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ABUSE OF WEALTH.

Henry Claws recently delivered an address at the annual banquet of the Economic Club, Boston, and discussed the question, "Is Great Individual or Corporate Wealth a Menace to the Country and its Republican Institutions?" He answered this question in the negative. He proved that great wealth in the hands of both individuals and corporations had been a blessing in many instances.

This is undoubtedly true. Accumulated wealth is in itself neither good nor bad. In the hands of good men and women it becomes an instrument for good. But it does not necessarily improve the morals of its possessors. It enables selfishness to become oppressive and immorality to make itself obnoxious.

When wealth is used for the purpose of perverting the ends of justice, or influencing legislation inimical to the interests of the general public; when it is employed in the service of selfish ambition, that stops at the commission of no crime in furtherance of its plans, it becomes a menace to free institutions and public morals. But the evil is not in the money but in the heart of those who use it for evil purposes. It is the abuse of it that is the danger.

A fire is useful in a home. Without it civilization would be impossible. But fire in the hands of an incendiary is dangerous, and if he succeeds in his evil designs it may become necessary to fight the flames and punish the criminal who started them. In the same way a knife is a necessary instrument of civilization, but if it is used for criminal purposes, those guilty of the crime must be placed where they can do no harm. Wealth is a means whereby the wheels of industries can be kept running, sweet charity made happy, and a general felicity promoted. But it can also be used as the fire and the knife, by assassins and incendiaries, and in that case, society must take measures against those who abuse it, for self-protection.

TWO OFFICES LEGAL.

A correspondent asks the following question: "Can a person hold the office of postmaster and be supervisor of schools at the same time?"

This is a matter that is governed entirely by postal laws and regulations, and these provide that a postmaster whose annual compensation is less than \$1,000, may hold another office under the state, territory or municipality in which he resides, provided his duties as postmaster suffer no interference in consequence thereof. So, if the postmaster referred to receives a yearly compensation of less than \$1,000, there is no reason why he should not also hold the position of supervisor of schools, provided his duties as postmaster are not interfered with thereby.

GIGANTIC FARMING INTERESTS.

The question whether this nation can properly be called a "Christian" nation may be open to discussion, but there is no doubt that it is an agricultural nation, or that its agricultural interests are of the greatest importance. Secretary Wilson gives the value of the farm products of the United States this year as \$6,800,000,000, which is the high water mark. All previous records are eclipsed. The increase in the value, over 1905, is nearly half a billion dollars, and more than two billion dollars over 1900.

In this one year, as the New York World draws the comparison, the farmer has produced enough out of the soil to pay for all the railroads in the United States, if they were drained of their water. His products for two months would buy a \$1,000,000,000 steel trust dollar for dollar, actual value, and leave a handsome margin. Secretary Wilson puts the corn crop at \$1,100,000,000, which would more than suffice to rebuild the Harriman and Hill railroad systems. Out of a \$640,000,000 cotton crop a Standard Oil Trust could be purchased. "If the hens of this year," says Secretary Wilson, "had each laid a dozen eggs more than they did, the increased value of this production would have possibly aggregated \$50,000,000."

The farmers are the actual creators of national wealth. Without their patient toil, intelligently directed, miners, manufacturers, and a host of other useful workers would be dependent upon foreign countries for food and clothing. The men who raise the wheat and corn, the cattle, hogs and chickens, and the various products of the farm, are the foundation and the mainstay of the prosperity the country enjoys.

OLD FOLKS STATISTICS.

A Baltimore dispatch the other day stated that Mrs. Susan Askey celebrated her 101st birthday, by going to church and addressing the congregation. The pastor, an octogenarian, paid a graceful tribute to the aged lady, and she responded. This is certainly a remarkable incident.

The death of the oldest person in France, Joan Mignot, has just been reported. He was 107 years old, and it seems that he had all his faculties

well preserved, and was able to take a walk daily.

A German statistician has studied recent census figures on the longevity of citizens of various nationalities. The results he has arrived at are rather remarkable. In the United States he finds very nearly fifty million white inhabitants of American parentage, and of these 393 have reached the age of a hundred years, or more. Native whites of foreign parentage are over ten millions and a half, with only 53 centenarians. Foreign born whites are less than ten millions and a half, but among them are 331 centenarians. The total number of Negroes is given as 8,832,994, with 2,553 persons over a hundred years old. Chinese and Japanese have only three centenarians of a total population of 114,189. The Indians are better off. Among 237,196 Indians, 111 have reached the 100th mile stone, or passed it. This gives a total of 3,501 centenarians out of a total population of 70,980,835.

For foreign countries the following statistics are given:

100 years and over, population.	Total
Germany	78 55,000,000
France	213 40,000,000
England	146 33,000,000
Denmark	46 4,500,000
Scotland	2 2,500,000
Belgium	5 6,700,000
Sweden	19 5,000,000
Norway	33 2,300,000
Spain	410 18,000,000
Roumania	573 6,000,000
Bulgaria	3,832 3,800,000

It is evident that these figures cannot be relied on as absolutely correct, but even if they are approximately so, they indicate that climate and habits of life have everything to do with longevity. A simple life close to nature is the best rule for the preservation of life and health.

ANTI-"MORMON" ROT.

Some time ago we referred, in these columns, to one Hans P. Freese, an individual who seems to have made it his mission to spread falsehoods broadcast about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We notice again a communication which he has sent to the Osage News, published at Osage, Mitchell county, Iowa, of November 15. In this communication he volunteers the information that he was born a "Mormon," but that he had come "under Christian influence and has escaped the awfulness which trails in the wake of the 'Mormon' system."

In order that our readers may be in a position to know what the apostles of anti-"Mormonism" consider "Christian influence," we copy a few sentences from his communication. He says in part:

"It is a significant fact that in every state where they [the Mormons] have settled, their doctrine has so shaped their lives and actuated them to such deeds of violence that the Gentiles of the community have been forced to band themselves together for protection from the assaults of the 'Mormons.' In two states where the Mormons were numerically strong, Missouri and Illinois, it became necessary for the Gentiles to call on the state authorities to protect them from the assaults and ravages of the 'Mormons.' Even today, fifty years after the Mormons were driven from Nauvoo by the State militia, the old settlers of that region are ever ready to pour into the listening ear, knowing tales of cruelties and indecencies practiced by the 'Mormons.' But when we call to mind the fact that the blackest pages of Mormon history have been written in Utah, and that their revolting indecencies and murdering of hundreds of American citizens, all occurred in Utah, is it any wonder that American citizens of the Mormon-infested districts appeal to both church and state for redress?"

This clearly shows what kind of stuff the anti-"Mormon" agitators rely on for success in their persecution of the Church. It shows clearly what kind of men they consider qualified for that kind of work. They are really below the notice of respectable men and women.

The allegations quoted need no refutation. The Latter-day Saints are before the public. Their lives form, as it were, an open book to any who cares to read its pages, and the leaders of the "Mormon" Church, as well as the members can point with a great deal of satisfaction to the fruits of "Mormonism." Morally and intellectually they compare favorably with any religious community of the present age. They need not fear a comparison, even with their traducers, and it is only a matter of time when impartial history will pronounce its verdict and stamp the proper brand upon the foreheads of all those who have engaged in the anti-"Mormon" crusades.

In the reform spelling scheme will be elipt.

The greatest race problem in this country is running for office.

The Spanish cabinet is going through a series of lightning changes.

The coal barons of Colorado seem to be just as black as those of Utah.

The President is determined to thrust greatness upon the interstate commerce commission.

When the polls close tonight may the returns show the election of a non-partisan Board of Education.

In Missouri interstate pool selling seems to be all right. Here is another matter for the interstate commerce commission to look into.

A treaty cannot be a more supreme law of the land than is a law of Congress.

Along with San Francisco's falling walls there will fall a few official heads.

If this thing keeps on there will be a demand that Salt Lake's name be changed to Newhouse.

Schmitz and Ruef are said to be at outs. And now will the people of San Francisco get their due?

South Dakota will never consent to surrender jurisdiction over divorce to the federal government.

No doubt the Sultan of Turkey would let the Sultan of Morocco have a lot of ultimatum at half price.

The San Jose seals has invaded some of the Massachusetts orchards. It is

bound to become a strong competitor with the gypsy moth for popular disfavor.

The "News" summary showed how Presidential messages may be shortened and nothing essential cut out.

Chester E. Gillette having been convicted of the murder of Grace Brown, the way is now clear to bring out the Thaw murder case.

Terry McGoovern called on the President, got the big head and the next day was taken to a hospital for observation as to his sanity.

The department of justice isn't a political party but it has got a new boss who fills the bill to a T. In Secretary Bonaparte's opinion.

Senator Jeff Davis announces that he will make a sensation when he reaches the senate. It may be, but he will not make a secession.

The Cubans must learn self restraint before they can hope to learn self-government. They must commit this fact to memory.

If San Francisco is compelled to admit Japanese to the public schools they will be regarded as schools of adversity. And sweet are the uses of adversity.

The explanation that twelve inmates of Bilibid prison, near Manila, who were supposed to have been inoculated with cholera serum, but really with plague bacilli, and died, may be correct, but will hardly be accepted by the people as such. It really looks too much like an attempt to crawl out of a very disagreeable situation.

"Senator Dubois of Idaho, who is to go into retirement, thinks the President ought to have ordered matters so as to help him to re-election. But does Dubois think the President wanted him re-elected? A political adventurer, shifting from one folly to another, like Dubois?"—Portland Oregonian.

DEFEAT OF NEW SPELLING FAD.

New York World.
The decisive vote of 32 to 4 by which the board of education bars the Brandegee spelling from the public schools of New York reflects accurately the state of the popular mind with regard to this "simplified" fad. It ought to be one of the causes leading to a speedy decline of the movement to mix up a language.

A MILLIONAIRE'S OFFER.

Springfield Republican.
A Chicago millionaire comes forward with an offer to take over the postal service of the country, reduce rates on first and second-class matter one-half, and pay over to the government all surplus earnings above 7 per cent on the capital invested. He makes the proposal to the congressional postal commission, which is investigating the abuses in the service. Would his company also, it might be asked, agree to preserve to the employees of the service the hours and wages now accorded by the government? We shall have the syndicates offering to do the policing of the country on a private monopoly basis, and then taking charge of public school education.

A NEW HORROR FROM RUSSIA.

Pittsburg Dispatch.
The "unspeakable Turk" must soon give place to the "unspeakable Russian." If half the tales of horror that come from that distracted country are even partly true. When civilization thinks the limit of atrocity has been reached it is confronted with one even more atrocious. Take the report from St. Petersburg of the famine in the government of Kazan, where it is said the hopeless peasantry are selling their daughters in slavery to the Mohammedans of the Caucasus to procure the means of averting, if only for a time, death by starvation. Well may the civilized world exclaim "what a country!" What a people! And while the Czar's subjects are sunk to this level what is the government doing for them? Devising plans for keeping them in subjection to the autocracy, heedless of the sacrifice of life and the obliteration of the most elemental feelings of humanity.

THE BIBLE TEXT A STANDARD.

New York World.
Most of the great orators of England and America used the Bible as a basis of their style. Brougham, Macaulay, Webster and Garfield knew the Bible better than most ministers. Lincoln's literary style was formed largely by study of the King James version. When Macaulay, who began his literary career by learning to read at three years of age, wished to acquire a new language, and he learned most of the principal modern languages—he bought the Bible in that language, and his familiarity with it made his study easy. Samuel Taylor Coleridge, the poet, said: "Study of the Bible will keep any man from being vulgar in point of style." Roosevelt, the great Hungarian patriot, who electrified American audiences by his acquired speech, was asked how he had acquired such a command of the English language and replied that it was the result of studying the Bible.

JUST FOR FUN.

The Red Man's Signature.

Indian chiefs treating with the government now have to append their thumb-prints to the documents instead of cross-marks as hitherto. The reason is that chiefs have frequently repudiated the cross-marks and the obligations involved. The first document was recently signed by thumb-print. It was a treaty between the government and the Flathead Indians of Washington to allow cattle to cross the Indian reservation unharmed.—Chicago Journal.

Friend—Well, did you get your copyright for that last work?
Author (mournfully)—I did, but the printers didn't.—Baltimore American.

Couldn't Help It.

A well-known Allegheny clergyman recently spoke at a religious service in the penitentiary in Woods Run. He noticed that one of the convicts seemed extraordinarily impressed. After the service he sought him out and continued the good work by remarking: "My friend, I hope you will profit by my remarks just now and become a new man."
"Indeed, will," was the cheerful reply. "In fact I need the service in the penitentiary in Woods Run. He noticed that one of the convicts seemed extraordinarily impressed. After the service he sought him out and continued the good work by remarking: "My friend, I hope you will profit by my remarks just now and become a new man."

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"Oh no, auntie," he said. "I'm not at the bitin' end."—Harper's Weekly.

Jones—Old Griggsby looks worried. I wonder what the trouble is?
Smith—His only son thinks he can play the races and his only daughter thinks she can play the piano.—Chicago Daily News.

Church—Every chance he gets our minister preaches that it is "more blessed to give than to receive."
"Well, that would seem to indicate that he thoroughly believes it. Church—Or that he wants us to believe it.—Philadelphia Press.

Harold—Newlywed is greatly worried over a 30-day note.
Rupert—Can't he meet it?
Harold—It ain't that—it's a note his wife gave him to mail 30 days ago and he's just thought of it.—Judge.

"I want to complain of the flour you sent me the other day," said Mrs. Newlywed, severely.
"What was the matter with it, madam?" asked the grocer.
"It was tough. My husband simply couldn't eat the biscuits I made with it."—Ram's Horn.

Abandoned Bank President—Oh, horror, arrested? I never thought you'd find me in this out-of-the-way place.

American Detective—O'wan. It was a cinch to trace yer when yer kept sendin' home souvenir postal cards.—Puck.

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