

United States merchants. He was born at Belfast, in Ireland, about 1808, was educated at Trin. Coll., Dublin, and came to New York in 1823. At first he taught a school, and then opened a dry goods store. He soon became prominent, and in 1848, obtained the lead which he has retained ever since. His wholesale establishment was built the same year. His life has been spent in the most ardent devotion to one pursuit—that of making money. His business transactions were always thoroughly legitimate; his investments were almost always absolutely safe; and now it is a question whether his property in real estate or that of the Astors is the larger. His fortune is variously estimated at from fifty to a hundred million dollars. A thorough attention to the smallest details of his business was doubtless one of the causes of his success. His idea of charity differed considerably from that of many who relieve indiscriminately; as he thought that true charity consisted in finding employment for those who are willing to be industrious. He was a member of St. Mark's Church, New York, (Episcopal, in communion with the Church of England.) His intention as expressed by himself was to employ his vast accumulations in promoting the welfare of the public, in some way that is not explained. As his plans were not matured, he made his will leaving the bulk of his property to his wife, at the same time expressing a confidence that she would put his wishes into practice. After the Chicago fire in 1871, he gave \$50,000 to the sufferers. It appears that most of his property has passed into the hands of Judge Hilton, who was associated with Peter B. Sweeney, one of the notorious Tweed Ring, in a park commission. These commissioners conducted themselves like Vandals and public enemies in destroying the park and some arrangements for fossils as well; on the ground that a naturalist might better employ his time than in wasting it over "dead animals." It is therefore not without some reason that the New York Nation sincerely trusts that Judge Hilton will devote his suddenly acquired wealth to private enterprise rather than to public spoliation.

Now the moral of all this is that, when Almighty God has given the ability to acquire wealth, and has blessed the exertions used for the purpose, there is an amount of responsibility belonging thereto, in exact proportion to the success that has been realized. The demands of this responsibility are not met when a man leaves his executors to do what he ought himself to have done when he was living. Having acquired so large an amount of property, we may imagine that it was far more his duty to arrange for its proper distribution than it could be to add to its already colossal magnitude.

Mr. Stewart had one of the best private art galleries in New York. He paid 800,000 francs for that master piece of Meissonnier entitled "1807," or "Charge des Cuirassiers." He owned "The Horse Fair," by Rosa Bonheur; and

"The Prodigal Son," by Dubufe. He also had Power's "Greek Slave," and his latest acquisition in sculpture, was Power's "Eve," for which he paid \$9,000.

THE PLAGUE.

This terrible disease is said to be threatening the confines of Europe, and is now advancing in that direction from the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates. Little fear is entertained that it will reach Western Europe, because, on account of supposed sanitary improvements, the conditions in which the plague breeds and spreads are imagined not to exist there. Indeed so much confidence is expressed on the subject that it is stated there is no more chance of an invasion of England by the plague than there is of the destruction of London by an earthquake similar to that which destroyed Lisbon. But there is such a thing as being over-confident; and whatever sanitary improvements may have taken place in England, we know some cities in Canada which would furnish very fine hot-beds for any epidemic that might happen to move in this direction. The laws which govern the movements of epidemics are very little known; there is an extraordinary amount of mystery about some of them, which cross continents and oceans with a virulence which nothing human can restrain. The plague is a malignant fever, and is supposed to have some analogy to typhus, exercising a peculiar influence upon the lymphatic system. Damp and dirt, feeble constitutions, and gross habits of living are understood to favor the propagation of the disease. These conditions may be far less unsatisfactory in Western Europe and America than in Asia and the Eastern part of Europe, where the Mohammedan faith spreads its withering creed of fatality; but there are scores of cities in America, and in Western Europe too, remarkably favorable for the propagation of other epidemics, not excluding cholera; and why should not the plague find a suitable field for its ravages in the same localities, if once it were to concentrate its virulence and gather up its forces for a march westward? No calamity that has afflicted the human race since the Black Death appeared in England, has had so crushing an effect on the imagination as the more extensive visitations of the plague. In one year, 1665, in London, out of a population of half a million, the deaths amounted to 68,000. It has attacked different parts of Europe since. In 1720, it slew half the population of Marseilles. In 1816, it appeared in Calabria; in 1818, in Corfu; and in 1819, in Silesia. We must not suppose that because it has not of late spread so extensively, therefore its power "over the human organization has been steadily lessened." It may only require a very slight modification of its character and virulence in order to spread its desolations over Europe and America, with pretty nearly as much fury as in its ancient source and seminary. When the cholera appeared it was just as bad

in England as in Persia or in India; and why it should not be the same with the plague has not yet been shown, unless it be that the element of overcrowding may be lacking. The boasted sanitary improvements of most of our towns and villages merely consist in collecting all the poisonous miasmata that the locality can engender, and carefully distributing it, by means of air tight tubes, into the dwellings of the inhabitants. The illness of the Prince of Wales caused the attention of practical scientific men to be directed to the subject; but it appears as though it would almost require a second visitation of the plague to inculcate again, with practical effect, all the lessons that might have been learned from the warning then given.

The way in which the Washington Treaty is observed by the United States continues to excite a great amount of indignation from those who are compelled to experience the large amount of Punic faith to be found in the corrupt government of that country. We may think we have a right to complain, but we cannot wonder if they use us no better than they use each other. By the provisions of the treaty, canned lobsters were to be admitted into the States free of duty; but by a careful reading of the treaty they find it says nothing about the cans, and therefore so high a duty is charged on them that the importation is next to impossible. Seals are not fish, and they are therefore shut out from the treaty. British Columbia was not a part of Canada at the time the treaty was made, and consequently it has nothing to do with it. Such mean quibbles and tricks as these are unworthy of a nation that is quite as remarkable all the world over for its boasting as for anything. They warn us that in our future engagements with them we must not employ men of honor, but men accustomed to sharper practice, in drawing up a treaty; and they also intimate that what the Centennial year is likely to lack in eminence will be made up in notoriety.

A BRITISH Legation is talked of as likely to be established at Grand Cairo, which it is supposed would carry consternation into the heart of the Grand Turk's dominions, and excite the wrathful ire of the French nation, already irritated by England's purchase of the Suez Canal shares. It is suggested that the Sublime Porte might retort by sending an ambassador to the City of Dublin; only there is one very small difficulty in the way, which is, that it might be found impossible to pay his travelling expenses as far as that. The Sultan is, of course, in a state of blissful ignorance about all those things. He has his court about him as usual, and probably would see no use in having a finance minister, who could not find him money when he might happen to want it. France has been stirring herself of late, and goading on the Government to re-assume her former attention to the development of Egyptian resources,