

What the Disciples in the States are Saying and Doing.

GULLINGS AND CLIPPING FROM EX-CHANGERS.

(From the Christian Oracle.)

The increase of gambling in this country during the last twenty-five years has been so great as to make it one of the most gigantic evils with which society is cursed. It is not confined to any particular class of people either. The bank president and the common day laborer, the professional man and the cultivator of the soil, are alike seeking through the various fascinating forms of gambling—as lotteries, base ball, horse racing, cards, et cetera—to increase their earthly treasures. The *Mid-Continent* devotes its leading editorial of the 12th inst. to the consideration of the increase of this vice. Quoting from an article in the *October Forum*, written by W. B. Curtis, editor of the *Spirit of the Times*, it says: "The betting on horse racing alone in this country, Mr. Curtis estimates to exceed \$200,000,000 a year. Five hundred men earn their living by peddling lottery tickets in New York city." It further says: "Throughout the country the pool rooms make a feature of base ball and there is a vast amount of gambling in connection with it. A vast amount of money changes hands by betting on the result of every election. Indeed Americans are getting to bet on almost every imaginable event. On ship board they bet on the daily run of the ship, or on the hour of arrival, and sometimes bet thousands of dollars on whether the next vessel will be sighted on the port or on the star-board bow. This country is said to be the paradise of gamblers. Its demoralizing influence is incalculable. Clerks steal their employers' money to gamble with it. Rank officers wreck their banks in speculating which differs little if at all from gambling. Poor people in large numbers throw away their hard-earned dollars in the vain hope of sudden wealth without work. Under the excitement of false hopes they allow themselves to be robbed. The honesty of the thing is the same as when you get a man drunk and then rob him of his money. Nothing could be more harmful either to business or morality than this gambling habit which is growing with such rapidity in our modern society. 'It runs,' says Mr. Curtis, 'a close race with intemperance for the dishonor of being man's greatest curse.' We make great efforts to stay the evils of intemperance, and yet hardly raise a note of warning against an evil almost as great."

(From the Apostolic Guide.)

The experience of everybody attests the truth of these wise words by the *Watchman*: "We have noticed that the ministers who give themselves to distinctively pastoral work are not apt to follow vagaries of doctrine, or to be enraptured with the latest results of criticism—latest, until the next results appear. There is something in the engagement of a man's soul in the attempt to make the gospel a controlling force in the lives of tempted, sinning, suffering men and women, that keeps his brain clear and his heart in touch with Christ. If we had our way, every professor should make it plain that he was actively engaged in some form of personal Christian service. Theological professors do not study too much, but they do not, for the most part, come into a hand-to-hand grapple with the questions of life half enough."

No one can impress a truth upon others who has not been duly impress-

ed by it himself. This is the open secret of all successful preaching and teaching. The degree of power with which any one speaks is measured by the power his message has had on his own heart. What we often loosely style "magnetism" is simply the truth vitalized in one's own character. The old prophets used to call their inspired communications a "burden." And when we come to feel that what we have to say is a "burden" on our souls we will speak with equal power. The Sunday school teacher who said "I am so full of the lesson that I can hardly wait for Sunday to come to teach it to my class" had the true idea. And the preacher who enters the pulpit with a yearning to impart to his people the blessed things with which he himself is filled and uplifted will always do them good.

(From the Gospel Advocate.)

The propriety of women preaching has been a subject of much discussion. The *Interior* says. "The question is easily answered. Women who could preach to edification will not do it. The women who want to, cannot." And we would add that the women who could preach to edification have no desire to do so because they have too much respect for the authority of the Bible.

The *New York Evening Post* says of the case against Prof. Briggs: "The clearly avowed motive of the New York Presbytery in dismissing the charges against Prof. Briggs yesterday was a pure longing for peace at any price. On the merits of the case no opinion was expressed." If this be true, that Presbytery is in a bad way. No man or body of men have a right to tolerate heresy for the sake of peace.

People are growing tired of so many long announcements from the pulpit and so many societies. The *Western Recorder* of last week has this sensible paragraph: "In the Eastern cities quite a discussion has been going on in regard to the small attendance at church on Sunday night. The churches and pastors have only themselves to blame. They have encouraged and urged so many meetings of various kinds, besides the regular preaching, that by night the people are tired out."

MILLIGAN COLLEGE, Nov. 20, '91.—We have in the college work here two weekly meetings; one on Lord's day night, the other on Wednesday night, which are chiefly the work of the young people. Their first prayers, quotations, short talks, readings, and exhortations are in these meetings. The Sunday night meeting has kept a large attendance for more than twelve years. It has not been suspended for regular preaching or any other exercise for years. At this meeting students, citizens, male and female, all attend. On Wednesday nights the young ladies meet in one hall and the young men in another. These meetings have all become fixed forces for Christian training in the college so that most of our young men who are Christians will take some part in public worship. In connection with these regular meetings sometimes one comes forward, and after a few weeks another, so the interest continues. Lately the meetings were continued an hour or more each evening of the week and took somewhat the character of preaching, and fifteen made the good confession and were baptized. Some others came forward, renouncing their allegiance. These young people's meetings make one of the happiest memories to those who have gone out. They often write concerning them. We want more young people from Middle Tennessee in Milligan College. Can we have them? J. Horwood.

(From the Christian Standard.)

McKENSPORT, PA., Nov. 20.—The meeting here still continues. Forty-seven have been added to date. House to house visitation has stirred this whole city. Bro. Mergans is doing some strong preaching and many others will come over the meeting closes.

H. W. TALMAOR.

SALEM, OREGON, Nov. 9.—Just closed a three weeks' meeting with thirty six additions. Attendance and interest good. We believe a large ingathering is just ahead of us.

W. R. WILLIAMS.

The Speaker of the British House of Commons attended the opening of a gymnasium on Nov. 4th, where he witnessed a prize fight, and made an enthusiastic speech in favor of the ring, hoping "the day was far distant when the English people would forget the noble art of self-defence." While he did not endorse "the base, bloody and brutal pastimes of the prize ring," he described the delight with which he witnessed, years ago, that most brutal and bloody battle between Heenan and Sayers. He forgot while holding these men up as examples of healthy development that such men fall into premature decay and are, almost without exception, short-lived. The abnormal development of the muscular system, at which this boasted gymnastics aims, can not be maintained beyond middle life, and is an elephant on the hauds of the vital forces all the time. The use of muscle is a very different thing from the cultivation of it.

It was with the double-force shock of surprise and disappointment that thousands read of the death of John F. Jones, as the result of drinking "the American Review," "Drunkness is Curable." Last April he went to Dwight, Illinois, to be treated by Dr. Keeley, and in May left for his home in New York with the firm conviction that he was cured. In the article referred to he said, "I do not believe, I know, that I am cured, and am satisfied as to its permanency," and adds, "I do not understand the processes, but I know the fact." Possibly this very confidence was the fatal thing, causing him to rely too much upon the alleged power of the bichloride of gold to destroy the power of alcohol. Reading between the lines of his article, one thinks he sees that the "cure" was owing more to the new hope and determination inspired by Dr. Keeley than to any drug he may have administered, and that reliance on the drug might prove fatal. At all events, on Sunday, November 1, the brilliant "Felix Oldboy" (by this *nomme de plume* he was best known) was drunk; on Wednesday he was in the gutter, and in a day or two died at the house of detention on Blackwell's Island. If this startling event shall cause others, who believe that Dr. Keeley has cured them, to be doubly on their guard it would be well; if it shall cause all others to dread drunkenness as an incurable disease, and to let intoxicants absolutely alone, it will be better.

J. B. Brinoy has prepared a course of four lectures—two on "Genesis and Geology," and two on "The Bible and Evolution." From his announcement we copy as follows:—

The aim is to impart a general knowledge of the facts of Geology, and to show that there is no conflict between this noble science and the Mosaic account of creation, and that the theory of Evolution in the Darwinian sense is unscientific, unphil-

osophical and untrue. The lectures are illustrated with about thirty fine Stereopticon Views of Geological formations, Geological landscapes, coal forests, glaciers, extinct animals, etc. These lectures thus illustrated give a better general idea of Geology and of vegetable and animal life in remote geological time, than general readers can obtain from much reading. The descent of man from monkeys is shown to be absurd. The views and explanations of the great Saurian reptiles which lived in Mesozoic times are alone worth more than the charge for the whole course. Children can appreciate and enjoy them. Reptilian quadrupeds 25, 40 and 60 feet long, flying bat-like reptiles, more than 20 feet in spread of wing, water reptiles, 30, 50 and 80 feet long, are presented in fine Stereopticon Views.

Bro. Brinoy is a master in the art of presentation, and is gifted with an utter detestation of shams. His lectures will be entertaining and instructive in an unusual degree, and societies and churches preparing lecture courses may depend on something fine from him. He should be kept busy all winter.

SAGINAW, MICH., Nov. 10.—We have commenced a revival meeting here, and have Bro. T. H. Hammond, of Decatur, assisting us. We expect good results from the meeting. I have been visiting Bay City, which is thirteen miles distant from here, every Lord's day afternoon since the end of August, and preaching for Bro. Holmgren. It may not be generally known that Bro. H. expects to leave Bay City and go to St. Paul, Minn., in a few weeks, where he expects to find a larger number of his nationality willing to identify themselves with the cause of primitive Christianity. Through no fault of Bro. Holmgren the Swedish Mission is not a success in Bay City, and we are making an effort to establish an American Mission in its stead. One week ago we had at Bay City one baptism, and yesterday we received five into the church there. Had not the day been wet others would have been added to the church. Bro. Russell, of Grand Rapids, comes to-morrow to begin a series of meetings and continue about ten days, when the writer is expected to continue the meeting. Saginaw has over 50,000 and Bay City over 40,000 population. They are but thirteen miles apart, and more than enough people between the cities to make 100,000 people at the mouth of the Saginaw. All this mass of people, and until but recently no preacher of our people to break the bread of life in the Saginaw Valley, with its thrift and unbounded wealth. A few years ago the beautiful, substantial and convenient church built by Rowland Connor was offered for sale at half its cost, but, though some of our preachers inspected it and knew it was a rare chance, arrangements were not made to secure it. The Universalists bought it, and now McQueary, the excommunicated Episcopalian minister, occupies its pulpit at a salary of \$1,800 per annum, and preaches therefrom rationalism in its rankest form. The First Christian church in Saginaw is making substantial progress, and we believe that, by the blessing of God, in a few years we shall have here one of the best churches in the State, and we hope that ere long the Bay City work, so promising now at the beginning, may continue to grow and prosper until all the people in that city may hear and understand and be led to accept the gospel in its primitive purity. Brethren, pray for God's blessing upon the special effort of Bros. Hammond, Russell, Holmgren and the writer in these twin cities, and don't forget the faithful Disciples who labor with us in these meetings. ANDREW SCOTT.

Advantages of the Single Tax.

The following pithy article was written by Henry George for the *Liverpool Financial Reformer*:—

"I shall briefly state the fundamental principles of what we who advocate it call the Single Tax.

"We propose to abolish all taxes save one single tax levied on the value of land, irrespective of the value of improvements in or on it.

"What we propose is not a tax on real estate, for real estate includes improvements. Nor is it a tax on land, for we would not tax all land, but only land having a value irrespective of its improvements, and would tax that in proportion to that value.

"Our plan involves the imposition of no new tax, since we already tax land values in taxing real estate. To carry it out we have only to abolish all taxes save the tax on real estate, and to abolish all of that which now falls on buildings or improvements, leaving only that part of it which now falls on the value of the land alone. This we would increase so as to take as nearly as may be the whole of the 'economic rent,' or what is sometimes styled the 'unearned increment of land values.'

"That the value of the land alone would suffice to provide all needed public revenues—municipal, county and national—there is no doubt.

"To show briefly why we urge this change, let me treat (1) of its expediency, and (2) of its justice.

I. "From the Single Tax we may expect these advantages:—

1. "It would dispense with the army of tax-gatherers and other officials which present taxes require, and place in the treasury a much larger proportion of what is taken from the people, while, by making government simpler and cheaper, it would tend to make it purer. It would get rid of taxes which necessarily promote fraud, perjury, bribery and corruption, which lead men into temptation, and which tax what the nation can least afford to spare—honesty and conscience. Since land lies cut of doors and cannot be removed, and its value is the most readily ascertained of all values, the tax to which we would resort can be collected with the minimum of cost and the least strain on public morals.

2. "It would enormously increase the production of wealth—

A. "By the removal of the burdens that now weigh upon industry and thrift. If we tax houses, there will be fewer and poorer houses; if we tax machinery, there will be less machinery; if we tax trade, there will be less trade; if we tax capital, there will be less capital; if we tax savings, there will be less saving. All the taxes, therefore, that we would abolish, are taxes that repress industry and lessen wealth. But if we tax land values there will be no less land.

B. "On the contrary, the taxation of land values has the effect of making land more easily available by industry, since it makes it more difficult for owners of valuable land, which they themselves do not care to use, to hold it idle for a larger future price. While the abolition of taxes on labor and the products of labor would free the active element of production, the taking of land values in taxation would free the passive element by destroying speculative land values, and preventing the holding out of use of lands needed for use. If anyone will but look around to-day and see the unused or but half-used land, the idle labor, the unemployed or poorly employed capital, he will get some idea of how enormous would be the production of wealth were all the forces of production free to engage.