

procession, ball, etc. In its nonsensical and useless features it is something like the Mardi Gras carnival in New Orleans each February, though its origin or significance is not so well known as that of the latter, which has prototypes in many sections of the Old World in the feasting, pageantry, riotous amusement and buffoonery with which the people prepare themselves to enter upon the period of abstinence and piety comprised within the forty days of Lent. Foolish, therefore, as the proceedings may be regarded, it is not without interest to learn, as the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* informs a correspondent that the original M kanna, or "veiled prophet," as he was called, was a Moslem impostor, whose real name was Haken Ibn Hashem. He was by trade a fuller, and was born about the middle of the eighth century. He pretended to be an embodiment of the living spirit of God, and being proficient in jugglery, which in those days was frequently made to do service as the power of working miracles, soon drew many disciples and followers around him who had implicit faith in his pretensions. He always wore a gilded mask, upon the ground that his countenance was too brilliant to be borne by ordinary mortals, but actually, it is supposed, for the purpose of hiding the deformity of his face. At last the caliph of Mohdi, finding him growing more and more formidable every day, sent a force against him which finally drove him back into the castle at Keh, north of the Oxus, where he first poisoned and burnt all his family and then threw himself into the flames, which consumed him completely except his hair. He left a message, however, to the effect that he would reappear in the shape of a gray man riding on a gray beast, and many of his followers for many years after expected his reappearance, and they wore as a distinguishing mark nothing but white garments.

### UNMENTIONED ATTRACTIONS.

Much as has been communicated to us in various ways regarding the innumerable attractions of the World's Fair, there are many which possess a peculiar interest to the people of the West that have been spoken of but slightly where they have been spoken of at all. Whether this is because such things were not also interesting to the East or not does not matter now. In the class spoken of is an exhibit that is worthy of extended mention. It is the work of Prof. Dyche of the Kansas State university a book concerning which and the professor's other work accompanies it. He seems, however, according to an eastern paper, to have been doubtful of his ability as a writer, and therefore a record of his exploits and observations has been prepared by Mr. Clarence E. Edwards, from the professor's field notes. There is a general chorus of praise of the volume, all the commentators agreeing that the book is at once valuable and entertaining. The *Literary World* of Boston gives a glowing notice of the work, from which we make the following extract:

Visitors at the World's Fair Exposition will see a unique collection of the large game of America, all stuffed and in readiness to be rediscovered. The collection in some respects excels any in the world. It was made by the late Prof. Dyche of the Kansas State university, whose adventures are given in the book before us. Sensational narratives of Nimrods are very common, and decorated, embroidered and magnified accounts of hunters' lives are as common as pirated novels. A true story, however, of the actual work done by the hunter and a correct account of his environment is rare. This book, handsomely printed and illustrated, is a truthful account of the American hunter seeking big game; and the full-page illustrations of the grizzly bear, Rocky Mountain goat, and other full Americans, are wonderfully lifelike and suggestive. To look at one of these full-clawed "grizzlies," and say, as we say of a star, "Thou art so near and yet so far," is very comfortable to the student who has no rifle at hand and could not use it well if he had. We are saved all danger by reading the professor's own account.

The article then goes on to give some account of the professor himself, the interesting information being given that he was ushered into existence in an emigrant's covered wagon in the early days of Kansas. He was nursed by Indian squaws, and grew up among the Indians and other wild creatures, both brute and human. He loved nature; and when a big, strong boy he went to school and thence to college; he battled his way through, cooking his own food, and educating himself out of the money which he had secured by the hardest of work. Later on he determined to make a unique collection of the fast disappearing noble American game; and this book, dealing solely with facts, tells about his adventures in the United States and Canada. The adventures are not of a "thrilling" kind, but they give the life in the woods as it really is. The editor, Mr. C. E. Edwards, has, he declares, added nothing in the way of spice or condiment to make the real events more interesting, and as a consequence the facts themselves are wonderfully fascinating. How Dyche hunted the wild turkey, the bear, elk, moose, Rocky mountain goat, and other creatures, is finely told. The work is said to be full of deeply interesting passages and adventures. Apart from the great interest of the book as a truthful record of life in the great woods and mountains of our country, it is pronounced a remarkable picture of western life of scarce a generation ago.

### THE PROPER COURSE.

A locally celebrated case has just been concluded in the Third District court of this Territory. It was for the most part the story of a home defiled, a woman's honor destroyed and her paramour brought to bloody retribution. Some of the details, while indispensable to the jury, were unfit for publication and therefore should have been carefully excluded from every home where there are children and where purity prevails, this meaning, we take it, all but a very few. A newspaper, however, being a vehicle of information to the public, cannot ig-

nore important events of the character spoken of or any other, and the question thus arises as to what extent it may go in the direction of details. It may not exclude or revise to the extent of insufficiency or partiality, and should not open its columns to every vile or suggestive sentence employed no matter how essential to a full and fair determination of the issues in court. This we believe to be as correct an outline of what rule the press should be controlled by as can be made in so many words.

The News has sought to act upon that principle throughout—not garbling or being incomplete, and yet avoiding prurieny or villeney; acquainting its readers with every essential detail and withholding from them language which presumably they would not care to hear and therefore do not care to read. Certainly, in any case, they would prefer not to have language of that kind introduced into their family circle, even if they could tolerate or even seek for it themselves. This policy on our part has, strangely enough, one would think, met with objection in some few cases, and by those not given to improper things generally. It is always undesirable for fault to be found with us, and always desirable that it be found (when it must be) because we have done right. We did not publish all that was testified to in the trial spoken of, but looking back over what was published we make the discovery—regrettable enough to us—that there was, if anything, more than there should have been, more, perhaps, than there would have been had there been time and opportunity for thorough revision. Still, it was not nearly as bad as the report furnished by others, because almost entirely free from actual badness, and was nearly as good as it could be with a due regard for completeness.

The News earnestly hopes that the time is not far off when the public will be educated beyond the point of demanding the horrible, the revolting and the vulgar through the medium of the press, and then such matter will no longer appear. General statements with the trend and prominent features of every matter of public concern would then be entirely satisfying. The News is determined to maintain a stand as near to that point as it can get without losing sight of the prevailing characteristics of a journal of today. By keeping above rather than abreast of the tendency of the times we not only become disseminators of news but of morals as well. This is the true aim of a true journalist; and as heretofore the News will ever be found trying to restrain and make more thoughtful the hurrying throng, rather than causing it to intensify its speed, make more confusing its confusion and less healthful its unhealthfulness by encouraging and adding it in the direction spoken of.

### TWO GENEALOGIES.

The News has been favored with a communication from Mr. J. A. Robinson, Arkansas City, Kansas, in which the writer refers to some editorial remarks recently made by this paper on