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THE COLUMBIA DISASTER.

As a brilliant silver lining fringing a black cloud, the bravery of American seamen in the face of death, relieves the story of the Columbia disaster of some of its overwhelming gruesomeness. All reports agree that the Captain of the doomed vessel took his stand on the bridge, as soon as the ship was struck, and that he directed the efforts to save the passengers, with calm deliberation, until his voice was heard no more. His last words were, "God bless you all." Then he took firmly hold of the railing of the bridge and went down with his ship. This is an instance of heroism that deserves a place in the annals of disasters. That many of the survivors owe their lives to the self-sacrifice of this sailor, and the men he commanded, is beyond doubt. There were but a few moments in which to act. Without a calm, determined commander the precious moments would have been lost in confusion. The Captain could, perhaps, have saved himself, but he preferred to die trying to save others.

Another brilliant episode in the story of the disaster is that in which a Salt Lake girl, Miss Blanche Muser, was the heroine. On a raft, in company with other victims, tossed about by the angry waves, she lifted up her sweet voice in song, thereby inspiring courage and faith. It is a beautiful episode, indeed, of a heart-rending tragedy.

The worst feature of this disaster is that it must be ascribed to the recklessness, or neglect, of somebody. A fog was hanging over the water, and the watch of the Columbia did not see the approaching schooner before the collision was unavoidable. But if the steam whistle had been blown as the law requires, the proximity of the vessels to each other would have been discovered long before the hulk loomed up out of the fog. Or if the speed had not been very much greater than it ought to be in a dense fog, the ships would not have collided with a force sufficient to sink one of them and cripple the other.

It appears that the place where the disaster occurred is known as a fatal spot on the coast. It was in that vicinity that the steamer Pacific was struck by a sailing vessel and more than 250 people were lost. Since then the sea is said to have claimed more than a thousand souls in this fatal neighborhood. The Columbia, Walla Walla, South Portland and City of Rio Janeiro have all gone to their doom just as quickly as the old Pacific went nearly 32 years ago.

The Pacific coast, it seems, need modern steamers for the passenger traffic. It is hardly justifiable to entrust so many lives to tubs without a sufficient number of watertight compartments. When the boats are constructed on modern lines they are, comparatively, safe. Disasters cannot be avoided entirely, but no vessel with watertight compartments could be sent to the bottom of the sea in five minutes, by collision with another vessel. The fate of the Columbia should be a warning and a lesson.

TO BUY LAND IN PALESTINE

It is stated in letters from Zionists in England to friends in this country that at the international congress to be held at The Hague next month, a proposition will be made and considered, to acquire a tract of land in Palestine larger than any heretofore considered, for the purpose of Jewish colonization. "The land," says the writer, "is not far distant from Haifa, which promises in future to supplant Jaffa as the port of landing in Palestine. This proximity constitutes one of the principal grounds for hoping for the successful exploitation of the property. The land will, it is believed, cost, together with incidental expenses, some \$500,000, and the idea, I believe, is to form a syndicate for the purpose of raising the money."

The Zionist idea seems to be growing notwithstanding the indifference shown by some influential leaders of thought among the Hebrews of the world. Whether good title can be secured to the land in view is another question, unless the settlers are placed under the protection of some government that is strong enough to guard their rights against the caprices of despotism.

GROWTH OF A GIANT.

From figures recently given publicly by the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor, it is learned that this country has grown in area, from a million square miles in the year 1890 to about 3,750,000 square miles at the present time, if Alaska and the island possessions are counted. This is a wonderful expansion in area, but it is matched by the growth in other respects. The population has increased from 5,000,000 to 85,000,000 in the period mentioned, and, including all our non-contiguous holdings, nearly 100,000,000 are now under the Stars and Stripes. Our population per square mile in continental United States was 64 persons in 1890; in 1850; 25 in 1900; and nearly 25 at the present time.

The increase of the country's wealth is the subject of another wonderful story of development. In 1850 it was estimated at seven billion dollars and

in 1904 at one hundred and seven billion dollars given a per capita of \$1,810 against \$357, notwithstanding our enormously increased population.

The bank deposits, for which no general record is available earlier than 1875, amounted to \$2,000,000,000 that year, reached \$7,250,000,000 in 1900, and \$12,250,000,000 in 1906. Our merchandise imports rose from \$91,000,000 in 1890 to \$1,225,000,000 in 1906; while our merchandise exports gained from \$71,000,000 in 1890 to \$1,714,000,000 in 1906.

Another item of interest is the public debt. It was \$2,675,000,000 in 1864, but is now only \$964,000,000, giving a per capita indebtedness of only \$11.46 now, against \$75.88 in 1890, with a reduction in the per capita interest charge of from \$4.12 to 28 cents.

Does the history of the world show more rapid development of any country, in any age? And this is only a beginning, provided the people remain true to the principles of justice that constitute the foundations of the government. It is pleasant to contemplate that the founders of the State of Utah had a not inconsiderable share in the work of development, as well as in the trials and hardships that were inevitably connected with that work.

A GENERAL MISUNDERSTANDING.

The New York Evening Sun, speaking of the efforts now being made by the Swedish government to investigate the emigration problem, says it is a curious inquiry, and suggests that, "Perhaps, however, the loss of Norway has turned the attention of Sweden to the subject more seriously than before."

We mention this merely to point out a misunderstanding that seems to be general, that Sweden lost Norway, as a consequence of the late revolution on the western slope of the peninsula. Sweden did not "lose" Norway. Norway did not belong to Sweden. It was then, as it is now and has been since 1814, an independent monarchy, with its own government. Sweden did not "lose" Norway any more than Norway "lost" Sweden. It was King Oscar who lost his Norwegian crown and throne.

The original plan of the European powers that consented to the separation of Norway from Denmark, as a punishment of the latter country for its sympathy with Napoleon, was perhaps to unite the two northern divisions of the Scandinavian peninsula into one monarchy, but the Norwegians, released of their allegiance to Denmark, made good use of the opportunity to secure recognition of their independence. Since 1814 Norway has not belonged to any other country. It is inaccurate to refer to the dissolution of the union as the loss of one country. It is an inaccuracy that indicates a prevailing misunderstanding of the facts in the case. There is no reason why the two countries should not, by treaties, be even more firmly united now than they were before, in all that concerns their common interests.

HIS VIEWS ON CRIME.

Clarence S. Darrow has made an unusual oratorical display in his defense of his client. Whether the effect upon the jury will be what he intended it to be, is doubtful. But that as it may, the men of the jury will consider the case impartially and decide according to evidence.

But Mr. Darrow is an original. Some years ago he was invited to talk to the prisoners in the Chicago county jail. And in his address he told the inmates of the institution that they were neither more nor less criminal and immoral than the Society that prosecutes them and builds jails for their occupancy. When Mr. Darrow was severely criticized for placing such revolutionary theories, whether true or false, before the inmates in jail, he had an edition de luxe of his address prepared and with delightful and characteristic irony declared his purpose in doing so was to place the truth "before those whose intelligence and affluence will prevent their being influenced by it."

Here are a few of the pearls of wisdom Mr. Darrow offered his audience: "Some so-called criminals—and I will use this word because it is handy, it means nothing to me—I speak of the criminals who get caught as distinguished from the criminals who catch them—some of these so-called criminals are in jail for the first offenses, but nine-tenths of you are in jail because you did not have a good lawyer and of course you did not have a good lawyer because you did not have enough money to pay a good lawyer."

Speaking of burglars, he said: "If a man had clothes in his clothes-dress and beefsteak in his pantry, and money in a bank, he would not navigate around nights in houses where he knows nothing about the premises whatever. It always requires experience and education for this profession, and people who fit themselves for it are no more to blame than I am for being a lawyer."

One more: "Kidnapping children is not a crime; it is a profession. It has been developed with our modern industrial conditions. There are many ways of making money—many new ways that our ancestors knew nothing about. Our ancestors knew nothing about a billion dollar trust; and here comes some poor fellow who has no other trade and he discovers the profession of kidnapping children."

From a lawyer with such views on crime and law and society, a barrister like the one he made at Boise was to be expected. But what are we coming to, when the doctors of law preach against the law? Skepticism in the legal profession is no less pernicious than infidelity in the pulpit.

Will San Francisco's new mayor prove to be a new broom?

"How to be happy though poor" is one of the problems of the day.

Those who would misanthropize the streets have a rocky road to travel.

Like the lamb and the lion, Korea and Japan have lain down together, Korea inside.

Homeforth when Korea attempts to do anything in any line it will be by Japan's leave.

Ouida does not believe in throwing physic to the dogs. She uses money instead.

The man caught robbing bath-houses will now want an immunity bath for himself.

Mr. Darrow had much to say about

"culture" and "tyranny." Did he ever read "Culture and Anarchy?"

Sisyphus' task was easy compared with that of the lady who has undertaken to abolish the kissing habit.

If the trusts are worrying over their investigations and prosecutions they show no sign of it in their faces.

Louis Glass put in no testimony, his attorney declaring there was no case to meet. It may be termed a virtue in its own reward defense.

Lord Curzon says that the trouble in India is only skin deep. The difference of color between rulers and ruled is only skin deep, but it is that that makes all the trouble.

Colonel Waterson's announcement that his "dark horse" is Governor Johnson has fallen flat. The colonel is to the political world what Fitzsimmons is to the pugilistic world.

Because the Twenty-fourth was observed in a "safe and sane" manner, some carpers would try and make out that "as time passes the spirit of Pioneer day passes." It does no such thing any more than as time passes the spirit of Independence day passes.

Wherein was Clarence Darrow's vituperative assault on J. H. Hawley and his tirade against the employing classes, a defense of his client? To a looker-on in Vienna it seemed as though he was injuring his client's cause.

"Putting it concretely, the immigrants who came to this country the past year numbered more than double the total population of Boston," says the Boston Herald. But then Boston prides herself on her quality and not on her quantity.

It begins to look as though the prospectively famous maneuvers of the North Atlantic fleet would be, in a way, a repetition of the famous fleet of the King of France, who went up the hill with twenty thousand men, came down the hill and never went up again.

RETURNING CONFIDENCE.

San Francisco Chronicle.
That the business men of San Francisco have been downhearted and discouraged for the last few months has been evident enough. It could not have been otherwise. With a convict in jail for Mayor, sixteen out of eighteen Supervisors confessed criminals, the Chief of Police indicted for felony and the departments full of low politicians who are presumed to be thieves, it was evident that the future of the city to grow. With sickness in various occupations, which seriously impair the purchasing power of a large part of our population, retail trade could not flourish. In the uncertainty of labor conditions there was an unwillingness to start new business of any kind. Everybody has been marking time. The State is prosperous. Trade with the interior is good, but in all the activities directly pertaining to this city and dependent upon a continuance of the steady growth which it has enjoyed during the past few years there has been absolute stagnation. All this was changed within twenty-four hours by the election of Mayor Taylor and the immediate prospect of an honest city government.

CHINESE HONESTY.

Springfield Republican.
John Lee Jung, a Chinaman, once of Washington, a modest fame, and even more so John Lee Jung's Chinese relatives. John was a successful merchant in Washington for many years, but finally his health and his business failed at about the same time and he was compelled to retire owing about \$1,000. Nearly 10 years ago he went back to China to die, having tried unsuccessfully to pay his creditors. But in China things went better with the old man after a time, and when he died a little while ago, there was found among his effects a list of his creditors in Washington and the exact amount owed to each, and there was also found in Chinese money, saved by hard labor, enough to pay the entire amount. A little note in Chinese hieroglyphics told what the old man wanted done with his savings, and his relatives have now sent the money on to be distributed among his creditors, who had forgotten that he ever owed them. The old man who remembered his debts, and the relatives who followed his instructions, instead of grasping the money, are refreshing samples of honesty and offer an explanation why Chinese commercial credit is higher than Japanese.

AMERICA ABROAD.

Detroit Free Press.
In other days, American ambassadors were largely men of letters, who shed lustre upon their native land, not by a pre-eminent display of wealth, which, indeed, they did not possess, but by the intrinsic qualities of their character. Men like George Bancroft, Washington Irving, John Lothrop Motley and James Russell Lowell made the real America, the America we all love, honored and respected abroad. It was not the America of the millionaires, but the America of the democratic ideal that was represented. We need to return to the old condition.

A MOLE FARM.

Forest and Stream.
Now comes a man with a proposition to start a mole farm. The first mole farm in America will soon be established in the southern part of the Cumberland Valley by Thomas Thrush, a young Carlisle man. "Several acres of ground will be scooped out to the depth of five feet and sand filled in. The bottom of the plant will be of brick and a three-foot wall will be erected around the entire plot, thus caging the moles in. Mole skin, for which the animal is prized, is much more valuable than snake skin. A New York man recently paid \$5,000 for a coat made of the mole's fur. The animal is a little larger than the rat and is of about the same color." Bricks being costly, it is suggested that instead of several acres one hundred feet square be the dimensions of the "trial farm."

JUST FOR FUN.

Cyclopean Fare.
The proprietor of a certain restaurant "leased" the reverse side of his bill of fare to a carriage manufacturer, who prints advertisements thereon. The other day a customer, in a great hurry, ran into the restaurant, sat at a table and was handed a bill wrong side up by the waiter. The customer put on his pin-nez, carried his mustache with his left hand and shouted in a voice of thunder: "Bring me a fly, a lizard, two victrolas and a dog-cart. Get me a funeral party!" The waiter fled.—London Graphic.

Undiplomatic.

It was a quiet afternoon in the emergency ward at the Little Palace hotel. George, the head nurse who dispenses

first aid to the suffering, was greeting Gus, who had dropped in from the Fairmount to exhibit his new straw hat.

"I think it's a beauty," remarked George approvingly. "Dollar and a half?"

"Und more 'an that," replied Gus proudly. "Two dollars." "I sell you, Gus, I am a good friend to you; may be some Sunday you lend it to me, eh? I like to call on Judge Cook by his ranch in Sonoma County." "Und maybe you break it, eh?" "Den I bay you what it's worth." "Pay me \$2?" "Oh, no; it's second-hand hat after you wear it. I pay you \$1, Gus." "You bay me nothings. I don't lend that hat."—San Francisco Chronicle.

In Nightshirt Land.

A Philadelphia man who has been traveling in the west says that padamas are no popular articles of wearing apparel out there, and cites an incident to prove his statement. While staying at a hotel in a medium-sized town he sent a pair of rather gay-colored padamas (his wife's choice) to a laundry. When they came back they were starched so stiff they would stand alone, and each trousers leg was carefully pressed into the most approved crease. Attached to the waist was pinned a small slip of paper bearing the words: "To one lawn tennis suit, 50 cents."—Philadelphia Record.

Literary Stone.

The struggling author from the wilds of Indiana boldly entered the editorial sanctum. "I have come with my latest story," he announced. "That so?" ejaculated the busy editor. "Let us hear how it runs." "Well, this is from the first chapter: 'Casper had been standing as motionless as a block of granite. Suddenly he dropped on his knees before the beautiful girl with the alabaster brow and boldly proposed. It was then that she answered with a stony stare and handed him the marble heart. Then'—" "The busy editor reached for the clipping shears. "Young man," he thundered, "you have made a mistake. Take that story down to the nearest stoneyard. This is an editorial office."—Chicago News.

A Tip to Magistrates.

Least Magistrates in Horse Gait. Catarrh and other South Carolina communities sleep on their rights, we direct their attention to the demand of New York Magistrates that their salaries be increased from \$7,000 to \$9,000 a year.—Charleston News and Courier.

Against Her Tenets.

Miss Mary, have you any rooted objections to using a feather duster? This room looks as if you had. "Miss—Yes, ma'am, I have. I belong to the Audubon society."—Harper's Weekly.

Too Strong to Work.

"My son tells me you've discharged him," said the office boy's mother, "and I think that's strange; you advertised for a strong boy, and he's certainly—" "He's too strong, madam," interrupted the employer. "In the single day he was here he broke all the rules of this office and some of the furniture."—Catholic Standard and Times.

Lacking the Right.

Today's Great Thought from Willenden, Magistrate—"Did he strike you?" Applicant—"Oh, no, sir. I am not his wife."—London Globe.

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