

REFERRING to newspaper paragraphs suggests another line of thought. In the eagerness of competition our city papers bring out editions every hour during the afternoon. In times of excitement such as we now have in connection with the North-West troubles fresh items are eagerly sought. It pays to have each edition sell, therefore the temptation to insert every item of gossip round any street corner the telegraph makes available. The next edition is needed often to correct the items of the previous one, and thus the present thirst for news is increased by that which it craves, and the public excitement kept at the highest tension. The dweller in the back regions with the weekly mail and paper, the careful digest of news in which is carefully read, has frequently a firmer, truer hold of the events of the day and the spirit of the age, than the man who takes the morning news with his breakfast, and finishes it off with the items from the evening papers read on the street cars as he hurries home. Enterprise has its limits, and the spirit of haste its drawbacks. The cycle of Cathay has some enjoyments the fifty years of Europe have long bidden farewell to.

WE have great respect for *The Week*. Independent, above the clap-trap level of general journalism, we hail its appearance and rejoice in its success. Homer, however, nods occasionally, and *The Week* can write nonsense with its prejudices. It has done so in some remarks upon Sabbath legislation, and no one ought to know it better than the editor himself. The recent enactment regarding Sunday excursions is aimed at the stamp of legality a recent decision put upon them. *The Week* weakly favours them with the stale argument about people pent up in the stores and factories of a city. Fortunately, our Ontario cities afford other facilities for fresh air and recreation than Sabbath excursions, and the experience of those who have looked into the excursion business is, that the great majority of Sunday excursionists are those who can and do enjoy freedom and fresh air on other occasions. The poor pent-up artisans are too weary for Sunday dissipation; they enjoy its rest. But our contemporary "out Herods Herod," and puts the climax of irreverence and absurdity on its utterances by the following paragraph which appears in its issue of the

26th ult. :—"Our friends, the Prohibitionists, should take a leaf from history and reflect upon it. The first sumptuary law, issued on the highest authority, coupled with supreme penalties, was a failure. Has Eden no lesson for Maine?" By no fair use of language can the Eden command be called "a sumptuary law," and if it could, then such laws have the highest possible sanction. In what sense was the Eden law a "failure"? It represented simply the conditions of life, and answered its purpose as a test of human obedience to those conditions which, being broken, were enforced with all their "supreme penalties." Is *The Week* prepared to take the ground that Adam should have been let loose in Paradise, a perfectly lawless being, at liberty to do as he pleased? Is every law a "failure" which is disobeyed? Then all law is a "failure." We fear our friend has been reading some of Col. Ingersoll's strange specimens of logic, and gone to sleep over them.

A CONGREGATIONAL pastor in Illinois makes a practice of sending the *Advance* to each couple he marries. He says a religious paper is as essential in a Christian home as a cooking-stove. Will some of our readers take note and act accordingly?

THE Committee of Public Safety in Chicago have just given the public the results of their investigations in regard to the election of judges and clerks appointed by the council for the city election which comes off during the present month. Nine of the eighteen judges, it is affirmed, are not mentioned in the directory. Two of them have no business whatever, two are county officials, one is a saloon-keeper, and one a bar-tender, while only three of the whole number are engaged in reputable business. Of the ten clerks appointed, the names of five are not found in the directory; of the other five, one is a saloon-keeper, one a bar-tender, one has no business whatever, and only two are reputedly engaged. A large number of the voting places are located in saloons. What a picture of municipal misgovernment.

A LONG experience of literary work, mainly performed during morning hours, impels the writer of sundry of these Editorial Jottings most earnestly to commend the followingsound