

A DEGENERATE CODE.

THE LYNCHBURG, Virginia, papers have letters in them from General Jubal A. Early, a distinguished warrior of Virginia's sacred soil. The general replies to a personal attack by Major J. H. Lacy, another distinguished and partially extinguished survivor of the civil war. Each one says that the other is a coward and a son of a sea cook. Gen. Early says he won't fight a duel.

This betokens a change in the code. Time was when nothing but pistols and coffee for two would satisfy southern blood. Now the generals and majors content themselves with fighting at long range—in the columns of the newspapers.

The fact that the quarrel has led to nothing but a publication of what may be called the pleadings and proofs on both sides, seems to indicate that newspaper controversy as a means of vindicating honor, wiping out an insult, and settling personal difficulties between gentlemen, is beginning to commend itself to the southern mind. In the present low stage of the duel it has obvious advantages. The newspapers are always glad to encourage it because the traditional fancy that such disputes must end in blood, still lingers in the public mind, and always creates an interest at the outset in a hostile correspondence. The interest in a controversy of this kind, too, is deep laid in human nature, and will survive the disappearance of this fancy.

Then there is no doubt that for real pleasure there is much greater and more lasting satisfaction to be derived from scolding denunciation of a personal or political enemy in print than by standing up and letting him fire a pistol at your head. A purely private letter of this kind is frequently the greatest possible relief to a southern man of fiery mind and outraged honor, who feels himself wronged, and with many persons has the advantage of freeing the mind from all bitterness, and even restoring amicable feelings toward the person denounced. The mere chance of taking your enemy's life at the risk of your own, was a poor thing compared with the certainty of inflicting lasting misery and distress of mind upon him by a proper selection of epithets.

But how vastly this is improved upon by resorting to the agency of the newspapers. The feeling that every word is read and weighed by the reading public, that sixty-five millions of people are flocking to take part as spectators or seconds, gives a zest to the literary efforts on either side that the duelist of the old school could never have known. Besides this, the controversial method has the great merit of being perfectly fair to both sides, and constituting a semi-judicial means of settling a dispute.

When pistols or swords were used the combatant who was entirely in the right might be killed, merely through the superior swordsmanship or aim of his adversary. But in newspaper controversy it is always the best man that wins, or, it is his own fault if he does not; because, even supposing him to be inferior in literary talent to his opponent, he can reinforce himself by calling in assistance. He can retain counsel, hire expert, symposiastic talent, and in this way make the balance perfectly even. The new method has been in use for a good while in the north, but has never been fully established at the south, because, though difficulties there frequently used to begin in the symposiastic manner in the newspapers, they were generally ended by a sudden resort to shotguns.

his wife to the cause of progress in the present press correspondence. Gen. Early may, therefore, be congratulated on having contrived. In old times the dying duelist on his deathbed used to transmit, as his most precious heirloom to his son, the dueling pistol, the sword or the shotgun with which he had during life protected the honor of himself and family. May not the time come when the expiring parent will, instead of this, hand down the newspaper files in which he "exposed" his enemies, and the documentary proofs by which he established to the general public satisfaction of the entire United States that they were a set of ruffians who were beneath the notice of a gentleman, and with his dying breath remind his child that the pen is a much more effective weapon than the sword?

According to an exchange life saving stations along the coast have been supplied with boats which many naval experts consider inadequate for their purposes. Some of the Atlantic stations are now using a novel craft, and it is thought that the stations on the Pacific coast will be shortly provided with it. The new boat will be a freak in its line. It is constructed of galvanized iron and may be anywhere from 20 to 200 feet in length. It has the general shape of a dynamite shell with double conical ends. The passengers are to be seated in the interior upon a long seat swung from a shaft extending from end to end in the center. Passengers will obtain egress and ingress through a square hole near what might be termed the top of the boat. When everything is in readiness the trap-door of the manhole is closed and the boat becomes impervious to water. The motive power is a propeller wheel, operated from the inside by levers, the operator himself being seated on the swing seat. Means are provided for artificial lighting, and the craft, altogether, will be a novel one.

PROHIBITION is pleasantly profitable in practice. The Des Moines Leader says: In 1884 the expenses of our justices' courts to the public amounted to about \$4,000. In that year the prohibitory law was enacted, a law ushered in with the promise that it would wipe out nine-tenths of our court expenses, and now in the sixth year of experiment under that law, the expenses of our justices' courts to the public will reach the sum of \$60,000 at least. The significance of this sum can be estimated when we consider that it amounts to more than \$1.20 for every man, woman and child in the city of Des Moines, a greater sum per capita than was required in the good days of old for all the ordinary expenses of our national government.

EDITOR Johnson, of the Walla Walla Union has the same experience as other newspaper men. While here last week he wrote some letters to his paper, but they didn't arrive till after he had returned. But he is publishing them all the same, on the proposition that they are too good to go in the waste basket.

The proposed \$200,000 appropriation for a ship railway at The Dalles and Celilo, will not pass this session of congress, through no fault of Binger Hermann, who made a good fight for it. The next session of the Columbia waterway association has lots of work cut out for it.

SALMON fishing on the lower Columbia virtually closes to-day. It has been a singular season in many respects, the result justifying a sanguine feeling for future prospects. There will be no fall fishing, and the outcome of the Alaska pack is awaited with interest.

'Tis said in Portland that Sam. Parrish is to be superseded by Jno. W. Minto, as chief of police. Parrish's administration has been a disgraceful one, and if he isn't superseded he ought to be.

The "Tiende Publishing company" have filed articles of incorporation in Tacoma. They naively state that the object is "to acquire real estate." A very laudable ambition.

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Concomit Street Improvement. Notice is hereby given that the Common Council of the City of Astoria, Clatsop County Oregon, propose to order the improvement of Concomit street, in the city of Astoria, as laid out and recorded by John McClure, from the east side of Main street to the west end of said Concomit street, by filling and grading the same to its established grade to its full width, and by replanking the same to its full width (where planking is not already in good condition) with new and sound fir plank four inches in thickness, and by building sidewalks on both sides thereof, where deemed necessary; and unless a remonstrance signed by the owners of two-thirds of the property fronting on said street be filed with the Auditor and Police Judge within ten days of the final publication of this notice, to wit: on or before Saturday, August 23d, 1890, the Common Council will order said improvements made.

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