

# State Dry-Rot

### Why Great Nations Go Down—Millions Upon Millions Wasted in Corruption and Extravagance—A Warning to Canadians.

There is something sickening, as well as something almost unintelligible, in the accounts of corruption which pour in upon us from every quarter of the world. No form of government and no pride of race seems to be the smallest defense against the passion of stealing from the public. We are wholly unable to sympathize fully with either China or Japan in the amazing war now raging in the far East; but it is with a feeling of positive pain that we read a letter like the terrible one from the Gulf of Pechili, published in the Times of Wednesday morning, accounting for the defeat of the Chinese. It is a story of corruption which to Englishmen seems almost incredible. The safety of the State has been deliberately sacrificed to official greed, no man employed in the departments of supply buying good weapons if buying inferior ones would enable him to pocket a larger commission from contractors. Quick-firing guns, for example, were rejected in favor of slow-firing, for this reason alone; millions were spent at Chefoo on useless defenses because the Governor there wanted his share of contracts; and Port Arthur was left exposed on the land side because it paid nobody to finish the defenses in that direction. The ships were starved in the way of armament, the soldiers were starved in the way of supplies. Even in the throes of the war itself, with the position of the great officials themselves at stake, the passion for stealing cannot be kept down.

The Chinese are yellow, Mongolians, Monarchists, and Pagans; but we do not see that, except in their want of patriotism, they are any worse than certain classes in New York, who are white, Anglo Saxons, Republicans, and, in theory at least, believers in Christianity. It is bad to sell the defense of a State, but it is as bad to sell the defense of internal order; and the recently dominant municipal party in New York has been doing that for years. It is impossible to read the evidence taken before the Lexow Commission without acknowledging that every place in the police was sold, on the distinct understanding that the officers who purchased should recoup themselves by selling immunity to grogshops, disorderly houses, blackmailers, and, in short, all classes of lawbreakers who did not by murder arouse the active detestation of the community. Things are as bad in Italy, where Government after Government has been afraid to ascertain fully the true relation between privileged banks and leading politicians; where the public believe that in some departments a heavy percentage on the revenue never reaches the treasury at all; and where in one great Province, Sicily, the collection of rates was so universally corrupt as to drive the lower citizens into overt acts of rebellion, only to be suppressed by the display of overwhelming military force. The corruption in France is not quite so bad, because a Frenchman has an efficient side to his head, which hates corruption, not so much because it is immoral as because it impairs the prospect of success; but even in France the situation is deplorable. Only one man has been fairly punished for the frightful robbery of the Panama Canal shareholders, which must have implicated a hundred politicians, and no one has suffered for the state of affairs recently revealed at Toulon, which is inexplicable except on the theory of corruption as objectionable if not as dangerous as any revealed in the Chinese navy.

M. de Lanesson has been cashiered peremptorily, on the evidence of letters seized by the judge, without a hearing; and as he fiercely denies the justice of his dismissal, the general verdict of "Guilty" passed against him by opinion is outrageously unjust, but that verdict of itself proves the want of confidence which France, taught by recent revelations, has begun to feel in the honesty of her public men. There is no doubt, either, that while thousands of employes in France are marked by exemplary probity, maintained under circumstances of exceptional temptation, there is ground for the public distrust, and for saying that the scene we now see in China might, if degeneracy went only a little further, be seen also in European monarchies and republics. Politicians in England and in Germany may be considered clean-handed, but if that can be unreservedly said of the whole state service in any other country, then "pernicious suspicion" is in all other countries doing a great many persons most shameful wrong and injustice. Except in Japan, England, Germany, and Holland, distrust is visible everywhere.

We can see no reason whatever why a servant of the state who takes a bribe, direct or indirect, should not be punished like an ordinary thief by a magistrate, and with six months hard labor. He is just as guilty as the ordinary thief, evidence against him may be just as clear, and he can defend himself just as well before a magistrate—indeed better; for the man guilty of official corruption is almost sure to be better educated than the ordinary criminal. Such a method of proceeding would be far more dreaded than the present one, and would in-

deed, as we believe, in most European countries render corruption as rare as the stealing of spoons by educated men. We cannot see where the objection to this course arises, or why corruption should be treated as in any degree a political offense, or be regarded as a matter requiring the intervention of great officers of state. It is as rule theft, and nothing else, and we can see no reason whatever why it should not be so regarded. It is bad enough to hear of contracts going to great firms, because they habitually support this party or the other, but at least they may be as efficient as their rivals. The contractor who pays money for a contract, the official who takes a bribe, or the understrapper who accepts a commission, cannot be perfectly efficient. He is a slave, to begin with, and the money paid must be recouped, either through unfair charges, which are thefts from the state, or through a debasing of the quality of the goods, which may be theft, but may also be a ruinous form of treason. It is not by savage sentences rarely inflicted that the Emperor of China, or the French democracy, or any other despot will "put down" corruption, but by moderate sentences involving social humiliation, invariably and speedily inflicted in every case of guilt. —[London Spectator.

## The New Woman.

Miss Florence Balgarnie really had an astonishing audience on Sunday afternoon at Westbourne Park Chapel, when she spoke of the "new woman." The combined virtues of Mr. Frederic Harrison, Mr. Graham Wallas, and Mr. Cyril Dodd, Q. C., on a previous occasion did not call out one quarter of the audience which came to hear Miss Balgarnie. The place was quite besieged, and even the flap seats on either sides of the aisles were needed. The audience contained a very large number of women, but also a great number of men. Miss Balgarnie looked very charming in her pretty, simple dress. She speaks very much like Lady Henry Somerset, and uses only a few notes. She began by saying that she could not recognize the creature whom some people had conjured up in their fertile brain and called "the new woman" as a woman at all. She entirely refused to recognize Dodo, Evadne, or Tess as her ideal of the new woman. The new woman, she said, had not yet been fully developed—man had not yet developed. She admitted that in their efforts for moral, intellectual and physical emancipation women were guilty of follies and mistakes, but then people who did not make mistakes made no advance at all. Women are now beginning to find themselves as women, and to find oneself is the greatest discovery possible. It is only when every human being demands that the human entity shall be recognized that we have any true development, and it was the relative position women occupy which was the great discovery of the century.

The progress of women has gone in cycles, said Miss Balgarnie. She apparently did not mean bicycles, though she might have said that the progress of women on cycles of that kind was not only rapid but graceful. Women used to sit on the ancient wivans of England, and she felt that women had fallen on bad days when they had to go down on their knees to the average man to ask him for the parliamentary vote! Miss Balgarnie was very severe on Milton and the Puritans. "I think," she said, "that women owe a very big grudge indeed to the Puritans." Their treatment of women was a reaction against the licentious period which they succeeded. Even the Eve of Milton's "Paradise Lost" was affected by this reaction. Dr. Clifford, speaking at the close of the address, said that Miss Balgarnie was very hard on Milton. Milton, like other men, took women as he found them from experience, and Milton's experience was "multitudinous."

Miss Balgarnie thinks that Mary Wollstonecraft is gradually becoming recognized as one of the noblest, bravest, and most self-sacrificing women who ever lived in this country, and that it was she who began the woman movement a hundred years ago. Miss Balgarnie went on to say that she was exceedingly tired of hearing women, as such, talked about. It was merely a passing phase, for there was a human standard of excellence for men and women alike. Two things, however, were wanting to give women equal opportunities with men; first an education such as their brothers had; secondly, economic independence. When they obtained that, they would be able to enter upon home relationships in a true and noble way. This point about economic independence Miss Balgarnie strongly emphasized. In no country except England is this point so much neglected. In France, on the birth of a daughter, a dowry is at once thought of; and if in England it is impossible to give each daughter a dowry they should at least

be taught something by which could earn a living. Women for same work must also be paid the same as men. At present the ind average for men is 24s. 9d., while women it is only 11s. 5d. Miss Balgarnie said that every woman is forward to the time when she is married and become the moth children, and every woman should able to put by portions of her for that time in the same way men do.

Why is it, continued Miss Balgarnie that we hear of so many unhappy marriages? Men and women enter upon the because they are not able to maintain their economic independence—married for the sake of a home. woman should marry a man with asking the question—Do I love him so supremely that I must marry him? When love was the basis marriage the population would take care of itself, it would deemed a disgrace to bring child into the world unless they were in mind and body. Miss Balgarnie does not believe in mothers of families running about the country after public work. So long as children are young there is work in home, and it is the best and most beautiful work a woman can do. Finally, Miss Balgarnie said that would have been no woman's right movement if the men of this country had carried out in domestic, social, municipal, political and church life ideal exemplified by the side of Jacob well in Samaria.

### Trials of a Genius.

A man may have genius and yet what the world calls "green" as common matters of every day. fact, the very possession of genius implies a measure of abstraction, puts a man often at a disadvantage. Some striking illustrations of this found in "The Life and Inventions Edison."

While employed in a telegraph office in New York young Edison had several inventions, to which the company thought it advisable to obtain the right. The inventor himself, as tells us had thought the matter over and concluded that \$5,000 would perhaps a fair price; but when the committee asked him what he wanted answered diplomatically:

"I don't know what they are worth. Make me an offer."

"Well," said the spokesman, "it would \$40,000 strike you?"

It struck him so hard, as he declares he might have been knocked out with the traditional feather. He accepted the offer, signed the contract received a check for the amount, a set out instantly for the bank.

concluded there must be some "street trick about the thing," he said "and believed that if I ever got a check I should be lucky."

He had never been into a bank before, and stood back for a while to see the methods of procedure. Then he took his place in the row before the paying teller's window.

In due time his turn came, and he passed in his check. The teller "yelled out a lot of jargon," Edison says, which the customer's deafness prevented him from understanding. The "jargon" was repeated and the check was handed back.

Edison, surer than ever that he was the victim of some trick, went outside and sat down on the steps to think the situation over. Just then he declares "Any one might have bought that check from me for \$50."

"However, he went back to the telegraph office and told one of the clerks what had happened.

"Oh, well," said the clerk, "the teller wanted you to be identified. Come on."

With that the clerk went with him to the bank, identified him, and the teller promptly handed him the \$40,000—"greatly to my astonishment," Edison concludes.

He invested the money in a shop of his own in Newark, and soon his head was full of inventions of all sorts, but especially of the quadruplex telegraph. Suddenly he was notified that his taxes were overdue. If they were not paid the next day he would have to pay 12 1/2 per cent extra.

The next day, accordingly, he repaired to the city hall, and with his brain still busy with the quadruplex telegraph, took his place in the line. The line was long, and the business day was already closing when he reached the collector's window. It was the last moment of grace.

"Now, then, young man, look sharp," said the tired functionary, as the absent-minded inventor stood before him; "look sharp. What is your name?"

The inventor's composure was gone completely, and in "blank perplexity," to use his own words, he stammered: "I—I don't know."

No doubt the collector thought he had an idiot to deal with. He waved him aside, another stepped into his place, the day closed, and Edison had to pay the extra 12 1/2 per cent.

THE BEST PILLS.—Mr. Wm. Vandervoot, Sydney Crossing, Ont., writes: "We have been using Parmelee's Pills, and find them by far the best pills we ever used." For delicate and debilitated constitutions these pills act like a charm. Taken in small doses the effect is both a tonic and a stimulant, mildly exciting the secretions of the body, giving tone and vigor.

### Man Always a Carver.

History does not treat of a time when carving was not apparently well known. Tradition does not appear to approach much nearer to its genesis. Carvings were well executed during the period of man's early occupation on the caves of Europe, and most persons who have familiarized themselves with archaeological research know the figures of fish or seal engraved on the canine teeth of large carnivora, and the bear, reindeer, muskox, horse, mammoth and other animals carved on reindeer horn implements or on plates of ivory, the figures of animals being at the time cut fully in the round and found in the lowest strata of the caves, under many feet of cave earth and stalagma, and associated with the bones of a quaternary and, at times, an arctic fauna. The similarity of much of this cave work with much of the Eskimo production of the present day has given rise to innumerable theories concerning a common origin for both peoples.

### How to Win.

No woman can really win in the word's thickening battle who is not, first of all, obedient to the decalogue of natural law, "written in our members." There is no mistaking its utterances as they sound from the ever-radiant Sinai of physiology and hygiene.

1. Let the dress be such as will impose no ligature upon any part of the body, nor in anywise restrict the freedom, naturalness, and perfect equilibrium of all its members. Let it be equally distributed over the entire figure, without excrescences or furbelows, and carefully adapted to the season.
  2. Let the functions of digestion be normally preserved by the use of the simplest foods, into which enter the elements of nutrition suited to the season, and by a careful physiological study of the conditions of their healthful maintenance.
  3. Let the only drink be water, hot or cold, and milk.
  4. Let the sponge-bath be a daily means of grace.
  5. Let God's pure, fresh air have full access to your room especially at night.
  6. Let exercise in the open air be your daily habit, and cultivate athletic sports.
  7. Let brain-work be dispensed with after tea, and insist on 8 hours sleep in 24.
  8. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. In the six days thou shalt labor, but in them do all thy work. If the Sabbath day is necessarily a day of brain-work—as to public speakers, Christian workers, etc.—take one day in seven for rest or recreation, as the surest means to a useful life and hale old age.
  9. Give your soul up to faith. Believe in God, in immortality, in human brotherhood, in the sure triumph of everything pure and good.
  10. Habituate yourself to prayer. Let it be the pulse of your whole life, so natural to you that your spirit turns to the Star of Bethlehem as steadily as turns the needle to the polar star.
- I am not gifted in divination and will not attempt to cast your horoscope, brave girls of this new age, evermore marching forward to storm the Castle Ignorance, as well as Castle Indolence, but I do not fear to predict an absolute happy, a most winning, and a thoroughly successful life to whomsoever will obey these ten commandments.—[Frances E. Willard, in the Woman's Signal.

### Woman's Suffrage Carried in South Australia.

The Adult Suffrage Bill has been carried in South Australia, giving all women the right to vote on the same terms as men, and with no barrier to their seat in Parliament. The bill now only awaits the Queen's consent. Mrs. Nicholls, of Adelaide, president of the South Australia W. C. T. U., writes: "It is a grand victory after a hard and well-fought battle of seven years, in which the Woman's Christian Temperance Union has done its fair share of the fighting. It was carried by a majority of seventeen, being three votes to spare above the constitutional majority needed to carry the measure."

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### SUNSHINE HAS RETURNED.

The Shadows Overhanging a Niagara Falls Home Have Vanished.

Little Mabel Dorety Cured of St. Vitus' Dance After Four Physicians Had Ineffectually Treated the Case.

(From the Niagara Falls Review.)

In speaking to a friend recently we were asked if we had heard that little Mabel Dorety, the 8-year-old daughter of Mrs. Dorety, Ontario avenue, had been miraculously cured of St. Vitus' dance. We replied in the negative, but stated that we would investigate the case and ascertain the facts. Accordingly we visited the home of Mrs. Dorety, when she related the facts as follows: "My little girl has had a St. Vitus' dance, it is about two years and a half since Mabel was stricken with St. Vitus' dance, caused by the weakness effects of the grippe and rheumatism. Three local physicians were called in, as was also one doctor of considerable reputation from Niagara Falls, N. Y., but in the face of the prescriptions of these physicians and the best of care, Mabel grew rapidly worse. She could not be left alone an instant and was as helpless as an infant, she had no control of her limbs at all. She could neither walk without assistance nor take food or drink. At this stage one of the attending physicians said, 'Mrs. Dorety, there is no use in my coming here any more. There is nothing that I know of can be done for your little girl.' Well, matters went on that way for a short time, but the poor child was dying. I remembered having seen accounts of St. Vitus' dance cured by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People and I determined to try them. I was skeptical as to the effect, but was not long before they had a good effect and I then felt certain I had found a remedy that could cure my little girl if anything could. In less than three months she was so much better that the dread disease had almost disappeared, and the pills were discontinued. In a few months, however, she showed that the symptoms had not been entirely eradicated from her system, so I had her again commence the use of the Pink Pills. I feel certain that all traces of the awful malady will be swept away, for she goes to school now and we have not the slightest anxiety in leaving her alone. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills is certainly a grand remedy and I would not be without them under any consideration, for I think they are worth their weight in gold, as in my little girl's case they have been true to all they advertise. I am only too glad to let others who may be unfortunately afflicted with this terrible cure through the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

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