

PROGRESS.

EDWARD S. CARTER, EDITOR.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DEC. 3.

THE DEATH PENALTY.

It may be readily assumed that a large proportion of those who signed the petition for the commutation of the sentence of ROBERT OLSEN were people who, were a plebiscite taken, would vote for the abolition of the death penalty in all cases. There were, of course, very many who were immediately influenced by the particular circumstances in this case, and who might have refused to sign a petition in a case where the wilfulness of the murder was more clear, but with the majority, underlying their sympathy for the friendless stranger, was the rooted conviction that the taking of human life in cold blood is abhorrent whether done with or without the sanction of human law.

The execution of a criminal cannot claim to have anything beyond this sanction. It is out of the question to quote the authority of the law of MOSES; for if that were adhered to, the criminal code of these times would abound with most rigid penalties for many minor offences. A code which was necessary in the earlier ages of the world is not that which should govern mankind in these times. The advent of the SAVIOUR, to which the thoughts of the whole christian world are directed at this season, brought a dispensation in which the law of blood for blood, a life for a life, had no part. Under the old dispensation, swift vengeance followed disobedience to the laws of God and of man, but when the great, the awful crime in the history of fallen man was committed, the prayer from the cross breathed forgiveness upon the offenders. It is true that was the aspiration of Divinity, and is not to be construed into the injunction that society should pardon willful offenders against its peace and security, but in that as in all that is taught by the life and words of CHRIST is the negation of the retaliatory spirit. All laws should have for their end the protection of society, without being the instruments of society's vengeance.

The theory obtains that the end of capital punishment is no more than to afford such protection, but woven into the whole warp of criminal law is the spirit of the lex talionis. No better evidence of this is found than in the common outcry that the opponents of capital punishment have no consideration for the murderer's victim whose life was sacrificed. If the hanging of one man could bring another back to life there might be some force in this plea, but the taking of an additional life does not alter in any particular the position of the victim and his friends. It is beyond question that this spirit of revenge has been very manifest in the case of ROBERT OLSEN. Public sentiment in the district where the crime was committed insisted on a verdict of guilty of willful murder. It is most probably that had he been tried in another a distant county merely on the merits of the case, there would have been a different result. Whether he was or was not guilty, the unimpassioned mind which has given any attention to the case cannot refrain from the conclusion that he did not have a fair trial.

It is of no avail to discuss the matter. The law has been carried out, and without doubt all who are responsible in the affair have done as they conscientiously believed they ought to do. The question in the abstract is whether capital punishment is advisable or necessary in any case. In other words, can there not be a different punishment which will equally deter others from the commission of the crime and sufficiently protect society.

Leaving out altogether the idea of punishment as retaliation, the death penalty has little that may be said in its favor. That it is not a deterrent has been abundantly proven, and that the isolation of the criminal makes society as secure as the killing of him would do, may also be admitted. It used to be the fashion to hang men for a great many kinds of offences, which have been even less common since the penalty was abolished than they were during its

enforcement. The deliberate slayer usually calculates that he will not be caught, while the man who acts hastily, as OLSEN did, does not stop to consider what the law may be. If the penalty had been any of the barbarous deaths by torture of old times, his act would have been the same. Had the punishment been merely imprisonment, he would not have been the more violent in his dash for liberty that night. The death penalty is absolutely without deterrent effect under these and many other conditions where one person kills another. It is simply to be looked at as the agency for disposing of men who are considered unfit to be trusted to mingle with the world.

It is true that now and then there is a murder of such peculiar atrocity, that mere imprisonment for life does not strike the ordinary mind as an adequate penalty, but this again is because of man's vengeful nature and because of his education in the idea of blood for blood. If capital punishment is right for one kind of a murder it is right for another kind—provided it is murder, the unlawfully taking of the life of another with malice aforethought. But it is just here that the law steps in and adds, "either express or implied." That it is to say, the man who carefully premeditates, plans and carries out the slaughter of one or a dozen people is guilty and must be hanged. So must the hunted outcast, who brought to bay makes a sudden and desperate attempt to escape his pursuers and in the excitement of the moment kills one of them. The law; who so often is guided by the absolute lies smoothly spoken of as presumptions and legal fictions, has no gradations of punishment for murder, as it has for almost every other known crime. The presumption of malice once established and the prisoner convicted, the same fate is fixed for the frantic, frightened tramp as for CREAM, the wholesale poisoner, or the slasher and carver of Whitechapel. The death penalty, as the law now is, is as unfair as often as its warmest advocates can claim that it is just.

This age ought to be one in which the hangman had no more place than the torturer of the ages past. Torture was considered necessary, in the interests of society at one time, just as executions are now. The one might well follow the other into the realm of desuetude. Both are brutal and abhorrent to humanity.

HOMES FOR THE PEOPLE.

The recent references of PROGRESS to the possibility of having self-contained houses at an annual rental of less than \$200 each, in the city of St. John, have excited a good deal of interest. One of the leading architects, MR. G. ERNEST FAIRWEATHER, writes a letter in this issue in which he points out difficulties in the way of building cheap and good houses, but is by no means of the opinion that it cannot be done. He suggests what appears to be a practical way of getting at the matter, which is for people who want houses of the kind described to give an idea of what will answer their needs, and he will see how far the plan can be carried out at a moderate cost. PROGRESS will be very glad to hear from any of its readers on this point, and if it can be shown that rents here can be made as low as in New England cities of equal size, a great deal will be accomplished. That rents are altogether too high here in proportion to the value of real estate is a fact that is painfully apparent to men of moderate means. There must be a remedy for this, and if there is PROGRESS is now in a fair way to discuss it.

Referring to one point in MR. FAIRWEATHER'S letter, is there any reason why rents cannot be paid monthly as well as they can be paid quarterly? The old quarter day is an institution which has the merit of antiquity, but so has the long credit system in general. The spirit of the age is for quick returns and small profits, and it is manifest in every line of business. If salaries were payable quarterly, there might be some claim that rents should not accrue within a shorter period; but they are not, as a rule. In most occupations weekly payments have been adopted, and at the most pay day comes not less frequently than once a month. Even where government officials may get their cheques only once in three months, they can as easily pay rent each month as they can each quarter, if they so arrange matters at the outset. There does not appear to be any redeeming features about quarterly payments of rent, and as is pointed out, the risk of the landlord is very much increased.

While a good many conservative minded people may prefer to lease by the year, pay rent quarterly and have the right of three months' notice to quit, the average citizen who seeks a rent under \$200 would be as willing to rent by the month, pay monthly and move at a month's notice. Where there is this system, landlords will do their best to make things comfortable for tenants, whereas if a tenant now makes a bad choice and has the wrong kind of a landlord, he cannot rectify his mistake for the next year.

There are, it is true, some instances where flats are now rented by the month, but they are the exception. The general rule of renting is by the year, and the first of May is the day in which everybody who has to move finds the world upside down.

If, however, the system of monthly renting be thought unadvisable, let it continue to be by the year, but let the rent be

payable by the month. No honest tenant could object to such a system, any more than he objects to paying other bills monthly, while every landlord will welcome it. If such a plan will make cheaper rents it ought to be adopted.

Let the readers of PROGRESS note MR. FAIRWEATHER'S suggestion and send a brief statement of the kind of houses they think would suit them. They must not aim at getting a palace for a \$200 or less rent, and they should try to make their requirements such as are consistent with comfort and not in the nature of luxury. It is very likely houses can be built to suit both their views and their purses.

MARCHING ONWARD.

The Salvation Army seems to be making constant progress, and it is probable that in time it will be a duly organized sect, with a claim to recognition as a "church" in the christian world. It has heretofore been content to recruit itself from the ranks of humanity that were not reached by other christian organizations, but it would now seem that it will pursue its warfare into the fields occupied by the religious denominations, and pursue a proselyting policy. This is not said in so many words, but it is very strongly implied by the statement, from an official source, that one of the first points raised and decided at the recent council in New York was as to "sheepstealing." This is defined by BALLINGTON BOOTH to mean whether the Army should draw on the membership of other folds for its own membership. To quote his words, "it was decided that when members of other religious bodies, the churches in short, came to our meetings, took an interest in our methods, showed that they were not quite satisfied or sufficiently occupied in their existing spiritual relations, we should endeavor to enlist them."

The effect of this is expected to be the acquisition of a fresh supply of intelligent field officers, and it will increase to a wonderful extent the efficiency and importance of the Army.

In the meantime, whatever may be thought of the Army assuming the position of a church, it cannot be denied that it is doing a great work as a body which lifts the fallen and strengthens the weak. It has done a wonderful thing for thousands who would not have been reached by other agencies, and very largely has it proved its right to recognition in the rescue of the drunkard. It is not a part of the plan to attempt to destroy the saloon, which it considers a useless waste of energy, as the conditions are now, but its latest programme is to redouble the efforts with the customers of the saloons. Saloons are visited—nearly 15,000 have been visited in New York city alone up to August, 1892—and in many instances good results have followed, but a still greater good has been done in the nearly 27,000 calls on poor families, and in the attention given to the wants of the sick and the poor.

The income of the Army in the United States, last year, amounted to nearly three quarters of a million dollars, and it was expended in various ways for mission work, the salaries being a comparatively small item. The average salary, indeed, is a trifle over \$125 a year, which is a figure small enough to satisfy the critics that the officers of the army are not laying up any wealth out of their stipends, however the money may go. That there may be no doubt as to the way in which the funds are expended, the accounts are audited by a practical auditor, who has no connection with the Army. It is quite easy for the public to imagine that the leaders of the movement are growing rich out of the proceeds, but so far there has been no evidence that could form a basis for such a charge.

The Army is doing a good work wherever it is found, and that is nearly everywhere in these days. It has come to stay.

It is not so many years since the Park street church, Boston, was the exponent of New England congregationalism and was known as "Brimstone Corner." It preached the damnation of sinners in general and of the heathen in particular as a tenet of faith. As the years have passed, other churches have become more famous in congregational circles and among them is that in Brooklyn where BEECHER was the pastor. The people of this church have just made an emphatic denial of the belief in regard to the fate of the heathen by declining to aid the American Board of Foreign Missions which teaches that all who do not embrace christianity are eternally lost. In short, the congregation decline to support this great mission because of its teaching in this particular respect. The money that has hitherto gone for this purpose will be devoted to another mission in Japan where a less positive doctrine is taught. The matter is interesting as showing the drift and evolution of congregationalism from the teachings of JONATHAN EDWARDS and others of the leaders in the past.

The number of people who know what a paper ought to say or not say, can only be known to the editors of journals, which travel out of the rut in dealing with public questions. If PROGRESS since the start had taken the advice of everybody who has had wise counsel to offer it would have advocated some of the most extraordinary

things under the sun, and it would also have been silent in regard to a good many other things on which it has ventured to speak. It would have had a queer record by this time, but it is quite certain that it would have not had, as it now has, the largest circulation of any paper in the maritime provinces.

The church fair people have at last been met on their own ground at Lincoln, Eng., where some unidentified individual entered into competition with them at one of their gatherings and stole a dozen purses from the pockets of visitors. The climax of his impudence was in slipping one of the empty wallets into the pocket of that famous and honored prelate, the Bishop of Lincoln, who is reported to have been much astonished when he found it.

Some medical man has advanced the idea that "the best thing that can happen to a nervous girl is to be liked." This is probably true in theory, but the trouble with some nervous girls is that they are apt to appreciate least those who are anxious to like them most. In other words, the nervous girl is not always a good judge of who may be her best friends.

To Nina.

Beam out, oh sun! with brightest ray
That ever gladdened a happy day,
And give our cousin, the much loved one,
The grace of the bride the sun shines on;
Give her sunlight, sun, before we part,
As the earnest of joy in a happy heart.
Break silv'ry waves on the shimmering strand,
Where the venturous feet expectant stand,
To board the vessel, whose mystic crew
In the tempest and sunshine was only two;
United as one by the magic of love
In the wedding register kept above.
Ring out glad bells in the morning air,
For never a bride more sweet and fair
Heard your silv'ry sound from the belfry high,
Awaken the echoes of earth and sky.
Give her music, bells, for she can meet
Your sweetest chimes with a strain as sweet.
We all must part, but we never yet
Shall learn to whisper the word "forget."
Your life is rich as your life is pure,
Love warm and strong to the end endure.
The God of your fathers ere be thine,
Is the wish of a hundred hearts and mine.

C. C. C.

Kingston, Kent, N. B., June 27, 1892.

Will Hold the City Responsible.

A week or two ago PROGRESS told of the application of the Connolly's for payment on account of wharf improvements up to November. The council has ordered \$6,000 paid when the contractors sign a receipt to the satisfaction of the recorder, but so far the latter official has not been able to formulate one which the latter will sign. The crib-work not yet in place is the point of difference, and remains so, despite the efforts of some of the aldermen on the contractors' behalf. The Connollys say they will hold the city responsible for all damages, which up to the present amount to the loss of interest on the money. A call for the December payment will be next in order.

The Original Lightning Shaver.

James S. Pitt who used to be the champion barber of St. John now calls himself the champion barber of the world, and is the head of a specialty company in which he is starring in the vicinity of Boston. His great act is the feat of shaving four men and running a hundred yards, and he offers \$50 to any barber who will equal his time. His company includes a number of other artists who shoot with rifles, dance jigs and do other marvellous and graceful acts. Judging by his bills, Pitt is having a boom just now.

Photographer Erb's Liberal Offer.

One of the most agreeable and welcome Christmas gifts that can be given is a portrait from one friend to another, and photographers at this season of the year usually make such inducements that they are pried with orders for many weeks before the great holiday. Mr. Isaac Erb of Charlotte street is the first to make such an announcement in PROGRESS and his liberal offer of a handsome frame with a certain number of photos will be read with interest by all who contemplate gifts in this direction.

Cycling in Spite of Winter.

Messrs. C. & E. Burnham, after doing a successful bicycle business through the summer season, propose to keep up the interest in that sport by establishing a bicycle academy. For this purpose the Palace Rink has been leased and regular season tickets are being sold at a reasonable figure to all who wish to learn how to ride the cycle or to indulge in their favorite pastime.

Rider Haggard Uses the "Yost."

This well known writer's secretary writes as follows: "Mr. Rider Haggard has desired me to inform you that the Yost machine has now been in use for six months and has proved most satisfactory, never having required more than the most ordinary attention. It is particularly adapted for literary work, and is delightfully simple and easy to manipulate."

Ontario Business College, Belleville, Ont.

Ontario Business college, Belleville, Ont., now in its 24th year, is a popular institution in the maritime provinces; within the past year over forty students were in attendance from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In all, thirty-four different provinces and states have been represented at this famous institution. The 24th annual circular is just out (a book of 124 pages). It will be found exceedingly interesting.

THE QUESTION OF CHEAP RENTS.

What One of the St. John Architects Has to Say About It.

TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS.—In your issue of the 19th ult. you call attention to the fact that desirable self-contained tenements are not to be found in this city; and you ask why, since such properties appear to be good investments in Massachusetts towns, capitalists do not provide such things here, where, you seem to think rents are high and the accommodation offered inadequate.

By way of partial reply, I beg to offer two considerations. In the towns referred to, rents are invariably collected monthly, generally in advance. This is equivalent to cash. Here, rents mature quarterly, and under this system when a tenant neglects to pay his bills, the landlord's loss always amounts to half a year's rental, in addition to his liability for water rates. Introduce the cash system in houses as McKay has done in dry goods, and lower prices can be quoted.

Again, in our city, real estate pays the bulk of the taxes, but by an absurd system of civic government, property is not adequately represented at the council board, and our revenues are expended on undertakings generally extravagant and frequently useless. You must reform all this, Mr. Editor, before free capital can be expected to place itself within reach of the tax collectors' annually increasing extortions.

But pending these reforms, which no doubt you will be able to effect in time, I would like to see the discussion regarding the \$200 tenement continued. Permit me to suggest that you invite the opinion of your rent-paying readers as to the minimum accommodation for which they would be willing to pay the \$200 per year and water rates, giving name and sizes of rooms required, and saying if basement dining rooms and kitchens will be tolerated, and to what extent heating, lighting and plumbing, paper hanging, &c., must be included in the scheme. If you will obtain this information and therefrom infer just the kind of house which is most desired, I will furnish you for publication a detailed estimate of all the items of expense connected with the realization of the ideal home, either singly or in a block.

G. ERNEST FAIRWEATHER.

St. John, Dec. 1st.

Paid a Long Time in Advance.

The amount that Bro. Crocket, of the Frederickton Gleaner, has got out of Geo. F. Gregory, the retired politician, has been variously estimated, but Mr. Gregory is said to have made a statement of the figures the other day. He was sitting in one of the hotels, when a newsboy approached and asked him to buy a Gleaner. "No, my lad," replied George F. "I have subscribed to the Gleaner for the next four thousand years." The subscription is a dollar a year. See the point?

A Very Good "Ad."

In spite of the protestations of Mr. Russell or Mr. Hawker, there are plenty of people who refuse to believe that the act of the policemen in reporting their sign as erected without a permit on Fort Howe was nothing but a very good and neat advertisement. The notices received through the daily papers of this infringement of the law by the Hawker medicine company seems to PROGRESS to be worth a good deal more than any penalty which the judge would be able to impose upon them.

This is Rapid Promotion.

Mr. Ira Cornwall, who a few weeks ago received his appointment as agent of the Sun Insurance office, of London, England, for this city, has been promoted to the position of general agent for the Maritime Provinces. This is the very best tribute that could possibly be paid to his work since his appointment as agent, and his many friends will rejoice in his further success as representative of this well known company.

A Storehouse of Gifts.

The representative of Messrs C. Flood & Sons has returned from a holiday purchasing trip in New York, and brought with him samples of many beautiful novelties for the season. Although but few are displayed as yet, this handsome store gives evidence of catering even more extensively to the wants of the public in this line than it has ever done. In a later issue PROGRESS will present some description of this storehouse of gifts at greater length.

A Great Stock of Silverware.

Messrs Burpee, Thorne & Co., propose adding largely to their varied stock of silverware; in fact they have already done so and are now displaying many valuable articles in this line suitable for holiday remembrances. A glance at their announcement on the second page of this paper will show one or two articles illustrated and convey a faint impression of the character of the goods they are selling.

Giggling is not Laughing.

Women very generally neglect a very powerful weapon of offense and defense placed at their command by nature, says the Philadelphia Times. A woman's laugh, if intelligently and skilfully used, can wither a man in his tracks or elevate him to the seventh heaven or happiness. Several causes have contributed to the decadence of woman's laughter. The chief one, perhaps, is the modern habit of dressing. Full, free laughter depends upon a perfect development and exercise of the respiratory muscles. Confined as these are by steel and whalebone, laughter becomes an impossibility.

With a loss of the art of laughing comes a loss of the sense of humor. When the

expression of any of the senses becomes difficult the sense itself dwindles. Do not mistake giggling for laughing.

HOW CORBETT TAUGHT HIMSELF.

Many of His Trials Were When He Was a Soldier in St. John.

The sketch of William Corbett's courtship, given in PROGRESS, proved new to so many, and was so well received, that his story of how he got an education under difficulties will no doubt be accepted now. Speaking in his "Advice to Young Men," about the advantages of education, and in particular, of the study of grammar, he says, "the study need abstract from the hours of no business, nor, indeed, from the hours of necessary exercise; the hours usually spent on the tea and coffee slops and in the mere gossip which accompany them—those wasted hours of only one year, employed in the study of English grammar, would make you a correct speaker and writer for the rest of your life. You want no school, no room to study in, no expenses, and no troublesome circumstances of any sort.

I learned grammar when I was a private soldier, on the pay of sixpence a day. The edge of my berth, or that of the bed-board, was my seat to study in; my knapsack was my bookcase; a bit of wood, lying on my lap, was my writing table; and the task did not demand anything like a year of my life. I had no money to purchase candle or oil; in winter time, it was barely that I could get any evening light but that of the fire and only my turn even of that. And, if I, under such circumstances, and without parent or friend to advise or encourage me, accomplished this undertaking, what excuse can there be for any youth, however pressed with business, or however circumstanced as to room or other conveniences.

To buy a pen or a sheet of paper, I was compelled to forego some portion of food, though in a state of half-starvation; I had no moment of time that I could call my own; and I had to read and to write amidst the talking, laughing, singing, whistling, and bawling of at least half a score of the most thoughtless of men, and that, too, in their hours of freedom from all control. Think not lightly of the farthing that I had to give, now and then, for ink, pen, or paper. That farthing was, alas! a great sum to me. I was as tall as I am now; I had great health and great exercise. The whole of the money, not expended for us at market, was twopence a week for each man. I remember—and well I may—that, upon one occasion I, after all absolutely necessary expenses, had on a Friday, made a shift to have a half-penny in reserve, which I had destined for the purchase of a red herring in the morning; but when I pulled off my clothes at night, so hungry, then, as to be hardly able to endure life, I found that I had lost my half-penny! I buried my head under the miserable sheet and rug, and cried like a child!

And again, I say, if I, under circumstances like these could encounter and overcome this task, is there, can there be in the whole world, a youth find an excuse for the non-performance? What youth, who shall read this, will not be ashamed to say, that he is not able to find time and opportunity for this most essential of all the branches of book-learning?"

It Bore "John Brown's Body."

The scaffold upon which John Brown was hanged in Harper's Ferry has arrived at Washington for shipment to the World's Fair. The timbers are in a good state of preservation, though they have served the purposes of a porch to the residence of a son of the man who built the scaffold. The gallows itself is a plain, substantial affair, which would attract little attention apart from its history. The timbers are evidently pine, although they have been painted over at some later period to preserve them. The two uprights are big beams six inches square, and the crossbar is in proportion. Even the screws with which it was put together have been preserved. John Brown was hanged on December 2, 1859.

New Styles of Hair Dressing.

The sweeping changes in the shape of winter hats and bonnets have brought about a new style of wearing the hair, termed "the bun"—a very descriptive name for the big round knot of hair which is soon to be the fashion. It is worn low, though not so low as the Langtry knot, and demands a larger amount of hair than the majority of women possess. Nets are very generally worn both over the fringe and back hair, but as they are woven of hair and are very light, they are not unbecoming. The new fringes and toupees here are mounted on a sort of collapsible frame, so that they do not get crushed or flattened by the weight of a hat or bonnet.—N. Y. Press.

Thrown Into the Bargain.

A young barrister, who had won a lawsuit for a pretty lady of moderate means, sent her shortly afterwards a formidable bill of costs. The next day his victim called upon him and inquired whether his offer of marriage was seriously meant. "But I never proposed to you!" replied the young lawyer. "What! yet you have asked me for the whole of my fortune," said the fair plaintiff. "It strikes me that the most elementary politeness might have shown it to be your duty to take me into the bargain."

Who's Who'll Night Come In.

The decimalists say that the twenty-four hour day is doomed. The day is to consist of ten hours; the hours will be divided into ten decades, each of which will contain ten minutes, each minute ten seconds and each second ten flashes. Upon this basis a clock has been constructed.

The personal column of a newspaper in New York contains this golden opportunity: "A well educated young man of good social position will marry any lady of means who will provide funds for him to procure a divorce from his present wife, whom he cannot get along with."

A Newton county (Mo.) woman has sued the Splitlog Railroad, based on the following claim: "She was a passenger on the road and was accidentally carried beyond her destination some distance, when the train stopped and she alighted. While returning she was chased by a bull, and in outrunning him impaired her health." ALL