

There are thousands of persons throughout the country whose perceptions of morality are so perverted that they can not distinguish any difference between whoredom and honorable marriage. Their minds can not rise to the conception of any motive other than lust to prompt the intercourse of the sexes. Hence, they fail to perceive the distinction between our institutions and the profligacy and vice which flourish around them. The effects of those debasing associations are what we have to contend against.

The most active opponents and denouncers of our system are familiar with whoredom and prostitution. These vices are practiced all around them. They look upon them as necessary evils. They would prefer to see houses of prostitution and courtezans numbered by hundreds and thousands here than to have such a state of society as we have. Is not this strange? A man unperverted and uncorrupted by the vices of the age would think it so, were he to reflect upon the subject.

These men who would take our morals in charge, and, if they had the power, would mould us into strict conformity with their views, do not appear to perceive their own inconsistency. They see no impropriety in loudly condemning our system of marriage, which protects woman and makes her the dignified associate of man and the honored mother of his children, while at the same time they maintain a studied silence respecting prostitution and its frightful train of evils.

If "Mormonism" prevailed in Chicago what would be the condition of the city? Would houses of prostitution and their wretched inmates exist there? Would drunkenness, gambling, whoredom, murder and the luxuriant crop of vices that now flourish there, thrifly ripen in its atmosphere? Let the records of the towns and cities where it does prevail give the answer. Houses of prostitution do not exist. Courtezans do not follow their accursed occupation. Life and property are sacredly secure. Virtue and chastity and their kindred graces are encouraged, protected and honored. Men are kind and true, women confiding and happy, children pure, healthy and obedient. These are the fruits which "Mormonism" produces, and which it will always produce wherever it has sway. For Chicago's sake we wish its people had "Mormonism."

#### A NEW VOLCANO IN NICARAGUA.

About the middle of November last a grand and interesting spectacle was witnessed on the Plains of Leon in Nicaragua, one of the South American Republics, caused by the formation of a new volcano.

At or near 1 o'clock in the morning of the 14th a succession of loud explosions were heard and felt at the city of Leon, eight leagues west of the scene of the occurrence. A fissure in the earth's crust, about half a mile long, was caused by these explosions, from which, before day-light, fire was seen issuing in various places. The explosions continued for sixteen days, sometimes in rapid succession, and occasionally at intervals of half an hour.

In the course of a few days two craters about a fifth of a mile apart formed on the fissure, one on the southwestern extremity discharging its fiery contents perpendicularly, and the other disgorging itself in a north-easterly direction at an angle of about forty-five degrees. On the morning of the 22nd the main crater was actively engaged sending forth, at intervals of a second, flame and half melted cinders from an orifice about 180 feet in circumference, around which a regular cone about 200 feet high had been formed by the falling cinders. This continued column of flame and cinders was emitted with such force as to rise five hundred feet above the orifice, while occasional explosions varying from ten to thirty minutes would greatly increase the force and volume of the discharges sending them far up into the clouds. The discharges from the two craters were simultaneous, those on the left hand crater being much smaller, it being only about twenty feet in diameter.

The cinders ascended in half fused blazing masses from one to three feet in diameter, and, hardening in their transit through the air, fell upon the cone with a clinking metallic sound. On the afternoon of the 27th a series of terrific explosions took place which were followed by vast discharges of black sand and heavier rock; the column of flame also greatly increased, and at night burning

spherical stones, four or five feet in diameter, were hurled a height of a thousand yards. On the following morning the streets and housetops in Leon were covered with fine black sand, while a luminous shower of the same material continued for two days over the whole of the surrounding country, from the volcano to the Pacific, a distance of fifty miles. For a mile around the crater this scoria lay about a foot deep, and in particles nearly half an inch in diameter. The cone, as has been already mentioned, was two hundred feet high, the crater on its summit two hundred yards round, and 200 feet deep. The forest for many miles around was disfigured by the action of the falling of sand and rock, and the trees nearest the volcanoes were cut into fragments and half buried in the debris.

On the 30th the eruption ceased, having been in active operation for sixteen days.

The showers of sand were followed by rain. Despite the accumulation of sand and rock, the corn, cotton and grass grew more rapidly than ever before known.

The formation of these new volcanoes and the storms, eruptions and earthquakes on and around the Island of St. Thomas were contemporaneous, and as the earthquakes on St. Thomas were felt at Leon, it is supposed were due to the same general cause.

#### FISH AND THEIR PROPAGATION.

There has been considerable interest manifested of late in various countries in the artificial propagation of fish. In France they have been very successful in the business. The Government of France not long since sent to China, and imported varieties from that country which had previously been unknown in Europe. That nothing might be lacking to make the experiment a success, natives of China, who were familiar with the proper methods of propagating these new varieties, were carried over to France. In England, also, they have been taking measures to re-stock their rivers with salmon and other kinds of fish, and we are told, with the most gratifying results. Varieties of fish which were unknown in Australia have also been introduced into that country, and their propagation is no longer a matter of doubt.

In this territory the production of fish might, with proper care and management, be rendered very successful and profitable. We look forward to the time, and at no very distant day either, when flesh will not be used as an article of diet to the extent it is at present.

The subject of diet is beginning to occupy the minds and thoughts of the people as it has never done before. As we progress, this will be more and more the case. The fact will yet be fully recognized that the highest physical and mental development, which, as a people, we aim to reach, can only be attained by the due observance of correct dietetic habits. Already our freedom from some habits, popular elsewhere, is a subject of some remark. In traveling among the settlements, and visiting in this city, we have no recollection of seeing tea or coffee used more than once for the past nine months at any table where we have sat to eat. So also with spirituous liquors, their use is almost unknown among the great majority of the people of this Territory. Tobacco also is but rarely used in any form; those who have been the greatest slaves to the habit of chewing and smoking it, are endeavoring to throw it aside. These are steps in the right direction, and are evidences of the progress of the people in the mastery of old habits and the acquirement of those more in consonance with the light which they have received.

The practice of more correct habits in regard to strong drinks, tobacco, tea and coffee, &c., will naturally cause attention to be directed to other articles of food not commonly used. Instead of using flesh-meat so extensively as we do now, fruit and fish will be more used.

Our friends, the cattle-dealers and butchers, may not think we are promoting their interests by writing in this strain; but we can console them by saying that, by the time they lose custom through the people abandoning the use of so much flesh-meat, there will be many other branches of business, equally profitable, in which they can engage.

Whether our anticipations respecting these changes in our diet be fulfilled, or not, the propagation of fish can still be made profitable. Large quantities,

whenever they could be brought into market, would meet with a ready sale in this city. Our facilities for propagating them are very great. Our system of irrigation enables us to carry water to feed ponds for breeding fish at much less expense than in other countries. Besides, we have large springs in the most of our valleys which might, with but little expense, be converted into extensive ponds where fish might be multiplied in unlimited quantities. The subject is worthy of consideration.

#### DISREPUTABLE LITERATURE.

"Nasty Journalism" is the title of an article in the *Springfield Republican*, in which the writer deals some home-thrusts at a class of newspapers, the numbers of which are increasing in the East, that are devoted to illustrations of scenes of violence, crime and lust. He says: "If the Puritan element in the country has done asserting itself and intends to lie under the feet of license, let us know it, and hear no more prating of morals. These journals are just what we have been, as a nation, decrying the use of in Europe; and here they are full blown among us, more numerous, more filthy, and cheaper than in England or France. They are sold everywhere, in cars, steamboats, and on hotel steps; country people ask the newsboys to bring them copies, and always look disappointed when they do not come. Every one in America knows enough about the 'under world' without having it dragged into his notice."

It is a lamentable fact that the liberty of the press, which is so much lauded as one of the great blessings of our age and nation, has degenerated into license. A free press, when properly used, is a source of great good to those who enjoy it; but, when abused, it becomes an injury and a curse to all who come within the range of its influence. We are no friend of despotism; but we have often thought that the exercise of arbitrary authority for a sufficient length of time to stop the issue of sheets which are a disgrace to journalism would be an unmitigated benefit to the people. A great number of the evils under which the nation is now groaning are directly traceable to corrupt and unprincipled journalism. Journalists have not been prompted, as a class, by high, pure motives; but they have been in the market for the highest bidder, willing to sell themselves, their influence with the public, and their columns, for money; and this, too, without regard to the good or evil to be wrought out by their so doing. A licentious, venal press, if sustained, can soon debauch public sentiment, and lower the standard of morals to suit its ideas. People's views, insensibly to themselves, are moulded to the shape given them by the paper they read. Everything is viewed through the eyes of the editor and his writers, and seen in the color in which they place it.

The "nasty journals" are not the only ones which are working out injury to the people. The seed they sow yields a prolific and frightful harvest; but there are other journals which are injurious and dangerous, the more so, perhaps, because they do not have gaudy, badly-executed illustrations of scenes of violence, lust and crime to excite emotions of repugnance in those who examine them. The "nasty journals" are but seldom seen here; but the others—the cheap novelettes, sensational story papers, and others of that class, are very common, and the injury they are accomplishing is much greater than many people imagine. To know the character of a man's mind, the nature of his thoughts and the extent and variety of his views, we have only to be informed respecting what he reads. Reading is to the mind what food is to the body. If it be sound, the mind will be healthy, its action will be vigorous, and its thoughts correct and pure. But such reading as is too common, and in our Territory and among our young people, too, must produce different effects to these. If sensational papers, novels and trashy journals of that class formed the chief staple of a people's reading, their most bitter enemies ought to be satisfied and content. For they would only have to wait but a short time until their demoralization would be complete.

This may be unpalatable to some; but it is nevertheless true.

#### AN INCONSISTENT POSTAL LAW.

In previous articles we have referred to our postal laws, and the injustice they perpetrate on the people of these

Territories. As the law stands at present the residents of these Territories are not the only ones who suffer from this injustice. The law discriminates between American and English and other European publishers, and gives the latter every advantage over those of our own country. An instance which illustrates this has lately been brought to our notice.

A package from England, weighing twenty-one ounces, and registered, was received at the Salt Lake City Post Office, the postage on which, including the registration fee, was forty-four cents. A package from New York, weighing sixteen ounces, not registered, was also received at this Post Office, and the postage on that cost ninety-six cents! The English package weighed five ounces more than the New York package, and the postage cost fifty-two cents less; had it not been registered it would have cost sixty cents less! If the package from England had been a registered package from New York, the postage would have been one dollar and sixteen cents, including the registry fee!

This brief statement shows up the injustice of the present law in the clearest possible manner, and such instances as the above are of constant occurrence. Who, that is familiar with the law as it stands at present, would send to New York, or to any eastern city, for a book, and pay the American postage, when he could send to England and obtain it so much cheaper and equally as safe? The payment of the registration fee of eight cents insures its safety. In a country where protection, in opposition to free trade, is the popular doctrine of the hour, it is surprising that such an unjust law as that which says "all mailable matter which may be conveyed by mail westward beyond the western boundary of Kansas, and eastward from the eastern boundary of California, shall be subject to pre-paid letter postage," should be allowed to stand on the Statute Book. It cuts off the eastern book and publishing houses from all custom from the people who reside west and east of the points named, and compels them, if they get books by mail, to send to England for them.

Another illustration might be given of the injustice of this law, which all will readily perceive and appreciate. If a citizen residing at Echo Cañon, about fifty miles distant from this City, wished to send a book to a friend in this city, he would naturally enough expect to send it here by the most direct route. But he inquires at the post office as to what postage he will have to pay, and he finds that, if time is no particular object to him, he can send his book to England and have it forwarded from there to his friend in this city at a less cost for postage, than if he were to send it direct to him from his own post office!

Persons in this city wishing to send to the East for seeds can have them brought at cheaper rates from there, by having them forwarded from New York to San Francisco, and from San Francisco to Portland in Oregon, and from the latter city to this place, than if they were to have them sent to them direct from the East. If they came direct, they would have to pay ninety-six cents per pound, while by the roundabout route described they would only be charged at miscellaneous mail matter rates—two cents for each four ounces! Packages of seeds sent for to the East, and directed via Portland in Oregon, have been received at the Post Office in this city, by the Overland Mail direct from the East. But because the sender had directed that they should be sent via Portland, Oregon, they could only be charged at the rate of two cents for each four ounces. Had the sender not written upon them, "via Portland," they would have been charged letter-postage—ninety-six cents per pound. But the Department could not take advantage of its own error. It would only cost at the rate of two cents for every four ounces to send it by Portland, and if the post office people send it by any other route, no matter how costly, they can still only charge according to that rate.

The law, as it now stands, operates injuriously in many ways. The more the subject is examined the more odious does the law appear. Instances might be multiplied *ad infinitum* to show up its injustice. The carrying of mail matter by the roundabout routes resorted to increases the trouble and expenses of the mail carriers on those routes, and is a great disadvantage to them. No one—the Post Office Department, the mail carriers, nor any one else—is benefited by this law, but it is every way oppressive and injurious. It should be repealed, and a termination be put to such rank injustice.