

engage in it. The fearful environments of the ends of such careers will give pungency to the truth that, even in the most favoring conditions, the law of the Infinite cannot be violated with impunity. Is it not enough to array against the evil the reason, the moral sense and the practical effort of every right-thinking man in this land? Ought there not to be arrayed against it a public sentiment that, in its wholeness, includes the top and bottom and middle of society? There ought not to be any compromise; there must be radicalism here, if anywhere.

Now, a few words to the people of Oregon, and especially to the intelligent and moral portion of the citizens of Portland. You have in your midst a paper breathing weekly upon this city fumes as foul and poisonous as the worst of those which have aroused the parents of the East to an effort to protect their children from the immoral contagion. Like a deadly miasma, it penetrates through every barrier erected against it and defies all efforts to quarantine or disinfect it. Though a measure of protection can be thus secured, there is no effective safeguard but a complete removal of the cause of the contagion itself. That such a moral cancer should exist in our midst, and thrive upon the destruction of purity and morality, is a disgrace to the city of Portland. Lacking the gaudy and suggestive pictures of the *Police Gazette* and other wealthier, but no more corrupt or degrading, publications, its printed contents are sufficiently more nasty and impure to bring it down to the depths occupied by the lowest of them. Emanating from the brains of men who live in public and notorious immorality, it sketches pen pictures of the most revolting scenes, the greater portion of them purely imaginary, couched in repulsive and ungrammatical language, and then, with a hypocritical sigh, draws such a moral as Mephistopheles might upon the fall of Marguerite. It even mockingly calls upon the ministers of the gospel to aid it in suppressing the great immorality of the city, of the existence of which it certainly has the most direct and positive information, and is in itself the most convincing evidence. Of the tendency of such publications and the aim of such publishers, Mr. Carlisle says:

We are envied by the grandest civilization the world has ever known, and from the summit of Time's slow-building pyramid we exultingly watch this phenomenal growth and development. But what will it all be worth adown the years to come if the sentiment is to prevail that makes a surrender to the men who live by hunting virtue and honor and honesty down? What will it avail if we allow these enemies of the race to place the heart and soul morality of our children under the weight of temporal and eternal calamities? What if we by inaction defend the men who fill our homes with the subtle gases that eat away our children's hearts and brains; men who help most of all others to fill our jails and asylums, our penitentiaries, poor houses and dens of infamy. The victims lie in hospitals, grasp the iron bars of asylums, drift through the wide avenues and mere bridle-paths of life, and abide in the morgues of the morally dead. To-day these men are hewing persistently at the fair palace of conscience and morality, knowing the while that on its site would rise the pest-house of a universal brothel.

For the existence of such a sheet the business men are alone responsible. Without the financial support derived from its advertising columns its career would be a brief one. With its circulation chiefly in the slums of the city, sought after by gamblers and scarlet women, devoured by loafers and men who work only when compelled by the decree of necessity, and read hastily on the sly by the youth of both sexes, who fear to be observed in its perusal, it is difficult to conceive how an advertisement in its columns can be of the slightest value to a merchant in any legitimate line of trade; and even admitting that it has value, our business men owe it as a

duty to themselves, their children and the community at large, to withhold from it the patronage which enables it to live and taint the air with its impurities. Fear of invented scandalous stories, often threatened and hinted at to procure business, should not lead them to longer suffer this evil to exist. What possible injury can the vilest slander of such a sheet do to the character of a man who has lived an upright life and gained a reputation for integrity and morality during years of social intercourse and business dealings with his neighbors? It cannot have the slightest weight, and considerations of that character should not lead our business men to commit the crime—for it is a crime against their families and against civilization—of sustaining it in its degrading career. What will you do about it?

THERE is no denying the fact that National political campaigns are of vast injury to the general prosperity of the country. They encourage idleness; stir up strife and discontent; compel the expenditure of vast sums of money in utterly useless and unprofitable ways; encourage the corruption of a large class of people already possessing too low a standard of morals; dull the senses of the people to the heinousness of many offences, both political and moral; and by slanders manufactured by unscrupulous men, and repeated by better, but thoughtless, citizens, destroy our confidence in the men who administer our public affairs and stand in the front rank of our representative statesmen. For six months the people are consumed by a raging fever, whose effects linger long after the cause of excitement has died away, and are never fully eradicated from the national system. The millions of dollars wasted for political purposes, if invested in needed and useful enterprises, or added to the savings of the thousands of comparatively poor men who are led by contagious enthusiasm into excessive and needless expenditures, would add greatly to the material wealth and prosperity of the country, increase the sum total of happiness and contentment, and thus do much to guarantee the safety and perpetuity of our National Government. The easiest and most natural remedy, which is by no means a cure, but a partial alleviation, is a less frequent occurrence of these exciting periods; and to this measure of relief we will be ultimately impelled by force of circumstances.

THE Knights of Labor in British Columbia are criticising very severely the conduct of the Commission appointed by the Dominion Government to investigate the Chinese question. They charge that when the Commission visited Nanaimo they refused to hold a sitting at that place, the Knights being prepared to give strong anti-Chinese testimony; that they only sat a few hours in New Westminster; that in Victoria they listened to full pro-Chinese testimony, but when the Knights offered to give evidence on the other side they were told to "put it in writing" and send it to Ottawa. They have "put it in writing" in the shape of a long history of the Chinese in British Columbia, which document will be laid before the Dominion Parliament.