

A FAILURE.

It is now nearly twelve years since an Act was passed by the Hawaiian Legislature, the preamble of which reads as follows:

"Whereas, The evils and diseases arising from prostitution are widespread and apparent, carrying death to thousands of the Hawaiian race, and preventing the increase of the population; and it being impossible to suppress and crush out prostitution; but that its evils and diseases may be combatted, circumscribed and diminished;"—It was therefore enacted, that every common prostitute, in and around the city of Honolulu, shall be registered, and shall attend medical examinations once in every two weeks, under pain of imprisonment not less than thirty nor more than sixty days.

Doubtless the intentions of the promoters of this law were of the best, but its results, during the years that it has been in force, have proved, beyond any question, that it utterly fails of the objects as set forth in the preamble recited above. Not only are the "evils and diseases arising from prostitution," neither "combatted, circumscribed or diminished" through its operation, but we speak advisedly when we assert that those evils and diseases are more rife in Honolulu at present than ever known before; and thus, to whatever causes we may ascribe the fact, the law has utterly failed of accomplishing the mitigating effects for which it was intended, and it ought to be repealed.

At the time of its enactment in 1860, the law met with very strong opposition from Christian members of the community, more particularly the American missionaries, who prophesied that it would be calculated to increase rather than diminish immorality. The result has borne out their anticipations. The few abandoned women who openly acknowledge their infamous calling, are known as *laikini*, or "licensed," and are undoubtedly regarded, though without legal reason, as under the law's protection in the prosecution of their trade. But the great majority of women of loose character, are, through fear of the provisions of the law in regard to medical examinations, entirely deterred from making themselves known to the sheriff or deputy marshal, whose duty it is under the law to superintend the bureau of registration. That these women are very numerous, is well known, and it is among them that the disease is most prevalent. They seldom or never apply to a foreign physician, but either put themselves under the treatment of some native pretender to medical knowledge, or, unattended altogether, rot and die.

The subject of the "Social Evil," is one that has demanded the attention of the philanthropic and the statesmen of all countries, and has been discussed pretty thoroughly both in a moral and sanitary point of view. The system of licensed houses of prostitution is so repugnant, that the public sentiment of a Christian community will not tolerate its establishment. It has been tried in only one such community of late years—that of the city of St. Louis—and there it is acknowledged to be a failure, and a strong movement is in progress to discard it. The evil has reached to such a degree of magnitude in the city of San Francisco, that some of the physicians of that burg having advocated the adoption of the license system, but the press, with scarcely an exception, have scouted the degrading idea, and there is no probability of its being seriously entertained.

But the evil with us is a very grave one, and instead of simply ignoring the subject, or of idly lamenting it, it is time that some action should be taken towards grappling with it. Here is something for the coming Legislature to look into, with a view to reformatory measures.

The present law "to mitigate" is confessedly worse than useless, and should be repealed.—*Honolulu Pacific Commercial Advertiser.*

So determined and persistent has been the opposition in England to the Contagious Diseases Acts that the British government has concluded that it will be advisable not to carry them out.

The Fools of the Family.

Yesterday, as the morning train over the Great Western Railway was within twenty miles of Windsor, a stranger begged the privilege of sharing a seat with a man named Joseph Grace, who lives in Dutchess county, New York. Grace had about a hundred dollars in greenbacks and \$7,800 in drafts. The

stranger sat down, talked, divided his apples and peanuts with Grace, and then in a voice husky with emotion, informed the farmer that he was in trouble. He had lost his money and must remain in Detroit, until he could write to Concord, New Hampshire, for more. He had a draft on an Omaha bank, but could not get it cashed until he reached Chicago, and the upshot of the conversation was that Grace lent him sixty-eight dollars on reaching Windsor, taking a bogus check of six hundred and fifty dollars as security. When he ascertained that he had been sold, Grace agreed with the public that he was not only a fool, but one of that kind of fools with an expressive word preceding it, and it was his earnest wish that "Eunice shouldn't hear of it."

Fool number two was a man named Dennis Padget, en route from Orleans county, New York, to Muir, Ionia county, with his family. While waiting for the train to go out, he strolled up Atwater street, and dropping into a saloon was taken in charge by one of the gentry. After drinking they walked out, soon met operator number two, who wanted pay "for taking those things to the depot." Operator number one hadn't any money, and so borrowed forty dollars of Padget and sent him to the Detroit & Milwaukee depot to watch for a trunk from which the money was to come to pay him back. Arriving at the depot he had the "sell" explained to him, and found that he had not a dollar left. He would not believe himself a victim for a long time, but when convicted of it he swore enough to last a family three months.

Victim number three was a young man named Chas. Tompkins, from the lumber woods. Coming down from Saginaw an operator got hold of him on the train, borrowed twenty-seven dollars from him and gave an order on "the Drivers' Bank" of Detroit for the amount. The order was written on the leaf of a memorandum book, stamped with a two-cent postage stamp, and would have deceived no one but a greenhorn. The operator left the train at Holly, and Tompkins looked all over the city for the mythical bank before ascertaining that he was a victim. There is no hope that any of the operators will be caught, as they probably left town as soon as possible, and will keep away for a time.—*Detroit Free Press, March 16.*

CUTTING SEED POTATOES.—At least one half of the labor of cutting potatoes may be saved by using a common tin apple quarterer, which any tinner will make for thirty cents. Set the quarterer permanently on a thick piece of plank six inches square, so that the edges of the plow will be uppermost. In cutting into quarters only, place the eye end of the potato on the centre of the quarterer, and push the potato down so as to cut through the stem of the potato; this will give each piece an equal share of eyes. If smaller pieces are desired, cut as nearly through as possible and have the quarters hold together, and then draw up the potato and cut across the quarters on one side of the wings of the quarterer into eight, twelve, sixteen, or more pieces, as wanted; the pieces toward the stem end being cut the largest.

In cutting potatoes worth from one to twenty dollars per pound, and where from three to five pecks only are used to seed an acre, we cut potatoes into quarters or eighths lengthwise, and then subdivide the eyes into from two to eight pieces, giving each eye as nearly as possible an equal share of the potato. These very small pieces seem to produce as well as large ones, if the ground is not too dry while they are starting. Three to five bushels of seed per acre is plenty.

—*Ohio Farmer.*

L. D. SCOTT.

A BURNING SHAME.—We see that a bill is before the legislature to forbid members of any city government or its officers being peculiarly interested in furnishing materials for the use of the city. Now, what enemy to the joys of office could have been guilty of so small a piece of business? After a man has spent his money and worked night and day to get into the common council in order that he may thrust his hand into the public coffers, is he to be thwarted by process of law? We shall next have enactments to prevent favoritism, and taking fees for advocating doubtful measures will be made criminal. Members of school committees will be interfered with in their inalienable right to appoint friends to situations in our public schools regardless of

capacity; and they will not be permitted to introduce text books published by concerns that have given them a percentage for their influence. Our law makers will be made law breakers for daring to listen to the auriferous music of the lobbyist. This is all very wrong, and if it be permitted to go on, there is no knowing where it may stop. Not furnish materials for the use of the city? Shall a councilman in the paper interest be prevented selling his wares to the government at double their market price, because he holds office? Shall a member who has a coal yard be forced to resign the happy privilege of selling eight tons of coal for ten because he fills a place of public trust? Perish the thought! At this rate office will not be worth the holding, and we shall have a plodding, tiresome, honest set of virtuous people holding the reins, in stead of enterprising, public spirited and typical men of the day.—*Boston Globe.*

Effects of the Study of Computations Upon the Female Mind.

The second operation of mankind, following upon mutual communication of ideas in either of the three ways mentioned, is computation of interest, or the science of numbers. Therefore, arithmetic is one of the principal branches of instruction. As, until now, woman has been thought incapable of logical methods of procedure in daily life, the manipulation of numbers has always appeared unsuited to her, and arithmetic has been a subject taught her in a most superficial and dry way. But numbers have a meaning; and arithmetic can be made one of the most agreeable and vivifying branches of teaching, even for girls; or, as we should say, particularly for girls. Notwithstanding all the immense mathematical genius in the British nation, the science of measures, either abstract or concrete, has not yet been so formed for beginners that it should stamp upon the young people's memory, not only methods for various arithmetical operations, but also open their minds to those ideas of comparison of interests which underlie all arithmetical processes. The importance of the study of numbers is as great for woman as for man. As provider for the family and dispenser of the family's income, it is absolutely necessary that a methodical association of notions should exist in woman's brain and that a logical sequence, how much can be done with a certain amount of monetary means, should result therefrom. Paper arithmetic has been greatly pursued, for girls, in a most desultory manner without combination or felicitous application; and mental arithmetic, which develops thought and strengthens perceptive faculties, has altogether been left in the shade. To this form we would direct attention, and we would most particularly impress upon those who are inclined to give female education a higher impulse, that the old method of drawing through the four cardinal simple and compound rules, through some examples of practice, through a most desultory way of rule of three—by putting one member in a mysterious manner in one corner, and the others in opposite directions, and finally by attempting a few fractions—is not arithmetic. A great science is that same arithmetic, opening out to the girl's mind visions of reality that may lead her ultimately to comprehend those great operations of nature of which our earth-science is but a particle. While widening the mind, a proper instruction of arithmetic forces upon a girl's attention the value of minutiae, the importance of operations by small sums for which certain representative articles are to be obtained, and the fundamental notions that everything in life has a comparative representative monetary price.—*Dark Blue.*

The Pontificate of Pius IX.

Pius IX. is a healthy, vigorous old man, but of rather plethoric habit, and liable at any moment to end his days suddenly.

The history of his pontificate will certainly be most interesting, and may enlist the talent of great biographers yet unknown; for there can be no doubt that around the career of Pius IX., there cluster more important associations than around any pontificate since that of Leo X.—we had almost said of Hildebrand. Both in its temporal and spiritual aspects it is most notable. Its term includes the revolution of 1848, with the pontiff at the head of a liberal movement; the rise and fall of the

second French empire; the development of Prussia; the revival of the German empire; the civil war in America; the loss to the Pope of the temporalities; and the consolidation of the kingdom of United Italy. In its religious aspects it comprises the definition of the dogma of the immaculate conception the assembling of the Vatican council, and the bold proclamation of papal infallibility. * * *

Just under the dome of St. Peter's Church, in front of the tomb of the saint, and surrounded by ever-burning lamps, is a recess, in which is a kneeling statue by Canova of Pope Pius VI. Of all the stately sculptures in the great basilica none equals this in quiet grace and the subtlety of its repose. The Pope is represented in his pontifical robes, his hands clasped and his face partially upturned in prayer. Pius IX. is known to have a special admiration for this mortuary monument, and, it is said in Rome, has given orders that after his death a similar kneeling statue of himself shall be sculptured and placed in a corresponding position in his favorite church, the basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, on the other side of the Tiber. This tomb will be visited in after years as the shrine of Pius the Great; for this title will undoubtedly be given to the present Pope, and may in time be followed by the honors of canonization. * * *

A change in the person of the Pontiff will necessarily cause for a time a feeling of uneasiness throughout the Roman Catholic world; for the present generation is so familiar with the benignant features of Pius IX., that it will take some time to get accustomed to a strange face on Papal medals or coins, or in print, shop windows. Otherwise the change will not have any great practical results, as the next Pope, whatever his title, will be, in fact, simply Bishop of Rome; for with Pius IX. closes the long line of great Pontiffs—of those old men described by the poet Rogers as bending under the weight of the tiara, each grasping in his withered hand

"—the keys which, as he thinks, Can open Heaven's gates."

There may be other Popes in title, but with the sweeping away of the temporal power, the practical failure of the Ecumenical Council, and the promulgation of pretensions to infallibility, so inconsistent with this age of the world, the tangible worldly power of Papacy passes away forever.—*New York Post.*

Girls, Don't Talk Slang.

Girls, don't talk slang. If it is necessary that any one in the family should do that, let it be your big brother, though I would advise him not to adopt "pigeon English" when there is an elegant systematized language that he can just as well use. But don't you do it. You can have no idea how it sounds to ears unused or averse to it to hear a young lady, when she is asked if she will go with you to some place, answer "Not much!" or, if requested to do something which she does not wish, to hear her say, "Can't see it."

Not long ago I heard a young miss, who is educated and accomplished, in speaking of a young man, say that she intended to "go for him!" and when her sister asked her assistance at some work she answered, "Not for Joe!"

Now, young ladies of unexceptionable character and really good education fall into this habit, thinking it shows smartness to answer back in slang phrases, and they soon slip flippantly from their tongues with a saucy pertness that is neither ladylike nor becoming. "I bet" or "you bet" is well enough among men who are trading horses or land; but the contrast is startling and positively shocking to hear those words issue from the lips of a young lady. They seem at once to surround her with the rougher associations of men's daily life, and bring her down from the pedestal of purity, whereon she is placed, to their own coarse level.—*Ex.*

If you want to talk heavy science say "protoxyd of hydrogen," instead of "ice." It sounds bigger, and not one man in a thousand will know what you mean.

The *New York Nation*, in reply to a correspondent who asks if its proper to beat a newspaper man for libel, says that the subject is surrounded with difficulties, especially if the person libelled is small, weak, or unskilful; and thinks that nobody ought to attempt the corporeal punishment of an editor without having previously seen him.