THE CAUSE AND CURE OF CRIME

PORTLAND, Feb. 6.—(To the Editor.)—To the analytical student, to whom long years of observation and experience as a mother of men have brought an insight into the causes leading to the present epidemic of lawlessness and crime, including petty thievery, grand larceny, peculation in office, highway robbery, housebreaking, forgery, outrage, murder and suicide, brings no surprise. "A man is what his mother makes him." This is the inexorable law. A higher power than man can create or woman disobey has made this law, from which there is no appeal, and from the penalty of which there is no escape.

This article is offered in all kindness for the consideration of thoughtful men, who are respectfully requested to look at the matter of which it treats in the dispassionate spirit in which it is submitted for their consideration, from the standpoint of a woman and a mother. I beg that no man will think that the reasoning herein is intended to apply to him personally. It is the present condition of mothers of the race to which the attention of man is called—a condition which they alone can remedy.

In the early history of these United States, no woman, except the limited class who figured conspicuously as the wives of the Washingtons, Adamses, Otises and others in their set, took any special interest in the formation of laws for the masses. Every home, whether high or lowly, was a hive of productive industry. The raw material, from the sheep or the field, was brought directly to the home. The wife became the custodian, the manufacturer, and to a large extent the disburser of its surplus.

The husband, father, son and brother together tilled the soil, often with the willing help of ruddy daughters, and admiring swains. The luxuries deemed indispensable in our modern modes of life were few, and of the substantial kind, supplied by the combined labors of the family.

In times of war the women assumed the double burdens of home and farm, and went laboriously on, perfiling their lives to give existence to the country's soldier-recruits, destined too often, alas! to butchery at the cannon's mouth.

Comparatively few of the girls were allowed to learn to write, the impression prevailing that, if intrusted with this power, they would disgrace themselves writing love letters, or that, as wives, they would forge their husbands' names at bank.

It is not yet 70 years since Boston was stirred to its depths by the demand of a few men and women that their daughters be allowed a few hours for study in the public schools, after the studies of the boys were over for the day. As usual, the mothers of daughters who were able to send their girls to private schools joined their husbands in anxious protest.

But the march of improvement always, in time, outwits the anxious pessimist, although delays bring unneeded penalties, as is evinced by the outlawry which evokes this article.

The irrepressible march of civilization, as time advanced and educational facilities increased, opened new avenues of effort for men; with which women were not permitted to keep untrameled step, although the wants and needs of themselves and children increased as luxuries increased and temptations multiplied. The spinning jenny and power loom took away from woman the business of the factory, bringing her nothing in the way of wagearning in its stead. The sewing machine brought the sweat shop, hermetical sealing brought the fruit cannery, steam and electricity brought the mammoth laundry, the immense bakery, the great mangle and the gigantic soap factory. The oil well brought kerosene to supercede the tallow candle, the gas jet and arc light followed. All of these discoveries and industries, admirable in their way, and much to be desired under right conditions, played havoc with woman's means of support inside the house.

Meanwhile, the little leaven of a little learning, which is now, and always, a dangerous thing, had created within woman's awakening soul a desire for self-dependence; not independence, which is quite as foreign to the nature of woman as it is unphilosophical and unwise.

The rustic maiden stepped as a bride from the schoolroom, where she had begun to earn a pittance as a teacher, to the home of her husband, wherein there was no longer any means of earning an individual livelihood, though all her time was consumed in strenuous toil, which the exactions of modern housekeeping make more and more arduous. The husband became, under law and custom, the breadwinner and cash custodian; and, no matter how strenuous the duties of the wife and mother, she was, and is, far more frequently than she will acknowledge, compelled to resort to the most self-condemning makeshifts of deception to secure the means for gratifying the innocent desires of herself and children, which, under right conditions, would belong to her without question.

Remember, I am not now dealing with the wives of wealthy men, although recent transactions in our very midst are cases in point (and too well I know of the pitiful poverty that some of the wives of these are seeking to hide), but of the average woman, who, in her school-teaching days, imbibed enough of the delights of wage-earning to cause her to chafe under the condition of servitude without recompense into which her God-given love Nature has led her to become a vassal in her husband's home.

If the declaration in Holy Writ that "the fathers eat sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge" had been left on record by a wise woman, she would have applied this inexorable law to mothers even more than fathers, since upon the mother devolves the God-ordained responsibility of permanently impressing the children, while in embryo, with the strongest desires of which her soul is capable, even though they were but temporary with herself.

The present is an acquisitive age. Children are born with acquisitive tendencies, which may be guided, but not suppressed. They inherit from their mothers the unsatisfied longing which remain with them through life as propelling forces, though the mother may have passed to the skies. To tell a weary, discouraged, overtaxed and poverty-stricken mother of an unborn child that she is "on a pedestal," a "queen," etc., does not satisfy the desires of her heart to gratify the clamor of her older children for innocent pleasures or opportunities, of which the father, immersed in his business, does not see the need. A woman so situated, is a hopeless beggar, all the sophistry of the pessimist to the contrary notwithstanding. Her children, born under such conditions, grow up to carry out the lessons they learned while their mother rifled their father's pockets to buy embroidery and other pretty things for the babe unborn. The result is that she raises, all too often, a murderer, a thief, a highwayman, a perjurer, a forger, a housebreaker, a defaulter in office, or a suicide.

Old conditions have passed away, but not all conditions have become new. Mothers are held in financial subjection in the great majority of households, although their means of livelihood have disapeared in the factory, and they continue, because they cannot help it, to endow their children with unsatisfied longings. They have been compelled to sow the wind, and society is reaping the whirlwind.

And what is the remedy? There is but one enlightened answer. Recognize to the fullest extent the individuality of woman and the quality of the race. "Male and female created He them!" saith the law. There can be no deviation from the full and free acceptance of this law without its corresponding penalty.

Thoughtful men are being called upon everywhere to rectify this monstrous wrong. More and more do they see the need of justice for women—such justice as will adapt itself to the new conditions which have made the average woman a cipher in her home and reacts upon the race in a thousand ways to the detriment of all. The men of four of our great Western States have taken the initial step to free the race from crime, through the recognition of equal rights for the mother of the coming man. The recent almost spontaneous response to our petition by the men of Oregon, whenever asked, for the privilege to exercise our right of suffrage, is an earnest of future success. We will never halt till the victory is won.

ABIGAIL SCOTT DUNIWAY.

STATE MAY PREVENT UNHAPPY MARRIAGES

Some Observations by "Si" on a Subject of Universal Interest

THERE be good people who claim to believe that marriage is per se a holy alliance, and quite the proper caper, and that divorce is an ugly specter. Being earnest, they strenuously toil to make the entrance to the married state broad and easy, and the way of escape, both by law and social custom, beset with acute perspiration. The unhappy victim of domestic infelicity, once ensnared, and looking for means of escape, is linked in bonds of sympathy with the Scriptural dromedary that has to "thread the postern of the needle's eye," as Shakespeare puts it. To question the finality of an apparently established social theory is social heresy; yet there are many who, from the standpoint of good morals, refuse to accept as final the prevailing notion and believe that the matter isn't settled till it's settled right, and that the future has some radical innovations in store along this line. The problem has been dealt with as a religious one; the ruling judgment has been placed on Scriptural grounds, and it necessarily follows, as a matter of course, that it won't stay settled. Solomon and David and a good many others who set the pace for society in the olden time were able to get along with quite an elaborate and miscellaneous assortment of matrimonial consorts. In fact, Solomon, whom many a good little Sunday-school boy has feverishly announced to be "the wisest man," is said to have stood at the head of a whole regiment of women, each of whom stood in the relation of the clinging vine to the sturdy oak. He must have felt at times like a tree in a tangled swamp.

Multi-matrimony in modern times has seemed a failure as a key to felicity. The consensus of opinion seems to be that man as a member of the dual unity has shriveled into a very small fraction and is in danger of being lost sight of entirely. One true, noble woman's love blended into that of a man worthy of it is undoubtedly the highest and very truest ideal. But in every community there are men and women originally drawn to this ideal whose matrimonial anguish can be heard floating out from the confines of the home, over the high back fences, to blend with the noise of the trolley car as it bumps and chucks over the intersections. There are matrimonial harnesses flecked with foam and there are chains that clank as they wear into the flesh of victims. Under our present system we witness the spectacle of a trembling, cringing woman, entitled to liberty at least of conscience, pleading at the feet of some ecclesiastical authority to be liberated from the grasp of a titled beast and the state a disinterested spectator! When the rich and the proud and the titled of Europe are forced to reveal the terror of moral slavery, how about the toiling poor, whose slavery is a thousand-fold more unbearable? The problem is a social one and the state must solve it. The tyranny of the dead past is too evident and will cease to dominate us.

Why should two people who cannot live together in peace be chained together for life? If permitted to free themselves from an alliance that daily dishonors the ethical marriage, why should the way to moral freedom and to honor be beset with technicalities and lawyers and grafts at every step of the way.

Let marriage be more carefully guarded. The state exercises its vigilance at the wrong end of the affair. Let the state require the man and woman who intend marriage to file with the County Recorder a notice of intention six months prior to the marriage. During the six months both parties to the notice may have an opportunity to reflect, and a little reflection at such a time is preferable to anguish and remorse later on. If the parties are incompatible, they'll find it out during the six months, and that will end it. The libertine and adventurer will fail to ensnare his victim. The fool girl who hasn't sense enough to come in out of the wet won't annex herself to the first thing with pantaloons on that appears on her social horizon. Call it social heresy if you will. The word "heresy" has come to be a highly honored one, and should awaken no resentment whatever. Make marriage a more deliberate affair, in which the state shall have a word. Make divorces easy that innocent victims may no longer be chained by the state's authority to the polluted and animalized body of the adventurer or villain. In Portland the other day a blacksmith whom we may call Mr. Highmyer laid his hammer beside the anvil, closed his doors for the night and turned his steps homeward. Now it seems that Mrs. Highmyer has had all of the necessities and some of the simple luxuries of life, such as hairpins, hatpins, clothespins, rollingpins, safetypins, with an occasional bit of cocaine and morphine. When Highmyer reached his home, sweet home, the dog met him with a wag of his tail. Highmyer patted him on the head in appreciation of his kindly welcome, and proceeded to meet Mrs. Highmyer. He entered the kitchen and stooped to fix a shoestring, when without warning, like a thunderbolt out of a clear sky, came Mrs. Highmyer. She bore down upon him, her protruding eyes in fine frenzy rolling, and proceeded to land with both of her capacious and newly soiled extremities in the face of her spouse.

Under the law Highmyer and wife could have consummated an infatuation of a few hours with a legal plunge into the "holy bonds of matrimony" at once and probably they did. They are chained each to the other with the sanction of both church and state. Of course this is all a travesty on true marriage. Lawyers' fees, clerks' fees, court fees, stenographer's fees, referee's fees, sheriff's fees and a spicy and lurid divorce case on tap represents the cost—or a part of it, and thus will end a disgusting and unholy alliance too long maintained. Cut 'em loose, quick! What interest has the state in maintaining such an immoral relation. The single plausible argument for it can be made—What is to become of the children?

This argument is, of course, limited to cases where there are children. If there be none, there is an added reason for breaking at once the unholy and unprofitable alliance of the parents in a moral slavery.

If there are children the state can better afford to care for them in homes than in reform schools or penitentiaries. Why consign the life of a child to a house that is terrorized by a drunken fiend or a woman whose reputation is not a fit topic for conversation in polite society?. If your objection be that our present system is Scriptural, my answer is that slavery and polygamy were defended on the same ground. If the offspring of moral slavery in high or low degree is to recruit the ranks of society, the question becomes one of true patriotism. In the name of decency and morality let's say to the church, "Hands off!" and deal with this question from an enlightened standpoint. The tyranny of the dead has prevented remedial legislation already too long. SI.

TELLS PIONEER STORIES.

George H. Himes Entertains Grange With Some of His Best.

George H. Himes, secretary of the Oregon Historical Society, was made a member of Evening Star Grange, No. 27, Patrons of Husbandry, yesterday forenoon, and in the afternoon gave the Grangers a pleasing and instructive talk on pioneer days. There was a large attendance. The new officers entered on their work, conferring the two first degrees on Mr. Himes, Mrs. M. E. Shafford and others in the morning, which was followed by a fine spread.

In the afternoon under the charge of Mrs. N. W. Bowland, lecturer, the question, "Has Civilization Bettered the Condition of the People," was considered. It was to bring out a discussion. Mrs. C. Milam, daughter of a pioneer, entertained the meeting with a well-considered talk full of incidents of pioneer life, compared with present improved conditions. Mr. Himes dealt in amusing incidents, and then told of his work as secretary of the Oregon Historical Society, whose object is to collect original data of the early history of the Oregon Country. He gave illustrations of the work and told many interesting stories of the pioneers and of the implements and relics that he had secured. Mr. Himes extended an invitation to all, young and old, to visit the rooms of the Oregon Historical Society, and examine the relics that had been gathered.

The report of the building fund showed $1115 in subscriptions, and about $50 more was subscribed.

Resolutions in memory of the late William Robinson, a member, were read by Mrs. H. L. Vail, and after remarks by A. F. Miller, were adopted. Mrs. H. L. Vail, A. F. Miller and Mr. Jewell were elected delegates to the county convention, which meets in April and elects representatives to the State Grange. A. B. Gates, E. A. Niblin and H. C. Welch were chosen as alternates. Ten applications for membership were received and acted on. Membership is nearing 300.

Lincoln Memorial Exercises.

Sumner Post, No. 21, G. A. R., has arranged to observe the anniversary of Lincoln's birthday next Saturday evening. Exercises will be held in the auditorium of the Second Baptist Church, East Seventh and East Ankeny streets. The following is the programme: Colonel D. B. Bush, president of the evening; address, Rev. S. C Lapham; oration, Wallace McCamant; music, Veteran Male Double Quartet; solo, Mrs. E. S. Miller, assisted by the church choir; violin solo, Mrs. Groves; reading of Lincoln's favorite poem, Professor M. L. Pratt. All are invited to attend.

East Side Notes.

The entertainment given by the Brooklyn Alumni Association in Blanck's Hall Friday night was a success. A considerable sum was raised for the Brooklyn school library fund.

Three illustrated books were prepared in the Williams-avenue school for the St. Louis educational exhibit. These books are descriptive of Portland harbor, the Columbia River scenery and Portland industries. The three are well illustrated.

ITALIANS TO FORM BAND.

Bootblacks Will Toy With Brass Instruments but Lack Drum-Major.

What the Italian bootblacks of the city won't do in the way of musical stunts this Summer won't be worth doing, if their present plans are carried out. These sons of the land of music and poetry propose to organize a brass band and show their American rivals, the messenger boys, a few things in the art of music. This is to be an exclusively Italian organization, and when the swarthy lads get out on parade there will be some ragtime doings. The young Italians, who have been asked to join the organization, are bubbling over with enthusiasm at the prospect of wearing uniforms and playing band instruments. They may be heard humming snatches of catchy tunes, imitating the roll of the kettle-drum and discussing their respective qualifications for the position of drum major.

The moving spirit behind this musical scheme is an Italian professor, a genius in melody who has arrived from San Francisco. He proposed the organization of a band and offered to instruct the lads and initiate them into the mysteries of brass instruments, and turn them out, a full-fledged and first-class band. The proposition met with instant favor and now all the swarthy bootblacks are striving for a place in the band.

There is considerable musical talent among the lads, it is said, and it is not anticipated that much training will be required to fit them for appearance in public. A meeting has been called for tonight at Fourth and Sheridan streets. All the prospective members will be present, prepared to show what they can do in making music. The members will be selected and the necessary steps toward securing equipment will be taken.

The great question that is agitating the young Italians now is, who shall be drum major? There seems to be some difficulty in finding a person who has all the qualifications. It is the desire of the boys to secure a tall and well-built lad of imposing appearance. But, alas, the Italian race is not characterized by height of stature or Herculean build. Therefore the band-to-be is having troubles of its own. However, it is hoped that a suitable person will qualify for the position at the proper time.

"We hava da band sure," remarked a bootblack yesterday. "We maka da mun with da band. We shina da shoes in day, playa da music at night."

Judging from the enthusiasm, manifested, the Italian lads will surely be heard from.

NO FULL MOON IN FEBRUARY.

Phenomenon in Astronomy Occurs Once in Nineteen Years.

For the first time in 19 years the moon will not get full this month. At least that is what the astronomers say. It is going to stay sober for 29 days. Then it will start with its first quarter, go through its second and third and get full again. The regularity with which the moon gets full is well known, so well known that there are few, perhaps, outside of the astronomers who know that once in 19 years the terrestrial satelite celebrates by going through the entire month of February without following its custom. From time immemorial the farmer has watched for the dark and full of the moon as a guide in planting his potatoes and corn, but as this month is not a planting month the sobriety of the satellite will cause no trouble on this score.

The cause of this lunar phenomenon is a subject for mathematicians and astronomers. But for those who do not care to delve into the intricacies of calculations, the explanation may be acceptable that, as it is leap-year, the girl recently discovered in the moon has induced the man in the moon to join the temperance society. But there is a mathematical explanation for this phenomenon. As is well known, the moon goes through several phases as it travels in its orbit around the world, each phase being produced by the relative positions of the sun, earth and moon. When the moon is in that portion of its orbit between the sun and the earth we have the phase known as the dark of the moon. But when the satellite is in that portion of its orbit opposite the sun and earth it is in one phase known as full. Now, it requires just 29½ days for the moon to travel from this position back to the same place. This time is known as the lunar month. Owing to the difference between the lunar and calendar months, every 19 years the moon reaches its full phase in the last days of January and begins to wane. As February never has more than 29 days, the month passes before the moon again reaches the position where it is in the full phase. This is why we have no full moon this month.

MUSIC AT THE SUNDAY CLUB.

Three Musical Organizations Are on the Programme.

The Sunday Club programme for Sunday afternoon at the Young Men's Christian Association is one of unusual attraction to lovers of music. Three musical organizations—the Webber Mandolin Club, Driscoll's Orchestra and the Dental Students' Banjo Club—will have part in the programme during the afternoon. Rev. E. S. Muckley, the popular new preacher of the First Christian Church, who has recently come to this city from Honolulu, will give the address. The programme in detail is as follows:

3:00—Concert Driscoll's Orchestra.
Overture—"Pique Dame" ..... Suppe
Solo—"Cavitina" (Raff) ..... Arthur White
Selection—"Echoes From the Metropolitan" ..... Moses Tobain
Cornet solo—"The Rosary" (Nevin) ..... W. N. Livingstone
Paraphrase—"The Loreley" .. James Mesvadba
3:30—Song service.
Music—Webber Mandolin Club—
Overture—"Italian Serenade" ..... Franklin Eaton
A German Song.
4:00—Address, "A Man Equals What?" ..... Rev. E. S. Muckley
4:45—Study Groups, "A Clean Life."
5:30—Lunch, 10 cents.
Music by Dental College Banjo Club.
The programme begins at 3 o'clock and is without charge; for men only.

FROM STAGE TO ALTAR.

A. L. O'Brien and Gertrude Jenkins, of "Devil's Auction" Co., Married.

Although the event was not down on the programme, a real bride and bridegroom, Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Lee O'Brien, Jr., played yesterday afternoon and evening at the Marquam Theater in "The Devil's Auction." On the stage the groom is known as the member of the Onri troupe of jugglers who so cleverly catches a shower of plates fired at him like so many snowflakes, and the bride is Gertrude Jenkins, one of the ballet. They were married yesterday morning by Justice of the Peace Reid, and they asked him to keep it quiet, as the groom is afraid of opposition from his step-father, Papa Onri. There are five performers in the Onri troupe, and Papa Onri objected to his stepson getting married just yet, wishing to keep the family intact. The groom is 21 and the bride 19, and they were both born in England. They met for the first time last August in "The Devil's Auction" company. O'Brien was formerly in the circus business, and is known as a daring horseback rider. The witnesses at the wedding were two other members of "The Devil's Auction" company, Gertrude Dimes and William Newman.

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GREAT MEDICAL INVENTION.

Capillary Electromoter of Great Aid in Nervous Diseases.

CHICAGO, Feb. 6.—The capillary electronometer, a new instrument delicate enough to register the minute discharges of electricity in nerves and muscles, has been invented by research workers in the physiological laboratory at the University of Chicago. The invention will greatly aid the cure of lockjaw, they hope, and be of great use in nervous diseases.

A fine glass tube with a hole in no larger than a capillary gland on the back of a human hand is the mechanism of the instrument. The tube at one end contains mercury which penetrates the small extremity of the tube. The tube rests in a cup of acid and the two are joined by platinum wire.

All life action is chemical and electrical, the inventors believe, and by the action of the electrical discharge from a moving muscle on the mercury in the tube the amount of energy expended may be gauged.

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