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death have on occasions punished members of their order whom they suspected of having betrayed them, but even such instances are rare. For ten times they are read of in novels, they scarce occur once in fact. The killing of Carey, who, to have himself turned witness against his associates in the murder of Cavendish and Bourke, was a striking example; but Carey was not only an assassin, but exhibited so many other execrable qualities besides, that any ending to his career would occasion little surprise. No such dramatic events, however, had been publicly connected with Cronin. As far as the authorities know, his quarrel with members of the secret society in which he was concerned, seems to have been no more remarkable than many such quarrels, which expend themselves in charges and counter-charges in the newspapers. In the United States there has always been a liberal toleration for the discussion of foreign politics by any one taking an interest in them, but this very circumstance, makes it all the more imperative that the law should enforce every fact in the present case, and make an example of Cronin's murderers. If it shall turn out that the assassination was unconnected with the revolutionist society disputes in which the victim was involved, the mystery will yet remain to be unraveled. If it is the outgrowth of them, then once and for all the heavy hand of the law of this country must descend with punishing force on those who fancy that they can set up tribunals or administer revenges outside of and in the face of it. The investigation of the case will be watched with thrilling interest.

**A NECESSARY QUALIFICATION.**

The closing night of the Festival developed a striking example of the insatiability of the encore fiend and also a failure on the part of the conductor to rise to the occasion.

After Mrs. Lehmann-Kallisch had made evident her refusal to respond to the enthusiastic encores of the *Fidelio* duo, of course every reasonable person in the audience was ready to have the regular programme go on. In an audience of that size, however, there is always a certain proportion that does know when to stop. Because a score or two of people out of an audience of 5,000 persist in insisting their hands together, it is not a sufficient reason for reason to suspend the performance until they are either quelled or contented.

However high Herr Seidl's abilities as a musical conductor, he failed in the essential quality of ruling the situation and taking the opportunities he had of resuming the programme. Instead, he weakly allowed the situation to rule him, and after permitting himself to be fooled by merely sporadic clapping two or three times, finally gave up and permitted the encores fiend to work their will.

The episode was not a satisfactory one, but the responsibility rests more upon the conductor than with the audience. The audience was not to blame for the presence of the insatiably enthusiastic element, but prime requisite of a conductor is to know how to quell the encores fiend.

**NOT A VALID ARGUMENT.**

A paragraph has been going the rounds of the papers showing the perfect content and prosperity of the Pitcairn Islanders, who are descended from the old mutineers of the British ship *Bounty*. The statement is that they hold their land on commutation, and the disposition is shown to hold up their case as an example in favor of commutation.

But the statement does not tell the whole story. The Pitcairn Islanders have no railroads and are consequently not burdened by the necessity of paying freight charges on watered stocks. They have no trade, and are not kept on the keen jump to look after the chances of wealth. Their case is so simple that they need not worry themselves over the dangers of predation or evolution. They have no intoxicating liquors, are without tobacco, and above all, as the highest indication of their idyllic state, they have no fashions as an object of life for the women, and no politicians to set the example of leadership among the men.

Any one of these features of primordial life, or all of them together, may be taken as the cause for the content and peace of the Pitcairn people. The fact is that they all show the fact to be that while retaining Christianity they have relapsed into the ease and indolence of the South Pacific Islands. Whether it is better to retain that simple life than to plunge into the bustle, hurry and struggle of civilization may be an open question. But the fact is that such a rudimentary style of life can furnish no example for the organization of great nations.

**HE DOES NOT HAVE TO.**

What is likely to strike the mass of the American people as a case of misplaced sympathy, is the form of a sarcastic comment upon "the liberality of this Government," in giving Mr. Whitelaw Reid, the Minister to Paris, a salary of \$17,500 per year, while his house-rent cost him \$20,000 a year. A remark of this sort, in the Baltimore *American*, may be tinged by the diplomatic ambition of the editor of that paper, but the American people at large will be apt to regard it as a case in which the case involves any special hardship to Mr. Reid.

There is nothing, either in the laws governing diplomatic duties or in the requirements of the public service, which makes it necessary for Mr. Reid to pay \$20,000 a year house-rent in Paris unless he chooses to. He has a perfect right to expend that sum for the privilege of living in the house of the Comtesse de Grammont, and thus surrounding his residence at the French capital with the aristocratic brilliancy of a palatial residence and costly entertainments. There is no objection to the high rental which Mr. Reid pays, as well as his other expenses, will be fully met by the rental from the Mills building in New York, and the income from other properties which go to support the expenses of Mr. Reid. He has a perfect right to use his wealth for the support of lavish expenditures abroad; but it is easy to recognize that the public service does not require it of him, and therefore is not required to pay any deficits between the salary and his expenses.

**AN IMPORTANT DEFINITION.**

Minnesota's new law making drunkenness a penal offense, which has already gone into effect, will, before its enforcement has proceeded very far, raise a large number of interesting and intricate questions. With penalties ranging from \$10 for the first offense, to \$40 for the second and \$60 for the third or subsequent offenses, the definition of drunkenness will become very important. The first point upon which those who are fond of spirituous beverages will need to inform themselves will be what the courts regard as drunkenness.

A necessity for such a definition arose in the deliberations of our Legislature, and that was by no means so urgent as when imprisonment and crime will follow upon the transgression of that indefinite line by some unscrupulous imbibor. Before drinkers proceed to their libations they must study the Supreme Court reports in order to learn whether the law fixes a certain amount of beverage, or a certain condition of hilar-

ity, induced thereby, as the limit beyond which the condition which will land the offender in the lock-up. Will the absorption of a stated number of drinks or the commission of a certain amount of boisterousness constitute drunkenness under the law? Will the unaccustomed drinker who becomes somewhat noisy, after his first glass, be subject to the law, while the old toper who can absorb an indefinite amount of liquor, without betraying the effect of his load, goes unscathed?

Or will the different characters of humanity shown, under the effect of various stimulation, produce different degrees of legal intoxication? Will the man who, under the effect of numerous libations, becomes offensively jovial be considered a greater offender than he who drinks deeply and preserves a saturnine gravity, under the effect of alcoholic stimulation? Not only will it be necessary for habitual drinkers either to take up a course of legal studies, in order to decide these delicate points, but the safest plan will be to fee a lawyer to accompany them upon their nightly out. Beyond that it is evident that the entire mass of the patrons of the saloons will be in a parlor position, until the courts have had time to decide under what circumstances a man is drunk in the first degree, or has simply committed an innocuous case of intoxication.

The actual results of the new law will be watched with great interest. In no respect will its working be more closely watched than with regard to the question, whether the legal definition of drunkenness is the same in the case of the rich and influential man who befuddles himself in high-toned drinking places, as in the case of the ordinary workman who celebrates his holidays by getting drunk in the promptest and most economical manner.

**WHAT HAS BEEN REGARDED IN NEW YORK** as an advance toward sound business principles in the selling of beer, is the adoption in Long Island City of selling that staple to people by the pound. Under this rule the foam which the sellers of this article are so fond of making its leading component, only counts for the beer actually in it. This makes the press of New York regard the new rule as a great reform. The practical difficulty in adapting the change to New York City is insuperable. In order to meet the requirements of the beer drinkers of the metropolis, it would be necessary for each beer seller to have a pair of hay scales and sell his beer by the ton.

**ENORMOUS ICEBERGS** have been reported to be floating around in the North Atlantic this spring. It is presumed that a cold wind from the biggest of them is blowing through the diplomatic ambition of Colonel Elliott F. Shepard.

**MANAGERS** of future music festivals should take this lesson from the present one. Those who cannot remain until the close of the performance should be given an opportunity to leave before the closing numbers are commenced, and after that opportunity the doors should be kept closed until the performance is over. The necessity of this has been demonstrated by experience in Pittsburgh heretofore, but the management of this affair apparently did not remember it.

**STORIES** that the Homestead men are all going to sign the new scale and that the non-union men at Duquesne are all going to quit, leave both sides about even in the account of workbooks (a wages question).

**OUT** of loyalty to the long standing principle that it will not do to let the people have coal too cheap, the coal combination has put up the prices of anthracite coal once more. This is expressive of its determination to get even on the fact that during the last cold spell the people were able to burn coal that cost less than it would if the combination had known that the cold wave was coming.

**THE** claim of Bismarck that Germany has made things all right in Samoa by "pardoning" Malietoa, fails to comprehend the entire equities of the subject. When Malietoa has pardoned Germany, things will be more even.

**THE** announcement that evictions have been resumed on the Irish estate of Lord Londsdale is in very much the same way as if a pheasant battue or the commencement of woodchuck shooting were announced. Evictions may take the place of other forms of sport in Ireland, but the game sometimes proves dangerous.

**THE** talk of a rise in the price of coke shows that industry is learning the great truth that if the people who cut prices to a losing level are permitted to suffer all the loss, they will very soon get sick of it.

**THE** members of the Boston City Council who insist upon having their names inscribed upon the Dunker Hill Monument, must be close relatives of the former Commissioners of Allegheny county who placed their names among those honored on the Soldiers' Monument, which now stands on Seminary Hill.

**THE** record of the Chicago detectives does not appear calculated to refute the slander that they were more taken in unearthing plots than they were in detecting and covering murders that have actually occurred.

**IT** is stated that the new stepfather-in-law of Mr. Cleveland has had an adventurous career among Indians, gold-diggers and Buffalo Democrats. This seems to have qualified him for winding up his career by a connection which may embarrass him in the sea of national politics.

**A STRANGE CLIFF DWELLER.**

**AN** Animal of Unknown Species With a Fondness for Raw Pork.

**PARIS, Ky., May 26.**—A long black animal with small ears, a large nose and flat tail, measuring from nose to eight feet in length, has been seen several times on the banks of the Licking river, near Lair's station, Kentucky.

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## THE PITTSBURGH DISPATCH.

## THE TOPICAL TALKER.

**Wagner Should Have Been Born in China.**  
**May Festival Monday—Crackers—Senator Rattan.**

One of the impressions which the May Festival has made upon me is that Richard Wagner ought to have been born in China. Not only would the beautiful musical instruments of that country have suited Wagner's ideas of composition to a T, but he would there have been able to write an opera of model length according to the notion of the Chinese, that would have taken ten years to perform.

A VERY great many who went to the concert last week cannot devote this day to a better purpose than to regret that the Wagner festival in which their indulgence in Wagnerian uproar is certain to have involved them.

It would be very interesting to know how many percent of the \$100,000 that for the last ten years has been expended in the construction of the Exposition building on Friday night and the Wagnerian waterspout was loose, really and truly enjoyed themselves. It is of those things which can never expect to know, because not one man in ten or one woman in a hundred dares to say outside his or her soul's chamber the thoughts which Wagner's music—no, all of it, but most of it—conveys to the mind, when it is lying after such an event as the Wagner concert on Friday night.

**THE** crop of travelers' tales is being harvested in some places. Pittsburgh writing from London details a little experience in that city's hotel life which seems very amusing.

They were four in number, all Americans, and they were having dinner in the gorgeously furnished dining room of the Hotel Metropole. When the soup was brought the Pittsburgher in the party asked the waiter to bring some more of that kind.

"Beg pardon," said the waiter, "what did you say, sir?"

"Crackers," replied the Pittsburgher.

The waiter looked puzzled, but walked off and returned with a plate of several minutes. The soup was getting cold, and the Pittsburgher called another waiter and sent him after the first with a renewed injunction to bring some crackers. Another minute or two passed, and then the waiter re-entered the room with the stated head waiter. They were engaged in earnest conversation for another five minutes, and then the waiter returned with a plate of several minutes. The soup was getting cold, and the Pittsburgher called another waiter and sent him after the first with a renewed injunction to bring some crackers. Another minute or two passed, and then the waiter re-entered the room with the stated head waiter. They were engaged in earnest conversation for another five minutes, and then the waiter returned with a plate of several minutes. The soup was getting cold, and the Pittsburgher called another waiter and sent him after the first with a renewed injunction to bring some crackers. 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