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THE DANGER.

Hon. T. L. CLINGMAN has sketched one of the greatest, if not the greatest danger which menaces the civil liberties of the people of this country. If the Democrats in the House are half as eager to preserve our liberties as are the masses, they will take up Gen. Clingman's suggestion and put it through their House, at least, and throw the responsibility of its not becoming a law on the Republican Senate and the Republican President. Official interference in elections by money and corrupting agencies is an alarming and dangerous practice and should be stopped. Every school master and public teacher should denounce it and endeavor to inculcate right views on this subject. We clip the following from the Raleigh News-Observer:

Gen. Clingman has addressed an open letter to Congress in which he directs public attention to one of the great abuses of the age. He adverts to the growing tendency of Federal officials to interfere with elections and he declares that the evil instead of being checked is daily developing itself in a more aggravating form. This tendency of the men in power to perpetuate their regime, to exclude others from participation in the patronage of office and to control the vast influence which 100,000 officials exert for the purpose of maintaining the administration, is one of the dangers that threaten to subvert the liberties of the people. When the administration is no longer the agency of the people, but becomes the ruler, perpetuating itself indefinitely by means of its patronage, then indeed, although the forms of free government may survive, the spirit will be dead and oligarchy will be enthroned over the people.

Gen. Clingman well says that "within a few years past the interference of officers in elections and their contributions of money have become so general that it is conceded that even the election of a President has been decided by these means, and intelligent gentlemen have expressed the opinion that hereafter none but rich men should be nominated by presidential conventions. In fact we seem to be rapidly approaching a condition like that of Rome in the days when the imperial crown was sold to the highest bidder."

He demands that the evil shall be corrected, and he does not think it difficult. We quote: "During Mr. Jefferson's administration it is well known that he forbade his officers to interfere with popular elections, declaring that an administration ought to stand before the country on its own merits, and that officials should confine their efforts to the public business."

"During Mr. Van Buren's administration some of his subordinates did interfere in elections, and in the city of New York some of them even contributed money. This practice provoked the denunciation of such prominent men as Clay, Webster and others, and the public indignation of the country was so aroused that on Gen. Harrison's coming into office he caused his Secretary of State, Mr. Webster, to issue, about the 22d of March, 1841, a proclamation declaring that partisan efforts for or against any political party or the contribution of money by officers of the government to influence the elections 'would be regarded as a cause for removal.'"

The General's proposition is quite simple, and if adopted would be very effective:

"Provide, by law, that any officer of the government who sanctions or knowingly permits any of his subordinates to be called on to contribute money for what are called political purposes, shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and on conviction be imprisoned for not less than two years and fined at the discretion of the court. Secondly, provide that any officer of the government who contributes his money for such a purpose shall be held liable to indictment for a misdemeanor and subject to fine or imprisonment, and also liable to a civil suit for twenty times the amount given by him, one half of which may go to the informer, and the other to the public. Thirdly, let it be provided that any citizen who knowingly asks an officer for money for such a purpose shall, as an accessory before the fact, be subject to the like punishment."

This remedy if tried would probably answer the purpose. But then if Congress should pass it—would not the President veto it? Would the Republicans be willing to forgo their campaign fund in this wise? We, however, commend the matter to the attention of the Democrats in Congress.

This session will be used largely to make a political record, let the Democrats put the Republicans on record on Clingman's proposition.

Tobacco.

The News & Observer greatly desiring to see tobacco culture extended presents with the following for your consideration. B. H. Woodell, Esq.:

DEAR SIR: I concur with you in the propriety of North Carolina planters making less cotton and substituting tobacco for a part of their usual cotton crop. The world is full of cotton, and the improvement made in the East India staple makes the product of the country a strong competitor against American cotton in the markets abroad, where the price for our product is regulated; while, as regards tobacco, stocks everywhere here and abroad are low and decreasing, while consumption is constantly increasing. Tobacco is high and will continue high till the production meets the demand for consumption, while cotton is low and will continue low as long as more is produced than the world can consume. It will take two full consecutive crops of tobacco—an event that rarely occurs—to stock the depleted markets; and the most reliable ones in the trade say that tobacco will sell well for years to come. Be that as it may, no one whose judgment is respected, calculates upon low prices for the crop to be grown in 1884.

An acre of medium yellow tobacco, say 600 pounds at only 20 cents per pound—many average over double that price—will bring \$120, while an acre of cotton grown upon the same land will produce about 250 pounds, which at 10 cents per pound, will be only \$25. It is true that it costs more to raise an acre of tobacco than an acre of cotton, but no one whose opinion is worth a button will hazard the opinion, that the cost of raising tobacco is five times that of cotton; and yet the product of the former will command five times that of the latter—very often ten times as much.

I would advise those who intend planting tobacco who never raised it before not to attempt too much the first year. To grow tobacco successfully requires barns properly constructed, with flues, &c. A good sweet filler may be cured on scaffolds in the sun and then hung in any house or shed on the premises to protect it from the rain. It will be well for beginners to plant some for "bright" and some for sweet "fillers," choosing some one or more of the yellow varieties for the former, and Maye, Flanagan or Sweet Ononko for the latter. These latter are not as readily cured bright yellow as those specially used for yellow goods, but they make the sweetest and best fillers, and smokers, so far as intrinsic quality is concerned. But "brights" hold the front rank in prices and their production is well worth big efforts, for here success brings big money.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." Tobacco has certainly come to the front as a money crop, and it will hold the fort till production exceeds demand—as is now the case with cotton—a thing not likely to occur for years to come. Then why not raise tobacco where a good article can be successfully grown, as is certainly true of thousands of acres in North Carolina that were in cotton last year without profit to the producer?

Some of the wise heads will see the situation and mount the tide, others will think about it, and about the time they launch forth, it will be "ebb tide," and their little barks will be stranded. To drop the metaphor, the prudent planter will begin at once to prepare for tobacco so that his crop may be pitched in time to properly develop and ripen to advantage. The other fellow, starting late, will get left.

If "he is a benefactor who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before," what honor does he deserve who teaches planters to double and triple the income from their arduous labor?

In agriculture, the amount of profit is the measure of success; and he who regulates his products by the demand, will have something to sell which the world wants at a price which will not fail of substantial remuneration.

R. L. RAGLAND.

Christian Missions in Turkey.

It is astonishing how much attention is and has for generations past been paid in Turkey by the Christian churches of the West. The United States have vied with Great Britain in this particular, and there are no more prosperous missions either in European Turkey or in Asia Minor than those which bear the American name. The following figures will probably beget something like surprise in the minds of many readers. There are in the Turkish Empire, as is gathered from recently published statistics, thirty central mission stations, five colleges for giving ordinary education and others for theological purposes; 121 churches 400 preaching stations, 900 pastors, teachers and other Christian workers; 60,000 regular attendants at their places of worship, of whom 10,000 are communicants. This is a very respectable exhibit. But what are these among so many? The population of European and Asiatic Turkey is not under 25,000,000.

Gardens of the Sea.

Among the many curious analogies born of modern investigation, none are more interesting than those showing striking cases of parallelism in the habits and customs of animals whose environments are totally dissimilar. The ocean bed seems peopled with forms so resembling those of land that a modification of structure to conform with their surroundings alone appears to be the point of difference. In drifting over the reefs of our southern border this resemblance between the creatures of land and sea is extremely striking. The gardens of the lower world abound in lavish growth; trees, shrubs, waving vines, are all reproduced in the wondrous forms of the sea. Here a forest of coral branches (*Madrepora*) raise their myriad of bristling points, each flowered by a delicate polyp, and presenting a rich olive-green tint in contrast to the deep blue of the channel upon whose banks they grow. Pure as a crystal, the water seems to intensify the beauty of the objects, even in the greater depths; gayly bedecked fishes move lazily about, rising and falling among the living branches, poising, perhaps, to pluck some morsel from a limb, in all their motions reminding us of the birds of the shore. These gorgeous parrot-fishes are the sun-birds of the sea; wondrous tints—azure blue, golden yellow, and red—mark them. Some appear iridescent and bathed in metallic tints as if encased in burnished armors, while many more in modest garb, found in our cooler waters of the North, call to mind the robin and the thrush, those welcome harbingers of spring. But it is not in their color alone that the fishes resemble the birds; it is in the home-life and love of offspring that we find a close resemblance. Many are nest-builders, erecting structures as complicated as those of the birds and equaling them in design and finish.

The Art of Finger Nails.

Mr. Levy, the corn cutter, has been telling me about the beginning of his delicate art, which is now practiced so generally. He thought that the earliest modern chiropodist was a German who had practiced on the queen of England's corns about 1844; nevertheless I see that West-erly on upper Broadway announces that he began in 1810. Zachari started here before the war, and obtained celebrity by cutting Mr. Lincoln's corns. Another generation has come up paying special attention of the feet and reading all that can be afforded on the subject. One of the best known chiropodists here began, it is said, doctoring the hoofs of horses, and he observed in time that men needed quite as much repair of the feet. There are several women in this business, and of late years its profits have been much extended by manure, which brings dollars in place of dimes. Women are often in love with their own hands, and I have known cases where a lady has had her hand modelled and carved by a sculptor and kept on her center table. Few men however, think fingers are improved in appearance by being sharpened and whitened like talons of a hawk. It is however, a pleasant, listless way of spending an hour or two every day, to go to the manicure.—N. Y. Tribune.

Who will now say that there is nothing new under the sun? Where is that man Solomon who made that observation? The Washington Star of Tuesday evening, a Republican paper, contains this item: "After the adjournment of the Senate yesterday, Mr. Mahone retired to his committee room and remained there until the Senate chamber was deserted by all except the employees, who were cleaning up. He went into the chamber and vigorously rehearsed his speech of to-day to an imaginary audience. His ardent declamation after awhile attracted the policemen and others on duty in the building. He seems to have over exerted himself, for he was suddenly overcome with a fainting spell. He was carried to his committee room and restoratives employed, but it was several hours before he was able to go home." Good heavens! How are the mighty fallen! A Senator rehearsing his speech in the Senate chamber.

The following comes by cable—and if true, speaks badly for the enlightenment of Spain. And yet any one who has seen the lower classes of Spaniards, in their little, narrow, contracted streets, may easily believe that they have very contracted views and subject to violent prejudices. The item reads: "The small city of Astorga, in Spain, was the scene Tuesday of a religious commotion. A party of students, under the leadership of a priest, made an attack upon an Englishman and a native who were hawk-ing bibles about the streets. They even threatened to burn the Spaniard. The victims made unavailing appeals to the police for protection."

Pulled From His Den.

A correspondent of Forest and Stream relates how a boy named Lynch in New Brunswick once hauled a live bear with a yoke of steers. He says: Mr. Lynch was drawing logs on a single bob-axel, an affair consisting of two runners, with one strongly braced bench or "bunk." He noticed a hole near the base of a stump, around which the snow was melting and he stopped his steers to "prospect." He found that the cavity beneath contained a bear, and was large enough for him to move around quite freely. Lynch enlarged the entrance and stirred Bruin up, but all attempts to inflict a mortal wound with his axe were futile. He thought that his chances would be better if he could get the bear out. Taking his "tow chain," one end of which was fast to his bunk, he slipped the double of his chain back through a ring on the other end, and made a noose, which he dropped over Bruin's head. He then gave the steers the haulway word. They brought the bear to the surface, but becoming frightened at the sight of the bear at the other end of the line, they broke for the camp in the wildest sort of a run, Lynch following as fast as he could. The bear, forgetting that the steers, besides outnumbering him, had him at a decided disadvantage, would "set down the foot of his power" to stop the cattle, only to be dragged off his feet and be convinced that he was a very poor anchor. The steers reached the camp and rushed into the stable. They broke loose from the sled when it wedged into the doorway, and left Bruin picketed to the bunk. Lynch summoned the rest of the crew, and lashing the bear to the bunk took him to the settlement alive.

Brooks as Sewers.

The Sanitary Engineer says: When a natural watercourse traverses a town, and its banks become built upon, the easiest way of getting rid of filth and house wastes is to throw them into the stream. Every man's instinctive impulse is to get rid of what annoys him, and not mind how his neighbor will be affected. After a while, when the water course has become sufficiently nasty, the people come to a realizing sense of what they have brought upon themselves and then try to devise a remedy. In this they begin usually at the wrong end.

They look on the stream as creating the nuisance, and don't consider that it is their abuse of the stream that is the source of the trouble. So they go to work and cover the stream up, and call it a sewer. What is the result? Simply that the stench of the foul matter in the old channel is bottled up somewhat, to be vented through every manhole, every inlet and every house drain, and probably do more local injury than when the rotting filth was exposed to the air and the sun, and diffused its aroma through the whole atmosphere.

The channel of a small natural stream through a town or village ought never to be converted into a sewer for house wastes. This will strike a good many people as an odd doctrine, but still it is sound doctrine. The functions of a natural stream and of a sewer are so diverse that one cannot be made to do duty for the other.

A SHARP WITNESS.—During a recent trial the following occurred, varying the monotony of the proceeding. Among the witnesses was one as verdant a specimen of humanity as one would wish to meet. After a severe cross-examination, the counsel for the government paused; and then, putting a look of severity, and an ominous shake of the head exclaimed,—

"Mr. Witness, has not an effort been made to induce you to tell a different story?"

"A different story from what I have told, sir?"

"That is what I mean."

"Yes, sir; several persons have tried to get me to tell a different story from what I have told, but they couldn't."

"Now, sir, upon your oath I wish to know who those persons are."

"Well, I guess you've tried 'bout as hard as any of 'em."

The witness was dismissed while judge, jury and spectators indulged in a hearty laugh.

It should be remembered that, under the Code, administrators, guardians and executors are required to make annual settlements. The penalties for failure can only be escaped by a strict compliance with the provisions of the law.

A telegram from the West. N. C. Railroad to the Charlotte Observer, dated Friday 1st instant, states that passenger trains will be running to Waynesville by March 1st. The track is now laid to within six miles of town by rail.—Waynesville News.

A confirmed old bachelor was out at a social gathering the other evening, where he was so unfortunate as to become seated behind a party of vivacious young ladies. Conversation turned upon athletic subjects, when one pert young miss inquired: "Mr. Brown, what is your favorite exercise?" "Oh, I have no preference; but just at present I should prefer dumb belles," was his rather curt reply.

As early as the time of Alexander II, of Scotland a man who let weeds go to seed on the farm was declared to be the king's enemy. In Denmark farmers are compelled to destroy all weeds on their premises. In France a man may prosecute his neighbor who permits weeds to go to seed which may endanger neighboring lands.

Wise Words.

Frugality provides an easy chair for old age.
Man must become wise by his own experience.
Enjoy what you have; strive for what you lack.
The truest end of life is to know the life that never ends.
Good will, like good name, is got by many actions, and lost by one.
Sincerity is the way to heaven. To think how to be sincere is the way of man.
A man being asked how old he was, replied, "I am in health;" and being asked how rich he was, said, "I am not in debt."



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Dec. 23, 1883.—1017

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