

more people almost always carries a warning rattle. Again, I charge you to stand off from all those books.

WHICH CORRUPT THE IMAGINATION and inflame the passions. I do not refer now to that kind of book which the villain has under his coat waiting for the school to get out, and then, looking both ways to see that there is no policeman about the block, offers the book to you on his way home. I do not speak of that kind of literature, but that which creeps law and comes out in polished style, and with acute plot shows the toxin that rouses up all the baser passions of the soul. Today, amidst the noise of this land, there is a fetid, reeking, unwholesome literature, enough to poison all the fountains of public virtue and smite your sons and daughters as with the wing of a destroying angel, and it is time that the ministers of the Gospel lift the trumpet and called the forces of righteousness, all armed to the teeth in this great battle against a depraved literature.

Against: Abstin from those books which are

AROMATIC OF CALM.

It is a sad thing that some of the best and most beautiful bookishness and some of the finest rhetoric have been brought to make an attractive. Vice is a horrible thing any how. It is born in shame and it dies howling in the darkness. In this world it is scourged with a whip of scorpions, but afterwards the thunders of God's wrath pursue it across a boundless desert, leaving it with ruin and woe. When you come to paint it as looking from behind embroidered curtains, or through lattice of royal seraglio, but in writing in the agonies of a city hospital.

Cursed be the books that try to make impurity decent, and crime attractive, and hypocrisy noble! Cursed be the books that swarm with libellous and desperadoes, who make the brain of the young people whirl with villainy! Ye authors who write them, ye publishers who print them, ye booksellers who distribute them, shall be cut to pieces, if not by an aroused community, then at last by the hall of Divine vengeance, which shall sweep to the lowest pit of perdition all the murderers of souls. I tell you, though you may escape in this world, you will be ground at last under the hoofs of eternal calamities, and you will be chained to the rock, and you will have the devils of despair clawing at your soul, and those whom you have deceived, will come around you, and you, and to your better end, of fury upon your head, and rejoice at the howl of the outcry of your pain and the howl of your damnation. "God shall wound the hairy scalp of him that goeth on in his trespasses."

The clock strikes midnight. A fair form bends over a romance. The eyes flash fire. The breath is quick and irregular. Occasionally the color flashes to the cheek, and then dies out. The hands tremble as though a guardian spirit were trying to shake the deadly book out of the grasp. Hot tears fall. The laughs with a shrill voice that died at its own sound. The sweat on her brow is the spray dashed up from the river of death. The clock strikes "four," and the rosy dawn upon her begins to look through the lattice upon the pale form that looks like a detained specter of the night. Soon in a moment she will mistake her rings for curling serpents, and thrust her white hand through the bars of the prison, and smite her head, rubbing it back as though to push the agony from the skull shrieking, "My brain! my brain!" O, stand off from that! Why will you go sounding your way amid the reefs and warning buoys, when there is such a vast ocean in which you may voyage, all at sea?

There is one other thing I shall say this morning before I leave you, whether you want to hear it or not—that is, that I consider the

LACIVIOUS PICTORIAL LITERATURE

of the day as most tremendous for ruin. There is no one who can like good pictures better than I do. The quickest and most convenient way of impressing the public mind is by pictures. What the painter does by his brush for a few farthings, the engraver does by his knife for the million. What the author accomplishes by fifty pages, the artist does by a flash. The best part of a painting that costs ten thousand dollars you may buy for ten cents. Fine paintings belong to the aristocracy of art. Engravings belong to the democracy of art. You do well to have good pictures in your home. Spread them before your children, after the tea hour is gathered. Throw them on the invalid's couch. Strew them through the rail train to cheer the traveler on his journey. Tack them on the wall of the nursery. Gather them in albums and portfolios. Good speed the good pictures on their way with ministries of knowledge and mercy.

But what shall I say of the prostitution of this art to purposes of iniquity? There death-warrants of the soul are at every street corner. They smite the vision of the young man buying a copy has bought his eternal damnation. There may be enough poison in one bad picture to poison one soul, and that soul may poison ten, and ten fifty, and the fifty hundreds, and the hundreds thousands, until nothing but the nauseating line of stenography can tell the height, and depth, and ghastliness, and horror of the great undoing. The work of death that the depraved author does in a whole book the bad engraver can do on a half side of a picture. Under the guise of pure mirth, the young man buys one of these sheets. He unrolls it before his comrades amid roars of laughter, but after the paper is gone the result may perhaps be seen.

THE BLASTED IMAGINATIONS of those who saw it. The queen of death holds a banquet every night, and these periodicals are the printed invitation to her guests. Also the fair brow of American art should be blotched with this plague spot, and that phantasmagoria, blottering themselves about smaller evils, should lift up no united and vehement voice against this great calamity!

Young man! buy not this moral strychnine for your soul. Pick not up this nest of coiled snakes for your pocket. Patience no news stand that keeps them. Have your room bright with good engravings, but for these outrageous pictorial horrors have not one wall, not one bureau, not one pocket. A man is no better than the pictures he looks to look at. If your eyes are not pure, your heart cannot be. At a news stand one can guess the character of a man by the kind of pictorial he purchases. When the devil fails to get a man to read a bad book he sometimes succeeds in getting him to look at a bad picture. When Satan goes

to fishing he does not care whether it is a long line or a short line, if he only draws his victim in. Beware of luscious pictorial, young man. In the name of Almighty God I charge you.

If I have been successfully laid down any principles by which you may judge in regard to books and newspapers, then I have done something which I shall not be ashamed on the day which shall try every man's work, of what sort it is. Cherish good books and newspapers. Beware of the bad one. One column may save your soul; one paragraph may ruin it. Benjamin Franklin said that the reading of "Gorton Mather's Essay on Doing Good" moulded his entire life. The assassin of Lord Russell declared that he was led into crime by reading one vivid romance. The consecrated John Angel James, than whom England never produced a better man, declared in his old days that he had never yet got over the evil effects of having for fifteen minutes once read a bad book. But I need not go so far off. I could come near home, and tell you of something that occurred in my college days. I could tell you of a comrade who was great-hearted, noble and generous. He was studying for an honorable profession; but he had an infidel book in his trunk, and he said to me one day—"DeWitt would you like to read it?" I took the book and read it only for a few minutes. I was really startled with what I saw there, and I handed the book back to him and said—"You had better destroy that book." No, he kept it. He read it. He read it. After a while he gave up religion as a myth. He gave up God as a sentiment. He gave up the Bible as a fable. He gave up the Church of Christ as a useless institution. He gave up good morals as being unnecessary stringent. I have heard of him but twice in many years. The time before the last I heard of him, he was confined in an insane asylum. He was coming out of an insane asylum in body, mind and soul a awful wreck. I believe that one infidel book killed him for two worlds.

Go home to-day and look through your library, look on the stand where you keep your pictures and newspapers, and apply the Christian principles I have laid down this morning. If there is anything in your house that cannot stand the test, do not give it away, for it might spoil an immortal soul; do not sell it, for the money you get would be the price of blood; but rather kindle a fire on your hearth, and in your back yard, and then drop the poison in it, and keep stirring the blaze until from preface to appendix there shall not be a single paragraph left, and the bonfire in Brooklyn shall be as consuming as that one in the streets of Ephesus.

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**THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1887.** Advertisers, 610 Broadway, N. Y. City.

**CITY IMPROVEMENTS.** Advertisers, 610 Broadway, N. Y. City.

A correspondent in Tuesday's issue of THE GLEANER called attention to the state of the roads and crossings in many places in the city, and invited the reader's attention to them. The present is the time for improvements to be made in our streets, and for refuse and debris which are lying about in many places, to be removed. If the streets were properly cleaned, the sanitary condition of the city would be greatly improved, and we would be in a much better position to face any epidemic which might come upon us during the present summer. Nor should the streets only be attended to. The condition of all yards, etc., in the city should be carefully looked into, and the owners made to put them in proper condition. If every household would look carefully after his own premises, the work of the health inspector would be greatly facilitated, and the city would be made still more healthful. Several portions of streets need macadamizing, crossings need to be attended to, the ridges and hollows which exist over the lines of gas and water pipes, and which cause great annoyance and inconvenience during rainy weather, need immediate attention. The question of sewerage needs looking into, but we merely mention this in the meantime.

The improvements needed in the city would occasion but little outlay, and would, if immediately attended to, meet with the approbation of the citizens. While the comfort and convenience of the citizens calls for the improvements which have been suggested, the necessity for the safety of all demand a thorough cleaning of the city, in view of the possible appearance of any epidemic. The finances will not allow of extensive improvements in all directions, but they will permit of the inexpensive ones we have mentioned.

**A PARTIZAN COUNCIL.** We regret to find that a majority of the members of the city council are to allow themselves to be controlled by the more active, but less responsible, faction of the

party of the city. THE GLEANER has all along deprecated the idea of the introduction of a Dominion party element into the administration of our local affairs, and the large majority of our citizens are, as well aware to such an innovation. But that element, stimulated by a few officious persons, has taken charge of the council. Last Tuesday evening it manifested itself in all its strength in the virtual dismissal of Mr. John Woodward from the positions of collector of miscellaneous duties and constable. No charge of neglect of duty or of conduct not becoming his position was laid against Mr. Woodward, nor was there any valid reason assigned for his dismissal. It was dismissed simply because he had exposed Mr. Temple, Alderman and some others in an attempt at bribery and coercion in the recent Dominion election. The council have thus, for political purposes, dismissed a useful and valuable officer. Will this kind of work be better tolerated? Our council was elected to secure a prudent and economical administration of the city's affairs. One of its first acts has been to dismiss an officer who has been accused of no crime, and who has been a valuable officer for many years. It is not for the political interests of the city to dismiss an officer who has been a valuable officer for many years. It is not for the political interests of the city to dismiss an officer who has been a valuable officer for many years.

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce is to ask the Dominion government to subsidize a million dollars on increased terminal facilities at their port, and also to subsidize a line of steamers for the West India trade.

**PRESS COMMENTS.** The Test (Toronto News, Independent). There could be no better question (the Queen's County election) for a test vote, as any member who sustained the government in such an important transaction may be counted on as a thorn-in-the-side supporter. The service rendered by the test vote is not to be underestimated. It is a test of the loyalty of the members of the government, and it is a test of the loyalty of the members of the government.

**The Fisheries Dispute.** (Quebec Star). The offer that Lord Salisbury is reported to have made to the United States government of free access to the Canadian fisheries on the single condition of free access for Canadian fish and fish oil to the United States markets can only be made payable to the people of the United States. It is a condition which would be a great advantage to the people of the United States, and it is a condition which would be a great advantage to the people of the United States.

**Free trade between the two countries, whatever objections might be urged to it, would be a great advantage to the people of the United States. It is a condition which would be a great advantage to the people of the United States, and it is a condition which would be a great advantage to the people of the United States.**

**NEWS CONDENSED.** Cuba. Disturbances in Cuba have been reported. The Swiss village of Sils near Thun has been burned. Advances from Moscow say General Suleika, the Italian commander there, has proclaimed a land and sea blockade.

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**The trial of the persons charged with plotting against the life of the Emperor has been concluded at St. Petersburg. The accused were found guilty. Seven were sentenced to death and the others to serve for life.**

**The Vatican has notified France that General Boulanger's new law, which refuses exemption from military service to those studying for the priesthood, is an infringement of the concordat, and has demanded its withdrawal.**

**Two deaths occurred for April amounts to \$12,000,000. Two sharp shocks of earthquake were felt at Spokane Falls, W. T., Saturday morning.**

**The draught throughout the agricultural districts of Texas is again assuming serious aspect. District Attorney Thos. T. McGowan, of Queen's Co., Long Island, is a defaulter to the extent of about \$20,000, and has been arrested.**

**J. E. Lewis, a manufacturer of leather for pocket books, committed suicide in Central Park, Saturday, because he had failed to keep a promise made to a woman.**

**After a day of summer heat, St. Paul, Minn., was visited at seven o'clock on Sunday evening by a terrific hailstorm,**

which did much damage. The hailstones ranged in size from a pea to a goose egg. Three thousand boardwalkers and laborers were on strike on Monday at Chicago. The demands of the boardwalkers' union were granted by 102 out of 105 employers. The advance asked was 3 cents an hour.

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**Mr. Mitchell directed attention to the item of \$8,000 paid to Messrs. Call, Saddle & Co. for the loss of the tug "Lois." He said that the receipt of the claimants and that payment of the claim was delayed by the government for twelve months. Finally it was ordered to be paid by the government on the order of the public works, which was a personal supporter of his to sign a requisition to his opponent to stand. He protested against this misuse and also the power of issuing government warrants to the present cabinet ministers to injure those who opposed them.**

**Mr. Blake pointed out, in the course of a short speech, that in the issuing of those warrants on every day of the assembly of parliament, and under the circumstances in which urgency could not be pleaded, the government were committing themselves to certain expenditures for the purpose of weakening the control of parliament over the expenditure of public works, which was really a principal function of the house of commons. The debate was then adjourned.**

**Free Trade.** The reduction of internal revenue and the reduction of the tariff on foreign goods, no doubt has largely benefited the country, as was shown by the increase of home manufactures. Especially as the case with Great Britain, where the reduction of the tariff on foreign goods has been a great benefit to the country.

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