

## EDITORIALS.

### SENSATIONAL JOURNALISM.

A FEW weeks ago the New York *Herald* shocked the community by a sensational, lengthy and circumstantial fiction, having for its subject an imaginary breaking loose of the wild animals in the zoological collection of the Central Park, in that city.

On the 13th of this present February, the Chicago *Times* indulged in a sensational fiction of a similar nature, concerning an imaginary burning of a prominent theatre of that city, giving details, with lists of dead and dying, including names of prominent citizens.

The excuse of the *Herald* was that it wished to call public attention to the insecure manner in which the animals were kept, and the excuse of the *Times* was that it wished to call public attention to the insecure condition of the Chicago theatres. But the press generally has indignantly condemned both papers for these unworthy journalistic resorts, as shameless abuses of the freedom of the press and audacious and unfeeling insults to the public.

If sensational devices of this kind are so severely and justly censurable, what condemnation can be too severe to be passed upon unscrupulous journals of the *Daily Defamer* class, which are nothing if not libellous, whose sole marketable stock in trade consists of slanders and calumnies of the oldest, best, and most respected citizens in the community?

Says a Cleveland paper—"When the N. Y. *Herald* put forth a fictitious account of an escape of wild beasts at the Central Park, resulting in a frightful destruction of life, we felt that the American press had been debased as low as it could be; but the Chicago *Times* has gone even lower than the *Herald*." But low in debasement as our Cleveland contemporary may consider the papers named to have gone in their unwarranted admittance of the extremely and fictitiously sensational into their columns, this debasement is not a hundredth part so low as is that of the incessant journalistic slanderer who delights in his evil work as does the hog in his wallowing in the mire. It would indeed be a hopeless task to find a lower level of debasement than that to which portions of the American press have sunk. These unworthy and unscrupulous accidents of an honorable estate are an unmitigated nuisance, an abomination, in all communities afflicted with their repulsive and pestilential presence. They are a disgrace to the community, the country, the age, and the race, and they are the subtle and deadly enemies of the community, the country, and the race.

### EDUCATION, CIVILIZATION, AND STERILITY.

THOMAS K. BEECHER discusses Edward H. Clarke's *Building of a Brain* rather cynically, and suggests that it is not important to secure "the perpetuation of a race whose first works are so offensive that their doors flee from them," "a race afflicted with universal and perpetual discontent;" that if "our education and civilization bring to pass sterility and the disappearance of the race," it is not a thing to be seriously regretted; that the fittest do not survive; that such people as seem entitled to live for ever die nevertheless, and often die young and apparently untimely; that "it may still be more than suspected that the highest and healthiest culture for men and women will be found sooner or later, incompatible with fecundity and the perfection of the race;" and "no thoughtful man can long hold with Dr. Clarke's rhetorical postulate that it is at all a duty to perpetuate such races of discontent and wretchedness as now infest the habitable globe and call themselves men."

Mr. Beecher might have recollected that it is American "education and civilization" which specially conduce to the sterility of

the race. In other countries the highest and healthiest culture does not conduce to sterility. Highly cultivated people in Great Britain have large families as well as the illiterate, as witness the family of Queen Victoria, and divers families of the nobility and aristocracy of that country. In Germany and other continental nations similar conditions may be seen among cultivated people.

Among cultivated American people, the sterility that prevails is very largely brought about by studied and guilty means, by measures which ought to brand the brows of their adopters with little if anything less than the stigma of the crime of murder.

### SOLD AGAIN.

THE Sacramento *Union* has been sold again. The publishers, James Anthony & Co., in the *Union* for Saturday, Feb. 20, announce that as the last number of the paper to be published by them. Those who have subscribed and paid for the *Union* in advance, and who may be dissatisfied with the change, are informed that they can have their subscriptions returned upon applying, personally or by letter, at the office of Edward Cadwalader, No. 61 J Street, Sacramento. The valedictory says—

"No bribe has ever soiled the record of the *Union*. No act of injustice or outrage to the people has ever escaped its stern condemnation. The weak and injured have never appealed to it in vain for redress against the wicked and the powerful. No man can truthfully charge that it has ever quailed before wealth or tyrannized over poverty; ever spared the back of the mighty through friendship, fear, or favor. When the lash was needed, it fell without regard to the power of the offender, and always fell heaviest upon the strong, the insolent, the proud. The *Union* has constantly aimed at two things: To protect and elevate the character of the common people and reform abuses by which they are made to suffer at the hands of bad men. It would have been much easier and far more profitable to the paper to have drifted with the general current of corruption, and let the people take care of themselves, or assist the false-hearted in cajoling them. It did not escape our observation that this was the road to fortune and riches; nor yet that it was the way to dishonor and treason to the public. The reader need not be told which path the *Union* took. That we are new—after a long and tolerably successful struggle against the banded cohorts of a piratical and powerful corporation in league with men of a low and grovelling nature, content to be the slaves and menials of an overbearing, ignorant, brutal and exacting master—at last compelled to withdraw from the paper and give up the fight is a convincing proof that our course has been governed by considerations of honor and duty, and not of gain."

The causes which have made the publication of the *Union* no longer profitable are said to be, principally, "the utter depletion of the mining counties both of people and wealth;" slightly, the construction of railways to San Francisco, followed by the publication of subsidized cheap papers; also the establishment and maintenance at Sacramento of an opposition paper by the Central Pacific Railroad Company, and the support of the same by Sacramento people.

The S. F. *Chronicle* says—

"The railroad authorities, having determined to destroy the *Union*, established the Sacramento *Record*, gave it the exact size, type, face and form of the *Union*, gave it gratuitous distribution from door to door, drove from the *Union* to the *Record* all the business its vast patronage could control; drove the *Union* from the railroad cars and forbade its sale in all its depots; wherever it could hinder, embarrass and oppress the *Union* it did not hesitate to do so. The struggle has been a long and bitter one, till finally an independent and powerful journal has succumbed to the power of wealth and the insolence of its cowardly use."

"We see again a confirmation of the fact that when a moneyed monopoly determines to crush its enemies it does so with a cold-blooded remorselessness that remembers neither past favors nor gratitude, and does not stop at any measure that renders its vengeance more sure. We see in the power of money ability to destroy the press, to intimidate and crush a journal that has the manliness to dare to criticize its acts. We should be appalled at the danger of such precedents if we had not an abiding faith that with an enlightened people an intelligent and fearless press has more real power and permanent influence than any combination of money."

It is stated that Stanford and others have bought the *Union*, and that it will be incorporated with the Sacramento *Record*.

P. E. C. DYING OUT.—At the twenty-third session of the Protestant Episcopal Church conference of ministers, at New York, Feb. 8, the Rev. Dr. Adams, chairman, uttered some sentiments which he declared were his own individual conclusions, arrived at after careful investigation.

He did not believe that the Protestant Episcopal Church for the past ten years had made any progress in this country, that is, it had not advanced with the increase in population. Indeed it had decreased largely within the last decade.

The cause of this decrease, he believed, was a distrust of the ends, aims, and purposes of the church among the American people, and the cause of this distrust was the popular belief that the P. E. Church tended towards Ultramontanism, if not Romanism. The church was divided, being too tolerant in permitting diverse forms of worship, which led to antagonism within the church on vital points, such as one portion of the church declaring one thing false, and another portion declaring the same thing true. The system of the Church of Rome was strictly logical. The Romish system was a welded chain without a flaw, and the man who attempted to break it would find himself engaged in a difficult work. The Church of England was in direct opposition to Romanism, and the question occurred, "Could these two churches exist?" They, the ministers, were brought to the issue that, the two systems were opposed to each other. The one thing in this land was the disturbance among religious bodies. No two churches could tell the same story. If the P. E. Church had a perfect organization like the Church of Rome, the former might tolerate differences of opinion. The differences in the P. E. Church were differences involving organization, and in that the Roman Church had the advantage over the P. E. Church. A man could not resign the ministry without disgrace, he was chained hand and foot, bound for time and for eternity. "The Church, as they used to treat witches, not only plunges him into water, but she ties his toes and hands together, and if he swims it is by the grace of God. The Church says, you may do about as you will: you may go to the verge of Romanism or to the other side, for you are in a Church that does not know what truth is, or, at all events, you will not be tried for heresy."

At the close of his remarks, a vote of thanks was passed to the reverend gentleman for the fearless manner in which he had exposed the mistakes of the P. E. Church.

One thing is evident, he considered the Church of Rome in far better case than his own church, which was no great recommendation of the latter.

LONG DRAWN OUT.—The N. Y. *Herald* of Feb. 14 contains "what we shall probably read twenty-five years from now," being an imaginary excerpt "from the New York *Herald* of Feb. 13, 1900," consisting of a continuation of the report of the Tilton-Beecher trial, for the 6,572d day. Of course there is indicated a corresponding change in the appearance of the *dramatis personae*.

### DRAINAGE DECREASES CONSUMPTION.

PULMONARY consumption, if not caused, it seems to be admitted is greatly favored, by dampness of the soil, stagnant dampness, and efficient subsoil drainage has been proved to effect a rapid diminution in the death rate from that disease.

Dr. Buchanan, of England, as health inspector, found the mortality from consumption materially decreased in places where under-drainage had been put in operation, the decrease corresponding with the extent of the drying of the subsoil. According to his report, "In Salisbury, for example, the death-rate from phthisis (consumption) had fallen 49 per cent.; in Ely 47; in Rugby 43; in Banbury 45; and in thirteen other towns the rate of diminution, though not so marked, was nevertheless noteworthy."

Dr. Buchanan presents the following general conclusions as the result of his inquiry—

"First. Within the counties of Surrey, Kent and Sussex, there is, broadly speaking, less phthisis among populations living on pervious soils than among populations living on impervious soils."

"Second. Within the same counties there is less phthisis among populations living on high-lying pervious soils than among populations living on low-lying pervious soils."

"Third. Within the same counties there is less phthisis among populations living on sloping impervious soils than among populations living on flat impervious soils."

"Fourth. The connection between soil and phthisis has been established by this inquiry, first, by the existence of general agreement in phthisis mortality in districts that have common geological and topographical features of a nature to affect the water holding quality of the soil. Second, by the existence of general disagreement between districts that are differently circumstanced in regard of such features; and third, by the discovery of pretty regular concomitancy in the fluctuations of the two conditions, from much phthisis with much wetness of soil, to little phthisis with little wetness of soil."

"The whole of the foregoing conclusions combine into one: that wetness of soil is a cause of phthisis, to the people living upon it."

Says a New York paper—

"Dr. Bell, in his report on the drainage of Kings Co., N. Y., expresses the opinion that not only consumption, but intermittent and remittent fevers, rheumatic affections, neuralgia, croup, quinsy, diphtheria, pneumonia, pleurisy, bronchitis, cerebro-spinal meningitis, erysipelas and diarrheal diseases owe their origin in a great measure to this cause."

A well drained soil, it will be seen, then, is a great aid to health, and to secure this, the land should slope from a house all around it, so that the surface water might run away, rather than sink into the soil. The roof water should be conducted away, and the house should not be smothered in trees, as they prevent the soil from drying. But trees are useful near by, as they modify the atmosphere, in Summer and Winter, and are believed to break the force of miasmatic influences. In damp soils, however, under-drainage is the great remedy for stagnant and unhealthy dampness.

### Local and Other Matters.

FROM TUESDAY'S DAILY, FEB. 23.

Going to Sicily.—We understand that Brother Joseph Toronto purposes, before long, paying a visit to Sicily, the country where he was raised. Brother Toronto is a native of the Island of Sardinia, but removed in early childhood to Sicily.

Wintry.—Now comes another slice of Winter. For many weeks

the weather has been generally clear, pleasant, genial and beautiful, but snow commenced to fall last night, and when the citizens awoke from their slumbers this morning there were two or three inches upon the ground, and since then the depth increased to about five or six inches.

Narrow Escape.—About one o'clock, to-day, as Brigham Woodruff, son of Elder Wilford Woodruff, was standing near his father's house, immediately south of the Valley House, a bullet whizzed past his head, barely missing him. He supposed, from the direction in which the bullet sped, &c., that the gun from which it was discharged must have been fired at a point near the corner of the block, south.

This is a case of criminal recklessness, in discharging firearms within the limits of the city.

Utah Southern R. R.—On and after Thursday, Feb. 25th, trains will be run for the accommodation of the public, to and fro, between this city and the terminus at York, in Juab county, a distance of 75 miles. This is another railroad triumph for Utah, another evidence of the enterprise and energy of her citizens. The trains will leave this city every day, Sundays included, at 7 a. m. and arrive at 5.40. They will arrive at York at 12 m. and leave at 12.20 p. m.

A Nuisance.—Our attention has been directed to what may be deemed considerable of a nuisance, caused by parties from the country who camp in the Tithing Office yard taking their teams along the sidewalk, on the east side of East Temple Street, to City Creek, to water. By that means there is frequently an accumulation of manure along that way that is not pleasant to the eyes or olfactories of pedestrians.

It is contrary to the provisions of a city ordinance for teams to perambulate on the sidewalk.

The Oratorio.—We learn that the musicians engaged in practicing Handel's Oratorio of "The Messiah" are making excellent progress, having already mastered nearly a dozen of the various choruses of the sublime composition. We believe there are between twenty and thirty choruses in all, and the choristers are making themselves efficient in rendering them at the rate of about one each practice. The singers continue to meet for practice on Tuesdays and Fridays of each week, at the 13th Ward Assembly Rooms.

We understand the parties who will sing the solos are Mesdames Haydon, Careless and Hamilton, and Messrs. Black, Owen and Williams.

It will probably be about five or six weeks before the proposed concert will be given.

Uninvited.—We are informed by members of the managing committee of the Firemen's Ball that several persons who had not been invited, by some means or other gained an entrance to the part of the building appropriated to invited guests. The committee desire those individuals, who are known to them, to call and settle with them.

It may be added to this that there are not a few people who are of opinion that those who thus obtrude their presence, uninvited, into select parties can scarcely be said to be particularly distinguishable for good breeding, and we think those holding such an opinion are not very wide of the mark. A trifle of self-respect would help some men along amazingly, a fact to which some men who don't appear to be overburdened with that commodity appear to be completely oblivious.

The Firemen's Ball.—Probably in the vicinity of from 300 to 350 couples, besides the spectators in the first and second circles, attended the ball of the Salt Lake Fire Brigade, at the Theatre, last night. Among the guests we noticed Presidents Brigham Young, Geo. A. Smith and D. H. Wells, Elders Orson Pratt, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, B. Young, Jr., Bishop Edward Hunter, Elder Joseph A. Young, Bishop Thomas Taylor, General John A. Smith and a couple of his staff officers, whose names we did not ascertain, Judge Sutherland, Judge Snow, members of the City Council and a number of other prominent gentlemen with accompanying ladies.

The huge dancing hall was well filled, almost approaching being crowded, yet good humor and a sc-