

EDITORIALS.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE.

THE Divorce laws of many of the United States are so lax or "liberal," as they are termed, that they have not only become a reproach among other nations, but they are beginning to excite anxious thought at home. Attempts are made in the California Legislature to make the divorce laws of that State more rigid. It is sought, with prospect of success, to restrict legal ground of divorce to the two offences of adultery and extreme cruelty. Such a narrowing of allowed cause for divorce, however, is strongly opposed by some, who nevertheless think that the existing laws are too lax, and that some reform is very greatly needed, and in the discussion some unflattering admissions are made. The *Sacramento Record-Union* says—

"There is a prevailing laxity of public sentiment regarding marriage, and that this laxity manifests itself in an increasing disposition to sunder the marital relation for frivolous or immoral reasons."

"Examining the social conditions which surround us, we find no difficulty in accounting for the frequency of divorces. In almost every phase of social evolution influences are at work to antagonize the essentials of married happiness. In the home, in the boarding-house, in the school, in the social gathering, the customs which prevail are inimical to the growth and development of true and pure womanhood and manhood. If we analyze the family relations we find that the child of the period is, as a rule, not taught to respect or obey its parents. In fact the old fashion is reversed, and it is the children who rule, where there is any attempt at government. Nor could it well be otherwise in households where the wife scornfully refuses to obey her husband, resents indignantly the idea that she should be a 'helpmeet' to him, and boasts that she makes him wait upon her instead of attending upon him. Where there is no authority there is no obedience. Where there is no obedience there is no respect. Where there is no respect there is little love, but overweening selfishness, and greed, and arrogance, and what is called by the silly and ignorant 'independence.' The chief defect of American society to-day, whether domestic or political, is the contempt for all authority. Beginning at the cradle, this contempt spreads in ever widening circles through the home, the family, the party and the nation, and is gradually producing a condition of things no parallel to which can be found later than the Roman Imperial era. Complaint is made that divorces are frequent; but how should it be otherwise? Where can the girls who are brought up under the customs of the period learn the virtues and acquire the habits which can alone fit women for the marital relations? It cannot reasonably be expected that the young creature who has passed her infancy in the corridors of hotels and boarding-houses, who has ruled her parents autocratically all her life; who has been taught only the basest and most odious desire for self-gratification, who has been accustomed to subordinate the wishes and comforts of all about her to her selfish caprices, and who has learned to look forward to marriage as an arrangement by which some man should minister to her wants and supply her needs without consideration of any substantial kind—will make a good wife."

"What is marriage to such a one? A sacred relation? Nonsense! There is nothing sacred for the Woman of the Period but her own sweet self. She neglects her husband and her children as she was neglected; only she does not let the latter rule her precisely as she ruled her parents. She is dissatisfied continually. Existing only for the most frivolous ambitions, destitute of high principles or convictions, idle through education and predilection, what wonder if she falls into evil ways, and seeks the divorce court as a remedy for conditions which have become intolerable? Nor would it be candid to suppress the fact that the Youth of the Period is, if possi-

ble, in a more hopeless case than the Woman, at least as far as his capacity for domestic life is concerned. He is not so idle, because he cannot be; and that circumstance is his salvation. Compelled to go out into the world and make his living, and subjected to that constant and pitiless struggle which Nature exacts as the price of survival, he has more chance to acquire manly traits, to learn the suppression of self, to discover that unbounded self-indulgence is impracticable, and to develop more sterling qualities. But in the family, he is helpless and useless. Taught to regard his wife as licensed to have her own way in all things, he quickly learns to seek his special comforts and indulgences elsewhere than at home, and, yielding quietly to her, expects from her a like indifference to his outside occupations."

"What, then, is the remedy for the evil complained of? It may be asked. We reply that there is no remedy but in educating public sentiment to a higher tone, and in re-establishing, if that be still possible, some central authority in the family. But the truth is, that we are passing through one of those cycles of corruption and immorality which mark all history."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

—According to the *Pall Mall Gazette* a great blunder has been made in the estimates for the St. Gotthard tunnel. It was estimated that the entire cost would be 187,000,000 francs. Doubts having arisen as to the efficiency of the direction and the soundness of the estimates, a new director was chosen, whose inquiries result in the conclusion that the work will cost nearly 300,000,000 francs.

—The high rate of coal pit mortality is causing considerable thought in the way of possible preventives. It appears that, upon the score of economy, the directors of the South Yorkshire coal mines have ordered that hereafter blasting must be discontinued when men are down in the pits, as "the continued deaths by accidents render skilled labor very dear."

—At North Chili, N. Y., some very mysterious music was heard, and the puzzle was how to account for it without trespassing upon the region of the supernatural. It was finally discovered that the sound proceeded from a sawmill, ten miles off, the humming vibrations of the air being distinctly noticeable with a favorable wind. Sawmill music is good.

—Old wine is the best wine, and some of the old steamers are the best steamers. Everybody has heard of the iron steamship *Great Britain*, which runs between Liverpool and Australia. She has done great service in her time, albeit her stranding in Dundrum Bay about 30 years since threatened her a brief career. The *Scientific American* says of her that she was one of the first made iron vessels and one of the earliest to ply regularly between New York and Liverpool, that she has recently arrived at Liverpool and completed her thirty-sixth trip around the world. The *Great Britain* was built at Bristol, England, and in July, 1845, made her maiden voyage from Liverpool to New York in fourteen days. Since 1852, independently of her employment in the Crimea during 1854 and 1855, she has sailed over one million nautical miles, and when recently surveyed she was pronounced one of the strongest vessels in the mercantile marine.

—It is said that the wife of the Rev. Dr. Newman resembles Mrs. Belknap so closely that it has often been asked if they are sisters. It is to be hoped the resemblance ceases somewhere.

—They are preaching to the poor with some effect in Philadelphia. On Sunday morning breakfasts are given to the poor in a house, then they are preached to. First fed physically, then fed spiritually.

—Pittsburg, Pa., has a water-works ring, and a ring sometimes means "blood, lago," but always means money. The works were estimated to cost \$2,294,478, but have already swallowed up nearly five millions, and two millions more are asked for.

—Ex Commissioner A. Kinson testified before a congressional committee that he had 393 clerks employed in the Pension Bureau, the legal number not exceeding 265. He excused his employing the extra 128 clerks with the plea of "pressure for office."

—A dear dog was that belonging to John McKesser and Daniel C. Robbins, of New York. It was a bloodhound, and it bit August Miller, a night watchman, for which a jury has awarded Miller \$1,500.

—It is said that the idea of making Queen Victoria Empress of India originated with Princess Beatrice, who wanted to be termed "Her Royal and Imperial Highness" as well as her brother's Russian wife, and thus settle troublesome questions of precedence in the royal family of England.

—Charles Reade writes to the *London Telegraph*, recommending the half-starved seamstresses of that city to take situations as servants in well-to-do families. He says, "The world is full of live counterparts, people that stand in need of other people, who stand equally in need of them, only these two live counterparts of the social system cannot find each other out." Mr. Reade sees before him "say 2,000 honest, virtuous, industrious young women, working hard and half starved; and at least 20,000 other women holding out plenty in both hands, and that plenty rejected with scorn by young women of very little merit, or, if not rejected, accepted only under vexatious and galling conditions imposed by the persons to be benefited." He further says that "as a rule, servants nowadays hold their heads as high or a little higher than their mistresses do."

—Commander Sanders, of the English navy, about 1803 was a lieutenant on the *Statira*, and in trying to "cut out" a French privateer was shot through the head, from ear to eye, and captured. He was about to be thrown into the sea for dead, but the French surgeon wished to try an experiment on him, and took great care of him. After living five years as prisoner of war, Lieutenant Sanders reached England sound and well, excepting with the loss of one eye. He died a short time ago, at the age of 91.

—It is good to watch as well as pray. While Lord Teynham's household in London were at evening prayers, burglars entered Lady Teynham's dressing room by a ladder and the window, and stole jewelry valued at £1,000, leaving the house undetected.

—Clara Louise Kellogg says that the worst interviewers are those of her own sex. The Washington feminine correspondents bored her awfully respecting her matrimonial intentions.

—Mr. Tower, of England, proposes to utilize the power of the swell of the sea on a vessel. In about two thousand hours, a ship going from England to Australia, made 1,764,088 beam oscillations or rolls and 1,041,137 fore-and-aft oscillations or pitches, the average Atlantic wave giving 200-horse power, to be stored up and used for the propulsion of the vessel. By the natural rise and fall of the vessel air is proposed to be compressed into cylinders, which, as reservoirs of power, are to be called upon for mechanical use.

—The increase of wealth in the United States is estimated at not exceeding three per cent. per annum. If this is true, the difference between three per cent. and seven, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-four, or thirty per cent. is the difference between the gain of capital over the gain of labor.

—The present has been termed the age of iron, but it is believed to be fast becoming the age of steel.

SALTIRE.

Titus Salt is the son of a Yorkshire woolstapler. In the early part of his life he was a farmer near Bradford, and his inclination for agricultural pursuits was such that it was thought he would continue to pursue his vocation. Being, however, a partner of his father in the wool business, and observing that manufactures were rapidly extending in the neighborhood, he withdrew from the partnership, and commenced business at Bradford as a woolspinner. He was one of the first to observe the uses of alpaca

wool. Large quantities of that material were stored at Liverpool, imported from the Brazils. But the wool found no purchasers, until at length Mr. Salt bought a quantity and spun it into an entirely new fabric. He then proceeded to buy up all the alpaca that was to be found at Liverpool; made arrangements for purchasing all that came into the market; went on spinning alpaca; and eventually established the manufacture. This was the foundation of Mr. Salt's fortune.

At length, after about twenty years' labor as a manufacturer, Mr. Salt thought of retiring from business, and again betaking himself to his favorite agricultural pursuits. He intended to retire on his fiftieth birthday, but before that time had arrived (having five sons to provide for) he reversed his decision, and resolved to continue in business a little longer, and to remain at the head of the firm. Having come to this determination, he made up his mind to leave Bradford. The borough was already overcrowded, and he did not like to be a party to increasing the population. He looked about for a site suitable for a manufacturing establishment, and at length fixed upon a large piece of ground in the beautiful valley of the Aire. An extension of the Leeds and Bradford Railway was in front, and the Leeds and Liverpool canal behind it, so that there was every convenience for bringing up the raw materials, and of sending away the manufactured goods. On that spot Saltire was erected—a noble monument of private enterprise, liberality, and wisdom.

It is not necessary to describe Saltire. The buildings connected with the new works cover six and a half acres. The principal room is five hundred and fifty feet long. The weaving shed covers two acres. The combing shed occupies one acre. Everything is large, roomy, and substantial. The cost of constructing the factory, and the dwellings for the work people, amounted to more than a hundred and forty thousand pounds.

On the opening day, Mr. Salt dined three thousand five hundred persons in the combing shed. At the dinner he said: "I can not look around me and see this vast assemblage of friends and work-people without being moved. I feel greatly honored by the presence of the nobleman at my side. I am especially delighted at the presence of my work-people. * * * I hope to draw around me a population that will enjoy the beauties of this neighborhood, a population of well-paid, contented, happy operatives. I have given instructions to my architects that nothing is to be spared to render the dwellings of the operatives a pattern to the country; and if my life is spared by Divine Providence, I hope to see satisfaction, contentment, and happiness around me."

This promise has been amply fulfilled. Mr. Salt has been influenced throughout by his sense of duty and responsibility. When he was applied to by the French Government for information as to his factory, he replied, "What has been attempted at Saltire arose from my own private feeling and judgment, without the most remote idea that it would be made the subject of public interest and inquiry." With respect to the factory itself little need be said. The object of its construction is to save time in the process of production. Not a minute is lost in pushing the material from one department to another. Every horse-power of steam is made to do its utmost, every moment of time is economized and the productive capabilities of the factory are greatly increased.

We prefer to speak of the immense improvement which Mr. Salt, or rather Sir Titus Salt, has effected in the physical and moral condition of his work-people. The plan of the work shows that Saltire has been provided with a church, a Wesleyan chapel, and a literary and philosophical institution. Large schools have been provided for boys, girls, and infants; with abundance of playground, for young men as well as old. There are a cricket-ground, bowling-green, and croquet-lawn, surrounded by pleasure grounds. There are also a large dining hall, baths, and wash-houses, a dispensary, and almshouses for pensioners.

About three thousand persons are employed in the works; and seven hundred and fifty-six houses have been erected for their accommodation. The rents run from two and fourpence to seven and sixpence a week, according to the

accommodation. Some of the houses are used as boarding-houses. The rents include rates and water-supply, and gas is sold at a low price. The cottages are built of stone, lined with brick-work. They contain a parlor or long room, a kitchen or scullery, a pantry and cellar, and three bed-rooms. Each house has a separate yard, with the usual offices. The work-people are well able to pay the rents. Single workmen earn from twenty-four to thirty-five shillings a week. A family, consisting of a father and six children, earn four pounds six shillings a week, or equal to a united income of over two hundred and twenty pounds a year.

The comfortable houses provided for the work-people have awakened in them that home feeling which has led them to decorate their dwellings neatly and tastefully—a sure sign of social happiness. Every visitor among the poor knows how such things combine to prevent vice and disease, to elevate the moral tone of working-people, and to develop their working powers. A man in a dirty house, says Mr. Rhind, the medical attendant at Saltire, is like a beggar in miserable clothing. He soon ceases to have self-respect; and when that is gone there is but little hope.

Great attention is paid in Saltire to education, even of the high sort. There are day-schools, night-schools, mutual improvement classes, lectures and discussions. Music—one of the most humanizing of pleasures—is one of the most favorite studies. "In almost every house in the town some form of musical instrument is found; and, indeed, the choral and glee societies have become household names." There is one full brass band for men, and another drum and fife band for boys; and concerts, vocal and instrumental, are regularly given by the work people in the dining-hall. The bands have instructors provided by the firm.

Besides taking part in the musical performances, a large number of the skilled workmen devote their leisure hours to various scientific amusements, such as natural history, taxidermy, the making of philosophical instruments, such as air pumps, models of working machinery, steam-engines, and articles of domestic comfort; while some have even manufactured organs and other musical instruments.

There is no drinking-house in Saltire; so that the vices and diseases associated with drunkenness are excluded from the locality. The diseases peculiar to poverty are also unknown in Saltire. Everything is attended to—drainage, cleansing and ventilation. There are baths of all kinds—plunge baths, warm baths, Turkish baths, and douche baths; and the wash-house, to enable the women to wash their clothes away from their cottages, is a great accommodation—inasmuch as indoor washing is most pernicious, and a fruitful source of disease, especially to the young.

The work people are also thrifty. They invest their savings in the penny bank and savings-bank; while others invest in various building societies, gas companies, and other lucrative undertakings. In fact, they seem to be among the most favored of human beings. With every convenience and necessity, as well as every proper pleasure provided for them; with comfortable homes, and every inducement to stay at home; with fishing clubs, boating-clubs, and cricket clubs; with school-rooms, literary institutions, lecture-hall, museum, and class-rooms, established in their midst, * * * there is no wonder that Saltire has obtained a name, and that Sir Titus Salt has established a reputation among his fellow-men.

There are large numbers of employers who treat their work-people quite as generously, though not in such a princely manner, as Sir Titus Salt. They pay the uniform rate of wages; help and encourage the employed to economize their surplus earnings; establish savings banks and penny banks for their use; assist them in the formation of co-operative associations for the purchase of pure food at a cheaper rate; build healthy cottages for their accommodation; erect schools for the education of their children; and assist them in every method that is calculated to promote their moral and social improvement.—*Thrift, by Samuel Smiles.*

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