

draped pictures and statuary to absurd lengths, but it is to be hoped that some good will arise from the efforts that are being made to guard the public against the rush of the tide of immorality, which is greatly accelerated by the prostitution of art to the depraved tastes of the licentious.

While they are about it, will not the reformers in this line carry their warfare a little further, and arouse public sentiment, if not legislative action, against the vile caricatures of public men which appear in so many otherwise respectable papers as portraits of living or recently deceased celebrities? Most of them are not only dreadful botches, offensive to the eye and horrifying to the cultured mind, but actual libels upon the persons whom they are supposed to represent.

If the letter press descriptions and biographical sketches of noted men and women that appear in the papers of this country are no more reliable than the woodcut likenesses that accompany them, they are utterly worthless to the public and scandalous to the individuals so grossly misrepresented.

The nude in art may have some reasons for its support, when beauty and not brutality is the motive for its production; but these rude burlesques of the human countenance that offend good taste, deceive the public and libel the subject, are beyond apology and fit only for the fire.

AGAINST THE SPRINKLING TAX.

THE City Council have made an order declaring a large portion of the city one sprinkling district, and making the assessment ten cents per frontage foot, whether the property be situated on Tenth East street, Fifth West street, or on Main street. The injustice of the uniform assessment, when compared with the benefits derived in different parts of the city, is apparent at a glance. A protest is being generally signed by the taxpayers in the outlying sections. It should be presented to the City Council tomorrow evening. We would suggest that those who have not already signed the protest do so not later than Tuesday morning. We believe the paper can be found at the stores and some other convenient places. If a majority of the frontage taxpayers protest, then the scheme will be killed, otherwise those liable to be affected by the injustice will have to pay the tax or contest its collection in the courts. Protestation is the cheaper method.

Last season there were numbers of property owners who objected to the

tax prevailing then as too high; others complained that they were served with assessment notices while the sprinklers had never appeared on the streets on which their premises fronted; still another class, composed of people residing in the outlying localities, insisted that sprinkling was of no practical use to them and they did not desire it.

In answer to these objections, the council propose, this season, to increase the area of the sprinkling district and raise the tax to a higher figure. This kind of relief shows that when the children of the city fathers ask them for bread they give them a stone; when they ask for a fish they give them a snake. Sign and send in the protest against the raising and unjust application of the sprinkling tax.

STARTLING NEWS.

THE latest news from Europe is of a startling character. War appears to be imminent. This ought to be no surprise to the reading public. The indications of an approaching conflict have been made very plain through the press for some time. There has been a feeling of uneasiness among all the European nations. Preparations for a gigantic struggle have been in progress for months. It was hoped that the very magnitude of the standing armies, and the vast volume of the munitions of war, would have the effect of preventing the collision for which they were made ready. But it looks now as though those preparations have not been in vain and that very soon the continent of Europe will be shaken with the roar of battle and its soil be soaked in blood. The imminence of the catastrophe, therefore, is pregnant with alarm, notwithstanding the world-wide expectancy.

The attitude of Turkey towards Russia proclaims support from Great Britain and a disposition to resort to arms. That Russia is ready and eager for the fray is not to be doubted. The traditions of that power point to the extension of Muscovite dominion toward the South and the East. England is interested in preventing this accomplishment of Russian ambition. With the absorption or destruction of Turkey, the path of the Great Bear toward the Orient would be cleared, and English rule and possessions in India would be in mortal danger. The British Lion will stand unflinchingly in the way of this movement.

How many of the Great Powers are secretly behind this quarrel between Russia and Turkey is at present a matter of doubt. But with the firing of the first guns the mystery will be

cleared. England will spring to the front and her allies will soon show themselves, while the supporters of Russia will take their places and the gigantic struggle predicted and dreaded for years will cause the very earth to tremble with its force.

It is barely possible that a peace will yet be patched up and the impending dangers be again postponed. But it looks as if the greatest conflict of the century was about to commence, and all the horrors of awful war were soon to be poured out upon the nations of Europe.

If the United States can remain neutral during the mighty struggle, it will be marvelous. The Italian imbroglio is not yet settled. Italy would not have been so bold and imperative without powerful backing, and Uncle Sam will have to make some sagacious planning if he contrives to do nothing more than make money out of the quarrels of the Old World.

It is a momentous time. A few hours at most will probably end the suspense. And whether peace shall be breathed again upon the troubled political waters, or the shriek of the war eagles shall resound throughout the earth, may be decided before another day shall dawn upon the expectant world.

THE "ANTICIPATORS."

A NEW religious sect has been formed in Pike county, Pennsylvania. Its founder is a man named Zachariah Myers, a farmer, who claims to have received a divine manifestation while he was plowing in his field. He says a voice spoke to him from a cloud as follows:

"Before the century closes the world will end and man shall be no more. Go tell thy people to prepare. Tell them not to wait an hour. There must be everlasting prayer. The world is wicked; it is reeking in its own corruption. There must be an end to all soon."

Myers told his neighbors, who were greatly impressed, and he organized them into a congregation and commenced to preach and publish his religious views. Circulars are being sent to ministers and people of various denominations warning them of the approaching catastrophe. Those who receive his message and join his society are called "Anticipators." They have no particular ceremonial, but devote two hours each day to prayer for salvation when the destruction of the world shall come. The first sign of the end, so Myers says, will be the falling from heaven of a great ball of fire. Then will follow the general conflagration and the dissolution of the elements.