

EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

Official Corruption.

THE great Governments and the great municipalities of the world have a problem before them which as yet they have not fairly faced, but which they must face if they are to make sure in times of emergency of the efficiency of their agents. The growing hunger for money as the one absolute condition of endurable life, the increasing severity of the competition for great contracts, and the decaying abhorrence of suicide all tend to the development of "corruption" in its official sense, that is, of bribe-taking by officials, and of stealing from State and municipal departments. No form of government seems to protect the nations from it. We have less of it than most countries, because under our social conditions the class which really governs has been taught from early childhood to regard bribe-taking as a worse dishonor even than cheating at cards, and because those who suffer are absolutely free to complain; but even here, when the Government is forced to spend millions suddenly, rings are formed to get some of that money, and the taxpayer is fleeced through preposterous charges and illicit commissions.

It is a great blot on modern civilization, which in many respects depends upon efficiency for success. Efficiency and corruption are wholly incompatible. Some think that corruption produces only waste, and that they can bear waste; but that is a false view. Corruption, in the first place, arrests the employment of the best men in leading positions, for the whole energy of the corrupt is devoted to preventing their promotion, or if they are promoted, to rendering their positions untenable. In the second place, corruption makes energetic administration nearly impossible, for no Government ever loses the hope of preventing it; and to prevent it most of them apply an infinity of "checks," every one of which occupies part of the time of the executive officer, and increases the load of responsibility under which at last he dare do nothing without previous sanction. And, in the third place, corruption is not only fatal to the very idea of duty, but to the habit of performing it.

A perfect remedy for corruption is hard to find, because it requires a change in the motives of the corrupt which Governments cannot produce, and which society will not be at the pains to encourage effectively; but two or three palliatives might at least be tried. One is to protect those who complain. Another is to pay all those who have anything whatever to do with contracts at least decently, a rule often neglected in the case of the experienced but subordinate men upon whose judgment their less experienced superiors in matters of business compelled to rely. And a third is to declare bribe-giving and bribe-receiving a form of treason severely punishable whenever it is proved.—London Spectator.

Social Gravitation.

THE census proves incontestably that the drift of population cityward reached its maximum some years ago, and has begun to recede. Some one has said: "Hereafter the city and the country will march side by side, with even step." Even this is hardly probable. The change of drift is owing to economical conditions that will continue strongly to favor the country. Population will still move out and differentiate from the masses. In fact, the coming deal seems to be rather an evenly distributed suburbanism, covering the whole country; while the cities will remain as ganglia. Following this ideal the city will grow more country-like, while the country will steadily acquire those privileges which have heretofore belonged to the city.

According to a recent census bulletin, 159 towns show an increase of 32 per cent during the last ten years, which is about the average of the increase of the whole country. The relative gain of cities from 1880 to 1890 was from 22 to 29 per cent—or 7 per cent positive increase—but from 1890 to 1900 this increase was only about 2½ per cent. This tells the story with accuracy. It does not warrant us in assuming that cities will cease to grow, but that relatively they will cease to grow as fast as the country. A potent cause for depopulating the country came in with improved machinery. Farm work could be done with fewer hands. A single reaper would replace ten men. Costly machinery could be profitably used only on large farms, yet a single reaper might serve a dozen small farm owners

GREAT AGRICULTURAL DISCOVERY

Four-fifths of every breath of air which the lungs inhale is pure nitrogen. It is one of the commonest of the elements. And yet, says a writer in Harper's Monthly, it is the one thing for the lack of which wheat fields, cotton fields and corn fields are abandoned as "worn out" because it is the most expensive plant food for man to supply to the soil, and one which most plants are unable to absorb in its pure state from the air. To remedy this the Department of Agriculture at Washington is preparing to distribute among farmers a substance resembling compressed yeast, which will raise, not bread, but crops; for when applied to certain plants it will enable them to take abundant nitrogen from the atmosphere. The "yeast" is really a mass of germs, which bid fair to become most efficient gardeners.

It has long been known that clover and other leguminous crops flourish in "worn-out" soil, and when plowed into it partially restore the fertility of it. Studying this phenomenon, scientists have found that in such a soil the plants have nodules, little bunches or swellings, on their roots, which they do not have when grown elsewhere. These nodules are formed by bacteria called radiocolla.

Professor Nobbe, a German investigator, found that lupines which had the nodules would grow in soil devoid of nitrogen. Without the nodules the lupines would not grow. He obtained some of the radiocolla from the nodules and propagated them in gelatine till he had many millions of the germs.

He then put into three jars equal quantities of sterilized sand containing no nitrogen whatever. In each jar he planted beans. The first he fertilized with all the usual plant foods except nitrogen. The second he supplied with the same food and salt-peter, a form of nitrogen easily absorbed by plants. The third he fed like the first, and in addition inoculated sand with his radiocolla.

The result was extremely interesting. The beans all came up, and for a few days grew alike. Then the first lot, having no nitrogen, turned yellow and died. The second continued to grow in normal fashion. But the third, although it got no nitrogen in the soil, flourished far beyond its neighbor, and developed a luxuriant and healthy growth, showing that the radiocolla had enabled it to draw its nitrogen from the air.

Professor Nobbe carried his experiments much further. He showed that while in neutral soil radiocolla are all alike, once they have associated themselves with a given plant, as clover, they become very nearly useless for other plants, such as beans and

co-operatively. So far, the Eastern States were at the greater disadvantage, the deserted farms were common throughout New England. It was wiser to go West with small capital, and leave the homestead to go back to wilderness, rather than to remain and be starved. This state of affairs, in aggravated symptoms, continued until near the close of the nineteenth century. A cause for the reaction which we chronicle, is the splendid increase in the value of farm products, brought about by our having secured the world's markets. Commercial expansion during the last ten years has immensely increased the exportation of nearly everything that the farm produces. Our fruits, our meats, our corn are now found in every market of the globe. There is no longer any fear of overproduction; we have only to insist on the open door principle and free competition. The farmer can apply his whole attention to the increase of products, and the conquest of insect and fungoid enemies. Agriculture is proving itself to be once more what it was in the early part of the last century, the most independent of all the industries.—New York Independent.

Forts and Naval Attacks.

ONE of the surprises of the Far Eastern war is the failure of the fort guns to do more damage in the attacking fleets. It was a matter of faith among the authorities that not even the strongest modern battleship could safely attack an effective modern fort, armed with long-range heavy guns. England is at present making a number of long-range fort guns for the defense of her south coast, and it is calculated that these guns will easily be able to throw a twelve or thirteen-inch shell across the Straits of Dover, so that it would not seem to be worth while for France even to take her Channel squadron out of port, much less to attempt to land in the face of such an overwhelming attack. But this is mere theory. The truth is, that although the weight and range of these guns have been steadily increasing the human powers which are to use them have not shown, and are not likely to show a corresponding progress. While a gun can carry a shell across the Straits of Dover, the gunner who could make a hit of twenty miles is yet unborn; neither eyesight nor fineness of hand are equal to the task. Nor would the atmosphere permit it, if they were. Attacks by fleets are made by sea; and the sea is proverbially untrustworthy in the matter of weather. Air currents, mists, uneven radiation, mirage and a dozen similar causes deflect the shot and the vision which directs it. Moreover, no one nowadays is likely to attack a fort at close range in broad daylight. The Port Arthur bombardments were nearly all at night, and some of them in snowstorms. It is intelligible that a ship at sea can more or less locate a position on land, such as the Golden Hill above Port Arthur, over a town where there are certain to be some lights at least; but the fort has no lights to guide it in locating the ship, except the momentary flash of the guns, which give hardly any opportunity for aiming. In the case of the Vladivostok bombardment, it seems that the Japanese fleet were too far off to do any damage, and, therefore, too far off to receive any. It is also likely that the object of that attack was to draw the Russian fire in order to locate their forts; the Russians seemed to have divined this, and naturally abstained from firing.—Harper's Weekly.

No Thought of Annexation.

THE United States regards Canada as under British Imperial suzerainty, an independent sovereign nation, whose title is as valid as that of any nation on the globe. It has no thought of annexing Canada against her will, nor does it, indeed, regard annexation as necessary or inevitable. It is not sitting up o' nights to coax or to coerce the Dominion into union with the Republic. If ever Canada should at her own will seek such union, the United States would probably be cordially responsive. But, if Canada never does seek it, the United States will regard with entire unanimity and satisfaction the prospect of continuing for all time to share this continent with another great English-speaking commonwealth, and will only hope for constantly increasing sentiments of mutual esteem and constantly strengthening bonds of friendship between these two sovereign nations.—New York Tribune.

lupines. Accordingly he has labored to produce highly specialized bacteria for each crop—gardeners germs trained to grow their specialty.

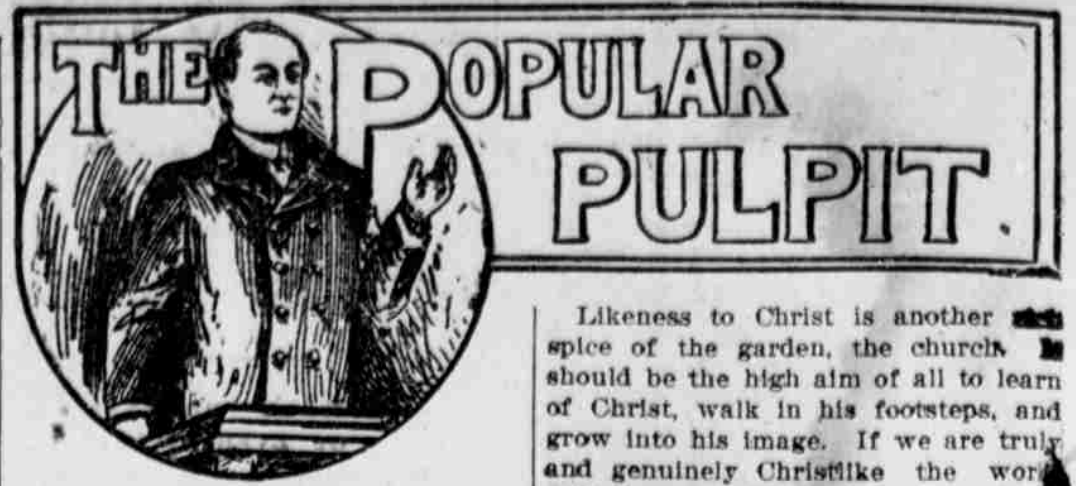
Having done this, his next move was to place them in the farmers' hands. He grew them by millions and packed them in bottles of gelatine. All that the farmer needed to do was to dilute the gelatine with warm water, mix it with the seed and a little soil, partially dry the mixture and sow it. The germs did the rest.

There was much opposition to the new "fertilizer," and one old farmer who did not believe in it planted in a big field a lot of the inoculated seed in a big letter "N." Professor Nobbe having named the gelatine compound "Nitrogen." The farmer was amazed and convinced when above all his other beans that year there stood out the letter "N" in luxuriant and healthy plants.

Professor Nobbe's glass jars are inconvenient to handle, so the United States Department of Agriculture, following up his experiments, has hit upon the "compressed yeast cake plan" as simple and satisfactory.

A Repeater.

Tess—I permitted him to kiss me on condition that he wouldn't mention it to anyone.
Jess—And did he?
Tess—Well—er—he repeated it the very next minute.



CHRISTIAN CHARACTER.

By Rev. D. G. Wylie.

The early home of man was a garden, an Eden. It was a beautiful place, bathed with rosy light and the dewy freshness of morning's creation. Heaven was reflected in the purity of earth.

It is generally believed that the principal theme of Canticles, or the Song of Solomon, is the church. The text speaks of the church as a garden, a spice garden rather than a flower garden. God means that, like a garden, the church should be a place of beauty, security and fruitfulness. When the Christian, in his church, produces in his life spiritual fruit God is well pleased. God guards the church with a vigilance surpassing that of an oriental vineyard owner. As the mountains encircle Jerusalem, so God surrounds his people. Night and day, in storm and in calm, in sunshine and in shadow, God's eye is on his holy church. "I, the Lord, do keep it; I will water it every moment; lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day."

The north wind of the text is a symbol of that which hurts the church. In the scriptures the north wind signifies adversity. In our climate it means cold, cheerless, unpleasant weather. When the icy blasts from the north fall upon us we are pierced by its sharpness and protect ourselves with the coats of wool and fur. It is the north wind that drives the sheep and cattle from the fields to places of shelter and protection. It is the north wind, also, that brings ice and snow, closes navigation, lays a death-like silence upon nature, and often causes suffering to families and death to birds and beasts. No garden can flourish under the blast of a north wind.

All this means that often the Christian church must suffer adversity and pass through persecution. It may be the north wind of poverty, or worldliness, or unholy living; but, whatever it is, the church is injured and does not prosper. It is a cause for joy that at such a time God watches over and protects his church.

The south wind is a symbol of blessing and prosperity. When it blows softly the snow banks and the ice in lakes and rivers melt; the touch of winter disappears from the air; the earth revives; gardens and fields look green; bloom and blossoms cover the trees of orchards and forests; flowers spring up everywhere, and the air is filled with sweet perfume and the songs of birds.

We have here the believer praying that God would bless the church with all gracious influences; that the south wind may blow upon God's garden. Everything depends upon this; for the spirit of God alone can stir up new affections, make sinful lives beautiful, quicken and revive dormant energies, and fill the life with peace, joy, and holiness. The church to-day needs the gracious influences of the south wind of God's favor.

The result of God's blessing upon the church is seen. It is fruit. When the south wind blows the spices of the garden flow out. God expects the church to be fruitful; to produce saints; a noble manhood and womanhood; fine types of Christian character. They that are planted in the house of the Lord ought to flourish.

What are some of the sweet and rich spices which should flow from the church—the garden of God? The answer is, Christian character and the Christian graces.

We mention the sweet spice of devout affection. Heavenly mindedness, true devotion to God and to man is one of the spices of the garden. Followers of Jesus should set their affection on things above.

Gentleness and humanity should flow from Christian lives. This is one of the heavenly graces that ought to adorn every Christian. God loves the gentle and humble soul. Jesus Christ sets a noble example which we should follow. God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble.

Brotherly love is a spice of God's garden; a fruit of God's spirit; heaven's supreme test of true discipleship. If we love the brethren we know that we have passed from death to life. If we hate our brother we abide in death.

Devotion to Christ and a deep love for his kingdom is another fruit of God's garden when the south wind of divine favor blows. When Christians are truly devoted to all that is good, pure, noble, and holy it is a fine evidence that the south wind is blowing.

Likeness to Christ is another spice of the garden, the church. It should be the high aim of all to learn of Christ, walk in his footsteps, and grow into his image. If we are truly and genuinely Christlike the world will be convinced that we have been with Jesus and have learned from him the secret of holy living. "The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, meekness, temperance." Here is a cluster of priceless jewels, richly set, which should adorn every Christian life!

TOLERANCE IS SPREADING.

By Rev. W. Hanson Fulford.

One most hopeful sign of the vitality of religion among us is its increasing neglect of what is merely formal. In all churches we find to-day a tolerance, a humanity, a reasonableness, which are in no small degree the result of our national prerogatives of religious liberty, democracy and education. The days are long past in this country when it was possible to say that whoever did not hold to the trinitarian formulas of past authority "shall without doubt perish everlastingly."

Moreover, the abandonment of the old unreasoning intolerance is due in no small measure to the need of religion. God, Jesus, the Christian spirit, figure less in the abstract statements of the creeds, but as men seek to live figure increasingly as actual factors in the development of a finer type of manhood.

It is not so much an intellectual as a practical motive which underlies the process. That form of religion will ultimately prevail which best serves the end of helping men to meet the demands of life with the largest measure of strong, resolute self-possession. That it may better serve that supreme end religion is everywhere emerging from the narrow precincts of the creeds to renew her youth in the clear open air of truth and fact in which men best come to the fullness of their manhood.

MORMONISM IS SCORED.

By Rev. Frederick C. Priest.

Mormonism is a menace; first, to the home; second, to the public school system; third, to the State. The government of the United States recognized the fact that the teaching, organization and practices of the mormon church were a menace to these three institutions and provided in the enabling act that the menace to the home—polygamy—should be forever prohibited in the State of Utah by an ordinance in her constitution; also that the constitution should provide for the free public school system and that it should contain a further provision that no church should dominate the State or interfere with its functions.

As soon as the proclamation declaring Utah to be a State was issued, however, the mormon people changed from their good behavior of five or six years and resumed the old practice of polygamy—the chief menace to the home. But their chief violation of the compact between the State and the nation, and that which is a most dangerous menace to the government, was that the mormon church immediately began to dominate the State, not only dictating as to the election of officers, but also seeking to control the legislation in the State as to the laws and the enforcement thereof.

Short Meter Sermons.

He who creates can control.
A real grief needs no uniform.
Character is incorruptible cash.
Man is a harp and not a hand organ.
Nothing is lost that falls into a heart.
Pecklers of scandal are sure to be infected.
A man does not have to be congealed to be calm.
The heart of the present is the hope of the future.
Affectation is the language of conscious inferiority.
Science is simply the search into the mind of the Supreme.
The shepherd's crook needs no crookedness in the shepherd.
The people who have seen better days did it with a telescope.
What a man gets always depends on what he is willing to lose.
Some preaching is about as filling as a bill of fare in the desert.
The cynic is a man who sees his own heart and calls it the world.
People who withhold gratitude are apt to do wholesale grumbling.
It is no use being better than others unless we are better than our old selves.
There is a difference between claiming the right to rule and trying to rule aright.