

Man's Span of Life Lengthening.

According to Sir Lauder Brunton, writing in the Lancet, the average length of life has rapidly become greater. "There has been a continuous increase in the expectation of life from a little under 40 years in 1854 to a trifle less than 48 years in 1900." A gain of eight years in half a century appears tremendous, but the figures could be, of course, more significant still if we applied the comparison to two periods separated by several centuries. Here is a rather intangible, but certainly important element, that should enter into all our attempts at formulating historical perspectives. However unconscious the average mediæval man may have been of what his worth as an insurance risk was at any particular time, his acts and thoughts must have been profoundly influenced by the fact that he had on an average 15 years less to live than his successor of the nineteenth century, says New York Post. The violence of primitive civilization may be due to the instinctive desire for getting as much satisfaction as possible out of a brief existence. Possibly, we do not live longer in the twentieth century because we fight less; but we quarrel less because we live longer. Leisure is necessary for altruism. Just so people step on each other's toes and scowl during the half-hour's expiation in the subway, but are polite and form lasting friendships on the commuter's train to and from New Brunswick.

English Duke's Patriotism.

The British nobleman responds to the demands of imperial patriotism when they are called to his attention. The duke of Westminster is the latest of them to use his immense wealth in assisting to make the distant possessions of the empire British in fact as well as in name. Two or three years ago his interest in South Africa was aroused by persons who thought that more Englishmen ought to be attracted to that part of the world. The duke bought 19,000 acres of land in the Orange River Colony, built 18 farmhouses and the necessary farm buildings upon it, erected schoolhouses and other public buildings, and sent out all the machinery and tools needed to till the land and to prepare the crops for consumption. Eighteen families have been put in the houses, and are now cultivating the soil and attempting to establish a center of British influence and the nucleus of a large British settlement. If the enterprise proves successful the duke does not expect to net more than two per cent. interest on his investment. But when the Orange River Colony is thickly settled the new district of Westminster—it is named after the duke—will yield large returns to future dukes.

Dr. Morrison, the well-known correspondent of the London Times at Peking, went to see the recent maneuvers of the modernized Chinese army in the neighborhood of Changtseu. He describes them as a repetition of the performance of last year—a set-piece carefully prepared long beforehand by a number of Japanese advisers. The general opinion formed by the military attaches was not, he says, unfavorable, though many years' work without official jobbery will be needed before the troops can compare with those of more advanced nations. The inefficiency of the officers is still conspicuous, and the field training of the men inadequate, but the material is good. Dr. Morrison hints pretty plainly that, without the Japanese to direct affairs, the contending armies would have been little better than a rabble.

The development of Alaska is continuing at a phenomenal rate. Direct proof of this is furnished by the report showing the operations of the government telegraph system in the territory. Receipts during the last few months have ranged from 50 to 100 per cent. more than last year, and the facilities are so inadequate that additions are imperatively needed. The system includes more than 3,000 miles of cable and land lines, supplemented by wireless apparatus which bridges a gap of more than a hundred miles. The lines are being extended in various directions, and before a great while will form a network which will bring all the habitable portions of the "Seward purchase" into touch with the rest of the world.

Japan is planning to send a squadron of warships across the Pacific early next year to visit the western ports of the United States, on their way round the world. This will be the first Japanese squadron to make so long a voyage and the first to carry the Japanese flag on a warship into many harbors.

A St. Louis man who has married on a "dare" and now wants a divorce has decided that he was "game" after all, for some one else.

A new use has been discovered in New York for the steam pipe. It has been found a good sound conductor in cases where direct testimony is desired on infelicity in facts.

Some scientists believe that North America was in contact, during prehistoric ages, with Africa and with Europe, the former connection coming first.

London consumes only 90,000,000 gallons of water daily; New York uses 500,000,000 gallons.

CONDEMN AND DEFEND THE UNWRITTEN LAW

TWO SIDES OF THE QUESTION

Man and Woman, Prominent in Public Life, State Their Views on Subject at Present of Much Prominence—The Right to Defend the Integrity of Family Life Is One of the Pleas Made—Only Punishment to Fit the Crims.

BY JOAQUIN MILLER.

A woman, good or bad, shot a man, good or bad, in his hotel in our national capital, the other day. She stands, she says, "intrenched behind the unwritten law." She claims to have chanced this man from Utah to Washington and shot him to death in his hotel, because he refused to provide for her and her two children; that she has twice been made a mother; that one of the children bears his name.

We have, up to date, been pretty tolerant of the woman who takes a babe on one arm and a pistol in the other hand and pursues a man to his death. But when there are two children, as in this case, one may well ponder a bit before he gives her the tears and tenderness so generously given to the guileless, misguided girl.

Like Highwayman's Act.

A woman cannot well come into court with a family of children and plead seduction and betrayal, as a girl too often does, and have the sympathy of both men and women. This woman's statement is that she asked the man either to marry her or give her money to support her children. He said "No; I will not," and with that she shot him to death, or, at least, did her best to kill him on the spot. Briefly and bluntly she shot him down in his hotel for refusing to give her money. The difference between this act and that of the ordinary burglar or highwayman is not very distinct.

Now, have we not had about enough of this "unwritten law" nonsense? Who will be the next man or woman to shoot someone in the back or belly, and plead the "unwritten law"? I say and you know that had it not been for the noisy and foolish fop in the Tombs with his plea about the "unwritten law" this poor woman out of the far west would be at home to-day with her children and her victim on his feet about his business.

Count up on your fingers, if you can do it on both hands, how many cases of this "unwritten law" idea have been conspicuous since the silly and insolent young idler in the Tombs began to exploit his defense for shooting a useful and industrious man in the back. Why, right in the column next to the ugly account of the "woman without a cent," who left her babes behind to travel for days and nights to kill a man, you read of a woman killing a doctor and pleading in justification "unwritten law." Pity her? Yes. But put her quietly in some good asylum, and, above all, don't exploit her as you have the young lunatic in the Tombs, who so

recently killed a man in his hotel in Washington for refusing to marry her. Held on murder charge.

Recent Cases Involving the So-Called "Unwritten Law"

- Mrs. Anna Bradley** } Shot and killed former Senator Arthur Brown of Utah in Washington hotel for refusing to marry her. Held on murder charge.
- Mrs. Angie Birdsong** } Killed Dr. Thomas Butler at Monticello, Miss., for boasting of alleged relations with her. Found guilty of manslaughter.
- Amasa C. Campbell** } Killed Dr. Benjamin Harris of Chicago in lawyer's office because he says victim wrecked his home in Antigo, Wis. Case pending.
- Lucille McLeod** } Tried on charge of murdering William T. Nieman of Chicago in Empire hotel. Nieman had promised to marry her. Was acquitted.
- Harry K. Thaw** } Killed Stanford White in New York Roof Garden Theatre, alleging White had ruined his wife, Evelyn Nesbit Thaw. Murder trial pending.
- Nan Patterson** } Tried and acquitted of killing Caesar Young, a bootmaker in a cab in New York. Had lived with Young, who was married.

comes being exploited. For see what comes of it all. The most piteous case of this character took place a stone's throw from the White House, in front of the old house where the assassins tried to kill Seward the night Lincoln was murdered. But it took place quite a dozen years before the fateful night at Ford's theatre. A young politician of great promise, and, too, of subsequent great achievement, was living with his notably young wife on that same side of the square. A great iron fence enclosed the square at that time. Had it not been for that fence his retreating victim might have fled and escaped.

Two Cultured Victims.

Both the young men in this very

first "unwritten law" tragedy were men of fortune, culture and position. One, the son of a poet who wrote "The Star Spangled Banner," the other a member of congress from New York and equally conspicuous and respected. The member of congress, seeing the other leave his home and wave a handkerchief back to his young wife, leaning out of the window, confronted him there by the iron fence in front of his door and telling him of his shame and that he must die, followed him up and shot him to death. I was reading law at the time of the trial and followed the case closely. I remember reading with surprise the plea, not of the advocate, but the plea of the judge for the prisoner. I recall how one of the jurors, the oldest of them all, going down on his knees in a corner of the jury room, prayed long and loud for the divine guidance in holding the hearthstone sacred.

Lines By C. H. Webb.

As an example of the unexampled pity for both parties to the tragedy let me quote a few lines written at the time by C. H. Webb, of New York, son of a prominent politician of the time, and our minister to Mexico:

For the wronged member of congress:

Blood on his hands,
A stain on his bed;
Pity them all—
Living and dead.

And this is for the handsome and dashing betrayer:

Billows of sod
Swell o'er his breast
Pleading with God—
There let him rest.

Sentiment is noble and inspiring. I have no use for either man or woman without deep and sincere sentiment and sympathy in all things. But you search the Bible in vain for anything like this "unwritten law" disease. There are those who tell you that you can find anything you want to find in the Bible. And, true, you can find almost anything. But I defy you to find anything like this "unwritten law" in all the lessons, laws, precepts and examples to be found between the lids of the Book of Books. I confine you to live by the sacred decalogue. There is all the law. Accept the sermon on the mount, the holy lesson of our Savior, who prayed, "Forgive us, as we forgive others."

"Unwritten Law" is New.

It may be well enough for those who care to entertain any sort of patience with the "unwritten law" plea to understand distinctly that it is en-

And the sin of it all is the misleading of silly people who mock at the laws that have cost so much toil and are costing so much to maintain them—cranks seeking notoriety through the newspapers.

And oh, the pity of it! Pity for living and dead! But pity most for this deadly disease spreading over the land like a plague, which laughs at the decalogue, the holy lessons and the life and death of Jesus Christ, invoking the hideous and defiant plea of "the higher law."

FOR UNWRITTEN LAW

Dean of the Washington College of Law Defines It as the Right to Defend the Integrity of Family Life.

BY ELLEN SPENCER MUSSEY.

Dean of the Washington College of Law. The unwritten law might be defined to be right to defend the integrity of family life against all invasion and invaders. While the family has



no distinct legal entity apart from the persons who compose it, yet, in the interest of society, the law holds the more intimate family relations as sacred and not to be inquired into by a court of justice. It is on this ground that communications between husband and wife are privileged, and they cannot testify as to confidential communications made by one to the other during the marriage.

Marriage is a civil institution as well as a contract, and it should be a religious sacrament. Law cannot make or unmake the true marriage relation, but so far as the relation concerns society and the state, it must control it.

The family as a unit. The law regards carefully all property rights. It deals promptly with the trespasser and the thief, and enforces contracts. The murderer, the ebezzler, the perjurer, has justice meted out to them as enemies of the commonwealth.

But the law does not deal with the family as a unit. Every student of sociology knows that the homes of the commonwealth are its real cornerstones, but the law does not so recognize it. It is the one institution still left to the defense of the head of the family. In the very nature of things, there is always a woman in the case. If the crime is against her personally, if she be over the age of 16, what remedy does the law give her?

A young woman went into a city to support herself, unwarned, inexperienced; her faith and her affections found an unworthy object. Too late, she found the man was already married, and in a wild moment she shot him fatally. If the man had boldly threatened her life, if she had retreated to the wall to elude him, it would have been a case of justifiable homicide. But his crime against her was a more atrocious one than murder. It took away her good name, the love and affections of her friends and relations, her future, her faith in and respect for herself—and her trust in God and man.

Written in the Mother's Heart. And, again, the man takes, under the unrighteous laws of certain states, his child away from its mother. Which law comes first—that written in the

statute books or that written in the heart of every mother by the pangs of childbirth? So sure as she lives, that mother will obey the unwritten law, and the child she will have. It is only ten years since there was taken from our statute book the law that a man could by will give his unborn child to whom he pleased, without reference to the paramount claim, by affection and suffering of its mother.

A member of the bar in the one state in the union where there are no divorce laws once told me that in his state they had no serious trouble as to domestic infelicities. "If a man abuses my sister he knows whom he has to deal with." In this case the unwritten law seemed to be preferred to the statute law, which severs the marriage bond on adequate grounds well proven. I suggested to the gentleman that all women were not so fortunate as to have brothers, but the reply was that seldom was there a case in which there was no male relative, and that he believed that were such a case to arise of gross abuse, there was always to be found in the community a man who would protect the woman and her rights.

Gossip of Washington

Interesting Information Gathered at the Nation's Capital—Supreme Justice Moody's Interview with the Court Modiste—President to Cleanse City's Underworld.



WASHINGTON.—One of the first acts of Attorney General Moody after being sworn in as a member of the supreme court of the United States was to have an interview with the court modiste. Washington boasts of a modiste "by appointment" to the court, but, unlike the dressmakers of European courts, this particular modiste caters only to men, and among men only to the justices of the supreme court of the United States. Naturally, her business is not large enough to employ assistants, but her patronage is distinguished.

The supreme court is the greatest stickler for precedent in the country. It is one of the customs of the court that a justice shall be measured for his black silk gown only after he has been sworn in. When Mr. Moody ascended the bench for the first time he wore a leftover gown of a brother justice, but within a few days he put on a brand-new silk gown, cut and made in accordance with the prevailing supreme court fashion. Only one woman knows the trick of making these gowns, and she has been at it for years.

The gown must be three and a quarter yards at the bottom and it must come down to the ankles. It will have a narrow hem around the bottom and a broad one straight down the front. At the top it will be gaged to a yoke, short on the shoulders and forming a deep scallop at the back. The yoke has a silk lining between the outside and the inner one of silk. The sleeves will be a yard and a quarter wide and reach to the hands. The lining of the sleeves is formed by doubling the material at the bottom, turning it up on the inside and plaiting it about a quarter of a yard above the bottom to a narrower silk lining, which fits the arm closely. This arrangement makes the lower part of each sleeve appear to be a wide loose puff.

The sleeves are gaged to the yoke on the shoulders with many rows of gaging, but not so many as the back of the gown, where it is a quarter of a yard deep, giving the effect of the fascinating empire evening wrap. The gown is fastened at the top with narrow gros grain ribbon, but is left open the rest of the way down the front, which gives a flowing appearance as the wearer walks.

It is not known whether a new justice goes through some preliminary training as women are coached in the manipulation of a court train before presentation, but the solemn procession to the bench is never marred by any undignified movement.

Mr. Moody will pay \$100 for his gown. But he will not have to order a new one until he is promoted to be chief justice, as a gown never wears out. The gown of the chief justice is distinguished from that of an associate justice by being made of Chinese satin instead of black silk. Whenever the chief justice swears in a president he is expected to provide himself with a new gown in honor of the occasion.

SOCIETY HAS GOOD JOKE ON MOODY.

Speaking of Moody, Washington society is having a little fun, and not altogether quiet fun at his expense. The joke is thought to be better than anything else that has come along since a great New York paper printed the pictures of Count du Chamburn and several other Washington diplomats and labeled them with the names of the cooks of several families of wealth.

Another great newspaper has reproduced photographs taken at the West Point-Annapolis football game, and the pictures are adding to the gaiety of the representatives of many nations. One of these pictures shows the new supreme justice sitting in a box at the football contest with a remarkably beautiful young woman at his side. The picture is labeled "Attorney General Moody and Daughter." As Mr. Moody is a confirmed old bachelor, the unregenerate ones of society are to smiling inclined, and when the former attorney general happens in the signs of amusement are not confined to smiles.

There is another picture which shows a most charming young girl, possibly 18 years old. Under the picture one reads that it is the likeness of Mrs. Robert Shaw Oliver, wife of the assistant secretary of war. The picture, however, shows the happy and winning countenance of Miss Durand, daughter of Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, the British ambassador.

In yet another picture there appears the form and the face of an exceedingly youthful officer of cavalry. From the caption it is learned that the dashing young cavalryman is Gen. Robert Shaw Oliver, the assistant secretary of war. Gen. Oliver is a veteran of several wars. The picture is that of young Phil Sheridan.

Fame certainly comes to Mr. Moody in these pictures. There is one which represents a field box at the game, and the inscription placed upon the picture tells that the box is the one occupied by "Secretary of the Navy Moody." As the world knows, Mr. Moody has not been secretary of the navy for several years. The box was the one used by Truman H. Newberry, assistant secretary of the navy, who represented the department at the football game in the absence of Secretary Charles J. Bonaparte.



ROOSEVELT TO RID CAPITAL OF SLUMS.

Washington is to be cleared up. Before leaving the White House the president expects to inaugurate a programme which will rid the capital city of the slum districts, which, according to the report of a special commissioner employed by the president, are worse from the standpoint of morality and cleanliness than similar areas in New York, Chicago, or any of the other large American cities.

No expense is to be spared in this improvement, which is to be one of the most comprehensive in the general plan of making Washington the ideal "city beautiful."

"Already one bill has been introduced that calls for an expenditure of 100,000, though the ultimate completion of the plan will call for double that amount."

The special section that will be wiped out of existence is the site of the former camp occupied by Gen. Hooker's men during the civil war.

According to the report of James B. Reynolds, of New York, who made the investigation for the president, this place is the most undesirable in the city.

President Roosevelt has been greatly aroused by the Reynolds report and he is determined to abolish these conditions at any cost and it is expected that he will make this the subject of a special message to congress in the near future. It is planned to wipe out this blot by a government purchase of the entire section which lies south of Pennsylvania avenue, abutting the post office department and the new Municipal building on the north and being separated from the White House lot on the west by the width of Fifteenth street.

Mr. Reynolds discovered blind alleys, filthy negro hovels, dives of all kinds which have been segregated into this section until it has become one of the worst plague spots in the country. At night everything is wide open. There has been a lot of quiet criticism aimed at the president because he had failed to take any action looking to the cleaning up of this section, which is almost in plain view from the White House windows. While he has been suggesting reforms and improvements in such conditions in the larger cities, it has been pointed out that it would be a good thing to begin the cleaning-up process right here in Washington.

HISTORIC LONG BRIDGE TO BE REPLACED.

Long bridge, the historic old wooden structure across the Potomac, connecting link between the capital and the south, is being torn down. A modern steel bridge has been completed to take its place.

With the bridge will go one of the oldest landmarks around the city. Every period in the history of the capital draws some of its interest from the framework of the old structure.

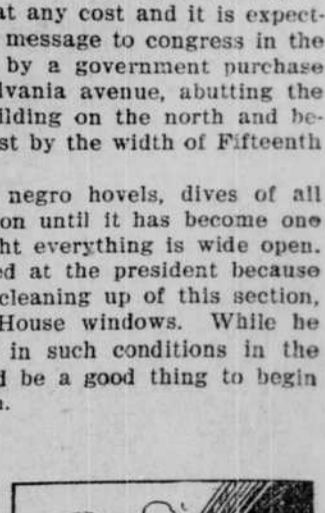
In the war of 1812, when it was reported that the British fleet was approaching the capital, thousands of volunteers from southern states rushed across the bridge to defend Washington. Many first families of Virginia moved bag and baggage to this city when it was said the British were coming.

In the civil war the first soldiers of the federal army to enter Virginia crossed the bridge. For many days after the outbreak of hostilities in 1861 a company of Rhode Island soldiers guarded the Washington end while the Washington Light infantry occupied the Virginia end.

On the day of the battle of Bull Run thousands of men from the federal army, routed and disorganized, retreated to the capital by way of the bridge, followed almost to the Potomac by the confederates. The roadway of the bridge on that day was blocked by the fleeing union soldiers and horses and carriages of officials at Washington who had driven into Virginia to witness the battle. Many of them narrowly escaped capture.

Veterans of the Army of the Potomac, under Gen. Meade, May 23, 1865, marched across this bridge to their homes in the north. On the following day the victorious thousands of the Army of Tennessee and Georgia, with Gen. Sherman at their head, entered the city.

The Long bridge was used by the Southern railway, the Chesapeake & Ohio, and the Atlantic Coast line for southern traffic. The bridge was originally opened May 20, 1809, and cost \$100,000. It has several times been destroyed by freshets and ice.



KEEPS A DOG IN CONDITION.

Wire Will Give Him Exercise if Secured in Proper Way. Dogs, especially setters, pointers and other hunting animals, as well as fierce and unruly ones, need to be kept chained most of the time, the hunting dogs to prevent them from straying away, generally at night, and others from annoying or endangering the safety of people coming on the premises. To keep dogs on a chain constantly, preventing them from getting much-needed exercise, is cruel and prejudicial to their health, and it also serves to make a cross dog so much more unruly and dangerous as frequently to necessitate having him killed. There is a practical and easily constructed method of overcoming the difficulty and still restraining the dog of his liberty.

A stout post is securely planted alongside of the doghouse, having about 18 inches of it above ground. Another post is then securely planted about 100 feet distant and a stout telegraph wire stretched taut between the two posts and securely fastened. The chain is attached to the wire with a sliding ring and the other end to the collar on the dog. The dog soon gets to understand the arrangement and will soon have a pathway worn along the entire length of the wire on both sides in his scampers.

To prevent fouling of the chain at the far post attach a support, which will enable the chain to slip over and into place readily.

The location of the wire run can be so arranged as to permit the dog to guard both the front, side or back of the dwelling, as well as the gate, though much over 100 feet will make it difficult to make and keep the wire from sagging under the strain of a good-sized dog.

FOUND IN LIBRARY BOOKS.

Queer Things Left There by Absent-Minded Readers. Strange fish come to the nets of the receiving clerks at public libraries when they examine the books returned by borrowers.

Perhaps the most common catch is

WHAT A RACE SINGS ABOUT.

Each Nationality Has Its Own Range of Favorite Ballads. "It may or may not be the case that a race's temperament can be judged from its folk songs," said a traveler, "but it is interesting to note the difference of subject matter in the songs of various peoples."

The Irishman, for instance, seems to sing for the most part about his lady love. Hardly any of his songs are not addressed to his "Somebody Mavourneen."

The Scot, on the other hand, sings about his country and its history, as a rule "Scots Wha Hae," "Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon," "Loch Lomond" and so on might be taken as examples.

"The Englishman, it is interesting to note, sings about himself all the time. His songs are about his own glory, his ships, his men, his power. He refers occasionally to old England, but only as a place he made famous by his own prowess. Unlike the Irish and the Scotch, he sings little of his women and his country's beauties."