THE RED CLOUD CHIEF.

A. C. HOSMER, Publisher.

RED CLOUD. - - NEBRASKA

HOW?

How can a man on a dollar a day
Consider a seat at a popular play,
And purchase cigars and tobacco, pray?
He can't.

How can he sport an elegant tile,
Ask his dear fair lady to step out for a "smile"
And stable a 2:30 animile?
He can't.

How can he frolic with better-fed friends
When, in cool perspiration, he's at his wits' ends
If his wash-woman after her half dollar sends?
He can't.

How can he bear to be called a "poor cuss,"
How can he dress in a big, fancy plaid,
His credit won't keep—it is "fragrantly" bad?
He can't.

How buy perfumery, handkerchiefs, too,
The edges all stamped with a red kangaroo,
And change them cuffs every Sunday or two?
He can't.

How can he go out to ride with his "mash"
When he hasn't the requisite cold-blooded cash?
Why *that* is his reason for not being rash—
He can't.

How can he claim his dear girl's slender hand
And circle her finger with glittering band,
When his check book's so weak it scarcely can stand?
He can't.

How can he marry and furnish a wife
With the many small comforts which sweeten this life?
We must state the cold truth, tho' it cuts like a knife
He can't.

—*Life.*

FINGER RINGS.

Engagement, Wedding, Mourning and Other Circlets.

Their Deeper Love and Significance in Olden Times—Many Superstitious Notions—The Old Marriage Ceremony—Rings Used by Sharpers.

"An engagement ring," said the dealer in rings and precious stones to the *Herald* representative, "should be set with one or more diamonds and worn by the lady on her left forefinger. The cost is in proportion to the size of the stones. Fifty dollars is perhaps the smallest price, though much better pieces are sometimes paid. A plain hoop of gold would satisfy the most exacting lover as fashion decrees that diamonds, if worn at all, should be worn sparingly. The diamond is emblematic of purity, you know, so of course there is quite an appropriateness in its use. The old custom was for engaged lovers to exchange rings, and I suppose fond couples still do this to some extent.

"In the old times a betrothal ring had a great deal of significance. It was the first ring that a maiden wore. At present, when every young lady wears one or more rings and may wear as many as she pleases, a girl's engagement ring is no conspicuous adornment, and is not remarked by one in every hundred of her beholders, unless it is a handsome diamond, and attracts attention by its beauty. But a betrothal ring was a sacred as sacred as a wedding ring, and the girl who wore one was as good as married. The maid of the present day values a much larger jewelry, and often makes good use of it. She may retract as many matrimonial promises as she pleases, may sit six hours and return their rings, marry a seventh, and invite the six jilted ones to the marriage feast. The accepted girl had to walk a rather narrow path in the days of the modern engaged girl. Well, she is a trump, and I rather like her. She lives in 'high life,' and does as she pleases.

"The wedding ring," continued the dealer in jewels, "is a plain golden circlet, more or less massive, according to the taste of the parties. That every woman will have, whether she is married with a ring or not. To a woman, that is the ring of rings, and I know some ladies who will never remove it under any circumstances. They are superstitious enough to think that something evil will happen if they do, and to lose a wedding ring is thought by some to be the most unfortunate thing that can happen. Perhaps, a sense of our divorce dodges should instinctively impress in this direction and ascertain if a lost wedding ring is not at the bottom of most marital miseries. they might counter a loan upon matrimonial immunity, and, by restoring the ring, bring back happiness to miserable souls.

"There are a good many superstitions associated with it, and the light of reason has not yet dispelled them all. Have you never had a stye on your eye cured by rubbing it with a wedding ring? If not, you have probably heard of such a cure for the obnoxious little pimple. Well, it won't cure it, but as nothing else will, either, it is just as good to use as anything.

"No doubt many of the superstitions clustering about the wedding ring grew out of the fact that in the old times it was especially hallowed by sprinkling with holy water and the offspring of prayers for the benefit of the wearer. It would be quite natural to believe that such a ring would possess many secret charms.

"The wedding ring finger is the fourth finger of the left hand, counting from the thumb, and a good many reasons are given for this choice. It was once supposed that a special nerve or artery stretched from the heart to this finger, so the ring was put where it could have instant communication with the seat of love. The anatomists have destroyed that theory with the scalpel. There is no such nerve.

"In the old marriage ceremony, when the bridegroom spoke the words endowing his bride with all his worldly goods, he put the ring upon her thumb, saying 'In the name of the father;' then upon her forefinger, saying 'In the name of the Son;' next upon her middle finger, 'In the name of the Holy Ghost;' finally placing it on the fourth finger as he said, 'Amen,' and there he left it. A more reasonable reason probably is that the fourth is the least active finger of the least used hand, where the ring may be always in sight, and yet be subjected to the least wear.

"In the old times it was very common to have mottoes inscribed in wedding rings, but that is not much in vogue now except with the Jews. They retain all their oriental fondness for personal ornament and display. Whenever you see a hand more than ordinarily be[illegible] with rings, you may be pretty [illegible] belongs to some fair Jewess. [illegible]men, too, are much more given [illegible]g rings than we are. Most [illegible]gs bear a sentiment more or [illegible]propriate, such as 'joy be with [illegible]e and live happily,' 'good [illegible]n.' But it is not usual with [illegible]e more than a few initials enwithin a ring.

"I remember the turquoise ring of Shylock, which he would not have parted with for a wilderness of monkeys." He had it from Leah when he was a bachelor, and probably ascribed to it many secret virtues, the turquoise being supposed to be a talismanic stone.

"With the Jews the ring is a very important part of the marriage ceremony. It must be of a certain value, certified to by the officiating rabbi. It must also be the absolute property of the bridegroom, and not obtained either upon credit or by gift. The foundation of this custom is in the Jewish law which requires that a valuable consideration shall pass from the bridegroom to the bride at the time of marriage.

"Wedding rings sometimes wear out, and there is an old proverb, 'As your wedding ring wears your cares will wear away.' So that when the ring is entirely gone, as sometimes happens, the cares should be gone also. I hope the proverb always comes true.

"As to mourning rings," continued the speaker, in response to a query, "they are not at all usual in this country, but still common in England and in Europe generally. They are usually wrought with some device, or inscribed with some motto. They are intended as remembrances for the dead. Washington bequeathed mourning rings to a number of his female relatives and friends, and such bequests were not unusual in his day.

"It was also once the custom to distribute memorial rings at funerals among the friends of the deceased.

"Yes, sir," answered the speaker again, the rogues and sharpers expend a good deal of ingenuity in rings, and as a general thing they can get their devices made to order for money. If one jeweler won't do it, another will. Pickpockets have rings with delicate spring lancets or cutting-hooks in them, which they very adroitly use in cutting open pockets. Gamblers and other sharpers have rings with small but powerful mirrors, by which they can discover cards while dealing, with many other devices too numerous to mention. Then there is the old ring-dropping game, so common at one time, that it is specifically named as a crime in our statutes. It has been so thoroughly exposed and explained in the newspapers that a case is never heard of it these days, but it had a great run many years ago.

"We, ourselves," continued the jeweler, "are a constant prey to thieves, and eternal vigilance is the only price of our safety. A ring is such a handy article to get on the sly, though, that it is almost impossible to detect the adroit fellows. Some months ago one of these slick fellows robbed several of our most prominent jewelry houses with apparent impunity. We are glad to say, however, that he has now a permanent boarding house at Joliet, where his penchant for diamond rings will be allowed. We never let up on these fellows."—*Chicago Herald.*

CONTRACTORS.

Growth of Their Operations and Nature of Their Work.

To many people the word contractor presents the idea of a person exhibiting the salient characteristics of a politician" and the custodian of a trust fund; a man whose pockets are lined with money gotten by ways that are dark and tricks that are by no means vain as far as accomplishing the gathering in of shekels is concerned. But so far from being a social outcast and moral excrescence on the community, the contractor is an extremely active and important factor in modern civilization, for he has a hand in nearly every work of public or private importance that is undertaken. He is essentially a modern institution. Among the ancients he appears in but one restricted sphere. Those interesting old despots, whose sole end and aim in life was to squeeze the last penny out of their subjects, used to farm out the revenues, delegating the squeezing process to that one of their beloved and trusted subjects who would pay the most for the contract. Further than this, however, the system does not seem to have been applied. There is no record of the letting of contracts for brick-work on the Tower of Babel. Noah did not advertise for proposals to build the ark. And we have every reason for believing that the stone which went into the Great Pyramid was "bought in open market," for, if furnished by contract, it would have been a bigger job than the Philadelphia city buildings.

Dating from the first building of railroads in England, when the elder Brassey and his contemporaries on the continent laid the foundations of their colossal fortunes, the modern contract system has developed in all new everything from putting up a country schoolhouse or furnishing the inmates of the city's charitable institutions with Thanksgiving dinners, up to building a twenty-million-dollar State House which threatens to slide down hill into the river, is done by contract. Some well equipped journals devote their columns entirely to the discussing and advertising of contracts, and every daily has its corner reserved for the latter. In this country contracting received a great stimulus during the civil war, when the sum or portion of three billions of dollars went out of the Government Treasury into the pockets of a host of army contractors.

There are three great classes of American contractors—those engaged upon internal improvements, those doing railroad and municipal work, and Indian contractors. The first class include a number of firms throughout the country who are engaged in improving the National water-ways. Their prosperity fluctuates with the varying proportions of the River and Harbor bill.

To the second class our railroads and city improvements owe their existence. The typical contractor is the jolly, large-limbed Irishman who has his self-swung pick and handled the shovel. In the city he is something of a tool to-day and has a "pull in" or two in or near the City Hall, who gives him "points" on coming jobs, and lets him into the ring. On railroad work he must make himself "solid" with the engineer in charge, for his fate is entirely in the latter's hands. By means of his estimates of work upon which all bids are based, it is in the power of the engineer to make or break the contractor. A liberal estimate makes glad the heart and fat the pocket-book of the contractor, while with a close or scant estimate the completion of the contract leaves him on the ragged edge of bankruptcy.

The labor employed varies in nationality. Up to 1850 Ireland furnished nearly all of it. Since then Italians and Hungarians in the East, Swedes in the West and Chinese upon the Pacific coast have largely supplanted Patrick.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

—It takes twenty-six large trunks and a hat-box to hold Adelina Patti's traveling wardrobe.—*N. Y. Sun.*

NASBY.

The Democracy of the Corners Get Terribly Frightened Over Cleveland's Letter to Curtis—The Saving Clause Which Satisfied Them.

[From the Toledo Blade.]

CORNERSVILLE, X ROADS, }
Which is in the State uv Kentucky. }
Jan 7, 1885.

It requires a great deal uv judgment to be the only man with kiy road, in a community like the Cross Roads. I opened the copy uv the Louisville Courier *Jernel* with comes to the Corners, and my eye happened to lite onto Cleveland's letter to George Wilyum Curtis, definin his poishen on the Civil Servis question. Thinkin any utterance from Cleveland on the subjik uv offices wood hev a tendency to allay the feelin uv the people, I eminenst readin the letter to 'em townust. This wuz a mistake. A man wich acts ez reader to a commoonity like ours should alluz read a Dimekratic utterance hisself afore he makes it known to his people.

The fust part uv the letter in wich he announced his determinashen to observe the letter and sperit uv the Civil Servis hersey excited em, but that wuz nuthin to wat happened when I come to this paragraff:

"There is a class of Government positions which are not within the letter of the Civil Service statute, but which are so disconnected with the policy of an administration that the removal therefrom of persons occupants, in my opinion, should not be made during the terms for which they were appointed, solely on partisan grounds, and for the purpose of putting in their places those who are in political accord with the appointing power."

They riz to their feet ez one man. "Wat!" exclaimed they, "does this axident from Noo York purpose to retane in places of honor and profit the cussed Abilishists wich hev bin futtenin on em for yeers, while we wich hev fought, bled and died for the coz, hev bin livin on husks?"

"Wuz it fur this," exclaimed Issaker Gavitt, "that I voted twice in four different townships in Indyany, and give uv my substance to defray the expenses uv keepin my niggers away from the poles, to make shoor uv the elecshun uv a Dimekrat to Congris from this destrik?"

And ther wnt up sich a howl ez I never heard in my life.

In the meantime I had bin readin the next paragraff in the letter wich wuz this:

"But many now holding such positions have forfeited all just claim to retention, because they have used their places for party purposes, in disregard of their duty to the people and of their own pledges, instead of having devoted their energies, they have grossly offended against party and also partisans and have rendered themselves unfit for official party service."

I red it to em and then remarked:

"Gentlemen, yer cusses wuz all rite only afore the election. Our naterl-born leader says: 'I agree with those who say that the offices should not be used as the spoil of victory.' Now, with the power we hev in our hands we will make appointments on partisan grounds. Very good. But now I guess observe that men now holding offices wich hev been concerned in lokle politikle manajemunt, must hev to go. How will that affect us Jesse Lubbock, the nigger postmaster, hez handled the males satisfactorily. I believe, and so many uv you do. Polly Pollock, the one paper that comes regularly to me, hez never bin missorted, and the letters addrest to fellers offices hez all been sent out promptly. Bostoon gits his bills from his wunderful likker dealers in Louisville with great promptness, and the Dimekrats uv the Corners will be permitted to vote in peace. Do you, Parson, seek to quit politiks ez soon ez you are appointed?"

I cood not git together a answer to this question in time, and I escaped by immejitly remarkin that we wood not continner the discushun. One thing he mite depend onto, however, that the Dimekra ic citizens uv the Corners wood never consent to the continyvance in offis uv Radikel disturbers, and that we shood never cease to revere the memory uv the grate and immortal Jaxon whose watchword waz perpetooalzy, "To the victers belong the spoils."

Jeef laffed his pekoolyer laff, and retired, and we immejitly organized ourselves into a meetin and past resoloshens comm ndin the noble stand taken by the President, and ashoorin him that every Republikin offis holder in the State uv Kentucky hed bin an active manipulater in politix, and in the interest uv Civil-Servis Reform shood be immejitly removed, and sound Dimekrats substituted. After wich Bascom invited the party to take suthin, wich wuz acksepted to with alacrity.

All the Dimocrisy uv the Corners are satisfied with President Cleveland's poisshen on the Civil Servis Reform.

PETROLEUM V. NASBY,
(Reformer, ez he understands it).

"NO FUNERAL HERE, YOU BET."

The Republicans Not in the Throes of Dissolution.

Once upon a time a beloved wife lay apparently breathing her last. The afflicted husband, unable to endure the closing scene, had retired to another room to give vent to his sorrow, only a few neighbor women remaining to witness the end, and then prepare the corps for burial. "How hard he takes it!" said one of the women to the others. "Yes, he loved her tenderly," answered a motherly woman whose sympathies were aroused in behalf of the sorrowing man. "Oh, pshaw!" piped in an aged spinster. "He'll be all over it and married again in less than six months." To the horror of the attendants, the eyes that were beginning to close opened suddenly, and the lips began to move. By putting the ear close to the mouth she was heard to say, feebly at first, but growing stronger as she proceeded: "No—he won't get married before six months—Miss Nancy Baker. And there won't be any funeral here, you bet." The shock of seeing Miss Nancy occupying her place at bed and board was too much for the dying woman; she began to mend immediately, and remained long the mistress of her own house and the comfort of her family.

The avidity with which a few thousand Miss Nancys are preparing for a first-class funeral over the remains of the Republican party is wonderful, while not a few who were once most devoted in their attachments, when the party was in good health and able to dispense patronage, are rendering themselves supremely ridiculous by their noisy blubberings over the untimely demise of the party. Dead, indeed! She has been slightly knocked out of time by the supreme treachery of some pretended friends, because they could not be grand bosses; but while her very devoted friends are blubbering over her death, and the Miss Nancys are hoping that she is dead, she speaks with emphasis: "No funeral here, you bet." She will long live to disappoint those who want her place and to bless the world in the future, as in the past.—*Indianapolis Journal.*

THE OTHER SIDE.

The Silver Lining to the Cloud Which Now Oppresses the Republican Party—The Late Defeat Likely to Have a Purifying Effect.

The Republicans will have an opportunity during the next four years of ascertaining some of those sweet uses which, in Shakspearean lore, adversity is supposed to possess. When men fall into affliction the regulation thing is to sit down, ponder the past and make good resolutions for the future, and perhaps, on this principle the Republican papers for some time have been printing column after column of explanation, crimination and recrimination, and delivering long lectures on the policy of the future. While this plan has precedent to commend it, there is some difficulty in discovering any other recommendation, life being too short to waste any part of it in vain regrets for what can no more be helped, or in fatuous explanation of an event that so fully explains itself.

Every cloud has a silver lining, as the well-worn proverb goes, though it is sometimes no easy matter to discover the lining even after the storm has passed away. It will be well for Republicans if the storm purifies their political atmosphere, since even the party's best friends had begun to see just that the organization was in some need of such purification. However this may be, the fact remains that there are some advantages in being in the opposition. The men who are attacking a party intrenched in a house have a superiority over the besieged in the ability to look over the entire ground, select the weakest point and make an attack at their leisure, while those inside can do little but watch and resist when the attack comes. Especially is the advantage seen in the case of the press. A newspaper has far more power to break down than to build up. is more effective in attacking than in defending. The season of spiritual depression which has come to the Republican papers will have the merit therefore, of bringing them out of their intrenchments into the open field and converting them into light skirmishers.

Some of the party papers have been advocating the policy of clearing the ranks of doubtful partisans, of drawing the line on those who, at the last election, either failed to vote or who voted for the Democratic candidates. This might be well enough if the party were going into intrenchments where traitors might accomplish untold mischief, but in the open field, where the Republicans will find themselves after the 4th of March, those who could otherwise be troublesome might be made extremely useful. The besieged have always a tendency to multiply the numbers of their besiegers, and if these estranged friends be drawn back into the ranks they will swell the apparent numbers, if they succeed in accomplishing no other good result. These deserters may all be divided into two classes, the mercenaries and the honest but misguided. So far as the former are concerned they are working for their own purposes anyhow, and the Republicans might as well have them so long as they can be made to serve a useful purpose, while the latter can easily be made faithful by showing them that the party has the good of the country at heart.

There is, however, a class of hangers on that the party can not afford either to defend or to keep. These are the men whose incompetence, peculations and general worthlessness and rascality have been fathered upon the party in spite of the most vigorous denials. Though among the Republicans, they were not of them, but since they professed to be working for the good of the party, there was an appearance of justice in the accusation that made honest men believe that such were really representatives of the party's manners and morals. As a rule, they will need no invitation to take themselves off, for as they are working for plunder, the most of them will incontinently desert to the Democrats on the very first opportunity, but if any of them hesitate, there should be no delay in administering well-directed boots that will, at the same time, cure their pretended preference for Republicanism and send them on the double-quick to the Democracy for consolation and salve. Under no circumstances can they ever be anything but a drag on the prosperity of Republicanism, and the sooner they are drummed out the better for all concerned.

Whether the cyclone that has struck the party will demolish the obnoxious bosses is yet to be seen. As a rule the boss is as great a calamity as the hanger-on, but the boss has unfortunately acquired a fixed standing, which will make him infinitely harder to get rid of than his equally obnoxious companion. The latter is a worm that may be crushed off with little trouble; the former is a bunion that can not be removed without more or less pain. In Republican States the boss will be little affected by the result of the National contest; but in Democratic States, the National pap to sustain him and his parasites being no longer available, he will no doubt dwindle like Darwin's "rudimentary organs," become useless and disappear. In view of this very desirable result, if the Republicans learn nothing more from their defeat than to kick out the hangers-on and reduce the bosses to the level of the ranks, it can not be said that the adversity which has come upon the party has been an unalloyed evil.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

—A New York lady is said to have a dress of spun glass trimmed with cut crystal beads, the glass being in the palest amber tone, in exact coloring of the hair of the fair wearer.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

The Fuel Problem for Farmers and Its Solution.

In a large section of this country the question whether wood or coal shall be burned, even by farmers, has long since been settled. The timbered districts are mainly east of the Alleghany Mountains, and from all the arable portions the bulk of timber for fuel or any other purpose has been cleared off. In the great West, the larger portion of that vast empire was originally treeless. Through the prairie States, planting of trees for fruit or protection has greatly increased the original stock, but they are generally too valuable to be used as fuel in competition with the abundant supplies of coal near the surface, underlying thousands of acres in nearly every State.

The coal of the Western States is all, or nearly all, of the bituminous or soft variety. Its abundance and cheapness offset the objections which the Eastern people, accustomed to hard coal, are apt to raise on account of its cleanliness. In all Western cities a majority of the people use soft coal on account of its cheapness. It is, of course, the fuel generally used by farmers, many of whom are able to take a supply by making very slight excavations on their own land. The area of country in which farmers are made independent by the coal supplies on their farms is much larger than Eastern people are apt to suppose. Many of the Western States are so largely underlaid with coal that were it worth while nearly the entire territory could be used for mining purposes.

It is a significant indication of the future of the United States that its coal supply is greater than that of any other civilized country. England owes its greatness to the fact that it has more coal in proportion to its territory than any other country in Europe. But the supply of England is known and can not largely, if at all, be increased. Statisticians have reckoned that at the present rate of consumption the supply of coal in England, at a depth that will pay for mining, must be exhausted within a definite time. It is some hundreds of years distant, but there has been a scare raised which thoughtful men view as a matter of the very gravest importance. Here no such apprehensions are possible. So enormous is the coal supply of the United States that it is practically inexhaustable.

It is not certain by any means that the consumption of coal will go on either in this country or in Europe in an increasing ratio. Electricity will probably be used as motive power for manufacturing and railroad uses. With this change there will be a decrease in coal consumption which we can now scarcely estimate. There is no need to borrow trouble for the future. The revelations of Providence in regard to human needs have always been sufficient to meet the exigencies of human necessities. Just at the time when the whale fisheries were on the point of extinction, the use of petroleum for lighting country homes made all other illuminations superfluous. Should our petroleum supply ever fail, of which there is no present indication, it is pretty certain that electrical light will be so far perfected as to take its place.

Undoubtedly the same truth will hold good, not only in regard to our fuel, but also to our timber supply. There has been a needless and causeless scare on this subject. Our forests have disappeared rapidly, but before they are all gone we shall have learned to do without them much better than we could now suppose possible. Paper has been made to take the place of woodwork for houses, and, stranger still, of iron for car-wheels and other places requiring the greatest of strength. Much of what is written on the absolute necessity of tree planting is now apparently true, and yet it needs only a slight acquaintance with the present course of events to prove that it is based on fallacious reasoning.

For the great majority of farmers in the older States, the wood-lot, as it now exists, with all its best timber cut out and the remainder decaying faster than it grows is a useless and expensive incumbrance. It is certainly so where land is so located as to be valuable for cropping. In sections where the farming land is dear, let the wood-lot be cleared off as rapidly as possible, and the wood sold or burned, as it is most advantageous. Before it is disposed of there is almost certainty that the land will be more valuable for other use than growing timber. If not, it can be replanted with kinds of trees whose growth will be five or ten fold the yearly increase in value under the present system.—*American Cultivator.*

TOP DRESSING.

To Be of Much Use It Must Extend Over a Broad Surface.

The practice of top dressing the ground about young trees, both for protection from cold and for enriching the land by washing, which was formerly so rare, has now become widely adopted by cultivators. But the fault still prevails of applying too small a circle of manure. Writers often recommend extending the top dressing circle as far out as the spread of the branches, but this is not half enough. The many examinations we have made show that the roots always extend from each side of the trunk or stem to a distance at least equal to the height of the tree, forming a circle of roots, the diameter of which is twice as great as the height of the tree.

To show the insufficiency of the common practice, we have measured a number of trees with the spread of their tops, with the following results: A young peach tree, seven feet high, had a head four feet in diameter, or with branches extending two feet away from the center stem.

The common rule would direct that a circle of manure be applied four feet in diameter, while the real extent of the roots reach a circle twice the height, or fourteen feet, the area of which, as figures show, is at least twelve times as great as the four foot circle. An older peach tree was twelve feet high with a seven foot head. The roots occupy a circle twenty-four feet in diameter, which is eleven times as great as the seven foot circle of the branches. An apricot cherry tree was fifteen feet high with a head nine feet in diameter, in which the area of the roots was eleven times as great as the area indicated by the spread of the branches. Top dressing, therefore, to be of much use, must extend over a broad surface.—*N. Y. Herald.*

—Salt Pork: Cut the pork into thin slices, hold one on a toasting-fork before the fire; have on hand a dish of cold water, in which dip it occasionally. Put each slice when cooked into a warm covered pan. When all are done serve hot.

TEMPERANCE READING.

A LITTLE GIRL'S PLEA.

"Don't sell father another drink, please,
He's reeling already, you see;
And I fear when he comes home to-night,
He'll beat my mother and me.
She's waiting in darkness and cold,
And dreading to hear him come home,
He treats us so bad when he's drunk;
Oh, don't sell him any more rum!

"I heard mother praying last night,
She thought I was quite sound asleep;
While she in sweet devotion knelt,
She prayed God her husband to keep.
She cried like her poor heart would break;
So trying to comfort her some,
I told her I'd beg you to-day
Just to sell my father any more rum.

"Why don't you have something to sell
That will not make people so sad;
That will not make dear mothers grieve,
And kind fathers cruel and bad?
Ah, me! it is hard, and I see
You're angry because I have come;
Forgive a poor, sad little girl,
And don't sell her dear father rum!"

THE BUMMERS' RESORT.

A Liquor Saloon Where a Drink and a Night's Lodging are Had for Five Cents.

On Chatham street, near the Bowery, is a dingy looking little saloon which by day is almost deserted, but at a late hour of the night, when the busy throng of toilers that pass and repass it on their way to and from work have long since gone to their homes and the street is given up principally to the drunkard and the reveller, assumes an air of activity and enjoys its busiest season.

Even then its appearance from the outside is one of dilapidation and neglect. In front of a half broken-down door, whose murky windows are covered with dirty yellow shades, a dim light burns feebly in a red glass lamp. The name of the proprietor is painted over the transom in scarcely legible letters, one or two of which, grown tired of long service, have disappeared altogether.

Every now and again a customer, with unsteady tread and trembling hand, approaches the place, and after fumbling at the door knob, turns it and passes in. He is succeeded by another of the same kind, and as the hours slip by, the number who have entered can be counted by the dozen. But while so many of them go in none of them seem to go out.

Following one of these liquor-soaked specimens of humanity through the creaking door of the saloon, a reporter of the *Herald* found himself in a long, low room, at one end of which a red-hot stove gave forth an overpowering heat. The bar was crowded with men in various stages of intoxication, who all seemed to be drinking on the Philadelphia plan, or each one treating himself. There were evidently very few mild concoctions made up by the rough-looking youth who tended the bar, for all of the drinkers had his hot or cold toddy. Beer and other light beverages were at a discount.

Back of this room was a lattice work dividing another apartment. Looking behind this partition the reporter saw a curious sight. Along either side of this room there was a row of chairs, and in every one of them there was a man asleep. None of them had removed any of his clothing, except his hat. They were in all positions, some with their heads back against the wall and their mouths wide open; others with their chins resting on their breasts, and others again with their legs gathered up under them and used as a pillow for their heads.

It was the Bummers' resort, and each of these customers, by paying five or ten cents for a drink, had become entitled to his chair and a night's lodging. Those at the bar were late comers who had unluckily delayed dropping in until all the chairs had been taken by their equally fabulous but more thoughtful companions.

Here was the tramp who had failed to get enough money by begging to entitle him to a bed in the poorest lodging house. There was the bummer that the wayfarer meets as he hurries homeward and is cursed or blessed, accordingly as he refuses or grants the request for a few pennies to pay for a night's lodging. The poor wretch, who sleeps in the parks when the weather is fine enough, is also met with here when the frost is on the ground and the bitter cold drives him to less exposed resting places.

And so night after night does this dingy, wretched looking saloon make its money out of its miserable customers, and for the pittance they are able to pay does it serve them with its vile concoctions and afford them a chair to drop in and sleep off their drunken stupor.—*N. Y. Herald.*

TEMPERANCE CENTENNIAL.

Proposed Commemoration of the Inception of the Temperance Reform in this Country.

Mr. Daniel Dorchester, of Natick, Mass., has proposed for the present year a centennial celebration of the first clearly-defined effort toward Temperance reform in this country, and the proposal has been cordially seconded by a goodly array of prominent friends of the Temperance cause. From a circular issued by Mr. Dorchester we learn that while various dates have been suggested as the beginning of the great movement, there seems to be solid ground for the belief that it had its inception in the essay of Dr. Benjamin Rush, of Philadelphia, on "The Effects of Ardent Spirits on the Human Mind and Body," which was published in 1785. The American Society for the Promotion of Temperance was formed in 1826, and this has been regarded by many as the beginning of the reform. Others have fixed upon the year 1815, when the Massachusetts Society for the Suppression of Intemperance was organized in Boston. But five years prior to that date a society was formed in Saratoga County, N. Y., which acknowledged its indebtedness to Dr. Rush for awakening the attention of its organizers to the subject by making him an honorary member of the society. Dr. Lyman Beecher, also, whose sturdy blows against the giant evil did so much to give impetus to the movement, says in his Autobiography that he read Dr. Rush's Essay very early, that it made a deep impression upon him, and that as early as 1808 he "shocked out and preached" his first Temperance sermon, which was subsequently expanded into his powerful series of six sermons on intemperance.

But the formation of the Massachusetts Society in 1813, Mr. Dorchester tells us, is also directly traceable to Dr. Rush and his Essay. In 1811 Dr. Rush visited the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, presented the members with a thousand copies of the Essay, and personally addressed the body, appealing to them to undertake the work of Temperance reform. As the result of this appeal a committee was appointed to visit other religious bodies and present the subject, and the organization of the Massachusetts Society followed two years later.

Dr. Rush's Essay was republished in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, in England, in 1786, and was issued in tract form and reprinted in newspapers many times in this country. Dr. Rush himself corresponded extensively with many of the leading men of the time, and addressed a large number of religious bodies of different denominations, in advocacy of the reform.

There is evident fitness, therefore, in regarding Dr. Rush as the father of the Temperance movement in this country, and in recognizing the publication of his Essay as the initial step in that great and beneficent reform. What form the celebration shall take has not yet been determined, but the enforcers of the proposal (among whom are such men as Drs. Mark Hopkins, T. L. Cuyler, S. I. Prime and Herman Lincoln, ex-Governors Talbot and Long, and Hon. Neal Dow), recommend that it shall be on a broad and generous plan, commensurate with the importance of the work and the grand results already achieved.—*N. Y. Examiner.*

CONSUMPTION OF BEER.

The Extent to Which It Prevails Among the Poor.

The remarkable consumption of beer in Chicago by the poorer classes has of late been noticed by a clergyman, who stated that over one-third of the beer manufactured in this city was consumed by the resident of tenement-houses, flats and cheap hotels. The drinking of beer is rapidly increasing, and the winter weather has not materially lessened the demand. It has always been the custom among the laboring classes to have a quart of beer on hand to wash down the mid-day meal. Now it is customary to have beer for breakfast and supper.

A reporter yesterday visited a saloon contiguous to a tenement-house in which eighteen families live, for the purpose of witnessing the consumption of beer by the can. The visit was made at the request of a clergyman, and the sale was found to be large. The reporter was not on hand at the time stated, but it was found that by ten o'clock in the morning forty-two quarts of beer had been disposed of to the residents of the tenement. Gradually the demand increased during the morning hours, so that by noon the bartender had disposed of his first half-barrel. Little girls, four, five and six years old, were the ones that got the beer for their parents. In many cases the little ones were badly clad, and more than once was seen the little toe peeping from a hole in a shoe. The day was cold, the little girls entered the saloon with their teeth chattering. Their hands were blue from cold, and on their heads wore little shawls. In the saloon were a number of people playing pool. They plied the little one for "choosing the can;" the bar-tender took his money, and the little girl the beer, and the men resumed playing pool.

At four o'clock in the afternoon the amount of beer sold to the inmates of the tenement was one barrel. The reporter followed the next little girl to find out the state of affairs in the tenement. The stairs leading to the place were covered with snow and ice, and frequently a dilapidated pan of ashes was found. Persons of all nationalities inhabited the place. One door was opened by the reporter, who asked if Mr Smith resided there. He did not. The inmates were a woman and three children. The place was cold and dreary looking. The water hydrant was frozen, and the woman was endeavoring to thaw it out by the means of a candle. On the table was a half glassful of beer, and near it was part of a loaf of bread.

Another room was visited, and there were found three women drinking beer and talking about their neighbors. The contents of the can were not sufficient to soothe the thirst of the women, so the crowd chipped in a nickel apiece, and three quarts more were purchased. A general tour of large rooms was subsequently made, and in every room but one was beer.

The barrender was asked if he was not afraid of being punished for selling beer to children. He said that he gave it to them at the request of their parents, and, as he knew all the children, he was aware that it was not for themselves but their parents.

Much of the beer sold to the poor is of the worst quality. It is virtually swill, and costs but $3.50 and $4 per barrel. The best beer costs $7 per barrel.—*Chicago Tribune.*

A Slave to Rum.

A man with a well-shaped head and whose features indicated the highest refinement was marched into Jefferson Market Court by an officer of the Sixteenth Precinct last week. This man, who was dressed like a tramp, was recognized as Charles E. Moore, a descendant of a highly respectable family in Ireland, and who in years past has been connected with several of the leading dry-goods firms of this city, including that of A. T. Stewart & Co. Mr. Moore is a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. He is a nephew of Mr. John Moore, for many years chaplain on the British warship Trafalgar, and afterwards rector of Arragh Church. He is also a nephew of Rev. George Moore, another naval chaplain, who distinguished himself in the Crimean war. Charles E. Moore was also educated for the ministry, but taking to drink he was finally expelled from his parents' home. Justice O'Reilly sent him to the Island for ten days.—*Irish World.*

EVERY Sunday-school should have a Temperance Society, to which every scholar and teacher should belong. The primary teacher can begin the good work with the little children, and so instruct and pledge them before any taste is formed for strong drinks as to save them from the habit. Teachers have great influence, and should gladly exert it for the right in all directions, remembering that for all these things we must give account at last. If all Sunday-school teachers would do what they might in this direction, the Temperance question would soon be settled. One generation follows so close and fast upon another that many who are now teachers might live to see the happiest results from their thorough training. Let us be up and doing, for the night of death soon cometh when no man can work.—*S. S. World.*

"A GREAT preacher in London was defending his wine drinking to me," said Joseph Cook. "I said, 'suppose J. B. Gough were a poor inebriate in London, and were to be converted, which church would it be better for him to join, yours where his taste would be recalled and he placed in danger, or Mr. Spurgeon's where you find total abstainers at communion table?' That argument touched him although he was invulnerable to every other. That is the argument we are to apply to every man or woman who would belong to the rescue section of religious society."