

CAUSES FOR DIVORCE.

Senator PIERSON of San Francisco, impressed with the magnitude of the social evils resulting from the laxity of the existing laws in relation to divorce, or which he supposes to spring from that source, has introduced into the Legislature a bill which he believes will prove a panacea for the evils in question. The Senator proposes to make adultery the only legal ground for dissolving the marriage bond. There is no doubt that the fundamental idea of this new and radical retrogressive measure will meet with the hearty approval of several highly respectable and influential classes in the community. It is certain that our grandfathers and grandmothers would have regarded with horror the facility with which divorces may now be obtained in most of the States of the Union whenever the parties desire for any reason to dissolve the matrimonial copartnership. The old sacerdotal idea of the sacredness of the marriage relation pervades all the religious and sentimental literature of all the Christian centuries, excepting only that of the present generation, which is strongly tinged with a more "liberal" or latitudinarian spirit. According to the theory followed by long tradition and venerable associations the marriage relation, no matter how hastily or rashly entered into, must be held indissoluble for any but a single cause. No matter how uncongenial the parties may be; no matter how clearly they may have come to realize that they cannot live together in peace and harmony; no matter how plain it may have become that the matrimonial contract was a blunder resulting from folly or inexperience, and that the continuance of the relation can entail nothing but misery, blighting the whole future of both husband and wife; no matter how earnestly both may desire to sever the intolerable bond—in spite of all such considerations as these, the separation of the ill-assorted pair is regarded from the extreme religious point of view as a scandal and a sin. This is the opinion held by many good and pious people; and Senator PIERSON'S bill reflects these orthodox and time-honored views.

The opposite and more modern theory, which seems to have been rapidly gaining ground during the last quarter of a century, is based upon the rights of individuality. It protests against the sacrifice of a whole life in consequence of the mistake of a moment. It insists that the forced continuance of uncongenial wedlock is a horrible outrage upon all the sanctities and decencies most precious to the human soul. It hints at awful consequences resulting from these enforced bonds—murders by violence or poison, suicides, wretched homes, where peace and happiness are unknown, bickering and broils, endless contention, cruel tyranny and wasted lives.

The questions opened by Senator PIERSON'S bill are as complex as they are momentous. Much is to be said on both sides. Great evils can be traced to easy divorces. But are they greater than those which spring from enforced union between those who have come to detest each other? If a man neglects to provide for his wife; if he is cruel to her; if he outrages her sensibilities and subjects her to privation and humiliation; if he persistently violates every vow he made at the altar, is she still to yield him love and obedience, to submit to his brutality, and permit him to drag her down to his own beastly level? Does she owe no duty to herself and to her own individuality? Has she forfeited her natural right to liberty and the pursuit of happiness? Is the romantic girl of seventeen, who under the influence of the illusions of youth idealizes a scoundrel into a hero and marries him, to be bound to him for life and shut off forever from the hope of a brighter future when riper years have brought her wisdom and knowledge of the world? These are some of the conflicting considerations which the Legislature will be called upon to weigh, when Senator PIERSON'S bill comes up for discussion. They will be found worthy of the most serious attention, and all the assembled wisdom of the State now in session at the Capitol is not greater than will be required to grapple with them.—S. F. Chronicle.

Congressional Households.

Previous to the war there were seldom, if ever, twenty Congress-

men who keep house here during the session, and not over forty, or at most fifty, brought their wives to the metropolis. Now, there are upwards of fifty Senators and Representatives who keep house, and twenty-six Senators and seventy-one Representatives are accompanied by their wives. Even Elder Cannon, of Utah, who is reported as having a house full of wives, at Salt Lake City, has brought a wife here, who certainly appears to be a very lady-like, well-informed person, although—denies that such are to be found in Brigham's jurisdiction.

After the holidays there will be at least one hundred congressmen's wives and daughters here, and it has been proposed that they organize a female Congress. Every State would be well represented, and the grave questions of etiquette which arise here could be discussed and decided. There are scandals, also, which need investigation, and which play an important part in the winter's chronicles. It is not very long ago since some scandalous anonymous letters were traced so directly to the wife of a cabinet officer, that he was forced to resign his portfolio, although this, the real cause of his retirement, was kept out of the newspapers.—Wash. Cor. in Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Stealings About Congress.

The late Republican employees of the House of Representatives, who are now moaning over the loss of their profitable places and perquisites, appear to have improved the last chance, and to have followed the example of greater men. It is ascertained that the committee rooms and some of the offices have been literally stripped of everything that could be conveniently carried off, and that thousands of documents belonging to members, or forming a part of the stationary collection, have disappeared.

For years past valuable public property about the Capitol has been stolen and replaced at large cost, without the least remark. Members and messengers helped themselves freely, and the taxpayers footed the bills. There seems to have been no responsibility or care for this property among the multitude of political pensioners who have infested the House and Senate, and looked upon it as a part of the general spoils.

The first place to begin reform is about the halls of Congress, where extravagance and jobbery are visible to every eye. The number of clerks, doorkeepers, messengers, pages, attendants, and the like, has increased without the pretext of a necessity, until now there is at least one salaried official for every member of both branches. Barbers, bathers, bootblacks, perfumery, and all the incidentals, are charged under various disguises to the contingent fund, which has swollen from about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars in 1860 for the House and Senate, to more than half a million in 1874.

This scandal is in keeping with the frauds and corruption that disgrace every other branch of the public service. It has long been notorious, and without an effort at reform, for the simple reason that members profited personally by these abuses, and pensioned their relatives and dependants on a fund which had no limit but their own discretion.

We are glad to know that the democratic House of Representatives intends to cut off this prodigality and plunder, by a severe retrenchment of its own patronage and a renunciation of the republican legacy. An example of self-denial is needed to enforce economy elsewhere, and to compel the republican Senate to give up the sinecures and indulgences which stain its contingent expenses. When the House has illustrated its faith in reform by good works at home, the path will be made smooth for applying a similar process elsewhere.—N. Y. Sun, Dec. 30.

—An English astronomer contends that most men look at the moon and at each other empirically, or in other words that the majority of men are quacks, don't see beyond their noses, and therefore do not see the philosophy of things. So that it is a wonder that they know sufficient to pick up a living long enough to continue their species.

DIED.

In the 11th Ward of this city, Feb. 22d, of pneumonia KAREN, wife of James Goddard, aged 27 years, 11 months and 15 days. Deceased was a native of Norwich, England, and daughter of S. P. Crompton, and died in the faith of the Gospel.—[COM. Millennial Star, please copy.

In Salt Lake City, Feb. 21st, 1876, JAMES ROSENGREN, born Aug. 7th, 1809, in Roseland, Sweden.

He was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1832, emigrated to Utah in 1863. He lived and died faithful in the Gospel of Christ.—[COM. Scandinavian Star, please copy.

At Smithfield, Cache Co., Feb. 18th, 1876, of dropsy, SARAH ELIZABETH MERRILL, wife of Joseph H. Gell.

Deceased was born in Mill Creek Ward, Oct. 22d, 1852. She died in full faith of the Gospel.—[COM.

GRAEFENBERG MARSHALL'S UTERINE CATHOLICON.—This world-renowned medicine has performed some of the most startling cures on record of cases of Female complaints of long standing. It has the endorsement of leading members of the faculty, and should be in every household to relieve and permanently cure the diseases to which the female sex are peculiarly liable.

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ESTRAY NOTICE.

I HAVE in my possession:

One spotted STEER, one year old, upper half crop in right ear, swallow fork in left. Which if not claimed will be sold on March the 4th, 1876, at 10 a.m., at the estray pound, Centreville.

JOEL PARISH, District Poundkeeper, Centreville, Feb. 22d, 1876.

ESTRAY NOTICE.

I HAVE in the estray pound:

A red HEIFER, about two years old, a small crop off right, under slope off left ear, some white on the belly and flank, no brands visible.

If the above is not taken away within ten days it will be sold as the law directs on Saturday, March 4th, 1876, at 2 p.m., at the estray pound in this city.

JOSEPH HORNE, District Poundkeeper, S. L. City, Feb. 23d, 1876.

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Administrators' Notice.

ALL PERSONS INHERITED TO THE ESTATE of Jesse Louder, deceased, will please come forward and settle. All persons holding claims against said estate will also present their claims for settlement, as the administrators desire to adjust the affairs of said estate.

JOHN PARKER, Administrators, AN LOUDER, Administrators, Virgin City, Jan. 17th, 1876. w1

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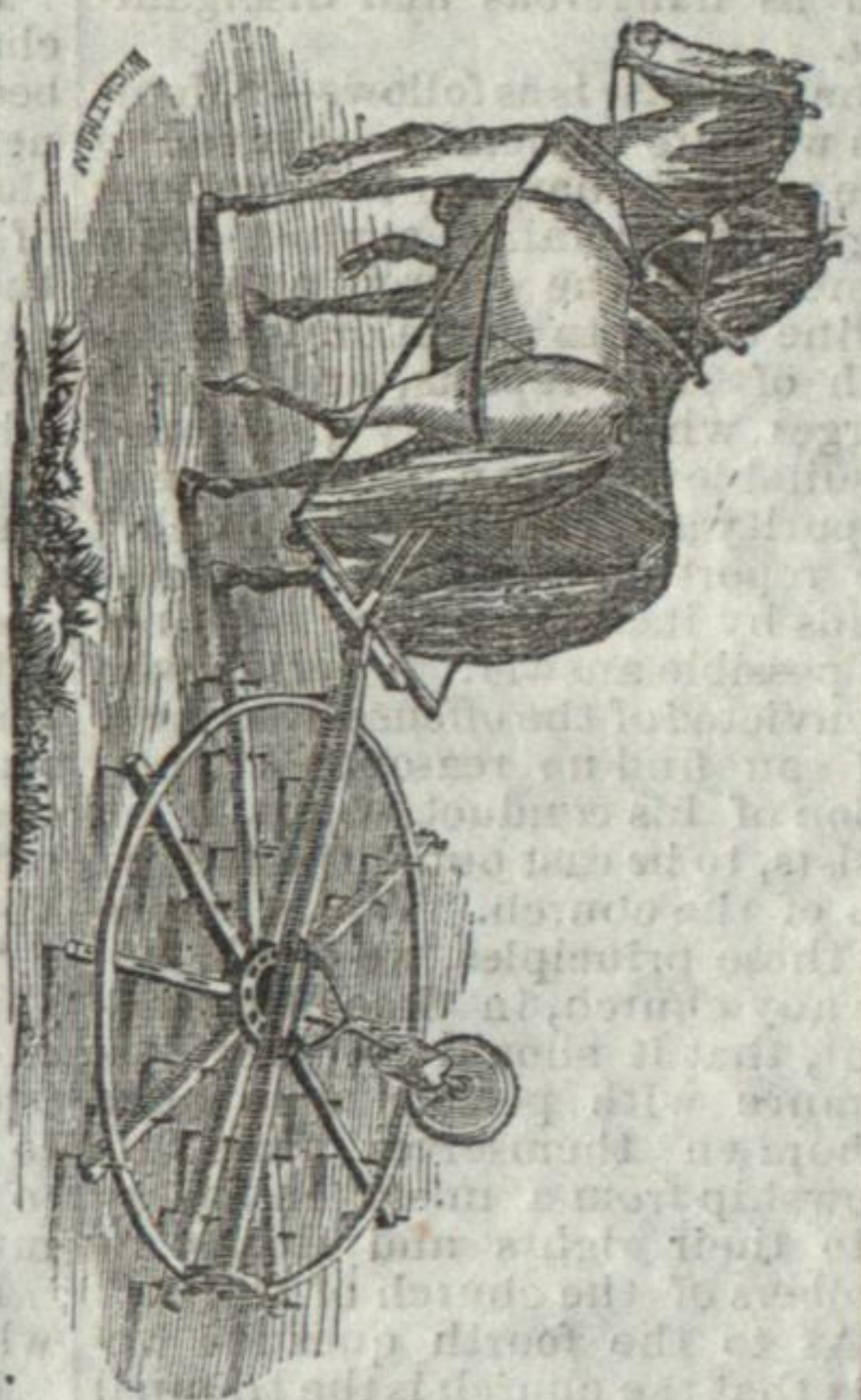
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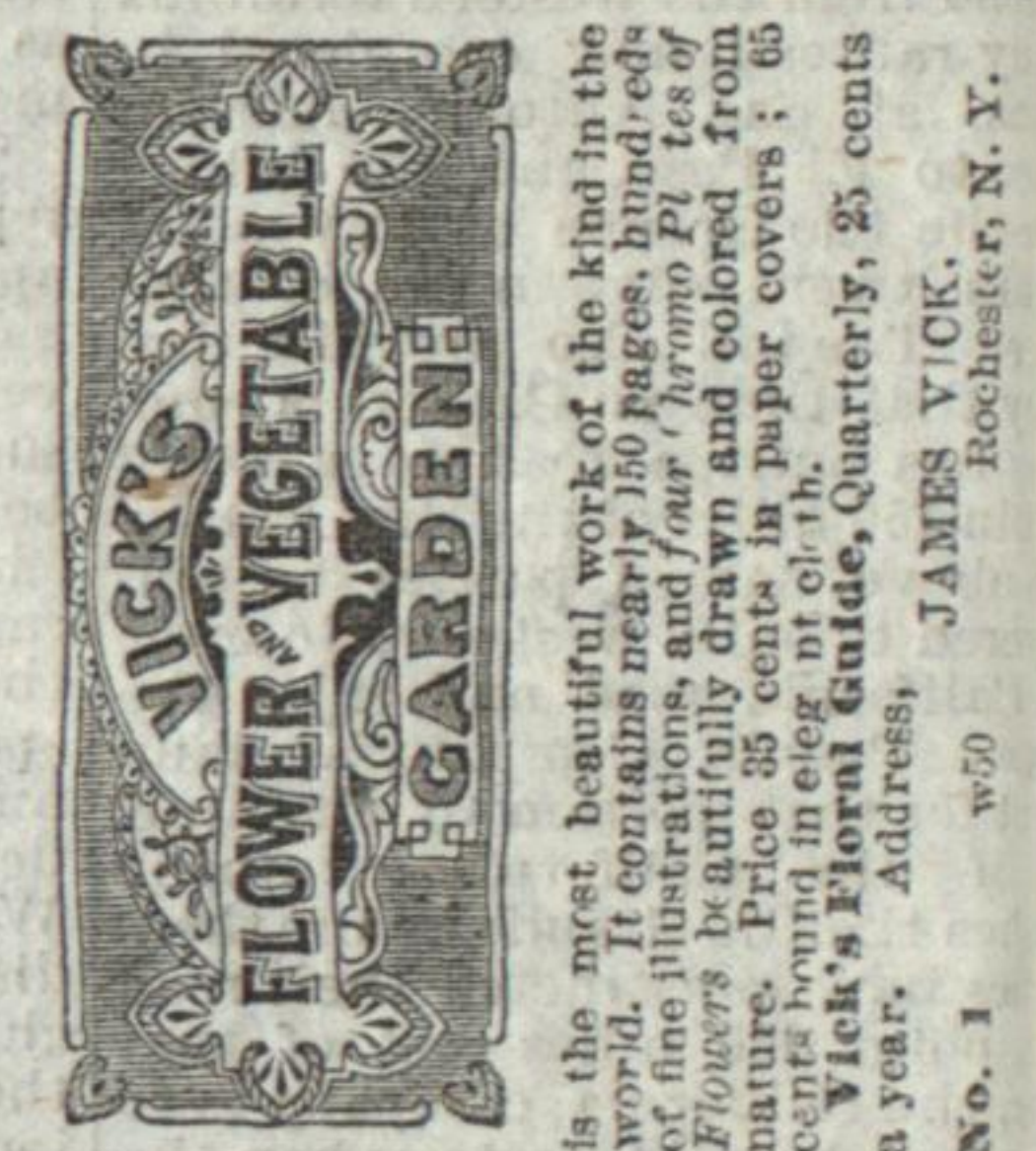
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