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THE BLIZZARD.

Austin has been master of the situation in Utah for some forty consecutive hours, and a most merciless master he is. Even the result which he produces from the numerous constituent elements, representing in some measure the instrument on which the ideal of the winds is wont to play, is not wholly, nor pleasurable, nor even tolerable, being a sort of sad, wild refrain or of spirit voices from out the vacant depths of space chanting a measure for the dying year, a requiem for the dead already in every feature of visible nature. The air is filled with invisible carrels of ice needles, against which no armor devised by the cunning of man is absolute proof, the best of it being but a means of mollifying the missiles which the wind-gods hurls thrust into the persons of all who place themselves within reach. And the rushing, the groaning, the shrieking! Wherever a sharp corner, an abrupt curve, an aspect, however small, or even an unexpanded keyhole can be found, the wee, winged myrmidons of the freely emancipated intimate themselves in great multitude and in only chance drive repose from the minds and cheer from the hearts of their hapless victims. But it is when the labors of the day are ended and the shelter of the domicile is reached, the welcome open door is entered and the glowing fire casts forth its grateful beams that we fully realize the awfulness of the storm outside. As if determined not to yield even when all opportunities for trouble are gone, the ruler of the element sends a great gust into the room before the door is closed upon him, and then he pounds at the closed entrance, shakes the window panes like they were so many castanets, makes the whole structure rock and keeps the inmates in mind of his unwelcome presence with unceasing vigilance. He hoots and roars and rages, making the most of his opportunities, which we are all fervently hoping will soon be cut short.

But if we are having a hard time of it among the mountain fastnesses, where we are in a measure shielded from some of the rigors of the situation, our friends of the East are having or have had a much harder one. Life in some of the cities has been less easy and more spaced to the fierceness of the onslaughts that have been. Along the coasts the destruction and hardships have been altogether unprecedented. The dispatches have directors, but of course they could not give as even an approximation of the sufferings and losses. The "heavy waves confounded and swallowed harbors up," and after fearful pronouncements of the roots were realized in awful array.

We have read of the loss of the ship Portland, with all on board, but another—that of the Lewis—has not yet been told. It and some other details are related by a reporter of the Work, who remains still on the scene. Saturday, while the northeast gale blew across the low sand dunes of Cape Cod and turned the usually safe and placid harbor into a scene of wild wreckage, two and three masted fishing schooners were driven from their anchorages on the flats, where the might of wind and wave wrenched from in-forced decks, drove others against the wharf—one indeed through a wharf—while many were holed over at their anchors.

The sunken Lewis was hoisted over until only a few feet of her bulwarks and upper rigging showed above the waves but little this period, six were clinched and nailed themselves on the deck of the wheel of a schooner tipped from in the accidental side of the driving snow and spray to take the six men and leave their mates to the fate that was then threatening their sinking from their chosen fastening against the rock that was killing them. Two men were secretly at anchor to windward of the wreck, and they lowered a dory and in a small boat and paid it out. The boat at last was on board, but length and distance of the impassable distance away, for those left in the wreck, for if they had planned to be safe they would have been swept away from instead of toward the little craft.

It is an awful story, and fearfully but one of many similar to it. Six fifty-six craft of various kinds and over 300 lives, the six men spoken of being the crushed, were lost. These men were seen by the old fisherman to give way one by one as their benumbed limbs no longer assisted them, and they tumbled into the sea to be beaten to death by the billows and seen no more. Yes, we are in the midst of no little storm weather. For the time being, here in Utah, but our situation is trifling compared with that which some unfortunates have had and are having.

BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES.

For some time close observers of the conditions in France have called attention to the fact that the nation shows unmistakable signs of decay, the birth rate being demonstrably low. Now, statisticians find similar conditions in the United States and the question is asked whether the native American race is doomed and doing?

The New York World some time ago gave the number of births in some of the chief cities of the United States and compared the figures obtained to those of two years ago, and it seems that in most of these cities there has been a marked decline. This when that the South and West are losing, when the population was supposed to be increasing most rapidly that New England views do not deserve the approach of childlessness and that, contrary to expectation, the foreign elements seem not inclined to fill the gaps.

In the city of Milwaukee there was only one birth for every thirty-seven of population; in 1891 there was one to every thirty-three and in 1881 one to every thirty-one. In Cleveland the birth rate has gotten to one in forty. In Boston it is thirty-five. Similar losses are reported from San Francisco, Omaha, Des Moines, Springfield, Ill., Dayton, Richmond, and other cities in the West and South. In Des Moines the birth rate has dropped sixty per cent in ten years, and those cities are not counterbalanced by gains in other quarters, though gains there are.

In New York City, for instance, there was last year one birth for every thirty-six people, while in 1891 there was but one to every forty-three. This represents a birthrate of 30.6 per 1,000 which is by no means low. A similar increase is found in the smaller cities of this section. The birth rate has gone up thirty-eight per cent in the past decade in Fall River, Mass. In Portland it has risen sixty-two per cent, and in Lowell twenty-one per cent. Boston seems to be the place where the birth rate is highest, or one to every twenty-six inhabitants. The lowest is Des Moines, Ia., where the proportion is but one to one hundred.

Another peculiar condition is revealed in the figures giving the proportion of marriages. During the year there has been, on an average, one marriage to every ninety-five persons. The percentage is greater in the West, the Southern states coming in second, the East and New England states third. That these latter states, with a high birth rate, should show a remarkably low marriage rate, is significant. In New York City, for instance, where the birth rate is given as one to every thirty-six inhabitants the marriage rate is but one to every ninety-seven. Rutland records one marriage to every one hundred and twenty-four; Worcester one to ninety-five; Salem one to one hundred and six; Lynn, Mass., one to ninety-one, and Fall River one to ninety-three, while the birth rate is one to thirty-eight, thirty-three, thirty, thirty-nine and twenty-eight respectively. The average American family has but two children, and it is obvious that unless this condition is changed, the nation is facing a danger similar to that which is threatening the French people, for not all children live to a mature age and some that do never get married.

There is sufficient food for thought in the figures presented, even if they are only approximately correct. If the Christian ministers who loudly proclaim themselves the standard of morality were not otherwise engaged, they might profitably give their time, thought and intelligence to this problem with a view of finding a solution. Whether the true cause is to be found in social or in material conditions, it should be removed without delay.

ADVOCATING BRUTALITY.

A Chicago paper lifts its voice for the revival of the barbarous whipping post as proper punishment for certain offenses. From this there is only one step backward to the thumb screws and other instruments of torture. Only a hundred years ago, women were openly flogged. There was a public beard for scolds. Whipping posts and stocks were prominent in every town and village. Women were placed in the pillory and pelted by the populace with rotten eggs, putrid vegetables and the like. Flogging was of frequent occurrence in the army. Deserters were inexorably shot; science was unmercifully hunted as the vandalism for midnight. Every school, every home, every person, was ruled by the rod. Is it to be regretted that these conditions are disappearing, and that human beings are progressing in the direction of a humane civilization? Let us have no machinery that can only add to the sum total of brutality already existing in the world.

SOME ANCIENT WORKMANSHIP.

Dr. McAdams, of this city, has lately exhibited a collection of arrow and spear heads which give every appearance of having been fashioned long before the advent of the Savior. The material use of the implements, even to express in archaeology, must be among the unknowable things, but they bear every evidence of extreme antiquity. Perhaps those who "dwell in Thebes" several thousand years ago, or at least their correspondents, may themselves have written of the makers of the weapons just so long a time previously. Being of the finest flint and showing different stages of decay, it is to be hoped such service to those who know how long a time it takes for the slightest trace of decay upon stone, left in exposed places, to form a crack sufficient to let the edge of the entire specimen off, any such person would have no difficulty in pronouncing these 4,000 years old. Another wonderful thing was recently shown with them in the workmanship. The arrowhead of each pair, showing careful handiwork in every feature, is perfect; the points, sinuosities, grooving and edging are all as flawless as though made of iron by a modern blacksmith, and yet nothing is to be seen by other points of modern time could fashion such material into such shapes. Where necessarily hard and enduring, it is also extremely brittle and would show the effects of ordinary workmanship to shape it, by breaking on and taking shape that were not desired.

It is a sure true fact the American Indians of an early day used arrowheads of a flinty substance which may or may not have belonged to the same ethnological family as those first spoken of.

But those were undoubtedly very small and light affairs, and would seem to have been bearing if not altogether ineffectual in the hand of nature. Some of those exhibited by Dr. McAdams are very large, either of several specimens would be equal in bulk and heft to a score of those used by the Indians and yet, as was said, done by hand. Besides, the secret of shaping such hard substances may have descended to the modern tribes by direct descent from their ancient progenitors, or perhaps some things are not yet lost to us. The relics were all found within a mile of the home of General Buckner, formerly of the Confederate army and a candidate for Vice President on the ticket with Senator John M. Palmer two years ago, in Hart county, Kentucky. There are yet quite a great many relics to be found in the country, showing that a young, community or some sort of gathering of prehistoric tribes must have inhabited the country. Other relics were also found, but those spoken of are the most interesting. They suggest pertinent thought whether or not leading to subsidiary conclusions.

IT CAN BE DONE.

Mr. James Dunn, in a letter to the "News," dated Tooele City, Dec. 5, expresses much interest in the suggestion of a temporary storage of our water supply that appeared in these columns a few days ago. He believes the plan is quite practicable and requests us to publish an article he wrote on the same subject in the Tooele Transcript of January 15, 1892. Mr. Dunn said at that time:

We are make the loss of our county supply of water is a situation we must face with pluck. For about six months in the year the water is good and for irrigation purposes and a great portion of water goes to waste. We know that we could not easily help in some cases. To talk about building reservoirs for the storage of water is all well and well, the present time at least, would cost so much that the task is too big for our limited means. The power company's water supply would prevent making a successful job without a vast amount of time and money. But there is a cheap way of storing water in our canyons for our summer use, and that is by feeding the water into the canyon water courses divided into small streams and turning it back into the canyons at the proper values of gold by. In the spring these bodies of ice would thaw out slowly, and the water would be ready for use when we need it. Some of the best canyons for this purpose are Settlement canyon, Dry canyon, Pine canyon, and Rush valley. It would not cost much to do this work for it might be done in such a manner that it would then be cut in a short time and cause a flood that might do more harm than good, but it can be done and that for our people.

There may not in these parts the coming year be a scarcity of water such as that experienced last summer, for, according to reports, the fall of snow in the mountains now equals the entire last winter's supply, and moreover it is likely to come during the winter, but the question of a cheap means of storing the water supply that runs to waste during some parts of the year or one that is of interest at all times. There is much that that might be brought under cultivation were the water supply taken better care of, and money paid for improvements and experiments in this direction should be well spent.

No official information has yet been given out regarding the findings of the Hawaiian commission, but it is believed the report will recommend a partial continuation of the present government of the Hawaiian islands with certain modifications. A senate of fifteen members chosen by voters possessing both a property and an educational qualification and a house of double that number will probably be recommended. The present tariff policy of the United States will be extended to Hawaii and there will be no "open door." The chief and radical difference between the new government of Hawaii and the territories will consist in the qualifications for suffrage.

The trial of Mrs. Cordelia Botkin in San Francisco for the murder of Mrs. J. P. Dunning in Denver, Delaware, has begun. This is a peculiar case, not only in the matter of detail but that of venue. The latter suggests a fine point of law; murder is supposed to be committed where the blow or other means of death is inflicted, but doubtless the courts and lawyers of California know what they are doing.

Rabbit farming, says an exchange, is becoming one of the new American industries. The fur is used for making what is known as electrical seal, and the demand for rabbit skins is increasing. Many rabbit farms are in existence in Scotland and European countries. In the West, poultry and rabbits go together, and the two make a profitable business from a very small level of land.

The reporter and others who met the crew of Teresa in connection with the new Spanish Maria are a little astray, but another character is a northern white crow which came from the east.

Before the Dick batteries can be released from Manila the insurgent will have had time to replace them. This means a good long time yet.

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