

Shakespeare says that "some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them."

Who has not met with representatives of these three classes? On this side of the Atlantic where respect for birth and pedigree is chiefly confined to a horse or a cow, that class prevails which comes under the second head. The self-made man, the man who started with "fifty cents in his pocket," is a person we meet with daily and hourly; and yet how very differently these very men are constituted in mind and disposition. Could we follow the career of each of them step by step, we should find this difference stamped on every one of those transactions large or minute, that have added to the pile, and contributed to the present relative status as a "rich man." How many "Cherryble Bros" or how many Peabodys should we find, how many who have made money, as they did, with the noble design of using it to advance the welfare, and relieve the suffering of their fellow men. In these men was a nobleness that made birth and pedigree unnecessary. But the number of this class of self-made men that one has met with in life he may count on his fingers.

On the other hand how many do we find who have accumulated money by "sharp trades," by a system of dealing, morally if not legally damnable, by extortion, by oppressing the poor, by hard bargains, by taking advantage of a neighbor's difficulties? We need not travel far to find a good sample of this class. And what object have these men in making money? Is it to do good, is it to make good use of the "talents" confided to them? Far from it.

The miser hoards up his money and worships it, and though he may know that after his death his heir will squander it as fast or faster than he collected it, yet he will say "If it only gives him as much pleasure to spend it as it has given me to collect it, he is welcome."

But this man is in a certain sense harmless; the injury he does is chiefly of a negative character. A worse character is the proud man, the man of low origin and low thoughts, with whom the maxim *Didicisse fideliter artes emollit mores nec sinit esse feros* is a dead letter, because he never had any education, and who is proud of his ignorance and boasts of his ignoble descent.

This man is a public and social bugbear his riches serve only to enable him to display his petty tyranny, his ill governed temper, his pride of purse, his narrow mind, his contempt for honor, and his love of oppression. This type of rich men then is the drawback to the American idea of equality. We have not here the evils that emanate from what the Yankees call a "bloated Aristocracy," but it may be doubted whether we have not by jumping out of the frying pan, fallen into the fire. Could we be sure that none but Peabody's would rule us with the *almighty dollar*, we should lament less the virtues that do attach to education, blood and birth.

By the number of dollars a man possesses, he estimates his greatness in this country, and consequently an ignorant and low-bred petty Croesus is a curse that we in this favoured land of Liberty have too often to endure. — *Sherbrooke News*.

The *Montreal News* takes a jubilant view of the defences of Canada. The old 68-pounders which once armed the citadel at Quebec have been sent to the melting-pot, and seven-inch muzzle-loading rifled 150 pounders have taken their place, and are, the *News* thinks, "more than a match for any ironclad that can enter the harbor of Que-

bec." At Point Levi three forts are being rapidly pushed to completion, each of which will mount five 300 pounders rifled Armstrongs, while the guns from the citadel can sweep the ground in advance of the forts. Halifax, one of the Imperial strongholds, has in position twelve 25 ton guns, which throw a 600-pound shot, and twenty 300-pounder guns are to be added to these. From the fact that England takes such precautions to defend her colonial strongholds, the *News* draws the comforting assurance that she has no idea of turning her back upon Canada, and is quietly preparing "to give a good account of any foreign fleet that ventures to attack them." It is her policy to teach her Canadian subjects the lesson of self-reliance and to wean them by degrees from dependence upon her protection. — *U. S. Army and Navy Journal*.

WHAT WILL BE PROVEN BY THE DEFENSE ON THE STOKES TRIAL.

When the Stokes murder case finally comes to trial, if it ever does—it will not be the fault of the prisoner's counsel of it ever reaches the second scene in the drama—the defense will attempt to prove, and it is not certain that they will not succeed—

1st.—An *alibi*, that is, that Stokes was not in this country at the time James Fisk, Jr. was murdered.

2nd.—That Stokes never carried a pistol.

3rd.—That the pistol was not loaded.

4th.—That it could not be discharged.

5th.—That he killed Fisk in self defense.

6th.—That Fisk had a Gatling gun in his pocket.

7th.—That Fisk re-organized the ninth regiment, with a view to using it against Stokes all over town.

8th.—That Fisk was the destroyer of his peace and happiness, and therefore, the killing, if such it may be called, was at the worst justifiable homicide.

9th.—That Fisk was a bad man, and ought to have been killed anyhow.

10th.—That Stokes was insane when he committed the murder, and was, therefore, an irresponsible agent.

11th.—That Fisk did not die from the effect of wounds inflicted by the ball discharged from the pistol in the hands of Stokes.

12th.—That Fisk was the victim of malpractice on the part of his physicians.

13th.—That he died from natural causes.

14th.—That he was not shot at all.

If all the above points of evidence do not carry the desired weight with the jury, then there will be no more need of laws and lawyers in the country.

Politically, the American people are omnivorous. Everything is dragged into partyism, and made to subserve party ends. The furnishing of arms by the United States to France would probably never have been ferreted out, unless Senators Sumner and Schurz had not found in it a capital chance of damaging the electoral chances of General Grant, by arraying against him the whole German element. Mr. Sumner charges the administration with knowingly selling arms and ammunition to France, in violation of neutrality. It is to be feared that the administration can really make no honest answer to the charge. The facts against it are very strong. Besides the corruption that lies at the bottom of the transaction whereby Government officials filled their pockets with commission money, there is the ugly fact of duplicity in pressing for indirect or consequential damages in the

Alabama business, while the Washington Cabinet was guilty of a much more open and serious breach of neutrality with regard to Prussia. While the administrative organs kept the Germans in good humour by lauding their valor and chivalry, the Government itself was secretly engaged in supplying the French with cannon, rifles and cartridges, thus helping to prolong a contest that was virtually settled at Worth. If Bismarck don't put in his little bill for this he is not the astute statesman we take him to be.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.—The *Boston Traveler* announces the discovery of a fact of much interest to all who use stationary steam engines. The waste steam from one engine can be used to heat the boiler of another, if it stands sufficiently near, and this without requiring extra fuel, fireman or chimneys. The amount of power thus attained is equal if not superior to that of the engine from which the waste steam is received. The heat of the second boiler is obtained by passing the waste steam through its flues, and is filled with a volatile liquid mainly composed of the bisulphate of carbon, which boils at 110 Fahrenheit, and at the temperature of exhausted steam, gives a pressure of sixty-five pounds to the inch. The vapour formed in this boiler is used to drive the second engine instead of steam, and after being used is condensed by cooling, pumped into the boiler again, and used continually with small loss.—Two engines arranged on this plan are now running at the Atlantic works in East Boston, and the power of the vapour engine is proved by careful measurement to be the greater.

It is almost impossible to get at the truth about the revolution in Mexico. It is certain that war and bloody war, too, is raging there, but which side has the upperhand is not clear. The appearances are, however, in favor of the revolutionists. The rumor has reached us now that Juarez had been called upon to resign and give his place to the Vice-President. If so, the Juarez party might thus postpone its final ruin, but if Porfirio Diaz has retained any of the popularity which he enjoyed only one year ago, there is little doubt that his cause will receive popular support. It will be remembered that Diaz is at the head of the revolution.

The fortifications of the French port of Brest are soon to be greatly strengthened so as to enable them to resist modern artillery. The plans adopted for this object are those presented by Vice-Admiral Gueydon. The question of defending the narrow channel of Brest, which has always presented very great difficulties, is to be solved by the building of a casemated tower on Maugam rock which could cross fire with Forts Maugam and Cornouailles. To protect the entrance of the roads, an *avant-porte* or fore harbor will be constructed, which will have the additional advantage of permitting the loading of coal and the embarkation of goods of all sorts, hitherto a matter of difficulty in the harbor, even during the prevalence of west winds.

To show the workings of the competitive examination system, an English case is cited. One of the candidates spelled Venice with two n's, thus Vennice. The examiner, who could spell, but not speak correctly, sternly inquired: "Do you know, sir, that there is but one 'hen' in Venice?" "Then eggs must be very scarce there," was the reply; whereupon the candidate immediately passed.