

Crime has justified itself on a thousand ingenious pleas, not only to escape punishment, but to placate in some fashion the angry conscience of the evil-doer. But it is rarely that this glazing of sophistry carries with it such a note of sincerity even to the point of humor, as in the case of the Cleveland incendiary who recently fired the building of the Young Men's Christian association of that city. It seems that this unique firebug had been recipient of considerable kindness from the association and felt profoundly grateful. It had come to his knowledge that the board desired to put up a new building in place of the ramshackle old one, but funds were short, though the structure was highly insured. To this grateful person's simple minded logic the course was straight, not crooked. He burned the building and compelled the insurance company to do the rest. Unfortunately, among that remainder was restraint of his own liberty. The local mind has been exercising itself on this curious perversion of nature with much interest, it is said, but without preventing the prison doors from yawning still more widely for the grateful incendiary.

A happy opportunity is offered to that innumerable intellectual genus, the Yankee inventor, by the commissioner of New Zealand who recently arrived in this country. His government is eager to find a mechanical or chemical process for treating the native hemp fiber, and suggests figures up in the millions as a reward. That is sufficient. There are plenty of Americans with from 50 to 200 patents to their score who only need a hint. Commissioner Holmes may rest sure of getting his desire gratified if he can prove the "quet pro quo."

Recollection is the one paradise out of which we cannot be driven. So it is the one hell from which there is no escape. The mirror reflects the beautiful and the repulsive with equal fidelity.

\*The charge of the Seventy-first lancers at the recent battle of Omdurman in the Sudan on a mass of fierce dervishes more than ten times their number will rank among deeds of British valor only second to the famous Balaklava ride to death. The loss was less and the conditions were different, but as a splendid example of disciplined and well ordered courage against numbers inspired by the most reckless fury it is well worthy of a word of comment. The whole battle indeed was a very remarkable example of the efficiency of modern weapons. The discrepancy of slaughter has but few parallels in the history of war. The whole loss of killed and wounded on the British side was within 500 men, while the destruction inflicted on the army of the khalifa is said to have reached the enormous total in casualties of battle of 26,800, with some 4,000

taken prisoners. The very courage of the dervish hordes, who absolutely defied death in the persistent recklessness of their attacks, made their slaughter at the mouth of Lee-Metford rifles, machine guns and the most improved modern field artillery the more terrible and complete. Another interesting comment suggested by this overwhelming victory is the excellent quality of soldiership developed in the Egyptian troops by habit and discipline. Made up mostly of fellaheen, the least warlike material by nature in the world, these troops showed themselves worthy of their white fellowship in steadiness and courage. There has been an enormous change in their morale since the period of Khedive Ismail's Abyssinian expedition in 1876, when the Egyptians allowed themselves to be butchered like sheep and refused to fire their pieces against a foe inferior in numbers.

According to the Jewish Year Book, there are only about 11,000,000 of the race in this wide world of ours, half of whom still live in Russia. When we consider the astonishingly large number of those out of Russia and countries where the Hebrew is persecuted who are highly prosperous, we find such a ratio of general success in material affairs such as no other people can rival.

The Duke of Tetuan, formerly Spanish minister of foreign affairs, recently said in criticism of Sagasta that the late Premier Canovas and himself had always looked on an American war as the certain ruin of Spain. The duke was very unpatriotic not to have put this conviction into a speech at a time when it might have been of some use to his country.

When we say there is nothing new under the sun, we do not include forgotten things. This is fortunate for many writers able to dig into dusty tomes and thus beget the reputation for originality.

Prosperity makes a multitude of friends, but it is adversity which makes the fast ones.

It is to be feared that Commissioner General Peck dallied at home too long, and that Americans have been too indifferent about the Paris exposition. Now that we have begun to waken up, the news from Paris is that any further award of space is impossible. The other nations have got it all.

Many a man lives on a pedestal of his own manufacture, and the world good naturedly accepts the solidity of the base. He dies, and the statue instantly topples into the mud.

Some human hearts need the miracle of Moses. They must be smitten with a rod of might before they gush forth in a stream of living water.

What we gain by experience is not worth what we lose in the flight of illusion. Most old men would willingly return to the joyous blundering of youth and leave their wisdom behind. It is the ever recurring Faust fable in living flesh and blood.

## TIMELY ANNIVERSARIES.

Some Current Selections From History's Broad Page.

### September 29.

- 48 B. C.—Pompey, rival of Julius Caesar, was murdered on the shore of Egypt, where he had fled for refuge.
- 1725—Robert Lord Clive, who established the British empire in India, was born in Shropshire; died 1774.
- 1758—Horatio Nelson, British admiral and naval hero, ADM. WINSLOW, was born in Shropshire; died 1805.
- 1813—General William Henry Harrison recaptured Detroit from the British.
- 1825—Daniel Shays, veteran of the American Revolution and leader of Shays' rebellion in Massachusetts in 1786, died at Sparta, N. Y.; born 1740.
- 1831—John McAllister Schofield, formerly commander of the United States army, born in Chautauqua, N. Y.
- 1867—The Emperor Maximilian and his Mexican generals, Mejia and Miramon, shot at Queretaro.
- 1873—Rear Admiral John Ancrum Winslow, U. S. N., hero of the Kearsarge-Alabama fight, died in Boston; born 1811.



### September 30.

- 480 B. C.—Euripides, Greek tragic dramatist, born at Salamis.
- 106 B. C.—Pompey the Great, rival of Julius Caesar, was born; tried the same day of the month 61 B. C.
- 1399—First peaceful revolution in England; Richard II surrendered the crown to Henry IV.
- 1435—Isabel of Bavaria, queen of Charles VI of France, died.
- 1661—Battle in the streets of London in a royal procession to welcome the Swedish ambassador, the French and Spanish envoys fighting for precedence; Spaniards victorious; 12 killed and 30 wounded.
- 1734—Jacques Necker, eminent financier and father of Mme. de Stael, born; died 1804.
- 1770—George Whitefield, famous preacher, died at Newburyport, Mass.; born 1714.
- 1805—General Samuel Peter Heintzelman, a prominent Union soldier in 1862, born in Lancaster county, Pa.; died 1880.
- 1817—John Weiss Forney, American journalist of the political school, born in Lancaster, Pa.; died 1881.
- 1857—August Comte, philosophical writer, died in Paris.
- 1882—John Jacob Herzog, editor of the noted "Cyclopedia of Theology," died; born 1805.
- 1891—General Boulanger, the French agitator, killed himself at Brussels.

### October 1.

- 1207—Henry III of England died after a reign of 56 years, the longest in English history until the present.
- 1684—Pierre Corneille, French tragic dramatist, died in Paris.
- 1754—Paul I, emperor of Russia ("Crazy Paul"), was born; murdered by a band of his nobles.
- 1781—James Lawrence, naval hero, born in Burlington, N. J.; died of wounds, 1813, on his vessel, the Chesapeake.
- 1790—Rufus Choate, great lawyer and orator, born at Essex, Mass.; died at Halifax 1859.
- 1863—Arrival at New York of five Russian vessels of war as a demonstration of sympathy.
- 1884—The international prime meridian conference met at Washington; it adopted Greenwich as the line for all the world.
- 1890—President Harrison signed the McKinley tariff bill, and it became a law.
- 1893—Judge Irving B. Randle, who had been the intimate friend of President Lincoln, died at Alton, Ills.; born 1811.