

come individual property, they will be improved with modern structures, and the village of Zoar as it has been for nearly a century, like the social and religious order of its first inhabitants, will recede into the historic past and be lost to the view of living men.

A BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM.

A writer in the Catholic New World gives the following description of a beautiful and impressive Swiss custom. Of course it could not be practiced in cities, but it seems not improbable that the piety, morality and patriotism of the Alpine mountaineers may be, at least in part, due to it:

"Among the lofty mountains and elevated valleys of Switzerland the Alpine horn has another use besides that of sounding the far-famed 'Ranz des Vaches,' or cow song; and this is of a very solemn and impressive nature.

"When the sun has set in the valley, and the snowy summits of the mountains gleam with golden light, the herdsman who dwells upon the highest habitable spot takes his horn and pronounces clearly and loudly through it, as through a speaking trumpet—'Praise be the Lord God!' As soon as the sound is heard by the neighboring herdsmen they issue from their huts, take their Alpine horns and repeat the same words.

"This frequently lasts a quarter of an hour, and the call resounds from all the mountains and rocky cliffs around. When silence again reigns the herdsmen kneel and pray with uncovered heads. Meantime it has become quite dark. 'Good night!' at last calls the highest herdsman through his horn. The words resound from all the mountains, the horns of the herdsmen and the cliffs, and the mountaineers then retire to their dwellings."

Have we not here a disclosure of the secret by which the brave and patriotic Swiss have so long maintained their freedom? Inferior in numbers to other jealous nations near them, and often surrounded by contending armies, they have continued, from generation to generation, a free people. For God to abandon to the power of their enemies a people that thus signalize their homage of Him, would be contrary to His usual methods in dealing with men and nations; and it may well be believed that the sincerity of the Swiss in their worship of God has long been the bulwark of their liberties.

BRIBERY.

A day or two ago the "News," in response to the urging of a cotemporary, gave expression, in a brief and limited way, to some of its views in regard to the practice, which is extensively indulged in by a certain class of speakers and writers in this country, of denouncing wealthy men as thieves and robbers, without either discrimination or regard for the methods by which their wealth was acquired. The names of C. P. Huntington, the California railroad magnate, and John D. Rockefeller, the controlling power of the Standard oil trust, were mentioned in the connection indicated. The subject will bear further treatment.

It is charged that C. P. Huntington has acquired wealth and power by committing the crime of bribery; that he has bought the votes of members of the California legislature in support of measures that enriched him at the expense of the people. He has never been convicted of this, nor of any other criminal offense, so far as the "News" is aware; but no matter; without at this time passing on his actual guilt or innocence, let us proceed on

the postulate that he is guilty as charged by popular clamor; that is, that by bribing members of the legislature he has enriched himself and oppressed the people.

The legislators were corrupt or he could not have bought them, and it is the boast of America that all her lawmakers, municipal, state and national, come up out of the ranks of, and are thoroughly representative of, the people. A stream will not rise higher than its fountain. A legislative body elected under free institutions such as prevail in the United States is likely to average neither better nor worse than the people that elects it. Generally speaking, the reputation which a candidate for the legislature may have as a bribe-taker will not prevent his election if he has the support of his party machinery. It is a notorious and deplorable feature of American politics that most voters do not hesitate to cast their ballots for a candidate for the reason that he is reputed to be venal. Where then does responsibility for venality in a legislature primarily rest?

With the people. They cleave to party machinery. They cower before the party lash. They tamely submit to party bosses. They act on the principle that it is better for a scoundrel to be elected by their party than for an honest man to be elected by their opponents. They suffer themselves to be bought and sold like sheep by partisan manipulators; and the cheapest votes on the American market are those controlled by the very organizations that most vociferously denounce rich men as thieves and robbers.

If C. P. Huntington, for money or other thing of value, bought the votes of legislators, he committed a crime as heinous as larceny or forgery, and richly deserves to be punished. Equally guilty are the men who sold him their votes. The offense of both buyer and seller is of a character that is peculiarly exempt from all palliation. But what of the people who deliberately placed corrupt men in power? Are they not participants in the crime? In the last analysis of the whole matter, did not the people sell themselves for the pottage of partisan victory? If all who share the guilt of bribery are to receive their deserts, what capacity must the prisons have?

Occasionally John D. Rockefeller is accused of bribery, but the American public does not seriously entertain this charge against him. His guilt in the eyes of most of those who hold him culpable consists rather in compelling competitors to sell to him that he may control the entire product and make the price to suit himself. That he has accumulated an enormous fortune by this policy is not denied. But is he therefore a criminal? In the opinion of the "News," unless something worse than this is proven against him, he deserves no such an appellation.

The people of the United States are free. They make their own constitutions and statutes, and they have irrevocably decreed that no man shall be deemed guilty of an offense against the public peace, dignity or welfare who has not transgressed the law. If Rockefeller's operations have been within the law, the makers of the law are sharers of the responsibility resulting from those operations, and the censure for such sins as he is charged with belongs, in part at least, to the civilization that renders them unavoidable. The remedy lies not in denouncing the financier as a thief, but in correcting the civilization of the time. It may be said that adequate correction of it is impossible. Perhaps this is and will be true until the masses of the people are willing to adopt higher principles and crystalize them into law.

In the meantime wrong and injustice

on one side will not be cured by the perpetration of wrong and injustice on the other. Under American institutions the people have all things beneath the heavens in their own hands and can remedy the ills from which they suffer if they will. But to do this they must follow different teachers from those who are leading them now.

HENRIK IBSEN.

The seventieth birthday of Henrik Ibsen was celebrated in Christiania yesterday, March 21st, with great festivities. The aged dramatist was congratulated by the Storting and King Oscar. Ibsen has been a writer since 1850, but not till thirty years later he became known to the world at large. In 1852 his play *The Dolls' House*, was translated into English, and in 1889 it was produced on a London stage. From that time on Ibsen has been widely discussed. It will probably not be denied that Ibsen's characters are drawn with a boldness approaching very closely the great master of the drama, Shakespeare. That his success on the English and American stage has not been perfect is very easily accounted for by those who have seen Hamlet, for instance, on the German or the Scandinavian stage. It is almost impossible to transfer the full force of the original to any translation. Critics have sometimes overlooked this fact and done Ibsen great injustice.

PREPARATIONS WITHOUT WAR.

The United States has several times been at the point of war with foreign powers and always carried off the palm without an actual struggle for it. During the administration of John Adams the friendly relations between the United States and France were severed. France ordered the confiscation of American ships carrying English goods and the killing of American sailors found on English naval vessels. Talleyrand, through his agents, demanded that the President modify or explain certain expressions in his message to Congress, and asked for money for the members of the directory. It was hinted that unless \$25,000 was forthcoming, French warships would proceed to ravage the American coast. The American people when made aware of these demands became enthusiastic. They were ready to appropriate "millions for defense but not one cent for tribute." Preparations for war were commenced, and naval encounters took place until, by the capture of the French ship *L'Insurgente* by the *Constellation*, the French became convinced that the Americans were in earnest. The war ended before a declaration of war had been made.

At the time of the Civil war the French evidently remembered the lessons of the past. Napoleon, believing that the nation was about to be disrupted, recognized the belligerency of the Confederacy and sent an army to Mexico. After the war it was suggested to the emperor that the presence of his army in Mexico was in defiance of the Monroe doctrine. The emperor removed it before the victorious army had a chance to sweep down upon it. If Spain should choose a course different from that which leads into the war-path, there are precedents enough to satisfy the most ideal conception of national honor.

"Penalty of violated law" would be an appropriate epitaph for half the dead.