

he had seen his goodly employer drunk, and had to help him in and out of his cab, and up and down the steps of his residence. To all of this the humble Mr. Shepard could only reply that he occasionally took a drink to help his digestion, but that never, under these or any other circumstances, did he indulge in more than one drink at a time! The saving quality of that last clause ought not to be overlooked; it completely refutes the uncharitable thought that the doughty colonel was given to swallowing a gallon at a gulp.

### A REACTING SCHEME.

We are always confronted with some sort of social or political boomerang, an object lesson in how not to do it for the special benefit of the people of the United States. For some few years last past Uncle Sam has been besieged with short-sighted demagogues and scheming malcontents intent upon a revival of the doctrine which the American people stamped out of existence as an organized entity after a brief career more than a quarter of a century ago—Knownothingism. But because the organization disintegrated under the uprising was no reason why those who held its banner aloft should give up their beliefs or at least claims to belief in the premises, and thus it is that we have some, perhaps many, of them yet. They can accomplish nothing by the more honorable because outspoken and openhanded methods of the years ago; but the instinct of national if not personal selfishness invites those who remain to devices and sinister practices in order to keep foreign-born people from our shores, generally with indifferent success.

The chances are that the latest scheme in this direction is going to have an effect similar to that of an overloaded gun—it will either burst at the breech or kick the holder over. The transatlantic steamship companies have decided to refuse to take steerage passengers from Europe after the first of the new year, and to raise the rates for first and second class passengers at the same time. This is presumably a measure of retaliation, the intent of which is to force the federal authorities to relax if they will not altogether abandon the present proscription regulations. Some may say that such action on the part of the steamship people is just what is wanted by the proscriptionists, in that it will operate in the direct line of their aims and desires by curtailing the incomers down to the "rich and well-born," and at any other time such would undoubtedly be the case, for only those who must come to America, or those who are in such circumstances as to render them indifferent to the price of a passage would make the trip; but it is not so now and the reason thereof is quite obvious.

The first day of January begins in reality the World's Fair season and those who contemplate exhibiting or visiting the grand show will be putting things in shape to that end. As is customary with those who live at great distances, transportation is the feature involving the most expense and therefore the first thing to receive consideration. Perhaps not a great

many of such visitors would come by steerage in any event, though a few might do so; while it is reasonably certain that great numbers would come second class, and only those who would come under any circumstances will take the first class, with very few exceptions. The profits of the great steamers come mainly from the steerage because, while such passengers pay less than any others, they are also less expensive in a greater ratio to the owners, while there are many more of them. It is to the two higher grades of passengers that the fair managers look for their patronage principally; but if the government's agents are determined to cut off the profits resulting from steerage business by not allowing such passengers to land, or subjecting them to such proscription tests that but few will hereafter embark, the only chance of the ship companies to keep even is to advance the rates to those who are admitted without question. This rule will act in the desired direction with double force, for the Castle Garden magnates and their allies will have a pressure upon them fore and aft—from the people of moderate circumstances abroad who would like to attend the Exposition but will not do so at advanced rates, and from the managers of the show who will not submit to their business being cut down in any such way if they can help it.

The upshot of it all is that the prevailing restrictions will have to be so modified that people against whom nothing can be urged except that they are poor will be admitted freely, or our great national attraction will fail to bring to our coffers the vast sums from abroad which we might otherwise have, and the amount of the falling off it would require many numerals to represent.

The claim put forth by the proscriptionists that the cholera has not entirely disappeared from Europe is flimsy in the extreme. It is not at all likely that a cargo of passengers of high, low or mixed degree would embark from foreign shores with a case of that or any other dangerous nature known or even suspected on board. The people who come in great numbers hereafter are not coming for the sake of dying or causing others to die, but as a rule to enjoy themselves in seeing the sights. Besides, the quarantine regulations are or can be made ample so that nothing that is even suspicious shall be permitted to enter. From any point of view, and not once referring to what should be the chief consideration—upholding our national traditions and maintaining the theory of our institutions—the case of the exclusionists is a weak one and it is to be hoped the steamship companies will carry their point, even though they be resorting to indirection to accomplish it.

### UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.

Among many inquiries set on foot through the collection of historic objects for exhibition at the World's Fair, not the least interesting is the recent attempt to verify the original Uncle Tom's Cabin for removal to Chicago. That the title of Mrs. Stowe's famous story was not taken from an imaginary novel, and that the

real roof-tree of the original slave was an actuality and is still in existence, will revive interest in that pregnant narration, and in the aged and beloved author who is living out the remainder of her days in unconscious serenity at Hartford, Connecticut.

Most of the Southern papers, and at least one influential Northern journal, the *New York Sun*, have come to the conclusion that the cabin of Uncle Tom is standing today on the Chopin plantation, on Cane River, a tributary of Red River, and ten miles from the Red River landing. The *Sun* quotes the legends of the surrounding country, which have always given this name to the particular cabin referred to, and adds that the father of the present owner bought the plantation from Robert McAlpin, who, in the neighborhood, has always been recognized as the Legree of Mrs. Stowe's novel. A writer in the *New Orleans Times-Democrat* has recently gone over the place book in hand. The architecture of the house corresponds to that of the home of Legree as described by Mrs. Stowe. The flight of Cassie and Emmeline through the swamps is traced with exactness in the peculiar topography of the place. This verification is confirmed in McAlpin's reputation, the story of his cruelties easily practiced in the isolation of the plantation, and of his death by delirium tremens, which ever since, as believed by the ignorant negroes, has left his ghost to haunt the place. The personal description of Legree differs from that of McAlpin, but it is said that his property after his death went to heirs in New England. Mrs. Stowe makes Legree a New England man. The exactness of all descriptions otherwise discloses an accurate knowledge, and a mere corollary to this is the assertion once made to a neighbor that a lady from the North once paid McAlpin a visit, but, as "she was a Yankee, no one cared to make her acquaintance." On the publication of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" the neighbors came to the conclusion that this visitor was the author, from conviction that McAlpin was Legree. Mr. Chopin, it appears, in clearing away the old quarters left the cabin, always called Uncle Tom's cabin, and it is this that is to be transferred to the Fair.

### POLITICAL CROSS-FIRING.

It turns out that Candidate Weaver gets the entire vote of Kansas after all, the one elector claimed by the Republicans and conceded by the opposition until a few days ago coming in along with the others. Of course it will make no practical difference to Mr. Harrison, nor will it to the People's candidate; least of all does it make a difference to Mr. Cleveland; but it is just as well to have the counting done properly so that each leader in the triangular contest will have no less and no more than the voters desired.

This reminds us that, while the settlement of a dispute that resulted in no practical difference was accomplished, there is another not yet decided that may by its conclusion determine whether or not the Democratic party will be in control in the nation after the 4th of next March, and this is a matter of importance to everybody. The Republi-