

"Organ for the interests of Haiti  
and the Black race"

# La Fraternité

Editorial Board:  
Benito Sylvain

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## ON ATAVISM

### Considerations on Practical Philosophy

Not having found any scientific proof to support the ideas of subordination that they were advocating, the negrophobes set about annihilating the effectiveness of our efforts and slowing, as much as possible, the progress of Black evolution, by propagating and exaggerating the effects of the gruesome theory of atavism.

Atavism, as everyone knows, is that curious ethnological phenomenon whereby individuals of a race inherit certain qualities or certain defects that characterize, not always their direct progenitors, but their ancestors from a more or less distant generation.

There is no weapon that our enemies have used more often. Knowing that nothing is more mortal for energy than the sentiment of our weakness, of our impotence, in the presence of forces of which the inevitable action cannot be vanquished, they speak endlessly of fatalities that would annihilate all the efforts of our own activity. Whatever we do, they insist, water effort we put in to escape from it, we will always have the mark of our native inferiority, and never will Black people achieve the highest degree of intellectual and moral development of whites.

Just a few months ago I had the honour of writing in the *Evènement* to combat that thesis sustained by Mr. Charles Canivet (Jean de Nivelles) of the *Soleil*. I can do no better than to repeat this argument here, especially since Mr. Charles Canivet, who clearly hates the Black race, has renewed his in just and cruel attacks in a recent article, based on the conclusions of the

same doctrine.

"Psychological heredity," said I, which is nothing less than scientifically established in an absolute manner, confirms the common origin of all human societies—whatever race they may be. A wise thinker may see, in certain fearsome crimes that are sometimes committed in the midst of a civilized world, a remnant of the barbarity of the ancient races of Europe. And one would be left to wonder with dread what amount of cruelty would horrify the Western world, if so many centuries of civilization have not been able to completely erase the trace?"

Surely, man, in coming into the world, cannot be considered a blank slate on which education has only to deposit its imprint. Each one of us, indeed, has roots that go back generations; he has in himself, with the blood of his race, instincts, passions, virtues and vices.

But, happily for humanity, the effects of atavism can be averted, and a long series of cerebral transformations ends up vanquishing psychological heredity. Every individual, opposing the action of personal effort to that of acquired habits, can effectively react against his natural dispositions. New efforts, joined with earlier ones, manage to bring about a contrary tendency, whose effects combat those of heredity. From this, it is evident that the sum of the continuous efforts of several successive generations will have, after a more or less considerable amount of time, quite a powerful effect on extirpating a vice or generating a particular virtue within a race.

The great criticism we can lodge against this theory of atavism is that, taken to its extreme, it is eminently suitable to break in the individual and in society the motivation for all improvement and all progress.

It is not consistent with the facts to insist that one cannot escape the tyranny of one's organism. The history of civilization establishes convincing proof to the contrary.

For us, Haitians, descendants of Africa, take it upon ourselves to print to exaggeration, in the spirit of the new generation, this idea that a general and consistent effort, proceeding from a profound faith in human liberty, can vanquish heredity.

One is as free as one believes oneself to be, and it is precisely this affirmation that we are proclaiming. This is a philosophical as well as a religious dogma, since religion tells us that grace will not be refused to anyone

who has earned it by effort.

So let's reject these irritating ideas in which modern thought wallows! May we look to some examples—beneficial examples!—may we commit ourselves to persuading ourselves that each of us is the principal artisan of his destiny, whatever he may have done; and let us borrow from Rousseau, this encouraging affirmation: "Our weakness results only from the tepidity of our will, and we will always have the strength to do what we strongly want."

Amid the innumerable miseries that our society suffers, let us open our eyes and see the immense task that we are called to, that demand all of our energy. Let us shake off the torpor that seems to paralyze us; let us exercise our activity effectively to improve our material situation, extend our intelligence, perfect our soul, and also to contribute to improving the lot of others. This constant concern of the best for themselves and for others is not, in effect, anything more than the practical sentiment of the ideal, which must animate our hearts, while at the same time our reason must protect us against impatience and chimeras.

BENITO SYLVAIN  
Paris, 30 August 1890

## IN THE DOMINICAN

### President Heureaux's Manifesto

*La Gazette Espagnole* published part of a manifesto in which General Ulises Heureaux, president of the Dominican Republic, found it necessary to protest against the wise measure taken by the Haitian government to no longer tolerate abuses resulting from the duty-free status of Dominican products.

Here is the end of the manifesto:

We must demand by all means the execution of treaties and respect for the law.

"This aspiration, citizen deputies, is firm and unmovable, and it is my desire, as I'm sure it is yours and that of all the Dominican people, to protect our rights decisively and firmly, if they are dismissed. To that effect, and needing to prepare ourselves for all possibilities that might emerge during our protests, I, as president of the Dominican Republic, Chief Executive Power, in exposing to the national representatives the unfavourable state of the commercial relations with the Republic of Haiti, without abandoning the hope that justice and good intentions will prevail in the end, solidly reestablishing agree-

ment and harmony between the two governments, I call upon your patriotism for a vote of confidence, which will allow me to work with full liberty and effectively, in the exercise of the attributes of the Executive Power, submitted to the preliminary advice of the Legislative Power, in order to respond to the extreme necessity of preserving and defending the Republic against all attacks on its integrity or its rights.

"On other points which demand an immediate solution or sanction, relative to the credit or support of private interests, the respective ministers will inform you. You will be able to deliberate and resolve, with the patriotic criterium that normally inspires your decision."

*La Gazette Espagnole* added, by way of a conclusion:

"A loan of twenty million having recently just secured, and already partly fulfilled, in Europe, for the account of the Dominican Government, President Heureaux's declarations are a bit less than reassuring for the capitalists and the public who commit funds into the finances of Santo-Domingo."

## LETTER FROM HAITI

(From our special correspondent) Port-au-Prince, 11 August 1890

Dear Director,

If I can rely on your predictions, this letter will arrive around the time the *La Fraternité* appears. I would like to offer my most ardent wishes for the first Haitian newspaper in Paris; I applaud your honourable attempt, and I hope that, with God's help, we can make it work out. Whatever happens, the new generation will have thus proved that it not only has the idea of progress, but also the firm intention of achieving it.

The promotion of our friend Bowler continues to yield good results. The subscription lists are filling up with much gusto. I am thrilled by the success of your joint project. I'm convinced, indeed, that when the moment comes to let him into the secret, Bowler will be glad to unite his efforts to yours for the foundation of this paper that is lacking in Paris.

Still, I believe that our friend has made an unwise promise, if it is true that he has been hired, as Mr. Magny claimed in a letter to the director of the *Liberté*, "to send two young Haitians every two years to collaborate with him." Mr. Adhémar Auguste is right to have some reservations about this—even though, for that matter, we don't share his way of seeing the practical current utility of a Haitian newspaper in Paris.

The upkeep of Bowler's two young collaborators in Paris would cost money, a lot of money, especially if they take advantage of their time in the "City of Lights" to complete their studies in arts and sciences. Because I doubt they would go on this trip simply to collaborate on a newspaper. There is no shortage, in Paris, of compatriots who could provide Bowler with intelligent and serious infor-

mation from Paris. In the absence of those who are returning home this year, do you not still have Jules Auguste, Leconte (who are already in the course of a career), Audain, Doret, Amédée Brun, and many others who would want nothing more than to appear in this sort of periodical jousting?

In short, I ardently hope that you combine your work with Bowler; but I encourage you both to found your work on a modest base; you will thus have a greater chance that it will last. Now, a word on the situation in Haiti.

#### COMMERCE AND FINANCES

The commercial season promises to be a good one. There have never been more imports than this year. And it is not done yet! New firms are being founded in Port-au-Prince. The old foxes of the trade have restrained their orders. — The course of change is varying weakly. Slight upward trend.

Trade with Europe: 10½ - 11 percent  
— — the United States: 9 - 10 percent  
American gold: 9 - 10 percent (bank exchange rate)  
Port-au-Prince coffee is given at 103/105  
Cacao: 5¾ cent. per pound  
Cotton: 9¾ — — —  
Logwood: P. 6.5 the thousand  
On 8 August P. 66,030 of paper money we pulled from circulation

#### POLITICS

Mr. C. Haentjens, Minister of Agriculture and Public Works, has submitted his resignation (1 August), following Mr. St-Martin Dupuy, Minister of the Interior, who has not yet been replaced. This resignation has been as commented on as the last one. The newspapers are saying that it was for the same reason, a dissent with Mr. Firmin, the Minister of Finance, the most important member of the cabinet.

The President of Haiti received a solemn audience with Mr. Flesch, the new French minister who presented his credentials. The reception was very cordial, they exchanged the usual compliments. Mr. Flesch gives the impression of a capable man and a likeable man. (I have attached copies of the two speeches they gave). The Government is clearly enchanted to see a renewal of the relations between France and Haiti. It is an excellent note for our good compatriot Mr. Box, who spared no expense to obtain the recognition of the order of things legally established in 1889.

With the gossip crazed nature of the people of Port-au-Prince, we're hearing many tales about the hostile attitude that the Dominican Republic is taking toward us. You will have guessed that it is a matter of the customs dispute to which the Exposé of the situation makes reference. For the time being, refute all rumours of war with the Dominican. We have no intention of attacking the Dominicans; and they would never be foolish enough to take the offensive.

People are still talking about the arbitration treaty that the United States submitted to the powers who participated in the Pan-American Congress.

The Haitian government's representative, Mr. Price, will have approved the project, awaiting ratification in the Chambers.

Of the twenty republics invited to the conference, nine have signed. Peru, Uruguay, Colombia, the Argentine Republic, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Mexico, Venezuela and Chile refused to engage. According to the newspaper La Voie, the Senate in Washington will have definitely buried the project.

Mgt. Milia, delegate of the Holy See, arrived on the 3rd of August. He was given a brilliant reception. He is, they say, charged with conferencing with the government on the subject of the nomination of the successor of Mgr Hillion, our incomparable late archbishop.

There has been much laughter over the *L'aventure* of the journalist who bears that name. After a fuming letter from Father Bauger, denying the presentation of his candidature to the archiepiscopal see by that parishioner without a mandate, does he not see that our *L'aventure* is stuck upon his idea and persists in recommending the curate of Petit-Goâve to the attention of the Government! Father Bauger, if he was not a man of the cloth, would have been the man to whom to send witnesses.

*A bientôt.*

## RECEPTION OF THE MINISTER PLENIPO- TENTIARY OF FRANCE BY THE HAITIAN GOV- ERNMENT

Monsieur Maurice Ernest Flesch, on submitting on the 7th of August to President Hyppolite, his letters from the President of the French Republic accrediting him as Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary to the government of Haiti, gave the following speech:

Mister President

I have the honour to submit to your Excellency letters from the President of the French Republic accrediting me as Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Haiti, the Nation whose votes have called you, Mister President, to occupy the top authority.

Inspired by the sentiments that animate the French Government, I will apply myself to further strengthening, in the interest of the development of the prosperity of both countries, cordial and long-lasting relations, and I am counting on the benevolent support of your Excellency as well as the friendly cooperation of his Government, to help me to pursue this task, in a fruitful and effective manner.

I am glad, for that matter, to have been designated by the confidence of the President of the French Republic to represent France in a country that is so similar to ours in terms of language and institutions, in a way that produces mutual sympathies.

Allow me the opportunity to respectfully offer to your Excellency my sincere expressions of hopes that I am forming for his person and for the Haitian nation.

The President responded to this speech in the following terms:

Mister Minister,

It is with great pleasure that I receive the letters from his Excellency the President of the French Republic, that accredit you as Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to the Republic of Haiti of which I occupy the top authority.

I have never doubted the good wishes of the French Government, though it still gives me infinite pleasure to receive this new assurance from you.

It is my conviction, Mister Minister, that your presence at the head of the French legation is a pledge of harmony and of cordial relations between our two countries. The reputation of loyalty, of uprightness and sincerity that proceeded you here is a sure guarantee for me. You can also count fully on my willingness to facilitate your task in any way that I can.

We do not have much to do in order to succeed in strengthening the ties of good friendship that unite Haiti to France. As you have said well, there is between us a conformity of language and institutions which can only lead to mutual sympathies. What nature and history have done, it will only be consolidated by our common willingness.

I accept with all my heart the good wishes you are forming for my person and for the Haitian nation. I would be bursting with happiness if Heaven, in granting your wishes, also protects His Excellency President Carnot and the valiant French Nation.

Except from the *Moniteur*,  
Official newspaper of Haiti

## ANTI-SLAVERY CONGRESS

The meeting of the Anti-Slavery Congress in Paris is definitively set for the 22nd of September. His Eminence Cardinal Lavigerie addressed all of the presidents of the anti-slavery committees in the following invitation letter:

Paris 19 August 1890

Mister President,

I had the pleasure of sending by post, to your committee, the printed letter that I recently addressed to the members of the anti-slavery effort, on the occasion of the meeting of our next free congress.

I feel the need, today, to invent directly to give the honour of your presence along with two delegates who, according to the terms published in the last anti-slavery bulletin of France, will be elected by each national committee, to represent it at our Congress.

I must finally let you know officially that this Congress will take place in Paris on Monday 22 September.<sup>1</sup>

In the afternoon of Sunday the 21st, a solemn religious ceremony will take place, with the authorization of His Eminence the cardinal archbishop of Paris, in the church of Saint-Sulpice, to thank God for the happy results already obtained through your common efforts and ask for the Holy Spirit to shine his light on our future works. We will sing, before the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the "Veni Creator Spiritus," which will be preceded by the execution of the anti-slavery cantata, set to music by Mr. Bellenot, music director at Saint-Sulpice. I will have the honour of personally presiding over this ceremony.

Yours sincerely with the highest consideration and religious devotion,

Your very humble and obedient servant,

Charles Cardinal LAVIGERIE,  
Archbishop of Carthage and Algiers

P.S. — The next congress being tasked with electing, by a majority of voices, the jury destined to decide the results of the contest that I have opened, in the name of Our Holy Father the Pope, for the composition of a popular work to be judged most capable of serving

practically for the abolition of African slavery, I believe I should add a reminder that the prize offered is twenty thousand francs. This amount has been deposited at the Bank of France and will be granted to the author of the winning work as soon as the jury has made its decision.

To be clear about the nature of this contest, I will allow myself to reiterate here what I have written on this subject in the open letter that I sent, a few months ago, to His Majesty King Leopold of Belgium.

I propose, I said then, the opening of a competition for a popular work destined to illuminate, to draw out the opinion of the question of the abolition of slavery. We know the importance, half a century ago, in England, in America, and in France, of works composed to this end by considerable men.

Even in our century, one could say truthfully that it was a simple novel, Uncle Tom, that definitely led to the suppression of the American slavery.

I am only waiting, I concluded, for the wrapping up of the Brussels Conference to declare this open contest.

I declare it open today.

The works presented to the competition will be received until 31 December 1891, at the office of the Anti-Slavery Work, 6 Rue Chomel, Paris, or at the Procuracy of Algiers Missions, 27 Rue Cassette, Paris.

## THE INDELIBLE FLAW

OF MR. CHARLES CANIVET  
(*Jean de Nivelles*) of the newspaper  
the *Soleil*

It is a curious and quite a sad fact that the work undertaken by Cardinal Lavigerie to improve the unfortunate lot of Africans should be so unjustly fought by the Paris newspaper that purports to be one of the most zealous defenders of the ideas of Christian liberty.

I do not know if Mr. Charles Canivet is conscious of the harm he is doing to himself and to the *Soleil* for which he writes every time he takes up his crusade of extermination against the *nègres*.

If, to explain the bizarre differences sometimes observed in the psychological states of same individual, it was still appropriate to invoke the phenomenon of double personality, I would willingly say that there are two Charles Canivets; the one, kind, humane, charitable, who often writes touching things and knows feels compassion toward the suffering and weakness of the oppressed; the other cruel and bloodthirsty—by atavism, no doubt—dreams only of massacres, and would like to see Europe use its civilization to prevent backward peoples to arrive there in their turn.

Mister Charles Canivet, *homo duplex*, is a living contradiction.

The African question being on the agenda, I will permit myself, for the

<sup>1</sup>The date of 15 October had been indicated in the note printed in the last issue of the "Paris anti-slavery bulletin." But 15 October date seemed too far away for many of the members of our committees, particularly the committees in the Midi and especially in Africa.

second and last time, Sir, to present certain observations on the thesis that you sustain so relentlessly.

Last April, you wrote in the *Soleil*, under the rubric "Hot countries," an article whose principal phrases I have pulled out.

"I suppose, you said, that we are not going to humanity about Dahomey.

"... All the Black who have come to do their studies in Paris, hold in their depths the vices and flaws of their race.

"...It's an indelible flaw. They are marked with atavism from the soles of their feet to the roots of their hair.

"...It is not necessary to civilize Dahomey; the conquest would not be worth the effort.

"...The best thing would be to leave all of the nègres where they are, and forbid them from leaving if it comes to it."

I made a reply to this article which appeared in the *Evènement* on the 12th of April, and in which I invoked the witness of history to peremptorily establish that all races pass through the same periods of barbarism. And, approaching the question of atavism, which seems so dear to you, I summarized my conclusions by this ad hominem argument: "Such a Parisian journalist whom I know, sometime writes lines that are so coldly cruel, that one would be induced to think that more than one of his ancestors would not be worth the ferocious amusements of the kings of Dahomey."

You took me to task in your following issue, but in such a benign and inconclusive manner that I had good reason to believe that you had come back to better sentiments.

Yet, here is what you wrote in the *Soleil* of 5 August:

"All these backward people who are brushing up against civilization will not come to much.

"What will we teach him, this child of Ahmadou? This one whose polished boots are not made to be carried under his arm. He will necessarily learn it, and do it; but when he takes flight, he will immediately return to his first love and walk around barefoot.

"What does this prove apart from the fact that there is nothing to do, and that the education that we give nègres, or so called, does not penetrate the skin? For them, they will always return to their instincts, as if they had never left their home, where they should be left in peace to carry out their human sacrifices.

It is clear, Sir, that you have forgotten everything and learned nothing since last April.

As for atavism, I would refer you to my editorial. I won't return to it.

The Black race is currently in a state of inferiority with regard to the other races. It is a fact. But will it always be thus? Carried along by the current of your prejudices, you have categorically proclaimed in the affirmative. Haiti, and with it the entire Black race, responds resolutely: no!

If we could see into the future, it is certain that we would discover a civilization more advanced than the one that prevails in Europe. But what people would dare to declare that it would be created for or by them? There is no necessary civilization, there is no indispensable race.

Your thesis, Sir, is in complete disagreement with modern scientific ideas; the theory of evolutive process overturns all of those old traditions on which you are relying.

You are going against one of the most beautiful principle of Christianity: the redemption of all people, by affirming that there are people who are eternally doomed to barbarity. You are killing the sentiment of evangelical charity, which Cardinal Lavigerie wants to exalt in favour of the most just of causes.

Finally, you are diminishing the glory of your country. Since, in declaring the first abolition of slavery, France showed how she understands fraternity. Is one of the rights that she claimed for the benefit of the entire universe. And this great educator of humanity will play too glorious a role in the world for her to consider abdicating it.

I hope, Sir, that this last consideration, if not the two others, will lead you toward more humane sentiments.

Benito Sylvain

## NEWS AND RUMOURS

### IMPORTANT DECLARATION OF MR. BLAINE

Mr. Blaine, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, gave a speech on 29 August at Witerville (Maine). He said that the United States will not extend to their territory and that they do not want to annex any country unless their inhabitants ask the inestimable favour of coming under the flag of the Union. Mr. Blaine added that he expected the people of the United States to be happy for a long time under the current extent to their country and that they will not throw themselves into any annexationist enterprise.

### THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN EUROPE

According to the newspaper *La France*, the conclusion to draw from

the interview between the tsar and the emperor of Germany is as follows:

"Russia and France, equally strong and powerful, form the best guarantee of peace, and it is very evident that as long as this alliance lasts, thanks to common interests, there will be no need to fear a change in the status quo in Europe.

"The triple alliance will not start a war of aggression, they will have too much to lose. For their part, France and Russia do not want to start a war whose consequences could be terrible for Europe as a whole."

A telegraph from Berlin to the Continental Press Association said:

"According to a letter from Zanzibar, dated 12 August, the sultan of Zanzibar, under pressure from a large protest carried out on 11 August in front of his palace, will have reported the edict that he had promulgated against the slave trade."

Labour Day, celebrated on the 1st of September in New York, witnessed a great procession of workers.

*L'Alliance française* — *La Fraternité* puts itself entirely at the disposition of this great national Association for the propagation of the French language.

We would be happy to be able to help spread this work in Haiti where it is not yet known well enough.

### CHOLERA IN SPAIN

By the 29th of August, 64 cases of cholera and 33 deaths had been reported in the provinces of Alicante, Badajoz, Tarragona, Toledo and Valencia.

### INFLUENZA ONCE AGAIN

An epidemic of influenza has once again in the military barracks in Glo-gau.

31 August — The sickness has also reappeared in Nîmes; but so far it has been of a benign character.

### A TAX ON UNMARRIED PEOPLE

The Senate of Venezuela has just adopted a tax on unmarried people. All unmarried people over 35 years old must pay 1 percent on a revenue under 25,000 fr. and 2 percent on any higher revenue.

### WILHELM II, JOURNALIST

There are rumours that emperor Wilhelm that the newspaper that he has been planning to found for a long time will appear for the first time on the 1st of October. This newspaper will be a daily.

The emperor will direct this newspaper himself. The editorial board has been selected.

### OBITUARIES

Mr. François Rouvier, father of the current Finance Minister of France, died on Friday 29 August, in Marseille, at the age of 80.

29 August — Death of Mrs. Lüdert, the wife of the President of the General Mercantile Society, who have important business with Haiti. We offer our condolence to the Lüdert family.

31 August — Death of Mr. Gavarret, professor of the Faculty of Medicine in Paris, honorary inspector general of the Faculty of Medicine.

## VARIETY: ON CRIMINALITY

The ideas, emitted by the Congress of Criminal Anthropology which took place last year, seem to have come out of a purely speculative domain; and the scientific discussions, the oratorical jousts between Messrs. Lambroso and Manouvrier, on the topic of the responsibility of criminals, will decidedly enter into a practical track. Here, indeed, is some news that has come to us from California:

A California doctor has just proposed castration as a legal punishment. He proposed the castration of criminals and certain mental patients. This process, he believes, would be more useful than prison for improving the human race, and particularly for avoiding criminal heredity. He believes that the well understood interest of the Society authorizes this method of intervention, since it it were adopted, the number of degenerates would decrease rapidly along with the number of crimes.

This idea of a new penalty could only have come from the New World. Europe is too "old-fashioned" now, and must cede its place to the new generations. Young societies will come up with new ideas; and in this regard America often comes up with ideas that are, if not brilliant, at least original: that of our colleague can be classified in this category.

The goal proposed by this doctor—whose name I unfortunately do not know—in proposing this "restrictive" law, is evidently praiseworthy: Prevent criminals from making a social strain, cut off evil at the root.

Physical and moral heredity is currently an acknowledged scientific fact and one that is difficult to deny. Just as a father transmits to his children his physical characteristics, resemblances, distinguishing features, he even transmits his illnesses or his organic vices, just as his children inherit from him the involuntary function of the organs. If the father's cranial cavity is misshapen, if the brain inside of it develops irregularly because of this malformation, these characteristics will also appear in his children; and, consequently, the functions of the brain, its penchants, its irresistible impulses—consequence of this vicious organism—will also be transmitted. It thus seems logical to prevent a man from procreating a poor fatally condemned being, who, by birth, has a defective physical and moral organism.

In France, our way of dealing with criminals is quite different, however, of this way of seeing. To New Caledonia, this Eden, so hoped for by criminals, we regularly send houris to charm the stay of these condemned and transform, on earth, into a joyful reality, their dreams of paradise. When a condemned person wants to break from the monotony of his solitary existence, he chooses, from among the feminine troupe sent and maintained by the French government, the woman whom he wants to make his companion, and with no additional ceremony, a priest blesses the union, and calls for the grace of the All Powerful on the new household, hoping for happiness and prosperity. What becomes of the children of such parents, of inveterate criminals, born criminals? Here we have a little known question, and one that would be very useful, from the democratic and social point of view, to clarify.

In any case, our French law giving those condemned of common law crimes the chance to marry women who also present all of the anthropological characteristics of criminality, this is a long way from agreeing with the ideas proposed by our eminent colleague in sociology and moral reasoning.

Where is the truth, the utility in this question? Is it suitable for our laws to keep up the variety of criminals? Is it, conversely, within the radical means, isolating the guilty in human Society? We believe that to answer this question, one must not seek the answer in the extreme limits either of law or of defense.

Physical heredity is an indisputable fact; but human perfectibility is equally undeniable.

The adoption of the far-fetched idea of penal castration would have the greatest disadvantages. First, human justice is not infallible; examples of judicial

errors are numerous and almost daily. Justice is not only and always lame, it is also often blind. In the case of an error, she must make reparations with the one who was unjustly harmed; but the reintegration to all political and social rights, and even a pecuniary indemnity, would it suffice as a reparation for the victim of the Californian law? A platonic satisfaction would seem quite vague to the poor Abelard, who would have the right to demand the integrity of his being. And then, and this is the really serious point, neither history nor statistics have proven that the son of a murdered will certainly be a murderer. On the contrary, there are many examples of a son who sought to erase, through an exemplary life, the stain on his family name.

Until numerous and undeniable facts have demonstrated that criminality is fatally and always transmitted hereditarily, and that this vice of birth is irrevocable and ineradicable, we will be guilty of applying brutal methods to counter inconveniences that are somewhat uncertain, and that are still in the domain of theory.

Must we, on the other hand, approve of our French system that consists of encouraging unions between criminals? We do not think so. A simple tolerance seems better than an official approval.

A State concerned with blocking the continued growth of criminality should only work toward one goal: the moral perfectibility of its subjects; caring for their moral needs as well and even more than their physical needs. To this end, the education of children must be their constant preoccupation. The milieu in which they are raised, the examples that they have before their eyes, the daily guidance, etc.... these are the only elements from which children draws the rules for their future conduct. A well-directed education can correct and even totally erase the rising traces of vices imprinted by atavism.

What must be done is, from birth, to give children's malleable brains the indelible imprints of virility and virtue, which, certainly, require more patience and know how than the radical methods proposed by the Californian doctor, but which also give better results from the humanitarian and from the social point of view.

Dr. Vernial

## IN AFRICA

(Excerpt from the *Soleil* of 30 August)

The attention of all of the peoples and of all of the governments of Europe are turning more and more toward Africa. In spite of so many hardy explorers, enterprises and dis-

coveries, the Black continent has not yet revealed all of its secrets; but the greedy nations are not waiting for it to be fully known before they start arguing over its possession.

In Africa, conflicts can erupt that shake up Europe: Egypt, Tripolitania, Tunisia, Morocco, have been or will soon be apples of discord between powers; the Senussian sect will someday enflame Muslim fanaticism against the Christian conquerors. Africa is the object of all of the important diplomatic incidents, and of a series of treaties that have succeeded one another at short intervals in recent months; the Anglo-German treaty of 1890, the Anglo-French treaty of 5 August, the Anglo-Portuguese treaty of 20 August. Finally, all commercial and adventurous ambitious that were once directed at America are now focused on Africa.

America, first monopolized almost entirely by the Spanish, was, during the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth century, the goal of fruitful schemes, of audacious dreams, of violent appetites.

Today, America is closed to chivalrous expeditions; it will also soon be closed to European commercial operations. But Africa is opening before them; they're jumping at it at every opportunity. As is always the case in contests of greed, England is coming out on top; its Companies, formed with enormous capital, based on the model of the old East India Company, have shared between themselves, on their own authority, the most vast and the richest regions of the African continent. When they have come up against rivals, the metropole has supported them. They dealt with the Germans by giving them real compensations; they defied the French by giving them illusory compensations; the brutally silenced the Portuguese by the ultimatum of last January.

But it is not a perfect success; the disadvantages of too vast and too absorbing a domination are everywhere the same. In America, the Spanish empire saw no end of rebellions, of incursions of English and French corsairs, and of the brigandage of filibusters. In Africa, the English empire will not be able to avoid similar vicissitudes. The hatred that it has provoked in its foundation will not allow it to develop and consolidate in peace.

Already, in their fight against the Boers of Transvaal, a few years ago, the English have encountered the effect of free men exacerbated by injustice. It was a descendant of French emigrants, General Joubert, who is in Paris these days, who inflicted their bloody failure in Majuba.

Now it is the Portuguese who have

been pushed to the brink by the appetites of British egoism. The Portuguese have seen themselves for centuries as All Powerful in Africa; they have created immense establishments there; they have renewed in our day ancient rights by acts. Violently dispossessed of what they considered their patrimony, they must have felt a just resentment against this offence. One singular fact reveals it: a lieutenant of the Portuguese navy, the former governor of Shiré, submitted his resignation and became a pirate. Against English domination, he will renew the exploits of the Filibusters against Spanish domination; to start, he and his crew captured a steamboat of the British Lakes Company.

The heroic times will return, and the descendants of are worthy to resuscitate it; the descendants of Albuquerque are worthy to resuscitate it; while at one end of Africa, Lieutenant Azvedo Coutinho was distinguishing himself as the champion of Portuguese honour, at the other, his comrade Lieutenant Santos risked his life to protect the persons and the goods of the French who had fallen to the power of the King of Dahomey. These are brave men, and the small nation that produced them must be respected as one of the greatest.

URBAIN GOHIER

## MISCELLANY

**A PARRICIDE - A peasant's greed**  
Beauvais, 30 August

A horrible murder has just been committed in Monceaux, a canton of Liancourt. A son killed his mother with a billhook. His name is Gustave Droupy, married and the father of two children, who was to pay his widowed mother an annual rent of 75 francs. He did not pay it regularly. Having been given notice to comply, he brought 20 francs to the court bailiff at Liancourt; but at the same time he also gave himself up to a number of alcoholic drinks.

Returning to Monceaux, Droupy made his way, armed with a billhook, to his mother's home. Forcing the door opened, he threw himself in a rage on the unfortunate woman, who was asleep with the murderer's young sister, aged 17. The latter ran in fear out of the house in her night gown.

Droupy then set to blindly thrashing, aiming for the head of his victim.

The widow fought back, and although she was covered with blood, she managed to get up and make it to the door; but her son followed her, and she fell down dead from the final blows, ten metres from the door.

As soon as his crime was accomplished, the murderer went to give him-

self up as a prisoner at the town hall. The police were summoned and took him to the prison at Clermont.

Droupy did not express the slightest remorse.

(From the newspaper *Le Matin*)

#### UNIVERSAL SCIENTIFIC ALLIANCE

The universal scientific alliance has just opened in the four corners of the world, its quinquennial search for a new president and its first vice-president.

It is known that this association which has delegations—essentially scientific consulates—in more than 400 localities, aspires to furnish, for intellectuals, men of letters and artists who are travelling, on their arrival in each town, all information that they might need and to immediately put them in contact with the most important people in the place who are involved with the same studies. In the case of sickness abroad, its members are cared for, free of charge, by special doctors.

Among the people presented for the presidency by the Central Committee, we note: Mr. Léon de Rosny, the outgoing president who succeeded Messrs. Carnot, the senator, and de Sarliges, the former ambassador; Mr. Baron Al. Kraus, delegate general of Italy in Florence; Mr. Auguste

Lesouef, commissioner general in Romania, and Mr. Célestin Lagache, the former senator. For the vice-presidency: Mr. le Chevalier de Saint-Georges d'Armstrong, well known for his important work on international law, and Mr. G. Eloffe, officer of the academy, president of the Oceanic Society of France.

#### REDSKINS AND CIVILIZATION

It is known how much tenacity the Redskins are exerting to resist the Anglo-Saxon efforts to make them completely disappear. Lately, to show their vitality, they have dislodged the inhabitants of an island and taken it over. This recent undertaking will assure them the sympathy of all our philanthropists. Those of us who have arrived at civilization will work to civilize others. They will open schools, create learning workshops, farm schools, etc.

Furthermore, instead of mixing with other races, they group together further among themselves, an essential condition for their decimated race not to disappear. All of these ideas were discussed in a series of conferences in New York and Boston by two Redskins, and will be happening in Europe and even in Paris.

We will have more for our readers later.

#### AMERICAN FANTASIA

The *Justice* says that a cyclist from Cincinnati has recently proposed to the administrators of the Eiffel Tower to ascend up to the third story by covering the stairs that connect the second and third story with a helical plank.

This fantastical proposition was not accepted.

#### THE NAVY OF THE FUTURE

The *Gymnote*, the submarine boat constructed by the care of Admiral Zédé, has just carried out the most conclusive experiment.

"We wanted to determine if we could depart from the Toulon harbour and enter it again, despite a blockade and attentive torpedo boats.

"Many of the latter were thus spread out between Cap Cépet and Sainte-Marguerite, with the order to survey the *Gymnote* and to follow it if it was perceived.

"At the indicated time, the submarine, posted at the shelter of the seawall, weighed anchor and came out from the small passageway, directing itself in a straight line toward the open sea by a dive that lasted 40 minutes; it thus crossed the line of torpedo boats without being seen, and, more than two and a half miles away, it returned to the surface, only letting its periscope up above the water in order to estab-

lish its position.

"It found that it was exactly where it had intended to be at the moment when it dove; there, it turned while diving once again, and headed back, this time toward the large passageway. Crossing the blockade line, it passed just under a torpedo boat, which caught sight of it for an instant, but not clearly enough to track and follow it."

(From the newspaper *La France*)

*La France* thinks that submarine torpedo boats are set to overturn, in the foreseeable future, the rules of naval tactics. This newspaper hopes that the French navy will be reformed in this way.

#### STATUE OF THE INVENTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

The American Society of Photographers, gathered in Washington for their annual convention, have just inaugurated, in the rotunda in the National Museum, a magnificent monument, raised by subscription, to the memory of Daguerre, the inventor of photography.

This monument, entirely of bronze, is the work of a New York sculptor, Mr. J. S. Hartley; he represents the Renowned subject, respectfully placing a crown on the head of this great French inventor, who comes off on a medallion.