

AN OPPRESSIVE RESPONSIBILITY.

Sympathies of the Blaine Household Brought a Reprieve to a Condemned Man.

General Harrison's paper on "This Country of Ours" in Ladies' Home Journal treats of "The Paroling Power and Imprisonment." Of the former he cites an incident in showing the oppressive responsibilities it places upon the shoulder of a president. He says:

"A reprieve is a temporary suspension of the execution of a sentence. This power is often used for the purpose of giving the president time to examine an application for a pardon or to enable the condemned to furnish further evidence in support of such an application. In the summer of 1859 an application for a reprieve in behalf of one condemned to death for murder was presented to me, and after a careful examination, the application was denied. On the day before the day fixed for the execution I arrived at Bar Harbor on a visit to Mr. Blaine, an Italian lieutenant colonel of cavalry, bearing an illustrious name, who had been dismissed from King Humbert's army in disgrace, in consequence of being found cheating at cards; a Russian nihilist who escaped from Siberia; an ex-monk of the College of Notre Dame at Paris, who had been suspended from his ecclesiastical functions in consequence of an offense against public morality; an English captain of the rifle guard who had been dismissed from the service; and a German count who had not only served as lieutenant in the first regiment of guards at Berlin, but who had also held a position on the staff of the late German emperor.—London Times.

"No graver or more oppressive responsibility can be laid upon a public officer. The power to pardon includes the power to commute a sentence—that is, to reduce it. When the sentence is death, the president may commute it to imprisonment for life or for any fixed term, and when the sentence is imprisonment for life or for a fixed term of years he may reduce the term of imprisonment, and if a fine is imposed he may reduce the amount or remit it."

WHERE NO CLOUD OBSCURES.

On the Planet Mars the Weather Is Always Fine.

Let us now remark that the Martian meteorology is less complicated and more pleasant than that of the earth. There the weather is almost always fine, especially during summer. Very seldom are there clouds even in winter. Generally when we are able to distinguish through the telescope the details of the geographical configuration upon the planet the fault is in our own atmosphere and not in that of Mars. It is very rarely the case that when our atmospheric conditions are bad we are unable to see the details. During the long period of observation of Mars in 1877, I speak for myself, encountered only 15 days (from Oct. 10 to 25) when the surface of the planet was veiled by its own atmosphere. Clouds are exceedingly rare on the surface of Mars, and perhaps exist at all only as fog or light cirrus; they are not clouds of rain or storm. These veils are very infrequent there, while they are perpetual upon the earth. Probably there is not a single day in the year when the entire surface of the earth is uncovered so that it could be satisfactorily observed from space. The two planets have two meteorological systems that are absolutely antithetical.

Furthermore, in the rarefied atmosphere of Mars there can be no powerful winds, like the trade winds and the predominant atmospheric currents which rule terrestrial climates. Occasionally, however, observers have noted long streaks of snow which appear to have been produced by currents in a tranquil atmosphere. Schiaparelli, for instance, observed such streaks ("trainees") in November and December, 1881, around the northern pole and extending a considerable distance from it. But such things are exceptions. The normal condition upon Mars is fine weather.—Camille Flammarion in "Ragnarok."—St. Louis Republic.

What Marco Polo Did.

Marco Polo was the first traveler to trace a route across the whole length of Asia, says one of his biographers, "describing his kingdom after that he had seen with his own eyes." He was the first traveler to explore the deserts and the flowering plains of Persia, to reveal China with its mighty rivers, its swarming population and its huge cities and rich manufactures; the first to visit and bring back accounts of Tibet, Laos, Burma, Siam, Cochinchina, China, Japan, the Indian archipelago, Ceylon, farther India and the Andaman islands; the first to give any distinct account of the secluded Christian empire of Abyssinia; the first to speak even vaguely of Cenizier, Madagascar and other regions in the mysterious south and of Siberia and the Arctic ocean in the terrible and much dreaded north. Although centuries have passed since young Marco Polo grew to man's estate while treading his dangerous way among these distant lands, we must still look back to his discoveries to learn that we know about those countries for we have learned nothing new of many of them since his time.—Noah Brooks in St. Nicholas.

Brief Fatal Fault.

"What do you want to haul me up for?" protested the cyclist who was humping him. "I'm along the boulevard." "Why didn't you grab some of these chips that you're searching past me? They were going at the rate of 20 miles an hour?"

"You were the only one I could catch," responded the perspiring policeman, gripping him tighter.—Chicago Tribune.

Imitations.

"No," said the evil one, "we can't do a thing with actors. The minute we try to make it hot for them, they get up a benefit performance, and, of course, you know that means a frost."

Even the supernatural, it seemed, had occasionally to meet up with limitations.—Detroit Tribune.

Men Who Court Death.

Sympathies of the Blaine Household Brought a Reprieve to a Condemned Man.

The mind is never right but when it is at peace with itself. The soul is in heaven even while it is in the flesh if it be purged of its natural corruptions and taken up with divine thoughts and contemplations.—Seneca.

ANTIQUITY OF THE MEASLES.

People in All Times Have Suffered From This Disease.

Of course every one thinks he knows what measles is and yet very few really know more about the ailment than the fact that it is a contagious disease, characterized by sore eyes, sore nose, sore throat and an eruption of the skin.

The disease is one of great antiquity, dating as far back as A.D. 956. At that time, however, it was confined with smallpox and scarlet fever. By many observers smallpox and measles were always regarded as one and the same disease, differing only in degree. This misinformation was not dispelled until 1579, when Sydenham, an English physician, declared that there were distinct diseases.

A writer states that in one company he has found a Roumanian prince who was under suspicion of having murdered his brother, an Italian lieutenant colonel of cavalry, bearing an illustrious name, who had been dismissed from King Humbert's army in disgrace, in consequence of being caught cheating at cards; a Russian nihilist who escaped from Siberia; an ex-monk of the College of Notre Dame at Paris, who had been suspended from his ecclesiastical functions in consequence of an offense against public morality; an English captain of the rifle guard who had not only served as lieutenant in the first regiment of guards at Berlin, but who had also held a position on the staff of the late German emperor.—London Times.

Shah the Eighteenth Victim.

The Shah was the eighteenth sovereign or head of a state assassinated in this century. It was the Emperor Paul, murdered in 1801 by palace conspirators, who led off. Next came the Sultan Selim, in 1808. There was then a long interval, extending to 1851, when Capistrano, president of the provisional government of Naples, was shot at Naples at Naples. At the end of another interval, extending to 1874, the Duke of Parma was assassinated.

The turn of translucent presidents began with the president of Hayti, in 1859. The South American series included Colonel Balta, president of Peru in 1872; Moreno, president of Ecuador, in the same year, and his successor, Gutierrez, in 1873. President Lincoln was the first North American president to be assassinated. Abdul Aziz was killed to death in a warm bath in 1874. President Garfield was shot in 1880 and Alexander II, blown up in 1881.

There was the last to be added to the Shah's list. Four days of Algiers were numbered in this century. The executed monarchs were Murat, Turbide, and Maximilian of Austria, each and all of whom tempted fate.—London Times.

PRECEDENCE QUESTION.

It Was a Matter of Importance and Answered in the Post.

The precedence due to guests was a matter of vast importance in the seventeenth century, which the gentleman at Berkley castle is expected to have at his fingers' ends. It had become very complicated under the commonwealth. There were peers, gentlemen, nobles and others who could be regarded against. In almost every case the eyes became inflamed and call for attention. There is usually a bushy brow, which, if left uncaused for, may be followed by pneumonia and fatal termination.—San Francisco Chronicle.

EASY SONG WRITING.

ANY ONE CAN BE A COMPOSER WITHOUT KNOWING A NOTE.

You suggest the idea, and the song is written while you wait. Salaried poets are in attendance to furnish the words. Your name goes on the sheet.

Do you want to be known as a composer of music? It is the easiest thing in the world.

You may not know one note from another, but that doesn't matter. A few days ago a representative of the Examiner went to visit a local musician of reputation. Before the musician stood a fair young woman, she was writing. Her right red lips had on them a most tempting peacock. She whistled a few notes and stopped. Then the musician who was armed with a sheet of music, score paper and a lead pencil, made like glyptics on the lines and spaces on the sheet. This was repeated several times.

"There," said the girl, "that is all." A sardonic smile glinted for an instant on the musician's face and was gone. He stepped to a piano and played the melody as it had been whistled to him, at the same time improvising an accompaniment.

"Well," said the girl interrogatively. She had not the faintest idea of harmony or counterpoint. She could not sing.

"I must change it some," said the musician.

"Oh, yes, I expected that," said she, "to furnish the musical idea and you do the back work."

Once more there was a glimmer of fun in the musician's eyes. He requested the girl to call again in a few days. I will have one of our poets write words for it," said he, "and when you come again you can see how you like it. You will see how they go together."

"Of course my name will go on the sheet when it is published."

"Certainly. Do you want to be known as the author of the words?"

The girl blushed rather painfully. The heightened color made her look rather more superb. She was a full, willowy blonde with glowing black eyes and a rich olive complexion, on which her blush played prettily. Her attire was fashionable and fit was perfect. Altogether she was what the Barnacle would have called "a well-groomed young woman." Her ears and hands were small and aristocratic. Her manner, now that she had stopped picking her lips to whistle, was a little haughty. Evidently she had not previously thought about the words of the song. The Mephistophelean suggestion of the musician was tempting. His hair was literary as well as musical distinction. She took it all, musical and literary, bait, hook and line, with a little gasp. It has been said that "it is just as well to be hung for a sheep as for a lamb," and she adopted that view with毫不hesitation. When the music sheet comes out, with a sentimental title, this rosy bracelet will be heralded as both musician and poetess.

This is not an uncommon occurrence in San Francisco, says Mr. H. C. Smith, who wrote recently to those who ought to know. "A local music publisher put out a list of about 500 San Francisco compositions last year, and according to the head of the firm, very few appeared as they were originally conceived. What appeared to be odd about the episode first mentioned was the perfection of the facilities furnished for taking down a musical composition. The musician wrote on his music score paper with the speed and certainty of a stenographer. In fact, he was for the time a musical savant. When the girl had left him, he became the poor composer in fact."

George W. Elstz comes in contact with many people who have musical ideas without musical knowledge. He literally takes notes as they reveal their ideas. Being a composer, he is interested in the knowledge necessary to make them ideal products. He is compelled to cast his eye for the range of voice for which it best adapted. People whistle, sing, play the banjo and thumb the piano at him. Then he turns the idea into a musical composition. Hugo V. Schramm of the sensational publishing firm of Broder & Schramm furnished some amusing facts. Mr. Schramm says that the popular songs, which are in the range of ordinary singers and dance bands, are composed in the plan he indicates. It is difficult for any person with a musical idea to get a song, words and music, credited to him. When the composition is ready for publication it has little resemblance to the idea of the repeated author. The doctor thought otherwise, and insisted upon more ether. Reexamining, after applying any more, the attendant was about to compare with the doctor's command when he suddenly jumped back, exclaiming:

"My God! the patient is dying. He's black in the face!" "Of course he is, you fool," replied the doctor. "I've got black enough skin and he's a negro!"—Philadelphia Record.

He Was Black in the Face.

One of the attendants at a local hospital, who was in the habit of visiting the coal pits a great plant—consuming the slack and waste coal, which could be had for next to nothing—which could generate electrical energy, to be transmitted by wire to St. Louis, sufficient to furnish a complete supply of electrical heat, whether for warming buildings or driving machinery. No other city of magnitude, as Mr. Nelson was, is so favorably situated for this grand electrical solution of the fuel problem. Heat, power and illumination might thus through electrical transmission, be supplied from the Illinois coal fields without transporting the coal any appreciable distance from the mouth of the mine. The smoke nuisance would thus disappear of itself.—Albert Shaw in Century.

A Hundred for Shootings.

It has been suggested by Mr. N. O. Nelson that instead of transporting the coal from the mines there should be erected in immediate proximity to the Illinois coal pits a great plant—consuming the slack and waste coal, which could be had for next to nothing—which could generate electrical energy, to be transmitted by wire to St. Louis, sufficient to furnish a complete supply of electrical heat, whether for warming buildings or driving machinery. No other city of magnitude, as Mr. Nelson was, is so favorably situated for this grand electrical solution of the fuel problem. Heat, power and illumination might thus through electrical transmission, be supplied from the Illinois coal fields without transporting the coal any appreciable distance from the mouth of the mine. The smoke nuisance would thus disappear of itself.—Albert Shaw in Century.

One Way.

A Londoner is said to have built up a good business by recording the births from the newspapers, and then as a child's birthday is approaching sending to its parents a lot of suitable presents to be found in his stock of goods and allusion to the date of the anniversary.

This knowledge of the family affairs is said to have a very wide influence on sales in spite of occasional unfortunate mistakes, like sending the remainder when the child has been dead a few weeks.

What good will that do?

"Why, then they will always be willing to take them off!"—Chicago Record.

A Peaceful Mind.

The mind is never right but when it is at peace with itself. The soul is in heaven even while it is in the flesh if it be purged of its natural corruptions and taken up with divine thoughts and contemplations.—Seneca.

Lowest Almost from the Date of Its Publication Has Been Called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief who, in the early days, got into a little trouble with the law.

Lowest almost from the date of its publication has been called the Hawke Suite. Hawke was the name of a noted English chief