

AT THE WHIPPING POST

USES OF THE WHIPPING POST IN DELAWARE STATE.

This Method of Punishment Has Been in the Code for Two Hundred Years—Some of the Results of It on Various Kinds of Offenders—How the Lash is Used.

The whipping post, which has been recommended as a punishment for certain grades of crime by the grand jury of the District of Columbia, has been in use in the State of Delaware for over 200 years. As to its efficiency in preventing crime, or its desirability as a mode of punishment, opinions vary, but certain it is that no movement to put it away has ever met with great popular approval and present indications are that its use will be continued for many more years.

The first record of the whipping post appears in the old colonial chronicles, in 1656. Jan Risingh, then governor of New Sweden, had paid a visit to state to the Dutch Fort Casimir, where the city of New Castle now stands, and among other ceremonies in his honor the commander of the fort caused three prisoners to be brought to the post and soundly flogged, for the purpose of impressing the visitors with a profound idea of the discipline he maintained in the colony.

The pillory, or stocks, are part and parcel of the corporal punishment in use in Delaware, and sometimes the two appliances are constructed together.

The pillory is on a platform above the whipping post. The portion of the post above the platform has a cross-beam about five feet above the floor. The arms of this beam on each side of the post consist of two pieces, the upper ones being movable and connected to the lower ones with hinges, so that they can be raised. Each of these three arms has three openings, one for the neck and the other two for the wrists of the culprits. When a prisoner is ready for the punishment the upper part is raised, and after the neck and wrists have been gently placed in the receptacles, the upper piece is lowered and fastened down. Here he must stay for an hour, the limit of the pillory term prescribed by law. The position becomes excessively painful long before the expiration of the hour, and in cold weather the unfortunate victim suffers keenly. In olden times the spectators were permitted to pelt the poor victims with old eggs and decayed vegetables, but this disgraceful practice has been prohibited for many years.

The whipping post one foot square, is provided with an iron staple on either side in which the prisoner's wrists are interlocked and the staples fastened down with hasps. This confines him securely, and though he may move his body and dance about under the tortures of the lash, he cannot escape from the blows inflicted upon him.

The general use of the whipping post is as a punishment for larceny, and the number of lashes for this crime varies from five to twenty, at the discretion of the court. Formerly women were whipped, but they have been exempt from corporal punishment for thirty years. The pillory of itself is provided as a punishment for forgery and assault and battery with intent to commit murder. Post and pillory combined are imposed for the crimes of arson, burglary, highway robbery, horse stealing, and assault with intent to commit rape. Formerly a prisoner convicted of murder in the second degree was sentenced to an hour in the pillory and sixty lashes, in addition to imprisonment for life, but several years ago the corporal part of the penalty for this grade of crime was removed.

Another modification of the law in regard to the penalty of whipping is the clothing of the court with authority to omit corporal punishment for larceny where the prisoner, having been convicted for the first time, is recommended to mercy by the jury; or when he pleads guilty and furnishes proof of previous good character.

While in years past the whippings were very severe, invariably drawing blood and frequently cutting the back of the victim into large, deep welts, the custom for the last two decades has been to apply the lash lightly. The language of the law with respect to corporal punishment is: "The punishment of whipping shall be inflicted publicly, by strokes on the bare back, well laid on. It shall be administered by the sheriff or his deputy." (Chapter 133, section 29, Revised Code of Delaware.) Each sheriff, however, construes for himself the language of the law, "well laid on," and so general has become the custom to apply the lash lightly that it is seldom a drop of blood is drawn, even in a sentence of thirty or forty lashes. Sometimes, in the case of a prisoner whose offense has been of a particularly heinous or revolting character, the sheriff will construe the law literally, and give the offender a whaling that he will never forget. Such instances, however, are rare.

The absence of any specific provision in the law respecting the instrument with which the punishment shall be inflicted has caused a curious variance in the practice followed in the counties composing the State. In New Castle County the sheriff uses the genuine "cat-o-nine-tails." The whip consists of nine leathern thongs, each an eight of an inch in thickness, fastened to a stout hickory handle. The thongs are about two feet in length.

It can readily be imagined how terribly

a culprit's back could be mangled with this veritable instrument of torture should the sheriff decide to comply with the language of the law, and see that the lashes were "well laid on." And yet, in slavery days, many a negro, and white man, too, had his back fairly cut into ribbons by the awful blows of this terrible scourge. It could be so now did the sheriff choose to consider it his duty under the law. In Kent county the sheriff whips all post victims with an ordinary rawhide whip. This gives the culprit in this country practically only a ninth part of the punishment their fellows at the New Castle jail receive. Here, also, the sheriff uses his discretion as to what constitutes lashes "well laid on," but severe punishments and the drawing of the blood are the exception and not the rule.

When the Sheriff of Sussex County has offenders to thrash at the post, he simply goes out and cuts a supply of pliable hickory switches, using his discretion as to their size. Switches superseded the lash in Sussex about forty years ago.

The punishment of the whipping post is most frequently inflicted for the crime of larceny, and most of the offenders are negroes. It can scarcely be argued that the punishment is a deterrent. Men continue to steal, despite the terrors of the whipping post, and instances are not rare of hardened offenders being returned a second and even a third time to receive their punishment. The ordinary criminal, the man of low intellect and vicious tendency, seem to have little dread of the whipping-post.

But there are many who hold that the post and pillory serve to deter the commission of many graver crimes in this State, particularly that of burglary. Situated as is Delaware, and particularly the city of Wilmington, on the main highway between New York and Washington, it is contended that the skillful burglars of the large cities would fairly overrun this community did they not so much dread the punishment of the post. The jails of Delaware could not hold such fellows, and it is urged that only the peculiar mode of punishment provided for their crimes keeps them away from here.

The high-class professional burglar locks upon the whipping post as a degradation, and one who is unfortunate enough to be compelled to embrace it and feel the sting of the lash upon his bare back loses caste among his fellows. This was shown back in 1873, when "Jimmy" Hope, "Big Frank Carter," "Jimmy" Lawler, and Ed Hurlburt, four of the most famous cracksmen in the land at that time, took the obnoxious dose of post and pillory for an attempt to rob the Bank of Delaware in this city. These burglar princes would have guaranteed the payment of any amount of money could they have evaded the sentence of an hour in the pillory and forty lashes each imposed upon them. They felt it as a disgrace that forever barred them from the society of high-toned burglars, and though the sheriff applied the "cat" in a manner that scarcely reddened their backs, they hung their heads in deepest shame while the castigation was being administered. All soon after escaped from the prison, but all felt that they had been forever degraded by their public infamy at a Delaware whipping post. There has never since been an attempt to rob a bank in Delaware.

Burglaries are committed here, but they seldom amount to much, and are almost invariably the work of bungling amateurs. Skillful professionals in this line of business give Delaware a wide berth. It is also held that the fear of the disgrace attending punishment at the post keeps many a young man in the line of honesty who otherwise might yield to the temptation and go astray. Of course, this is largely conjectural, but it is a belief entertained by many. The whipping post, therefore, has hosts of supporters among the good people of Delaware. They look upon it as a protection to a State too small to provide itself with the elaborate and costly means of punishment for desperate and dangerous criminals. The judges of the courts have never joined any movement to do away with the post and pillory. Every prosecuting attorney for the past fifty years has upheld the institution as a good one for the punishment of evil-doers and the prevention of crime.

For these reasons it is safe to predict that the post and pillory will remain in Delaware for many years more. The only recent agitation of the question was a suggestion made a few years ago to extend the punishment of the whipping post to men who beat their wives, but the suggestion was not put into practical shape. It is likely, however, to come up at any session of the Legislature, and will find many warm advocates. As to the efficacy of the punishment for this offense, the records of the courts of Maryland, where it has been in force for some years, ought to afford ample evidence.—Correspondence Washington Star.

British Cabinet Ministers.

The actual salary of a British Minister of the Crown is not so much an object to those who are called to the states councils, but the immense patronage such an office confers is eagerly sought after by all aspirants to political renown and emoluments. Although the Prime Minister's annual stipend is no more than £5,000 per annum, his patronage may be estimated at ten times that sum.

A Word to Mothers.

Many a mother will be awakened during the long nights of the next few months by the racking cough that disturbs the rest of her little ones. For the thoughtless little people will expose themselves and catch cold.

Many a grateful mother, remembering past experience, will have a bottle of Hawker's Balsam on hand, and a small dose of this soothing and healing preparation, which all children like to take, will give relief both to the suffering child and the anxious parent.

All mothers are strongly urged to have this remedy at hand. A single trial will convince them that what so many have said in its praise is well deserved. It will cure coughs and colds, is an instant relief for hoarseness, and is something the family cannot afford to be without. It soothes, heals, cures. Public speakers and singers find it a constant friend. It is sold in 25c. and 50c. bottles, by all druggists and dealers, and is manufactured only by the Hawker Medicine Co. (Ltd) St. John, N. B., and New York City.

MONEY IN QUEER SHAPE.

ODD ACCIDENTS THAT HAPPEN TO TREASURY NOTES.

The Halves of Bills Brought Together in a Strange Way—The Man Who Puts Money in a Stove—How the Nearly Destroyed Bills are Identified and Cashed.

The redemption division of the Treasury at Washington is forever productive of new romances, says the Boston Transcript. Hardly a week passes that something odd and novel does not turn up there. Spoiled money, which people naturally are anxious to have replaced, brings to light many phases of human nature, both comic and tragic.

Only last week one of these romances reached its denouement. It had been running along for more than two years; for it was as far back as September, 1893, that a New York dealer in old coins and currency sent to the Treasury the equivalent of \$25. It was in a rather queer shape, consisting of the right-hand halves of one ten and two twenty-dollar bills. It was evident that the original notes had been deliberately cut in two with a knife or a pair of scissors.

Of course, the half-notes were redeemed, the Treasury returning \$25 in crisp new bills to the New York dealer. Under the law, a spoiled note is redeemable at full value if as much as three-fifths of it are presented. If the fragment is less than three-fifths and more than two-fifths of the whole, one half of the face is paid for it. Less than two-fifths of a bill is worth nothing, unless it can be proved that the balance has been destroyed. Such proof must consist in a thoroughly credible story supported by the affidavit of the loser and by testimony of reputable citizens as to his character. Even with such precautions the Government is sometimes cheated, without a doubt; but, though fraud of this kind is frequently attempted, it is almost certain to be found out and punished.

Ordinarily the spoiled money that has been redeemed is promptly destroyed by boiling and grinding it to a pulp. But in any case that looks suspicious the fragments are filed away and preserved, to cover the possibility that something may turn up later to shed light on the puzzle. That is what was done with the halves of \$50 received from the New York dealer. They were put on a shelf for reference, and for the time being the matter dropped out of sight. Two years elapsed and they were practically forgotten, until the other day a fresh consignment, consisting of the left-hand halves of one 10 and two \$20 bills, reached the Treasury. They came all the way from Kansas, and the explanation accompanying them was clear and succinct enough.

A well-to-do farmer in Kansas presented in his town bank the three half-notes described, which bore marks of burning along the edges toward the middle of each bill. He explained that he had been engaged in burning brush in a field. He had taken off his waistcoat and hung it on a fence. It fell down, and, in his absence from the spot, the fire, spreading through the grass, partly burned the waistcoat and the money in the pocket. The cashier of the bank, being a notary public, wrote out an affidavit which was then forwarded to Washington with the claim for the full value of the damaged bills—\$50. On the face of it the story was entirely credible and well calculated to accomplish its purpose; but there was a contingency on which the farmer could hardly have reckoned. What cause had he to imagine that the other halves of those same notes might be on a shelf in the redemption division of the Treasury? Mr. Relyea, the chief, went to the files and put his hand upon them in a moment. The halves sent in by the New York dealer and those received from the Kansas farmer had belonged to the same bills. The artless agriculturist had caught himself in his own trap.

The matter was at once put into the hands of the United States District Attorney for Kansas. That official began an investigation, but hesitated to prosecute the supposed guilty man because the latter was an old settler, a large property owner, and bore an unimpeached character. Nevertheless, the Treasury insisted on pushing the case, and a warrant was issued for the farmer's arrest on the charge of trying to defraud the Government. Mr. Relyea was notified that he would be required to appear with the halved notes and the original affidavit, which were expected to furnish complete evidence of perjury on the part of the accused. Last week, however, he received a telegram from the District Attorney stating that the farmer had pleaded guilty.

The story seems to end at this point; but a very interesting part of it remains as yet wholly enveloped in mystery. How did it happen that the unfortunate person in Kansas became possessed of those halves of \$50? Only one theory suggests itself. The irrepressible activity of the green-goods propaganda is well known. It is safe to say that no well-to-do farmer in the United States has failed to receive inviting circulars offering counterfeit money printed from stolen government plates, and of so excellent a quality as to be beyond detection by experts. Of course the green-goods people have no counterfeits to sell; all they want is to get hold of the unsuspecting Mr. Hayseed and fleece him. A favorite method

General Agency

BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING, CANTERBURY STREET,

ST. JOHN, N. B.

Controlling the largest line of

BICYCLES REPRESENTED IN THE DOMINION.

Send Your Address for our

1896 Catalogue

Which we will forward as soon as published.

General Agent for the Maritime Provinces for

The Yost Writing Machine Co.,

The American Typewriter Co.,

The Blickensderfer Typewriter Co.,

The Edison Mimeograph Typewriter.

The Edison Automatic Mimeograph,

The Edison Hand Mimeograph,

The Duplograph Manufacturing Co.,

The Electric Heat Alarm Co., &c., &c.

All kinds of bicycles Typewriters and other intricate machines carefully repaired

Typewriter and Mimeograph

Supplies of all kinds.

IRA CORNWALL, General Agent,

I. E. CORNWALL, Special Agent.

of theirs is to cut a good note in two and send half of it, as a sample of their "goods," to the intended victim. It may be that the Kansas farmer nibbled at such a bait, but he refused to bite, retaining the divided cash that had been forwarded to him. The green goods men in New York disposed of the halves which they had retained the divided by selling them to the dealer aforesaid, while the farmer held onto his for sometime before he could decide what to do with them. Probably if he had not come by them in this dubious way he would have presented them for redemption in a legitimate fashion. As it was, if he had done so no questions would have been asked, and he would have come out just \$25 ahead of the green goods enterprise.

So here is a mystery accounted for easily enough, supposing the theory to be correct. Much more difficult is it to explain how in June of this year the sum of \$1,060 came to be scattered along the lake front of Chicago, torn into small scraps in such a manner as to leave no doubt that the destruction of the cash was intentional. Early in the morning of the twenty-eighth day of that month two colored laborers named Brown and Campbell were walking along the shore south of Twenty-fourth street when they noticed some scraps of green paper blowing about. Looking further they discovered a good many more pieces, which were distributed for a distance of a couple of blocks. After some hours of patient search they had gathered enough to represent in a respectable manner two notes for \$500 each, two more for \$20 each, and two for \$10 each.

They took the fragments to the Sub-Treasury, supposing that they could claim the face value of the money. Imagine their disgust when they were informed that the fact of having found it gave them no title whatever to the cash. It was evident that they were honest men, and memoranda of their story were taken down. Later a fisherman picked up several other pieces of the same notes on the lake front in the same neighborhood, and these were also handed in at the Sub-Treasury. All of them were forwarded to the redemption division at Washington, where they are now held and awaiting a claimant. They have been pasted together on sheets of paper in such a shape as to show what parts are present and what are missing. There is not enough left of the tens and of the twenties to make it practicable to redeem them; but the two notes for \$500 each are all right. The owner has only to present the requisite evidence, and \$1,000 in new money will be paid to him.

Up to date, however, no estimate has appeared. This seems very extraordinary. Why should not the owner demand what belongs to him, no matter how the loss was incurred? There seems to be only one plausible theory. It sometimes happens that a man of ordinary regular habits goes on a visit to Chicago as a "bender." Alcohol makes him reckless; he lights cigars with bank notes and commits various imprudences. Next day he is sorry, and if he can find any fragments of the burned bills he sends them to the Treasury for redemption. Affidavits reciting such a method of loss frequently reach the redemption division. In some such fashion it may have come about that a Chicago citizen of wealth and good repute tore up his "wad" and scattered it along the lake front on the night of June 27 last. He prefers to let the money go rather than own up to so insane a frolic.

The first "stove case" for this season reached the redemption division last week. Mr. Quong Sing, a New York laundryman, about a fortnight ago wrapped \$426 in a silk handkerchief and put it into a

stovepipe on his premises. His assistant in the washee-washee business, not knowing that the money was there, built a fire in the stove one chilly morning, and the bills were partly destroyed. Enough of them were left, however, to make identification easy, and Quong will get his cash back. He is a lucky chinaman, for as the records of the treasury show, the domestic stove is the most completely efficient destroyer of money in existence. People, especially in rural districts, will insist on employing it for the purpose of safe deposits, and sooner or later the family savings are apt to go up in smoke. Nearly always the bills are reduced to hopeless ashes, involving total loss. About one hundred cases of this kind are referred to the redemption divisions every year.

The government is always willing and even anxious to replace spoiled money if it can possibly be identified. The skill of the women employed in this work at the Treasury Department is little short of marvellous. One lady, Mrs. Brown, attends to all the burned notes. Patiently she picks up scrap after scrap from a mass of charred fragments such as any ordinary person would regard as hopeless. One by one she pastes them on paper, assembling the pieces of each note on a sheet by itself, and trying to "restore" the greenback as a naturalist would build up an extinct animal from a fossil remains. Even a portion that is hardly more than an ash may still show the engraved design. When it is done, it remains to be determined how many of the bills shall be considered as properly identified. In the case of a bank note the name of the bank must be ascertained.

In this kind of labor powerful magnifying glasses are often called into requisition. A note that has been chewed up by a baby is apt to be a difficult subject to tackle. Babies destroy a good deal of money in this way in the course of every year, and the same may be said of puppy dogs. They have an equal disregard of value represented by currency. Goats eat money now and then, and so do cows. Mice are particularly destructive. They like to make nests out of paper cash, and this practice is encouraged by people who hide their savings in walls and under floors. Birds would seem to have a similar inclination, judging from a rather odd happening of only a few weeks ago. An employee of the Sub-Treasury in Cincinnati, named Turpin, was shaving himself one sunny afternoon when a robin flew in at the window. It flew out a moment later, and it did not occur to Turpin to suspect the bird when he discovered that a \$10 bill which he had taken from his waistcoat pocket and placed on the centre table was gone. A few days later, however, a storm blew a robin's nest out of a tree near the front porch. It was picked up, and the missing bill was found incorporated in its material. Though a great deal damaged, it was redeemed subsequently.

One day last summer lightning entered the house of a farmer in Maryland. In a frolicsome mood it flashed through a cupboard and burned a slice out of a \$2 silver certificate. The strip burned was nearly two inches wide, lengthwise through the middle of the bill. The latter was redeemed afterward, the number and seal being entirely legible. To bury paper money is a mistake, because under such conditions it rots. Now and then a person is burned to death, and cash removed from the clothing of the corpse is sent in for redemption. The contents of a wallet dug up with the body of a murdered man afforded a rather disagreeable subject for investigation not long ago. A few months back an old woman named Groth died of a contagious disease at Rockford, Ill., and her clothes were burned. Subsequently it occurred to the heir to search the ashes, and remains of money were found. Twenty-five dollars of the amount represented a bill identified and redeemed. During the last year or two several consignments of money in minute bits have reached the redemption division, being sent in by banks whose safes had been treated with dynamite by burglars. An overdose of dynamite applied to a safe is apt to have such an effect, which ought to be a lesson to robbers.

Diamonds.

A fashionable weekly published in London says: "Anything which treats of diamonds appeals to many interested in them—not only females, but, nowadays, men, as the edict exists no more which formerly said men of good taste must not wear gems on their fingers. The males of today may now consequently be seen with monster diamonds in their rings, making them utilitarian as knuckle dusters. The point of mutual interest is that the diamond trade, which is a most important one in Amsterdam, has received a check by the strike of 12,000 men employed in cutting and polishing. The strike may not last long, but Dutchmen are proverbially obstinate. This must seriously affect the markets, wholesale and retail. But the latter was not unprepared for this event, and can meet it without disturbing business."

Kidney Talk.

Why is a person ever seriously ill? Impure blood, nearly every time. What is pure blood?

It is the vital fluid which, in passing through the kidneys, as it must do many times every hour, carries with it no impurity—perfectly filtered.

Will the kidneys always do this? Yes, if they are not weak, or overworked, or injured by accident, or congested and inflamed by cold.

So long as the kidneys are in good health, so long will you be quite well and healthy.

What happens when the kidneys are out of order? Why, any form of illness may happen. You can never know where or how it may end.

In case the warnings called symptoms are ignored and the tissues of the kidneys break down, the doctor will tell you that it is diabetes and incurable, or Bright's disease and a hopeless case.

But after that? Well, watch this paper and you can read of many great cures of these so-called incurable diseases by using Dodd's Kidney Pills.

But greater cures, we think, are the simple ones, the cures of the small beginnings, where the misery and the harm to the constitution is escaped.

What a happy thing cure is! How endlessly people will talk of their case!

With what smiles and enjoyment! Some of our grateful patients never come to the city without calling to talk over their cures.

A man by the name of Joshua Clarkson, living at 114 Robert street, this city, came in the other day.

He had saved his life by using two boxes of Dodd's Kidney Pills.

What was the disease? Diabetes.

Yes; he had lost thirty-one pounds in weight in five weeks.

It took him seven weeks to regain his health and his avocations.

No one could hear him talk and not take courage, be he ever so sick.

A full account of this case will appear in this paper.

Then, not long ago Samuel Murray came in, looking well, too. He it was who was paralyzed for a whole year, given up by ever so many doctors and was cured by twelve boxes of Dodd's Kidney Pills.

A reporter of a city paper saw him. Seemed to think it impossible that a man could recover from such an illness.

There was no miracle about it. He used Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Hundreds of people are talking to each other about cures accomplished by this medicine, and these pills are selling everywhere.

And they always cure.