

**The Infantile Mind.**

A crafty boy induced his sister to surrender her share of an orange by promising her the first fifty cent piece found floating down the river on a grindstone. The American humorist in commenting upon this fraudulent scheme remarked: "In all ages of the world this eminently plausible fiction has lured the infantile mind to financial ruin and disaster." We do not read that this boy was punished for the obvious fraud. However, it is evidently dangerous for a man to obtain money by any such specious promise of some wildly impossible returns. Mr. Miller, the gentleman who engaged to make 10 per cent. a week for people who entrusted him with deposits, has been banished from the financial world for ten years. That the rogue should have been able to find any nincompoops unable to weigh the value of the inducements held out to them is clear evidence that the infantile mind is sometimes found in the adult. The floating grindstone was far more likely to deceive than the promised ten per cent. a week. Yet this *chevalier d'industrie* just sent to Sing Sing found hundreds of dupes, and made a barrel of money. Fools are truly the crop that never fails, even in a country inclined to boast of the "smartness" of its people.

**Freight on Street Cars.** A few days ago the Committee on Street Railways reported in the Massachusetts Legislature what a Boston correspondent calls "one of the most radical bills of the year." The measure, if passed, will make electric railways in Massachusetts competitors with the steam railroads. It permits the street railways to carry freight, baggage and merchandise, and is based upon the petition of the Lowell and Suburban Street Railway Company for authority to carry freight, coal and merchandise. As there is much dissension in the Committee, the contest over this bill is expected to be a warm one, especially as the steam roads are already feeling the effects of the introduction of electricity. However, the tendency of the times is evidently toward the development of electric railways.

**A Better Understanding.** The occupation of the professional agitator will be gone for ever, if the proposed workingmen's convention of the English-speaking peoples in February next is held. The purpose of the meeting is to arrive at a better understanding of common objects, and the men from the United States are to be the guests of the English workers. The blatant demagogue, the panderer to popular prejudice and the artful political orator will be harmless when the English-speaking mechanics, artisans and laborers, on both sides of the ocean, have met and learned to understand one another. If Messrs. Bryan, Davis, Cochran and Company do not wish to see the unreasonable anti-British prejudice

in their country swept away, they will have to devise some means of blocking the scheme of Sir Walter Besant et al.

**Observant "Sam Slick."**

"McKinley's all right," said Mr. Davies, "He is a patriot, one of the common people like Lincoln, and the effort on the part of the British sympathizers to connect him with the British effort to crush liberty, to kill the two young republics and to rob and murder their handful of brave martyrs is a crime, and must be resented by every American patriot. McKinley is all right, but there are men about him who ought to be got rid of as quickly as possible. I wish one hundred thousand Americans would arm themselves, and, with an American fleet, go to the help of the Boers. If that is not possible, then we can tell the world that we do not sympathize with Great Britain, but that we do sympathize with the Boers." *Whipster Davis*

About eight years ago, Mr. F. Blake Crofton, an extremely clever writer and a very ardent advocate of Imperial confederation and a closer political union of the Empire, called public attention to some interesting particulars concerning Judge Haliburton's feelings on the colonial question. There are gifted and thoughtful men on both sides of the Atlantic who believe that the federation of the British Empire would lead to a greater fraternity between the two great English-speaking powers. Mr. Crofton claims that Haliburton's imagination had conceived the very grandest of all the schemes propounded for the welfare and civilization of mankind—an Anglo-American union or alliance, "dominating the world and dictating peace to the too heavily armed nations."

To the men of both political parties in the United States who render this fraternity almost impossible by pandering to the implacable jealousy of England, and creating misunderstanding and estrangement where the warmest friendship should exist, the observations of Sam Slick in "Wise Saws" may well be commended:—

"Now we are two great nations, the greatest by a long chalk of any in the world—speak the same language, have the same religion, and our constitutions don't differ no great odds. We ought to draw closer than we do. We are big enough, equal enough, and strong enough not to be jealous of each other. United, we are more nor a match for all the other nations put together, and can defy their fleets, armies and millions. Single, we couldn't stand against all, and if one was to fall, where would the other be? Mournin' over the grave that covers a relative whose place can never be filled. It is *authors of silly books, editors of silly papers, and demagogues of silly parties* that helps to estrange us. I wish there was a gibbet high enough and strong enough to hang up all these enemies of mankind on."

We decline to believe that any American audience when listening to foolish Mr. Davis, former assistant secretary of something or another, will mistake the whimsies of a feverish brain for the calm revelation of truth.