The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, MONDAY, DEC. 8, 1890.

THE MEADVILLE FAILURE.

Further reports from the failure of Delamater & Co., of Meadville, indicate a surprising and unsatisfactory relation of assets to liabilities. The probability of extended losses to the creditors of the bank is accompanied with intimations of features that would call for even more positive denunciations than are accorded to a failure that is due simply to neglect of parties of solvent banking.

With regard to the intimations of crookedness in the failure, it is pertinent to say that public judgment should be held in reserve unless direct evidence of such things are forthcoming. Charges of a discreditable nature are not to be lightly added to the great misfortunes of such a bankruptcy; and until talk of that sort is backed by direct evidence, it should not be regarded as anything more than the gossip which nearly always follows such an event. Of course, the liquidation of the affairs of the firm will show the causes of the failure; and THE DISPATCH is free to express the hope that they may be shown to be consistent with the personal integrity of the members of the firm.

A similar hope can hardly be expressed that investigation will show good business management. It is hardly credible that a bank so recently synonymous with wealth and stability could come to such complete wreck as is now reported, without a remarkable disregard of the principles of safe banking. It also seems that the expenditure of large sums in politics by men whose bank was insolvent was, to take the mildest view, an extremely unwise and foolish proceeding. If the reports of the failure are not wildly exaggerated, the conclusion is inevitable that the failure must be charged to foolish and reckless management.

Further than this public opinion will be held in reserve; but the personal reputation of the members of the firm requires that as early as possible a full statement be made of its condition and the causes of its suspension.

HONORABLE BUT IRREGULAR.

A novelty in the way of disposition of an estate after death has recently been brought to public attention in connection with the estate of Mr. R. W. Shopleigh, of Brookline, Massachusetts. He recently died without making a will, but leaving among his papers an unsigned memorandum in the form of a promissory note, for the payment to various persons of sums of $5,000 to $10,000 each, amounting in the aggregate to over $300,000. The direct heirs to the estate of about $700,000 have announced that they will take this memorandum as an expression of the wishes of the deceased and will pay the sums named. The most significant feature of the transaction is the declaration of the heirs that they place the wishes of the late owner of the estate as of more importance to them than wealth, and agree to a reduction of their inheritance by nearly one-half, rather than disregard an unsigned memorandum. With regard to the efficacy of that method of making bequests, however, the general rule of the courts is that such a document, even if it had been signed, would have been invalid. As heirs as a rule are not so scrupulous as these, it will be well for people who wish any portion of their estates to be distributed beyond the legal heirs to make their bequests in the regular testamentary form.

PENSION ATTORNEY'S PROFITS.

The action of the House of Representatives in amending the pension appropriation bill so as to reduce the fees of pension attorneys to two dollars in certain cases and one dollar in others is a hopeful sign for the removal of one of the features of pension administration which makes a close approximation to a scandalous character. It will doubtless arouse the pension attorneys' lobby to the most earnest efforts against its retention in the bill; but as it is in the interest of the pensioners themselves, the supporters of the measure can afford to make a determined stand in its favor.

The function of the pension attorney is to perform certain clerical work in the preparation of applications for which the reduced fees are a liberal allowance, and then to lobby in the Pension Bureau to secure the consideration of their applications in advance of the mass of applications. The real work of investigating the claims and preparing evidence is done by the Pension Bureau itself. The recent disclosures as to the workings of that office show the influences exerted by certain attorneys to get their cases considered out of turn. The effect of the present system is therefore that the pensioners who do not employ these favored attorneys will find their cases indefinitely postponed; and the greater part of the fee of $10 becomes a species of taxation which the attorneys are enabled to levy on the pensioners for their influence in getting their claims considered promptly.

As Secretary Noble says, the immense incomes, some of them exceeding that of the President of the United States, which the pension attorneys draw from this state of affairs, is not creditable to the administration of the pension system. With the very moderate amount of clerical ability required to draw up an application, there is hardly any need for pension attorneys at all, and the business of that profession would be slight if it were not for the favoritism which they secure in the consideration and allowance of pensions. Whether the reduction of the fees would prevent them from extracting illicit fees from pensioners for the same services, is an open question; but there is little doubt that the action of the House of Representatives is a step in the right direction.

It is also probable that this desired diminution of the income of pension attorneys will produce a proportionate decrease of the strenuousness with which that interest continues to lobby for any and all kinds of new pensions that can be proposed.

AN IMPRACTICABLE PLAN.

A contributor from Oil City, elsewhere, presents his theory of a plan to remedy the depressed condition of the petroleum business. The controlling idea is that what the oil interests need is organization. This is not the organization that is necessary to perform such legitimate industrial or commercial purposes as the refining of petroleum or taking the products to domestic or foreign markets. Any such plans as those based upon the fundamental conditions of trade are waved aside in a summary and rather dogmatic declaration of their unworthiness. The only remedy that will serve, according to this theory, is the organization of the thousands of producers into an association of such compactness that they can confront the Standard and name their own price for oil, and at the same time order the entire stoppage of new developments.

If it were possible to organize the oil producers into a single unit, so that as one seller it would confront the Standard as one buyer—which every one with even a superficial knowledge of the petroleum business knows to be impossible—what would be the result? The fixing of the price of crude petroleum would be simply a trial of strength between the two forces. The spontaneous action of demand and supply would have nothing to do with it. If the Producers' organization should declare that they would sell no oil at less than a dollar a barrel, the Standard could respond with the assertion that it would buy no oil at more than sixty cents; and the question would be decided in favor of the side that could hold out longest with the operations of the trade in utter suspension. The manifest probability that the Standard would exhibit the greatest power of endurance, joined with the utter impossibility of bringing all the producers under an organization of such compactness, makes it unnecessary to discuss this ideality any further.

As to the organization which is within the range of possibility, it is worth while to note that any attempt to prohibit new operation must be futile while the ability to lease and drill new territory is open to any one, the Standard included, whether inside or outside of the Producers' association. In estimating the ability of such organization to enforce its demands for better prices upon the Standard, any such power is reduced to a figment of the imagination by the fact that the Standard controls about thirty per cent of the production. Any organization of the producing interest must either include the Standard production or exclude it. If the former is done, all trials of strength, on the subject of prices or pipe line charges, must be made with an enemy in the camp, informing the opposing party of the plans, the weakness or the doubts of the organization; furnishing the lever by which to divide counsels, and providing the facilities by which to neutralize every movement to enforce the higher values. On the other hand if the Standard production is excluded, there could hardly be an arrangement which the Standard could contemplate with more equanimity than that of the producers withholding their oil for a better price while it drew from its own production all the oil required for its present needs, secured all the advantages of the decrease of supply, and the producers kept out of market until they were frozen out of the business altogether and were obliged to sell their territory to it at its own figures.

Add to these considerations the fact that in any such attempt of a producers' organization to force good prices from the Standard, they would go into the fight with their stocks already in the hands of the Standard, from which, under the conditions of the plan proposed, they could not withdraw them, except by selling to the Standard, and which the Standard might, as it has done in previous emergencies, draw upon for its pressing needs, and make good when it won the fight. All these factors in such a project as is proposed, show its utter futility. It is impossible of realization in the first place, and if any measure of realization could be obtained, it would only strengthen the hands of the monopoly in its work of absorbing petroleum production at hard-pan prices.

We must credit our correspondent with sincerity, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, but it is necessary to say that if the Standard were now seeking to draw up a plan to divert the producers from the work of building independent refineries and pipelines, as the shutdown movement was used for the same purpose three years ago, it could hardly have devised one which would put the producers more completely at its mercy.

PERSEVERANCE OF THE BOURBONS.

A decided stupidity with regard to political philosophy and an equal foolishness as concerns political policy in the present day, is shown in the inaugural declaration of Governor Tillman, of South Carolina, in order to support his assertion that the whites must have absolute control of the State government, as follows: "We deny that 'all men are created equal.' It is not true now and was not when Jefferson wrote it."

When any school of political thought finds it necessary to deny the political tenets on which the freedom of this country was first asserted, it is a proof that they are opposed to the principles of freedom and equality on which our Government is founded. But there is an even greater incongruity in this case, when a professed Democratic leader finds it necessary to deny the fundamental principles laid down by the father of American Democracy. In this denial of Jefferson's principles, Governor Tillman represents the Bourbon Southern Democracy. He was elected as a Democrat, but it was hoped that his was a more liberal sort of Democracy than that which made South Carolina the leader in secession. His declaration is, however, an expression of the most persistent theory of that antiquated school, and by its frankness shows how far removed the ultra-Southern Democracy is from the Democracy of Jefferson.

There is even more stupidity in such talk as regards the politics of the present day. The people of the North have again and again shown their readiness to lay aside the old political and sectional issues on the distinct understanding that the South accepts honestly and in good faith the results of the war. This is the position which THE DISPATCH has taken. But what encouragement is given to that view if men of the Tillman stamp are to be taken as representative in not only rejecting the results of the war, but actually denying the principles of the original document by which this nation constituted itself a free country?

The Tillman outburst is not to be taken as a proof that the war must be fought over again. But it is a direct proof of the persistence of Bourbon stupidity and the probability that another generation will be required before it dies out.

PROBABLY the theory that all disease is subject to bacilli would be carrying the principle to extreme lengths. Gripes are due to much less microscopic causes, and the corn bacillus would be a very hard citizen.

THE increase of the public debt for November of $6,000,000 should be recognized as only meaning an excess of expenses over receipts, the bonded debt not having been increased at all. Nor does the fact that one month shows this adverse balance necessarily signify that the Government revenue has fallen permanently below its outgo. But it would be pertinent to inquire what mystery of Treasury bookkeeping always produces the largest reductions of the public debt in the months just before an election, and turns the balance the other way after the election is over.

WHEN we remember the pre-election boasts of Chairman Andrews, the information that this recently ambitious political leader has come down to a clerkship in the Senate, impresses us anew with the efficacy of a little adversity as a remedy for inflation.

ONE of the singular features of the comments on the indictment of railway officials in Chicago, is the unanimity with which the corporate organs state that they are indicted for "cutting rates." Open and above board cutting of rates, that is a general and announced reduction to all shippers, is not illegal, although the railway interest tries to keep up the impression that it is. The Chicago men were indicted for granting secret reductions to certain favored shippers.

THE expression of disbelief on the part of the Farmers' Alliance concerning the accuracy of the census report on farm mortgages, will, we fear, confirm Mr. Porters's belief that the Alliance is only a mask for Democracy.

IT is stated that the capital of new enterprises placed in the London market during the past three years amounts to $1,750,000,000. When we consider the inflated nature of most of those enterprises, of which the public is informed, it is not a surprising matter that London has suffered a monetary squeeze.

SENATOR HOAR'S discovery that one of the sections of the elections bill is in the bill by mistake may perhaps be a prelude to the perception that all the other sections of the bill are there by mistake also.

EMIN PASHA is back on the shores of the Victoria Nyanza again, at the head of a German expedition. There is a tolerably strong though tacit understanding among the members of the late Emin Pasha relief organization that the next time he wishes to be relieved, he will have to relieve himself.

THE statement that the new hotel which W. W. Astor is to put up in New York will be seventeen stones high, indicates the danger that both style and prices of the hotel will be as lofty as its architecture.

PITTSBURG'S samples of nickel steel armor plate are winning the approval of the Navy Department experts. Within three months Pittsburg will be turning out the armor plates that reduce the compound armor of the British navy to the value of scrap iron.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS.

PRESIDENT HYDE, of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, was once a poor clerk in a rival concern.

SOME wag recently started the story that Mrs. Stanley is about to write a book entitled "How I Found Stanley," and she is receiving letters from people who think it is true.

COUNT VON MOLTKE attributes his attainment of old age to "God's mercy and moderation in all things." He specially advises that no one shall ever spend a whole day indoors, not even if the day be rainy.

EX-GOVERNOR CURTIN, of Pennsylvania, who has been ill in Philadelphia for several months, is gradually getting better. He retains much of his youthful vigor and alertness, and expects soon to be entirely well again.

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY is a busy literary worker. Some one recently asked the poet to do a piece of work, and he replied: "I can't! In the writing line, I was never so involved before. Even the hope of waking to find myself famous is denied me, since I haven't time in which to fall asleep."

IN his long life of 80 years P. T. Barnum has had a most versatile career. Before becoming a traveling showman he had been successively the proprietor of an oyster saloon, an editor, a bartender, a negro minstrel, a boarding house keeper, dramatic critic, preacher, bank president, author, and partner in a clock factory. He finally found his true vocation. Let other versatile Americans make a note of this.

ADMIRERS of James Russell Lowell will regret to hear that his health seems to be permanently enfeebled. He has not accepted invitations lately to attend public dinners and to join in political celebrations as he did a few years ago, and he is very likely not to be as strong again. This does not imply any immediate decline, but he has been growing feeble for a long time, and it must be remembered that his years are growing upon him.

THOSE people who are speculating just now on an alleged remark of Senator Evarts that he would become a journalist under certain conditions, if he lived his life over again, may be interested to hear that Mr. Evarts did engage in journalism when he first went to New York. He was one of the staff of a weekly literary journal called the *New World* at that time, and labored in association upon it with Park Benjamin, Epes Sargent and Henry C. Deming.

A STORMY VOYAGE.

The North German Steamer Saale Experiences Its Worst Passage.

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—The North German Lloyd steamer Saale, which arrived at her dock in Hoboken this morning, had the stormiest passage she ever experienced. Monday last the strong westerly gale turned into a hurricane. Every wave washed the deck fore and aft. A towering mountain of water swept over the bridge and deluged the officer in command. This was followed by another of equal size, and shortly afterward by a third.

The steam was shut off, and then there occurred a sudden down draft through the furnaces which forced vast volumes of smoke into the stokers' compartment. This puffed up the air funnels, and rushed into the saloon and dining rooms. Some excitable person yelled "Fire," and for awhile a panic prevailed. It was eight hours before the ship could resume her course.

Battery B's Bazaar To-Night.

The finishing touches are being put to the Fifth avenue market hall for the opening of Battery B's fair and bazaar to-night. The dingy old building has undergone a transformation, and has been converted into a wilderness of flags, bunting and banners. The boys have worked hard in the past 48 hours to get things in trim, and those who patronize the entertainment to-night will undoubtedly be delighted.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

Homer Chadwick.

Homer Chadwick, eldest son of Samuel Chadwick Esq., died at his father's home in the Twenty-first Ward, Saturday morning. He had been suffering for some time with throat trouble, and the immediate cause of his death was hemorrhage. The deceased was well-known to the people of the East End, and enjoyed the confidence and esteem of his associates. He was one who can be fitly characterized as an honorable, upright man—a man of strict business integrity and much kindness of heart. A consistent Christian and a lifelong member and officer of Emory Methodist Episcopal Church, the hour of his departure, though unexpected, was not unprepared for, and his many friends, though feeling deeply his sudden demise, sorrow not as those without hope. His life though brief was useful, and he has left behind an example worthy to be imitated. The funeral will take place this afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Robert C. Loomis.

Robert C. Loomis, of the well-known real estate firm of Loomis & Brown, died yesterday morning, after having lived over 85 years. Mr. Loomis was one of the oldest, if not the oldest, member of the Second Presbyterian Church, and last evening the pastor, Rev. Dr. Sutherland, paid an eloquent tribute to his memory. The funeral will occur to-morrow at 2 o'clock from his late residence, No. 419 South Highland avenue.

OXFORD, OLD AND NEW.

REV. GEORGE HODGES WRITES OF THE CENTER OF LEARNING.

A Church That is the Representative of All That is Venerable and Conservative—Some Things Which Appear in Rather a Sharp Contrast.

THE old and the new meet in the streets of Oxford. Of this I had a curious and significant illustration.

One evening, after a twilight visit to the great ruined tower of the old castle, there was a sound of church bells in the neighborhood as I came back, and their inviting voices led me to the venerable walls of the little sanctuary of St. Thomas-ye-Martyr. The canons of Osney Abbey had these black stones laid in their places in the year eleven-hundred-and-something, upon land given by Bernard de St. Valery. He could afford to be generous, that pious French-Englishman of Oxford, since his father had stolen no end of acres at the conquest. No doubt, too, he thought his gift a good investment. Here upon this piece of ground, these holy men of Osney should make their prayers for the welfare of his soul. The church at the begining was dedicated pleasantly to that good Christian saint whom we call Santa Claus, but whose name they wrote out respectfully in full—St. Nicholas. But two years after the murder of Thomas a Becket, they put the old saint aside, and set themselves under the protection of this newest saint, whose title the little church still bears. Such a melancholy little church, behind a high hedge, set about with heavy trees, and covered with dark ivy! And so still and dim inside, where candles flickered here and there, making the darkness visible, and casting black shadows along the angles of the steep roof! There was a small congregation, and a majority of the worshipers were members of a sisterhood connected with the parish, and wore dresses in the somber and depressing garments of their order. The choir was pathetically weak, and the voice of the reader rose and died away in lugubrious cadences. Nothing could have been more quiet and subdued—except death itself. Outside and in, the church was the representative of all that is venerable, conservative, and of the past.

The Music Not Very Ancient.

I CAME out again into the world, under the shining of the nineteenth century street lamps, and a few blocks away there was a sound of music. There was no suggestion of ancient history about that music. It evidently proceeded from a brass band, vigorous and enthusiastic. Presently the brass band came in sight, and after it the queerest procession! Here was a company of men and women marching down the middle of the street, waving their arms and swinging their caps and clapping their hands in time to the music, and singing the words of a religious hymn to the melody of the most hilarious and secular and "nigger-minstrel" sort of tune. The men wore red jackets and the women had on poke bonnets, and upon their badges were printed in plain letters the explanatory words, "Salvation Army!" I followed them into their barracks. Here was a great barn of a room with a high platform and rows of wooden benches, and the walls adorned with warning and inviting sentences from the Bible. The "soldiers" took their places on the platform with the brass band and began a rollicking hymn in which the voices of the chorus and the horns of the musicians vied with each other in a rivalry of noise. "Now all of you that's nicely saved," shouted the leader, "say hallelujah!" and such a war cry went up from the people on the platform as may well have scared a regiment of devils. Then a prayer and another prayer—queer, familiar, in street language, careless of grammar, punctuated by "amens" from the kneeling soldiers, but straightforward, evidently sincere, earnest, full of faith and really impressive. A converted negro minstrel then came forward and sang a topical song, first teaching the audience the chorus. The title of the song was, "Isn't It Funny They Don't!" and the chorus was:

"The Salvation Army they don't understand,
And isn't it funny they don't!"

It was a clever thing, with capital points in it, and well sung. Then another prayer and the collection, and an address or two and the meeting was over.

Typical of the Place.

THE church of St. Thomas-ye-Martyr and the barracks of the Salvation Army do not look alike, but they belong together, and are both typical of the place which Oxford has held for centuries in the life of England. Every utterance of protest, every proclamation of discovery, every voice of every new truth in the intellectual and religious history of the English people, has been echoed against these old gray walls. How quick they were in the twelfth century to take up that new movement which Becket's name represented! And here in the nineteenth century is the very latest religious experiment, the Salvation Army! Every revolution and revival in the records of the English religion has had leaders in this old town of Oxford.

A hundred years ago they pulled down a queer old tower in Oxford, which went by the name of "Friar Bacon's Study." There was a curious legend about it, to the effect that that cunning magician had so constructed his tower that if any wiser man than he ever walked beside its walls, the tower would straightway tumble over upon that unlucky wise man's learned head.

And they used to caution freshmen against venturing too near the friar's tower. This pile of venerable stone marked the fact of the residence in Oxford of the university's first great scholar. Roger Bacon was an Oxford professor. He had studied in the University of Paris, and had there divided his time between Christian theologians and Mohammedan philosophers. And he had come to have his opinion about many things. They had an idea in the thirteenth century that pretty nearly everything was known which could be known. Men like Thomas Aquinas were writing books under such titles as "Summa Theologia," the "Sum of Theology." All truth, they held, had been discovered. But Roger Bacon knew that truth was only beginning to be found out. He observed that all men were studying the two great books of the world, not in the original, but in most inadequate translations. They were reading the Bible in Latin, and they were looking at nature through the glasses of theology. Bacon knew that there were whole treasures of truth in both of these great volumes, which nobody had guessed at. But people were not willing to listen. They drove the Professor into a monastery, then into a prison, and finally into a grave. And the Oxford movement of the thirteenth century seemed to come to an end.

A Reformer of Olden Times.

AT Balliol College there is an ancient parchment, yellow with age, sealed with a quaint seal, conferring a college living upon John Wycliffe. This was in the fourteenth century. Wycliffe looked out through the windows of his Oxford study into the world he lived in, and made up his mind that it was a pretty bad world. He took upon himself the righting of it. What a blessed encouragement it is that there are always men, in all bad times, whose motto is that of the Salvation Army, "All at it, and always at it!" Wycliffe set out upon a career of universal opposition. He was the son of Ishmael, with his hand against almost every man. He was the great obstructionist. He began with the Pope, and declared that he had no right to a tribute which he was claiming from the English nation, and the Pope, accordingly, failed to get his money. Then he attacked the friars. Then he angered the theologians by denying transubstantiation. Then he exasperated the aristocracy by preaching Socialism. Against all the evils of his day he found spears and armor in the word of God. And he set about getting that word translated so that everybody might read it. Thus out of Oxford, and as the result of this second Oxford movement, came the first translation of the whole Bible. But Wycliffe, like Bacon, had his reward up above, not down here. The wonder is that they left him unburned. After he was dead they did dig up his body and burn that. But he died in his bed, his good works living after him.

In front of Balliol College there is a mark in the pavement, which indicates the place where there were two notable fires. These fires occurred in the sixteenth century, and in them several distinguished citizens of England lost their lives. Nearby, in the middle of Broad street, is a monument set up to the memory of these men. One of the men who perished in the fire was named Ridley, another was named Latimer, the name of the third was Cranmer. The reformation had come, and done a great work, good and ill; and then, as it seemed, it had been killed and done away with. After Elizabeth came many. And now the Reformers came in for the usual reward of the reformer. In the midst of his sermon, the Sunday I was in Oxford, the preacher at St. Mary's pointed to the pillar just opposite the pulpit, beside which Cranmer stood on the morning of the day of his burning. There he stood and declared that he had done a cowardly and wicked thing by setting his name to a denial of his faith. "This right hand," he said, "which signed that false paper, shall burn first." And then they took him out to Broad street, and set him in the midst of the faggots, and you know how he held that hand out without flinching, into the fierce flame. And you remember how Latimer said to Ridley, as the fire grew hot about them: "Play the man, Master Ridley, for we shall this day light such a candle in England, as by God's grace shall never be put out!" You think of all that as you stand in that Oxford church and beside that Oxford street.

Reformation Always in Order.

BUT the work of reformation is one which, in this disordered world, is forever needing to be done over again. Reformation is always getting out of repair. After the Protestant Reformation came presently the Puritan Revolution. And that by no means ended the matter. Our own century, and the one before it, have seen the two most recent and notable revivals of religion both beginning here at Oxford. There are two small colleges in Oxford which everybody goes to see. There is not much to see after you get there. But there is a great deal to think of. In that second-story room, at Lincoln College, whose windows look out upon the quadrangle, John Wesley had his residence. And in this other second-story room, at Oriel, over whose windows the ivy clambers, lived John Henry Newman.

It was at Oxford that Christians were first called Methodists. Here met Whitefield, the preacher, and Charles Wesley, the poet, and John Wesley, the leader of the Oxford movement of the Eighteenth century. Here in these quiet halls, in the gathering of little companies for prayer in these old rooms, began that great Christian communion, which is still going on, growing and helping men, and whose good work in this bad world is altogether beyond measurement.

It was at Oxford, too, that Newman, the preacher, and Keble, the poet, and Pusey, after whom their followers were named, began the Oxford movement of the nineteenth century, which has changed the whole look of our worship, affected the services of every Protestant church of our generation, and given new meanings to the word "reverence," which our fathers knew not.

A Recognition of the Mind.

NOW, what need we more? Wesley reorganized piety; he taught people that they have souls. Newman reorganized worship; he taught people that they have knees. Give us now a reorganization of theology, a recognition of the fact that we have minds, and that we must use our minds, and that truth to commend itself to men with minds must be stated reasonably; let us have a restatement of Christian doctrine which will include in it all the new truth which has been learned since the creeds were set in shape. And give us a reorganization of society, a recognition of the fact that we have hands, and that they are meant to work with, and that every one of us ought to have work to do which shall support us and be of value to our fellow men; let us have some kind of change in the conditions of our modern life, some battering of all the injustice and cruelty and starvation and sin of it.

Here are open doors for two new reformations. And I saw beginnings of them both at Oxford. The book stores there were full of copies of "Lux Mundi." And what is that? It is a book of studies in theology, edited by the head of Pusey House in Oxford, and embodying an endeavor to commend Christian theology not only be a factor in the bargain, but shall have a controlling voice as to how much of his commody shall be produced. Some such plan as this will change the aspect of affairs, and unless it is adopted speedily the producers had better apply at once to the North and South Penn Oil Companies for a figure to sell out upon, and with the market in the present shape, they will probably find that their voice has no more potency in making prices for oil territory than it has determining the value of the oil itself.

Producers and gentlemen! The Standard Oil Company have shown you the virtues of crystallization and cohesion. Imitate their example, and do promptly, if you are at all desirous of continuing in the business. You cut down the new work in the field 20 per cent, or nearly so, last month, but although you could sell your product in the exchanges at 80c a barrel in the early part of the month, you cannot get 65c on December 6 at the close of the market. You may repeat the 20 per cent decline in new work this month, and by the same method of figuring have to take 50c for your oil 30 days hence. This is the precise ratio for the past 30 days, and it is logical to suppose that like causes will again produce like results; the compression process has brought the market down 4¾ cents a barrel in ten months, and you have made no resistance and uttered no audible protest. As a consequence there is every probability that such a pretty and unopposed game will be played for some time longer, in fact it is almost certain.

Producers and gentlemen! The remedy for your ills is within your grasp. If you decline to use it you simply invite disaster, and such invitations are generally accepted.

ORGANIZER.

OIL CITY, PA., Dec. 6, 1890.

A Statement From the Other Side.

To the Editor of The Dispatch:

I noticed in your paper of to-day an article in which Messrs. Turner and Rae, labor agitators, make some very untruthful statements. Turner says the companies have lost $2,000,000; that they operate seven collieries and the output was 7,000 tons a day; and that the number of miners employed was 2,700. Also, that 100 men are now employed and 1,300 tons of coal mined per diem. And Rae says the coal is costing the companies $3 a ton.

It would be very interesting, indeed, to know how they obtained this information! Certainly not from the companies, who only have the data from which reliable conclusions can be drawn. Rae and Watchorn do not agree in their figures, it seems, because quite recently Watchorn published as a fact that the coal was costing $27 a ton. Mr. Rae would have a contract on hand to prove from the books of the company that the coal is costing even one-third of $3 a ton in the railroad cars ready for shipment. Thus they delude their followers.

That the companies have lost $2,000,000 by the strike is the veriest nonsense. However, let the amount lost by them be assumed at any figures, then have not the miners been much the greater losers, since the amount they receive in wages is more than eight times the amount of profit the companies realize on the product of the collieries? But the miners are not striking now. They have been at work for months.

The writer is connected with only one company—the Westmoreland—operating three collieries. As a matter of fact, the number of miners employed by this company prior to the strike was fewer than 900, and the number of tons of coal shipped each day about 2,500. The Penn Gas Coal Company employed about the same number and mined about the same quantity of coal. Yesterday there were 688 miners at work in the Westmoreland Company's mines and 1,878 tons of lump coal were shipped, not to mention nut and slack. These are stubborn facts. Mr. Turner's figures were given as fancy dictated.

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A. N. HUMPHREYS, Asst. Supt.

IRWIN, PA., Dec. 6.

Pennsylvania's Penal Institutions.

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KANE, PA., Dec. 5.

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A HEBREW WEDDING.

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Those present from other places were: Messrs. Charles Stewart, John F. Cox, Squire Oeffner, Dr. John Osborn, David Davis, Peter Oeffner and Samuel Markwitz, of Homestead; I. Simon and wife, of West Newton, and A. Skirball, of Jeannette.

The Kendalls Beat a Record.

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—The Kendalls closed their New York engagement of eight weeks at the Fifth Avenue Theater last night. The receipts exceeded $80,000. This is said to be the greatest engagement ever played by foreign stars in that length of time.

OUR MAIL POUCH.

Organization or Annihilation.

To the Editor of The Dispatch:

A once powerful trade is drifting peacefully on the current which is carrying it, unresisted, toward annihilation—the ship is heading straight for the rocks in broad daylight.

To drop all figure, the forces that led to the great shut-down movement of 1887 are more powerful to-day than ever, but they seem to be recognized only to be ignored. Whatever benefits the producer received from that movement have completely disappeared, but short-lived as they have proved, they were well worth all the labor and sacrifice involved in them, because they taught the producer the need and the value of organization—a lesson he was slow to learn, and which, sad to say, he seems to have already forgotten.

A long continuance of excessive stocks led to the shutdown. The men who organized it believed that these stocks were the only obstacle standing between the producer and permanently better prices. The labor and sacrifice, the loyalty and patient work, that reduced the stocks from 32,000,000 barrels to 10,000,000 barrels are matters of history, and the results of the movement may be said to have been operative up to the present year, which has falsified every hope of the permanence of better prices, and to-day the quotation is within 2 cents a barrel of that current at the time the shutdown was ordered, despite the fact that since then 22,500,000 barrels have been wiped out, and that the present stock of 9,500,000 barrels is scarcely equal to four months' consumption.

Why, then, does the price continue to decline? Why does the producer stand forth to the world only as a man drifting steadily to ruin without making any visible effort to stem the "evil tide of circumstances" which carries him further and further away from prosperity? The answer to both of these questions is plain: these evils are the result of the lack of organization—not organization simply in name, but effective, comprehensive and aggressive organization, able to command the producer's loyalty and respect by showing that it has sufficient strength to protect his interests, and ability to devise plans for his improvement. The great good accomplished by the Producers' Protective Association in the past entitles it to lasting respect, but, as it exists at present, it may be said, without intending any offense, that it gives no sign of being aware of the crisis which is upon the oil trade; and if the noble spirits who guided it in the past are from any cause debarred from leadership now, then let us hope that their mantles will fall on others equally capable and courageous, who will rouse the oil producers from their lethargy, and, recognizing existing dangers, have wisdom to devise a remedy and courage to put it into execution.

These are days when nothing is so effective as organization, and when nothing can succeed without it. Whatever need there was in 1887 for a Producers' Association there is a fourfold greater need to-day. Precisely ten months ago oil was selling at $1 67½; now, with 700,000 barrels less stock, the price is 64½c, and the next week may see it 60 cents, or the next month 50 cents, so far as the producer is concerned, for he is utterly without voice as to the value of his own property. Organization says what price it will pay him, and for the past ten months it has elected to pay him just a trifle less for every fresh purchase, and if to-morrow Organization should say to him that they had decided upon an inflexible price, and that price to be 25 cents a barrel, the producer would have no more power to get 26 cents than he has to-day to get 70 cents, and as a consequence he would keep on drilling, if he could do it on credit, and sell his oil at the Organization figure of 25 cents a barrel. This hypothesis is perhaps a trifle strained, but it is nevertheless directly in line with existing facts, and is a position which could, as a matter of fact, be brought about any day, and all the producers from Allegheny to Marietta could not prevent it in their present unorganized helplessness.

All talk of new and independent pipe lines and refineries as a cure for the present ills is to be deprecated; even if practicable, any help from it would be too remote, and as to shipping oil to Europe by way of Mississippi river, the scheme might be worthy of a smile if the subject itself were less painful.

The only remedy for present ills, and preventive of even worse in the future, is through organization headed by able and honest men, to be followed by the entire stoppage of new work for at least three months, and the placing of all production in the hands of the Executive Committee for sale. An organized buyer will then be met by an organized seller, who shall not only be a factor in the bargain, but shall have a controlling voice as to how much of his commody shall be produced. Some such plan as this will change the aspect of affairs, and unless it is adopted speedily the producers had better apply at once to the North and South Penn Oil Companies for a figure to sell out upon, and with the market in the present shape, they will probably find that their voice has no more potency in making prices for oil territory than it has determining the value of the oil itself.

Producers and gentlemen! The Standard Oil Company have shown you the virtues of crystallization and cohesion. Imitate their example, and do promptly, if you are at all desirous of continuing in the business. You cut down the new work in the field 20 per cent, or nearly so, last month, but although you could sell your product in the exchanges at 80c a barrel in the early part of the month, you cannot get 65c on December 6 at the close of the market. You may repeat the 20 per cent decline in new work this month, and by the same method of figuring have to take 50c for your oil 30 days hence. This is the precise ratio for the past 30 days, and it is logical to suppose that like causes will again produce like results; the compression process has brought the market down 4¾ cents a barrel in ten months, and you have made no resistance and uttered no audible protest. As a consequence there is every probability that such a pretty and unopposed game will be played for some time longer, in fact it is almost certain.

Producers and gentlemen! The remedy for your ills is within your grasp. If you decline to use it you simply invite disaster, and such invitations are generally accepted.

ORGANIZER.

OIL CITY, PA., Dec. 6, 1890.

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