

With the objectionable sentences stricken out the platform is not open to the criticism they provoked, and we regard their erasure as wise and in harmony with the spirit and text of the rest of the document. We always endeavor to be just, and our aim is to be precisely correct. We congratulate the Republicans on the production of so strong and definite a party platform.

A WORD ON SUICIDES.

THE suicidal mania is attracting once more the attention of theoretical philosophers. Among them Professor Adler seems to have reached the ears of the public. Papers east and west are adding their brains apparently in the endeavor to help people to understand what Professor Adler would have them do to escape the suicidal epidemic.

As is often the case with philosophers that think too long and too diligently upon one idea, Professor Adler, while bringing forth a few thoughts that are good, has smothered all the practicability out of them with a lot of suggestions that are utterly foolish. He speaks of moral stamina and a conviction of the sacredness of human life in the abstract as being among the necessary antidotes to the suicidal tendency. This is perfectly true. A man with the abiding conviction in his soul that there is a hearing to be had hereafter for all questionable transactions of this sort will hesitate before putting the pistol to his brain. If he realizes that one who unlawfully takes his own life will be held accountable the same as he who murders a fellow being, before doing the fatal deed he will ask himself whether the luxury of ending a tiresome existence will be a fair offset for the damnation of his soul. It is safe to say that in every case of this character the suicide would be postponed indefinitely.

But the idea of committees of experts being appointed to render *post mortem* judgments upon suicides, in their wisdom to determine whether the self-murder was a justifiable or criminal act, is simply nonsensical.

There is but one way to reach the suicidal mania, and that is through the moral and religious nature. The man in whom the sense of morality is so strong that he would sacrifice a life which he valued sooner than bring distress and humiliation upon his friends would on the other hand endure, under any possible conditions, a life which he did not value where these same results would follow self-destruction. With a man

who is so constitutionally selfish that the love of friends will not save him from self-destruction, whether a religious instinct would do so is a question. Religion rarely thrives well in that kind of soil.

In short, it is pretty plain that if moral education is of no avail as an antidote there is nothing to be gained in legislation. The man whom pride of manhood, Christian faith and chaste association will not dissuade from suicide, has not much in him worth saving, and the law could have no great object in interfering in his case.

ANOTHER REFORM.

IT is reported that the Massachusetts anti-lobbyist law that has just had its first year's trial gives promise of success. The law did not assume to shut down the gates of the legislature against the lobby fraternity, but simply to draw the screen from their operations and compel them as far as possible to conduct their "influence" business in such a manner that the public might know what they were about.

The law requires that all persons engaged as counsel before committees, and all agents having business with the Legislature, affecting corporations or individuals, shall register their names in a book kept for the purpose by the Sergeant-at-arms. A record must likewise be taken of the name of the company or person represented and the character of the legislation with which the agent is concerned. Moreover, within thirty days after adjournment the agent, otherwise the lobbyist, is required to render a full account of all the expenses incurred by him in the business defined in the entry.

Unregistered lobbyists are not allowed to appear before committees or to conduct any legislative business during the session. For each violation of the law the agent and party represented are liable to a fine of \$1000 and the agent is forever debarred from carrying on his lobby business.

This is the first regular assault upon lobbyists, and of course does not compass all the ways by which they may carry on their nefarious transactions. No law can accomplish this, save one that keeps the legislators under a perpetual guard, day and night, like a company of convicts, from the opening to the closing of the session.

But it gives a publicity to the presence of lobbyists in the legislative halls and to their operations generally, which seems, on the first trial at least, to have had the effect not only of regulating the transactions of those having regular business, but of ridding the

State capitol of the gangs of loafers who hang round the halls to pick up odd jobs which the higher toned gentry of the lobby refuse to handle.

The country is under obligation to Massachusetts for leading out in this necessary reform. There is not the slightest doubt that the lobby contingent at the capital has cost this nation more during the past thirty years than the entire legitimate expenses of Congress. And what the lobby industry in general has cost the people through the irregular legislation enacted under its influence cannot be even guessed at.

Let lobbyism and partisan corruption progress at its present rate of advance for another twenty-five years and what of the legislative powers will escape the control of blacklegs will not be worth looking after.

But we are grateful to observe that in nearly all of the hot-beds of corruption there are very substantial signs of reform. There is a mighty moral undercurrent at work which we think can be relied upon in its own time to set things right. We have always believed that the stability of this republic was due more to the invincible integrity of the producers and the character-makers out of office, than to the statesmanship or patriotism of those who get the pay for running the governmental business. The scattering and general demolition that within a year have been effected among the revenue politicians of both parties is a testimony of this fact.

THE DECADENCE OF NEVADA.

THE census bulletin devoted to the population of Nevada, is a very meagre document. It consists of a single sheet, but it gives the population of that State in detail by counties, cities, towns and villages, and wards of cities.

The population under the present census is 45,761, a decrease of 16,505, or 26.51 per cent., since 1880, when the State had a population of 62,266. In every county but two decreases are shown, owing, it is said, to the decadence of mining interests.

There are six cities and towns each having 1000 inhabitants or more. Virginia City in 1890 had 8511 inhabitants, in 1880 it had 10,917. Carson City had in 1880 4229, but in 1890 only 3950. Eureka fell from 4207 in 1880 to 1609 in 1890. Austin, Tuscarora and Winnemucca also fell heavily in population during the decade.

Only two counties, Churchill and Washoe show increases, the former in 1880 had 479, in 1890 703; the latter in 1880 5664 and in 1890 6487.