

got well, and at latest accounts was able to get about but not to give a very connected oral account of his experience.

The moral of this painful story, minute particulars of which we have suppressed out of regard for sensitive readers, is that the mouth is not the best kind of a nail pocket. We do not believe it was designed for that purpose. Workmen who are in a hurry after nails had far better have some convenient receptacle for them in a handy place about their clothes, than risk their health and talking organs by putting such rough articles in so tender and precious a spot as that fashioned with the most delicate skill and profound wisdom for totally different purposes. Lathers and shinglers, beware!

### LIQUID DEATH.

The drinking habit is bad enough of itself, but it is made doubly injurious by the adulterations which are common in the liquor trade. If pure alcoholic productions, properly rectified, were put upon the market, they would work evil enough to humanity, in consequence of the unhealthy appetites which they produce in those who indulge in their frequent use, and the bondage into which they bring the unfortunate worshippers at the shrine of Bacchus. But the artificial ingredients that are used in the adulteration of the deadly stimulants render them still more baneful and productive of disease, both mental and physical.

Besides the evils resulting from the doctoring of alcohol with drugs and flavorings to make whiskies of different brands, rum, gin, brandy, etc., from distilled spirits, the alcohol itself is in many cases inferior and made from various kinds of materials. It is said by those who know, that most of the alcohol now produced is distilled from grain, while cider, peels, molasses and potatoes are used for the same purpose, spirit of a very inferior kind being the product and that not properly rectified. Thus it is charged with acids, ethers and essential oils which are deadly in their effects on the human system, and promote insanity as well as physical disorders.

Even in France, it is announced by prominent chemists that, very little pure brandy is manufactured, and the chief of the Municipal Laboratory of Paris adds his testimony to this well attested fact. People who use these strong drinks as beverages do not know what they are pouring into their stomachs. And when the noxious character of the drugs that are used and the oils that are contained in the unrectified spirits that form the base of cheap liquors are taken into consideration, there is no wonder that so many fights, murders, wife-beatings and other horrors emanate from the fumes of the liquid poison with which "genial" friends and acquaintances show their kindly regard for each other. The safest way to guard against adulterated and inferior decoctions in the shape of stimulants, is to let them alone severely.

### THE GREAT CATASTROPHE IN NEW ZEALAND.

The terrible convulsions of nature in New Zealand, related in Monday evening's *Deseret News*, are graphically detailed in the *New Zealand Herald* of June 21st, which has since been received. Accounts are given by eye witnesses and persons who escaped from the horrors of the catastrophe, and cuts of the district destroyed by the earthquakes and volcanoes and of the great craters in eruption, give a vivid idea of the immense upheaval and frightful outburst of the forces of nature.

The loss of life, though not to be compared with the holocausts that have attended volcanic outbursts in populous places, is larger than at first reported. Ninety-five Maories and six Europeans were killed, and some injured who are expected to recover. Among the principal rescues is that of Mrs. Hazzard, whose husband and three children were slain, and of an old Maori named Tuboto, said to be 101 years old. He was dug out of a house that had been crushed and buried, after he had lain there in a corner without food or water 104 hours. He was brought out chattering and mumbling to himself, but would eat nothing until some potatoes and water were set before him when he eagerly and joyfully partook. The natives said this was his usual diet. They looked upon him with little favor as he was believed to exercise the power of witchcraft.

Wairoa, a beautiful village in the lake district, was buried in ten feet of mud, the buildings being crushed with the weight of the falling material. The whole lake district has been convulsed and most of it covered with the dust and ashes and mud emitted from the vomiting mountains and geysers. It is situated in the southern portion of the Auckland provincial district, and is about 120 miles north and south by 20 miles east and west. The character of the country is such that the catastrophe was predicted 27 years ago by Dr. Hochstetter, a scientific tourist, who visited the spot, and

when near Tarawera mountain, 1,000 feet high, an apparently extinct volcano, is reported to have said: "I am of the opinion that this whole portion of the mountain up to the Te Kōpika fountain—being as it seems thoroughly decomposed by hot vapors—will some day cause a sudden catastrophe by falling in and covering the Rotoreka Plain with a flood of hot mud."

The White Terrace and the Pink Terrace, objects of interest to travelers and which have been described in poetry and prose with rapture, are entirely destroyed. Dr. Hector, Director of the Colonial Geological Department, who went to that region as soon as news of the disaster reached Wellington, gives as his theory that the eruption commenced in Tarawera, that the earthquake shocks consequent burst and dislocated the pipes or tubes which connected the geysers at Rotomahana with the heated interior of the earth, and that thereupon the small lake (Rotomahana) ran down, generating an enormous quantity of steam and causing a tremendous explosion.

When the outburst commenced the noise of the reports was heard at Auckland, 150 miles distant. At Christchurch and Dunedin, too, the noises were heard and electrical displays alarmed the inhabitants. Deposits of volcanic dust, which covered the country all around, reached as far as fifty miles in a straight line from Tauranga. Except where the country is buried with mud and scoria, this dust will be rather beneficial to the soil. It has been analyzed and found to contain from 64 to 66 per cent of silica; about 30 per cent is of soluble matter, consisting mainly of chlorides and sulphates of lime, soda, and potash with a little free acid. A cubic foot of the ashes, when not shaken together, weighs 930 ounces, so that a coating one inch thick must weigh 35½ tons to the acre, and where the dust is three inches thick it is equal to a top dressing of low class manure of 1½ cwt. to the acre.

The Maoris look upon the occurrence as a judgment upon the village of Wairoa for the wickedness of the people, and the *Herald* adds that visitors to the place at the time when tourists come there, can understand what that means. A Ngatipikiao tohunga or priest was at Taheke the day before the eruption, and said that so many lies had been told in the Taheke Land Court he believed an earthquake would swallow up the place. His reputation has been sustained by the outburst.

At latest accounts the disturbances had quieted down somewhat but the whole face of the country is changed, one lake has disappeared, another is nine feet lower than usual, columns of awful depth and spouting steam and smoke are in the place of the far famed terraces, Wairoa is buried, the tribe of the Ngatitau and their village, Te Arike, are extinguished, only one man who was absent being left alive, and a river and some waterfalls have totally disappeared.

Earthquakes have been known in all ages, volcanoes have sent forth their sudden fires at intervals from time immemorial, the earth has been convulsed and nature's forces have been exerted in startling and fatal fury. They can all be accounted for. But nevertheless, in connection with other calamities and the promulgation of the Gospel of the Kingdom as a witness to all nations, they are among the signs of the last days given by the Redeemer, as sure tokens of the great change in the affairs of this earth which are to immediately precede His advent, to take possession of His dominions and subdue all things unto Himself. The wise will see and understand while fools will mock and perish.

### COMPLAINTS AGAINST CLEVELAND.

A GREAT deal of fault has been found with President Cleveland by disappointed members of his own party, because he has not made a general revolution in the offices in the gift of the Government. "Spoils" is the partisan's motto. "Give us office or give us death" is the watchword of hordes of zealous "patriots." A great many Democrats, too, who have no personal interests at stake or personal expectations at risk, severely criticize the President's tardiness in turning out Republicans and installing men "in harmony with the Administration." It seems to be taken for granted with them that the duties of a Government office cannot be properly performed, unless the incumbent holds the same political views as the party in power. If this is not their view of the case, then they hold the emoluments and advantages of office before the good and convenience of the nation.

We are and have been of the opinion that the National Executive should be guided by something more than mere party interests, in filling offices necessary to the conduct of public affairs. We see no sufficient reason why a faithful servant of his country, who has proven his adaptability to an office and has gained experience therein that is of value to the nation, should be turned out on a change of Administration simply because he belongs to the opposite political party, unless his office is of such a character as to require an incumbent of the same political faith as his Chief.

"Offensive partizanship" is a proper reason for the removal of a Republican official whose place may be filled by a Democrat of a different stripe. Hostility to the Administration would, of course, disqualify a subordinate from serving under it, and his displacement would be removal for cause. But the wholesale discharge of public servants, the performance of whose duties has no bearing upon politics and is not affected by the creed of a party, is, in our opinion, unnecessary, unjust and really detrimental to the national welfare.

Cleveland has been accused of pretending to be better than his party, reversing the traditions of his party, and sundry other offenses to the pure Democracy, which has been very much disgruntled by his failure to give office to many disappointed applicants. In this connection it will not be out of place to give the views of one whose opinion should have weight with Democrats. In response to a remonstrance from Elias Shipman and others, representing the merchants of New Haven, Thomas Jefferson wrote as follows:

WASHINGTON, July 12, 1801.

"The remonstrance laments that a change in the administration must produce a change in the subordinate officers—in other words, that it should be deemed necessary for all officers to think with their principal. But, on whom does this imputation bear? On those who have excluded from office every shade of opinion which was not theirs? or on those who have been so excluded? I lament, sincerely, that essential differences of opinion should ever have been deemed sufficient to interdict half the society from the rights and blessings of self-government, to prescribe them as unworthy of every trust. It would have been to me a circumstance of great relief if I had found a moderate participation of office in the hands of the majority. I would gladly have left to time and accident to raise them to their just share. But their total exclusion calls for prompter corrections. I shall correct the procedure; but that done, return with joy to that state of things when the only question concerning a candidate shall be: Is he honest? Is he capable? Is he faithful to the constitution?"

The questions with which the communication closes indicate the proper qualifications of a servant of the Republic, and when the requisites of a candidate are brought the nearest to these, we believe they will come the closest to the requirements of good sense, good morals and good government.

### HOW "UNCLE SAM" IS PLUCKED.

THE *New York World* has the following special dispatch from the national capital, in regard to the fee-fleets who grow fat on pickings from the pockets of Uncle Sam:

"Washington, July 4.—In the examination of accounts of United States Commissioners there are some interesting points. Along the border of the Indian country the commissioners have a particularly profitable time of it. Many of them make a regular business of watching for people who sell liquor to the Indians and arresting them. Then they see that a light fine, say of \$2 to \$5, is inflicted when the case comes to trial. If the fines were heavy they would be in danger of breaking up the business, and that is exactly what they do not want to do. Every case that can be brought brings from \$12 to \$25 into the coffers of the commissioner. There are also a great many cases of breach of the peace, assault, &c. The commissioners find all they can of such cases and issue warrants for the arrest of the offenders. Whether a warrant is served or not is a good thing for the commissioner. He gets his fees all the same.

Commissioner Harrison, of Fayetteville, Ark., furnishes a good illustration of this. In an account of \$75.75, which he has just submitted for payment, \$279 is for warrants issued against persons that were never found. The marshal took the warrants, and after carrying them for a certain length of time returned them, saying that the persons were not to be found. Stephen Wheeler, Commissioner at Fort Smith, Ark., is another of these enterprising commissioners. He issues a great many warrants for people and makes them "in the Indian country." The warrants are returned with the endorsement that the parties could not be found. It is the emphatic opinion of the accounting officers that these Commissioners should be limited in the issuance of warrants.

The illicit distilling districts of the South offer another rich field. The deputy marshal discovers a little teakettle still in the mountains. The head of the family is immediately arrested. He has a son or two who are over age, and they are arrested on separate cases. Then the colored man, who is a man of all work around the place, makes another victim, and the family is lucky if the "old woman" is not also arrested. Each separate case in fees to the commissioner, clerk, marshal and district attorney costs the government about \$100. An instance was discovered in Alabama where a commissioner, with a posse of marshals, had gone through a certain district arresting people who were found trespassing upon government land, and the commissioner would improvise a

court and hear the criminal on the spot."

Some day there will be an official inquiry into the doings of Commissioners and other fee-hunters during the raid upon the "Mormons." It will be found that the tactics of the tribe are similar in every part of the country. Putting men under bonds against whom there is no evidence, binding over witnesses who have no evidence to give, issuing subpoenas for persons who know nothing of the case, bringing defendants out of one judicial district into another, summoning witnesses by wholesale, and bringing them long distances without the slightest necessity; these and numerous other dodges have been resorted to for the simple object of making and multiplying fees. It all slides along now without investigation, because the policy is to make it hot for the "Mormons." But it will not be ever thus, and when a change comes there will be an explosion.

It would be well enough for a record to be kept of the questionable financial transactions of over-zealous officials, and the evidences that may come to light on the "divvy" business. It will help to make up history, and may be of considerable interest to persons charged with official inquiries. At the bottom of the zeal which has been commended in certain quarters as to the "supposed suppression of polygamy," it will be found that there is a well-spring of avarice which has sent forth a mercenary stream that has been mistaken for "a vigorous enforcement of the law." Greed inspires the energy, and the summum bonum of official achievement is comprehended in the one word FEES!

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