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(Correspondence of the Beacon.)

ST. LOUIS, MO., Sept. 1875.

Mr. Editor:—Not having seen or heard of your valuable paper for sometime, but thinking "when in days of yore" I used to read every week the valuable news you always have in it, afforded me the most extreme pleasure which I have not forgot to this day.—Your correspondents from abroad were a feature which was particularly interesting to me, and judging from my appreciation of them then, I thought, being that I was abroad, something from my pen might be equally interesting to your readers now. I don't claim to be a writer, but knowing a great many people, readers of your paper, and their generousness, I know they will look over all imperfections and find no fault, or if they do, I can't help it, for I will try my best and put things down in a plain, matter of fact way, without that *coloring* which writers generally adhere to, which almost obliterates nature from their works. I am now in St. Louis, justly named the king city of the West, for it has more population than any city this side of Philadelphia. Very few of your readers would imagine that this comparatively new city had over half a million souls in it; but such is the case. At the close of the commercial and industrial disaster, more severe than any country has experienced for thirty-four years, it would not have been strange if a great commercial and manufacturing city had sustained some loss of trade and population. It is therefore, the more gratifying to find that St. Louis has no loss to record, but has even made marked and rapid progress during the disastrous year of 1874. Although, as in almost every city, some branches of manufacture have been greatly depressed, others have developed so rapidly and increased so largely in production that a decided aggregate gain results. The temporary closing of many large establishments has driven thousands of workmen to employment elsewhere for a time, but the growth of the city in other respects has been so rapid that there has been a considerable increase in population. The opening of the new iron and steel bridge over the Mississippi river here, the finest in the U. S., in July, 1874, with lines of horse cars connecting with those of the city, and the extension of horse cars into the country on this side of the river, has tended to draw population during the last year, especially to residences of less costly living in East St. Louis, Ill., and beyond the city limits. The five years of progress since 1870 has been remarkable, and the growth in buildings, business, &c., are evidences of a very conclusive character of gain. A short time makes a heap of difference with things generally, particularly in these Western States. Persons that had the pleasure of traveling through here ten or fifteen years ago would scarcely recognize it now, things have undergone such a panoramic change in the development of civilization. The great steamboat business on the Mississippi, which had such sway a few years ago, is now most entirely defunct. Railroads have usurped their place, and they are on every hand all over the country, there being no less than eighteen different lines coming in here, which, as a natural consequence, makes the now old-fashioned way of traveling by boat most entirely dead. You can't get an old river man to say a word of encouragement for railroads. Years ago hundreds of boats could be seen at one time leaving here daily, but now it wont average six. And so it is with most everything, for when Keeley, that Philadelphian, gets his moter to work, (!) they will have to lay steam engines and locomotives upon a back shelf. This town is also the natural lay-off or "bumming" place for all kinds of people, from the well-known town swell and dandy to the backwoodsman. Hunters, miners, bordermen, cattle-herders and Indians of all kinds can be seen any day perambulating the streets in their dirty buckskin costumes and leggings. Most all of them when they come in bring money with them, but they don't have it long, for as they come across a faro bank (by-the-way, they are plentiful here,) "they go for 'em," as the saying is, and the consequence is they are left without a nickel to go back with to get more, and repetition is sure to follow.

The latest hobby out here among the newspapers is on "tramps," or footpads, as they are generally called. If the law is broken in any way now whatever, or a man killed, beat or robbed, the cry is the tramps did it. All these things happen very often, too. A man went into a rum-mill last, got drunk, spent all his money, kicked up a row and got kicked out and beat and left on the street. Of course the "cops" found him and took care of him for the night. When morning came he could tell nothing about himself, and they made it tramps again. The morning papers in speaking of it, said: "This tramp question is getting to be a very serious thing, and it is getting time that the law was doing something to rid the country of them. They will soon be the terror of every city as well as the country, too," and in conclusion, "If such things keep on, peaceable citizens will run the risk of their lives by walking the streets after dark. We can well say, "Lo! the poor *tramp*."

The K. K. K. has broken loose again in our adjoining State, Illinois, and from reports they have been committing most daring depredations, going about masked and armed over the country at night robbing and murdering peaceable farmers in their beds. It is a wonder to me the papers don't say they are huge armies of tramps congregated together for mutual protection, to commit their depredations and thus protect themselves by their own force. I expect they will have it something in this way after awhile. Who knows?

Two of our leading newspaper men had a duel the other day, but as far as I can learn it was not about "tramps," or they were not called "tramps" either in the morning papers. It seems that they have been fighting each other through their respective papers for some time now, concerning an article about Jeff. Davis and ladies of Illinois, more of a political character than anything else, as one was Republican and the other Democrat. But it is not my intention to tell the cause and describe the arrangements, but to show the ludicrous ending of this affair. Suffice to say a challenge was sent and was accepted. Preparations were perfected by their seconds and it was agreed to let the bloody deed be done on Illinois soil, so they both went separately with their seconds, friends and a surgeon apiece up in Winnebago county. Twenty paces was the distance, and by agreement with their seconds only one shot was to be fired. One, two, three, and the not fatal shots rang upon the air. Both men stood in their places the same as ever. They both shot *on a line* but *above* each other's head, and of course no one was harmed, thus ending the duel by agreement. They shook hands like gentlemen and both came home together the best of friends. May they always continue so. The crops in this part of the country are in excellent condition, notwithstanding the severe floods we have had recently ruined a great deal. More than an average yield is expected by the farmers all over the West, including the grasshopper districts that were replanted. The Summer has been very pleasant all along, but now it is fearful warm. More anon, yours, &c., KENO.

A CO-OPERATIVE PLAN.—Say, let blank orders be provided and put into the hand of each County Agent, whose duty it shall be to give the several Granges of his county notice that he will be present at their meeting in January or February to take their orders for any of the farm implements and other supplies that may be needed for the coming season. Let these blank orders be filled up with particular articles needed, to be delivered at such place as is most convenient at a given time. Then the County Agent to make up a consolidated report, on a blank provided, of all the articles needed and so ordered in his county, retaining himself the original orders, but forwarding this consolidated report to the State Agent, whose duty it should be to make up a consolidated report for the State out of all the county reports forwarded to him, to be furnished to the manufacturers of the different articles named in the reports as an estimate for them to operate on. This plan would bring about close, complete, and practical co-operation, and thus, by going to the manufacturer with such large orders, it would command the very lowest possible rates. Then large freights could also be saved by the shipment to the various counties of the whole order, as nearly as possible for that county, by the carload. It would give us co-operative prices in buying, and co-operative rates in shipping, whereas we now do all this by detail, and at much greater expense. These inducements, properly explained by the County Agents when soliciting orders, would induce the giving of the orders in a lump by all. We are persuaded that a year's trial of this plan would prove it a good one.—Western Farm Journal.

☞ A citizen who was driving along the Jackson road, near Vicksburg, the other day, saw a man up a tree along the roadside, and halting, he inquired, "What are you doing up there?" The man made no reply, and the citizen continued: "What's the cause of your being up there?" At that moment a woman rose up from the fence corner, rested a club on the fence and remarked: "I'm the cause, stranger, and if you'll wait till he comes down you'll see the worst field of carnage around here that ever laid out of doors!" The citizen drove on, and she turned to the man up the tree and continued: "Polhemus, I can't climb, and you know it; but if you'll drop down here for two minutes I'll give you a quit-claim deed on the farm."

A LOST HOUR.

A golden hour on a Summer morn,
When half the world was still,
The dew was fresh on the new-mown hay,
And the bridal vail of the fair young day
Hung o'er the purple hill.

The sheep-bells tinkled across the slopes,
Sweet as elfin chime;
Butterflies flitted athwart the down,
Bees went murmuring, busy and brown,
Over the fragrant thyme.

A languid calm and a dull content,
Silence instead of speech;
The wind sighed low, and the lark sang high,
But the golden hours of our lives went by,
And drifted out of reach.

We both went back to an eager life;
But in its pause to-day
The gleam of that golden hour returns,
And my jaded spirit frets and yearns
For one chance swept away.

The years creep on, and the heart grows tired
Even of hopes fulfilled;
And turns away from the world's strong wine,
With fevered lips that must ever pine
For that pure draught we spilled.

And yet perchance when our long day wanes
(Age hath its joys late born);
We shall meet again on the green hill-side,
And find, in the solemn eventide,
The hour we lost at morn.

(Correspondence of the Beacon.)

BEAUTIES OF THE HUDSON.

Mr. Editor:—Thinking that a description of the scenery on the Hudson River might prove interesting to some of your readers, and having recently had the pleasure of traversing its famed waters, I send you a description of it, premising, in the start, a consciousness of my inability to do full justice to so elevated a subject, for however I might be disposed to use strong language, I certainly can find none sufficiently expressive to do full justice to the sublimity and magnificence of the scenery on this, the "Rhine of America." With this introduction, Mr. Editor, I make my debut. Wishing therefore the pleasure of viewing the scenery of the Hudson, on arriving at New York, instead of proceeding on the cars, I took passage on the Mary Powell at 3½ P. M. for Poughkeepsie, and here let me say something of the M. P.—She is a magnificent steamer of Palatial appointments, and every thing conducive to comfort, convenience and enjoyment was to be found on board of her; her dimensions reminded me of descriptions I had seen of the "Great Eastern." She is said to be the "Pride of the Hudson," and well she deserves that name. On this occasion she had on board a full complement of passengers—probably two thousand or more. They appeared to be the elite of this part of the country, and all seemed to enjoy themselves. After getting beyond the city limits the river spread out in all its beauty and magnificence, being about half a mile in width, with waters deep and fringed on either side with undulating, continuous and elevated oval-shaped hills clothed in the richest green, dotted here and there by beautiful villas and magnificent residences. Between those elevations flowed the Hudson in all its peaceful and silent grandeur, and the winds might blow and the tempest roar, they could scarcely disturb its placid bosom. Up this "Rhine of America" we steamed, fanned by the zephyr breeze of a northern wind, conveyed by a steamer whose appointments were those of a palace and that slided so smoothly over the limpid waters that not a jar or jolt was felt. On the east side we pass Irvington, Dobb's Ferry and and Terrytown. Moving on, a beautiful grove on the right comes into view, with oval-shaped and undulating hills in the back-ground. On the west side slight elevations interspersed with beautiful residences, with green lawns in front and high undulating oval-shaped hills in the back-ground, covered with trees clothed in foliage of emerald green. Next high banks, whose tops were covered with freshest foliage. On the right undulating slopes and high elevations, dotted with beautiful residences, laid out with green lawns in front, with adjacent groves, and in some instances rows of beautiful fruit trees. Passing Leightown the river now winds around to the right, the scene changes, the residences become less frequent, and besides the limpid waters but little is seen but high and elevated ranges of hills, in front and on either side, all clothed with green trees and freshest foliage, diversified by a beautiful green Island on the right dotted with groves. Rounding this turn the elevations on the right are less, while they rise to the usual height in the back-ground. On the left and near the river they are slight, behind these increasing, while further in the rear and constituting a third range they rise to a height sufficient to entitle them to the dignity of mountains, all oval-shaped, and the surface covered with trees clothed in beautiful green. Further on, the river now becomes narrow, perhaps not more than a hundred yards wide, with high rocks and in some instances almost perpendicular ranges of hills and sugar loaf mountain peaks on either side, all clothed in green verdure. We reach a wharf on our left, from which a road winds up through the rocky eminence. Getting through this pass the view spreads out to broader dimensions, and the scenery becomes more diversified. With the beautiful and thriving city of Newburg on the left and a small village on the right bank, with a gradual ascent from the shore for about half a mile, interspersed with beautiful green fields and fine trees, while further in the rear of these rise the mountainous dulating ridges of hills, clothed great robes of beauty. The day now gives way to "twilight hour" and the scene changes tiful green hills that lined decked in all their gorgeous and splendor, are but dimly even this, until entirely hid view, they, with the river flowing cidly between their banks, appeared beautiful. But soon darkness the view and occular enjoyment way to the mind's inner reflections beauties of nature, and we arrived destination about 9 o'clock, pleased with our trip on the Hudson.

W.

[From the Washington Star.]

THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND RAILROAD IN COURT.—Yesterday in the Equity Court, Judge Olin, the case of the Washington City and Point Lookout Railroad (Suit, Walker and others) against the Southern Maryland Railroad (Smoot and others), for an injunction and receiver (in which Mr. N. F. Cleary was appointed receiver some days since), was taken up, General Duncan S. Walker and Hon. Daniel Clarke for complainant, and General S. S. Henkle, ex-Governor F. P. Stanton, General T. T. Crittendon, Hon. B. G. Harris and E. C. Ingersoll for the defendants. The Court was occupied yesterday in hearing the bill read, and this morning the answer of the Southern Maryland by Mr. S. S. Smoot, its President, was read. The answer states that the defendants do not know that the franchises claimed by complainant are enjoined legally; state that Callahan, Cleary, Burgess, Cook and Loughren, parties to the suit now hold the defendant's notes (and bonds of defendant received through the creditor's committee as collateral), which are not yet due. Also, that Star and Ridenour obtained judgment in the Supreme Court of the District, on which a *fi. fa.* was issued and returned nulla bona, and that this judgment has been assigned to L. G. Hine, as attorney for Gates, and suit has been brought thereon in the Superior Court of Baltimore City, and yet they are parties to the suit. The defendants make a general denial of the charges of bad management and misapplication of the funds, and deny especially that the prices paid for the work were unreasonable, and aver that such prices were exceptionally economical, and that the management of the interests of the company will compare favorably with that of any railroad company in the United States. They show that forty-six miles have been graded and bridges and culverts built ready for ties and rails; and that the rights-of-way for sixty miles have been obtained, 35,000 ties purchased and all legal expenses paid, aggregating $436,813 13, including all outstanding indebtedness. They admit the filing of the bill for an injunction in Prince George's county, in which a receiver was appointed, which they aver was without notice, and such suit has operated to the great injury of defendants, although the bill is like that in the present case—a tissue of slanderous falsehoods. They state that all books and papers are in the hands of the Receiver of the Court, and it is impossible to answer the interrogatories without access to said books. They charge that the Washington City and Point Lookout Company, being rivals of the defendant, have instigated this suit, as also that in Prince George's county, Maryland, not for the purpose of securing payment of the pretended debt, which is not just and cannot be sustained in law and equity, but for the sole purpose of annoying and harrassing the respondents. They aver that said Smoot has expended of his private funds in this enterprise $200,000, which with the amounts paid by him for the purchase of franchises and for general interest, will swell the amount to $240,000; that Smoot is the owner of over two-thirds of the stock of the road.—These facts show the necessity and are a guarantee of an honest, faithful and economical administration by said Smoot. The answers further state that stimulated by interest and individual ambition to construct a great work connecting the seat of government with the sea, he has struggled against adverse impediments continually placed in the way of the progress of the work for the past two years by the malicious influence of S. T. Suit and D. S. Walker, President and Treasurer of the W. C. & P. L. R. R. Co., which malicious efforts have culminated in the proceedings in order to prevent, as respondents believe, the conclusion of negotiations now in progress, with every prospect of success, with foreign capitalists for ample means to pay all indebtedness, and to complete and equip said Southern Maryland Railroad.

☞ A little girl of four or five years asked here mother one day if she had not seen Colonel Porter. "No, my child," was the reply, "he died before you were born." "Well, but, mamma," she insisted, "if he went up before I came down we must have met."

Host—"Just another we drap 'fore you go." Guest—"Na, na, I'll take nae mair! I'm in a new lodgin," and I'm no vera weel acquainted wi' the stair."

Where ten men will cheerfully lay down their lives for a woman, only one will carry her a scuttle of coal.

[Philadelphia Press—Radical.]

THE KNOW-NOTHING EXPEDIENT IN OHIO.

It is too late now to discuss the question whether the United States might have maintained a better Government by excluding from participation in it all persons of foreign birth, and the establishment of a State Church. However practicable that might have been in the beginning it is impossible now.

The first amendment to the Constitution of the United States, adopted in 1789, provides that "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Ever since the founding of the Government the fact that all nationalities and religions have been cordially invited to make their home in this land of the free—that neither birth nor creed had to do with the qualifications of citizenship here—has brought hither a constant tide of immigration, until now we are the most heterogeneous people on the globe. We have found this no bar to prosperity, but rather the cause of a friendly rivalry and mutual improvement which have placed us in the very van of progress.

The experiment of Native Americanism was thoroughly tried about a quarter of a century ago, and proved a lamentable and tragic failure. National prejudices and religious fanaticism are as explosive and dangerous as a powder magazine, and it is the worst of follies and crimes to excite them merely to promote the selfish schemes of reckless politicians. Yet this is being done on an extensive scale in Ohio by the managers of what was lately the Republican party of that State. These managers were unfortunate enough to get on the unpopular side of the currency question, and, notwithstanding the distress of the work-people and manufacturing interests, have been clamoring for a policy which means further contraction, and an aggravation of existing evils. This course was threatening disaster; so the currency question was quietly dropped and, by a general concert of action, the "No Popery" firebrand was hurled into the canvass.—The Hayes men—they are no longer entitled to be called Republicans, having attempted to found a new war on sectarian rancor—accused the Democratic party of being leagued with the priests to destroy the free schools and give the Catholics dangerous and subversive privileges. Variations of this wild charge are now the staple of their campaign arguments.

We denounce this course as an unpardonable crime and folly, because it is an abandonment of a real issue to take up a false one, and a departure from the proper sphere of politics, to stir up a bitter religious war, for which there is not the slightest shadow of an excuse, and which can only result in much harm, both to the cause of religion and peace of society.

If this charge be well founded and there be a real danger to the school system or any other of our free institutions, every good citizen should join in such measures as are necessary to prevent it, no matter at what personal sacrifice. There must be no compromising with any enemy of these instiutions, either foreign or domestic. But in Ohio as in Pennsylvania, there are constitutional provisions which place the School Fund beyond the control of any Church or sect, and the Democrats of both States were almost unanimous in voting for both these Constitutions.—We have no affiliations with the Democrats, and no Church or hierarchy can ever control our columns, but the truth must be told.

It is charged that the Roman Catholics and Democrats in Ohio are combined to divide the School Fund. The Democrats in their platform say as follows:

"13. We favor the complete separation of Church and State, religious independence and absolute freedom of opinion, equal and exact justice to all religious societies and purely secular religion at the expense of the tax-payers, without division among or control by any sect, directly or indirectly, of any portion of the Public School Fund."

That is explicit enough, and shows that if the Democrats harbor any such sinister designs they dare not avow them, but plainly declare a contrary purpose.

In the second place, the present Constitution of Ohio, adopted by a Democratic majority in the Constitutional Convention, contains the following:

"Article 6, Section 2. The General Assembly shall make such provisions, by taxation or otherwise, as, with the income arising from the School Trust Fund, will secure a thorough and efficient system of Common Schools throughout the State; but *no religious or other sect or sects shall ever* have any exclusive rights to, or control of *any part* of, the School Fund of this State."

That, too, seems explicit, and makes it simply impossible for any party or sect to disturb the school system.

But then it is said the Democratic Legislature passed, last winter, a terrible law—the Geghan Act—which gives the Catholics dangerous privileges.—Well, here is the Geghan Law. Let us examine it with microscopic care:

"An act to secure liberty of conscience in matters of religion to persons imprisoned, or detained by authority of law.

"SECTION 1. Be it ordained by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That as liberty of conscience is not forfeited by reason of conviction of crime or by reasons of retention in any penal, reformatory or elemosynary institution, or any House of Refuge, Work-house, jail or public asylum in this State, no person in any such institutions shall be compelled to attend religious worship or instruction of a form which is against the dictates of his or her conscience; and it shall be the duty of every Director, Trustee, Superintendent, or other persons having in charge such institutions, to furnish ample and equal facilities to all such persons for receiving the ministrations of the authorized clergymen of their own religious denominations or persuasion, under such reasonable rules and regulations as the Trustees, Directors, Managers or Superintendents shall make, but no such rules shall be so construed as to prevent the clergyman of any denomination from fully administering the rites of his denomination to such inmates; provided such administration entail no expense on the public treasury."

We should hate to see any Church given an unfair advantage, even in a prison, but only such an excess of bigotry as to be downright insanity could detect any unfairness in this law. It simply places the adherents of all sects on precisely the same ground, as they should be.

There was no excuse then for thrusting this intemperate religious quarrel upon the politicial canvass in Ohio, and it is to be greatly regretted that the Hayes managers have resorted to so reckless an expedient.

If they should meet with ignominious defeat they will have only themselves to blame, and the Republican party of the Nation, which is in most States not yet in so desperate a strait as to masquerade in the old garments of the dead Know-Nothing party, need not mourn the event. There are real issues enough—and live ones, too—so that this giant party which saved the Union and abolished slavery, has no need to meddle with religious disputes or conjure up the ugly ghost of Native Americanism.

ART OF DRESS IN CONGRESS.—Take Congressmen as a class, probably they are as badly dressed a set of men as one can find anywhere in the country. Two of the best dressed are Clarkson Potter, of New York, in the House, and in the Senate, Gen. Burnside. Clarkson Potter adheres closely to the English style of dressing. His whiskers are cut after the English fashion, and he affects the English style of pronunciation.—Yet there are but few men in the House who are his equals in ability and capacity for work. General Burnside, the best dresser in the Senate, affects the undress military style, and in his peculiar cravats, waistcoats, and original colors never fails to attract more than ordinary notice. He was once a tailor in his early days, and his training tells for him in many nice points of art which escape other men. Among the worst dressed men in either branch of Congress is S. S. Cox. He always wears a bobtail sack coat, and a bobtail sack coat never fails to damn a little man.—His clothes would not bring over seven dollars and a half in any auction store in the country. There was only one man in the last House who was a worse dresser than Cox, and that was Crutchfield, of Tennessee. Crutchfield is a rough mountaineer, who never wore a collar or shaved himself oftener than once a week. Andy Johnson's dress was of the old school style of politician of some twenty years ago, with but one modern concession, and that was that the coat was a frock instead of a swallow-tail. His style of dress, the conventional one of the "American gentleman" of the years gone by, consisted of a shiny black broadcloth coat and trousers, with a vest of deep black velvet. Speaker Blaine affects the double-breasted frock. He generally wears two buttons buttoned, and allows the rest of the coat to roll so as to show a very neat shirt. The double-breasted frock coat has grown in favor with the better order of Congressmen during the last few years.—The beauty of this coat is that when it is closely buttoned it gives a man a very compact appearance that never fails to impress a loosely dressed crowd. There is a dignity about a closely-buttoned double-breasted frock coat that can be found in no other article of a man's wardrobe. Fernando Wood would lose nine-tenths of his impressive dignity were he to put on a sack coat and lounge about in a way assumed by some of his Western brethren. He always wears a long black coat that buttons tightly up to his throat. He looks as if he were melted down every night and run into his clothes every morning. He is always easy in his manners, however, and in this respect is, indeed, quite a contrast to most who make a point of dress. Of the hats worn by the statesmen of the period, the slouch nearly always have the preference. The Western and Southern members nearly all wear this style.

☞ A man from the far interior went to Washington to see the sights. A member of the House whose constituent he was, said: "Come up to-morrow, and I will give you a seat on the floor of the House." "No, you don't!" replied Jonathan; "I always manage to have a cheer to set on at home, and I haven't come to Wash'n'ton to set on the floor! Injuns may do that when they come, if they like, but I don't do it."

THE TREATMENT FOR TRAMPS.—Vagabondage, if it be not made a crime, should at least work forfeiture of freedom. If tramps are to be supported by honest men, honest men should at least have the power to say in what manner the tramps shall be supported. It is unfair for the farmer to work hard in the hot hay field all day, or the shoemaker to peg away in his little cramped up shop, and then be obliged to take a part of his small earnings to feed and lodge a lazy fellow who has been lying under a hedge till sundown, and who will break into his house and steal his goods and murder his wife, if he gets the chance or the provocation. Responsibility implies authority. As long as a man is obliged to support his children he has authority over his children. If a grown man is not self-supporting, he should not be self-directing. Some towns have borne all the burden they feel disposed to bear, and are arresting tramps in all directions, determined to test their liabilities. Public sentiment will doubtless approve their course; but unless public sentiment formulates itself into common law, these local measures will but increase local distress. If one village, by village law, arrests tramps, and the next village does not, the second village will be but a receiving tomb for the first. These vermin, driven out of the one town, will take refuge in the next, and the last state of that town shall be worse than its first. It should be a recognized State law, if it be not now, that any person asking alms from door to door thereby forfeits his liberty. In surrendering the self-support of manhood he surrenders also its self-control. The community that feeds him shall restrain him. If he will eat the bread of beggary, it shall be behind a barred gate. He shall not walk up and down seeking what and whom he may devour, but he shall have keepers, and be made to work; he shall lie down and rise up, and march to table and field and workshop, at the voice of the bell. He shall have abundance of wholesome food, but no squash pie to bespatter his stone fences withal. He shall not fatten longer on the toils of honest men, but he shall eat his bread in the sweat of his own fat face; and the only difference between his fate and that of his thrifty brother shall be that while the latter goes home to wife and child and vine and fig tree, the former shall have neither ownership nor accumulation. If a man find that he must work as hard for bare walls and coarse food as for home and family and all social solace and standing, it would be but an evil choice for him to make.—Let us take off the premium for vagabondage; let us make the tramp's life as stern and severe as that of the honest citizen; let society close upon him, short, sharp, and decisive, and either make a spoon or spoil a horn.—*Gal Hamilton.*

A DESPAIRING POET.—James Russell Lowell is getting old. He is, to use a homely phrase, in the "dumps." His last poems breathe a despair of his country. The following bitter little sonnet, on what the United States has to show at its centennial exposition next year, is his latest production. Lowell evidently accepts the theory that there is a marked and rapid decadence in American morals. Perhaps he is right—but to the poem, which is entitled

THE WORLD'S FAIR, 1876.

Columbia, puzzled what she should display
Of true home-makers on her centennial day
Asked Brother Jonathan; he scratched his head,
Whittled awhile reflectively, and said,
"Your own invention and own making, too?
Why, any child could tell you what to do;
Show 'em your Civil Service, and explain
How all men's loss is everybody's gain;
Show your new patent to increase your rents
By paying quarters for collecting cents;
Show your short cut to cure financial ills
By making paper collars current bills;
Show your new bleaching process, cheap and brief,
To wit: a jury chosen by a thief;
Show your State legislatures, show your rings
And challenge Europe to produce such things
As share the plunder and to fix things right
If that don't fetch her, why you only need
To show your latest style in martyrs—Tweed.
She'll find it hard to hide her spiteful tears
At such advance in one poor hundred years.

A TRUE GENTLEMEN.—A true man is above a mean thing. He cannot stoop to a mean fraud. He invades no secret in the keeping of another. He takes selfish advantage of no man's mistakes. He is ashamed of innuendoes. He uses no ignoble words in controversy. He never stabs in the dark. He is not one thing to a man's face and another to his back. If by accident he comes into possession of his neighbor's counsels he passes upon them instant oblivion. He bears sealed packages without tampering with the wax. Papers not meant for his eye, whether they flutter in at the window, or lie open before him in unguarded exposure, are sacred to him. He profanes no privacy for others, however sound the sentry sleeps. Bolts and bars, locks and keys, bonds and securities, notice to trespassers are not for him. He may be trusted anywhere. He buys no office, he sells none, intrigues for none. He would rather fail of his rights than win them through dishonor. He will eat honest bread. He insults no man. If he has a rebuke for another, he is straight-forward, open and manly. He cannot descend to scurrility. Billingsgate don't lay on his track. Of woman and to her, he speaks with decency and respect. In short, what he judges honorable he practices towards every one.