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CEMENT SIDEWALKS THE BEST.

THE subject of sidewalks is one of considerable importance, and the point as to the best material to use in their construction is being prominently discussed. In consequence of this interest a representative of the News took occasion to ascertain the views of Elias Morris on the matter, he being not only practical and reliable in judgment on general principles, but in every way familiar with the subject. The result of the interview was about as follows, the views of Mr. Morris being given herein in substance:

"I have been asked the same question by a great many people, and will give it unreservedly. It is to the effect that cement walks take precedence of all others, being the best, cheapest and most handsome, providing they are properly made. In their manufacture these conditions must be observed:

(1st) The ground on which the cement is laid must be perfectly solid. If not the ground will settle and the cement will crack. This is a condition necessary even in the laying of rock sidewalks.

(2) The cement must be of the best quality, embodying the ingredients in proper proportions.

(3) The walk should be properly protected until it is firmly set.

Some say—'We have several specimens of cement walk on Main Street that are failures.' This is correct, and the reason for this lies in the poor quality of the materials, and the non-compliance with the conditions I have named. The parties who have done the work were not practically acquainted with the business, and when such men take contracts at a low figure, they try to make them pay by not selecting or using the best sand and gravel for strength, and by withholding due proportions of the constituents of good cement.

Some favor rock walks on the ground that that material is entirely native. The same argument may be used in favor of cement, because if the latter is preferred cement works will undoubtedly be established in this city, and in this way many thousands of dollars be saved to the Territory, besides what would flow into it by exporting so valuable a material; the demand for which is increasing yearly. It should also be remembered that the cost of good rock flagging would be at least double that of cement, and would not be any more durable than the latter. As for brick and shale, they might be used providing there were nothing else.

I would be willing to warrant such cement walks as I could lay to wear as well as sandstone flagging for from five to ten years, on condition that the ground on which they are laid be well packed, to prevent settling. As samples in that line I do not hesitate to refer to the walk in front of the Cullen House, which stood the severe frost test of last winter and is perfectly sound; also that in front of the premises of Evans & Spencer and another along the south front of the Conklin Block in the Twenty-first Ward.

In conclusion, I will say that it is useless to lay cement in frosty weather, as when this is done they will not stand. I repeat that, when the conditions I have enumerated are complied with, cement makes the most desirable sidewalk in appearance and is second to none in point of durability."

DIVIDING STATES AND TERRITORIES.

THE division talk as relates to States and Territories is not confined to California and Dakota by any means. The politicians have long cherished a scheme for a division by means of which there would be an East and a West New York, cutting that State in two about the middle, running north and south, by which means the Republican part would be Republican in every place and on all occasions, and the other so decidedly Democratic that it would be useless for the Republicans to make an effort. This would seem to be in some respects a good thing; in fact, the only objection would come from the purely sentimental. If it could take place we would no more hang upon the "ragged edge" of suspense for some days after a Presidential election waiting for the result in New York as the deciding factor.

in the contest; we would beforehand place the eastern and western parts where they respectively belonged and look only to Indiana, New Jersey and Connecticut for the final result—always providing party lines and State predilections remained as at present. An exemplification of this is an easy task. The eastern part of New York would have the bulk of the electors of the State by reason of its denser population and the two new senators it would gain, and would cast at least 25 votes; the South would add to this number 150 on the democratic side, making 175; Indiana casts 15, New Jersey 9, and Connecticut 6, or 30 altogether, seven more than a majority if they all went the same way. The admission of North and South Dakota would, for the time being, including the next election, only add six votes to the column, and if they all went for the Republicans there would still not be enough to elect without one of the states we have mentioned as the pivotal ones; they would win with either, the Democrats not without all. Without such division, and things remaining as at present, the Empire State would again be the battle ground, even if all the Territories mentioned in that connection were to be admitted.

The talk of dividing Texas into four or five States has been indulged in a desultory way ever since the war. It is greater in area than all the United States between Lake Michigan and the Atlantic. It is larger than France, with Alsace and Lorraine included. But it is not at all likely the Texans would ever consent to disunion, and without such consent it cannot take place. They have an abundance of State pride, and look forward to their being the chief among the commonwealths in population and wealth as well as in territory, and that, too, at no very distant day. It could support a population of twenty millions, and have plenty of cattle range left. It already has the finest capitol building in the Union, except that at Washington, and is forging ahead at rate a indicative of the point aimed at being reached almost before we are aware of it. Of course it would be a great benefit to the Democratic party to have eight more Senators and as many electoral votes; but although Texas has a great liking for Democratic principles (she gave Cleveland over 160,000 majority) she is hardly willing to do more for their maintenance than she is doing save by means of natural increase.

The talk of dividing California has not yet reached a point at which the people of that State have felt called upon to say anything serious about it.

AFRICAN BARBARISM.

THE native African seems impervious to civilization and restive in the presence of progress. When let alone the instincts of the brute are in possession of him, and no law but force and no rule but superstition find favor. The Sultan of Zanzibar has no sooner returned from a "sacred" pilgrimage to headquarters than he orders the execution of four persons, one of them a woman, in the public streets; they are thereupon beheaded in the most bungling manner and left weltering in their blood till dark. They were accused of murder but had not been tried, let alone convicted, and the Sultan announces that several more in the same position are to be similarly treated at stated times, as the Mohammedan law shall henceforth govern in that island. It is all the more shocking from the fact that no executions have occurred there before for a number of years.

The dispatch announces that the English consul and other foreigners interceded, and did and are doing all they can to check this blood-thirsty disposition on the part of the Sultan, but at latest advices had achieved neither success nor encouragement. That dignity is an absolute despot, whose likeliest word is law and would be obeyed in any extremity and his orders carried out to the fullest extent of his subjects' ability. Under such circumstances, perhaps it would be as well for the interference not to be pushed too far or persisted in too strenuously; for though England or any of the other nations could and would retaliate to the extent of sweeping the island with a besom of fire and displacing every native in captivity if necessary, still a man without a head would not be likely to experience any physical gratification over the revenge that had been meted out to his destroyers.

At the same time comes news of an outbreak between the Arusha and Masi tribes. By means of treachery, the latter were enticed away from their homes by the former, and while absent all the old men and women and children were slaughtered by the Arushas, the young girls being carried away for concubines. The Masis have formally declared war, and the announcement comes with it that the conflict will last for three years; probably till one tribe or the other, perhaps both, are practically exterminated.

We do not hear of all these transactions that are constantly going on in and near the dark continent, for the reason that in most instances they die where they are born, the natives regarding them generally as a matter of course and not worth reporting; while the facilities for making such reports do not exist even if there was a disposition to use them, which there is

not in hardly any case, all that the outside world receives from there coming through European sources.

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANCE.

THE wisest of social leaders and statesmen have favored the establishment and observance of fixed holidays on which the masses may suspend their toil and indulge in rest and social recreation. No doubt such relief afforded at intervals during the year is beneficial, and may be made so to a marked degree.

The custom of feasting and giving presents on Christmas and New Years is by no means to be condemned, but it is nevertheless possible to carry it to an extreme; and we need not go away from home to witness a strong tendency in the direction of over-doing the holidays. There is a departure from the simple and unostentatious conviviality with which they used to be celebrated in this community. Former methods have given place to display and extravagance, in a degree which is an unhealthy sign of the times.

Few who are not miserably willing to let the winter holidays pass without making presents to relatives and friends; and the spirit of the times, if yielded to, will impel the individual to select gifts more costly than properly comport with his income. The result will be that many persons, to avoid being thought mean or niggardious, will spend so much money in making presents, or in giving dinners or parties, or in otherwise squandering the season of enjoyment, that they will cramp themselves financially, and probably make it impossible for them to do justice to their families and creditors.

Temperance and moderation are as much in place when observed in celebrating the holidays as in any other of the affairs of life; and conservatism in this, as in most other things, is productive of more real and lasting enjoyment than extravagance. The man who is strictly honest will strive to pay as he goes, and to live within his income, during the holidays as well as other portions of the year; while both the wisdom and integrity of the man who runs in debt to make a "splurge" are open to question.

Toys are less necessary for the children than shoes, and fuel will do a family more good than mere tokens of friendship. The enjoyment of a day which produces the unrest of unpaid bills is too expensive. When a "boom" of any kind is sweeping over a community, it is very likely to influence all save those of sturdy temperament, and to carry to extremes the light-minded and frivolous. But "booms" of all kinds are at variance with the principles and character which it is desirable that the majority class in this Territory should maintain.

PUBLISHING ACCOUNTS OF EXECUTIONS.

THE law of New York, State, which provides that criminals convicted of capital offenses shall be executed by electricity, goes into effect on New Year's day. The statute contains the following provision:

"No account of the details of any such execution [by electricity] beyond the statement of the fact that such convict was on the day in question duly executed according to law at the prison, shall be published in any newspaper. Any person who shall violate or omit to comply with any provision of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

The object of this clause is to prevent the publication of detailed and sensational accounts of executions, the moral effects of which have been so often and earnestly questioned. As the time approaches when this curtailment of the privileges of the press is to go into effect, the editors throughout the state are becoming exercised over it. The World has obtained the opinions of a large number of editors and managers, together with a statement of their intentions, in regard to obeying the law. All save a few take the position that the law is unconstitutional in that it abridges the freedom of the press, and openly and emphatically declare that they will not obey it, but will publish the details of executions as heretofore. The prohibition is denounced in emphatic terms by many editors, who pronounce it idiotic and nonsensical, as well as invalid. Their condemnation of it is unmeasured, and the defiant language some of them use in expressing their detestation of it, and their intention to disregard it, is, to say the least, in the seat of Cornell University, who is one of a small minority, thus expresses his sentiments:

"In my opinion, the law prescribing electricity for murderers and denying a harrowing account of death-gurges and expiring gyrations to the press and general public, is constitutionally correct, whether constitutionally valid or not. Acquiescing in its eminent propriety, obedience to it on my part will be cheerful duty and not painful self-denial. Authorized witnesses can bear all testimony necessary to the extirpation of felons, and a great stimulus to crime will be stayed. Notoriety, added to confederacy and flattery is not a

deterrent to crime. There is logic as well as sentiment behind the maturing law, and we are far indeed from an inclination to defy the will of the State, made known by its Legislature."

One thing is tolerably certain: The law will be utterly disregarded by the great majority of newspapers in the state, until it has been constitutionally tested; and should the courts affirm its validity, there is doubt about its ever being enforced, so strong is the determination of the New York press to procure and publish all the sensational news possible.

FALSEHOOD AS A FINE ART.

A few days since we published an article bearing upon the progressive prospects of this city. It was clearly shown that the advertising efforts of real estate dealers regarding the resources of the Territory would prove a block to development. The reason for this is that the general course of that class in booming localities has filled hundreds of thousands of people all over the country with distrust and disgust. Hosts of people have been misled and in a manner swindled by their misrepresentations.

If any evidence were wanting here of the methods of some of the real estate agents, it is furnished in this issue, in an article clipped from the anti-"Mormon" paper published in this city. The views therein expressed are about as dishonest and objectionable as they well could be. The parties entertaining or enunciating them have not the slightest claim to honor or truth.

The position taken in the article is to the effect that if an epidemic were raging here, strangers should be kept in ignorance of that fact so long as they brought money. No matter though they might be seized with the contagion of disease and carried to the grave by the hundred, let the boom business be prosecuted. To carry out this infamous, swindling and inhuman theory classes of men are to be trained to become unmitigated liars and unconscionable scoundrels on general principles. If such a project be carried out—it has been already in part—characters who entertain and advocate such deceptive ideas are fitted by nature and instinct to be at the head of a regularly organized association of prevaricators.

The article now referred to is one of the hardest knocks ever delivered at the sewerage scheme for this city. The system established in Denver is said to be a failure, but the boomers have covered up this fact. If the system inaugurated in Denver is a failure, that proposed for Salt Lake would also prove a fizzle. Worse than that, it would be an unequalled disaster. The natural facilities for sewerage in Denver and vicinity are incomparably better than those of this city and neighborhood. The same engineer who drew the plans for Denver has furnished them for Salt Lake. If he could not make a success, with comparatively superior advantages in the former city, how could he do otherwise than fail in this city with greater natural difficulties to encounter?

The suggestion that the local newspapers join in this wholesale scheme of villainous duplicity and falsehood defined in the reproduced article which appears in this issue, is in keeping with the balance of the scheme. It is a matter of regret that the press has, to some extent, lent itself in that direction already. And in the publication of the article we reproduce, the paper from which it was taken indulges in the peculiar pastime of cuffing its own ears.

THE FALL OF SUAKIN.

THE decisive victory achieved by the British and Egyptian forces at Suakin yesterday does not rest upon merely driving the rebellious Arabs from their entrenched position and killing several hundred of them, for such a result could be gained at almost any point where the burly Briton saw fit to strike in a country where all that exists is of and belonging to past ages, save only so much of the implements of civilization as have been brought to it from abroad. Suakin is situated on a little island just off the west coast of the Red Sea, the dividing line between Asia and Africa. It is about midway between the northern and southern extremities of the Sea, which is about 1200 miles long and 150 miles average width; is about 3250 miles from England by water, and 2360 miles from the nearest point in India. It is a kind of rendezvous, or stop-over place, for pilgrims from Eastern Africa to Mecca and return, and is so situated as to command a great proportion of the trade carried on with the towns and villages thickly strewn along the Nile in that region, the nearest of any consequence being El Mekkeir, 200 miles due west. It has a fine harbor, and being flanked by high mountains is capable of being made a strongly fortified point. It might be called one of the somewhat numerous "keys" of the chief waterway connecting the Atlantic and Indian oceans through the man-made link of the Suez Canal. It is of more value to England on this account than any other; anything that tends toward India or is remotely connected by trade, sympathy or the chain of commercial con-

tinuity with it, is looked upon by the British government, if not in its possession, with a jealous, sometimes with a longing eye; in either case a movement as silent and it may be as slow, but generally as irresistible, as that of the glacier is inaugurated and before other powers know exactly what is meant or being done the bolt has fallen, the flag of the mighty empire floats in triumph over another section of foreign territory.

Suakin contains usually from 5,000 to 10,000 inhabitants, most of it nomadic and therefore indefinite. At this time there is perhaps more certainty as to its numerical status than for a long time past, if not altogether. The investors of the place comprise the population, and their numbers are easily ascertained.

One dark cloud that appears before the civilized world because of the capture is the effect it may have upon the fate of Stanley. It is understood that Osman Digna offered, some days ago, to release the explorer as the price of British withdrawal from Suakin. If he was actually holding the white man to be played as a trump card in the manner indicated, what he will do when he learns that the city is in full possession of the enemy can only be conjectured; but it is reasonable to suppose that the worst will result. He would scarcely have offered to make such a trade if Stanley were not in his custody, because nothing of consequence would be gained to him by a withdrawal and immediate return when the deception was discovered. In fact, there was a great deal to lose by such a course, and the rebel chief is certainly smart enough to understand all that. Anxiety as to what has become of the American and his party is intensified, of course, such if dead the Powers all want to know when, how, and by whom it was done.

A dispatch states that the German relief expedition will start out at once, but it is a cruel probability that, before it reaches its field of operations, things will have reached it which will render further prosecution of the labor of love unnecessary.

Later dispatches announce the safety of Stanley. This will be welcome news to all.

A FAITH CURE SCHISM.

DURING the last decade a belief that the sick may be healed by faith, has gradually been spreading among different religious denominations in this country. The doctrine is presented in various forms, all of which are more or less vague, indefinite and intangible, and therefore difficult to either confirm or refute by accurate and logical reasoning or elucidation, and there is a notable lack of uniformity in the views and understanding of it of those who profess to believe it.

By some it is called the prayer cure, their idea seeming to be that the result desired comes in answer to fervent petitions to heaven; by others it is called the faith cure, as they have a glimmering conception that faith as well as prayer is a necessary element of success in attaining the desired result; some term it the mind cure, perceiving the truth that mind is able to exert much power over matter, and that the mentality of one individual may at times exercise a marked influence over that of another; still others speak of this method of treating the sick as Christian science, this class evidently having a confused theory that Jesus and the Apostles whom He ordained operated upon scientific principles when they healed the sick in what is usually termed a miraculous manner.

About two years ago the faith cure theory in various forms made its appearance among the churches of Minneapolis, Minn., and for a time there was considerable stir over it. But later the matter quieted down, and for a considerable period little or nothing was said in the newspapers about it. The fact is those who believed in it purposely sought to prevent reference to it by the press, for the reason, as they explain, that it seemed impossible for the newspapers to print other than garbled accounts of their views. Though the faith cure movement seemed to have subsided in the city named, it in reality continued to spread, and a few days ago it burst out in a manner which attracted wide attention. One of the Baptist congregations divided on the question, twenty-two members, embracing some of the most intelligent and influential belonging to the church, withdrew and will organize as a separate body.

The schism has given a new impetus to the discussion of the faith cure in that region, and the incident which appears to have been the culminating cause of it adds to the interest attaching to it. A lady named Mrs. Stickney had a daughter who sickened, died and was buried. A number of members of the Baptist congregation referred to, who believed in the faith cure doctrine, met at the house of Mrs. Stickney, after her daughter was buried, and prayed that the latter might be restored to life. This action brought scandal upon the church, and the persistence with which the faith cure believers urged their doctrine upon the other members of the society was, as the minister put it, "a source of great grief" to the orthodox worshippers.

It became necessary to hold repeated sessions of an ecclesiastical council to consider this dissension, and the result is that twenty-two dissent-