

The New York *Herald* publishes an exposure of the mismanagement of the funds contributed by a sympathetic and generous people to relieve the necessities of the victims of the Johnstown flood, in which it charges that one-third of the money was squandered or stolen. It is needless to bring up this subject again, for long ago the people became convinced of the criminal mismanagement of their largess. Yet such is the innate generosity and sympathetic nature of our people that the next great calamity that shall occur will find them as ready to pour out their offerings for the relief of suffering and distress as they were when destruction and ruin visited the peaceful valley of the Conemaugh.

A few of the older residents of Spokane Falls are violently opposed to the proposition to drop the word "Falls" from the official title of that city. Whether this be done officially or not, it certainly will be done practically. Even now it is omitted by a majority of people in speaking of that bustling city, and in a few years it will be known everywhere as simply "Spokane." There is no use fighting the inevitable. The American people have no time to waste in speaking useless names. Condensation is the spirit of the age. If those who object to the significance of the Indian word "Spokane," will consider the worse meaning of the word "Chicago," they will find that the aboriginal definition of a word has little to do with the prosperity of a city upon which chance has bestowed it for a name.

The American mind fails to grasp that order of Central and South American patriotism that leads one to purchase arms abroad and invade his native country simply because a rival aspirant for political honors has gained the ascendancy in the government, or which renders the unsuccessful competitor an exile from his country to escape death at the hands of his more fortunate rival. Until their statesmen cease to consider their personal ambition paramount to the good of their native land, and are less eager to shed the blood of their fellow citizens to attain political ends, those countries never can become republics in the sense of that word as we understand it, nor their people possess more than the merest shadow of the true patriotism that warms the breast of him who bows to the stars and stripes as the symbol of liberty.

Roger Ellis handles the question of admitting ignorant foreigners to the full rights of American citizenship in *Forum* in a masterly manner. It would seem that nothing but a crisis threatening eternal extinction of American principles will suffice to arouse the nation to the danger that threatens it from this suicidal policy of making voters out of men having no conception of the value of the franchise bestowed upon them, and utterly ignorant of the theory of our government, the principles of American liberty and the history of the nation. Nothing but disaster can be expected. Gradually the ignorant and corrupt mass becomes greater. Everywhere the purity of American principles is being defiled. Here and there opposition to the public school crops out so strongly as to amaze and startle the thoughtless. Great cities are ruled by the corrupt bosses of a mass of ignorant and venal voters, whose numbers are being constantly swelled through the operation of the naturalization laws, which, lax as they are, the bosses, in their contempt for them and their administration, evade and override. There is a steady letting down of the high principles of our fathers. There is a noticeable failing of respect for the sacredness of the ballot. There is a deplorable indication of the substitution of dollars for arguments in securing votes. All this is the direct result of the reckless admission to American citizenship of foreigners, many of whom are openly hostile to our form of government, and a majority of whom are not in sympathy with some of the principles that lie at the very foundation of true republicanism. It is time this policy of national suicide be discarded. The naturalization doors should be reduced to a needle's eye, through which no man should enter until he could, upon open examination, demonstrate his capability of becoming a genuine American citizen.

The disposition to chase the shadow and ignore the substance is characteristic of a class of reformers who ignore the well-known fact that theory and practice seldom go hand in hand. The theory of the usury law is that it will prevent the money lender from charging the borrower more than a certain amount for the use of money. The practice, in one of its most exasperating features, is plainly pictured in the cartoon on the last page. There can be no possible legislation that can secure for the borrower the use of money for anything less than the rate fixed by the law of supply and demand, while every restriction thrown around its free use, every effort to limit and restrain it, has the inevitable result of increasing its cost to the borrower. The fundamental error of this class of reformers is in treating money as distinct from other forms of property. So long as a man's wealth is represented by lands, cattle, grain, etc., he is free to do with it as he chooses, but when he changes it into another form, one that is by common consent a medium of exchange between all the others, then these theorists pounce upon it and try to limit its use. This effort finds expression in the usury

law and similar legislative attempts to interfere between the borrower and lender. The result is that the direct action of the law is evaded, and as the evasion complicates the transaction, the borrower is compelled to pay more for his money than he otherwise would. This, and other restrictive laws, keep capital from seeking the state for investment, since, while there is an open field for it elsewhere, it will not come here to be compelled to resort to the practices local capital pursues and finds so profitable. With all restrictions removed from the use of money, the flow of outside capital will ere long be so great that the supply will more nearly correspond with the demand, and the universal law of trade will become a practical usury law of itself, that will give borrowers money at lower rates than have ever been known in the history of Oregon.

The disposition to foolishly and uselessly raise the sectional question in Oregon is well illustrated by the following:

Visitors at the Portland exposition declare that Wasco county's fruit exhibit—particularly the Hood River apples—were the best there, and yet we do not see great praises of them in the Portland papers. How is this brethren of the *West Shore* and *Oregonian*, are the Cascade mountains the eastern limits of Oregon in your eyes?—*Wasco County Sun*.

In its review of the fair, which could touch upon each feature but briefly, *WEST SHORE* said: "Wasco county fruit is, on the whole, the most tempting and satisfactory display of all. For grapes, apples, etc., Wasco stands in the front rank of the state, and the fruit industry is becoming most important there." This constant looking for slights where there are none; this eternal knocking of invisible chips from shoulders that never have them on; this ceaseless effort to arraign one section against another, is the greatest stumbling block in Oregon's pathway. Let the people of the state, and especially those who wield the great power of the press, stand together in mutual pride and helpfulness, and Oregon will push to the front at a rapid rate. There is something for us to do besides stirring up strife and jealousies.

Right here is a good place to say a word or two about the ugly "dog in the manger" conduct of a few papers on the world's fair question. Instead of taking hold of the matter and trying to do something, they lie back and oppose the efforts of others, simply because the movement originated in Portland. They are like the Irishman who exclaimed when he first placed his foot on American soil, "Have yez a government? If yez have, I'm ferninst it." They feel bound to oppose everything that comes from Portland without reference to its merits. From the beginning the Portland press, in urging the people of the state to do something, have asserted that it is not a Portland matter, but one that interests the whole state. For this reason they have refrained from doing more than urge the subject upon the attention of the people. For this reason the Portland Chamber of Commerce has declined to take up the matter officially. Had it been simply a matter that interested the city only, it would have been attended to long ago. Finally, the president of the Oregon Board of Commerce appointed a committee representing the entire state, and the president of the Oregon Press Association did the same. Upon these committees Portland has but a small representation, and yet these professional malcontents raise their voices in objection. For years the press of Portland has endeavored to allay this spirit of sectionalism. Not a word can be found in the files of the metropolitan press calculated to stir up strife between the city and country, and the continued existence of estrangement, with all the evils to both that follow in its train, is directly chargeable to the thoughtless and even reprehensible utterances of certain of the outside press. Happily, the papers pursuing this foolish policy are decreasing in numbers, and the time is not far distant when, with united hands and patriotic hearts, the entire press of the state will work together for the good of all.

SONNET.

To love—to madly love, and then to know
That she—she whom you have oft times held fast
Against your beating breast, that she at last
Has struck you to the heart with one quick blow—
Alas! why are we forced to suffer so?
Can it be true that there is not a way
In all the restless world by which we may
Love on and fail to feel this weight of woe?

I muse alone; upon the dewy ground
Beneath these spreading oaks the wheeling moon
Lays pale, cold hands, and hark! I hear a tune—
A song—and now a burst of silver sound—
Ah, yes, increase my pain with your delight,
Once more let laughter ripple through the night!

HERBERT BASHFORD.