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DOUBLE STANDARD OF PUBLIC MORALS. The recent indictment by a St. Louis grand jury of two millionaire business men on the charge of corruptly negotiating a street railway franchise and placing \$185,000 in safety deposit vaults at the disposal of members of the St. Louis municipal legislature, forcibly illustrates the prevailing double standard of public morals that threaten to undermine our entire fabric of self-government. This deplorable condition was tersely expressed in the charge of the presiding judge to the St. Louis grand jury, of which the following is an extract: No graver danger exists in our midst than this infamous method of robbing the people by corrupting their trusted representatives. It is a menace to our civic and political life. It is anarchy, for it strikes an insidious and deadly blow at government. It substitutes the debauching moneyed power of corporations acting through their agents and the unscrupulous public officers for the lawfully constituted authority vested by the people in the municipal legislative body to be by it honestly and faithfully administered. The higher the position of the persons who bribe or are bribed, the greater is their moral responsibility, because the more potent for evil is their wicked example.

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS. Intelligent public sentiment favors proper legislation for the protection of public officials and there is no doubt as to the power of congress to provide such legislation. That has been decided by the supreme court of the United States in the case growing out of the assault upon Justice Field of that court in the summer of 1889. The opinion of the court, delivered by Justice Miller, contains a statement as to the power of the government of the United States to protect its officers in the discharge of their duty which is so clear and emphatic as to leave no possibility of doubt as to the authority of congress to enact any proper law for the protection of the president and other officials. The principle, therefore, embodied in the bill framed by the house committee on judiciary will be very generally accepted as sound, whatever difference of opinion there may be respecting some provisions of the measure. A score or more bills for the protection of the president were introduced and it is understood that the bill of the judiciary committee embraces the best points of these measures that were referred to it. The committee's bill is intended to correct all the defects in the federal laws that were made apparent by the assassination of President McKinley. The penalties are made as rigid as possible and the restrictions against the operations of anarchistic societies and individuals are made as severe as in the judgment of the committee the constitution permits. Punishment is provided for persons who engage in conspiracies in the United States to murder the rulers of other nations and provision is also made to exclude from this country persons who entertain beliefs that are dangerous to the government. Representative Ray, chairman of the committee, says that in drafting the bill interference with freedom of speech and of the press was studiously avoided and there is nothing in the measure that would interfere with the proper and legitimate discussion of the views and acts of public officials. It provides only against the advocacy or teaching of the duty, necessity or propriety of the unlawful killing or assaulting of officers of the government. Under this bill a person may advocate any change of our government by lawful and peaceful means, or may criticize the conduct of its affairs and get as many people to agree with him as he can, so long as he does not advocate the commission of crime as the means through which he is to attain his end. A man may hold any theory he pleases as to the proper form of government and he may do his best to persuade others to his views, and he may remain entirely safe so long as he clings to peaceful methods and does not urge the commission of crime. Repression of the advocacy of violence and murder is the purpose of the bill. It is not probable that the measure will encounter any considerable opposition in congress or the country, but whether such legislation will restrain assassins and monomaniacs from making deadly assaults on presidents and other high officials is decidedly doubtful.

A CIVIL SERVICE ISSUE. The bill for the establishment of a permanent census bureau, which passed the house, contains a clause which is meant to provide preference in the general service for some thousand persons now in the employ of the bureau. This provision was a subject of strong criticism in the house and it has been condemned by friends of the merit system as in contravention of the principle of civil service reform and an injustice to those persons who have passed a successful examination for places in the public service. In the discussion of the provision in the house Mr. Gillett of Massachusetts, chairman of the civil service committee, said: "Should the 1,000 clerks who are going to be dropped in the next year be transferable to the other departments in the place of men who are on the eligible list, who otherwise could go there? Those men who are on the eligible list got there without any favoritism. They have come from every part of the country, just as these do, but they got there by competitive examination and no matter what the quality of that examination was, there is one fact about them which everyone will admit, that they got there, not by political favoritism or patronage, but simply by their merit. Their examinations were open to the whole country. But if these thousand clerks whom we have appointed get there, we all know they get there not by open competition, but because they are friends of some congressman. In other words, we put our favorites in and we keep out all those from the country who have competed and prevent their getting in. We give preference to our friends and we keep out those who are not our friends."

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM. Plenty of Chances to Keep in Line with the Precession. Chicago Tribune. One day Americans are told by some messenger of sad tidings that there is no longer any chance in this country for the young man. Another day it is proclaimed that there is no chance for the old man. Another day the gloomy news is made public that there is no longer any chance for a workman who is over 35. If all these statements are true there is no longer a chance for anybody unless he shall have been born a millionaire. But the lot of those who are fed from golden spoons and rocked in silver cradles is unenviable, for according to some authorities they never amount to anything. They never have a chance, it is said, because they are loaded down with riches. As nobody has a chance it is about time for the appearance of the angel spoken of in Revelation, who is to cry out, "Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth."

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE. The idea of putting a cash value on the Congressional Record affords the circulation department a chance to get in its affidavit. Pittsburg policemen are striving energetically to capture the Biddle prize money. They insist they gave the taxpayers a good run for the coin. The ping-pong craze in Chicago is assuming a violent form. Between gas explosions and the pall of soot, residents turn to any old thing likely to divert the mind. Mr. Rockefeller's offer of a bunch of money to Harvard college produced a seismic disturbance along the locality famed as the midway of the world's fair. According to the showing made in the courts, Elder Dowson gave and retained his foresight in selecting Chicago as his headquarters. His operations as a green-goods prophet lifted his assets from an ether to \$1,000,000 in cash and property. E. E. McJannet is considered to be one of the finest political orators in Michigan. He is also a noted scholar and frequently entertains his friends by quoting page after page of Emerson, and it is said, knows half of Shakespeare "by heart."

BLASTS FROM HAMB'S HORN. Flattery is not worship. A fad is a tag on a fool. Ideals are more potent than prizes. Sanctification is not a shrinking process. Gain is not godliness, but godliness is gain. A white life does not come from a black heart. A clean city is impossible without consecrated citizens. The best prayer for a Father's blessing is a man's obedience. When worship is lacking in sincerity it is not wanting in sin. When the heart is full of faith the hand will be filled with good works. Some people forgive by forgetting, but the true way is to forget by forgiving. SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT. Indianapolis Journal: Bishop Fowler, in his address to the Mississippi conference of the Methodist Episcopal Colored church forbade the negro ministers to use biblical words in their sermons hereafter, saying that they did not know what they meant and their congregations didn't know what they were talking about. Thus another of the negro's cherished rights is ruthlessly snatched away from him. Indianapolis News: Rev. James De Nor manville of Boston seems to have very little patience with the people who attempt to "improve" standard hymns. At last Sunday's service he said he would read Wesley's hymn "Jesus coming next with us." Wesley wrote it, and not as it was found in the book used by the congregation, as he added that in his opinion compilers of hymn books, if they did not like the original words of a hymn, would better omit altogether. St. Louis Globe-Democrat: A Philadelphian lawyer was one of the guests at the annual dinner of the Episcopalian club in Boston the other evening, and bluntly told the assembled ministers that too much of the preaching heard in the pulpits nowadays is "dreary drivel," and that too many of the preachers seem to be in the business because they are "paid to holler." He said it all so good-naturally that the assembled ministers, who perhaps thought they were not of that kind, applauded him. Portland Oregonian: The Methodist number nearly 6,000,000 of the 27,500,000 religious communicants in the United States, the Baptists coming next with about 4,500,000. The Roman Catholics number about 3,000,000. The Methodist Episcopal church, the largest of the Methodist communion, has about 8,000,000 of communicants. The annual expenditures are nearly \$24,000,000. It has 37,000 churches and nearly 15,000 preachers. There were only 5,000 Methodists in the American colonies at the outbreak of the Revolution. The Year Book announces that President McKinley was the first Methodist who ever occupied the White House. Presidents Lincoln, Johnson, Grant and Hayes, who are generally credited as being Methodists, were not communicants. It is a curious fact that while John Wesley held slavery to be the "sum of all villainies," Whitfield used all his influence to break down the provision hostile to the importation of rum and slaves into Georgia and rejoiced in his success, himself purchasing slaves as a source of profit to his darling orphan asylum. DOMESTIC PLEASANTIES. Philadelphia Press: Tom—She said she had never been kissed. Dick—Then I suppose you kissed her. Tom—Yes, I kissed her. Dick—What was she saying she was attending to such matters herself. Somerville Journal: Mr. Blonson—What a lovely complexion she has! Mrs. Blonson—I don't believe you ever saw it. Philadelphia Press: Lushley—I admit I've had a couple of drinks. Mr. Lushley—Indeed? Why do you tell me that? Lushley—Why, it's the truth. Mr. Lushley—How do you know that? Why can't you understand your telling it. Philadelphia Record: "That man has been married fourteen years and has never once found fault with his wife's cooking." "You're such a fellow, how do you get on?" "No, she's never cooked."

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