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THE DAILY BEE.

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It is becoming painfully evident that "Professor" Billings and his hog cholera cure are no longer wanted in Nebraska.

When a gentleman receives the appointment of legislative spondee cleaner at three dollars a day and mileage he is listed on the employment roll as "custodian of exsufflers."

As "custodian of the cloak room" of the house, Mr. Wiggins has also become custodian of many state secrets that formerly were confined to the door-keeper of the oil room.

There are a few very singular features of the rush by which the postoffice location is being engineered that will require more than a passing explanation from several persons in high life.

Mr. Kerpel told the house that the legislature would go down to history as the most extravagant that ever assembled in the state. There is more truth than poetry in Mr. Kerpel's prediction.

The legislature has happily given evidence that it will recall its hasty legislation in abolishing state oil inspection. The penny wise and pound foolish policy should not find favor in Nebraska.

The senate committee appointed to investigate the disastrous boiler explosion at the state insane asylum claims that the explosion resulted through carelessness. If the committee had reached the conclusion that the disaster was due to incompetency it would have come much nearer the truth.

There is a great deal of stuff being printed by certain newspapers to the effect that President Cleveland is rejoicing that the end of his term is near; that he is weary of the cares of state and yearns for the peace and tranquility of private life. Haven't we had enough of this puerile twaddle? It certainly is not very consistent with the president's desperate attempt for re-election.

The growth of building associations in the past few years in the cities of the country has excited universal attention. They have secured thousands of independent homes for workingmen who never in any other way would have owned the houses in which they live.

A prominent book publishing house in Boston has just issued a catalogue of works by western authors exclusively. Its purpose undoubtedly is to call attention to the "literary" east, that the "west" is not alone famous for its corn, its hogs, its cowboys and cattle kings, but that it can lay claim to a literature which may well dispute with the east for the olive branch. The subjects treated upon cover the whole field of literature from fiction to poetry, from religion to history and science.

The invitation which our government issued some time ago for a conference of American nations to be held at Washington is receiving a generous response. Several of the republics have already signified their intention of being represented, and it is more than likely that all of them will accept the invitation. In view of the complications likely to arise any day between the United States and the great powers of Europe which have financial or political interests on the American continent, it is high time that a policy be outlined for the attitude of the American republics with respect to the Monroe doctrine. There are, moreover, questions referring to commerce and to more intimate relations between the people of the western world to be discussed. For the day is not far distant when the railroad will level political barriers and knit the American nations and republics on the American continent into the closest intimacy.

AN OUTSIDE VIEW OF OMAHA. A candid and well considered article on Omaha, by William Willard Howard, with illustrations, appears in the current issue of Harper's Weekly. The writer was careful to obtain his facts from authentic sources, and consequently his article is not marred by historical and statistical errors, as have been embodied in letters published by the eastern press regarding Omaha past and present. Mr. Howard visited the city and made a careful study of its business conditions, its public improvements, its architecture, and the character of its people, and was therefore enabled to write from personal observation rather than from hearsay. He was evidently without prejudice, as every true historian must be, and he has hence written with fairness and candor. A citizen of Omaha, imbued with pride of everything connected with the city, may not approve all the conclusions of Mr. Howard, but he will have to concede that they are frank and obviously well intended. The important matter is not what an outsider thinks of us as a social city, or how he regards our methods of providing for the cost of public education, which, in the opinion of Mr. Howard is not to our credit, although he concedes the excellence of the public schools, but what he believes to be substantial and sound in our condition and prospects as a city. In this respect Mr. Howard's conclusions are in the highest degree gratifying. Finding the best reasons for the growth of the past, the foundations of business and enterprise securely laid, and the conditions necessary to make a great city steadily increasing, he believes not only that the future of Omaha is safe, but that the Nebraska metropolis will do credit to the American nation. Mr. Howard's impressions of Omaha are compressed in this single sentence: "Omaha makes a specialty of doing business." This pointed remark is amplified by the declaration—"Even he who runs may read in this that the city of Omaha is the commercial gateway of Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah and part of Colorado." Few persons need to be told the material significance of this condition of things.

As to the future of Omaha, Mr. Howard, after comparing her substantial growth with the booms and boomlets of other western cities, reaches this conclusion: "Omaha has made herself so indelibly to the northern metropolis of the plains that no neighboring place can make headway against her."

As an evidence of the genuine and substantial character of the city's prosperity Mr. Howard says: "Large financial corporations would not invest a million dollars in an office building unless there was a certainty that it would pay. Proprietors of newspapers do not usually spend half a million on a new building unless their business warrants it. Fancy that Mr. Edward Rosewater would not put up his magnificent new Omaha Bee building if he did not have an ironical faith in the future of the city. For a city of only one hundred and twenty thousand people, this Bee building is a remarkable thing. There are in the city of New York only two, or possibly three, newspaper buildings superior to it. In a western country so accurately represented by its newspapers as the west is, the erection of this large mass of brick is a significant indication of a solid general prosperity."

Mr. Howard's article concludes with this encouraging assurance: "In all practical and material ways, the Omaha of to-day is a broad foundation for the city of half a million people that she may become early in the next century. All that she needs is the superstructure of population. The opportunity for the building of a great city is seen in the millions of acres of fertile land that await the plough on the western plains. To the people of Omaha is given the inestimable privilege of building as they will. The future is theirs."

THE COST OF MATERIAL PROGRESS. It is not a new observation that the rapid material progress of this period is made at an enormous cost to the vital forces of the people most strenuous in the struggle for leadership, among whom those of the United States are confessedly first. In the eager fight for success and wealth, men do not pause to consider that there is a normal limit to man's capacity for the true and healthy enjoyment of pleasures, luxuries, and even comforts, and that when this limit is reached there is an inevitable penalty. The financier and the merchant find gratification and incentive in knowing that fortunes can now be made to count by the million as easily as when a quarter of a century ago they were reckoned by a tenth of that sum. To the manufacturer the improving appliances and new discoveries which increase and cheapen the facilities for production give a luxury to enterprise. The trader finds immense advantage in the steadily improving agencies which enable him to keep in instantaneous contact with his markets and his customers. In all these directions the progress of less than half a century has been most wonderful, and it has so increased the chances of acquiring wealth quickly that men yield up everything to the intoxicating hopes and expectations of business enterprise. The strain is necessarily great. Once in the current the ambitious man can have little time for himself. He finds himself dominated by the forces of business, which whirl and drive him forward relentlessly. A few, indeed, are enabled to take periods of leisure, to release themselves wholly from the cares of business in foreign travel, or to enjoy some of the comforts and luxuries of social life at home, but the number of such is not large. The great majority must remain constantly at the post of duty or run the risk of being left in the race. There has of course been a great increase in the conditions for the amelioration of overwork, but how little these have really accomplished is impressively told by statistics recently furnished by the president of the health department of New York city, showing the increase of deaths in that city during twenty-two years from diseases directly fostered by excessive devotion to business. The diseases noted are Bright's, diabetes, paralysis, apoplexy, heart dis-

ease, fatty degeneration of heart, cirrhosis of the liver, and insanity. Without going into details, it is sufficient to say that the aggregate deaths from these diseases increased nearly four-fold between the years 1866 and 1887, having been 5,915 in the latter year against 1,719 in the former. Bright's disease and diseases of the heart claim nearly four-fifths of the victims of overwork, while the pitiful story of the effect of the high-toned methods of modern business. And those statistics do not embrace the mortality from nervous exhaustion, which also dooms thousands to years of suffering and helplessness. Doubtless the business pressure in New York is somewhat more severe than in other cities of the country, but nevertheless these statistics convey a warning which may wisely be heeded in every commercial center of the country. While we are amazed and gratified at the wonderful material progress of the nation, it is well to consider what it is costing in physical and mental vitality, and what may be the consequences of that vast expenditure upon the next generation.

A GREAT CONGRESS OF LABOR. Among the most interesting events that will be associated with the centennial exposition in Paris this year will be an international congress of labor, invited to assemble by the organized workmen of Paris. The exposition is intended to celebrate the centenary of the French revolution, and as that great event in the world's history notably asserted the rights of the masses against the privileges of the nobility and aristocracy, and produced conditions which raised the workingmen of Europe out of the degradation to which they had been subjected, its celebration at the close of a hundred years is a most appropriate time for assembling representatives of labor in a great international congress. Such an assemblage will be impressively significant of the progress that has been made in liberal and enlightened principles during the past hundred years, since it would have been impossible a century ago. It may emphasize the fact that in this age the world can regard with greater interest and concern a congress of intelligent workmen than a conference of emperors.

The invitation to this congress imposes no restraint upon opinions, and all views that prevail among workmen will have representation and be allowed full and free expression. The widest latitude will be given to the discussion of the problems that relate to labor throughout the world, and the most radical opinions will receive toleration and attention. The purpose is to secure a broad and unobstructed interchange of views between representatives of labor, not with any idea of formulating a general policy or of bringing about immediate practical results, but in order that organized labor throughout the world may get a more accurate knowledge of the present conditions affecting it everywhere and a truer conception of its international relations.

In this respect the coming together of the labor of the old and the new world should have especially important results. There is need of establishing more intimate relations between the workingmen of Europe and of the United States for the better protection of the interests of both. It has been suggested that it will be possible to organize a great international intelligence office for communicating to the bread winners of Europe and the United States matters relating to their respective interests. Through such an organization American workmen could inform their brethren in Europe in regard to the wages and opportunities for labor in all departments of industry and thus avert a great deal of misery and distress now caused by improvident immigration. Such an international association, it is believed, would be a check upon the selfishness of importers of cheap labor in this country and their agents in Europe. There are many good results possible from a congress of this character, and from every point of view the friends of labor will be warranted in regarding its assembling as one of the very important events of the time.

A FOREIGN CRITICISM. The criticism of Cardinal Manning upon the morality of this country, which he professes to believe is going to seed, attributes moral decline to two causes—the freedom of divorce and the Sunday newspaper. There will be nobody to dispute the position of the cardinal so far as relates to the divorce matter. The ease with which the marriage tie may be severed in this country—that is, in several of the states—is not at all creditable to us. It is evidence of a lax public opinion regarding the importance of the most serious and sacred of human contracts not complimentary to our enlightenment. But Cardinal Manning should know that we are beginning to see our weakness in this particular, and to see it to reform. We may not incorporate an amendment in the constitution, as has been proposed, authorizing congress to enact marriage and divorce laws. We shall very likely continue to believe that this is a matter that belongs solely to state regulation. But it need not be doubted that in due time the faults and defects of divorce laws will be removed wherever they exist, and that there will be a sufficiently uniform system of laws more rigidly protecting the marital compact to prevent any such breaches of it as are now so easy to be accomplished.

But with regard to the Sunday newspaper, that is an American institution which unquestionably has come to stay. It has become as necessary to the people as anything else that the progress of the age has evolved, and it can no more be given up than any of those things which have come to be indispensable in the life of the people. The wants of a great, active, inquisitive people will not rest for a single day, and they have learned that it is quite as essential to

them that they should be informed of what has transpired on the seventh day of the week as on the first. The assumption that the Sunday paper has anything to do with depreciating the morality of the people, allowing that it is depreciating, cannot be successfully maintained. Morality is not weakened by education, and the properly conducted Sunday paper is one of the best of educators. It is invariably something more than a newspaper. It is a source of greatly useful instruction outside of its presentation of the world's doings on the preceding day. It carries into the homes of the people sermons far more valuable and important than come from many pulpits, and the majority of those people can have no other sermons. Such an institution cannot work harm. All its influence must on the contrary be for good, and so it is. The venerable cardinal, therefore, while he may confidently hope for a reform of American divorce laws, may as well make up his mind that the American Sunday paper is here to stay.

COMMISSIONER WRIGHT of the national department of labor has an interesting chapter on working women of manufacturing centers in his last report. From a mass of statistics he finds that the average age is but twenty-two years, and of the whole number reported seventeen thousand five hundred more than one-half are engaged in their first trial at self-support. As a rule, the working women are unmarried, supporting not only themselves but giving their earnings largely to the support of parents and dependants at home. Ten thousand of the number under consideration not only work at their daily occupation but assist in household duties at home. More than two-thirds of these women live at home and are under home influences. While this record is not at all complete, it is certainly gratifying as far as it goes. There can be no question that the condition of working women should be improved as regards hours of labor and rate of compensation. But it must be confessed, if Mr. Wright's testimony can be depended upon, that the lot of the average working woman is not as black as it has been painted.

It is urged, as a special feature of the proposed corn exhibit at the Paris exposition to be undertaken by the New York produce exchange, that efforts be made to educate the people of Europe in the art of preparing corn for food. Despite the heavy annual shipment of corn products, there is amazing ignorance in foreign countries as to the best way to prepare corn for edible purposes.

VOICE OF THE STATE PRESS. Two Extremes. Submission is in the eye. Prohibition is in the soup.

The President's Revenge. Cleveland has attached his autograph to the bill creating the department of agriculture. Considering the already complicated condition of the cabinet question this is nothing less than refined cruelty.

They Owe It to Themselves. In case prohibition carries a number of public water fountains will be appreciated in Fremont. In order to get people accustomed to using water as a beverage the city council should have some put in in convenient places.

Wait and See. The Omaha Bee gives as a reason why the secretary of the treasury should be given to the greatest share of the world's wealth. That is the very reason why the west will not be given the treasury portfolio. Wall street and the manufacturing influences of the east had too much "fat fried out of them" to give the west such an opportunity.

Blood-Suckers Not Wanted. The state board of transportation is, in our opinion, a useless appendage and should be abolished. According to published rates furnished by the board to the legislature the rates in Nebraska, for 100 miles for instance, are nearly double what they are in Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois. We need railroads, but they ought not to be allowed to suck the life blood from the people while we are getting them.

The Railroad Contingent. It has been shown that the railroads have seventeen senators, a majority of one, in the senate. That settles the question of any legislation in the interests of the people in the railroad line this session. We are pleased to note that the senator from this district is not one of that railroad majority, voting to indefinitely postpone a resolution requiring the board of transportation to prepare a schedule of rates, which will prevent discrimination against Nebraska. It seems that the railroads own both board and senate.

TALKS ON TRIFLES. Randolph Mitchell, one of the victims of the falling of the Meyer building, was a magnificent specimen of humanity. It was sad, indeed, that he should have met so horrible a death at the gravity of the accident, which is increased by the fact that, at the moment of its happening, he was trying to aid another victim, Peter Boyer, to take out a policy in the insurance company which he represented.

Mr. Mitchell's life, it is stated, was insured for \$100,000. He took out the last \$50,000, as related by himself, in a wager which he lost, having bet that Cleveland would be re-elected president of the United States. The bet was a Harrison man. The loser was to have his life insured in the other's company for \$50,000. Mitchell lost and the premium cost him \$1,750. Said he: "I am feeling well and contented. I have lost and paid one of the biggest bets made in the presidential election, in this part of the country, and if I die my wife shall want for nothing." The words were still ringing in the listener's ears when the time arrived to sound the agent's knell.

There is a vision of richness and beauty in the tiled floors and marble walls of the lavatory of the Paxton. Mounting guard over the select spot is a veteran of many years. He has memorized a legend painted upon sheets of tin and hung in various places, which is intended to attract the attention of intruders, and which runs about as follows: "These accommodations are intended exclusively for the guests of this hotel." Several nights ago, Frank Ransom, the Otse county senator, was a guest at the house. So was William, familiarly known as "Bill" Canada. Both were performing incir-

abulations after a ride from the capital. Behind them paced the aged custodian of the marble baths. Raising his head from the basin, the white applying a towel to his forehead, Ransom inquired in a loud loud enough to be heard by the gray beard: "Bill, why don't you stop at this hotel when you are in town?" The aged sentry stood, turned, traced Canada on the shoulder, and with frigid civility said: "Please do your washing in the hotel you stop at after this?" He then walked away, as did Ransom, also, leaving Canada to dispose of his mortification as best he could. It is said that Ransom kept out of Canada's path for a week.

From the First National bank to the Pacific Express company's office is but a few feet. Several days ago six young gentlemen paced the distance and when they reached their destination, they were almost exhausted. Each had carried a bag of gold which was, in itself, an ample fortune. These young men, called "Harvey's boys," trip up the Missouri to assume control, for the government, of the Sioux nation. He touched at Omaha in 1887, the boat bearing him being the Miner. He had with him \$500,000, a trusted messenger, Stephen Brown, now performing the same duties in the headquarters of the department of the Platte in this city; his secretary, since known as Colonel O'Connor. There was a number of passengers on board, while the deck and hold of the boat were loaded with provisions, utensils and implements which were to be utilized in the civilization of the Indians. The boat was chartered at an expense of \$500 per day, the trip extending from St. Louis to Peoria, Ill., five days from Peoria to Sioux City, three persons on the boat knew of the money being on board. Those three have been mentioned. The currency was deposited in an old satchel, to which neither the general nor his attendants paid the slightest attention. The half-million dollars reached the agency in safety, though many a tough character who after the fact of the change he had lost to make no mistake, bemoaned his lot in impatient notes to be afforded such another opportunity. A great deal of the money was spent as intended, upon the Indians, but when General Grant sent out Quakers to continue the work of civilization, General Harney packed the money remaining in the satchel and drove it back to the city of the wagon, in the train with which he had the Indians good-bye. Near Fort Randall, the wagon was upset and everything was spilled upon the ice. But the little old sack was pitched back into another wagon, and with its contents unknown to all but Bowers and Harney, reached Sioux City in safety. It was then traveled by express to the war department. "If I had carried the value in any other way," said the general, "I should have had to protect it with a company of soldiers."

The coldest Sunday we have had this year, and some of our most severe weather has been experienced on that day, has seen, in the afternoon, in one of the Twentieth street grip cars, sometimes a solitary passenger. In such cases it was a woman, round features, ruddy from contact with the breeze and a forehead shined in a pale light, drawn by the arms inside. The car rattles and the grimaces and the people on the street hurry by as rapidly as possible to get out of the cold, but the lady in question seems motionless and to fairly revel in the cutting blasts. Her persistence denotes a fixed purpose, the maintenance of a habit; while the glances of the eyes, now in this and again in that direction denote an intelligent and systematic observer. The car climbs the steep hill at Dodge and Twentieth streets and with irresistible force shoots around the corner. The eyes of the lady rest admiringly upon the imposing, though lifeless campus of the high school, in the summer the most beautiful place of the kind in the country—and then turn northward as the train glides down the plane toward her home in the distant part of the city. Then this lady, no one in America is more systematically in her habits, no one more earnestly devoted to the work she felt called upon to undertake, glances widely around, even on the continent, and none more capable of comparing, describing and appreciating the glories which she has beheld in the works of both man and nature in all parts of the civilized globe—because the lady is Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

Unlucky Reformers. So far in the reformation of society the White Caps have made almost as little progress as the prohibitionists.

The Wall Starved Him. A Buffaloian committed suicide in a Turkish bath. It must have been an anarchist, who did not know what to make of the situation in which he found himself.

A Woman's Weapon. A woman in Pennsylvania knocked a tramp out of time with a rolling-pin. The rolling-pin is to lovely woman what the stiletto is to the Spaniard, the bowie knife to the Texan, and the Winchester rifle to the cowboy.

Magnanimous Bachelors. Perusing the marriage problem several several eastern papers have lately interviewed distinguished bachelors as to the reasons why they remained single. Among many interesting responses, one seems peculiarly happy: "Whenever I have thought of marriage I have been obstructed by the reflection that I should be sorry for my wife."

Fact and Fiction. Floating Fiction. An Iowa editor who has a small farm has raised corn enough on it to build a printing office. Floating fact: An Arkansas editor who has a small printing office has raised 1—enough in it to supply all the other printing offices with "devils."

Prices in Dakota. A Grand Forks man on a visit to Minneapolis was repeatedly called upon to refute the charge that everything in the great territory is exorbitantly high. He cited as proof of his statements the fact that axes up before the draw are worth only \$2.

The Lion Among the Flowers. Here, in this garden nook alone, alone, Lies an old lion of gray stone— Once, in the long gone golden hours, A lordly lion, proud in state, The guardian of a mansion gate, Now he lies low among the flowers, Then, oft he saw the shining doors, Heard light feet fall on fugal floors, Heard music wake his withing din; Then dashed beneath the torches' blaze The knights and ladies of old days, While he watched over all within.

Now he lies in his old age, Cast out, rejected by the rage Of time a downbeaten, broken, scared— An old gray lion; yet not less A lion in his feebleness!— One thing is left him still to guard.

He guards it well, by night and day, In those great jaws of granite gray, In the strong shiver of his breast; No man shall serve him yet with scorn, Though an old lion, thus forlorn, And all his guards—a robin's nest!

CURRENT TOPICS. Two street car conductors in San Francisco have been sentenced to six months imprisonment for using an instrument denominated a "brother-in-law" to defraud the company. This is a device about as big as a silver dollar, which is carried in the palm of the left hand, the bell which it contains being rung in imitation of the sound of the bell which would be used in the case of a number of detectives were employed and the two conductors, who pleaded guilty, were detected in the very act. There has always been an irrepressible conflict between street car conductors and their employers on the subject of "knocking down." Whether the dollar or two a day to be made by the use of a form dollar "brother-in-law" is considered sufficient compensation for the chance of a six months sentence and its attendant consequences in the shape of loss of character and of employment remains to be seen.

Lord Walsley in the Fortnightly Review has a paper on "War." A good deal of a snob is "my lord," says the Salt Lake Tribune. He affects a kind of disdain for advice to soldiers in the field from men high in social station, who have not received a military training, which history does not justify. The president of the southern confederacy was a thoroughly educated soldier, yet his advice was a terror to the generals who commanded the southern armies. Abraham Lincoln was absolutely unlettered in the art of war, but his advice was so pertinent that much of it reads now like inspiration. The natural conclusion is that a man who has no natural attributes for generalship cannot be made a far-seeing commander of an army, no matter how much labor the schools may bestow upon him, while another man without knowledge, but with the instincts of a soldier, may draw shrewd conclusions of what might be done and what would be successful, though he may not understand the details necessary for the carrying out of the plan.

The reported threat of the Chinese viceroy that he would exclude Americans from the Flower Kingdom in retaliation for our exclusion act must be taken with many grains of allowance, observes the San Francisco Chronicle. The Chinese government has always expressed disapproval of the migration of its people across the Pacific. It prefers that they should colonize the Philippines and the Siam settlements where they can get control of trade and bear home. Nine-tenths of the coolies who came here were from the provinces near Canton and Hongkong, and were natural nomads. The viceroy of the most northern provinces, and he can have no feeling in regard to the exclusion of a few thousand of the tramp and criminal classes. He is also shrewd enough to know that the balance of American trade has always been in favor of China, and that it would be poor policy to cut off the lucrative trade for a matter of national sentiment.

Commenting upon the development of Japan, the Philadelphia North American says: "The promulgation of a new constitution in Japan marks one of the most wonderful strides that civilization has ever taken, if everything not Caucasian is to be regarded as barbaric. But whether it brings Japan nearer the Anglo-Saxon idea of civilization or not, it is the opening of a new era, and promises to make the land of flowers a part of the rest of the world to which it has been so long a mystery. Usually such changes are made gradually, but in this case an absolute monarchy for twenty-five centuries is changed into a constitutional government in a single year. Twenty years ago the mikado was his consort were his secretaries, and his death for an ordinary subject to behold their countenances. The ruler was absolute. To-day the masses rule. Had the mikado resisted this encroachment upon his hereditary power, it might have been put off indefinitely, but with a wisdom and broadness of mind that has rarely been exhibited by a monarch, he has seen that Japan to hold her own with other nations must adopt the way of the dominant westerner, and has aided during the past ten years to bring about the change which strips him of his right to rule alone. Japan has always been a land of wonder and awe, her latest step stamps her as marvelous beyond compare."

The members of at least one church in New York appear to have accepted the doubts about the fitness of strangers and persons too poor to pay pew rents engaging in religious worship, says the Chicago News. Benjamin W. Williams, one of the officers of the Church of St. Thomas of that city, is reported as saying: "We have no room in our church for people who haven't paid for their seats. Our trouble is not to find places for strangers, but to keep them out. We don't ask them to come, and we don't want them. If they come they are in the way, and we have had work to get them out of the way; but we manage to do it nevertheless. We have to watch them, but sometimes they are so good and contrive to find seats somewhere. Then we have to tell them very plainly to get up and go out. And we make them do it."

Mr. Williams had been asked to give his reasons for compelling a lady to rise from her knees while in the midst of her devotions in the church. He said that no one was giving them. The lady, he said, did not own the pew and had not been invited to occupy it. Consequently she was an intruder and it was right to make her go away. There were no free seats except a few from which the pulpit could not be seen. So the lady, who was a stranger in the city, could not be permitted to remain.

Mr. Williams, whose church is one of the wealthiest and most fashionable in New York, is an extreme example of a class of insipid church functionaries who are too numerous for the good of the cause in which they are endeavoring to help. A church run as a close corporation, from the benefits of which all outsiders are excluded, invariably has a great deal more fashion about it than it has religion. Of what use in this world is a church which has no welcome for strangers? A society to promote selfishness in the guise of religion can accomplish no good thing, for the contrary, it is a standing reproach to the cause of Christianity.

To exclude strangers from the churches is to leave room for sin to enter and enjoy itself. Sin is no stranger even in fashionable church congregations.

Notwithstanding the rapid growth and development of the country the additions to the number of departments of the government have been slow and small, observes the Chicago Tribune. The first congress under the constitution immediately passed bills providing for secretaries of the treasury, of state, of war and navy, which were at first united, and for a postmaster general and attorney general. These positions were filled by Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, Henry Knox, Samuel Osgood, and Edmund Randolph. The navy department not created till 1795, when Benjamin Stoddard was appointed secretary, and the department of the interior not till 1849, Thomas Ewing being the first secretary. Now, forty years after, comes the department of agriculture, with Norman J. Colman at its head. It will not be many years before the department of the interior, combining a number of incongruous bureaus which were assigned there because they belonged nowhere else, will have to be broken up into at least two departments.

Command us to Nevada for prompt action. The original suggestion that the state pro-

hibited lotteries, under severe and efficient penalties. But the people suffered for want of lotteries, and children cried for them. So on the 19th of January of the present year, the legislature passed a law submitting to the people the question of an amendment abolishing the original prohibition, to be voted upon on February 11, when it was carried by a large majority. So, though Nevada's mines have "petered" and her agricultural prospects are not great, and she is not likely to get a strip of California territory to help her out, she may still manage to exist upon licensed Faro games and legalized lotteries.

GREAT MEN. Certain English newspapers assert that Mr. Stead has severed his connection with the Pall Mall Gazette, of which he has long been editor.

Walter J. Damrosch is lecturing on the beauties of Wagnerian opera to the Philadelphians. A city which gave birth to the Clotie club must admire Wagner.

Assassin M. Clay has presented to Colonel James W. Robertson, of Richmond, Va., a "revolving pistol" given to Clay by Lincoln for his defense of Washington in 1861.

Bismarck has caused a new cartoon to be put under the ban. The picture represents Bismarck as Goliath; the newspaper press as little David with his lively sling-shot.

The most prominent candidates for American representatives at the Samoan conference in Berlin are Benjamin F. Butler, Senator Hildreth, John L. Sullivan and Judge Tucker, of Chicago.

John Wamamaker's country place at Jenkintown, Penn., is his pride and joy. It has a fine collection of cattle, and his flowers are very valuable. His roses and orchids are worthy of note, and his rhododendron are famous in Pennsylvania.

John Jacob Astor has given a handsome four-story building, with its lot of land, to the Children's Aid society of New York, as a memorial to his departed wife, who had been interested in this charitable institution. The building will be used as an industrial school.

Prof. Herrmann, the wizard, closed a great week in Washington recently. He had several social receptions during the week. At the National Theatre James G. Blaine occupied a box, and at the close of the performance paid his respects to the professor behind the scenes.

Edwards G. Goff, late publisher of the Graphic of New York city, will soon return to journalism. He is to establish here in New York a new trade journal to be devoted to the interests of American manufacturers, and especially to the development of commercial relations between this country and Central and South America.

"The Prince of Wales," remarks the light gossip man of the New York Press, "not only claims direct from the shell, which he holds in his hand. The great Napoleon was passionately fond of shrimp. Henry Ward Beecher chewed roast lamb and chewed roast beef. Charles Dickens, when lecturing in Brooklyn, drank a bottle of brandy and two of champagne during the course of a single evening."

RELIGIOUS. Kansas comprises three dioceses—Lauren-worth, Concordia and Wichita—with a population of 80,000 Catholics and 167 priests.

Rev. John O'Connell, rector in Limerick, was struck with lightning while sitting in the confessional, and died in a few hours.

John Wamamaker, of Philadelphia, whom political rumormongers have charged with being the largest Sunday school in the world.

The National Women's Christian Temperance union has as constituents its honorary members, young women's unions and juvenile bands, in addition to the women's unions, making a total of following of half a million members of what is probably the largest Sunday school in the world.

The receipts of the Home Missionary society in the first nine months of this year have been: From contributions, \$16,964; from offerings, \$40,776. As compared with the same months of last year, a falling off of \$9,592 in fees, and \$29,158 in offerings—\$38,750 in all.

During the year 1888 the following cities had the greatest number of buildings at the following costs: Toronto, \$90,000; Detroit, \$125,000; Albany, \$100,000; Indianapolis, \$100,000; Worcester, \$140,000; St. Joseph, \$25,000; New York (railroad), \$100,000; Yorkville Branch, \$50,000.

The society for the suppression of vice was not idle last year. It secured 101 convictions, made 94 arrests, and valued \$149,000 worth of bad books and papers, and caused the destruction of an immense amount of vile matter of various sorts. Among the members of this society are Layard and Gladstone.

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