

of the public building, and an abiding object lesson as to the hollowness of "Liberal" political promises and the economy and enterprise of "Liberal" officials.

Go on with the building, if you mean business, gentlemen! Do something to brighten your record. If not, come out plainly and say so. Give your reasons why you cannot or will not build. But do not try to pull Eighth Ward wool over the eyes of the tax-payers, for they are looking at you very sharply and will see through all your paltry subterfuges.

### NATIONALISM, MOBOCRACY AND MURDER.

THE fearful tragedy at New Orleans, on Saturday, March 14th, is something to make thoughtful men shudder. In one of the principal cities of the United States scenes were enacted which calm, considerate, law-abiding citizens are disinclined to dwell on. It was a lynching unparalleled in the United States. It was such a violent contempt and defiance of civil law that rational minds are horrified.

The decision of a court and the verdict of a jury were regarded by an enraged public as defenses of murderous conspirators. A corrupt jury and a rotten judiciary are bad enough, but it is scarcely debatable that lynching is much worse. According to the New Orleans press and public opinion, the jury and court were purchased in the trial of the Italians, and that was why the lynching followed. This is a very sad state of affairs. Mob law is the worst kind of tyranny and the tragedy at New Orleans is a disgrace to that city and the State of Louisiana.

To those who wish for the perpetuation and preservation of our institutions this lamentable drama ought to make a serious object lesson. It is all very well to denounce corrupt jurymen, venal judges, and undesirable immigrants, but that will avail very little. We must begin at the beginning and let every citizen deem it part of his bounden duty both to see that good men and wise men are elected to office, and to watch the course of those who are elected to public positions, also to discourage all race factionalism and maintain the supremacy of law.

It will be remembered that a few months ago a murder of a very sensational character occurred in New Orleans. Captain Hennessy, the chief of police in that city, was shot and killed while in the discharge of his duty. The reports at the time connected an Italian secret society known as the "Mafia" with the

murder. Hennessy, it was stated, was a very energetic officer, and incurred the wrath of this society. He exposed several of its plots, and even brought to light several jobs which it accomplished in the way of murder. A few days after his death, two or three of the leaders of this society were arrested, and a strong chain of evidence woven against them.

The *Weekly States*, a New Orleans journal, commenting on the murder and on the causes which led to it, remarked that though our land extends to aliens the blessings of liberty, yet it expects them to be alive to the responsibilities which freedom carries with it. It said: "One—the chiefest danger to our social system—is that of engrafting upon its stem the vagaries of other nationalities."

It appears that those Italians bring with them all their vices and weaknesses of their people at home. They organize into secret societies, and into bands composed of natives of each district or province. The feuds which we read about so often, arise from sectional hate. Genoese and Florentines will fight with all the bitter hate of distinct tribes or clans.

The Sicilians are said to be the most wicked of the Italian race. The vendetta is especially characteristic of this province, and the Sicilians cling to it in America with a tenacity worthy of a better cause.

These people do not generally follow abhorrent employment. They are not producers. They are invariably peddlers of fruit, fish, or of some bric-a-brack kind of ware. When it is found that a Sicilian has a trade, it is generally that of a tinker or cobbler. These two trades are taught in the penitentiaries, and it may be inferred that the persons exercising them here are graduates of criminal reformatories.

In a political sense these people are more dangerous than in a social sense. They are entirely led by their "padrones." A politician deals directly with a "padrone." The latter, of course, is an Italian, more or less conversant with American politics, and able to speak the English language. This "padrone" can manipulate votes as it suits his purpose. His strongest ground is at the primaries. And it is there that he is most in demand.

Of the Sicilians the *Weekly States* says:

"Our records show that as a nationality they belong essentially to the criminal classes, and yet, conviction, when crime is charged against them, is very hard to secure, because of the difficulty of getting them to testify one against the other. Of no other race is this true! Our criminal records are full of instances where circumstantial evidence was all but con-

clusive against individuals, and yet justice has been turned aside by the death-bed statement even of the victim, himself, that his assailant was his friend and innocent of the crime clearly brought home to him, the victim deeming it a virtue higher even than truth to relegate his murderer to the operation of the vendetta rather than to the punishment of the law."

However, as a rule, these people confined their murderous doings to themselves, until last October, when David Hennessey, the New Orleans Chief of Police, was killed. He knew the workings of Italian societies, made himself cognizant of the strifes and feuds which led to their secret plots to murder. It was known that in a case then pending, he would give important evidence, and that was, it is stated, the cause for his removal.

The New Orleans episode is only one more of these convincing testimonies which prove the uselessness and wickedness of many secret societies, clan organizations and race gregariousness.

No man can be a good American, nor, indeed can he be a useful and effective member of American Society, who clings to old country prejudices, and factional ideas. It is right that every man should be proud of his birthplace, but the idea that his birthright is any grander than that of his fellow citizen is all moonshine.

Stanley, the famous explorer, is a good illustration of this. He is an American, and speaks of it with pride. He has so published himself to the world, and yet people will persist in trying to get him to acknowledge another nationality. In every town he visits, he is almost subjected to insult, by persons who want to lower his American citizenship by forcing him into identification with some other nation, because he happened to be born there. To encourage Americanism and to disparage and denounce all attempts to establish European factionism here, ought to be the duty and the aim of every good citizen and of every rational member of society.

### A WORD OF WARNING.

"MONEY is tight." We hear this every day. For some unexplained reason, the cash boxes of the capitalists and the safes of the banks seem to be locked up, and only at big interest and extra securities can money be borrowed. Blessed is he who needs not to borrow or can so manage his affairs that he does not run into debt!

It is against the disposition to get goods and property on credit that we wish to utter a word or two of warning. Some people seem to think that, if they can obtain anything "on time," particularly if it appears to be cheap,