

short range and is powerless. It is only when it bursts and spreads devastation among the bespattered artillerymen that it becomes at all effective. Such is the weapon this scandal sheet employs in its defence. It was not a brilliant intellectual flight when it sought to link arms with other weekly papers and say, "Let us resent it, we have been attacked," for the respectable press of the city promptly and unanimously repudiated the ignoble fellowship.

This matter has become one of the moral issues of the day. The leading journals of this region have taken hold of it in earnest, and it will not be allowed to drop until a law is upon our statute books suppressing such criminal publications, and a public sentiment created which shall demand its rigid enforcement. Our exchanges teem with vigorous editorials on the subject, showing a determination to purge the press of such unworthy and degrading members. Says the *Oregonian*: "An editor who offers his newspaper as a spittoon for every scandal-monger to expectorate his private and public hates into, may be congratulated upon his success in getting it filled, if it is his ambition to be offensive, but he should not be permitted to think that decent people look upon his management as enterprise." The *Sunday Welcome* gives the following succinct statement of the position of the press on this subject: "The next Oregon Legislature will be forced by the combined pressure of self-respecting newspapers and public opinion to do something toward checking the unlicensed indecency of a certain class of literature that is spread broadcast over our State. Defenders of 'smut' who point at clean papers that print criminal news, and imagine no law can be framed to sufficiently distinguish the bad from the good, should bear in mind that the movers in this matter of purifying our literature have no idea of accomplishing any other end than the suppression of papers that make a specialty of vice and vulgarity." It is unnecessary to multiply these quotations. They are but samples of the unanimously expressed opinion of the representative journals of the Northwest; yet we will add just one more. In closing a long editorial the *Boise Statesman*, the leading paper of Idaho, says: "They thrive, too, at the expense of able, worthy, dignified periodicals, and are responsible for much vice and consequent misery. It is self-evident that, for the general well-being of society and the highest beneficent attainments of legitimate journalism, all such flashy, scandalous publications ought to be suppressed by law."

It is difficult, if not impossible, for the human mind to conceive the actual existence of virtues itself does not possess, or to ascribe to others loftier motives than those by which itself is actuated. This is the reason why honorable men are invariably misjudged by the vile and despicable; why the bribe-giver and corruptionist sneeringly asserts that every man has his price. The managers of the scandal sheet have boastfully asserted that they have money and "influence" enough to effectually smother all attempts at legislation upon this subject. What a base insult to the honesty, integrity and purity

of the men who have been selected to compose our next Legislature! What a mistake to thus attempt to measure by their vile standard some of the most intelligent and worthy men the State of Oregon contains! It cannot but be resented. We have every confidence that when those chosen representatives of the people, with many of whom we have a personal acquaintance, and for whose moral character we have the highest esteem, assemble at Salem, and this matter is clearly laid before them, they will vote for the protection of our children and the preservation of our homes with a feeling so intense and a voice so unanimous that the publishers of such crime-breeding sheets will then realize, if they do not now, that they will not longer be permitted to outrage decency and insult virtue with impunity.

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING.

THERE is no business which does so much to promote trade and advance the material interests of the section in which it is located as the newspaper, and yet there is nothing which certain business men consider so cheap and such a subject for imposition. It is the province and conscientious aim of a paper to give all news which falls within its legitimate sphere; to chronicle all local events and treat all local interests and industries as fully and frequently as is demanded by the public. It must look at everything from the standpoint of its general interest. Whatever is proper news, whatever is of interest generally to its readers or necessary for their information, it is its duty to publish in its columns. There are many men who, having something in which they are personally interested—generally in a financial sense—are offended if they are not granted an editorial mention or free local notice, irrespective of its interest to the readers of the paper. They desire to secure an advertisement for nothing, on the plea that it is "news," and consider publishers niggardly and unenterprising for refusing to gratify their longing to obtain something for nothing. The advertising columns of every paper are open at a reasonable rate to every advertisement which is proper to appear in a paper of general circulation; and, we are sorry to say, many are open to advertisements which can hardly be considered proper, those which no self-respecting journal should ever publish. When an advertiser is assigned all the space he pays for in those columns the publisher's obligation to him is fully discharged, and yet he often demands that the business or industry in which he is engaged be made the subject of local or editorial comment. The publisher has the right, and must be permitted, to decide for himself what class of news his readers require, and he has good reasons for feeling excessively annoyed when such unreasonable requests are made. Long experience has proven that the liberal and legitimate advertiser seldom trespasses upon his good nature in this respect. That is left for the man who wants to get a puff for nothing, and whose name rarely appears in the regular advertising columns. It is the man who wants something for nothing who is the severest critic of the newspaper.