

and constant struggle "did not pay" and economical necessity gave rise to a very indefinite apportionment of territory by the larger communes and more or less enslaving of the people of the smaller and weaker. In this birth of slavery there was a civilized advance, for, instead of universal slaughter, we find a sparing of life to the weaker; that is, if sparing of life is a universal civilized measure, as so generally claimed. But with territorial fixity of residence, and a lessening of inter-clan struggle, with the addition of slave labor, came a new factor under sexual promiscuity. That factor was over-multiplication. The struggle of today began then. It was intra instead of inter-communal. The remedy for this was to fix paternal responsibility—only those who could maintain more than one woman and her children were allowed more. Hence polygamy! With the augmentation of intra-communal (national) or local struggle, economical necessity forced monogamy out of polygamy, still leaving promiscuous polygyny as the result of male sexuality and a necessity, humanity cannot yet grapple with, to those who can afford it, or think they require it. If polygamy is hard on the mental refinement and self-respect of some women, who dares assert that monogamous limitation is not terribly hard on the decent self-respect of hundreds of refined women and on the health of thousands more? We have to do with facts, not sentiments.

Polygamy Necessary to the Survival of Mormonism.

One has but to consider the conditions of Mormonism in Utah to find that polygamy was the one way out to salvation for such a "peculiar people." It must be remembered that they were a so-called religious organization which, like the Pilgrims, went into a strange land to do as they pleased. To "multiply and replenish the earth" with their kind was the only way open to communal salvation. Some may say: "Why not then promiscuity?" to which it may be answered that the Mormon church has been far more rigidly opposed to promiscuous polygyny, not even countenancing or overlooking it, than Christian monogamy ever has. Promiscuity could not be countenanced in a community making a religion out of polygamy. Polygamy was necessary to the continued existence of Mormonism. It is so no longer to the individual Mormon as a man. Religious and individual survival caused the birth of Mormon polygamy. Individual economical necessity will soon cause its death. With the death of polygamy Mormonism must either die or so modify itself that it will be but a tradition of the primitive church. Economical necessity, individual survival in the struggle for existence, caused the evolution of promiscuous

polygyny into polygamy and the latter into monogamy. The sure necessity will eventually lead to state matronage and the utter rooting out of modern promiscuous polygyny. At the same time monogamy will also become one of those things of the past which coming generations will look upon as an indication of the ignorance and moral depravity of the present.

FRANK S. BILLINGS.

Sharon, Mass.

LAND VALUES. The reason for constantly raising farm-land values in Nebraska is found in the praises of the profits of agriculture by the populist press and orators of the state. Their perpetually repeated statements that no man can make a living by farming the rich and fertile soil of this commonwealth is wonderfully alluring to capital and makes it yearn to invest in broad Nebraska acres. Populism is potent in putting up prices of land. Without it, where would they be?

THE SLOCUM LAW.

Where are the good anti-drunkard men who proclaim themselves prohibitionists in Nebraska? Under the provisions of the Slocum law each liquor seller in Nebraska can be made to sell only unadulterated drinks or go out of business. How far would the compulsory sale of only pure beer, pure whisky, pure wine in Nebraska come from absolute prohibition? What ails S. D. Fitchie and other temperance leaders in this state? Do they lack the courage to try to have the Slocum law enforced?

VANDALS.

I.

A calm, white statue as pure and cold
As the snow that falls on the wintry wold;
Before it a poet would breathless stand,
Saying: "God has guided the sculptor's hand;"
But the vandal comes with a wolfish shriek,
And laughs, and disfigures the marble cheek.

II.

A noble painting, by hands long dead;
A strange and haunting "Madonna's Head."
O, eyes of sorrow, and brow of care!
A gleam from Heaven is shining there.
And the soulful gazer can only say:
"The portals have opened a bit, today."
But the vandal comes from the haunts of shame,
And tears the canvass from out its frame.

III.

A tree of beauty that sways and sighs,
And talks in whispers to winter skies.
On a landscape brown it is green and bright,
A token of summer, in winter's blight.
And the old man sees it, and says: "Fair tree,
When I have crossed over the silent sea,
My children may rest in your grateful shade;
Their children may sport in this cheerful glade.
O, long may you breathe, if a tree has breath,
Fair emblem of life, in a world of death!"
But a vandal came (and an ax had he)
And he chopped it down for a Christmas tree!

—WALT MASON.

A SUGGESTION.

MR. EDITOR: How would this plank fit in Mr. Josiah Patterson's sound money democratic platform, to-wit: 4th, to repeal the infamous salary-grab act of 1873, restoring all the salaries of public officials to what they were before the era of corruption inaugurated by the boodler republican congress of 1873, by the passage of the back-pay steal and salary-grab act, increasing the president's salary from \$25,000 to \$50,000 a year, thereby establishing a precedent by which all our public offices in our municipal, state and national government are prostituted to the avarice and greed of pot-house politicians that compose the official aristocracy, who are making serfs of the industrial classes to provide salaries for political bums, which no legitimate business or industry will afford?

What say you, Mr. Patterson?

We all understand that in order to maintain a sound money basis the civil service of the government must be placed upon a sound business basis. It is fanaticism, pure and simple, for any people to hope to maintain a sound financial system as long as they supinely stand by and look on and see political adventurers of the McKinley type use our public offices to enrich themselves. Cause and effect follow and bankruptcy is the natural cause of such pusillanimous patriotism to rescue all our municipal, state and national government offices out of the grasp of the greedy political vultures who are prostituting them to their own avarice and greed. This offers a solid platform upon which to inaugurate a political party if there is the patriotism among the American people to build up such a party, of which I have my doubts. Let Mr. Patterson and Judge S. F. Davidson of Georgia try it on.

Yours respectfully,

J. B. COREY.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 1, 1899.

Ten powerful locomotives for passenger service have been added to the equipment of the Burlington lines in Nebraska. They were built at the Baldwin Locomotive works from designs furnished by the Burlington. The big machines have already made some records pulling heavy trains across the Nebraska plains. Some of the dimensions are of uncommon interest. The driving wheels are six feet in diameter. The tender carries ten tons of coal and has a water capacity of 5,000 gallons. The weight of engine and tender is 243,300 pounds. The cab is arranged to give the engineer the best possible chance to work. The levers are within easy reach of his seat, while the right side of the boiler has been stripped of machinery in order to give the engineer a chance to look ahead without having his vision blurred by escaping steam.