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SALT LAKE CITY, MAY 6, 1908.

## A NEEDED REFORM.

Mayor Bransford, in a San Francisco dispatch, is quoted as having expressed his determination to do something to regulate the social evil. In the interview he admits that the conditions in this City, notwithstanding the so-called American rule, which gained control by all kinds of false promises of reform, are worse than in almost any city in the country. That is a severe criticism of the party. But it is no doubt, true. It tells a tale of broken pledges, of hypocrisy, or, possibly.

But the Mayor says he is determined to try to regulate the evil. He believes that the red light district should be removed far away from the business center and confined to some part of the City where it can be controlled perfectly. We hope this plan can be executed. We have always contended that it is a disgrace to the City to have its business center polluted in the way it is done here. The brothels ought to be removed and the saloons with them to some out of the way place where they are not so conspicuous as they are now. If they cannot be entirely suppressed.

The Mayor says it is a very serious problem to make the change, and so it is, as long as the political influence of the institutions referred to must be counted on. But "the man of the hour" should sever his connection with the party bosses and serve the people alone. And he would find in the support of the people ample reward for his faithfulness in the service.

## PLANT TREES AND FLOWERS.

The ornamentation of school grounds is receiving today a great deal of attention. Attractive school surroundings constitute one of the most effective of the appeals that can be made to the child who needs it most—the one whose own home or usual environment is a dismal commentary on the natural desire for adornment and beauty.

Trustees generally pay but little attention to this phase of school life; the duty of making school surroundings more pleasant will devolve largely upon the initiative of the teacher.

As Prof. Northrup said at the State Normal school, some regular school day, in addition to Arbor day, may with great profit be devoted by the entire school to the planting of trees, shrubs, and flowers.

When we consider that almost a third of the waking hours of the child and the teacher are spent within the area reserved for the public school, we can appreciate the need of making that spot a place of beauty, if there is anything in the accepted theory that the character of the child may be profoundly influenced by the aspect of his surroundings.

We like the Professor's ideas in relation to making use of the native shrubbery. Some of it is, as he points out, ornamental in the highest degree, and is said to be of the easiest culture. This is particularly true of the red-osier dogwood, the sumach, the willow, and the currant.

Not to place flowers, and especially trees, directly in front of the home or school-building, but to use them principally as a border or as a lining to necessary walks, seems to be a decided improvement over the more usual and less artistic methods of disposition, by which the house is rendered subordinate to its ornamentation.

It is really better to work on your own garden than to hire some one to do it for you. It is better that the school children should make the grounds beautiful than that the trustees should do it for them. Of course the trustees should buy the necessary seeds, trees, and flowers; and should attend to the irrigation during the summer. Progressive members of the school boards should devote more attention to this phase of their duty. Trees, shrubs, and flowers about the school house are a necessity rather than a luxury at this day. Beauty both the home and the school with nature's chief means of decoration.

## NO PARALLEL.

The Tribune still claims that Salt Lake ought to borrow money because Los Angeles can afford to do so. But that reasoning is false. Los Angeles, with a per capita debt of under \$25 and a population of 250,000 can afford to increase her indebtedness for the purpose of obtaining a larger water supply. That is all right, with an honest administration that can be relied upon to see to it that the money is spent for the purpose for which it is borrowed. The increase of the water supply will mean so much more revenue.

But the situation here is different. Salt Lake borrowed a million dollars a short time ago, on the pledge that that sum was all that was needed. The money was not spent as planned, but a large deficiency was created, and the taxes were increased. The probability is that vast sums of the City's money were spent as rewards for political services, and this probability has become almost a certainty, because of the neglect of the party bosses to permit their representative in the auditor's office to publish a financial statement as required by law. The probability is, furthermore, that the money now asked for is not intended for any improvements, but to cover up the

queer financiering of the past and help the party over the next election.

Los Angeles is not cursed with a gang of conspirators that are doing their level best to keep the fires of hatred burning. The people there are united and pulling together for the development of the city. Here it is different. If the people here were united for the City, Salt Lake would by this time have had, perhaps, double the population it has. There would have been a correspondingly larger volume of business in every line. A million more or less spent for real improvements would not have been much of an item of controversy. But there can be no great prosperity in a house divided against itself, and where there is scant prosperity the increase of the debt becomes an intolerable burden.

We have proved by authentic figures that Salt Lake has now a greater per capita indebtedness than most cities in the United States. To ask for a further increase under the conditions that now prevail is preposterous. The council had better not press the claim for more money to squander, too far. There is a limit beyond which even patience becomes impossible.

## A NOTABLE COUNCIL MEETING.

The City Council meeting on Monday night was a notable gathering. In the first place Mr. George Sheets was appointed a special detective. That is an event in the history of the American party rule. The public must be prepared for his appointment as chief of police at a nearby date. In no other way can the party reward him adequately for the "persecution" he suffered at the hands of the McWhirter brothers.

To the second place the Council received a cordial invitation from Dr. Goshen to come to his church on Sunday and hear his testimony on the official character of some men in public positions. In as much as Dr. Goshen has publicly stated that some of them deserve the contempt in which they are held by honest citizens, or words to that effect, the sermon to which they are invited should be very edifying to them. It may even do them good, if that is possible.

In the third place, the Council, after having confirmed the appointment of Mr. Sheets and accepted the invitation of Dr. Goshen to come to the "sinners' bench," found itself in a confused tangle on parliamentary rules, that was so serious that the bond issue question was crowded out and had to be postponed to a special meeting. And this was another notable feature of a memorable council meeting.

The trouble was about a petty \$9,955.54, which a contractor claims the City owes him for doing some pumping. The Council had allowed the bill, but the Mayor had vetoed the action taken by the Council. Hence the confusion.

But there is a moral to the story. The American party bosses are trying to induce their tools to defer the payment of every bill as long as possible, in the hope of getting the money from the proposed bond issue to pay the indebtedness with. As long as the bills are not allowed the debt does not show in the public records. The total indebtedness is thereby made to appear smaller than it actually is, and the true character of the financiering is concealed from the public. That is the little scheme. Deception in everything, to fool the dear public.

## TO ACHIEVE PEACE.

William Lloyd Garrison takes exception to a recent pronouncement by Mrs. Baker G. Eddy, to the effect that, in her opinion, the armament of navies is a present necessity to preserve peace among nations. Since Mrs. Eddy believes in peace, her pronouncement reminds one, Mr. Garrison says, of Anatole France's description of a French writer, "that he adored Jesus as God, but, as a man, he preferred Hannibal."

The gentleman is rather severe in his criticism. He says, in a letter to the New York Evening Post: "How Christian Science, whose professed weapons are gentleness and love, can for a moment justify the devilish existence of naval armaments, whose mission is one of brutality and hate, is beyond the common mind. As well assume that the personal practice of carrying arms assures the peace of the community; that gun-shops are temporary safeguards; that measures in themselves evil are essential for good. At a time when even believers in force are in revolt against the current military and naval craze, when injustice makes strong nations fear the weak, it is singular that such a carnal note should emanate from the leader of a church professedly based on the gospel of Jesus. Think of that non-resistant justifying a system that not only destroys human life and corrupts the soul, but is also a well-spring of poverty and vice!"

Although we are in full sympathy with the efforts that are being made in the interest of peace, we doubt the logic and wisdom of that criticism. The stern fact that faces us, whether we are devotees of Mars or peace advocates, is this that nations are still depending upon armies and navies for the maintenance of their independence and material interests. One nation cannot disarm until others agree to do the same.

Just now there are signs of unrest in Asia. The mountain tribes along the borders of India have challenged British rule in the peninsula and the Kurds on the border of Russia are causing the great northern bear to growl, while in the south the British lion lashes his side with his tail. We may leave out of consideration the war rumors from Japan, and the probable intentions of China, when the Chinese millions shall have fully awakened. But it is evident that the world is not yet ripe for the disarmament program, and no true peace friend demands anything that is impractical.

What is needed is an earnest, intelligent propaganda of peace among all the nations of the world, carried on until the nations shall be prepared for that program, and for Millennial conditions. Statesmen can help bringing this about, but the main work must be done by true emissaries of the gospel of peace laboring faithfully among the people, disseminating knowledge and light on that subject.

Admiral Evans is on deck again.

Salt Lake bids the fleet welcome to

San Francisco through the Salt Lake High School cadet corps.

The greatest torpedo-boat destroyer in the world is Time.

Our days are few and full of bubble, say the vaudeville stars.

While at Panama will Secretary Taft give his boom absent treatment?

A man may smile and smile and be a simpleton just as well as a villain.

Captain Richmond Hobson has not rung his alarm bell for several days. What's the matter with it?

Stuyvesant Fish has resigned from the Missouri Pacific board of directors. Does he feel like a fish out of water?

No man in all the country has had the old saying, "Try, try again," so dinged into him as has Caleb Powers of Kentucky.

Jupiter sitting on Olympus isn't calmer or more self-possessed than Speaker Cannon sitting in the chair. Nor much more powerful.

"I love all humanity—North, South, East and West; it makes no difference," says Mr. John D. Rockefeller. Why shouldn't he? There is oil in each section.

A currency measure has much the same effect on members of Congress as the building of the tower of Babel had on the people on the plain in the land of Shinar.

An Indiana man claims to have remained at home 18,000 successive nights. He must be the author of the song, "Wherever I hang my hat is home, sweet home to me."

"Trial marriages" have been suggested. Now comes the New York World and suggests "trial divorces." The logical sequence to those trials should be a criminal trial.

Walter Wellman says that for the rest of his term it will be war to the knife between President Roosevelt and the Senate oligarchy. Isn't the great north pole seeker talking through his balloon?

One of the results of the late panic is that excursion rates are to be very much higher this year. The panic, of course, has made it very much easier for people to raise money this year than they could last year.

Some months ago Swarthmore college was offered three million dollars if it would drop intercollegiate athletics. It declined the offer. Now it has dropped four of its best and most prominent athletes. Between two stools Swarthmore has fallen.

The Argus of May 3 devotes the larger part of the front page to the history of the peace movement in Utah and the Governor's proclamation calling for a mass meeting in the First Congregational church on May 11th next. The Argus is, we take it, for peace.

One can scarcely help regretting that John Morley, author of the work on Diderot and the encyclopedists and of the Life of Gladstone, should have accepted a peerage, having taken his seat in the house of lords yesterday. Or lords it may be truly said, that "a breath can make them, as a breath has made," but such a man as Morley is rare among men. A great commoner has consented to become a little lord.

## SUNDAY CLOSING OF SALOONS.

Sacramento Bee.

The proposed Sunday closing of saloons in Nevada City has not been helped by the sermon delivered last Sunday by Rev. W. A. Rimer, an Episcopal pastor of that place. He argued that every sort of business should be subject to the same requirement. In order that the Sabbath might consistently be observed. That contention may be logical enough from the reverend gentleman's point of view. But Sunday closing of saloons, as distinguished from other places of business, is advocated on grounds other than religious. Thus it is pointed out that nearly everybody being idle on that day, there is more general inclination to excessive drinking on Sunday than on other days of the week, with consequent bad results to society and industry. There is also much complaint that on Monday morning many men are unfit for good work because of too much beer or liquor on the previous day, and habitual drunkenness on Sunday notoriously creates disorder and crowds the jails and the Police Courts.

## INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM.

From a recent address by Senator Knox.

The journalist has one chief client, one patient, one flock—that is to say, the whole community; and nothing should stand in the way of his single-minded and devoted service to that one common interest. He should beware of all entangling alliances—political, social, commercial—which may limit or embarrass such service. He should let the honors and emoluments of public office go to other people. His own office, if properly administered, is more important and powerful than any that his fellow-citizens are likely to confer upon him. The independent newspaper may be, and should be, the most vital and effective instrument that democratic society can produce for its own advancement and protection; and he, the journalist, in a complete, intelligent, sympathetic devotion to public interests.

## JUST FOR FUN.

An Undetermined Name.

Caller—What's your name, little girl? Little Girl—Dorothy.  
Caller—But what's your last name? Little Girl—I don't know that it will be. I'm not married yet—London Globe.

The Best Pet.

"I want to make a gift to Miss Pussay," said Tumley. "I wonder what sort of animal she'd prefer for a pet." "A man," promptly suggested Miss Knox.—Philadelphia Press.

The Judge Qualified.

In a Baltimore court one woman was suing another for slander. When the plaintiff was put on the witness stand her attorney said to her, "Now, madam, just tell the court what the defendant said about you."

"Oh, I cannot," she hesitatingly replied. "But, madam, you must," the attorney

may insisted. "The whole case hangs upon your testimony."

"But it isn't fit for any decent person to hear," replied the witness.

"Ah, in that case," answered the attorney, "just step up to the judge and whisper it in his ear!"—Judge.

## Punishing His Donkey.

Not very long ago there lived near Halifax an old man who always rode on a donkey to his daily work, and rebuffed him while he labored on the roads or wherever else he might be. It had been pretty plainly hinted to him by one of the local landowners that he was suspected of putting it in the fields to graze at other people's expense.

"Eh, squires, Av eudna do sich a thing, for my donkey wasn't a't' (eat) 't'ovt bird nettes at thisties."

One day the gentleman was riding along the road, when he saw the old fellow at work and the donkey up to its knees in one of his clover fields feeding luxuriously.

"Halloo, John!" said he, "I understood you to say your donkey would eat nothing but thistles and thistles!"

"Aye," said John, "but he's bin mis-behavin' hissen, sir. He nearly kicked me I the' chest just now, so Av put him there to punish him!"—The Bitts.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Current Literature for May handles the recent Socialist-Anarchist scare in Chicago and New York with great impartiality. The episode in Union Square is chronicled as part of current history. In the same number the "diplomatic sensation of Dr. David Jayne Hill's refusal by William II." the "love affair of the Duke of Abruzzi with an American girl," and the appointment of the new prime minister of England are brilliantly handled. There is a discussion of the question, "Is Roosevelt's Temper Radical or Conservative?" and an account of Lord Cromer, "The Greatest Proconsul of this Age." Under "Literature and Art," Charles Edward Russell's new vindication of Thomas Chatterton, the marvellous boy who perished in his pride, is treated. Wilhelm Busch, "Germany's Greatest Humorist Since Heine," is presented in an article that shows him to have been the real founder of the school of comic artists whose creations fill the colored supplements of our Sunday papers. The work of Lord Dunsany, the Chicago satirist, is also described at length, with numerous illustrations. In the department of "Religion and Ethics" appear two queries, "Is Christianity in America Losing Its Grip?" and "Is Marriage a Sin?" Packages of the most interesting article in this department is entitled "What the Modernists Believe." The leading feature of "Music and Drama" is a presentation of "Chas. Barn Kennedy's new play, 'The Servant in the House.'" In this department also appear a most original article on "The Startling Development of the Bi-dimensional Theater," and a sympathetic account of the American visit of the ill-starred Russian actress, Madame Komarskizhevsky.—41 West 25th St., New York.

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