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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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THE CRAZE OF THE HOUR.

WHEN a craze sets in for or against any measure or project, calm reason, cool logic and quiet common sense have very little influence against it. Still, those who are not carried away with the current ought to do what they can to stem the tide.

One of the latest crazes in this part of the world is the sewerage furor. Situated in a basin with no natural outlet for accumulations that ought to be removed, a demand is made for the methods in use where nature has provided ample means for their disposition. Let any reasoning, practical person stand upon an eminence, look over this broad city, glance at the surrounding country, take into consideration the number of inhabitants and what it is likely to be for many years to come, estimate the immense cost of competent sewers for this vast area, the distance the main drain would have to be constructed, the scarcity of water for flushing, the lack of any safe place of deposit or conveyance beyond a point of danger, then think of the ability of the people to meet the tremendous outlay for this impracticable scheme, and will he not conclude that the cry for sewerage is a craze?

Of course, we expect this question will arouse a storm of passion, starting from a point where speculation waits for golden opportunity. But we do not care a cent for that. It must be obvious that a general system of sewerage for this city of "magnificent distances" and small population is out of the question. All that should be attempted by practical men would be something to relieve the business part of town. In fact, the wants of the hotels are the most pressing needs in this direction, and the cry commences in their vicinity.

This city is required to go to enormous expense, involving a heavy debt, to take away from the hotels and stores the refuse which is, no doubt, very harmful to health if not to business, and carry it under ground, an immense distance, without any definite knowledge as to what shall be done with it when so conveyed, but with the certainty that it will require the use of a large quantity of water for flushing, of which there is now such a scarcity that everybody is crying out for more. Trees are dying, vegetation is perishing, families are compelled to work themselves half to death to obtain enough for culinary purposes, and it is proposed to add to the scarcity by turning volumes of water through a great drain to carry sewerage to—no body knows where, for the benefit of a limited locality.

It may be asked: "Do you mean to say we want no sanitary measures here, but that things shall continue as they are?" We answer no, we do not mean to say anything of the kind. We have never opposed any rational and practical method of sanitation. What we oppose is the notion that we can adopt the same means that are used where rains are common or water is abundant, and where there are rivers that will carry away what sewers turn into them.

We contend, as we have done for many years in these columns, that for the greater part of this city, a dry-earth system for closets and out-houses, and a regular inspection by appointed officers, with a service of dump-carts for refuse material will answer the needful purpose. For hotels and places where much liquid refuse accumulates, cemented cisterns or cesspools may be built as required by ordinance, and they can be periodically emptied by pumping into water-tight receptacles on wheels. All the refuse of this city can be deodorized and turned into fertilizing materials which will be valuable to farmers, instead of fermenting and rotting and poisoning the air and spreading disease and death.

Dry earth—not ashes—will take from fecal matter all foul scent and not destroy its virtues for manure. Its use can be made compulsory. A small quantity sprinkled in an outhouse every day will keep it free from smell. A box to receive deposits can be removed as often as necessary and the matter either carted away or used to enrich the soil where there is land enough close by. A box of dry earth with hand shovel can be kept in the closet, or by a simple contrivance above, a cord pulled will drop down the dust as water is used where there is drainage. Nothing decaying should be allowed to lie on the surface of the soil. The earth is a natural laboratory converting into its own use that which is wholly committed to it, and out of filth sending forth sweetness, in the shape of fruits and flowers

and green herbage which will impart life instead of death and health instead of disease.

If drainage is needed for the main part of town—though the cartage plan can be made all-sufficient for years, it should be so built that a good fall will be given and the material deposited near by and deodorized and utilized, not conveyed for miles and miles at preposterous expense, and dumped down to become a stink and a reproach, or turned into a stream that nearly runs dry, or will spew it over the land when full to be a source of horror and of pestilence.

Some immediate measures are necessary for the public health and the public nostrils. Every fall, the odors that arise from neglected outhouses in different parts of this city is something beyond description. Fruit is allowed to rot on the ground instead of being gathered up and given to people who have none, or fed to animals, or when spoiled put under the surface of the ground if it cannot be utilized for some good purpose. The City Council can take measures to abate all such nuisances. A general inspector with a few assistants and a few dump carts can keep this city as clean and as wholesome as any on the continent. Much less than the interest on the money which would have to be borrowed for sewerage that would be a crazy and conspicuous failure, would pay all the expenses of a practical system of common sense sanitation.

We care nothing for a popular cry when the noise is without reason. Sewerage seems to be in demand because it is said to have worked wonders in formerly unhealthy places. We will not dispute the data though there is another side of the question. But we say our situation, circumstances and needs are altogether different from theirs, and the plans that have been clamored for by some hasty or interested persons, would plunge this city into a whirlpool of debt from which it is doubtful if it would ever be able to extricate itself, and the question of outlet, passing by the question of water-waste, would be of very formidable character, ever rising to plague its projectors.

We hope the City Council will not suffer itself to be carried away with this craze. Take time, in spite of the growlers, the speculators, the theorists and the hubbub-raisers. Don't imagine that a town in a hollow with no natural outlet can be treated in the same way as one on an eminence, or near a big river, or with a channel to the sea. And while ways and means are being considered, take up pressing needs and see that waste matter is properly disposed of, all over the city, or moved away and turned into fertilizers for the strengthening and beautifying of the face of nature, diffusing fragrance and beauty with the very things that now are noxious, and that carry sickness and destruction in their breath.

FREE FIENDS IN SAN FRANCISCO

AMONG the official abuses in San Francisco, some of which were referred to in these columns a few days ago, is said to be the evasion and nullification of the laws prohibiting the immigration of the Chinese to this country. It is claimed that through the connivance of certain Judges, coolies have been admitted into the port of San Francisco without limit. No less than nine thousand are reported to have been admitted since the passage of the anti-Chinese law of 1884. This has been effected in this wise:

Federal Judges have instituted a sort of subsidiary court which charges a fee of \$3 to each coolie, and by means of *habeas corpus* the Mongolians are taken from the Customs officials and landed in spite of the law. The whole proceedings net the officials \$20 in fees for each case, and it is charged that this is the incentive to the illegal business. The accusations are directed against Republican officials, and will no doubt be used for more than they are really worth in the political fight this fall. It will be made to appear that Harrison's Chinese record is indicative of the policy of his party. The people who are stirring in this matter mean business, and are clamoring for the impeachment of the Federal Judges who have been chiefly implicated in the wrong.

On the 6th inst. Representative Morrow, of California, presented their memorial in the House. Mr. Morrow is one of the select committee appointed to investigate alleged violations of the immigration laws, and he considers the case very serious. The memorial says:

"In the attempt to carry out these laws, the Customs officials have been thwarted at every step by the mandates of the Federal courts. By the abuse of the right of *habeas corpus*, the administration of the act has been taken from the hands of the Collector of Customs and usurped by the courts. The examination of Chinese on board ships by the Customs authorities provided for in your act—which was the greatest safeguard against the landing of coolies—has been vetoed by the Federal courts, although it was approved by the President. So determined have been the judges to defeat the plain and only purpose of the law that they have gone the length of threatening with

imprisonment the Customs officials who have sought to perform the sworn duty imposed upon them by the Congress of the United States."

After stating that one of the Judges who was invited to sit upon the Circuit Bench in San Francisco ruled so as to exclude the Chinese and was afterwards taboored socially by the other Judges, and had not been asked to officiate there again, the memorial concludes:

"We, the people of San Francisco, appeal to Congress to end this monstrous conspiracy, to save the Pacific coast and the country from the consequences of an abuse of judicial power unparalleled since the time of Jeffries. The House of Representatives has created a committee to investigate the subject of contract labor. We invite that committee to visit this city. We promise to place before it facts which will demonstrate the truth of every allegation made in this memorial. When this proof has been made and submitted to Congress we demand remedial action. What action should be taken is self-evident. No law which you have placed upon your statute books has been able to withstand the hostile and destructive assault of the Federal judges of this coast."

"We demand the impeachment and removal of Lorenzo Sawyer, Judge of the United States Circuit Court of the Ninth Circuit, and of George M. Sabin, District Judge for the District of Nevada."

Of course there is another side to this question which will come up in good time. But this fee business is a great temptation to public officials all over the country, and is not unknown in this Territory. Much wrong, both in the evasion and in an extreme and harsh execution of the laws, has been done in the eagerness for official fees. The system should be abolished, as nearly as possible, and all public officials be paid a fixed salary. We hope there will be a thorough investigation of the San Francisco affair. Better have the anti-Chinese law repealed than permit it to be nullified in the manner described in the memorial.

TO WOOL GROWERS.

If you have not disposed of your wool and are able to hold on to it awhile, don't sell. Indications are that there must be a break in the situation. Sales have been livelier, there is a demand for the raw material, and it is believed by shrewd observers that there will be a much greater activity in the market soon. All the talk about the effects of the Mills bill is so much rubbish. The Mills bill cannot become a law during this Congress, and the manufacturers and dealers know it. Speculators have been manipulating the market. Foreign wools have been kept in bond, and the lack of these for use has kept back sales of the home product. The situation has become strained and unnatural. A break is bound to come. The Boston Herald says on this question: "The stock of wool has never been lower in many years in all the eastern markets than it is today, and we call the attention of those interested in the raw and manufactured article to the evident fact that we are on the eve of a general advance in the prices of the raw material." When wool men have to sell or suffer, of course the goods have to go. But if they are able to hold on a bit, they may gain considerably by waiting. At any rate they will not be likely to lose much by keeping a sharp look out for advances.

CIVILIZATION IN THE ORIENT.

TEHERAN, the capital of Persia, has a population of a little over one hundred thousand, only about one hundred of whom are Europeans. Yet a railway is in progress from that city to the Caspian Sea, and ten miles are completed. The sum of \$500,000 was expended on the track, about half of which was paid for carrying the rails and iron for the road on the backs of beasts across a desert.

This shows the Persians are awake and alive to enterprise, and encourages the hope that Asia will soon be stirred to its centre with the civilization of Europe and America. Another project that causes reflection is a line from Jaffa, on the Mediterranean sea, to Jerusalem. The idea of railroad traffic in the Holy Land and the shriek of the locomotive in the historic hills and vales, sacred as the ancient homes of prophets, seers and sages and where the feet of the Savior pressed the soil, seems strange and startling. But this is the nineteenth century, and modern methods and appliances will find their way to the remotest regions, and Bible lands as well as others must come under control of the moral and material forces of the age. Prophecy will be fulfilled, but perhaps in a different way from what many very excellent people have expected.

A POPULAR VICE.

A FEW days ago a young man in New York and another in Kentucky were sent to insane asylums having lost their reason through inordinate cigarette smoking. The effects of this pernicious practice upon young persons,

particularly those with nervous temperaments, are rapid and striking. The consumption of the pestiferous little cigarette has increased to a wonderful extent and there are several large firms which are engaged entirely in its manufacture. In many eastern cities girls are adopting the vile habit of cigarette smoking and often get street urbins to purchase for them, giving part of the bunch for their trouble. Physicians trace many of the disorders prevalent among the youth to this baneful practice and there is little doubt that it has a bad effect upon the morals of the rising generation. It deadens the moral sensibilities, and it will be found that juvenile purloiners and incorrigibles are universally addicted to the evil habit. Its growth is deplorable, and its consequences will be found much worse than at present appears. Parents should be on their guard, wisely, to stop the popular vice.

STRONG DECEPTION.

FRANCE consumes, so we learn by reliable statistics, about 12,000,000 gallons of brandy per annum. We are not going to moralize on that. But the yearly product of that alcoholic article in the same country is only 13,000,000 gallons. French brandy is imported into this country in large quantities demanding a high figure which, with the duty added, makes *eau de vie* a pretty expensive luxury even when used in small quantities for medicinal purposes. The question is, if France uses up twelve thirtieths of her own production of cognac, where do the American importers obtain their supply of "genuine French brandy?" This is answered by certain scientific experts to whom samples of the "genuine" article have been submitted for analysis. They say that most of it is "cheap German spirits flavored with cunningly devised extracts and cordials." The prices that people who "want the best" are paying for these deceptions are astonishing, and the mischief that is wrought by the deception is beyond all computation. Verily, this is an evil and adulterating generation.

A CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

ALTHOUGH this presidential campaign was announced as one to be entirely free from personalities, and to be fought on principle, not on character, some very ungentlemanly and insulting language has been used by Republicans in reference to the Democratic candidate. While a very few of his party have indulged in some reflections upon his opponent, they have refrained from the epithets which have been hurled at President Cleveland. It is to be hoped that the influential men and papers of both parties will frown down all blackguardism and low-lived attacks, and will maintain the respectability which was promised and commended at the opening of the struggle.

We are pleased to note in the Philadelphia Ledger, a Republican paper and an advocate of protection, and therefore an opponent of the present Administration, the following candid and truthful comments on the course of the President:

"The best hold of the Democrats, in spite of themselves, will be Mr. Cleveland's administration of the office of President, which has been clean and creditable throughout—the administration of a President who has aimed to be the executive of the nation in the interests of all the people; who has made some mistakes, few in number, and for the most part unimportant; but who in the main has done so well that those who support him may well challenge his opponents to produce the President of their party, or of any party (Lincoln excepted), who in the last 39 years has done better."

WHAT THE NEW PHONOGRAPH SAID.

THE improved phonograph, particulars of which were given not long ago in this paper, has been sent across the Atlantic to speak to the English the words of the American in his own tones and emphasis. It is a simple instrument, but one of the wonders of this wonderful age, and whether Edison adapted the idea of others and brought them into practical use, or may be rightly called the inventor or discoverer of the phonograph, his name will go down to posterity in connection with a piece of mechanism that will render it famous to the end of time.

These are the words uttered by the phonograph in its own behalf for the first time on British soil, as spoken on this side of the sea by Rev. Dr. Powers, of Hudson, New York:

I seize the palpitating air. I heard Music and speech. All lips that breathe are mine. I speak, and the inviolable word Authenticates its origin and sign.

I am a tomb, a paradise, a throne: An angel, prophet, slave, immortal friend. My living records, in their native tone. Convey the knave, and disputations end.

In me are souls embalmed. I am an ear Flawless as truth, and truth's own tongue am I.

I am a resurrection: men may hear The quick and dead converse, as I reply.

Mail English shores and homes and marts of peace! New trophies, Gourard, yet are to be won May sweetness, light, and brotherhood increase—

I am the latest born of Edison.

MENTAL DETERIORATION.

THE following excellent article is taken from the Westminster Review. The facts it contains are indisputable, and the argument it embodies must recommend itself to every thoughtful reader who reads it. We ask our readers, whether they are habitual users of alcoholic beverages or not, to give it their candid consideration:

"In our opinion, the proofs are abundant and decisive that healthy men and women are most likely to preserve their health by abstaining from the use of alcohol altogether, and that they can do more, and more continuously work without alcohol than with it. Varied, repeated, and prolonged experience, and the testimony of army medical men prove that troops endure fatigue and the extremes of climate better if alcohol is altogether abstained from. The experience of the celebrated Moscow campaign showed this; so, also, quite recently, the Red River Expedition. During arduous marches it has always been found that without alcohol, the health of the men is exceptionally good; but, as soon as spirits are allowed, disease breaks out. Modern trainers recognize the fact, that the power of sustained exertion and resistance to fatigue is best promoted by abstaining from alcohol. It is well known that during the several expeditions toward the North Pole, those men who abstained from alcohol bore the extreme cold with less suffering or inconvenience than was experienced by those who took it. But the question, What are the effects of alcohol on the animal system? demands our attention here only so far as the brain is concerned; still, what is known of those effects on the constituents of the animal organism, generally affords us valuable assistance in our endeavors to understand what is the nature of the influence exerted by alcohol on the brain, and, therefore, on its functions."

"When alcohol is mingled with fresh arterial blood it darkens its color, so as to give it more or less of the venous aspect;" in cases of fatal poisoning by alcohol, even the blood in the left cavities of the heart and in the systemic arteries, which, normally, is of a bright red color, is of a dark or venous hue. These facts justify the conclusion that when alcoholic beverages are taken the alcohol they contain interferes with or impedes the normal process of oxydation of the blood, and thus lessens the vitality of the whole organism to a degree corresponding to the amount of alcohol taken. During the process of complete intoxication alcohol seems first to attack the cerebrum; then the sensory ganglia, which it surmounts; and lastly, the medulla oblongata, together with the spinal cord itself. In such a case, in which, as remarked by Dr. Maudsley, "Each phase of an artificially-produced insanity is successively passed through in a brief space of time, we have the abstract and brief chronicle of insanity. The first effect of alcohol is to produce an agreeable excitement, a lively flow of ideas, and a general activity of mind—a condition not unlike that which sometimes precedes an attack of mania; then there follows, as in insanity, the automatic excitation of ideas which start up and follow one another without order, so that more or less incoherence of thought and speech is exhibited, while at the same time, passion is easily excited, which takes different forms, according to the individual temperament. After this stage has lasted for a time, in some longer, in others shorter, it passes into one of depression and mania melancholy, as convulsion passes into paralysis; the last scene of all being one of dementia and stupor." The successive and increasingly grave consequences just indicated, of sudden intoxication of different degrees of intensity, are impressive manifestations of the powerful poisonous influence of alcohol on the nervous system when the poison is taken in large doses; and at the same time, they intimate, not less distinctively, that if it be taken habitually, even in comparatively very small doses, it can scarcely fail, in the long run, to impair in a perceptible degree the delicate structure and supremely important functions of the brain. Besides "transitory mania," which may be directly induced by alcohol, and delirium tremens, a notorious consequence of its excessive use, is one of the most potent factors in the production of many other forms of insanity. Persons who regard themselves, and who are regarded by their intimate friends, as decidedly temperate, who habitually take a moderate amount of some alcoholic fluid with lunch and dinner, and, it may be, what is called a "night-cap," never imagine that by doing so they are impairing the quality and functional power of their brains; and it must be admitted that direct and decisive evidence that they are doing so is rarely forthcoming, and is not easily obtained.