THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

(Established 1877.)

"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."—Abraham Lincoln.

"The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned."—Sec. 4, Art. XIV, Constitution of the United States.

"I consider it the ablest paper devoted to the interests of the soldier published in the country. I earnestly commend it to all comrades of the Order."

Paul VanDervoort,
Commander-in-Chief, G. A. R.

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One Dollar per Year.

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ADDRESSES.—Addresses will be changed as often as desired, but subscribers should in all cases give their old as well as new address.

CORRESPONDENCE.—Correspondence is solicited from every section in regard to all Grand Army, Pension, Military, Agricultural, Industrial, and Household matters, and Letters to the Editor will always receive prompt attention. Write on ONE SIDE of the paper only.

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THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., OCTOBER 11, 1883.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

It will be seen from the following card that "The Union Volunteer," a newspaper published in this city in the interest of our ex-soldiers, has been merged in THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Office of "The Union Volunteer,"
Washington, D. C., Oct. 5, 1883.

I have this day transferred all right, title and interest in "The Union Volunteer" to The National Tribune, which is the best soldiers' paper published in the country.

All subscribers will receive the same number of issues of The National Tribune that their subscription to "The Union Volunteer" entitled them to in copies of that journal. When that number has been received they will do well to continue their subscriptions to The National Tribune.

Proprietor of "The Union Volunteer."

By this consolidation the subscribers to "The Union Volunteer" will receive a much larger return for their money, since THE TRIBUNE contains a much greater quantity and a decidedly better quality of reading matter than any of its cotemporaries, while our own grand army of subscribers will be cheered by this timely re-enforcement of their numbers. And now let us hasten the recruiting and the time when THE TRIBUNE'S rolls will show a full hundred thousand!

The number of pension certificates issued and signed during the week ending October 6th, was as follows: Original, 527; increase, 458; re-issue, 65; restoration, 27; duplicate, 22; arrears, 2; accrued pensions, 47; pensions under act of March 3, 1883, 398; total, 1,546.

The editor of The Tribune will regard it as a favor if such of its subscribers as have copies of the issue of December 7, 1882, will send them to this office. Ten cents per copy will paid for all that are needed to complete our files, and the rest returned, if more than the requisite number should be furnished.

Our readers will be pleased to know that on the 3rd inst. Past Commander-in-Chief Van Dervoort, who was recently removed from his position as chief clerk of the railway mail service at Omaha, Neb., had a personal hearing before Postmaster-General Gresham and refuted the charges brought against him in every particular. Since then General Gresham has been confined to his house by illness, but he has indicated his intention to render his decision at an early day, and we shall doubtless be able to announce its character in our next issue.

Let the Grand Army Fulfill Its Mission!

The Brown county (O.) *Democrat* says:

Judge Foraker wore upon his left breast, in a manner that it might be plainly seen, the badge of the Grand Army of the Republic while he was making his speech here yesterday. The artifice of this was to catch votes. We have been told that the Society of the Grand Army of the Republic was not a political institution. The comrades should rebuke this effort to subvert their order by promptly voting against the man who abused it.

A subscriber to The Tribune writes from Looking Glass, Oregon, as follows:

To the Editor National Tribune:

It will require all the power of The Tribune to keep the Grand Army together and prevent a sordid, unmanly spirit—indifference to everything but the crackers and cheese and the conviviality of the Post room—from creeping into its ranks. That seems to be the present tendency of the Order, and unless its members are aroused to an appreciation of its real purposes and objects, this spirit will surely be destructive of its usefulness. You have it in your power to check this tendency, and I would willingly be one of a number to defray the cost of sending copies of that faithful journal (The Tribune) regularly to our various officials in order that they may realize the mistake that they are making. Very truly, yours, Veteran.

Another subscriber at West Haven, Conn., writes:

In your paper you constantly urge the members of the G. A. R. to take united action in regard to men selected for office—that is, as I understand it, to vote for men who are friendly to the interests of the ex-soldier. But how can that united action be brought about, when Article IX of the Constitution expressly prohibits politics? There is great need of change somewhere. Truly, yours,

West Haven, Conn. Daniel M. White.

In Philadelphia, on the 29th ult., the Union Veteran Army held its second annual convention (a report of which will be found elsewhere in our columns), at which a resolution was adopted instructing its ex-commander to interrogate the Presidential nominees of the several parties, upon the choice of the nominating conventions of 1884 being made known, as to whether or not they would be favorable to the proposition contained in the Union Veteran army bill—which provides, among other things, for the granting of a land warrant of 160 acres of Government land to every ex-soldier, his widow, minor child or children; for the pensioning of surviving ex-prisoners; for extending the provisions of section 1754, so as to give preference in appointments to civil office to all honorably discharged ex-soldiers, whether discharged by reason of disability or the expiration of their term of enlistment, and, finally, for the equalization of bounties in this manner, to wit: the payment to every honorably discharged ex-soldier, sailor, and marine, or their widows, children, or parents, 8½ dollars per month for every month of actual service between April 9, 1861, and May 9, 1865, less only the bounties already paid to them. And it was further ordered that a report should be made at the next annual convention, so that such action might be taken thereon as the convention might deem necessary.

We group these facts and opinions together thus, in order that our readers may the more clearly comprehend the question at issue between those who hold that because the Grand Army is not a political organization, it should not take any organized action concerning the recognition of soldiers' rights by Congress, and the enforcement of section 1754 in appointments to office, and those who maintain that under section 2 of article II, chapter I, of the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Army, which specifies as one of the objects to be accomplished by the Order, the following, to wit:

To assist such former comrades in arms as need help and protection, and to extend needful aid to the widows and orphans of those who have fallen.

it is the paramount duty of the Order to exercise its united influence for the protection of comrades in their rights, individually or collectively, in Congress or out of it, in civil or private trusts, and without regard to party affiliations. In the early days of the Order, as our readers know, it was degraded to purely political uses, and, as a natural consequence, it fell into disrepute; but it was not because of any concert of action to secure the recognition of soldiers' rights that it lost caste, but because its influence was exerted to promote the selfish interests of mere politicians and political parties, as such. Had it confined its efforts to the work of arousing the country from the lethargy into which it had fallen in regard to the treatment bestowed by Congress upon our ex-soldiers, and of impressing upon the minds of these ex-soldiers themselves the paramount necessity of withholding their votes from all candidates who were known not to be in sympathy with their interests, its position could not have been shaken, and it would some years ago have attained the dignity and power which it now possesses. As often happens, however, the reorganizers of the Order—rendered timid by the storm of public criticism which had overwhelmed the Grand Army at the time when its political tendency was exposed—went to the other extreme, and were at such pains to caution comrades as to the necessity of holding aloof from politics, that the effect has been to cripple the power of the Order to be of real practical benefit to the men for whose care and protection it was originally created. There is a good deal of truth in our correspondent's statement that the social features of the Order are being cultivated to the exclusion of other matters of vital concern to it. We hold—and we shall not hesitate to urge this opinion upon our comrades everywhere—that while it is contrary to the principles of the Order for Grand Army Posts to indorse the candidate of any party, as the candidate of that party, or to use its influence with individuals to secure their votes for any particular candidate as a representative of any particular party, it is the duty and the privilege of the members of the Order: First, to individually cast their votes for candidates who are soldiers themselves, or known to be staunch supporters of their interest; second, as Posts, to petition Congress for the recognition of such of our ex-soldiers' rights as have not yet been established by statute; and, third, to enter an official protest against every removal from office, except for cause, in violation of the Revised Statutes, of an ex-soldier, no matter what his politics may be. Individually the members of Posts may take whatever part they please in active politics, but they should be of one mind when it comes to any political question affecting the interest of the soldier. The Grand Army to-day numbers over 200,000 veterans, and it would be an eternal disgrace and dishonor if it should fritter away the power it possesses to secure to our late defenders the rights of which they have been so long unjustly deprived, and to re-establish these heroes forever in the esteem and regard of their countrymen. The vital question is: Will it wield that power with the courage and in the spirit of true fraternity that the necessities of our veterans should inspire?

The National Military Homes.

The management of the National Military Homes ought to be above suspicion. Congress provides liberally for their support and the boards of managers are composed of such reputable gentlemen that one would suppose it impossible that any abuses of authority should be tolerated, yet, as a matter of fact, the conduct of neither the Dayton nor Milwaukee appears to give satisfaction, and the Governors have evidently lost the confidence and respect of the old soldiers under their charge. Governor Patrick is looked upon as a tyrant, and Governor Sharpe, by reason of his physical disabilities, is regarded as the helpless tool of incompetent and heartless subordinates. We do not pretend to know how far the charges that have been brought against the management of these institutions are founded on fact. In this week's issue we print, first, (see page five,) an account of the investigation made by Dr. Woods into the condition of affairs at the Dayton Home, and, second, (see page seven,) a letter from an inmate of that Home—the one to the effect that the hardships complained of are chiefly imaginary, and the other to the effect that while some of the charges are unwarranted, there are many that are of moment, concerning which the inmates, lest it should work them a personal injury, are afraid to give information. So, too, at the Milwaukee Home, while the officials boldly deny the truth of the accusations brought against them by the Milwaukee *Sentinel*—which published a vigorous expose in its issue of September 23d—the inmates insist that they are badly treated, and one of them, in a letter to The Tribune, fully indorses all that the *Sentinel* has said about Governor Sharpe's physical incapacity and the high hand with which his subordinates carry things.

How shall we get at the truth? Official visits are valueless for that purpose, for they are always anticipated by the management, and, at such times, it would require the ability to see through closed and bolted doors to penetrate the mystery. No one who has ever been present at these formal inspections will deny that they are almost invariably superficial, and, indeed, they could not well be otherwise when so hurriedly made. It is manifest, then, that neither the statements of mere visitors nor the inmates indiscriminately can be accepted as absolutely true, and the truth must doubtless be sought in the evidence of those who, by reason of the position they occupy, are free from prejudice on either side, yet have a personal knowledge of how these institutions are managed. For that reason we think it the duty of the Grand Army to make a thorough and rigid investigation on its own account. There may be a good deal of truth in the statement that the inmates of these homes are naturally disposed to be discontented, for the monotony of their lives is in itself calculated to breed dissatisfaction, but if they are unhappy the more 's the pity, and it is well worth finding out whether anything can be done to cheer and brighten their dull and aimless existence. That is a matter as to which no true comrade of the Grand Army should be willing to take the chances!

Pensions for All Ex-Prisoners.

In our recent editorial on the action of the National Ex-Prisoners' Association at the Cleveland convention, in recommending for passage by the next Congress the bill to pension ex-prisoners, known as the Robinson bill, we failed to mention the amendments to that bill which were adopted by the convention and which very materially alter the scope of that measure. The following is the text of the original bill, from which it will be seen that it provides for pensions for those only who were confined in Confederate prisons between May 1, 1863, and May 1, 1865:

Bill No. 5968, introduced by Hon. James S. Robinson, of Ohio, for pensioning prisoners of war who were confined in Confederate military prisons during the late war.

Whereas, in May, 1863, the cartel was suspended, and many officers, soldiers, and sailors of the Federal army and navy were confined in so-called Confederate prisons for an unusual length of time, suffering great hardships and contracting disease hard to prove under existing pension laws; therefore

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and is hereby authorized and directed to place on the pension roll the names of such officers, soldiers, and marines who, while in the service of the United States and while in the line of their duty, were taken prisoners of war, and as such confined in so-called Confederate prisons between the 1st of May, 1863, and the 1st of May, 1865, as follows:

All who were prisoners of war two months and less than six months, one-half pension; those who were prisoners of war six months, and less than twelve months, a three-fourths pension; and all such as were prisoners of war twelve months and more than twelve months, a total pension. And furthermore, such surviving prisoners of war shall receive two dollars a day for each and every day's confinement in said Confederate military prisons: *Provided,* That such pensions shall, in each case, begin from the date of the passage of this act, and shall be paid at the same time and in the same manner as other pensions are now paid. *And provided further,* That this act shall not entitle any person to draw more than one pension, but that such survivors of the so-called Confederate military prisons as are entitled and are receiving pension at the time of the passage of this act, shall be entitled to the increase of their pension which this act may grant them.

This bill the convention voted to amend by inserting "May 1, 1861," instead of "May 1, 1863," and by striking out the words "the cartel was suspended," so as to make it apply to all ex-prisoners who were confined in rebel prisons during the war, and in connection therewith adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the above amendments are recommended inasmuch as worthy prisoners of war confined before the abrogation of the cartel would be debarred.

It is the Robinson bill, as thus amended, that the convention resolved to recommend for passage. Those of our subscribers, therefore, who have written to us condemning the action of the convention on the ground that the Robinson bill only provided for the pensioning of ex-soldiers who were confined in Southern prisons after the suspension of the cartel, will see that the convention did not ignore, as they supposed, the rights of other prisoners, but, in fact, recognized them in the most emphatic and positive manner.

The Army of the Tennessee.

The Society of the Army of the Tennessee, which holds its annual meeting at Cleveland, Ohio, on the 17th of this month, has a glorious history.

The survivors of that magnificent army may recall with pride the heroic achievements that will render its name immortal so long as men care to read of deeds of valor. A brief sketch of the organization of the Army of the Tennessee may be of interest not only to members of that army, but to our readers who belonged to different corps.

General Grant's command, which fought at Fort Henry, Tenn., was known as the District of Cairo, and on July 14, 1862, General Halleck, then commanding the Department of Missouri, in whose command General Grant was serving, issued General Orders, No. 37, Department of Missouri, creating the District of West Tennessee, from which date the Army of the Tennessee had its existence. In the reorganization of the army by General Orders, No. 59, of the War Department, October 16, 1862, the Department of the Tennessee was formed, which consisted of Northern Mississippi, Cairo, Ill., Forts Henry and Donelson, Tenn., and that portion of Kentucky and Tennessee west of the Tennessee River, and General Grant assigned to command. The limits of the command remained virtually the same until General Sherman moved from Atlanta to Savannah, Ga., and the Carolinas, in November, 1864.

The Army of the Tennessee was, by General Orders, No. 168, Adjutant-General's Office, October 24, 1862, also designated as the Thirteenth Army Corps; but, by General Orders, No. 210, Adjutant-General's Office, December 18, 1862, the Department of the Tennessee or Thirteenth Corps was divided into four separate army corps, consisting of the Thirteenth Corps, commanded by General J. A. McClernand to June 19, 1863; by General C. C. Washburne to August 7, 1863, (when the corps was transferred to the Department of the Gulf, under General Banks); the Fifteenth Corps, commanded by General Sherman to October 18, 1863 (when he relieved General Grant in command of the Department of the Tennessee); Gen. F. P. Blair, Jr., to December 2, 1863; John A. Logan to September 23, 1864; P. J. Osterhaus to January, 1865; John A. Logan to May 19, 1865, and W. B. Hazen until its final discontinuance, August 1, 1865; the Sixteenth Corps, General S. A. Hurlbut, commanding to April 17, 1864. This corps, occupying posts mostly in Tennessee, and guarding railroads, &c., and the right wing, under Gen. A. J. Smith, having been transferred to the Department of the Gulf for the Red River campaign, the corps was without a commander to October 15, 1864, when Gen. W. J. T. Dana assumed command, who remained in command until November 7, 1864, when it ceased to exist in the Department of the Tennessee, the troops having been transferred to other corps or commands; the Seventeenth Corps, commanded by General J. B. McPherson to March 18, 1864; F. P. Blair, Jr., to September 22, 1864; T. E. G. Ransom to October, 1864; F. P. Blair, Jr., to July 19, 1865; W. W. Belknap until its final discontinuance, August 1, 1865.

The Army or Department of the Tennessee was commanded by General Grant from March 14, 1862, to October, 18, 1863; by General W. T. Sherman to March 18, 1864; J. B. McPherson to July 22, 1864; O. O. Howard to May 19, 1865, and General J. A. Logan until its final discontinuance, August 1, 1865.

In the roll of battles fought, in whole or in part, by the Army of the Tennessee, are: Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, Black River Bridge, Champion's Hill, Vicksburg, Pleasant Hill, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Resaca, Kenesaw, Atlanta, Lovejoy's Station, Nashville, Bentonville, and a large number of minor engagements. Whether it be literally true or not that "it invariably captured the cannon that were directed against it," it may be said that its campaigns always resulted, sooner or later, in overwhelming defeat to the force opposed to it.

Section 3, Article II, of the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Army, prescribes as one of the objects of the Order:

To maintain true allegiance to the United States of America, based upon a paramount respect for, and fidelity to, the National Constitution and laws, to discountenance whatever tends to weaken loyalty, incites to insurrection, treason or rebellion, or in any manner impairs the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions, and to encourage the spread of universal liberty, equal rights, and justice to all men.

Now read the report of the proceedings of the Fifty-third semi-annual conference of the Mormon Church at Salt Lake City, which we print in another column of the present issue, and satisfy yourselves as to whether (1) the Mormons render true allegiance to the United States Government; (2) whether their action in openly repudiating the authority of Congress does not tend to weaken loyalty; (3) whether the declaration of their leaders that they should all go into polygamy in defiance of the laws of the United States and the power of the Government to enforce obedience to these laws, does not incite to insurrection, treason, and rebellion, and (4) whether the announcement of their avowed purpose to maintain polygamy in spite of "all the powers of Heaven and Hell" must not impair the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions. Here is indisputable evidence that the Mormon Church not only acknowledges no allegiance to the United States Government, but sets it at defiance; and if this is not as much an act of insurrection and rebellion as was the secession of the Southern States, then there is no such thing as insurrection or rebellion, and the fearless, ringing language of this section of the G. A. R. rules and regulations is void of meaning. What do our comrades propose to do about it? Will they maintain a stolid indifference while this Mormon monster, having secured political control of the heart of the continent, goes on extending its autocratic rule to Colorado as well as New Mexico, Arizona, Idaho, and Montana? Or will they rise in in the might of a righteous indignation, and by petition and memorial compel Congress to vindicate the honor of the Nation and put down this revolt of polygamous rebels finally and forever?

SMALL TALK

About Men and Things.

I met a friend of Mr. Blaine's yesterday, who tells me that the ex-secretary is somewhat annoyed about his book enterprise. He says he is not making a task of it, but he has gotten himself into a strait which makes life a burden and work a source of dread and uneasiness. His publisher is crowding him for manuscript. He has been compelled, for the first time in his life, to undertake dictation to a stenographer, instead of writing pen in hand. Through all his busy public career he was never in the habit of dictating his letters as most officials do, even to the maiden Congressman from the back woods. He either had his secretaries answer his letters, presenting them to him to sign, or else he sat down and responded in his own hand.

There are apprehensions among his friends that his book will be a failure. He is doing the work too hastily, and, as he is writing about contemporary events, any mistakes he may make will be picked up at once by the reviewers. His political friends would much prefer that he should have postponed his book-writing for a year, at any rate.

* * *

Within the last week reports have found their way into print to the effect that General Hancock was really in danger of death from various troubles which were said to afflict him. Major Barr, Secretary Lincoln's military secretary, has just returned from a visit to Governor's Island, where he saw General Hancock. The major was with Hancock all through the war and knows him thoroughly. The old veteran was in bed, but, so far as could be seen by his visitor, looked in the flower of health. He told the major how he happened to be on his back. He was crossing the bay in one of the small boats they use to ply back and forth between the island and the city, and he was thrown against the guard by a sudden lurch. His knee was so badly bruised that an abcess formed. The doctor thought best to lance it and put him to bed for it to heal and to keep the knee still. He was doing well and expected to be up again in a few days.

* * *

It is reported that "Uncle John" Roach, the veteran ship-builder, desires to retire from the active management of the business. To bring this about he proposes, it is said, to issue bonds at five per cent. to whoever may desire to purchase, and let the bondholders elect a directory and run the business just as a railroad or bank is managed. As for himself, he will put the money received for his bonds into Governments, clip the coupons every quarter, and rest on the laurels of his past life throughout the balance of his days.

A very pretty picture—if he can only find purchasers for his bonds.

* * *

Several business men were discussing the depression in railroad stocks yesterday. One suggested that when things were ready for a turn Vanderbilt would step in and begin buying, which would put up the market and make him a few more millions. "No," said another, "I know Vanderbilt, and have for many years. He has reached that point in life when a man loses interest in making money. He begins to feel the weight of human infirmities, and is in constant fear that he is going to die. He has a combination of troubles and is fast breaking down. That is the real explanation of his sudden retirement from the management of his great railroads. They have no charm for him when compared with existence itself. Vanderbilt is a high liver—a man who, of all others, likes life. He will never again be felt in gigantic money operations. So far as Wall street is concerned he is dead now."

* * *

Lieutenant Garlington's friends express the utmost confidence in his ability to emerge from the investigation of the failure of the Greely relief expedition with entire credit. He is a native of South Carolina, and has been famous during his short career in the army as a gallant officer and high-minded gentleman. He was graduated from West Point, and was assigned to the Seventh cavalry the summer of the Custer massacre. He had just taken the usual graduation leave when the news of the disaster came. He asked to have his leave revoked and to be sent at once to his regiment. Ever since that day he has seen active duty of the most rigorous character.

* * *

It is understood that Secretary Teller will attempt to have Congress provide the means to effect the proposed consolidation of the Indians of Washington Territory this winter. He had a bout with Chief Moses, and finally convinced that accomplished rascal that he had a man to deal with whom he could not humbug. Some years ago he came with his feathers and buckskin shirt for a big talk with the æsthetic Schurz. To this gentleman he offered to be a barbaric emperor, and he arranged with him to rule all the Indians of the northwest coast. When he returned their anointed king by the grace or Schurz, the savages laughed at him. He was recognized as chief of his own band—never exceeding two hundred—just as before his new crown was placed upon his brow. He got mad at Secretary Teller a year ago and refused to receive a communication from him at all unless transmitted through the War Department. He came to Washington and began a talk with the assertion that he was chief of all the tribes west of the mountains. Mr. Teller brought him up short. He told Moses that he was chief of only such Indians as recognized him as chief and no more. This was a new revelation to the old fellow and completely broke his spirit. By the time they had talked an hour or two he was entirely stripped of the nonsense put in his head by Schurz, and ready to agree to behave himself. He promised to go on his reservation. It will cost about $100,000, it is said, to move the Indians and put up their houses on their new places, as was agreed, provided they would go to the territory set apart for them.

Captain Baldwin, of General Miles' staff, is expected to be in Washington this winter, as he is personally acquainted with the wants of the Indians, and the steps necessary to be taken to settle the question of their location in Washington Territory.

The address of Comrade Edwin A. Lewis, manager of the very popular war drama, "Newberne; or, The Old Flag," may be found in our advertising columns.

SPLENDID MISERY.

Manchester, the Paradise of the British Workingman

Special Correspondence National Tribune.

Manchester, Eng., Sept. 3, 1883.

Even after the very great surprise of finding Birmingham transformed into a beautiful and attractive city, I was yet not prepared for finding Manchester such as it is. Smoke-begrimed, Birmingham and Manchester both are, and to this extent ugly and forbidding; but in Manchester, as in Birmingham, strong effort is being made to overcome the smoke nuisance, and so great is the faith of Manchester in the success of this movement that the Manchester corporation has recently built, at a cost of nearly five million dollars, the most beautiful town hall to be found in the world. A vast gothic structure, placed in the center of the city, this town hall may well be a source of pride to every citizen of Manchester, not only by reason of its beauty, but because, as the American consul, Colonel Albert D. Shaw, assured us, every penny spent upon it was honestly spent for value honestly received. Indeed, everything that I have said of the excellence of the local government of Birmingham is equally true of the government of Manchester. Here are avenues, widened at great cost, and vast water supplies: here are fine schools and libraries and penny banks, cheap gas and trustworthy police, and these are the results of the labors of a corporation which so commands respect that year by year the citizens intrust one additional function after another to its upright and able administration. Thus, only the other day, a municipal art gallery was opened in Manchester, confided by its founders to the care of the corporation with the stipulation that the corporation spend $10,000 (£2,000) per year in keeping up the building and adding to the collection. To the work of conducting this gallery the national government lends aid by sending down from the South Kensington museum precious collections of objects d'art from time to time; and citizens of Manchester show yet deeper confidence in their local government by giving outright to this municipal gallery admirable pictures from their own collections.

THE NEED OF ART-LIFE.

The citizens of Manchester, happy in the possession of the essentials of town life, by reason of a corporation which does its duty, are free from the need to waste precious time over discussions of their streets and drains, their drinking water and police, and are thus enabled to expend their public spirit upon the smoke nuisance and what may be called the art-life of their town.

That they should do this there is most urgent need, for Manchester lives by the production of textile fabrics; and French taste and the increasing skill of American designers are pressing the Manchester manufacturers very closely in this matter. When the taste of England and America is growing every year more true and delicate, the cheapness and the durability of textile fabrics are not sufficient recommendations without the third requisite—beauty of design and finish. But it is difficult, indeed, to discover how the art of design may be developed in Manchester under existing circumstances. Designers must, it would seem, live among conditions calculated to suggest beautiful combinations of forms and colors. But the working people of Manchester live under a low-hanging sky, black with fog and smoke, except during the few lovely days of the north-of-England summer. They live, moreover, in rows of houses, not, indeed, so vile as those of Halesowen, of Lye-Waste, and Cradley, but small and crowded and hideously monotonous. We drove one morning in Ancoats, a part of closely-built Manchester, through miles of narrow streets well drained, well lighted and well policed; wholesome, so far as the care of the corporation can make them wholesome, but utterly destitute of everything which ought to make the surroundings of human homes beautiful and attractive. The street is the only playground of childhood, the public house the only gathering place of men and women. All privacy of home life and all the grace of hospitality is shut forever out of the lives of thousands of honest working people in this city, whose prosperity must more and more depend upon the refinement of her workers and their power to produce designs pleasing to the eyes of cultivated purchasers.

NOT ALTOGETHER A PARADISE.

Manchester is called "the paradise of English workmen," for fine machinery, abundant capital, close organization of labor, and the early occupation of textile markets by Lancashire manufacturers give to the Manchester weaver and spinner vast superiority in the matter of wages over his luckless brothers, the Birmingham nailer and the Dowlais collier; but if Ancoats be a part of the paradise of the English workman, alas, for him! In our drive the coachman carried his hat and whip and sat with bent head, trying to escape clothes-lines that, crossing the sooty streets, gave painful evidence of the lack of yards behind the low-roofed houses that lined these narrow thoroughfares. Indeed, hundreds of blocks of Ancoats houses seem to be built back to back; *i. e.,* with the wall of another house, where every back door should be, a parti-wall, answering for the back as well as for the sides of every house. Formerly several families occupied one house, the cellar sufficing for a family abode, as Mrs. Gaskell has described in her melancholy story, "Mary Barton;" but now these cellar dwellings are forbidden and abandoned, and the ideal towards which Manchester is evidently striving is the occupation of a house by every family. That this ideal is by no means realized as yet, our visit to Ancoats clearly showed; and even if every back-to-back house were occupied by a single family, this family would yet be ill off with only the street for play-ground and clothes-drying space.

That circumstances such as these are little calculated to cultivate the perception of beauty among Manchester workmen, the manufacturers, the citizens generally, and the corporation, are coming clearly to see. And with characteristic English deliberation and effectiveness they are proceeding to palliate the evil. The English people, even in Manchester, cannot be called a radical people. To my American eyes they seem always to palliate evil, not to find its root and remove it, but to administer local remedies—treating symptoms, as it were. The cure for the hideousness of life in Ancoats, for instance, might suggest itself to a radical American mind under the form of legislation forbidding the construction of back-to-back blocks, condemning certain districts to be cleared and used as parks, widening certain streets, forcing the use of well-known means of stopping smoky chimneys—these measures to be taken as preliminary to instruction in the art of living. But the people of Manchester are, as I have said, not in any American sense radical. They will destroy nothing in Ancoats; they will palliate. Thus far they have begun by establishing cheap baths and employing a municipal organist, a part of whose duty is to give, twice every week, an organ recital in a superb room in the town hall, the price of admission being, I think, two pence, or, if not two pence, a sum so small as to shut out no one. I do not know how many Ancoats working people go to these organ recitals. I hope many of them may do so. Perhaps some of the patched and tattered clothes that were drying in Ancoats streets were being prepared for wear on one of these occasions!

PALLIATION, BUT NOT ERADICATION.

What the Manchester people propose to do for Ancoats forms a varied programme. They have begun to build coffee-houses to a limited extent, and they are meditating gymnasia on the same basis of small fees, upon which the baths have already proved successful. Their chief hope, however, is the characteristic English hope of changing the people, not their circumstances, and of letting the changed people of the next generation alter their own circumstances after their own fashion. And how is the change in the people to be brought about? By a carefully-thought-out and admirably-planned art museum. For what I know of the museum in question, I am indebted to Mr. T. C. Horsfall, who must, I think, be the prime mover in the matter, and who has kindly furnished me with the reports of the museum committee and the prospectus of the museum. As Mr. Horsfall has been the prime mover in the Ancoats baths and gymnasium movement, and as he is doing battle persistently against the smoke nuisance, his connection with the museum project is calculated to inspire confidence in this.

Many of the proposals of the prospectus of the art museum are at once so suggestive and so practical that I shall quote largely from them. But first I wish to quote from a letter of two columns published in the Manchester *Guardian,* signed W. F. G., which gives a striking and a truthful picture of the life of hundreds of children that I saw in Ancoats. "As a class, they (the workmen) are drunken, brutal, thriftless and ignorant to a far greater degree than the corresponding classes are in France, in Germany, and Italy. But who is to blame for this? Will any gentleman say that, if he had been brought up as the average Manchester workman is brought up, he would care much for those 'two russet virtues, temperance and thrift?'

"When a few weeks old the baby of many a workingman is left in charge of a child far too young to properly attend to it, while the mother goes to work in a mill. A little later it finds its play-ground in the filthy street, where there is not a tree or blade of grass in sight, and where the sky is generally hidden by smoke. His clothing and everything he sees is foul with soot. He sleeps, probably, with several other children, of both sexes, in one room. In early youth he learns that the only place where he can find any amusement or any form of pleasure is the public house, and every year of his life deepens the lesson."

These circumstances of the workman's life in the paradise of the British workingman, the committee of the Art Museum despair of changing. They propose, however, to prepare for him one spot whither he may go to escape as often as he may choose from his hideous permanent surroundings. How they estimate his present position may be seen from the following extract from their defense of their proposal to open the museum on Sunday: "The conditions under which the poorer inhabitants of our towns are living, strongly tend to destroy, or, at least, to greatly weaken family affection. This affection, which gives to parents the most powerful motives they can have for industry, self-denial, and every other form of good conduct, and leaves them to care for the physical, mental, and moral welfare of their children, and through which alone children can be led to yield full obedience to their parents and to those whom their parents desire them to obey, is necessarily strengthened by pleasant intercourse amongst the members of a family, and weakened by everything which prevents them from having intercourse or which makes their intercourse unpleasant. But the habits which, as consequences of our climate and the state of our towns, prevail among many work people, deprive the relations existing between thousands of them and their children of nearly all pleasantness. It is often thought that on Sunday town workmen may spend their time pleasantly with their families partly at home, partly in church or chapel, partly in the open air. But this is not so in the case of the more ignorant work-people. Very few of them go to any place of worship, nor, if they went, would they be able to understand more than a very small part of the service. Nor can many of them spend time pleasantly at home, for even if most work-people had the resources which for cultivated people gives to home much of its attractiveness; even if their children were as lovabe, as intelligence, good conduct, and physical cleanliness and comeliness could make them, and if work people's houses were as clean and cheerful as houses of the kind can be, the smallness of their houses alone would make it quite impossible for them to pass many hours there contentedly.

WHY TIME HANGS HEAVY ON THEIR HANDS.

"It need hardly be said that for the lower classes of work-people none of these favorable conditions exist. Many of their children are as unloveable as filthiness and brutal habits learned in the street—their only play-ground—can make them; the parents do not read easily enough to read long with pleasure; they have very few books; they do not play any musicial instrument; they lead such monotonous lives and have little knowledge of anything but their immediate surroundings that they have few subjects of conversation; and their houses are not only very small and very crowded, but are also made very gloomy by the smoke-laden air of the town, and by the absence of plants and of everything else which is bright and beautiful.

"Time cannot be spent pleasantly by them on Sundays outside their own houses. For the streets and public houses are then the only places where those work-people who do not go to places of worship or do not live near to one of our few public parks can take their children, and in wet weather public houses are the only places. The streets are not long attractive, even in very fine weather, and it is not surprising, therefore, that as soon as public houses open on Sunday very many working people go to them; that many of their children at a very early age also begin to spend part of Sunday in public houses, and that, both in public houses and in their own houses, many work-people seek relief from monotony in the exciting occupations of betting on races and gambling at cards. Bad as the habit of going to public houses would be even if all the members of a family who went there went together, and thus kept alive the sense of companionship with each other, the badness of the habit has not even this mitigation. The habit of drinking in public houses is one of the influences which are most fatal even to the lowest forms of family affection. However fond of drinking a husband or a wife may be, each knows that it wastes wages and wage-earning power, and each therefore dislikes to see the other or his or her children drink. Hence, when several members of a family seek recreation in drinking they usually separate to do so.

"It cannot be doubted that until there are places where most work-people can spend much of their leisure time, and certainly part of Sunday, happily with their children in occupations which all the members of the family can enjoy together, and which will draw them to each other by making them feel interest in and admiration of the same things, and by giving them subjects which they can all remember and discuss with innocent and refining pleasure, brutality and ignorance and disregard of duty must continue to be very common amongst the lower classes in our towns." Prospectus, pp. 14–15.

I have quoted largely in this letter from Mr. Horsfall and other Manchester writers, because what they say of their own city (of which in their hearts they are exceedingly and justly proud in spite of the truth of their own criticisms upon the state of the laboring people at the present time) must have infinitely more value than any description which I can furnish after a hasty view of the Paradise of the British workman.

F. K.

Justice for Pensioners.

[From the Sunbury (Pa.) *News.*]

Here and there undeserving men secure the noble reward of patriotism offered by a generous Government to its heroic defenders, but in the main the men who left home and fireside, the desk and plough, the hills and valleys of the broad North, are honestly receiving the most deserved money ever paid to soldiers. These men marched in sun and storm, over mountains and through deep waters; they ate the plainest of food, sleep on the cold ground with the starry sky as a covering; they stood guard on the lonely picket, fought on many battlefields, lost limb, and health, and reason. Very few of the men who stood in the ranks and passed through the ordeal of the field, have not been maimed, or crippled, or disabled by a hundred different ailments brought on by exposure. Do not begrudge these noble men the well-earned pittance called pension which they receive. It was promised them. It is not as much as they earned. The wonderful prosperity and wealth of the country was enhanced by their services. Let no paltry hand be raised against them or their children. Let no heart envy them any help or preference they may receive. Their bones and flesh will ache through weary years to their last home among the mounds of the country's defenders. The little pattering feet of the children of him who fell in the trenches or the charge have grown and are growing to manhood and womanhood. Treat them with respect, for they are the children of the heroes of the Republic.

We have received from Messrs. Whitney, Cooke & Co., dealers in fine watches, diamonds, and jewelry, No. 92 Market street, Chicago, Ill., a copy of their thirteenth annual catalogue, descriptive of their goods. With such a catalogue at hand anyone can order by mail with certainty of obtaining just what he or she may want, for an engraving is given of every style of watch, chain, ring setting, locket, pin, &c., on the list, together with the number and price of each, so that mistakes are scarcely possible. This house employs no traveling salesmen, and its patrons get the benefit of this saving of expense in lower prices for standard goods. Its advertisement appears in another column.

The Australian Colonies, the only part of the civilized world outside of the International Postal Union, have made arrangements to come in. When this is accomplished there will be a universal letter rate all over the world of five cents a half ounce.