



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

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#### EARTH CLOSETS.

By an act, recently passed by the legislature of Louisiana, it is made unlawful for any vault or sink—for the purpose of getting rid of night soil—to be hereafter dug within the corporate limits of New Orleans, and it is made obligatory upon the owners of property to fill up all sinks and vaults now in use within the period of one year. This old system is to be dispensed with, and earth-closets are to be adopted in its stead. This plan of using dry earth for the removal of all offensive odors is gaining ground rapidly in sections where it has been tested. The deep vaults which have been used will soon entirely disappear, along with water-closets, which are but little better. The use of dry earth is proved to be incomparably superior, in every respect, for the purpose for which vaults and water have been used.

In a city like New Orleans the adoption of earth-closets will prove a great boon. There the drainage by water has been impossible by reason of the want of fall in the lay of the land. The levee has always been the only protection of the city against the Mississippi, and the water of heavy rains runs off slowly to the neighboring swamps. Open conduits, foul with garbage and green with stagnation, have long offended more senses than one in the best portions of the town. There was no other means of getting rid of the night-soil than the old sink or vault—there doubly noxious from the fact that it was almost on the surface of the ground. It is thought that the epidemics of cholera and yellow fever, with which that city has been scourged in former years, may have had their origin in, or at least been considerably aggravated by, the feculence which the best system of sewerage the city possessed would not remove.

The right of property in the feculence removed under the dry-earth system is reserved to the "New Orleans Sanitary and Fertilizing Company" for a period of ten years, subject to the proviso that the company shall supply, at fair price, the disinfecting and deodorising materials for earth-closets, as well as the whole apparatus of the new invention, to all owners or occupants of buildings applying for the same.

The product of the earth-closet is most valuable as a manure. We hope to see the system adopted in this city. As it increases in population, there is a greater necessity for the construction of such conveniences upon principles that will not interfere with health and comfort. Dry earth is plentiful here, nearly two thirds of the year. A plentiful supply can be stored in some dry spot for use during the season when it cannot be obtained; and those who use it can dispense with the nuisance of a vault, and never suffer themselves, nor cause their neighbors or passers by to suffer, from any offensive odors on their premises.

The Cincinnati *Chronicle* has a leading article on "Mixed Races," prompted by the writer's watching the procession of the colored people on the occasion of the Jubilee in that city to express satisfaction and delight at the adoption of the fifteenth amendment. He says:

"We were struck not so much by the orderly character of the element recently admitted to the rights of citizenship, as impressed by the evidence it furnished, if evidence were needed, that the process of the intermixture of races had already been carried to an immense extent. In the long column were arrayed the darkest negro of unmixed African blood, the mulatto, the quadroon and the octoroon, with all that symmetry of form and almost classical outline of feature vauated so highly in Havana and Louisiana. At a single glance we could compare the pure white and the pure black, and all the shades of difference gradually becoming less and less distinct, and less

strongly marked, until they were blended and almost lost in the woman who, had she worn gloves and glasses, could not have been distinguished from the American or European of the purest type."

In his article he disclaims all intention either to advocate or contend against the amalgamation of races. Still, it is a noticeable fact that his quotations are all in favor of amalgamation, and show the superiority of the hybrid over the pure races. He quotes from the testimony of men who have been in South America, in the French colonies of Martinique and Guadeloupe and on the island of Tristan de Cunha, to show that the interbreeding of the whites and negroes has produced, to use the language of one of his authorities, "a favorable, rather than unfavorable, influence upon the sultant race." He also gives instances of the mixing of whites and Indians, as in the case of the inhabitants of the province of St. Paul, in Brazil; and of the admixture of whites and Tahitians, made familiar in the case of the mutineers of the ship *Bounty*, who with a number of Tahitians settled on Pitcairn's Island.

Were we to accept the conclusions arrived at in the *Chronicle's* article we should suppose that mulattoes, quadroons, octoroons, and half and quarter-breeds of other dark-skinned races, are decided improvements on the pure white, black or red races; that, in fact, it is an advantage for a man or woman to have a dash of negro blood in his or her veins!

The writer of the article in question takes pains to say that he expresses no theory whatever on the subject; but he adds:

"The question is, however, as we have said, one of vast interest, the importance of which is apparently culminating almost daily. To every thinker and ethnological student the question involved in the spectacle of Thursday is of great importance. As we have said, each student must decide it practically for himself. Theoretically, all have the same interest in its solution; and now that the negro has received the ballot, his character and capabilities, his past and his future, the possibility or impossibility of his fusion with the white, will justly attract a wider attention and more scientific scrutiny than they have ever yet received."

It is a significant fact, viewing the article from our stand-point, for a paper like the Cincinnati *Chronicle* to discuss the fusion of the whites and blacks as an undecided question of "vast interest." It reminds us of a conversation which occurred in this city, in the summer of 1865, between several of our citizens and a number of prominent gentlemen, one of whom was a reputedly leading statesman, on the subject of the amalgamation of the whites and blacks. The statesman made a remark that conveyed the idea to the company that he was not averse to such an admixture. A leading citizen, probably thinking he might have misunderstood him, pointedly asked him if he was in favor of the amalgamation of whites and blacks. His reply was: "Why not?" That such a reply should come from a prominent man in the nation, one that held a high place in its councils; and one, too, who wielded a great influence in his party, surprised us; and we thought alas! for the Republic that accepts men with such views as its leaders.

What shall be said for the city where a daily paper declares that this question is one of great importance to its citizens,—a question which "each student must decide practically for himself?" If each student does this, many years will not elapse till the inhabitants of Cincinnati will be as piebald as those of Rio de Janeiro.

#### THE NEW TABERNACLE YESTERDAY.

THERE was an immense gathering yesterday afternoon at the New Tabernacle. The weather was delightful, and must have been tempting even to invalids to venture out. One hour before the time appointed we saw persons wending their way with the evident design of securing good seats. The gallery seemed to be the most desirable place, as it was well filled some time before the commencement of the meeting. Looking at the size of the congregation and the vastness of the building it would seem to be very difficult if not impossible to make all hear. Yet from inquiries we have made, there were few, if any, who failed to hear President Young during his entire remarks yesterday afternoon. President Smith was not heard so well from some points at the commencement of his remarks; but, as he warmed up, he was heard distinctly. While Elder Bywater was speaking there was not the same quiet maintained that had

been, and it was not possible in some parts of the building to keep the run of what he said.

While President Young was addressing the congregation his hearers kept very still, and we are informed by persons who sat on the seats where they were accustomed to sit last Summer, that yesterday they heard as they never did before. The gallery had made, judging by their experience, a great improvement in the acoustic qualities of the building. The reverberation that was noticed on every previous occasion when meeting was held there, did not exist yesterday, and though there may be even now some particular parts of the house where a speaker cannot be heard very distinctly, still, from all we can learn, the congregation in every part can now hear more plainly than ever before.

We trust that strict measures will be taken by the deacons and doorkeepers to prevent the walking about of children and others during the services. The moving backward and forward of young people yesterday was very annoying, and must have materially interfered with the hearing of those in whose neighborhood they walked. In a building like the New Tabernacle strict order should be enforced, or the words of the loudest speakers will be lost to a large portion of the congregation, and the enjoyment of the remainder will be seriously marred. Another point: It is a great convenience on a hot day, when meeting has been held for some time, to get a drink of cool water; and children, especially, get very restless if they can not quench their thirst. But the practice of carrying water around can be made objectionable by the excess of zeal which those entrusted with this duty sometimes manifest. They can, if they choose, lessen the interest felt in the meeting and disturb the congregation by their officiousness; this would be a greater injury than the water which they pass around is a benefit. But on all these points experience will suggest the best course to pursue.

The community is fortunate in having so cool and commodious a place of worship as is the New Tabernacle. It is a building of which, as well as the organ, we may be proud, and when the improvements yet contemplated shall have been made, we think it will be an easy labor for a speaker to make himself heard by the congregation that shall assemble within its walls.

"THE Chicago *Tribune*, which seems to hold the Mormons in a good deal of horror, warmly supports Cullom's bill, and ridicules the notion that their polygamy is entitled to any forbearance because they practice it as of divine ordinance. It asks scornfully whether, if a band of horse-thieves were to appear, professing to have a divine revelation directing them to practice horse-stealing as an institution, we should pay any attention to their religious scruples, or should not hunt them down and string them up with as much rigor as if they stole horses through "pure cussedness" and not as a means of grace. Now, this is not a parallel case, and is therefore delusive, and for this reason, among others: In polygamy all parties concerned are consenting parties. The arrangement is what the civil lawyers call consensual. In other words, there is nobody in it calling herself or himself a victim, and appealing to us for protection. When horses are stolen, on the other hand, the owner is aggrieved and demands our aid, and we are bound to give it just as we should be bound to give it to any woman whom the Mormons sought to abduct *vi et armis*. If, however, a sect made its appearance, like the Shakers, for instance, and settled in a secluded district, and practiced, as a religious rite, commanded by their prophet, the custom of carrying off each other's horses in the night-time, and were ready to endure torture sooner than to stay in their beds and let their neighbors' horses alone; or if, when they got up in the morning and found all their horses untouched in the stable or pasture, they looked on it as a sign of lukewarmness in the church, we think it would be very doubtful indeed whether Government would interfere with them. The nearest approach to a precedent for the proposed action of our Government towards the Mormons is the dealings of the English Government in India with the Thugs, who held it to be a religious duty to murder and rob. But then they did not practise the rite on one another, but on Gentiles, who were utterly opposed to participation in it, and were therefore entitled to have the Thugs exterminated. We may add, too, that on the simple ground of feasibility there is a wide difference between regu-

lating the sexual relation and any other. Any relation of these sexes generally approved of by public opinion cannot be restrained by law. The law can only strike at it through the rules of inheritance, by declaring children illegitimate; but if the parties are not frightened by this it is in vain to forbid whatever does not disgrace them in the eyes of their friends and neighbors.—*The Nation*.

CALLED.—We were much gratified this morning to receive a visit from the Rev. S. C. Damon, who has been pastor of the seamen's bethel ship, at Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, for we know not how many years, and the editor of the *Friend*, a paper published at that port for the benefit of seamen. Mr. Damon's name and person are familiar to all our elders who have been on the Sandwich Islands; and, though not endorsing our faith in every particular, we have no recollection of him ever manifesting any feeling but that of kindness towards our people. He has just returned from a tour in the Holy Land, the Island of Cyprus, Egypt, several points in the Mediterranean, and Europe. Mr. Damon is accompanied by his wife and son. We first made his acquaintance in 1850, and we are glad to find that Time deals so leniently with him.

PRESENTATION TO "LITTLE ALL RIGHT."—At the matinee on Saturday afternoon there was a large number of juveniles present, who seemed to be highly appreciative beholders of the surprising feats of the Japanese troupe of artists. During the performance "Little All Right" was the recipient of a souvenir from President Young, presented by his daughter, Miss Talula Young. The souvenir was one of the five dollar pieces issued years ago by the Provisional State of Deseret, before the Territorial government of Utah was in existence. The inscription engraved upon the piece was "President Young to 'Little All Right.'" The presentation was followed by a profound salaam, such as an oriental only can make; and there is no doubt that years hence, when in his far eastern home, this small gold medal will be regarded by its possessor as one of the most highly-prized mementoes of his travels among the "Western barbarians."

A WRITER in a recent number of the *Sau Francisco Call* speaks in gloomy terms of the prospect of drouth and famine this year in some parts of the State of California. He says in some localities, farmers will not realize enough to pay them for their plowing and seeding.

"From all the southern counties, the cry comes up for more rain—rain for the growing corn, and rain for the pastures. The plains and valleys, south of Point Conception, in the counties of Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Bernardino and San Diego, are in the beginning of a year of famine. All through December and January the people of Los Angeles county were watching the rain-cloud, that constantly came up from the southwest, passed over their heads, and struck against the mountain range to the north and east of them. About the second week in February, there was a rain-fall of some two inches; and the telegraph reported that people were shaking hands and congratulating each other, in a manner similar to the custom of New Year's calls, glorifying over the fact that the dry season was ended. But on the 28th of March, a land owner and an intelligent gentleman of Los Angeles county, writes, that 'It is quite dry; winds being prevalent this year more than usual; the season is also backward. Altogether the old settlers have been puzzled by the capriciousness of the wind currents.'"

In San Diego he says it is still worse; for it is said there that the people only have "climate for breakfast, harbor for dinner and railroad for supper." The plains through that country are covered with the bones of dead horses and cattle. He proposes, as a remedy for the recurrence of these evils, the establishing of a system of irrigation. It is too late, he thinks, this year to do anything to save the crops; but provisions should be made for the future. A complete system of irrigation should be inaugurated, he argues, in the valleys and on the plains of California.

ON DR.—Rumor says, that some unknown person entered a dwelling, occupied by a negro woman, in Ogden, last night, and murdered her, knocking her brains out with a railway coupling pin.

#### Died:

In the 20th Ward of this city, on the 26th instant, William E. Miller, born in London, England, June 2, 1817.—*Mt. Star* please copy.

At Kaysville, Davis county, Utah, on the 22nd of April, 1870, of dropsy, James Beavan, aged 84 years and 20 days; son of Evan and Mary Beavan.

Deceased was a native of Esly, Herefordshire, England. He embraced the gospel in 1849, and emigrated to this country in 1850. He died in full faith of the gospel.

*Mt. Star* please copy.

At Dunknfield, March 22, Nancy, wife of Charles Morton, aged 44 years and 44 days.—*Mt. Star*, April 12.