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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

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A GHASTLY ANTICIPATION.

THE present year has been thus far so fruitful of disaster, that even the dreaded earthquakes, being so frequently reported, scarcely occasion comment. According to the *Sanitary Era* of a recent date still another danger is impending, and one that never fails to strike terror to the hearts of all wherever it rears its horrid front. The *Era* says:

"Asiatic cholera, it is now generally believed by those best able to judge, seems more likely to reach this continent during the coming summer than at any period for a number of years past. The *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal* says: 'Step by step the cholera is creeping through South America, gathering force as it marches. Beginning in Buenos Ayres, by the latter part of December it had crossed the Argentine Republic and gained foothold in Chili. A telegram from Panama, dated March 9th, tells us of its ravages in that State, and we may catch a hint of their extent from the fact that it has already been proposed that the nation concede a pension to the families of all who may die attending cholera patients.' Should the plague reach the Isthmus and Mexico, there will be small hope of the city escaping, and the flood-gates of New Orleans once passed, the Mississippi Valley, and indeed the whole country, may be inundated with the disease before there is time to realize the danger."

Fatal rumors of the plague in Mexico and lower California have been flying back and forth; too probable precursors at least, of facts.

Annals of Hygiene, the official organ of the Pennsylvania State Board of Health, says: "It would seem that we have now more reason to fear the advent of the cholera than at any time previous since the commencement of the present epidemic. Hitherto we have been separated from the disease by several thousand miles of water. Now the case is very different. During the past winter the disease has been slowly creeping up the American continent; it is really on our shores, and it is therefore difficult to understand how any system of quarantine can keep it away from us."

Any people in this region who may be predisposed to indulgence in gloomy anticipations, will probably take a grain of consolation from the assertion which has frequently been made that the climate of this part of the country is decidedly unfavorable to the existence of Asiatic cholera germs.

A USURPATIVE TENDENCY.

THE city and county of Sacramento are establishing a precedent which will be deprecated in the minds of conservative citizens throughout the Union, who may be led to give attention to the subject. Prominent residents of the city and county are effecting the organization of an "Improvement Association for the City and County of Sacramento." From an account of the movement given by the *Record-Union*, the inference is that the Association is to be an incorporated body, under the laws of the State of California. Among its objects are:

"The enforcement of sanitary regulations; the securing of efficiency of service on the part of public officers; the reduction of taxation; the increase of population and wealth in the county and the city; the introduction of water for irrigation and for domestic and manufacturing purposes; the subdivision of large land tracts into small farms for actual residents; street and road improvement; architectural improvement upon business streets; city drainage; the encouragement of manufacturing interests; the increasing of street railway facilities; further improvement of Capitol Park; the completion of a driveway in East Park; the adjustment of city indebtedness; and the general fostering of business interests."

Any reputable citizen may become a member of the Association on payment of a small fee, and a report by the Executive Committee favoring his admission. This committee consists of twenty-five members, and is the working body of the Association.

From the above statement of its objects it will be seen that the Association proposes to perform for the community in which it exists, some of the most vital functions of government, such as the regulation of taxation, dealing with the land question, con-

struction of public improvements, and "adjusting" the public debt. Thus we have the spectacle of a private association or corporation which embraces among the objects of its existence the performance of public functions properly and lawfully pertaining only to city and county officers elected by the people in pursuance of the constitution and laws of the state. Indeed it assumes a sort of precedence or authority over those officers, for among its objects is that of seeing that they do their duty.

In short, if the *Record-Union* has correctly stated the purposes of this organization, it is designed, not merely to supplement, but to usurp some of the powers and functions of the civil authorities of the city and county. There is thus made possible a new complication of the great financial problems of the age, an array of organized capitalists and business men against the duly elected and constituted civil authorities of the community, a species of insurrection very difficult to contend with, and fraught with the gravest possibilities of evil.

In the inception of this move there is probably no design to do anything not in harmony with law, and the best interests of the people, and if political machinations are excluded from its proceedings, it will doubtless be able to accomplish much good. But a few moments' reflection will show the serious complications to which the doings of such an organization, having a scope so sweeping, may lead, especially if politicians are permitted to control it; and when it is remembered that similar bodies may be brought into existence in all of the large cities of the country, and that the absolute control of local elections, and the subsequent conduct of local governmental offices could be secured by them, the possible consequences of this new development in American institutions become apparent.

Let a system of this kind spread throughout a given State, and that State would cease to possess a constitutional form of government. It would be ruled by private corporations which would know no constitutional restraints save the provisions of their respective charters, drawn up by themselves and altered at their pleasure. And as capitalists and business men would almost invariably comprise their controlling elements, monetary and financial interests would wield a power they do not even approach at the present time, potent though their influence be.

Another sinister feature of this move is the proposed secrecy of at least some of its proceedings. In extenuation of this phase of the organization the *Record-Union* says:

"There must be a forum where the affairs of the city can be debated vocally, and where some propositions can be considered and facts stated which if first given to the general public might do more harm than good. Thus, for instance, it is the very height of folly to disclose to those outsiders who are opposed to the city and disposed to cripple and embarrass it, plans that may be considered for settlement of the municipal debt, until such plans have first matured and been considered by the people in a representative assembly."

If the term "representative assembly" as here used meant the legal representatives of the people, there would be no objection to privacy in some of its proceedings, as the ballot box is the bulwark that protects the people in such cases. But when the "representative assembly" that undertakes to "adjust" a city's debt, is nothing more nor less than the executive committee of a private association, usurping the functions of the common council, which, without the knowledge of the creditors of that city, is devising a financial scheme for the "adjustment" of its liabilities, there is cause for uneasiness.

Chambers of commerce, boards of trade, and similar organizations, strictly non-partisan in politics and religion, and sincerely devoted to the greatest good of the greatest number, are useful institutions. But when they invade the provinces of civil government they are dangerous to the commonwealth.

THE GATES OF CASTLE GARDEN.

THOUSANDS of people in this Territory have passed through Castle Garden. It is the well known landing place of all immigrants who come to this country by way of New York, and there it is that several millions of people have received their first impressions of the New World. It is estimated that over six millions of souls have passed through the gates of this famous entrepot, but it is questionable whether many individuals of the millions could, if asked, describe the massive gates of that ancient structure. They stand exactly as they did when they formed the original entrance to the building when it was a military fortress which the Federal government erected in 1807 outside Manhattan Island, and separated from it by a narrow strait or canal. It served as a fort during the war of 1812 and a little while afterward, but soon proved useless, and was ceded to the city in 1823. After that it was used as a place of entertainment for theatricals, public balls, concerts and various other shows un-

til the emigration commission, which had been established in 1847, moved into it in 1852. The doors are immense masses of oak, studded with round knobs, such as the original burglar proof safes used to present to the terror of the covetous and the wicked. Each door is fifteen or twenty feet high and half a foot thick, and the enormous hinges, on which they still swing so easily that a not over-lazy man can move them to and fro, are massive mouldings of iron that no ordinary battering-ram could destroy.

GOADING THE RECALCITRANTS.

PROMINENT members of the Loyal League are exhibiting a feeling of desperation because many "Liberals" throughout the Territory refuse to take the oath and register. This refusal is based upon one of two reasons, and in a number of instances both combined. (1) Many of the recalcitrants declare that they have been sold out by members of their own clique. (2) Others look upon the oath as an insult and an imposition.

Col. Hollister, the man who has betrayed so much anxiety to have improvements made with other people's money, and who is the collector and disbursing officer of the League 50 cent monthly donations for liberal purposes, is frantic over the "Liberal" laxity in reference to registration. He undertakes to whirl a political whip over their heads and scourge them into line, as if they were a lot of cowardly groundlings that only need lashing to be humbled into a spirit of abject obedience.

Speaking of slackness in regard to registration he exclaims, with characteristic insolence: "What is this but idiotic and contemptible self-stultification." It will be a splendid sight, after this high-down compliment has been paid them, to see a band of men designated as contemptible, idiotic, self-stultified individuals rushing breathlessly with hair streaming in the wind, and coat tails projecting rearward, hunting for the registrar that they may emerge from their awful condition to one of intellectual brilliance and self-asserted manhood. All that is necessary to produce this evolutionary process is to gaze capaciously, swallow the Hollister high-down compliment and register.

The climax was capped last night, in the sparsely attended League rally held in the Federal Court House. The speakers were the same political hacks who have been constantly sawing the air during the late crusade. It was the same monotonous anti-"Mormon" croak of which even a good many of the rabidists are getting tired and not a little ashamed. If anything was needed to goad the backsliding "Liberals" into a rush after registration it was furnished last night by R.N. Baskin, who, in a most disgusting way, expressed his opinion of that class of politicians of his own complexion. Should the Loyal League bosses decide to put his idea into practical operation, there appears to be no reason why he should not be appointed to carry it into effect.

AN EXTRA SESSION NEEDED.

THERE are in the Treasury vaults at Washington funds for the contingent requirements of the government amounting to the colossal figure of nearly half a billion dollars, and in addition a steady stream of revenue is continuously debouching into the coffers of the nation millions more than current expenses or prospective requirements demand. The national debt all told, with interest added, is much less than four times the amount of money actually on hand, and under the terms of the debt, which those who are the creditors would not change if they could, this great sum is no more available than if it did not exist, nor is the greater part of the revenue over and above present requirements. Such a state of things is almost as bad as bankruptcy, for the reason that beyond a reserve fund proportioned to the growth and wealth of the country, and never exceeding a certain limit, the nation has no more right to exact of its subjects more than it needs than it has to confiscate their property by any other process, and when it has so much more than it wants that a cumbersome surplus is the result, it has just so much that it has to account to the people for, and how can it be done? It is in vain to say that the money comes along naturally in accordance with the operation of the revenue laws, and that the exact requirements of the government prospectively, if even presently, cannot be gauged with the nicety of an arithmetical problem; to all this sophism the reply will come back—"We don't expect mathematical equations, and we do expect the laws to operate freely and fully; but, since the laws as they stand take from us millions more than is required to keep the machinery in motion, all of which is idle in your hands but would be put to good use in ours, why are not the laws changed? The President urged such changes in his last message, nine out

of ten of the President's party are in favor of it, and there are more than enough Republicans willing to assist in the reduction to effect any deflections there may be in the Democratic ranks—so why is it not done?" That is the question.

The theory of taxation can be explained in a very few words. It is a reciprocal obligation, in which one party must provide means for the direct support of the other and therefore the protection of themselves. The payer is part of a vast corporation and has impliedly, as such member, consented to be shorn of some of his rights and privileges in order that the whole fabric may thereby be cemented and strengthened; among the concessions which he makes in order that he may share in the profits accruing from united effort, is the right of those he actually or impliedly chooses to make rules and regulations to tax him ratably with others on certain articles of consumption, production, possession and importation, but it has also been actually understood that no such exaction as that last mentioned shall be made for a greater amount in gross than is needed by the executives of the concern to keep its affairs in proper condition and the whole corporation out of debt if possible. All must yield more when the occasion requires more, as in case of war or widespread devastation; but this, by parity of construction, means also that none need give up so much when the occasion requires less than the prevailing rate of taxation would yield. For instance, if a producer of a certain article is taxed one cent on each hundred pounds thereof to meet certain expenses of the government, and after such tax is collected from all sources, and the sum total is found to be twice as large as is required for the liquidation of all bills payable and all current expenses, it is the duty of the powers that be, as soon as practicable, to reduce the tax to correspond with the requirements, that is, to make it fifty per cent less. Anything above and beyond this they are not entitled to and it properly belongs to the original producer. To put it in a few words, the people are supposed to pay the government's bills, but not to give it money to hoard or squander.

It is this situation that makes the calling of an extra session of Congress by the President at an early date so strongly advocated. That he favors it would seem to be evident from the fact that he is so decidedly in sympathy with the movement looking to revenue reform generally and a lightening of the present burden upon the government and the people particularly. The expense of an extra session will not be as great an evil as the further continuance of the evil complained of, especially when it is considered that members of Congress get their pay just the same whether they work or not. But what a light it places the solons in, and what a pillar of strength it will add to Cleveland's power! He did all that an Executive can to have them take just such action last winter as it now seems probable they will have to be called together specially to perform. If they had attended to his recommendations more and to things he did not recommend less, all the expense and bother of an extra session with the acerbity of feeling that is now engendered, would have been obviated.

THE CONTROL OF THE COURTS.

YESTERDAY (June 8th) we gave an account of the proceedings at a sparsely attended meeting of the Loyal League, at which some of the more prominent self-seekers aired their eloquence. While one in particular (Mr. Baskin) did this in a most malodorous fashion by indulging in language low, filthy and degrading, others made committal statements that are worthy of special note. Take for instance an expression used by John R. McBride, a gentleman who once asserted, in a Methodist anti-"Mormon" meeting—"I believe I would make a good prosecutor of the Mormon Church." At the pre-registration meeting by the League on Tuesday night, in recounting the "Liberal" victories, or rather their encroachments upon the rights of "Mormons," he said—"We now practically have possession and control of the district courts."

Such a declaration made in any other part of the country would be met with a perfect storm of denunciation. It should be treated in the same fashion wherever made, and if the enunciator be not guilty of a falsehood, the courts to which it applied have need of wholesale reconstruction and a new administration and judicial regime.

The meeting at which the utterance was made was that of a secret political society of which Mr. McBride is a member, and the natural audiological inference is that the pronoun "we" related to the Loyal League. It is fair then to presume that the speaker meant that that organization had practical possession and control of the district courts.

The man who made this extraordinary announcement is a member of the bar, and yet he could hardly have used an expression that could have conveyed more absolute contempt for the courts before which he is a professional practitioner.

Events, not very remote, have caused us to ask the question whether

or not the courts were being more or less controlled by influences outside of the law and themselves. Take for instance the position assumed in that of the Third District in relation to the test oath. The Chief Justice himself and other officers of the court subscribed to the oath prescribed by the Utah Commission. By him it was also administered to jurors. Thus was that form—which is strictly legal, adhering even, so far as possible, to the language of the law—adopted by the example and practice of the court. But the Loyal League, which Mr. McBride claims to have practical possession and control of the district courts, framed another oath. Their futile efforts to have it prevail politically are well known. They could not control the Commission, even if they could, as asserted, control the courts. While unsuccessful in the political field, but little difficulty was experienced in having it prevail where Mr. McBride appears to claim the League to be practically supreme.

Let it be remembered that when the League oath was first introduced into the Third District Court, Judge Henderson was acting on the bench in the temporary absence of Judge Zane. He at first declined to allow it to be applied on the ground that it was different to the form heretofore adopted by the Judge in whose place he was officiating. Judge Henderson, however, soon changed about, and shortly swallowed the League bolus, which Attorney Bennett assured his honor had been prescribed by "political authorities," of which he was one. Afterwards Judge Zane discarded the Commission oath and took lovingly in his court to the application of that provided by the Loyal League.

These incidents caused us to ask the question, very naturally, whether the courts were being run by the Loyal League "political authorities," or any other influence outside the law and themselves. Now comes a prominent member of that secret political organization, at a meeting of the "Loyal League," and in that capacity makes the unblushing announcement—"We now practically have possession and control of the district courts." This is certainly very bad for the courts, and if the assertion be taken as correct, what an abject and prostituted spectacle the tribunals in question present to the disinterested and fair-minded onlooker.

SUGGESTIONS ABOUT SEWERAGE.

THERE has been, of late, in connection with the efforts to produce a boom for this city, a revival of the sewerage question.

This subject is momentarily under our attention now in consequence of the article that appeared in yesterday's issue describing what is claimed to be an unmitigated nuisance emanating from the Salt Lake Brewery. The disposal of the slops of that beer factory has been a question of considerable importance, owing to the vigorous protests of citizens in the south-eastern section of the city against its introduction into their wells by the seepage process. The position of the people aggrieved was well taken, and steps were inaugurated to give them relief.

It appears, however, that what relieved them extended the imposition to others. It seems that in place of the nuisance being abated, it has simply been removed from one section to another. If possible the later phase promises to be more objectionable than the earlier one, because of its liability to wider extension.

The canal on Ninth South Street runs along the entire southwestern border of the city, and the nuisance is liable to extend over its entire length westward from the point on Third East Street, where the filth from the brewery empties into it.

If the citizens and authorities permit a sewage precedent to be established there is danger of others taking advantage of it until the viciant in question is made a pretty general depository for filth. In that case the noisome exhalations from the sluggish stream would fill the air and be swept over the entire city by every southern zephyr. The proper way would be to nip the nuisance in the bud by taking steps to have it forthwith abated. If this be not done the cause of complaint will soon be much greater than now, when the water in the canal diminishes to proportions next door to nothing. Then will the filth poured into it be in a practically undiluted form, and consequently more noisome.

We have always held in reference to sewerage that the initial consideration is and must be, the disposal of the sewage. To shout a demand for the sanitary convenience without giving thought to that end, is the acme of folly. "Why not run it into the Jordan?" some people exclaim. Let it be remembered that to let it flow into that or any other stream does not annihilate the substance. It merely deposits it somewhere. The effect of this filthy concentration without further disposal is a leading question. We hold then that the first investigation and steps should be in the direction of a repository and final disposition. When these two points are satisfactorily settled the foundation for sewerage is laid.

In considering the subject it should always be kept in mind that one class of citizens has not the constitutional right to commit a nuisance upon ano-