

EDITORIALS.

OPENING THEIR EYES.

THOSE who travel with their eyes open have them opened still further by travel. An observant man learns much, and his mind becomes greatly expanded, enlarged, and liberalized by much travel and the almost consequent intercourse with the various people of intelligence, observation, and experience whom he meets with in the different places which he visits.

The "New York and New England Editorial Excursion" party, now visiting this City and vicinity, were entertained, July 7, by the Merchants' Club at the Grand Central Hotel, Omaha, and several of them made appreciative speeches on the occasion, indicating that they had come west with open eyes, and that they had been opened still wider by what they had seen on the trip. Dr. George L. Miller made some introductory remarks, and Gen. Charles T. Manderson gave the address of welcome. In response Mr. Henry T. Williams, who had been west before, spoke briefly, among other things saying—

"When I left New York I thought I would say nothing about the beautiful sight which awaits our party in the magnificent Platte valley, but as the matter has been referred to this evening, I now say that a by far more glorious sight than anything we have seen in Iowa or that portion of Nebraska we have already seen, will be witnessed when we pass through the grand fields which line our course up the beautiful valley of the Platte river. It has been to me one of the most wonderful and refreshing sights of my life.

"I love the west, and I have wanted my friends and co-laborers of the east to come out here and see for themselves, knowing that if they did, they too would love the west. We have in the east a surplus of laborers; you need our laborers to till your extensive and wonderfully productive fields, and it is one of the objects of this trip to see if we cannot bring about a supplying of your needs in that direction.

"Perhaps two-thirds of our party have had very vague and indistinct ideas of the west, but I knew that before our ride from Lincoln to Omaha yesterday was completed we got a better idea of what the west really was. I myself have never before seen the west in its fullness of beauty as I am now seeing it, in the five or six times I have visited it. We shall tell to our fifteen millions of readers—for unitedly, we reach that many readers—what a grand and glorious country you have here.

"I heard it said to-day that Boston is no longer 'the hub of the universe,' but that Omaha is."

Prof. L. T. Townsend offered an excellent address, of which the following are portions—

"Now we, who are from Boston, think we are justly proud of Boston, and of our state. We believe in the educational provisions of our state, our advantages and our literary atmosphere, which we compel every child to breathe, but as I have looked upon, yesterday and to-day, your magnificent educational buildings, your colleges and your universities, and as we learn of your munificent and generous state endowments for school purposes, we begin to tremble a little for our laurels, and we are convinced that no longer is New England to stand alone in her educational and literary advantages, for the same advantages will soon be enjoyed here.

"We were met with a surprise when, on the first day of our visit to Chicago, we went out to Elgin, where we found in one of your neighboring states, a manufactory where watches were made at the rate of one thousand per week—watches of the very best quality and finish. It really looks as though you enterprising westerners were to monopolize, not merely the agricultural interests of this great country, but also the manufactories, of which New England has

heretofore engaged in exclusively.

"We were surprised in Chicago the other day to learn that the shipping tonnage of that city is greater than that of New York, and it looks as though even New York may yet lose her laurels. London is the metropolis of the world now, but in time that metropolis will come to this country, and I honestly believe it will be one of the great inland cities of this continent. Shall it be Chicago, shall it be St. Louis, or shall it be Omaha? I am told that west of here for three or four hundred miles you have a soil of wonderful richness and fertility and in places forty feet in depth. What is to be the result when these lands are all occupied and improved?

"So profoundly was I impressed with this picture of your future glory, that to-day, while out riding, I said to a gentleman I was riding with—Mr. Frost of your city, an old friend in our family—that before the people here have recovered from their grasshopper panic, I wished him to make a grand investment for me in property in the vicinity of the fair grounds, write me at once, and I would send him a check immediately for the amount of the purchase money. That is my conviction of the growth of your city.

"I must confess that in looking over this country through which we have passed, that my own views have broadened somewhat. Our views cannot broaden without being elevated and they cannot be elevated without being ennobled and purified. Let us all then endeavor to become nobler and better citizens, worthy of this grand and glorious country which we possess."

The following are extracts of the response of Mr. J. K. Taylor to a toast regarding the press—

"Ladies and gentlemen, the scales have been taken from our eyes. I for one, was totally ignorant of this great country. I had never been west of Harrisburg before, but when I came out west and found that city of which it was said that it was in ashes for a distance of five miles, I said, 'The child is greater than its parents.' An old lady in Pennsylvania was called upon during the war to furnish lint for the army. There had been a great battle down in Maryland and great quantities of lint were needed for the wounded soldiers. She was told that she could send her lint to such a number on such a street. 'What are they paying?' she asked. 'Nothing at all' was the reply, 'but there has been a great battle fought which lasted for three days, and lint is needed for the poor wounded soldiers.' 'Oh indeed,' responded the old woman, 'and was anybody hurt?'

"I didn't know anything about this great country through this boasted power of the press. The papers have boasted of New York, and Boston and Philadelphia, but they have left you out. But they won't do it any longer. In Chicago, on the 5th of July, they laid the foundation of a great iron establishment, saying, 'We are going to depend upon ourselves hereafter.' Let me say to our western friends that I think a large number of our party have been so favorably impressed with what they have seen since leaving home that they have already partially made up their minds to leave the sinking ship of the east, before she entirely sinks, and come west."

Mr. Charles L. Flint, in further responding to the same toast, made remarks among which were the following—

"We came here not expecting any special demonstration, but for recreation and rest from long continued and exhaustive literary labors.

"We came, also to learn something of the condition and resources of this portion of our common country. We have come to seek information. Many persons in our party have more than a million of readers. In my own personal experience—and I may say I have no doubt it is the same with many editors of our party—I am in almost daily receipt of letters of inquiry from young men, asking as to the best portions of the west to remove to.

"We have heard of the west, and of her boundless and flower-decked prairies, but seeing is believing after all, and I think I do not overstep the truth when I say we have

been filled with wonder at the immense extent of the resources of this great country. The journey which we made yesterday over the Burlington and Missouri railroad would take the powers of the pen to describe so as to carry any just impression of the reality itself. I have been something of a traveler in the agricultural districts of our own country, and have been repeatedly over those of Germany, France, Lombardy and other countries, but I never passed before yesterday over such a fertile, promising country as I saw in that portion of southern Nebraska which I then visited. I should be glad to return ten or fifteen years hence to see the wonderful progress and development of her resources this country will show. I know that this State has the capacity for raising any variety of fruit in its highest grade of perfection. We have a most wonderful country. When we travel a day and a night and again a day and a night we can begin to realize, partially, its grandeur and magnificence."

ROBERT DALE OWEN INSANE.

Our exchanges bring notices of the insanity of Robert Dale Owen, supposed to have been largely induced by spiritualism. The Katie King fraud some months back possibly gave him a great shock, which may have proved the starting point of his insanity.

He was the eldest son of Robert Dale Owen, the English social reformer, was born at New Lanark, Scotland, 1804, and came to the United States with his father in 1823, settling in Indiana. He participated in the unsuccessful social experiment in New Harmony. He represented that State in Congress from 1843 to 1847, was one of the first regents of the Smithsonian Institution, and was U. S. Charge d'Affaires at Naples from 1853 till 1858. He wrote a number of works, chiefly of a liberal character, and upon social and spiritualistic subjects, his "Footfalls on the Boundaries of Another World" and "The Debatable Land" being perhaps the most widely known. He was an ardent "reformer" all his life, possessed an active and vigorous intellect and is represented as being genial, warm-hearted, and highly esteemed by all who knew him. He was "honest, noble-minded, pure as a child, and from his youth up engaged in schemes for the benefaction of his fellows."

THE MORTALITY IN SCOTLAND.

The following is the death rate per thousand for the places named for 1874, based on the census returns of 1871—

"Gourock, 27; Inverkip, 14; Helensburgh (Row), 18; Dunoon and Kilmun, 21; Rothesay, 30; Largs, 22; Millport (Cumbraes), 23; Ardrossan, 23; Irvine, 35; Troon, 18; Ayr, 27; Campbeltown, 20; Oban, 26; Kilmalcolm, 21; Bothwell, 31; Moffat, 20; Bridge of Allan, 21; Glasgow, 33; Greenock, 29.6; Paisley, 28.9."

For the first three months of the present year, a remarkably small percentage of mortality is recorded in the following parishes—Cambuslang, upwards of 5,000 population, about 8 per 1,000; Bothwell, 20,000 population, 8 per 1,000; East Kilbride, 3,800 population, 7 per 1,000; Blantyre, upwards of 5,000 population, a little more than 5 per 1,000. Blantyre also has a greater proportionate number of births than the other parishes, and thus, says a Scotch paper, "May it not be said that the parish of Blantyre is not only the healthiest but also the most prosperous parish in Scotland."

AMERICAN POLITICS.—The London Saturday Review talks of American politics thus—

"The national indifference to personal merit as a qualification for office is both a consequence of universal suffrage and a cause of many unforeseen results. A vast community which has perhaps a higher average of intelligence than any other is not known to possess a single statesman or pre-eminent citizen. An American Tarquin would not find a flower to decapitate which overtopped the neighboring

plants. Among the most active politicians half a dozen may be notorious, but not one can be called famous. Almost every name which is familiar to the general ear is associated with the lowest form of faction, if not with pecuniary corruption.

"There is reason to believe that the President has himself endeavored to study financial questions, not without partial success. His military instincts probably explain the Southern policy which has, more than his other proceedings, alienated a large section of his former adherents. General Sheridan, one of his principal lieutenants, has shown even more distinctly than the President himself the indifference to constitutional rights which has often in other countries characterized successful soldiers. Even hackneyed politicians were startled by a request from a commanding officer to the President that he should be invested with power of life and death."

THE ART OF CONTROVERSY.

In an article on "The Art of Controversy," the *Saturday Review* says it would not do to wholly abandon controversy, inasmuch as "some men of first-rate power cannot write properly unless they are stimulated by the presence of an antagonist." The *Review* contends that—

"The true rule is that, though we may answer a man, we should never answer an answer. The duel should be limited to a couple of shots. After that the aim is certain to become wild, and ammunition is wasted without any corresponding result. If a man is forced by circumstances to continue a controversy, as may sometimes happen, his best plan is simply to restate his old views, as simply and dogmatically as possible. If he once allows himself to become entangled in the labyrinths of a recurring controversy, he may be quite sure that the interest taken in his performances will become weaker at every succeeding exhibition."

"It is hopeless to attempt to meet our adversaries at all points, and to clear off all possible misconceptions. The secret of success is to confine the argument to the smallest possible number of issues; to state the leading principles as simply as possible; and then, if necessary, to go on stating them over and over again. If anybody has the courage to drill some lesson into the public mind in season and out of season, and never to be afraid of becoming a bore, he will end by converting all convertible people. Argument, of course, is a very agreeable employment for those who are fond of displaying intellectual ingenuity; and, as many men are content to spend great part of their lives in playing whist or inventing mathematical puzzles, there is no reason why they should not spend labor in constructing elaborate philosophical arguments. It amuses them and does little harm to anybody. But, for purposes of conversion, arguments should not consist of more than one vigorous assertion. A man of one idea is the man who really wins disciples. If he can get hold of a single doctrine, concentrate it in a good telling phrase, and harp upon it whenever he gets a chance, he will attract hearers as the magnet attracts the particles of iron in a dust heap. But if he permits himself to diverge into the infinite number of subsidiary questions that can be raised, he must be content to write for philosophers—that is, for one person in a million; and his opinions will be confined to them till he finds a less ambitious interpreter."

CARNIVAL OF LYING.—Dr. Porters, an Episcopalian preacher in New York, thus referred to the Brooklyn trial in a sermon the other Sunday—

"No trial has ever been so disfigured as this with liars and lies. The lies in this trial were not the ordinary lies of the world, having no personal interest; nor the white lie of commerce, nor the lie of policy; but the unblushing, premeditated, preknowing lies of malice. God in his book of lies has recorded many; but the largest and vilest must have been recorded during the past six months. Men who have been considered honorable, whose words were not doubt-

ed, and whose friendship has been courted; women whose characters have borne the closest scrutiny; busy merchants, who although not religious, have always acted on the square—this trial has besmeared them, and has actually ostracised them."

SHERMAN ON BLAIR.

THE New York *Herald* reports an interview with Gen. Sherman respecting the late General Frank P. Blair. Here is an extract, General Sherman speaking—

"Yes, poor Frank is gone; poor Frank is gone." Then the General mused a moment and said, with some warmth, that some expressions of his had been distorted into reflections upon General Blair's character as a soldier, and that great injustice had been done to him thereby.

"I always had a most exalted regard for Frank Blair," pursued General Sherman, with much forbearance of manner. "I always regarded him as one of the truest patriots, most honest and honorable men and one of the most courageous soldiers this country ever produced. I never lost sight of the services he rendered the country on the outbreak of the war, and I fully concede and always have conceded that to his boldness, promptitude and firmness more than to anything else the country is indebted for the preservation of St. Louis as a strategic point, and for the salvation of Missouri. Frank Blair was a noble, generous, honest man. He was brave, frank, sincere and unselfish. His virtues will live forever, because they reflected good upon others, while his faults will be buried with him, because they harmed no one but himself."

"The General's manner indicated that he thought his utterances in regard to General Blair in the 'Memoirs' had been wilfully and maliciously misinterpreted, and when asked if he had any objections to the publication of the tribute he had paid to the memory of the departed statesman and soldier, instantly replied—

"None! none! I will be glad to have it published. I desire to go on the record as a very warm eulogist of Frank Blair."

General Blair had been bedridden for two years, resulting from a stroke of paralysis over two years ago, followed by softening of the brain. He was not able to speak since last fall. Drs. Franklin and Farrar, of St. Louis, three months ago, performed upon him the operation of transfusion of blood, two ounces being drawn from the arm of a strong, healthy man and translated into the veins of the General. The operation was performed three times, the last being seven weeks previous to his death. This treatment appeared to improve his health somewhat. He took frequent carriage rides the present summer, the last being on the day of his death.

THE UTAH NORTHERN.—The *Helena Independent* has the following—

"Franklin, I. T., July 10, 1875. "Mr. T. E. Sickles, Chief Engineer of the Union Pacific Railroad, and one of his assistants, Mr. Sherlock, and Mr. J. Richardson, are all here locating the route of the Utah Northern Railroad across Bear River to Fort Hall. The place selected to cross Bear river is four miles above Packer's Bridge, where the stage now crosses. Richardson goes to Fort Hall by stage to-day, and will return by private conveyance through Gentile valley, so as to see both routes.

"Several freighters have gone to work on the fill at Cub River for the railroad company. Contracts for lumber for a bridge across Cub river were let at \$15 per thousand, and ties at 15 cents."

The *Independent* thus comments—

"There is an evidence of sincerity and earnestness in the preparations now going forward that will cause universal rejoicing throughout the