

THE RICH DO GROW RICHER.

Near the close of 1885 there died in New York a citizen of that place, who left to his children a fortune estimated at \$182,000,000, besides making a number of minor bequests. It will help us to form an idea of the magnitude of this sum to consider that it would suffice to give a Christmas present of \$110 to every inhabitant of the city or at the rate of \$100 to every family of five persons, supporting the population at that time to have been 1,200,000. A political committee of 100, appointed in the same city in October last, comprised eight members whose estimated wealth reached an aggregate of somewhat more than \$300,000,000, and at least two of the most colossal fortunes were unrepresented in this number. Estates rising into the tens of millions are to be found in various other cities, and, taking the country through, one might designate twenty-five persons whose united wealth, according to current estimates, is not less than two-thirds of a billion dollars, or about one per cent of the total wealth of the United States, surpassing this to have increased over 50 per cent since the census of 1850. Were all the property in equally large amounts, the whole would hardly suffice for 200 proprietors; or, supposing these families averaging four persons each besides themselves, it would supply a population a trifle larger than that of the little town of Yonkers, as stated in the last census.

There are no authentic statistics showing the distribution of property among different portions of our people; but whatever the facts may be, the comparative diffusion of such wealth as is held by the classes outside the circle of the extremely rich, it will hardly be disputed that the latter may hold a much larger portion of the total wealth of the country than was held a generation or two ago. For the proofs that this is the case, look on the surface and trust themselves upon general observation. Moreover, I see no reason to believe that the tendency to increasing accumulation at the upper end of the pecuniary scale has reached or is approaching its limit. A great fortune, with ordinary careful management, possesses an enormous power of accretion. Even when invested in good securities, at a very moderate rate of interest, a fortune that rises into the millions affords ample means of making yearly additions to the principal. If invested in real estate in any of our growing cities, it yields increasing income from decade to decade as the land advances in value, putting it in the power of the owner to lay aside an increasing surplus; while in the hands of a shrewd speculator and over-accumulation in his dealings, its power of increase may be still greater. In January, 1887, the New York Commercial Advertiser reported the rumored sale of a piece of property on the great domain located with Wall street at \$50,000,000.

A Maker of Gods.

"Boston Herald." A queer story is told of a man named John Concord, who left Sanford, Me., many years ago and was stranded on one of the Sandwich Islands. Not knowing what to do for a living there, he set up in business as the maker of gods for the ignorant natives, making his images from iron with heads picked up from the vessels wrecked on the coast. This strange being industriously gained the favor of the islanders, and Concord afterwards married a native belle. One day in the straits of Honolulu Concord met a man who had been picked up from the wreck of a vessel a short time before, who claimed to hail from Maine, and on investigation Concord discovered that the stranger's home was in Sanford, and that he was his (Concord's) old schoolmaster. Thompson brought Concord's four children to this country to be educated. All four afterward returned to Honolulu, while Concord, after the death of his wife, returned to Maine and married again. One of the sons by his last marriage is now a leading druggist in Lynn, Mass.

In the quiet Pennsylvania community of Economy, every individual is compelled to tightly hold to a somewhat exacting rule. Every one is required to attend church every Sunday and pay two amounts from Pathos Church. Any one found out of bed after 9 o'clock is immediately handcuffed from the town, and all are required to attend church every week, and to be in bed by 9 o'clock in the morning. In addition to this, the citizens are required to attend church every week, and to be in bed by 9 o'clock in the morning. In addition to this, the citizens are required to attend church every week, and to be in bed by 9 o'clock in the morning.

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NEUTRALITY.

In days gone by humanity was muzzled. The most gifted writers and the grandest authors of the world had to shape their utterances so they would not displease some tyrannical king or queen. Acts and deeds that cried to heaven for vengeance were thus left in the dark and perpetrators of them still waxed the royal scepter over enslaved humanity. Only a few hundred years the light of education and advancement has shone so brightly on mankind, but to-day we have free speech and press in nearly every civilized country. Here, in our land, we are enjoying those blessed privileges that a few hundred years ago none but the monarch could enjoy. In view of these historical facts it seems strange that there are men in this country who either never knew the luxury of an opinion or never had moral courage enough to express it. When we see men in this enlightened age sitting astride the fence and watching the great contest between right and wrong and neither using pen, tongue nor purse to aid either side, we agree with a noted writer, and say: "God wasted mind when he made such beings." We hold that a man who is too cowardly to express his opinion on questions and take sides on issues that affects the public welfare, deserves the prize so cheaply purchased by his inaction, and throws away his share as a stockholder in a Republican form of government, and of his own free will, becomes like a cringing sycophant at the foot of some despotic monarch.—Greenville, Texas Herald.

He Won the Hat. A wager of a silk hat over cost many lives. It was in 1811, when Captain Denton, of the United States Navy, commanding the frigate United States, met Captain Gordon of the British Navy, commanding the Macedonia. It was just prior to the War of 1812, and while talking about the chances Gordon said to Denton:

"If you and I ever meet after hostilities are declared, I'll bet you a silk hat that the Macedonia will capture the United States."

"I'll bet you a silk hat that you don't," was the reply. The two frigates met October 25, 1812, and after a bloody fight the English flag was hoisted. Denton hastened on board the pole and ordered "Run her down!"

"Down your sword, Gordon, said Denton. "I bet your silk hat, and as we're a long way from home, I'll take the one you mean." The hat was given.

CONSUMPTION SURELY CURED. To the Editor—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their express and post office address. Respectfully,  
T. A. STOCUM, M. D.,  
181 Pearl St., New York.

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