

CASH SEED. Frequently the urbane members of congress, from eastern centers of population, swap their seed quotas with bucolic representatives, from agricultural districts, for public documents. Sometimes, however, the seed has been sold for cash. The Conservative remembers tracing up one batch of seed, belonging to a congressman from a New England state, which was alleged to be for sale. It was found. It was for sale. It was sold for seventy-five dollars. The owner was given a check for that amount payable to his order. His honorable name was put on the back of the check and it was paid. He was a reasonably patriotic statesman and reputed to be worth a million of dollars.

Gratuitous seed distribution is profitable to thrifty patriots.

SUCH IS FAME. The editor of The Conservative has been the recipient of many honors, both as a public official and as a private citizen; but no compliment heretofore paid him has caused such gratification to The Conservative as that implied in the letter of an admirer undergoing punishment in a Montana prison, who writes to ask if the esteemed chief of The Conservative staff could raffle off a hair bridle for him.

It is unfortunate that the Morton car left Kansas City before the receipt of this communication; otherwise Mr. Morton might have advertised the bridle industry in an after-dinner speech before the Knife and Fork Club, of that city.

However, it is never too late to do good, and readers of the great daily papers may expect to soon be favored with sketches of Mr. Morton appearing before the Grandees and Hidalgos of Mexico—which republic he is now touring—delivering felicitous addresses, with a hair bridle prominently displayed across one arm, and a box of numbered gun-wads tucked tightly under the other.

AS OTHERS SEE US. Minister Wu is quoted—or misquoted—as having accused the American people of being stubborn, willful and blind to reason, when once fairly started along a favorite path, or words to that effect.

Were it not for the many extremely gratifying expressions of the really high regard in which we are held by this polished, scholarly and popular diplomat, one might be tempted to remark that with "stubborn," "willful" and "blind to reason" arise visions of a Celestial Empire, where blind dogmatism and unreasoning prejudice

take precedence over statesmanship and executive ability among those who sit in high places; where absolute fanaticism sways the masses; where the process of introducing an innovation or inaugurating a reform, is much like the process of thawing dynamite: where lack of calm, sober judgment, and discernment, on the part of the government and the governed, reduces a populous and naturally great empire to such depths of degradation, that it becomes the cheap play-thing of any government, great or small, which has an idle hour to spend in buffeting this shriveled mummy about, for the edification of an amused world of spectators.

But, of course, comparisons are odious.

REASON VERSUS PREJUDICE. The committee on agriculture, of the house of representatives, has been taking testimony regarding the respective merits of butter and oleomargarine, as fatty foods.

Among the many distinguished and learned chemists who testified, there are, perhaps, none who are entitled to more consideration, and whose ideas should carry greater weight, than Prof. Kober, of Georgetown University.

That Prof. Kober is eminently qualified to handle this, or any other question of hygiene, is proved by the fact that he was elected, last year, to deliver the lecture on hygiene and sanitary science before the American Medical Association.

Before the committee, he threw a side-light on the butter traffic when he said:

"Of late years high-grade butter has found a formidable competitor in what is known as

Butter as it is. 'renovated or process butter.' The butter from which it is made has become tainted or rancid, and differs widely in color, texture, age and flavor, and is, of course, totally unfit for sale. It is sold by dealers and dairies at from 10 to 14 cents a pound, shipped to some factory, where it is melted at 110 to 130 degrees F., purified of its rancidity by washing it with water, and so obtaining a neutral oil and churning the resulting fat, after giving it the proper butter color, with milk, cream, or even skimmed milk to give it the butter flavor."

After showing that various epidemics had, at various times and in various places, had their origin in the milk and butter supply of the community, Prof. Kober turns to oleomargarine and says:

"Oleomargarine has been misrepresented to the public to a greater extent, probably, than any other article

of food. From the time of its first appearance in the market as a competitor of butter there has been a constant attempt to create and foster a prejudice against it as an unwholesome article made from unclean refuse of various kinds, a vehicle for disease germs, and a dissemination of tape-worms and other unwholesome parasites. It has been said to be made from soap grease, from the carcasses of animals dead of disease, from grease extracted from sewer sludge, and from a variety of other articles equally unadapted to its manufacture.

"The most absurd statement which the author has seen appeared in the annual report of the board of health of a community large enough and rich enough to be able to afford better service; this was, that a large part of the annual output was made from the grease of dogs shot while suffering from rabies by the police in the streets of large cities.

"The publication of a great mass of untruth cannot fail to have its desired effect, not only on the minds of the ignorant, but even of some of those of over average intelligence. So it is that a prejudice was created against this valuable food product, but it is gradually becoming less and less pronounced.

"The truth concerning oleomargarine is that it is made only from the cleanest materials in the

The Real Truth. cleanest possible manner, that it is quite as wholesome as butter, and that when sold for what it is and at its proper price it brings into the dietary of those who can not afford the better grades of butter an important fat food much superior in flavor and keeping property to the cheaper grades of butter which bring a better price. Oleomargarine can not be made from rancid fat, and in its manufacture great care must be exercised to exclude any material however slightly tainted.

"It is not and can not be made from fats having a marked or distinctive taste, and its flavor is derived wholly from the milk or genuine butter employed in its manufacture. It contains, as a rule, less water than does genuine butter, and consequently any difference in its food value is in its favor. It undergoes decomposition much more slowly, and, indeed, may be kept many months without becoming rancid. Much has been said concerning its digestibility, and alarmists have gone so far as to claim that it is quite indigestible and likely to prove a prolific cause of dyspepsia, quite forgetting that the materials from which it is made have held a place in the dietaries of all civilized peoples since long before butter was promoted from its position as an ointment to that article of food."

IRONY. Having used up all of his earthly contemporaries by his sarcasm, the editor of the Columbus (Neb.) Telegram has now turned his batteries of irony upon God.]