

VOICE OF THE PRESS.

EXTRACTS FROM EDITORIAL EXPRESSION.

State and Coast Opinions on Subjects of Living News Interest.

Oakland Enquirer: On the day of the golden jubilee in San Francisco a miner prospecting on the Klammath River struck a pocket and took out \$2,500, including, it is claimed, a nugget worth \$1,000. This is valuable evidence that the auriferous wealth of California is not exhausted, or, rather, we should say, that the placers are still rich, if not so easy to be worked as they used to be, by any means. In future California men who hope to obtain large amounts of gold must get them as nature got the placer gold—by grinding up the quartz ledges.

A RADICAL VIEW. Alameda Enquirer: The Woodland "Democrat" thinks that a paper which would give all the news in a condensed form, free from sensationalism, subordinating crime to other matters, would be a success in San Francisco. The "Enquirer" does not agree with the "Democrat." The blatter and yellower and nastier a paper is, the better the people appear to like it. Or at all events, while they may not say they like it, at least they read it. And it is readers that every paper is looking for. Judging from the immense circulation attained by the yellow press, a circulation far larger than reached by any decent paper, the people demand sensationalism. And as the newspaper business has come to be so largely a cold case of money making, just like any other business, without a particle of sentiment left in it, who shall say that the purveyors of yellow journalism are not right? They are in the business of finding and supplying the wares that the people want, and having found what is wanted, they would be fools not to supply that demand. That is, it is fools from the commercial standpoint.

OF THE SEASON. Fresno Republican: If the season continues dry there is a vast field for profitable enterprise in the irrigation of land for the production of wheat and hay in Fresno county. Should the Pacific Coast have a light crop year the extra cost of irrigation will be justified by the high prices the farmer will realize for his products. The water now running to waste in the canals should all be utilized. It will be beneficial even if the late rains are abundant.

HIS GALL. Stockton Independent: Dr. Brown's life will probably not be the dreary waste that the first view of his position would indicate. San Francisco maiden is quoted as saying that his friends are still loyal to him, and the members of his Chicago church discredit the telegraphic reports of his confession. "It takes all sorts of people to make up a world," finds it proof that the world and there are probably enough of "all sorts" to give him a congregation in any large city. His latest quoted utterance is a bid for congregations, and through all his professed humility his "gall" stands out with great prominence. That quality will be of utterable value to him and will, with undoubted talent, stand in the place of virtue in the estimation of enough of the eccentric in religion to give him ample followings wherever he may go. Brown's penance does not seem so sincere in the light of his utterances as it did in his confession. He told a reporter that even his wife did not know of his intention to go to San Francisco and confess, and he naively said he told her he was going on a lecturing tour. Thus he made a falsehood one of the servants of repentance, which confession seriously impairs the appearance of entire sincerity which his eloquent confession carried. Verily, it seems like another confirmation of the divine intimation that the hypocrite cannot change, and his spots on the Ethiopian blanch his skin.

VERY, VERY STUPID. Stockton Mail: An exchange quotes the general rise in stocks during the few months just passed as an evidence of national prosperity and a proof that money is cheaper and plentiful. It is unnecessary to say that a newspaper which reasons in this fashion is an ardent advocate of the gold standard for the good of the common people. It ought to be evident to any man capable of clear thinking that the general rise in the price of stocks and an dividend and interest-paying securities is proof that money grows every day dearer and less plentiful among the masses. The price of stocks goes up because great accumulations of money hunt stocks, because money seeks investment instead of investment in new enterprises. And when money eagerly hunts interest, that is proof that interest money is dear and hard to get. Dear money and low interest go hand in hand.

HUSH! HUSH! Stockton Record: The legislative inquiry into the police abuses in Chicago has developed a knowledge of the Chinese character we trust. Perhaps it has also developed a knowledge of police character. It is found that the police have levied a system of blackmail on the Chinese opium joints of Chicago, varying their tolls from \$2 to \$10 per week. It is not stated whether the police of Chicago got a tip from the police authorities of California cities, or not. The Chinese are easy victims, because they are engaged in practices that

need "hushing." The police are in the "hushing" business generally—but not for the health alone. It will be an interesting chapter of contemporaneous history, this Chicago investigation. It will be of peculiar interest to Pacific Coast cities where Chinese joints have been "hushed" for forty years.

ITALY AND RECIPROCITY. San Diego Union: Italy now thinks she would like to negotiate a commercial treaty with the United States. Italy, it will be remembered, was one of the nations that protested so loudly against the Dingley tariff bill. Now, when, like the others, she finds that the American policy is no longer to give everything and receive nothing in return, she is willing to make concessions for American trade. Of course it was a severe blow to countries that had been enjoying the markets of the United States, to discover that this nation was growing wiser commercially, and was waking up to the folly of one-sided trade bargain. But now that our commercial neighbors have fully realized that this nation has changed its policy, they no longer talk of retaliation, but show a disposition to make the best of the situation, consoling themselves probably with the thought that it took the United States a long time to realize that generosity and business are separate and should be kept apart.

AN INFAMOUS EPISODE. Los Angeles Times: According to a cablegram from Berlin, under date of January 24th:

"The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Baron von Bulow, made a statement to-day before the Budget Committee of the Reichstag, in regard to the Dreyfus affair. He stated most emphatically that there had never been relations of any kind between German agents and Dreyfus. Continuing, the Minister said the story of the yast paper basket incident at the German Embassy in Paris and the finding there of compromising documents affecting Dreyfus, were sheer invention."

This confirms what the German authorities have stated and reiterated. In the light of this statement, the action of the French Government in standing by its attitude toward Captain Dreyfus constitutes quite the most infamous episode of modern times. A nation that sows wind in this reckless manner is certain to reap the whirlwind sooner or later, and the outlook for France is something to appal the lovers of constitutional liberty. A people that is the enemy of the nation is certain to deserve the freedom guaranteed by a republican form of government, and deserves to have over it an autocrat, with all that the term implies. The treatment of this officer of the French army is shameful, disgraceful and monstrous, and the crime of the nation is certain to be wiped out in rivers of blood. France is digging for itself a pit, and when it falls into it the world will stand appalled by the crash.

A FEW LEFT. San Jose Mercury: There are still a few irresponsible land agents in this State, who are engaged in victimizing Eastern landowners, and the swindlers ought to be sent to State Prison for the remainder of their lives. Yet these questions, asked the victims by the Sacramento Record-Union, are pertinent. "Why did you sell without making the ordinary precaution of asking some reliable persons concerning the land? Who gave you a license to be a fool? What right had you to assume that representations coming from California are to be taken for granted any more than the light is shed on Washington through an unpublished letter written by a guest at Mount Vernon a hundred years ago. 'The Flower Petes of California' and 'Getting Good Pictures of Children' are striking pictorial features, and 'Inside of a Hundred Hours' is full of artistic suggestions. Edward W. Bok protests against the niggardly contributions of a penny to church collections. Lillian Bell finds much to admire in the French women, and some despicable traits. 'The Inner Experiences of a Cabinet Member's Wife' increases in the number of chapters. 'A Social Want,' illustrated by F. A. Goodwood, William D. Kempton; 'The Great Electric Trust,' Francis Lynde; 'Great Business Operations—The Utilization of City Garbage,' George E. Waring, Jr.; 'The Importance of the Choice of a Profession or Business,' E. Benj. Andrews; 'A Brief History of Our Late War With Spain' (conclusion).

The "United States" Patriotic Almanac for 1898, published by the National Sound Money League, Chicago, is full of sound patriotic papers and valuable information. There is not a word in it that is not calculated to make better men and better citizens of all who read it. There is marked variety in the February number of "The Century" (New York). The second part of Dr. Weir Mitchell's new story, "The Adventures of Francois," deals with the experiences of the hero as a thief and a juggler, and describes the outbreak of the French Revolution. The scene of Mrs. Harrison's "Good Americans" changes from the Berkshires to Constantinople. In the series of "Heroes Who Fight," A. Ellis writes of "Heroes Who Fight in the Field," Captain H. D. Smith writes of "The United States Revenue Cutter Service." There is a graphic personal narrative of experience in "The Steerage of To-day," by H. Phelps Whitmarsh, who came over as "No. 1" on the "Great Eastern," nine illustrations from drawings by Fernand H. Lunger and Harry Penn, and from photographs by the author, by Kirk Munroe; "The Due d'Aumale and the Conde Museum," eight illustrations, by Mrs. Sara V. Stevenson of Mexico during the French intervention, and with glimpses of Maximilian, his allies and enemies. Other subjects that are treated are: "The Great Exposition at Omaha," by the supervising architect; "Currency Reform," by a member of the Monetary Commission; an appreciation by Brander Matthews, of the American scholar, Professor Lounsbury of Yale; an account and fac simile of the MS. of "Auld Lang Syne," owned by Mrs. Prun of Albany; a description of "Ruskin as an Oxford Lecturer"; "President Lincoln's Parole of a Confederate Prisoner, obtained by a boy of 15, and 'The First and Last Writings of Washington,' shown in fac simile. Two more "Galleons" by the new "Century" story writer, David Gray, are given; a rollicking story of bicycles in Japan, by the author of "The Cat and the Cherub"; and a paper on "Bre' Coon in Old Kentucky," by John Fox, Jr. All the prose articles but four in the body of the magazine are illustrated.

A very handsome "Seed Annual" has been published in color and rich illustration, comes to us from D. M. Perry & Co., Detroit, Mich., the old-time seedsmen and florists. There is no other way to measure the value of seed than by the value of the crop. A good crop simply cannot come from poor seed. The business is a sure indication that Perry seeds have given satisfaction. "Ferry's Seed Annual for 1898," referred to

above, a standard guide for farmers and gardeners, contains much information, and is sent free to persons writing for it. The third of Rudyard Kipling's "Just-So Stories" appears in the February "St. Nicholas" (New York). It tells "How the Rhinoceros Got His Wrinkly Skin." The tale has a page illustration by Howard Ford. Mr. Stockton's serial, "The Buccaneers of Our Coast," takes up the adventures of Bartholemey and Roc. The twelve boys who make up "The Lakerim Athletic Club," in Rupert Hughes' serial, find a full and engaged in a snow-fort battle, and engage in a snow-fort battle. J. T. Trowbridge's "Two Biddict Boys" continue their exciting search. William O. Stoddard, in his historical romance, "With the Black Prince," describes the battle of Crecy, and engaged in a snow-fort battle. The annual catalogue sent out by the old reliable seed establishment of James Vick's Sons, Rochester, N. Y., comes to hand in a dainty and tasty cover of blue, pink, yellow and orange. The Golden Lily, the Pink Daybreak Aster, a brace of blue birds, and the artistic lettering in black, blue, green, crimson and gold, all in harmonious combinations, make a cover of exquisite design and appearance. Many of the illustrations are fine half-tones. Four handsome colored plates of begonias, dahlias, nasturtiums and sweet peas add to the attractions. The list of seeds and plants covers a large and varied assortment, including nearly everything that can be desired for the garden, the lawn, the greenhouse. Valuable new varieties are offered, as well as the thoroughly tried and proved standard sorts. Vick's novelties are noted for their uniform excellence. In vegetables the Gradus pea is a great variety, an essential gain in that line. The extra early varieties, The Jones Wax Bean is an essential gain in that line. The Potato growers are offered the "White Beauty" as a new variety with model qualities, combining size, high quality and great productiveness. But it is, of course, impossible here to note the many valuable offerings of this firm in fruits, flowers and vegetables. If one is not a customer of this firm he can send for the catalogue, as it is free to all applicants by addressing James Vick's Sons, Rochester, N. Y.

A False Alarm. When the British fleet was at Hongkong, a merchant ship was seen coming over the bar with her ensign upside down. The ships in the harbor at once lowered lifeboats and raced to be first to give assistance to the supposed sink ship. When the first boat got within hailing distance, they saw the skipper clapping his hands and shouting: "Go it! Come on! Well pulled!" etc. The officer in charge then said: "What's the matter, Captain?" "Nothing the matter," said the skipper. "They say you've got your ensign upside down!" The skipper glanced aloft at his colors. "It's that boy Joe again," he cried in disgust; "I thought it was a regatta." Argonaut.

The "New York World Almanac for 1898" is really an encyclopaedia. It covers a wide range of statistical, historical and general reference matter, and in that respect is more voluminous and far-reaching than any other similar work. It is published by the World Publishing Co., New York.



The complete novel in the February issue of "Lippincott's" (Philadelphia) is "A Trooper Galahad," by Captain Charles King. It contains some close and vivid sketches of character and life at an army post in the Southwest; the warlike excitement is a dangerous and a prolonged pursuit of a dangerous band of outlaws. "His Last Appearance," by Jean Wright, and "A Literary Success," by Willis Irwin, are very brief tales. "Outwitting a Grizzly" is one of William Thomson's true stories of Western adventure in old times—as far back as 1850. R. G. Robinson, who is an authority on his chosen subject, supplies some information upon Florida, "The Land of the Winter Cucumber." Fakirs, adventurers, and swindlers of various kinds are the theme of Dora E. W. Spratt, in "How They Live on Nothing a Year." "The Poetry of Shelter" is one of Dr. Chas. C. Abbott's very best nature-papers. Robert Tinsley's "Back From Altruria," sets forth some of the attractions and drawbacks of Mr. Bellamy's millennial state. Samuel M. Warns writes briefly of "Odors," William Trowbridge Larned of "Insomnia," Ellen Duval of "Opportunity," and M. A. De Wolfe Howe of "The Other Side of Letters." The third paper of Dr. Theodore F. Wolfe's series, "Some Literary Shrines of Manhattan," deals with "The Latin Quarter and Its Environs." There are couplets by Carrie Blake Morgan and Clarence Urmy.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER Absolutely Pure. Royal makes the food pure, wholesome and delicious.

January 22d, in both French and English, is the first publication from the speaker's manuscript, the last page of which is reproduced in fac simile, with a portrait of the writer.

The Golden Jubilee number of the "Overland" (San Francisco) is of historic value. The interest attached to the first great Western gold field is treated side by side with the new excitement in Alaska. "The Gentleman with the Grindstone," by W. W. Moreland, is a clever Alaskan story. A practical article on outfitting for Alaska is written by L. W. Buckley, one of the promoters of the Mining Fair. In a recent short story contest opened by the "Overland," for those connected with public educational institutions, the second prize was awarded to Miss Laura Bridgman for the story, "A Seventh Daughter." "Esoteric Realism," by Pantia Ralli, is a strong piece of fiction. An article on the Holy Grail by Emeline G. Bancroft will be of unusual value to students of legendary history and art; reproductions of Abbe's famous paintings in the Boston Public Library reveal the artist's conception of the holy legend. James Howard Bridge in "A Fresh View of Maniara's Expedition," deals with the discovery of gold, drawn from the records of the California Historical Society, and prospect the power and possibility of the Anglo-American race. A sketch of the life of the young mute sculptor, Douglas Tilden, by William D. Armes, is a feature. Charles E. Naylor proves that we should build steamships in America. "The Art of Scouting," "The Whispering Gallery," will be conducted by Rossiter Johnson, and offers a most attractive literary menu. There is an entire collection of pictures in the photographic contest. The jubilee features of the number are the accounts of the discovery of gold, drawn from the records of the California Historical Society, and prospect the power and possibility of the Anglo-American race. A sketch of the life of the young mute sculptor, Douglas Tilden, by William D. Armes, is a feature. Charles E. Naylor proves that we should build steamships in America. 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