

HIGHLAND PARK NEWS-LETTER

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Motto for the Week

PATRIOTISM

"Had I a dozen sons,—
each in my love alike, . . .
I had rather have eleven
die nobly for their country,
than one voluptuously surfeit
out of action."

—Shakespeare—Coriolanus

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Coal and Iron in the United States.

At the present rate of consumption the supply of coal in the United States will be exhausted in 200 years or less. This is the deliberate opinion of M. R. Campbell, the United States geologist, and it is based upon a scientific enquiry into all the possible supplies of our coal fields and the enormous consumption, especially in our great lines of transportation.

Very much the same is true of our iron supply. The present enormous use of iron for buildings, bridges, etc., to say nothing of our great railroads, is consuming the iron so fast that the supply will be exhausted in a comparatively short time.

It is up to the scientists to find some new agent to substitute these important materials. Possibly some way will be open to a readier and more economical supply of electricity for heat and power, and such things as concrete may be manufactured to substitute iron in some cases.

Citizenship and the Bible.

TO WHAT ABSURD lengths of religious fanaticism are we, every now and then, made aware of. A man named Heilway, when summoned to serve as a juror in Chicago last week, said: "I am a Christian Scientist and my religion forbids me to judge others." Opening his Bible he quoted this passage. "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest; for wherein thou judgest another thou condemnest thyself: for thou that judgest doest the same thing." Romans 2:1.

This, to us, is a new interpretation of the teaching of Christian Science. It is also a strange misapplication of the Bible, and particularly of the text read. If Mr. Heilway is guilty of "the same things" as are

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plainly denounced in the First Chapter of Romans, he is of course, unfit to judge others in those things.

But what sort of a country would christians live in if they were all to excuse themselves from the duties and responsibilities of civil law and practical government.

The Law for Justice,—Not Vengeance

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY statements made in the daily press which indicate that the attitude of District Attorney Jerome is that of a persecuting, vindictive officer of the law. It has recently been repeated in the daily papers in reference to the deplorable Thaw case that when the trial was over Jerome said:

"All right. He will go back to the Tombs now. He will sweat there all summer. If he is crazy it will show itself during the hot summer months. And if he passes through that ordeal all right, then we will put him to the bat in the fall, and it will be a case of guilty of murder in the first degree."

Now if this represents the statements of the District Attorney it reflects an entire absence of that dignity and poise which we ought to look for in all official representatives of the law.

If these statements are not true the press that started them ought to be held responsible.

There is a sad sowing of the seeds of dissatisfaction and anarchy in such expressions of legal bitterness and injustice.

British House of Lords

THERE HAS LONG BEEN a spirit of unrest, amounting in some sections of England, to revolt against the House of Lords. That body is known as the upper house of Parliament and consists of hereditary lords, and the bishops of the State Episcopal Church.

It is not responsible to the electors and is in fact almost absolutely irresponsible. Occasional vacancies, occurring through the death of a peer without a successor, may be filled up by the crowned head of the nation who usually accepts the nomination of the prime minister. Hence Gladstone or Beaconsfield were said now and again to have created a new lord. At other times a peer is created by the King without such nomination, as when Queen Victoria made Disraeli the Earl of Beaconsfield. Gladstone it will be remembered, declined a similar distinction.

But people are growing weary of this body and it has become a question for practical politics and doubtless will figure largely in the next parliamentary election.

The present premier sees this and is preparing the way for some legislative action. On the 24th inst. he moved a resolution looking to the curtailing of the power of the upper house. The resolution will not, if carried, accomplish any change but it will test the mind of Parliament on the question and so prepare the way for the bill at a later date.

Lines Worth Preserving

MARCHING ON!

In the beauty of the lillies
Christ was born across the sea
With a glory in His bosom
That transfigures you and me
As he died to make men holy
Let us die to make men free
While God is marching on.

—Battle Hymn of the Republic

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Crime and Capital Punishment.

An able and extensive symposium with the above as its general theme, appears in the last number of the annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science.

The articles which are by men of first-class standing and authority ought to have a much more general circulation than is given in this large and costly magazine. From it we learn that the number of murders and homicides in the United States have increased from 1,808 in 1885 to 10,652 in 1896, with a reduction from this maximum number to 8,482 in 1904; that for the number in 1904 there were 73 executed and about that proportion in other years.

Lynch law, however, has been somewhat checked as the proportion of lynchings in 1892 was 230 to 6,791 murders and homicides, and about this proportion continued for several years.

One of the articles of the symposium, by Prof. Garner of the Illinois University, ably discusses the defects in our jury system, while another by Secretary Samuel J. Barrows of the Prison Association of New York presents the legislative tendencies in regard to capital punishment.

Prof. Garner points out that the death-penalty is not a living question in some of the parliaments of the world "because they have actually abolished it and do not desire to restore it."

Thus Russia abolished it except for political offenses. It was abolished in Portugal in 1867; in Holland in 1870; in Italy in 1889, and in the majority of the Swiss cantons, while some countries which have not formally abolished it by legislative act, have suppressed it in practice.

All of which shows the trend of events. The