

The Wages of Sin.

A man signing his name "A. Jenkins", shot himself at a Philadelphia hotel. Before doing so he wrote a note to his brother-in-law saying "This is the ultimate result of gambling and a dissipated life and is a warning to young men." But will it be a warning? Or must each person learn for himself by bitter experience the penalty of sin?

Subscriptions From South Africa.

Among the subscriptions which reached The Commoner office last week were twenty-five from the Transvaal Republic in far away South Africa. It is gratifying to the editor to know that this paper commends itself to the people who are so bravely enduring hardships in defense of the doctrine of self-government. Whether they are rewarded with victory or doomed to disappointment and final defeat their deeds will be preserved in story and in song and their devotion to freedom will be an inspiration in all lands.

Should Apologize to Editor Rice.

The investigation of fraud in the government service at Manila has developed that certain officers have been guilty of the most flagrant wrongs. Representatives of business concerns have testified to the payment of commissions to commissary officers in return for the purchase of their goods. It also developed that complaints of shortages in deliveries of goods have been silenced by the payment of liberal sums of money and that a shortage was covered by placing a number of fictitious laborers on the pay roll. Evidence accumulates each day that the administration owes to Editor Rice a large apology, even though it does not return him to Manila from which place he was deported because he charged the existence of fraud.

Matthews on Co-operation.

Chas. B. Matthews, whose fight with the Standard Oil trust is described in Henry D. Lloyd's book, "Wealth vs. Commonwealth," in an interview in the Buffalo Times, gives his experience with a co-operative telephone company. He says:

"I am connected with a farmer and village line at Wyoming, N. Y. We have some 20 telephones on the line and find it a great convenience. Our telephones cost us four years ago \$10 each. We put up our own wire, and of course own our own 'phones. The first cost of wire, poles and 'phones to us was about \$14 to each telephone, and now we get a good local service at a cost of about \$2 per year to each subscriber. Of course the Bell company, which is everywhere present in our large villages, will have no dealings with us, but we can enjoy our little co-operative system, and we can wait as well as any one can for Uncle Sam to take the telephone and telegraph service of the country and operate them in connection with the postal service."

Save the Echoes.

It is proposed to put a new roof on Statuary Hall, in the capitol at Washington, and the guides in that famous old structure express the fear that the result will be a loss of the echoes that have long been an attractive feature to

visitors at the national building. The New York World says that the appeal of the guides is "Save the Echoes," and the World adds:

Now this is an appeal that the people might well take up in a broader sense. There have been many sentiments ringing in the legislative halls of the capitol that we should desire to have preserved. Let us save the echoes—

Of Bayard's voice, when he proclaimed:

"The oath I have taken is to support the constitution of my country's government, not the fiat of any political organization."

Of Webster's voice, saying:

"I mean to stand upon the constitution. I need no other platform."

Of Sumner's voice, declaring that—

"The true grandeur of a nation is to be found only in deeds of justice and the happiness of its people."

Illinois College.

The editor of The Commoner notes with interest that his alma mater, Illinois College, at Jacksonville, has been included among the institutions to be aided by the Chicago philanthropist, Dr. D. K. Pierson. Fifty thousand dollars is the sum promised to Illinois College on condition that an additional sum of one hundred and fifty thousand is raised. President Clifford Barnes feels confident that the amount can be secured, and the endowment thus increased two hundred thousand.

Illinois College was established seventy-two years ago by some Yale College graduates, led by Edward Beecher, Julian Sturtevant, and Truman Post.

Richard Yates, the war Governor of Illinois, and his son Richard, the present governor, were graduates of the college, as was also Dr. Robt. W. Patterson, founder of Lake Forest University, President Bateman, of Knox College, and Doctor Hiram K. Jones, the platonic philosopher.

Consulting "Destiny."

It seems to be "destiny" that the United States should acquire the Danish West Indies.

A treaty of sale is now being arranged between Denmark and the United States for the sale to this country of these islands, the consideration being \$4,000,000.

One consideration of the proposed treaty is that Denmark must have, in these islands, equal trade privileges with the United States. In other words, if the United States have free trade with the Danish West Indies, Denmark must also have free trade.

A similar concession for a period of ten years was made to Spain so far as the Philippines was concerned. The republican leaders have told us that a mighty principle was involved in the tariff question; and yet in the different arrangements the republican administration has made concerning our various "possessions" in the matter of tariff it would seem that no principle whatever is involved in this question, and that as one distinguished American said, the tariff is purely a local question.

If the United States acquires the Danish West Indies it will be interesting to observe the position the new territory and its people occupy with relation to this country. Will they be "citizens of the Danish Islands," and

will they be denied constitutional trade privileges with this country? No one may safely make prediction on this subject. The clairvoyant of the administration must first ascertain the decree of "destiny" on this matter, and by that decree the rights, privileges and immunities of the people of the Danish Islands will be arranged. "Destiny" has usurped the place of the constitution.

They Deserve No Sympathy.

Recently a ranch in a western state was "raffled off." It was advertised that the ranch was paying a generous dividend upon a valuation of \$40,000. Thirty thousand tickets were sold at one dollar a piece. It developed that this enterprise was a swindle and the lucky number was held by the owner of the ranch—the drawing not being made under the auspices of a committee as advertised. While the managers of this scheme were arrested on the charge of fraud and will probably meet with punishment, the men who bought chances do not deserve any sympathy. Their experience will be cheap enough if it cures them of the desire to make a fortune by chance. The speculative spirit now abroad in the land has wrought more misery than could have been wrought by a cyclone or a pestilence. Fortunes have been wrecked, homes have been destroyed, hopes have been blasted and hearts have been broken by the anxiety of men already rich to multiply their riches in a day, or of poor men to obtain through a single smile of fortune the wealth they have so long coveted.

Dolliver vs. Lincoln.

In an article printed in the Philadelphia Record, Jonathan P. Dolliver, the Republican senator from Iowa, says:

The figure of Abraham Lincoln, standing on the field of Gettysburg by the graves of the Union dead, instead of growing smaller and more indistinct with time has increased to the measure of the colossal events which surrounded him, until above the noises, clamors and tumults of the hour all generations share in the assurance of his inspired confidence that the government by the people, of the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Of all the Republican statesmen, none have been more earnest or more eloquent in the defense of the administration's policy of imperialism than Senator Dolliver of Iowa. Of what value then, are such words coming from such a man?

Senator Dolliver supports a policy that denies the principle of government with the consent of the governed in the Philippines; that denies to the people of Porto Rico equal participation with the people of the United States in the privileges and immunities guaranteed by the Constitution; that denies to the people of Cuba that absolute independence involved in a government of, by and for the people. And yet this eloquent and vigorous defender of this un-American policy has the temerity to declare that today all generations share in Lincoln's assurance "that government by the people, of the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."