contractor to whom Alexieff gave the order for trans-

port on Lake Balkal, at the rate of 300 rubles (\$103) an engine and 85 rubles (\$28) a carriage, gets the service performed at the rate of 50 rubles (\$17.40) and 7 rubles (\$2.60) a carriage. Information is lacking as to the truth or falsity of these charges. However, there is not the least doubt that the dispute raging around them paralyzes Russia in the presence of what even the dullest intellects are beginning to realize is a great national peril.

Germany's benevolent neutrality is beginning to cost Russia dearly. The financial world is alarmed at the concessions Germany is demanding in connection with the forthcoming commercial treaty between the two nations. Even Tatischeff, formerly M. Witte's financial agent in London, but now Plehve's confidential man, has publicly stated that the Berlin government is asking Russia to sacrifice its commerce interest to Germany. The situation is especially serious, inasmuch as Russian

commerce is already badly hampered by the raising of freight rates on the state railways to meet the expenses of the war. WHEN FARMER DOESN'T FAT. From the Farm Journal. When a farmer gets to suttin'— And a loafin' in the stores, And a playin' cards and dicit', When he should be doin' chores; When the cows go late for milkin', And the horses get no hay, And the harvest lies a-rottin', And it should be in the barn; When the farmer stops the harrow, 'Cause it comes a cloudy day, He will tell you, and he proves it— That farmin' doesn't pay.