

DECIMATION OF AMERICANS.

It is a truth which must be admitted, that as a nation we are sadly wanting in that reproductive energy that characterizes most people of the earth. The disposition to lead lives of celibacy, the frightful increase of childless homes with the married, and the limited number of children where any are born, are telling wonderfully in the statistics of our country. Forty years ago the number of adults who voluntarily chose a single life were small comparatively, and when any children were born to parents a dozen was the rule and one and two the exception. Now a much less number marry, and the rule is one or two children, if indeed any at all, and the exception from five and eight to a baker's dozen. The effect of all this is to deteriorate our nationality, retard the progress it is our privilege and duty to make, and allow those who come among us to supplant us in our native land.

There is a cause for this—a very simple cause—and yet perhaps comparatively few have given it sufficient thought to be able to account for the results which all must have observed; and if understood, there is probably a disinclination to admit its truth, or an unwillingness to seek to correct the evil. But the fact exists, and it is one of fearful import to the future of America.

Dr. J. M. Toner, of Washington, a statistician of considerable note, has collected some valuable facts bearing upon this subject, and in his diagram showing the proportion of white children of both sexes under fifteen years to the 1,000 white females between fifteen and fifty years, under age, in each State at the beginning of each decade, from 1800 to 1860, makes known the fact that what has been thrown into the face of the New England States, especially Massachusetts, as their peculiar shame, is equally true of every other State in the Union. He shows from the census reports that only one-half as many children are now born to each 1,000 women as during the year 1800, and that there has been a regular decrease from one decade of years to another. For example, the following shows the number of children to each 1,000 women at the several periods named:

	Year.	Children.
Massachusetts in.....	1800	2,226
".....	1810	2,154
".....	1820	1,994
".....	1830	1,862
".....	1840	1,753
".....	1850	1,108
".....	1860	1,123
Virginia in.....	1800	2,629
".....	1810	1,679
".....	1820	2,492
".....	1830	1,927
".....	1840	1,839
".....	1850	1,867
".....	1860	1,775

These figures tell the terrible story, and they ought to put Americans to shame for the palpable violation of natural laws, the result of which, as is seen in these tables is decimating the American people. With this ratio continued for a few generations, it is easy to see that the genuine Yankee will become nearly or quite extinct.

The cause for this condition of things must be looked for in the modern demands of society upon individuals and families. The greed for wealth; the postponement of marriage until it is attained; the inability to support and educate a family; the expense of living; the desire to be fashionable and in style; as well as a thousand considerations that have come of the modern ideas of home and society, operate in the direction indicated and lead to disastrous results. It is probably useless to preach upon this subject, for it will require some agency more powerful than the press or pulpit even to stay this mighty evil. But we can all see to what it is inevitably tending, and what will be the result upon succeeding generations. We can have the consciousness, if there is any pleasure in it, that there is little hope for our children and those who shall come after them in maintaining the distinctive national features and characteristics that pertained to our progenitors.—*Ex.*

Correspondence.

BULLIONVILLE, Nevada,
October 11th, 1872.

Editor Deseret News:

Your readers in this place seemed much pleased at your promptness in allowing them a space in your columns. I am pleased to announce the

continued prosperity of our mining interest; the steady improvement in the quality and quantity of ore, as the excavations increase in depth, give full assurance that the ledges of the Ely Mining District are of immense value, and true fissure veins (to speak geologically), notwithstanding the prognostications of self-conceited smart alacks, who demonstrated beyond any doubt "you know," that "the country aint worth a d—n, sir, barren quartzite and limestone, sir, a little float and two or three small seams of quartz; couldn't give a dollar an acre for the whole county, sir." Well, these same sharp mineralogists said the same thing of your Territory, so "it's of no consequence," as Mr. Toots used to say.

The bullion shipment of the Raymond and Ely Company for the month of September was \$335,570. I have not got the figures of the shipments from the Meadow Valley Company at hand, but presume they are up to the usual standard.

You will have observed by the Pioche papers that ground has been broken and work commenced on a railroad from Pioche to Bullionville. Cannot your people keep on with your end, say as far as St. George, before resting? We might by such a good example be induced to meet you there with like commendable alacrity.

They have a very ancient family game or pastime in Scotland, called, "Nieve Nievie, Nick Nack." A bonny Scotch lassie "played" it on "Baillie Nichol Jarvie," or "Domine Sampson." I don't remember which, but this is the way it is performed: You place in your hand a coin, say half a dollar, and showing another person the hand in which you hold it; proceed with quick motion to transfer it from the right hand to the left, at the same time enquiring "What hand will ye take?" Then throwing your hands behind your back. If the person interrogated says "right" drop the piece into your left and rapidly bringing both hands to the front, show him that he was mistaken. Let him try it again, and if he says "left," of course, by a slight change of programme, the same result will be obtained. Now, this little bit of deception precisely illustrates what the political parties of Lincoln county are trying to play on each other. When it was successfully accomplished on the good old Domine, all he could say was "PRODIGIOUS!"

The same ejaculation might apply with strict propriety to the situation of affairs here. The platform of principles which both hold is illustrated by the coin just spoken of, and you are quite positive the patriotic gentleman who seeks your vote holds on to the platform, for you have seen him grasp it, and when he shows his hand, lo! it is not there, or rather "he has lost his hold," as we say in Nevada.

The illustration is far fetched, but it is very appropriate, notwithstanding. The contest for supremacy between the straight-out Republicans and followers of Mr. Greeley is fierce and unceasing, and in fact the whole thing is in a state of glorious uncertainty. So let us drop the subject.

I regret to state that the usual spirit of lawlessness has again manifested itself in Pioche, resulting in the death of one of the parties concerned, and the serious wounding of the other. I omit the particulars, as they will have been printed by you before this reaches you. The worst features of the case is the fact that the principals, this time, were both officers of the law, bound to preserve the peace, not to break it. I forbear further comment, however, through respect for the feelings of the living and the memory of the dead.

The weather, at present, is excessively warm in the day time, but the nights are cool and pleasant. A larger amount of sickness has visited our town this fall than at any time since it was built. It was principally among the people engaged in the mills, and may have been superinduced by want of due precaution, or the inhalation of noxious vapors. The health of the town is now excellent, and right here I ought not to omit to state on what I consider good authority, the mill companies very generously furnished both medicine and attendance to those of their employees who became sick from the above cause. Such commendable actions should not go unnoticed. Let us hope the custom may be generally adopted, both in Utah and Nevada.

And now a word or two about general mining matters, and I am done. Prospecting around the city of Pioche goes vigorously on, and with the most grat-

ifying success. The same may be said of the Long Valley district, which is situated about fifty miles south of Bullionville. In Chief district the boys are pegging away, confident of ultimately securing an independence, in the which hope I trust they may not be disappointed.

The Apaches have been so aggressive of late that the prospecting parties which left here early in the summer are returning to their old haunts, confident that nothing can be accomplished in that country until the government shall have taught the Reds the art of peace by a few lessons in the potency of war.

In haste,
Very truly yours,
WM. BELL.

EASTERN NOTES.

The river is so low at Pittsburg that milk is rising.

Renan is coming to this country early in January.

The St. Louis papers are crowded with appeals to the honest masses to register and vaccinate.

Some women remove the noxious weeds of widowhood in three weeks, out in Wisconsin.

A New Hampshire school master has been discharged for boxing a child's ears with a book so hard as to endanger life.

The town of Sterling, Ills., has passed an ordinance providing that the windows or doors of drinking saloons shall be obscured by means of screens, paint, or other devices to conceal what is going on within.

The New York *Observer* says one fifth of the whole number of Presbyterian ministers are unemployed, while a still larger number of pulpits are unfilled, and advocates the establishment of a ministerial bureau.

The Kansas people are blessed beyond measure with quails. These birds are so accommodating as to fly against the houses, knock the breath out of their little bodies, and fall down quietly, when they are picked up, picked, and cooked.

A shrewd man tied one end of a lariat around his waist and lassoed a cow with the other. He thought he had the cow, but at the end of the first half mile he began to suspect the cow had him.

The first thing that impresses a stranger visiting this country is the knavery of the hack-drivers. The extortions of those rascals who haunt the Cunard dock is particularly trying to one used to the cheap cab system of Europe.

The legal rate of interest for money in Kansas is seven per cent. per annum; but if expressly stipulated in writing, twelve per cent can be secured by law. Anything over twelve per cent. is usury, and cannot be legally collected.

A few days since a man living on 20th street got into an altercation with his wife, and in a fit of passion threw a saucer at her, which struck their little infant on the mouth, cutting the under-lip nearly off, so that it hung by a bit of skin. A physician was called in and attempted to sew it on, but finding it too much mutilated had to cut off the entire under-lip.—*N. Y. Times.*

A lame girl, who had not for fourteen years once left the third-story back room in which she lived, was among those who participated in the late children's excursion to Philadelphia. When carried to the park she asked what the trees and grass were, and had to be told the names of the most common objects. She lay on the grass all day drinking in the air and the sunshine, and was seen to weep softly every little while from pure joy.

The New York *Post* says: "The owners of horses are afraid to allow their animals to leave their stables, whether they have been affected by the distemper or not, and the consequence is that the owners of hand-carts are reaping a golden harvest. In one case that has come to our notice, a man owning two hand-carts has received orders that keep himself and his son employed night and day, and he will probably earn more in a week during the prevalence of this disorder than he was able to earn in two months before the outbreak of the disorder."

The Philadelphia *Star* notes it as a fact observed there that dyspepsia and kindred diseases have increased in proportion with the extension of the street railway system of that city. In no other city on the continent are the facilities for passenger transportation to every

portion of it so great as in Philadelphia. Many merchants, lawyers, mechanics, and men and women of all professions, having these conveniences for going to and from, their respective places of business, have almost entirely abandoned walking, although the distance could easily be reached by foot, in from ten to fifteen minutes.

A Scotch graduate, in the *Popular Science Monthly* for October, under the head of "English Against the Classics," protests very strongly against the large amount of labor which the students of universities are required to expend upon the languages of ancient Greece and Italy, as well as against the mode in which those languages are taught in the seminaries. He insists that the free use of his own tongue is the thing of the first importance to every man; and contends that these languages are little if any assistance rhetorically or grammatically to the student in attaining to such facility.

A few days since a young lady of Urbana, Ohio, who had been ill a short time, died, and the body was prepared by sorrowing friends and attendants for interment and placed in the coffin. The night before the day of the funeral a number of young lady watchers were seated in a room adjoining that in which the coffin had been placed, when, greatly to their consternation, the figure of the dead girl appeared before them and spoke faintly. When the horrified attendants had somewhat overcome their fright, seeing that the supposed corpse was really a thing of life, they took measures to care for their friend so startlingly restored to them, almost from the very grave, and she received proper attention, and is now likely to recover.

Not to have baked beans on Sunday is still, in some parts of New England, a fracture of the twelfth commandment. The bean figures largely in the economy of the old Bay state. It has its moral as well as its official uses. It is given to the inmates of the state prison at Charlestown, and is made a moral test of character. In the kitchen there I have seen rows of convicts seated at the long table, sorting over the beans for next day's dinner—throwing away the black and imperfect ones. This is the first step toward awakening in these degraded beings the distinction between good and bad. When they have learned to sort out the bad beans, they have taken one step in the formation of a moral character. So solicitous is this state of the morals of all her children.—*Charles D. Warner.*

Largest Land Sale Ever Made to a Single Person.

On Friday last a formal sale was made by General Robert E. Carr, President of the Kansas Pacific Railway, to George Grant, Esq., of London, England, of a large body of land, covering twenty-four square miles of territory, lying contiguous to the line of the Kansas Pacific Railway in Ellis Co., Kansas. The tract extends thirteen miles along the railway, twenty-four miles along Victoria River, thirteen miles across the country to Smoky Hill River, and has seven miles of water frontage on Smoky Hill River. A new city, to be called Victoria, will be laid out along the railway. A fine station-house will be erected, with lodging apartments for new-comers. An elegant hotel will be built, and all the necessary water-tanks, stock-yards, etc., to properly conduct the business of an important station, will be supplied. The railway officials offered to name the new city after Mr. Grant, the purchaser, but with great modesty he declined the honor, and preferred to have it called after his queen. This extensive purchase will result in untold good to our country. Mr. Grant, with his usual energy and good taste, will expend a large amount in laying out a park, and in erecting buildings, tree-planting, etc. He will go to England at once, and expects to return to this country in March with a fine selection of blooded horses, cattle, etc. A number of experienced farmers, stock-raisers, etc., will also be sent over. It is Mr. Grant's intention to subdivide his purchase into farms of various sizes, to erect farm-houses thereon, and to sell lands and improvements at fair rates, and upon terms which will enable every industrious person to obtain a good home in a fine section of country.

We predict that Victoria will be one of the most important towns in Western Kansas, and that when the contemplated improvements are made, the advantage of a residence there will be manifest to all.—*Kansas City Journal.*