DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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AN INSULT TO CHARITY.

From time to time the NEWS has had occasion to call attention to the law of the Lord with reference to the sacredness of the Sabbath, and to warn its readers against the increasing disposition to make light of the Divine command in seeking pleasure rather than His worship on His day. It has seldom been deemed necessary to also cast criticisms against any particular diversion or entertainment prepared for those violations of the holy code; in general it has been sufficient to put all who profess the name of Christ, but are subject to temptation and backsliding, on their guard against these various allurements of the adversary of their souls.

The present occasion, however, requires specific and deliberate mention of a proceeding looking to the violation of the coming Sabbath, because the invitation to the offense masquerades under the cloak of sweet charity, which, though it proverbially covereth a multitude of sins, cannot be stretched far enough to cover this one. The proposition is to have a hundred men, more or less, take a railroad journey next Sunday out into a neighboring county, and devote the day to the slaughter of rabbits, which, having been slain, are to be distributed to the poor of this city. In urging the acceptance of this plausible hypocrisy, those having the affair in charge, and the papers that are lending encouragement to it, flippantly and irreverently give notice that "the recording angel" will make no black mark against the name of any who in this manner shall relieve the wants of the needy and supply the stomach of the rabbit-eating destitute.

Waiving for the present all comment on the impudence of this proposal on the part of men who seldom speak of holy things save in blasphemy, and on the absurdity of the idea that the project, even if a good one, must be carried out on the Sabbath instead of a week-day, we propose to shed a little light on the folly of the charity sale with which the scheme is invested. Every hunter who decides upon going in the party is required to deposit $1.75 for railroad and other transportation expenses. The further charge to each will be at least $1.25 for cartridges, this will buy fifty shells, and if there is any kind of shooting, twice this quantity will be required. It is expected that at least a hundred guns will go. There will accordingly be for these two items alone, an immediate cash outlay of $300. But there are many who will have to hire guns; many who will buy extra cartridges; all of them will make an outlay of some kind for lunch, and many will buy liquor and cigars to take along. Altogether, a very moderate estimate places the outlay at $500. For the purposes of this discussion, however, we adopt the former figure.

Now as to the return. It is a fairly good sportsman who averages a rabbit for each fire-arm. Unless the sportsmen are particularly lame and plentiful such a crowd as will go on this expedition will not do that well, but giving them the benefit of the doubt, they ought to get an average of two rabbits apiece for their outlay of $5, or 500 rabbits for the lowest estimate of their total outlay, $500, making each "jack" cost $1 apiece.

Rabbits by the carload can be bought in this city any week for 15 cents a piece, a dollar a dozen, and cheaper still for wholesale quantities.

But excepting these thousand rabbits, about 1000 pounds, not only does not that the most economical way of spending the money for charity? It cost at 15 cents a pound more than prime beef cost last Christmas week. A leading butcher tells the NEWS that he will sell any number of carcasses of good beef, dressed, for 15 cents a pound. With any one dollar that judicious charity distributes at store prices in the average poor family good beef for a meal of 500 pounds of the carcass, why not invest the $500 in 5000 pounds of beef?

Or, since the really destitute need other things more than they need meat of any kind, why not invest the money expended "for charity" in dry goods, and at Christmas time give to 100 families a suit of clothes apiece, or in 100 pairs of good Prince Albert coats, or to 100 half-cords loads of wood?

We might multiply comparisons indefinitely, but enough has probably been given to show that so far as real, practical charity is concerned, the proposed Sunday rabbit hunt is a sham and a fraud. The relief beneficiaries, so far as we can see, are the railroads and the ammunition dealers, and we imagine there are more deserving objects of charity in our community just now than either of them.

The NEWS accordingly lifts its voice against the project, and advises its male readers, young and old, to have it alone. As a business proposition we have shown its nonsense. As a moral and intelligent pastime it is a silency sham. Above all—and this ought to be enough for every Christian—it is in direct violation of the Word of God, and must be considered a crime in His eyes, all employers only permitted humanity to the angel's mercy to the contrary notwithstanding.

A SOLUTION PROBABLE.

What has been long regarded as an inexplicable mystery of the sea now seems in a fair way to be solved. Heretofore efforts made by Arctics and Antiquans alike have been failures. There it mysteriously were at night, especially in cloudy weather, on the sea in Falmouth bay, on the Japanese coast, a luminous object known as "phosphorus," which literally translated means "the unknowable fire." The superstitious ascribe this phenomenon to the spirits of those lost at sea.

A suggestion by Mr. Kimotsuki, of the Japanese navy, has led to investigations that may reveal the real cause of the strange light. Some time ago he was assigned by the government to make an examination of the Kuro-shiwo, or black current of Japan, which is the warmest ocean stream in the world. It flows from the neighborhood of the Philippine archipelago to the eastern coast of Japan, and Mr. Kimotsuki suggested in his report that the warmth of the water is probably caused by minute animal life giving off phosphorescent heat.

Upon having this information, Professor Narayama Hiashiro, of the Kumamoto Higher school, began making investigations. He secured water from the place where the supposed fire makes its appearance and examined it with a microscope, with the result that he found a number of peculiar animalcules in it. From his investigation he came to the conclusion that he was on the way to learning the cause of the luminosity, which he is now convinced is phosphorus emitted from the animalcules in the water. His theory cannot be definitely demonstrated until he has made a more complete examination, which he is now proceeding with, in full confidence that as a result of his labors what has been from time immemorial a great mystery and a promoter of superstitious notions will by such no more.

TWEED'S RISE AND TUMBLE.

Through the change in the politics of the New York legislature at the last election, the American metropolis is threatened with another investigation into the conduct of its officials. Only a few years ago the chief of the Tammany organization was unceremoniously cast down meaning the leadership of that society he has become suddenly rich. Without any visible income through a legitimate channel of business, wealth has fallen upon him like an enchantment. His case has an exterior appearance so much like his notable predecessor, Tweed, that the suspicion is becoming general that New York has got another wholesale block-mailing ring in its hands. In any event the word has gone abroad that among the first official acts of the state legislature will be the appointment of a committee to look into the moral standing of the Tammany society.

It was about twenty years ago that a similar inquiry was made into the reputation of "Boss Tweed," the greatest of municipal corruptions. The method by which he succeeded in robbing the taxpayers of New York of upwards of a million for his personal profits, and nobody knows how much for the benefit of his subordinates and accomplices, has been told before, but events are occurring just now, not only in the metropolis but in other cities of the land, which give to the affair a new and peculiar interest.

At the time of the exposure Tweed fell a sudden accountability to the people. He was president of the board of supervisors and also a state senator. He was also all the while chief of Tammany Hall, and Tammany Hall, then as now, cast a wide swath in state politics. The robbery which figured in the investigation was committed in connection with the construction of a courthouse and some other public buildings. According to the evidence the job originated not with Tweed but with a county clerk in the interest of politics and the usually outlaw. Certain bills which were presented for the services were so far in excess of any actual cost attached to them, the contractor did they at once conceived the idea of making a "raid" on the treasury. It occurred to them that as clerks of the city were a contemptuously set of fellows with the labor politicians, it would be impossible to "work them." Indeed, the conspirators felt that they were safe in making very moderate or even an additional reduction in the bills of the "workers." The thing was communicated to the builders, was promptly acted upon, and the vouchers thus raised went through the hands of Comptroller Connolly and Chief Supervisor Tweed without a struggle. These motives were quickly educated to the popularity of the demands, by being made silent partners in the spoils transfer of the business.

The thrifty proceeding thus still the treasury was thoroughly looted, and auditor bills began to accumulate rapidly on the basis of the money-tree theorem. But the genius of the Tammany boss was equal to every emergency. In the time of need he did not forget that he was an honored member of, and a political power in, the state senate. In this capacity he procured the passage of an act entitling the mayor, the president of the board of supervisors and the comptroller to audit the bills and provide means of payment by the issue of bonds. Thus did these tony gentlemen, entrusted with the public functions, not only become the makers, approvers and redeemers of spurious vouchers against the city to the extent of its funds, but they completed their mastery of the situation by having themselves appointed agents of the county to carry bonds without check or restriction upon some generous, disinterested, patriotic, public-spirited, generous (it may seem) the mayor gave his approval to the monstrous affair without even suspecting the fraud. Another remarkable feature which will have some interest to Salt Lake readers is that the same day that the robbery reached the ears of the public through the efforts of a newspaper, the comptroller left the whole budget of documents containing the record of the operations.

It is astonishing what striking parallels appear sometimes between the outward conduct of apparently honest and profoundly honest officials. Fortunately for those who are only the victims of circumstances, while it is a great misfortune to any official to have forcing about him the methods and behavior of a thief, these signs alone are not sufficient evidence to convict. And while it is his duty to conduct himself at all times squarely and honestly, it is no less the duty of the public to remember that palpable sight, no whomsoever they may affect, are worthy of watching.

THE WELL ZURZER AGAIN.

Last summer, when cholera cases were reported from Mediterranean ports and fears were entertained of the spread of the disease, attention was called to the Mohammedan pilgrimages to Mecca and certain religious rites connected therewith, particularly the custom of drinking of the sacred well Zemzem. Some papers clamored for energetic action on the part of the European powers to compel Turkey to discontinue these pilgrimages, as they were looked upon as a perpetual menace to the health of the rest of mankind. The Natural the time pointed out that the real source of danger was the more than careless way in which the refuse of thousands of pestiferous skins by the pilgrims is left as plenty in the open air, and to mention other kinds of filth which necessarily accumulate where so many thousands gather, unmitigated by sanitary regulations. The subject has been discussed by the press lately. The Gibraltar Chronicle published an article taken from the London Times, in which the author endeavored to prove that the water of the holy well is full of cholera microbes. To this article a paper in Constantinople, the Sabah, raises exception. Its reply has been translated and condensed for a recent number of the Literary Digest. As the NEWS published the substance of the article in the Sunday American, the reply of the Mohammedan newspaper to the Turkish original is hereinafter reproduced. It is only fair that both sides should be heard. The Sabah says:

Every nation has its own religious and national customs. Mecca is another matter, and its regulations are not permissible by Jews, Christians or pagans. Those who make such accusations against these sacred places, and who are ignorant of the reasons why the such ancient religious and holy places are sacred to our religion, so that it is all those nationalities, the people of Islam have never in any way interfered with other religions. Especially for the Christians of Salonica, Hadji Ali Effendi, who is well known for his humanitarian methods in a period of wind and pestilence and cholera, during which he made individual sacrifices and exertions in the prevention of the spread of cholera, and in the sanitary regulations. The problems and rules of our Muslim people in the matter of our religious duties. The problems and rules of our Muslim people in the matter of our religious duties, and nothing more. Everybody knows that the Koran, which is the sacred book of Islam, is a book of rules and regulations, and that the Koran is the sacred book of Islam, which is the sacred book of Islam, which is the sacred book of Islam, which