

ings, sometimes both, by reason of the wheeling that goes on so persistently in such places, and there is no sufficient reason why the practice should not be abated. If the ordinances are not enforced in one respect the failure to do so will not be long in extending to others and eventually the municipal code as a whole would thereby be weakened.

A citizen of the Fourth municipal ward makes complaint that a numerous and respectably signed petition was recently forwarded from his section to the City Council asking that action be taken regarding the matter complained of, but so far it has remained unnoticed. In that part of the city the sidewalks are very narrow and the danger of collisions is thereby increased considerably, several having already occurred. In such cases the pedestrian invariably gets the worst of it, but whether so or not the practice ought to be put a stop to by some means. Some few are so radical in their opposition as to demand that the bicycle people be given a reservation and compelled to occupy it. This is of course an extreme view and not likely to be seriously thought of; it is, however, the natural outgrowth of the other extreme, neither of which needs to exist at all. We are satisfied the City Council will do what is right in the premises when it "gets around to it;" meantime the cyclists would do well to anticipate the coming action and of their own volition remove all cause of complaint.

THE SOLDIERS' LIVING.

Among other causes of solicitude for the proper care and sustenance of our soldiers in the field, there is nothing of greater importance than that of nutritious, portable and prepared and raw food in tolerable variety. Under no circumstances does the system require more feeding of a proper character than in practical warfare, and in but few cases is it more difficult to get. A soldier's life, when in actual duty, is a continuous period of activity, sometimes precluding the possibility of cooking for days at a time; all the while there must be nutriment, nourishment and even occasionally mild stimulant, all of which must be carried on the person oftener than otherwise, and to get the greatest amount of beneficial provender into the narrowest possible space is always a problem.

In this connection the California raisin is now being favorably considered as a fruit ration for the soldiers. It has many advantages and virtues. Dried fruit is bulky and awkward, besides being unfit to eat raw. Canned fruits take up too much room and are more awkward than anything else. Even the Malaga and other common raisins are proscribed because of the seeds which, largely partaken of, induce appendicitis besides which they are very costly and would of necessity gradually become more so. It has been about settled that the seedless raisin is the thing and the only thing of the kind for regular use.

The San Francisco Chronicle claims that the fruit last spoken of fits the bill in all respects. Lacking none of the food qualities of the best London layer raisin, it at the same time overcomes the official objection to that fruit. As a part of the military ration it is both wholesome and low priced. A handful of this fruit now and then will keep the system in order, mitigate hunger and impart strength. In the latter respect the raisin has remarkable properties, not unlike those of the date, by which the Arab nourishes the vitality that enables him to ride and fight all day, or of the Zante currant, which some-

times constitutes the only food of the industrious Greek laborer.

It seems that Commissioner General Egan is favorably disposed toward the California raisin, and this being the case, it is quite likely the government will adopt it. The subject has received a great deal of consideration, its importance justifying those in authority in exercising every care and making all selections judiciously. Every section of the country has an interest in the subject that is more than a passing, commonplace feeling, and amounts to a determination that nothing that is beneficial and practicable to the boys in blue shall be withheld.

A SPANISH VICTORY.

When one considers the utter hopelessness of the Spaniards' situation in the absence of intervention, he can scarcely find fault with them for going into ecstasies over a "brilliant Spanish victory" which had no other foundation than that perennial and fruitful imagination which seems a part and parcel of the Spanish nature. Furthermore, the fates have not been friendly to the dons; none of the prizes and nearly all of the calamities have fallen to their lot, so that a very little thing must be made the most of for the want of better filling.

The government recently sent three old hulks down to Schley's fleet to be used as obstructions to the entrance to Santiago harbor. The design was to run them in and then sink or let the enemy sink them. One of the boats so sent was the Merrimac, a worn-out collier. Yesterday morning this was sent in as an experiment more than anything else, it being thought that if there were mines the craft would develop them by contact or by their explosion from the shore. It usually carried some forty men, but all but eight—just enough to handle the boat—were taken off and it was then run into the dragon's jaws, where the expected happened. Whether by a mine, a torpedo boat or cannonading from the shore—it is not yet clear which—the boat was sent to the bottom, considerably injured. The eight men of course were made prisoners, and expected to be. Fearing that Cervera might some time or other in the future want to use that passage for purposes of exit, the Spaniards blew up the shell with dynamite, the total loss to the United States being perhaps as much as \$75. And this is the "brilliant victory" of the enemy! If they had but restrained their impatience for even a short time, they might have got the other two scows in the same way, and thus have had an overwhelming, dazzling victory.

All this time the people are led to believe that something is going on in front of Santiago harbor or in the front of the town itself, that is going to result, if it has not already resulted, in a victory of a vastly different character. At this writing there are no details, and the cables seem to be all cut. The dispatch boats have been ordered to remain ten miles from the entrance to the harbor so as to be in a place of safety, a precaution which of itself presupposes hot work to come. That was long enough ago for great events, of which we have not heard, to take place in the interim, but of which we may likely be informed at any time. Cervera is still in the harbor, and the American ships are, or were at latest advices, just outside of it, the whole situation seeming to presage an inevitable collision within a very short time. If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, assuredly the only plan is for Mahomet to go to the mountain in

order that the meeting may occur. If the Spanish won't come out and fight, the Americans will have to go in and compel them to do that or surrender. It may result in their doing both. We can all afford to hope so as to the alternative at least.

FALSEHOOD LACKS VITALITY.

It is related, with some variation of detail, that at a juncture in President Grant's administration when he was being assailed by a portion of the press of the country with unusual bitterness, he and several members of Congress were in a cloak room. A congressman present began to read aloud from a book. The matter he read was a most vicious and virulent attack upon the President of the United States, charging him with heinous offenses and deep moral turpitude. When the reader ceased, the gentlemen present commented upon the unusual venom towards the President that was displayed in what he had read. He then explained that in reading he had substituted the name of President Grant for that of George Washington, but that otherwise he had read verbatim, paragraphs that had been written while Washington was President.

But the writer and his work had sunk into such obscurity that neither were remembered by the members of the party in the cloak room; and the resurrection of the old volume from which the reading had been done brought its author into a light to which the deepest oblivion was infinitely preferable. The slanderer of Washington might well desire that his work remain forever buried and forgotten; for it would be torment unendurable to his soul in the spirit world to know that his abuse and falsehoods were being commented upon by the American people in the light of their love and reverence for the Father of his Country.

Sixty years ago, in the regions round about Fayette and Palmyra, in the state of New York, there were many slanderers of a young man named Joseph Smith, who had become greatly noted in that part of the United States, among both friends and foes; there were many of each class. Many persons eagerly uttered all sorts of accusations against him. He was charged with almost every offense known to the calendar of crime. So abundant was this testimony that many persons believed that to kill him would be more than justifiable. Later in Missouri, and still later in Illinois, he was made the victim of the same sort of hostility which finally culminated in the murder of himself and his brother Hyrum.

Recently two Mormon Elders have been laboring in Fayette and Palmyra, and that vicinity, and while so engaged they took special pains to inquire among old residents for some tangible evidence, based on the personal knowledge of the witnesses offering it, going to impeach the morals or character of Joseph Smith, but they utterly failed to hear a word of the kind. On the contrary all persons whom they met, and who were personally acquainted with the early Mormons, described them as a moral and law-abiding people of peculiar religious views. Not a soul was found to reiterate the old-time charges against them, their leaders, or their Prophet. The slanders and falsehoods of former years had all died out. Not a spark of vitality remained in one of them.

So must it ever be. Falsehood lacks vitality. It cannot be made to endure. It cannot be perpetuated. For a time it may seem so full of force and virility as to threaten to destroy and supplant