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PREPARATORY CHURCH SCHOOLS

We learn from the authorities of the Latter-day Saints' University that they are endeavoring this year to provide for the instruction of mature young people in branches that will prepare them for high school work. This is an important step in the right direction, it seems to us, and one which will meet with the hearty approval of educators everywhere.

There are a great many young persons of both sexes, in all parts of the West, and the East, too, for that matter, who are either too large or too old to attend classes in the district school without the embarrassment that young men and women feel who are put to study with children. Through some peculiar condition in their environment, for which they are in no way responsible, they have been compelled to withdraw from school before completing the eighth grade. But owing to the standard of entrance to high schools, the opportunity of pursuing their education is thus shut off to them. Such a preparatory course at the Latter-day Saints' University purposes to give, will offer these young persons the chance they are seeking.

This provision, however, is but the carrying out of a suggestion by the general Church board of education; for, if we are correctly informed, this body at a recent meeting made a ruling, that, if twenty or more young men and women past the grade age should apply for instruction at any Church school, a regular preparatory department would be established. Such a step certainly is beneficial beyond calculation, and the idea comes properly from an organization whose principal work is to reach out for those who need attention and care. We know of scores of men in our state, business men, professional men, and men in almost every walk of life, who got their start by attending a preparatory school, but who, to all appearances, would have been lost to the places they now adorn, if there had been only the district school grades and high school courses offered. The extensive and salutory work already done by our various Church schools in this direction alone abundantly compensates the public for their existence, not to speak of the good they are doing in other ways. This is one of the features, moreover, that eastern educators who have come among us have almost invariably remarked upon. In fact, so vital a movement has it been regarded by some of them, that it is proposed to have our superintendent of Church schools prepare a paper on the subject for the next National Teachers' association. It is therefore to be hoped that this grade of school work will become ever more prominent in our Church school system of education than it has hitherto been.

IDLENESS, CRIME, GREED.

Among the revelations given to the people of this age through the Prophet Joseph are some that condemn idleness and Mammon-worship. In February, 1831, the following precept was given: "Thou shalt not be idle; for he that is idle shall not eat the bread nor wear the garments of the laborer." (Doc. and Cov. Sec. 42: 42.) Toward the end of the same year the Lord said: "And the inhabitants of Zion also, shall remember their labors, inasmuch as they are appointed to labor, in all faithfulness; for the idler shall be had in remembrance before the Lord. Now, I the Lord, am not well pleased with the inhabitants of Zion, for there are idlers among them and their children are also growing up in wickedness; they also seek not earnestly the riches of eternity, but their eyes are full of greediness." (Doc. and Cov. Sec. 68: 30, 31.)

In these revelations some of the burning questions of the day are brought to general attention. Idleness, the increase of crime, and greed are condemned in no uncertain terms, while labor is given the dignified and exalted place that belongs to it in the kingdom of the Lord. Where idleness and greediness are the rule, crimes multiply. The idler, be he ever so rich, or be his social station ever so high, is not worthy of the food and clothing of a laborer. Such are the principles and doctrines of the Gospel on these important questions.

It has been assumed very largely that criminals are mostly turned out from quarters occupied by the toilers in the various trades, the workshops and factories, but the revelation quoted intimates that the children grow up in wickedness where there is idleness, and not where honest labor keeps men and women busy. This truth is being confirmed by investigation.

The pardon attorney for the State of Missouri, Thomas S. Moseby, finds that the American criminal is not the product of the trades, the workshop, or the factory. The records of the reformatories indicate that the age of greatest criminality is somewhere between the ages of twenty and twenty-five, and that from 60 to 70 per cent of felons are entirely unskilled in any trade or profession. The United States census of 1890 showed that, of 82,894 convicts, 31,426 were ignorant of any kind of trade. French statistics covering a period of over fifty years, reveal the following number of indictments per 100,000 of each of the classes named: Agriculture, 8; liberal professions and proprietors, 9; factory laborers, 14; commerce, 18; domestic service, 29; without regular trade or occupation, 405.

In the largest penitentiary in the United States, where more than two thousand convicts are constantly confined, about 85 per cent, it is said, are without knowledge of any occupation, when received. In some penitentiaries, the percentage is even greater. In this institution the factory system prevails, all are taught some trade, and only about 14 per cent ever return to crime.

Mr. Moseby therefore argues that "if the habits formed in youth may be regarded as in any sense an index or forecast of the character of the adult, then, in the light of the criminal statistics, the problem of child idleness may justly lay claim to some measure of the dignity and importance so freely accorded to the much mooted problem of child labor; and before making it impossible for the youth to acquire practical (as well as theoretical) knowledge of gainful pursuits, we should reckon the latent dangers that lurk within the possibilities of a generation brought up without effective knowledge of useful work."

The tramps, idlers and criminals of our country are not usually destitute of school knowledge, but many of them are ignorant of the sort of knowledge that will enable them to earn an honest living.

It is worth while noting that Mammon worship, one of the sins denounced in the revelation, is the root of most of the evils under which modern society suffers. The greediness of the devotees of that demon has filled the land with discontent and a spirit of rebellion. The Mammon-worshiper robs labor of much of its just reward; he makes it almost impossible for the multitudes to achieve success; he crushes competition, increases the number of poor and destitute, robs the people of its sovereignty and enthrones the political boss instead of the people, making elections a farce, and reduces the bodies and souls of human beings to merchandise in the markets of sin. There is, unfortunately, too much truth in this arraignment. Mammonism is the besetting sin of the age. It is the pestiferous germ causing the disease in the social body, the symptoms of which are visible on all hands.

What is the remedy?

Only one answer is possible to that question: The gospel of the Redeemer. That gospel is a power to salvation. Where its principles are applied they unite hearts in the bonds of love and drive out selfishness. When selfishness no longer rules, there can be no strife. When the heart of man becomes the altar upon which burns every day the God-enkindled fire of brotherly love, there is no class distinction. In the light of that fire every human being becomes a brother or sister—a child of the Eternal Father, for whom the Redeemer died. Strife can no more outlive that view of the human family, than night can remain after the rise of the sun. That is the remedy.

Strife and conflict furnish no relief from the vile born of greed. Those who build a house must all labor in harmony according to one plan, if the best results are to be achieved. A beautiful palace would never be reared if the carpenters and bricklayers and plasterers and painters should all spend much of their energy every day in fighting each other and the architects and the owner furnishing the funds. No more can the best results be obtained in the rearing of the social structure unless harmony prevails and brotherly love becomes the ruling passion. The greatest benefactor of manking today is the peace-maker. He is the one who deserves a monument.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPEN.

Schools in this city opened on Tuesday with increased attendance and improved general conditions.

Throughout the State, the schools will open on Monday next.

The number of common schools in 1906 was 668; of high schools, 34; the number of male teachers, 567; of female teachers, 1,365; whole number of teachers, 1,892; average salaries of male teachers per month, $86.40; of female teachers, $55.41; total of teachers' salaries, $951,780.21; number of persons of school age in the state, 95,768; number of pupils in daily attendance, 69,018; whole amount paid for common schools in 1906, $1,645,743.18.

Statistics for the school year ending in June, 1907, would probably show an increase in all these items; but the figures are not yet compiled or available.

The valuation of school property has risen from $1,386,851.45 in 1896 to $4,617,798.23 in 1906.

The number of all pupils in attendance, including those in the higher schools, increased from 69,959 to 81,090 in the same period; and the total annual expenditure for schools went from $566,955.35 in 1886 to $1,976,123.22 in 1906.

A total of about two million dollars in 1907 extended in education by the public schools alone, to say nothing of the large amounts similarly expended by the privately endowed institutions of learning, is undoubtedly a good showing in a good cause.

The value of school buildings in this State is more than $3,000,000. The cost of the buildings erected in the two years ending June 30, 1906, was $286,702.12. The buildings are commodious, conducive to health, comfort, and safety, and in many instances artistic and striking from the standpoint of architecture.

The pay of teachers is confessedly inadequate. The rates were fixed years ago and have not risen with the general rise in prices during recent years.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction says that the recent law providing for uniform examinations under the direction of the State Board of Education, has done much to eliminate teachers incompetent to perform their work properly. The operation of this law has had something to do with the scarcity of teachers throughout the State during the last two years. This year the State Board of Education has found it necessary to issue a considerable number of permits or temporary certificates in order that schools in several districts might not be forced to discontinue work. But, as such certificates should be, and according to law may be issued to the same person but once, the time is at hand when well qualified teachers must be secured for the schools, and when all teachers must qualify themselves for the work before them. School boards will find it necessary to offer more remunerative salaries to secure the services of teachers possessing the requisite qualifications.

During the last biennial period there has been an increase of 14 male teachers and 169 female. Upon this fact the Superintendent remarks that nature and organized society teach us that the influence and care of both the father and the mother are needed in the home, and that there is a formative period in the child's life when he should come in touch in his school work with the strong and sturdy influence and personality of the progressive male teacher.

THE PARCELS POST DISPUTE.

The present postmaster-general, George von Meyer, has studied the postal systems of Europe. As a foreign ambassador he has had exceptional opportunities for investigation, and as a result he proposes to recommend, in his next annual report, it is said, several reforms. Among them are: A parcels post, some kind of a postal savings bank, the sorting of incoming mails on transoceanic steamers, and the reduction of the rate on first-class mail from the United States to some foreign countries.

The parcels post measure has given rise to considerable controversy. The Philadelphia Press says:

"Any extension of the weight limits on parcels would be a public convenience, but the benefit would not be great enough to be worth struggling for without a reduction in the rate. Sixty-four cents postage on a four-pound package is prohibitory, except on very valuable packages, or those destined for distant points, to which the carriage is necessarily costly. Great Britain will carry parcels within the limits of the United Kingdom at rates varying from 1½ cents for one pound to 25 cents for eleven pounds. It will carry a package to its possessions on the other side of the world for 12 cents a pound, while at our present rate it takes 16 cents to send a pound of merchandise by mail from Philadelphia to Camden. In all the countries of Europe small parcels may be sent and delivered quickly and cheaply by mail. Here we leave that business to the express companies."

The Chicago Journal says disaster will follow the adoption of the proposed reform:

"A parcels-post will drive out of business into bankruptcy the innumerable merchants who now prosper in the country and in small communities. It will operate for the benefit of great mail-order establishments which are already, with the aid of freight rates and the express companies, altogether too active for the peace of country dealers. Having the advantage of large capital and the ability to make extensive purchases, they can buy cheaper than the small merchants, and when they have the use of the government postal service they will be able to undersell local merchants everywhere. When the proposal comes before Congress, a cry of protest will arise from every small city, village, and cross-roads in the country, and these merchants will undoubtedly have great influence with their representatives."

The Practical Farmer of Philadelphia is of the opinion that the parcels post is desired by the great majority of the people of the United States, and that just as soon as the people personally, or through the mails, demand the passage of a parcels post bill, such a bill will speedily become a law. That paper further advises its readers that in the present months, while Senators and Congressmen are among their constituents, away from the sinister influence of the express companies to which they are exposed in Washington, is the time to press this matter home to their attention.

The argument of the Practical Farmer is as follows:

"Why should the P. O. Department be made self-supporting? Is any other department of the Government expected to be, and is a cheese paring policy followed in any one of them to make it self-supporting? The P. O. Department is for the comfort, convenience and well being of the people, and if to achieve those ends in the most complete and satisfactory manner an annual deficit is the result, why fret about that? The people pay for it, and they are entitled to the best service possible. Correct the abuses that have crept into the Department through the free seed distribution, the carriage of thousands of tons of old truck under the franking privilege, pay the railroads what they are justly entitled to for carrying the mails, and not a cent more, and then give the people the very best service possible in the transmission of letters, newspapers and other articles which can be transported through the mails, including the parcels post, and if a deficit results the people will not complain."

On the other hand our local columns give the information that a year ago all commercial organizations of Utah sent resolutions east to Utah representatives in Congress denouncing the parcels post. Within the week people have been investigating the mail order houses so generally that the parcels post matter becomes of more than ordinary interest, and the demand for a lower cost of materials to consumers may result in action to counterbalance the opposition to the parcels post carried on by the retailers and manufacturers of the west. The official organ of the butchers and grocers, in stating its case against the parcels post, declares that the national association of retail merchants is fighting the measure to a finish.

The Retail Merchant of this city says in relation to the proposed law:

"You merchants who patronize the columns of the daily papers of Zion, how do you take their open and brazen advocacy of patronizing the mail order houses? You, who are their principal support, and furnish the shekels of war for monocles and high collars, ask them how much they get out of the mail order houses? You real estate fakirs, do Marshall Field, Sears, Roebuck & Company, and others rent your houses or support the city? In your anxiety to blackmail, you run to seed and find yourselves desparate for arguments, but rather than acknowledge defeat you would call the enemy vipers and vampires, patriots of the canteen brigade."

The paper quoted is in error in stating that the press of Zion is advocating the patronizing of mail order houses, but we desire to keep our readers fully informed as to the status of this question, and therefore give both sides of the argument.

BY THE RECORD.

Notwithstanding the fiery protestations of the local anti-"Mormon" sheet, it is absolutely true that the party manipulators who now claim credit for the development of the City fought the proposition to obtain more water and to extend the sewers. To say that they fought like maniacs is not too strong a condemnation of their contemptible conduct. And they cannot obliterate the record they made by a flood of epithets. The public have not forgotten that record.

It is true that the sheet referred to supported the bond proposition. We have not denied that. It was instructed to do so, on a certain occasion, we are told. But it is equally true that the same sheet and its friends tried all kinds of obstructive tactics to prevent the City from getting the money. Through the scandalous misrepresentations that appeared almost daily in the Tribune, the eastern company with which the City negotiated had about decided to drop the matter, and it was necessary to send reputable men back east to refute the vile statements in the organ of the obstructionists. The money was finally promised on the condition that the Supreme Court would uphold the legality of the bonds.

After that matter had been settled, the obstructionists tried their luck at injunctions, merely to cause delay and to saddle unnecessary expenses upon the City. The claim was made that no valid title to the water rights it was proposed to acquire could be given. If we are not misinformed the obstructionists tried, the very day the money was paid to the farmers, to prevent the payment, by injunction proceedings, although they came too late to accomplish their purpose.

Bare denials of these facts do not count, even if they are sprinkled with the vile epithets of ruffians. The Tribune files are extant, and it may possibly not be inadvisable to reprint some of the choice morsels that appeared at the time the City council was trying to extend the water system. It would show that the sheet which poses as the advocate of improvements is a miserable hypocrite in that as in everything else.

We have repeatedly asked what public improvements have been planned and executed by the present party officials? That is a simple question. It will not do to make a general display of all the work that is now going on, for much of that is not done by the City, but by the Street car company and other private concerns, and a great deal of it was planned and contracted for by the predecessors in office. When allowance for this is made, what remains to show for the money spent both last year and this year? There should be some answer to that question besides angry snarls and yelps.

The paving of Second South, for instance, would have been done under any administration. All this Council had to do was to let the contract for it. That was not much of a job, after all the preliminaries had been arranged. Some sidewalk improvements were contracted for by the Morris administration, but through the stupidity or neglect of some individuals now in office, the contractors had to give it up, and now the citizens are in vain asking for sidewalks or money refunded. We believe the excuse was offered on behalf of those responsible for the neglect that they could not find enough men to do the grading, or something equally silly.

The party officials now in power have unfolded a remarkable activity in the line of advertising for bids on contracts without results. By this means the sheet interested in municipal affairs has had several crops from the same field, you know, and the public have paid and not been any wiser.

Speaking of public improvements, the water conduit cost the City about $100,000 more than originally bargained for, and to this day taxpayers are wondering where that money went to; but not a gallon of water has been procured by this administration, to our knowledge. Some public work has been done, to be sure. That is NOT denied. But is the present party officials so poor in good works that they need to steal or borrow the merits of others in order to pass public muster? That is about the only inference that can be drawn from the claims and pretenses of the party organ.

France's "expedition of pacification" to Morocco has signally failed to pacify.

There has been a greater flow of eloquence than of water at the Irrigation congress.

It seems as hard to uproot hazing at West Point as it is to free a lawn of dandelions.

San Francisco suffers from other plagues than the bubonic, and they are harder to get under control.

The telegraph strikers who are returning to work feel more like kicking themselves than striking.

Billy Muldoon has added more to Secretary Root's fame than the secretary has to the trainer's.

That Landis fine, which has caused so much comment, was simply a new experiment in frying out the fat.

If the telegraphers' strike was for a stated number of rounds and not to a finish, the public might hope to see the finish.

Mr. Newhouse should be interested in Luther Burbank's prediction that cactus is to become the fodder of the arid region.

Miss Ida Tarbell says "there were many men like John D. Rockefeller in the Dark Ages." Can she remember that far back?

The stigma is being fastened upon Salt Lake that it is the dearest place in the country in which to live. Every effort should be made to remove it.

By direction of the President the public health and marine service has taken steps to stamp out the plague in San Francisco. Step lively, please.

Germany is determined that Morocco shall not be Egyptianized. If there is to be any "benevolent assimilation" on the African shore, Germany proposes to be counted in.

William J. Bryan says that the constitution of Oklahoma is better than the Constitution of the United States. The Constitution of the United States is plenty good enough.

Gathered On The Battlefield of Thought.

The Influence Of Occupation Upon Morality. What influences does business exert on the inexperienced, expectant girl? They are purely psychological. The question of comparative health and comparative morals in domestic and business life is narrow, as compared with the boarder one of psychological conditions. I believe that there are just as many women who break down under the strain of bearing children and domestic burdens as there are those who have nervous prostration from trying to do a man's work in business and live a woman's life at home. But there is this difference. The woman who sacrifices herself on the domestic altar may leave behind her a living, breathing memorial in the sons and daughters who revere her memory, and who hand down to posterity the influence of her strong charater, in an ever-widening circle for good; while the woman who sacrifices herself to business success can leave only a few tangled skeins in office or store for some other woman to straighten out. The woman who is normal and healthy, and performs her work in the normal, common-sense way, will not break down either in the home or in a wage-earning field. Wage-earning women as a class I believe to be even more moral than their sisters who lead the protected life. Contact with the world shows them the wages of sin as well as the wages of work. They are less credulous, less trusting, than the girl who idealizes every man who comes upon her horizon. The girl whose virtue is inherent and strongly entrenched does not yield to the blandishments of the man she meets in business; rather she becomes absolutely impregnable. On the other hand, the girl who is naturally wild and unrestrained does not require the influence of office, store or factory environment to show her the downward way.—Anna Steese Richardson in the September Woman's Home Companion.

Design of the Peace Palace Disappointing. The disappointment with the accepted design for The Hague tribunal is widespread. It is looked upon as unpeaceful and scattering in its effect—a brilliantly extravagant and inappropriate variation upon the Flemish. It suggests a fusillade from a park of artillery rather than the repose of a great monument. The impression made by the building for The Hague tribunal should be simple, dignified, restful, noble, and far removed from mere local influences. If what is known as the classical style, or rather a Roman or renaissance variation of it, is desirable in any building in the world, it would seem to be especially desirable in this case. The impression of the structure intended to house the parliament of nations should be single and of a symbolic character. It should appeal to the eye as the domed temple of a great thought, a great cause; it should be truly the Temple of Peace. In itself, or when pictured in periodicals, or even on letterheads, it should make a single, simple, symbolic impression, as is the case with St. Peter's at Rome, with the church of Les Invalides in Paris, and with the capitol at Washington. The Temple of Peace at The Hague will be in a sense the capitol of the world. It should not be a flamboyant variant of a town hall of the low countries. Simplicity and grandeur should be the characteristics of the building erected for the great tribunal. No one can say that the design accepted, though not without a certain splendor, unites grandeur with simplicity. It is rather grandiose than grand, and the very antithesis of simplicity. The quantities of grandeur and simplicity may surely be attained by adherence to the renaissance variation upon that style of architecture which came to fruition in Greece, deriving from older sources all that was fitting; and influencing the art of architecture through succeeding ages more powerfully than any style invented by human genius.—Editorial in the September Century.

The Work of the Divine Artist Seen in the Sky. Amongst the many and varied adornments which tend to beautify and to add to the attractions and the loveliness of this fair earth, cloudland takes a first place. How surpassingly gorgeous and rich, for instance, is the fiery glory of the evening sky, emblazoned in vivid hues of vermilion, and amethyst, and emerald; and later, in the less brilliant tints of purple and mauve, and deep violet, until all is insensibly merged with the gradually darkening skies. Or that picturesque and striking summer cirrus, or curl-cloud, floating at an altitude far exceeding that of the loftiest mountains, the outer range a clustered array of snow-white feathery crests, which, towards the zenith assume a more definite and symmetrical uniformity, extending across the azure canopy of the skies in a geometric design of extreme beauty. And then how majestic and imposing are those massive banks of dark, heavy cloud margined with a fiery edge, now of brilliant gold, now of dazzling silver; or that far off, low down range of indigo storm-clouds encircling the watery horizon and transforming the ocean as it were into a great lake; or, those long, straight lines of gossamer fall-cloud, formed of minute spangles of ice suspended in the attenuated regions of the upper atmosphere. But however striking may be the glories and the beauties of fascinating cloudland as seen from below, yet the view from above—as from the summit of one of the lofty monarchs of the Alps—is a spectacle so sublime and so transcendent that once seen it can never be obliterated from the memory. On all sides, as far as the eye can reach, a vast ocean of dazzling snow-white billows rolls ever on and on; now a great curling wave advances majestically, its crest torn by the wind into plumes of feathery tufts of swindrift; now a surging whirlpool of contending breakers swirls and eddies as a sudden gust of wind gendered in a mountain ravine, creates a chaos of turmoil and wild disorder; or now, as the blast dies away, the billowy ocean reassumes its quietude, and appears as though formed of the purest, dazzling white, solid chalcedony. But at length all this sea of cloud is wafted away and disappears from view, and the panorama beneath of glacier and snowy plateau, forest and meadow, mountain torrent and flowery parterre, once more comes into view. Truly none but a divine hand could plan and design all the varied beauty with which our earth is adorned. And yet He who formed the worlds left for a time the supernal glories of a far more stately and august realm, in order, by becoming our Substitute, and receiving in His own person our punishment, to secure a passport to that realm to all who will. And whosoever cometh to Him for that salvation, He will in no wise cast out.—A Banker.

Some Legends Of the Maoris Of New Zealand. Many traditions of the Maoris of New Zealand indicate true refinement of feeling. That of Niwareka, or Great Delight, is one of these, and represents a gentle Maori maiden, beautiful and modest, who, though deeply loving her bridegroom, yet shudders at the barbarity of his people and at his delight in bloodshed and cruelty. Unable to bear the sights and sounds around her, she passes from his embrace and seeks the shadows of another world. Only through great suffering and sacrifice does her young husband, unable to bear his solitary lot, redeem her from the shades. This beautiful legend is bound up with the origin of the custom of the tattoo, an ordeal which the lover was compelled to endure that he might realize the nature of suffering. One of the finest legends of old Maori romances relates how a daughter of the heavens condescends to dwell with man; but, repelled by his rudeness and want of sympathy, ascends again to the skies, carrying with her her earth-born child. Her husband is only able to reach her and regain her love by "climbing upward, not by earthly tendrils, but by those which, descending from the heavens, have taken root in earth." One curious feature of the domestic life of the New Zealand natives is that the old women are led to believe that the highest honor they can enjoy is to be permitted to do all the cooking and prepare the food. A great deal of labor is thus left to them, which they cheerfully perform, resenting any interference on the part of the younger Maori women, who thus have plenty of leisure for enjoyment.—London Telegraph.

Our Fire Bill Increasing With Our Population. Our annual fire bill has been steadily growing as our population increases and the housing facilities try to keep pace with the expansion. Not even the spectacular burning of Rome, nor the vast conflagration of ancient London, compares in extent with the vast destruction of property by fire in the United States in a single year. The record for 1906 stands unusually high owing to the burning of San Francisco. The total losses for that year in the United States and Canada by fire were $537,860,400. Of this vast sum San Francisco was responsible for some $350,000,000, including buildings and contents. Compare this enormous destruction of property with the investments in new building enterprises. In 1905 building operations throughout the country represented a total investment of $525,000,000, and that of 1906—the high-water mark in the nations history—approximated $700,000,000. Thus during the greatest building year of history, noted for its phenomenal prosperity in nearly every industry, we have been able to replace only a little more than what we burnt down. In 1904 our fire losses aggregated $229,198,050, and this was greater than those of any previous year, not even excepting the years 1872 and 1873 when the great Chicago and Boston fires added enormously to the total. In 1905 the losses from fire showed a still further increase, culminating in the great record of 1906. But the waste through fire consumption is not the only loss which the people must pay for any extended conflagration. While the fire losses of San Francisco have been placed at $350,000,000, it cost about $12,000,000 to clean up the debris and put the city in shape for new buildings, and a further $350,000,000 to rebuild and make the city what it was before. It will take ten years to give the city its former prestige, and at least 20 years to recover all of its lost trade and position. In return for this loss in property and business, the citizens of San Francisco received something like $135,000,000 insurance. The amount of insurance covering property in the burned district was approximately $235,000,000. Final payments by the companies will probably be in the neighborhood of 80 per cent of the amount of insurance involved. In the great Chicago fire only 50 per cent of the insurance was paid, and in the Baltimore fire—where no earthquake occurred to invalidate any of the insurance—the payments were 90 per cent of the value of insurance. The known ratio of insurance to value was about 70 per cent, and at least 5 per cent of the property carried no insurance whatever.—George Ethelbert Walsh, in Harper's Weekly.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Dress for September maintains the high standard which the magazine has achieved. The colored plates by Goupil which are regular features of Dress, besides their intrinsic worth from an artistic point of view, are of the highest value in that they show, as do the forty or fifty photographs and stchings included in the list, the very latest and most authentic ideas of the great Parisian modistes. Among the articles of interest noted in this new number, are "The Promenade," "The Trend of Fashion," a stage article giving a chatty resume of the plays and players that have withstood the summer heat; a special article on "Hand Made Lingerie," full of suggestions, and another on "Smart Accessories," replete with exclusive news from the world of "Small Beginnings." "Round About Paris," aside from the little description of the life, presents to us the little Frenchy touches which the American woman knows so well how to adopt as her own, "The Boudoir" and "About the Shops," each interesting in their lines, and give many really practical hints as well as make good reading. "Gleanings" is the heading given to a spicy dinner chat between two young society women, the subject very naturally being "clothes," and "Suggestions," which is a series of disconnected paragraphs, gives much miscellaneous information that will be found entirely practical—McCready-Beals Co., Publishers, New York.

Current Literature for September, like its predecessors, brings the reader into touch with the most vital world-currents. There is nothing scrappy about it and nothing dull. Among the most notable features of the September number are a study of the Molders of our ideals—the modern college presidents, with new and striking portraits of Charlese W. Eliot of Harvard, Arthur Twining of Yale; Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia; Benjamin Ide Wheeler of the University of California; Harry Pratt Judson of the University of Chicago; Woodrow Wilson of Princeton; David Starr Jordan of Leland Stanford, and Jacob Gould Schurman of Cornell. Then there are fascinating accounts of "The Training of Taft," "The Illumination of Standard Oil," "The Clash of Courts in North Carolina," "The Effects of the Haywood Trial." A study of Menelik, the conquering lion of the tribe of Judah, and the only living descendant of Solomon and the queen of Sheba, combines in an equal measure the element of romance and wit. "Our Greatest American Sculptor," "The Unhuman Egotism of Goethe," "The Dual Personality of Edgar Allan Poe," "Marie Bashkirtseff—a Girl Narcissus," and "Is Thomas Hardy Overestimated?" are discussed under literature and art. The department of religion and ethics is also filled with stimulating and vital suggestion. No wonder a clergyman recently remarked that he found more subjects for sermons in Current Literature than in a homiletic review. "Do We Need to be Hypocrites?" "The Path that Leeds to Infinity," "Can America Attain to the Greek Ideal?" and "The Enthralling Personality of Mrs. Eddy" are here discussed. Music and the drama is well represented in a history of the theatrical trust, selections from the great comedy hit of the year, "The Chorus Lady," by James Forbes; an account of "The Greatest Comic Opera Since Offenbach," "The New Art of Improvisation," and two startling queries, "Is Ellen Terry a Superwoman?" and "Are Women Superseding Men on the Stage?" Science and discovery contains an absorbing article on "An Astronomer's Stereoscopic Clue to the Universe," "The Explosion of a Fundamental Fallacy in Diet," "Indiana's Mode of Eliminating the Unfit," "The Unexpected in Wireless Telegraphy," "The Atmospheric Crisis With Which Civilization is Threatened," and "The Parasite as the Agent of Great Historical Catastrophes."—41-43 West Twenty-fifth St., New York.

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