

have not enough to drink without mentioning washing or bathing.

A year or so ago it was proposed that the city of London build an aqueduct from some far away water supply which would supply it with water enough and to spare. The proposition was opposed by the water companies which succeeded in killing the bill. The fear of a water famine was not strong enough in the London aldermen to brace them against the threats and the bribes of the water company which have the advantage of even unusually wakeful politicians in not requiring either sleep or rest. The blame must of course, finally rest on the people for not selecting aldermen who can resist bribes and threats, and the citizens who committed the folly of electing weak mercenaries six years or more ago to the common council of London are experiencing now the first effects of their bad judgment and subservience to their party. So far-reaching is the folly of fools. In the tenements and wretchedly poor part of London the filth and odor is almost unbearable and even the inoculated poor, who have lived in the midst of smells since birth, turn sick and white as the fumes from the river Lea fill their crowded rooms. The cruelty and barbarity of a company willing to perpetuate such a state of things for the sake of its own profits would be incomprehensible if we were not in the power of such companies ourselves.

Experiments seem to teach that municipal ownership is wasteful but it is better than private ownership because the people have more frequent opportunities to punish inefficient, wasteful management and to reward with another term those who have served them well. For these and other reasons the condition of Philadelphia under municipal ownership of the water department is better than that of London supplied with water by a private company.

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Eloquence Only.

Daniel Webster and Henry Clay were brilliant men and fascinating and convincing orators. If a vote were to be taken on the most brilliant and imposing figure in American history Daniel Webster would undoubtedly receive a large majority of the votes cast. George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and General Grant are imposing for what they accomplished and for the increasing evidence of time and posterity that their work was permanent and of inestimable value. But when George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and General Grant were upon earth it is not recorded that the people were overwhelmed with admiration and awe when in their presence. On the contrary the revered George W. was a bit stiff and formal and not much of a talker, though when forced to speak his ideas were presented with great clearness. Abraham Lincoln was a speaker whose effects were made by the flawlessness of his logic and the simplicity of his language rather than by any brilliancy of style. Abraham was a plain man who wrought better than the people knew; one whose fame is still growing for that he never once was confused about the real object of the war which was the preservation of the union although that involved the abolition of slavery. And General Grant was a modest hero too, who made few speeches. He was an inspired soldier, and an incessant worker who knew how to defeat an enemy. Washington made the nation, Lincoln kept it from breaking in two and Grant assisted Lincoln. Yet if Daniel Webster were actually standing beside these other

TO THE FIRST NEBRASKA REGIMENT.

GREETING FROM GOD'S COUNTRY. AUGUST, 1899.

(For the Courier).

Come back to the heaven-wide heart of your mother,
Strong sons she hath sent like the wind from her hills;
Who have borne over mountains and sea to another
The sap of her sunshine, the blood of her rills.

Come back to the plains where the cloud-shadow flying
Floats free from the gates of the sun to the sod;
And no lair where the slime of the serpent is lying
Disfigures the face of the country of God.

But open and clear to the stars and the noon-tide,
She hideth no hold where the pestilence waits.
She hideth no hurt save the hurt of that June-tide
When her first-born beloved went forth from her gates.

Come back to the land that no shadow hath darkened,
Save the shadow that hung by the echoing sea,
Where the heart of your mother hath waited and harkened,—
In the long island watches ye paced sleeplessly,—

To the breath of your lips when the battle-heat thickened.
To the rush of your feet in the demon-loosed strife,
To the throb of your hearts when the fever-pulse quickened
In the veins she has filled with her glorious life.

Come now where she waits in the sheer August splendor
That lies on the brows of her heaven-bared hills.
The first who have taken the lance to defend her,
Come drink of the cup of thanksgiving she fills,

Come back to the land that no glory hath lightened
Like the glory ye bring from the valleys ye trod,
Where in famine and fever and death, unafrightened,
Ye carried the hearts of the country of God.

Come back, ye that may, in your warrior's regalia;
Come back, ye that march gleaming white by their side,
That waken no more to the soldiers' reveille,
But sleep evermore in the hearts ye abide.

Come, scarred hero-host of the dead and the living,
Who have poured out for strangers the blood of our land;
Far more than the lives ye have recked not in giving,
Is the faith that may die, but may not understand.

Far more than the glow of proud Freedom's defender
Is the spirit that failed not in doubting and gloom;
And the land whence ye rose like her sun in his splendor
From the white arms of martyrdom welcomes you home.

Her harvests flow out to the hills beyond measure,
Calm shineth above them the evening star,
But the crown of the gifts God hath given to bless her
Is the faith ye have brought through the gate-way of war.
—Katharine M. Melick.

three men, all eyes would be attracted to him in preference. Undoubtedly none possessed the intellectual gifts of Webster. In the power of thought and the expression of it, and in everything that makes a statesman, except what Washington and Lincoln had namely an unlimited capacity for self denial and patience, Daniel Webster was well fitted for the presidency of this country. Records are made to be broken, but Americans are apt to demand of a man something more than the ability to make a good speech. That peculiar gift of good judgment and the unnamed characteristic of a presence in which all men feel that the man who is asking them to make him chief of the nation, is safe and reliable should be demanded from their candidates by both democrats and republicans. Notwithstanding Daniel Webster's imposing and commanding presence and personal magnetism, he had not that characteristic which the silent Grant and many a common-place, obscure man has, that characteristic which inspires confidence and which, given favoring circumstances, will make a man president. It was this quality in Abraham Lincoln which made him president and it was the absence of it which kept Daniel Webster from reaching the goal of his ambition.

It has been said that history does not teach anything except the uncertainty of politics and that a man

rejected by one generation may be just the sort of man the next generation will approve of. However that may be the figures of the last presidential election confirm the lessons of history to date. Those states where Mr. Bryan made the most speeches to the largest and most enthusiastic crowds, gave the largest majorities to President McKinley.

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The Secret of the Multitude.

The free concerts have brought together thousands of people who sat upon the grass or wandered about the neighborhood of government square or of the Capitol grounds as it chanced to be Friday or Tuesday evening. Rich and poor were there and the most enjoyable feature of the bi-weekly assembly was that they were there enjoying the music together. Many a wistful minister who has racked his mind for a subject and a method that will bring the poor and the desperately wicked—who were of the multitude that pressed about Christ—to his church watched the happy young men and women strolling about, the mothers and fathers with their children, and the little groups of neighbors, with the hope that he might learn the secret of assembling a multitude.

There is no doubt that everyone is attracted by a crowd and that the people, rich and poor, good and bad, respectable and declassé like to be together and to watch each other.

A crowd, of whatever elements it is composed, is impressive. It is as if the individual strength and spirit of each were merged into humanity and the drops which make the stream were conscious of the mighty volume and current of the whole. Be this as it may, there is no doubt that the people like to be together, that they invariably patronize and make successful by their presence any entertainment which is addressed to everybody, which has no admission price and no requirements of color, education, sex, or religion. In Chicago the electric fountain for two years drew thousands of people to Lincoln park every evening. The spectacle was a beautiful one but it was the crowd that drew the crowd together for two or more years in succession. The spectacle itself was of too simple and monotonous a character to remain the center of attraction and it became simply a pretext.

The free concerts here have been the most enjoyable feature of the summer, so nearly ended. Mr. Hagenow in demonstrating the power of music and the delight of the people in it and the readiness with which every body responds to an invitation to listen to music and to disport themselves in a free country as free and untrammelled citizens has given us a valuable lesson. The concerts were made possible by the energy of Mr. Hagenow who canvassed the city and secured contributions from the public-spirited, early in the spring. The delighted reception of the concerts by the populace, has more than repaid the contributors, who in watching the happy little children dancing on the sward, the blooming young men and women promenading up and down, and the happy family parties realize that their contributions supplied a long felt want in this oceanless, lakeless, streamless, mountainless summer resort, where for the horseless there is nowhere to go and nothing to see.

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The Commuters' Reformation.

In no places have village and city improvement societies accomplished more than in the small residence towns surrounding a great city, towns emptied of men in the morning and filled with them at night, home returning from the city where they are as cogs or belts in, or power to, a great machine. Tired with the labor and stress of the day they return gratefully to their homes at night, but in the village where their homes are located they feel no particular interest. At evening time and on summer Sundays they sit on the verandahs of their suburban homes and may observe that the place has a neglected, untidy aspect, but it is not as if they spent their days there. Suburban cities, especially show the effects of absenteeism. For many years the women who have been disgusted by the untidiness of their residence cities which were to them perpetual, and not nightly refuges, had no means of remedying the evil. Association in clubs gave them the means of presenting an appeal, of proposing remedies and of combining to effect them. It is said that in the suburban towns surrounding New York the effect of the village improvement societies is particularly noticeable. The streets and alleys whose unsanitary condition escaped the observation of the male inhabitants because they scarcely saw them except by night, are now presentable in the day time. And all because a few women organized and resolved that their cities should be clean and fit to live in. Committees of investigation, committees to confer with the mayor and common coun-