

The Searchlight.

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QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

CHARITY AND POVERTY.

"Mack," in Saturday Night, in the course of an article on the ups and downs of life, enters into a discussion of problems that for years have been worrying the life out of men of charitable proclivities, in an attempt to solve, and still they are no nearer solving the problem of poverty, for it keeps pace with all the efforts to suppress it, than they were at the beginning. Charity to humanity has been the cry all the time. And charity to humanity receives, and still humanity cries for food, clothing and shelter. What is wanted is something more than charity; the bestowal of alms has been a failure and always will be. Stop this pernicious practice for a month, and it won't be long before the problem of poverty is settled, for justice will then have to be granted instead.

IRISH LAND LEGISLATION.

The demand for land law reforms coming to the fore in the Irish agitation is a sign that the friends of the Irish race are coming to their senses.

So far attempts in that direction have been on behalf of the tenant farmer, and not the actual worker, who seems to have been overlooked. The great landlord was to be removed and the tenants created into smaller landlords over the workers. That would help one class at the expense of another, but would be of no use to those most in need of help. To take the annual value of land by taxation would remove the territorial landlords without establishing others in their places, and would leave the workers the results of their work. The people of Ireland should realize that a landlord taking of the products all but a bare subsistence will be the same whether he operates over 100 or 100,000 acres, or whether the men they vote for go to College Green, Westminster or Halifax.

A FALSE THEORY.

A few days ago a number of retail merchants met together to discuss measures for better protection of their interests, which, it appeared to them, required a drastic course of action to maintain, owing to the growing expansion of the departmental establishments of the city, which are rapidly absorbing the business and trade, to the disadvantage of the smaller storekeepers. Quite naturally of those affected, general condemnation of the departmental stores was indulged in, entirely overlooking the main causes contributing to their present condition. So far as Toronto is considered, one-half too many stores are in existence. In no city of equal size and importance, and in many cities considerably larger, are there anywhere near the number of people occupying stores and trying to do business as there are in Toronto. These people cannot all make a decent living, even if the de-

partmental store was abolished. To condemn and attempt to restrict the large stores, as Chevalier Thompson wants to do, because many small businesses are being swallowed up by the larger ones, would be just as absurd and ridiculous as any attempt made to stop the manufacture of labor-saving inventions. It is quite true that the many labor-saving appliances adopted in latter years (and the departmental store is included) have displaced labor and have multiplied the difficulties of getting employment, and as a consequence introduced much happiness and much misery, but nevertheless no man in his proper senses would think of looking here for a solution of the labor problem.

A PROSPEROUS STATE.

In several of the remote states in Germany, a custom long maintained by the inhabitants, has been the conservation of the forests, the oil wells, clay pits, coal fields and mineral ores, for the benefit of the whole people. The revenues derived from these sources have always been large, and more than enough is received to satisfy the public requirements, without imposing any form of tax upon the people of the community. There is no poverty or destitution existing, and every person has an equal opportunity to employ himself. The reason for this is because the resources of nature are not, and cannot be held idle, to the exclusion of those who desire to work. How these German states deal with labor-saving appliances I do not know. But in view of their control of the natural resources, the probabilities are that the question of restriction never arises. It is quite possible, though, that the state, recognizing the advantages and disadvantages of labor-saving inventions, and the great power that one man can wield in the community by controlling such inventions, pays to the inventor a lump sum of money to forego his interest forever, the state immediately allowing the invention to be made public property.

Year after year, as I have watched the methods and practices of our charitable institutions and the benevolence of many kindly disposed persons in our midst towards the needy and destitute, it has often crossed my mind to inquire why it is that the charitably inclined do not stop to consider the direct cause of the poverty of the masses whose conditions they are trying ineffectually to ameliorate. No sooner are the conditions temporarily improved for some of the unfortunate when almost immediately another batch of unfortunates must be treated similarly, and it is continuously happening, day after day and year after year, and still there is no perceptible diminution in the number requiring the aims of charity. Is it not time that those who have the welfare of humanity at heart should try some other experiment? It must be apparent to almost everyone that men would not lower themselves by accepting charity if there were other means at hand whereby they could live. Then there must be a cause which keeps so many men idle and in poverty. What is it? That is the question which should be discussed. When that is done and the answer is found the duty becomes clear—the cause must be removed.



NO ESCAPE FROM LOGIC.

Dr. McGlynn—If land may be privately owned, then God is the father of a few, and the step-father of all the rest.

OBNOXIOUS TAXATION.

The persistence with which the taxation of personality is being pushed in the Court of Revision by a mistaken enthusiast of "equal" taxation, is worthy of a better cause. It cannot be gainsaid that the efforts of J. B. Johnson, who is prosecuting the personality assessment, has been altogether unsuccessful. The facts show that a greater amount of personality has been levied upon — in previous years. This may satisfy those who aim to reach all forms of wealth, but on the other hand, the real efforts resulting from the pressure brought to bear in assessing personality may be of a character which will prove injurious, not only to "personality taxers," but to the city as well. Already the indications show this to be the case, and particularly in this year's assessment. When the case of Beardmore & Co. came up in the court, Mr. Beardmore volunteered the statement that rather than go to the trouble of appealing and having to expose his whole business, he preferred to be assessed. He further remarked to the court that "if you go on as you are doing, in enforcing this personality tax, you will drive all the capital out of Toronto." This statement needs little enlargement. It states the case as to how solid business men view this question. The continuation of personality assessment will have the desired result, that checking industry, and forcing capital to go elsewhere.

One reason why the city of Montreal is a more desirable place for business men and manufacturers, is because it imposes no taxation on personality. I will profit by the experiences of Toronto during the last ten years, we should seek to change our whole system of taxation without delay. The fact is, scores of manufacturers have practically been driven out of this city and forced to accept the better inducements offered in other places. The attempts to levy on capital unnecessarily may be fruitful in quite the proper direction after all.

Questions of the Day.

LAND GRANTS.

Some days ago the newspapers stated that the Assembly of the Northwest Territories intended making some reparation to the Northwest half-breeds by making land grants equal to 160 acres each. A few days later it was stated that the Dominion Government was going to make a similar provision to the volunteers who participated in the Fenian invasion of 1867. If both statements are in the main correct, and this action is put in operation, the men responsible for the enactment of such legislation deserve to be kicked out of the legislative halls of the country. What right has any government to give away absolutely the land to any individual or any number of individuals? Because some governments have done it, and are still guilty of the practice, is no valid reason for continuing a pernicious wrong. The great crime of past and present civilizations has been the bartering away of the people's heritage—the land. The enormity of the crime, and it is a very grave one, is only now beginning to be understood in its proper light; and should our governments follow at this late day the practices carried out by the governments which preceded them, a lasting disgrace will inevitably rest upon the people allowing such.

There would be little fault to find if it were proposed to allow the beneficiaries referred to a certain portion of free government land for a stipulated rental year, and to have the use and enjoyment of it forever so long as the rental value of the land was paid. Because in so doing the equal right of every other man in the community to the land would be maintained. The rental value of the land would be then the price paid to the community, for the right of exclusive possession guaranteed to all, thus conserving to the people their natural heritage.

When the land is given away to individuals in perpetuity the rights of those now living and those yet unborn are trampled upon and destroyed. My right to the land and your right, how can it be had when all free land is given away, except we purchase it from those who now control it?

An iniquitous wrong was done when the Dominion Government handed over to the C. P. railroad millions of acres and which is entirely free from taxation, that blunder having been committed, and it is now generally admitted to be so. It is to be hoped our legislators will prove themselves statesmen and safeguard the little that remains of the people's birthright.

RAILROAD HIGHWAYS BY A SINGLE TAX.

Rossland wants a railway through the Crow's Nest Pass. The single tax would give it. The Rosslanders are now foolishly paying that tax to the men they have allowed to secure the town site. If they were wise enough to pay it into their public treasury, it would soon build them a railway which they would own. They are now begging a railway from other Canadians quite as foolish as themselves. In Rossland, as in every other part of the world, the single tax, the annual value of the land, must be paid. The wealth producers have not the option of paying or not paying it to the public treasury, or paying it to the men they have allowed to assume ownership of the surface. They prefer to pay it to a few lucky grabbers, so they are unable, like the rest of us, to build their own railway. If they knew enough to keep their own they would not be depending on anyone else for a high-

way. They have gone into the manufacture of milllions, which is the most unprofitable line of business ever devised. They bow their necks to a few task-masters, who will levy the single tax on them for a generation, and at the same time cry out against any suggestion of instituting the single tax.

Rosslanders are beginning. Let them take, in taxation, the rental of land for public uses and they will soon be the richest community on the continent. The richest mines are the town sites.

LAND THE SOURCE FOR REVENUE. FRANCE.

In the year 1890, the total sum of taxes levied on land values, and which was added to the general fund of government revenues, amounted to 255 million francs, \$52,000,000.

PRUSSIA.

In the German Empire several of the states levy on land values for taxation. From 1810-1820, the Prussian tax "was reformed," and again in 1861, when the tax on houses was separated from the tax on land. At that time, the tax on land was computed at 10,000,000 thalers, \$7,500,000. By the acquisition of the new Prussian provinces in 1866, the amount was increased to \$10,000,000.

"In addition to local taxes," says Bastable, "are not easily arrived at, but for the year 1880-81, the communal and provincial extra land taxes were equal to those of the state in amount (\$10,000,000), giving a total burden on land of \$20,000,000, independent of the income tax."

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

In 1879 the general land tax was fixed at 36,100,000 florins. The local tax on land (municipalities) was believed to reach a like amount. The Hungarian land tax amounts to almost the same. Dr. Fr. Mintz says that Vienna raises a large part of its city revenue from the ground rents of the site of the old city wall.

BELGIUM.

Belgium manages to raise from land values about \$2,500,000 for national and \$1,500,000 for local purposes.

SPAIN.

As in France, Prussia and other countries a tax on land was levied (1890-91) for local purposes by the general government in the same way as the tax for general purposes. The total tax raised for local purposes amounting to 17,000,000 pesetas—\$1,400,000, which is a very small proportion of the total amount raised for governmental expenditures.

It has always been a principle in Spain when Columbus and the other discoverers came to America, the Crown always reserved the right to all precious metals found, although it sometimes conceded a share to the discoverer.

PORTUGAL.

levies a land tax, which yields about \$3,250,000 yearly.

The total annual income of England, according to Dr. R. Giffen, of the Board of Trade, in 1848 was £520,000,000, and of that £278,000,000 went for wages and £242,000,000 for rent and interest and profit on capital. In 1882 the total annual wealth had increased to the enormous sum of £1,300,000,000, and of that £338,000,000 went for wages and £962,000,000 for rent and interest and profit on capital. If the same proportion had been maintained as in 1848 the amount of wages instead of being £338,000,000 would have been £695,000,000.

Baron Halkett, a German-born citizen of England, speaking before a Lancashire audience in June, 1894, said he was one of those wicked people who believed that land, air and water were made for the people, and that man did not have a hand in making them and that therefore no man had an absolute claim to any portion of them.

The land, as they all knew, had been monopolized as absolute ownership, at all events in this country, and every inch of it was claimed by somebody.

He maintained that every member of the community had a claim to a share in the land of his country, and upon the realization of this scheme rested the freedom of the nation.

On the other hand, he held that every person who occupied and cultivated a portion of the soil should be fully secured in his labor, and in the investment of his capital upon that soil, because upon that rested the prosperity of agriculture. It was said that agriculture did not pay because wheat was so cheap; but that was not so; it was because land was so dear. But it was not only over the surface of the soil that landlords exerted their sway; they claimed everything that lay under the soil. He thought the absurdity of this claim was only equalized by its injustice. English trade was shrinking; employment at a fair wage was getting less, and the only man who could sit still and do nothing was the landlord, who was taxing industry and strangling it in its operations.

This claim of private ownership to the mineral wealth of the country was nothing more or less than a tax upon the whole industry of the country. This question of the claims to private ownership for all that lay beneath the soil was not a question as affecting those engaged in the material obtained, but was a question which affected every consumer in the land.

In Germany no owner of the surface freehold of land has the slightest claim to the minerals below. Anyone who wishes to invest his money in mining secures a permit from the State, and after he has paid a small compensation for surface disturbance to the owner he exploits the industry for himself and his workers, and pays the State a royalty of 2 per cent. on the net profits. In addition to this he must pay half the funds (the other half being paid to the State) to the Miners' Association, which go for education, sick pay, pensions and damages in case of accidents.

EXPENSIVE LEGAL PRACTICES.

To carry appeals to the British Privy Council regarding disputed points of Federal and Provincial jurisdiction is a foolish waste of money on law costs. If the Province and Dominion authorities really want a decision they can decide to ride by that of our own Supreme Court. The Canadian judiciary must necessarily have a better idea of the meaning of the British North America Act than can the British legal luminaries. The courts are created by Parliaments, but there is a superstitious reverence for their functions which prevents people seeing the absurdity of following out case after case from one court to another, to find what will be thought in the last. The decision will not be more wise or more just because it is more expensive. W.

The Delaware Single Tax Campaign

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The copies offered for sale are exact duplicates of the Large Group Picture of the Leading Single-Tax Campaigners, some of whom are dressed in their picturesque costume, including also Henry George, Rev. Dr. McGlynn, Louis F. Post, Wm. Lloyd Garrison, Hon. Jas. G. McGuire, Hon. Jerry Simpson and a score of others equally well known, which will shortly be presented to the Philadelphia Single-Tax Society, the inaugurators of the Delaware campaign. With a few exceptions the pictures of every prominent single-taxer in the United States of International renown who have aided in Delaware are in the group. This Souvenir is valuable for its associations, and no single-taxer able to afford it should be without one. From the sales effected a percentage of the profits derived will be payable to the campaign fund. The price has been set low in order to facilitate its sale. Sent to any address on receipt of \$1.50. Searchlight Pub. Co., 29 King St. W., Toronto, Canada.

AROUND THE HEAP.

J. W. BENGOUGH.

A most admirable book, one well worth a careful reading, is "The Expansion of Religion," by Rev. E. Winchester Donald of Boston. We cordially recommend it to the more thoughtful patrons of our city library. Mr. Donald is manifestly a scholar and a thinker, but like many others who might be so described, he seems to be quite in the dark when it comes to a treatment of the labor question. He conceives that question to be a threefold complaint lodged by labor against civilization, viz., 1, that wages are too low; 2, that the hours of work are too long, and, 3, that the product is not equitably distributed. We are not so much concerned just now with his treatment of the first two charges, though as to the first, we may remark in passing, that he thinks that the real question is, "how much can the fund out of which all wages are paid, devote to the compensation of labor without exhausting itself, without failing to receive the increase necessary to preserve it as a fund from which wages can be paid?" This candid confession of his faith in the exploded wage fund theory prepares us for some eccentricities of thought, when he comes to the third branch of the subject—the matter of inequitable distribution. This is in reality the heart of the labor question. To solve the difficulty Mr. Donald thinks it "ought first to be ascertained how much of all that is produced by the only three producers known to political economy—land, capital and labor—is directly due to labor."

This we regard as a hopeful start. It is a reasonable proposition. But what delights and surprises us so much is to find the rev. gentleman apparently oblivious to there being but "three producers known to political economy—land, capital and labor." It is, of course, hardly accurate to call land a "producer;" we prefer Mr. George's phrase—"the passive factor in production." But that is another story. Mr. Donald evidently holds the belief that labor and capital, the two active human factors, having access to land, the passive factor, produce all the wealth of which political economy takes cognizance. This is entirely orthodox, and we feel disposed to cheer the advent of another writer who can find no place for landlordism amongst the forces of production, either active or passive. And our delight in this new recruit to the cause of sound political economy increases as we go on to read: "Suppose we imagine the total production of the United States to be heaped up on one of our western prairies in the shape of commodities. It would be a vast and complex pile. Every article known to the arts and sciences would be there. Food, clothing, drugs, implements, machinery, furniture, books, pictures, architects' drawings. To produce them there had to be land, capital and labor. Each of these three is unproductive without the other in an industrial sense. Each is clamoring for the largest share of this heap of commodities." Let us stop just here for a moment. It is a striking illustration, and clears the way, one would think, for a satisfactory solution of the question at issue—that of a just distribution. Contemplating that heap of commodities, Mr. Henry George may be supposed to address our author. He says: "Dear Mr. Donald, the thing seems to me simple enough. The three human parties who have just claims to shares are, 1, labor; 2, capital; 3, the community, representing the factor you call land. Now the first thing to be done is to deduct from this pile of goods a quantity equal in value to the annual rental value of the land upon which they were produced, that is to say, a fair ground rent, after allowing for all improvements in the way of buildings, drainage, etc. We thus arrive at the value which the land has obtained by reason of the presence of the community. In other words, the value the community as such has created. This, of course, justly belongs to the creator. Having, then, paid off the community, or the land factor, we have labor and capital left to deal with, and between them is to be apportioned all that remains of the heap of goods. If the settlement is to be made between them in

terms of wages, how much of the heap shall labor have as wages? Well, say the heap represents the production of a year—305 days let us call it. Labor is supposed to have been working for capital. His pay shall therefore be little more than he could have made had he chosen to employ himself, as free access to the land would have enabled him to do, for no man will work for another for the same or less than he could make working for himself. Having then arrived at a decision as to the possible daily production of labor, we multiply it by 305, and thus have his yearly production. We find that this amount is just equivalent to all that is left of the heap. Labor, in alliance with land, has in short produced the entire amount of goods, and since land's share has already been handed over to the community, all that remains belongs to labor. But where, then, does capital come in? What is capital? Labor's ally and assistant. Labor is the natural power of man to sow seed and gather in the harvest. For example, capital is the artificial assistance rendered by the seed drill and the reaping machine. Capital is, in fact, but another sort of labor, and is justly entitled to share the extra production it makes possible. Labor and capital are not worker and boss, much less natural enemies, they are partners, therefore what is left of the heap may be equitably divided in either of two ways: 1, in the equivalent to labor of fair wages for 305 days work, or in the payment to capital of an equivalent of an interest on the loan of his assisting machinery."

What does Mr. Donald say to this? Being a reasonable and honest man we are inclined to think he would accept it as a just settlement. But in the absence of Mr. George, he has floundered, we regret to say. Listen to him:

"Round this supposed heap of commodities are gathered the producers of it, each strenuous to maintain his claim to the biggest share, each resting his claim on his biggest contribution in its production.

... For, it is absolutely essential that each of three producing forces shall be maintained in its efficiency as a producer. The integrity of each of our three producers is economically imperative."

... three producers—land, labor and capital. Now, it becomes clear that our author is not speaking of land as a passive factor, but as a human force entitled to demand its share along with labor and capital.

In short, he means landlordism, and it is needless to say that any scholar, whatever his good intentions, whatever his piety, who endorses landlordism, who defends the justice and righteousness of the speculative ownership of the earth by individuals, will flounder in vain to find a solution of the labor question. With this freebooting element omitted from the respectable society of producers, with the share which now goes into the pocket of landlordism paid over to the state—in lieu of all taxes now levied, the distribution of the product equitably between labor and capital is a matter easily within reach of practical politics, if it is not, indeed, a thing which would settle itself by natural law.

PERSONALTY TAXATION.

The Municipal Committee of the Single Tax Club at the last meeting presented a report of the recent proceedings of the Revision Court, in which particular attention was called to the great number of protests of citizens against the imposition of taxes on personalty. The committee expressed the opinion that this feature of our tax system was in every respect obnoxious. In the attempt to reach the owners of personalty much fraud and perjury resulted, and the effect was to bring the law into contempt, besides burdening trade quite unnecessarily, and the tax could reasonably be abolished. Instances were cited of business men forced to leave the city owing to the high tax levied. The committee thought the city should endeavor to relieve some of the burdens placed on the productive factors, labor and capital, instead of attempting to tax everything in sight.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

A decisive vote was taken in the New South Wales Parliament on October 18, 1892.

It had become daily more evident that radical action on the land question in New South Wales could not be much longer delayed, and with the design of testing the feeling of the House, a supporter of the Government (Mr. C. Hopman) introduced a resolution declaring for a progressive tax holdings over 11,000 in value. This was opposed by Mr. Cotton (Single Taxer), who moved the following amendment: "That in the opinion of this House a system of raising revenue by direct taxation of land values, irrespective of improvements, would greatly promote the welfare of this country."

The Premier, Sir George Dibbs, voted for the amendment, and stated that the Government intended to press the Local Government Bill, which authorizes municipalities to raise their revenues by a tax on land values without reference to the improvements on land.

On division, Mr. Cotton's amendment was adopted in place of the original resolution by a vote of 40 to 13. Both the leader of the Government and the Opposition voted for it.

Progress does not stop here, for we hear that the new tax law, passed by both Houses of the Legislature without division, December 6th, 1892, is the nearest approach yet made to the Single Tax. The taxation of improvements on land and of personal property is entirely discarded, land values being taxed at the rate of a penny in the pound. Land to the value of £240 is exempt from taxation. The bill provides for a stiff income tax on all incomes exceeding £425 per year. Where land is mortgaged the owner is permitted to deduct from his tax bill the amount of interest paid annually on his mortgage. The holder of the mortgage is caught by the income tax. Custom duties are greatly reduced and provision made on the Queensland plan for a continuous reduction until 1901, when the tariff will be practically abolished. The country is in a terrible condition financially, and thousands of its people have been on the verge of starvation for months past. Heroic measures became necessary, and the example of New Zealand was not lost on the statesmen of New South Wales.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN TASMANIA.

The Leemore (Cal.) Radical for October 13, says:

In Tasmania, one of the Australian colonies, proportional representation on the preferential plan, has been enacted into law, to apply at the next election of members of Parliament elected from the two principal cities of Tasmania. Six members are elected from one city and four from another. This far off and hitherto very conservative English colony has taken a step in advance of the entire world. South Australia is likely to follow next, and in New Zealand it is to be a leading question in the coming campaign. The action of Tasmania was entirely unexpected.

California is now behind. The example of the San Francisco Mechanics' Institute, and seven other organized bodies there, has demonstrated that the system is practical. To the earnest efforts of a few real reformers there is the work in Tasmania indirectly in part due. Miss Catharine H. Spence of South Australia has labored for years to see the day now dawning—the day of real representative government.

Alfred Cridge, father of the editor of The Radical, who has labored heart and soul for 20 years for proportional representation, in the evening of a long and useful life, sees the result of his work extending throughout the English-speaking world.

Soon the Australian system of representation will be as vigorously pushed in the United States as was the Australian ballot.

Greeting to our brothers beneath the Southern Cross. In the words of Lowell: "For mankind are one in spirit, and an instinct bears along

Round the earth's electric circle, the swift flash of right or wrong;
Whether conscious or unconscious, yet humanity's vast frame,
Through its ocean-sundered fibres, feels the gush of joy or shame,
In the gain or loss of one race all the rest

WILD BEASTS IN INDIA.

From an Indian official report it is learned that in the year 1895, 2893 persons lost their lives through tigers, panthers, bears, elephants and other wild beasts; 21,538 died from serpent bites, three-fourths of which were caused by cobras. Quite 97,000 domestic animals were killed by tigers, panthers and serpents.

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DELAWARE SOUVENIR.

For some months past, the writer has been engaged in the difficult task, of gathering a collection of photographs of the representative single taxers of the United States, who have to some extent participated in the single tax campaign. When the object was first conceived, all seemed easy of accomplishment, but the experience gained proved quite the contrary. After continuous efforts, however, the undertaking has in a large measure been successful.

The photos in this interesting collection are grouped in a large frame, with the name of each attached, thus readily identifying the various persons represented in the group. In the center of the picture, the face of Henry George and the members of the campaign committee, Stephenson, Sudell, Stephens and Rolston are placed, surrounded by upwards of thirty familiar faces, members of the Philadelphia Club, who are best known for their activity during the campaign. Heron, Millikin, Callingham, Frost, Ross, Pleydell, Lippincott, Miss Musson, Mrs. Burleigh, etc., etc. In the outer circle are placed the photographs of Hon. Jas. G. McGuire, Hon. Jerry Simpson, Dr. R. S. Law, Wm. Lloyd Garrison, Ralph E. Hoyt, Thos. G. Shearman, Bolton Hall, Louis F. Post, W. B. Addington, Alfred J. Wolf, Edward Osgood Brown, Rev. Jesse C. Taylor, Rev. Dr. E. McGlynn, and a score of others whose names and services are familiar among single taxers everywhere. Dr. B. F. Longstreet, McCarron Hand, Henry W. Hetzel, Samuel Milliken, Leonard Tuttle and R. F. Gibson—men who have rendered valuable service in Delaware, are represented in attitudes quite different to any of the rest, and in the arrangement of the group appears every unique. Many States in the union have their representatives, for instance, Texas is honored with Mr. Alex. Herr, one of the most indefatigable workers known. Kansas has two in the persons of Mr. John S. Crosby and Hon. Jerry Simpson. Massachusetts is represented by Mr. C. B. Fildbrown and Mr. Garrison, and California has three. New York and Pennsylvania of all the states naturally are better represented.

The whole collection is of national interest to single taxers, and will no doubt be appreciated by the Philadelphia Society, to whom the group collection will shortly be presented. For the satisfaction of many single tax friends, duplicates of the original are now offered for sale, printed on platinum paper, and reduced to 11 x 14, a convenient size for framing. Those who are desirous of obtaining a copy, should send in their order as early as possible, which will be attended to without any unnecessary delay.

Our modesty prevents us from publishing the many complimentary notices of the Search Light.—Thanks.

Twenty-five cents will pay for the Search Light until March 1897. Give it a trial, anyway. The following monthly issues will be well worth reading.

The December and January numbers of The Searchlight will be issued as a double number, and it will make its appearance in the latter month.

Twenty-five cents will pay for The Searchlight until March 1897. No subscriptions will be received for a longer period, after that subscriptions may be renewed if desired.

WHO PAYS YOUR TAXES ?

The facts and figures adduced from Mr. Alexander Manning in the Revision Court last week, in connection with the land and property situated at the southeast corner of King and Yonge-streets show a state of affairs that ought to be digested thoroughly. It came out in evidence that Mr. Manning is lessee of the land, 20x100, from the Bostwick estate, for which he pays \$2500 yearly for ground rent. On this land Mr. Manning constructed a building at a cost of about \$12,000, part of which he leases to the Canadian Pacific Railway at a rental of \$4000 and taxes. From the Yonge-street stores he receives \$1350 and taxes, and from the upstairs flats \$2700, making a total of \$8050 received yearly. From this latter amount the Bostwick estate receives \$2500, and the City Treasury \$1050, leaving clear in Mr. Manning's pockets, the large sum of \$3500 or 34 per cent. interest on a \$12,000 investment. The total assessed value on building and land being only \$3,800, yet to the surprise of the court, Mr. Manning pitifully appealed to it, to have the assessment lowered. The strange part of the whole proceedings is that, Mr. Manning should come forward to do any complaining at all. It could well be understood if it was the purpose of this gentleman to have the court make the Bostwick estate pay something towards the support of the city government as well, but not so; he appealed for relief on his own behalf, because he was not getting more than 34 per cent. interest. This is an injustice! The real sufferers—the tenants—were not represented. There was no one present on their behalf, that is denied them, although it falls to them to fork over nearly all the expenses for governing the city. The taxes collected presumably are in payment for public benefits, but in addition, they must pay several times over the amount of taxes to support several individuals in luxury. The land referred to became valuable owing to nothing done to it by its "owner," yet the community which created its value receives not one cent of the \$2500 economic rent now collected by the Bostwick estate. The injustice to the community of this transaction, and which is quite apparent, can be overcome by only one method, viz., the taxing of the \$2500 ground rent into the City Treasury, where it properly belongs. This course will stop the complaints of users of land, and the \$2500 taken by the city will suffice to pay for city expenditures without imposing additional taxation on buildings and other forms of wealth. B.

MEXICAN BURIALS.

The Mexicans have a queer way of burying the dead. The corpse is tightly wrapped in century-plant matting, and placed in a coffin hired for about a shilling. One or two natives, as the case may be, place the coffin on their heads and go at a trot to the grave, where the body is interred, and the coffin is then returned. The wealthy class use the tram cars as hearses, and the friends follow beside the car on foot.

"Wickwire—"You seem to be pretty well trained down since you got your wheel, and yet I never see you riding."
Mudge—"I don't have to ride. It keeps me thin worrying about the payments."

She—"You saw the Count of Brasse, did you? Now, tell me, don't you think he is a striking personage?" He—"Yes, I do. I had been introduced to him an hour when he struck me for a loan

A LITTLE HISTORY OF DELAWARE.

Notable Events of the Single Tax Campaign in Delaware.

A page of the history of Delaware, when it is written, will embrace the following notable events:

June 15, 1895—The inauguration of the Single Tax Campaign in the State of Delaware was begun by thirteen persons, members of the Philadelphia Pa., and Camden, N.J., Single Tax Clubs.

June 29—The Town Commissioners of Middletown refused to allow the privilege of speaking in the public square.

July 6—Again the Commissioners of Middletown would not allow the use of the public square.

July 13—Campaign headquarters established in Wilmington. A large meeting was held in the public square, Middletown, and no interference was attempted.

Mr. L. Irving Handy, chairman of the Democratic State Committee, was challenged to meet in joint debate a single tax speaker to be later decided upon.

July 20—Herman V. Hetzel, while addressing an audience in Middletown, was pulled forcibly from the speakers' stand, but remounted the stand only to be forced down again by an officious town constable, who requested Mr. Hetzel to accompany him to the magistrate's court. At Mr. Hetzel's suggestion Mr. J. L. Shoemaker immediately remounted the stand to address the excited crowd. In the meantime Mr. Hetzel came before the court and was charged with "disorderly conduct, obstruction of the sidewalk and breach of the peace." After hearing witnesses the judge justified the prisoner and at once dismissed the case.

August 10—Up to this time over 156 meetings had been held in the State, with 384 speeches by 51 different speakers.

September 21—The beginning of club organizations, the first being started in Wilmington.

October 3—Congressman Hon. Jas. G. McGuire's first visit to Delaware, who rendered valiant service to the cause of tax reform.

October 31—The Rev. Merrit Hulbard and other opponents of the single tax doctrine, sought to suppress a meeting in the opera house, Wilmington, Sunday, November 3rd, at which Henry George was announced to speak. The Police Commissioners were advised by City Solicitor Harman to arrest Mr. George if he attempted to speak. The commissioners doubted the constitutionality of the act. Eventually after much discussion by the single tax representatives and the police board, it was decided to allow Mr. George to proceed, on the understanding that he eschewed politics, otherwise his immediate arrest would follow.

November 3—Henry George addressed an overflowing audience in the opera house, thousands being turned away unable to gain admittance. Mr. A. H. Stephenson, the chairman of the campaign committee, briefly explained the incidents leading up to the attempted suppression of the meeting and plainly intimated that the subject of taxation and politics would be treated, and that if Mr. George was arrested the meeting would continue, as there were enough speakers present to keep the police busy until 10 o'clock. The meeting passed off without any interruption.

November 16—The Rev. Jesse C. Taylor, rector of the Episcopal church at Lewes, Del., closed up his church and spoke in the Wilmington opera house to a large and enthusiastic audience.

From November 16 onwards until April 26, 1896, the following well-known persons addressed audiences on Sunday evenings in the opera house, Wilmington: Louis F. Post, Edward Lawson Purdy, W. M. Callingham, T. W. Swann, Rev. Dr. J. H. Amies, Jos. Farris, Jas. A. Herne, Hon. Jas. G. McGuire, Col. W. B. Norton, Jas. McGregor, Henry B. Davis, A. F. Bromhall, Rev. Father W. E. Johnson, Bolton Hall, Rev. Dr. Edward McGlynn, Thos. G. Shearman, Ernest Howard Crosby, Hon. Jerry Simpson, Edward Osgood Brown, Henry C. Lippincott, Dr. S. Solis Cohen, Herman, V. Hetzel, Alfred B. Cruick-

snank, Jas. R. Brown, Mrs. Florence A. Burleigh, A. H. Stephenson, Wm. Lloyd Garrison, E. Stillman Doubleday, Dr. R. S. Law, Ralph E. Lloyd, G. Frank Stephenson, Samuel Milliker and Harold Sudell.

April 3—Celebration of Jefferson's birthday in Town Hall, Wilmington, by the Philadelphia Society, at which numerous State organizations were represented.

April 25.—Leonard Tuttle arrested and jailed in Middletown for persisting to speak in the open square in defiance of police regulations. Being brought before the Squire and the facts of the case stated to him the prisoner was at once discharged.

May 7—R. F. Powell, while debating with an opponent on the streets of Middletown, now better known as the "Landlord's paradise," was warned not to obstruct the passage way, after moving to avoid further obstruction, the crowd gathered in greater force. Mr. Powell was then arrested, charged with the same offence as offered in previous cases, but was discharged. Again he went back to address the crowd, and was continually interrupted by tin horn noises and the throwing of misceles.

May 9—Frederick S. Gore, editor, and landlordists ally, debated a single tax with Mr. A. H. Stephenson.

May 16—Herman V. Hetzel and R. F. Powell while speaking in Middletown, were insulted by every manner of device, by a lot of "respectable" hoodlums. The speakers continued to assert their rights and preach the single tax doctrine.

May 27—Wm. Horan was arrested while speaking on the streets of Dover and brought before the magistrate who absolutely refused to abide by the evidence offered in the case, and thereupon fined the prisoner \$10 and costs or 30 days. The prisoner went to jail.

May 30—G. Frank Stephenson arrested on the same charge as made against Horan. The magistrate was requested to postpone the case and this was refused. Bail then was demanded but was denied. Trial by jury was demanded, this too was scorned. The prisoner asked that section VI. of the United States constitution be read. All attempts of Mr. Stephens to get a fair trial were of no avail. He was fined \$10 and costs or 30 days. Later the prisoner was assigned to the same cell with Horan.

June 2—An interview took place between A. H. Stephenson and Governor Watson relative to the previous persecutions, at which the governor remarked that the arrests made were nothing but persecutions and that he would pardon the prisoners. He further stated that he would release every man who was hereafter imprisoned for public speaking. (When other arrests occurred the governor denied making any such statement.)

June 3—G. Frank Stephenson and Wm. Horan were pardoned.

July 18—A. H. Stephenson, Chas. A. Brothers and Victor Durand, the two latter men being residents of Delaware, were arrested in Dover almost before either of them had begun to speak. The same farce as occurred in the previous cases happened in this, the testimony of witnesses, though largely favorable to the prisoners, was of no value. They were fined \$10 and costs or 30 days in jail. All three were escorted to prison refusing to pay the fine imposed.

July 22—Wm. H. Keeran and Samuel Melville were arrested in Dover, for public speaking; the usual fine was imposed.

July 23—The Rev. Aug. Dellgrev and Henry B. Tawresy arrested in Dover for public speaking. They too, submitted to the court's indignities and went to prison.

July 24—P. W. Moore and Alex. Stirlith arrested in Dover, fined, and went to prison.

July 25—Dr. B. F. Longstreet for attempting to obtain justice for the prisoners, was arrested, fined, and joined the others in prison. Later James O'Neil and Jas. J. Haggerty, for committing the offence similar to the others, also were fined and went to prison.

July 27—J. H. Moritz and P. F. O'Hara arrested, fined, and went to prison.

July 28—Thomas Graham and Jos. W. Grose arrested, fined, and went to prison.

July 30—W. S. Pike arrested, fined, and went to prison.

August 4—Notwithstanding the continued imprisonment of single tax speakers in Dover, H. D. Albright and

C. H. Kane braved the warring elements and demanded a hearing, but law and order had turned to a state of anarchy. They were arrested ultimately, were fined, and were the last to join the men already domiciled in prison.

Mr. Jackson H. Rolston, attorney, of Washington, took out writs of habeas corpus before Chancellor Nicholson, commanding Sheriff Shaw to produce the bodies before him, and show cause for deprivation of liberty. At 7.30 p.m. all the prisoners were brought before the Chancellor. Mr. Rolston moved to postpone proceedings till Saturday at 8, refused. Mr. Rolston then moved that the prisoners be admitted to bail pending a hearing of the writs. The Chancellor denied motions. The prisoners were then all returned to jail.

In the case of Wm. H. Keeran, one of the prisoners, the Chancellor caused him to be liberated, because of a mistake in the record of commitment.

F. W. Moore was liberated owing to sudden illness overtaking him. Later an appeal from the Chancellor's decision was made to the United States District Court in Wilmington. Judge Wales presiding. Stephenson and Haggerty were brought in to represent the other fifteen in prison before the court. Judgment held over.

Aug. 10.—A. H. Stephenson, Chas. A. Brothers and Victor Durand each completed 30 days in jail and were released.

Aug. 18.—The machine Democrats at Dover meeting in convention gained control and forced the gag.

Aug. 19.—The thirteen remaining prisoners were released on a writ of certiorari issued by Prothonotary Betts, of Kent County, all being admitted to bail of \$50 each, pending the final decision of the case at the October term of the Superior Court of Kent County.

Aug. 22.—Demonstration in Wilmington over the release of the Dover prisoners, in which the prisoners were enthusiastically received.

Aug. 25.—A Single Tax conference was held in Wilmington, composed of upwards of four hundred delegates, re state convention.

Sept. 17.—A single tax party was organized. Dr. Louis N. Slaughter being nominated for Governor, beside the formation of county committees.

Sept. 21.—Wm. J. Bryan, Presidential candidate, spoke in the Auditorium, Wilmington, before an immense audience.

Sept. 26.—The Newcastle County State convention met, and nominated candidates for State Senator, 1; Representatives, 7; County Treasurer, Sheriff and coroner.

Oct. 1.—The Kent County Single Tax convention met in Dover and nominated candidates for State Senator, 1; representatives, 7; and delegates to the Constitutional Convention.

Oct. 6.—Big mass meeting of Delaware singletaxers in Turn hall in support of the single tax ticket.

Oct. 3.—The Sussex County State convention met in Georgetown and nominated one candidate for State Senator, and seven candidates for Representatives, the full single tax ticket voted upon Nov. 3, as follows: President, Vice-President, Governor, Congressman (1), State Senators (4), local Representatives (3), County Treasurer (1), Sheriff (1), Coroner (1), and County Comptroller (1).

PINCUSHION IDEAS.

The demand for fancy pincushions appears endless. Ingenuity is strained to the utmost to produce new shapes and novel decorations. To such a pass are inventors driven to create novelties that the shapes of the cushions are often utterly unsuited for the purpose, but so long as the article is pretty its use is quite a detail. Floral pincushions are the rage just now, and under this class the lupin certainly deserves first mention. It makes quite a charming ornament as it hangs on the knob of a screen in the drawing room or on the cheval glass in the bedroom. It is made of small circular pieces of cream cloth, just tinged with color, the edges being shaped slightly to form the petals. The blooms are attached to a long central stem, which should be padded, and the flowers fastened loosely to this with thread, the tassal shape of the whole being carefully followed. A dainty little affair is the odellois pincushion. The flower is entirely carried out in white velvet, and measures about four inches across. It is uncommon, possibly because it is a good bit of trouble to make, but it is well worth both the time and the labor. The bulrush still holds its own among the flower cushions, brown velvet being employed for the head and green plush for the leaves and stem.

The Delaware Single Tax Campaign

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1895 JUST OUT 1895

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The copies offered for sale are exact duplicates of the Large Group Picture of the Leading Single-tax Campaigners, some of whom are dressed in their picturesque costume, including also Henry George, Rev. Dr. McGlynn, Louis P. Post, Wm. Lloyd Garrison, Hon. Jas. C. McGuire, Hon. Jerry Simpson and a score of others equally well known, which will shortly be presented to the Philadelphia Single-tax Society, the inaugurators of the Delaware campaign. With a few exceptions the pictures of every prominent single-taxer in the United States of International renown who have aided in Delaware are in the group. This Souvenir is valuable for its associations, and no single-taxer able to afford it should be without one. From the sales effected a percentage of the profits derived will be payable to the campaign fund. The price has been set low in order to facilitate its sale. Sent to any address on receipt of \$1.00. Searchlight Pub. Co., Rm. 5, 39 King St. W., Toronto, Canada.

SINGLE TAX CLUB.

The Single Tax Club met last week in their committee room, 39 King street west, and discussed, among other questions, the local improvement system, which has been a bone of contention for some time past with many of the city taxpayers. Mr. Frank Hallman, who introduced the subject, questioned the need for any further continuance of the system. Under its operation a double tax was imposed on the owners of land and property, first, by the imposition of local rates proportionate to the cost of local improvements made; and, secondly, when the value of land and property was raised by an increased assessment. This was considered unfair and vexatious. The opinion seemed to prevail among those who discussed the subject that all public improvements should be charged in the local rates, and where such improvements added to the value of land, such land will bear its proper proportion of the cost of improvement carried out by the increased assessment of the land benefited. By adopting this course, the end aimed at under the local improvement system is gained with less trouble, expense and annoyance. A resolution was moved embodying these ideas, and was carried unanimously.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Hon. Fred Peters, Premier, March, 1894, at a public meeting held at Mount Stewart, said:

"It was a wrong principle to tax industry, thrift and enterprise, and for the purpose of raising additional revenue he would revert to the old system of a tax on land, and would devote the proceeds derived from that source to wiping out the debt."

The plan outlined is somewhat unique, yet in effect the result is the taxation of land by a progressive tax according to the assessed value, for instance.

Land valued at \$500 would pay one (1) cent.

Land valued at \$1,000 would pay two (2) cents.

Land valued at \$2,000 would pay three (3) cents.

From this one may judge the tendency of legislation. The plan set forth is a single tax, for other taxes are levied beside this for ordinary revenue. By wiping out all taxes on products of industry and increasing the tax on land values the single tax is arrived at.

Afterwards, however, Mr. Peters introduced and carried a bill providing only that all improvements hereafter placed upon land should be exempt.

CERAMIC STONE.

A new building material, to which the name of ceramic stone has been given, is made from broken glass. The glass, broken bottles, window panes, &c., is reduced to powder, different kinds are mixed if variegated color is desired and the pulverized product is devitrified by being passed successively through two furnaces, the second being heated to an extremely high temperature. The pasty mass is then passed under a press, which gives it shape and consistence.

ABOUT TURKEY'S SULTANS

CRUELITIES PRACTISED BY THESE HUMAN MONSTERS.

Abdul Hamid Only One of Many Who Have Massacred Their Christian Subjects—A Long List of Butcheries Perpetrated by the Fiends.

The word Sultan (pronounced Sool-taan, not Sultan) is by no means a Muhammadan title. It occurs in the Kuran three times, but there it stands for authority. It occupies a similar position as a title of authority, among the Sunni Muslims as Shah does among the Shiaks of Persia. The proper title for the chief ruler in Islam is Imam (Eem-aan), or leader or Khalifa (Khaleefa), "one who is left behind," a successor, a vicegerent, or deputy. The word is used in the Kuran for Adam, who is said to have been placed upon earth as the vicegerent of God.

The rulers of the Ottoman Turks assumed the title of Sultan, because there was at the time of their rise in history a Caliph at Baghdad who claimed to be the rightful ruler in Islam.

The present Turkish dynasty, took its rise from Halaku, the grandson of Jenghis Khan, who, in the middle of the thirteenth century, came down from the fastnesses of central Asia, and seized Baghdad, putting the Caliph to death. Osman, the founder of the present Ottoman dynasty, first established his kingdom at Bursa, the ancient capital of Bithynia, and was immediately succeeded by his son, Orchan the Conqueror, a tyrant of the deepest dye. The present Sultan Hamid of Turkey is the thirty-seventh from Osman, and it is a curious coincidence that the present Ottoman dynasty supplanted the thirty-seventh Caliph of the Abbaside dynasty. The Sultan of Turkey, claiming, as he does, to be the vicegerent of the Prophet is the ninety-third in succession to Abu Bakr, the first Caliph.

It is remarkable that so many Sultans of the Ottoman dynasty have DIED VIOLENT DEATHS.

Orchan died of excessive grief on hearing of the death of his favorite son, in 1359. Murad I., known in history as Amurath, was assassinated, in 1373. Bayezid the Thunder Bolt was dethroned in 1400, and died of drunkenness. Murad II. fell down dead when feasting with his friends at Adrianople. Bayezid II. was dethroned by his son, Selim the Cruel, in 1512 and Selim died of a pestilential boil on the spine eight years afterward. Mustafa I., the Saint, reigned only three months and was dethroned by the Sheik of Islam in 1618. Muhammad IV. was dethroned, after a reign of thirty-nine years, in 1649. Ahmad II. died of insanity in 1703. Abdul Hamid I. was poisoned on April 19, 1729, and was succeeded by his nephew, Selim III., who was deposed in 1807. His successor, Mustafa IV., was deposed and strangled in 1808. Mahmud II., the reformer, was poisoned July 1, 1839. Abdul Aziz was assassinated on June 4, 1876, and his nephew, Murad V., who was proclaimed Sultan, was found to be a

raving maniac, and the present Sultan, Abdul Hamid II., reigned in his stead.

Abdul Hamid is the second son of Abdul Medjid. His mother died while he was an infant, and he was cared for by his father's second wife, a childless and wealthy woman. He is just 54 years of age, having been born Sept. 22, 1812.

He has been rightly designated by Mr. Gladstone "the assassin," and it is probable that this well-deserved title will pass down into history just as Muhammad II. was surnamed the Conqueror, Solim I. the Cruel, and Suleyman I. the Magnificent. But it seems scarcely fair that the reigning Sultan should have exclusive right to so fit a title, for the long line of Ottoman Sultans is one of

MONSTROUS CRUELTY

and outrage. In the reign of Bayezid I. the great warrior, Tamerlane of Tartary, invaded his dominions, and the two mighty chiefs met on the plains of Angora in the spring of 1402 and fought one of the most sanguinary battles recorded in history. Tamerlane seized the city of Smyrna, then held by the Christian Knights of St. John, and ordered a general massacre of the inhabitants without mercy to either age or sex. Thousands of Christian warriors were buried alive after their heads had been fastened under their legs. It was Sultan Muhammad II., surnamed the Conqueror, who conceived it to be his mission to stamp out Christianity. He entered Constantinople as the Mahdi of Islam on May 29, 1453. The Turks rushed into the city, meeting with no resistance, and the Sultan, proceeding to the Christian Cathedral of St. Sophia, stood upon the marble altar and recited the Muslim prayers. Upon the taking of Constantinople the meanest Turks insulted the noblest Christians with impunity. The Muslim conquerors did not hesitate to commit the vilest outrages on women and children, in mere wantonness, and yet it is a remarkable fact that this Sultan is said to have been the son of a Christian mother. He was a man with no redeeming virtue, a vicious and sensual tyrant.

It was Sultan Selim I. the Cruel who first assumed the title of Caliph. He threatened to kill all his Christian subjects unless they embraced Islam, and would have carried out his threat but for the manly attitude of the Greek Patriarch. In return for his clemency he took the Christian Church edifices and turned them into Muslim mosques, Suleyman, the Magnificent, slaughtered in battle

TWENTY THOUSAND

Hungarian Christians, and in September, 1524, entered the cities of Buda and Pest, without any resistance and took 100,000 Christians—men, women and children—to Constantinople to be sold as slaves. It was this Sultan who very nearly conquered Vienna, but the Austrian capital was saved by the heroism and endurance of her defenders.

Sultan Murad IV., who reigned from 1623 to 1640, was notorious for his crimes. On one occasion he killed several Christians with his own hands at the northeastern porch of St. Sophia, and on another, when he saw a number of Greek women, dancing in a meadow, he ordered them to be seized and drowned. Among the many cold-blooded murders of his reign were those of his three brothers. This Murad was so greatly hated for his atrocities that the physicians of his court opened his veins and terminated his existence at the early age of 36.

The cruelties of the Turkish Sultans have developed with the growth of civilization. For it is during the century

which is passing that the greatest enormities have been perpetrated, Mustafa IV. was an assassin to the manor born, and would have committed great enormities if he had not been deposed and assassinated.

Under the reign of Sultan Mahmud II., designated the Reformer, from 1808 to 1839, there was a determination to convert the Christians of the Turkish empire by force, and on this account Russia decided to subdue and extinguish the power of the Turk. The Russians captured several ports on the Black Sea, but, on the eve of victory, were obliged to withdraw on account of the

ADVANCE OF NAPOLEON with his large army into Russian territory. On April 6, 1822, the Turkish troops landed at Samos and butchered its unoffending people. Twenty-five thousand men, women, and children were murdered and 45,000 were sold as slaves in the market places of Egypt and Barbary. The little island of Cosos was entirely desolated and 2,000 children were sent to the slave market in Alexandria.

Sultan Abdul Medjid was regarded as the friend and ally of Christian people, and it was in defence of his empire that France, England, and Sardinia sacrificed thousands of lives. Sebastopol was taken on Sept. 8, 1855, after a siege of ten months, and during this siege nearly eight thousand French and three thousand English soldiers of the line were killed.

During the reign of Abdul Aziz the inhabitants of Crete were cruelly treated, and the island was devastated and impoverished, like the other Christian possessions of the Turks. On May 7, 1876, the French and German Consuls at Salonica were murdered, and the revolutions in Herzegovina and Bulgaria continued for more than a year. The Bashli-Bazouks attacked and slaughtered 1,200 Christians who took refuge in a church. The total number of Christians massacred at this time was estimated by Mr. Baring of the British Embassy at 25,000.

And thus the tale of tyranny goes on. The only remedy for all this is that proposed by Mr. Gladstone, namely, to send the Sultan and his Muhammadan subjects "bag and baggage to Bagdad."

A DUEL WITH PILLS.

An extraordinary duel, which at the time created an immense sensation, was one in which the decision was arrived at, not by swords or pistols, but by means of a deadly poison. The men—who, it is hardly necessary to say, had fallen out over a lady—had left the arrangement of details to their seconds, and until they faced each other they did not know by what method they were to settle their differences. One of the seconds was a doctor, and he had made up for the occasion four black pellets, all identical in size and shape. "In one of these," he said, "I have placed a sufficient quantity of prussic acid to cause the almost instantaneous death of any one who swallows it. We will decide by the toss of a coin which of you is to have first choice, and you will alternately draw and swallow a pill until the poison shows its effects." Two of the pellets were then taken as the toss had decided, but without effect in either case. "This time said the doctor, speaking of the two pellets remaining, "you must both swallow the pill at the same instant." The choice was made and in a few seconds one of the men lay dead on the grass.

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CHINESE HIGHBINDERS.

DANGEROUS BAND OF CHINAMEN IN AMERICAN CITIES.

Societies Organized to Murder, Steal, Abduct Women, Protect Criminals and Commit Other Crimes—Can Communicate With Each Other By Signs and Tokens.

Quite as deadly as the Italian Mafia, and even more thoroughly organized, are the secret Chinese societies, which have a firm footing among the celestials in the United States, and are generally known as "Highbinders."

In California, of course, these oath-bound, tyrannically ruled organizations are more numerous and more far-reaching in their work of assassination and general promotion of vice and corruption than they are elsewhere, for the obvious reason that Chinamen are more plentiful on the Pacific coast than elsewhere.

Yet they have a firm foot-hold in all the cities, notably in New York, as well as in Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia and Boston.

HIGHBINDERS AND THE MAFIA.

Like the Italian social clubs for the promotion of murder and perjury, the Chinese societies had their original beginning in politics. In China the present organizations from which all the others are branches and ramifications, are known as the Triad Society. Thousands of worthies who, from the time of the Tai Ping rebellion were members of this group of conspirators and active in efforts to depose the present Chinese dynasty, were obliged to fly for their lives when our late guest, Li Hung Chang, suppressed that formidable outbreak.

The majority of them came to America—to San Francisco—and organized themselves into branches of the home societies. The objects, however, changed with the changed surroundings. Instead of conspiring to overthrow things politically, the Chinese societies simply became permanent Juntas for the exploitations of debauchery, judicial corruption and assassination.

The proverbial ingenuity and bland "slickness" of the Chinaman were displayed with redoubled effectiveness in these bands, where the most atrocious crimes were the game and where death was the reward of failure. Their skill in perjury and in bringing a crowd of witnesses to the relief of any one of their members caught in the toils of the law is masterly. They are adepts in the art of assassination, as well as in the concealment of the weapons with which their deadly, lightning-like blows are struck. The fact that one group of these wretches are known among themselves as "hatchet boys" is sufficiently suggestive of their method of work, but still another favorite weapon with them is what apparently is a handsome, highly ornamental closed fan, but which in reality is a formidable bar of iron, one blow from which delivered with a firm, strong hand will crush in the hardest skull.

SECRET SIGNS AND TOKENS.

Equally ingenious are the code of secret signals with which members of the murder societies silently communicate with each other, even when seated at wide distances apart and in crowded rooms or restaurants. The manner in which they handle their cups, the way they place them or the teapots upon the table all have their significance. Thus the members of the Yee Hing or Chu Kung societies may be known by the way they raise their tea cups to their lips, while a certain twist of the queue is an infallible sign of a Yee Hing.

The Yee Hing, by the way, is the principal society in New York, as well as in Boston, Philadelphia and other Eastern cities. In San Francisco the Chu Kung Tong is the chief society, having various offshoots and groups, each making a speciality of some particular line of villainy.

No member of one of these societies completely becomes its slave. He must blindly murder or blind or slash any one whom the society selects for its vengeance, and disobedience of bearing testimony, other than perjured testimony to the innocence of an accused member, is as certain to bring death, even though the marked man fly to the ends of the earth, as it is with the Mafia.

Sometimes for mild offenses members are merely accused of some crime and "railroaded" to prison on perjured testimony, and sometimes they are merely hounded out of every occupation they get. But in one way or another the vengeance of the Tong is sure to be felt and is a constant object of terror both to Chinamen who are members, as well as to those who are not.

THE WOMAN SLAVE TRADE.

One of the leading industries of the secret societies is the importation and sale of women slaves, a traffic which is carried on not only in San Francisco, but doubtless in New York, but so secretly as to be beyond police detection, although so far as that is concerned the Chinese Highbinder knows the pantata's weakness for cash and "Christmas presents" as well as do any of the proprietors of shady resorts in New York's Tenderloin district.

These traders in women do not by any means take the trouble and risk of importing their wares. In fact, the stealing of Chinese women from one Chinaman and selling her to another is a leading feature of Highbinder commercial activity. But it is woe to the slave who undertakes to escape. Against her the whole machinery of Highbinderdom is brought to bear, the usual method being an accusation of theft or other crime, supported by a dozen or more perjured witnesses, the persecution keeping up until the slave voluntarily goes back to end her troubles or until some one of the several Christian societies familiar with Chinese ways that are dark comes to her rescue.

A TREMBLING PILLAR.

The Church of St. Nicaise, in the city of Rheims, is surrounded with pillars, one of which sways perceptibly with the ringing of one of the bells of the tower. When the bell is rung it causes the top of this pillar to sway to the extent of seven inches on each side, although the base of the pillar is immovable, and the stones are so firmly cemented as to seem like a solid piece of masonry. Although each of the four bells in the tower is about the same distance from the trembling pillar, only one of them has any effect on it, the ringing of the others either singly or all together not causing it to tremble in the least. When a board was placed on the pillar bearing two glasses of water, and the bell was rung, at the fifth stroke of the bell the two glasses were thrown off. Curiously enough, it was an adjoining pillar that formerly swayed, then it became immovable, and some years ago the present trembling pillar became the eccentric one.

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CHECKING THE WITNESS.

The Testimony of a Careful Old Man in the Presence of a Shrewd Young Attorney.

The young lawyer was determined that if vigilance should accomplish anything the case should be decided in favor of his client, and so when the careful old man went upon the stand for the defence, the attorney leaned forward, prepared to fight every inch of the way.

"Mr. Johnson, the plaintiff," said the careful old man, "said that if I would buy the house he would get Mr. Gimpson to relinquish his release. He said he thought Mr. Gimpson would agree to go. I guess—"

"Never mind what you guess. We don't want any Loresay or guessing. Your Honor (to the Court). I object to this witness's testimony. He is guessing at what he says. We want facts."

"Excuse me," said the old man; "I was about to say I guess at nothing, and insisted on the understanding being established in my presence. So the two men got together, with me on hand, and listen to what they said. I understand—"

"Objected to as incompetent. Your Honor, we don't want to know what this man understands was done. We want what he knows was done. We want—"

"One moment," said the careful old man. "I was about to say that I understand ordinary conversation with some difficulty, and so that there might be no error I insisted that they yell out their propositions in loud tones, which they did until you could hear them in the middle of the town. I am informed—"

"Your Honor!" cried the young attorney, "is our time to be taken up listening to hearsay evidence? He does not know. He was informed that such and such was so and so. What we must have is what he knows about the trade and whether or not he—"

"I am informed on real estate values, having been a real estate agent all my life," the old man said, "and I knew what the worth of that lease was to the holder of it. Knowing of the facts I would fix his damages at \$78.32. I believe—"


"Objected to as a conclusion and as incompetent. What any man believes is not necessarily good proof. I don't want to know what you believe, but what you know. We must insist on your telling what you know and not what you surmise or what you conjecture, or what you think, or what you imagine. A court room is not a place for exploiting what a man believes, but what he is sure of. I think the Court will support me in saying that we don't want to know what this man believes." And the young lawyer looked confidently at the Justice.

"I was going to say," said the witness, "that I believe that is all."

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