THE TRIBUNE.

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How Man Proposes.

To a foreign statistician the world is indebted for some very interesting data in regard to the most approved methods of courtship in civilized countries. These data were compiled from several hundred novels and romances, the object being to show how men propose and how women receive the proposals.

From 100 typical cases of accepted declarations of love the statistician obtained the following figures: Eighty-one of the 100 men vowed that they could not live any longer without the adored ones, 72 held the ladies' hand in a tight grip, 60 kissed them on the lips, 10 on the right hand, 2 on the tip of the nose and 1 on the shoulder; 18 were so excited that they could hardly speak, 26 lost their eloquence through certain qualms of conscience, 12 said in deep chest tones, "Thank God," and 8 frankly admitted that they were "inexpressibly happy."

By studying the conduct of 100 men whose suits were rejected the statistician obtained the following equally interesting figures: Forty of them rushed in a frenzy out of the room; 21 said that life henceforth had no more value in their eyes and that they would commit suicide; 14 became suddenly tongue-tied and irrational, 6 calmly resigned themselves to the inevitable, 5 vowed their intention of immediately emigrating to America, 3 tore out some of their hair, 2 bit their lips till the blood came, 1 stuck his hands into his trousers pockets and whistled a popular song and another looked up toward heaven and began to say the Lord's Prayer.

Of the ladies 87 per cent knew before that the proposals were about to be made to them. Seventy of them sank as if embarrassed into the arms of the loved ones, and only 4 fell gently down on a chair or sofa. Fourteen covered their blushing faces with their hands, 8 threw their arms passionately around the necks of the men; 2 said, "Please speak to mamma," and 1 sneered. One lady, who was 48 years old, protested vigorously against giving or receiving a kiss, another, who was about the same age, said, "Yes, you may kiss me, but you must do it in a gentlmanly manner."

800,000 acres in the "Everglades" of Florida have been purchased by the Drainage and Sugar Company of Tallahassee. This immense body of swamp land was recently sold by the state and preparations are now being made to drain and prepare it for cultivation. Other tracts, though much smaller of course, have been drained and placed under cultivation and they have been found to produce corn, oats, rice, tobacco, fruits and sugar cane in very large quantities. The soil, owing to its remarkable fertility seems peculiarly adapted to the production of sugar cane. Experienced sugar men who have given much attention to the producing capacity of that charmed land state that the greater part of the land in this great basin will produce five thousand pounds of sugar per acre. The company will drain the land at once and prepare it for cultivation. The land will then be sold to settlers in ten acre tracts. The company will then erect large sugar mills to make use of the cane crops grown. Frost is not known in that locality. The company has a capitalization of $[illegible],000,000, divided into 50,000 shares of $100 each.

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The Waning of Prohibition.

Recent events have made it plain that the demand for the total prohibition of the traffic in intoxicants is declining in the United States. Ten years ago it was a menacing political force in this country. Not only were Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont prohibition states, as they legally are today, but Rhode Island, both the Dakotas, Iowa and Kansas had been carried by the adherents of that policy. In the national campaign of 1884 the St. John prohibition vote in New York was large enough to turn the state to Cleveland and to secure the defeat of Blaine for president. In 1892 the vote for Bidwell, the prohibition candidate, was 264,133, the high water-mark vote of the party since its organization.

Since then prohibition as a principle of national and state policy has been losing ground. In 1896 the party split into two factions over the silver question. In 1900 there were still two prohibition parties in the field, but both received a combined vote less than Bidwell got in 1892. Meanwhile Rhode Island, the Dakotas and Iowa repealed their state prohibition statutes and returned to license systems.

Now in New York and in Kansas, some of the strongest men who have figured in the prohibition party are declaring that it is utterly useless to make such laws when a majority of the community is manifestly indifferent or opposed to their drastic enforcement. Such notable prohibitionists as Dr. Funk, former publisher of The Voice, the national prohibition organ, and ex-Governor Merrill, of Kansas, are among those so quoted. Their experience warrants them in the judgement that a prohibitory law must, more than any other law, have a commanding and insistent majority back of it in order to obtain reputable enforcement.

On the other hand, there is no growth of sentiment in favor of free liquor. Quite the opposite. Barrooms and drunkenness were never in more disfavor in America than they are now. But sensible, practical drink reformers have learned that the method of local option, operated among the primary political units—townships or counties—is the easiest and surest way of controlling or suppressing the drink evils. The example of Georgia in the operation of the method is everywhere cited as conclusive in favor of enforceable local option as against non-enforceable state prohibition. And Georgia's condition in this respect is envied by the straightst of prohibitionists in the so-called prohibition states.—Atlanta Constitution.

Without any sort of sense or reason man manifests the same in veterate enmity toward all kinds of hawks, owls, eagles and their kind that he does toward snakes, when, with the exception of the few venomous snakes, the entire list of birds referred to and the non-venomous snakes should be rated as among his best friends, as they constitute nature's most effective agency to limit the number of the rodentia—rabbits, mice, rats, gophers. This is a lesson which needs preaching over and over.

A young man cannot learn too soon the value of good cheer; he should early and late cultivate the ability to look on the bright side. He should find what many a man has failed to discover, that there is such a thing as the sunny side of a shadow. He will encounter difficulties; he will meet enemies; he will bear burdens, but if he can maintain a serene, even temper, and an unconquerable, hopeful spirit, he will succeed where multitudes fail.

The commissioners of the District of Columbia have asked the governors of the various states to co-operate with them in securing a date of presidential inaugurations, so that the president will take the oath on April 30 instead of March 4. It is proposed to change the date because of the inclement and disagreeable weather which prevails in Washington during March.

The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald notes the fact that the colored people of the South are migrating to Northern cities. Washington has a larger number than any Southern city, and Chicago has more than Washington. Philadelphia has also a large number.

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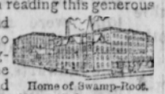

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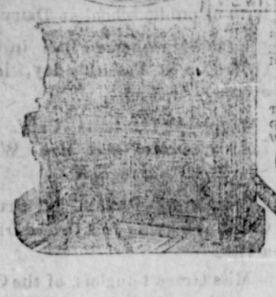

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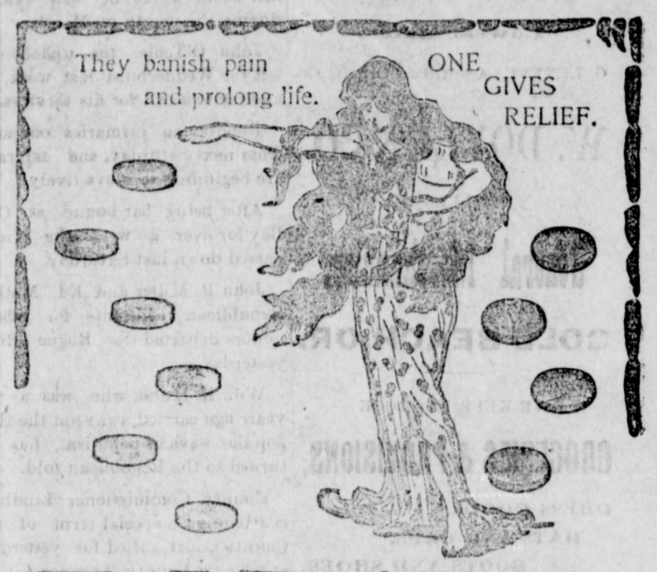

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