

EDITORIALS.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

—This is the way James Parton says it is—A great deal of the trouble in Washington is caused by the silks and satins of the ladies and the small salaries of the gentlemen. Cabinet ministers can make other men rich by the mere stroke of a pen, while they themselves receive a mere stipend for their services, which Mr. Parton considers is inconsistent and too great a temptation for almost any man. Which is to say that almost all cabinet officers become more or less tainted, and which induces the query—"Does a man enter the cabinet to serve his country, or to make a fortune for himself?" There's the rub!

—Geo. A. Townsend tells in the Baltimore Sun, that Col. Fred Grant and a son of Judge Sherman, of Ohio, went into the banking business in Washington. The concern was not a success. Young Sherman endeavored to persuade young Grant to compel business for the firm through his father's influence, but Fred replied, "No, I'll not permit my father to have any interest or part in this house. I won't ask him to aid me in any way. Everybody makes use of him and he has to stand the brunt of it. We can close up the place and I can go back to my regiment." Fred stuck to this determination and the house closed.

—"A Gentile" writes to the editor of the Leicester (England) Chronicle and Mercury concerning circumcision—"It is rumored that an infant child, one week old, belonging to Jewish parents, living not a hundred miles from Leicester, was circumcised a few days ago, there being a great feast on the occasion. As no one could be found in Leicester to perform the operation, a person, it is said, was sent for from a town some miles distant. No doubt many will be surprised that such a cruel practice should still be tolerated in this country. The custom may be in accordance with the Jewish religion; but, at the same time, I hold it outrages the laws of nature, and is a matter which should engage the attention of our lawmakers."

—The Omaha Bee says that 1,270 votes are all that Council Bluffs could scratch up at its late municipal election, indicating "less than 7,000 population, under the most favorable circumstances."

—The Dublin correspondent of the London Times says that criminal law is a dead letter in Ireland; that the Irish assizes have almost ended for the season, and not in one instance has the crown obtained conviction on a capital charge, although a score of lives have been sacrificed through murder; and that this state of things results partly from a spurious compassion on the part of the juries.

—The Chicago Inter-Ocean (Republican) makes the following sad confession—"The National Treasury is cornered; cornered by hard times. The only road out of the corner is the abandonment of the silver resumption scheme, and, if the act remains unrepealed, the final abandonment of the sinking fund. The Treasury is bankrupt, and only meets the demand upon it in yellow paper—coin certificates—which it has not the present means to redeem."

—It is said that the Government is getting out a new edition of the Revised Statutes, in consequence of the number of errors in the present edition.

—Ex-Gov. Ames, of Mississippi, does not have many complimentary notices, by the press, in regard to his backing out of office to avoid impeachment.

—Smiles are multiplying. There are the stage smile, the villain's smile, the tippler's smile, the Colfax smile, and now somebody talks of the Belknap smile, the last named smile being elicited by applications for post traderships.

—The Sacramento Record-Union says, "After all the stories of bribery and venality and corruption that are cropping out, it is refreshing to come upon such a case as that of the American whaler captain [Gifford], who gave up his season's profit in order to rescue and attend to the shipwrecked crew of an English vessel."

—Minister De Long tells a Nevada paper that the Chinese authorities do not wish their people to

leave their country, and that if they do, it is of their own free will, and at their own risk.

—The Oakland (Cal.) Transcript thinks that to conclude that the republican party has become worthless and ought to be suppressed because a certain number of officials have proved themselves unworthy of trust is illogical; that the evil of corruption in office can not be hindered by conveying the administration from one party to another is fallacious; and that the existing elements of corruption are not confined to any one political division, for they pervade the whole structure of society, and are the remote results of the demoralization and derangement consequent on the civil war.

—The House of Representatives has placed the presidential salary at the old figure, \$25,000 per annum, of course besides house room and other perquisites. On that figure a man with only one wife ought to live quite comfortably. If he had twenty-five wives, with five to ten children each, he might be pinched for means occasionally, because that would be only a thousand dollars a year for each wife and her children, leaving the poor man to get along as best he could with the perquisites.

—The Connecticut republican says, "Place your tried man in power." That depends on the verdict. That should decide whether he is placed in power or in the penitentiary.

—The Washington Star talks audaciously in this wise—"It seems that the famous Emma mine was named for Miss Emma Chisholm, a Chicago heiress, daughter of Robert B. Chisholm, the original owner of the mine. We suppose the Chisholm should be pronounced Chiselem."

—Parton is half way towards the legalization of his marriage in Massachusetts. The House of Representatives of that State, by a vote of 91 to 86, has passed a bill legalizing his marriage with his stepdaughter. Maryland has a similar hard case.

—The Chicago Courier says that Mr. Allison and Mrs. Oates have a large quarrel on hand. Mr. Allison, in Chicago, has been informed by Mrs. Oates that, having closed with Thomas Maguire, of San Francisco, for the season of 1876-7, she will not stick to her contract to go to Australia, and she says she positively will not go. Whereupon Mr. Allison says he will have his revenge, and he will appeal to the law for \$15,000 damages on account of anticipated profits by the Australian engagement.

—Kossuth sent a sprig of cypress to be placed upon Deak's tomb, and wrote, "This sighing breath of death whispers in my ear, 'Mind, it is now your turn.' And I answer the voice, 'All right; I am ready.'"

—The New York Herald says the spirit of piety took possession of New York on Sunday, March 26. Mr. Beecher handled the subject of a jolly religion, and exclaimed, "Blessed are the men who know how to put this cushion between themselves and all the sharp corners of life."

—Kate Field says, from London, that the Americans in Europe went about blushing in the most painful manner over the Belknap affair. Only think of an American blushing!

—"Girofle," in the Washington Capital, says, "Times are very, very hard, and this Lenten season is one of peculiar penances; every one feels gloomy, and all are filled with forebodings." "Girofle" will feel better after she gets over fasting.

—Joyce, of crooked whiskey fame, sends greeting from his prison cell in this wise—"My reputation is a little tarnished just now; but my character, that is me, and will ever stand, bold as the Numidian lion, firm as the rocks that compose these walls." It may be well for him that he can stand it. As for the people, they have had enough. Joyce was all-sufficient for them—they do not wish to re-Joyce.

—When Susan B. Anthony's paper, the Revolution, came to an end, it left Susan in debt \$10,000, and, like an honest girl, she has gone about lecturing and succeeded in paying off that debt with the proceeds of her lectures.

—Where is he? This is the sort of man that is wanted for the next President of the United States, according to the New York Times—

"The next President of the United States should be a capable administrator, a clear-sighted statesman, and a fearless and energetic reformer. He must be a man whose past public life needs neither apology nor defense, because it speaks for itself. He must be free from all sympathy or connection with the influences which have thrown discredit on the good name alike of the party and the people."

—There is a time for all things. An exchange says, "When it costs the Government \$400,000 to repair a vessel whose first cost was \$182,000, it's about time for some one to howl."

—It is said that the average American girl is either devoutly religious, or desperately the other way. No half and half business with her.

CONVENTION OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS.

Pursuant to a call by the Territorial Superintendent of District Schools of Utah, a majority of the members of a convention to decide what text books should be used in the schools, met in the University building, at 4 p. m., on the 6th inst.

Supt. O. H. Riggs was elected president, and Dr. John R. Park, secretary.

The names of those entitled to a seat in the convention were called and a quorum found present.

The question of representation by proxy was considered, and it was decided that all members if represented must be so in person.

Propositions for supplying readers and spellers for the district schools were read.

The following resolution was moved by T. B. Lewis, Superintendent of Juab County—

"Resolved—That we hereby accept the proposal of A. L. Bancroft & Co., and adopt the Pacific Coast Readers and Speller for exclusive use in the district schools of Utah, for the term of five years, from this date, in accordance with section 16 of the school law of this Territory."

The resolution was seconded by T. R. G. Welch, superintendent of Morgan County.

This resolution opened the question of school readers and spellers, the discussion of which occupied the remainder of the meeting.

Before adjournment, however, a resolution was passed that reporters of the different newspapers in Utah be allowed to be present during the deliberations of the Convention.

April 7th, 9 a. m.—The entire session was occupied in discussing the resolution on readers and spellers.

April 7th, 4 p. m.—After some further discussion on the resolution relative to readers and spellers, the question was called for, which, on being put to vote, was carried unanimously.

A resolution was then carried that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to examine the different text books on English grammar, and consider the different proposals for supplying the same, and report at the next meeting to the convention. Like committees were appointed on geography, arithmetic, music, and history.

A resolution to accept the proposal of Potter, Ainsworth & Co., and adopt the Payson, Dunton and Scribner system of penmanship, spelling blanks, slate cards, and composition blanks, was unanimously adopted.

A similar resolution was carried unanimously in relation to Kruse's system of drawing and accepting the proposal of D. Appleton & Co. to supply the books.

The committee on geography was instructed by the convention also to consider and report on wall maps.

April 8, 9 a. m.

The business of the meeting was delayed for some time awaiting the report of committees.

The committee on geography, after long deliberation, finally announced itself ready to report. The report moved the following resolution—

"Resolved, that we accept the proposal of D. Appleton & Co., on geographies, and adopt Cornell's Primary, Intermediate and Physical Geography, and also that we accept A. S. Barnes & Co.'s proposal on maps, and adopt Monteth's wall maps."

The report was accepted and finally, with the resolution, adopted unanimously.

April 8, 6.30, p. m.

The special business of the final meeting was introduced by accepting the report of the committee on grammar.

A resolution to adopt Harvey's series of grammars was carried by a unanimous vote.

The report of the committee on arithmetic was next received and adopted. A resolution, following the recommendation of the committee to adopt the series of Ray's Arithmetics was carried unanimously. The report of the committee on history was accepted and followed by a resolution to adopt Barnes' Brief History of the United States, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

The committee on music next reported. A resolution to adopt the "Song Echo," by H. S. Perkins, in connection with our home productions on music, as text-books, was carried unanimously.

Next followed the report of the committee on book-keeping, followed by the adoption of Bryant and Stratton's common school book-keeping.

Next followed a resolution recommending White's school registers, and White's teachers' class record, published by Wilson, Hinkle & Co., for use in the district schools of Utah, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

On motion of Mr. Dusenberry, of Utah Co., it was resolved; That Supt. O. H. Riggs and Dr. John R. Park be and are hereby instructed to prepare for insertion in Cornell's geographies such matter pertaining to Utah as they may deem necessary.

On motion, the president and secretary of the convention were made a committee, and empowered to transact any unfinished business, necessary to complete the labors of the convention.

Adjourned sine die.

The Sources of Corruption.

There is a prevalent notion, much favored by a portion of the press, to the effect that communities are liable to what are called "epidemics of corruption," and that these epidemics occur spontaneously, as it were, having no reference to antecedent circumstances. When examined it will be found that this idea is only the primitive conception concerning all phenomena the cause of which is not immediately perceptible. As science progresses the mystery which once enwrapped the simplest occurrences of life recedes further and further. One by one the traditions of antiquity, venerable only through age and accepted only through habit, are stripped of their illusive glamour, and the naked truth stands forth.

Wherever science conducts her researches it is seen that Law, not Chance, directs; that what happens is always the consequence of something that preceded it; and that an unbroken chain of causation connects all phenomena, whether in the realm of matter or the realm of mind. Applying the scientific method to the problem of national corruption, the results which might have been anticipated speedily appear. The evils we deplore are seen to be the natural and legitimate effects of the training bestowed upon the present generation, and we may easily satisfy ourselves that if corruption is to be banished it must be encountered on the domestic hearth, and not with any hope of success in the Convention, the Legislature, or the Congress. To measure the efficiency of a given system of education it is only necessary to inquire whether it develops the respect for ethical purity, or the inclination to gratify self, most strongly. The education which does the first elevates and ennobles, and fits for the highest walks in life. The education which does the second degrades and brutalizes, and fits for venality, rascality, dishonesty and all vice. There have been many disputes as to whether human nature is changing, and since they have for the most part been conducted on false premises, they have not been profitable. It may be said, however, that human nature is in a perpetual state of conflict with itself, and that periods of comparative purity and periods of comparative corruption represent the alternate preponderance of the intellectual and the sensual elements. In analyzing a period like the present we find that one of the most striking features of the times is what may be termed the superior attractiveness of illicit pursuits. Whenever vicious practices become conspicuous in a community it is

because the habit of self-restraint has gone into disuse, and self has become thrust into the foreground. Whether the corruption which startles the country is displayed in such cases as Belknap's, and Pendleton's, and Orville Grant's and Richardson's, and Williams', and Schenck's, or in the prevalence of sexual immorality, or in social extravagance, or in wild speculation and gambling, or in trade frauds, it is certain that all these forms alike have their origin in an abnormal development of selfishness, and a corresponding abandonment of self-restraint. It is at such periods that the observer notes a curious change in the application of energies. It is no longer the path of duty that attracts. The old standards are broken or discarded. The habits of self-sacrifice are neglected. Egotism is in demand, and it follows that all the energies are most willingly and most fully employed in what we have called illicit pursuits. Even in a healthy state of society there is always a strong tendency to this. The demon self is never kept back without resolute and ceaseless exertion. The old proverb that "stolen bread is sweet" expresses in all ages, the zest with which human creatures throw themselves into pursuits suggested solely by their passions. Always the path of duty has been spoken of as straight and thorny, and the road to Hades as broad and smooth, and alluring. *Facilis descensus Averni* holds good forever, and it is in such times as these that its truth becomes most conspicuous.

By the success with which the tendency of human nature to descend to Averni, or, as Carlyle has it, to "shoot Niagara," is repressed, the civilization and education of a people may be judged. For though a broad generalization will give us only a confused mass of corruption and extravagance and sensuality, and will seem to justify the bewildered critics who at once suggest an "epidemic" as the cause, analysis shows us that all these manifestations grow out of the causes we have specified, and which lie at the doors, nay, upon the very hearths, of the people. There may be those of our readers who will remember what Nathan said unto David, after telling him the story of the tyrant who sought to plunder his poor neighbor. What Nathan said unto David was, "Thou art the man!" and this we may say to almost every father of a family within reach of these words. For of this be assured, that profligacy springs from selfishness, and selfishness from want of discipline in youth, and want of discipline from that culpable, that criminal softness which characterizes the modern American domestic system. What we are seeing now at Washington and elsewhere is the direct result of the *laissez aller* principle in the family. The American father and mother too commonly forbear to exercise their proper authority over their children. They permit the latter to rule the house. Children so trained naturally become egotistic, insolent, greedy, sensual, unlovely. Taught to subordinate everything to the gratification of their wishes, they enter life at last prepared to sacrifice all but their immediate desires, and such a condition is the natural forerunner to corruption and vice. Said John Stuart Mill, "The worth of a State, in the long run, is the worth of the individuals comprising it;" and that truth cannot too constantly be impressed upon the public mind. It is not possible for any man to repress widespread abuses single handed, but it is possible to every man to see that no abuses grow up in his own family. The man who cultivates a gentleman or lady in his son or daughter is the true reformer. The man who cultivates a male or female hoodlum is the true corruptor, prate he never so loudly of his patriotism and his integrity. Character is the basis of national as well as of individual greatness, and character is formed at the fireside, at the mother's knee, in the sacred privacy of home, but never, or seldom, afterwards. And if these things be true, what dreadful weight of responsibility rests upon the parents of the period. When they are Pharisaically lamenting the degeneracy of the times we turn to them and point to the unmistakable product of their educational experiments. "These be your gods, O Israel!" They bear the marks of the artificer's chisel yet. Is it not time that they were reformed out of existence?—*Sacramento Record-Union*.