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to the moral agency that God has given him, should be strictly heeded. Thus the right of individual opinion will be maintained, and the result should be that "good men and wise men" will be elected to public office, because "when the wicked rule the people mourn."

CITY FINANCES.

In view of the controversy now in its height over the condition of the city finances, instead of a statement from a committee of the City Council, in which but three out of the five members knew anything of its preparation, why should not the law be complied with, so that the taxpayers may have something official on which to base their judgment?

If the detailed statement of the financial condition of the city has been published, we are not aware of its issuance. It may be that some paper we have missed has been favored with it. If so we and the general public would like to know it. Here is the law in relation to the matter:

Section 22. Annual Financial Statement. The city auditor, in cities having an auditor, and in all other cases, the city recorder shall prepare and publish, on or before the first Monday in July of each year, in some newspaper having a general circulation in the city, a detailed statement of the financial condition of the city, and of all receipts and expenditures for the previous year, ending June 30th, showing:

1. The total receipts of the city, stating particularly the source of each portion of the revenue.
2. The amount of cash on hand at the date of the last report.
3. The amount of sinking fund, and how invested.
4. The number, date, and amount of every bond issued or redeemed, and the amount received or paid therefor.
5. The indebtedness of the city, funded and floating, stating the amount of each class and the rate of interest borne by such indebtedness, or any part thereof.
6. The amount of cash in the city treasury, and in its several funds.
7. The total expenditures of the city, as shown by the warrants issued, giving in total the amount expended in each department.

Approved March 17, 1899.

Such a financial statement would be official. The city auditor would be responsible for its accuracy. There would be no room for disputes as to the financial status of the city, up to the date of its publication. The question is, has the city auditor published this annual financial statement, and if not, why has he not complied with the requirement of the law?

END OF THE STRIKE.

It is to be hoped that the big coal strike, which has lasted for five weeks, will be ended in a few days, as predicted by the leader of the contest, Mr. Mitchell. He is of the opinion that if the working men stand together until the end of this week, they can all go to work on Monday and obtain practically all they struck for.

The operators seem inclined to grant a ten per cent increase in the wages and a considerable reduction in the price of powder, and this the men appear to be willing to accept. But whether the contest is ended by Monday, or not, it is fair to presume that it will not be prolonged beyond a reasonable limit, since both parties have shown a commendable willingness to adjust the existing difficulties.

The present status of the coal market would seem to warrant an increase in the wages of the men. The South African war and the trouble in China have created a demand for that article which has sent the price up to such figures that American coal exporters, notwithstanding the higher freight rates, have been able to compete successfully with English exporters. It is but just that the men who, at the risk of their lives, bring the product out of the bowels of the earth should share the profits with the mine owners and middlemen.

And this improved condition of coal miners in this country should be a difference by means of arbitration. Both the operators and the men must have felt by this time that a strike, even when conducted peacefully, involves enormous losses, and sufferings, which can be avoided by a rational effort at settlement. According to Mr. Mitchell, in the bituminous coal region the rule prevails that in any case of difference as to wages, representatives of employees and miners meet in joint inter-state convention and discuss the subject from a business standpoint and mutually agree upon a scale of wages, to be in force for one year. By this means strikes and lockouts are prevented, and the business goes on without interruption. There is no reason why such a rule should not be adopted in the anthracite region as well, or anywhere where the desire is to conduct any branch of industry in humane and progressive methods, instead of the methods that prevailed in the dark days of human slavery.

Another thing. What does it signify to us today who are a Whig or a Democrat, a Federalist or a Republican, fifty or a hundred years ago? The parties and platforms of the present and most of the issues involved, are radically different from those of the distant past. We are required to act today, therefore we must think today, and become informed on the conditions and requirements of today.

DECREASE IN BIRTHRATE.

The decrease of the birthrate in France has been the subject of press comment during the last few years, and has served as a text for many an essay on the moral evils of the present time. Investigations tended to prove that that condition was not peculiar to France, but was found in most of the European countries. It is now claimed that the census figures for this country prove that the decrease in the birthrate in American families is greater than at any previous time of the birthrate, and that, in fact, the birthrate has sunk below the level of many of the old countries.

The New York Mail and Express attests at this conclusion by detecting from the total increase of 13,436,000, the number of immigrants, 3,800,000, which leaves an increase in the native population for the decade of only 9,636,000. That is nearly 300,000 less than in the decade ending in 1890, and nearly 700,000 less than the native increase in the decade ending 1880. That is, the rate of increase sank from 31.75 per cent

in the census of 1880 to 22.76 in 1890, and to perhaps 10 per cent in 1900.

As compared to other countries it is stated that the population of Russia is increasing at the rate of 30 per cent; Prussia, 24 per cent; England, 23 per cent; Italy and Belgium, 19 per cent. France and Austria are the only countries with a lower rate of increase than ours, that of the first mentioned country having sunk to about 1 per cent.

The decrease as far as the United States is concerned, is in part due to the fact that the country is becoming more quickly settled, but it would be idle to conceal the fact that moral, or rather immoral, influences are at work, to which the attention of reformers, educators and founders of public opinion should be called. With the prevalence of luxury, and the race of women for position in public offices and private business, comes an increasing distaste for family life with its arduous duties and self-sacrificing requirements. The entire trend of modern thought seems to be away from the household. Between business, amusements, and devotional gatherings, the home is abandoned. Children are neglected. The family hearth has no further attraction, and where there is no correct understanding of the moral obligations of human beings, to propagate the race for the purpose of building up the kingdom of God here and hereafter, the burden of family life are thrown off, by the various criminal devices known to the present age.

The condition is one to contemplate with alarm. For where the family is being undermined, the moral status of the nation must suffer. The State itself is imperiled. It may be that this is not a great danger, but the thunderbolts are being hurled from the clouds of heaven, and the cities of the plain when their inhabitants become united in life, but all the same, a State that becomes corrupt through the breaking of the laws of nature, will be the subject of divine wrath and will surely be overthrown, as were Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome and many others in which immorality and wickedness prevailed.

REMARKABLE SECT.

To an average reader of current literature it is, no doubt, a surprise to learn that there is in existence a large religious body, the distinguishing belief of which is that the Savior is now bodily present on this earth. The sect is a branch of the Mohammedan tree. It originated in Persia in 1844, and is known to the world as Babists. A following is claimed for them of 50,000,000 souls, the great majority of whom are living in the Mohammedan world, but it is also said that the sect has members in the United States. According to an account in the Literary Digest of October 20th, there are 1,300 Babists in New York; 800 in Chicago, and smaller colonies in Waukegan, Wis., and other places. Some Americans of wealth and influence are said to belong to the Babists, and among others Mrs. Phoebe Hearst.

The sect has suffered much persecution in Persia, because its leaders and members have been suspected of revolutionary schemes. The probability is, that the revolution they aim at is entirely of a political nature, and not political governments are often too suspicious in such matters. They see treason where there is none, and at the same time are apt to overlook the real dangers that threaten states and communities, in the form of vice, open and secret.

The originator of the Babist sect was Mohammed Ali, a young Persian, noted for piety and religious zeal. He wrote a commentary on the Koran and preached purity. Like all reformers he found it necessary to criticize severely the clerical class, and on this account the flames of persecution were kindled against him. But his following increased, and finally he was called "Bab" which is the Arabian word for "gate," an allusion to the term "door," which the Savior applied to Himself. The Babists, then, are the believers in the "Bab" as the gateway to eternal life.

The historical account of the sect goes on to say that the attempts of the government to suppress it led to the rebellion of Zappan. Although Mohammed Ali took no part in this, in this outbreak, he was captured and sentenced to death. With one of his trusted followers he was suspended from the parapet of one of the city walls by ropes tied about the arms so that his body made the form of the cross. A regiment of Mohammedan soldiers were detailed to execute the two. At the first volley the disciple was killed, but the bullets only severed the rope which bound the Bab himself, so that he fell to the ground. Thereupon the soldiers refused to fire a second time, declaring that they had witnessed a miracle. The Bab, who had been stunned by the fall, was thereupon dispatched by an officer.

With the death of Mohammed Ali, his son Abbas became the head of the peculiar sect. Abbas calls himself "the Servant of God," and his disciples always refer to him as "the Master." They are said to see in him the actual incarnation of the second Person in the Godhead, whose second advent is predicted in the Bible. The Babists worship him with reverence, and he receives their expressions of respect with humility.

In the account from which these data are gleaned, the testimony of two American women, who have visited Persia, is introduced to prove that in the country at least some people believe that the second advent of the Son of God has already taken place. One of these ladies, whose name is not given, says:

"The Khralia went ahead, and by the violent beating of my heart I knew that we were soon to see the blessed Bab. As I entered the House of God, we passed the door and stopped before the center of the room stood a Bab clad in a long garment with a white sash around his head, stretching out one hand toward us, while his face put on a radiant smile, which I cannot describe, was lighted by a rare, sweet smile of joy and welcome. We stood thus for a moment unable to move, when my heart gave a great leap, and I knew that I was seeing the Bab. I held out my arms, crying, 'My Lord, my Lord!' and rushed into his embrace, and his blessed face, smiling like a child. He put his dear

hands upon our beloved heads and said, in a voice that seemed to our ears like a strain of sweet music, 'Welcome, welcome, my dear children, you are welcome, arise and be of good cheer.'"

The testimony of the other lady—Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst—is this:

"The Master I will not attempt to describe. I will only state that I believe with all my heart that He is the Master, and my greatest blessing in this world is that I have been privileged to be in His presence and look upon His sanctified face. His life is truly the Christ life and His whole being radiates purity and holiness! Without a doubt Abbas Effendi is the Messiah of this day and generation, and we need not look for another."

Most of the readers of the "News" are familiar with the fact that among the signs that, according to prophecy, were to precede the coming of the Christ, was the appearance in diverse places of pretenders to divine honors. It is therefore only a confirmation of the truth to learn that at the time of the restoration of the Gospel, false Christs and false prophets have arisen. It is strange though that such should find followers in "Christian" countries. But history repeats itself. The Jews that crucified Christ were but too anxious to follow the pretenders that arose and called down upon the nation the vengeance of the Romans, which they hoped to appease by planting the Cross upon the hill of Calvary. So "Christians" who would gladly take a hand in persecuting the Prophets of the living God, may be willing to bend in adoration before the white turban and flowing robes of the handsome Abbas Effendi. Inconsistency of human nature!

In the case of Alvord the way of the transgressor was fast.

In the latest New York burlesque Lillian Russell will appear as Saraparrilla. Head's or Ayer's?

The methods of the circumlocution office seem to have been adopted by the powers in their attempts to withdraw from China.

Charles Francis Adams says Wisconsin is the Vermont of the West. But she is sadly lacking in Green Mountains, though she has her Green Bay.

From what each political party is saying about the other and its no chance of success, it is evident that what is most needed is the formation of "don't worry clubs."

Down in Mississippi a mob of negroes took a negro from the officers and lynched him. This is just as bad as though he had been lynched by white men, and there is no more excuse in one case than in the other.

Thomas Walsh, the Colorado millionaire, is said to have entered into a business partnership with Leopold, King of the Belgians. The profits arising from their enterprises will naturally be divided as royalties.

Patrons of the East Waterloo line complain of the scanty accommodations in the matter of cars, mornings and evenings. The company has always shown willingness to do its best for the public when, as in this case, the complaint is just.

Speaking of the proposition to compel vaccination with doubtful lymph, the question is asked: "If the medical fraternity can, by law, add \$50,000 annually to their income, why should not the ministerial association do the same thing?"

In Lehi people desiring can be vaccinated for ten cents apiece. Here some physicians wish to make the fee five dollars. But then Lehi is a village while Salt Lake is a metropolis, and everything is more expensive in a metropolis than in a village.

The Filipino, Ramon Reyes, is said to have been refused naturalization papers at Omaha, on the ground that a Filipino cannot become a citizen under any existing law, because he has no country to which he can forswear allegiance except the United States, of which he is a subject.

Another story of a big bank default comes from New York, the amount taken reaching the sum of seven hundred thousand dollars. As more and more details leak out it is found to be the old, old story of misplaced confidence, a fast life and fine horses. It would seem that directors did their duty in the matter, and knew of their own knowledge the condition of the bank and did not rely on the reports of cashiers and clerks. Negligence and dissimulation on their part to make thorough examinations account for most defaultations.

This year more than 14,000,000 American citizens will vote for President and Vice-President. Whichever party may win, the losing candidate will have many millions of supporters. Would it not be extreme foolishness to say that those defeated millions were absolutely wrong in every particular? A little more consideration, a little more charity, a little more common sense in the treatment of political opponents, would give a higher tone to politics and result in greater good to the general public.

A Mr. Martin of the University of Pekin, who was one of those who were besieged in the legations and who has just arrived at his home in New York, tells to what dire extremities they were reduced for food. He says they ate horses, mule and donkey meat. Asked how he liked the latter, he said very well, that it was almost as good as venison. His testimony on this point confirms the statement of a writer in the Cornhill Magazine (we think it was this magazine) some years ago. The article was entitled "Things We Have Eaten," and after enumerating everything from roots to rhinoceros, he said that among the most palatable things in a long list of experiments was donkey's meat. Thus an English gourmand's seemingly strange statement is substantiated by an American professor in China.

A QUEEN'S CHOICE.

Chicago Record.

Ever since Queen Wilhelmina's accession to the throne one of the interesting subjects of speculation in Europe has been the question of the young queen's marriage. She has had suitable princes and princelings, but she has now set her heart on a prince of the blood royal.

proclamation of her betrothal with Duke Henry of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, a young man of 21, an officer in the Prussian life guards, and a nephew of the reigning Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. There is abundant reason to believe that the self-reliant and determined young queen has suited herself in this selection, as she plainly has intimations that she would do so since her coronation. Whether or not the choice of a German prince will be entirely satisfactory to the senate and venerable burghers who comprise the queen's councilors, they can hardly do otherwise than acquiesce in her selection.

New York Mail and Express.

Wilhelmina has been in the habit of having her own way because she is not disposed to do anything foolish and bears herself with a dignity becoming her high station. The cavalry officer who is to become her prince consort is only twenty-four years old, and is said to be a well-behaved youth and her choice. The personality of the little Dutch queen is one that seems to lend peculiar interest to the incidents of her life.

Boston Transcript.

Queen Wilhelmina's engagement to Duke Henry of Mecklenburg-Schwerin is said to be a love match. The Hollanders will be pleased at that, and it will be no small cause of gratification that the queen is not to be given to a prince of one of the great royal houses of Europe. They have no desire that Holland should be married to one of her powerful neighbors, as might be the case were the queen to wed one of the members of the imperial house of Germany. Duke Henry is a German prince, to be sure, but his principality is but a little one, and no great political prestige can attach to his future status as husband of the Queen of Holland.

THE YOUTHEY TRIAL.

Kansas City Star.

H. E. Youtsey is the third man to be convicted for complicity in the plot to assassinate William Goebel. James Howard was sentenced to death three weeks ago and Caleb Powers was sent to the penitentiary under a life sentence in August. In all these cases the attitude of the public outside of Kentucky has been to hope that the jury was right and that innocent men were not being condemned to satisfy political hatreds. The trial of Youtsey has been a severe strain on those who wanted to believe that strict justice was being done. Every jurymen was a Democrat. This was unfortunate in a case where politics figured so extensively as in the Goebel assassination. The fact that Republicans acquiesced in the verdict against Powers gave it more weight in public opinion than it would have had otherwise.

Chicago Times-Herald.

Although unable to recognize the faithful wife at his side, this prisoner has been dragged through a ten days' trial in a Kentucky court to wreak political vengeance for the murder of Goebel. By a fiction of law created for the occasion the unconscious accused was held to be "present at the bar," and argued as a defense for the people. Every jurymen was a Democrat. This was unfortunate in a case where politics figured so extensively as in the Goebel assassination. The fact that Republicans acquiesced in the verdict against Powers gave it more weight in public opinion than it would have had otherwise.

JOHN SHERMAN.

Kansas City Star.

While John Sherman has been out of public view for the last two years, he has not been forgotten by the people. The venerable ex-secretary was never a magnetic person, but his vigor and ability stamped themselves on national affairs. Every jurymen was a Democrat. This was unfortunate in a case where politics figured so extensively as in the Goebel assassination. The fact that Republicans acquiesced in the verdict against Powers gave it more weight in public opinion than it would have had otherwise.

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