

EDITORIALS.

THE OPIUM TRADE.

THE Chinese Government is making a new attempt to suppress the trade in opium. A similar effort several years ago, cost the Celestial Empire, very dear. England, that particularly Christian and proselytizing nation, crammed opium down the throats of the Chinese by the force of powder and ball, and sent missionaries to convert them to the doctrines of the Bible, and at the same time ships of war to batter down their ports and spread death and destruction, in order that the might compel a sure market for the opium produced in her Indian possessions.

China lost much blood and treasure in resisting the pious intentions of her powerful missionary antagonist, but the injuries received in the Flowery Kingdom from the vile habit which has grown upon its people, ruining thousands upon thousands, and entailing upon their posterity a devouring appetite for the drug as a deathly heritage, has been far more disastrous than the attack upon her material interests.

It is probable that the Chinese Government may be more successful in the new crusade against opium than the last. In the first place England has the prospects of a first class war staring them in the face, which threatens to engross her attention and demand all her available resources. In the second place there is now a market in India for most of the opium produced there, and what is not consumed of the rest, in Europe, finds ready sale in America. The commercial motive for the last war waged by England against China does not now exist, and Russia is claiming all the attention that Great Britain can at present afford to turn in the direction of hostilities.

It is a matter of great regret that opium eating has become a fixed habit with a large number of people in the United States, and is now one of the regular vices of this fast and nervous nationality. The annual importation of the drug in this country reaches the enormous amount of 2,589,924,383 grains. Supposing one-fifth of this is used for medicinal purposes, this leaves 2,071,939,507 for the opium chewers and smokers, or about 5,950,520 grains per day. But some estimate the quantity used as medicine at only five per cent of the whole amount imported. This would leave the quantity annually consumed for the gratification of an injurious habit at the enormous figure of 2,459,428,164 grains.

If the pernicious habit continues to grow upon the people, the government of the United States will find it necessary, before long, to cull a leaf out of the book of the laws of the barbarians and take effectual means for the suppression of the vice. In China the cultivation of the poppy is to be prohibited, and all officials who countenance the sale or production of the drug are to be punished with heavy penalties. Of course a republic cannot establish such severe restrictions as are possible in a despotic government. But it appears to us that by taxation or some stringent regulations, the traffic in and the consumption of the drug might be so regulated that the growing insatiation for the deadly opiate may be held in check, and much evil be thereby prevented. This is a subject which will yet engage the attention of statesmen and philanthropists, with interest little less than that which is now caused by the temperance question.

THE "GHOST" HUMBUGS.

THE "materializing mediums" are coming to grief. A couple of these frauds were exposed at Chicago on Wednesday last, and a "spirit face" was seized by a press reporter, who was sworn at by the ghost for his officiousness, and met with material resistance. A short time ago Dr. Huntton, who was endorsed by the *Religio-Philosophical Journal* as a slate-writing medium of the first class, was exposed and

made a confession showing the *modus operandi* of the business. Mr. G. M. Jackson, the gentleman who was the means of these disclosures, captured another great humbug by the name of Jennings, who had turned many people half crazy with his supposed necromancy. A test seance took place in Mr. Jackson's residence in St. Louis and proceeded smoothly enough till the close of the performance, when a full blaze of gas was suddenly turned on, Jennings seized and examined, in spite of his "assistant," who declared it was dangerous, as he was "in a trance," and the fine muslin, elastic faces, and other paraphernalia with which many intelligent persons had been deluded into seeing their dead friends, were found under his shirt front or rapped around his waist. Jennings owned up and made a clean breast of it. Among the properties of the business were some red mosquito bar, a small French harp to make "spirit music," a tinsel gilt band to represent bracelets, some gauze, etc.

The right way with these swindlers is the English method. They should be prosecuted for obtaining money under false pretences. They inflict great damage on the public mind, and exposure in the public prints is not enough; they should be punished with the utmost rigor of the law.

NOTHINGISM.

THE Communist movement in this country is the counterpart of the Socialist organization in Germany, both of which are represented in an exaggerated manner by the Nihilist combination in Russia. The latter is the very extreme of the radicalism and infidelity which are gradually spreading through all civilized countries, and undermining the foundations of society. It is the culmination and sequence of what is mis-called "liberalism."

Nihil is the Latin name for "nothing." The Russian "reformers" are called "Nihilists," because they propose the destruction of all government, national, local, or social, and of all creeds, forms and ceremonies, without substituting anything in their places. Perfect freedom from all restraint of every kind is their ideal of liberty, and instead of it they establish simply nothing.

This seems incredible to those who have reflected at all upon the needs of society. But it really appears to be the aim of the Nihilists to reduce all things to chaos. No law, no religion, no family, no government, no anything in the shape of authority. Yet the very existence of the Nihilist society is a protest against and a refutation of their theories. Without organization it could have no existence; without rules and regulations it would be powerless; and without leaders clothed with executive authority its members could accomplish nothing. But it is organized systematically, with stringent laws and authoritative officers, and its edicts are executed even unto death. It is so extensive and powerful as to give real cause for alarm to the Russian government, and diligent measures are adopted for its repression and extinction.

The spirit which prompts these movements comes from beneath. It is the genius of destruction. Envy, malice, revenge and hatred are its natural emanations; arson, pillage, bloodshed and murder are its objects. It exhales the breath of hell, and would fill the world with woe and darkness. Left to itself, to spread and strengthen its hold on foolish mortals, it would defy heaven and make war on earth, give place to the worst fiends of the infernal regions and turn this planet into a pandemonium.

It has been remarked by anti-"Mormons" that apostasy from the "Mormon" Church tends in this direction. That it naturally makes men Nihilists. That when they revolt from the rule of the priesthood, they go to the extreme of unbelief and rebellion against all authority. That they become infidel and revolutionary in the extreme. The cause of this is said to be a reaction from the servility with which they stooped to the bondage of the Church, and from

the unreflecting condition required by a priesthood that claimed to do all the thinking for them.

This statement has some truth in it, so far as the condition of many seceders from this Church is concerned. But the reasons given for that lamentable condition are entirely incorrect. There is no such bondage in this Church as is assumed by its opponents. All the members of the Church are encouraged to think and act for themselves, the free agency of man being one of its prominent tenets, and the doctrine of individual accountability being taught in the plainest manner by its ministers. The very object of priesthood is to bring every individual into personal communion with his Maker, and develop in him, to the fullest perfection all the faculties of his being, physical, intellectual, and spiritual, that he may understand, act, and be saved and exalted for himself.

The reason why persons who apostatize from the "Mormon" faith generally become infidels, is because they have weighed the various religions of the world and found them all wanting, when compared with the system vulgarly called "Mormonism." In this system are to be found every doctrine and ordinance and blessing and gift, taught in former times by those whom the various sects of Christendom claim to have been inspired. Everything in those sects that will stand the test of reason and scripture is incorporated in this system. The fulfillment of every promise made in the gospel taught by Jesus of Nazareth and his Apostles may be enjoyed in this Church. There is a most powerful spiritual influence connected with it, that every member may partake of, and which is as real as the warmth and light of natural sunshine.

If from any cause—sin of omission or commission, the conviction of the truth of this work—amounting to positive certainty, fades away from the soul, it becomes untrustful in any religious organism or preacher. The seceder, losing faith in that which he knows is superior to any other religious system, loses faith in all. If he joins either of them he knows he is a hypocrite and a deceiver. He is satisfied that if there is anything at all in the Christian religion it is embodied in "Mormonism," and turning from that he cannot consistently embrace any of the hollow creeds of man's invention. This is why seceders from this Church become infidel in their notions, and like a bark upon the sea without rudder or compass they are adrift, tossed to and fro by contrary winds of religion, politics, social theories and new fangled schemes, never anchoring in any peaceful harbor. They are as nearly Nihilists as anything, and are in that dreadful condition described in scripture as "without God in the World."

MARRIAGE AND THE CONSTITUTION.

THE question has been asked, why no mention of or allusion to the subject of marriage is made in the Constitution of the United States. Seeing that it is a matter of national concern, and is considered to be a civil contract, why did not the framers of the supreme law of the land lay down some provision affecting that which lies at the foundation of civilized society?

The answer is, that at the time when that instrument was framed, marriage was not considered to be a mere civil contract. The fathers of our country would have been scandalized at the idea of divesting matrimony of its sacred character, and bringing it down to the level of a business bargain. It is only of late years that such notions have obtained in relation to that which was formerly esteemed as a sacrament by the majority of Christian people, and as a holy and religious rite by the rest. Until a few years ago marriage could not be celebrated in England except by an authorized minister of the gospel, and most people belonging to the various religious denominations in both hemispheres now consider the ministrations of the priest or pastor necessary to the proper performance of the ceremony.

The "Mormons" advance no new idea when they claim marriage to be a part of their religious creed. All sects have, until very recently, maintained the same position, and the Catholic and Episcopal churches to this day regard matrimony as essentially a religious ordinance.

It may be said that none of them permit plural marriage, which the "Mormons" make part of their faith and practice. That may be true, but it does not affect the question. If marriage is essentially a religious rite, as we claim, and in which the great bulk of Christendom supports us, the question of one wife or many is only incidental to the main point. If marriage is a matter of religion, the regulation of it pertains to the churches and not to the State. The constitution is not only silent upon the marriage question, but it prohibits any interference with religion in any manner whatever. And the fact that marriage was considered a religious ordinance by the pilgrim fathers, and those pious people who laid the foundations of our government, shows a very powerful reason why it is not alluded to in the "palladium of our liberties;" for, having suffered from religious intolerance, its heroic framers determined that in this land of freedom every person should have the right to practise as well as believe that religion which recommended itself to his soul, without hindrance from any secular power or governmental authority.

If marriage is a religious question, polygamy as well as monogamy comes under church jurisdiction, and the right or wrong of either is doctrinal and for ecclesiastical decision. This is the position we take, and this is a valid reason why the Constitution is silent on the subject.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We hope the following lines of Defoe's will not apply to any of the settlements of Utah:

Whenever God erects a house of prayer,
The Devil always builds a chapel there;
And 'twill be found, upon examination,
The latter has the largest congregation.

It is said that Ingersoll, the unbeliever, wept at a concert recently on hearing Lotta sing "The sweet by and by." Robert should have saved his tears, he doesn't believe there is any "by and by" either sweet or bitter.

Apropos of the "full dress" style of ball costume, a gentleman who attended a full dress party with his wife in Paris lately was called Adam. On asking the reason he was told it was because his wife's dress so much resembled Eve's.

To destroy weeds in garden walks sprinkle with a fine-rosed watering pot a solution of carbolic acid, in the proportion of a quarter of a pound to four gallons of water. Take care that the liquid does not touch plants or grass which you desire to live, as it is sure death to vegetation.

Bikuben looks much better this week. Our hints have been taken in good part, and the paper presents a very creditable appearance. Our Scandinavian friends need an organ of their own, and we hope they will patronize and sustain the efforts of their countrymen to supply them with good reading matter in their own language. Success to *Bikuben*.

The *Religious Herald* makes the following excellent suggestion to folks who delight in hanging up mottoes in the house: "It is all well enough to hang up a chromo, with 'God Bless our Home' on it, in the parlor or sitting-room, but it will do no harm to help on the matter by a little less fretting in the kitchen and nursery."

Russia has "struck oil." The wells are on the western shore of the Caspian Sea, and American artizans have been engaged by St. Petersburg merchants to proceed thither and bring forth the petroleum. Machinery for drilling and sinking wells has been purchased at Pittsburg. A tariff of \$3.50 per barrel on foreign oil has been imposed so as to protect the home production.

The Sultan gave General Grant, while in Constantinople, the choice of a horse among a stud of beauties. He picked out a fine dapple gray, which was splendidly attired and presented. The animal has to be forwarded to this country. Grant

is a fortunate man. And taking the gifts received while he was in office, and the presents he has accepted since he got out of office, his collection will amount to a very considerable sum in value.

The Florida confessions it appears, are to be made the subject of Congressional investigation. This will make things very unpleasant for Hayes, but it is doubtful whether anything more than exposure of villany will be the result. The Electoral Commission decided the question of the presidency, and, in honor, it seems that neither party can reopen it. However, there is no rule to determine how political parties will act under any given circumstances. Read the telegrams of the proceedings in the House.

Several deaths have recently occurred from eating pork infested with trichina. This is bad enough. But the New Jersey people are terribly exercised over the discovery that a similar parasite to that which makes some pork so disgusting and unhealthy, exists in their favorite fish, the shad. Experiments, however, have proven that whether in pork or fish, if properly cooked, the trichina perish by the action of heat. That is some consolation. But who wants to eat States pork, anyhow?

They have a short and cheap method with horse thieves in Texas. A rancher who had offered a reward for the recovery of a span of horses, recently received the animals with a bill itemized as follows: Catching thief, \$1; acting sheriff, acting lawyer, acting judge, 50 cents each; conviction of thief, 50 cents; rope, \$1; making hangman's knot, 25 cents; for heavy weight on light end of rope, 75 cents; paid man for 15 days' work delivering stock, \$15. This style costs less and accomplishes more than the method in vogue in these parts.

Some time ago the crew of a vessel laden with Java coffee, were seized with a deadly sickness, and it was supposed that the coffee had something to do with the malady. But medical testimony went against that theory, and the idea was scouted. Now another ship with Java coffee has arrived at New York with a similar affliction among the crew, and the sailors think that the doctors don't know anything about it. Still it is not proven that the affliction proceeds from the coffee, nor that the Java variety has peculiar unhealthy qualities.

Utah Apples.

The *Prairie Farmer*, of the 4th inst has the following:

The *Utah Pomologist* calls attention to two seedling apples originated at St. George, Utah, that have borne the test of several years there successfully. They are, "Higgins red winter" and "Orton's winter seedling" both large, fine looking and long keepers. The first is described as large, ovate, all over deep red, tough skin, flesh yellowish white, rich, juicy, crisp and almost sweet, and even there in that hot climate when other apples, as Spitzenberg, and white winter Pearmain are all gone, this is in fine sound condition and free from shriveling. Tree, an upright brisk grower, fruitful, bearing annual crops and coming early into bearing.

"Orton's winter seedling" grows fruit a size larger, with red cheeks and splashes on a greenish-yellow skin, nearly round and smooth, thick skin, flesh yellowish white—a pleasant sub-acid, similar to Peck's pleasant annual prolific, heavier and keeps much like the Higgins.

The other day such a beautiful young lady, eyes like midnight, hair like the raven's wing, brow like alabaster, lips like coral, pure like an overland mail pouch, went into a Jefferson street dry goods store and asked to see some corn-colored silk. The youngest clerk limped painfully behind the counter and handed her down a piece of scarlet. "I said corn-colored," she murmured. The young salesman hesitated and fidgeted. "Well, by dad," he exclaimed, "that's the prevailing color of my corns." And by the time the proprietor could hurry over to see what was the matter, she was out of the door and half a block away.