

## EDITORIALS.

AN eminent American journalist has given expression to the idea that there is no time so dangerous in the life of a man as when he thinks he sees a way by which he can more easily obtain a dollar than by honestly earning it. Such a one has opened the gate of temptation and has taken a long step on the road to destruction. The feverish haste to get rich, so widely spread in this nation, is one of the most unfortunate manifestations of American society to-day, and the epidemic for speculation, combined with the increasing distaste for honest toil, is one of the most ominous shadows cast forward on the future progress of our Republic.

There is a feeling possessed by many, derived, no doubt, from the spirit of the aristocratic institutions of the old world, but which is entirely foreign to the spirit of American Democratic ideas, that the consumer is respectable, whilst the producer is not—respectability being one of the lesser deities to which the votaries of mammon give reverence. With this idea the farmer, the artisan and the mechanic, no matter how intelligent and patriotic, are regarded as walking in a lower grade of society than they who only consume what these men produce. As a result, labor, amongst fashionable people, is regarded as degrading, not ennobling. To avoid this degradation of laboring, many who must do something to obtain a livelihood take to the so-called learned professions, whilst others, with less influence, or less talent, become agents for all sorts of insurance and other societies, vendors of patent medicines, canvassers for volumes sold by subscription or retailers of stencil plates and other patented trivialities, and by this means they maintain a species of seedy respectability, to which an acknowledgement is given by the world at large which is not accorded to the working man.

The inordinate love of money is, beyond question, the root of much evil, especially under the condition of society to which we have just referred, which gives rise to varied plausible speculations, closely allied to gambling; the honesty or morality of which is very questionable. Amongst these are the species of lottery, known as grand gift enterprises which have lately flourished in the cities both east and west of us.

The chief pre-requisite of a successful grand gift enterprise or jubilee is the ostensible furtherance of some worthy object. The endowment of some charitable institution or the advancement of some mercantile library association for instance. Sometimes the matter can be arranged by the projectors of the "enterprise" giving a certain understood sum; at other times the whole profits of the transaction, after paying the expenses, are to be handed over to the said institution, association, or society. The expenses, by the way, being often a very considerable item. This trap being set, and baited with a charitable object, the religiously inclined have the satisfaction of fancying that they are serving God at the same time that they attempt to make their own fortunes by one lucky "hazard of the die."

Lotteries, of one kind or another, have been popular since the days of the Roman Emperors, but they have ever been found disastrous to the people at large and destructive of private morality. In England the spirit of gambling engendered by certain lotteries granted by the crown, increased so rapidly, and grew so strong, that in the reign of Queen Ann, private lotteries had to be suppressed as public nuisances. The first parliamentary lottery was instituted in 1709, which was followed by many others, causing an appalling amount of vice and misery; and in 1808 a committee of the House of Commons urged the suppression of this ruinous mode of filling the national exchequer. In October 1826 the last public lottery was drawn in Britain, but they still exist in most of the continental States of Europe; and although demonstrably a source of loss to those who embark in them they are upheld as a very ready mode of procuring money from the poor, the miserly and the adventurous. In our own nation, most of the States have passed laws making lotteries illegal, and their promoters punishable by process of law.

It is very evident that in the light of commercial transactions, gift enterprises and jubilees are of no profit to the people. A certain sum is required to be subscribed in shares of a stated amount, each share having an equal chance with every other to obtain any

one of the prizes advertised. These prizes generally consist of a portion of the money subscribed for shares, divided into different amounts, a few very large, the greater portion but small. Sometimes "valuable real estate," "personal property," "jewelry," &c. are advertised for distribution instead of money. The managers placing the very highest possible figure on all property to be disposed of in such a manner. The jewelry especially being sometimes entirely unmarketable, or simply cheap imitation goods. In each case the motive which impels the purchaser of shares is the hope of obtaining a large amount with a very small outlay, unaccompanied with labor and responsibility or the risk, if not successful, of further loss. The State is not richer by the transaction, the people have had a portion of their money returned to them, some more, some less, many none at all. If any one is benefited, it is generally those who dispose of otherwise unsaleable real estate or merchandise, or the projectors and managers who make, at any rate, "good wages" by engineering the transaction, especially when the name of a charitable institution is loaned for a certain sum, the balance of the profits large or small to go into the pockets of the directors of the enterprise.

Taken from another point of view admitting that the object avowedly to be benefited is worthy of assistance, and that the profits of the enterprise reach the quarter for which they are intended, then we contend that this is a very poor way of manifesting sympathy or of rendering assistance. Let us take into consideration the amount paid for advertising in the newspapers, other large items for printing, the salaries for otherwise unnecessary officers, the commission to agents, and donations to committees and others and we have a large bill of costs which neither benefits the giver nor those to whom the means is supposed to be given. What remains for the benefit of the institution being but an inconsiderable fraction of the amount subscribed.

When these gift enterprises are inaugurated and the rich, the liberal and the reckless have come forward and taken subscriptions it is then that a plan is adopted to "rope in" the pennurious, the timid and the poverty-stricken. It is by instituting a system of clubbing or co-operation, thus: We will suppose the shares are ten dollars each. A great number of people fancy they could spare one or two dollars, but ten dollars is too much to speculate with, therefore a proposition is put forward to receive subscriptions for part shares, and when one hundred dollars is subscribed, then ten shares of ten dollars each will be purchased, and whatever amount any and all of these shares win will be equally divided among those who have paid their dollars; in other words, each person who paid one dollar will receive one hundredth part of the total winnings of the ten shares. This is an inducement to those who are desirous to invest whilst risking but little, and who will be satisfied with a smaller amount of winnings, the chances against them being ten times less than if they had bought one whole ticket for themselves, and paid ten dollars for it, whilst their chances as to amount are far less.

The great evil of these distributions is the spirit of gambling with its attendant train of evils which this practice engenders. The temptations to dishonesty presented to those who desire to speculate, and have not the means so to do, the misery of those who lose, and the recklessness and dislike to labor introduced into the minds of those who are lucky, or unlucky enough to win large prizes.

A large portion of the citizens of this Territory have, in past times and in other lands, been able to observe the evil effects flowing from this species of gambling, and therefore should be wise enough to leave such enterprises alone. If in such, or in insurance and other societies there exist that which is profitable and conducive of good, we are certainly capable of inaugurating and successfully carrying them out at home.

Obituary notices are often unconsciously satirical, as is this, written of an old citizen of Nashville: "He was a most exemplary citizen and Christian. He had been four times married, and died in perfect resignation."

A New York tailor was startled the other day by the return of a bill which he sent to a magazine editor, with a notice that the manuscript was respectfully declined.

## THE FOLLOWING EXTRACTS

Relating to the Ancestors of the Prophet JOSEPH SMITH were taken from the Essex Co., Massachusetts, Records, by Elder N. H. Felt, February 7th, 1870.

[Letter of Administration on Estate of Robert Smith, late of Boxford, to Samuel Smith his Son, at Salem, Oct 3d, 1698—Attorney, Jonathan Corwin, John Higginson, Reg. Essex Co. Probate Records—Book 6, Page 37.]

A true inventory of ye Estate of Robert Smith of Boxford, who departed this life 30th August, 1693

1 Ye housing and Land	£150 0 0
4 Oxen @ £12 two Cows @ £4	16 0 0
2 heifers £3—8 sheep 40s—3 hogs 10s.	5 10 0
3 pigs @ 4s Cart and plow and chain	
and tackle for oxen 30s	1 14 0
1 Mortising axe 3 wedges one bolt and Ring	0 6 3
1 Musket 18s—1 Rapier 10s	1 8 0
1 bed and bedstead and furniture to bed	5 0 0
1 one other bed 10s a blanket one pr sheets and two pillows £1	1 10 0
one blanket and pr sheets and a bolster	1 5 0
3 putter Plates and a frying pan	0 8 0
Wooden ware 3s—more wooden ware	
2s 6d	0 5 6
4 Iron pots £2 10s great pail two chairs	2 17 6
7s 6d	
1 Table one chest one box 1 meal trough	1 7 0
2 pr pott hooks	0 2 0
	Total £135 13 3

John Gould, sen.  
John French, sen.

Saml Smith administrator Exhibited ye above Inventory and made oath that ye same is a true and perfect Inventory of ye Estate of his father Robert Smith late of Boxford Deed. so far as hath come to his knowledge, and that if more come to his knowledge he will give an acct of ye same into ye Regrs. Office.

Sworn Attest.  
JOHN HIGGINSON, Reg.

Page 99, Book 28.—Wm. Smith's Will, (yeoman) Jan. 10, 1744, (of Salisbury) Coy. of Essex.

I give and bequeath to my beloved cousin Saml. Smith, son of my deceased brother Robert Smith, and heirs (ordain him my executor, he to take care and maintain my beloved wife Abigail, &c., &c.)

That is to say, to find her convenient fire, rooms in my new dwelling house, with convenient room for cellar and chamber, also provide and keep for her own use a convenient fire at all times when needed, and provide at all times suitable and decent apparel, and provide and bring into the house for her use yearly or every year eight bushels of good Indian meal and three bushels of good rye meal, and two bushels of good wheat meal, and one hundred pounds of good pork, and fifty pounds of beef suitably pickled, and four barrels of cider, and four bushels of good winter apples placed in the cellar, and also milk, butter and cheese as she shall have occasions both in sickness and health. Also decent burial, &c.

BEQUESTS.  
My Cousin Wm. Smith, son of Robt. Smith, £20  
"Abigail, daughter," 20  
"Anne Dole, daughter," 10  
"Wm. Moulton, son of my sister Lucy," 5  
My Cousin Elizabeth Smith, daughter of James (also a brother of Wm. above) 40  
My Cousins Richard and Jacob, sons of Robert Smith,  
Also my present servant Silas Cornett, all my right in the Township of Chester, in the province of New Hampshire, which I bought of Thos. Pierce.  
My Cousin Sarah Tilton, daughter of my sister "Jemima."

Copied from an old stray brand sheet.  
"William Smith of Topsfield hath a gray mare and colt of year old, ye mare having two little bits cut out of ye ear, taken up for straying."  
—5 Jan. 1679.

## COPY OF THE WILL

Of Samuel Smith the 1st, found on Page 58 and 120, Book 28, Ipswich, August 22, 1748. Witnesses: Daniel Gould, Simon Gould, Joseph Gould, Jr.

"Last will and testament of Samuel Smith, of Topsfield. I give to my beloved wife Rebecca Smith all my indoor valuables, for her to improve and to dispose of among my daughters, and likewise all my live stock of cattle, &c., &c.

I give my son Samuel S. my dwelling house, iron bar, draft chains, gun, plowshares and coulter, horse chains, beetle rings, neb yoke, ring and staple, and my span-shackle.

I give to my son Robert Smith my two inch auger, inch auger, and two winged plowshare and coulter, square and shave.

He having had five hundred pounds old tenor money out of my estate already, and inasmuch as I have disposed of all my lands to my son Samuel by deed, and he is bound to maintain me during my natural life. My will also is that he shall pay my funeral charges, and also my wife, &c., &c."

"I do appoint my loving wife and John Gould of Topsfield to be my sole executors, &c."

TOPSFIELD, Oct. 17, 1748, Page 120.—Received of my mother and John Gould, Executors to ye will of my father Samuel Smith, late of Topsfield deceased, the sundry things given me by my father, &c.

(Signed) SAMUEL SMITH.  
Also same kind of receipt signed by ROBERT SMITH.

## COPY OF THE WILL

Of Samuel Smith the 2d. Page 64, Book 58, March 3d, 1767. The Will of Samuel Smith, of Topsfield, County of Essex, Massachusetts.

I give and bequeath to my well-beloved wife, Priscilla, the use of the west room in my dwelling house, and the upper second room in the porch, and also what room she shall want in the cellar, so long as she shall remain my widow.

And also the liberty of using my well as she shall have occasion, also the use of one half of my garden, and also I order my two sons that I shall hereafter mention to keep her a good cow well winter and summer during the time she shall remain my widow.

And I also order my said sons to provide her a horse to ride to meeting whenever she shall have occasion during the time she shall remain my widow.

I also give my said wife the use of all my household furniture during her natural life, and then to go as I shall hereafter order it. And I give my said wife all my provisions that I shall leave at my decease.

I also give my said wife forty pounds, to be paid her by my two sons in one year after my decease.

Item. I give to my beloved sons, viz: Samuel and Asael, all my real estate and all my personal estate of all kinds that I have not heretofore given away, to be equally divided between them, except my silver watch and silver shoe-buckles, and household furniture, they paying my just debts and funeral charges, and the legacies which I have given to my well-beloved wife, and shall hereafter give to my three daughters equally between; and my silver watch I give to my son Samuel, and my silver shoe buckles I give to my son Asael.

Item. I order my two sons to pay to my three daughters, Priscilla, Vashti, and Susanna, four pounds each in one year after my decease, and my two sons to pay it equally alike. And I also give all my household furniture to my said three daughters, to be equally divided between them, after the decease of my said wife.

And in case either of my said daughters should decease before my said wife, I order that the heirs of the deceased have the same share in my household furniture as the deceased would have had if she had survived my said wife. And I also order my said sons to pay the same to the heirs of my said daughters, in case either of them should decease before one year after my decease, as they would have had if they had lived, which I think is their proper portion of my estate, together with what they have already had. I also make and ordain my beloved son Samuel Smith sole executor of this my last will and testament, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. Signed, sealed, published and delivered the day and year before mentioned; by me published, pronounced and declared by the said Samuel Smith, in presence of us the subscribers to be his last will and testament.

THOS. PORTER, HENRY HERRICK, AARON WOOD. {SEAL.} SAMUEL SMITH.

To all people to whom these presents shall come, Benjamin Greenleaf, Esq., Judge of the Probate of Wills, and in the county of Essex, within the commonwealth of Mass.

Extract from Nehemiah Cleveland's address, delivered at Topsfield, Massachusetts, August 28th, 1850, at the two hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of that town. (Note 17, page 70, pxxx.)

SMITH—That multitudinous name occurs in the first enumeration of Topsfield commoners. During the second-third of the last century it was illustrated by an individual of some note.