

## DEMANDS FOR DAMAGES.

SALT LAKE CITY, June 21.—Fifty years ago or so, when people loved their neighbor's interest a little more than they do today, damage suits were a thing of rare occurrence. But oh, today, the slightest pretext is sufficient to put in a claim for thousands. The avarice and overgreed of people to obtain large sums of money through this medium will sooner or later cause material check to enterprise and business capitalists will be timid and reluctant in laying out their means in an uncertain channel, not knowing what moment they may be made victims to some damage claim urged on, perhaps, by unscrupulous doctors and lawyers.

So alarmingly indeed has this thing increased upon the people of late that it is beginning to assume the attitude of a plague; and judging from the general aspect and nature of the disease and its contagiousness and its ravages amongst the unsuspecting, it is a little strange that no one of medical ability and skill has stepped forward with the proper disinfectant to stay the further spread of the most selfish disorder.

It is in many of its features a little less than the price of blood.

Accidents or mishaps are amongst the inevitables and it is morally wrong to struggle against them with an eye to selfishness. Where accidents occur through criminal negligence the guilty should be made to pay for his carelessness and the proceeds be put in the common treasury—the community thereafter to assume the care of the injured; thus putting an end to individual covetousness and litigation. In the whole category of damage claims, that, perhaps, of accident or injury is the most widespread and demands the greatest share of attention. Yet, nevertheless, it appears to be radically wrong that people should be subjected to uncertain demands which sometimes exceeds the amount they are worth.

The next in order is that of libel. This of all others should be made to pass through some strong solutions or compounds for its cleansing, as its disagreeable odor spreads far and near and many are made to feel its strong hands of deception and trickery, taking the advantage of the least mishap or blunder, construing it to appear that their character has been damaged to an enormous sum. In this part of the machinery might be placed a balance wheel to check the speed somewhat. Heretofore the strain has been too much in one place. The defamer now, instead of making his exactors rich at the expense of his pocket, will atone for his crime behind prison bars. This method of dealing with the vile subject would soon reveal the fact that the majority of libel suits are instituted more for the sake of the ill-gotten gain and not so much to protect the good name.

Where the custom of exacting damages or indemnity for real or supposed injury first originated is not exactly known, but if we ascribe it to the breach of promise question we will not be far wrong. From the time that man and woman had a beginning, if there ever was such a period, the joy and sorrow of match-making was not

far in the rear. This is a pretty sure thing. It is, too, equally sure that as long as promises, vows and contracts are being made, just so long will they at times be broken; and as the breach is as often found on the one side as the other it would seem from one standpoint at least that either of the parties so backsliding should be allowed to go scot-free. To some, perhaps, this may appear unjust but the equality of the sexes makes it so; for where exists an equality of peerage there can be no inferior nor superior, none to punish and none to compensate; hence the party so called to pass through the mill of disappointment should remember that this is the common lot of humanity and that the pangs of reverted love are as liable to fall upon one as the other. It is, if I may so speak, an evil without a cure, that is, speaking where charity has not been trammelled, but if so, the brutal tie should be the remedy. The two sides are no longer equal, the cord of purity, honor and excellency having been severed and now damages are in order to their fullest extent. W. D. W.

## THE FAR NORTH.

## SWEDEN.

The railroad laborers working on the railroad near Ornskoldsvik, have struck for higher wages.

The ice in the Baltic off Lulea was found to be three feet thick the first days of June.

A large mechanic workshop will be built in Svalöf. A stock company has been organized for the purpose.

Seven hundred and thirty-three persons emigrated to America the other day by way of Gothenburg.

The epidemic of small-pox is increasing in Gothenburg. Several cases were reported from Partille the other day.

King Oscar has subscribed 20,000 crowns for shares in the proposed sugar factory at Roma, on the island of Gotland.

A magnificent public school house will be built in the Katrina parish of Stockholm. The cost is estimated at 337,000 crowns.

The Gothenburg Handelstidning has collected and sent over 3,000 crowns to the people suffering by the late landslide in Vaerdalen, Norway.

The naval cadets of Carlskrona have donated their salary for two months to the fund which is being raised for the building of a new warship.

The property of the state telegraph company is estimated at 3,500,000 crowns, while the property of the state telephone company amounts to over 5,500,000 crowns.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Von Segefladen died at his country mansion Kalledal at the age of 75 years. The deceased was widely known as an author on military subjects.

Sir Plunkett, the English minister to Stockholm, has been appointed minister to Brussels, and Sir St. John, the minister to Mexico, will be transferred to the Swedish capital.

Mrs. Elise Hammargren, married to a

prominent manufacturer of Djupadal committed suicide while temporarily insane. She leaves besides her husband, eight small children.

A severe storm is reported from the vicinity of Askersund. Lightning struck three farms at the same time, which were burned to the ground. Many cattle were roasted to death.

Another fin de siecle assignment is reported. J. A. Nilsson, a prominent merchant of Gothenburg, has been forced to the wall. His liabilities represent a fortune while the assets amount to only thirty-four crowns (\$9.00).

Archbishop Sundberg celebrated his 75th birthday, and was congratulated by hundreds of persons, the majority being clergymen. In honor of the day the archbishop donated 3,000 crowns to the cathedral of Upsala and 2,000 crowns to a charity institution.

STOCKHOLM, June 22.—[Special.]—Several cyclists of Washington, U. S., have arrived at Helsingborg. They intend to make a tour on bicycles through several provinces of Sweden, and also pay a visit to the cities of Stockholm, Upsala and Norrköping. The trip is expected to last about two months.

## NORWAY.

The crown prince and crown princess have donated 1,000 crowns to the people of Vaerdalen.

A collection is being taken up in all the churches of Norway for the suffering people of Vaerdalen.

The heirs of the deceased merchant Johan Thesen, have donated 180,000 crowns to the city of Bergen.

Two large farms were burned down the other day at Snoterud, situated a few miles from the church of Kurnes.

The Christiania Morgenbladet has collected over 13,000 crowns for the suffering people of Vaerdalen.

At a competition in Christiania between Swedish, German and English fire engines the Swedish engine was given the first prize by the jury.

The radical papers have insulted King Oscar in the most shameless way, because they think that the amount of 5,000 crowns, which he donated to the suffering people of Vaerdalen, ought to have been several times multiplied.

Dr. Oscar Dickson declared himself willing to contribute money to Dr. Nansen's expedition to the north pole, but the offer was refused on account of Dickson being a Swede and contributions are wanted only from the Norwegians.

## DENMARK.

Herman Bang, the author, is sick.

By the latest statistics the city of Copenhagen has 336,000 inhabitants.

Judge Thiele, a prominent criminal lawyer of Copenhagen, was struck by apoplexy while he was walking on the street, and died in a few hours.

Erik S. Henins, Danish consul to Odessa, Russia, though a stranger at that place, has been appointed a member of the board of arbitration of the exchange. This position is important, its duty being to settle all disputes between the merchants, the decision of a select committee of three being final.