

Schenck on Poker.

HIS EXPLANATION—THE SOLEMN TRUTH.

Mr. Schenck, U. S. minister to London, has been recently very generally handled, humorously chiefly, by the newspapers of this country on account of a "treatise on the game of poker" which he is presumed to have written in England, and the following is the way in which he rises to explain—

CINCINNATI, February 21. — To the editor of the Cincinnati Gazette—Sir: About a month ago you published an extract from the Nation charging my friend, General Robert C. Schenck, with having disgraced himself and his high official position by writing a book on the art of playing poker. You took occasion to comment on the presumed fact in very severe terms. I know General Schenck so well that I did not believe him to be so silly as to do this, and I placed it among the many slanders to which he has been subjected by his political enemies; but to satisfy myself I wrote him on the subject, and I inclose his reply, which I think, in justice to him, ought to receive the benefit of your wide circulation. A gentleman whose public life has been so distinguished is entitled to fair play by the public press. Respectfully, THOS. L. YOUNG.

LONDON, January 16th, 1875.

My Dear General: Thanks for your friendly and manly letter. The extracts you send me from newspapers of Cincinnati and other places would have surprised me if I had not already seen myself lately so much vilified and lied about. Why I have been made the subject of these assaults, and why my life and conduct are so grossly calumniated and misrepresented, I do not altogether understand, for God knows with what earnest single-heartedness I have honestly and honorably labored through a long and active lifetime to promote the happiness of others, and to serve to the full measure of my ability a country which has entrusted to me much and various public service. What has troubled me most and filled me with indignation is that some of these attacks, anonymous as they are malicious, should have been admitted without question in journals of reputed respectability.

You write to ask me the meaning of the ridiculous story about my having published a work on the rules and art of poker-playing. I will tell you what it all comes from. In the Summer of 1872, while visiting with others at a country house in Somersetshire, the guests, as is usual in English society, amused themselves in the evening with games at cards; and, as is also usual, the stakes were for pennies and sixpences. They were anxious to learn the American game of poker, of which they had heard, and of which some of them already knew a little. I showed them how it was played. When I was coming away the lady of the house requested me, as a favor to herself and other friends who thought it attractive and amusing, to write down some of the rules of the game, as it is so generally played in America. I complied with her request as well as I could, on the very morning of my leaving her hospitable house, and thought little more of my act of politeness until she surprised me by sending me some copies of these rules, which a gentleman, another visitor, had had printed for her, and for their own private use and circulation, on his own private printing press. It was very prettily done. It was intended as a compliment, and I am very sure that nobody can be more amazed or more annoyed than my friend Lady W. and her family and guests, to find that they have thus unwittingly brought down on me the wrath and reprehension of so many good people in America.

If I can find a copy now of the little work which some people would willingly make famous, if thereby they might injure me, I will send it to you.

Very truly and faithfully, your friend,
ROBERT C. SCHENCK.

"The child has since died," is the laconic remark which a Pennsylvania paper affixes to an account of a twelve-year-old girl who had already mastered logic, rhetoric, geology, botany and the mysteries of mental and moral science.

The Saddest Feature of Modern Civilization.

Social Evil license in St. Louis proved a failure. Bad as the law was, the city, under the present condition of its repeal, is infinitely worse. The social evil system provided for a complete registration, with personal descriptions, of all the abandoned women in the city. It subjected the inmates of each house to a medical examination once a week, for which a tax of one dollar and a half was levied upon each inmate, and ten dollars a month additional upon each landlady. The merit in the roll of registration was its completeness. The efforts of the police department were devoted to it. Men were detailed to tempt shop-girls and seamstresses. The appointment made with one of these spotters, the victim was given the choice of registration and a life of open shame, or having her reputation blasted before a police court by the betrayer. Of course this shut off, to a considerable extent, clandestine immorality, and diminished the number of assignation houses. It must have been open and notorious prostitution or chastity. The assurance of good hospital treatment of the sick reconciled licensed women to the law. Their traffic was lucrative. Landladies revelled in wealth while the law lasted. Last Winter, Hammond the revivalist, worked the people into a religious frenzy. With the zeal of fanatics, they warred on the law, demanding its repeal. The legislature yielded, and every limitation was removed. The vice, before restricted to certain localities, left its bounds within a week, and to-day there are assignation-houses in every part of the city. The registration roll contained the names of seven hundred women; now, thanks to the ass. Hammond, there are between 1,700 and 1,800 public prostitutes in this city. This does not include an army of women who before were deterred from fear of detection, but now visit assignation-houses. Very noticeable is the difference in the number of these houses. From twenty they have increased to three hundred. The base keeper of one of the most select of these resorts placed in the hands of an official a roll containing the names of seventy-three ladies who visited her house to meet gentlemen friends. Almost without exception these women move in good society and belong to the best families. The extent to which licentiousness ran riot in the parks last Summer was never known before. The newspapers and the police in vain made extra efforts to maintain the respectability of these resorts. The epidemic of profligacy shows itself everywhere. The number of divorce cases is unprecedented. With a single exception, the murder cases pending in the Criminal Court may be traced to domestic infidelity. When the church people carried their point, they substituted nothing practical. A sickly so-called Guardian Home was instituted for the reform of erring women. Ten thousand dollars was pledged for its support. A notorious leader of the demi-monde, Mme. Stillman, with most of her girls, was among its inmates. This millennium lasted six weeks. Stillman took her flock to church one Sunday. On the way home the girls met some nice young men, and went back to their evil ways. Stillman left in disgust. Of the \$10,000 pledged, not \$1,000 was collected. To-day the "Guardian Home" exists only in name. In point of licentiousness, St. Louis is the plague-spot in the American Republic. — Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper.

By Telegraph.

CHICAGO, 23. — A Washington special says that the following are the conclusions of Hear, Frye and Wheeler, of the Congressional Louisiana Investigating Committee, as embodied in the report which they have agreed upon:

First, that the purpose of the so-called white men's party in Louisiana was to take possession by fraud and violence of the State government; second, that in the execution of this purpose they have not and will not refrain from murder, fraud, civil war or coercion of employees; third, that the moderate men of this party are unable to control the majority; fourth, that three causes have conduced to the

formation of this party, and rendered it more difficult to unite the best men among them in opposition to the fact that the administration party in the State is made up of almost the whole negro vote, with a few whites largely from other States; also the fact that there has been great maladministration by the republican officials, and the belief is honestly entertained by large numbers of the white people of the State, that they have been twice defrauded of the results of elections in which they have been successful; fifth, admitting that these evils are likely to exasperate any people, the course of the whites have tended to bring them about, as simple peaceful remedies of obedience to law, and decent treatment of their opponents would have proved effectual long ago; sixth, the committee believe that Kellogg received a majority in '72, and while they believe there was violence and fraud, which frustrated the will of the people in many parishes, in '74 the illegal order of Judge Durrell and the illegal conduct of the returning board in attempting to cure one wrong by another, naturally inflamed popular discontent, and lent plausibility to the complaints; seventh, the committee believe there has been much dishonesty and corruption in the State, and in the local governments of Louisiana, for which the republicans, especially under Warmoth's rule, are largely responsible, though in numerous instances their opponents have been equally to blame; eighth, the effect of all this has been to destroy the authority of law over a large portion of the State, deprive the negro of the right of suffrage, overthrow the republican government in Louisiana, and seriously menace it throughout the country; ninth, a new election at this time is not desirable, neither party asks for it, and it would aggravate the present evils; tenth, Congress should use its constitutional powers in the matter. The committee think that Kellogg, being the choice of the majority of the voters of Louisiana, should be recognized as governor, and that Congress should also provide for further safeguards for holding elections and ascertaining the result, if it can be devised; eleventh, the committee conclude by saying that these remedies are at the best temporary. Efficient aid to establish means of public education would do much to remove the evils, and the public sentiment of the rest of the country without distinction of party, may do much to remove, as it has unfortunately done much to aggravate, the trouble in Louisiana. The people there should be made to understand that all authority of the government to preserve a republican form of government and to protect the rights of citizens will be firmly exercised, and that no party in this country will accept the alliance of men who are seeking power by such methods as the committee have described. Unless this can be done the free institutions of the whole U. S. will not survive the destruction of those in the South.

A dispatch says that Foster and Phelps agree to the report, except that they hold both parties in Louisiana responsible for the condition of affairs, and that the republican party should be included in the charges contained in the first and second propositions of the committee.

The Senate finance committee, to-day, agreed that a new mint ought to be established in the west, and voted to report a resolution requesting the President to make an inquiry relative to the merits of the various locations proposed, and to report to Congress next session.

PITTSBURG, 23. — Ernest Ortwein, who, on the night of the 29th of April last, murdered John Hammett, his wife, two little daughters and a boy named Robert Smith, and then burned his house to conceal the crime, was hanged in the jail yard at noon to-day, in the presence of the officers of the law and reporters. He met his death quietly and with resignation.

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