THE RED CLOUD CHIEF.

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# THE RED CLOUD CHIEF.

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## GENERAL NEWS.

The Republican State ticket is elected in Minnesota, but the Legislature is very close.

The barn of John Trickery, at Watertown, Mass., was burned on the 6th of November. Loss, $20,000; insurance, $20,000.

An immense prairie fire has been raging at the foot of the hills north of Laramie, since October 13th, and vegetation and grazing are destroyed.

Miss Florence Tilton has sent a communication to the Plymouth Church Committee asking for a letter of dismissal from the Church.

There were burned in Cuba last year, in consequence of the war, 160,000,000 pounds of sugar, say about $9,600,000 worth. This has been going on for seven years.

The Directors of the National Gold Bank and Trust Co., of San Francisco, have resolved to close up its business. They say they will pay depositors and stockholders in full.

Ludington, Republican, is elected Governor of Wisconsin by about 1,500 majority. The vote for the other candidates is very close. The Republicans have five majority in the Senate and six in the House.

The Central Pacific Railroad Company has borrowed $10,000,000 in San Francisco on a mortgage of its bonds, for the purpose of constructing a road to Portland, Oregon. The stamps on the mortgage represent $8,740.

Rev. S. Y. McMasters, D. D., L. L. D., rector of Christ's Church, St. Paul, well known in Protestant Episcopal Church circles throughout the country, died on the night of November 4th, after a long and painful sickness.

Henry Resick, convicted of the murder of his wife at Troy, Mo., and Meredith Walters, convicted of murdering Miss Calaway, a young lady who would not receive his attentions, have been sentenced to be hanged December 31st.

The body of Lorenzo Mann, the engineer of the train wrecked over two months ago near Sioux City, was found November 2d in the Missouri river on a bar below Sioux City, to which place it had been washed by the flood.

Twenty million one hundred and thirty-eight thousand postal cards were issued by the Post Office Department the first week of November, being the largest issue, by at least five hundred thousand, ever made in the same length of time.

The Secretary of the Treasury has addressed a circular to the collectors of customs announcing that no importations of neat cattle or hides be allowed from England in consequence of the prevalence of the mouth disease in that country.

The Governor of Louisiana has signed the death warrants of six criminals convicted of murder; two in Coushatta, to be executed Nov. 19; two in Monroe and two in New Orleans, to be executed Nov. 26. Two of the condemned are white and four colored.

John Corliss has been arrested in Philadelphia, charged with negotiating forged Erie City Water Works bonds. He is said to have been a participant in the wholesale scheme to flood the country with spurious bonds of the New York Central, Western Union, and Buffalo & Erie Railroads.

Details of the great fire in Inquique, on the 7th of October, have been received. Twenty-four blocks of houses and stores, banks, etc., were consumed. The merchants vessels sent their crews on shore, and all the civilians, foreign residents, sailors, and police, struggled in vain to subdue the flames. Before noon three-fourths of the city had vanished in smoke. The place was almost entirely built of wood and the soil is impregnated with salt peter, which aided the flames. The fire swept like a hurricane over the city, and houses fell like pasteboard palaces. Five millions of dollars will not cover the loss. No insurance could ever be obtained.

At a business meeting of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, on the evening of November 4th, Mrs. Moulton and Deacon West were dropped from the roll of membership, for continued absence from the service of the Church. Mr. West was not present, but Mrs. Moulton was accompanied by Roger A. Pryor, as counsel, who read a protest signed by Mrs. Moulton, and closed as follows: "My absence is an enforced one, and is caused by the crime of adultery, committed by Henry Ward Beecher, pastor of the church, with one of his parishioners, which I know to be a fact through Mr. Beecher's confessions to me and through confessions to Mrs. Tilton, and through conclusive evidence of the crime from other sources. I appear before this church in obedience to the summons which I have received, and I hereby declare my disposition and desire to discharge the duties devolving on me as a member that are consistent with my knowledge of the adultery of the pastor and his false swearing in regard to it."

## FOREIGN NEWS.

Cotton, the new Lord Mayor of London, has been installed.

A special to the London *Times* reports that the Queen of Holland is in a precarious condition.

A dispatch from Berlin states that a central government for Alsace and Lorraine will be established at Berlin.

A dispatch of Nov. 9, from London says that a report was current that Don Carlos had entered France, but the report had not been confirmed.

On the 8th of November a railroad accident occurred at Ludgate Hill, terminus of the London, Chatham & Dover railroad. Thirty persons were more or less injured.

The Khedive of Egypt wants help. He has applied officially to England for two financiers to undertake the management of Egyptian finances, promising the fullest information to the Great Powers.

A letter to the London *Times* from Berlin states that as the result of the conferences in Vienna the powers have determined to ask Turkey whether she has any guarantees to offer for the fulfillment of her broken promises of reform.

The insurgents in Turkey have got far enough along to call an assembly to proclaim a national government. In the mean time Turkey's Christian protectors in Europe are scowling over the Porte's sly repudiation of $30,000,000 of interest on the national bonds.

When the Prince of Wales arrived at Bombay, the Viceroy Admiral of the fleet, the Governor of Bombay, and many distinguished natives went on board the Serapis, at anchor in the harbor, to meet the Prince. The preparations for his reception were immense. There was a holiday festival for a week.

### Sinking of the Steamship Pacific—One Hundred and Eleven Lives Lost.

We have news of the sinking of the steamship Pacific on Thursday night, the 4th of November, with the loss of 111 lives, all on board but one. The Pacific sailed from Victoria at 9 o'clock that morning, and foundered forty miles south of Cape Flattery, at 8 o'clock the same evening. The only survivor is Henry L. Jelly, who was picked up by the American ship Messenger nine days out from San Francisco. He was too low to give full particulars, but stated that several boats were launched, which were all foundered. He was in one of the boats which swamped, and with another man succeeded in reaching a part of the pilot house. The other man subsequently died of exposure, and was cut loose by Jelly. The Pacific was a wooden side wheel steamer, about 900 tons burthen, built in New York in 1851. She was nearly rebuilt by the Pacific Mail Company, five years ago. Her estimated value was about $100,000. She had a cargo of hops and oats, worth about $25,000. The insurance on the ship was $47,500. The ship's officers and crew were: Master, J. D. Howell; first officer, W. N. McDonough; second officer, A. Wells; third officer, J. W. Lewis; purser, O. Hilo, Jr.; freight clerk, S. H. Bigley; chief engineer, T. Hanson; assistant engineer, D. W. Bassett; oilers Thomas Lestraigs and J. Dugan, Jr; carpenter, R. Erickson; Steward, J. Martin; Second Steward, Charles H. Jackson; Steerage Steward, S. McNichols; First Cook, J. M. Holdsworth; Second Cook, S. Miles; Third Cook, C. H. Whiting; Baker, Thomas Wooley; Stewardess, Hannah Muir. There were five firemen, four coal passers, ten seamen, two messmen, two pantrymen.

The following is a list of passengers, 14 of the first ones mentioned, together with 10 or 12 in the steerage, being from Puget Sound and the balance from Victoria: J. Hellmute and wife, Mrs. Mahon and child, H. C. Victor, G. T Vining, Fred D. Hard, C. B. Davidson and wife, A. Robbins, T. Allison, O. McPherson, William Maxwell, B. Wood, John Tarbill, William Ammiss, W. Wilson, William Purdary, A. Lang, John G. Todd, John McSanders, Dock Young, J. Fitzgerald, J. Condon, C. Chisholm, A. Frazer, J. S. Webster, Harlburt & Rockwell, Troupe Garesche, Miss A. Reynolds, Miss F. Palmer, Mrs. Morte, Mrs. Lawson, Edwin H. Holter, James Lenning, Mrs. S. Stiles and child, D. McIntyre, C. B. Fairbanks, Captain and Mrs. Parsons, A. B. Oway, W. J. Ferry, J. F. Johnston, Thomas Smith, John Cochrane, S. P. Moodo, T. J. Ferell; M. Summers, J. Capill, John Watson, Wm. Wells, James H. Wibbs, Wm. Polley Colonel Mandeville and wife and child. R. Hudsoon, H. Cline, E. P. Atkins, Thomas Beverly, R. Laysull, W. Waldron, John Lee, G. Gribsell, George Morton, John McCormick, John Sampson, Isaac Webbs, P. S. Chapman, and forty more in the steerage.

A terrible fight took place in Lima, South America, recently, between the partisans of Admiral Montero and Gen. Prado. Several of those engaged were killed and many wounded.

## HUMOROUS.

A "Sassy" feature of social existence in Stark county, Indiana, is that every widow in that county owns a cranberry swamp.

Journalistic amenities. A Louisiana paper refers to a contemporary as "a sickly Jackass who edits a paper half the size of his ears."

Somebody in a Georgia Court "applauded," whereupon the Judge indignantly remarked: "Now dry up; I will let you know that this is no camp meeting."

"What does 'Good Friday' mean?" asked one schoolboy of another. "You had better go home and read your 'Robinson Crusoe,'" was the withering reply.

"Did you notice how splendidly I went through that last reel at the ball last night, Tom?" "Yes, and I also noticed that you kept it up all the way home."

The remarkable absence of a smoky atmosphere during the Indian Summer at Omaha and other Western points is accounted for by the fact that the tobacco served out to the Indians, was too poor to smoke.

"Can you spell the word saloon?" was asked of a cockney. "Certainly," said the Londoner, with a look of triumph. "There's a hess, and a hay, and hell, and two hoes and a hen."

Bud—Mamma, are people ashamed to say their prayers? Parent Stalk—Why, no child; what put that into your head? Bud—Well, why do they hide their eyes for, then?

A Missouri divine left the Lord's vineyard to be a clown in a circus. His reasons were that three square meals a day and $50 per week are better than $400 per year, payable in dried apples hay, and old clothes.

A miss of ten or eleven, on her way to school, was heard saying to herself: "A noun is the name of any person, place or thing, and if any of the girls have hooked that apple from my desk, I'll just raise a fuss with the whole school!"

A Wisconsin editor illustrates the prevailing extravagance of the present day by calling attention to the costly baby carriages in use now, while, when he was a baby, they hauled him around by the top of the head.

"Bob," said a Camden boy to a playmate, "your father's just been killed." "No!" said Bob. "Yes, sir; blown up by a steam boiler." answered the other. "By gum! he's got my knife, too!" exclaimed Bob, thrusting his hands in pockets.

A little boy aged four, whose mamma thought it right to refuse him something upon which his heart was desperately set, finding that there was no hope for him, burst into a passion of tears and exclaimed, "Well, then, what did they born me for.

She was brushing his hair, and he enjoyed being fussed over amazingly. Rolling up his eyes, he said: "My dear, why was Columbus, when he landed in America, like me now?" She could not tell him, and he explained: "Because he was tickled at being fussed over."

The appeal "Rock Me to Sleep, Mother," evidently failed to produce the desired effect, for another poet is out with "Sing Me to Sleep, Mother." If the old lady has no voice for singing, she will find a tablespoonful of laudanum a very good substitute.

"Jim," inquired a school-boy of one of his mates, "what is the meaning of relics?" "Don't you know! Well, I can tell you. You know the master licked me in school yesterday?" "Yes." "Well, he wasn't satisfied with that, but kept me after shool and licked me again That is what I call a re lick.

A Vicksburg wife informed her husband the other morning, that she was working herself into the grave for the want of a hired girl, and as he went out she leaned back and fell to weeping. The children were making a noise in the hall as she passed out, and he called out: "You want to stop this racket! Your mother won't live a week, and when you get a stepmother here next spring she won't put up with any such fooling!" When he came home to dinner his wife met him with a smile and said: "Isn't ours a cozy home, Richard, with only our own little family to look after?"

### An Asiatic Guest.

A lady rhinoceros has just arrived at this port in the steamer Oxfordshire, from Japan, via Suez and Gibraltar. It was caught, about six months ago, in Malacca, and was put on board the steamer at Singapore. It is said to be of a very rare kind, as it has double horns, and is covered with long black hair. Only one of these animals has been brought to England alive, and there is not one on the Continent of Europe. The rhinoceros that has arrived here seems to be very dainty in taste, eating nothing but sweet potatoes and the very best of dried hay during the voyage, which lasted about two months.—*N. Y. Herald.*

### Love-Feasts of the Dunkers.

The Dunkers, says the Lancaster (Pa.) *Examiner*, are bringing their love-feasts of the season to a close. This religious denomination has a large following in a number of counties in this State, among them Dauphin, Lebanon and Lancaster. The ceremonies of the Dunkers are very interesting. Any person desirous of participating in the ceremonies of the feet-washing and the Lord's Supper is welcomed, but when it comes to the sacrament the Dunkers are close communicants, and permit none but members of the church to taste wine. Previously to the supper comes the ceremony of feet washing, which, it should be remembered, does not differ materially from that practiced by the Winebrennarians. It is not an empty form, such as might be expected by one who never witnessed it, but a feet-washing in fact, in which all members present take part, and such other persons as choose may participate. The vessels used for the purpose are common wash-tubs, which contain a sufficient quantity of water for the purpose. The manner of performing the ceremony is simple enough. Brother Jones starts out with a tub and towel, and, going to brother Brown, the latter's feet are both immersed and washed by brother Jones, who puts his hands into the water and rubs the feet a few times and then wipes them thoroughly dry with a towel. He then proceeds in a similar manner to two or three others, when another brother takes the tub and goes on with the process, by which plan all participate, one relieving the other, the water being thrown out and renewed frequently. The sexes perform this duty, as well as that of giving and receiving the kiss of brotherly love, separately. The brothers wash feet only for the brothers, the sisters performing the same services for those of their own sex. During the performance of feet-washing one of the teachers discourses on the origin and significance of the ceremony. After the feet-washing has been concluded, all partake of the supper prepared for the occasion, each one receiving a share of the bread and meat and a dish of soup. After all are satisfied the sacrament is offered, with fermented wine

### The Lake-Dwellings of Europe.

Various attempts have been made to estimate the age of the lake dwellings, the form and size of the superstructures, and the number of inhabitants; but the figures obtained are largely the result of conjecture, and have very little value. Nor is it certain what was the exact reason for building on the water instead of on land. Protection from hostile tribes, safety from wild beasts, and convenience for fishing, have been suggested, but are far from satisfactory. It seems pretty clear that they were not merely temporary abodes, that domestic animals as well as human beings were housed in them, and that some of them were abandoned without being burned. The scarcity of human remains is an enigma to archæologists, and not the slightest clew [illegible] to the manner in which the lacustrians disposed of their dead. [illegible] Herr, in his work on the plants of the lake dwellings, says they show connection with the countries of the Mediterranean, but none with Eastern Europe. The cereals were identical with those of the ancient Egyptians. The fauna of the lake dwellings includes a large number of fishes and birds still common to the country (but with no trace of any domestic fowl), and the bear, the dog, the ass, the ibex, the sheep, the cow, the hog, and other large animals, many of them belonging to extinct species. Since the discovery of the lake dwellings of Switzerland, similar structures have been found in Italy, Bavaria, Saxony, the French Jura, and other parts of Germany and France, and in Denmark.—Appletons' American *Cyclopædia.*

### A Forced Marriage.

A young man of good repute, residing in Troy, was charged with breach of promise by a lady of Albia, recently, and, after a little discussion, the matter was settled by the young lady's acceptance of a sum of money. She granted a release of all claims, and the young man retired satisfied. Last night he was called out of his house by the brother-in-law of the lady above mentioned, who suddenly presented a revolver and demanded that he marry her. The gentleman could do nothing but follow his intimidator to the house of the lady, where Rev. Mr. Braman, a Methodist minister was in waiting. The bridegroom stated that he was being married by compulsion, but the farce continued, and shortly the knot was tied. A summons has been served on the intimidator, to answer the charge of assault with a deadly weapon, and he will probably discover that a forced marriage is no marriage at all; in fact, that he has been playing a very dangerous game.

Barnett Wilson, who resides near Earlham, has a pig which has six feet, and is quite a curiosity.

### A MINISTER'S FALL.

**A Painful Scene and a Touching Confession.**

We find in the Maroa, (Ill.) *News* of the 25th of September an account of the resignation of Elder J. V. Beekman, as pastor of the Christian Church of that village. For some time past the reverend gentleman's habits have been such as to cause great grief to his friends and bring reproach upon the Church. At the close of the sermon which was preached by a neighboring pastor, Elder Beekman made the following address, which we give as a warning to all men, both young and old, to avoid the sin and shame which have come upon this man:

"As a man I have the highest conception as to what the life and character of a minister of the gospel should be. I know that he should lead a consistent and an upright life, that can be looked to by the community as an example of purity and righteousness. Knowing that my life has not been such in all respects, I desire to tender to this church, for which I have labored so long, my resignation.

"You are aware that I refer to my sin of intemperance. This may be my last opportunity of addressing you, and I want to ask you that you will not charge this great shame to the religion of Christ. It teaches better things. Charge it all to my own depravity and sinful nature. To you who have not this habit, it is strange that I should thus yield to temptation. I well remember the time when I thought it strange that others drank and ruined themselves with alcohol. I am glad that there are so many young men here this morning, that I may lift my voice in warning. I beg them to profit by my example. You think now that you are strong and in no danger. I well remember the time when I believed the same. Twelve years ago, when I reached forth my inexperienced hand and took the intoxicating cup, I thought I was strong; but I developed a habit that now holds me in chains, and in the most awful slavery that humanity was ever subjected to. It holds me in its embrace when I seek my bed for repose; it disturbs my repose during the weary hours of the night, and seizes me as its prey when I rise up in the morning to enter upon the duties of the day.

Profit! oh, profit by my example; see what it has done for me. There was a time when I stood as fair as any minister of the Church of Illinois; there was a time when I had as brigh prospects and as cheering hopes for the future as any of my classmates. But now they are all gone because of intemperance. Oh, that I could bring the whole world to hear my warning voice. Young ladies, you can do much to remove this curse from the world, by not countenancing its use among your companions.

"Brethren, I sever my connection with you as your pastor with a sad heart. It would be sad under the most favorable circumstances, but much more so as it is. But I shall remain with you in the Church, and labor in the community for a livelihood; I will come to your social meetings, and work with you in the Sunday School, and I will do all I can to atone for the great sin I have committed.

"God knows I do not wish to injure his cause. Pray for me that I may yet overcome this besetting sin. I trust I shall be able to overcome this besetting sin. I trust I shall be able to conquer. But, should I go down under the withering influence, I ask that you remember me kindly. Whenever you meet me, and under what circumstances, remember there was a time when you were proud of me. But treat me as you may, act toward me as you choose, I beg that you will remember my wife kindly. Do not give her pain and sorrow because of my wrong doing. Poor woman she has always suffered enough. I marripe her a sweet and innocent girl. She has been a patient and faithful wife. Again, I ask you will kindly remember my wife and children.

Whatever we may say against such collections, which present authors in disjointed form, they nevertheless bring about many excellent results. We are not always so composed, so full of wisdom, that we are able to take in at once the whole scope of a work according to its merits. Do we not mark in a book passages which seem to have direct reference to ourselves? Young people especially who have failed in acquiring a complete cultivation of the mind are aroused in a praiseworthy way by brilliant passages.—[Goethe.

Two convicts escaped from the penitentiary at Anamosa, on the night of November 7th. They unlocked their cell doors, and rushed upon the unsuspecting guard and knocked him down. He fired at them, but missed his aim. One of the men named Mason, had two more years to serve; the other, named Guthrie, had but six months more to remain. At latest accounts they had not been recaptured.

There are folkies as catching as contagious diseases.—[Rochefoucauld.

### The Egg Dance in India.

A much more pleasing perfomance, and one which might perhaps better have been mentioned in connection with the exploits of the jugglers, is the "egg dance." This is not, as one might expect from the name given it, a dance upon these fragile objects. It is executed in this wise: The dancer, dressed in a corsage and very short skirt, carries a willow wheel of moderate diameter fastened horizontally upon the top of her head. Around this wheel threads are fastened, equally distant from each other, and at the end of each of these threads is a slip noose, which is kept open by a glass bead. Thus equipped, the young girl comes toward the spectators with a basket full of eggs, which she passes around for inspection to prove that they are real, and not imitations. The music strikes up a jerky, monotonous strain, and the dancer begins to whirl around with great rapidity. Then, seizing an egg, she puts it in one of the slip nooses, and, with a quick motion, throws it from her in such a way as to draw the knot tight. The swift turning of the dancer produces a centrifugal force which stretches the thread out straight like a ray shooting from the circumference of the circle. One after another the eggs are thrown out in these slip nooses until they make a horizontal aureole or halo about the dancer's head. Then the dance becomes still more rapid, so rapid in fact that it is difficult to distinguish the features of the girl; the moment is critical; the least false step, the least irregularity in time, and the eggs dash against each other. But how can the dance be stopped? There is but one way—that is, to remove the eggs in the way in which they have been put in place. This operation is by far the more delicate of the two. It is necessary that the dancer, by a single motion, exact and unerring, should take hold of the egg, and remove it from the noose. A single false motion of the hand, the least interference with one of the threads, and the general arrangement is suddenly broken, and the whole performance disastrously ended. At last all the eggs are successfully removed; the dancer suddenly stops, and without seeming in the least dizzied by this dance of twenty-five or thirty minutes, she advances to the spectators with a firm step, and presents them the eggs, which are immediately broken in a flat dish to prove that there is no trick about the performance.—*Scribner for November.*

### Old Virginian Hospitality.

I remember a case in which a neighbor of my own, a very wealthy gentleman whose house was always open and always full of guests, dying, left each of his children a plantation. To the eldest son, however, he gave the home estate, worth three or four times as much as any of the other plantations, and with it he gave the young man also a large sum of money. But he charged him with the duty of keeping open house there at all times, and directed that the household affairs should be conducted always precisely as they had been during his own life-time; and the charge well nigh outweighed the inheritance. The new master of the place lived in Richmond, where he was engaged in manufacturing, and after the death of the father the old house stood tenantless, but open as before. Its troops of softly shod servants swept and dusted and polished as of old. Breakfast, dinner, and supper were laid out every day at the accustomed hours, under the old butler's supervision, and as the viands grew cold his silent subordinates waited, trays in hand, at the back of the empty chairs, during the full time appointed for each meal. I have stopped there for dinner, tea, or to spend the night, many a time, in company with one of the younger sons, who lived elsewhere, or with some relation of the family, or alone, as the case might be, and I have sometimes met others there. But our coming or not was a matter of indifference. Guests knew themselves always welcome, but whether guests came or not the household affairs suffered no change. The destruction of the house by fire finally lifted this burden from its owner's shoulders, as the will did not require him to rebuild. But while it stood its master's large inheritance was of very small worth to him.—George Cary Eggleston; Nov. *Atlantic.*

### Albinism in Swallows.

A correspondent of the Derry *Sentinel* publishes the fact that a pure white swallow was lately observed by him at Churchill, England. "There was no perceptible difference," he writes, "between it and the common swallow, with the exception of its plumage being of the purest white. Other swallows were flying about at the same time, but this *rara avis* shunned their company, and did not seem anxious to join them as it flitted about by its solitary self, and kept at a respectful distance from the others. As I have never heard of a white swallow being seen in this part of the country before, I consider it a very strange visitor."

### Multum in Parvo.

Error is worse than ignorance.—[Baily

A fool's bolt is soon shot.—[Shakspeare.

Imitation is the sincerest of flattery.—[Colton.

Flatterers are the worst kinds of enemies.—[Tacitus.

He who lives without folly is not so wise as he imagines.—[Bacon.

Lovely flowers are the smiles of God's goodness.—[Wilberforce.

Gird your hearts with silent fortitude, suffering, yet hoping all things.—[Mrs. Hemans.

Forgiveness is commendable, but apply not ointment to the wound of the oppressor.—[Saadi.

True fortitude is seen in great exploits, that justice warrants and that wisdom guides.—[Addison.

Fortune is as brittle as glass, and when she is most refulgent, she is often most unexpectedly broken.—[Publius Syrus.

Love and esteem are the first principles of friendship, which always is imperfect where either of the two is wanting.—[Budgell.

It is a madness to make fortune the mistress of events, because in herself she is nothing, but is ruled by prudence.—[Dryden.

Fortune is ever seen accompanying industry and is as often trundling in a wheelbarrow as rolling in a coach and six.—[Goldsmith.

We should remember that it is quite as much a part of friendship to be delicate in its demands as to be ample in its performances.—[J. F. Boyes.

Sure there is none but fears a future state; and when the most obdurate swear, do not their trembling hearts belie their boasting tongues.—[Dryden.

Look not mournfully into the past—it comes not back again; wisely improve the present—it is thine; go forth to meet the shadowy future without fear and with a manly heart.—[Longfellow.

Genius is not a single power, but a combination of great powers. It reasons, but it is not reasoning; it judges, but it is not judgment; it imagines, but it is not imagination; it feels deeply and fiercely, but it is not passion. It is neither, because it is all.—[Whipple.

### The Road to Ruin.

It may be the necessity or the duty of some to spend princely fortunes in princely pomp and luxury; if so, they are only to be pitied for the difficulty of doing it gracefully, and redeeming material waste with personal refinement. But in this great town, and each season more than last, there are thousands who are manifestly spending far more than their circumstances will allow.

For very much of this deep, wide-spread and still spreading evil, the women are answerable. It is they who dress at a rate beyond their income; they who insist on the best houses in the best neighborhood; they who must have equipages for all uses, times and places; they who cannot abate their manifold acquirements even when the family increases and nobler cares should take the place of childish things.

Of course the men have their besetting sins and pet extravagances, sometimes very costly; and they have often the still greater fault of not explaining their pecuniary affairs to their wives with manly candor or business-like accuracy. They do not make the wife a confidant or fellow counsellor.

But there cannot be a doubt that in a great majority of houses the lady knows quite enough to see, with a very little reflection, that she is driving her husband and family into straitness and embarrassment, with the risk of ruin.

People must have very many and very good acres, or very good investments indeed, to be able to spend often the rental of a good estate in a single entertainment, a dressmaker's or an upholster's bill, a house at a fashionable watering place, a prolonged continental tour, and a necklace or some other toy.

Yet women are such creatures of rivalry and display that they cannot help a sort of triumph over those who are less fortunate or less spirited, and so are continually the foremost to inflame a pernicious rivalry. What can their husbands do? They submit, perhaps. They sulk, perhaps; they more commonly cast about for ways and means, and, as they hear and learn more, they are more apt to take counsel from despair, and give themselves up to the stream in which they are already floating helplessly. They cannot be worse than they are; they may be better.

So they speculate—that is, they gamble. They soon find they are victims, and set it down to their simplicity or their scruples. By and by they make the discovery that in such an affair it is better to be at the head than at the tail—better to be on the right side of the walk—better to be in the ring than an outsider. So they press onward, give and take confidences, and in time are millionaires, or bankrupts and exiles.