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FRIDAY, SEPT. 14, 1900.

We visited the power plant of the Electric railroad a few days ago and Treasurer Mauck very courteously showed us over the establishment, and explained its details. We have an inborn love of machinery, and seldom see a locomotive and drive it. Indeed, as a boy on the farm our cup of satisfaction was at full when the big horse-power thrashing machine took sick and we were installed in his place for a week. Of course there was dust and dirt and danger, but what were they to running and feeding that big machine and seeing the big boxes of grain come out on one side while the threshed stuff went on to its place. Then three years work in expositions, with scores of engines of all sizes and kinds in our charge only intensified this innate love for machinery.

Hence our delight in seeing that 800 horse-power is compound operating the whole road with the ease of a child manipulating its toys. The 500 horse-power companion, idle that day, had as interest too. So did the big dynamo. Those modern electric "chicks" for coupling two or more machines, the switch boards, and above all the rarely delicate and sensitive indexes, showing the disposition of the power all the time being generated. The method of conservation by means of those immense storage batteries. The transmission of power along the trolley from one mile section to another in case of an accident. All this and so much more held us for an hour or more. Everything is up to date, of the very best and all cared for most strictly, and we don't wonder that this road is cited as one of the few models of the country. We shall take in one of the substations at an early date.

But as we came away we thought it over—what an index it is of the wonderful achievements of the century just closing. It seems but yesterday that we heard the first serious talk of utilizing electricity as a power, and now see the achievements. Contrast Benjamin Franklin alluring the suspected subtle fluid from the clouds with his prepared kite, and then at what electricity is doing today. Niagara's unmeasured power which has gone to waste for scores of years is now being harnessed to the world's industries, and Niagara is more significant as a prophecy than as a potency.

But how did Franklin, and Siemens, and Edison, and Ray and others make their wonderful discoveries? Why they knew as Motely suggests, that God's eternal law of nature as well as history runs in grooves as rivers run in the valleys and railway trains follow the rails. So they with rarely sensitive and delicate mental touch felt a groove out in the dark of the eternal world, which they moved along with thought in the physical world, and therein cautiously moved along and empirically, and we see the results. Hence the

electric railroad, yet in its infancy, and so of energy of all kinds. Siemens suggested that the day was not far distant when the coal would be consumed, that is transmitted into heat and power at the mine's mouth and its potency transmitted to the shop or home or train or ship where wanted and the tremendous waste of our crude methods saved. A visit to that power house is well worth making, though perhaps they won't thank us for the suggestion. But don't go to while away an hour, or as mere curiosity mongers, their time is too valuable to be wasted. If you see signs up here and there "hands off," better observe them, unless you want a stretcher and an ambulance ordered. Thanks for courtesies received and thoughts suggested.

The Spirit of Lawlessness.
Now that the negro whose crime led to the riot in Akron, Ohio, Aug. 22, has been sentenced to life imprisonment, the Cleveland Fluidealer says: "The instigators, abettors and participants in the riot that resulted in loss of life, personal injuries, house breaking, robbery, arson and destruction of public and private property, should be hunted down, indicted, prosecuted with all the vigor of the law and punished according to their ascertained guilt. The reputation of the people of Akron demands that this be done. Their mutual interests require it. The destruction of private and public property by the mob of hoodlums and would-be murderers is but a small part of the loss of that night's work inflicted on Akron."

While the lawlessness of a mob may be vastly greater in its consequences, nevertheless, it is no more to be condoned and is much less excusable than violence and lawlessness are excusable in public officials. We condemn the spirit manifested at Akron and also recently in New York and we do well, but what shall we say when a city marshal appointed, presumably, to enforce law and order to protect the public but instead goes around the city and violently, without provocation attacks private and unoffending citizens, and still more so, if he goes into a courtroom where he has no jurisdiction and there exercises his brutal and ungovernable spirit of violence.

If such a man were under the influence of liquor at the time, he is more excusable in the eyes of the law, but he may in our minds divide the responsibility with the administration which appointed him. In other words, he may to some extent elicit our sympathy, while the mayor knowing him to be vicious when he appointed him a public officer to enforce the law should be held fully responsible. But of course it is not supposed that even a drinking man can make drunkenness an excuse after having recently graduated from an inebriate asylum.

We may talk about China, the Philippines, and other races, but it behooves us not to forget those in our own community who seem as yet to be uncivilized.

Postmaster Fletcher took us to task for our criticism of the mail service in last week's News-Letter. He explained: The Waukegan people put our papers in the postoffice after the last mail down this way has left; then it lies up there over Sunday, comes down here Monday on the 9:30 a. m. train, (yes when it comes) is stamped and put in our box, and he says the Judge don't go after his mail till Tuesday, hence, the Waukegan daily is somewhat like a last year's birds nest when one gets it. All we care to say is, there is some truth in what A. W. says. But he further adds that "Foss is in Chicago now and will be out here in a few days."

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