

things. Abraham showed his faith in the purchase of the sepulchre: it was a sign that he believed God's promise, that his seed should possess the land in which he was a stranger.

5. At the grave all family dissensions should disappear. Isaac and

Ishmael united in the funeral rites of their common father. They forgot their alienation in bearing to his sepulchre one whom they both revered and loved. No doubt the providential mission of bereavement is often to reconcile alienated members of a household.

#### LIVING ISSUES FOR PULPIT TREATMENT.

##### Municipal Misgovernment.

*And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there.—Ecc. iii: 16.*

ONE of the most startling evidences of municipal misgovernment is the charge which is made, with every appearance of probability, that the police of many leading cities are in league with the criminal elements. The *New York Times* of March 29 charged that the Police Commissioner of Jersey City was a partner in a beer bottling business, and raided saloon-keepers who did not use his beer, and protected those who did. The *New York Herald* of June 14 says:

"The Sixth Avenue Hotel is a notoriously disorderly house, kept by one Griffith, who boasts that he has a political pull. Mr. Lespinasse swears that the license granted to Griffith has depreciated property in that neighborhood to the extent of \$400,000.

"Alexander Meakin, an Excise Commissioner, is acting on the square and wants to get at the facts. Commissioners Fitzpatrick and Koch, however, are doing what they can to protect the disorderly house and keep it running. They have their reasons, and it is not difficult to guess what they are. Police Captain Killilea has thrown his official influence in favor of Griffith and his malodorous house. The Captain also has his reasons, but doesn't dare to reveal them.

"Clergymen of many denominations have signed a petition asking that Griffith's license be revoked. Presbyterian, Baptist, Catholic, all alike pray that the Excise Commissioners will put themselves on the side of law and order. But Griffith has a pull. Captain Killilea has another pull. A police captain and the keeper of a disorderly house shake hands and work for each other's profit."

The *New York Times* of June 21 says:

"There is no explanation for Captain Killilea's course except that he shared in the profits of the iniquity which he sought to protect, and if he did that in this case, it affords ground for assuming that he does it in other cases, and supports the general belief that the police officers are wont to levy tribute upon the infamous resorts of the city as the price of their protection. In fact, it is not going too far to say that this practice is a matter of general knowledge

among those at all familiar with what is going on in the city. It accounts for the remarkable immunity of places of evil resort from police interference, and for the evidences of a greater income enjoyed by the higher grade of police officers than their official salaries would afford. What is true of resorts like those which have lately been driven from Thirty-second street and against which the people of Forty-fourth street are now fighting is also true of notorious gambling houses and of disreputable saloons which violate the law with impunity. The manner in which Police Captains have appeared to be upheld in this business by the Superintendent, and even by the Commissioners, leads to the suspicion that the system of collecting tribute from vice and crime permeates the whole department."

When the defenders of justice become the defenders and allies of criminals, our politics must either be reconstructed on a basis of justice and right, or our civilization must perish.

One among many sources of the difficulty is making the city in politics the tail of the State and National kite. The interests of hundreds of thousands of citizens are bargained away, not as is best for the people, but as may best serve one man's chance to become Governor, Senator or President. The *New York Tribune* says:

"The city of New York cannot get the most necessary provisions for the development of its traffic. A R-publican Legislature at Albany and a Republican Congress at Washington have good reason for refusing enactments which would increase the political power of the horde now in possession of the city."

From which the *Tribune* draws the remarkable conclusion, not that Congress and the Legislature should govern the city for the good of the city, but that the city should put the Republican party in power in the city government, so that a Republican Congress and Legislature can afford to govern them well. On the other hand, it is said, that no man can shovel dirt or sweep a crossing