

We regret to observe that Mrs. Gage is obliged to discontinue *The National Citizen and Ballot Box* in consequence of being overworked. Her subscribers are to be furnished with the *Alpha*, published in Washington.

The Physiologist for December made its appearance early in the month, well freighted with valuable matter. Among the contributors, we notice Lucinda B. Chandler, S. P. Putnam, Mrs. S. H. Lobe, Mrs. E. D. Slenker and others.

The Outlook.

Comstock.

ANTHONY, dear, and what is your mission?

Why do you linger so far from that place

Where you vainly have hoped your blessed endeavor

Would make you chief-leader in virtue, wherever

Your name found a print in your race?

Do you suppose our national mothers

Will long bow their knee before your foul shrine?

Will kneel to the powers that be, made infernal,

By stamping out rights God created eternal,

To blossom and bear in Liberty's line!

Do you think you can check the fast-growing freedom

Of action and thought, and liveliest truth,

The teaching of men who study our failings,

Who gladly would better our woefullest ailing?

There you're mistaken! You're still in your youth.

Free Thought will outlive the vilest pollution,

No matter the name of the man in the way;

No matter the laurels he thinks to be winning,

The pain which awaits and lives upon sinning

Will give Right the fort and close in the day.

Flaunt high the name of Foote and of Moody;

Scatter their essays all over the world;

Fill up the ranks with Liberal training,

The future is ours, we're every day gaining;

Our flag hugs the mast, then again is unfurled.

BITTER SWEET.

Help Wanted from the Vice Society.

The next morning after luxurious New Yorkers had been digesting their bounteous Thanksgiving dinners an appeal appeared in the daily *Tribune* for a destitute family. The writer, a clergyman, had visited the family of a Mr. Grahm in Livingston Street, where he found Mr. Grahm in one room on his back, having been rendered helpless for the last five years by rheumatism, while his wife, the only support left him, was in bed in an adjoining room with an infant child two days old. Five other small children were playing around the room, the oldest being only twelve! Now, we respectfully suggest that this is a case which ought to be looked after by the Society for the Prevention of Vice through its agent, Mr. Comstock. If the editor of the *HEALTH MONTHLY*, or any physician, or any benevolent person had five years ago furnished Mr. Grahm even gratuitously with any means whatever for limiting his family or in other words, a harmless means for preventing conception, he would have been made liable to a prosecution from this same Vice Society, and to a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for five years! The statute reads that no such article must be sold or given away! This is the law in New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and perhaps in half of the States of the Union, and the Vice Society has been the organized body which has instigated the passage of this law. Clearly it is the duty of this society to look after this family, just as much as it is proper to proceed against a liquor seller who has brought to beggary some family whose head and supporter has been too constantly a patron of a drinking saloon. Will Mr. Comstock look after the interests of this destitute family? The babies which are coming along are not only heirs to the parent's poverty, but also heirs to his disease.

Write a number of communications in type are crowded out. Will appear in our next.

Mr. Talmage and the Postal Laws.

It seems astonishing how some people who might be suspected of having clear heads will get muddled when talking about the Comstock postal laws. The Rev. Mr. Talmage in his sermon on the 20th of November, showing up the evil of bad literature, spoke as if there was no way of reaching this nuisance except through postal statutes! He even speaks as if the arrest of the blackmailer of Jay Gould was effected under the postal laws! This very case illustrates how well we could get along without the Comstock postal laws. Col. Welles was proceeded against under our State statutes; not under the postal laws. Letter-carriers and other officers of the Post office were employed in assisting in ascertaining who this person was who was sending threatening letters to Jay Gould. But it required no Comstock law—no postal law—to effect his arrest and punishment nor even his apprehension. In the same way those who traffic in bad literature may be detected if necessary, but it is clearly not necessary to turn the Post office practically into a police office, and make it the instrument for effecting the arrest and punishment of the offender. Our State authorities are abundantly able to do this. Moreover, Mr. Talmage would have his congregation think that that monster petition which was sent to Congress for the repeal of the Comstock law was signed only by those who are known under the comprehensive name of "Liberals"; but this is not true. That petition was circulated and signed largely by ministers and members of orthodox churches. It is expected that editors in the haste of getting up a daily paper will make some mistakes in statement, but there is no excuse for a minister, who has all the week to prepare himself, to fall into such errors as those exhibited in the Rev. Mr. Talmage's sermon.

Defense Fund.

Money for the Defense Fund is not coming in very freely, but we have to acknowledge the receipt of \$1 from a subscriber signing himself J. D.

New Advertisements.

TO THE PATRONS AND MEMBERS

OF THE

INSTITUTE OF HEREDITY.

THE first Parlor Meeting of the friends of the Institute for discussion and interchange of views and facts will be held at the office parlors of Dr. E. B. Foote, 120 Lexington Avenue, on Thursday evening, the 26th of January, at 8 o'clock. Those interested living in or near the city, and all happening in the city at the time who are members or patrons, are invited to be present.

S. P. PUTNAM, President of the Com. of
E. B. Foote, M.D., Jr., Secretary & Arrangements.

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