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IN ADVANCE.

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## SATURDAY'S TRAGEDY.

We need a law making the owner or custodian of weapons responsible for their proper keeping, but as a family we are painfully slow to advance in some respects. It may be said that progress without population of some kind in most cases is nil. For years it has been urged here and elsewhere to take the necessary steps to keep dangerous weapons out of tender hands, or at least to restrict the practice to the lowest possible proportions, and in every case, when such a thing occurred, to make some one responsible by omission or commission and inflict such a penalty as would show that the matter was not a trifling one at all but one of great gravity, no matter whether there were fatal or any special results to such transgression or not.

If a law making it a misdemeanor in most cases and a felony in a few to cause or permit children to have firearms were enacted and enforced, it would be the filling of a want more seriously felt than any other of a public nature. We already have a statute against supplying juveniles with toy pistols, but the other and deadlier kind they can obtain without restraint and those who directly or indirectly, by carelessness or direct action, cause the children to be thus supplied run no risk whatever, except that of public censure or private resentment, and what good does that do? It is seemingly shown that the judgment does not act, that no matter how many or how painful the tragedies taking place, the last one is no more a measure of restraint than the first; and that nothing short of a vigorous law sternly applied will do any good.

It seems idle to say, in view of the shocking and terrible tragedy of Saturday, wherein an eight-year old child was shot to death by playmates, that perhaps now some care will be taken and firearms kept out of the reach of children of tender years—idle because there is nothing in the way of a coercive measure requiring it to be done, and we cannot, apparently, as a race mount to a higher plane of conduct without the aid of force any more than we can inhabit the air or water without it. Indeed, we should as soon expect the next horror of the kind to occur within a few hours of the last as within several months, since such things seem inevitable as matters go. It is a question depending upon the children themselves; if they take a notion to obtain deadly weapons and make use of them, what is there to prevent the performance?

This is not a very comforting strain in which to speak of the latest of a series of events all of which have cast dark clouds of grief upon the community and bowed families to the

dust in heart-broken anguish; but the occurrence of such things has become so common and in all cases proceeding from causes so similar that nothing short of the language of exasperation seems fitting. It is not made a matter of selection as to what time of life or by what means a human being must die; but it is certain that by no means can we more certainly aid the reaper than by placing dangerous weapons in the hands of those incapable of properly using them or thoughtlessly leaving such weapons in an exposed or insecure place where they can be obtained without permission. But let us indulge in one more expression of hope that henceforth the coming law will be anticipated—for surely the moral responsibility which is placed upon those who permit children to obtain firearms ought to be as rigorous and as much dreaded by reasonable people as any that the law can impose.

## CAPITOL GROUNDS OPEN.

The suggestion of the News, some weeks ago, that the ornamental grounds on Capitol Hill where the proposed territorial building will stand, be thrown open to the public, has all but been acted upon by the authorities in charge. The iron fence has been newly painted, the walks and drives have been smoothed out and cleared of weeds, the lawns are trimmed close, a number of seats have been placed in convenient places for those who while resting will be glad to view the landscape over, and the inevitable warning, "Keep off the grass" stares from every angle and terrace. The trees are not yet large enough to make a very dense shade, but they suffice nicely to break the glare of the sun's rays and offer coolers coupled with fresh air in plenty.

This action on the part of the authorities deserves to be commended. The public will appreciate it and ought to reciprocate by observing strictly the regulations imposed, while enjoying to the full the pleasure which has been provided.

## UTAH AND CALIFORNIA FRUITS.

Utah has demonstrated beyond peradventure her wondrous capacity as a producer of fruits, but never more so than this season. In no part of the world can finer strawberries be found, and we seriously question if there are any that can equal some specimens that appear on the market, while the crop is more than ample, it is immense. In speaking of strawberries they are referred to merely because seasonable, not because they are a specialty to the exclusion of other fruits by any means; and our remarks have reference to quality as well as to size and quantity. But for the earlier seasons in some other places, importation in such lines would be hopelessly shut out.

California is the leading fruit district of the United States, but it is not leading as much as it did. The *Chronicle* complains that for half a dozen years or more the state has been blowing its trumpet about its capabilities, present

and future, to supply the United States with fresh fruit. "We have backed our brags with fruit trains every summer and have succeeded in building up a reputation for our fruit in the Eastern states, but this summer, when the world is assembled at Chicago and when we have the chance of our lives to advertise California fruit, we do nothing or next to nothing. With trees bending beneath the weight of ripening fruit the World's Fair sees no California fruit which is worthy the name." All of which shows bad management to say the least, but our Golden Gate contemporary does not let the people of its state off so easily. It proceeds after the above in the following strain:

It would not be easy to conceive of a more striking illustration of stupidity or carelessness or something than is being exhibited at the present time by the orchardists of California in refraining from making a fruit exhibit at the World's Fair. Even though the fruit-growers may have sold their whole crop there could be no difficulty in securing such a modification of their contracts as to permit an exhibit at Chicago. In fact, the buyers themselves, one would suppose, would be more than willing to aid in such an exhibit.

Surely one or two selected here and there could have made no appreciable difference to the contracts, while aggregated they would have made a monster collection going to show at a glance the capacity and general character of California's soil. But it is too late to complain now.

## BISHOP SCANLAN'S DAY.

Saturday last was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the ordination of Right Reverend Lawrence Scanlan, and the occasion was properly observed by the gentleman and his friends. A number of prominent citizens of this city and elsewhere participated in the proceedings, which, from first to last, were as much in the nature of a testimonial to the gentleman's worth as a commemoration of the event of a quarter of a century ago.

There are few if any public men anywhere who stand taller or more erect in the presence of the community in which they live than does Mr. Scanlan. He has been with us the greater portion of the time, nearly all of it in fact, and has uniformly conducted the affairs of his church in a dignified, capable and unobtrusive manner, while personally affable, approachable and altogether correct in his deportment. He is the first Catholic bishop in this part of the world; but prior to and since his elevation to that station he has borne himself with becoming modesty and a due regard for the amenities of life. The News tenders its congratulations to Bishop Scanlan and wishes him many more pleasant and prosperous years.

THE MAN who was set down as the sure winner in the broncho race to Chicago—Doc Middleton—has given it up and will make the rest of the trip by train. Perhaps some of the others will wish they had done so when it is all over.