

THE LIME-KILN CLUB.

"De odder day I received a visit from a cull'd orator who wanted to sot out on a tower," said Brother Gardner at the meeting was called to order. "He had built himself a lecktur an' named it: 'Was the Cull'd Man Left Out o' de Ark?' He wanted to begin at Portland, Me., an' trabble to Galveston, Tex., an' delib' dat lecktur in eb'ry town on de way. He believed dat cull'd people war jst dyin' to h'ar it, an' dat white folks would stop work to pat him on de back as a new Cleero. I ar' sorry dat I couldn't lend him \$20 an' give him a certificate of character from our club. He am heah yit, an' Sir Isaac Walpole may pass de hat an' take up a colleckshun. Sich of you as feel like chippin' in to start de great orator on his way shall hev de opportunity."

The hat was passed and it came back empty. The President made a thorough search of it and then continued:

"Dis seems to prove dat, fust, a great cull'd orator orter to hev at least \$20 in his pocket, and, second, dat de alverage cull'd man of to-day doan keer a copper whedder his ancestors got aboard of de ark wid Noah or paddled aroun' on deir own hook. De fact am, our race am not sufferin' to h'ar de voices of orators half as much as fur fall an' winter undershirts. If our ancestors went along wid Noah dat am all right; if dey war left behind dat doan make to-morrow's job of whatewashin' wurf any de less. I would advise de orator to change his lecktur to: 'How I Got Left in Detroit,' an' go to work an' earn his livin' in an honest manner."

ACCEPTED.

An official communication from Robert E. Towns, Secretary and Treasurer of the branch Lime-Kiln Club at Norwich, Conn., extended an invitation to the Detroit Club to send a delegate to a meeting to be held October 15, at which time the branch will discuss the question: "Should the length of a man's heel make his standing in society?" The branch reported a membership of fifty-six highly respectable members of the community, with \$32 in the treasury and an enthusiasm which would carry it to the 1st of February without any fire in the stove.

Brother Gardner observed that the subject was one he had given much thought, and one which all colored societies and lodges would do well to agitate and discuss. Elder Toots, who has the longest heels of any man in the State of Michigan, would be sent as a delegate. He will not only have a certificate of identity properly signed, but all strangers will recognize him as Toots by a scar on his chin, the absence of all front teeth, and a hesitancy in his speech which sometimes causes him a delay of five minutes in answering a person who wants to borrow fifty cents for a day or two.

IN A BAD WAY.

The Secretary announced an official communication from Montgomery, Ala., reciting the fact that the drug store and branch Lime-Kiln Club in that place was on the point of disbanding. The club started but to do business on a high moral plane, but black sheep had crept in and made their influence felt until the organization had practically ceased to exist. Only two weeks since the club passed a resolution to the effect that it was every member's duty to steal water-melons and chickens.

"I shall send Giveadam Jones down dar' right away," said the President, "I ar' satisfied dat de influence of half a dozen individuals has brought about dis state of affairs, an' dat as soon as dey kin be got rid of de branch will resume de path to glory. Brudder Jones will be instructed to go down dar' an' seek out de unregenerate an' labor wid 'em. He has a way of laborin' dat am mighty uncomfortable to a pusion who can't be convinced by moral suasion."

FAILED TO PASS.

The Rev. Penstock arose to a question of privilege. During the last three or four years he had suffered dreadful pains observing the fact that eight out of every ten marriages among colored people took place before a white clergyman. This was in the face of the fact that there were plenty of colored divines in the country who could do the business up in first class style. No white couple ever went to a colored preacher to be married. Why should colored people patronize a white preacher? He hoped the Lime-Kiln Club would instruct the colored population of this country to change its tactics.

Giveadam Jones, Shindig Watkins, Pickles Smith and Col. Cahcots opposed any such business. This was a free country

and if a citizen wanted to be married by a Chinaman no one should dictate. Elder Toots was preparing to sustain Penstock's idea when the President said:

"De cull'd people must be left to deir own disorashun in de matter. While I has no doubt dat Brudder Penstock kin tie de knot wid de best of 'em, it seems to be considered a leetle mo' high-toned to call in a white clergyman."

REPAIRS VOTED.

The librarian reported that during the summer vacation rain, rats and mildew had destroyed over 2,000 of the almanacs and railroad guides on the library shelves and he recommended speedy repairs. The sum of twenty-four cents was voted from the contingent fund to buy tar and shingles to stop the leak.

PASSED OVER.

The Secretary announced a communication from Violasburg, setting forth the fact that the Hon. Backhold Smith, an honorary member and an orator who rates A1 with Bradstreet, had passed over the river to be known on the shores of earth never again. He ruptured a blood-vessel while lifting on the end of a corn-crib, and as near as could be remembered by his wife he died happy.

The knob of the outer door was ordered draped in mourning for the usual thirty days and after voting down a resolution by Trustees Pullback to permit members to sit with their shoes off during meeting, the audience dispersed and someone stole Prof. Slayback's white plug hat and left an old straw in its place.

THE INDIAN EMPIRE.

Some of the Objections Writers Have to Living There.

A recent writer on East Indian medical jurisprudence presents the Indian Empire as not a very pleasant country to live in. "Corpses and skeletons may be met anywhere in a district without exciting lively interest. Hindus, who are too poor to afford firewood for the cremation of their relatives, apply a torch for a moment to the mouth and then with an invocation to Hari, hurl the dead body into the nearest stream. It soon rises and floats down to be gnawed by shrimps and fishes, or it is stranded to be eaten by jackals. Travellers are taken ill on the road in a strange province and die without a soul to care for them. All that the residents of the nearest village are anxious for is that the discovery of the corpse within their area of limits shall not give rise to troublesome inquiries and form an admirable basis for an unfounded charge of murder." The processes of an inquiry into the causes of such deaths are embarrassed by the customs of the natives and their hereditary mode of thought. The officials of police are designated as myrmidons and harpies.

In India, as elsewhere, it is possible to pass admirable legal enactments and quite another thing to get them carried out. "Everywhere caste, interest and wealth intervene. The touch of a dead body is pollution to a Hindu. And why should any Brahman care for the disasters of a Sudra, or a Mohammedan for the visitation which has befallen a whole Hindu agricultural caste?" Nobody thinks it a duty to arrest a murderer. It is the interest of many a peaceable, well-disposed and unoffending villager to get rid at once of any trace of crime, or what may be made to have an ugly criminal appearance. The witnesses summoned have peculiar ideas of what their testimony should include. One is recorded, and there are probably more of the same sort, in which the witness candidly admitted that he came to supply the place of a friend who had fallen sick. It was a case of highway robbery, and the substitute declared that the facts alleged were perfectly true "and notorious to the whole village." The verdict in the case is not stated. But the inquiry suggests itself whether the testimony was less conclusive than that on which many a poor wretch is lynched in a community claiming to be civilized.

In some of the public hospitals Japanese paper handkerchiefs, are now used, with much satisfaction for drying wounds.

A man put a large spider on a floating chip in a pond. After walking all about the sides of the chip the spider began to cast a web for the shore. He threw it as far as possible in the air and with the wind. It caught on some blades of grass. Then turning himself about, the spider began to haul the chip toward shore.

POUNDMAKER'S PRISON LIFE.

He is Allowed to Wear His Hair and Smoke Tobacco.

A gentleman thus writes of Poundmaker and the other Indian and half-breed prisoners incarcerated in the Stony Mountain Penitentiary:—"The warden led the way to the garden, and here we saw the veritable Poundmaker, a trifle thinner it is true than when we saw him first at Battleford, but still 'the noblest Indian of them all,' and looking quite young considering his forty-four years. He wore the convict dress, but it was hidden in a great measure by the blanket he is allowed to use, and the hideous shoes worn by the ordinary convict do not disfigure the Cree chief's feet, for he still wears moccasins. His long black hair of which he is so proud has been spared by the authorities, and hangs down in a long plait almost to his knees, and is covered with a twisted handkerchief from the vulgar gaze on account of the number of visitors who hanker for a look of his hair by way of relic. He had been strictly cautioned against parting with his hair in this way, as the authorities do not wish to see the great chief Poundmaker go back to his people baldheaded at the end of his three years. When we first saw him he was walking slowly down the centre walk in the garden with the prospective governor of Assinibola, Alexander Fisher, trotting by his side like an attendant terrier, out on seeing the warden, he approached us and shook hands with a smile. Through his interpreter, Alex. Fisher, of Batoche, a small-sized, sharp-faced little man, with a cunning smile whenever he addressed you, we asked Poundmaker several questions as to how he felt, how he was treated, and what he thought of the place.

"I was in this country when I was a young man," said the chief, "at the stone fort on the Red River, over twenty summers ago. This place was not here then. It is not a very bad place here, and Mr. Bedson is a good man, but it is not like being out on the prairies where I have my young men to do what I tell them. But I must not complain for the government is very good to me. The walls of that building," said he, pointing to them, "are very thick, and the poor Indian could not get out, but the white chief opens the door for the Indian to walk out and see the trees and sun."

The interpreter said Poundmaker appeared well in health, and never complained. He is allowed the use of tobacco, and we accordingly presented him with a cigar. Several of the rebel half-breed prisoners now came up, all being dressed in convict clothes, with their beards cropped short. We questioned them through the interpreter as to how they felt, and they all complained of ennui. Their bones ached with not having sufficient exercise, and they would all be glad when they got some work to do. So far, they had nothing to complain of either as regards food or treatment, and all appeared to think very highly of Mr. Bedson. Neither Monkman nor Lepine put in an appearance, and those we saw, amongst whom were Parenteau and Champagne, appeared silent and downcast, and declined to talk, and were evidently glad when we ceased questioning them. Alex. Fisher, on the contrary, was brisk and chipper, and talked away at a great rate, and when we turned to leave, wished us good-bye very pleasantly. The last seen of Poundmaker, he was seated inside an arbor in one corner of the garden, puffing away at his cigar and looking contentedly down upon the attendant Fisher, who seems quite contented without his governorship.

Speaking about Poundmaker, Warden Bedson said it was not the intention to treat the chief harshly, or to put in force all the rules and regulations of the penitentiary in his case. He will be allowed to wear his hair, and be given as much liberty as is consistent with safety, and any employment given him will be in the open air. At present he is studying botany under the tuition of Alex. Fisher, and the general impression is that his term of imprisonment will be curtailed considerably. The half-breed rebel prisoners will be put to work this week, and then they will probably not suffer so much from ennui.

The Russian Winter Palace.

The Winter Palace, although constructed by the Empress Elizabeth, was not completed until Peter III ascended the throne, and the square in front of it was still covered with the shops and huts of the workmen. Heaps of stone, bricks and rubbish obstructed the approaches to the palace. In order to clear the place Baron Korf, who then filled the post of chief of police at St. Petersburg, proposed to the Emperor to give permission to the poorer inhabitants to carry away these unused materials. The pleased the Emperor and orders were immediately given to carry it out. The Emperor witnessed from his windows the operation which was completed by the evening. The emperor on installing himself in his new palace occupied the rooms looking on to the square and the corner of the Millionnaia. This portion of the palace bore the name of the King of Prussia's apartments. The occupation of the palace was accompanied by no extraordinary ceremony. The rooms occupied by Peter had been decorated by the architect Tochevskinsky, a pupil of Bastrelli, and the flooring and gilded cornices were brought from Italy. Peter III's room was in the extreme wing, and beside it was his library. Above the entrance door he caused a gallery to be constructed which he turned into his working cabinet and furnished at a cost of 3,500 rubles. The Empress Catherine occupied the rooms afterward known by the name of the Empress Marie Feodorevna. The day the court occupied the Winter Palace (7th of April, 1762,) was marked by the consecration of the palace church under the name of the resurrection. Later on, in 1763, on the occasion of an ancient image of Christ being removed to the church, it was consecrated afresh by order of Catherine II. as that of the Saviour. The embellishments of the interior and the furnishing of the palace were continued under Peter and only completed by Catherine. The total outlay up to the year 1768 was estimated at 2,622,020 rubles, or about £400,000. The principal director of the works in the interior was the celebrated amateur Jean Bezky. In 1767 the annex of the palace destined to be the Hermitage was commenced, the architect Delamotte being intrusted with its execution. This building, oblong in shape, extended from the Millionnaia to the Quay. Four years later a second building was erected on a plan of the architect Felton. In 1780 several fresh wings were added, and the Empress ordered the architect Guaranghi to build a theatre which was at the latest to be completed by August, 1784. The same architect erected the arch connecting the Hermitage with the theatre and with the part of the palace containing the Raphael galleries. In 1786 the marble gallery (containing the hall of St. George and Throne room) was connected, and in 1786 a superb throne was placed in the former. This throne was the masterpiece of the architect Starow.

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