

## EDITORIALS.

## DECAY OF IMMIGRATION.

OUR New York contemporaries of late have made a number of references to the decrease of immigration from Europe to the United States, which decrease still continues. The New York *Herald* of Dec. 16 says—

"Castle Garden has of late assumed a most deserted appearance. Since the emigration has so vastly decreased the old tumble-down building, which was usually filled with poor emigrants, living and sleeping there for days after their arrival, has completely lost its wonted aspect of bustle and activity. Workmen are now laying a new floor, the Board having appropriated \$2,000 for the purpose. The structure is sadly in need of other repairs, but the embarrassed financial condition of the Emigration Commission is an effectual bar to all other alterations. If the legislature refuses to make an adequate appropriation—\$300,000 is the amount asked for—the Board will have to consign the emigrants under its care to the county authorities. The appropriation is asked for the purpose of helping the Commissioners out of their financial difficulties, their indebtedness alone amounting to over \$200,000.

"The arrivals yesterday were not numerous. The *California*, of the Anchor line, from Glasgow, brought 97 steerage passengers, most of whom were Irish and Scotch, and the *Wyoming*, of the Williams & Guion line, about 60, English and Irish. The total emigration for this year—exclusive of persons who had previously been in this country—will probably not exceed 140,000, while the number for last year was 266,000. It is not expected that the emigration will materially revive in the next few years, owing to the reports of hard times in this country which have been spread broadcast all over Europe.

"The number of persons now under the care of the Commission is 969. There were 466 in the hospital on Ward's Island yesterday (293 men, 106 women and 68 children), 172 in the asylum (84 men, 87 women and 1 child), 145 in the male refuge (127 men and 18 boys), 75 in the female refuge (43 men and 32 women), and 110 in the nursery (30 women and 80 children). The support of this army of dependents costs \$2 20 a week per head."

The *Herald* refers to the estimates of Mr. Kapp, formerly a member of the Commission, but now in the German Parliament, who came to the conclusion that the immediate average gain to the country was \$150 per emigrant, on which estimate the *Herald* concludes that the decrease of immigration to the United States during 1873 and 1874 has caused a loss to this country amounting to \$18,990,000, or nearly nineteen millions of dollars in round numbers, exclusive of the annual loss of labor, of taxes, and the value of that labor in building up the country and developing its resources.

The decrease is principally in the immigration from Germany, and next in that from Ireland for a wonder.

Speaking of the German immigration calls to mind the following upon the subject from the New York *Tribune* of Dec. 16—

"For several days past many persons, mostly Germans, have besieged the offices of the commissioners of emigration at Castle Garden, and besought them to provide steerage passage to Europe. Of course it was impossible for the commissioners to provide means for them to return to Germany, but in some few instances where only a small deficiency existed, the balance was supplied by the commissioners. In nearly every case they came provided with letters from Germany in which they were assured that labor is plenty and profitable at home, and that the demand for mechanics is greater than for many years previous. Information received by the commissioners themselves from all parts of Prussia shows that the situation has not been exagger-

ated. Skilled labor is scarce, and the prices paid exceed anything that has been paid for years past. Bookbinders, machinists, type-setters and mechanics in the different trades are receiving from 10 to 30 florins a week where only one-third that sum used to be paid. His rate, considering the prices of rent, provisions, and living generally, is equivalent to as many dollars here. Accomplished bookkeepers with large manufacturing companies are receiving from 3,000 to 10,000 florins a year. Business is brisk throughout the Empire, and prosperity and plenty prevail throughout the land. This is accounted for by the commissioners and others from the fact that while Germany is now homogeneous and a unit, she became enriched by the late war, levying tribute upon France, which was made to bear all the expense of the campaign. She was more than indemnified. Money became plenty and the industries which had slumbered when the war was raging, were set in operation at its close."

These are rather unpleasant indications for this country. They are indications of decadence, if not of permanent yet certainly of present decadence. They proclaim the fact that this continent is losing its attractions for European emigrants, at least that their own countries, in comparison, possess far greater attractions than they were wont to do. How is this? It is an uncomplimentary fact, and it must be attributed, if in part to the good government and present general prosperity of those old countries, at least also in part to the bad government of this country and the unprosperous circumstances in which the country is now placed.

HON. CLARKSON N. POTTER.—The Omaha *Herald* of Dec. 20th says—

"Clarkson N. Potter, of New York, we are glad to know, is a member of the special committee on the affairs of the South to whom that part of the President's Message referred. It is understood that this committee will visit New Orleans, and other places in the South. It is fortunate that a gentleman of the high character, ability and rugged honesty of Clarkson N. Potter, is a member of this committee. Few men in our country have broader views of the existing condition of things in the southern section, and their bearing upon the welfare of the whole Union."

How IS IT?—An Englishman in Chicago seems to be sorely puzzled to divine the reason why the expense of living is so much greater in this country than in England, and he writes the difficulty in this strain—

"What first strikes, however, the stranger visiting the stock yard is the unaccountable difference between the cost of living in America and the prices of the first necessities of life. An average head of cattle can be bought here for \$25, while it would cost as much as \$90 or \$100 in the old country. A hog can be bought for \$9 or \$10 or at retail for about 8 or 9 cents a pound, one-third of the English price. The same is true with bread and vegetables. Yet living here costs three or four times as much as in England. There must be evidently something utterly wrong in the very basis of the social and economical organization of this country."

REPUTATION NOT EVIDENCE.—Says a Washington paper—"The United States district court, in a case on trial at Pittsburg, involving the claim of an Indian woman to the Mowry estate, has ruled that 'public reputation' is not evidence of marriage."

AN EXCEPTION.—California is represented as the one happy exception to the general hard times and not-quite-so-good-a-Christmas-as-usual. The San Francisco *Chronicle* says—

"The present season is one of al-

most unprecedented prosperity as regards our favored city. There are pretty sure indications that the coming Christmas holidays will be the merriest we have ever experienced. Never during any previous winter have there been so little real destitution and suffering. Work is abundant and wages are good. Trade in all its branches is brisker than usual. \* \* \* Sarcely will the Christmas chimes have closed upon the air when the bells will be heard ringing in a New Year of livelier commerce, and rapidly increasing population. When San Francisco looks at the business stagnation and suffering in Eastern cities, she can well afford to be generously complacent."

MONARCHY VS. REPUBLICANISM.—A western paper says—

"American journals have a great deal to say about the outrageous expense of the British governmental machinery, the cost of supporting the royal family, etc. But it appears that there are some matters in which that monarchical government is a great deal more economical than we are. The New York *Tribune* has been making some laborious researches with a view to obtaining materials for a comparison between that extravagant monarchy and our own frugal republic, in regard to the cost of public buildings. The result of these researches is, that Congress appropriates \$12,000,000 under this head where the British government expends \$8,000,000. And, moreover, Britain has a great deal more to show for her comparatively small expenditure than we have for our \$12,000,000 per annum.

## KATIE KING.

HOW THE WONDERFUL "MATERIALIZATIONS" WERE OBTAINED—THE CABINET MADE CONVENIENT—THE DISAPPEARING, REAPPEARING AND LEVITATION EXPLAINED—AN ANIMATED BOLSTER—THE MODUS OPERANDI OF THE MANIFESTATIONS SET FORTH.

That "Katie King," as presented for the last year of the Holmeses' seances in this city, was a being of flesh and blood has been ascertained beyond a doubt; but who she was, how she was secreted in the houses, afterwards introduced into the cabinet, and so assisted as to leave it without being detected, have as yet been more or less a mystery. "Katie King," or rather the young woman who personated her, is a widow with a child, and a mother depending on her for support. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Holmes became acquainted with her at a boarding house, where they lived for some weeks subsequent to their advent in Philadelphia. About the time the Holmeses took possession of No. 50 North Ninth street, "Katie King" (for reasons hereinafter to be stated we will not publish her name) became unable to pay her board, and was finally reduced to such an extremity that she was absolutely penniless and almost without clothing. Finding that this was the case, her host sold what few effects she had left, and turned the woman into the street. In this condition she was promised assistance by Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, provided she would enact the part of a materialized spirit in their cabinet seances. Although the proposition was revolting she was forced to accept it or see her child and mother suffer from hunger. The cabinet, which had been placed in one corner of the second story front room, with one side against a door which opened into a bedroom, was easily arranged so as to admit of ingress from the bedroom. The boards were all fastened with screws, and battens were placed outside and inside about two feet from the floor. It was an easy matter to take out one of the boards and put in its place a duplicate so divided at the battens that the point of juncture could not be seen. The upper part of this board was firmly secured, but the lower portion was loosely fastened with two screws, while the other screw heads were "dummies." When it was thought a strict examination of the cabinet would be made the divided board would be taken out, and the original put back in its place. When the Katie King seances first began the gentleman

who afterwards became so prominently connected with them, Dr. Child, of this city, was permitted to examine every nook and corner in the house. As he was for a time very skeptical on the question of materialization the investigations were very thoroughly conducted. The visitors would then be congregated in the front room with the cabinet, and the door would be locked. "Katie King" would soon after enter the house from the street, make her way to the bedroom, assume her white dress, and with a small screw-driver take off the lower portion of the divided board. These preparations could not be heard on account of the singing and music-box noise, which was continually kept up. To enter the cabinet was an easy task for Katie, and with a stool she could reach the rather high aperture. The disappearing and reappearing part of the phenomena was accomplished by gradually lowering a black cloth over herself, and at the same time crouching back in the corner. The semi-darkness of the room, combined with the complete blackness of the inside of the cabinet, made this seeming impossible feat very simple. The levitation manifestation, or the suspension of her body in the air, was done by means of the stool, covered with a black cloth. As it was impossible to distinguish any color but white within the cabinet, the stool was, of course, invisible, and by stepping upon it very deliberately and gradually raising herself, the young lady was enabled to present the appearance of being lifted and suspended above the floor. At the close of the seance there was always a delay of about ten minutes between the time of the last appearance of the alleged spirit and the knocks, which signified that no more were coming. During this time Katie would slip through the hole in the cabinet, screw on the loosened board, and make her escape. Had the cabinet been taken apart at such a time, the trick would have been discovered. It was taken to pieces after a similar seance, but by some means the Holmeses suspected that this would be done, and were prepared for it. A party of ten gathered in the room on this occasion, and Mrs. Holmes complained that she was feeling so unwell that her mediumistic power was very weak, consequently it would be necessary to hold a dark seance first. This was consented to; the lights were extinguished, not only in the room, but in the hall, and the dark seance began. As the divided board had been taken from the cabinet, it was impossible for Katie to enter in the usual manner, and she consequently came in through the door. This she could do under cover of the darkness, and as all hands were clasped, she safely crossed the room during the ringing of bells and the twanging of guitars, and other accompaniments of dark seances. Once within the cabinet, she had only to arrange her white dress, put on a little extra powder, and she was ready to begin. A lamp was then dimly lighted, and the usual manifestations were gone through with. Had the seance closed in the ordinary manner, Katie would have been found in the cabinet; but "John King," through Mr. Holmes, stated that if they would turn out the lights again for a few moments, it might give him strength to do some extra materializing. The lights were accordingly extinguished, thus enabling "Katie King" to come out of the cabinet and leave the room by the hall door. After "Katie" had made her escape, "John King" again asked for light, and for several moments all waited patiently for the manifestations promised. None came, however, as Mr. "King" explained that conditions were not right, and so the light was turned on, and the seance closed.

The ten persons who had witnessed the manifestations then took the cabinet to pieces, and, as the original board had before been returned to its place, they of course found "no trap nor trick of any kind." Had the investigators on that evening insisted on having but one dark seance, they would never have signed the certificate which was there drawn up, for as the cabinet was on that evening virtually without a trap, Katie King having entered it through the door under cover of the darkness, she could not have made her escape except during the second dark seance at the close of the evening's performance. This was almost the only occasion

on which a Holmes entertainment began and ended with a dark seance, and the reason why this change was made should at that time have been more closely inquired into. It has been stated that for a time the door leading from the front room into the hall was always locked. As this created much suspicion, the mediums finally consented to have it remain open until the manifestations first appeared. Under such circumstances it became necessary to make a change in the manner of keeping "Katie" out of sight. The bolster on the bed was therefore so arranged that "Katie" could creep into it, and in this she hid herself before the seance and after it was concluded. The bedroom was many times examined after the change, and the bed was also inspected, but no one ever thought of looking into the bolster to find out what it was stuffed with. Katie King, during last summer, when these seances were being held at No. 50 North Ninth street, boarded with Mrs. Holmes, and was at first suspected by Dr. Child; but on several occasions he was requested by Mrs. Holmes to answer the violent ringing of the door-bell immediately following the close of the seance. He always found the suspected lady waiting very patiently to be let in, and she often complained that, as she boarded with Mrs. Holmes, that lady had no right to lock her out. The doctor's suspicions were soon quieted by this ruse, and the young lady was seldom afterward thought of. During the heated term Mr. and Mrs. Holmes left the city and traveled through the West, where they were once exposed, but as the account was not clearly written, the effect was not very damaging. Upon the return of the mediums to Philadelphia in the fall, Dr. Child was sent for by Mrs. Holmes and asked to assist them in finding a house. The doctor gladly complied with the request, as he was anxious to have the cabinet placed in a room where it could stand near solid walls. He found one or two houses where the front room would admit of this arrangement, but Mrs. Holmes discovered some fault with them all, and finally decided upon the house at 825 North Tenth St. In the second story front room of this house the cabinet was placed in such a position that it stood about eighteen inches from a boarded-up window. As already described in the *Press*, this window was arranged in such a way that with the sash taken out there was room for a person to stand between the boards on the inside and the shutters on the outside. One of the boards was apparently fastened by screws, but they were only "dummies." In reality it swung on pivots, and was held in its place by a stout button on the inside. A board in the back of the cabinet was similarly arranged. "Katie King" took her position in the window and fastened herself in. The space between the cabinet and the wall was then concealed by a door, which at first glance appeared as part of the cabinet, a table covered with musical instruments, was shoved up against it, and the guests, who were always received in a down stairs room, were invited to ascend. A dark seance always opened the entertainment, during which Katie would descend from her perch, and making her way into the cabinet, take a position in the corner, where she could not be seen when the cabinet door was opened. Mr. Holmes would then enter the cabinet, and between the two the usual manifestations were produced. The numerous faces shown were nothing but rubber masks, so made that they could be blown up into different sizes, and at the same time produce different appearances. Mr. Holmes could conceal half a dozen such faces in his inside pocket. At the Tenth street house Mr. and Mrs. Holmes was supposed to live alone, having only an old colored woman as an assistant. This "auntie" was quite dumb, and on several occasions forgot herself, and set the table for three instead of two, as the Holmeses usually partook of a light supper after the evening's performances. The dark circles given at 825 North Tenth street were often quite entertaining to lovers of the mysterious, and as they performed almost all of the still unexplained tests given by the best mediums, it was less difficult for them to avert suspicion than it would have been had they confined themselves to Katie King. Their mediumistic powers are highly attested, and