

## EDITORIALS.

**ABOUT TEA.**—Many people, especially of the better sex, seem to be firmly persuaded that tea is a very present help in time of need, a sovereign remedy for all kinds of common feminine indispositions, and at least an infallible alleviator of all sorts of feminine light afflictions in the way of physical and especially nervous suffering.

If tea be a helpful beverage, which it may be in some contingencies, still hard things are said about it, and occasionally by high authority. The *Journal of Chemistry* asserts that tea is not the simple, harmless beverage that is generally supposed, but that its effects, in their character, may be classed with those of tobacco and alcohol, and adds the following rather startling observations—

"Many disorders of the nervous system are the direct result of extensive tea-bibbing. Tea is a 'narcotic poison'; its essential principle, theine, is allied in composition and properties with strychnine and morphine. It first excites the nervous system and then exhausts it. Experiments show that, both in man and in other animals, it impairs power in the lower extremities; so that it affects the 'understanding' in a double sense—literally as well as figuratively. It is not the harmless exhilarant it has been considered, but a powerful agent, whose effects are often serious."

**ANOTHER SIMPLE INVENTION.**—Now an inventive genius comes along with another simple invention, which is the application of the endless chain principle, with, we presume, a double axis, each axis a considerable distance from the other, to the paddles of steamboats, in place of the present paddle-wheel system. Here is a paragraph concerning the invention—

"Clark Smith, of Cornwall, has just had issued to him letters patent for an endless chain water wheel for propelling steamboats through the water. Mr. Smith claims that a boat furnished with a wheel such as he has invented will be driven through the water at a much greater speed with the same power. By the wheel now in use but few paddles take hold upon the water at the same time. With the endless chain arrangement nearly one-half of the paddles take hold upon the water. It would be impossible for us to give a minute description of this invention. Should it accomplish the half that the inventor claims, it must revolutionize steam navigation. He claims that a boat furnished with this invention can compete with the speed of a railroad train."

It appears to us that the endless chain paddle principle would be also valuable if placed in streams to furnish power for raising water for irrigation.

**PEST AFTER PEST.**—Says the *Cleveland Plain-Dealer* of April 29—

"The West has a new pest to plague it. The grasshopper and the locust are good in their way, but they don't go far enough. It was necessary to introduce the buffalo gnat to make the work of destruction more complete. After you have a thing that is sure death to the crop, and grasses and foliage, if you want to go ahead and clean up all that is left, you must have something that will kill off the live stock; and if that isn't satisfactory, we presume we shall next have something that will make the settlers themselves pull up stakes. We see by our dispatches that the live-stock is being 'fixed' in a thorough manner. The buffalo gnat has appeared, and at last accounts had killed off \$100,000 worth of cattle in one locality. The cup of our Western brethren is most full."

The Indianapolis prison for women is under the care of a Quaker lady, Mrs. Sarah Smith. It is said by the State officers to be one of the "most successful and best ordered prisons in the world."

## REVIVALISM IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

THE extraordinary revival movements and success of Moody and Sankey in England, Varley in America, and others in both hemispheres, cause considerable comment among intelligent people and in the press of both countries. Although no popular excitement is without its drawbacks and evils, yet in general terms it must be allowed that any such movement that has an attractive force in the direction of morality, or a restraining force from the direction of immorality, cannot but be productive of much good. Any movement that tends to morality, and to animate the soul with high and unselfish purposes, is so far worthy of commendation, for the tendency of much of modern life is markedly and corrodingly and cankeringly toward selfishness and sordidness, and is characterized by great and brazen-faced unscrupulousness in the means employed for self-aggrandizement.

The *New York Herald* says—

"The revival movement in England is as much as anything else a crying out of the people for bread, for manna, for anything that will give them life.

"Whenever a church bases itself upon anything else but high religious principles—upon the Gospel and the creeds—whenever the personal attributes or acquirements or personal graces of a mere man are allowed to supplant Christ, we invite a fall, and we must not be surprised at any revelation or any catastrophe.

"In the fall of Mr. Beecher we have an incentive to the revival which we see around us, and which gave Mr. Varley so much encouragement and success. There is a crying out in the hearts of the people for the bread of life.

"We see in this revival a freshening and awakening of soul. Is it not time? After so much lethargy can we not have life? After so much sorrow is there no peace? After so much shame is there no purer, higher, nobler duty? After all those miasmatic vapors that have polluted the atmosphere may not the Christian soul cry out for the air and sunshine of Gospel truth? It is a good thing to find our people coming back to the Ten Commandments, and whatever odd customs the revivalists preach, whatever their exaggerations and homeliness of thought, they are generally true to the solemn laws which the Israelites read on the tablets of stone. A religion of geometry and the classics, tempered by backwoods dramas and the negro minstrels, such as Mr. Frothingham would preach, will not in the long run be of much more benefit than the floriculture and osculation of Brooklyn Heights. There is something, after all, in these old commandments, and so far as the revival feeling brings them to the hearts of the people so far it is a blessing to our civilization. We are not afraid of the 'mud deposits' which annoy Mr. Frothingham, nor of the cases of dementia which have attended the labors of Moody and Sankey in England. For one poor, rapt, uncertain soul which finds its way into an insane asylum to fret and gibber over effectual calling and eternal punishment there are thousands who fall into the prisons and workhouses and pauper asylums because of their sin and shame. There are more hearts tainted this morning because of what we have heard and read of Brooklyn theology; more fresh, virgin minds polluted because of the revelations of this pernicious trial; more real, irreparable injury to society and good morals, than would result from a thousand years of the revival efforts of Moody and Sankey and Varley. Let our clergymen, therefore, who mock at the work of plain, humble men, rise up and preach Christ crucified. Religion does not want an opera or a hymn, but the ringing of fociin, the alarm bell in the night, the summoning of every agency of truth to combat vice and to revive a disheartened and dying faith."

Speaking of the religious ties of harmony between America and

the mother country, the *Herald* says—

"Ninety-nine per cent. of our people profess some faith that has its roots in the older lands. Our theology is in nearly all of its aspects a tradition that runs back to Rome and Geneva and Worms. With the exception of the monstrous dogmas of the Mormons there is no creed professed by any number of Americans that is not based upon the decrees of some council of foreign priests or the teaching of some foreign divine."

We may read the phrase "monstrous dogmas" as intelligent and sensible people regard the "hobgoblin" stories of children and superstitious elderly people. But surely it must be esteemed one good point in "Mormonism" that it is redolent of the soil of the New World, that it is native to America, that it is not a religion beholden to the dusty traditions of Rome, or Geneva, or Worms, that it is not a creed based upon the decrees of some council of foreign priests or the teaching of some foreign divine.

There is a powerful incentive to patriotism, in the breast of every "Mormon," in the thought that his is the only religion of consequence, the only religion which has any vital force in it, that America has given birth to. "Mormonism," originated in America, this apparently being the only part of the habitable globe where such a comprehensive and liberal religion could originate, and have room to grow, and a religious political atmosphere favorable to its continued growth. The "Mormon" prophet was an American, the "Mormon" Church was established in America, and America is the headquarters and place of general concentration of all the "Mormons" from every nation on the earth. There is food in these facts not only for pleasant reflection, but for loyal satisfaction to every American citizen. Is it not eminently fitting that a continent of such glorious promise, with such a magnificent future as this, should not be indebted to the effete systems of the old world for its characteristic religion, an exotic religion, but should have one indigenous to itself and thoroughly suited to the enlarged and liberalized nature of its republican form of government?

**ROBBERS ABROAD.**—By the following from the *Sacramento Record-Union* of May 6, it will be seen that this city and Territory are not alone in the current increase of crime, in the shape of robbery, as well as in other forms—

"A perfect epidemic of stage robberies has broken out in the State, and calls for prompt suppression. Whatever the cause it seems certain that a concerted raid is being made by several gangs of thieves in various districts. Perhaps the knowledge that many thousands of new comers are just now traveling in the interior, has stimulated the rascals, but it is evident that they are more daring and numerous than they have been for years. The California custom of submitting quietly to robbery in cases of this kind seems likely to encourage the robbers too, and it is possible that the summary shooting of half a dozen of them would be attended with satisfactory results. It is certainly time that highway robbery became a tradition in California, however, and efforts should be made to discourage the 'road-agency' business both by the county authorities, the State government, and the express and stage companies."

**HARD TIMES IN MISSOURI.**—The *Sacramento Record-Union* publishes the following extract from a private letter written from Northwestern Missouri, April 24, to a Missourian in California—

"You ask what the prospects are here for farming. They were never darker. I think fully one half the stock in this vicinity has died during the winter for want of food. People are running very short for something to live on. They can get no credit, and I fear many of them will starve before we can raise another crop. Good men (naming them) tell me that they have to quit work because they have no

feed for their teams, and that they actually cannot keep their families from starving, unless they can get credit or borrow money. To borrow money or get credit is almost an impossibility. I do not know what in the name of God they will do.

"And more than all, there is no prospect of raising a crop this season. The grasshoppers are hatching out by the millions. There seems to be one for every inch of surface. They are devouring everything green. Cooksey writes me from Bates county that they have taken all his flax, oats and garden. I fear they will complete our ruin. It is the blackest prospect I ever saw."

The same paper has the following also—

"Another letter received by the same gentleman from his wife states that the wheat in that part of the State is very badly winter killed and will be almost a total failure. The gentleman to whom these letters are written moved from Michigan to Missouri some seven years ago, and since that time he has harvested but one crop of wheat, the chinch bugs having destroyed his crops six years out of the seven. They take not only the wheat but corn, and nearly all other crops. They have been steadily increasing, year after year—there having been ten the last year where there was one on any previous year. In consequence of this bug and the grasshoppers the price of land has fallen in that part of the State very much. The same farm for which this gentleman paid \$25 per acre seven years ago he cannot now sell for \$5."

**UNUTTERABLE INFAMY.**—At the late Assizes at Leeds, England, one Mr. Hepkinson, a wealthy farmer of Tickhill, near Doncaster, was convicted on a charge of seducing Miss Shaw, while visiting as an intimate friend of the family, and under treacherous circumstances. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages £800, and the Judge, Lord Coleridge, in summing up, characterized the defendant's conduct as marked by such infamy as no words in the English language could adequately express.

If such conduct as the defendant was convicted of is so inexpressibly infamous, how is it that a paltry fine of £800 is made by the law a sufficient punishment for it? Why is there not some terribly condign punishment provided for such unutterable criminality? How is it that legislators have looked so leniently upon crimes of this infamous class as to provide no punishment therefor in anywise commensurate? Why are the penalties provided so ridiculously inadequate? Surely there is something wrong and rotten in all this glaring inconsistency?

**A TEN MILE TROT.**—There are some sporting gentlemen in Utah who own or admire fast nags. Here is a paragraph for them, from a New York paper—

"A trotting match for £400 came off in Yorkshire, England, April 14, the competing trotters being Jack Rooke's mare St-el Grey, of Birmingham, and H. B. Craig's Peeping Tom, of Glasgow, Scotland. The match was made to trot ten miles on a fair turnpike road, half way between home and home, for £200 a side, Feb. 9, and the chosen point at the finish turned out to be the famous trotting locality of Leeming lane; but owing to the bad state of the weather a postponement was necessitated. Opinions ran high in favor of Peeping Tom until March 9 last, when, in a match against time, Steel Grey accomplished ten miles with a bit in hand in 29.45 over the Royal Oak Park Trotting Track, Manchester. This performance put all doubts to rest as to the staying powers of the mare. The betting was £9 to £4 on the mare, who won by over fifty yards, after trotting the distance without a break in 27 min. 58 sec. Peeping Tom broke several times. The fastest time for the distance in this country is 28.02, by John Stewart."

This is an average of a little over 2.47 1/2 per mile for ten successive miles, and, in the case of the win-

ner, without a single break in the entire distance.

**FRUITFUL VINES.**—John Hepner, a German, now a resident of Reading, Pa., has had three wives, one after the other, and is sixty years old. These three wives have borne to John 41 children, in this wise—

First wife—two pairs twins, four sets of triplets, and one single birth; in all, seventeen children in eight years, and then she died.

Second wife—two single births, five pairs of twins, and one set of triplets; in all, fifteen children in nine years, and then she died.

Third wife, a widow with one child when he married her—by him nine children, and she still living.

In the science of reproduction Mr. Hepner and his trio of wives must be considered a notable success. We note this matter as a curiosity, not to incite emulation.

**COULDN'T SEE THE GOLDEN MEAN.**—"K.," writing from this city to the *Omaha Herald*, May 1, and stating the fact of the "singular phenomenon in political science" that, with many federal officials in Utah, "the administrative centre of gravity so far overhangs its base that the victim is inclined at a considerable angle from the perpendicular, and generally performs a sort of metaphorical summersault and does the greater part of his walking on his political ear," says—

"Governor Woods and Judge McKean were notable and illustrious victims of this strange freak of circumstances, seeming to be ignorant of the existence of an unprejudiced middle course, whereby justice may be done to all and the dignity of law fairly and honestly maintained."

The "unprejudiced middle course" is certainly the last found by some individuals who have been sent to Utah in an official capacity. But it is the only course which an official is morally justified in adopting, and it is consequently of the greatest importance to him to discover it as quickly as possible.

**REVIVALISM IN CALIFORNIA.**—Mr. Hammond is making a success of his revivalism at San Francisco. The *Oakland Transcript* says—

"He has persuaded many hundreds of persons here to yield to the dictates of their consciences and publicly profess the religion they had believed to be true.

"Hardly any one could have conjectured that audiences ranging from two to three thousand people would assemble in this city nightly, for three weeks, to listen and participate in religious exercises. A person predicting it would have been laughed at. Good, nothing but good, can result from such an awakening. We cannot see any objections that can be urged by those who are indifferent about the matter, by an atheist or by anybody else. If, as claimed by many, those who profess to be converted become as sinful as ever in a few months, the months preceding their backsliding will be so much clear gain to society. If a tenth part of those who have signed the roll remain true to their obligations, society will be vastly benefited by the accession of so many who will govern their actions according to the highest standard of right. A movement that results in that, is a good one apart from any considerations of a religious nature. But we imagine that most people in this community will regard it as an awakening to the truth of the Christian religion and a determination on the part of hundreds to prepare themselves for the life that is to come."

**RIVERS AND LAKES FOR SALE.**—Since the late excitement began in San Francisco upon the water supply question, numerous propositions have been submitted, offering to sell rivers, lakes, and watersheds to the water commissioners. Several of these propositions are only to the amount of a cool million or so of dollars.