

**SOUP HOUSES AND HARD TIMES**

**Judge Says Stealing is no Crime—Police Court Scenes**

Cincinnati, Jan. 10, 1904.—At the Vine Street Congregational church this evening the pastor, Herbert S. Bigelow, discussed the return of hard times, taking for his text scenes in the local police court. He said in part:

Hard times and free soup houses are with us again. Every day for months has brought us reports of factories closed and wages reduced. Despite the demagogue's assurance of continued prosperity, the depression which has been predicted is here. The ugly facts cannot be concealed even by the papers which have been preaching for so long that hard times is a democratic malady.

**LIKE ROME'S HISTORY.**

Our daily papers are beginning to read like the history of ancient Rome. The hungry mob clamors for bread and the political bosses vie with each other in their ostentatious charities. Here, for instance, is a news item:

"Councilman Michael Mullen, of the Eighth ward, Wednesday morning established a free soup house at 455 E. Front street. It was instantly crowded by poverty-stricken people with baskets, broken-spout coffee pots, bottles and tin cans to carry away solid provisions, soup and coffee."

The condition of the unemployed has become so desperate and thieving so epidemic that our machinery of justice, which is usually so relentless in the prosecution of little criminals, has broken down. In our police court we have had the remarkable spectacle of the callous sleuth of the law pleading for the accused and the judge, grown merciful, dismissing acknowledged thieves whose hunger drove them to crime.

Here is a scene in this court. A man is on the stand who was caught with stolen bread. The officer who arrested him is called as the prosecuting witness. He addresses the judge. But, behold, this Javert abandons his role of sleuth. He speaks as a man and a brother. Listen:

"Judge, there are nearly two hundred people down there who are starving. This man Jones is a workman and not a thief. He was going to share what he stole with the others. To prevent worse crimes, such as burglary, we must arrest these men. They are out from 3 o'clock in the morning for what they can find to eat. A loin of pork was stolen Monday morning and the grocer told us not to look for it. 'Lord knows, they need it,' he told us. In the buildings at 318, 320 and 322 there are many who have not a cent and who have nothing to eat."

What is the judge's reply to this policeman's plea for mercy? The judge is not a preacher. Perhaps he is not a church member. He is a politician. He is a member of the "gang." Possibly, he is worse than many he sends to prison. But he is not without heart and this is his verdict:

"The stealing of bread under such circumstances is no offense."

Another prisoner is arraigned. This is Charles Stevens, a white man. The night before he had gone to the jail, said he was out of work and hungry and begged to be locked up. What crime has he committed? None. He is here to ask the judge for the privilege of being treated like a criminal. The judge says:

"You may go to jail, and when the sun begins to shine warm enough, go to the jailer and tell him you wish to be released. I will docket you as committed for \$50 and costs at your own request."

Later the judge addressed a body of city officials before whom he defended these strange decisions. "Why," said he, "nearly every morning at one and two o'clock, policemen on their beats find the men picking potato peelings out of ash barrels. Why, gentlemen, even I would not hesitate to fracture one of the ten commandments if placed in this position."

**A PREACHER'S CONFESSION.**

And now listen to the words of a preacher who visited the politician's soup house: "It is a sad picture. I have been studying this problem of human misery all my life, and am no nearer a solution than when I began. I presume as soon as they eat their bread and molasses they will be thoroughly contented and would not work again until they are hungry."

That is the preacher of it. In a comfortable study, he has been seeking for a solution all his life. And the ripe fruit of all this research is the hackneyed presumption that poverty must be due to laziness.

Blind leaders of the blind! They

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a full-sized ONE DOLLAR package of VITÆ-ORE, by mail, POSTPAID, sufficient for one month's treatment, to be paid for within one month's time after receipt, if the receiver can truthfully say that its use has done him or her more good than all the drugs and doses of quacks and good doctors or patent medicines he or she has ever used. Read this over again carefully and understand that we ask our pay only when it has done you good, and not before. We take all the risk; you have nothing to lose. If it does not benefit you, you pay us nothing. VITÆ-ORE is a natural, hard, adamant, rock-like substance—mineral—ORE—mined from the ground like gold and silver and requires about twenty years for oxidization. It contains FREE IRON, FREE SULPHUR AND MAGNESIUM, and one package will equal in medicinal strength and curative value 800 gallons of the most powerful, efficacious mineral water drunk fresh at the springs. It is a geological discovery to which there is nothing added or taken from. It is the marvel of the century for curing such diseases as Rheumatism, Bright's Disease, Dropsy, Blood Poisoning, Heart Trouble, Catarrh and Throat Affections, Liver, Kidney and Bladder Ailments, Stomach and Female Disorders, La Grippe and Malarial Fever, Nervous Prostration and General Debility, as thousands testify, and as no one, answering this, writing for a package, will deny after using. VITÆ-ORE will do the same for you, as it has for hundreds of other readers of this paper who have accepted this offer and MADE NATURE THEIR DOCTOR, if you will give it a trial, which none should hesitate to do on this liberal offer. SEND FOR A \$1.00 PACKAGE AT OUR RISK. You have nothing to lose if the medicine does not benefit you. WE WANT NO ONE'S MONEY WHOM VITÆ-ORE DOES NOT BENEFIT. Can anything be more fair? One package is usually sufficient to cure ordinary cases; two or three for chronic, obstinate cases. Investigation will bear out our statement that we MEAN JUST WHAT WE SAY in this announcement and will do just as we agree. Write TODAY for a package at our risk and expense, giving your age and ailments, so that we may give you special directions for treatment, if same be necessary, and mention this paper, so we may know that you are entitled to this liberal offer.

### "Out of the Jaws of Death"

Cured in One Month's Time a Serious Kidney and Rheumatic Trouble.

Was Broken Down, Disheartened and Almost Helpless.

READ what Mr. M. V. Estes, of No. 8 Trinity Street, Atlanta, Ga., who answered our advertisement and received a package of Vitæ-Ore on trial, says of the medicine:



ATLANTA, GA.—When I look back at my condition and suffering during recent years, and think of the herbs, roots, barks, tinctures, powders and liniments I have taken and rubbed with, all to no purpose, and that I was cured at last in 1 month with Vitæ-Ore, I stand dazed and amazed at the result. Indeed, I feel like exclaiming with Mr. Richardson (a correspondent of the New York Herald), on closing an account of his escape from a Confederate prison during the late war between the States, "Out of the Jaws of Death, Out of the Mouth of Hell!"

Thirty years ago I contracted a disease of the Kidneys and commenced passing gravel from them, the pain often throwing me into spasms. Those only who have passed through this ordeal can give an idea of the suffering connected with it. These -pells continued at irregular but frequent intervals, down to a month ago. During all this time my urine was highly colored, sometimes profuse and sometimes scant, but at all times charged with a yellowish, albuminous brick-dust deposit. About three years ago I was attacked with Rheumatism in my right hip joint, knees and the muscles all over my body. Physicians told me I had Diabetes and marked symptoms of Bright's Disease and commenced to dope me with mercury, soda, lithia, salicylic acid, potash, etc., all of which were constantly constipating me, and nearly everything I ate disagreed with me. You can well imagine my condition and state of mind. I was broken down, disheartened and helpless.

By chance I had placed in my hand a Chicago paper containing an advertisement of Vitæ-Ore, and, like a drowning man, I caught at it, sent for it, and it has proved to be the "Oar" that enabled me to paddle my frail barque into the haven of Health. I used the ore in hot water, and it commenced to benefit me from the first dose. In four days I saw a marked change for the better, and so wrote you. My urine became cleared up and natural in color. In six days the brick-dust deposit was gone. My bowels became regular. I could eat what I wanted, and what I did eat did not hurt me and was perfectly digested. I slept soundly at night without those terrible hallucinations that had haunted my slumbers so long; but, best of all, the pain was leaving my suffering limbs. I could walk without crutch or stick.

Now, after taking a dollar package of Vitæ-Ore, I say I am in better health than I have been in thirty years. All this wonderful change in my condition is due to the virtue of one ounce of Ore taken from Mother Earth. Would that I could impress upon every one suffering with Kidneys, Stomach, Liver, Rheumatism, etc., what I know of the virtues of Vitæ-Ore. Take it according to directions, but always in hot water, and you will not be long in joining with me in singing the praises of Vitæ-Ore and praising Theo. Noel for his effort in introducing this grand boon to suffering humanity. Theo. Noel's name should go down to posterity side by side with that of Harvey, one for discovering the circulation of the blood, the other for unearthing Nature's means of purifying it.

*M. V. Estes*

**RE-AFFIRMED ONE YEAR LATER.**

ATLANTA, GA.—My faith in Vitæ-Ore grows stronger every day. I suffered with Kidney trouble for years and never got any relief until I used Vitæ-Ore, that did the work, and I am still well. Can get insurance on my life in any company that accepts men of my age. M. V. ESTES.

This offer will challenge the attention and consideration, and afterward the gratitude, of every living person who desires better health, or who suffers pains, ills and diseases which have defied the medical world and grown worse with age. We care not for your skepticism, but ask only your investigation and at our expense, regardless of what ills you have, by sending to us for a package on trial. In answer to this address

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VITÆ-ORE BLDG.

offer no solution which is not an insult either to God or man. Sometimes they say there is not enough to go around. But if they save the reputation of the Deity it is but to malign his creatures.

I shall not charge the preachers with dishonesty. A more charitable view is that they have so long thought of themselves as the repositories of all wisdom that they cannot become as little children and enter that kingdom of truth whose gates welcome those who are willing to learn.

**THE SHIBBOLETHS OF IGNORANCE.**

The fact is their gospel of free will and individual responsibility is but half the truth. Environment is one of the factors of destiny. These unfortunates have been hardest hit by a social order which would seem to us a monstrous thing if our eyes were not blinded by custom. Why is there not always work in abundance for those who wish it? My reverend sir, drop your phrases about the fall of Adam and the blood of Jesus and tell me why should there be, at any time, a lack of employment for men? Have you tried to answer that question? Do you really want an answer to it? I half believe you do not, I speak the

words of Henry George. Already I see a supercilious curl on your lips. What do you say? "Crank!" "Panaacea!" "Patent nostrum!" Those words are the shibboleth of ignorance. THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM.

Henry George answered the question. He showed that industry is half strangled by laws which confer private monopolies upon the few, and impoverish the many by artificial restriction of the natural opportunities of employment. Put the taxes where they belong upon land values. Stop taxing men for doing things. Make it ruinous for speculators to hold land out of use. Will that bring the millennium? Will that secure to laziness a full stomach? No, but it will be the recognition of an economic law which is just as real as the law of gravitation. Learn the laws of nature. That is the beginning of wisdom. Obey them, that is the will of God. The program of Henry George will do more than a thousand years of preaching to make impossible this shameful spectacle of abie-bodded men starving for lack of work, in a country where boundless resources could well employ the labor of the world.

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