SYSTEM ARRAIGNED

An Ideal of Public Duty That Ought Not to Be Ignored.

T. W. DAVENPORT'S LETTER

Here Is Matter That Ought to Give Pause and Bring Reflection Back to the Citizen.

SILVERTON, Or., Oct. 24.—(To the Editor.)—Very many well-meaning and hopeful people are sadly cast down by the prevalent spirit of graft seemingly abroad in the land, for it militates so rudely against their opinions, habitually expressed, that progression is the law of human nature, and that mankind is getting better and wiser, notwithstanding occasional lapses into barbarism.

As a solace for such spells of depression, those good people must moderate their expectations as to the rate of progress; must take into consideration that there are fluctuations, even in an advancing tide; and, indeed, they must cease to consider progression as a fixed fact, nolens volens, for whether the so-called law elevates or depresses a person, whether it be one of progression or retrogression for man, depends upon the trend of his own exertions.

By holding moral principles to the front and struggling to reach them with an upturned face, may mean progress, that is, if we rate human destiny any more than that of the beasts; turning the back to them and yielding to the gravitation of excessive selfishness, will surely land us in the slough of moral despond.

We cannot make compromises with evil tendencies and yet go up in the scale of being; they are always to be denied and resisted. A man or nation cannot lower the zero without sustaining a relapse. Why do not people see this irrevocable, unchangeable law of their being when all history and all individual experience furnishes not a single instance to the contrary?

The assumption that the law of evolution is an inescapable force or cosmic complacence, raising man from savagery, regardless of his help or hindrance, though somewhat of a fad, is, to say the least, an absurdity to all well-trained Darwinians. Indeed, how does such an assumption cohere with the every day fact patent to every man, woman and child, that exercise, effort, wise discipline, is the only key to the elevated regions of human endeavor? Or is it true that we gather grapes of thorns and figs of thistles, receive peace of mind by the tumult of passion or advance in brotherly love by despoiling others of their property and rights? The exercise of a faculty makes it strong, inaction makes it weak. A person devotes his life to money-getting and becomes excessively covetous; his altruistic faculties are neglected and the result is a moral dwarf, a lopsided human being. Evolution can give no relief without a change of effort, of discipline, or, rather, such backsliding is a phase of the same law.

Life-service is not sufficient. If it were, John D. Rockefeller might be considered a Christian. But John D. is not out of line with the times. He is not an exceptional hypocrite, for, amid all the grafting and other forms of corruption, there is no lack of ethical profession. Our principles are unobjectionable. Most people, including Rockefeller, think that is sufficient, and resist the application of them to practice. Applied Christianity is one of the lost arts; professional Christianity is academic, is easy. It fits the times. Bring on your "tainted money," says the commencement orator at Harvard, "and we will sanctify it."

That such contrarity means hypocrisy of the basest sort, goes without saying. It is everywhere, in the street, in the shop, in the schools, in the pulpit, in the colleges, in the Government, and has so befogged the average human that there is no unvarying practical standard of right and wrong. Indeed, there is no expectation or pretense that men will be guided by the golden rule and love each other as brothers. It is sufficient if we keep out of the jails and penitentiaries, and such a standard of conduct may mean little as respects the merits or demerits of men.

The declared purpose of government in the United States is to establish justice, and if the word justice does not mean equalness it has no significance. But of all the times since the American Constitution made that declaration, the most unequalness is now. Everybody knows it, and there are some signs that the cataclysm of greed is beginning to recede. Highly significant, is it not, of the hoggishness of the times, that the President of the United States deems it necessary and fit to repeat the exhortation to his countrymen for a "square deal," and also that words without deeds are valueless and that some strenuosity is needed to produce results?

As an earnest of his purpose to establish justice, he is doing his part by "rounding up" the grafters and applying the criminal brand to them. He is finding quite a large lot of them in Oregon, but the meshes of the law are capacious and will permit many to escape. And, indeed, the law at best is not a successful separator of the sheep from the goats. It does not catch all the delinquents and entangles some who are less guilty. Perhaps this is unavoidable as an incident, even of an intentionally just Government, but the habit of judging persons by the crude sanctions of statute law instead of the rules of rational justice is responsible for much of the malefic and miscarriage of government.

All eyes are now turned upon the accused, and much remark is caused by the large number of them and their prominence in Government and society, but that very fact only goes to show that the conditions which produce criminality are broadly spread and of long standing. Such harvests are of no mushroom growth, no kin to Jonah's gourd. We have been cultivating them for half a century. Swamp-land frauds, lieu-land frauds, desert-land frauds, timber-culture frauds, pre-emption and homestead frauds—why, all these are old chestnuts, and the people have grinned and bore them, for the sake of the political parties, which gave the culprits a shelter, in the interest of harmony. But partisanism is declining and recent transgressors must stand upon their merits. A few years ago if an officer made public protest against a grafter in his own party, he was set aside as a disturber of the partisan peace, and I doubt if ten years ago an Oregon jury could have been found to convict Senator Mitchell, with all the proof exhibited by Mr. Heney. Then the prosecutor would not have had the active support of the National Administration and the local opposition, now faintly perceived, would have baffled him entirely. And is it not a little queer that Senator Thurston should emphatically repeat that Senator Mitchell's offense was not in itself immoral, that at most it was merely technical? Must we conclude that the prevailing depravity has blinded every man in the United States Senate? How uplifting it would be of the whole commonwealth if persons would regulate their conduct by the ought and ought not of the moral laws that are inherent in the nature of things and consequential of the social state, instead of groping along the statute's boundaries seeking how far they may deviate from rectitude without coming into contact with its penalties.

Probably a majority of people have small inclination to improper conduct and therefore feel no restraint from penal statutes, and it would be well if public opinion derived from such self-regulating units held to strict account the wabbling fellows prone to disorder. But sorry to say they are not under the social ban until they get caught by a statutory penalty. Such relaxation of social restrictions is not only a damage to society by inviting disorder but is unjust to the apprehended transgressor who may be far less a disturber of the normal social status than one whom the false public opinion tolerates and accepts. The dereliction of duty charged against Senator Mitchell is slight as compared with that of Senator Fulton, and yet the latter passes as an honorable man. One infringed a statute having a penalty and is therefore a criminal, the other disobeyed the constitution of his state and violated his oath of office, for which there is no legal penalty.

Mr. Fulton is an experienced lawyer, and has the skilled habit of probing into the affairs of men and discovering the motive therein, and he should not object to being judged more critically than one not so disciplined. His professional practice has made him an adept at tracing the causes and tendencies of human conduct, moral and immoral, and he must be held as intending the consequences of his actions when he promotes an immoral game. It is not necessary, therefore, to tell him the purpose of the framers of our constitution in declaring members of the Legislature ineligible to offices elective by the Assembly or created by it, during the time for which they were elected. He knows that it was to preserve the legislative body free from the distractions that must arise when the members are permitted to engage in office seeking, and as a consequence the perversion of the power and influence of public function to private uses.

To what extent Mr. Fulton's candidacy is responsible for the log-rolling legislation of that session, which was in excess of any preceding one, may not be determined, and though the Senator may declare his innocence of any improper enticements or bargainings, he should know and probably does know that the mere fact of his being a candidate with a strong following conferred a silent power over legislation which no prudent legislator would ignore or offend and thus multiplied the sources of corrupt legislation. Add to this that a United States Senator can reward his friends with official positions and punish his enemies by a denial of them, and we have a combination of promotive devilry that should appall anyone not given over to hardness of heart and a reprobate mind.

And this departure from the constitutional way by Mr. Fulton was not the immediate result of a hasty impulse or a seeming necessity to solve the political complications which sometimes arrest the governmental experiment. On the contrary it was done with deliberation, after months of preparation and labor, and against a popular expression in favor of another person. He procured or accepted a nomination for the State Senate, to which he was elected; took the oath of office to support the constitution of the state and faithfully perform the duties of that office, but with the intention formed months before to violate both constitution and oath; contested stoutly through the whole of the legislative session for an election as United States Senator and since has been rewarding his supporters with the spoils.

To find a more pertinacious contempt for constitutional requirements and the proprieties belonging to the public service, one would have to go outside of the state, perhaps as far as Delaware or Pennsylvania.

Of the 46 legislators who voted for Mr. Fulton, not one of them but knew he was doing wrong—wrong with reference to the constitution and his oath, and wrong with reference to his obligations as a citizen and especially as a public servant. Not one of them but knew it was an act of civic unrightcousness, and not one but would shrink from the task of publicly defending it. And as these men stand well in society and in their private affairs are considered honorable and above "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain," how are we to explain their departure from rectitude when trusted by their fellow citizens with the performance of a public duty? Many a sharper in his private dealings will feel himself in honor bound to be faithful to a trust, and we think such is the tendency of every kindly-disposed citizen and every self-respecting rogue before they have been drawn into the current of moral decadence which every community and nation must experience when they rest on their oars and cease to pull against the tide of human selfishness, when they cease to have an aspiration for collective progress. The time was in the early stages of our history when no citizen who stood high enough with his fellows to receive their suffrages for a seat in the Legislature would knowingly prostitute the public service for private gain. But such things for more than a quarter of a century have been of common occurrence, and in general the people have not entered serious protest. More often the rascals have been confirmed by continuing them in office while the so-called kickers have been sent to the rear.

Possibly the people of Oregan may consider the language of this article rather severe as applicable to our public servants, but "The System" which receives the excoriations of Tom Lawson, though more disastrous to the finances of a few thousand persons, is mild-mannered and orderly in comparison with the one I have been ventilating, for it vitiates the whole fabric of representative government. Through our failure to hold public servants to a strict accountability by the enforcement of legal and social penalities, we have been drifting away from the representative system. Can we get back? Can we recover the lost ground?

T. W. DAVENPORT.

LOST FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS ON GRAY'S HARBOR

HOTEL BUILDING THAT TOOK VOYAGE ON SCOWS.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Oct. 24.—(Special.)—Ocosta and Cosmopolis have, within two years, contributed in a small way to the upbuilding of Aberdeen and Hoquiam. In the palmy days of Ocosta, when values reached a wild and ruinous point, and when the crash came and brought destruction to many, a large hotel was built, which, since the collapse of the boom, left the building, with many others, vacant. More than a year ago it was decided to move the hotel from Ocosta to Hoquiam on scows, and the structure was cut in two, hauled to the water's edge and put on the flat ships of commerce.

All was ready one night for an early start in the morning, with six men to sleep aboard, ready for work when dawn should break. In the night a storm came up suddenly, the scows were torn from their mooring, and, supposedly, carried out to sea. Nothing was heard of men or craft for 24 hours, although searchers had been sent out, but later on the buildings were located, high and dry on a sandbar, in an inner harbor bay, with little or no damage and no loss of life.

The building was eventually towed to Hoquiam, where it serves the purpose for which it was intended originally.

Another novel experiment was the removal from Cosmopolis to Aberdeen on scows of the residence erected by Dr. Nims in the days of fictitious values and excitement, the collapse of which ruined the owner of the house, as well as others. Dr. Nims erected the building at a cost of $20,000. It was one of the show places of the harbor 12 years ago, and is splendidly constructed and equipped.

RAFFLES IN REAL LIFE.

Social Leader in Jersey Town Confesses Many Burglaries.

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Oct. 24.—By the alleged confession of Charles Boos, until a few days ago superintendent of the Walkill Transit Company's lines in Orange, a spectacular police mystery has been solved. According to the police he admitted to them yesterday that he had robbed one of the largest department stores in the city, beside several residences in the last few months.

Boos jestingly reminded the police that he, himself, had raised the hue and cry one night a few weeks ago, when a burglar was chased out of the residence of F. P. S. Crane, a wealthy man. He said the police were so close to him before he got out of the house that he ran ahead of them shouting "Stop, thief; catch that man!" This ruse worked so well that Boos resorted to it again a few nights later when he had forced his way into the home of J. L. Pendleton, and from which he was frightened by an alarm.

Boos is regarded as a modern social highwayman. He drew a large salary as superintendent of the big transit corporation and lived in good style in apartments on one of the best streets in the city. He was popular in society and dressed in the latest fashion. He was apparently one of the busiest men in the town, had no time for anything but his work, and seemed an exemplary man of business.

Great was the amazement when it became known last Friday that Boos had been arrested and locked up. The charge against him was made by officials of the Transit Company. It was charged that the superintendent had stolen a large quantity of copper wire from the company and sold it to a junk dealer. A subsequent search of Boos' fine apartment revealed plunder for which the police had long been looking, and which, it is alleged, was taken from a department store and private residence. Confronted with the goods, Boos, it is said, confessed.

Boos' bachelor apartments were the best in town and incidentally he had added to their comfort by tapping the wires of the company, from which he drew a large salary, and furnishing his rooms with five incandescent lights.

Prosperity in Tutuila.

TUTUILA, Samoa, Oct. 10, via San Francisco, Oct. 24.—The quantity of copra produced in the island has so far this year exceeded the production of all former years, and before the end of the season in January next, it is expected that the output will be 50 per cent greater than last year. The natives have abundance of money, and are spending it in feasting. One small village of a little over 200 people has ordered 100 barrels of beef to commemorate the prosperous year.

Governor Moore has ordered a meeting of representatives of the islands to convene toward the end of the present month at Pago Pago for the purpose of discussing island affairs. The people are now appointing the representatives to attend the meeting on their behalf. There will be about 50 delegates to the Congress.

NO ADS ON BRIDGES

County Commissioners Have No Jurisdiction.

JOY CONTRACT IS ILLEGAL

Judge Webster and Mayor Lane Find Supreme Court Decision Gives City Control of Bridges and Ferries.

There will be no advertising signs placed on the draw rests of the Madison, Morrison and Burnside-street bridges. The bridges and ferries are the property of the City of Portland, and the contract let by County Commissioners Barnes and Lightner to Allan R. Joy, attorney, for one year, is of no effect. This fact was brought out during a conference between Mayor Lane and County Judge Webster, both of whom oppose glaring advertising placards on the bridges, and Mayor Lane has since declared that he will not permit the advertising signs.

The Oregon Supreme Court decided years ago that the bridges and ferries belong to the City of Portland, and that the County of Multnomah, by Legislative act, is required to operate and maintain them. The county in the beginning declined to have anything to do with the bridges and ferries, and the courts were appealed to to decide the respective positions under the law of the city and county in the matter. The Supreme Court having said that the city owns the bridges, a contract for advertising on the bridges can only be let by the city, and not by the County Commissioners. Mayor Lane coincides with the opinion expressed by Judge Webster, and says there will be no placards, and if Mr. Joy, who probably represents the billboard trust, seeks to enforce his contract, he will have to appeal to the courts and reverse the former decree before he can proceed.

The Taxpayers' League and Chamber of Commerce organizations opposed the scheme, and the outcome will no doubt be a source of congratulation to all citizens who believe in civic improvement.

TYPHOON WASTED GUAM

Saipan People Are Threatened With Famine—Buildings Razed.

AGANA, Guam, Sept. 24, via San Francisco, Oct. 24.—A severe typhoon prevailed from August 26 to 29 in this vicinity. No damage was done on this island, but on September 4 a Japanese schooner arrived in the port of Apra dismasted and much damaged, reporting that in the neighborhood of Saipan the gale had been particularly severe. Governor Dyer then dispatched the station ship Supply with medical and other stores to the relief of that island and cabled to Governor Senpfft, of Yap, who immediately went to the assistance of the people. It was found on his arrival at Saipan that while the damage done was extensive no immediate need was felt, as a German steamer from Hong Kong had arrived two days after the storm and provided them with necessary stores and medicines.

While the year's crop of copra and other products had already been gathered, the cocoanut trees, which are the main dependence of the island, are in such condition that they will not produce for the next two years. The government house, store houses, church and many native dwellings are in ruins.

A hospital aid association is being organized among the most prominent native women of the island.

The Governor, Commander George L. Dyer, U. S. N., has requested relief on account of the state of his health and will leave for San Francisco with his family on the station ship Supply at the end of October.

Bryan and Togo Meet.

TOKIO, Oct. 24 (6 P. M.).—W. J. Bryan was present at the reception in honor of Vice-Admiral Togo today, and he was introduced to the Admiral by the Mayor of this city. There was a cordial exchange of sentiments between the two, the Admiral expressing himself delighted at the unexpected presence of the distinguished American.

Pleads Guilty and Takes His Dose.

HONOLULU, Oct. 17, via San Francisco, Oct. 24.—Henry Kapea, the young Hawaiian who was recently extradited from London on a charge of embezzling $600 in securities from the Hawaiian Trust Company, pleaded guilty and was sentenced by Judge Robinson to 2½ years' hard labor.

DOCTOR CURED OF ECZEMA

Maryland Physician Cures Himself of Eczema with Cuticura Remedies. Prescribes Them and Has Cured Many Cases Where Other Formulas Have Failed—Dr. Fisher Says:

CUTICURA REMEDIES POSSESS TRUE MERIT

"My face was afflicted with eczema in the year 1897. I used the Cuticura Remedies, and was entirely cured. I am a practicing physician and very often prescribe Cuticura Resolvent and Cuticura Soap in cases of eczema, and they have cured where other formulas have failed. I am not in the habit of endorsing patent medicines, but when I find remedies possessing true merit, such as the Cuticura Remedies do, I am broad-minded enough to proclaim their virtues to the world. I have been practicing medicine for sixteen years, and must say I find your Remedies A No. 1. You are at liberty to publish this letter, or any part of it. I remain, very truly yours, G. M. Fisher, M. D., Big Pool, Md., May 24, 1905."

CUTICURA—THE SET, $1.

Complete Treatment for Every Humor from Pimples to Scrofula

Bathe the affected parts with hot water and Cuticura Soap, to cleanse the surface of crusts and scales and soften the thickened cuticle; dry, without hard rubbing, and apply Cuticura Ointment freely, to allay itching, irritation, and inflammation, and soothe and heal; and, lastly, take Cuticura Resolvent Pills to cool and cleanse the blood. A single set, costing but one dollar, is often sufficient to cure the most torturing, disfiguring, itching, burning, and scaly skin, scalp, and blood humors, with loss of hair, from infancy to age, when all else fails.