

their duty! Not one word of regard for the rights of society, but seventeen thousand words of the most bitter denunciation of those who were actuated by no motive except the good of their fellows, and who, with the most solemn sense of their responsibility, rendered a decision in which the great body of law-abiding citizens throughout the land concurred. We know of no more aggravated instance of contempt of court than this, and sincerely wish it might be so construed and punished. The most rabid anarchist could not have penned a paper more atrociously and infamously insulting. Coming from the chief magistrate of a great State, its tendency will be to encourage mob-law. A ruler should be for the terror of evil-doers and for the praise of them that do well; but Governor Altgeld has reversed the order of Scripture and proved himself a terror to well-doers and the praise of them that do ill.

It is a matter for gratification that this iniquitous action has but served to call forth from all sides expressions of sympathy for righteous laws and demands for their rigid enforcement. The conscience of the nation is on the side of right. It would be well if it might also result in such a limitation of the pardoning power as would make a repetition of such an offence impossible. We would favor the establishment of a Court of Pardons in each State, consisting of a number not less than three, of its most illustrious jurists. This would tend to put a stop effectually to such abuses of the prerogative as have been made possible by the existing system.

The Sunday-Opening Question.

I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the Sabbath.—Neh. xiii. 19.

WHEN the injunction was issued by the Circuit Court of Illinois that the Columbian Exposition should be closed

upon the "first day of the week, commonly called Sunday," there was great rejoicing among the friends of Sabbath observance; but when Chief Justice Fuller set aside that injunction on the ground that there must be shown "some invasion of property or civil rights, some injury irreparable in its nature, and which cannot be redressed by law," maintaining that such was not the case here, joy was turned to sorrow, and there was a general sense of indignation that the people of the land should have been defrauded by the Directory of millions of dollars voted to their use, and accepted by them on the expressed condition that there should be no opening of the Exposition on the first day of the week. Our national reputation among other peoples for truth-speaking is already anything but enviable. We have broken enough treaties to warrant the reproach that is cast upon us of being a nation of liars. It is perhaps a just retribution that we should begin to feel for ourselves what it is to have our faith violated by dishonest representatives of our own household.

At the same time, it is a pleasure to know that the dishonesty of the Directory is reaping its own reward. There is no denying the fact that the one idea in opening the Exposition on Sunday was money making. The plea for the laborer who could receive the educational advantages of the exhibits on no other day was anything else than disinterested. It was nothing if not hypocritical. The financial result has been delightfully unsatisfactory. Hitherto the average Sunday paid admissions have been about 60,000. They have been steadily declining. The expectation of the Directory was that there would be anywhere from 200,000 to 250,000. To recoup themselves for the \$2,000,000 forfeited by their violation of contract, the profits would need to be about \$95,000 for each of the twenty Sundays of the Fair's continuance. So far the average has been about \$31,000. At this rate, if Sunday opening con-