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FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1900.

## THE AMERICAN NEGRO.

One of the most scholarly as well as one of the most entertaining and instructive papers on the American negro that we have seen is that which was read by Dr. Paul B. Barringer, chairman of the faculty of the University of Virginia, before the Tri-State Medical Association, which met in Charleston during the month of February last, a copy of which has recently fallen into our hands through the kindness of a friend.

Dr. Barringer begins by quoting a biological axiom, which reads, "the ontogeny is the repetition of the phylogeny." This he translates to mean "the life history is the repetition of the race history." "Freely interpreted," he adds, "it means that the life history of any individual, of any type, unless modified by forces of exceptional character, will tend to conform to the lines of ancestral traits. In other words, it is a terse expression of the existence of the force which we call heredity in life."

Applying this "biological axiom" to the human race and taking as an example of that race the Southern negro, he declares that the tendency of the negro to return to barbarism is as natural as the return of the sow that is washed to her wallowing in the mire; that the ages of degradation under which he was formed and the fifty centuries of historically recorded savagery with which he came to us cannot be permanently influenced by one or two centuries of enforced correction, if the correcting force be withdrawn; that when the correcting force of discipline was removed he, like the released plummet, began to fall, and although the mills of the gods grind slowly, what we have already seen is but the first evidence of a motion as certain in its results as the law of gravitation.

Tracing the origin of the American negro, Dr. Barringer points out that he came from the west coast of Africa and from the valleys of the Niger and the Senegal, and that as everything in that part of Africa is originally of one race and one blood, the American negro is of true negro origin and came from the very lowest of the blacks of Africa. He draws a distinction between these savage cannibals, lazy, lustful and without any moral instincts, and those of the Indo-African race, who are a better type.

After dwelling at some length on the characteristics of the negro savage and the manner in which these savages were imported into the United States and sold as slaves, Dr. Barringer comes to speak of the condition of the negro in the South at the close of the war. "Whatever the evils of slavery may have been," says he, "and I have no desire to minimize them, the general result is, at the close of the war, some 4,000,000 negroes, who were in their average morality and character so far ahead of any other 4,000,000, or any other 1,000,000 of that race to be found elsewhere on the face of the earth that they were not in the same class." And he incidentally remarks that Mrs. Stowe's intelligence should have seen the paradoxical side of a work written in criticism of a civilization which produced an "Uncle Tom" and a "Topsy" from savage cannibals in less than five generations.

Every person who was old enough to know anything at the close of the war knows that the negroes, especially what was known as the "house negro," that is those who had been in close contact with the whites, were far superior, in the matter of manners and morals at least, to the negroes as a class of to-day. They were gentler and they had some individuality and character. Take an old time Virginia carriage driver or butler of to-day and you will find a man of sense, a man of character and in many respects a polished gentleman.

But to proceed with Dr. Barringer's paper. He points out that as a slave the negro was taught two wholesome lessons: to work and to obey—and that under such

tutelage there was excellent attainment. He notes also that those negro soldiers in the recent Spanish-American war, who had been trained by white officers and who were led by white officers, gave an excellent account of themselves in battle. "Every day of slavery," says he, "seems to have counted for their benefit, as will be seen if we compare the records of this generation with that of those whose boast it is that they were born free. It is not the oldest negro, but the negro under thirty who crowds our jails and penitentiaries throughout the land."

Yea, verily. It is not the ex-slave who commits criminal assault upon white women. The slaves were taught to respect and revere a good woman. The chaps who are lynched for this crime are those of the new generation. But how could one expect other things? We have frequently said in discussing this subject, and Dr. Barringer dwells on the same point, that the young negro of to-day, with his savage nature, with his brutal instincts, with a healthy physical development and strong animal passions, is brought up not in bondage of any sort, but in an atmosphere of liberty and license. He has no one to train him or restrain him; no masterful hand keeps his appetites and passions in subjection. He does not exercise control over himself and so he grows up with his animal nature supreme, and he is controlled neither by the heart nor the intellect, but by the brutal force of his nature. His one idea is to gratify his appetites and his passions and he does so at every opportunity.

Of course there are many honorable exceptions to this rule, but we speak of the new negro as a type. We speak of those who roam around and whose bodies are often found dangling from the limb of a tree.

But Dr. Barringer makes a statement just here which is worthy of the most serious thought and which commands the attention of the whites. He says that it is a perfectly plain truth that the prolonged contact of the white man with the black man has resulted in the degradation of the white race. "There is no use in longer mincing matters," he adds, "this problem is to save the white man of the South from further barbarism by reclaiming the savage with whom he is inseparably tied."

This is a startling proposition, yet it must be in a measure true, for "vice will sooner transform virtue into a bawd than virtue will liken vice to its own image." The white man must lift the negro up or the negro will pull the white man down.

This article is already extended beyond its allotment of space, and so we must postpone until another day the discussion of the remedies which Dr. Barringer suggests.

## NEW YORK'S MISTAKE.

At a recent session of the State Board of Tax Commissioners of the State of New York, it was asserted by those who protested against the assessments for special franchises that placing the organization tax so high and imposing such liability and responsibility on directors were responsible for the fact that many corporations in New York had gone to New Jersey for their charters. These companies, it was pointed out, after organizing in New Jersey and paying into the treasury of that State a sum that amounted to millions of dollars a year, then went to New York and obtained permission to do business without paying the State a cent.

Several years ago the people of Virginia got it into their heads that great corporations were criminal and the Legislature was so illiberal that the American Tobacco Company was compelled to go to New Jersey for its charter. The people of New Jersey saw their opportunity, and offered liberal terms to corporations, with the result that the State has largely paid its operating expenses through its charter fees, and taxation has been reduced to the minimum.

Virginia lost a great opportunity, and all through prejudice. If this State had at that time showed the same liberal spirit towards corporations, much of the money which has been poured into the treasury of New Jersey would have found its way into the treasury of Virginia.

## MARKSMANSHIP THE ESSENTIAL.

The all important lesson which the war in South Africa has taught the military man is the value of marksmanship with the improved magazine rifle. This weapon has wholly changed the nature and character of war from what it has heretofore been. The good marksmen armed with the best magazine rifles will certainly win in war now, all other things being equal. Some of the results that the world has already learned of Boer shooting are simply amazing, and when we get an authentic history of the contest that describes its incidents in detail, our surprise will, no doubt, be very much increased. There never before was a war in which every soldier was such a shot as the individual Boers are, and consequently there never before was a war in which the losses to the opposing sides were so disproportionate. The English have so far lost 16,000 men killed and wounded, while it is doubtful if the Boers have lost 5,000.

The recent incident in which a party of English officers out shooting was fired on by a Boer shooting, eight Boers fired a volley at five Englishmen on horseback at a distance of three hundred yards. One Englishman was killed and three were wounded. It is, of course, possible to pick out eight men from the United States Army or from any other army who could do this, but these were not picked Boers. They were no more than the average Boer soldiers, all of whom are perfect shots.

But take any eight average soldiers out any other army, and we venture nothing in saying that if they had fired that volley the chances are not a man would have been struck.

This war, therefore, has demonstrated that the essential thing in military training now is perfection in shooting with the rifle. The nation that practices its private soldiers in shooting with the rifle until they acquire great skill with it, will utterly overthrow the nation whose men have not been practiced with it. This is the all important lesson to be learned now, and the Congress of the United States should give immediate heed to it.

Not only should provision be made for the most careful training of the men in the regular army, but a liberal fund should be provided for training the militia of the States in marksmanship.

The current number of the Nineteenth Century Magazine has an article on the way the English army is armed, and how the soldier shoots that makes it questionable whether in a war with our Continental Powers (all of which, by the way, have been long giving attention to marksmanship), the English would have much show, notwithstanding the gallantry of their officers and men. The writer shows that the rifle the English soldier is armed with is much inferior to the weapons used by other first-class powers, and that the private soldiers are wholly untrained in the use of it at any considerable distance. He tells, for instance, that at the fight at Majuba Hill, nearly twenty years ago, most of the rifles dropped by the English soldiers who were killed, had their sights set for four hundred yards, though they were firing at an enemy directly in presence. They had as well have been shooting with bows and arrows, as every shot went far over head.

We shall not waste sympathy on Mr. W. D. Bynum, whose nomination as General Appraiser of the port of New York has failed of confirmation by the Senate. Those Democrats who in 1896 fought for sound money and Jeffersonian principles were in no sense office-seekers. They helped to defeat Bryan and, incidentally, helped to elect McKinley, but they have asked no reward of office at the hands of the present administration. Mr. Bynum is one of the very few exceptions, and we shall not shed tears if he fails to get a place.

## CURRENT TOPICS.

February is the shortest month in the year, but last February was the greatest February's month for foreign trade.

Wonderful what this country ever exhibited, knew.

The total of imports for the month was \$67,415,000, an increase of \$8,500,000 over the same month last year. The total exports amounted to \$19,379,902, an increase of \$5,500,000 over February, 1899. The exports were 25 per cent. greater than the returns for the same period of any previous year in the history of the country. The excess of exports over imports was \$50,000,000, which was 25 per cent. greater than last year's February excess, and 70 per cent. greater than in the same month of any previous year.

But there will be greater records than this. Wait until the country begins to make a showing on coal exports.

A special from Hagerstown, Md., says: "Mr. Thomas Guantrell, formerly private secretary to the late Governor Hamilton, from Cuba, spent a few days in Hagerstown."

"He is just home from Cuba, where he was in the Quartermaster's Department at Manzanillo and Jiguaní. In guarding government property he shot several Cubans dead."

"Guantrell says he despises the Cubans, as they hate the Americans. He says the Cubans love war and hate work. The Cubans will fight the Americans, he says, before long, and will all have to be killed off before the island can be Americanized."

The Cubans are incapable of self-government. Cuba is destined to be a province of the United States, and the sooner the natives hold an election and vote their sentiments the better it will be for them. The great need of Cuba to-day is a settled government.

## AFTERMATH.

Dr. Richard S. Dewey, well known in Chicago, and who was formerly head of the Kankakee Insane Asylum, is now himself an inmate of a sanitarium in Wisconsin, being insane and under restraint. He was regarded as an insanity expert, and originated the cottage system, under which insane patients were divided into different classes.

Mr. A. R. Peacock made a flying trip from Los Angeles to Pittsburg, arriving at the latter place yesterday morning. He is a director in the Carnegie Company, and is wanted to attend a meeting of the board called for Saturday. He chartered a special engine and a Pullman car from the Santa Fe Road, which agreed to deliver him in Chicago in thirty-six hours. His fare from Los Angeles to Chicago was \$5,000.

The war in the Transvaal has caused those in authority in London to pass through a terrible ordeal. It is said that when George Wyndham entered the British War Office, a little more than a year ago, he did not have a gray hair, and now his hair is silvery white. A similar change was noticed in the appearance of Sir George Trevelyan, in 1882, when he became Chief Secretary for Ireland, immediately after the assassination of Lord Frederick Cavendish. He was described by Mr. Parnell as having hair of raven blackness. Three months afterward his hair had become as white as snow.

A Persian priest has recently decided that Chicago must have a temple dedicated to the worship of the sun.

A curious Scotch rhyme concerning the calculation of Easter runs as follows:

First comes Candlemass,  
And then the new moon,  
The next day is Easter after that  
Is aye Fasting e'en.

And the next at its height,  
Then next Sunday after that  
Is aye Pasche right.

It is said that rhyme has never been known to be inaccurate before, but if it is worked out for this year it will be found that it places Easter day on April 23.

## Disquieting.

It is somewhat disquieting to observe that while it is notoriously impossible to live in Washington on \$5,000 a year, comparatively few Congressmen die in office.

## The Deacon's Dream.

"May you take this lesson home with you to-night, dear friends," concluded the preacher at the end of a very long and interesting sermon. "Any man who lives to the end that your souls may experience salvation. We will now how our heads in prayer. Deacon White, will you lead?"

"Deacon White," this time in a louder voice, "Deacon White, will you lead?"

Still no response. It was evident that the Deacon was slumbering. The preacher made a third appeal, and raised his voice to a shout, "Deacon White, will you lead?"

The Deacon rubbed his eyes and cried out wonderingly. "Is it my lead? No, I just deat!"—De-troit Free Press.

## Three Angels.

They say this life is barren, drear, and cold. Ever the same song was sung of old. Ever the same long, weary tale is told. And to our lips is held the cup of sorrow. And yet a little love can sweeten life.

They say our hands may grasp but joys destroyed. Youth has but dreams, and age an aching void. Whose dead sea fruit long ago has cloyed. Whose night with wild, tempestuous storms is rife—And yet a little hope can brighten life.

They say we fling ourselves in wild despair. Amidst the broken treasures scattered there. Where all is wrecked where all once promised fair. And stab ourselves with sorrow's two-edged knife—And yet a little patience strengthens life.

Is it, then, true this tale of bitter grief, Of mortal anguish finding no relief? Lo, midst the winter shines the laurel's leaf—Three angels share the lot of human strife. Three angels glorify the path of life.

Love, hope, and patience cheer us on our way. Love, hope, and patience form our stay. Love, hope, and patience watch us day by day. And bid the desert bloom with beauty vernal. Until the earthly fades in the eternal.

—F. S. in Temple Bar.

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aged, the good name of the State has been tarnished by a crime that is worse in its consequences than that committed by the victim of the mob. We have no sympathy whatever for Cotton. He deserved to die. He had forfeited his life by his dastardly crime, and no doubt would have expiated his offence on the gallows, but all these considerations do not justify the action of the mob which set at defiance the laws and lawfully constituted authorities of the State. If the troops had not been withdrawn the mob would have been baffled. It is evident that a mistake was made, but it is not our purpose to decide whether the shoulders of the blame rest on Governor Tyler says that he did all that he could under the law, and throws the blame on the Sheriff. What the defence of the Sheriff is we are not informed. It may be that he was deceived by appearances and apprehended no danger. However this may be, Virginia must bear the reproach that has been brought upon her by the thoughtless and culpable conduct of a lawless mob—Lynchburg News.

## THE EMPORIA LYNCHING.

The Mob Without Relief for Their Freely Won Attack Military.

Editor of The Times:—Now that so much is being said concerning the Emporia lynching, if you please, a few lines from one who was upon the scene. The writer admires your bold denunciation of the mob, as well as your attitude toward the mob and mob violence.

The Times, neither in presentation of facts related to this affair nor in expression of sound views pertaining thereto, has proved derelict, but rather fully equal to the exigencies.

A bad state of affairs existed in the heretofore quiet and law-abiding town of Emporia. The public mind was deep stirred by the numerous recent atrocities. Red-handed, confessed culprits were in the law's custody. The blood of citizens demanded retribution.

Local authorities anticipating such violence as resulted, sought relief from the State's Chief Executive.

For a time the situation seemed well in hand. Law and order promised to prevail even in the face of assembled muttering mobs. Those bent on violence stood temporarily awed in the presence of the State authorities, and though imprecations deep and long drawn escaped the tongues, though dark looks and menacing gestures with darker intent swayed the multitudes, the hand of violence was yet stayed. How majestic is the law which screens its meanness with contempt to adjust the scales to his outraged neck! It is not our duty to press the charge of dereliction against any of the authorities concerned, but it was plainly an emergency in which men with courageous convictions were needed at the helm. Your correspondent believes that stockpiling the arms of the police with that relief would have eventually been sought, even though it may have involved a clash with the militia.

In that event who can say what would have happened?

The mob's influence is always to be deprecated, and how unfortunate is the recent blot marring the proud escutcheon of the Mother of States!

God spare every section of our noble State long from a recurrence of last Saturday's infringement on the law's supremacy.

While none may have regrets to waste on the fate of the notorious desperadoes, who met their merits at the rope's end, yet every one must feel a blush