The Centre Reporter,

FRED. KURTZ.....Editor.

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It is said Alexander the Great sat down and cried because there were no more worlds for him to conquer. Bill Brown having read every body out of the radical party, like Alexander is now crying because there are no more left to read out. Be consoled, neighbor, there is another subject left for you, read out the man in the moon, then go and hang yourself.

When the school-book bill came up in the senate the other day, Senator Wallace had it amendended so that the commission instead of being wholy partisan, sectarian and corrupt, the Governor is required to appoint an even number of democrats and republicans, and the State Superintendent, all of whom must agree. And the books adopted are to be of the same size and quality and to cost fifty per cent. less than the people are now paying for them. Should the bill pass the House and become a law, great benefits will result to the people, in the cost of books alone.

A love-sick and disappointed girl in Philadelphia, poisoned herself the other day by eating a box of matches. So matches killed whilst a *match* would have kept her alive. Queer.

New Party Movement.

Recent movements in the west show that a new party is brewing. Again we have evidence in a Chicago despatch of 6 inst., which says the Advisory Committee appointed by the last meeting of the Illinois State Farmers' Association to consider the subject of forming an independent political party held a meeting at Bloomington, on 5th, at which delegates from fifty-two of the 102 counties in the state were present. The proposition to organize an independent party was almost unanimously indorsed, and after a long discussion it was decided to issue a call for a State Convention to promulgate a platform and nominate State officers. The Convention is called to meet at Springfield on Wednesday, the 10th of June. Delegates are to be chosen in the proportion of one to every 5,000 voters, and all the industrial classes and organizations are invited to join in the movement.

A resolution was offered in the convention censuring President Grant for signing the Increase of Salary bill, and for his veto of the Currency bill, but it was voted down by a large majority.

Democratic State Nominations.

We are among those who believe it better to be defeated with good candidates than successful with bad ones. While bad men remain in office they are a reproach, and they are an approbrium afterward. Ill success on the contrary in a good undertaking is no present dishonor nor future discredit. It behooves the democracy to remember these things at this time. The next democratic convention will have the final determination of two important matters: first, under the new Constitutional provision, who shall be one of the two judges of the Supreme Court; next, the moral attitude of the party, as determined by its candidates, on the questions that now shake the very foundations of government. Let the people therefore proceed with caution and due deliberation to select the delegates to the State convention which has the determination of these grave matters.—*Harrisburg Patriot.*

The above from the democratic organ at the state capital expresses the sentiments of the REPORTER, often heretofore declared in our columns, although it was met with a sneer in quarters where honesty is only talked of but never practiced. Every honest democrat will call it sound sentiment. Dieffenbach' spaper the Bloomsburg *Columbian* ,comments as follows on this matter:

"If the party will act upon the suggestions made, it will be but a brief period until it will command an overwhelming majority of the voters of the state. The people have lost all confidence in the generality of politicians and office-seekers, and are heartily sick of them. Let a party rise above the slough in which all political bodies were buried during the excitements and immoralities of the war and nominate none but men of established integrity and ability for office, men who will be faithful to the best interest of the people in office, and labor with ability to promote the true interests of the public, and the party doing so will crush every thing before it. But if the alternate success of parties is to result only in changing of one set of pilferers and incompetents for another, then, indeed is our country in a fearful state of demoralization and on the broadest possible road to destruction."

"Let convention managers take heed! If incompetent or worthless, or any class of inferior nominations are made, the contest will thereby be surrendered and the election will pass off listlessly and as a mere matter of form. The masses and the local organizations will not struggle for the success of such. Defeat will be sure. In 1872 the Democratic covention of this state set a good example and its nominations would have been successful but for the blundering and disgusting management of the Presidential question—counting only legal votes it was probably successful. Let the Democracy at least repeat the experiment."

"We do not hesitate to endorse the sentiment of the *Patriot* that except with proper candidates success is not desirable. To succeed with others would only disgrace and injure the party. To be successful and retain its results the democracy must show the country that it can and will govern much better in all respects and at very materially less cost to the taxpayers than its opponents. Unless it can do this it is no concern what party controls the reins of government."

"We therefore say to the coming convention, take heed—nominate the very best men of your party as candidates, or your action will be in vain."

France, from all appearances, is gathering for another war with Germany, and the latter power is preparing for the inevitable struggle. The sores of the late conflict between these two great powers have not healed—France cannot, and will not, forget her deep humiliation, and will attempt to retrieve her lost honor.

If there is an abler and more independent daily paper published just now than the New York *Tribune*, we do not know of such a one. It is second to no journal in this country or Europe for solid information in politics, arts, science and religion, as well as the important news of the day. It has freed itself from the shackels of party, and advocates that which it thinks right, be it republican or democratic, and speaks its opinions with an independence that should be imitated by the public press generally. Of all the exchanges that come to the REPORTER, we prize the *Tribune* the highest.

In the house, on Monday, the local option bill was brought up, and after an hour in wrangling, it was defeated for want of constitutional majority—ayes 39, nays 29. This ends the matter for this session, The balance of the session was spent on bills on first reading.

The school text bill was lost by a vote of 68 to 20,

Brooks' and Baxter's attorneys, acting for each, have arranged a compromise at Washington, which will end the Arkansas struggle, providing the principals are willing. Its terms are the submission of the question as to who is Governor of the state to the Legislature, each claimant to issue a call convening that body.

Mr. Crittenden, the member from Missouri made a point upon Mr. Kelley when he offered as an amendment to the Centennial bill, a provision declaring general amnesty on the Fourth of July, 1876. If there is to be a jubilee in 1876, the Southern members want it to be one for the whole country, and not for a section. They want every man to be relieved of his legal and political disabilities, no matter what his position may have been in the Southern Confedracy. They believe that at the Centennial the most elaborate speeches will be made with reference to the emancipation of the negro; in that connection they want something to be said on the subject of general amnesty. This Mr. Kelly refused to accept, and the result was that the Southern members voted against the bill. The only prospect of securing the passage of the bill now seems to be to admit amendments declaring general amnesty, and restoring pensions to the solders of the war of 1812 who reside in the Southern states.

Grant's friends are on a new tack, says the Pittsburg Post, with regard to Sumner. Neither the President nor Mr. Fish are able to answer the accusations made against them as to Senator Sumner's shameful treatment at their hands, and now have recourse to threatenings. A special telegram to the Telegraph of this city gives one an idea of these new tacties. It is asserted that Mr. Sumner's mind, in his last days, was undoubtedly disordered, and his differences with the Administration grew to be a disease, until he imagined he had been terribly wronged, when the truth was both the President and Secretary Fish thought kindly of him until he attacked their motives and endeavored to clog the diplomatic wheel of the government, by obstructing legislation in the Senate. They then considered it necessary to displace him. The threat winds up with the assertion that "the evidence to sustain the action of the Administration in reference to Mr. Sumner is overwhelmingly convincing, and will produce confusion among those who, like Senator Schurz, have committed themselves against the Administration without knowing the truth, or if they do, conceal it." This, however, is a very thin dodge. Grant and Fish will hardly be able to convince the country that Mr. Sumner was crazy.

A large Anti-secret Society meeting was held lately at York Springs, in Adams county, which created quite a sensation throughout that community. Rev. J. M. Bishop, of Chambersburg, addressed the meeting for two hours and forty minutes. He is a minister of the United Brethren Church.

The Savings Bank at New Milford, Pa., was entered, and the safe blown open, on the morning of Wednesday, April 22d. James Aitken, who was in the building at the time, was bound to a chair, while the burglars did their work. They blew off the outer door, but failed to break open the inner one. They were very bold in their operations, but failed to secure any booty.

An appeal to the people of the United States, signed by the most prominent citizens of the inundated district of the Southwest. These gentlemen state that 142,000 persons are suffering in consequence of the flood, and estimate that it will require $40,000 daily to relieve their necessities. Such widespread destitution never prevailed before on this continent, and recalls the worst famines of India and Persia. In the meantime we are glad to note that the relief subscriptions in the great cities continue to pour in, those in Philadelphia now amounting to more than $16,000.

The Carlists under Don Alphonse have been again defeated by the Republicans with heavy loss. Bilboa has been revictualled, and General Concha's command remains in the city for the present.

The House of Representatives recommitted the Centennial Appropriation bill to the Special Centennial Committee, and concurred in the Senate amendments to the bill for the relief of the sufferers by the Mississippi overflow.

At the city election in Hannibal, Mo., on Tuesday, 5th, the question of liquor or no liquor was submitted to the people as an independent proposition. No license was carried two to one. A novel feature of the contest was that many ladies on both sides of the question remained at the polls all day, and electioneered with great vigor and earnestness.

A HINT TO CANDIDATES.

The editor of the Memphis *Appeal* is tired of this sort of thing, and says:

"It costs the proprietors of the *Appeal* three hundred dollars a day to publish the paper, and we cannot see how aspirants for office can expect, at our expense, to use our columns to aid them in getting an office worth ten, fifteen or twenty thousand dollars per annum. If there be an honor in the office of Governor, or a seat in the Legislature, 'Many Voters' who would confer this honor should not seek to do so at the expence of others, and must pay for the praise they lavish upon the men they would exalt. The press has too long been 'hewers of wood and drawers of water' for political aspirants seeking high position. Editors have too long been the ladder to be kicked over by men who have secured offices which enriched them. Candidates in search of offices of honor or profit can find access to our columns; but their ubiquitous friend, 'Many Voters,' cannot herald their greatness or extol their merits and many virtues at our expense."

The complaints of that influential journal are entirely just. Its reference to the ladder being kicked away after elections is, alas, too often true. We have had some experience of that sort ourself. Were it necessary at this time, we might name instances, where before elections we labored for and extolled candidates even higher, perhaps, then their merits deserved; yet, after their success, when they had printing or other patronage to dispense, it was given to others, aye, and sometimes even to Republicans in preference! This, too, when there was no personal unfriendliness whatever between them and us.

We hold it to be the bounden duty of every politician, if not every citizen, but, more especially every office-holder, to stand by and at all times support his party organ.—*Lewistown Democrat.*

In our own experience the candidate for whose election we have given our services, as a general thing, seemed to appreciate what we did by paying us our bills which we considered fair; in a few instances we have come across candidates, who, after the election, showed strong 3 cent proclivities, while we have had two or three cases, in which candidates, for whom we wrote and printed articles from week to week, during an entire campaign and their election tickets for one half the county, who had the cheek to hint that they thought we should do it all for nothing.

THE COPARTNERSHIP ACT.

Among the numerous meritorious bills introduced in the Legislature, says the Clearfield Republican, this session by Mr. Wallace, we deem none more so than the bill entitled: "An act authorizing the formation of partnership associations in which the capital and subsidies shall alone be responsible for the debts of the association, except under certain circumstances."

The bill contemplates the formation of firms upon the English limited liability plan, and its advocates claim that it will enable capitalists to admit their employees to a share of the profits of their business, based upon the amount of capital they are able to subscribe, without involving the risk of their ruin in case of failure. It is also said that its provisions will invite capital to Pennsylvania from abroad. We notice that a large number of leading manufacturers throughout the State are advocating the passage of this measure. The friends of the bill claim that a law of this kind will attract more capital to our State than any other measure that could be devised, and that it will open a large field for skilled and ordinary laborers at remunerative wages. As the law now stands, men of small means are really deterred from forming associations of this kind, because in the event of a failure they are usually the first to be rendered bankrupt, while the millionaire, in a great measure, shifts the responsibility upon some one else's shoulders, from the fact that there is no *general laws* on our statute books regulating associations of the character indicated. We have "wagon loads" of *special laws* upon the subject, which require more time to look up and read than it does an artizan to learn his trade or calling.

A PRACTICAL TEMPERANCE REFORM.

At the last meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science Mr. D. Carnegie read a paper on the licensing laws of Sweden and the Gothenburg public house system. In Gothenburg, a town of 60,000 inhabitants, the public-houses had for the last seven years been conducted on an entirely new principle and with such success that a bill called the Spirituous Liquors (Scotland) bill, founded on that principle was introduced in the last session of Parliament, and would no doubt be renewed next year. In 1830, 173,000 stills deluged Sweden with a quantity of spirits calculated at ten gallons per head. The consequences were fearful, resulting at last in a reaction which at length induced the Diet of 1854 to pass the present licensing laws, the principal features of which were that all small stills were abolished, and an excise duty imposed of 1s. 6½d. per gallon. The local authority had the power of fixing the number of licenses in each district, which were periodically sold by auction, and the amount realized was paid to the local treasury, to the relief of the rates. The effect was that in the rural districts, comprising seven-eighths of the whole population, a most remarkable reform was effected in the drinking habits of the Swedes, the number of licenses being reduced on an average to 1 in 6,000 of the rural population, while in many districts licenses were altogether prohibited. This had concentrated the trade in the towns, where, although some improvement was effected, the consumption and trade still continued on a very large scale. A committee appointed in 1864 by the inhabitants of Gothenburg reported that in order to extend the reform to the towns it was necessary to reorganize the liquor traffic on an entirely new principle, viz., no individual, either as proprietor or manager, under a public-house license, should derive any private gain from the sale of spirits, thus abolishing all temptations unduly to extend the consumption. This principle was immediately carried out by an association of some of the most respected members of the community, who formed a limited-liability company to take over all the public-house licenses, to conduct the business solely in the interest of sobriety and morality, and to pay over the whole profits to the town treasury. The results had been that the police cases of drunkenness, which in 1864 were 6.10 per cent., decreased to 2.52 per cent. in 1870. The last two years showed an increase up to 2.72 per cent., caused by a great increase of wages and a practice of what was called "saining," or four or five men clubbing together to buy the minimum quantity of spirits allowed to be sold at the grocers' or retail shops, where spirits were sold not to be drunk on the premises, the licenses of which were sold by auction to private persons, and where the price was little more than half the prices charged in the public houses. The great benefit of the elimination of private profit and reduction of licenses from the liquor trade was now so recognized in Sweden that a law was passed this year to enable the above-named grocers' licenses to be held by the same associations which now hold the public-house licenses, thus giving them the complete control of the spirit trade. From this it was fully expected that the percentage of drunkenness, already reduced by more than one-half in Gothenburg, would soon show a much greater diminution. The alteration of the law originated in a movement among the working classes of Gothenburg, who pressed upon the city's representatives the necessity of urging the Diet in Stockholm to adopt it. The good already effected was amply attested by the testimony of all the authorities in Gothenburg, municipal and clerical. The financial results were very important, as on them must depend the practicability of the scheme. Last year the profit handed over to the town treasury was £11,676; besides which the town sold to private persons twenty-five retail licenses for one years for £7,400. The number of gallons of spirits sold by the Company was nearly three per head, supposed to be exceeded by the sales of the retail shops. This was a fearfully large amount, but a large proportion was supplied to the country population, of which 170,000 in that province had only ten licensed houses. The consumption of spirits for all Sweden rather exceeded two gallons per head. That of Scotland was about two gallons. The Company carried on its large business without any paid-up capital; an advance was obtaind from a bank, and the balance of interest had never exceeded £35 at the end of the year. The Gothenburg system had been completely and partially tried in two-thirds of the Swedish towns, and was extending to Norway.

MORE OF IT.

Further investigation into the condition of the Freedman's Saving Bank and its branches, shows that it is in even a worse condition than was at first supposed. The total liabilities are given at $3,338,896 and its net resources at $3,121,008, a deficiency to begin with of $217,886. The loans on Washington real estate, doubly valued, amount to $1,473,226, and on personal securities mostly worthless $535,160. The resources taken as a whole will not pay 50 cents on the dollar, so that the depositors will unquestionably lose half their deposits. These $2,000,000 of worthless loans have nearly all been made to the members of the Washington Ring, and the loud-mouthed advocates of Civil Rights. A more systematic plan for plucking the poor colored man while pretending to advocate his interests could not have been invented. Experience teaches a dear school, but it appears that the colored man will have to graduate from it before he fully realizes the situation.

A LEGISLATIVE SCENE.

A most disgraceful scene took place in the House, at Harrisburg, on Friday, in which Speaker McCormic and Representative Ramey were the active participants. It culminated in the threat of the Speaker to send for the Sargent-at-arms to remove the indignant and offensive Ramey, but the friends of the latter gentleman, notably Mr. Wolfe, showed such a determination to resist physical force that the Speaker weakly desisted. The *Patriot* says: "The proceedings in the House, as the session approaches its close, are marked by the most rampant disorder and disregard of rules. The Speaker pronounces this or that measure carried or defeated as suits his whim, remonstrance is lost in uproar, audible speech is impossible, and only the final vote by yeas and nays gives the single opportunity for a word which is at once discussion and decission."

Friend and Enemy.—Death is a sure visitant at every home. Rich and poor, young and old, alike must meet his summons. How different in aspect to those who are ready and waiting for his call, from the dread his presence brings to the heart of the unprepared.

An old Scotch minister lay sorely ill, and a neighbor calling upon him said:

"Do you really think you are dying dear sir?"

Looking up calmly, he said: "Really, friend, I am not anxious whether I am or not; for if I die I shall be with God, if I live he will be with me."

When the great historian Gibbon was drawing near the close of his life he was asked how the world appeared to him. Said the dying skeptic:

"All things are fleeting. When I look back I see they have been. When I look forward all is dark and doubtful."

THE PEN AND THE SWORD.

The following is an exact copy of a letter to the Commissioner of Pensions. The writer was evidently more accustomed to handling the rifle than the pen, having killed forty-two men in the late civil war:

———ILLINOYS.

Mr J. W. baker
dear sir
i rot to some time ago nd got now anser from you i ask fore my backe pension from the goverment there is seven years back pay due from them i wase in the wone hundert and seckon (102) Illnoys regement Company g
i ask fore a plase in the rock island Ills arsnel if you can
if there is a man don more fore the cortry than i have i Would to know him
i kild forty to rebes solgers While i Wase there in the army of my contry.
pleas anser this leter ———

THE "OLEOMARGARINE" PARTY.

[St. Louis Times.]

The new style of butter—made out of bacon rinds, house grease, soap-fat, and general scrapings—bears the euphonious of oleomargarine. What better appellation could be selected for the new political party which the *Republican* party is clamoring to build up? 'Rah for the Oleomargarines.

DEFAULTING RAILROAD CLERK.

George Van Velzer, a clerk employed in the treasurer's office of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company at the Grand Central Depot, has absconded with $30,000 of the Company's money. Monday morning young Velzer, whose father is also in the Company's service. Did not appear at the usual hour, but no notice was taken of his absence until later in the day, when it was discovered that the combination lock of one of the safes had been tampered with. A locksmith succeeded in opening the safe, which was minus a large package of currency of various denominations, amounting, it is said, to $30,000. A friend of young Velzer, named Baxter, is also missing, and it is thought he has accompanied him in his flight.

London, May 6—There seems to be no prospect of the settlement of the strikes at the Durham collieries. Seventy thousand miners and laborers are now out of employment, and great distress prevails among them. Many are preparing to emigrate

All the puddling furnaces at the old rolling mill of the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company, in Scranton, suspended work last week.

A CHARMING WIDOW WITH FASCINATING DAUGHTERS—THE TRIPLE WEDDING.

[From the Atchison Champion.]

For pure, unalloyed, unbroken happiness and contentment Atchinson was yesterday the temporary abiding place of a family that from surrounding circumstances should bear off the palm They are on their wedding tour, and consisted of a mother and two daughters who had married a father and two sons. From Illinois they came, and were on their way to Waterville, which is to be their future home.

Mrs. Davis and her two daughters were well-to-do people, the mother a widow, of fair features, pleasant to look upon, and the possesser of two handsome, bewitching daughters as ever plighted troth. In their home in Decatur county, Ill., they were near neighbors to Mr. G. Musser, who was favored by fortune with two stalwart, hearty, reliable boys, who have just overreached the prescribed age that is supposed to make men of them. Could such things exist without the inevitable result that follows?

That our subject may be more fully understood, we will here state that Mrs. Davis was a widow; not the species that Samuel Weller so dreaded, but a pleasant, accomplished lady; and Mr. Musser was a widower, well established in this world's goods, and had a reputation for upright, honorable dealings excelled by none in all Decatur county.

A few months ago Mr. Musser, tired of his lonesome widower's life, paid court and homage to the widow. Of course the proceeding could not be carried on without the knowledge of the young folks, and this knowledge led to a general familiarity and intimacy that was an inevitable forerunner of a more permanent acquaintance. A confession from the old gentleman to his sons that he had determined to bring a new wife to their home, brought the counter confession from the ambitious young gentlemen that they had determined on the same course, and conveyed to him the startling intelligence that the daughters of the widow had succumbed to their persuasions, and that the time-honored name of Davis was about to be changed to that of Musser.

We are informed as to the direct channel the old gentleman's thoughts took, but in our imagination we hear two or three, or perhaps four, very emphatic adjectives drop unbidden to the ground.

A few days ago, nevertheless, there was a tripple wedding in Decatur county, Ill., and the three couple came to our city day before yesterday, remaining two days, and yesterday left on the Central Branch train for Waterville, where their future home will be

The ladies were out shopping yesterday, and will be remembered by close observers as two pretty young women, dressed in black, with navy blue water preof cloaks and capes, chaperoned by a pleasant-looking middle-aged lady.

THE BAMBOO PLANT.

The bamboo plant is cultivated almost everywhere; it is remarkable for its shades and beauty. There are about sixty varieties, different in sizes, according to its genius; ranging from that of a switch to a big pole, measuring from four to five inches in diameter. It is reared from shoots and suckers, and, after the root once clings to the ground, it thrives and spreads without further care or labor. Of these sixty varieties, each thrives best in a certain locality. Throughout the whole empire of China, the bamboo groves not only enabellish the gardens of the poor, but the vast parks of the princes and wealthy.

The use to which this stately grass is put is truly wonderful. The tender shoots are cultivated for food like asparagus; the roots are carved into fantastic images of men, birds, and monkeys. The tapering culms are used for all purposes that poles can be applied to, in carrying, supporting, propelling and measuring; by the porter, the carpenter and the boatman; for the joists of houses and the ribs of sails; the shafts of spears and the wattles of hurdles; the tubes of aqueducts, and the handles and ribs of umbrellas and fans. The leaves are sewed upon cords to make rain cloaks for farmers and boatmen, for sails to boats as well as junks, swept into heaps to form manure, and matted into thatches to cover houses.

The bamboo wood is cut into splints and silvers of various sizes to make into baskets and trays of every form and fancy, twisted into cables, plaited into awnings and woven into mats for the bed and floor, for the scenaries of the theatre, for the roofs of boats, and the casing of goods. The shavings are picked into oakum to be stuffed into mattresses. The bamboo furnishes the bed for sleeping, and the couch for reclining, the chair for sitting, the chop-sticks for eating; the pipe for smoking, the flute for entertaining; a curtain to hang before the door, and a broom to sweep around it. The ferule to govern the scholar, the book he studies and the paper he writes, all originated from this wonderful grass. The tapering barrels of the organ, and the dreadful instrument of the lictor—one to strike harmony and the other to strike dead; the rule to measure lengths, the cup to guage quantities, and the bucket to draw water, the bellows to blow the fire, and the battle to retain the match; the bird-sage and crab-net, the fish-pole, the water-wheel and cave-duct, wheel-barrow and hand-cart, and a host of other things we have no room to crowd, are the utilities to which this magnificent grass is converted. I therefore highly recommend this most useful of grasses to your consideration.—*Address of Chan Laisein, Chinese Commissioner of Education.*

"WHO WROTE THIS?"

Here is some sound advice, which the Willmington (Del.,) *Every Evening* gives its readers. It will apply to all latitudes and longitudes: "Now and then mistakes will occur in newspapers, and sometimes such mistakes in items appearing to us of trivial importance are regarded as of great moment by some interested party. Now we have a word of advice to those who feel aggrieved by such matters. Don't make fools of yourselves. Don't assume that we, who probably never heard of you, have deliberately sought to injure you, or that we have become the willing tool of some enemy of yours to cause you trouble and annoyance. The most reasonable assumption concerning our error is that it is a mistake, as newspaper publishers, like other business men, are not likely to wilfully and unnecessarily make enemies. Assuming then that a mistake has been made, we advise you to go to an editor as one gentleman should go to another, and courteously pointing it out to him ask that it be corrected, being prepared, if the matter is a question of fact, to prove that the report is inaccurate. Any editor who is a gentleman, and our impression is that they are mostly gentlemen, will give you a patient and courteous hearing, contradict the statement if necessary, or explain to you why he is unable to do so, and should he find he has wronged you he will, of his own free will offer you a proper apology. But editors know that their reporters do not willfully print untruths, and that they are just as likely to make accurate and impartial statements as are interested parties. Hence they are not prepared to accept the usual wholesale denunciation of a whole report as "a lie from beginning to end," neither being human, does the spectacle of a man trembling with rage, who, unfolding a paper, points to some apparently innocent paragraph and demands, "Who's the author of that," put them in a frame of mind for pleasant conversation. We think that probably enough people have asked us that question, or one of similar import, and that manner, to form a moderate sized convention, but we will cheerfully engage to keep for life in victuals and clothes the number who, so asking it, got it answered. In fact, as a rule, it is none of the inquirer's business, and we never reveal the name of one who gives us information, to the most courteous inquiry, until we find that he willfully betrayed the trust we reposed in him and deceived us into stating an untruth. But to the blustering, insolent demand for retraction, furnishing the name of the author, accompanied by threats of legal proceedings or personal violence we have no other answer than a counter demand for the speediest practicable departure of the angry interviewer from our office. We say this less with a view to any recent occurrence, than by way of preventing such occurrences in future. To a courteous inquiry we are ever ready to make a courteous response, and are equally ready to correct any mistake we have made, or, so far as possible, right any wrong we may do, and we think in this respect we do not greatly differ from others, hence we once more advise those who desire corrections to be made in any respectable newspaper: Don't assume that the errors are purposely made, state your grievance like a gentleman, and don't make an attempt to play the bully.

BABY POISONS.

BY CHARLES G. POLK, M. D.

[From The Press.]

The above caption does not suggest a very scientific subject, yet it relates to one having a more practical and important interest to society than would the best written monograph on cholera or consumption. The constitution wrecked in childhood by opiates develops an adult deteriorated physically, morally, and intelectually to an extent that very frequently unfits the victim for life's duties and responsibilities. Dr. Copland, the greatest medical authority of any age, says, in his "Dictionary of Practical Medicine," "That the habitual use of opiates to quiet the fretfulness, wakefulness and every slight ailment of children is one of the most prolific sources of scrofulous and tuberculous disease." If consumption has its origin or its exciting and determining cause in defective nutrition, nothing can be more axiomatic—more positively conclusive than this declaration of Dr. Copland. It almost seems, as Dr. Bennett, of London, has said, that consumption proves an outlet of life for those so deteriorated in health as to be incapable of propagating a healthy offspring. It would be better for future generations if this be more entirely so. Too many, in an important degree deteriorated, become parents of a sickly, wretched offspring—a burden to themselves and a curse to the present, and in some instances to succeeding generations. Thus the curse drifts down the tide of time, widening and deepening as it flows on from generation to generation, ruffling the ambition of fond parents until proud names are buried in oblivion. While a fruitful source of a disease, unjustly termed "the bane of human existance, the upas whose touch is withering and whose impress is death; which annually consigns to the grave a very large per cent. of humain life—cutting down in the spring-tide some of the brightest and most beautiful of the sons and daughters of earth—it is not a less frightful harm in other consequences it induces. The continued narcotism to which the little bantlings of humanity are subjected, tell with fearful consequences upon the nervous system. Epilepsy, insanity, and neuralgia, are some of the diseases which follow in its train.

The report of every insane asylum tells unequivocally that drunkenness is the most prolific cause of insanity; the records of every criminal court declare that crime is most frequently the emanation of the intoxicating bowl; the inmates of our hospitals, our almshouses, our various charities, are victims of the same cause. The wretched homes; the ragged starving children; the broken-hearted wife—are but fragments of a common fault.

From what does the desire for intoxication spring—the demand of the brain for a stimulent. This demand is not usually innate—nine times out of ten it is acquired; sometimes, no doubt, in adult life, but, no doubt, far more frequently in the opiates given to children in the first few months of their lives. Circumstances may prevent its manifestation—it yet endures until opportunity is presented for its gratification. This gratification is not always sought in alcoholic stimulants. The one they learned to love in the cradle sometimes is their choice—*opium*. The extent to which this is used as an intexicant far exceeds the conception of the uninitiated. Every druggist can certify to this. He who expects to abolish the abuse of alcoholic stimulants must begin at the cradle—must warn the mother of the baneful consequences that spring up and proceed from the frequent use of narcotics to her babe. The anodyne, soothing syrups and carminatives must be used as medicines, if at all, and not as regular articles of diet.

The extent to which these baby poisons are given is really astonishing. It is estimated that the most poisonous of these soothing-syrups has an annual sale of ten million bottles a year. Each bottle (analysis has proved) contains two grains of morphia in two ounces of anise syrup, costing the manufacturer about five cents a bottle, and retailing at thirty-five cents. If this be correct, and I have no doubt but that it is, we can form at least an idea of the injury inflicted by even one of these numerous poisons. What then must be the aggregate mischief inflicted by laudanum, paregoric, Bateman's drops, Godfrey's cordial, and the host of quack nostrums. This, then, presents an evil worthy of the attention of the legislator, the judge, the jury, the clergyman, the temperance lecturer, the physician—in fact, all who are interested in the suppression of the greatest curse which to-day afflicts the world.

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