[FOR THE RECORD-UNION.]

SET IN A SILVER SEA!

A ROMANCE BY B. L. FARJEON.

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THE PROLOGUE.

THE LEGEND OF THE SILVER ISLE.

PART II.—THE EXPIATION.—(*Continued.*)

His hut being built, he set to work upon the task he had determined to perform. Cutting down a huge pine tree, he dragged it inch by inch, to a clearing in front of his hut. The labor was herculean, and no man but one possessed of enormous physical strength and amazing inward sustaining power could have accomplished it. He lopped off the branches, and cleared the tree of all excrescences, and when the huge plain trunk was before him, he began to fashion it into the image of the Savior stretched upon the Cross. The base of the tree, which was of astonishing girth, formed the apex of the design, and admitted of the carving of the outstretched arms. In storm and sunshine, by night and day, the man pursued his work. He lived upon roots and water, and passed through sickness and fever, without abating one jot of his energy, in which, could it have been witnessed, would have been discerned the consuming strength of despair and remorse concentred upon one supreme effort. The seasons changed; the leaves grew green and withered, and again enjoyed their lives of youth and beauty, and the man never ceased from his labor. Year after year passed, and still the man was employed upon the task. His form could be dimly seen by the islanders in the plains and valleys, and after a time he was looked upon as something more than mortal. No man ventured near him, but he dwelt in the minds of all. Women spoke of him with hushed voices, and children, looking up to the hights upon which he worked, quickly shut their eyes, as though a blight would have fallen on them had they continued to gaze upon the strange shadow which never for a moment seemed to rest from its labor. At length, after a decade of years had passed, the priest of the Silver Isle called the old men around him, and announced his intention of visiting the sinner, saying humanity demanded it. His story was still fresh in the minds of the white-haired men, and although not one of them, with the exception of the priest, would have touched the sinner's hand in friendship, time had weakened their resentment against him.

"Terrible was his crime," said the priest, "terrible has been his self-inflicted punishment. It will be a work of mercy to pour oil upon his wounds."

They offered to accompany him, but he said he would go alone; it would be best. So, with their sanction, he departed, and when he returned, told them in a voice broken by emotion the story of his mission.

"When he saw me walking up the mountain's side towards him, he stood and watched me. I am old, and my limbs are feeble, but he made no effort to assist me; he simply waited to learn my errand. I was supported by God, or I should never have reached his hut. So rugged is the road, and so beset with difficulty and danger, that I often had to creep upon my hands and knees for an hour and more, and to walk long distances on narrow, precipitous paths, where a slip of the foot would be fatal. I arrived at the end of my journey on the noon of the second day, and stood face to face with the man whose word for many years was law in our isle. Ah, my friends! you would not recognize him, so changed is he. You will recall him as he was in the pride of his youth, a tall and handsome man, lithe and erect, with stalwart limbs, and eyes bright as an eagle's. All this strength and beauty have vanished, as though they had never been. His body is but skin and bone, his face is pitifully haggard, he is wasted almost to a shadow. Remembering what he was, remembering that I had nursed him on my knee when he was an innocent child, my heart overflowed into my eyes as I gazed upon the wreck of grandeur and nobility I saw before me. I held out my hand to him; he kept his arms folded on his breast. I addressed him in words of kindness; he replied not a word.

"'If,' I said, 'your vow of silence weighs upon you, and prevents you from answering me, I absolve you from it. In God's name, I absolve you. Through me, His priest, He bids you speak, He bids you pray.'

"I saw that he knew the meaning of my words. It would not have been strange had he, living for so long a time his terrible life of loneliness, lost all understanding of his language. But he had not; he followed my words, but he made no response to them. I knelt and prayed. I prayed for him, a sinner; in his name I made to God a confession of his crime; for him and for myself, I humbled myself before the Divine Throne, and supplicated for mercy and forgiveness. He did not, would not, kneel beside me; he stood and listened in silence. For an hour I prayed and talked; and the man might have been made of stone, so unmoved did he appear. Faint with my exertions, I asked if he would permit me to enter his hut, and seek for food. He said neither yea nor nay. I entered his hut. Dear friends, my heart bled as I looked around. The walls of the hut are bare, the ground is stony, and there is no place but the earth to rest the weary limbs. During all these years, the man has lived in that drear habitation, with roots for his food, with stones for his bed, without complaining. What mortal can do, I thought, to expiate his sin, this man has done. Surely he is forgiven! Upon the ground inside the hut I found some roots; and these were the only food his dwelling contained. I brought them out and ate them in his presence, and taking a drinking cup roughly carved from wood, filled it with water from a rivulet close by, and drank. I thought it would soften him to see me partake with a willing heart of his hospitality. I did more. I took from my wallet some bread, and breaking it in two, I ate one piece and offered him the other. He did not accept it, and I laid it within the door of his hut. So thoroughly were all my senses engaged in the endeavor to reach the heart of the suffering sinner that up to this time my eyes had not beheld the marvelous work upon which he has been engaged from the time he left our midst, and when I saw it I contemplated it with wonder. From a pine tree, measuring in its present form not less than forty feet, he has fashioned the image of Our Savior stretched upon the Cross, and has produced a work so beautiful and pathetic as must melt the heart of all who are permitted to gaze upon the sacred symbol. Aye, were his sin even greater than it is, you would cry, looking upon this work of expiation, 'God be merciful to him, a sinner!' The Crown of Thorns, the Blood, the depiction of the Agony, are terrible and most exquisite in their truth to life and nature. Never in my life have I beheld so miraculous a conception, and I did not doubt that he intended to set it up in some suitable place, as a lasting memorial of his repentance. I addressed him again:

"'When I last spoke to you,' I said, 'I offered to bless you, and you refused. At that moment I did not understand the meaning of your refusal to accept the blessing of the minister of God; afterwards it was clear to my mind. You deemed yourself not worthy. My son, let me bless you now!'"

"I spoke in vain. It seemed as if human effort were powerless to sap the fortress of silence in which his soul was intrenched. As before, he refused my blessing, and I felt that he did so still out of a sense of overwhelming unworthiness. If in the depths of his nature he was stirred by my appeal, he showed no sign of it upon the surface. I prepared in sorrow to depart, and as I turned to go I said:

"'Fain would I leave some ray of light behind me. Not alone out of my own sense of duty did I come here to-day. The wish has long been in my mind, and before I put it into execution I called around me the chief men of the isle, old men who knew and loved you in the past. They urged me to see you, and offered to accompany me, but I thought it best to come unattended. It would be false if I were to tell you that you hold the place in their minds you held in the days gone by; that can never be again. But in some undefinable way you still live in their hearts. You are to them as a son might be to a parent whom he has deeply wronged and sinned against, but to whom he is bound by ties of blood and early affection. On the Sabbath day, in the old church yonder where you have so often knelt, we shall pray for you. Think of it, and kneel with us when the time for prayer arrives. We shall be together in spirit, and you may be grateful to know that you are not entirely shut out from the sympathies of men. Truly I may say our hearts are filled with sorrow for your unhappy fate.'"

"While I spoke these last words, I saw a moisture dim his eyes. He could not control the heaving of his breast, but his limbs obeyed his iron will. It gladdened me to perceive that the thought that those by whom he was once honored did not hold his memory in complete abhorrence conveyed comfort to the wretched man. He uttered no word. In silence he watched my departure, and did not move while I was in sight. Dear friends, never shall I forget the misery of this man. Self-condemned, he lives his life of suffering, and no punishment his fellow-man could inflict could excel that he has inflicted upon himself. He is but the shadow of what he was, but his inward strength must be enormous. It cannot last. When his work is finished, when the marvelous figure he has fashioned is set up as a supplication for mercy at the Divine Throne, I foresee that he will die. The vital power is only sustained by the strongest effort of an indomitable will. It will hold out until his task be done, and then the repentant sinner will yield up his soul to its Creator. On every Sabbath day we will pray for him and with him, for assuredly, although he made no response to my appeals, his heart will soften when he is once more alone with conscience and with God!"

From that time forth the sinner was held in pitying remembrance by the islanders, and it grew to be a kind of belief with them that the spirits of his brother and Evangeline were hovering over him through the weary hours, awaiting the time when he should rejoin them in the better world, to greet him with the words, "Brother, thou art forgiven!"

The priest had prophesied truly. The sinner's heart had been touched and softened by the merciful visit, and when the priest was out of sight the man cast himself upon the earth, and bedewed the bread upon his threshold with a blinding passion of tears. And when the Sabbath day arrived he knelt upon the stony ground, and joined his prayers with those of the islanders, and thus became sympathetically connected with his kind. No farther efforts were made to intrude upon him, and the sinner continued his work until at length the first portion of his task was completed, and he looked down upon the marvelously-carved figure of Christ upon the Cross. What remained for him to do was most dangerous, and seemed impossible of accomplishment; but he had resolved within himself, and only death could stop him.

From the summit of the snow mountain, piercing its bosom, uprose a massive rock, which from the depths looked like a needle tapering to a point. But in fact its upper surface was flat, and not less than fifty feet in circumference. A foothold could be maintained upon the soft mass of snow which lay upon the thick and treacherous ice beneath, and both snow and ice would have to be cleared away before the surface of the rock could be laid bare. Herculean was the design, yet here it was that the sinner had resolved to rear the gigantic figure. This was the altar he had chosen upon which he would fix his symbol to the glory of God.

To drag his carved tree to the spot occupied him full a year. Inch by inch it was moved, uninjured, up the hights, over the chasms, along the precipices. He was as tenderly careful of it as he could have been had it been living flesh and blood he was conveying to a destined goal. When the islanders became conscious of his purpose, they looked upon it as the scheme of a madman.

"It cannot be done," they said. "It is not in the power of mortal man."

"He will do it," said the priest of the Silver Isle.

It appeared as if the man were anxious to conceal his purpose from the knowledge of the islanders until it was achieved; or perhaps, knowing that at certain points he would be in full view of the inhabitants, he was desirous to avoid their continuous personal scrutiny. By whatever motive he was prompted, he now worked only in the night, and rested during the day. Thus a new and weird interest was added to the task, for when in the morning it was observed that a dangerous chasm had been safely crossed, or some great peril had been escaped, many believed that the man had been assisted by supernatural power. Not all were mercifully inclined towards him; there were some whose hearts were still stern and relentless, and who, regarding the work as devoid of holiness, entertained the idea that it was being forwarded by the aid of evil spirits. As the weeks and the months passed by, the wonder of the islanders who watched the herculean labor, performed unaided by one human being, grew stronger and deeper. Without regard to season or weather, the man worked patiently on, and with each setting of the sun the inhabitants of the Silver Isle, old and young, would gather in clusters over the plains and valleys, to watch his progress. Whatever their own immediate trouble and joys, in the midst of their sorrows and gladness, this man was not entirely absent from their minds. He was but a speck upon the mountain side, an insignificant atom amid Nature's terrible and beautiful creations, but there was a pathos in his slow and weary toil that touched the hearts of those who were tenderly inclined. It grew to be a custom to pray inwardly for him, that his offering might be successfully raised, and his sin wiped out. Their imaginations did not deceive them when they cried that they saw blood upon his hands and feet, for not a day passed that his flesh was not torn by the sharp rocks over which lay his road to heaven. Once he fell near the edge of a precipice, and his symbol upon him, and it was not until hours after the rising of the sun that he succeeded in extricating himself. A hundred times the islanders feared to see him hurled into an abyss, thousands and thousands of feet down into darkness, to lie there till the Archangel sounded his trumpet on the Judgment Day. Mothers, waking up in the night, would see in the darkness the phantom of this man toiling, with ropes about his shoulders, would see a white and pitiful face and marks of bleeding feet upon the rocks, and would murmur, as they pressed their babes to their bosoms, "God pity and pardon him, and keep my child from crime!"

So the work went on until the sacred figure rested upon the highest surface of the fatal mount. Then the flat table of the rock had to be cleared of ice and snow, and a foundation dug in it for the symbol to rest in. With unwearying patience this was done, and by slowly building beneath the upper part of the symbol a pile of stones, it was raised into such a position that by a great effort it could be slipped into the rocky bed prepared for it, and there fixed forever as a sign.

On a Saturday night in September, when the lovely autumn colors were coming into the leaves, all was ready for the final effort. It had become known that the sinner had nearly completed his self-allotted task, and that the Sabbath sun would shine upon his appeal to the Divine Heart for mercy and forgiveness. The night was intensely dark, but the excitement in the Silver Isle was so great that none who were in health would retire to rest. The islanders assembled on a plain from which, on sunny days and moonlight nights, a clear view of the snow-clad peak could be obtained, and prepared to wait for the rising of the sun. Those among them who remembered the day on which their beloved Evangeline stood in the church waiting for her bridegroom, recalled the circumstances of that fatal time, and saw with their mind's eye the beautiful girl arrayed in the bridal dress which proved her shroud. They spoke in whispers; they moved softly about, and when they smiled, their smiles were sad; gentle thoughts only reigned in their minds. Slowly the minutes passed until midnight came; women wept and strong men trembled. The silences were broken by a gasp, or by a cry of pity springing from the depths of an overwrought soul, or by the involuntary utterance of a short and pitiful prayer. A dread mysterious influence was at work in the solemn thraldom of that awful night. It stirred the hair of men and women; it impressed them with their littleness, their helplessness, their insignificance; it made them humble and afraid. They stretched out their hands, and drew closer to each other, husband to wife, brother to sister, children to their mothers. They derived comfort from personal contact; it was in some sense a protection against the evil spirits which they believed were contending with the angels for the soul of the sinner. Family ties that had been weakened in affection became suddenly strong again; and had two enemies stood side by side, an uncontrollable instinct would have caused them to clasp hands in friendship. Darker and darker grew the night. Shadows glided up and down the mountain sides, and floated upwards from the depths, pregnant with mysterious meaning. Not a sound, not a breath, not a movement, escaped the islanders, that was not in sympathy with the lonely sinner laboring on the snow-clad peak. Straining their eyes thitherward, their fevered fancies created phantasmagoria which they believed to be real. Black clouds upon the lofty rock were thought to represent the forms of the sinner and his symbol. Now he was putting the finishing-touches to his work of expiation; now he was kneeling, with his head bowed down in prayer; now he was looking upward with tear-stained face, and his arms were raised in supplication to heaven. The islanders paused not to consider that, with a bright light shining on the snowy hights, he would have appeared even to the strongest sight as a mere speck upon the horizon, whose movements it would have been scarcely possible to distinguish. All things were possible on such a night. It was a time for miracles.

"Hark!" said one. "Did you not hear a cry?"

Many were ready to aver that a cry from the mountain top had floated downward to the plain. But had such a cry been uttered, it was incredible that it could have reached their ears. Reason would have convinced them. They were the slaves of imagination.

Among them was the priest who had visited the sinner. Ever and anon his voice was heard in exhortation.

"Terrible was his sin. Terrible is his expiation. Let the memory of the awful deed remain forever in this dear island home as a sign, as a warning. If temptation assail thee, drive it forth. This sinner has done all that mortal man could do; his repentance is sincere; he has washed his sin with tears of blood. His bloody footsteps mark the path which leads to the holy work he has performed. Christ be merciful to him!"

And all the congregation murmured,

"Christ be merciful to him—and to me, a sinner!"

The snow mountain lay in the eye of the east, and in the early morning the sun was wont to bathe the white expanse with rosy light. So beautiful in this aspect did it look that it seemed to belong to another and more lovely world. As the night progressed, the watchers grew more excited and eager.

"Is it not time for the sun to rise?" some asked.

"Not till another hour has passed," replied the more patient ones.

Shortly after these words were spoken, mutterings of a storm were heard, and it soon burst over the land. No rain fell upon the plains and valleys, but the lightning played over the mountains, and the thunder rolled down its rugged sides. Fiercer and fiercer grew the storm until it obtained the most terrible proportions. It shook the earth to its foundations; in the memory of living man dwelt not so fearful an experience. But terrible as it was, it did not divert the thoughts of the islanders from the sinner who had drawn them together. The storm was for him; he was there upon the mountain-top, he and his sin, battling with it. God was speaking to him in fire and thunder, and demons and angels were fighting for his soul. Which would conquer? As they gazed towards the gloomy hights, a flash of lightning gashed the dark bosom of the sky; the thunder rolled more fiercely; the heavens appeared to open; and a straight line of fire, suddenly descending from the heart of the unseen world stabbed the man and his work of repentance with fatal light, which in that awful moment were hurled into the abyss yawning beneath them!

A cry of horror rose from the throats of the islanders, and in the midst of the dense darkness that followed no man dared to speak, so appalling was the impression produced by the event. The storm abated, and died away in sobs; and presently faint light dawned in the sky. The light grew stronger, clearer. A hazy, golden mist rolled over the snow mountain, and when its peaks were tipped with the fire of the rising sun, the islanders saw no sign of the sinner and his symbol. God had rejected his work, and had declared that not in this world should the sinner be allowed to work out the full measure of his punishment.

From that day forth the mountain was looked upon as accurst, and all men avoided it.

THE END OF THE PROLOGUE.

THE LYRIC DEPARTMENT.

If there is one thing more than another in which the *Tribune* takes pride it is the unequaled collection of poets with which it is blessed. There was a time, before the lyric department was organized in a systematic manner, that our poets were of the tag-rag-and-bobtail order that infest the office of every publication in the country. But those days are gone, and gone for good. Where once was chaos, order reigns, and everything goes on like clock-work. When a poem reaches the office it is sent to the room of the Director of Lyrics, who throws it into one of a number of large bins with which the apartment is provided, his sole duty being simply to see whether the effort belongs in the bin marked "Comic," "Sentimental," "Blank Verse," "Affectation," "Grief," or some of the others. It is needless to state that these bins are always full to overflowing. Every afternoon a gentleman of the largest literary experience, and himself a poem-lunatic of no mean pretensions, comes into the room and hastily scans the day's arrivals for the purpose of rejecting such as are plagiarized, these being chucked into the "saturated" bin. Then he lays to one side all that are of the Birdie-Hear-the-Cockroach Crow order for distribution among high school boys and girls who wish to express that particular kind of sentiment to each other, but are better at chopping wood and wearing bangs than poetry. By the time this is done a large rack bristling with steel spindles has been run to the middle of the room by the janitor and the poems are strung on by the Director of Lyrics. They are then ready for use. Having briefly explained the workings of the department, we have only to add that we are prepared at any time to make a match for from $100 to $1,000 a side with any poet or poetess in the country, articles to be signed within ten days after the acceptance of this challenge, our poet to be named at the post, the contest to be a go-as-you-please one, and to be strictly pay or play. Each party to name an umpire, and they to choose a third; these to decide all questions that may arise and to give the final decision. We wish it distinctly understood that nobody is barred, and it is immaterial to us whether the contest be at ordinary poetry, blank verse, odes, sonnets, madrigals, or obituary gems. We have a stable of poets in training that we think can "get there" with anybody, and are anxious for a match.—[Chicago Tribune.

The last few days have witnessed a grand skating carnival at Donner lake. Bright, sunshiny days, pleasant moonlight nights, both have been taken advantage of by the votaries of pleasure—the young and the middle-aged, all seem to enjoy the sport. The road is now broken to Donner lake, and the lake is frozen solid. The scene at night presents a gay appearance—the lake dotted with hundreds of human forms flying hither and thither in the pale moonlight and the shores glaring with beacon fires. A large number of citizens of Sacramento and San Francisco have often expressed their desire to come up on an occasion of this kind, and we understand that word has been sent them, and many will come up. A special excursion train from Sacramento is talked of. The only question is will the weather continue pleasant long enough.—[Truckee Republican, 21st.

Travel "up the coast" must be a subject of considerable interest to Napaites, judging from the number of our people who are seeking homes and fortunes in Oregon and Washington Territory.—[Napa Register.

STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Read and Adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Society, Held at Sacramento January 20, 1880.

In presenting their annual report the Board take occasion to congratulate the members upon the improved condition of the Society, both in respect to its finances and in regard to its relations with the general industries of the State. The Board adopted as its maxim or rule of action from the beginning the strictest economy in the expenditures of the Society, consistent with a liberal encouragement to the industries which it is the province of the Society to foster. The Board also determined that all the material industries of the State should share equitably in the distribution of its bounties, and that each should receive the fostering care and encouragement of the Society that its circumstances and promise of benefit to the State should demand. In their endeavor to carry out these rules the Board have met with some difficulties, arising from precedents, which it has been found very hard to overcome at once. These difficulties can only be surmounted by patient endeavor of the Board and its officers, and a determined support from the members of the Society and the representatives of the material industries of the State generally.

To what extent they have been successful in the economy of expenditures may be judged from the following summary of the financial history of the year: The receipts from all sources have been $43,315 12; the total expenditures of the year have been $43,313 18, leaving a balance on hand of $1 94. We have paid, of indebtedness outstanding at the close of last year's transactions, $8,870 08. The present audited indebtedness of the Society is $7,543 39, but of this sum $295 was of last year's debt, showing a reduction of the indebtedness for the year of $1,318 69.

The Board recognized fully the importance of a radical revision of the premium list, to put it abreast with the improvements in agriculture, manufactures and mechanic arts of the day, but circumstances at the beginning of their administration delayed such revision until it was too late to make and publish such changes as were clearly demanded. The few changes that were made in the list of premiums and in the speed programme were accepted by the patrons of the Society in the kindest of feeling, and resulted in adding materially to the value of the exhibition and the trials of speed on the course. At the instance of the Board the Secretary has already commenced correspondence with other State Societies and with representative men of the various agricultural, horticultural, mechanical, manufacturing and commercial industries of the State, with a view to a complete adaptation of the list for the coming year to all these industries. With such changes we are satisfied a greatly increased interest will be attracted to the Society, and its sphere of usefulness will be greatly increased and enlarged. Recognizing the agricultural interests as the foundation of prosperity to all others, the officers of the Board a short time before the last fair issued a circular letter to every Grange in the State, assuring them of an earnest desire on the part of the Society to co-operate with the Grange organization in the promotion of the best interests of the producing classes, and in turn asking their co-operation with the Society in an honest effort to develop the State's known and latent agricultural resources. From the assurances received by letter, and from the increased attendance and exhibitions of these classes at the fair, we are convinced that the action in this respect, if judiciously followed up, will result in great good to the Society by disabusing the public mind in all portions of the State of an idea which had obtained to a considerable extent, that the Society was managed in the interest of some particular locality, section, or class of industries or persons. The same policy has been continued by using the Grange organization as a medium through which to distribute the transactions of the Society to the farmers of the State generally, and the Secretary is now receiving many letters thanking the Board for volumes received in this manner, and promising hearty sympathy and support in the future. The Board last season suggested the idea of establishing a camping ground within easy distance and access to the fair, for the benefit and convenience of families and camping parties from a distance. It is believed that the idea is an eminently practical one, especially in this State and during the fair season. Our climate favors the plan, and parties from a distance, by adopting it, can attend the fairs and enjoy their amusements and benefits at much less expense than in any other way. Were this idea to be put into practice and become fashionable, we are of opinion that the fairs would be much more numerously attended by people from distant sections, and indeed from all sections of the State, and more especially by people who heretofore have not felt able to spare the time and incur the expense of attending the fairs. We are also satisfied that the same change will add greatly to the bulk and variety of the exhibitions, thus proving highly beneficial to the Society financially, and enlarging the field of its usefulness, and conferring benefits upon classes it has not heretofore reached.

The fair of 1879, as an exhibition, was a reasonable success. In the cattle department, owing to circumstances over which the owners had no control, two of the largest and best herds in the State were not brought on the grounds, though one of them had applied for and had been awarded stalls to the number of forty to fifty. Had not this unfortunate circumstance occurred the exhibition in this department would have been by far the fullest and best ever made by the Society. The exhibition at the Pavilion, as a whole, surpassed for variety and excellence any of its predecessors for years, and in the art department was pronounced the best ever made on the coast. There were a number of circumstances that operated against the efforts of the Board in working up the fair. Two very exciting general elections had absorbed the attention of the people, keeping them in a state of excitement during the whole summer; the last coming but three days before the opening of the fair. Prices of all kinds of produce had for a long time been exceptionally low and were still so at the time of the fair, with no discernable prospects of a favorable change. As a consequence, money was exceedingly scarce and people had no means and but little heart to engage in recreation. Had the fair taken place two months later, when the excitement of the election had worn away and when prices had improved and business prospects greatly brightened, the attendance would have been much greater and the financial exhibit for the year would have been improved in proportion, and probably the debt of the Society would have been paid off in full. In looking over the list of entries of stock at our fairs for the last eight or ten years, it will be seen that though the exhibitions in respect to numbers of animals and the quality of the same have been quite creditable to the Society and the State, yet the number of owners of stock represented in these exhibitions is insignificantly small—a standing reproach to the Society and the State. Taking the exhibition of 1878—one of the fullest and best ever made by the Society in the stock department—it will serve as a good illustration of the above statement. There were that year but fifteen different exhibitors of thoroughbred horses, and the whole number of exhibitors in the horse department was but ninety-three. In this statement we do not include the large number of very superior horses that were entered in the running and trotting races, and not exhibited for the class premiums of the Society. The races have always been, and we trust will continue to be, an interesting and popular part of our fairs. In the cattle department of the same year there were but eleven exhibitors of thoroughbred shorthorn cattle, eight exhibitors of Alderneys and Jerseys and three exhibitors of thoroughbred cattle of all other breeds, and all the horned cattle exhibited at the fair that season were owned by twenty-five different persons. In the sheep department there were but three exhibitors of Spanish merino sheep, one exhibitor of French merino and four exhibitors in all other grades—making but eight exhibitors of sheep at the fair. Of Angora goats there were seven exhibitors, of swine eight and of poultry nine. From the above analysis it will be seen that 160 persons made up the entire stock exhibition of the fair of 1878—as we said before—one of the best and largest stock exhibitions the Society has ever made. Another important fact connected with these exhibitions is that the persons who made the principal exhibitions of stock at the fair we are analyzing have been the principal exhibitors in the stock department for the last ten years, and have carried away by far the largest proportion of the money offered by the Society as premiums in the stock department. The Board have no word of complaint towards these successful exhibitors of stock. On the contrary, their enterprise, energy and success in breeding is highly commended, and the management of the Society should at all times be so shaped as to induce them to even greater efforts to improvement in the future than they have exerted in the past. Notwithstanding, it is to be regretted that the Society has not been able to call out a more general interest and a greater number of exhibitors, and a more general representation of the real, practical stock-breeding industries of the State. It should be the care and aim of the Society not to encourage the pampering of a few herds or a few hundred animals for the purpose of a fine show, but to breed up and improve the quality and enhance the value of each and every class of domestic animals; to elevate the general standard of excellence of all the stock in the State; to bring about a higher average, and thus make more successful, more attractive and more profitable this branch of the industries of the farm. While we would continue to encourage the ambition and stimulate the efforts of those who desire to gain for our State the honor and distinction of producing the best runners and the fastest trotters in the Union or the world, we should not forget that the greatest benefits are to be secured in breeding up large numbers of horses to a high standard of excellence for every department of industry in which the horse is used as a help to man.

One of the best tests of the skill and wisdom of a people as breeders of horses is found in the efficiency of the cavalry they are able to put into the field in case of war. The agricultural society that aims to promote in the breeding of horses the highest standard of practical value in the largest number of animals, renders the greatest service to the State, and at the same time is most likely to develop exceptional speed and endurance on the course, either as runners or trotters. The practice of showing over-fed and over-fattened animals at the fairs as *breeding animals* should be discouraged, as a violation of the first principles of the science of breeding, and as calculated to keep away from the fairs all those who will not consent to risk the practical success of their breeding enterprises for the sake of gaining the prizes offered by the Society and the advertising advantage to follow. If the Society desires to test the comparative value of different breeds of stock cattle, sheep or hogs, as beef, mutton or pork producers, the practical way to do this is to hold a fat stock show, distinct from the show of breeding animals. Let breeding animals be shown in the condition that experience has proven best calculated to secure the most valuable results. Whether the past course pursued by the Society has been a popular one—has secured for it the largest and most general patronage, and tended to place it upon a self-sustaining basis, and secured for it the greatest efficiency in bringing about practical and valuable business results to the industries it is intended to foster—may be judged by the following facts, developed by an examination of the entry and premium books of the Society.

In a State ranking among the first, if not the very first, in the Union for the production of good horses for the course, the road or the farm, we are confronted with the fact that but fifteen owners of thoroughbred horses think it worth their while to show their stock at the State fair, and that but 93 out of the 75,000 owners of all classes of horses in the State think enough of their horses to place them in competition for the liberal premiums offered by the Society. Of the 500,000 horses in the State, of an average quality and value as high as any other State can boast of, less than 300 were brought forward at the Society fair as representative animals, and two jacks and two mules were the only representatives shown of the 30,000 animals of this class owned in this State. No other State in the Union ranks higher for its many herds of magnificent specimens and well-bred short-horn cattle than does California, and yet at our State fairs less than a dozen owners and breeders are found in competition for premiums amounting in this department alone to thousands of dollars, and for the whole State, containing from sixty to seventy thousand practical farmers and nearly a million of cattle of a quality averaging higher than in any other State in the Union, there appears but twenty-five exhibitors to make up the grand cattle show, and that exhibition, though in reality a fine one, consisted of ninety-three head of thoroughbred shorthorns, fifty-five head of Alderney and Jerseys, thirty-three head of Devons and Ayreshires and twelve head of graded cattle—and this when there is not probably one in ten of the owners of horned cattle in the State who has not more or less thoroughbred animals, and who is not engaged in breeding up his stock. California boasts, and truly, too, of containing the largest pure blood Spanish and French merino flocks of sheep in the United States, and the number of sheep owned within her borders is not less than 5,500,000 of as high grade sheep as any other State contains, and she produces annually not less than 50,000,000 pounds of wool, and yet at a fair embracing the whole State we find but three owners of thoroughbred Spanish merino and but one owner of French merino sheep showing specimens of their flocks, and but nine owners and 245 sheep are represented in the entire show, and not one pound of wool appeared on the entry books of the Society.

But leaving the stock department and turning our attention to cultivated crops, we find, if possible, a still greater indifference of producers to bringing their products to the exhibitions of the Society. California stands first among the wheat growing States of the Union, both as to the quantity and quality of wheat produced, her exports amounting to from $20,000,000 to $25,000,000 yearly, and in 1878 the Board offered $50 for best specimens of four varieties of wheat, $20 for best specimen of rye, and $10 for best specimens, each, of oats, corn, barley and buckwheat, and yet there were at the fair but two exhibitors of wheat, one of oats, one of Indian corn, one of buckwheat and four of barley—twelve sacks of grain all told. The Board mention these facts, not to complain of any past management, but to call attention to the general indifference towards the Society that has heretofore prevailed among stock-breeders and producers of general agricultural crops. When we have found the real difficulties that have heretofore stood in the way of the complete success of the fairs and the general usefulness of the Society to the producing industries of the State, it will be better understood how to apply the remedy.

The people in every department of industry must be made to realize that the Society is extending to them a helping hand, that it not only asks them to bring up for exhibition samples of their best handiwork and products for criticism and comparison, but that it proposes to lead them into the discovery and adoption of better and more economical processes of manufacture and cultivation. The Society must not present itself to them once a year in the capacity of a beggar for favors in the way of contributions to the exhibition and to its receipts, in order that it may make a creditable fair and pay expenses, but it must be to all the industrial classes a constant acquaintance and friend, holding out inducements to effort and suggesting experiments and modes of improvement. It should keep up a constant correspondence with all portions of the State, gaining information from individuals and distributing this information to communities, spreading among the masses the advanced ideas and practices of the few. The Society should never be compelled to ask a favor of a patron for which it is not at all times prepared in advance to return more than an equivalent. It should be a practical educator to the industrial classes of the State. The competition it inspires should be of a friendly and honorable character, seeking more for the information that is to be gained from the contest than of the premiums that are to be won by the successful competitor. The fairs should be made by contributions from every industry and every section of the State, and exhibitors should be made to feel that they are contributing not only to the evidenes of the State's prosperity, but to the common fund of practical information for the people. When this improved condition of feeling between the Society and the people representing the material industries of the State shall have been brought about, there will no longer be any question of the success of the one or the other.

We have indicated above the different modes by which we believe great improvements may be made in these respects.

First—A complete revision of the premium lists—adapting them to the present stage of development of all the industries of the State.

Second—By correspondence, by traveling agents or committees, and by publications, bringing the Society into communication and closer relations with every industrial class in every section of the State, and laying before them its objects and aims and its means of contributing to the fund of information specially needed by each to enable them to surmount difficulties in the way of desired success.

Third—By opening up correspondence with other States and counties, assisting our breeders of good stock, and producers in all agricultural, horticultural, vinicultural and manufacturing departments to find foreign markets for their surplus productions not needed at home, and in various ways making the Society a live and useful industrial institution.

The framers of the new Constitution provided in that instrument that the Legislature should not appropriate money from the State Treasury to any corporation, association or society existing under the laws of the State, not exclusively under State control and management. Under this provision this Society, as at present organized and managed, is deprived of any future assistance from the State in the way of annual appropriations, and it becomes a question of considerable importance to the Society, and to the industries it represents, whether the Society had better remain independent of State control and undertake to create its own means of existence and assisting in the development of these industries, or place itself under State control and depend upon the Legislature, as in the past, for appropriations. The Society has now a valuable property in its own right, worth at least $75,000, consisting of its race course and cattle grounds and improvements, and personal property necessary for its uses and management. It has a perpetual free lease of the Pavilion for its exhibitions—the building and lots upon which it stands belonging to Sacramento county.

Past experience has shown that it has been very difficult for the management to pay expenses with an annual appropriation of $5,000 from the State. If it were possible to create sufficient interest in the Society and keep up necessary improvements to increase its income so as to meet its expenses, the Board believes that the objects of the Society can be more fully attained by continuing the present mode of independent management than by placing its management under control of the State.

The Society has now been in existence a quarter of a century, and we believe that the question of politics has never been a factor in the election of its officers, while it is well known that politics has had its influence in the selection of the managers of all institutions by law under State control. We should regret to see this influence introduced into the management of an institution which has to deal only with the industries of the State.

If the Society were clear of debt the Board is of the opinion that it can be so conducted as to pay its own way, and at the same time increase its usefulness.

But, without aid from some source, to assist in the discharge of the debt, the Board is not willing to guarantee the success of the Society independent of assistance and control. The Board have been investigating legal and other questions arising out of the prohibitions of the Constitution, but have not yet fully agreed upon a course of action, and would recommend that a committee of members of the Society and legal gentlemen be appointed to advise and act with the Board in reference to the constitutional and other questions arising out of the prohibitions referred to.

The Board would call attention to the fact that the Central Pacific Railroad Company have always been bringing to and returning from the fairs, free of charge, all animals and articles for exhibition, not only over the Central Pacific road, but over all their other roads and steamboat routes, over which such service is not required by the condition of their charter. For this liberality towards the Society and exhibitors the Board tender to the company their sincere acknowledgment. The same acknowledgments are due Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express Company for their great services to the Society and its patrons in the same direction.

In closing their report the Board congratulates the people upon the improved condition of all the industries, and more especially those most closely connected with the industries of the farm, and upon the favorable prospects of the immediate future.

H. M. LARUE, President.

I. N. HOAG, Secretary.

AUCTION SALE

—OF—

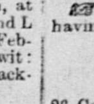
STORE FIXTURES.

M. J. SIMMONS & CO., AUCTIONEERS, will sell on SATURDAY, January 24th, at 10:30 o'clock, at MRS. B. LEVY'S MILLINERY STORE, J street, between Fifth and Sixth, all of the Fixtures contained therein, consisting of 30 feet of Glass Side Cases, 50 feet of Shelving, 3 Counters, 3 Glass Counter Cases, etc. Will positively be sold without reserve.

[ja23-2t] M. J. SIMMONS, Auctioneer.

F. KUNZ,

UNION NURSERY,



TENTH STREET, BETWEEN U AND V. City depot, south side of K street, between Fourth and Fifth, next door to Mechanics' Store, would respectfully call attention to his marvelous collection of rare Trees, Shrubbery and Florist Flowers. His prices are the lowest. Call and be convinced. ja23-4p 1m

INTERNAL REVENUE SALE.

SALE OF PROPERTY SEIZED FOR VIOLATION of Internal Revenue Laws. I will sell at Public Auction, to the highest bidder, for Cash, at the Collector's Office, Sixth street, between K and L streets, Sacramento City, at 11 o'clock A. M., February 2d, the following described property, to wit: 3,400 Cigars, one package Gin 9½ W. G., one package Gin 23 W. G., and 48 gross Matches.

A. L. FROST,
ja23-10t] Collector Fourth Dist. California.

45 Years Before the Public.

THE GENUINE

DR. C. McLANE'S

CELEBRATED

LIVER PILLS

FOR THE CURE OF

Hepatitis, or Liver Complaint,

DYSPEPSIA AND SICK HEADACHE.

Symptoms of a Diseased Liver.

PAIN in the right side, under the edge of the ribs, increases on pressure; sometimes the pain is in the left side; the patient is rarely able to lie on the left side; sometimes the pain is felt under the shoulder blade, and it frequently extends to the top of the shoulder, and is sometimes mistaken for rheumatism in the arm. The stomach is affected with loss of appetite and sickness; the bowels in general are costive, sometimes alternative with lax; the head is troubled with pain, accompanied with a dull, heavy sensation in the back part. There is generally a considerable loss of memory, accompanied with a painful sensation of having left undone something which ought to have been done. A slight, dry cough is sometimes an attendant. The patient complains of weariness and debility; he is easily startled, his feet are cold or burning, and he complains of a prickly sensation of the skin; his spirits are low; and although he is satisfied that exercise would be beneficial to him, yet he can scarcely summon up fortitude enough to try it. In fact, he distrusts every remedy. Several of the above symptoms attend the disease, but cases have occurred where few of them existed, yet examination of the body, after death, has shown the LIVER to have been extensively deranged.

AGUE AND FEVER.

DR. C. McLANE'S LIVER PILLS, IN CASES OF AGUE AND FEVER, when taken with Quinine, are productive of the most happy results. No better cathartic can be used, preparatory to, or after taking Quinine. We would advise all who are afflicted with this disease to give them a FAIR TRIAL.

For all bilious derangements, and as a simple purgative, they are unequaled.

BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.

The genuine are never sugar coated.

Every box has a red wax seal on the lid, with the impression DR. McLANE'S LIVER PILLS.

The genuine McLANE'S LIVER PILLS bear the signatures of C. McLANE and FLEMING BROS. on the wrappers.

Insist upon having the genuine DR. C. McLANE'S LIVER PILLS, prepared by Fleming Bros., of Pittsburgh, Pa., the market being full of imitations of the name *McLane*, spelled differently but same pronunciation.

H. C. Kirk & Co., Sacramento, Cal., Agent

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HEWES'

OLEA BALSAMIC INHALANT.

MANUFACTURED BY

J. Hewes, Sacramento, Cal.

A SPECIFIC REMEDY FOR ALL DISEASES OF THE NASAL CAVITIES, THROAT AND LUNGS,

Viz.: Pneumonia, Asthma, Catarrh, Bronchitis Incipient Consumption, Diphtheria and Croup. Will also cure Miasmal Fever, and any disease which arises from IMPURITY OF THE BLOOD.

The vapor of the Inhalant being volatile, fills all cavities of the lungs, thus permeating and cleansing the blood. This vapor, through the circulation reaches all parts of the system, thus removing diseases of organs with which it does not come in immediate contact. In many cases, it has removed diseases of the Stomach, Liver, Kidneys and Bladder.

CURES GRAVEL.

The inhaling exercise is invigorating; increasing the force of circulation, while the medicinal properties of the Inhalant are freely absorbed throughout the system.

Diseases of the Throat and Lungs

Can in no way be treated with such success as by applying the remedy directly to the parts diseased, viz., BY INHALATION.

NAMES OF SACRAMENTANS CURED OF the Asthma, Catarrh, Bronchitis, Consumption, Miasmal Fever, Diphtheria and Pneumonia, by the use of Hewes' Balsamic Inhalant:

A.S. Hopkins, Fifteenth and M streets, bronchitis; Grace Hopkins, catarrh and diphtheria; S. F. Hopkins, gravel and diphtheria; E. C. Hopkins (salesman in Houghton's book store, 75 and 77 J street), diphtheria; Mrs. Frazer, corner Fourteenth and Q streets, asthma (a chronic case of 40 years' standing, cured in two months); J. Hatch, Third street, between L and M, pneumonia; A. Conner, alley, between Second and Third, L and M streets, asthma; M. Barber merchant, corner Eleventh and J streets, intermit. tent fever; Robert Hornbach, corner Fourth and M catarrh; Miss L. Kerr, Sixth street, between L and M, miasmal fever; Mrs. S. Emory, corner Second an K streets, consumption; J. L. Blitch, Pastor o Baptist Church, clerical sore throat; Mary Thompson, M street, between Fifteenth and Sixteenth pneumonia; Nellie Thompson, M street, between Fifteenth and Sixteenth, croup; Mrs. Haven, Washington, consumption; W. H. L. Haven, Washington, catarrh (a chronic case of nine years).

TO THE PUBLIC.

After a faithful trial, and upon a full investigation, I state with confidence that I have used the Inhaler of Mr. Hewes, and find it a sure and speedy remedy for any throat troubles, and I believe it is valuable in many of the complaints of humanity. Let all sufferers try it.

J. L. BLITCH, Sacramento, Cal.

I had a severe attack of Miasmal fever, which was broken up in twenty-four hours, by the free use of Hewes' Balsamic Inhalant.

MISS L. KERR, Sixth street.

My right lung had been badly affected for a year—had become ulcerated, when by the use of Hewes Inhalant two months I was entirely cured.

MRS. E. M. HAVEN, Washington.

Having had the catarrh for three years I made use of Hewes' Balsamic Inhalant. In two months had become much better; in four months I find mysel effectually cured.

ROBERT HORNBACH, Fourth street, near M, Sacramento.

HEWES' ECLECTIC EYE SALVE

GIVES INSTANT RELIEF!

☞ **For Sale by Sacramento Druggists.** ☜

Inhalant and Eye Salve manufactured by J. HEWES, Fifteenth and M streets, Sacramento. Country residence, Ophir, Placer county, Cal.

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Signature is on every bottle of the GENUINE

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It imparts the most delicious taste and zest to

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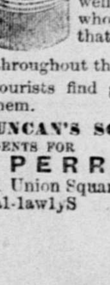

EXTRACT
Of a LETTER from a Medical Gentleman at Madras to his brother at Worcester, May, 1851:

"Tell LEA & PERRINS' that their Sauce is highly esteemed in India, and is in my opinion, the most palatable as well as the most wholesome Sauce that is made."

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