

FOUR more prisoners reported pardoned yesterday! It is time an examination as to the sanity of Gov. Begole should be made.

It was generally supposed that the course of Senator Logan in opposing the nomination of W. E. Curtis as Secretary of the South American Commission was an effort of paying the Chicago Inter Ocean for the hard things it has said about him in the past, but that paper says that it is a mistake as neither the Inter Ocean nor any one connected with it did anything to secure the nomination of Mr. Curtis.

It appears to be a race between Gov. Cleveland and Gov. Begole as to which shall pardon the most convicts, with Begole, however, several lengths ahead. The Syracuse Standard says:

Gov. Cleveland pardons convicted criminals every day because they were under the influence of liquor when they committed the misdeeds for which they were, at great labor and expense, convicted. He regards it as an exasperating circumstance that a man is drunk while breaking the law. In his opinion, it is a little matter to be under the influence of an intoxicating beverage, it is a little matter to commit a crime, and both together are a little matter. He finds the sum of the two offenses by subtracting the first from the second, and the result is that a person who gets drunk and then infringes the law has done a slight thing. By the way, under what influence were some of the temperance men when they voted this same Cleveland for President?

The growing demand for a national bankrupt law will probably culminate in the enactment of the bill now pending in the House of Representatives or a similar one in the near future. A recent article in the Chicago Tribune makes the following outline of the provisions of the bill, and we give it for the benefit of those who wish to be informed on the subject:

It will enable a bankrupt or creditors to institute proceedings in every Congressional district instead of going to the seat of the United States District Court, which was necessary under the old law, and was in many cases a great hardship. The Commissioner of Bankruptcy, before whom the proceedings may be begun, has all the powers of a Master in Chancery. His compensation is fixed at \$2,000 a year, but may be increased by order of the court not to exceed \$3,000. There is to be a supervisor for every State, whose business it is to inspect the Commissioner's offices and to instruct the clerks, trustees and other persons engaged in administering the law; his compensation is also limited to \$3,000 a year. The fees provided are \$50 for the application, 1 per cent. of the full amount realized on the assets, and one-half of 1 per cent. on any composition of indebtedness. As all these fees are paid into court to be transferred to the United States Treasury, they offer the officers no inducement for partiality or delay. Speedy liquidation is also facilitated by giving the United States Circuit Court final jurisdiction of all questions of law. The exemptions are confined to the necessary family wearing apparel and such property as is exempt from attachment under United States and State laws.

On its face the bill now before Congress appears to be one that will give satisfaction to the merchants. The fact that it has passed the scrutiny of the Senate will of itself commend its provisions to popular confidence, for the Senate is not only a more deliberate body than the House, but it is also better authority in law matters. In any case, the House should proceed at once to the consideration of this measure and mature a bill which will meet with the primary requirements of expedition, economy, and an equitable division of the assets in the settlement of bankrupt estates.

CHRISTMAS. Christmas day has two distinctive features; it is the greatest children's holiday, and it is a strictly christian holiday. To no other day in the year do the children look forward with such delightful anticipations; on no other day do they so fully realize their anticipations; to no other day do they look back with such joyful recollections. Santa Claus is a myth, but a myth that has wreathed millions of little faces with smiles, and made music and mirth about millions of fire-sides. And there are no flowers so beautiful as these little buds of humanity bursting out into rosy, smiling blossoms, no music so delightful as the chiming of happy children's voices. Says Cicero, "What gift has Providence bestowed on man, that is so dear to him as children?" "Living jewels," Pollok calls them, "Living jewels dropped unstained from Heaven." "Call not man wretched, who whatever ill he suffers, has a child to love," says Southey, and Dickens says, "I love these little people, and it is not a slight thing that they, who are so fresh from God, love us." Love and peace and joy, these comprise the significance of the day. Beginning in the hearts of the children, they overflow and ripple forth until the parents and the friends and the guests and the whole world are charged with delight. Thus love which is the essence of Christianity grows from what Mrs. Norton has called "the fragile beginnings of a mighty end."

As a Christian holiday Christmas naturally turns our thoughts to the life of Christ and to the influence which Christianity has had upon the world. To attempt even the briefest outline of the influence of Christianity in the world in the little space at our command would be utterly folly. The story of the life of Christ,

as related in the Scriptures is too familiar to require repetition, but it may not be uninteresting, nor unprofitable, to read a description of his person and a tribute to his character given by one who was his contemporary, but not his follower. Pabius Lentulus says:

There has appeared in this our day, a man of great virtue, named Jesus Christ, who is yet living amongst us, and with the Gentiles is accepted as a prophet of truth, but his own disciples call him the Son of God. He raiseth the dead and cureth all manner of diseases, a man of stature somewhat tall and comely, with a very reverend countenance, such as the beholder may both love and fear; his hair is of the color of a filbert, full ripe, and plain down to his ears, but from his ears downwards somewhat curled, and more orient of color, waving about his shoulders. In the midst of his head goeth a sassa or partition of hair, after the manner of the Nazaries; his forehead very smooth and plain; his face, nose and mouth so framed as nothing can be reprehended; his beard somewhat thick, agreeable to the hair of his head for color, not of any great length, but forked in the middle, of an innocent and mature look. His eyes gray, clear and quick. In reproving he is terrible; in admonishing, courteous and fair spoken, pleasant in speech amidst gravity. It cannot be remembered that any have seen him laugh, but may have seen him weep. In proportion of body, well shaped and straight; his hands and arms most beautiful to behold; in speaking, very temperate, modest and wise; a man of singular virtue, surpassing the sons of men.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Frank Leslie's Weekly: Better is a stammering tongue where love is, than five foreign languages and a heart with a first mortgage on it held by another girl.

Cleveland Herald: The doings of the two houses of Congress just now remind one of the two boys, one of whom was doing nothing and the other helping him to do it.

Buffalo Commercial: Governor Cleveland is slowly but surely grinding out pardons. Intoxication is apparently regarded by his excellency as a strong plea in crime's behalf.

Boston Herald: Mr. Cook's egotism is like the North Pole—one cannot reach it by any conceivable means; it is unique, isolated, omnipresent. It is the chief element in "Occidents."

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: The opposition to the confirmation of Curtis as Secretary to the Spanish-American Commission is directed by Logan, in return for Curtis telling the truth about him. This is what is called "the Curtis of the Senate."

Rochester Post-Express: The Mormons will not send a very strong lobby to Washington this winter, as they do not fear any additional legislation.—New York World. For once the World is right. The Mormons have no need of a lobby so long as the Democrats have the House.

Buffalo Courier (Dem.): Civil service reform is therefore the necessary policy of the party, as it is the political creed of the next administration. Those who are attached to the party and desire its full restoration to its former power and greatness will support President Cleveland in the course which he has mapped out for his administration.

Philadelphia Times: The Senators who have seen their closely guarded treaties slipping away from them each week bid fair to learn in due time that the old-fashioned diplomatic secrecy cannot be maintained in these days of universal reading and enterprise which it naturally develops in newspaper managers to supply this insatiate demand.

Philadelphia Record: Should Congress yield to the importunities of the official class and raise the Bureau of Agriculture into a department with a Secretary it would not be long before a Secretary of Manufactures, a Secretary of Labor, a Secretary of Commerce and a Secretary of Railroads would also be clamored for. For the effective administration of the Government there are quite enough Cabinet officers now.

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