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Rev. C. C. Barr, formerly editor of the New York *Dry Book*, now a Hudson county, N. J., politician of some repute, has challenged Col. Robert Ingersoll to a religious discussion.

A REFUGE.

Sometimes I feel weary of life,
I am tired of its turmoil and din,
I'm worn with the every-day strife,
With weakness, temptation and sin.
I've doubts, misgivings and fears,
I've sorrows and sighings and tears,
While dark clouds hang ever about.

The path seems too rough for my feet,
My faltering footsteps will stray;
Fresh trials at each step I meet,
And of all I miss the right way.
I've nights of unrest, days of care,
Which nothing here seems to relieve,
Unless I seek refuge in prayer,
And but simply trust and believe.

My burdens I lay at His feet,
He bids all my sorrowing cease,
Gives fullness of joy that's complete,
And perfect and enduring peace.
He helps me to conquer my foes,
He sends all my troubles for me;
Full well all my weakness He knows,
In trouble my refuge He'll be.

THE UNKNOWN—Religion, whether natural or revealed, has always the same beneficial influence on the mind. In youth, in health and prosperity, it awakens feelings of gratitude and sublime love, and purifies at the same time that it exalts; but it is in misfortune, in sickness, in age, that its effects are most fully and beneficially felt; when subversion in faith and humble trust in the divine will, from duties become pleasures, undecaying sources of consolation; then it creates powers which were believed to be extinct, and gives a freshness to the mind, which was supposed to have passed away forever, but which is now renovated as an immortal hope; then it is the Pharos, guiding the wave-tossing mariner to his home, as the calm and beautiful still basins or bays surrounded by tranquil groves and pastoral meadows to the Norwegian pilot escaping from a heavy storm in the North sea, or as the green and dewy spot gushing with fountains to the exhausted and thirsty traveler in the midst of the desert. Its influence outlives all earthly enjoyments, and becomes stronger as the organs decay and the frame dissolves; it appears as that evening star of light in the horizon of life, which, we are sure, is to become in another season a morning star, to illumine the path through the gloom and shadow of death.—Sir Humphrey Davids

The Supreme Court of the United States has decided that a State may constitutionally pass a law requiring "all peddlers of sewing machines and selling by sample" to pay a specified license. Such a statute had been passed by the Legislature of Tennessee, and in accordance with it a tax of \$15 was imposed on the agent of the Howe Sewing Machine Company, which is a corporation of Connecticut, and makes its machines in that State. The company paid the tax under protest, and went to law to test the constitutionality of the statute. The Supreme Court of Tennessee held that the tax was levied on all peddlers of sewing machines alike, without regard to the place where the machines or their materials were made or produced, and that, therefore, the law was valid. The decision is sustained by the U. S. Sup. Court.

GETTING EVEN WITH A MULE.—When a Kentucky man got well enough to be out after a difficulty with a mule, he fixed the treadmill of a sawing machine so that it would roll, put a tempting measure of oats in the manger at the upper end, and left the mule alone with the contrivance; and, after the animal had worked for half a day in a vain effort to climb up to those oats, every time he stepped forward on the mill it having rolled back with him, that mule was most fatigued and agitated, maddened, most disgusted creature in Kentucky, and the avenger was happy.

Albany girls stand no fooling. One of them was to have been married a day or two since, and the girl was all ready, the minister on hand, and the feast spread, but still no bridegroom. "I'll wait for him just ten minutes," said the girl, "and then I'm open to proposals." Ten minutes flew by like the wind, and a little red-haired fellow, with a paper collar, and his trousers all frilled at the bottom, stepped up, proposed, was accepted, married and cooped up in the banquet.

The Blue Ridge Blade thinks all the wide in the State should rise up in arms against Senator Vance for going to Kentucky for a wife instead of patronizing home institutions.

MASSACRES.

MEMORABLE AND BLOODY EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF NATIONS AND RELIGIONS

History's pages, metaphorically speaking, written in blood. A single event at the record of which we may carelessly glance, has perhaps caused the death of millions ere it has been chronicled. This is particularly noticeable among the historic massacres of which we write, and while we shudder at the dark deeds that have been perpetrated with and without apparent cause, still we are irresistibly attracted to the perusal of the fearful tale and sympathize with the unfortunate sufferers, while the instigators of the torture are forever branded with infamy.

Between the years 397 B. C. and 70 A. D. occurred many of the scenes of slaughter; in the former year all the Carthaginians in Sicily were murdered; in 331 B. C. Alexander the Great showed his revengeful spirit, by causing 2,000 Tyrians to be crucified and 8,000 to be put to the sword for refusing to surrender Tyro to him. Again 154 B. C. Domitian Nicanor, the tyrant of Syria, stained Antioch with the blood of 100,000 people because they did not capitulate on his demand. In Aix (France) in 192 B. C. 200,000 Teutones suffered under Marius, while in the year 88 B. C., by order of Mithridates, King of Pontus, all the men, women and children throughout Asia were cruelly put to death by the Romans. The Finnish Marins, two years later, again caused the death of many nobles at Rome. But the most startling yet recorded was that at the

DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM
by Titus, in the year 70 A. D. 1,100,000 were here put to the sword, the great temple was burned and the city laid waste. Forty five years later the Jews, headed by Adrae, destroyed 100,000 Greeks and Romans in Cyrene. Solucia in 167 witnessed the massacre of 400,000 inhabitants by Cassius Eup. M. Aurelius, Alexandria in 213 that of many thou-

Gaul in 277 suffered the loss of 700,000 of her people through the heartless Emperor Probus. At Nicodemia in 370, eighty Christian fathers were, by order of Emperor Gratian, put in a ship, set on fire and driven out to sea. Theodosius in 390 invited 7,000 to a circus at Thessalonica and then put them to death. Constantinople next attracts our attention as a field of atrocities, for in 552, a revolt, impelled by tyranny of two rapacious ministers, 30,000 were sent to eternity, and at the city in 1264 the Latins suffered severely under Andronicus. In the religious persecutions of the Waldenses and Albigenses in Toulouse (1209) sword and gibbet carried off tens of thousands.

SICILIA VULPES MASSACRE.

On March 30, 1282, at the hour of vespers on Easter Monday, the inhabitants of Palermo flew to arms and fell upon the French who were all put to death. Women and children were not spared, and even Sicilian women with child by Frenchmen were murdered. The furious insurrection which followed swelled the great number of victims.

In the Castle of Verdun, in 1317, 500 Jews had taken shelter from the peasants that assailed them, and although they made a valiant defense, fighting to the last, they were forced to yield, and their death resulted. John, Duke of Burgundy, reduced the population of Paris several thousand by the massacre which he instigated in 1418. Christian II, in 1520, invited the Swedish nobility to a banquet in Stockholm. They never attended another feast. And now we come to an event which has forever stained the history of France. We may yet be called to guard against a similar one in our country, for it has long since been demonstrated that the shedding of Protestant blood shall not be a barrier to oppose the ever-spreading Catholic religion; I refer to the

ST. BARTHOLOMEW MASSACRE

on August 4, 1572, by Charles IX., of France, at the instigation of Catharine de Medicis, his mother. The causes, details and results of that horrible scene are familiar to all; suffice to say that 70,000 Huguenots were martyrs to their cause, while solemn thanksgivings were offered in Rome, medals commemorative of the event were struck in Paris, and Spain applauded the butchery. The

English court as a mark of Protestant festivity put on mourning and received the French embassy in solemn silence. Croix, in August, 1592, Thion, in August 1724, and Batavia, in October, 1740, were scenes of violence and rapine. In the first named place the Protestants again suffered by order of the Chancellor of P. and; in the second 12,000 Chinese on a pretense of insurrection; while in the last, the Turks, with their characteristic brutality, took the lives of 65,000 Christians. But the Turks themselves suffered at Ismail (December 22, 1790.) a loss of 30,000 soldiers and 6,000 women. By the proclamation of Pussal nes, thousands of whites were murdered at St. Domingo on March 29, 1804. A French massacre occurred in Madrid May 2, 1808, one of Marmalukes in the citadel of Cairo March 1, 1841, and another May, 1815 by the Catholics at Nismo. Vast numbers of people were put to death March 6, 1820, by the ferocious soldiery 390 English nobles met their death at Salisbury Plain, May 1, 474. In 580 the Monks of Bangor to the number of 1,200 were murdered. The most bloody massacre that ever occurred in London was that of Dango, November 13, 1002. A rather peculiar case now attracts us, namely, the

MASSACRE OF YORK

in England, 1189. Five hundred Jews took shelter in the castle of York, and there killed themselves from fear. Possibly this should be classed among "memorable suicides," but as it was individually self-massacre we give it a place here.

In the Bristol colonies in Ireland, in 1209, was the famous "Cullen's Words" destruction, and October 23, 1641, began O'Neil's rebellion, in which, ere it ended, 150,000 Protestants were sacrificed to the interest of Catholicism. The McDonald clans suffered at Glencoe, May 9, 1691. In the "Emerald Isle" in 1788, 184 men and women were burned, piked or drowned, while the British government blotted its record by drowning at Dartmouth, on the 6th of April, 1815, 64 American prisoners.

It is the comparatively few batcheries of which we have spoken shows that over 4,000,000 persons have suffered by them; while, if we should take into consideration the number of victims of war, which is always a massacre, it would be inestimable, and we can only trust that our own country, and all others, may in future be free from a recurrence of these fearful scenes of carnage.

VIRGINIA MIDLAND RAILROAD—From a special dispatch to the Baltimore *Star* it is learned that Mr. John S. Barbour, receiver of the Virginia Midland Railroad, has filed a report in the Circuit Court of Alexandria, Virginia, in which he explains the circumstances of the recent sale, or supposed sale, of that road. The sale was to have taken place at Alexandria, at noon, May 13, in obedience to a decree of that court, but a half an hour before the time for the sale a writ of supersedeas from the Court of Appeals of Virginia, on petition of E. F. Gilbert, was served on Mr. Barbour, who was commissioner to sell the road, superseding the order of the sale, and the sale was postponed until four o'clock the same day. Before that hour a dispatch was received from Mr. Robert Garrett, dated New York city, in which he announced that he had purchased all the bonds of the appellants, and expressed the hope that nothing would prevent the sale that day, and asserted that if the sale was postponed it would prove immensely disadvantageous to all interests concerned. The sale was then proceeded with. A few days later, Mr. Barbour says, he learned that owing to some disagreement between the parties in regard to the purchase of the bonds of the appellant, the appeal had not been dismissed, as he had supposed it would be, and he, therefore, at once informed the purchasers that he would take no further steps looking to a confirmation of the sale, and which he would thereafter treat as void and of no effect. Mr. Barbour, as an act of justice to Mr. Robert Garrett, also submitted a letter from that gentleman, received under date of May 15, explanatory of his connection with the supposed purchase of the appellant's bonds.—*Charlotte Observer.*

The Thirty first Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the N. C. Railroad Company will be held in Greensboro on the second Thursday in July, being the 8th day of the month.

A Terrible Picture.

I am aware there is a prejudice against any man engaged in the liquor business. I believe from the time it issues from the still and poisons worm in the distillery, until it empties in the hell of death, dishonor and crime, that alcohol is demoralizing to everybody that touches it, from the source to where it ends. I do not believe anybody can contemplate the subject without prejudice against the crime. All we have to do is to think of the wrecks on either side of the stream of death, of the suicides, of the insanity, of the poverty, pauperism and destruction coming from alcohol; of the little children tugging at the breast of weeping, despairing, starving mothers begging for bread, of men of genius it has wrecked, of the struggling with imaginary serpents produced by this devilish thing; and when we think of the jails and almshouses, of the asylums, of the prisons and scaffolds on either bank, I do not wonder that every thoughtful man is prejudiced against the vile stuff called alcohol.

"Intemperance cuts down youth in its vigor, manhood in its strength, and age in its weakness. It breaks the father's heart. It leaves the doting mother, extinguishes natural affections, destroys conjugal, blots out filial attachments, brights paternal hope and brings premature age in sorrow and dishonor to the grave. It produces weakness, not strength; sickness, not health; death, not life. It makes wives widows, children orphans, fathers fiends, and all paupers. It feeds rheumatism, nurses gout, welcomes epidemics, invites cholera, imports pestilence, engenders consumption, and covers the land with crime. It produces controversies, fosters quarrels, and cherishes riots. It crowds our penitentiaries and furnishes victims for the scaffold.

"Alcohol is the blood of the gambler, the inspiration of the burglar, the stimulus of the highwayman, and the support of the midnight incendiary. It blurs, condones the thief, esteems the blasphemer. It violates obligations, reverence, frauds, turns love to hate, scorns virtue and innocence. It incites the father to butcher his helpless offspring, and the child to slay the paternal axe.

"Alcohol burns up men, consumes women, destroys life, curses God, and despises heaven. It suborns witnesses, nurses perjury, defiles the jury box and stains the judicial crime. It bribes voters, disqualifies voters, corrupts elections, pollutes institutions and endangers the government. It degrades the citizen, debases the legislature, dishonors the statesman and disarms the patriot. It brings shame, not honor; terror, not safety; despair, not hope; misery, not happiness; and with the malevolence of a fiend calmly surveys its frightful desolation, and reveling in havoc it poisons felicity, destroys peace, ruins morals, wipes out national honor, curses the world and laughs at the ruin it has wrought. It does that and more—it murders the soul. It is the sum of all villainies, the father of all crimes, the mother of all abominations, the devil's best friend, and God's worst enemy."—*R. G. Ingersoll.*

Senator Williams, of Kentucky, made a good speech in behalf of the Mexican veterans. He gave the following interesting historical incident as it is reported to the Richmond *Dispatch*. He said: "After showing that the gallant soldiers who never lost a battle from the Rio Grande to the City of Mexico, and who added a vast territory to the United States, deserved a pension, he proceeded to give them credit for the humanity with which they treated the conquered. He stated that he was at a banquet in the City of Mexico when a paper signed by hundreds of leading Mexicans was handed General Scott, tendering him the presidency for life of that Republic. He told how General Scott declined, and added that it would have been well for the Mexicans if he had accepted, for two thirds of the American volunteers would have remained there, and by this time Mexico, instead of having 8,000,000, would have a population of 20,000,000.

Josh Billings: That is advise enough now layin around loose to run 3 just satch worlds as this; what we are sufficient most for iz sum good examples.

Forfeits for Fun.

A list of amusing forfeits, which will make the company laugh and not offend the person called upon to pay them, are herewith given:

1. Put a newspaper upon the floor in such a way that two persons can stand on it and not be able to touch each other with their hands. By putting the paper in the doorway, one half inside and the other half outside of the room, and closing the door over it, the two persons can easily stand upon it and still be beyond each other's reach.
2. To go out of the room with two legs, and come in with six. Not difficult, if one thinks to bring a chair along on the return.
3. To set the dumb servant. The person who has the forfeit to pay must set out the answers to the questions put by the master of ceremonies; as "How do you make bread?" "How do you eat soup?" etc. This forfeit will cause much merriment, if proper questions are put.
4. Put one hand where the other cannot touch it. One can get out of this difficulty by putting one hand on the elbow of the other arm.
5. Place a pencil on the floor so that one cannot jump over it. May be done by putting it close to the wall of the room.
6. Put a question that no one can answer with a "no!" This is not hard if one thinks to ask, "What does y e spell?"
7. Push a chair through a finger ring. This forfeit is made by putting the ring on the finger and pushing the chair—any other object will do as well—with the finger.
8. Put yourself through a keyhole. This was a great puzzle to us for a while, but when a piece of paper was taken with the word "yourself" written upon it, and pushed through the hole, it was all clear.

THE ORANGE TREE—The orange

is reputed to have attained the age of 300 years, and been known to flourish and bear fruit more than 100 years. No fruit tree will sustain itself and produce fruit so well under neglect and rough treatment. It begins to bear about the third year after budding, and by the fifth year produces an abundant crop, though the yield is gradually increased by age and favorable circumstances. The early growth of the orange is rapid, and by its tenth year it has grown more than it will in the next fifty, so far as its breadth and height are concerned; but its age multiplies its fruit stems.

Years ago, a party went from Kentucky to unearth the remains of Daniel Boone and his wife, whose bodies had been buried at Madsaville, about forty miles south west of St. Louis, and a few miles from where Boone had lived and died. Fearing interruption from the citizens of the place, the party hurried back to Kentucky with what they got, leaving the graves unfilled, and they remain so to this day. The person who owns the lot where the graves are; is said to be so angry at the loss of the money which he might have made by showing them in their original state that he is thinking of taking legal measures to recover what is left of their bodies.

The colored element are having their rights recognized as the election approaches. Revenue Collector Mott has yielded to their demand, and for the first time in the history of the party in this section of the State, a colored man has been appointed revenue storekeeper and gauger. The appointee is H. H. Martin, a native of Wilkes county, and late a student at Biddle University. It is an amusing instance of throwing a tub to the whale at a supreme moment. *Charlotte Observer.*

Balch Observer—Prof. W. C. Kerr, Geologist, in his correspondence with a wealthy gentleman of Minneapolis, Minnesota, in regard to the grape and fruit culture in the Western part of the State: "The party will visit the State soon, with the intention of making it his home. The Professor also has a letter from an eminent scientist of Philadelphia, asking him to make a tour of the mountains about the middle of June with a number of geologists and botanists."