

WANT OF MORAL PRINCIPLE AMONG MEN IN POSITIONS OF TRUST AND POWER.

A Sermon by Rev. J. H. Bayless, at Roberts' Park Chapel, Indianapolis, Ind., Sabbath Evening, Jan. 14.

PROVERBS xvi. 12: "It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness."

[CONCLUDED.]

4. We ought to condemn, with utter execration, the prevailing practice of taxing Federal office holders for the expenses of political campaigns. If they can spare money for such purposes, they are getting more salary than they need; if they cannot, it is a wrong against them to demand it, and to make it all the officers worth to them to refuse compliance. But the worst thing in it is, that being an extortion in itself, it is a temptation to fraud on the part of the office-holder. He has been forced to pay an unjust assessment to facilitate the plans of scheming politicians, and he is tempted to make reprisal for the wrong he has suffered by using his office for improper purposes. It is a painful exhibition of the extent of high moral principle among party leaders, and as such, has power in it to corrupt, by example, all the corruptible men in the ranks of their followers. It is a thing which the press seldom touches, and the pulpit almost never; but I am glad it lies in the direct line of my remarks to-night to say so much in utterance of my conviction upon the subject.

5. We must learn to put a mark upon men who went poor into lean offices and in a few years came out rich. It may be difficult to prove that they were dishonest; a court of justice might find it very hard to make a case. But society has ways of dealing with men which justice could not formally adopt. A court cannot say that "on a well-grounded suspicion A. B. has been guilty of malfeasance in office, he shall be excluded from good society; parlors shall be closed against him; his overtures of marriage shall be rejected; he shall suffer the penalty of social degradation." But while no court can impose such a penalty, society can do it. It has a hundred ways of showing what its moral convictions are, and of showing them in a way to make such men feel their force.

6. But our only sure relief is a high morality and a pure religion. Education, and our boasted "general intelligence," are not enough, because the more a villain knows the more power he has to injure us. Lacking moral principle, he had better lack the ability principle, for prodigious knavery. Highly as I appreciate intelligence and education, therefore I am compelled to demand something higher, and stronger, and better, as an unflinching protection against the evils now under discussion. Thus I come, at last, to the final distinguished sentiment of my text. The first part of it has had ample illustration in what I have already said. "It is an abomination in kings to commit wickedness." Nothing more need be said upon that declaration. Late developments have set it forth in an expressive manner.

The closing clause announces our relief. "The throne is established by righteousness." Not by vast and well-planned political combinations; not by brilliant statesmanship and distinguished diplomacy; not by the rapid development of material resources; not even by general intelligence, nor many schools, and much science, by none of the forces of which we hear so much. "The throne is established by righteousness." This is the thing of power in government; and if we would save this Republic from general ruin, we shall do well to listen to the voice of God in history and in His holy word.—*Indianapolis Journal.*

BREVITIES.

Quick Emetic.—A teaspoonful of mustard in a tumblerful of warm water.

Karl Burtch fell across a circular saw, at Fond du Lac, the other day, and was cut into a hundred pieces.

Said Blagoe the other day when applied to for a loan of ten dollars. "I have only five lending tens, and they're all out."

In a sermon at Cincinnati Dr. Hatfield announced the theatres the hot beds of lewdness, drunkenness, and debauchery.

Whenever the people want to see if the great and good H. G. is at a hotel, they look down the register until they come to two blots and a splash.

A man in human shape advertised in a New York paper that he wishes to meet a "friendly, humble follower of the Saviour," who will accept of his hand and heart.

Many ladies have ruined the shape of their ears by wearing heavy, massive earrings which not only spoil the shape of the ear by elongating it, but also produce headache and pain in the face.

In a French court, recently, as a witness was about to give his testimony, the advocate remarked: "I wish to remark to the court that this witness is entitled to entire confidence, as he has not had time to consult his lawyer."

A Martyr Missionary.—The Washington correspondent to the Chicago Post says that the chief trouble with Chief Justice McKean is that he has a "mission" to perform in Utah. Certainly, this is just what is the trouble with Mr. Chief Justice McKean.—*Omaha Herald.*

A man in Lexington, Kentucky, bought a turkey said to be a wild one, but on arriving at home he found it was but a common turkey. He inquired how it happened. The dealer examined the turkey carefully, and then, with a sudden light, exclaimed: "Ah, I see, you have lost the gizzard!"

Some of the plaster work done upon recent buildings in London with Scott's cement mortar has attracted a good deal of attention and commendation. The mortar sets more quickly, is much harder, more adhesive, less easily crumbled, and will carry a much larger proportion of sand than that which is made from ordinary lime.

A celebrated English reporter, who had reported speeches of the foremost orators of Great Britain, Canada, and the United States, declared that he had found only three men, in these three countries of orators and scholars whom it would do to report verbatim, they so frequently and habitually violate the laws of language.

Ladies who have hitherto been restrained from carrying much baggage while traveling, by the apprehension that the railroad companies would not be responsible beyond a certain amount for its loss, need fear no longer, as they may laugh to scorn the remonstrance of male traveling companions, based upon such reasoning, for a New York Court has decided that the limitation of liability to \$100 for loss of baggage is not a contract, and has awarded a lady \$4,000 for her cherished dry goods.

A Bill to license prostitution now pending in the Legislature of Washington Territory, has received the sanction of the Woman's Club and will probably pass. This is a strange view for women to take of the social evil, and it is difficult to comprehend the motives for doing so. The natural opposition would be, that she would set her face heavily and severely against it even in its mildest and best regulated form. For her to give it countenance, in any way, is a tacit confession that it is an incurable evil and that the best that can be done with it is to hedge its victims about with every possible safeguard.—*Omaha Herald.*

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