

The Sentinel.

BY LEW. A. CATES.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Christmas will be celebrated with fervor and enthusiasm in Cottage Grove. Prosperity smiles and yuletide cheer will gladden the hearts of old and young in every home. The contentment which comes of prosperity through wholesome industry is seen on every hand. Our land is free from internal disorder and safe from outside molestation. Honest labor finds steady employment at wages which give a living at least comfortable. The poor we have always with us, but the chill of destitution is not widely prevalent, and where it is felt there are generous hands extended in kindly aid. We may consistently make this a joyous festival, for ours is a glad land today, a vigorous people, confident in the security of warm homes, of family affection, of disinterested friendship, and of fair and clean conditions in public life.

So far as we observe the day in this spirit we shall get the spiritual benefit that should come with the Christmas season. And it is not simply in the giving and receiving of gifts or the exchange of cheery salutations that the day is best celebrated. There is no one of us who cannot help to make brighter the Christmas of someone less fortunate; and those will find their own day the more blessed and uplifting who bear in mind the words of the Master whose birth it commemorates, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

MILTON CENSURED.

And now John Milton is being hauled over the coals for his views on "the woman question." One text from his grand epic upon which the criticism is based is this: "He for God only, she for God in him." This, referring to Adam and Eve, carries the old orthodox doctrine that man is the head of the woman to the extreme conclusion that the woman can have no independent relations with deity. She must achieve her salvation through the man. Joe Smith and Brigham Young held substantially the same doctrine, and upon it established the practice of polygamy. Under that prescription a woman who for any reason had failed to secure a real husband was spiritually "sealed" to someone in the faith. Milton would doubtless have been much scandalized had he been quoted as an authority for plural marriage; but it is interesting to ask what would become of the neglected spinster in the future life if the doctrine implied in his above-quoted line is the correct one.

But, specifically, the people who are now censuring Milton object that Adam was a mollycoddle; that he ducked behind the woman when trouble came, and set an example of domestic evasion that most men are following yet. If Eve perforce had to find her God in him he should have been so constituted that he would stand up and shoulder the responsibility as a God-inspired man should. But John Milton should not be too severely blamed. He wrote according to his lights. He was in advance of his age on many moral and political questions; but as influencing his views in regard to women it should be remembered that his first marriage was unhappy, that his three daughters were undutiful, and that he was stricken with blindness before he contracted his second and third marriages. Thus his opportunities for realizing the innate

beauty and nobleness of the womanly character were limited. He could not think with, Tenyson, that "woman is not undeveloped man, but diverse." He seems to have regarded her as essentially inferior.

IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Recommendations recently made by Health Officer Oglesby have received little if any attention, either from the municipal administration or the people. The power of local government to protect the health of the people and restore it when impaired is unquestioned, and The Sentinel sees no good and sufficient reason why some stringent measure should not be taken in the premises. It is important that sewer connections should be made wherever possible, to the end that the health of the general public shall be protected instead of being constantly jeopardized by negligence. With the spread of scientific knowledge throughout the land there has been enormous improvement along sanitary lines during the past decade, and few communities are there which would permit such conditions as obtain in Cottage Grove today to exist. Even the federal government has, scattered through its various departments, a scientific service which it is now endeavoring to combine under the direction of a single bureau. States and cities have health boards, and they are considered of the utmost importance. The instructions and orders of these departments must be closely adhered to under all circumstances, for in them lie the safety of public health, and there is every reason why the health officers of the smaller towns should have equal authority so far as their balliwick is concerned. If Health Officer Oglesby is vested with authority to order betterments in our sanitary conditions to prevent possible epidemics of disease, his word should be law, and if he is not then this office should be declared vacant. Under obtaining conditions it is a farce.

THE RED CROSS.

The Red Cross stamp being in high favor in Cottage Grove and throughout the state, brings to mind that after generations of waste of money and good will, and of making paupers by unscientific charity, the Red Cross society is the best custodian for funds gathered for relief. Every disaster calling for instant relief reveals the weakness and wastefulness of the present American system for providing it. There are agencies for doing what needs to be done in the best way and on the instant. Public sympathy with suffering provides ample contributions of money as fast as these can be brought together. But the difficulty has been to get the administration and the funds together.

The Red Cross society has put relief of suffering from sudden disaster on a new and effective basis. The San Francisco fire is an example of its work. While the society in other countries has millions invested on whose income it can draw in case of need, there is no endowment in this country and it must depend on dues and voluntary contributions, which latter generally come after disaster. Money wasted in one decade in the United States by unscientific relief after disasters would endow our Red Cross society most bountifully, if by any means it could be brought together.

From the sale of stamps now in progress throughout the land the Red Cross society receives a small financial benefit. The aggregate amount, however, will materially aid in gathering funds for emergencies.

THE COMMISSION PLAN.

There has been no inconsiderable amount of discussion in the middle West regarding municipal government by commission, and the conclusion seems to favor the plan as first adopted by Galveston, Texas. In explanation of government by commission it should begin with a definition, so that there is an understanding of the system. The

phase is used to cover innumerable forms of city government. The fundamental and vital idea of municipal government by commission is strictly non-partisan election on a general ticket without local representation or regard to ward lines. Without departing from this idea the members of it may be any reasonable number and may hold any fitting title.

They who use the phrase strictly contemplate a government in which authority and responsibility for the various departments shall be distributed among its members, each being responsible under the charter to the commission as a whole and to all the people through the referendum and recall. These new ideas ought to be considered a vital part of the commission system, because without them it might degenerate into an oligarchy, self-perpetuating through the power of patronage. But infinite variety may be given to municipal government even under this restricted interpretation by varying the number of commissioners and the distribution of departments under them. Some who condemn the commission idea as a dangerous innovation offer the form of government used by provincial British cities as a satisfactory substitute. But the English municipal council comes nearer to the original Galveston commission than any other city government we know of, except in the basis of suffrage and the power to elect mayor.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

The question of the intermarriage of Jew and Gentile was exhaustively discussed at the central conference of American rabbis in New York recently. In general, such marriages were opposed not on racial, but on religious grounds. It was held that the Scriptures, which show all men descended from one pair, and one humanity created in the image of God, exclude any pretensions to aristocracy of blood; that all Scriptural opposition to mixed marriages is based on the fear lest such marriages turn away the son or daughter of Israel from the true religion; that the ideal marriage requires harmony and unanimity above all in religion, in order that the union be not merely physical, but moral and spiritual as well.

This is substantially the doctrine that prevailed among the Jews from the earliest times. Marriage with the people of the surrounding tribes was permitted if the bride or bridegroom accepted conversion to the Jewish faith. Nor were any racial barriers set up. According to tradition, Solomon had at least one Ethiopian in his harem. Religion with people of religious convictions, is highly essential to happiness in marriage. But among modern nations science has to a considerable extent upset the old belief in the descent of all men from a single pair, and has established a recognized aristocracy of blood which forbids the intermarriage of certain races.

The white man, on all continents and in all islands of the sea, holds himself to be the superior of any of the black, brown or yellow races, and holds in abhorrence the marriage of his kind with those of darker hue. The same feeling exists among the Jew of the white race, and to this extent inter-racial marriage would be prohibited by antipathy, if not religion and law. The question of inter-racial marriage is one of the most serious problems of the future, not only for the Jew, but for the Gentile. In spite of prejudice and sentiment, the barriers are being broken down little by little. Some of the so-called inferior races are becoming highly progressive; individuals among them are often educated and cultured, and such individuals are prone to seek matrimonial partners among those of the so-called superior race. The ease and rapidity of intercommunication is bringing all races more and more into proximity. The outlook is not one to inspire unlimited confidence in perpetual racial purity.

The Rev. Dr. Anna Shaw is a woman of good sense, and seems to

possess a wonderful knowledge of men, although she never married, as well as of the weakness of her own sex. In a recent address at a suffrage meeting she said:

"Men do love us very much, and are very good to us. Men will love and suffer and die for women, but they never have respected them. Women do not respect each other. Nine out of every ten women would accept the opinion of a man before that of a woman, and I would be one of the nine."

If every woman who is out pleading for woman suffrage would be equally frank we should hear less silly nonsense and less denunciation of men from the suffrage rostrum. The majority of men are undoubtedly anxious to do everything in their power to make women happy. Any man who is convinced that the right to vote would be a real benefit to women, and who deems the sex as a whole worthy to exercise the privilege, would be anxious to grant it to them. If women do not respect women, it is more important for them to cultivate mutual respect than to gain the right to participate in the political contests of the day. It is a fact within the range of common observation that a woman who is respected by women is invariably respected by the men of her acquaintance.

Why not organize a Booster club in every ward in Cottage Grove? It would almost immediately become an important factor in the development of its particular part of town, and would prove invaluable in the way of civic improvements. At regular meetings all matters pertaining to the betterment of obtaining conditions could be freely discussed and action taken to secure results. Parts of the town now seemingly neglected in the way of streets and sidewalks would thus have more leverage upon the powers that be, and a vigorous campaign and a united effort would doubtless accomplish good. The ward clubs might act in conjunction with the central body—the Commercial club—in matters of still greater importance and be of no inconsiderable assistance in general promotion work where the entire community is more vitally concerned. Who will start the ball rolling?

"We propose to defeat the Nesmith County bill, if it is in our power to do so, on the day of voting."—Drain Nonpareil.

The progressive people of Oregon, those who have the promotion of the state's material interests at heart, have declared their intention to make proposed Nesmith county a reality, and with this assurance notice is hereby served upon the Nonpareil that Nesmith will be. There is a movement throughout the Pacific Northwest to "cut up the land," and make smaller farms, the promoters of the movement realizing that under such conditions the development of the country will be more rapid and its prosperity proportionately greater. The same pertains to smaller counties, and the people of the state are as favorable to one as the other. Drain is naturally sour on the proposition.

Never before has there been such a prevalent idea of beautifying Oregon cities as now, and the support given the movement by the people in all walks of life shows that this feeling is genuine and widespread. Cottage Grove, as compared with other cities of similar importance, has been somewhat handicapped by the absence of an adequate water supply and improved streets, but these will come during the coming year, and then we, too, will have ample opportunity to make a city beautiful.

The purchase of the Equitable by somebody who could swing it was necessary for two reasons, one more obvious than the other. The trust by which the company has been managed under the ownership of Mr. Ryan expires by limitation within a year. Shortly after the ownership on bank stock as an investment by insurance companies becomes unlawful in New York. The Equitable and other companies must sell their bank stock to somebody who can handle it. By buy-

ing a majority of the Equitable stock, Mr. Morgan comes into control of banking resources that increase his total to nearly \$600,000,000 against \$750,000,000 of the National City, his life insurance resources to nearly a billion against about half that on the part of the Standard Oil interests, and his trust company resources to over \$300,000,000, making a total half a billion more than those of the other group.

Individual deposits in Oregon banks have increased \$16,103,678 over last year, certainly a strong evidence of the prosperity of the state. A gain of more than \$21,000,000 in resources of the banks in a single year is also a striking proof of the advance made by Oregon during this twelvemonth, in which prosperity Cottage Grove has enjoyed its full share.

There is some crime, some unhappiness, some cruelty, some falseness to trusts, some unjust taxation, some capitalistic greediness and some unfortunate deprivation in this country, but the heart of the people is sound. The springs of prosperity are deep, and our people are facing the future with courage and confidence, the muck-raker to the contrary notwithstanding.

The sensational attack upon Secretary of the Interior Ballinger, made upon the floor of the house, makes it practically certain that Cannon cannot stave off an investigation of the general land office after Christmas.

Cottage Grove is populated with an intelligent, hospitable and law-abiding class of people, and has room for many more like them.

Every resident of Cottage Grove should boost the boosters.

Pennsylvania buckwheat flour, unlike other kinds in purity and flavor. You can taste it in the cakes. At Kerr & Silsby's.

Notice of Road District Meeting.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the taxpayers of road district No. 60 for Lane County, Oregon, will be held at the Residence of B. M. Hawley the 28th day of December, 1909, at the hour of 12 o'clock of said day.

The object of said meeting is for the purpose of submitting to the taxpayers of said road district the question of voting a levy of an additional tax upon the taxable property of said district for the purpose of improving the roads of said district.

This notice is signed by at least ten per cent of the taxpayers of said district.

B. M. Hawley.
F. J. Hard.
The Vesuvius Mines Company.
By F. J. Hard, Secretary and Manager.

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