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OBSERVATIONS.

Some of the Chinese laundries in the city are worse places than the saloons or gambling rooms. THE COURIER is informed that the practice of opium smoking is growing among the youth. It is the custom of the proprietor of an opium dive to give the tyro opium enough for the first attempts until the habit is formed. Then it costs sixty-five cents for a dose, or smoke, enough to put the average victim asleep. Youths from good families frequent these places and form a habit more destructive to the morals and health than liquor can induce. The fascinations of opium smoking to overcome the repugnance which most Americans feel to the dirt and smell of a Chinese laundry are powerful. Police surveillance would make such dens impossible. On the contrary their number and the number of their customers is increasing daily.

The passing of William Ewart Gladstone is watched by the six continents of the globe with a greater interest than the death of any other individual would cause. He has been English history far more than Queen Victoria,

and English history is of greater meaning to the world than that of any other nation. His character is of childlike purity and directness. Like Emerson, he changes his opinions with the expansion of his vision and the growth of his mind. He has never been controlled by the expression of what he thought yesterday unless it corresponds with the revelation of today. Such a man would of course make enemies of all party men who acknowledge no creed but party expediency. From his entry into public life to the present time he has kept his conscience and mind open to inspiration. He has kept the faith and fought a good fight and the world is better for him. The telegrams say that he is tired and wants to lay down a burden that no one in this generation has carried so buoyantly.

The current number of Harper's Magazine contains an illustrated article on hunting the African buffalo. The frontispiece is a picture of the dignified fierce beast at bay in the tall grasses where he was born. The description of the hunt is given the first pages of the magazine, thus conveying the publisher's estimate of its relative value. A series of six photographs, taken by the valiant hunter, with a revolver whose calibre he describes as 30-30, in one hand, and a camera in the other, represent the much nobler animal in his death agony. In the first, he has sunken to his knees, the second, third, fourth and fifth show his brave defiance of an armed enemy, and his pitiable agony and in the sixth and last, the fine head rests upon the ground. The author relates that if he had been somewhat quicker with his camera he could have shown us a picture of the beast spouting blood through his nostrils and mouth several feet into the air. Are we Spaniards that we must be amused by pictures of the death agonies of an herbivorous wild beast? The Harpers heretofore have stood for what was best in magazine literature. This departure is just as bad as the worst that the yellow journals have ever done. The latter's pictures of tortured men and animals, freaks of nature and unnatural monsters of all kinds are printed on cheap paper in lurid tints and have all the marks of degeneracy

and vulgarity. In the case under discussion the publishers have given the author unmistakable signs of approval and distinction. The stories and essays which follow are of the unexceptionable character established by the publishers in more than half a century's editions.

Deadwood has arrested its chief of police under a charge of not enforcing the liquor law. A number of saloon keepers are also under arrest charged with willfully keeping the windows and doors of their places of business obstructed by screens, blinds and paint, and allowing games of cards and dice and other games of skill and chance, whereon money and other things are usually wagered to be played in the room and for allowing tables, chairs and seats in the apartments in which liquors are sold. For some time the war against gambling has been going on and it is alleged that the chief of police made no complaint against those who were violating the law. A few years ago Deadwood was no better than Lincoln, but public sentiment is certainly enlightened when it refuses to allow the chief of police to enjoy his customary perquisites from the gamblers.

Once in about ten years a period of reform arrives, as quietly, but as indisputably as the new year, and everybody begins to take such an interest in politics that it is very difficult for the politician in office to collect what he considers his legitimate fees. Such an era put Boss Tweed in the penitentiary. Such an era is making life difficult for Mayor Graham in Lincoln now and it is hoped that before the interest in the movement is exhausted, officers will be elected who are capable of administering the affairs of the city of Lincoln with intelligence and integrity. With the exception of a few ward nominees the city republican ticket contains types of the most capable and trustworthy manhood in the city. A year ago Frank Graham was elected mayor. Today so far has public sentiment progressed, that such a man's candidacy would not be considered at all. Finley of the first ward is a remnant of the saloon rule, but there is great hope that the popularity of his opponent, Bob Malone, together with his own unfitness for a representative

position, may defeat him. In the present incomplete and undecided condition of the water works system here, it is especially important to elect good councilmen from all the wards and as good as we can get from the first. In any event the republican ticket if elected even with the one or two not irreproachable ward candidates will insure good administration of the police and fire departments, the city's legal business, the city's schools and a majority of good men in the council.

One of the most satisfactory results of the discussion and study of any subject is its ultimate reduction to simplest scientific principles. The study of agriculture will change the farm drudges into scientific students of soil, stock and farm products. Instead of laboring with his hands alone from dawn to early bed time, the farmer will work on his farm as a chemist in his laboratory, experimenting and recording and comparing results. The same process of substitution of thought for drudgery is going on in housework. Housewives are learning how to secure the best results with an economic outlay of money and labor. The intellectual stimulus of solving the problems of housekeeping and rearing children according to the inductive method is making of the female drudge a student bent upon learning natural laws and taking the utmost advantage of them for herself and her household. To be sure there were notable housewives long before housekeeping was studied as a science, but for the woman without inspiration there was no help. Her men folks came home to poorly cooked meals on an untidy table and left her with not always silent reproaches. To such women the study of household economics has been an encouragement and an education. And there are many who were ready to believe that they could not cook or keep house well because things had always "gone contrary" with them and they lacked instinctive knowledge of how to provide a comfortable home and an appetizing menu on a small income. Mrs. Rodgers in the San Francisco Examiner relates an experience of several months. She says:

"Most women that do their own cooking, with knowledge of kitchen