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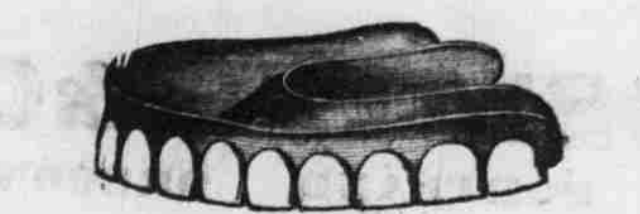
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**THE LATE PANIC.**

Distrust is the child of dishonesty. When the people find that their legislators, from President down to pettyfogger, whom chance has elevated to place and power, engaged in plundering the public Treasury, speculating in Credit Mobilier stocks, voting themselves thousands of dollars "back pay," and doubling their own salaries at their own sweet will; when it is seen that great land-grants are bestowed on railway speculations, in which the people who own the lands have little or no interest; when defalcations in banks, revenue offices, trust companies, post-offices, etc., are so frequent, is it matter of surprise that the people have no confidence in public men, or that a crushing panic follows such wickedness? With an honest government, in which the people could place reliance, there could be no ground for such "seares."

Before the war there were opened up, or put under the plow, some ten millions of acres of virgin lands yearly. This had been somewhere near the average, and was considered a healthy growth of the country. But since the war, through enormous railway land-grants, more than forty millions of acres have been opened yearly, and put into crops. This has created a glut in the grain markets, and prices dropped to a figure rendering its transportation unprofitable. Hence the GRANGES. A war between farmers and railroads is, of all things, the most senseless, and only small minded demagogues will engage in it. The railroads are the parents of more than half the farmers, who are now complaining because the railroads can not transport their produce to market. Had the farmers grown less grain and more wool, cotton, flax, hemp, etc.,—less bulky than grain—there would have been less difficulty in its transportation. What the West needs now is a more diversified industry. It is true, our means for transportation between producers and consumers has not kept pace with our agricultural productions, and instead of new railways reaching into the wild prairies, we need more east and west trunk lines, more facilities for transportation by water. In short, we want direct communication by ship canals between the upper great lakes the Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio, and the Atlantic. If the States and Territories of the Union are to remain united, the east with the west, the north with the south, increased facilities for rapid and cheap intercourse must be established. All barriers which keep people apart must be broken down or removed. Negro slavery, the cursed inheritance of monarchical progenitors, was wiped out of this nation in blood. Those who the war did not destroy, it demoralized. All felt its "cold and clammy hand." The pulpit, the press, the school, the family, felt the spirit of carnage, and the nation was shaken from center to circumference by that dread demon, war. Passion became rampant. Men in armies, who never drank before—circumspect men—became drunkards; men who were satisfied with moderate gains became avaricious; men gave way to their lusts and children were begotten under these circumstances, and passion and belligerency characterize thousands of the rising generation. But worst of all, there was a general letting down of moral principles; swindlers got into office, pretended patriots proved bounty-jumpers and wicked rioters; low, bad men were elected to offices of trust, which they dishonored, because "respectable citizens" were careless, and neglected to attend primary elections and nominate men of worth. For example call to mind our late city swindling rings, that robbed and plundered at their wills.

Weak, if not criminal, Congressmen yielded to the lead of unprincipled shysters, and were caught like a swarm

of rats, each voraciously gnawing away on the public cheese. *The President of the United States* participated in and *induced their action!* Need we look further for the cause of the late panic? for the "tight times" which threaten our people? for the want of employment which thousands of willing hands suffer to-day? Instead of honest, capable statesmen, we have in our legislatures wicked rogues, miserable quacks, ignorant tricksters. The exceptions are comparatively few. Why, a majority in every State legislature is made up of slavering, whiskey-drinking, tobacco-chewing, or tobacco-smoking toppers, slaves to appetite! Can honest, healthy legislation be expected from such diseased, depraved, and debased conditions? Not much. We want clean, healthy, moral men, not whiskey or tobacco drunkards, in our legislatures; and until we secure them we may expect to suffer all the evils which now curse us. As a nation we are decidedly sick and in debt, but not yet in a hopeless state, or beyond recovery. *The Tribune* advises "bread and water" as a remedy for the present. We believe in a simple diet, plain clothes, and hard work. Stop all extravagance. Import less jewelry, less frills, flounces, and fashers, and come down to the substantial and useful until we get out of debt. Use the pruning knife—cut off "dead beats" from among politicians. We must weed out poisonous and worthless brambles, and burn them in the fire of public indignation. Then we must select the best material at our disposal, lay the foundation on the rock of honesty, and build such a structure as will withstand not only a panic, but be so firm that the gates of hell can not prevail against it. Metaphor aside, there are clean, honest, temperate and capable men in this nation. We must appoint or elect no others to places of trust or to manage our public affairs. Then, by temperance, industry, and economy, we can, through our immense natural resources, soon come into normal conditions, and take our place at the head of all nations.

One cause for congratulation is the fact that there can be no starvation here, where crops have been so bountiful. We shall all have enough to eat, though we may not have enough money to pay all our debts or to indulge in useless luxuries.

Among other hopeful signs are the following: The Evangelical Alliance promises more zeal in the cause of free religion; temperance men are kindling temperance fires in every school district, which must reach every family; common schools are to be kept up and improved; prison reformers will try to convert our penitentiaries into reformatories, so that he who goes in a convicted felon may come out the better for the training he receives. May not even such wicked sinners repent and be saved? Failing to improve the prisoner while serving out his term, or fit him to earn an honest living, he is released only to prey again upon the people. Then, with revenge in his heart, and without hope or true aspiration, he contaminates all with whom he comes in contact, and leads others into greater crimes. Thank God for the favorable change which has come over the public mind in this respect, and which promises such favorable results. With all the obstacles in our way, with all the drawbacks, financial or other, we are, a nation, still in the way of "PROGRESS and IMPROVEMENT," and shall finally rise above the rule of intemperance and PASSION, and come under the reign of Faith, Hope, Charity, and Godliness.—*Phrenological Journal.*

"What's the use of trying to be honest?" asked a young man the other day of a friend. "Oh, you ought to try it once and see!" was the reply.

**THE BENEFIT OF FALL PLOUGHING.**

That the ploughing of heavy soils in the fall is attended with excellent results is generally admitted. That any benefit accrues to a soil of lighter texture, is questioned by many agriculturists, with whom we do not altogether agree. All admit that the tenacious character of a clay soil is reduced less compact by the operation of frost. The lumps fall apart, and are disintegrated by the mechanical effect of the expansion in the act of freezing of the water held between the particles. The field, which at the commencement of winter exhibited only a surface of shapeless clogs, in the spring is seen to have been brought into a condition of mellowness which no amount of ploughing or harrowing could have effected. But is this the full effect of the forces of nature, which operate in small things as perfectly as in greater? The power which has forced asunder the clods, and reduced them to fragments, has also had an effect upon those fragments themselves, and has reduced them to particles so small that the stability of the soil has been increased. Thus another effect besides a mechanical one has been produced; or rather the operation of mechanical force has brought about conditions under which chemical action can more readily take place. Now, can we believe that this result only occurs in the case of clay soils? If this should be so, then, as there is a variety of such soils the effect must be proportioned to the nature of the soil. If a clay soil is benefited is not also a clay loam? And if a clay loam why not a sandy? If the particles of a clay soil are rendered more soluble by this exposure to the frosts of winter, and those particles are mainly alumina and silica, how can another soil altogether escape similar effects, when only the proportion in which these constituents are combined are changed. But we are told that clay soils are absorbent, while more silicious soils are more or less leachy, and part with their fertile properties by the percolation of water through them. Then, if this were true, a light or sandy soil would in course of time be washed free from all fertilizing properties. But this is not the case with these soils. They can be improved by the addition of manure until their characters are changed; the added color and other quantities are not washed away. If this idea of leachiness, then, is unfounded, no harm, but only benefit, can result from ploughing such soils in the fall. They will experience as much improvement in one sense as a heavier clay soil. The reduction of hard lumps is not necessary, for these soils are naturally mellow, but an increased solubility will have been gained. But one other benefit must not be forgotten here, which is that deeper ploughing is permissible in the fall, and six months' exposure to the sudden changes from frost to thaw will bring the hitherto unused soil into condition for assisting to bear crops. We do not advise the ploughing of sod at this season, at least for a corn crop. This should be postponed until the last possible day in the spring consistent with having the ground prepared in time. But for roots or oats, or other spring crops than corn, we would plough now and manure through the winter, when a mellow and rich soil some inches in depth will be ready to be stirred again in the spring; and this we would do irrespective of the quality of the soil, whether it be clay or a light loam. Potatoes planted in a gravelly loam thus prepared have with us given double the yield of those in ground not so treated. Oats, too, have been benefited greatly, but the result with corn was unfavorable, mainly, we believe, on account of the greater development of weeds, which, prevented the crop from being kept clean.

We have not adverted to the economy of time resulting from having the ground ploughed before winter and ready for a second ploughing early in the spring; but this is a point worthy of attainment under any circumstances. Farm operations depend very much for their success on "taking time by the forelock," and keeping work well pushed forward; and to have all the stubbles ploughed before frost sets in, must be a comfort to any farmer.—*American Agriculturist.*

**THE YOSEMITE VALLEY.**

Of all the great sights in the natural scenery of the world, there are none which surpass in grandeur and beauty the attractions which the Yosemite Valley affords, and which only the last few years have disclosed to the appreciation of an admiring people. No one can furnish any accurate idea to another of the wonderful sights which nature has stowed away in this far-famed region. Even the traveler, who face to face, looks upon all, needs days and days to fully comprehend and realize the marvelous scenes upon which his eyes rest. For comparison allow us to remark that the great fall of Niagara is but 163 feet high: what think you, then, of the "Bridal Veil" as it falls all glittering and foaming, all swaying in the wind from a distance of 630 feet above you! Then there is El Capitan, "a solid, seamless, cream-white mass of rock shining as though out of ivory," which towers 3,300 feet into the air—can you imagine at all how grand and impressive it must be? The Valley is full of mountains and cascades, the highest of the former extending skywards over a mile, and among the latter the Sentinel Falls plunging earthward from an altitude of 3,000 feet (5,280 feet constituting a mile). The Yosemite was given by the United States to California, for a grand National Park—and is eight miles long by two wide.—Through it the Merced River, which, as it reaches El Capitan, grows all hushed and quiet as if from very awe, and then, as if powerless to do otherwise, shows the Great Chieftain how beautiful he is by reflecting his image from her truthful eyes. We might proceed and devote column after column to a description of this beautiful Valley, and yet never repeat ourselves save in adjectives,—but the account would be at least feeble, the ideas given but very faint—for words seem to us inadequate to at all express what we feel the subject demands. The nearest approach to a visit there is the pictures afforded to us "stay at home" of this region—and such pictures are exceedingly limited. We have before us, however, a beautiful Oil Chromo, representing a view of the Yosemite from a very attractive standpoint. It embraces "El Capitan," "North Dome" and "South Dome," "Clouds' Rest," the Merced River, the "Bridal Veil Fall," and many minor details beautiful in themselves which we have not space to mention. This Chromo was recently received by us from S. E. Shutes, publisher and proprietor of *Wood's Household Magazine*, Newburgh N. Y. Price of Magazine, \$1 per year; Magazine and Yosemite, \$1.50. As a premium, the picture may be obtained by sending to the above address two subscriptions for the Magazine at \$1 each, or by subscribing years in advance, at \$1 per annum. We take pleasure in recommending both the Magazine and Chromo offered in this combination, and add our hearty endorsement to the publisher's reputation for promptness and fair dealing.

"Have you heard my last song?" asked a music writer of a gruff critic. "I hope so" was the reply.