

WORSHIP OF GAB.

A Class of Legislators Who Deserve Ignominious and Speedy Retreatment.

In this day of progress there is no error more general and more deleterious to our material and intellectual prosperity than our senseless worship of gab. It is not a worthy appreciation of the beauties of true and pure eloquence. But those who are gifted with a copious flow of impracticable and useless words have educated the people to the idea that no man is fit for a legislative unless he is endowed with a constant ebullition of gas. And although every man of experience and thought will at once acknowledge that not one in a hundred of those who are tireless in their talk as the winds on the prairies are fit for any thing practical in the world, as legislators they are totally incapable of originating a practical law, or of successfully remodeling a bill offered by any one else. In this matter we have some readers who have had experience in legislative folly, and they know how little reliance can be placed in an incoherent talker in arranging practical legislation. It is the calm, cool, thinking man, who have gathered up the great lessons of life in a severe and close conflict with the world. Colleges may make scholars, but it takes something additional to make men.

Those who have done most in forming and perpetuating the institutions of our country were not orators, but men of thought, experience and of mature judgment. Great principles are evolved and important questions settled by deep and close investigation in the private office, and in the close conflict of minds in the committee-rooms. Speeches in the public halls of legislation have nothing to do with the settlement of great questions. They are made for the gaping crowd.

Our halls of legislation are crowded with lawyers, to the exclusion of the various branches of industry. This would not be so objectionable if a better class of lawyers were selected. It is well known in this learned profession, to be successful a law firm should always have as one of the partners a man of practical sense enough to get the law and the people in the right form. A man who can put himself above the preparation of business. The other partner should be a good "dry lawyer." This is one who can spread the eagle and tell the dry anecdotes. In the profession there is too large a proportion of the latter class. And our readers will bear witness that if any one of the firm becomes a candidate for the Legislature or Congress, it is invariably the one who has the "gift of gab," instead of the one who has by study and a well-laden mind brought success to the law firm. In this way our legislative and congressional halls are filled with imprudent men. What better evidence do we want of this fact than the frequent and constant passage of laws which are unconstitutional, and that, too, after going through the scrutiny of the judiciary committee, composed of lawyers, for the express purpose of checking unconstitutional legislation. This would not be the case if the office instead of the jury lawyer was elected. And this brings us back to the question—our great error of gab-worship. We want more thinking and fewer talking men in higher places. A gross number of Congress is an expensive animal. Every set speech he makes to empty benches costs several thousand dollars, and does no good. And a large portion of our extravagant expenditures are our protracted and useless sessions of Congress grow out of the practice of taking for a Congressman the wrong member of the firm, or the wrong member of the community. Gas instead of sense, imprudence instead of modest merit, is too often the man of the popular crowd. If there be a man in our community who has never done any thing in the world except to study graceful gestures, and ornament his language with stolen quotations from the literature of the past, he is selected to be the man to frame laws for the government of the diversified interests of a continent.

The past history of every State in this Union, and of the United States, shows that the reliable practical men are those who have matured and disciplined their minds in the great industrial, literary, agricultural, manufacturing, mechanical or mercantile. These are the interests of the world, and from these we want more men of practical experience and moral firmness. If the people would cease running after mere gab, and seek after plain, practical men, who know and who sympathize with those who labor, our rights would be better respected and our institutions be longer perpetuated. —Boston Budget.

An Expensive Luxury.

A German, now residing in this country, writes to his home paper as follows concerning our colleges: "In America, in this land of the free, it is the sad fact that university culture is a prize which is only accessible to the sons of rich men." His inquiries were very exact. "Among the 140 students who had completed their studies at Yale college this year (1894) I obtained answers from 109. According to their reports the average cost for the four years' course amounted to \$600. There were great differences in individual cases; one had succeeded in 'getting through' at the cost of \$150 a year; another needed no less than \$3,500 annually. I know a German porter in the States whose eldest son passed a brilliant examination at Princeton; but father and son agreed that it was impossible to pursue his studies there on account of the price of education. Study at an American university is a most expensive luxury." —Chicago Times.

SEA PEARL FISHING.

The Largest and Most Productive Fishery Stations of the World.

The sea pearl fisheries are principally confined to the Persian gulf, coasts of Ceylon, the Eastern archipelago, Australia, the lagoons of many islands in the Pacific and to Central America. Fresh water pearls have, as a rule, but little luster, and are consequently of no great value. For a while the Scotch pearls enjoyed a great reputation. During the summer months the Arabs carry on a sort of pearl fishery on the coast of the Red Sea. They catch the mollusks and lay them in the sun so that they may open quickly. The pearl fisheries in the Persian gulf, especially on the coasts of the island of Bahrein, are also in the hands of the Arabs.

The Ceylon pearl fisheries are carried on on the west coast of Ceylon, in the gulf of Mannar, south of the island of the same name, and also on the west coast of India, near Tuticorin. Experience has shown that few pearls, and these of little value, come from mussels which are not older than five years. During the fifth and sixth year the value doubles, and in the seventh it becomes fourfold. The pearls are not fully matured if they are taken out too soon, and, on the other hand, the animal dies if the pearls remain too long in the shells. For these reasons, at the Ceylon fisheries pearl fishing is prohibited at certain periods. In sorting the pearls they are first passed through a row of baskets, ten or twelve in number. The eighth basket in the row has twenty holes, and the pearls which do not pass through these holes are said to have the "twenty-four moons." The other baskets have 30, 50, 80, 100, 200, 300, 500, 1,000 holes, etc., and each basket has its special name. After the pearls have been sorted in this manner they are weighed and their value is noted. Ceylon has pearl fisheries near Palkot. The Philippine Islands produce large quantities of mother-of-pearl. The entire region from the island of Tawi-Tawi and Lulu to Basilan is one continuous bed of pearl oysters. Here the Malays and Chinese fish in common. The Lulu fisheries near Tawi-Tawi, are, according to the statement of an Englishman, Mr. Moore, the largest and most productive of all the pearl fisheries in the East Asiatic seas. The pearls which are caught here have always been famous, and the mother-of-pearl is distinguished by its yellow luster, which makes it suitable for many purposes. The most important pearl fisheries in the world are in the hands of Sydney capitalists. The fisheries are carried on by Malays, who dive to a depth of six fathoms. The pearl fisheries on the northwest coast of Australia employ a large number of Malays and natives as divers. Recently the English papers have reported the discovery of pearls and mother-of-pearl near New Zealand.

Diving is one of the principal employments for the natives of the Pacific Ocean. Here, likewise, mother-of-pearl is the principal object of the fisheries. The oysters live in large colonies, close together, and are firmly attached to each other; they are attached to the bottom by a ligament or band, starting from their body and running through the shell. In the live animal this band is of a dark green, and sometimes gold bronze color, and fishermen can tell from its color whether the shells contain pearls or not. The shells reach their full size when they are seven years old. When the animal has reached maturity, it tears itself loose from the stones, opens its shell and dies. The shells are then covered with corals and parasites. They become worthless and the pearls are lost. Occasionally pearls are found loose in the shells. These are always of a very fine quality, perfectly round and often very large. But there is hardly one in a thousand oysters which contain such pearls. The natives when they open the shells, find a fine golden weather is most favorable for pearl fishing. The divers wear no special suit, but simply rub their body with oil, so the sun may not blister their skin. They remain under the water one or two minutes, and bring up oysters from a depth of twenty fathoms. They rarely go to such a depth, but the finest oysters are found there. Thus in many fishing grounds, which were supposed to be exhausted, a great many pearl oysters are found in deep water.

Besides the pearl oyster there is often found in the lagoons of the Pacific Ocean a kind of Venus shell, which often contains pearls of great value. The fishermen do not look for these pearls at all, but it is presumed that it would pay to examine these shells more systematically. In the Pacific there is found another pearl-producing mollusk, whose shells greatly resemble those of the common oyster. They are always found attached to rocks, invariably one by itself, and they are quite rare. Their pearls are always perfectly round, with a fine luster and a gold color, of about the size of a pea. —N. Y. Star.

Henry George's Wife.

Though Henry George has acquired such large celebrity, his wife's name has hardly been mentioned in the papers that speak of him so often and so much. She is a thorough home body, devoted to her husband and their four children. She is one of the small, plump, cheery bodies that never get down-hearted, and people who have known them a long time say that but for her unflinching devotion and enthusiastic belief in him Mr. George would never have been able to come triumphantly through the long period of straitened means and hard work which preceded his sudden success. —Chicago Tribune.

WISE MONKEYS.

How They Are Taught to Act as Skilful Workmen, Detectives of Bad Money and Good Water.

In the island of Sumatra the common monkey is the beak, or pig-tailed monkey, and he becomes a doctore and intelligent servant. What he has to do is to gather coconuts. Of course nothing is easier for a four-handed fellow than to climb tall trees and throw down nuts, but the beak does better than that; he selects the nuts, gathering none but the ripe ones, and, what is more, he picks only as many as his master wishes.

So useful is this animal that gathering nuts has become, one may say, his trade; that part of his work. A man having captured and trained a gang of them, marches them around the country to get in the harvest, hiring them out on different plantations. Then, when the nuts are all picked, or the laborers too numerous, gangs of them are taken to the English colonies at Cape Town, and hired out like any workmen, or coolies, as they are called.

A Siamese ape has reached a step higher, it is said. The story is told by an Austrian who lived in Siam that this ape is able to tell by the taste whether coin is good or bad, and merchants employ him for the purpose of detecting counterfeit.

Within a few months a gentleman of India has tried his hand at training monkeys, and in reports to the Asiatic Society of Bengal he success in teaching them to pull punkahs. A punkah—perhaps you know—is an immense fan, hung from the ceiling and moved back and forth by means of a rope outside the room. It keeps a whole room cool, and in that climate is necessary for a white man to eat or sleep with any comfort. A monkey who can pull one, then, is as useful as a man, and is a true worker.

Another valuable monkey is the chachina of Africa. When young this baboon is very tractable, and is often kept by the Kaffirs as a domestic animal. He takes the place of a dog, growing when a stranger comes near, and if he becomes necessary to defend his master's property, he is much stronger than any dog.

The chachina easily learns to follow the bellows of a smith, and to drive horses or oxen; but his greatest use in that country is to find water. In the hot season, when the earth is parched and springs and streams are dry, the owner of a tame chachina takes him out to hunt for the water they all must have.

The intelligent monkey seems to know what is wanted, or perhaps he knows by his own feelings what to look for, and he goes carefully over every inch of ground, looking earnestly at every tuft of grass, and eagerly sniffing the breeze on every side. Whether he scents the water is not known, but if there is water in the neighborhood he is sure to find it. It may be a deep spring, in which case he sets to work digging down to it, and it may be a certain very juicy root, which often serves instead of water. He gets the root out, and he is hope he has his full share of it, to pay for his work. —St. Nicholas.

FILTH IN JAIL.

Sanitary Condition of a Large Number of Reformatory Institutions.

As civilization advances, the treatment of the unfortunate and criminal classes is said to become more humane, and as a Nation we love to boast of our prison and asylum reforms; but now and then humanity receives a rude shock from revelations coming out of these very signs of our advancement. With one or two exceptions the prison penitentiaries, for whose condition there was, at least, the partial excuse of necessity and the bitterness engendered by the strife—we say with one or two exceptions, these prisons are today surpassed by prisons in both the South and the North, while city jails and work-houses are notoriously bad and often criminally managed. The plumbing inspector of Minneapolis recently made an inspection of the county jail, wherein he found a reeking abomination of filth, for the long continued existence of which no excuse can be offered, for the officials have been notified more than once of its bad sanitary condition. Filth alone, it is well known, will breed crime, and it certainly is a fit environment for our extremely bad and easily avoided conditions which maintain in almost all jails, viz., the commingling of the hardened criminal and the novice in the milder forms of law-breaking; but it is the sanitary condition of these places to which our readers' attention is called. In the Minneapolis jail Mr. Hazen found a veritable cesspool in the basement, caused by the wash-water running from the jail apartments above. The plumber had used the convenient and inexpensive putty to make his joints, a material quite largely in use in this, as no doubt in many another city, and the old and cheapest forms of closets, poorly set, had also been used, and they were sadly out of joint. An enlightened public sentiment will correct these abuses, but the correction is always specific. One job at a time, and that after infinite harm has been done, seems to be all that the public can handle. The onus of prevention has never been weighed by this public, and it still seems a pound to the men whom we all love to honor with our franchises. To employ an architect to build a jail would be the height of folly and the name of extravagance; but soon the voice of the architect will be heard, not crying out against old abuses, but as a warning to avoid all such calamities, and the sooner that voice is heard the better. —Northwestern Architect.

THROUGH WEST IRELAND.

A Country Unsurpassed for Grand and Spectacularly Beautiful Scenery.

Some two and a half miles from Letterack is a picturesque bridge crossing the River Dunross, which flows by through bending branches of trees. Here the country opens out somewhat, and from the bridge is caught the first view of the Pass of Kilmora, so surprisingly beautiful that its beauty must be seen and felt—it cannot be described. A valley, wide and level, and flooded with sunshine, to the left a tall mountain rises sheer out of a calm lake at its base; the sides of this mountain are thickly wooded half way up, the other half bare, and gleaming with a hundred streams that flow from their source above. Standing out of the road, contrasting sharply with the dark green of the pines, is a castle built of white stone, and a little further down the banks of the lake rises the spire of a beautiful memorial chapel, built by the owner of the place in memory of his wife. On the right of the road, in crescent-shaped sweep, the Twelve Pins lift their heads, their bare, craggy sides beautified by an ethereal blue mist, like a soft veil thrown over, yet in a way hiding them. And so does the valley wind and twist that all these mountains seem to move and shift, now out the one that a few days ago was in front, now peers over the top of the other two colors. Then the country is of color, black and shadowy hillsides, the blue hills, the dark wood (the place takes its name), the white castle and church, the lake, black with shadow in parts, sparkling like diamonds where it catches the light above and around, and penetrating every thing the vivid gold of the sunshine—all made an entrancing world, that once seen and felt will be loved forever. Here, too, are the lovely gardens of Kilmora Castle, and through the woods, wild flowers and heath, the white Mediterranean health among them—and ferns to delight all who are happy enough to have time to linger. But I think few who come here will care much to look at the artificial gardens and lawns—they are almost out of keeping with such grand nature, and the people of the country never tire of repeating: "Barren! the gardens and lawns, every easily thing here is as God made it—it's all nature, nothing artificial in our country."

Of all the words that once dashed and made part of the wealth of Gough, this of Kilmora is the only one left in this part of the country. It is one of the peculiarities of the scenery throughout the western Irish highlands, that the absence of trees is not felt as if it were a loss, or as if it marred the perfection of the landscape. It is with a sense of solidly remembering that, with the exception of a few bushes, or a few straggling shrubs, or bushes along the roadside, there have been seen for miles and miles, but they were not missed. —Car. Prentiss Journal.

THE ERIE CANAL.

Major Power's Resolutions of the Opening of the Great Water-Way.

I have a full resolution, for I was a small boy then, of the grand celebration at New York of the opening of the canal from Lake Erie to the Hudson river. On the 25th of October, 1825, eight years and four months from the time the work commenced, the Erie canal was completed, and on that day the Seneca Chief, with De Witt Clinton, then Governor of the State of New York, Lieutenant-Governor Tallmadge and various committees on board, left Buffalo for the Hudson river. Along the entire line of the canal, within hearing distance of each other, heavy artillery were placed, and the starting of the Seneca Chief from Buffalo was carried to the city of New York as fast as sound could travel, and by the same means it was announced in Buffalo that this great event was known in New York. This was before the present mode of communicating information by telegraph had been known; but the plan was so well executed that in one hour and thirty minutes from the leaving of the first gun in Buffalo, the echo was heard in New York and returned to Buffalo. It was a day of great rejoicing throughout the State, and the arrival of the "Chief" at the various places along the line was signalized with great pomp and splendor. Every city and village had prepared its festival, and brought the whole line, from the lake to the ocean, in a wave of triumph. On the 2d of November the Seneca Chief reached the city of Albany, eight days from Buffalo, and on the 4th she arrived in the city of New York.

When the fleet, which was composed of the Seneca Chief and several steam and other craft from Albany, New York and other places on the river, reached Sandy Hook, Governor De Witt Clinton proceeded to perform the ceremony of commingling the waters of the lake with the ocean by pouring a keg of Lake Erie water into the Atlantic when he delivered the following address:

"This solemnity at this place on the first arrival of vessels from Lake Erie is intended to indicate and commemorate the navigable communication which has been accomplished between our Mediterranean seas and the Atlantic ocean in about eight years, and to the extent of more than 425 miles, by the wisdom, public spirit and energy of the people of the State of New York; and may the God of the heavens and the earth smile most propitiously on this work, and render it subservient to the best interests of the human race." —Ben. Parley Poore, in Boston Budget.

SAVAGE CEREMONIES.

Peculiar Customs Obtaining Among the Natives of New Britain.

The most peculiar ceremony practiced by the natives has rarely been witnessed by a white man. I saw one last year, and I will endeavor to describe the incidents of the performance and its meanings. The Duk-duk is supposed to be a spirit which makes its appearance at the day-break of the day on which the new moon appears. It invariably comes from the sea, and as it is daylight two or three canoes, with a platform upon them, are seen coming to the shore. The entire male community of the village awaits the coming of the beach stated in silence. On the platform are two men, leaping and shouting and crying out in shrill tones. They wear a loose robe of leaves woven together and reaching to the knees. On their heads are conical-shaped hats, some six feet high, from the rim of which are hung masks entirely concealing the features. The masks have horrible-looking faces painted upon them. The lower portions of the legs are alone visible. As the dress is supposed to represent a cassowary, or New Guinea ostrich, with a human head, the figures upon landing execute a series of hopping steps in imitation of the bird. Meanwhile the natives appear to be frightened. The Duk-duk is to stay in the village a fortnight, and during that period he is at liberty to do whatever he pleases. No woman is allowed to look at him. In fact, as soon as the canoe is sighted, the women all run away to the bush. After dancing a short time the Duk-duk goes into the jungle and the natives move off slowly to their homes.

In the evening immense quantities of coconuts, yams, and other food are piled in the center of the village square. As each man brings his contribution the Duk-duk dances around him. He is called, however, a shrill cry, if displeased, the individual receives a tremendous blow with a stick. After these food offerings are concluded the ceremonies begin. A large bundle of canes about six feet long and as thick as one's little finger were brought. Five or six young men jumped up, and holding their heads high above their heads, received heavy blows from the bundle of canes, which were whistled by the Duk-duk. The canes could round the bodies and at each stroke drew blood. Other young men took their places. Sometimes the Duk-duk would vary the performance by striking with his club. The ceremonies were repeated for ten days, and then the Duk-duk took his departure. I believe the origin and meaning of these peculiar ceremonies are that the natives believe power over the young man. The Duk-duk is always said to belong to some old man who continues to live in the village, but they do not know that it is the old man have or lend the Duk-duk to kill any individual he commands will be obeyed without interference from any one. Again, the old man, having become decrepit, can no work in the gardens, and the piles of food offered to the spirit come into their possession.

Although cannibalism is reported by missionaries to have died out among the islands in the South seas, it is far more common than generally imagined. In New Ireland I saw a big light between two villages, and after the battle the bodies of those who had fallen were eaten. The bodies, after being scalded in hot water, were scraped with a bamboo knife by old women. An old man cuts up the bodies, taking care to keep the thigh and shin bones, which are used for spears. After being wrapped in leaves, the dismembered carcasses are placed in holes dug in the ground, and in four days are ready for eating. The natives made no concealment of their disgusting meal, and during the feast they held wild dancing and song. The preparation of such a meal, and the human beings is called *safo*, and is in great demand among the women. The females seemed to be more brutal and savage than the men during the cannibal banquet.

With regard to the adaptability of these islands to white civilization, there is no reason why such a scheme should not succeed. There is rich soil, fine climate and plenty of water. Although the natives are savage and suspicious, they can be easily managed by firmness and consideration. None of the men are over five and a half feet in stature, while the women are much shorter. They make good servants, but must be held in check and never allowed any familiarity. —San Francisco Chronicle.

Reading for the Blind.

If it is to be expected that Paris, which is so well provided with libraries, would neglect the blind. But the leading library for the blind recently opened does not owe its existence to official aid, but to private generosity. A gentleman named M. de la Sizeranne—blind himself—who consecrates his life to the protection of those afflicted with the same infirmity, has got the masterpiece of French literature specially printed, and lends them out gratuitously to the blind in Paris to read. He also publishes a newspaper printed in Braille type, and another for the teachers and friends of the blind. Most of the books are in manuscript. They have been copied out in Braille—by dictation to the blind themselves, or by copyists. The Braille system is extremely simple, and may be acquired in a few hours. M. de la Sizeranne says that he is assisted in his work by numerous grand dames, and receives all the paper required from leading stationers for nothing. —Pitt Mail Gazette.

There are more than thirty-two miles of shelves in the British Museum, London.

THE SUPREME COURT.

Bits of Medieval Etiquette Resurrected for the Benefit of This Body.

The assembling of the Supreme Court at Washington on the second Monday in October is always the occasion of the beginning of the ceremonial courtesies, which are annually exchanged between the co-ordinate powers of the Government. The Chief Justice and Associates, in their robes of office, take their seats upon the Supreme bench, and begin their sessions. After preliminary directions as to the commencement of business the court adjourns. Having laid aside their robes the Court in a body, attended by its own officers and accompanied by the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General, proceed to the Executive Mansion and, being formally announced, are received by the President in the audience parlour. The Chief Justice congratulated the President upon his appearance and good health. After the Associates in turn present their compliments, the Court retires. It would then be custom to leave a card at the residence of the Vice-President, that high functionary being ex-officio chief officer of the upper body of Congress, the second co-ordinate branch of the Government. The President never returning a call in form, except that of a sovereign, ruler of a country or member of a royal family visiting Washington, does not return the call of the Court. During the season, however, it is custom for him to give a state dinner in his honor.

The Vice-President or President pro tempore of the Senate, if in the city, or within a reasonable time after his return, leaves a return card at the residence of the Chief Justice. This is followed by calls of etiquette among the members of the court and their ladies in society. The Associates first calling upon the Chief Justice and then junior upon senior Justices, return calls being made in the same order of precedence. The ladies of the court are a home on Mondays during the season, at which time persons in social relations with the court circle or others in polite society may call, the dress of the ladies being a general uniform of street costume. These Mondays are given rise to a general movement of courtesies in advance of the rush of society in fashionable life, which commences during the Congressional and Administration seasons. The code of etiquette of the Supreme Court circle was founded on the early social practices of the old school of manner established by the first President and his wife and incorporated into the social regime of the court by its first Chief Justice. The pre-eminent public services of John Jay and the high social inheritance and accomplishments of his wife, a daughter of William Livingston, of the distinguished colonial family of that name, gave the first of social and social environments of the political circle, a degree of dignity and prominence which has been maintained through the seven succeeding chief justices who have worn the ermine of the Chief Justice. —N. Y. Home Journal.

When keeping eggs turn them at least three times a week. This will prevent the yolk from adhering to the shell, as it may do if kept too long in one position.

While celebrating the Fourth of July in 1875, Thomas Hamigan, a Sing Sing (N. Y.) boy, was severely injured by the explosion of a soda-water bottle full of powder. He lost the sight of his right eye, and was badly cut on the face and neck. Now, after the lapse of over eleven years, he has been relieved of a piece of bottle glass from his lost eye. It is three-quarters of an inch long, and a quarter of an inch wide. It had been all the while imbedded on the upper side of the upper lid.

A Brooklyn paper contains an advertisement offering a reward of one thousand dollars for information identifying the author of certain anonymous letters that have been received by citizens of the Nineteenth ward in the last fortnight. The letters have been addressed largely to young women, making scandalous assertions about their acquaintances, and many family secrets have been disclosed as well as false charges made. Engagements have been broken off and much unhappiness enticed.

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