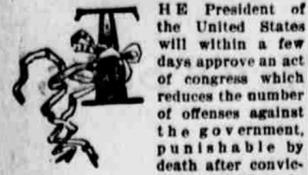


THE OLD ROMAN LAWS.

OUR STATUTES NOW FREE FROM BARBARIC MEASURES.

Newly All the Capital Offenses Introduced into Our Laws from Foreign Codes Have Been Eliminated—Only 5 Crimes Punishable by Death Penalty.



THE President of the United States will within a few days approve an act of congress which reduces the number of offenses against the government, punishable by death after conviction, from sixty to five. Many of the statutes of the United States, as carried on the books for nearly a century, were copied from the laws of the old Roman empire.

The penalties for crime that it is possible for a judge in a United States court to inflict have for many years been disproportioned to the maximum power of the state courts. For instance: A civilian or a member of the United States army who strikes or physically assaults an officer of the United States may be hanged, provided that the officer is in commission and in uniform. A man who assaults the governor of a great state is guilty of an offense measured only by the physical damage caused, and can be fined or imprisoned, for no more nor longer, all things considered, than if the object of his violence were plain John Smith of Brown street.

Being accessory before the fact to piracy.

Being accessory after the fact to an act of piracy.

Aiding or abetting by advice or counsel or command an act of robbery, murder or other piracy.

Knowingly concealing the fruits of a piracy, or assisting in the escape from arrest of the perpetrator of an act of piracy, robbery or murder.

Having in possession the fruits of piracy.

Treason, in levying war or adhering to the enemies of the government.

Inciting to or engaging in rebellion against the government.

Aiding, abetting, etc., to commit murder or piracy on the high seas by the owner.

Destruction of a vessel on the high seas by other than the owner.

The corrupt casting away of a vessel on the high seas by the owner.

Laying violent hands by seamen upon the commander of a vessel to prevent his defense of the vessel.

Robbery on the high seas.

Robbery on shore by the crew of a pirate.

Murder, robbery or hostile act under cover of a foreign commission.

Forcibly confining a negro on a vessel with intent of making him a slave.

Landing from a vessel and seizing a negro with attempt to enslave him.

Malignant burning of a fort or a dock yard.

Burning a vessel of war.

Rescue by force of persons found guilty of capital crimes against the United States.

Disobeying or striking a superior officer in the army or navy.

Sleeping on posts of sentry.

Refusal of failure to resist the enemy in the army or navy.

Wilfully causing a false alarm of military attack.

Mutinous conduct in presence of the enemy.

Forcibly compelling an officer to surrender.

Disclosing the watchword.

Relieving the enemy with money, valuables or supplies.

Desertion from army or navy in time of war.

Aiding others to desert in time of war.

Correspondence with the enemy.

An equal number of offenses against the discipline of the navy are in the books. These are all struck out by the Curtis bill. In time of war martial law asserts itself, and the military is a law unto itself.

Only a Slight Change.

"Spiffens has quit the photography business and is now a florist," remarked McSwilligan.

"Oh, Well," replied Squidling, "it is not much of a step from poses to poses."—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

Paper Floors.

The newest kind of floor is made of paper, which is spread out on the surface in the form of a pasty mess, then covered and pressed. It hardens like plaster of paris, is noiseless under foot and helps greatly in preserving an even temperature.

WROUGHT-IRON FAD.

It Had an Ancient and Most Respectable Beginning.

There is no doubt that wrought iron is more and more used every year in domestic economy and decoration. Deservedly so, says the New York Herald. There is nothing that lends itself so easily to the requirements of both utility and art. Besides, it has an ancient and respectable history. Germany in the fifteenth century produced much wrought-iron work of a rather special character, such as the grave crosses and sepulchral monuments to be seen in the cemeteries of Nuremberg. Iron was also employed for well canopies, such as that at Antwerp attributed to Quentin Matsys. Originally a blacksmith from Louvain, he came to Antwerp to seek his fortune. There, as the story goes, he fell in love with the daughter of a painter and, to propitiate the daughter as well as her father, exchanged the anvil for the painter's palette and before his death, in 1531, he was successful in helping to raise the school of Antwerp to a celebrity equal to that of the schools of Bruges and Ghent. Iron work was extensively produced at Augsburg—under the fostering care of the Fugger family—taking the shape of brackets projecting from the walls and grills over lanterns or in a balcony. Grottesque knockers are also common in Nuremberg. Keys were sometimes elaborately decorated and the part which is now a common ring was once occupied by little figures in full relief, with coats of arms and the like. The French revolution was the cause of much splendid iron work being destroyed, when, in 1793, certain provinces had to gather together every available piece of iron to transform into pikes and other weapons.

Our Indian Cusswords.

"Gewhiteke," is Indian. It means fight, charge, advance (collection of Rhode Island Historical society, vol. 1, page 148). There is no Indian word for "father." Elliot in the Indian bible uses gosh for God and Our Heavenly Father. The Indians soon learned that settlers used the same word when swearing in anger, and the Indians prefixed gosh to gewhiteke, and seventy years ago, "gosh all hitticut" was a phrase in common use, called deacon's swearing; it may fairly be translated "God and the Battle." Indian words so forcible to the eye, are sometimes very pretty when traced to their roots, thus young girls are "squog," from "star." When grown to marriageable young ladies, "nungsquog," which means "twinkling star."—Boston Journal.

What a Woman Thinks Of.

What does a woman think about as a general rule? According to a profound philosopher following are the mental occupations of a woman during her existence: When 4 years old she thinks of sweets and bonbons. At 7 her doll is her sole anxiety. At 13 she dreams night and day of her little cousin. At 18 she yearns for a romantic marriage. At 21 her thoughts are engrossed by her first baby. At 35 they are transferred to her first gray hair. When about 40 her mental balance is sorely tried by her first wrinkles and the disagreeable perspective they open up. At 50 she begins to think of the past. And later she turns her attention to the future prospects of her grandchildren.—Exchange.

A Good Timepiece.

Here is a fish story for the truth of which we cannot vouch, but which all fishermen, young or old, will enjoy. It comes from an English Journal—the Northampton Daily Reporter: Last spring, while a party of tourists was fishing "up north" a well-known lawyer lost his gold watch from the boat in which he was sitting. In the fall he made another visit to the lakes and during the first day's sport caught an eight-pound trout. His astonishment can be imagined when he found his watch lodged in the throat of the trout. The watch was running and the time correct. It being a "stem winder," the supposition is that in masticating his food the fish wound up the watch daily.—Harper's Round Table.

Black Cats.

Although black cats have come to be regarded as mascots they were not many years ago looked upon with horror and distrust and supposed to enshrine the forms of familiar demons patronized by witches. Even now many people find something uncanny about black cats and refuse to own them. "Who," it is asked, "would trust a black beetle? Look at his furtive, murderous, round-shouldered deadliness of shape—a masked, black-clad headman among insects. Doubly false even to his own name, he is neither black nor a beetle but a cockroach."

Against Them.

The native young person sighed. "It is indeed difficult," she rejoined, "to maintain a real society in the tropics. It is well nigh impossible for us to give anything like the cold shoulder, don't you know, and after all that is the main thing, I fancy. Ah, yes. Our latitude is certainly against us."—Detroit Journal.

Naturally.

Nurse Girl—"I lost track of the child, mum, and—" Mistress—"Good gracious! Why didn't you speak to a policeman?" Nurse Girl—"I wuz speaking to wan all the toime, mum."—London Pearson's Weekly.

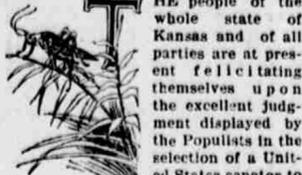
No Millionaire Centenarian on Record.

Many persons have lived to be 100 years old, but there is no record of a millionaire having obtained that age.

HE SUCCEEDS PEPPER.

W. A. HARRIS THE NEW SENATOR FROM KANSAS.

A Virginian by Birth and a Confederate Officer Under Longstreet—He Goes West in Pursuit of His Vocation as Civil Engineer.



THE people of the whole state of Kansas and of all parties are at present felicitating themselves upon the excellent judgment displayed by the Populists in the selection of a United States senator to succeed Mr. Pepper.

It is the universal sentiment that the choice could not have fallen upon a more satisfactory man than W. A. Harris, who received the nomination in the caucus of the controlling party. Mr. Harris may in truth be classed as a moderate Populist. He was formerly a Democrat and is known to be conservative and reliable from every point of view. He is an educated man, a practical farmer and stock grower, and in thorough sympathy with western needs and conditions.

He is a Virginian by birth and was a soldier in the southern army during the civil war. His education was in the line of work as a civil engineer, and it was this occupation that brought him to Kansas soon after the war, where he was employed in the construction of the Union Pacific railroad. He was quick to appreciate and take advantage of the agricultural possibilities of the new and thriving state, and his interests have since that time been closely identified with those of his fellow farmers and stock raisers.

He acquired a valuable tract of land in Leavenworth County, where he has resided since 1884, and is one of the most prominent and extensive stockmen in the state.

The Harris family consists of a wife and five children. Of the latter there are two sons and three daughters—Page Harris of Dallas, Texas; Craig

Murray of Lawrence, Kas. She was divorced from her husband a short time before her marriage to Col. Harris, and the husband instituted proceedings against Harris for damages on a charge of alienation, but the suit was subsequently compromised without serious reflection upon either of the parties.

The Harris home is at Linwood farm, in Leavenworth County, twenty-seven miles west of Kansas City, on the line of the Union Pacific railway, and is one of the most beautiful and desirable locations in the state. The farm proper comprises 300 acres of land, much of it in blue grass, which the Colonel prizes highly and in which he has great faith in connection with the breeding of fine cattle.

The family residence is on a gently rising eminence situated nearly a quarter of a mile from the main road. It is distinctively a southern house, with broad and inviting porches, large halls, library, open fire-places, and everything suggesting convenience, comfort and refinement. There are delightful shade trees about the place, the buildings are all kept in excellent condition, and the broad lawn with its rustic seats and carpet of green give a hearty welcome to the visitor. Not far away are the houses of the herders of the famous imported short-horns—the Cruikshanks—of which Col. Harris has a herd well known to stockmen all over the United States. The cattle were imported direct from Scotland and are of the very best strains.

Mrs. Harris has already spent one winter in Washington, while her husband was filling the post of congressman-at-large, to which he was elected in 1892, defeating the Republican nominee, George T. Anthony, who had been a Union soldier. This was accepted in Kansas as a timely and complete burial of the "bloody shirt" issue in politics, on which so many former battles had been fought and won. Two years later, to show that the issue had not been entirely wiped out, Col. Harris was defeated for re-election to the same office by Col. R. W. Blue, a Republican and a distinguished Union soldier. This year the war again cuts no figure in the campaign between the two leading parties, and Kansas, the great soldier state, sends to the senate a Confederate officer who was a pupil

WHAT'S A PATERAN?

The Gypsy Method of Leaving a Trail Visible Only to Their Fellows.

"You don't know what a pateran is?" inquired surprisedly of the group about him a man at the Authors' club the other evening, says the New York Journal. "Why, that was one of the first things I learned when I began to study the gypsies. The pateran, or patrin, is what the Romanies use to indicate the route taken by a party of their people journeying from place to place. It has a great many forms which would pass unnoticed by those not initiated. In some instances a clod of turf, lying at the intersecting point of four cross roads, is sufficient to tell a straggler from the gypsy camp the direction to which his friends have gone. Only last summer, out in Pennsylvania, I came across it many times. Once I remember just because some school children had kicked the clod into a ditch an old gypsy woman who had lingered behind to tell a fortune wasn't able to find her people for two days. Seeing the clod at the cross roads, you know, the straggler will glance down each of the different ways until he sees a similar sign which shows him the right one. In every country where there are gypsies, there you will find the pateran—among the Zigeuner of Germany, the Zincall of Spain, the Czajnyok of Hungary, all those roving tribes which are descended from the original wanderers from the East—and there is very little doubt that the pateran dates very far back in the history of their race. Sometimes it takes the shape of a cross, scratched on the ground with a sharpened stick, the longer line of the figure being drawn in the direction in which the trail leads. A cleft branch or two sticks so placed as to point in a certain direction is also used. Stones, leaves and handfuls of grass are occasionally employed, and many of the gypsy families formerly had their own particular signs, understood by none but themselves. By following these paterans or trails the first gypsies on their way to Europe never lost each other. It is strange that this curious practice of the Romanies has so long escaped the attention of the romancers; but it is only comparatively recently

A COMPLETE FAVORITE.

How a Conversational Terror Was Vanquished by Superior Forces.

"Well," exclaimed the man with the fur-trimmed coat, according to the Washington Star, "I never expected to see it, but I'm glad it happened." He was so busy talking to himself as he hurried through the depot that he ran into a policeman. "I beg your pardon," he exclaimed, as he observed the policeman's offended dignity. "I really didn't mean to do it. Things have gone so strangely with me today that I am liable to make most any kind of a blunder; I really am."

"What's the matter with you?" inquired the policeman. "You aren't getting hysterical, are you?"

"Certainly not. I was holding a little jubilee—a sort of jollification meeting—all to myself. You see, myself and the other people connected with the dime museum which I manage have been demoralized over for a long time by the bearded lady. She's a populist, and I never saw anybody so opinionated. She won't even admit that McKinley's elected. She talks silver by the hour and when anybody tries to argue with her she simply opens the flood-gates of her eloquence and washes 'em clear out of the debate. She started in just as soon as we left New York to make life a burden to everybody in the car. Talk? She can articulate faster than Russell Sage makes money. We all gave up trying to outtalk her long ago. We knew there was nobody that stood any chance. So we just let her have her own way. But she met her Waterloo at last, and it's all I can do to keep from singing for joy."

"How did she meet it?" inquired the policeman, who had condescended to become interested.

"The two-headed girl joined us here this afternoon. They're mighty bright—I mean she's a mighty bright girl. The bearded lady started in to talk politics and in a few minutes she didn't know what was happening to her. One of the two-headed girl's heads threw the protective tariff at her in sentences a yard long, and the other head gave her hark-from-the-tombs about the gold standard. It came like a cyclone and the bearded lady hasn't had a word to say for more than three-quarters of an hour."

"The two-headed girl is quite a heroine, then, ain't she?"

"I should say so. She was kind o' bashful at first, because she has been out of an engagement and wasn't dressed very well. I'm going out now to look for a millinery store. I want to buy her a couple of handsome new bonnets just to show her how much we think of her."

RECENT INVENTIONS.

A recently patented chopping ax has its head in three sections, the blade having a recess cut in each side to receive the ends of the head portion, which is hinged in the head, the two back pieces surrounding the handle and being attached to the blade by means of a screw.

One of the novel uses for electricity recently patented consists of a pair of flat, separately insulated conductors, surrounded by a flexible insulating and nonconducting material, the conductors being connected to an ordinary electric light socket by means of a wire, the current passing through the conductors, heating them and warming the person using the device.

A new handle bar for bicycles has a loop or ring at each end of the bar, thus enabling the rider to turn his hands at any angle he may desire.

To prevent water from freezing in a trough for watering stock a new device consists of placing a reservoir in the center of the trough and placing therein a number of alcohol or ordinary lamps to raise the temperature.

Bookkeepers will appreciate a new device consisting of a flat rest, fastened to which is a telescoping tube to slide up in the back of a book and a flat projection on the opposite side of the rest lying on the edge of the book, thus making a support for use in writing at the bottom of the book where there is nothing to steady the hand.

A Chicago man has patented an explosive propelling engine light enough to be attached to a bicycle and which needs only the use of the pedals for the first few revolutions, when combustion is started and power applied to a piston rod working on the axle of the rear wheel.

A novel fly brush for use in connection with doors to prevent flies from entering consists of a rotary drum hung on brackets and provided with a number of strips of cloth or paper fastened only at one end, so that when the drum is rapidly revolved by means of a cord wound round the drum and attached to the door the strips spread out and scare the flies from the doorway. A spring in the drum winds up the cord again, thus also closing the door.

Nose to the Occasion.

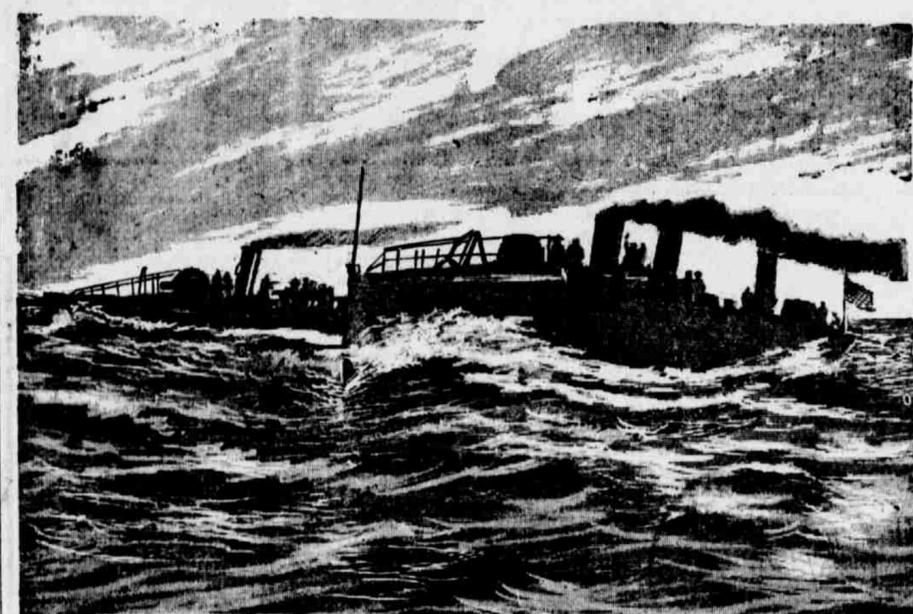
Wifitebo—"That doosid Jones girl tried to be sawcastic at my expense, but I think I made her feel that I was respected, don't you know?"

Hargreaves—"Yes; she told me about it. She said you were positively queenly in your indignation."—Indianapolis Journal.

Human Nature.

A man may battle against fate for fifty years and when he finally does reach the long fought for goal his friends will invariably remark: "Well, that lucky old fool!"—New York Journal.

SOME TORPEDO BOATS OF THE NEW NAVY.



The new American torpedo-boat, Number Six, is a fine type of the up-to-date war vessel. She was launched last September from the famous Herreshoff works at Bristol, Rhode Island, and is now being fitted up for speed trial in Narragansett Bay. With a capacity of only 186 tons, she will carry a crew of about twenty-five. She is fitted with one bow tube and two deep tubes for dynamite shells. She will also carry two small quick-firing rifle-guns. Her sister boat, Number Seven, is now building at the same works and will soon be ready for launching. The Cushing, which appears in the background of the illustration, is one of

the three torpedo-boats now in commission. She has been in use for about four years, and is at the torpedo station at Newport. She has a tonnage of 105 tons—little more than one-half that of Number Six. Her equipment of tubes and guns is very similar. Three torpedo-boats, Number Three, Number Four and Number Five, are now building at the Columbia Iron Works, Baltimore, and will be ready this spring. Eleven other torpedo-boats are in process of construction. Service on a torpedo-boat when in action will be extremely hazardous. With the exception of a very thin "turtle-back"

steel covering over the bow, the boat has no armament. A single well-directed shot from an enemy's gun would send her to the bottom. Even the magazine is unprotected, save by being placed below the water-line. How dangerous the service will be can be determined only when a naval battle shall have been fought by fleets of modern construction. An essential requisite for these boats is high speed. They must have the power to make sudden attack or rapid retreat. If once they are able to plant a dynamite projectile against the hull of an enemy, no weight or strength of steel can withstand the deadly explosion.

Harris, now in school; Miss Frances Harris, Mrs. Isabella Byrnes of New York City, and Mrs. Elizabeth Finlay



of Stonewall Jackson in the Virginia Military Institute and a member of Gen. Wilcox's staff in Longstreet's division. Col. Harris is counted upon by his friends to make a meritorious record during his term in the senate and to greatly strengthen the People's party in the state and nation.

that a writer of detective stories made his astute man hunter track a gypsy desperado by means of the pateran.

Egyptians Embalmed Alive.

Professor Maspero, the renowned Egyptologist, is authority for the statement that among the royal mummies unbandaged in 1866 was one of a young man who had evidently been embalmed alive. The body had been tightly bound in three places and then coated with bitumen, lime and pounded resin, and then wound from head to foot with bandages which had been soaked in some glutinous preparation. The agonized expression of the face and other evidences gave the scientists their clue. His age was probably about 23. The gold ornaments on his body indicated that he was one of high rank and likely the victim of some terrible tragedy.

The Czar Carries a Revolver.

"Ever since the assassination of the Czar Alexander II the young emperor of Russia, it is said, has carried about with him a small revolver, which was given to him by his mother, the dowager empress of Russia, who exacted the promise that whenever he was away from the royal palace he would carry it with him. Since he has been traveling in Europe the emperor has kept the revolver ever by his bedside, the idea haunting him, as it haunted his mother, and still haunts his young wife, that whenever the fated assassin appears (as appear he will, they all firmly believe) he will be as swift and determined as was the "patriot" who blew up his grandfather, surrounded as he was by his trusty guards and hundreds of police. When driving, the emperor has his revolver, always loaded in its six chambers, in a pocket of his carriage, just near his right hand.

In places where soda water is made the atmosphere runs sometimes higher than 2 per cent of carbon dioxide, yet without harmful effect.