Scientific American.

ESTABLISHED 1845.

MUNN & CO., Editors and Proprietors. PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT

No. 261 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

O. D. MUNN.

A. E. BEACH.

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LEGISLATIVE ATAVISM.

While studying the variations of plants and animals unrevert to earlier and less specialized forms. Instead of ex- law was specially passed. actly reproducing the parent in type and behavior the offspring would more closely resemble some ancestral form, perhaps far remote in time and in the scale of development. This reversion he called "atavism."

The same characteristic appears also among men; and the scientific historian finds in this "atavism" an explanation of those otherwise unaccountable outbursts of wild barand of those equally unreasoning outbursts of race animosities among more highly civilized peoples; such, for example, as may be witnessed to-day in Russia and on our Pacific Coast.

history repeats itself; and because of it the experience of one age or generation counts for nothing when a later generation relapses and insists upon repeating the old, it may be fatal experiment.

of thought and feeling revives, and, with the passionate un- movement, the word tropic coming from a Greek word meanreason of the earlier day, men repeat the ancient folly and re-enact the ancient injustice.

Compare the recent act of Congress against the immigraexhibited in this typical provision of the Constitution of Oregon, to wit:

reside, or be within this State, or hold any real estate, or in the seasons, and will readily note that the further south make any contract or maintain any suit therein; and the the sun rises and sets the shorter will be the days, and the Legislative Assembly shall provide by penal laws for the lower the altitude of the noon-day sun the less will be the removal, by public officers, of all such free negroes and mu- intensity of the heat. State, or employ or harbor them therein."

skilled workers. The law provides:

or permit to be landed, any Chinese laborer, from any for- horizon after sunset. eign port or place, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, term not exceeding one year."

States into which such vessel may enter or in which she during the night is just equal to that received during the may be found;" and

the landing in the United States from any vessel of any morning. one year.'

against the introduction of "free negroes or persons of death for every member of the human race. The earth color," if it only had a clause providing for the sale into rejoicing in verdure, the perfection of foliage, the brilliant slavery of the obnoxious Chinaman. The spirit is the same; flowers, the ripening fruits, bear witness to the fertilizing and the excuses offered for so barbarous and anti-American power of his benignant beams. Out-door life furnishes the an invasion of the common rights of humanity are sub-conditions of enjoyment, and earth, air, and sky hold out stantially the same to day as they were half a century ago. separate allurements to increase the number of those who

general ostracism of any class of honest laborers.

The national shame of this enactment arises not so much because it involves a breach of good faith with China, to ute of daylight that follows this summer solstice. No one whose subjects we have just agreed by treaty to accord "all can help rejoicing over the gain of the first minute of daythe rights, privileges, immunities, and exemptions which are light that follows the winter solstice.

nation," as because it legalizes a positive and offensive discrimination against certain laborers, skilled and unskilled, der domestication and also in the state of nature, Darwin as laborers. It is not the Chinaman, but the Chinaman who observed a tendency more or less persistent and active to works, who is to be excluded, and for whose exclusion the

In the face of this national crime it is trivial to discuss the misrepresentations and specious pretexts which the advocates of the measure have put forth so variously to justify their position. If all that has been said against the Chinese were true, it would not justify Congress in thus nationalizing the temporary lapse of a portion of the Pacific Coast people from the national standard of impartial justice to all honest labor, barism among partially civilized communities, as shown in irrespective of the color of the laborer; a standard which relapses to the bloody rites of ancestral religions and the like; hitherto-at least since slavery was abolished—has been our crowning virtue as a nation.

THE SUMMER SOLSTICE.

On the 21st of June, at 8 o'clock in the morning, the sun It is largely through this national or local atavism that enters the sign Cancer, and inaugurates the great physical epoch known as the summer solstice. He has reached his extreme northern declination of twenty-three and a half degrees, and, just grazing the tropic of cancer, pauses for a few days in his course before turning his steps from our Under new and widely different conditions, the old phase northern clime. The familiar terms explain the apparent ing to turn, and the word solstice coming from two Latin words meaning the sun stands still.

The days remain of the same length, fifteen hours and tion of Chinese laborers with the laws against free negroes sixteen minutes, for nine days, from the 16th to the 25th. enacted a few years ago by South Carolina and other States On the 26th a change comes, and a decrease of one minute of the south and west. The parallel is discreditably close, marks the southern course of the sun. In a few days the and the disgrace of Congress is greater than that of the ear-change will be apparent to careful observers. The sunrise lier legislators in that Congress in its unwarranted invasion and sunset points will swerve slightly to the south, and the of the dignity and inherent rights of all honest labor, acted sun will not mount quite so high at noon-day toward the lessfrom conviction than from a contemptible fear of offend-zenith. The movement of the sun to the southand his lessing a class in the far west, whose votes may be needed on ening meridian altitude will go on until the 21st of Decemsome future election day; a class whose moral and econober, when the winter solstice occurs, and the days have mical thinking exactly reproduces that of the earlier day, as reached their minimum length. The process will then be reversed; the sun will move northward, and his meridian altitude increase until he comes round again to the summer "No free negro or mulatto, not residing in this State at solstice of 1883. Observers can see for themselves the the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall ever come, changes in the sun's place in the heavens that mark the change

lattoes, and for their effectual exclusion from the State, and This oscillation of the sun to the north and south, and his for the punishment of persons who shall bring them into the varying meridian altitude are only apparent, the real cause of the movement being the revolution of the earth around The new law which disgraces our statute books makes it the sun with her pole inclined twenty-three and a half degrees unlawful (for the space of ten years from August next) for to the plane of her orbit, her seasons varying according to any Chinese laborer to come within the limits of the United the manner in which her surface is presented to the sun. In States, or for any person to aid or abet them in coming; the the north temperate zone the sun's rays now shine with full words "Chinese laborer" covering skilled as well as un-force, and summer reigns supreme. The mornings and evenings mark his furthest progress northward, the noons show "(Sec. 2) That the master of any vessel who shall know- his highest meridian altitude, the evenings bear witness to ingly bring within the United States on such vessel, and land the period when his beams linger longest above the western

It would seem as if our hottest days should occur about and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not the 21st of June, when the sun's perpendicular rays fall upon more than five hundred dollars for each and every such Chi- this portion of the globe. But such is not the case. As nese laborer so brought, and may be also imprisoned for a midsummer approaches the quantity of heat received from the sun during the day is greater than the quantity of heat Section 10 provides "That every vessel whose master lost during the night, and there is therefore an increase of shall knowingly violate any provisions of this act shall be heat each day. The daily increase reaches its maximum at deemed forfeited to the United States, and shall be liable to the summer solstice. But the heat garnered up by the proseizure and condemnation in any district of the United cess causes an accession of heat each day until the heat lost day. This happens some time in July or August. Our hot-Section 11: "That any person who shall knowingly bring test weather for this reason occurs some time after the suminto or cause to be brought into the United States by land, mer solstice, just as the hottest part of the day is some time or who shall knowingly aid or abet the same, or aid or abet after midday, and the coldest part of the night is toward

Chinese person not lawfully entitled to enter the United There are four great time marks in the annual revolution of States, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall the earth, the vernal equinox, the summer solstice, the autumnon conviction thereof, be fined in a sum not exceeding one al equinox, and the winter solstice. The summer solstice thousand dollars, and imprisoned for a term not exceeding is the most interesting and suggestive of them all. It is, in our zone, the culminating point of solar power, the gala-day This would be an exact echo of the South Carolina law of the sovereign who holds in his hand the issues of life and The free person of color was of an alien and degraded race, share in the general holiday. So delightful are the charms incompetent of citizenship and unfit to blend socially or of midsummer that one longs to make them immortal, to politically with the Caucasian. At the same time his hold back the sun in his course, and perpetuate the present presence was a source of social peril, in that it threatened the conditions of his reign. But such are not the conditions of stability of the prevailing industrial system. The same human life. The seasons come and go, swayed by an omnicharges are now brought against the Chinese, and with potent hand; at the culminating point of solar intensity the slighter grounds for justification. Southern society survives picture changes, the supreme moment passes. Before the and thrives with the negro free; before the ten years' limita- sun that rises on the 21st of June sinks below the horition of Chinese immigration ends it is safe to predict that the zon, his face will be turned from us, the earth will have nation, as a whole, will discover that its hazard from traveled thousands of miles toward the regions of cold and Chinese labor is infinitely less than from the wrong done darkness. A fraction of light will be lost from the longest to all laboring men by allowing local clamor to secure the day, a fraction of darkness will be added to the shortest night.

No one can help mourning over the loss of the first min-

On the 26th the decrease of one minute in the day's length