

tain when working for the support of their party; and instead of working for our country's interest, they labor in behalf of their own enormous and base swindles, have depleted the treasury, and the cry of corruption rings the knell as the office-holder performs the last sad rites of his official career. Do we need illustrations to prove what we have said? No! defalcations innumerable will recur to the minds of every one.

We may be accused of drawing too dark a picture, and we may be accused of unpatriotic exposure of our country's shame. If silence were a remedy gladly would we await its application. But too long have we remained silent and 'tis now the time as the old parties rest upon the verge of destruction, to make one more effort towards an honest reconstruction of our political organizations.

Let us first strike at our conventions, and instead of having them composed of candidates, runners for the party organ, little pettifogging lawyers, just commencing practice and eager to gain popularity, let us have men of wisdom, decision of character and stern integrity. Then may we expect to find men nominated for our public offices worthy of the positions. The office seeker will stand aside, and yield his place to better men. The party will be represented by men whom the country can trust and by whom it will be benefited.

Perhaps it is natural that all progress must come by ebb and flow. Perhaps this long descent shall have been necessary to a higher ascent toward honesty and truth. In the meanwhile let us hope that in the years immediately coming wisdom will hold the high places, which cunning has so long defiled; that truth will speak where sophistry has chattered; that honor and justice will order and direct the energies and intricate complications of our government, so long tampered with by political maneuverers, under the bad directions of incapacity selfishness, tyranny and revenge.

E. P. H.

Worse than War, Worse than Pestilence.

BY ———

CHAPTER III.

Mr. Sherwin, as the reader will remember, had received a call from Illinois, as pastor of a large congregation. He had accepted the call, and had just returned from his new field of labor, after completing the necessary preparations for the comfort of his family.

As Mr. Sherwin delineated a fair prospect for Mr. Abbott to locate his business in this new place, he desired to accompany Mr. Sherwin and his family there; but as Mr. Abbott had business that could not be transacted in time, he was obliged to journey alone. To economize time, Mr. Abbott made arrangements with Mr. Sparks, an intimate friend, and who had just quit his labors as teacher in the ——— Academy, to escort his family in their journey out.

On the evening preceeding Mr. Abbott's departure, great preparations were made by Mr. Abbott and the children. Such a stir was never before seen in the well-arranged house. Many were the suggestions how this or that should be packed in the trunks, whether this or that should go in the trunks or valise, whether it would be better to wear this or that suit, whether he would need his Kossuth coat and umbrella; even little Bell asked whether or not he would need his glasses. These, with many more suggestions, were forced upon the loved father and husband. Mr. Abbott had packed some delicacies as luncheon on the road. Aunt Betsy came running in with a large cake which she had carefully prepared for her kind, departing master. When told that there was no room for it in the trunks or valise, tears gushed down her glistening face.

"Pray, ma sa," said Aunt Betsy, "kint you not git a vay half de cake? I knows you would if you knowed de good 'gredients in dat cake."

When room was made in the valise for part of the cake, her face lit up with joy.