

THESE DEGENERATE DAYS.

A Plea For the Past and Its Speedy, Unerring Administration of Justice.

The Vigilantes of Early Days Compared With the Courts of the Present

Correspondence of The Bee. HELENA, MONT., January 2.—The early settlement of Montana, owing to a variety of peculiar circumstances, was made by a different class than that which usually characterize new countries. The discovery of gold in 1865 by some hardy adventurers first gave the world a knowledge of the fact that such a country existed and that it constituted a geographical part of the Rocky Mountains. This caused the first influx of the hardy, restless and often reckless gold seekers. But at this time another incentive to emigrate existed. The bloody war of the rebellion was at its height, the bloody hand and murderous bullet and sabre were uplifted and many non-combatants who could no longer live in peace in their homes, were driven by force of circumstances to leave comfortable and often luxurious homes to seek peace in the far off wilds of Montana. Those coming from the north and south, mingling in the same social and business circles, soon discovered that there were good people in both sections. The bitterness of partisanship ceased, and the two elements clasped hands over the bloody chasm, banded together for self protection and preservation against lawlessness. The distant rumble of the cannon, the shrieking of the murderous shell, and the sharp cracking of the rifle was not heard in this peaceful, far off retreat. The mail only reached us after the events were a month or six weeks old. Thus the war progressed with scarcely a ripple on the surface of our society. But the remnants of the western border began to deteriorate on society; the fortunate minor or merchant who had accumulated the glittering metal desired to see his loved ones left behind, or business called him to visit old haunts and old scenes. His journey to the states through desert wastes and mountains defiles awakened the cupidity of the desperado, and he was waylaid and shot for his money. This created the necessity of good men of all classes uniting in forming the vigilante committee, whose rule was omnipotent, and almost omnipresent, there being no other law or officers of the law at that time; and to their credit, be it said, during the time of their reign no fatal mistakes were made. Many were executed and others banished for crimes against the peace and order of society; not one was unjustly dealt with. To all even-handed justice was meted. No technical law quibbles or delays were known or regarded. The leading thought, which ran with great precision without circumlocution, was to get at bottom facts and award justice. And I hazard the assertion without the fear of contradiction that no where on "God's green earth" during the reign of the vigilantes could you find a place or country where the rights of property or life were more highly regarded, and their claims more duly respected than in Montana. Under this rule life and property were absolutely secure, and lawlessness was on its good behavior. Would you ask how was this brought about in so wild, so rude and adventurous a region? The answer is simple. The detection, conviction and punishment of crime followed swiftly, surely and unerringly. No technicalities, no quibbles or delays defeated the demands of justice.

And when the United States government sent judges to Montana in 1865 or '66 the first to greet those judges and give them welcome and co-operation were the vigilante committee. The old settlers of Montana to-day sigh for the peace and order and justice which were daily developed during the reign of the vigilantes in their palmy days. In these later days the true inwardness of the thief and scoundrel are beginning to develop and the technicalities of law and the gable of lawyers defeat the ends of justice and robs the code of its penal force. A new order of civilization is beginning to develop and crime goes unwhipped of justice. But which of the two civilizations is the greater promoter of good society? I leave that to the wise men who are conducting the trial of Guitaua. Had Guitaua's crime been committed in Montana during the reign of the vigilantes on the 2d of July, or on the 4th of July, 1881, he would have been hung higher than Hannan at a cost of seventy-five cents for a rope. Nor would the world have been disgusted or the government disgraced by the rant and ravings of a murderer and the sickening sentimentalism of some effeminate creatures, misnamed women, seeking for his autograph.

I would not have you infer that crime runs riot in Montana any more than elsewhere. This is not the fact, but I simply mean to be understood to say that "evil communications corrupt good manners," and since the influx of a larger number from the older states we are beginning to ape those pernicious examples, and learning to look upon crime as less criminal. There is another evil which is growing up under this new civilization now being introduced. It is assuming the character of friends of justice and lovers of the government of the United States; and used these insignias for the purpose of defeating the honest pre-emptor or restorer of land claims in Montana. They wear this garb and present themselves before the departments at Washington as protestants and appellants against the patents and the rights of others, with their hands behind them to receive a reward, or, in other words to blackmail the legal claimant and defraud him of his rights. These men have been very successful and have accumulated large property by these schemes. But if Montana will do herself justice she will again put upon the door of these nefarious

scoundrels the eubolistic 3-7-77 of the vigilantes. They are worse than the road agents of former days. In my next, Mr. Editor, I will give you a warning relative to the danger which threatens Omaha in her commercial intercourse with

THE STORY OF THE TIDES.

What They Tell of the Growing Length of the Day and of the Birth of the Moon.

From a scientific point of view the work done by the tides is of unpeakable importance. Whence is this energy derived with which the tides do their work? If the tides are caused by the moon, the energy they possess must also be derived from the moon. This looks plain enough, but unfortunately it is not true. Would it be true to assert that the finger of the rifleman which pulls the trigger supplies the energy with which the rifle-bullet is animated? Of course it would not. The energy is derived from the explosion of the gunpowder, and the pulling of the trigger is merely the means by which that energy is liberated. In a somewhat similar manner the tidal wave produced by the moon is the means whereby a part of the energy stored in the earth is compelled to expend itself in work. Let me illustrate this by a comparison between the earth revolving on its axis and the fly-wheel of an engine. The fly-wheel is a sort of reservoir, into which the engine pours its power at each stroke of the piston. The various machines in the mill merely draw off the power from the store accumulated in the fly-wheel. The earth is like a gigantic fly-wheel connected with the machines in the mill. In that mighty fly-wheel a stupendous quantity of energy is stored up, and a stupendous quantity of energy would be given out before that fly-wheel would come to rest. The earth's rotation is the reservoir from whence the tides draw the energy they require for "doing work." Hence it is that though the tides are caused by the moon, yet whenever they require energy they draw on the supply ready to hand in the rotation of the earth. The earth differs from the fly-wheel of the engine in a very important point. As the energy is withdrawn from the fly-wheel by the machines in the mill, so it is restored thereto by the power of the steam-engine, and the fly runs uniformly. But the earth is merely the fly-wheel without the engine. When the work done by the tides withdraws energy from the earth, that energy is never restored. It, therefore, flows that the earth's rotation must be decreasing. This leads to a consequence of the most wonderful importance. It tells us that the speed with which the earth rotates on its axis is diminishing. We can state the result in a manner which has the merits of simplicity and brevity. The tides are increasing the length of the day. At present no doubt the effect of the tides in changing the length of the day is very small. A day now is not appreciably longer than a day a hundred years ago. Even in a thousand years the change in the length of the day is only a fraction of a second. But the importance arises from the fact that the change, slow though it is, lies always in one direction. The day is continually increasing. In millions of years the accumulated effect becomes not only appreciable, but even of startling magnitude.

The change in the length of the day must involve a corresponding change in the motion of the moon. If the moon acts on the earth and retards the rotation of the earth, so, conversely, does the earth react upon the moon. The earth is tormented by the moon, so it strives to drive away its persecutor. At present the moon revolves round the earth at a distance of about 240,000 miles. The reaction of the earth tends to increase that distance, and to force the moon to revolve in an orbit which is continually getting larger and larger. As thousands of years roll on, the length of the day increases second by second, and the distance of the moon increases mile by mile. A million years ago the day, probably, contained some minutes less than our present day of twenty-four hours. Our retrospect does not lead here, we at once project our view back to an incredibly remote epoch which was a crisis in the history of our system. It must have been at least 50,000,000 years ago. It may have been very much earlier. The crisis was the interesting occasion when the moon was born. The length of the day was only a very few hours. If we call it three hours, we shall not be far from the truth. Perhaps you will think that if we looked back to a still earlier epoch, the day would become still less and finally disappear altogether. This is, however, not the case. The day can never have been much less than three hours in the present order of things. Everybody knows that the earth is not sphere, but there is a protuberance at the equator, so that as our school books tell us, the earth is shaped like an orange. It is well known that this protuberance is due to the rotation of the earth on its axis, by which the equatorial parts bulge out by centrifugal force. The quicker the earth rotates the greater is the protuberance. If, however, the rate of rotation exceeds a certain limit, the equatorial portions of the earth could no longer cling together. The attraction which unites them would be overcome by centrifugal force. It can be shown that the rotation of the earth when on the point of rupture corresponds to a length of the day somewhere about the critical value of three hours, which we have already adopted. It is therefore impossible for us to suppose a day much shorter than three hours.

Let us leave the earth for a few minutes and examine the past history of the moon. We have seen that the moon revolves around the earth in an ever-widening orbit, and consequently the moon must in ancient times have been nearer the earth than it is now. No doubt the change is slow. There is not much difference between the orbit of the moon a thousand years ago and the orbit in which the moon is now moving. But when we rise to millions of years the difference becomes very appreciable. Thirty or forty millions of years ago the moon was much closer to the earth than it

is at present; very possibly the moon was then only a few hundred miles distant. We must, however, look still earlier, to a certain epoch not less than fifty millions of years ago. At that epoch the moon must have been so close to the earth that the two bodies were almost touching. Everybody knows that the moon revolves now around the earth in a period of twenty-seven days. The period depends upon the distance between the earth and the moon. In earlier time the month must have been shorter than our present month. Some millions of years ago the moon completed its journey in a week, instead of taking twenty-eight days, as at present. Looking back earlier still, we find the month has dwindled down to a day, then down to a few hours, until at that wondrous epoch, when the moon was almost touching the earth, the moon spun round the earth once every three hours. In those ancient times I see our earth to be a noble globe, as it is at present. Yet it is not partly covered with oceans and partly clothed with verdure. The primeval earth seems rather a fiery and half molten mass, where a organic life can dwell. Instead of the atmosphere which we now have, I see a dense mass of vapors, in which, perhaps, all the oceans of the earth are suspended as clouds. I see that the sun still rises and sets to give the succession of day and night, but the day and the night together only amount to three hours, instead of twenty-four. Almost touching the chaotic mass of the earth is another much smaller and equally chaotic body. Around the earth I see this small body rapidly rotating. The two revolve together, as if they were bound by invisible hands. The smaller body is the moon.

ish Farming. Seta Green, the most practical, successful, experienced and enthusiastic American fish-culturist, in his new book, "Fish Hatching and Fish Catching," says:

During the few years which have intervened since the discovery of fish-culture, its practice has advanced with rapid strides, and although it is still little more than in its infancy; the laws which govern its management have been so far ascertained and applied that it is now an established art, capable of yielding vast results for the benefit of mankind. The days of doubt and uncertainty have passed away and numerous experiments have established it as a firm basis. Success in all well considered and properly conducted attempts has swept away fear and hesitation, and experience may now be said to have fully confirmed the highest hopes of the most sanguine. The possibilities which fish culture suggested were so far beyond what can be obtained in other fields of human labor, so greatly exceeded the benefits which agriculture that it seemed impossible that they could be realized. But day after day and year after year has been put in practical operation, where all its steps could be and were accurately noted, and the incredible increase and profit obtained left but one conclusion possible. The public can give perfect credence to the claims of fish-culture, provided it be conducted as intelligently as the best departments of modern human labor. The culture of fish has been gradually extended from one species to another until we have a fair idea of what can be done in all cases. The greatest promise for purely artificial manipulation is with the salmon, the trout, the lake trout and the shad, but the close study of habits of other varieties which allowed the hasty results that have so familiarized the fish-culturist with the necessities of their growth and increase that a subsidiary branch of fish-culture has grown up in which the natural process is assisted, protected and developed.

Catfish.—These have habits somewhat like the black bass. They make nests and guard over them and their young. They spawn in June and are exceedingly prolific. The young grow rapidly and should be transported about the time the mother leaves them, which they are still in schools. As food, there are few better fish to eat than blue catfish, while the yellow variety, though not quite so dainty, is equally satisfying to the cravings of hungry nature. They dig out a room two feet across in the solid mud at the bottom or sides of the water, and at the end of their eggs, in that, and lay over them and fan them with their fins until they hatch, which takes eight or ten days. They leave a hole open as a sort of door to their hatching chambers to give them egress and ingress.

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Sheep Breeding. Says the American Merino: Never breed from weak and degenerated stock because his ancestors have been of noble families. If you buy a good sheep you will receive as a reward a fulfillment of the saying that like produces like. Remember that the sheep was created for wool and for mutton. Better lose the farcy points of breeding than surrendered the principles of creation. Where sheep are kept for the double purpose of direct income in wool, mutton, etc., and the manure they make, it is important that the extra food, or that outside of what the pasture furnishes, should be chosen with care. It would be wise for the American farmer to become better acquainted with cotton-seed cake, linseed oil cake, and like concentrated foods. By feeding and feeding liberally of such food, the sheep grows rapidly. The growth of animals is a means to an end, and when the most money is made from the stock, and the land enriched, the most rapidly the end is gained.

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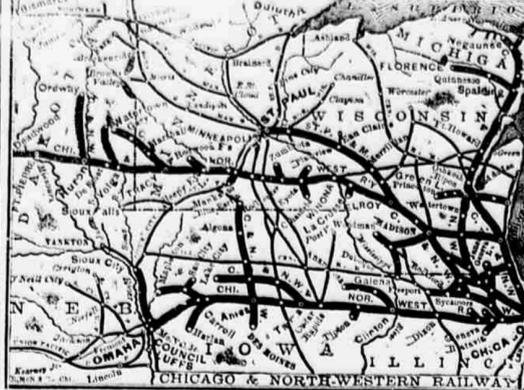
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