CIVIC STANDARDS IN AUSTRALASIA

Where Crookedness in Public Office Is Practically Unknown.

BECAUSE ONE COUNCILMAN HAD A DONE BUSINESS WITH THE CITY HE WAS FINED \$1,500 AND EX-PELLED FROM OFFICE-OTHER IN-STANCES OF CIVIC UPRICHTNESS.

Writing to the Chicago Record from Sydney, New South Wales, Trumbull White, who is making a tour of Australasia for that paper, offers an interesting description of civic moral standards in that colony. There are some people here, says he, who complain of the municipal government, just as there are in Chicago, but the proportion to the whole population is, from all I can tearn, not more than one-tenth what it is with us. Nor do the criticisms take the same form. There are charges of extravagance in the expenditure of the tax payers' money, it is true, but they very sel-dom imply anything worse than an error of judgment. One does not hear suggestions of jobbery, theft, failure to administer the laws, collusion with the violators of law and other implications that are familiar to the residents of American cities, sometimes the result of maladministration, sometimes est of the public as it is elsewhere, but its criticisms of the local government, as of the colonial government, are directed against macters of policy. Aldermanic campaigns are fought between the opposing candidates in relation to their position on matters of public policy, and not on party lines, party apparently having little influe in the municipal campaigns. Candidates are careful what they say in stump speeches, and the papers are no less careful in their own expres-

COURTED CHARGES RABE.

"A definite charge that a public officer, an alderman or a coterie of aldermon had profited in any way at the expense of the public," said a high government official to me, "would be met with a prompt and careful investigation. If from any respectable source came the suggestion that such a person had been influenced in his official acts by his relation to a contractor in the public service, he would certainly have to clear his skirts of the suspicion at once or suffer forever from the effect of the charge. I do not know the facts, but I have heard that charges of official corruption in your municipalities and even in your state legislatures are made so frequently that they are almost ignored by the people. and that such a charge scarcely comes a handicap if an official becomes a candidate again. If that is the case, your people are more lenient than ours would be." My informant

continued: 'I remember two cases in which publie officials have been charged with improper conduct and have been brought to trial for it. One was a case in which a contractor did some work for the city, and after it was finished sent a oad of material to the home of one of without charge. It was never shown that the alderman know that this was prospect of getting a gate free had influenced his official action or that the city could have done better by dealing with some other contractor. Nevertheless, the alderman was punished by a heavy fine-£300, I think-and has never been in office since. The other case was that of a member of the colunial parliament. A contract was awarded to a firm for some government work by a committee of which he was a member. It was afterward learned that he was a member of the same firm He had nothing to do with the business, being a silent partner, the con tract was given to that concern as the lowest bidder and it was not contended that any one else would have done the work any better or as cheaply. In spite of this, he was expelled from parliament and fined very heavily. We are rather severe about such things. I have never known of a charge that any public officer had been influenced by money in his official actions in the public service of this colony, or this city, and as I was born here and have been in the midst of affairs throughout my manhood, I would have known at once if such charges had risen. Of course we have had cases of theft of money by men who were handling the funds There are thieves here as elsewhere In the old regime of the crown colony there were some cases of official knay ery in connection with land grants and the sale of liquors. That was in the early days of the century. What mean is that we have been fortunate I am coming. Brother tiomez. Wait for in our officers in authority, the representatives of the people, and that the people would be prompt to resent any violation of the trust they have granted.

SEVERELY PUNISHED. "Policemen" Well, you know ou police force is a colonial force and not municipal. A man's appointment does not depend on any local influence, he cannot be kept on the force or turned out by any local influence, and in a measure he is free from the temptations that beset the police where they are under the authority of the municipality, and aldermen and the mayor. It is quite possible that individuals in our police force accept money from certain disreputable elements to induce them to wink at infractions of the law, and in fact such charges have been made on a few occasions and the of-

fenders have been severely punished. We have had eases where police officers were taking money from disreputable women and from liquor dealers who wanted to violate the excise law by keeping their places open after But the discovery has always resulted in prompt discipline of all implicated. I have even heard that in the United States some of your great cities have been in the virtual control of predatory gangs who were elected STONE GATE PRESENTED TO HIM to office and then used the offices for no BY A CONTRACTOR WHO HAD other purpose but to obtain all the power purposes with THE CITY plunder possible out of them. I have been told that there have been cases in which the mayor and the chief of po-lice united to instruct their subordinates that certain laws on the statute books were not to be enforced, simply because the mayor did not agree with he law, or because he was paid stipulated sums by the violators of the law to insure their immunity. It is incredible that such things are true in such progressive and enlightened communities as the great American cities, and have not believed the tales. they are constantly reiterated, and do not seem to be resented by the accused officers. Such things would not be tolcrated here. If the charges had the least element of truth, public sentiment would ruln the men against whom they were directed, and if not true would be equally severe on the men who made them. But if they came from a source of any dignity and repute they would not be ignored for a moment.

PARADOXICAL LIBEL LAWS.

With all the testimony to the same effect, I am bound to believe that the civil service of Sydney is far better than that of our big American cities in the result of partisan prejudice. The its honesty and faithfulness to the press seems as watchful of the inter- public powers defined and its duties apparently done, without respect to the personal opinion of the civil servant as to the merits of any particular law with whose execution he is charged. Public servants in New South Wales

have one safeguard against unfriendly criticism which might save them some trouble even if the character of the service were not so high. The libel laws are so severe that to an American they are simply startling. They are based on the English theory, "The greater the libel," so that proof of truth aggravates the offense instead of oming a justification. The press feels the limitations thus inflicted and is often hampered in comments that ought to be made by the threat of damages for an expression of the truth. A surprising case has just been remarked that will be hard for Americans to understand. Butler, the murderer who was extradited from San Francisco, was under trial in Sydney for his crimes. A paper here related the history of the case, outlining the facts brought against him, and his career. His lawyer called the attention of the court to the article, judical cognizance was taken of the matter and the paper was mulcted for heavy damnges, the sum going to Butler to be promptly used in his defense. The fact that he was convicted of murder soon afterward and was hanged for his crimes did not relieve the paper from the penalty for violation of the libel

CONVICT ANCESTRY.

To many inquiries of lawyers and public men for some explanation of the stringency of the libel laws I had but one answer aftered me. It is not pleasant to refer everything back to the days of convict transportation, but this is one more matter that seems to fall the aldermen and built a gate for him there by force of gravity. It was said to me repeatedly that the severe libel laws were maintained for the protecto be done when the contract was granted, nor was it implied that the transported convicts. Assessive cannot em'sarrass a man now, be he a candi date for office or in any way before the public view. To this extent the operations of the law are worthy of praise Men must stand on their own credit without possible defeat because their grandparents were sent to Sydney for some offense against English law at a time when it was as serious to snare abbit in my lord's preserves, as it was to commit forgery. I asked if any newspaper in opposing the candidacy of an aspirant for office ever mentioned against him the fact that he came of a transported family. The answer was that this never occurred. The libel laws are too severe; papers would have no such disposition anyway, and if any paper did such a thing it would be re buked by seeing people who would have teen against the candidate otherwise support him because of that attack There are sensational newspapers here. as elsewhere, and they have just about the same standing here as elsewhere Thy are in frequent libel suits, and I presume charge the costs to advertising. as in other countries,

UNCLE SAM TO GOMEZ,

am coming, Brother Comez, 1 am com ing with my boats.

An' my boats are rammed with thunder,

yes, sir-ee

An' I'm goin' to speak a little piece think is rather cute;

ain't much on palaver, an I ain't no hand to talk.
But my guns are flucit speakers, an

their lungs are never weak.

An' they're coming down to help you is your argument of gons; They are coming, Brother Gomez, an

they've got a piece to speak. am coming, Brother Gomes, an' I'v got a piece to speak An' no Spaniard will cry "Louder" shall speak sufficient plain;

An' my little recitation will be heard. An' will be distinctly audible in Spain. have not my piece committed, an' reckon that I'll speak.

Though I'm not a man to bluster or t But my guns have got two voices, an' think I'll talk through them.

don't expect a call for an en

-Sam Walter Fors in New York Sun.

Sunday School Lesson for May 8.

The Marriage Feast.

Matt. XXII, 1-14.

BY J. E. GILBERT, D. D., LL. D., Secretary of American Society of Religious Education.

(The author vill publish an Examiner, and blended together in this passage, containing 100 questions, on lessons of Second quarter, at 2 cents per copy. Oriers for same should be sent at ones to Dr. J. E. Gilbert, Washington, D. C.)

INTRODUCTION.-The triumphat en INTRODICTION.—The triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, studied last week, occurred on Sunday. At night He went to lodge in Bethany. On Monday He entered the city again and returned at night. Coming a third time into Jerusalem on Tuesday He proceeded to the temple and occupied most of the day in the complex of the day in the day in the complex of the day in the complex of the day in the day in the complex of the day in the complex of the day in the complex of the day in the day in the complex of the day in the complex of the day in the d teaching. His authority being questioned by the chief priests. He replied, adding three parables, the Two Sons, the Wicked Husbandman, and the Marriage Feast, the latter being set for our lesson today. Husbandman, and the Marriage Feast, the latter being set for our lesson today. The first and second of these parables y, 5). They have indeed the same basal den and many features in common, but were spoken on different occasions, separated by several months. The Great Supper was delivered before the enemies of Christ had manifested their bilterest bassador has been shamefully insulted. hostility; the Marriage Feast, after it was evident that they were determined to put Him to death.

PURPOSE.-The motive prompting this It was part of the answer which Jesus made to the Jewish authorities (verse 1), an explanation of one phase of His kingdom, which He called the kingdom of heaven (verse 2). Had He said kingdom of lisuel they would have been less disturbed, because all their hopes lay in the restoration of temporal power. He does not attempt here, what He had several times done for the disciples (Mark x. 15), to make them know the precise nature of that kingdom, as a spiritual reign over spiritual persons. They were not able to appreciate any such conception—it would have been a waste of time and effort in seek to place it before their minds. But He might set before their minds. But He might set before them by illustration their attitude toward the kingdom, and what would be the result of their conduct. This was the more important because in three days these to whom He parable appears in the opening words. duct. This was the more important be-cause in three days these to whom He poke would incite the mob. conduct Him

DISRESPECT,-The parable represent that of those who answered this new call the manner in which those invited responded. At first they refused to come, part of Oriental wealth (Josh, vil, 21), and "They would not come" (verse 3). There were given as signs of peculiar favor REPOSE.-The parable next represents

The first and second of these parables two-fold reference here. The conduct of ought to be read with care as a preparation for the third. Thereby one will obtain the order of thought and the state of the Saviour's mind. Some have erred its ministers—is primarily set forth. There tain the order of thought and the state of the Saviour's mind. Some have erred its ministers—is primarily set forth. There is only another form of the parable of the Great Supper, recorded by Luke (chapter in which the message of Divine love is received by large masses of men in every age and land. What multitudes have turned a deaf ear to the voice of the minleter. What multitudes more have scorned

PUNISHMENT.-The offended king is

before the ecclesiastical and civil tri-bunds, and there by clamor and envious to the wedding feast having rejected the EXTENSION.-The first guests invited will have no word of apology to offer. hate secure His condemnation to the invitation and suffered the consequences of their evil deeds, the king resorts to the real text of the parable. "Many are extreme measures to obtain those who called." First, the whole nation of the

one was dracceptable (verse 11). He had entered without the robe of honor which in the east the host provides for his were given as signs of peculiar favor (Gen. xli, 42). Hence, to enter on such occasion without the robe was a mark of disrespect to the host. The symbolic meaning of the wedding garment has been a subject of considerable discussion. Some Protestant writers insist that it represents faith, the Romish writers that it represents charity. Christ gives no interpretation. Here, He simply teaches that, though all, both bad and good, are invited, there is a preparation needed to admission into the kingdom of heaven In what that preparation consists, or how it is to be procured. He does not here teach. But other passages of Scripture answer these questions. Our own rightcousness is as flithy rags (1sq. lxiv, 6). These He takes from us that He may clothe us with garments of salvation (Luke xv. 22). Without these garments of holiness, the free gifts of God (Rev. lit. 18), none can enter heaven (Rev. xvi, 15)

REJECTION .- The king, entering guest chamber, saw this one man who incked the proper apparel, and called him to account for his presence in such con PUNISHMENT.—The offended king is represented as entering into judgment with those who had slighted his invitation and murdered his servants (verse 7). They are destroyed and their city burner by the king's armics. If the allusion here is primarily to the Jowish nation, as most in primarily to the Jowish nation, as most invitational productions of the production of the p expelled. And in that hour, convinced of the righteousness of the judgment, they

CONCLUSION,-The fourteenth verse INVITATION.—The parable opens with an invitation of a king, sent by his servants, bidding guests to the marriage feast of his son (verses 2 and 3). The king is the Almighty; the son is Jesus Christ; the marriage is the union between Christ and His followers, who are free king is the Almighty; the son is Josus Christ; the marriage is the union between Christ and His followers, who are frequently termed the bride (Rev. xxi, 9, the feast is that delightful fellowship which is had between Christ and believers (1) This part of the parable is intended to represent the expansion of God's mercy under the new covenant. The Josus were the chosen people, appointed to bear to the world a message from God, for to that purpose immensioners (verse 4) the invitation is the men to turn from sin to God; the guests are the omignite who urges are the ompany of these whom God in His mercy seeks to save. It will appear that all this is highly figurative, but no more so than maky passages in the Old Testimes of the new covenant—that of a fostings (fan lix). But the prophets set forth the blessings (fan lix), 39, are united.

His servants to invited in the highways (verses 8 and 49), as a result of this more extensive and generous and carnest call has been extended by world itidings have been published, a generous and carnest call has been extended by world of mouth, which any and all might find in the highways (verses 8 and 9). As a result of this more extensive and tidings have been published, a generous and carnest call has been extended by world in decarned to a corp. It was a furnished (Acts xii, 13). The feast was furnished to the feast was furnished to the expansion of God's mercy under the expansion of God's m

UNITED STATES, SPAIN, CUHA. forced the inhabitants to draw from schools. There is an institution of sec Contending Powers and the Peril of Hostilities Summarized in a Few One insurrection has followed anoth-Short Paragraphs.

From the Times-Herald.

The revenue of the United States is \$400,000,000, while that of Spain is but \$155,000,000, the revenue of the United States being two and a half times

Spain's peace army comprises 350,-100 men, while that of the United States is only 20,000. But on a war footing the United States would have 3.000,000 soldiers, twice as many as Spain, which would have 1,500,000.

In area the United States is ten times as large as Spain. Uncle Sam's territories including 3,602,990 square miles, against 366,076 in the country ruled by Alfonso and the queen regent.

Spain has 25,000,000 population. That of the United States is 74,500,000, two and a half times greater.

The tonnage of the armored vessels built and owned by the United States s 152,000 tons, while that of Spain is 6,000 tons. The United States is thus L7 larger, and this does not include the old monitors.

In unarmored displacements, including gunboats under 500 tons displacement, the United States is twice as strong, having 100,000 tons while Spain has but 50,000 tons.

The tonnage of the merchant steam vessels fiying the American flag is 1,-200,000 tons, against 314,000 tons for Spain, the United States exceeding Spain nearly four to one in this re-

Spain has one-third more torpedo craft than the United States, its fleet numbering twenty-seven vessels while we have twenty-one

In commerce the United States is five and a half times as great as Spain, having a foreign trade of \$1,800,000,000 while that of Spain is but \$345,000,-

The two countries have about the same debt-\$1,800,000,000. Cuba was discovered by Columbus on

his first voyage, in 1492. The first organized attempt made bythe Spaniards to colonize Cuba was in 1511 by Diego Velasquez, who brought over a small force from Santo Domingo, the large island to the east of Cuba. Velasquez was a typical Spanish conqueror, and resorted at once to typical Spanish methods. The gentle and simple natives were frightened when they saw the Spaniards on horseback, and fled before them. Velasquez pursued them and tramped them beneath his horses' hoofs.

In the course of the first fifty years after Velasquez settled Cuba the native population of 560,000 beings was swept away and exterminated.

Spain has occupied Cuba for 387 years, except that its capital, Havana, was captured by the English in 1762. The British ships engaged in that conquest were chiefly manned by American colonists, who enlisted in the colonies of the Atlantic scaboard. Masachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut New York, New Jersey, Delaware and

Spain has always restricted the commerce of the island, with a view to reaping all its benefits herself. She

Spain most of their supplies of all kinds by imposing prohibitory duties on the products of other nations.

er since the first organized outbreak against the Spanish power in 1826. In each war the Spaniards have practiced the most fiendish cruelties on the Cubans, but never until the present war has there been an organized and deliberate attempt made to exterminate the women and chimren as well as the male residents of the Island. This remained as the crowning infamy of Butcher" Weyler's life.

The governor general of Cuba is endowed by law with despotic power. He is even authorized to disregard the laws of Spain, which are applicable to Cuba, at his pleasure. In fact, his will is the only law of the Cubans, and all the judges, police officials, civil of-

ficers and military are his creatures. The volunteer military force, of which a detachment is located in evry town and city of the island, and which is known as the "civil guard," has always been one of the most corrupt and dangerous military bodies known on earth. It is composed of the dependants and hangers-on of the official class, and the ultra-loyal party in Cubs. Such has always been the power of this party and its "civil guard" that no administration of Spain has ever been able to adopt any meas-

ure affecting the government of the island without its consent. The area of Cuba is estimated at 45.833 square miles, including the adjacent Isla de Pinos, the smaller islands and keys. The population in 1890 was 1,631,687. Sixty-five per cent, of the population is white, and the rest negroes, mulattoes and Chinese. Havana has a population of 250,000. Other important cities are: Matanzas, 87,760; Santiago de Cuba, 71.307; Cienfuegos,

65.667, and Puerto Principe, 46.641.
The public debt of Cuba before the was \$125,000,000. The so-called detts of 1878 and 1889, and the floating dept up to 1886, amounted to \$124,000-000, were consolidated by royal decree. The annual income of the inhabitants is crimated at \$80,000,000. The taxes, direct and indirect, amount to 1000,000 Lesides the sum of \$8,000,000 ied in local taxation by 153 munici-

Cuba has 777 public and 538 private

Free

backs this offer

endary instruction in each province and a university at the capital. Thirtyfive per cent, of the white population can read and write and twelve per cent, of the colored population. Education is compulsory.

The United States imported from Cuba before commerce was disturbed by the present war almost one and half billion pounds of sugar, valued at \$45,040,333 per year. The average annuual import of molasses was over 16,-600,000 gallons, valued at \$1.790,000, and over 16,000,000 pounds of tobacco, worth about \$1,699,000.

In the year of 1891 the total imports of the United States from Cuba

amounted to \$61,714,395, The principal products of Cuba are sugar, tobacco, molasses, rum, bananas, iron ore, manganese cedar and mahogany. The island is wonderfully fer-

Before the war Cuba produced about 646,000 tons of sugar a year and 150,000 tons of molasses. The yearly product of tobacco was 300,000 bales. The commerce of Cuba in times of

peace amounted to about \$53,000,000 to imports and \$100,000,000 in exports. Most of the commerce is with Spain, the United States and Great Britain. In a period of eight months in 1891, when the imports amounted to \$35,-000,000, more than \$11,000,000 of products from Cuba went to Spain, about \$10,-000,000 was shipped to American ports and \$8,000,000 to British ports. Germany and France sent to Cuba about \$1,500-

000 each in the same period. Meats and dairy products exported to Cuba from the United States in the year of 1891 amounted to \$2,787,608. Iron and steel manufacturers brought \$3, 120,276, breadstuffs \$874,979, coal \$776-526, and wool and manufactures \$1.190,-

There are about 1,000 miles of railroad in Cuba, and 2.204 miles of telegraph lines doing business at 157 tele graph offices and sending yearly about 462,900 messages.

Of the land in Cuba but ten per cent.

is under cultivation. Throughout the island are large tracts of land which are still unexplored, and the value of which may not be known for years. At the close of 1892 the number of landed estates on the island was 90,960. The value placed on these was \$220,000 000, with a rental value of \$17,000,000

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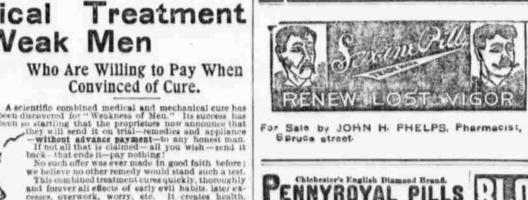
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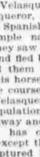
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