

yesterday a page of a local newspaper in which to describe its attractions. This, of itself, was not unusual, but it was coupled with an invitation to the people of the whole city—"men, women and children"—to visit the premises and view the attractive ornamentations, embellishments and fittings.

What would be the natural effect produced upon children by visiting a place of that kind? To take away any feeling of repugnance they may heretofore have entertained towards it. This would be a mental step toward future indulgence in drink. A visit of women and children to such an establishment is a species of patronage. It is a recognition of a traffic which has led millions of men and women to degradation and ruin. We do not think that the ladies can afford to give the slightest support, moral or otherwise, to such a business, which is gaining a strong foothold here, having been fostered and pampered during the last two years and a half, until its influence is an incubus.

With regard to the illegal Sunday liquor traffic, Chief of Police Paul reported by a local paper as stating that all the drinking shops were closed yesterday. If the head of the police department made any such assertion he stated that which is not true, for a number of saloons were running yesterday (Sunday), as they have been ever since the "Liberals" assumed control of the city.

Drunkenness and its attendant evils are increasing.

DECREASE IN FAMILIES.

THE decrease in American families has been a subject of much regret among those who desire the welfare of this country. We do not know that the alleged facts concerning it have ever been seriously disputed. The *Popular Science Monthly* for August contains some lessons from the census, by Carroll D. Wright, which will effectually set at rest any controversy on the subject. According to his citations it appears that in 1850 the average family consisted of 5.55 persons. From this there has been a gradual decrease, it being in 1860 5.28, in 1870 5.09, in 1880 5.04, and in 1890 4.94.

Looking at the different geographical divisions, it is found that this rule holds true except in the Western division, where the average size of the family has risen from 4.18 in 1850 to 4.88 in 1890, the increase having been steady through the intermediate decades. This result would have been expected, of course, on account of the settlement of the West in the last few years, the population having increased rapidly and being more and more brought to the family basis, instead of that of single individuals or young families settling in Western Territories.

The small average size of the family in Oklahoma, now a Territory just opened for settlement, shows the influence of new settlements upon the size of the family. In Oklahoma the size of the family will increase until population becomes fairly dense, when it will follow the rule of older communities and decrease. When population

becomes more or less urban in character the maximum is reached, and after that a constantly receding average will probably be shown at each succeeding census.

It is to be hoped that with the prevalent copying of the fashions and manners of the East, this community will not imbibe the spirit of those "refined" and "culchawed" ladies of "society" who think it indelicate and "in bad form" to bring forth a number of children. This disposition is a sign of the decadence of any people where it exists. It is a mark of licentiousness and godlessness. It rebels against nature and sins against Deity. It involves practices that are abhorrent to every true womanly sentiment, in violation of human law and Divine commandment, and will surely bring its penalties, not only upon the community where it is countenanced but upon the individuals who are personally guilty.

The maternal instinct which is strong in every true and loving woman is God-implanted, and woe to that man or woman and to that nation or people that seeks to root it up or cause it to wither and die.

THE BONDS ELECTION.

THE election of county bonds appears to be decided in the negative. We are not at all surprised. There seems to have been but little interest in the matter. This apathy was not confined to any particular class or party. Nobody had any enthusiasm over the proposition of the County Court.

The city and county building is going up and money will have to be raised to pay for it, that is one of the certainties. But as regards the poor house and farm, the majority of the people appeared to be of the opinion that the present grounds and buildings are ample just now, and that it will be time enough to enlarge when there are more indigent to take care of and the site now used can be disposed of. Other projected improvements are not immediately pressing and can wait awhile without serious detriment. That is the popular sentiment.

It is folly to try and make sectional feeling out of this defeat of the bonds. If the "Liberal" faction wanted them why did they not vote for them? What prominent "Liberal" outside of the County Court, advocated them? What prominent member of any party or class pronounced against them? The truth is, the proposition fell flat upon the community and appeared to be out of season. That is all there is of it, and it is petty meanness to try to attach any other meaning to the result.

COMPARATIVE CRIMINALITY OF THE SEXES.

THERE may be reasons other than that women are generally better than men, why there are so many more male than female convicts in this and other civilized countries. But prison statistics speak very strongly in favor of "the weaker sex." It may be that woman's comparative weakness has

something to do with the fact that, as a rule, she is not nearly so criminal as man. She is also usually under stronger social restraints, and her whole life is more guarded than that of the male from childhood's earliest hours.

However, the jail records of the world tell a story that cannot be denied, and until something more definite than is now argued can be said to the contrary, we shall hold that those figures favor the theory of woman's moral superiority to man.

In 1890 there were under sentence for criminal homicide 6958 males in the prisons of the United States, and 393 females. That is, the male criminals in this high grade of offenses were seventeen times more numerous than the female criminals. For other statutory offenses there were 75,924 male criminals, and 6405 female offenders. That is, over eleven males to one female.

But the United States record is not peculiar in this respect. It appears that in the chief countries of Europe the proportions of criminals considered by sexes are as follows: France and England, 100 men to 20 women; Germany, 100 men to 19 women; Austria, 100 men to 14.8 women. In the United States it is 100 men to 8.4 women. Of course the American women are vastly more free from crime than are those of Europe because our women are generally the subjects of kind treatment and special care than in Europe. Moreover, there is far less poverty in this country, and poverty is a powerful incentive to crime.

It is true that when women break loose from the restrictions that surround their sex, they often go to greater extremes of evil than men. An abandoned woman is usually worse than an abandoned man. The women of the French revolution were fiercer in their demand for blood than the fiercest sans-culottes of the Faubourgs. The women were crueller than the men strikers at Homestead. A woman poisoner has generally more venom in her heart than a male murderer. But this only argues that she goes to the other extreme of her character, and helps the argument that normally she is less immoral than man.

It is thought that the tendencies of modern times will result in changing the relative statistics as to crime in the two sexes. That as women are brought more and more upon the same social, industrial and political plane as men, they will become more proportionally criminal. This, however, is a mere speculation and springs, in our opinion, from the prejudice that prevails against woman's full liberty.

Up to the present, statistics do not justify any such conclusion, and we believe that the future figures of history will rather go to show that, with woman's emancipation from the bondage of the past, there will be further evidences of her general moral superiority to man.

MOST people have two kinds of manners. One they use in the kitchen and the other is saved for parlor use. You never know a man until you know his kitchen manners. One reason that marriage brings out so many unpleasant surprises is that the courtship was based on the parlor manners.