

Sorts of Prominent New Tactics in This Direction.

It is hoped to accomplish through such a law—to be employed only for wife-beaters and brutal thugs.

New York proposes to attempt to revise the system of corporal punishment for certain classes of offenders. At least certain people in New York, led by Elbridge T. Gerry, will try to have the following made a law at the next session of the legislature:

"Whenever a male person shall be convicted of a felony consisting of or accompanied by the infliction of physical pain or suffering upon the person of another, the court may, in its discretion, in addition to that penalty now prescribed by law, impose an additional sentence of corporal punishment to be inflicted upon the offender in the prison to which he shall be sentenced. Such corporal punishment shall be inflicted in private in said prison, in the presence of the warden and surgeon thereof, who shall certify the fact to the court wherein it was imposed."

Commodore Gerry is very much in earnest in the matter, and in an interview with a reporter for the New York Recorder stoutly defended the plan on the ground that it provided for the only punishment that is really feared by the brutes that it is intended to reach.

"Crime," said he, "of the more brutal and fiendish character is frightfully on the increase, especially in the case where children of both sexes are the victims. Instances in which lifelong injuries have been inflicted on girls and boys of a tender age are becoming so numerous that it is time something was done to strike at the very root of evil, and I am sure the only weapon that can be effectively used against the brutes who, in their passions, exhibit no thought or feeling for their victims is the lash."

"Once let the brutal element of the community know that the pain and suffering inflicted by them on others will be meted out on their own bodies and the shocking state of affairs now existing will be to a great extent wiped out. I am thankful to say that the creatures responsible for the offenses are foreigners. The grade of crime against which the resolution is aimed is peculiar to men from other countries. And the only way to show these wretches that they cannot indulge in such things in this continent is the crack and the sting of the lash."

"It has been erroneously stated that wife-beaters are included among the creatures against whom we are fighting. This is not so. We are only advocating the lash for felony committed by men. Wife-beaters belong to another class of animals which may or may not deserve a good thrashing. They, however, do not enter into the discussion. Burglary with violence, assault of any brutal nature—those are the offenses which, I maintain, should feel the sting of the lash. A conviction of twenty years, reduced by good behavior to twelve, has no salutary effect on the callous element with which I am dealing."

"As an instance, you, a law-abiding, peaceful citizen, are enjoying a well-earned rest; a hardened brute of a burglar, not satisfied with plunder, deliberately knocks you over the head, puts your eye out, crushes in your skull, mauls you, beats you, and for this he gets twenty years. Is that any satisfaction to you? Do you get a new eye or another skull or a clean skin? No! Then I say let his punishment be proportionate in some degree to the offense."

"Formerly crimes of which I specially speak were punishable by death. But experience showed that the class of people that commit these crimes of personal violence don't dread death. Nihilists, anarchists, atheists and the more degraded classes scout the idea. Corporal punishment is the only thing the scamps and rascals are afraid of. A few years in prison doesn't have any deterrent effect. A man comes out of prison and he immediately perpetrates a similar crime, but if he understands that he is going to get a dose of that which he inflicts on other people, he thinks twice before he runs the risk."

"It is nonsense to play the fool with criminals and say that corporal punishment is degrading and a revival of the dark ages. Are the abuses inflicted on little children degrading? Was there anything in the dark ages more degrading than the revolting acts which occur to-day? There seems to be a morbid sensibility in the opposition to corporal punishment. It is the oldest form of punishment known, and it is to be found in the Mosaic law. There can be nothing brutal in it, provided you don't make the exhibition public. In Delaware they have a curious method. A felon is sentenced to thirty lashes, fifteen of which are administered. He is then told to get out of the state, and if he is found there after the lapse of a week the balance of the thirty lashes awaits him. The plan works admirably."

"Again, in London, when the garrotters were terrorizing the city, the cat-o-nine-tails was brought into play with such effect that garrotting was unknown in a very short space of time. Would I suggest any particular mode of administering the punishment? No. An ordinary lash on the back would meet all requirements. It is effective, and if I live long enough the advisability of its legalization will come before the next session of the legislature."

Norway's Big Lumber Mill.
It has been generally supposed that the largest lumber mills in the world were located on Puget sound in this country, but such is not the fact. The largest mill, so far as known, is in Christiania, Norway, where a million feet is produced daily. There are about thirty gang saws and six planing and matching machines, the latter of the massive Norwegian design, which feed at the rate of thirty to one hundred feet per minute.

WHAT A "TEAM" IS.

It Depends on What Part of the Country You Are In.

What is a "team"? Is it an animal hitched to a wagon, or two or more animals and a wagon, or simply two animals harnessed up together? Does the word include the vehicle? An excited Bostonian, writing from Nebraska to a Boston paper, confesses his humiliation when, upon remarking that a "team" had been left in the street, he was told by a cowboy that he meant a wagon. He admits, says Harper's Weekly, that the cowboy was right, and so it seems here. In the state of New York, where a high standard of language prevails, "team" properly includes the animals. If more than one, which haul a vehicle, but not the vehicle itself; but improperly it is used to designate any animal or animals hitched to any vehicle. It is not used, however, to designate the vehicle without the animals, as seems sometimes the case in New England. A synonym for team in its degenerate sense in New York state is "rig." In the more objectionable phrase of newspaper English a horse and buggy are invariably a "rig," and livery stable-men and farmers' boys apply the same brief and comprehensive term to almost any vehicle drawn by anything on four legs.

SHOOTING WILD HORSES.

Noble Animals Slaughtered Without Any Justification.

A recent visitor to Nevada, according to the Northwest Magazine, says one of the strange sights he saw in Lincoln county was the cowboys killing wild horses. "One morning," he said, "I saw five going forth well mounted and armed with tremendously big revolvers. I asked them where they were going. 'Oh, out to kill some horses,' they said. Well, they did kill them. They had a boy to change horses and ride round and round in a circuit miles in extent after them. As the wild horses would come around the cowboys would bang them over. I saw horse after horse—great magnificent stallions of all colors—killed in this way. They would come around on the dead run. There would be a shot, or probably a fusillade of shots. The horse would take a leap into the air and come down dead. It looked a shame to kill such magnificent brutes, but the cowboys shot them down without the least compunction."

There are thousands of these wild horses in Nevada, and about the only excuse given for shooting them is that the stallions entice away the domestic mares, which then become as wild as the other horses.

SILK FROM WOOD.

A Recent Discovery of Great Commercial Importance.

At Bradford, England, silk has been made from wood pulp so much like the real thing that it bids fair to occupy a place in commerce and use. It is produced by subjecting vegetable fiber to the action of various acids, the result being a product said to be identical with the filament of the worm, having its lightness, luster and all its qualities, including that of durability. Commercially speaking, says the Philadelphia Ledger, the importance of the discovery can hardly be overestimated, and it is possible that it will produce the most revolutionary consequence in the trade in that commodity everywhere. The world's stock of silk, both woven and raw, is immense and has always held a staple value likely to be much shaken and disturbed by the intrusion of a new supply which can be cheaply and abundantly produced. Samples of yarn, fringe, braid, gimps, sewing silks, handkerchiefs, brocades and other fabrics, dyed in various abundance, modern society will doubtless take on a style of splendor hitherto unknown, outshining the courts of Solomon or the queen of Sheba or the retines of Mahmoud or Haroun Al Raschid.

AN AMERICAN AIR.

A German Band Leader's Idea of the Proper Thing.

A good story was told by a Boston man who was in Antwerp while the preparations were in progress for the exposition. Representatives of all nations were there preparing exhibits from their respective countries. In the evening, says the Washington Star, all the visitors were in the habit of gathering in a large hall on the grounds to listen to the band play. Out of compliment to the visitors the national airs of the different countries were played, and received an ovation from the group of that nationality in the hall. The night that our Boston friend attended the band performance this playing of national airs was on the programme. All were played, but not a thing that could be twisted into an air for the bird of freedom. A delegation of the Americans went up to the leader and told him that they felt alighted that their country had not been recognized. With profuse apologies the leader said it was clearly an oversight, and promised to give them the American air at once. He distributed the music, and, waving his baton, the band broke loose, not with any familiar patriotic air, but "The Man That Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo." Amusement among the Americans finally gave way to visions of "Old Hoss" Hoey and his song, and when the band finished the tumultuous applause from the American delegation elicited an encore.

A SOUTH AMERICAN paper says there is a wide difference of opinion among importers as to whether it pays better in the long run to bribe the officers or pay the duties.

The province of Buenos Ayres is insolvent; it is being sued for a debt of \$20,000, which has been owing for four years. The budget of 1893 has been put in force for 1894.

An international journal for African languages has just been started in Germany, aided by a liberal subvention from the government. The secretary of the Colonial society is editor, and his plans are to appear each year.

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If it is, you will be strong, vigorous, full of life and ambition; you will have a good appetite and good digestion; strong nerves, sweet sleep.

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