

the Chinese exclusion bill Mr. Blair was for its passage, and in one of his spells of over earnestness compared the Chinese emigration of this country to a "pestilential disease." This outburst of zeal at the time caused no comment and would never have been thought of again had not Mr. Blair recently been honored with an appointment to the Chinese court.

On his appointment being confirmed by the Senate, an unfriendly editor went down into the Senate records and dug up his anti-Chinese speech. Extracts containing Mr. Blair's most odious expressions were promptly forwarded to the court of China, and just as the new minister was ready to sail for his field of duty a message came from the Emperor of China informing the President that Mr. Blair would not be acceptable as a minister to that country. His appointment was of course promptly cancelled.

To mollify the humiliation of this regrettable affair Mr. Blair's name was at once suggested for appointment to the Russian court. The same unfriendly editor promptly renewed his search through Mr. Blair's record, and in a volume from the latter's pen entitled the "Conflict between Man and Alcohol" was discovered a reference to the Russian government, in which the latter is accused of encouraging the people of Russia in "Habits of dreadful intoxication in order to profit by the tax on brandy."

So it is that Mr. Blair's hopes of going to Russia as minister from this country are blasted. It looks now as though Mr. Blair's eloquence, while doing much for others, had been ruinous to himself. It all goes to show that in the pursuit of enduring greatness it is no more essential to know what to say and how and when to say it, than to know in every case what not to say.

TOO SMART BY HALF.

THE Sacramento *Bee* of August 22, has the following choice morsel of literary criticism:

The *Deseret News*, the organ of the Mormon Church, begins an editorial on the late James Russell Lowell thus:

"The old Latin poet who said that pale Death knocks with indiscriminating foot at the cottage of the poor man and at the palace of the king, spoke correctly."

"Knocks with indiscriminating foot" is oleaginous in the richness of its involuntary humor. The *News* evidently referred to the couplet:

Stern death, with unrelenting fate,
Knocks at the palace as the cottage gate.

"However, in the case of anyone saturated with the Mormon irreligion, 'foot' is probably the preferable word.

Death has a better chance with his "foot" to kick a Mormon down where he properly belongs than he would have with his "fate."

It is evident that the editor of the *Bee* is not "saturated" with knowledge of the classics, and that he knows much less of "Mormonism." If he will turn to the works of Horace, ode 4, book 1, he will find the text to which reference is made in the Lowell editorial. Horace says:

"Pallida mors aequo pulsat pede pauperum tabernas,
Regumque turres.

Now if the editor can get anybody to translate the above, he will learn that *aequo pede* means indiscriminating foot, and that *pallida mors* means pale death. *Pede* is the ablative case of the noun *pes*, a foot. The printer's devil will tell the editor that our English word pedal comes from *pes*, and then he will probably use his own foot to kick himself.

This is enough to show that the superficial critic of the Sacramento *Bee* has put his foot in it. Of course he is not expected to know Horace, but the grotesque humor of his literary pretensions is something to be pitied rather than sneered at.

When Leland Stanford set apart \$20,000,000 to educate California editors, he knew there was a stern necessity for his doing so.

RELIEF A NECESSITY.

We think the numerous complaints that are being made to the City Council ought to convince that body that an over assessment has been placed on the real estate in this city. It must be evident to all that the value of property has declined, and that today the falling off in values as well as sales, as compared with those at the time the present Council went into office, is something startling. To increase the assessments under these circumstances is not only unjust—which may not appeal to some members of that body, but is very bad policy—which may come a little closer to touching their sensibilities.

As a party measure it will be found to be a blunder. As a deterrent to outside capital it cannot fail to be potent. Men of money do not want to invest in places where the tax collector is supreme and makes his living on a percentage, fixing prices far above that for which property would sell upon the market.

Last year the Council was wholly composed of "Liberals," and applicants for a reduction, no matter how reasonable were their requests, were, as a rule, not only refused but

treated with contempt and ridicule. We hope experience has brought a change to some of the members, and that the comparatively new incumbents will stand by the platform of low taxes and economy in public affairs on which they were elected, and that the result will be some relief to the overburdened taxpayers.

The Council has a heavy task before it, and by the time all the complaints are in, it will find the work something enormous. The truth is, a mistake has been made in the over anxiety to raise public funds—saying nothing of the eagerness of the Assessor to make his pile, and the result is, such widespread dissatisfaction and consequent bad feeling as never has disturbed this community before.

The Council will show wisdom in regarding the just prayers of the incensed petitioners. There should be a general reduction in the valuations; and a particular regard to individual grievances which carry on their face the proofs of their cause.

"TRY AGAIN."

THE lack of interest which was manifested by a large portion of the business class, in the Chamber of Commerce call for a meeting, was rather dampening to the ardor of the public-spirited gentlemen who projected the movement. But we think they ought not to "give it up so." We believe their effort is well worth at least another trial.

But next time they should state more definitely the purpose they have in view. We think many business men who stayed away on Wednesday night, would have been present if they had fully understood the purport of the meeting.

Discrimination in freight rates has been a common complaint among our merchants for a long time. A plan to secure fairness and such terms as would give new life to our commerce, must be worthy of public consideration. Something that has succeeded elsewhere would probably be of benefit here, and from what we have learned of the project, we are of the opinion that it is practical and likely to prove of great profit to business in this Territory.

We hope President Simon and the other gentlemen who met with so poor a response to their invitation on Wednesday, will not allow their disappointment to cripple their good intentions, but that they will step forward and try again. It takes time and patience to succeed in any good work, and sometimes the public is a slow animal to stir up. "Try Again!"