

Licentiousness of the Times.

The unfortunate transaction of Secretary Belknap assumes the nature of a National calamity. It is of a nature that places it beyond party responsibility, involving the character of our National Government. It is the outgrowth of that false state of society which exists at Washington, and for which the women of the Capital of the Nation are responsible. The reckless way of living; the shoddy aristocracy; the extravagance of the women of the period; all combined is the rock upon which the character of General Belknap has foundered. Although the amount involved is comparatively insignificant, the principle goes to the very root of Republican form of government. We are living too fast; there is too much show; virtue is at a discount; honor is bartered to keep up appearances; and good men are drawn into the whirlpool of fashionable folly to be ruined. The case of Secretary Belknap should teach us a lesson; it should serve to check this recklessness of the present age, and every man of character should frown upon this extravagance which is bringing ruin to thousands daily. Let us go back to the simplicity of the Republic when it was comparatively pure; unless we do, there is danger that the whole nation will be swamped by the licentiousness of the age. It is not confined to any party; no party is wholly responsible for this false state of affairs; it is a national evil, daily increasing in proportions, and can only be checked by a general uprising of the people against the false and corrupting fashions of the age. For show, and dress, and parade, women will barter honor, virtue, everything. We may as well look the matter squarely in the face, and call things by their right names. An evil of this magnitude cannot be handled with kid gloves. The corruption of fashionable society is becoming such a bare-faced evil that it demands something besides soporifics. The licentious age of Louis XIV was the cause of revolution in France. The licentiousness of the present age should cause a moral revolution of American society.—Oakland (Cal.) Transcript.

"He Has Killed My Father."

On Monday evening, at half-past seven o'clock, Ham Briggs and his brother-in-law, Jim Beattie, went into the saloon of their brother-in-law, Ben Chambers. Briggs called for a drink, which was given to him. Briggs asked Chambers to take a drink, which Chambers refused to do. This made Briggs mad. He threw down the bottle and leaned against the bar. Chambers went into the back room and got his shotgun, raised it and fired at Briggs. A man standing beside Briggs saw Chambers taking aim, and had enough presence of mind to step back as the gun was levelled. He was just in time. A crashing report followed, part of the charge striking Briggs in the side and part striking Beattie, who was near. Beattie ran out of the saloon to the saloon of C. J. Son, about fifty yards distant, and jumped through the glass door, cutting his head badly. He died as he struck the floor. The last words he said were, as he ran toward the saloon, "I believe I am shot." Briggs had fallen in his tracks from the effect of the shot. Chambers approached him, struck him with his gun, jumped on him and stabbed him thirteen times. Briggs' little son, Willie, was with him, and tried hard to stop Chambers from stabbing his father. Chambers chased him round and threatened to kill him. Willie ran out into the street, crying, "He has killed my father! I tried hard to get him away! Oh, my poor father!" Willie went in, leaned over the body, counted the wounds and cried out for his father to speak to him. Chambers was arrested and taken to jail.—Santa Rosa (Cal.) Democrat.

Seal Skins.

When the seals have reached the killing ground they are allowed a certain time to rest and cool, after which about one hundred are driven together into an enclosure, and the fittest are selected for slaughter. The others are allowed to go down to the nearest water, whence they at once make their way back to the sea. The instrument of destruction is a long club of hard wood, with

which the animals are struck a violent blow on the head. One is usually sufficient. A long sharp knife is then thrust into the vitals, and the carcass laid aside, and so on until about one thousand have been slain, when the work of skinning commences. When taken off the skins are salted and sent home in that condition. On arriving here they are properly cured, and then comes the preparation needed for their conversion into what is properly called "sealskin." It is difficult to conceive how that beautiful article of dress can be manufactured out of the unattractive object the skin presents at this juncture. It is hard and unyielding as a board, and the stiff, coarse hairs cover the fur so completely that its very existence might be unsuspected. In the trade a full-aged male is called a "wig," a female, "clap match;" males not quite so old, "bulls;" the half-grown of both sexes, "yearlings;" the young of nearly a year old, "gray," or "silver pups;" and before their coats are changed to this shade, "black pups." The problem to be solved is how to separate the under fur. For many years each individual hair was plucked out severally, at, of course, a vast expenditure of time and money, until a lucky accident revealed to the dressers the fact that the roots of the hair were more deeply seated than those of the fur. Now, therefore, after preliminary preparation, the skins are laid hair downward upon a wooden block with a carved surf and pared down with a knife, until the roots of the hair have been cut through and the skin is very little thicker than a kid glove. All the coarser hair can be brushed off with the hand, leaving the fur, which is then seen to be arranged in small curls, of a light brown color, varying slightly in shade in the different parts. In consequence nearly all "sealskin" is dyed before it is sold, and in the process of dyeing the curls untwist themselves, and the fur becomes smooth and ready for use. The profits made in dealing in furs must be worth having. The value of each skin that leaves the Prybiloy Islands, now our main source of furs, is trifling. The government of the United States imposes, it is true, a revenue tax of \$2 a skin, to which must be added the cost of the maintenance of an establishment in so remote a spot; but even after all allowances have been made for this and other expenses in Europe, the price demanded for a jacket must still be regarded as extravagant.—Contemporary Review.

JUDGE EMERSON.—At a meeting of the Salt Lake Bar, held February 29th, resolutions were passed endorsing Judge Emerson of the First Judicial District as a gentleman and a judge. A committee was appointed to wait on Governor Emery and request his temporary appointment as Judge of the Third District at Salt Lake during the absence of Chief Justice White. The Governor made the appointment accordingly.

Judge F. Emerson is a "Green Mountain Boy," born in the same county with the writer of this, his schoolmate and chum; we read law in the same office, under the able barrister, Hon. D. E. Nicholson, of Rutland, Vermont. We know Phil. better than we know our own brother—and we feel a little selfish pride in the advancement of our old chum, knowing how well he deserves it. The writer of this was admitted to the bar and wandered off to the golden shores of the Pacific, and has experienced the ups and downs of California life. Phil. was admitted a year later, and following the advice of Greeley, went West. He represented his adopted county in the Senate of the Michigan Legislature; was active in the politics of the State; was a leading member of the bar; and three years ago was appointed U. S. District Judge for the First District of Utah.—Oakland Transcript.

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