

person having an insane propensity for stealing, who furnishes no other evidence of mental derangement. A physician, for thirty years connected with an insane asylum, says he has examined about six thousand patients and not found one case of habitual stealing as a result of insanity and every other evidence of mental disease absent. To be incapable of resisting the temptation of taking other people's property, he says, implies serious derangement, which must have other manifestations. The term monomania is hardly found any more in modern works on insanity.

What has brought the theory of kleptomania in popular discredit is probably the fact that the plea is hardly ever successfully brought up except in cases where the defense is extremely well paid for. A dishonest servant girl and a sneak thief caught in a house are generally disposed of as common thieves. This fact is regarded as suspicious and will not contribute towards the maintenance of that reverence for justice which is essential to a successful battle against the criminal elements of society.

But whatever view may be entertained on the purely abstract questions involved, all must agree that the punishment suffered by Mrs. Castle and her husband is to every respect sufficient for the ends of justice. The humiliation, the mental anguish, the physical pain and the pecuniary loss constitute a terrible penalty. It was a graceful act on the part of the English authorities to set the unfortunate woman free even before her term of imprisonment had fairly commenced.

LEGISLATORS SHOULD BE UNPLEGGED.

The crop of aspirants for the United States Senate is becoming remarkably prolific in this State, and were it not that such serious phases are involved in the matter, citizens generally might well allow themselves to be highly amused at the thought of seeing some of the candidates who have been suggested actually sitting in the exalted seat for which they have been named. In the light of the lofty character, duties and powers of the position, some of the men who have entered the race for it cut a figure that is positively ludicrous.

Of others it is enough to say that they are totally unfit for the place. Of still others it can be said with truth that they are presuming on the gratitude which they hold to be due them from their party, whereas their party has done more for them than they have for it. Of a few of the others, a very few, it may be said that they are, in a greater or less degree, qualified for the place.

But that all who are eligible and well fitted to represent our new State in the nation's highest legislative chamber, have pushed themselves, or have allowed their friends to push them, to the front, ought not to be believed for a moment. "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread."

This unseemly scramble for a high office involves danger to the State's welfare. Not that the Legislature, were it in session, and in a position to

listen to the views and arguments of its several members, and to act without let or hindrance, would fail to recognize the most worthy candidate; but the several aspirants are doing their utmost to secure advance pledges from legislators-elect, and in this way to prevent them as a body, when they shall assemble, from acting according to their best judgment and highest wisdom.

The peril to the State lies in the fact that members-elect of the Legislature may, in advance of its meeting, be influenced, persuaded or coaxed into pledging their support to some unworthy candidate, and thus so encumber themselves that they will not be able to act freely and wisely when the time for final action comes; and that, through the making of these thoughtless and unfortunate pledges, some man may secure the seat who is totally unworthy of it and unfit for it.

In other states different candidates for a United States senatorship sometimes obtain advance pledges from members of the legislature, to an extent that gives to each a show of strength when that body meets. Then bargaining ensues, and corrupt deals are consummated, by which the supporters of different candidates are consolidated behind one, who is elected; and he is likely to be the one who was able or willing to pay the most money for votes. In fact this sort of traffic is an established feature of politics in many states.

Do we want this sort of thing in Utah? Conditions are being ripened by the schemers as rapidly as possible, for its introduction. To assume that the greater portion of the men named for the United States Senate from Utah sincerely entertain the faintest hope of attaining the seat, would be to denominate them idiots beyond hope. But they know very well that a value, pecuniary or otherwise, attaches to a block of legislative votes; and that the individual who has the votes within his control has what is likely to prove an effective means of benefitting himself.

It follows, therefore, that the member-elect to the Legislature who suffers himself to pledge his vote in advance, is likely to discover, perhaps when too late, that he has simply given to a schemer a marketable commodity which the recipient intends to use to his own advantage in a bargain, that may be only discreditable, but is likely to be corrupt. This is not intended to apply to worthy candidates who, in good faith, seek office; but it is intended to apply to schemers and tricksters, who seek to make capital, pecuniary or political, out of their influence over unwary members-elect of the Legislature.

The member who is wise, discreet and patriotic, and who has a due regard for the rights of his colleagues and the welfare of the State, will meet with the Legislature unpledged, and consequently in a position to support the candidate having the highest order of ability and qualifications. He will meantime sternly resist the blandishments of all aspirants, worthy or unworthy. He will maintain an attitude of independence and reticence, and thereby secure his own liberty, when the time for action arrives. The man who is free always has an advantage over one who is not;

and for a member-elect to the Legislature to give or barter away his liberty is a very unwise and unpatriotic thing to do.

REPORT ON POISON PLANTS.

The announcement is made that the department of agriculture will shortly publish an illustrated report on poisonous plants; and with a view to accounting for many of the mysterious deaths reported every summer from eating unknown plants or roots, there is being made original analyses and tests of supposed poisonous plants. It is stated that the experiments thus far show that the woods, the meadows, and even the gardens, are full of poisonous plants which people generally have no suspicion of. There are listed among the injurious members of the vegetable kingdom the common elder, when the bark of its rootlets is eaten; the blossoms of buttercups, except when dry, being harmless in the latter condition; many of the laurels and rhododendrons; the root of the common kidney bean; the common Jimson weed; the water hemlock and the meadow hemlock, these being especially fatal in their effects; bulbs and flowers of daffodils; the bark and seeds of the laburnum; and many others. With respect to many of those commonly grown in the garden, the Boston Transcript makes this statement regarding the showing in the anticipated report:

One is surprised to learn that many common garden plants are dangerous. The leaves and stems of the potato have narcotic properties. The berries of the potato are extremely poisonous. The skin of old and sprouted potatoes contains a specific poison known as "solanin." The young and unripe potatoes which are esteemed such a delicacy in spring by people who can afford to buy them, are poisonous raw, but cooking makes them harmless. The flowers of the jonquil, snowdrop and white hyacinth are all bad. The narcissus is particularly deadly. To chew a small scrap of one of the bulbs is apt to be fatal, while the juice of the leaves is an emetic. The berries of the yew have killed many people. Sorrel is sometimes eaten in salads with distressing results. It is pretty well known nowadays that it is not safe to eat many peach-pits or cherry-kernels at once.

It has been well remarked that after reading such an arraignment of the common plants one is almost afraid to let a little child run alone into the fields, or even into a flower garden. This indictment of plants and flowers by modern science includes the lobelia, wild parsnips, lady's slipper, horse-chestnuts, lily-of-the-valley, jack-in-the-pulpit, periwinkle, autumn crocus, senecio and flowers of the oleander, bark of the catalpa, the monkshood, the foxglove, and many varieties of the mushroom. Fortunately most of the plants are not commonly adapted to use in a way that would be injurious, therefore the dangers attending their existence in gardens is by no means as great as would appear from a first glance at the report. There seems to be one deficiency in the work, however, in that it does not inform the public of the value of those same plants and herbs as remedies, in the way of tea, etc., for many common ills, and thus indicate the benefits of their use by man as well as the dangers a misuse may involve.