

**EXPLORATION OF THE ORINOCO.** The instructions of the Venezuelan minister of war directed to General F. L. Hagadorn, inspector-general of artillery, &c., &c., on according him leave of absence, authorize him to invite the government of the United States to fit out an expedition for the exploration of the river Orinoco and its tributaries, an interesting description of which we give elsewhere. General Hagadorn, who has taken up his residence in this city, submitted some time ago, in accordance with his instructions, this invitation to the proper authorities at Washington. As no action was then taken he is now encouraged to renew it in view of the newly awakened interest manifested by the present administration in the affairs of our sister republics. At the last session of Congress a commission was appointed to visit the Central and Southern American States with a view to ascertain in what way our commerce may be extended with them, and what commercial treaties can be made that would bring us with mutual benefit into closer trade relations with them. The exploration of the Orinoco, with the knowledge it would impart concerning the inhabitants and the products, present and possible, of that extensive and almost unknown region, would certainly enlighten our people with regard to its capabilities, and might open up to have a wide extent of country watered by that great river and its affluents.

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**DECISION IN THE HOWARD COOPER CASE.** The Court of Appeals yesterday disposed of the Howard Cooper case, involving the claim that the jury law of Maryland discriminates against colored citizens. The court sustained the ruling of the lower court. Cooper, who is now under sentence of death for assaulting Miss Katie Gray, will, therefore, at an early day, have to pay the full penalty for his brutal crime, unless his counsel should carry the case before the United States Supreme Court. It is to be regretted that the purely technical point involved should be associated with a case of such glaring infamy as this. Cooper's crime was a particularly flagrant one, and was fully proven. He had a fair, impartial trial, and the effect of delay has already been to produce a very bad impression, which was most strikingly illustrated in the lynching of Townsend Cook, who was guilty of a similar offense, in Carroll county. In this case it was distinctly asserted by participants in the lynching that Cook was hanged because Cooper was not, in spite of a fair trial and a just sentence. To hold such a case in suspense for an indefinite time for the purpose of merely establishing a theoretical point would, it is natural to suppose, have the effect of lending such encouragement to lynch law in similar cases as could scarcely fail to have at some time deplorable consequences.

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**A WARNING.**—Two Nashville milk dealers have been fined \$15 each for watering their milk. They made a vigorous fight, and denied the reliability of the lactometers used by the city health officers, but the instruments were proven to be accurate. The judge, in passing sentence, said that the next person convicted of the offense would be fined \$50, the extent of the law. The milkmen of Nashville are in a great flutter, as the people all over the city are calling in the agents of the health officer to test milk.