

ination to the world of this sublime confession: "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all whose works are truth and his ways judgment; and those that walk in pride he is able to abase."

"History repeats itself. To-day the men of science, the powerful capitalists, the puffed up and egotistical statesmen, together with "we, the people" of all classes, are gazing in pride upon "this great Babylon that we have built"—and really it is a greater Babylon than that over which Nebuchadnezzar exulted—but refusing as its rulers to honor the King of Heaven. As a nation we ignore him in the very place where he ought to be acknowledged as the source of all authority and power.

For that impious boast Nebuchadnezzar was stricken down for a time; and it may be that a similar calamity is impending over this nation. But there is no reason why we should be alarmed. Babylon was preserved in safety during her monarch's banishment from the throne; and in due time he was returned with all his fine genius and with augmented glory; but, better than all, he was chastened, humbled, purified, and gladly "blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him that liveth forever; whose dominion is an everlasting dominion." So when it shall please God to bring some humbling chastisement upon our country, we may expect that the effect upon our monarch, our ruling power, the people, will be similar to that which the ruler of Babylon experienced—first to bring the government down to deep degradation, "to set over it," as the restored Nebuchadnezzar so forcibly expressed it, "the basest of men."

When we contemplate the state of our politics, our party machinery, our "rings" with their "bosses," the strong hold which the liquor party has upon the primary movements of our politics, and the consequent degradation and corruption found in legislative and municipal affairs, and in the laxity with which laws to restrain vice and punish criminals are executed; and when legislative bodies so conduct themselves as to make good men rejoice to see them break up and go home, have we not good cause to believe that our Nebuchadnezzar has got down pretty near the depth of degradation to which the king of Babylon was driven.

Now, let us see how Nebuchadnezzar got back to himself, his kingdom and his God: He says, "At the end of the days, I, Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored him that liveth forever. At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honor and brightness returned unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me."

God in his word has recorded this remarkable example, not so much for the instruction of individuals as for peoples, nations, governments. He has shown them how they may rise out of the deep degradation into which they are liable to fall, and into which so many have fallen. Nebuchadnezzar tells us how he was lifted up from his dwelling with the beasts of the field. He says: "At the end of the days of Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the Most High." Immediately his second, his best, his highest exaltation followed; and never again did he forget that "the Most High

reigneth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whosoever he will, and set teth up over the basest of men."

There is something very significant in the last cause just quoted. It teaches us that, whether men acknowledge the Most High or not in their forms of government, he does rule them none the less; and if they ignore his authority, he visits them with the disastrous chastisement of setting over them the basest of men; and this is done in spite of the people, who in our country are supposed to be the prime source of political honor. Base men set up base men for office, and the great mass of the voters have no alternative but either support "the ticket," or throw away their suffrages upon candidates of whose success there is no possible chance. In this way the highest power and prerogative of the citizen is torn from him, and no small part of the affairs of the country placed under the control of the basest men. This is especially true in the lower departments of government, States, cities, and municipalities of every grade. New York city, under the rule of Tweed, is the most glaring example of this evil; but it is by no means the only one. Thus our country presents the strange spectacle of the most intelligent, the most prosperous, the most patriotic people under the sun shorn of the very power which is their highest boast, that of choosing the men whom they would like to manage their public affairs, and of the power to prevent their state and municipal corporations from becoming dens of thieves. "We, the people," have been virtually driven out, as was the king of Babylon, and for the same cause. Both, as ruling powers, turned away their eyes from the Most High, while they exulted over their respective Babylons which they had built. The remedies in both cases are the same. "We, the people," like Nebuchadnezzar, must lift our eyes not as Christians merely, but as citizens, as political rulers, as voters—to heaven, and put in as corner-stone of our national temple, our fundamental law, a full, frank, honest and devout acknowledgement of Him who "doeth according to his will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth," and who is able to abase, and does abase, as we are this day sadly realizing, all who walk in pride. That done, the experience of Nebuchadnezzar will be the experience of our American monarch—the people—their honor and brightness will return unto them; their counsellors and their lords (their best and most upright citizens) will be established in their kingdom, and excellent majesty will be added unto them.

It is as true of men collectively in a nation as of men separately as individuals. "If he abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch and is withered." These are the words of Him who is at once the light of the world, the Savior of men, and the King of kings. The king of Babylon did well to honor the Most High, for as he did it he went as far as his light carried him. But we must go one step farther; for it is written, "Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father."—Christian Statesman.

KILLED.—Strong drink is with some persons a favorite medicine to "drown care." Whether taken for that purpose, or simply to dull pain, the effect of it equally shows that it is poison. One of our exchanges says that a woman in New Jersey, finding it necessary to have some teeth extracted, and not liking to use gas or chloroform, resolved to try what virtue there was in whisky. She called upon a dentist to have her teeth extracted. Before submitting to the operation, however, she drank half a pint of ordinary whisky, and in a few minutes followed it with half a pint of Jersey apple-jack. This produced the desired unconsciousness, during which the teeth were pulled. In a short time she revived, but only to become wild with delirium, her ravings having the appearance of one in the last stage of tremens. Becoming exhausted, she lapsed into a semi-unconscious condition, and gradually growing weaker, in a few hours died.—E.C.

Tons of Government Literature.

The other day a Washington correspondent of the Sun stumbled upon an interesting pile of literature. The pile was interesting, although the literature was not. Ten tons of expensively printed public documents and reports were on their way from the store-rooms of the House of Representatives to a junk shop. Two cents and a half a pound was what the choicest productions of the government publishing house fetched in the open market.

Just before going out of office, Le Duc confessed that he alone was responsible for 858,381,675 pages of agricultural documents and reports—pages enough to reach five times around the globe, if pasted together so as to make a continuous strip; reading matter enough to reach ten times further than the moon if printed in a single line, like a telegraphic message on the tape.

Suppose the Harpers or the Appletons should begin to print books for which there was absolutely no demand—books which nobody would buy or take the gift of—and should empty their shelves into the junk shops every little while in order to fill up again with a new stock of unsalable literature? That is what the government is doing.

Year in and year out the tremendous public publishing concern is busy printing and binding edition after edition of useless, hopeless rubbish. Congress votes so many copies; the people pay for paper and ink, composition, proof-reading, press-work and binding; and the only result is to choke up the channels of the junk industry, and to drive honest rag-pickers out of employment. What becomes of all the stuff? Nobody knows. It finds its way somehow back to the mills, and finally reappears as wrapping paper of the coarsest sort. Government literature does not even make good junk.—N. Y. Sun.

Benefit of Quick Work.

The rapid worker has not time to get disgusted with his work—it is out of his hands long before it grows wearisome. Disgust is the product of dawdling effort. If the work be somewhat varied, the pleasure in connection with its completion is varied too. Hence, perhaps, the reason why the total and sudden giving up of work is often attended with evil results. The transition from a life full of activity and rich in the enjoyment of successful labor, to a life of utter idleness, which no such vivid enjoyment, has often proved fatal. There is too little activity in the new life and too little of the pleasures of activity. Idleness without the excitement and pleasure of work, becomes depressing. The vital forces droop and decay. On the other hand, to the busy worker rest and recreation have a double relish. No holiday is so refreshing as that in which he runs away from his labors, and enjoys himself in quite a different sense. If his life were a succession of holidays, it would soon grow burdensome.—E.C.

—We talk so much, and we think so much more, of the trouble we have with others, that we move than half persuade ourselves that if everybody else were just right, we could get on pretty easily in life; the fact is, that more than half—a great deal more than half—of all our troubles, even of our troubles with others, grow out of our own faults and our own failures, and not the faults and failures of other people; and the world would not yet be half right for us, when everybody was right except ourselves. And as to the greater troubles than those we have with others, for them we alone are responsible. Until we get rid of ourselves, or until we are lifted above all selfish thoughts of ourselves, there is continual trouble for us, however other people bear themselves.

"God harden me against myself,
This coward with pathetic voice
Who craves for ease and rest and joy;
Myself, arch-traitor to myself;
My hollowest friend, my deadliest foe,
My dog whatever road I go."
—S. S. Times.

The Panama Canal.—Work Done.

The president of the American Branch of the De Lesseps Panama Canal Company has issued a statement of the condition of the work. Notwithstanding the obstacles encountered in the luxuriant vegetation and the thick forests, there has been opened and recorded transversely to the axis of the canal over 200 kilometers of paths, and also a passage from 20 to 30 meters has been made from one end of the Isthmus to the other, according to the proposed lines of the Canal Commission. For meteorological studies, to which especial attention has been given, four stations have been established—at Colon, Gamboa, La Boca del Rio Grande, and Naos Island. Geological surveys have been made and are now in progress. It has been ascertained that between Colon and Lion Hill the canal will not encounter any rocks. At the present time two steam sounding apparatus are being put up similar to these at Colon. At this station the samples brought up by the spoons have given an exact structure of the soil. It is shown to be a succession of layers of clay, representing the degradations of a greenish pyroxenic rock, which through its gradual degradations and decomposition has produced this formation.

Work on the canal has been commenced. The company now have 200 cars, 12 locomotives, 2 pontons, 2 steam cranes, 18 flatboats, 2 dredges with change pieces, ribbon saws, rails, etc., a part of which is already at Colon and the remainder is on the way. The storehouses at Colon cover an area of 1,400 meters, and are full. Five barges and two steamboats are plying upon the Chagres River.—Scientific News.

Married.

At the residence of the bride's parents, near Scio, Linn county, Or., Nov. 30, 1881, by Eld. E. W. Barnes, Mr. J. G. Holt, of Marion county, to Miss Annie V. Kelly, of Linn county, Oregon.

No one whose blood is impure can feel well. There is a weary, languid feeling, and often a sense of discouragement and despondency. Persons having this feeling of lassitude and depressions, should take Ayer's Sarsaparilla to purify and vitalize the blood.

The "Golden Bloom of Youth" may be retained by using Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription," a specific for "female complaints." By druggists.

—We are only beginners in the science of post-office service of the people. We are disciples afar off of the English, and that because we have a large area of expensive postal service, and we are afraid of a deficit. The English post-office department, on the other hand, is compact and supplies a considerable revenue. Notice how much we are behind Great Britain in the cheapness and extent of service. Our Government charges a half more to carry a letter than does the British. A new and cheaper form of money-order, called postal order, was provided last year. They are now issued at the rate of over four million a year, nearly half a million of which are for an amount as small as one shilling. The British post-office now is a savings bank, in which one can either invest small amounts in government stocks or still smaller deposits in postage-stamps. In the last eleven months over \$4,000,000 was invested in the Postal Savings Bank, and an increase of 436,000 depositors followed the provision allowing the deposit of penny stamps. Children of poor homes are frequent depositors. The British post-office offers facilities for life insurance and the purchase of annuities. Every one knows that the British telegraphs are wholly run by the post-office and at a very cheap rate. It is now proposed to establish a parcel post or sort of express department, which shall carry parcels of moderate size and which shall connect with corresponding departments of the post-office on the Continent. Of course, we shall have to lag a long while behind; but we hope that one reform, that of penny postage, may not be long delayed, and that a telegraph postal service may follow not very long after.—Independent.



MISCELLANEOUS. 1882.

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