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# ANTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON

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There is something in Aguinaldo's the true instincts of a wise political from the train that carries the colonfat cash box.

#### The Execution of Van Horn.

execution effected yesterday cannot be regarded with much satisfaction. It was in obedience to law and law should The jury said so. The prisoner himclaiming that he was drunk at the in the spirit of jest. On its technical did it do to hang him?

The man who commits murder, under the prompting either of hate abnormal. He is the victim of hered- passed. ity or of victous environment and vicious personal habits. As such he is putting him out of the way. Capital rid of him. It is the cheapest plan. But is it not founded on an utterly wrong conception of moral duty and responsibility? Few men, even of Van Horn's kind, are hopelessly dedrawing its principles from the teach- born diplomatist, ings and examples of the Saviour of mankind, view without horror the spectacle of society deliberate'y proceeding to destroy human life under form of laws upon the theory, not of refermation, but of retaliation, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth?"

We wish it understood that in suggesting these thoughts were are giving an opinion on the broad theory of cap ital punishment and not throwing any shadow of doubt upon Van Horn's guilt. As the law is, he was hanged fairly. As the law is, no turor w uid have been justified in returning to court any other verdict that the law and evidence in the case clearly called for. The law says plainly that I en who do as Van Horn did shall hong. Men who do as he did therefore take the risk and no juror is responsible for the penalty incurred. As the law is, hanging is more merciful than lifelong incarceration. Its agony is brief and afterward is-silence. Lifelong imprisonment under existing prison cenditions makes of its victim either a maniae or a beast. As the case

But the point we desire to emphasize is that hanging men does not prevent the spead of crime: hanging men does not change by one tota the conditions of society and personal conduct that generate criminals. Hanging picks out a victim here and there and rids the world of him; but down at the wellsprings of crime are conditions which require far different treatment. What the law, what society should have done as to Van Horn was to ascertain what made him a criminal, what impelled him to enter upon the career of sensual indulgence which brought up in homicide. There is the place to apply the axe. Hanging Van-Horn won't do away with the circumstances, the evil tendencies, the public sores and menaces, which made him de murder most foul.

More reformation and less nemp is what this community needs.

Commercial statisticans are now atternating between prognosticating as to the coming wheat crop and as to the gold output of Alaska.

# The Samoan Affair.

The difficulty in obtaining unbiased information from far-off Samoa has caused the public to refrain from form ing positive opinions regarding the quarrels of petty consuls which have threatened at times to plunge two or three nations into bitter war. While the "antl's" have been too busily engaged with the affairs at Manila to pay much attention to Samoa, many persons have all along been impressed with the idea that there may have been two sides to the question at Apia. The widow of Robert Louis Stevenson, the novelist, who resided on the South sea islands, has written a letter to the Westminster Gazette, which seems to throw new light on the situation. Mrs. Stevenson has no interest in the struggle one way or another and is promptstandpoint.

the warships and "taking to the bush." Under such conditions, she says, dellcate women can hardly exist, while children die like flees. Mrs. Stevenon's letter concludes: 'Chief Justice Shambers has been represented as gayng in a letter to his brother. I never was happier.' He must be a person singularly devoid of imagination if he never pictured to himself the scenes being enacted in those bombarded vilpeople rushing hither and thither, shells bursting everywhere, the cries of bed-ridden and helpless-wounded people burning alive in their blazing their clientele, and either substitute

the sands, the sea before them and the in its effects than morphine or induce The Scranton Tribune the sands, the sea before them and the in its effects than morphine or induce bush behind them. And we read that relief by other means. It is a recogthe woods also were shelled. Who is nized fact that while the majority of

> The girl shoplifter who changed her own clothes, including dress and shoes, in a New York store, for those she purloined from the counter must have been an understudy for the chief role in "The Turtle."

#### Base Ball Once More.

Yesterday's generous attendance at Athletic park shows that the amusement-loving Scranton public is ready patriotism which indicates that he has for another season of base hall. At the outset it may be well to indicate the leader. He never wanders very far kind of ball playing that Scrantonians

will patronize. Men paid good salaries to perform before the public are expected to keep in condition. Absolute uniformity in From the standpoint of morals the form may not be possible and is not demanded, but those who pay to see ball playing have a right to see good, hard, earnest work, from the start of be enforced. Van Horn was guilty, each game to its finish. The player who shirks, who dissipates or who inself admitted, as much, although trigues against his companions will this year be a marked man. Players time and wielded the dangerous razor who do their best, who "go for everything" within their territory and put side there was no flaw in the conduct vim and snap into their movements of the commonwealth's case against will be appreciated, regardless of erthis sinful man; and yet, what good rors. Errors, when costly, are momentarily exasperating and audiences have a habit of passing quick comment upon them, but honest playing survives. The or jealousy, is not rational. He is day of faking on the diamond has

Scrantonians of the ball crank variety are well pleased with the team now to be pitled quite as much as con- bearing the city's name. They are an demned. Society gains nothing by attractive looking lot of athletes and they have made a good beginning. By punishment is a quick way of getting keeping the foregoing facts in mind they can finish the season with salaries all paid and money to spare in the treasury of the stockholders.

The speech of General Merritt laudprayed. Somewhere in them are ing Secretary Alger at Detroit the germs of good. Can Christianity, other night proves that Merritt is a

#### The Troubles of a Doubter.

The Protestant Episcopal church, to which Rev. Dr. C. A. Briggs has flown since he became restive under the restraints of Presbyterian doctrine, seems scarcely less disposed to ordain as a shepherd of the flock one who is not willing to lead the sheep along well-beaten paths than were the followers of Calvin and Knox. In deacen's orders. Dr. Briggs is not an authorized teacher of the church. It is possible that Bishop Potter, whatever may be his personal inclinations and however firm may be the pressure of prominent churchmen who favor Dr. Briggs, will scarcely provoke an open conflict at the altar by persisting in the ordination. The opposition asserts that a strenuous protest will be offered during the service which, according to the ritual, must be heard. if an attempt shall be made to force the issue to that point.

Whatever may be the personal belief in Dr. Briggs' soundness of theology or the propriety of giving him full austands, Van Horn got the preferable thority as a recognized priest and remains a significant truth at the basis of all the argument for and against the criticism and higher that with laxity of discipline, of pronounced orthogox belief, comes a herd of evils in which taxity of morals is pre-emlnent. In no sense is it intimated by this statement that the honest doubter. the sincere agnostic, the thinker who finds it hard to reconcile his personal views with modern creeds, is prone to be lax in his morals. But it is held that the teaching which tends to an unsettling of the average mind, to the disturbance of the religious traditions of the masses, is an ominous influence whose effect is toward the demoralization of pure social conditions and the security of the best interests in the

It is doubtful if Dr. Briggs in the extreme of his so-called "advanced thought" can find a place as exponent of any orthodox faith now existent in the Christian church. His brilliant intellect and his accomplishments in many directions may receive their full recognition, but he should not demand that any church send him forth to teach in its name what is not found in its doctrines and what is, in come particulars, directly opposed to its dearly cherished creed. The church which firmly lifts a dignified barrier against such an innovation is simply acting according to the most sensible philosophy, for, if a church or a creed is worth anything, it is able amply to sustain its position along the lines already established which have as their beginning not unrest, but the peace and velfare and satisfaction of b-lievers.

They actually did kill the umpre at a Birmingham, Ala., base ball game and no arrests have been made,

The Drug Habit. The death of Mrs. Schuyler Hamiled only by instincts of humanity. Her ton, ir., by an overdose of morphine statement, therefore, will be read with taken with the hope of allaying pain, interest as one given from an unbiased is another example of the appalling effect of contracting the drug habit. The Mrs. Stevenson rays: "President case in question has caused an outburst. McKinley allowed no firing on Cuban of reproach against druggists, who, it towns unless they gave active cause is asserted, seem to be unrestricted in of offerse, and Commodore Watson the sale of morphine, as it can be obwas ordered not to attack undefended tained with ease in almost any quar-Spanish cities. Does the president ter. The remedy for the evil lies bekeep his humanity for civilized coun- youd the druggist. The responsibility tries alone?" Mrs. Stevenson declares reats not so much with the victim who that the Samoan villages are inhabited is soon irresponsible and helpless, but in time of war by non-combatants, who with the physician who prescribes it have to choose between the shells of frequently when the patient might better endure untold torture than secure alleviation of suffering at such a fearful cost. In cases without number the habit is acquired while the patient is utterly unaware of the nature of the medicine prescribed. After the will is broken and the force of character shattered, no laws or regulations are strict mough to prevent the victim from obtaining the drug by some means and the druggist can scarcely be blamed lages; the exodus of panic-stricken for the demoralization which takes

Many physicians refuse to thus lay the foundation for wrotchedness among houses; mangled children crawling on something less insidious and dangerous cation? We think not.

to be held accountable for these deeds so-called oplum fiends are women, they that disgrace both England and Ameri- endure pain with greater fortitude than domen, but women when once they have become victims of the drug habit have less power and determination to combat the appetite. Their chief safeguard is in the beginning when the physician protects them from future misery by leaving morphine out of the prescriptions,

Buffalo aesthetes do not take kindly to the suggested design of a sandfly for the seal to be used officially in connection with the Pan-American ex-

#### Work, the Sovereign Cure.

It is fortunate that cases of infat uation of one woman for another, such as that which caused the murder and suicide at Stockton, Cal., the other day, are very rare. Instances of the intimacy that prompts women to hurry to the nearest neighbor with a choice bit of gossip or the intelligence concerning baby's first tooth are harmless in their way, but when two women begin to assume the attitude of lovers who cannot be separated it is evident that one or both should be provided with a straight jacket, as a tragedy is the almost inevitable re-

As a rule those afflicted with this species of insanity are persons who have become morbid from the want of occupation for mind and body. The humble woman who presides over the cottage, mixes dough and reads the daily newspapers is invariably happier than the indolent, petted child of fortune who limits her toil to eating sleeping,dwadling or reading licentious popular novels of the day that, under the protense of condemnation, or of being 'historically correct," arouse all the beastly instincts of humanity.

It is better for any woman, married or single, whose cares are not sufficient to keep her mind c.cupied, to ride a bicycle, play golf, attend base ball games or even bet on the races than to pass hours of idleness in the perusal of works of the modern novelist or in day dreams of the indolent that are usually presided over by the

Western poets are still striving in vain to find a word that rhymes with

Preserve the Dignity of Georgia. An effort will be made to get an anti-lynching bill through the Georgia legislature at its next session. This measure, of course, it not for the purpose of making lynching a misdemeanor, but simply to hurry up trials and convictions in a manner that will give the mobs no opportunity to engage in their favorite pastime whenever a negro is accused falsely or otherwise. The proposed bill provides for the trial within five days after an arrest of persons now punished by lynching, and, upon conviction, the measure provides for a public hanging five days later.

Although it is not so stated, all will understand that the new law applies exclusively to negroes. White men ccused of atrocious crimes will probably be tried in the old way, if tried at all. It does not matter if an innocent person occasionally fall victim to this rapid system of justice so long as the dignity of the state is not 'n the future ruffled by such scenes as characterized the torturing and burning of the unfortunate wretch at Palmetto the other day.

By all means let the extermination of the negro in Georgia be carried on in a dignified manner.

### TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolabe Cast: 2.48 a. m., for Friday, May 5, 1899.

0 A child born on this day will notice that after all man's happiness depends more on the condition of his liver than his surroundings or position in life.

The literary light who could not tell the difference between a piece of manila rope and a bunch of North Carolina dog hair can always write the most enter-taining editorial upon the character of It look as though it would be necessary

for Scranton ministers in future to fight the devil through long-distance tele-

No one realizes better than the street ar conductors who the sweet-tempered women of Scranton are. One can always satisfy himself at least

#### a deep thinking part. Ajacchus' Advice.

If you wish to become a preferred credtor in the fullest sense of the word, do not bother the debtor.

### QUAY SHOULD BE SEATED.

From the Washington Post

It is refreshing and reassuring to hear that so many senators-and senators of ch high standing and potent influence intend to vote for the seating of the Hon M. S. Quay next December. As we see the matter, it should be a point of honor with all of them to indorse the vernor of Pennsylvania in his rebuke the hypocritical conspiracy against r. Quay. It will not do to hark back the Corbett case, the Dupont case, or ny other case in which the senate re fused to seat a governor's appointed There is no parallel to this case of Quay Mr. Quay was the victim of a mean and detestable combination, inspired simply by hatred and base ingratitude. He was mitted and which a hostile judge and an inprejudiced jury have said that he did not commit. His election was held up in legislature overwhelmingly disposed in righteousness and mendacious pretension of integrity. He was assailed on every ide by a concert of detraction and The minds of honest men were bewildered. The inclinations of ho men were paralyzed. Yet, even in the face of this wicked storm of anathema and villication, Quay's enemies could wring from the representatives of the people only the agreement to withhold their votes pending a judicial decision of the controversy. There was no aband-onment of Quay. At no time did it appear that the majority had any othe pear that the majority had any other choice. It was not a question between Quay and any other aspirant. It was merely a question of his innocence or guilt. The temper of the people of Pennsylvania was unmistakable. Quay was their choice, beyond all controversy. And now that the abominable conspiracy has been baffled, now that the only obstacle to Quay's re-election has been removed, is it conceivable that the United States

coate will refuse to confirm his vindi-

### Jack of All Trades but Master of One.

New York Commercial Advertiser.

MERICANS, who have scant respect for old sayings and precedents, preferring to make their proverbs fresh as they go along, to suit the exigencies of the occasion, are rapidly disproving the truth of the old saying about jack of all trades and master of none. In the older countries are men brought up from childhood to the occupation of their lives. Trades and professions descend from father to son, so that one may say men are predestined carpenters or sailors, or lawyers, or soldiers, or priests. In America a man knocks around the country at this trade and that, school teacher, shoemaker, cowboy, newspaper man, politician, burro driver, actor, farmer, shopkeeper, diplomat, or what not, till he gets married and finds out what he likes best, or dies-frequently that. With Kipling's tramp-royal, the American knows that man must work, but that there's "no reason man should labor 'is life on one same shift; li'e's none so long."

Our system gives a man a kin1 of self-reliance, of ingenuity, of adaptability, which in the last war the Old World wondered at, calling it respectfully "the power of initiative." this, if a man ever does settle down with his whole heart and soul to one job, makes him pretty good at it. Indeed, the American has found, as the athlete knows, that the development of his energies in any direction helps him in all others. The disadvantage of this is that it is apt to engender a love for new experience which is not satisfied with the slow theosophic way of waiting for fresh incarnations, but wishes the experience of a new incarnation every year or two.

The name of Colonel Funston has been seen frequently of late in the despatches from Manila as doing those things which most men wou'd like to be able to say they had done. He is the kind of man we like to think of as typically American. He is not specially endowed propocally. Beside the beefy Briton or the paunchy German he would look a midget. The incau-tious stranger meeting him on the street would not hesitate to elbow him out of the way. He weighs less than one hundred pounds and could stand under a Broadway policeman's arms. But that drop of nervous force that is said to enter into the make-up of he American beyond others is two drops in Colonel Funston.

Colonel Funston has had a varied career. He might says in the words of the poet who tells of such men as he "But, Gawd, what things are they I 'aven't done? I've turned to most, an' turned it good." He has reported, been conductor of a train, prospected in Alaska, held up bad men of the west and fought in Cuba under Comez Once or twice he has considered his health ruined for life. That was when there was nothing to do. When the need arose, the thoroughbred blood in him answered, and he showed himself one of the liveliest corpaes that ever came to life again.

Colonel Funston is one of those men for whom rules were not made. The foreign attaches who saw our men storming fortified redoubts unsupported by artillery said such things could not be done according to the rules of But men of this type of war. American haven't time to study rules. They are too busy doing the impossible things to stop and stady out whether they are double or not. Colonel Funstons are not found ever day, But it is our belief and our pride to believe that the American system makes more of them than any other. The Kansas editor who estimated that there are several hundred thousand men of the same stuff in Kansas may be over-sanguine; but he was probably speaking in general terms, not as a statistician.

#### BETTER MARRIAGE LAWS.

From the Philadelphia Press. The marriage law just passed by the Wisconsin legislature will relieve that state of a disgrace which has long attached to it. The law is one of the most stringent of the kind on the statute books of any state. It requires persons wishing to marry to procure a certificate from the county clerk five days befor the ceremony takes place and to sign and verify a statement or take oath that they are of age and that there is no legal impediment to their marriage. It the persons wishing to marry are under the legal age-21 years for the male and 18 years for the female-consent in person or in writing of the parents or guar-dians must be given, and if in writing it must be signed and verified by two witnesses. Heavy penalties are provided for the clerk who issues a certificate or

the clergyman who marries a couple con trary to the terms of the law. Wisconsin has long been known as the Gretna Green of the surrounding neigh-borhood. Its marriage laws were the borhood. Its marriage laws were the loosest of any state in the Northwest No certificate was demanded and no proof as to whether there were any imediments to the marriage. resident or non-resident, could be mar-ried for a fee. The consequence was that thousands of people who did not care to comply with the marriage laws of their own state, or could not comply, hurried over the border into Wisconsin and were married by accommodating ministers of justices of the peace. The procince be came a scandal and a source of tradand traffic. Recently excursion boats running between Chicago and Milwau-kee have sold excursion tickets with a marriage coupon attached as an in ducement to Sunday afternoon travel while opposition boots have carried ciergyman aboard to marry any who desired as soon as Wisconsin waters were

The demoralizing consequences of this rying have been only too evident. good share of the people so marrying had no clear or adequate conception of the results and responsibilities following the step they were taking. They entered pon the relation hastily, inconsiderate-y and often as a joke. The result was felong misery in many cases and a resort to the divorce court in other cases ersons marrying. Their relatives and riends had often to share in the distrace and ignominy which followed iome recent noted cases can be cited. A laughter of Chief Justice Poller of the inited States Supreme Court ran away ice of the neace and a few years late and to go to the divorce courts to fre erself from irksome matrimental bonds The hasty marriage of Robert T. Lir coin's daughter was mnother illustratio of the facilities offered by the Wisconsi aws and the Milwaukee parsons

The most discouraging fact of all w hat so-called ministers were found plenty to help on and profit by these loose marriage practices. They were mong the most vigorous opponents the new law, just as they were of the license law in New Jersey. Bishop

Nicholson of Milwaukee began a vigor ous war on the practice. But it needed patience and hard work and several years of argument to educate public sentiment up to a change. At last, how-ever, it was accomplished, and teday Wisconsin has a marriage law which many older states might copy with ad-vantage. It will render impossible the hasty unions formerly permitted and it surrounds marriage with greater safe-guards than it has even in the state of Connecticut.

Proof of Greatness. First Editor-There it is again! Why do you persist in calling Knell a great man? It is true that he wrote a story. It was a very fair story, and we paid him a very fair price for it. But what more? Second Editor—After we sent him that sheck, what happened? Did he remind us of our obligations to him by an avalanche of stories and poems and literary niscellany, and more stories aghin? First Editor-Not a bit of it. He has seen as silent as the grave.

Second Editer—That's why I call him great man.—Judge.

## REXFORD'S.

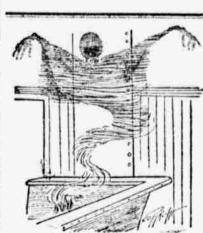
May 4, 1899.

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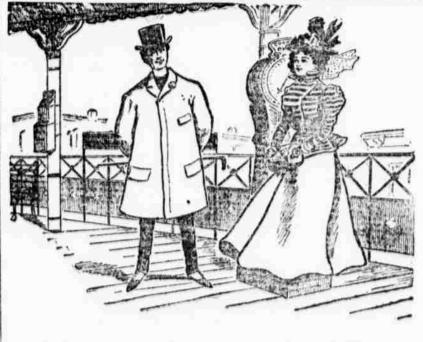
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